

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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- Berkley Driscoll
- Teresa Read



28th May 2021



Swan Island, Strawberry Hill
Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

Overnight maintenance work and road closures on A316

TfL will carry out essential maintenance work on the A316 Lower Richmond Road and Chertsey Road between Tuesday 8 and Monday 28 June. Work will take place between 10pm and 5am Monday to Friday and will include repairs to the road, gully cleaning, lighting maintenance and other works to improve road safety. Signed diversion routes will be in place during the works and residents in affected properties will have received a letter from Transport for London. No parking will be possible on the Lower Richmond Road, Twickenham Road, The Avenue and Chertsey Road between 10pm and 5am.

Night time road closures include:

- From Tuesday 8 to Friday 11 June, the westbound road between Clifford Avenue and London Road roundabout
- From Friday 11 to Wednesday 16 June, the westbound road between London Road roundabout and Hospital Bridge Road roundabout
- From Monday 14 to Saturday 19 June, the eastbound road linking Hospital Bridge Road roundabout to London road roundabout
- From Monday 21 to Thursday 24 June, the eastbound road from London Road roundabout to Clifford Avenue

Extra caution is needed if travelling to Hounslow

As surge testing is now in place in neighbouring borough Hounslow, Richmond residents are reminded to follow the rules and not to travel to the area unless totally necessary. The newest COVID-19 variant, first identified in India, spreads more easily from person to person. Whilst surge testing is well underway in Hounslow, Richmond residents are asked to take extra caution.

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TwickerSeal has been reading about the new trial for e-scooters that the council is bringing to Richmond borough in June.

TwickerSeal and his chums thought it would be a good idea to get some scooters.

After all, you can ride them wherever you want – on roads, pavements and paths. You don't have to worry about pesky things like traffic lights, pedestrian crossings (or pedestrians for that matter) and you don't need lights or helmets. You don't have to worry about speed or anything mundane like the highway code. At least that is how it seems judging by the e-scooters already whizzing around the borough.

And where better to scoot around than Twickenham riverside, where the council intends on creating a nice paved roadway, although you will have to dodge the articulated lorries!



'Isabella'

Best known for its evergreen azaleas, the Isabella Plantation found in Richmond Park is still flush with colour. Home to the National collection of Wilson 50 Kurume Azaleas from Japan and along with Rhododendrons and Camelias and other rare trees and ornamental shrubs, the Plantations ponds and stream bring a rich diversity of amphibious life to the Victorian woodland.



COVID-19

Teresa Read

World Health Organization Overview

26 May 2021

“Globally, over the past week, the number of new cases and deaths reported continued to decrease, with over 4.1 million new cases and 84 000 new deaths reported. The European Region reported the largest decline in new cases and deaths this week, followed by the South-East Asia Region. The Region of the Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, African, and Western Pacific Regions reported similar numbers of cases to the previous week.”

The ACT Accelerator

The Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, is a groundbreaking global collaboration to accelerate development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines.

Launched at the end of April 2020, at an event co-hosted by the Director-General of the World Health Organization, the President of France, the President of the European Commission, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator brings together governments, scientists, businesses, civil society, and philanthropists and global health organizations.

Report on the Work of the ACT Accelerator

Dr Michael Ryan, Executive Director, WHO Health Emergencies Programme

“The ACT Accelerator has helped to fundamentally improve our ability to tackle COVID-19 globally. 12 months ago, we only had non pharmaceutical interventions along with PCR testing. Today, vaccines can prevent COVID-19 everywhere, tests can rapidly and accurately detect COVID-19 anywhere, and guide our response, and treatments can save lives through the simple combination of oxygen and steroids. All due to the new knowledge we’ve been able to generate over the past year.

COVAX works, the machine works, the facility works. The challenge is getting the vaccines into the facility through the cooperation and support of countries and companies, to be able to address what we are seeing now, an increasing inequity in distribution.

83% of the 1.6 billion distributed Vaccine doses have been used in high and upper middle-income countries, which are about 50% of the global population. The difference to low-income countries is more than 75-fold.

High income countries are currently testing at about 125 times more tests per day than low-income countries, in large part because low-income countries have not been able to procure at the same rate nor roll them out at the same rate, with the same volumes.

If you can’t see the virus, you can’t manage your outbreak, and you cannot understand the gravity of the situation, until it’s too late, and you’re then faced with catastrophic consequences.

We have an oxygen need of about 3.3 million cylinders per day for low and low middle-income countries, and we are currently only at a fraction of that.

There are 3 parts to solving the challenge of equitable access and this is the focus of the ACT Accelerator over the coming 12 months:

First close the financing gap.

The second crucial thing is to address the growing equity gap and share vaccine doses through COVAX. Even

with financing alone, we cannot access doses because they are contracted elsewhere. We need at least a quarter of a billion vaccine doses over the next four months and to double that to get two doses into the population & protect the most vulnerable, save the lives of the older people who may be affected by this and reduce exposure of course of health care workers.

We need these doses to start immediately in May and June, if we get behind and receive doses only in September and October, we will not be able to catch up and we will lose many lives that we shouldn't be losing.

Thirdly: Exiting the pandemic requires multiple lines of defence: the vaccines, diagnostics, treatments and PPE. There is no one piece, you cannot simply vaccinate your way out of the crisis we've got to have all pieces.

We are in a fundamentally different place than we were 12 months ago, there is no reason with the coordination and financing we lay out here, we should not be able to fundamentally change the dynamic direction of this pandemic in the coming months."

Total cases to 28 May 2021

10,979 Richmond upon Thames
 12,493 Kingston upon Thames
 25,447 Hounslow

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

Deaths Worldwide 3,505,534

USA	586,890	Ukraine	50,076
Brazil	454,429	Indonesia	49,907
India	318,895	Turkey	46,787
Mexico	222,232	Romania	30,092
The United Kingdom	127,748	Czechia	30,059
Italy	125,622	Hungary	29,569
Russian Federation	120,002	Chile	28,809
France	108,213	Canada	25,361
Germany	87,995	Belgium	24,889
Colombia	86,180	Pakistan	20,540
Spain	79,855	Philippines	20,379
Iran	79,384	Ecuador	20,357
Argentina	75,588	Bulgaria	17,617
Poland	73,440	Netherlands	17,576
Peru	68,634	Portugal	17,022
South Africa	56,077	Iraq	16,289



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darryl parkin

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Unique air raid shelter found at allotments

By Simon Fowler

A few months ago, I received an email asking me about an air raid shelter in the allotments at Manor Road, Richmond. Such shelters are extremely rare. Naturally most were demolished after the war. A few Anderson shelters, which were designed for domestic use, survive as greenhouses. Indeed, the allotments still has a fine crop of very rusty Anderson shelters which are used by holders to store plants and equipment.

The shelter looked more or less as it was eighty years ago. It was now a toilet block and store. Windows had been punched through the thick walls, but little else had changed, even down to the light fittings. One could easily imagine local residents nervously sheltering from raids on chilly winter evenings.

Yet my research made it clear that the shelter was never used – at least for the purpose it was designed.

Richmond's largest set of allotments lay off Manor Road.

During the war there were 187 plots available for annual rent at twenty-five shillings per plot.

Because of their size and location by the railway they were a potential target for enemy aircraft. Indeed, a bomb landed between plots 161 and 163 during a raid on 29 September 1940, demolishing a shed.

The Manor Road Allotment Association in November 1940 petitioned the council to provide a shelter for the allotment holders. It could also be used by the residents of nearby streets as well. As there was a shortage of public shelters in the area, Richmond council readily agreed to build a shelter to accommodate 48 people, although 'no bunk beds were to be provided.'

Interestingly the Association also cunningly argued that the shelter could be used to 'provide much needed accommodation at the end of the war for allotment storage purposes.'

It is not known exactly when the shelter was built (or at what cost), but it was not ready until the following summer. But by then the Blitz was over and the Luftwaffe now rarely raided Britain. The numbers using the shelters across the area rapidly fell away. By the end of 1941 only a few dozen people were sheltering in the hundred or so shelters provided across Richmond each day. In early 1942 the council decided to close all, but a few in the main shopping areas, as there seemed to be no point in keeping them open.

All, except two public shelters, were eventually demolished. One survives in East Sheen, and the one here is still used for the purpose it was probably really built for. It is a unique survival and deserves to be protected.



The shelter in Joan Street, Southwark was similar to the one at Manor Road, although it was a much larger construction.

Credit: Imperial War Museum (HU 49429)

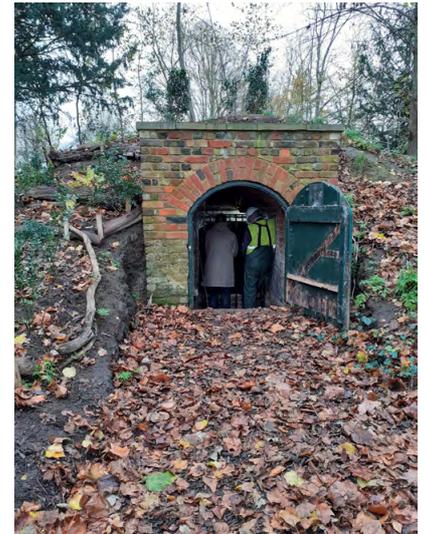
The Ice house quarter

By Kate Slack

In the newly restored gardens at Marble Hill Park, the Ice house quarter is the garden closet to the café area, it has a lovely peaceful, woodland atmosphere and visitors will be able to enter from 3 different entry points. Although I love all of the different quarters of the gardens, if I had to choose a favourite, this would be the one because of its tranquil secluded atmosphere. As you enter from the side of the house you walk down the bark path through the woodland planting and follow the gently curving path around the entrance of the Icehouse door.



The Icehouse mound



You can continue around to the meadow area which has been planted with rows of lime trees and seeded with a wildflower meadow mix which at the moment is awash with Red Campion flowers.

If you visit Marble Hill regularly you may notice a number of large almost dead trees in this quarter which are the remains of the Oak avenues which would have been planted around Henrietta Howard's time. These have been left because old, dead standing wood is crucially important for wildlife, bats and birds roost on the holes in the trees, wood decaying insects and fungi rely on dead standing trees like these for their existence. By becoming too tidy and clearing forests and woodlands of dead trees and wood we are removing vital habitat for many species.



These dead standing trees are an imposing site in the Icehouse quarter and to my mind are a symbol of the past history of these gardens but even in death they are full of life and providing habitats vital for the future of our wildlife.

Charity forced to leave its home after landlords make its position untenable

The charity Park Lane Stables RDA confirms that, with great regret, it is looking for an alternative location for its operations, after its landlords served a notice of eviction for the end of May 2021 (when the current lease expires).

This has followed a period of discussions which resulted in the charity being asked to pay far in excess of what the property is actually worth according to three independent valuations.

The charity was originally served with an eviction notice on New Year's Eve 2020 unless it paid the landlords' £1 million asking price to buy the property. It ran a successful fundraising campaign to raise the money to secure its future, thanks to huge support from the public both domestically and internationally. The total raised, £1.3 million, is also the revised sum the landlord is now demanding.



