

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

Contents

TickerTape
 TwickerSeal
 COVID-19
 A Visit To Twickenham Film Studios
 Marble Hill Marvels
 Flower Festival 2021
 An Update On Udney Park
 World Environment Day
 Letters
 News From A Sunny Church Street
 York House & Naked Ladies Statues
 Tribune Snippets
 River Crane Sanctuary
 Spot The Fake
 WIZ Tales - Timor-Leste
 Twickers Foodie
 Review
 Back to Square One?
 Traveller's Tales
 Film Screenings
 Football Focus
 Portugal On Amber List
 COVID-19 Surge Threatens Africa's
 Health Facilities

Contributors

TwickerSeal
 Simon Fowler
 Marble Hill House
 Strawberry Hill House
 Twickenham Riverside Park Team
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 Mark Aspen
 Doug Goodman
 World InfoZone
 Shona Lyons
 Bruce Lyons
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4th June 2021

T&RT

St Mary's Church, Twickenham - View from Radnor Gardens

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

Help shape the future of your local high street at the next round of virtual community conversation events

Residents of Richmond upon Thames are invited to have their say on community issues, the future of their high streets and town centres, and share their ideas on local priorities following the pandemic, in a series of virtual community engagement events. Due to ongoing uncertainty around restriction on public gatherings, the Council will host the next round of community engagement events online using Zoom. Those who wish to attend their local event, can [register here](#). Once registered, attendees will be sent a personal link to join the event. View timetable of events and sign up [HERE](#)

Appeal: SPEAR still need your help to address homelessness

Many people are losing and will lose their homes due to the impact of the pandemic. Help charity SPEAR be there to offer both hope and help to fellow Richmond upon Thames community members.

SPEAR helps homeless people in South West London to find secure accommodation and a positive future. It is a community charity that helps people achieve independent living. In 2019/20, the charity helped 630 rough sleepers across South West London.

They offer services including help finding immediate accommodation, support to find long term accommodation, help to address health and mental health issues, support to develop skills and qualifications and support to find employment. To donate to this important crowd funder, go to [Crowdfunder](#).

You can also help SPEAR's outreach team by contacting them on 020 8404 1481 or outreach@spearlondon.org if you have seen rough sleepers and know their location, the date and time they were seen and any physical descriptions.

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



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TwickerSeal



TwickerSeal was wandering through Strawberry Hill, when he came across his chum TwickerDuck. They stopped for a chat and, before long, were on the topic of those pesky e-scooters that seem to be proliferating at an alarming rate.

They both recounted stories of the many near misses they had experienced recently, which only seem to be increasing exponentially.

Unfortunately they had to cut their conversation short as they dived for cover as TwickerWeasel zoomed up the pavement at speed on his brand new e-scooter!



World Health Organization

Overview (1st June)

In the past week, the number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths continues to decrease, with over 3.5 million new cases and 78 000 new deaths reported globally. Although the number of global cases and deaths continued to decrease for a fifth and fourth consecutive week respectively, case and death incidences remain at high levels and significant increases have been reported in many countries in all regions.

Sinovac-CoronaVac COVID-19 vaccine

On 1st June WHO validated the Sinovac-CoronaVac COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use, giving countries, funders, procuring agencies and communities the assurance that it meets international standards for safety, efficacy and manufacturing. The vaccine is produced by the Beijing-based pharmaceutical company Sinovac.

“The world desperately needs multiple COVID-19 vaccines to address the huge access inequity across the globe,” said Dr Mariângela Simão, WHO Assistant-Director General for Access to Health Products. “We urge manufacturers to participate in the COVAX Facility, share their knowhow and data and contribute to bringing the pandemic under control.”

In the News:

Covid-19: Delta variant is now UK’s most dominant strain and spreading through schools

(the bmj 4 June 2021)

Covid-19 news: UK cases on the rise as delta variant becomes dominant

(New Scientist 4 June 2021)