The trustees of the charity went to great lengths to ensure the integrity of the purchase and to act in the best interests of the people who benefit from its existence. They appointed an experienced solicitor who specialises in buying property for charities and organised three independent valuations of the stables, before making an offer based on the highest valuation.

The trustees have been informed that another offer for the property has been received by the landlord at the higher figure. Park Lane Stables have now been formally asked to leave at the end of the lease unless this alternative offer is matched, and it has been made clear there will be no further negotiation. A PLS request for an extension on the current lease has been denied.

PLS couldn't legally overpay to such an extent even if they wanted to and therefore are left with no alternative but to find a new location and are committed to doing so. Meanwhile from June 1st they will move to Manor Farm Stables in Petersham, Richmond, on a temporary basis.

PLS is following clear Charity Commission guidelines that say the trustees are responsible for protecting a charity's money and assets and that the price paid for property should be fair or even discounted which is clearly not the case here.

RDA UK have been kept informed. Ed Bracher, Chief Executive of RDA UK stated: *"The priority here is to ensure that the disabled children and adults who benefit from Park Lane RDA's activities can continue to do so. It is sad that the charity cannot remain at the original site, but we support their work to make sure they can secure an alternative venue from which to operate. This will ensure that they can continue to be a thriving and important local asset"*

A spokesperson for the Park Lane Stables trustees says: *"Our first concern is for the Park Lane Stables family and our horses. Thanks to the astonishing support of the public we now have the means to secure the charity's future and are now looking at alternative locations within the borough, to ensure we can maintain our RDA activities, keep accessibility easy for all our riders, and allow us to retain our colleagues and volunteers. We are confident we can do this but sad we have to leave our current home, which looks set to signal the end of at least 200 years of horses in central Teddington."*

Owner of Park Lane Stables urged to sell the site to local charity

Council Leader, Cllr Gareth Roberts, has expressed his disappointment that Park Lane Stables RDA could be forced to move from their Teddington home.

Earlier this year, the Council supported the local stables' publicity campaign to fundraise the £1m needed to purchase their stables.

Despite the success of their campaign, the popular charity will have to quit the site as the Landlord claims to have received a higher offer for the site. In spite of this setback, Cllr Roberts has nevertheless urged the company to honour their original ask and not leave such a valuable facility homeless.



Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

"This is really sad news for Park Lane Stables and devastating for the staff, volunteers and families, many with vulnerable children, that rely on the stables.

"Their fundraising plight received national coverage and support. And I know that there will be hundreds, if not thousands, of people angry that despite their efforts, it wasn't enough to secure the long-term future of the stables on the site in Teddington. People will feel cheated.

"I hope the Landlord will recognise the strength of local feeling, recognise the importance the work done by Park Lane Stables, particularly in supporting Riding for the Disabled, and honour the original ask."

Geoffrey Samuel, councillor for Hampton North, said:

"I am appalled by the news that Park Lane Stables has to close. Personally I contributed to the appeal and promoted it in my ward through our Regular Newsletter. I hope that there is some way in which the Council can step in and prevent the loss of this facility which contributes so much to the community and to disabled children"

Martin Elengorn, councillor for Teddington and Vice-Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee, said:

As the Council, at my suggestion, designated the property as an Asset of Community Value in late January it cannot be sold to anyone other than a community body before the end of July.

Council conservation staff will shortly be assessing the building to see if it merits designating as a Building of Townscape Merit. If it does that will offer a measure of protection.

Change of use would require planning permission and this could well be refused if, for example, residential use is proposed.

Picture courtesy of Park Lane Stables

Dear Tribune,

Twickenham Riverside

You published 2 letters last week responding to mine of the previous week. I wondered whether to bother to reply at all but, accused of misleading, I will.

I also wondered why we get bogged down in this minutiae. Is it a tactic to try and bring the whole project into disrepute and to a halt and defend vested interests? Change is hard. Maybe it's a natural response, when faced with the unknown and uncertainty, to get lost in detail, revert to safe, familiar old ground, even old squabbles, to hold onto what we know.

So, look, I'll try and get my responses out of the way then move on to more productive and interesting areas. If you're bored by this, skip the first half. Here goes;

- The Twickenham Coalition letter writer says my claim that the current Council has the strongest mandate in the 40 year history of the site cannot be taken literally because the proposed scheme was only put forward in 2021. Respectfully, this is pedantic. It's bizarre to assume my use of the words, "this project", literally refers to the current proposal and not the 40 year effort to find a way forward for this site since the closure of the pool in 1981 (the year I moved to Twickenham incidentally; but it wasn't my fault!).
- Sue Hamilton-Miller says, "it's interesting that the TRPT is, and has been since before the local elections, fully behind the Liberal Democratic/ Green Parties", implying we are a "front" organisation for them. Come on Sue, you're better than that.... TRPT's actual advice to 2018 voters who wanted the Conservative scheme off the table was that a vote for the Lib Dems and Greens was the best way to address that single issue. Whether or not in their manifestoes, these parties clearly and publicly stated that they would halt the plans and carry out a proper process. I'm happy to "disclose" I'm a Green and was joint local coordinator for a while. I don't know how fellow members of the TRPT vote but we have been at the forefront of keeping the Lib Dems to their commitments. We are certainly not uncritical of them. I'm sure the Leader and other Councillors would vouch for that. What capacity Sue writes in isn't clear. I understand she and other organisations she sits on may be members of the Coalition.
- Sue moves on to question the authenticity of the 2017 TRPT Petition which I said had "3000 or so signatories". It's 2986. -I've just checked! I think 14 is a reasonable "or so". Of course, I cannot vouch for every single one, but I can state unequivocally that there was no conspiracy to write in false signatories. It's foolish to pick on a few exceptions in an attempt to discredit while ignoring the views of the vast majority who either live, work, visit or learn here. The previous administration's refusal to consider on-line petitions and hence, failure to pick up the public mood, is something it perhaps later regretted. A lesson learned?
- Lastly, I'll accept some lack of clarity on my part regarding the numbers of "Expressions of Interest" (EoI) in the architectural Design Competition. I was referring to the number who contacted the Council for competition information packs (i.e., "expressed interest") which I understood to be around 100. Yes, 54 went on to submit applications. I've asked council officers to confirm the number of inquiries. 100 information requests, 54 responses; whatever, it indicates a strong response to the independently run competition that TRPT proposed, a level sufficient to choose 5

high quality architects to submit schemes.

However, is all this obfuscation and chatter preventing us from seeing the bigger vision for the future and from capturing the potential and opportunities here? Moving on more positively, here are a few thoughts about interconnected areas the Twickenham Coalition has raised concerns about, offered in the hope that open consideration might help move this forward:

- **Parking:** Times are moving on. Fewer people expect to own a car or meet their need to get around by using them, though will still want or need access to them from time to time. It is recognised that the sheer number of cars, regardless of fuel type, is not sustainable; the resources they consume and the space they take. Increasingly, development schemes allocate less space for parking whether for residents, visitors, shoppers, workers or employees, especially in urban areas with good, but improvable, public transport. Service vehicles remain provided for. We should embrace and be at the forefront of this “modal shift”. Change usually comes about by carrots and sticks. We should consider more incentives (carrots) to make this transition easier for people most affected by it, for example; greater capacity of good quality car club spaces and tapered subsidy of joining and hiring fees, a compensation payment for giving up the privilege (not a right) to a parking space, better infrastructure for travelling by bike or on foot, to name a few.
- **Public Space:** The issue of Diamond Jubilee Gardens (DJG) can’t be detached from the matter of the utilisation of space overall. The possibilities provided by joining up the space freed up by removing parking spaces and turning them into people space, with the area allocated to replace the DJG footprint, are enormous. It’s important to think creatively, so, for example, literally outside the box of a traditional Town Square, to something that can provide that function, relevant to now and this particular river facing site. The challenge is to create a space that enables and generates a whole range of activities on a daily basis. We must think beyond “a place for occasional events and exhibitions” (Twickenham Coalition letter). The place should be the event that draws people in. This is increasingly how people experience Church Street since being made essentially car free. It was buzzing at lunchtime today (Wednesday). As often stated, “It’s not size that matters, it’s what you do with it”.
- **Regeneration and a thriving business environment:** In a (hopefully) post-pandemic and on-line retail world, what businesses and activities do we want to see here? We hear of the “15 Minute Town” where most people’s daily needs are met within 15 minutes of where they live. Alongside retail shops and food and drink outlets, what else is needed? Co-working space and workshops, health and fitness, education and learning, heritage and history (reflecting our film and music legacies) repairing and upcycling, music, drama, exhibition and cultural space? Who should be offered the spaces? Small independents, retail chains? How will this space relate to the existing town centre? How is this space going to be governed and managed so that this potential is realised? Should Twickenham become a “Transition Town” (look it up!). Now is the time to be focussing on these questions.

We need to think systemically, across the piece. Going full circle, rather than worrying that reducing car spaces will reduce visitor numbers and damage local business (it won’t) let’s focus on a bold development, which, by giving a reason to come, will increase visitors overall. Fewer will come by car, but many more will come by other means to experience a great space rather than visit a car park. My appeal is that we consider these areas openly and honestly so we find the best Riverside future.

I’ll stop writing letters about this for now. Maybe fellow usual suspects can do the same. Let’s leave space for others to have their say and add their ideas within these pages.

Ben Makins, Twickenham

Dear Sir,

They paved paradise and put up a parking Lot continued

Yvonne Hewett of the York House Society wrote a letter to counter attack my letter in the Tribune 2 weeks ago "They paved paradise and put up a parking Lot", in which she says that I have a "bewildering misunderstanding" of the aims of the Twickenham Coalition and that nowhere have they said they want to keep all the parking on the riverside and then she gives the web site for everyone to see for themselves the truth of her assertion but in the article about parking and the aims of the Twickenham Coalition on this web site, it states clearly that they are fighting the council's plans to remove the road between Water Lane and Wharf Lane and also the council's aim to remove the 82 parking places that are on this road. So what have I misunderstood? Maybe she is just hoping that no one is actually going to look the web site up & read what they explicitly say are their aims.

She also says that the council are not being transparent but in fact they have published their plans, they have held all kinds of consultations and have even radically altered their plans after lobbying by the Eel Pie Island Association (with the road being kept in and the service road removed) The council representatives can be reached and we all know or can easily find out who they are. In fact they are the democratically elected representatives of the majority of the population in Twickenham and are trying to get this site redeveloped and pedestrianised because the majority of the Twickenham Community have in fact voted for them to do this. So why is this not transparent? And is it not this "Twickenham Coalition" who are the ones who are not being transparent? Who exactly are they and how many do they really represent?

Yvonne also writes that I have "missed the fact that people live in King Street, Church Street, Water Lane, Bell Lane and the Embankment" but I have lived here for most of my life, I was born here and know Twickenham well. I know that people living in King Street have off road parking. Those who live on the embankment are going to keep the car park by the Barmy Arms and the road & car parking spaces that lead to it. The houses on water lane were built expressly as affordable housing without car parking spaces. Flats in Flood Lane have their own parking spaces. There are other car parks (Holly Road, Aragon Road Flood Lane & York House) & the council say they will make even more available. Really I think she misses the point in that not everyone thinks they have to have a car and a car park right by their house. The car park blights a riverside that should be a community asset for everyone to enjoy.

Helen Montgomery Smith the Chair and Spokeswomen for the Eel Pie Island Association also writes in this article promoting parking on the riverside (on the Twickenham Coalition's web site) that Church Street will really suffer as will other businesses in Twickenham with the loss of these 82 spaces & the road.

Obviously we all need to work with the council to find a solution but it should not be to have a riverside car park. Actually a riverside free from cars & a community asset would attract a lot more visitors to Twickenham than just the road thoroughfare and car park that it is now and local businesses would benefit from this. Not everyone comes to Twickenham by car. We are blessed with fantastic public transport & most tourists don't rent cars. I am sure even if they did, they would prefer to park away from a beautiful riverside and to visit it, rather than use it as a car park. The EPIA even produced a leaflet in the summer entitled "Save Our Riverside" which says it all really, as they do seem to think that the mainland part of the riverside is "their" riverside car thoroughfare. In the leaflet they asserted that all the local businesses and Church Street businesses supported them in their aim to keep the 82 car parking spaces and the road between Wharf Lane and Water Lane but actually none of our businesses were in fact ever consulted at the time or actually publically had endorsed these assertions. In fact the EPIA have even made it clear that they would like the pedestrianisation of Church Street revoked so to have more easy access for their cars and the road thoroughfare.

Jeremy Hamilton-Miller writes in answer to my view that Diamond Jubilee Gardens is neglected that "the

maintenance & upkeep of DJG is presently solely the responsibility of the council and any blame should be laid at their door” but how can this be? I am a trader in Church Street and for many years have helped my dad and the Church Street Association. For years we have had a healthy relationship with the council. Whatever the party in power, we have always tried to work with them as we know that’s the only way we can help improve the street and make it a welcoming place for our traders and our community to enjoy.

For years we have all worked to make Church Street the destination it is becoming now & it just couldn’t have happened if we didn’t work with & even nag the council to remove weeds, or cut hedges, replace the lock on a gate or fix a bollard. We know the officers well and by name & actually they have always been keen to help. We keep it maintained & planted and many traders also maintain their own flower boxes. We work collectively to have huge flowers baskets above all the shops for the 6 months of the summer from May to October. All this helps to keep the street look beautiful, cared for and welcoming and the council & our community enjoy it and feel it is the jewel in the crown of Twickenham. In a way we too are “trustees” of this space m(with a similar relationship to it regarding the council as the Trustees have with DJG but it is because we all genuinely love where we work & are happy to look after it and welcome and invite our community to share it with us. We even put the giant chess here since 1995. Maybe the council could have told us not too, but they didn’t & we take great care of it and have carefully maintained it over the years. It has become an iconic part of the street now and everyone loves it. If we expected the council to do it all, it just wouldn’t have happened. Why has this not happened in Diamond Jubilee Gardens? It could have been a real sanctuary for the public and not the barren neglected concreted astro-turfed site it is now. So this argument that the neglect of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens is solely the council’s fault wears pretty thin. It actually becomes more and more clear that the Diamond Jubilee Gardens and the 125 year lease they have it just being used as a strangle hold on the council & community’s desire to take the road & car park away and develop the riverside as a destination, like Church Street is now, a car free safe space for the whole community to enjoy.

I don’t believe that this Twickenham Coalition are in fact representative of the larger Twickenham Community, a community who flock to the safe pedestrianised haven that we have managed to all make Church Street, not because we constantly fought tooth and nail with the council or because we apathetically expected the council to do it all, but because we worked with whatever council was democratically elected by the will of the majority of the Twickenham Community, to help us make Church Street a destination that everyone could enjoy and be proud of.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the council were actually helped to get on with the job they were elected to do and get the parking and road removed from the riverside & let the real Twickenham Community enjoy this site for the fantastic potential it has but for the fact that a few quasi associations have fought tooth and nail for the last 50 years to keep it as is it is now, just a car park and a road for some selfish people & their cars.

I have been threatened on social media for getting involved in this debate, as has my family business Crusader Travel (which is now being trolled) and also our association with Church Street, with the infrastructure under constant criticism and “Surveillance” by those who’s objective just seems to be to revoke the pedestrianisation with no thought at all for the community hub it provides. But we do live in a democracy and I don’t think anyone should be intimidated into silence.

All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident. Arthur Schopenhauer

Yours sincerely,

Shona Lyons
Eel Pie Island

Dear Tribune,

e-scooter trial

The rental e-scooter trial is something we should welcome with open arms. Every journey by car which is replaced by one on an e-scooter is a journey which will cost less CO2, result in less congestion, and cause lower environmental impact. Encouraging more active forms of travel for local trips is also a step to making active travel (rather than cars) the norm for everyday journeys, with consequent benefits for physical and mental health.

At present there's no legal way to ride an e-scooter in London on public roads. The TfL trial of rental e-scooters which Richmond are taking part in requires the e-scooters to be used only on roads and on cycle lanes; they will be speed limited and 'geo-fenced' to prevent use in proscribed locations. In this regard they differ from privately owned e-scooters, which remain illegal on public roads. It is these private e-scooters that Chief Superintendent Ovens was referring to in his statement that e-scooters are illegal, as quoted by Michael Jay in his correspondence (21st May).

Michael appears not to have understood the difference between those privately owned e-scooters and the rental e-scooters which will be available in Richmond. Privately owned e-scooters cannot be geo-fenced to keep them off pavements and other areas where they would pose a danger; e-scooter hire-companies can and have introduced measures to ensure that they are only used in permitted areas, are only parked in designated parking spots, and that abandoned or mis-parked e-scooters are collected quickly and the previous hirer penalised, to reduce pavement clutter and ensure that the e-scooters are used as safely as possible. Hire companies have worked hard to engage with user-led Disability organisations, to ensure that potential dangers to Disabled or vulnerable people are addressed.

Michael asserts that Richmond has not listened and learned from the experience of others, citing that he has sent media articles to council members to demonstrate the danger of e-scooters. However, TfL, who is running the trials, has taken time to investigate and learn from other e-scooter hire schemes, both in the UK and abroad. These experiences, the capability of e-scooter hire companies, and the concerns of other stakeholders have been considered in the design of the trial. If TfL was not convinced that it would be safe, the trial would not be implemented. Furthermore, Michael should remember that the scheme is a trial: it will be evaluated after 12 months, and any changes and alterations needed to ensure that the scheme is safe will no doubt be made.

But as an airline pilot, Michael surely has some experience in evaluating and categorising risk. And despite all the articles he quotes, with the mitigations and public engagement and education undertaken by different hire companies, there really isn't a huge amount of risk involved in this trial. Michael is right that our roads and pavements should be safe spaces, and that's why more and more forces and cities are trying to take a 'Vision Zero' approach, where only zero incidents is truly acceptable

No form of transport is risk-free, but the statistically riskiest form of transport remains vehicular transport. Around 5 people die on our roads daily; Roadpeace reported that 542 pedestrians were killed on pavements or verges by drivers in 2007-2020. Enabling more people to choose alternatives to car travel, with safety measures installed, will help make our streets safer rather than more dangerous.

The production and maintenance of e-scooters does have its own environmental footprint. However, this footprint is substantially lower than that of a car (electric or not). Offering people the chance to hire rather than buy an e-scooter reduces the footprint further, on a 'by use basis': a hire e-scooter will be used by more people, more often, than one owned and used by a single individual or household. E-scooter hire companies and manufacturers are also working together to find more sustainable production methods and means of refurbishing and recycling used e-scooters and their parts, something which is currently harder for private owners to do independently.

It is right that e-scooters should not be used on pavements, and it is right to call out inconsiderate, dangerous, or illegal behaviour, whatever the mode of transport. But let's keep things in perspective: from June 7th, every car journey replaced by a hire e-scooter journey is likely to make us more safe, not less.

Tim Lennon.

Richmond Borough Coordinator, London Cycling Campaign.

Dear Editor

Do we all feel safe?

A front page statement from the Police in today's *Richmond & Twickenham Times* 'Police Seek to Reassure residents after stabbings' - law enforcement are seeking to quell concerns about violent crime in Richmond after a number of incidents rocked the Borough recently. Several violent crimes, including the murder of Tim Hipperson last week, fuelled concerns in the Borough that "is not typically considered a dangerous or violent part of London and is known for low crime rates" really?!

The Met Police BCU issued a statement in an effort to reassure Richmond Borough residents that recent incidents of violent crime, which also include the Teddington stabbing were not linked. So that's all right, then...

Why would anyone be reassured by this? - far from reassurance, we find it extremely alarming as it suggests the crimes are being committed in a wide spread all over the Borough. (Which indeed they are, if you read daily comments on the Nextdoor forum about drug crimes, related e-scooter drive-by thefts, catalytic converter thefts, etc).

When you hear of the low clear-up rate for local crimes, you can't help feeling that we residents of this 'leafy Borough' have been somewhat abandoned and left to our own devices. "Reassured"? - Hell no!

Sue Weaver, East Sheen, SW14

Dear Tribune,

Law and Order

A fatal stabbing in King's Road, Richmond, and other violent crimes in Richmond have prompted the police to reassure residents that it is still a low crime area.

Really? I wonder.

Because those crimes are quite apart from a stabbing in Teddington, and a murder in Barnes in which the victim was stabbed twenty times and his body dismembered.

We all know crime is everywhere but the lack of police and the appalling behaviour of some of the public mean that it is now not safe to go out –as friends and neighbours have told me many times.

The statement by a Metropolitan Police Southwest BCU spokesman that: *“Richmond Upon Thames is a safe place to live, work and study. It continues to have amongst the lowest rates of violent crime in London”* does not reassure because they always say this after such incidents. And for police to say that the above incidents are unrelated is even more alarming than if they were related.

Police said that officers would be patrolling busier areas such as the riverside and open green spaces: *“in order to reassure the community and take swift action against any anti-social or violent behaviour”*.

In fact, the police cannot even protect themselves as shown by the murders of PC Keith Palmer INSIDE Parliament (22 March 2017) and Sgt. Matiu Ratana INSIDE a police station (25 September 2020).

Lack of police is a matter for governments to solve. But I wonder whether they really care because governments are protected by armed police while the public must walk around depending totally on the goodwill of criminals not to attack them.

The police have my sympathy, even more so because the forthcoming trial of legal scooters will be their responsibility – that is if there is any policing of it at all because so far we haven't seen much policing of even the illegal ones.

Home Office minister Baroness Williams of Trafford has been reported as saying that the 'enforcement of road traffic law' is an 'operational matter' for the Metropolitan Police.

She also said she 'shared concerns' with Baroness McIntosh of Pickering, who contended that the law is 'simply not being enforced' to prevent e-scooters being used on pavements, roads and in parks.

And Baroness Randerson has urged the government to 'look again at the trials taking place' and 'speed up the introduction of proper regulations and penalties' across the UK.

Even Matthew Scott, Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner, said the government needs to stop the expansion of e-scooter trials, before it loses control of the issue.

In the face of such opposition from the general public right up to the House of Lords, Richmond Council's dogmatic insistence on pressing on with its trial of these scooters is totally incomprehensible and will place an added burden on our understaffed and overworked police.