Total cases to 4 June 2021

11,019 Richmond upon Thames

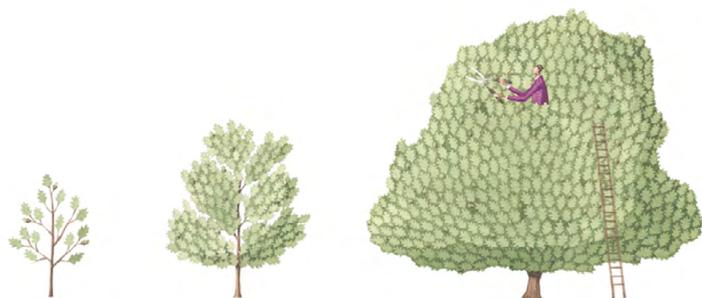
12,607 Kingston upon Thames

25,556 Hounslow

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

Deaths Worldwide 3,697,151

USA	590,095	Indonesia	51,095
Brazil	467,706	Ukraine	50,959
India	340,702	Turkey	47,768
Mexico	228,146	Romania	30,415
Peru	184,942	Czechia	30,136
The United Kingdom	127,794	Hungary	29,708
Italy	126,283	Chile	29,598
Russian Federation	122,660	Canada	25,612
France	108,925	Belgium	24,982
Colombia	89,808	Philippines	21,357
Germany	88,940	Pakistan	21,022
Iran	80,658	Ecuador	20,681
Spain	80,049	Bulgaria	17,747
Argentina	79,320	Netherlands	17,644
Poland	74,075	Portugal	17,026
South Africa	56,711	Iraq	16,462



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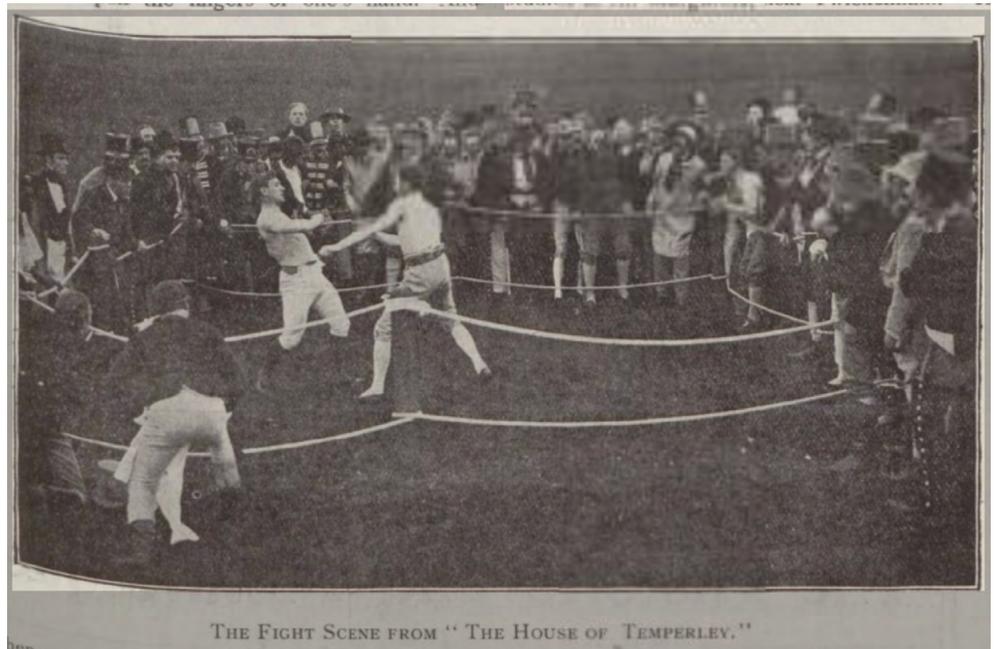
The Tree Agency

A visit to the Twickenham Film Studios

By Simon Fowler

In September 1913 a reporter from *The Bioscope* visited the newly opened film studios in St Margarets:

Having entered the swing doors (after satisfying the sternly inquisitorial keeper thereof as to the honesty of your intentions) you find yourself in a hive of small offices, whilst beyond in the studio itself, you catch a glimpse of the confusion of scenery and properties as miscellaneous as the contents of a pawnshop... Every object had quite a romance attached to it. There, for instance, is the cabin which appeared in 'Beauty and the Beast', whilst next door are a coach and half a staircase specially built for use in a forthcoming production. There are several scenes already set, also, including an elaborate drawing room cheek by jowl with a poet's attic and numerous other strangely assorted apartments.



The fight scene in *The House of Temperley* being filmed on Epsom Downs.

Adjacent to the studio is a large carpenter's shop in which several men are constantly at work making every kind of article imaginable – and finishing them all so thoroughly that they might quite well pass into regular use. Makeshifts are not tolerated; down to the smallest detail everything is perfectly realistic.

In certain scenes it is, of course, inevitable that painted cloths should be used, and in this connection, we noticed that the usual black and white scenery largely gives place to colours at St. Margarets. The reason for this, we were told, is the moral effect upon artists of the more realistic coloured scenery, and also the increased inspiration for the painters, who find it less easy to do themselves the fullest justice in black and white.

In addition to the carpenter's shop and the scene painting department, there is a Titling Room with fonts of elegant ivory letters; a Trick Film Department with a camera in mid-air, lens downwards, on a large wooden scaffold, and ingenious lighting arrangements allowing for the stoppage of the film between each picture; dressing rooms; a comfortable projection theatre; and a small dark room. The general dark rooms, with developing, printing, and drying departments, etc., fitted throughout with the latest improvements, are just across the road.

The London Film Company, we believe, engage their players neither for their acrobatic abilities nor for their chest measurements (criteria of competence which are sometimes favoured elsewhere), but for their talent as dramatic artists; and for this reason alone their films are likely to be remarkable. At any rate, their initial picture *The House of Temperley* is a notable and exceptional example of what picture acting should be. The staging and photography of the film are no less excellent than its histrionic side.

The Bioscope, 18 September 1913

The Flower Garden Quarter

By Kate Slack

The flower garden quarter at Marble Hill Park is beginning to fill out; this was an interesting quarter to plant as it is being planted in keeping with an 18th C flower garden. To our 21st Century eyes it may look a little odd; however it would have been very much a working garden in Henrietta's time. It is planted up with perennial, annual, biennial plants and would have been used both for cut flowers and herbs as well as an ornamental garden.

We laid it out in what I can only describe as a sunburst pattern, with the brown paths marking out what would have been the gardener's paths, used to move into the flower beds. The flowers are planted in blocks in-between each ray and will be replaced with fresh plants as they finish.



The sunburst pattern of paths



Sea thrift edging of the flowerbed



Volunteers planting the flower garden quarter

This will be the most colourful of the woodland quarters, the paths which wind around the bed will allow the visitor to wander around the colourful flower beds. We will be using the cut flowers and herbs in the same way Henrietta would have used them to provide cut flowers and fresh herbs for the new café.

The edges of the paths that curve around the beds are planted with Sea Thrift (*Ameria maritime*) which frames the beds beautifully at this time of year. Sea Thrift is a common sight around the coast in the UK and if you visit Cornwall between May and July you can see the pink globes of flowers, clothing the cliffs.

World Environment Day

Teresa Read

Saturday 5th June is World Environment Day, the United Nations day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment with the theme “Reimagine, Recreate, Restore”.



**REIMAGINE
RECREATE
RESTORE**
#GenerationRestoration

“This is our moment. We cannot turn back time. But we can grow trees, green our cities, rewild our gardens, change our diets and clean up rivers and coasts. We are the generation that can make peace with nature. Let’s get active, not anxious. Let’s be bold, not timid.”

As individuals there are a number of things we can do but “Reimagine, Recreate, Restore” is needed through all sectors of society and government.

Our public spaces, rivers and coasts are important to our physical and mental health providing space for exercise and reflection; it is essential that we safeguard them.

Protecting the environment is not always an easy option as there are many demands on land, often a scarce resource, but this year let us “Reimagine, Recreate and Restore”.

Remember Our Riverside

The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames has a number of open parks and public spaces: 128 parks and open spaces with the Thames dividing the Twickenham side and the Richmond side of the Borough.

In 1924 the Council had the foresight to buy the land on Twickenham Riverside for the residents of the Borough - who along with the Mayor have the Title Absolute - “for the purpose of public walks and pleasure grounds”, but since the outside pool closed in 1980 there have been a number of attempts to develop this land for commercial and/or housing purposes; this rare natural resource which cannot be replaced.

Our present Council seems intent on development, even to the extent of using a Compulsory Purchase Order.

We live in a time when open space, in this case public open space, should be valued: “Reimagine, Recreate, Restore”.

Further reading:

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



**WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY**

An update on Udney Park



What has happened since the Public Inquiry result in May 2020?

The 14-day Public Inquiry to determine if Udney Park is a “building plot” or a Playing Field determined categorically that Udney Park is unsuitable for ANY residential development. Expert opinion on the Inspector’s report from May 2020 was that this ruling was a “No – Never” outcome.

The conclusion from the Inquiry is that any speculator trying to spend more years wearing down the Council and Community building on a protected playing field would be wasting their time and damaging their own reputation now that all fund management is measured through the lens of Environmental, Social and Governance reporting.