Why?

Michael Jay
Hampton

What do you love about your area? The Council wants to hear from you!

Richmond upon Thames residents can now have their say about what makes their local areas special and what is most important to them, now and for the future.

People are being asked to share their thoughts as the Council works to ensure that local planning will support the strong communities that have arisen as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, by responding to specific local needs and respecting the uniqueness of the borough.

Richmond Council is carrying out an Urban Design Study to better understand the characteristics that people value about the different areas of the borough, including building types, heritage, open space and land use. The results will be published and will feed into the borough's next Local Plan, which itself will be published later this year for public consultation.

The Local Plan informs all planning decisions and sets out the vision for Richmond upon Thames. Its purpose is to ensure that any new development, or plans for growth in the borough, benefit local people; provide the jobs, opportunities, homes, public spaces, shops, services, culture, leisure and educational facilities that they need, whilst preserving our unique heritage and green spaces.

Residents, along with others who work in the borough, or who visit for social and leisure activities, are now being asked to think about their experiences of living, studying, working and socialising in their local areas. They will be asked to share how important various qualities are to them, such as green space, heritage, a sense of community, culture and leisure, retail and hospitality, facilities, cleanliness, sustainability and safety.

Councillor Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee, said:

“Richmond upon Thames is a unique borough, sitting on both sides of the Thames. It is home to London's biggest park and the headquarters of England Rugby, and it is famous for its heritage and its ecological attractions.

“However, a great place is not measured just by its physical attributes – it must successfully serve its communities. This is why it is important that people get involved as the Council develops its Local Plan - we want to hear from as many of you as possible.

“At this particular stage we are asking people to let us know what gives their local area its character, what they believe is vital to maintain and what could be improved. This will help us ensure that new developments support the vision that local people have for their borough.”

The survey closes on **Sunday 6 June**. Have your say [HERE](#)



Pubs to People

If you're keen to find the best place to get a socially distanced pint this summer, we have studied government data to discover which area in the UK has the best pub to people ratio.

If you are planning to head out to the pub in the coming weeks, it's worth remembering that many businesses are still only taking cashless and contactless payments, so don't forget your debit card. Some banks offer cash incentives for switching current accounts, so you might want to check out our best current accounts before heading to the pub.

In the UK there are around 47,000 pubs to serve the 66 million people living in the United Kingdom. That's approximately 1000 pubs per 1.4 million people.

Naturally the number of pubs and people fluctuates across the UK, so which towns and regions have the most pubs per people?

To work this out we discovered the number of pubs in each local authority district, as well as the population for the same area. We then divided the population by the number of pubs to establish which region in the country has the highest population density.

London Boroughs:

Compared to the rest of the country London attracts a vast number of tourists, and therefore the population density is less applicable to the capital than it is everywhere else. Consequently, we have ranked the London boroughs by the number of pubs to see where in the capital you are most likely to find a place for a drink.

The boroughs closer to the centre of the city tended to have the most pubs, with all of the top five bordering the City of London area.

The London boroughs with the most pubs per people mapped

Local authority	People per pub
1 Westminster	430
2 Camden	230
3 Islington	220
4 Hackney	190
5 Southwark	170
6 City of London	165
7 Lambeth	145
7 Tower Hamlets	145
8 Wandsworth	130
9 Richmond upon Thames	115
10 Hammersmith & Fulham	105



The most expensive towns and cities for a pint

Unsurprisingly the most expensive place for a pint in the country is the capital, in London it costs on average £5 for a beer, and in many central areas of the city it is far more than this. This means that you could buy two and a half pints in Telford for the same price that Londoners will pay for one.

Outside of the capital city, the most expensive place for a pint is the cathedral city of Canterbury in Kent where the average price of a pint of beer is £4.80. Just behind Canterbury, is Cambridge where the average pint costs £4.65.

In the other constituent nations the capitals of Scotland and Northern Ireland are the most expensive cities as both Belfast and Edinburgh charge an average of £4.50 per pint.

You can view the research in full [HERE](#)

Kleanthis Kyriakou: A Monument to Strawberry Hill

Walpole's famous Neo-Gothic castle reimagined to celebrate Pride Month

The façade and interiors of Horace Walpole's strikingly beautiful Neo-Gothic castle in Twickenham are all the more fascinating when we consider the man who commissioned and built Strawberry Hill House in the mid-1700s.

The son of Britain's first Prime Minister, Sir Robert Walpole, Horace was very much a man of his age; a successful writer, architect, art historian, socialite, man of letters and politician. Despite his wealth and fame there was a quieter, more complex aspect to Walpole which is suggested by Strawberry Hill itself. He built his white palace in the Gothic style, away from London, at a time when Palladianism was still in fashion. Inside its secluded, art-filled walls he created a world of his own, where he could explore his identity with his homosocial circle of friends, many of whom he had met on the Grand Tour. As part of the Pride Month (1-29 June) celebrations, Strawberry Hill has invited Greek-Cypriot architectural designer and drag performer Kleanthis Kyriakou to install his sculpture A Monument to Strawberry Hill in the House throughout June.

Kyriakou draws inspiration from Walpole and his creation of Strawberry Hill and sees the building as a camp act of defiance against the status quo, leading him in turn to create a towering monument that pays homage to the queer mythologies of Strawberry Hill House and its creator.

According to Kyriakou: "Strawberry Hill has been preserved as a cultural edifice of the past, yet stripped from its queer narrative. So, by queering some of Strawberry Hill's Gothic elements, my monument seeks to revive its memory as a safe space for gender ambiguity. Scaled-down casts of its facade have been embellished with glitter and feathers, and the traditional four-pillar colonnade, found in the house's lush interior, has been given a twisted makeover, representing bodies during sexual intercourse!"

Explaining where the installation is located in the House, Kleanthis said: "A Monument to Strawberry Hill will be positioned inside the Robert Adam designed Round Room. The sculpture will allow visitors to walk around it and interact with the piece from various angles, following the very architecture of the room. Once dominated by famous works of art by Baroque masters, the Round Room now lies empty. Instead, it is characterised by a colourful stained-glass bay window, added during the 19th-century. I chose to hide the bay window in its entirety, and work with artificial light in order to cast shadows throughout the room and create a sensory environment reminiscent of the Gothic cathedrals that Horace once encountered in his travels to Italy."

Building on a series of talks to celebrate LGBTQ History Month in February, Strawberry Hill is now launching a series of brand-new LGBTQ tours. Running on 22, 24 and 30 June from 6.30pm, as part of Pride month, each tour will seek to explain more about Horace Walpole's sexuality by investigating the correspondence between his network of friends and acquaintances, and how this might inform our interpretation of his house and collection.

Tours include a glass of fizz and access to Kleanthis' A Monument to Strawberry Hill installation. Derek Purnell, Director, Strawberry Hill House & Garden, said: "Strawberry Hill House was a haven away from central London for Walpole, where his private life was less likely to be subjected to public scrutiny. We aim to share this concept with our visitors through Kleanthis' Monument and our LGBTQ tours. In the spirit of equality and inclusion we are keen to explore the role and influence of Strawberry Hill House on queer culture."

For more information about A Monument to Strawberry Hill and the LGBTQ Tours, visit www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk / Twitter @strawbhillhouse / Facebook @StrawberryHillHouse / Instagram @strawbhillhouse



Hampton North Ward News

Councillors Geoffrey Samuel and Kate Howard

TRAFFIC ISSUES

We are currently supporting local residents in a number of traffic issues. These are the issues which officers are investigating at our request

Acacia Road/Hanworth Road junction

This can be an hazardous junction for traffic turning out of Acacia Road and for pedestrians. Traffic turning left does not find it easy to see all the traffic moving at normal speeds down Hanworth Road: buses have to pull on to the 'wrong' side of the road whilst executing the turn. Traffic turning right is to some extent unsighted by parked vehicles. Pedestrians – especially school children – also experience problems. We therefore had a site meeting with a senior traffic officer. Whereas a pedestrian crossing which many residents would like appears to be less feasible, a pedestrian refuge would be a real improvement if funding can be found.

Hanworth Road

We still have not solved the problems caused largely by school coaches although there will shortly be a consultation on a measure which could be helpful. Residents may have seen the on-line petition.

Blocked sight-lines

These cause problems for some residents in **Stewart Close** turning into **Oak Avenue** and to individual residents in **Nightingale Road** and **Oak Avenue**.

Broad Lane

We are pleased with the response we have received for the residents' request [which we support] for a pedestrian crossing

Burtons Road

The Council has extended consultation on this "experimental" scheme and a final decision has been deferred until November. We do urge residents to tell the Council what they want

SURVEY

We thank those residents who have returned the Survey. We are delighted that so many residents who are not our supporters have responded. We paused the delivery during the election period and therefore final figures will not be known until late June at the earliest. Whereas the early results [from a good response] are provisional it is interesting that so far support for the current **Burtons Road** scheme is running at 29%. There is much greater support

for some sort of barriers on the **Dean Road/Longford Close** bridge than we had expected. The current Council approach to 'meadows and verges' [see below] has 30% in favour

GRASS VERGES, OPEN SPACES ETC.

We do understand that the Council's new approach is driven by a desire to promote biodiversity And this has the support of a number of residents. However, we receive complaints not just about appearance but about the amount of litter and dog mess that is deposited there whilst some dogs have needed veterinary treatment for damage to their ears. In one 24-hour period we received complaints about the verges in **Longford Close** whilst a resident speaking for others in **Albury Close** calls their open space "an eyesore". Local residents reported that there had been similar problems with the verges in **Fearnley Crescent** but that when eventually the grass was cut long cuttings were left all over the road and gutters.

SHORTER ITEMS

- The YMCA has contacted us concerning their local questionnaire on the future of **The White House**. This has our total support and we are delighted that they are back in charge!
- We hold regular meetings with tenants and leaseholders of both **RHP** and **PA** and are also currently dealing with **Inquilab** and **Places for People**. We are able to take up any issues arising from any of these Housing Associations
- The **recycling Centre in Hampton Square** remains a source of complaints for many residents. We are insisting that action is taken to prevent this becoming a permanent dumping site
- We are trying to arrange a site meeting with the Chairman of the Environment Committee for twelve residents at the end of **Rumsey Close** who believe that pavement parking is necessary to address current problems.
- We continue to receive many complaints about the waste and recycling service and raise every complaint with senior officers. Let us know if you have problems.
- Residents in **Briar Close** were pleased when PA, at our request, began to deal with trees in Fulmer Close that were causing them problems but disappointed when the job was not completed
- We have tried – though without ultimate success – to resolve an issue involving allegations of the theft of a cat.
- We are dealing with a problem – which does sometimes occur – where it seems that a successful planning applicant is not using the 'matching bricks' that are required
- We are supporting a resident in **Partridge Road** where the Council is currently refusing permission to lop the branches of a Council-owned tree which are overhanging his garden

Keep in touch with us by phone or gjshn@btinternet.com: tell us of issues which concern you: we are both here to help

Council to commence legal process for traveller eviction

Following reports that an unauthorised group of travellers arrived on Kew Green last night (Thursday 27 May 2021), the Council will commence the legal process that will require them to leave.

As soon as the Council were notified that travellers had arrived, officers visited to carry out a site assessment and request that they move on.

Unfortunately, the group of around 12 caravans and associated vehicles were not willing to leave or co-operate with a welfare assessment, and therefore the Council will now commence the legal process to obtain and enforce a Possession Order.



It is expected that the process will take a number of days. This is necessary due to a High Court order earlier this month that denied the Council's request to extend the previous expedited injunction process, in common with numerous other local authorities. Therefore, the Council now has to go via the courts.

The Council, along with Park Guard and the Police, will continue to liaise with the group and monitor the site. We will update residents in the area throughout the process.

When the travellers do leave, the Council will repair any damage and remove any waste left on the Green.

Councillor Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee, said:

"A small group of travellers has arrived in Kew. This morning, Council officers will commence the legal action required to expedite their departure. Due to a recent court ruling, this process will not be as fast as residents would like and I know that they will be concerned, but we have to work within the law."

"As soon as the travellers leave, we will inspect the area and ensure that any damage is repaired, and waste removed. Our Park Guard officers, along with the Police, will be monitoring the site closely until the group depart."

Twickers Foodie – By Alison Jee

START PLANNING NOW FOR FATHER'S DAY MAIL ORDER GIFTS

At last we are permitted to see our more distant families (or at least many people are), but if you're unable to visit your papa in person, and plan to send a gift by mail order, now's the time to start looking at the options. Father's Day falls this year on Sunday 20 June - the day before the Government hopes to remove "all legal limits on social contact" (which is of course subject to many caveats). So better to be safe, than sorry!

I've made your life easier by researching some suggestions for mail order gifts that I think perfect for Father's Day. In fact many companies have launched a special offer package with this date in mind. And don't forget to take advantage of the discount codes for new customers that are offered by many websites.

Beery tastes: There is an assumption that all fathers must love beer, so you have a great choice. Companies such as [Flavourly](#) offer a really great selection of mixed cases, and in fact have just launched some special ones for the Euros (great for the football fan Dad). There is also a Scottish selection and some excellent offers such as the Freedom Brewery selection on offer at just £28 (worth over £75) that also includes two free glasses and a beer magazine.



Another beer company is **Beavertown**, one of London's new wave of trendy craft brewers, This bundle includes the easy-drinking Neck Oil, fruity-and-hop-laden Gamma Ray, the malty Lupuloid IPA and fruity Bloody 'Ell Blood Orange IPA. This 'eight pack' is the perfect introduction to the brewery at £16.99 plus a fiver for P&P. For this and loads of other drinks ideas, including an amazing range of gins at surprisingly good prices, have a look at [The Drinks Basket](#).

And of course there are companies that specialise in hampers, such as Regency Hampers that has loads of great Father's Day presents. The most popular - based on last year's numbers - was their range of [Guinness Hampers](#), and they have a Man Crate for this year and a Ploughman's Lunch Hamper

Gin Gin! If gin's his preferred tippie and he's Welsh, or if you just think your Dad's eccentric, check out the **Eccentric Gin** collection. All produced in Wales, the gins are very good and can be purchased online from [In the Welsh Wind](#). Its award-winning **Limbeck Gin** is really unusual (and eccentric!). It's a heady mix of blue ginger, citrus and tarragon, Seville orange and orris, rested in French burgundy casks leaving a subtle peach colour.



Or, if you want to give a bottle of good gin with a special gin glass and help charity at the same time, check out the range of gifts from [Brockmans Gin](#) with donations going to The Drinks Trust.



There's also one of my favourites; the multi award-winning [Tarquin's Cornish Dry Gin](#), apparently Amazon's best-selling gin for three years running! Handcrafted in small batches using 12 meticulously chosen botanicals to create its unique, fresh flavour. £35 for 70cl from Tarquin's online or Amazon.

Personalised options: Nowadays you can have so many gifts personalised – making them extra special. Companies such as [Always Personal](#) offer a range of reasonably priced, unusual gifts, such as this personalised cheese board and knife set (£17.95) or perhaps he'd like his name on a BBQ King apron (£12.95). There's a raft of ideas on the website.



Foodie fathers: Where does one start? If he's a chocoholic you could look at companies such as [Chocolate & Love](#) or [Seed & Bean](#) or [Divine](#) all of which offer mail order and their products are ethically produced and top quality. If he's quite a chocolate cognoscenti you might like to investigate the **Amedei** range at [Kings Fine Food](#) (where you can also buy all manner of other exotic foodie things like caviar, smoked salmon and also hampers)



If he's taken with the spicier side of things, you could send him a selection of top quality chutneys.

Trickle Meats has a [Father's Day gift bundle](#) at £18.20 or another one to consider is a new kid on the block called [Wonky Pickles](#), which came into being during lockdown, and uses misshapen veg that'd normally be thrown away. It's Father's Day box contains pickle, chutney and relish and the



price for the three is £15. Either of these gifts will tickle those taste buds and be enjoyed with meats, cheeses and of course BBQs



It can be rather tricky to find the perfect gift for a coffee aficionado but if you are, you need look no further, because the roasters and baristas at **The Gentlemen Baristas** have an Espresso Starter Pack for £24 (plus p&p). It contains three 250g packs of different coffees to try, and can be shipped directly. Each coffee from The Gentlemen Baristas is eccentrically named after different types of hats.

Is he a Peaky Blinders fan? If so, he will love this Peaky Blinders black spiced rum gift set at £18.95 plus P&P, made in the Black Country and available from specialist gift drink company [Toast in the Post](#). There's a whole range of themed boxes available for Father's Day including Liverpool FC as well as whisky and gin gift sets from independent distilleries across the UK.



And finally, a letterbox gift company that is aimed at wellness and self-care but has a great little gift that is inexpensive, but will be much appreciated. The [Mini Father's Day](#) box at £10 (inc P&P but allow a week or so) includes Melting Pot Salted Caramel fudge, a 'Dad You're da Best' coaster and a Father's day card. From **TreatBox** and there are stacks more choices on the website. Each box is beautifully wrapped and can contain a personalized message.

ITALY – from top to bottom - part 2

By Michael Gatehouse

In part 1 we started our journey in Piedmont and travelled south until we reached Tuscany, home of the famous Chianti wines. There are two other distinguished red wines made here also from the Sangiovese grape that are worth a mention: Vino Nobile di Montepulciano – not to be confused with Montepulciano d’Abruzzo (this is the town and the other is the grape) – and Brunello di Montalcino from the town of Montalcino. £17.99 gets you a lovely deep, elegant Nobile wine called Filicheta from the Castellani family.



Moving south, we go into Umbria and Lazio, where Orvieto has been made since the middle ages. Famous for being off-dry to sweet, this white wine is now made primarily dry. Looking west, we might see the island of Sardinia, where Cannonau red (another name for Grenache) and Vermentino white wines are from. Across the country to the east lies Abruzzo, on the Adriatic coast. Montepulciano d’Abruzzo is one of Italy’s most famous wines, and can be found on wine store shelves all around the world. La Deliziosa, a classic, well-rounded, plum-scented example can be had for only £8.49. Further south lies Campania, known for its soft dry whites Greco di Tufo and Fiano; and Basilicata, where a wonderful deep red, Aglianico del Vulture, is made on the slopes of an extinct volcano.

We’ve reached Puglia, the heel of Italy, where some awesome wine is made. Soft, smooth, powerful reds like Salice Salentino, Negroamaro and Primitivo; grapes ripen in the hot sun giving us wines with purple tints and warm, spicy flavours. Masseria Borgo del Trulli Negroamaro is one of my favourites; a bargain at £11.99. Candido Carta Salice Salentino Riserva 2017; a super smooth and sultry experience for £14.99.

Finally, to Sicily, where our journey ends. Much anonymous wine for blending is made here, but there is much variety, and indigenous grapes like Grillo and Nero d’Avola produce wines of real character. There’s now a lot of organic farming in Sicily, as indicated by the increase in quality. Two organic wines to try from Da Vero Biologico: the Nero d’Avola, a juicy red with notes of strawberry and cherry, and the Catarratto, a zesty, zingy, tropical white both priced at £8.99. Wine has been made in Sicily since 4000 BC and it probably tastes a lot better nowadays!





Young Writers by a Young Writer

The Stage Company, at the Exchange Theatre, Twickenham and on-line.

As a bright, white light illuminated the stage, I leant forward on the edge of my seat in anticipation, knowing already that what I was about to witness would be undoubtedly spectacular. 2021 [Young Writers Festival](#) was presented on-line, streamed from Twickenham's Exchange Theatre.



Over time, I have noticed that it can often be all too easy to become wrapped up in complexity, valuing writing by length and vocabulary, but the work of these talented young authors served as an all too welcome reminder that there is so much joy to be found in work that is truly inspired. Each piece was truly brought to life by the incredibly talented actors, who delivered each performance with such passion and enthusiasm; it was thrilling to watch.

It goes without saying that the event was only made possible by the incredibly talented actors AJ MacGillivray, Jo Shirley and Cara Steele whose performance was breathtakingly marvellous, and really made the event. Likewise, Keith Wait's directing was impeccable, and truly brought the works of the young authors to life. All in all, the event is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the writers, and it is quite fair to say we can expect great things from every finalist.



Simone De Almeida's review can be read at www.markaspen.com/2021/04/24/young-ywf . Simone is one of the younger reviewers writing on Mark Aspen. Now aged thirteen, she was awarded the distinction of Senior Laureate in Arts Richmond's [Young Writers Festival in 2020](#). Simone De Almeida's Poem *Requiem* was the subject of a featured [Poem Preview article](#).

Photography by Thomas Jacobson and by Nick James, Kate Scott and Trevor Leighton

A very safe place for people not cars

By Shona Lyons

I just walked up Church Street to take some pictures to record and show everyone this lovely street now it has been washed from top to bottom (thanks to Natasha Heaphy and Discover Twickenham) and also now the 60 plus huge baskets (from our wonderful contractor who we have worked with for over 10 years & who supplies the Ritz and Chelsea, Kensington and Knightsbridge as well other illustrious clients! Also subsidized again this year with 30 given to us for free by Discover Twickenham) making us able to offer the traders these at a very modest price) have been installed yesterday. So this week saw a lot happen in this tiny street, and now our little baby is ready for the summer! Roll on the summer! Hopefully the sun will eventually make an appearance.



It was really great to walk up the street and see how good it looked. With our fantastic traders making the best use of the pedestrianization too and many have been able to invest in better umbrellas and furniture having been able to capitalize on better trade now and probably looking forward to good trading in the Summer months. It all looks great really and also so nice to see people being able to meet family and friends in a safe space, people in wheelchairs and small children running around freely or in buggies. You can really see what a safe space this street is now for people to meet up and just visit without having to dodge out of the way of fast cars, and with all the Al Fresco dining possible too. The young, old, the frail, elderly and the vulnerable have found a safe space to spend a little enjoyable time.



What a difference to Richmond which I visited a week ago and was so shocked to see all the empty shops in the high street. I have been told St Margaret's is also similar, and I have seen on the news other boroughs with high streets full of empty shops and looking like ghost towns.



We really should make the most of what we have, a thriving street, made possible because of enterprising traders and an enterprising council. We do sincerely hope things will get better for those other towns but really these pictures just bring home how lucky we all are with what is now really quite a rare thing, a busy & attractive safe haven for our community and our traders to enjoy. In a few weeks hopefully it will get hotter and the baskets will have started to grow and the street will look even more of a picture and continue to be this lovely safe space for people to eat, drink, meet friends & family, to sit a while & rest & to shop.



One Two Three GO!!!!

Travel news by Bruce Lyons

Don't blink, your eyes may deceive you! But believe it or not people are travelling – again!!

There was that last minute hitch with Green & Portugal, but Monday the 17th of May came round and so did the lovely images of beautiful beaches, Al Fresco in the Sun and smiles all round. Some were puzzled by the protocols and disciplines & had to rush around a bit to get it all sorted. Now this weekend there are 12,000 English Fans in Oporto for the UEFA Final and at least 6000 of them will be happy with the result and better news, the Portuguese Government banned the threatened strike of Border Officials on the basis it was undemocratic!

Last week we also watched Simon Calder (BBC Travel Correspondent) talking from the MS Virtuosa on its inaugural cruise from Southampton – a beautiful ship and only allowed 1000 passengers (capacity 6000) so there's plenty of room to "swing a cat" It was a bit breezy though!! But a lot of fun and this is the start of a unique season for the British Isles with more ships cruising here than ever before and this will probably not to happen ever again.

This week saw Riviera adding extra sailings in the Scottish Isles and Highlands. Staycations are still top of the list for enquiries as the Traffic Lights cause many anxieties and make the UK a more attractive option – and the good news is more properties have been added to the house rental inventories.

Last week the FCO (not the Government Traffic Lights) changed its advice from only essential to OK for tourists to travel for Canary Islands, Corfu, Rhodes, Crete, Zante and Kos – which means that whilst still Amber, it is OK to go and your insurance is valid – an important milestone. Many people are still finding the AMBER issue difficult to get their head around – but basically it means that not only will you have to conform with your host countries requirements, you will also have to quarantine on your return.

I guess it is all "small beginnings" and we can all hope in the next week's announcement for better news on the Greens. In the mean-time there has been a lot of activity on the PCR's, Test to release and the Vaccine passport issue and we now have a drop box outside the office for PCR – links and special prices for return to UK packages – just ask.

Also the UK Explore company have added more trips to their UK collection some soft and more guided walking in Scotland and North Wales & Intrepid also have some wonderful UK breaks, both soft and something for the more adventurous, for individuals, couples friends and families. We have more details of all of these as we are main suppliers for these companies. Just ask for more details.

In Portugal River Cruising is back on the menu on the Duoro with the first departure on the 6th of June on the MS Gil Eames with space @ £1637 (other dates from £1067) for 7 nights full board – add flights.

As I was walking in the street an acquaintance said he'd love to go to the Falkland Islands and was surprised to learn that Hedda knew them well from her Wildlife Guided Tours days, before the "War" so if Birding and Nature is your interest and you have deep pockets – just call.

From Today, 28th May it is OK to go to Jersey and they are expecting a busy summer – there are flights from several UK airport- little restrictions and most importantly no quarantining on your return!

So guys fingers crossed there's more Green around the corner – and some SUN!

CRUSADER
TRAVEL

WIZ Tales - BELARUS

Teresa Read

The Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic was one of the founders of the USSR.

At the end of 1991 the USSR was dissolved and Belarus became an independent state.

Polotsk is Belarus' oldest city, dating from the ninth century. St Sophia's, the city's cathedral was built between 1044 and 1066.

Perhaps the most well-known building in Belarus is Mir Castle, a World Heritage site. Built at the end of the fifteenth century, Mir Castle displays a number of architectural styles: Gothic, Baroque and Renaissance.

The Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park is on the World Heritage List; the Pushcha is the remainder of primeval European forest.



More photos of Belarus:
<https://worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=Belarus>



St Mary's University

Music Loving Priest to Complete 83 Half Marathons in Fundraising Appeal

Music loving priest Prof Monsignor Vladimir Felzmann, AKA Fr Vlad, has set himself the epic challenge of completing 52 laps of the Sir Mo Farah Athletics track 83 times over the coming year to raise £500,000 to replace the St Mary's University, Twickenham Chapel Organ.

Fr Vlad set himself the challenge to combine his love for music and sport. The two numbers in the challenge also represent special significance to Fr Vlad, he will be completing 52 laps, to celebrate his 52 years as a priest, 83 times to celebrate his 83rd year of life. [So far Fr Vlad has raised just short of £40000 from a range of supporters.](#)



With 52 laps of the Sir Mo Farah Athletics Track coming in at 20.8km, just 300m short of a half marathon, Fr Vlad is aiming to complete each of his 83 track sessions in around four hours. Through the challenge he will complete a total of 1726 kilometres, or 1066 miles. Which equates completing the distance from St Mary's University all the way to the edge of Europe in Cadiz, Spain.

Overlooking the main Piazza, the Chapel is at the heart of the St Mary's University life. With Mass said there daily for the local and University community, it is also an important venue for Christian communities. In recent years the Chapel has welcomed Pope Benedict XVI, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople of the Eastern Orthodox Church Bartholomew I of Constantinople, former Archbishop of Canterbury Rt Rev Rt Hon Prof Baron Rowan Williams, and the then Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All

Ireland Rt Rev Richard Clarke.

The University wants to expand and enhance these current uses, while also breaking new ground in pursuing linkages between music and disciplines such as theology and drama. St Mary's will also utilise it in extending our outreach to local schools, unlocking the Chapel's full potential as a resource for music, art, and religious education.

Fr Vlad, who volunteered at the London 2012 Games as a Chaplain, will pass the time completing his challenge by being joined by St Mary's students, staff, and alumni for laps of the track.

Speaking of the challenge, Fr Vlad said, "My aim is to give back to our Chapel its voice so that the beauty of its music may, once again, awaken and open hearts to our Creator, God. Having trained as a Civil Engineer before becoming a priest, I believe that walk trumps talk. As Matthew 25,40 teaches, we shall be judged on what we did – not just said, , so I'm putting on my walking shoes to make sure the wonderful Chapel at St Mary's that means so much to me can fulfil its potential."

Composer and Conductor Sir James MacMillan CBE said of the challenge, "There is something wonderful and life-enhancing when a commitment to musical excellence, a concern for beauty in the liturgy and a deep knowledge of and education in the arts all come together. These aspirations have always been dear to me. Therefore I am delighted that St Mary's University is demonstrating ambition in all these fields as it approaches the celebration of its 175th anniversary. Central to this determination is the desire to give new life to the place of the organ and the profound music it can make in the University Chapel, both in liturgical and concert contexts. The renewal of this instrument would be a significant step forward and I am delighted to lend my support to this appeal."



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

BROKEN CIRCLE BREAKDOWN

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.

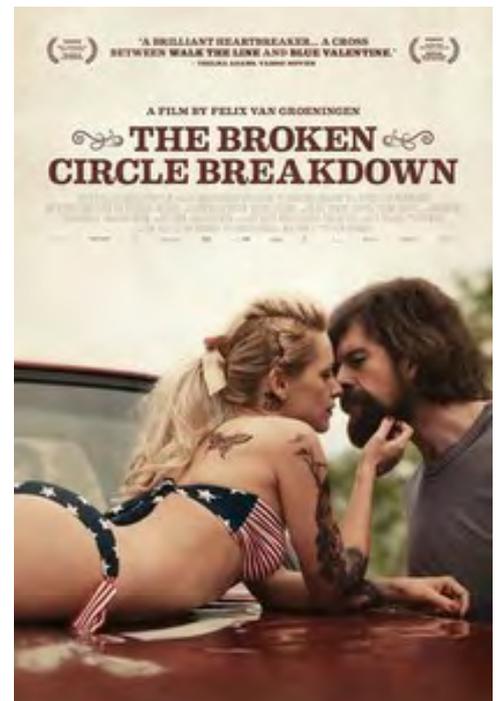
RFS Context: BROKEN CIRCLE BREAKDOWN was the 745th film screened by RFS on 1st December 2015. **Broken Circle Breakdown** was the sixth equal ranked film of Season 53 (equal with **Theeb**), it got an approval mark of 89% from those attending; from season 53 we have also already featured the top four films, in order: **Wild Tales**, **Salt Of The Earth**, **Still Life** and **Ida** as **Issues 5, 8, 40** and **10** respectively. **Broken Circle Breakdown** can be streamed from Amazon Prime the discs are available from Amazon and others.

BROKEN CIRCLE BREAKDOWN

Country: Belgium/Netherlands, 2012
 Director: Felix van Groeniengen
 Screenplay: Johan Heldenbergh, Mieke Dobbels & Felix van Groeniengen
 Editor: Nico Leunen
 Cinematography: Ruben Impens
 Music: Bjorn Eriksson
 Running Time: 111 min., colour
 Language: Dutch

Leading Players:

Johan Heldenbergh	... Didier / Monroe
Veerle Baetens	... Elise / Alabama
Nell Cattrysse	... Maybelle
Geert Van Rampelberg	... William
Nils De Caster	... Jock
Robbie Cleiren	... Jimmy
Bert Huysentruyt	... Jef
Jan Bijvoet	... Koen



This is, undoubtedly, a tough watch but arguably one of the most brutally honest films you will ever see; not only is it a master class in screen acting but raises many philosophical questions that in this new century we have still not properly addressed,

In essence this film is a love story. We are taken on a jig saw journey of a relationship - back and forth through the events of their lives. He's a romantic atheist, she's a religious realist. The love story between a bluegrass banjo player and a lady tattooist. Their love is a Big True honest thing and they are dealt some really nasty cards and have deal with the painful consequences.

The male lead, Johan Heldenbergh, co-authored the play the film is based upon. The original point of the departure for writing the play which was adapted into the movie, was a political statement about religion and politics, and Maybelles story was directly linked to George W. Bush vetoing stem cell research.

Both Heldenbergh and Baetens did their own singing.

This is a story of the healing power of music. Both Heldenbergh and Baetens did their own singing.

This is a story that will stay with you for a very long time after the film has ended.

This is a potentially grim tale of love and loss and grief and forgiveness and hope; a story that opens up the question of the possibility of life after death or rather the need to believe when it is time to let go it is not forever

The fractured structure of the film with its flashbacks and flash forwards, over seven years, does not detract from the storytelling if anything it strengthens it and also may induce the viewer to take a second look. It is impossible to remain unmoved by many of the scenes due to the brutal honesty of them. The final scene with its antithesis of the bluegrass musicians gathered around the bed is one I shall not forget in a long while.

Oscar nominated for best Foreign Language Film and winner of the Cesar and many other awards.

Peter Sheil

with acknowledgments to Amazon reviewers



BRENTFORD FC

Bees come from behind to reach play-off final

Brentford 3 - 1 AFC Bournemouth

Brentford recovered from a two goal deficit to reach a second consecutive Championship playoff after a remarkable second leg at the Brentford Community Stadium. The Bees had given themselves a mountain to climb after falling behind to an early Arnaut Danjuma strike but they fought their way back into the tie after equalising from an Ivan Toney penalty. A red card to former Brentford player Chris Mepham then gave them the key advantage and with the extra man they produce a remarkable comeback with further goals from Vitaly Janelt and Marcus Forss securing a return to Wembley.



In a first-half full of tension and tempers the game swung dramatically both ways. Brentford made a nightmare start and found themselves a goal behind with just six minutes on the clock after conceding from their own corner. A delivery from Bryan Mbeumo was initially won by Ethan Pinnock at the back post but the ball was then cleared away by the Cherries up field, where Danjuma raced away from the Brentford backline and finished past David Raya to strike an early blow.

Brentford responded well though and backed by a vociferous home support won a penalty ten minutes after falling behind. A long ball had originally been knocked down by Toney for Emiliano Marcondes to run onto, and after his cross was blocked by the outstretched hand of Llyod Kelly a penalty was awarded. Toney stepped up to convert high past Asmi Begović to begin the fightback.

The pivotal moment of the game came with just under half an hour played as Chris Mepham was sent off on his return against his old club. A long ball was sent over the top from the Brentford defensive third and Mepham failed to deal with it allowing Mbeumo to sprint clear. Out of position and unable to match Mbeumo's pace the defender tap tackled the Frenchman as he looked set to go through one on one and was subsequently dismissed for denying a goalscoring opportunity.

Brentford nearly levelled on aggregate after a long throw in from Pinnock was flicked goalwards by Henrik Dalsgaard. As Begović collided with his own player the ball looked to be heading in but substitute Diego Rico did exceptionally well to get back and stretch a leg out to make a goal line clearance.

Six minutes into the second-half the Bees scored their second of the afternoon. Kelly couldn't clear for the Cherries and the ball eventually broke to the edge of the area where Janelt arrived to curl the ball past the reach of Begović for a vital goal.

Soon after things nearly got even better when Mbeumo turned away to celebrate after putting the ball into the back of the net, but his celebrations were cut short after Forss was penalised for a foul inside the box as the Finn looked to make contact with the ball.

At the other there was some brilliant defending from Dalsgaard as he got back to nip in ahead of Dominic Solanke as he went to line up a shot from the edge of the area, after goal scorer Danjuma broke up field and cut the ball back for his teammate.

In the latter stages Brentford pushed for a winner and Frank sent on Saman Ghoddos to give the Bees a further attacking dimension. Marcondes had a big chance at the back post after a set piece had dropped to him but he couldn't sort his feet out and Cameron Carter-Vickers had to get a leg out after a header from Mbeumo nearly found Toney lurking in the six yard box.

Marcondes then received a pass from Dalsgaard as they tried to find a way through but his shot was pushed away for a corner but Begović saved.

The goal did eventually come with just under ten minutes to play. Forss was the hero of the hour as he flicked a ball on for Ghoddos to chase and the Iranian returned the favour by swinging a cross in to the near post. Forss then popped up to stab the ball in at the near post as they took the lead for the first time in the tie.

The away side sent goalkeeper Begović forward in a late attempt to salvage something from the game but as he was penalised for offside and the full time whistle was blown Brentford's dreams of another Wembley appearance were confirmed – a site of heartbreak on their last visit, they will be looking to go one further this time around.

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 full and youth levels.

Danish duo Christian Nørgaard and Mathias Jensen have both been named in the Denmark squad for Euro 2020. They will face games against Finland, Belgium and Russia in Group B with all their games set to take place in their capital city of Copenhagen.

Saman Ghoddos has been called up the Iranian national team ahead of qualifying action for the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Iran face four games in two weeks with matches against Hong Kong, Bahrain, Cambodia and Iraq as they look to resume qualifying after an 18 month hiatus due to the pandemic.

At U21 level Vitaly Janelt has been called up for the Germany squad for the European Champions which are jointly being held in Hungary and Slovenia. Germany will face Denmark and there could be a potential Brentford reunion as fellow Bees Mads Bech Sørensen and Mads Roerslev are in the Danish side for the quarter-final clash.

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Opponent: Swansea City (N) Saturday 29th May 15:00 Wembley Stadium

Nickname: The Swans, The Jacks

Competition: Championship play-off final

Head Coach: Steve Cooper

Opponent record: P46 W23 D11 L12 GF56 GA39 (4th in Championship)

Play-off: First Leg Barnsley 0-1 Swansea City

Second Leg Swansea City 1-1 Barnsley

Swansea City win 2-1 on aggregate

Pre match quotes:

Henrik Dalsgaard

On working under Thomas Frank

“We’ve gotten far I think. I think we have a really good relationship him and me. We talk a lot with each other. He gives me a lot of responsibility and I try to listen to him and the things that he wants from the squad I try to like implement without him having to talk directly to the squad. I think we work really well together.”

On the schedule this season

“The programme this season has just been outrageous. It’s been crazy and you can see the injuries that people are getting that’s due to a very tough season and too tough a season to be honest. I hope that won’t happen again. It’s a little too much.”

Thomas Frank

On it being one of his hardest seasons

“Yeah definitely. I am a high energy person. I live my life like I run. I run at a very good steady tempo and I just continue. So when people stop I just continue but I’m not so quick, I just continue. But this year I must say that also my energy levels also dropped. First, we had a big defeat and a big disappointment of course last year in the play-off final. You know, no holiday whatsoever. Eight days or something like that was what I had plus there were transfers and bits and pieces, going into a season where we played the most condensed season ever. Then on top covid so we haven’t had visitors from Denmark since March last season. So that’s tough. I’m a very social person. I can’t see or meet anyone to think about something else. So I think it’s been really tough and I think in March the international break was a lifesaver for me. I didn’t do anything for eight days and then I recharged a bit but I’m really, really looking forward to a holiday on Sunday. Hopefully with a massive hangover!”

Come on you Bees!

Police make multiple arrests in UK-wide crackdown on scam texts

Police have made eight arrests following a series of early morning operations targeting individuals suspected of sending out “smishing” texts. These scam messages aim to steal people’s personal and financial details by directing recipients to fake versions of trusted organisations’ websites, such as Royal Mail.

The arrests formed part of a week of action led by officers from the Dedicated Card and Payment Crime Unit (DCPCU), a specialist City of London and Metropolitan police unit funded by the banking and cards industry, in partnership with Royal Mail and the telecoms industry. Eight operations were conducted across London, Coventry, Birmingham and Colchester resulting in eight male suspects being arrested on suspicion of fraud.

The suspects arrested during the operations are believed to have been involved in sending out scam texts primarily posing as Royal Mail, which claim the recipient needs to pay an outstanding postage fee for a parcel or input their details to rearrange a delivery.

During the searches, valuable intelligence was gathered and several devices suspected of being used in smishing scams were seized. The unit also recovered numerous customers’ financial details, enabling these bank accounts to be protected. Seven of those arrested have been released under investigation, with one suspect charged and remanded into custody ahead of their court appearance. Ongoing investigations are expected to result in further arrests and charges.

Detective Chief Inspector Gary Robinson, the head of the Dedicated Card and Payment Crime Unit (DCPCU), commented:

“The success of these operations shows how through our close collaboration with Royal Mail, the financial services sector, and mobile phone networks, we are cracking down on the criminals ruthlessly targeting the public.

“Ongoing investigations are now underway and we will continue to work together to bring those committing smishing scams to justice.”

Members of the public are encouraged to follow the advice of the [Take Five to Stop Fraud](#) campaign if they receive a suspicious message:

- **Stop:** Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
- **Challenge:** Could it be fake? It’s ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- **Protect:** Contact your bank immediately if you think you’ve fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

Customers can report suspected scam texts which they’ve received but not acted upon to their mobile network provider by forwarding them to 7726, which is free of charge. Doing this will help mobile providers take action, if need be, to block malicious numbers. Customers can also forward any emails they have concerns about to the [Suspicious Email Reporting Service](#) (SERS) at report@phishing.gov.uk.



London gymnasts delighted to represent their country at the Acrobatic Gymnastics World Championships

After months of perseverance through lockdown training and competition uncertainty, the hard work of gymnasts from Richmond is now paying off – as they are set to compete for Great Britain on the world stage.

The Acrobatic Gymnastics World Age Group competition and World Championships will take place from 23rd June – 4th July, with Britain represented in the women's pair, men's pair, mixed pair, women's group and men's group events. From Richmond, Harry Slater (17), Lea Wetzel (12), Toby Cooper-Driver (14) & Anisa Arumugam (12) will compete as mixed pairs, with Sophie-Lola Kimberley (15) & Alyssa Figgins (11) as a women's pair, and Tegan Wilcock (16), Kyla Cook (23) & Lola Ernstzen (15) in the women's group event. In a sport that requires perfect coordination and intuition with your fellow gymnasts, the clubmates are glad to be competing together.

Their achievement has delighted all at their club, South-West London based Richmond Gymnastics Association – though it is not limited to high achievement in competitions. Richmond Gymnastics is an exceptional community club. In 2020, the club's Director of Coaching received a British Gymnastics Award of Merit for her services to the sport, and their Head of Inclusive Gymnastics was nominated for her work with physical and special educational needs gymnasts.

Following such positive news, coaches and clubmates alike are looking forward to watching their peers compete internationally for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic took hold. With their club behind them, all the gymnasts are equally delighted to be selected. Kyla Cook said:

"It felt very good and really exciting. I'm quite proud! I was originally at Harefield for 12 years but there was no partnership available for me there, so I moved to Richmond just before Covid. I was bit nervous when I first started but I've settled in now. Richmond has been so important and has allowed me to get where I wanted to go in gymnastics.

"I love competing because of the adrenalin you get and being able to do things that other people can't. With my disabilities, it's really helped increase my social skills."

As well as incredible skill, the young gymnasts have needed resilience to handle what has been an uncertain time, following multiple lockdowns. Ahead of the championships in June, they are all extremely relieved to be back doing what they love and competing again. Of the fantastic support from their club, and maintain that social aspect, Anisa Arumugam said:

"Richmond is very important because everyone has grown together from when they were younger to get all these opportunities at the gym. The club is very supportive with everything you do. I like how you're able to learn a lot of new things every day. And you get a lot of opportunities so you can grow in your gymnastics. Everyone is friends here! You grow as a person and meet different people at the gym."

Following Richmond's achievement, the gymnasts know just how many benefits the sport brings for young people, with not just technical proficiency and physical development, but also mental wellbeing, improved self-esteem, and leadership skills. Lola Ernstzen said:

"I enjoy pushing through the hard sessions, going to competitions and meeting people from different places. Gymnastics really helps with a lot of things like teambuilding, and it teaches you to be organised! To be selected felt great, because it shows our hard work had paid off.

James Thomas, British Gymnastics Performance Director, said: "This is another fantastic event to look forward to in the gymnastics calendar. It's an exciting British team and one that will no doubt be glad to get back to competition.

"Having the opportunity to test themselves against the very best acrobatic gymnasts in the world is a great challenge. Congratulations to all of the gymnasts and coaches on their selection."

For more information about the World Championships, or to find out how to get involved in gymnastics, visit www.british-gymnastics.org.



STRICTLY STAR ANNOUNCES LAST CHA-CHA-CHANCE TO NOMINATE RICHMOND HEROES FOR MAJOR AWARDS

Strictly Come Dancing's head judge Shirley Ballas is offering people and projects from **Richmond** the chance to waltz off with a National Lottery Award by getting their nominations in before the Monday 7 June deadline.

The National Lottery Awards are the annual search for the UK's favourite National Lottery funded people and organisations and they celebrate the inspirational individuals and groups who do extraordinary things in their community, especially during these challenging times.

Last year there were almost 5000 nominations made and once again, the National Lottery is looking to hear about those who are going the extra mile, doing amazing things, and inspiring others. Anyone who has received National Lottery funding is eligible for nomination.

Winners in each category will receive a £3,000 cash prize for their organisation and a coveted National Lottery Awards trophy.

In 2018, Shirley surprised the winners of the Health Project category with their National Lottery Award. Breast Cancer Care's support app, BECCA, helps people move forward after breast cancer, and Shirley presented the trophy to a group of women in Glasgow, who use the app. The project was close to Shirley's heart as she had gone through a cancer scare herself around the same time.

Shirley said: *"In 2018 I was fortunate enough to visit a National Lottery funded project and see first-hand where funding goes and how valuable it is to those in the community. Its thanks to National Lottery players that £30 million is raised for good causes every week. The last 14 months have been extremely tough on us all. But as we hope for better days ahead, we are constantly astounded by the way people and projects responded to adversity with heroic yet simple acts of love, kindness and selflessness that will be long remembered. I have been fortunate to witness how hard these local heroes work and how deserving they are of these awards and accolades. They should be celebrated and will only be celebrated if you put them forward- so please get nominating!"*



Encompassing all aspects of National Lottery good causes funding, the 2021 National Lottery Awards are seeking to recognise outstanding individuals in the following sectors:

- Culture, Arts & Film
- Heritage
- Sport
- Community/Charity

There will be a special Young Hero Award for someone under the age of 18 who has gone that extra mile in their organisation. All nominees must work or act for a National Lottery funded organisation or have received National Lottery funding.

Winners of these categories will be chosen by a judging panel made up of members of the National Lottery family and partners.

In addition, projects from any sector who have received National Lottery funding are eligible to enter The National Lottery Project of the Year category. Sixteen shortlisted finalists will compete in a UK-wide public vote in September to claim this title.

To make your nomination for this year's National Lottery Awards, tweet @LottoGoodCauses with your suggestions or complete an entry form through our website www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards. Entries must be received by midnight on 7th June 2021.

Museum of London acquires NHS sign from ZSL London Zoo's Giraffe House as part of Collecting COVID

The Museum of London is pleased to announce that it has acquired the well-known sign erected by ZSL London Zoo on their Giraffe House in April 2020. It has been collected as part of the museum's ongoing Collecting COVID initiative.

The giant, light-up, blue wooden sign featuring two red hearts and white 'NHS' lettering was created by ZSL as a symbolic 'thank you' to all NHS staff on the front lines of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The sign was deliberately positioned on the Giraffe House to be in the direct line of sight of paramedics who were parking outside the locked-down zoo during their lunch breaks.

The sign quickly became widely known through the ITV documentary 'London Zoo: An Extraordinary Year' and by local residents stopping to have socially-distanced photos taken with it and the giraffes throughout both lockdowns of 2020. The sign was finally removed from the Giraffe House prior to London Zoo's recent reopening on 15 April 2021 and officially donated by Kathryn England, Chief Operating Officer ZSL London Zoo to the Museum of London.

Beatrice Behlen, Senior Curator at the Museum of London, said: "We are very honoured that ZSL London Zoo have donated their symbolic NHS sign to our ongoing Collecting COVID project. Throughout the last year, while London Zoo's doors were closed, the sign was a source of great camaraderie for the local community and front-line NHS workers. It represents the many messages and acts of support that came from so many of London's institutions to uplift, provide hope and connect Londoners over the past year. As part of our permanent London Collection the sign will help tell the story of London and Londoners from this time in a new and imaginative way, which is a priority as we look ahead to the opening of the new Museum of London in West Smithfield in the coming years."

Kathryn England, Chief Operating Officer for ZSL London Zoo said: "We wanted to show our gratitude and respect for the NHS, in what was a life changing year for so many of us. The idea, and location for the sign on London Zoo's iconic Giraffe House, was inspired by the paramedics we saw parking outside the Zoo's gates on their hasty lunch breaks – so we installed this tribute at their favourite sandwich spot to brighten their day. We were so pleased to see it so quickly become a highlight for other Londoners out for their daily exercise – it became something of an emblem for London's resilience to the pandemic and meant that even when closed, the zoo was able to bring a smile to people's faces. As London's zoo, we are absolutely delighted that this sign will now have a home with another one of London's great institutions, the Museum of London."

[The Collecting COVID project](#), first announced in April 2020, is an active collecting project that seeks to reflect Londoners' lives during the time of the COVID-19 crisis in order to keep a record to ensure future generations of Londoners will be able to learn about and understand this extraordinary period. The ZSL London Zoo sign will be considered for potential display in the museum's future new home in West Smithfield in the coming years.

To stay up to date with the project and all other Museum of London updates please visit www.museumoflondon.org.uk or follow us @MuseumofLondon #CollectingCOVID.



Ultrafast Online Supermarket Delivery App Launches in London

Online grocery delivery service Jiffy (www.jiffygrocery.co.uk) has launched into the UK with five London hubs – Bethnal Green, Battersea, Waterloo, Park Royal and **Teddington** - expanding the delivery area to East, Central, South West and north West London - with plans to launch more throughout London and the UK later this year. Jiffy provides fresh groceries in minutes (on average 15 minutes within a 1.5 mile radius) – from fresh fruit and veg, delicious ready meals and quality products from local suppliers to well-known household name brands. Collaborating with charity partners including City Harvest, the app also aims to minimize food waste within the delivery industry.

At a time where people are relying on delivery services more than ever – as staying at home remains popular for the foreseeable future – Jiffy cuts through the busy delivery app landscape to create an experience focused on the needs of the customer. No nonsense, no hidden fees and no minimum order and free delivery; just a supermarket experience straight to your door and catering for every need; from busy working parents to sleep deprived students and everything in between. Jiffy takes the stress out of food shopping – no more delivery slots or battling the elements of an in-person experience, and absolutely no substitutions (the bane of many online shoppers).



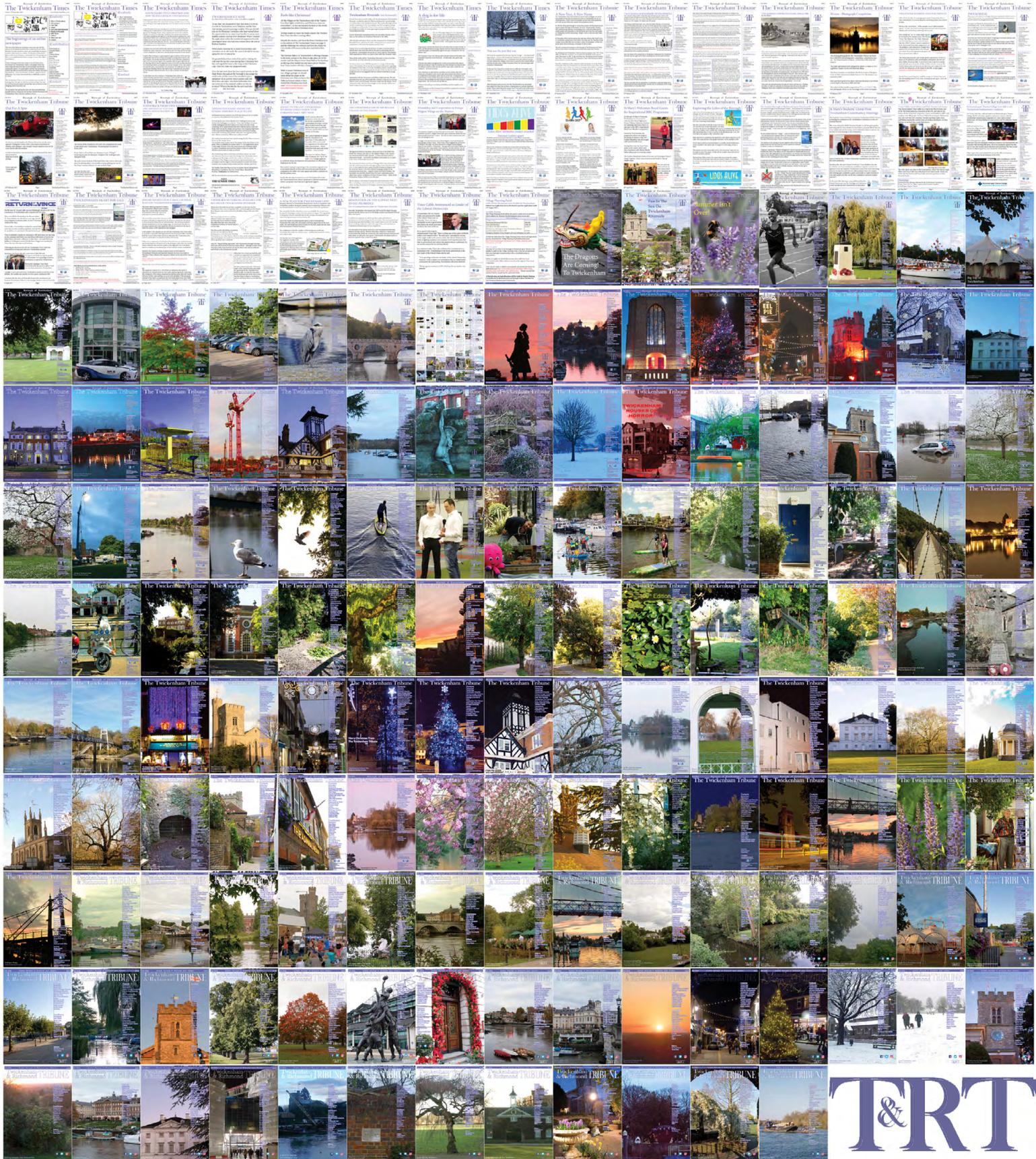
With no minimum order and free delivery Jiffy can satisfy your need for top up shops, forgotten items or any last minute panics or cravings.

Vladimir Kholiaznikov, founding partner of Jiffy said: “It’s hard to believe that it’s 2021 and we’re only just able to get groceries delivered straight to our door within minutes. At Jiffy we are thrilled to provide a hassle-free way for people to pick up any groceries they want – from last minute top up shops to nutritious meals and cooking ingredients for a family dinner. We’re well and truly bringing in a new convenience supermarket era. We strive to make the outdated convenience sector, aptly, convenient for the new generation for consumers.”

Unlike other delivery apps resourced by the gig economy deliveries are made by contracted riders on electric and pedal bikes, decked out in eye-catching branded merchandise including a recent partnership with On-Running, a swiss piece of tech in the running shoes industry, that ensure they’re the fastest out there.



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Example advert sizes shown above

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Published by:

Twickenham Alive Limited (in association with World InfoZone Limited)
Registered in England & Wales
Reg No 10549345

The Twickenham Tribune is registered with the ICO under the Data
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