There has been a recent Government White Paper on expediting the Planning process though that Paper is clear that protected green space will remain protected. The Trust took the matter of Local Green Space to the High Court thanks to your financial backing, resulting in an Inspector determining the level of protection on Udney Park, who said: “there is **more than enough evidence** that UPPF are demonstrably special to the local community. It is **abundantly clear** that UPPF meet the criteria for LGS designation. I am of the **firm view** that designation of UPPF as LGS has been **very clearly justified**”.

The community enjoys Udney Park during the pandemic

The current owner and sub-tenant Teddington RFC has left the Park open during the pandemic, which has been a welcome refuge for many. TRFC are also using a single pitch for training and the new “Tennis for Teddington” has started in April, which are pleased to see. Sadly, the War Memorial Pavilion remains closed in line with Covid-19 Guidance and has suffered some damage to the tiles, though recent inspection has confirmed the building is sound and has great potential to serve the community.

Asset of Community Value renewed, and sales process triggered

The original designation as Asset of Community Value (“ACV”) was for 5 years and expired at the end of March 2021. The Teddington Society made a new Application for ACV status, which was approved by the Council in March 2021 for 5 more years. The current owner Quantum has triggered the six-month moratorium window which means that only a sale to a community bid can be made until mid-August 2021, though Quantum have no obligation to sell to the community, we have to make a compelling case to Quantum to work with the community to achieve that “graceful exit”.

Plan B is now launched and backed by £1 Million pledge

The Inquiry also heard fantastic news that Plan B, led by local resident and Chair of Thamesians RFC, Jonathan Dunn has committed funding of £1 Million to acquire Udney Park. Thamesians RFC and Hearts of Teddlothian FC have now been joined by Teddington RFC in a unifying bid that will also restore cricket. Plan B is now up and running and more details about the Plan, who is involved, the business plan, can all be found here:

It is so exciting after the community has fought for 7 years to save Udney Park, that a compelling bid has emerged to secure Udney Park permanently as a community playing field.

If you check the “Supporters” section at <https://www.udneypark.co.uk/supporters/> you will see statements of support from the CEO of the RFU, the CEO of the ECB, Harlequins FC, Richmond FC (the two largest professional clubs in the Borough), St Mary’s University and many other local high profile sports leaders.

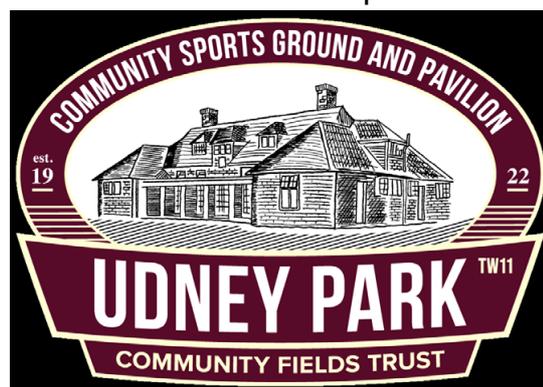
What happens if the Asset of Community Value moratorium process does not result in Community ownership in summer 2021?

The Government Policy on Compulsory Purchase Orders pertaining to ACVs is clear:

“Authorities can receive requests from the community or local bodies to use their compulsory purchase powers to acquire community assets, which may have been designated as Assets of Community Value, that are in danger of being lost where the owner of the asset is unwilling to sell”. (2019 HM Government CPO Guidance, para 225).

We hope that the ACV process results in a mutual solution, Quantum selling to the new Udney Park Community Fields Trust. However, if the ACV moratorium fails to achieve the Policy aim of the Localisation Act (2011) of a sale to the community, the Trust will campaign for Compulsory Purchase Order backed by a Community Asset Transfer (which means the net cost to public funds is zero). Richmond Council has successfully acquired a playing field via CPO before, we trust that it won’t be necessary this time and that Quantum will work with the community to deliver what Councillor Brown calls “a graceful exit”.

<https://www.udneypark.co.uk/>



FLOWER FESTIVAL 2021

FRIDAY 8 – SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER

This autumn the spectacular setting of Strawberry Hill House & Garden in West London will become even more so as it hosts its third Flower Festival. Horace Walpole's villa will once again provide a gorgeous, gothic backdrop to showcase floral designs with all its colour, drama, opulence, light and shadow at this atmospheric time of year.

Each room has its own characteristics and mood, much like the changing seasons themselves, making Strawberry Hill House the perfect location for some of Britain's leading flower designers to create truly unique displays.

The Flower Festival also seeks to create greater awareness of the beauty, variety and versatility of British flowers, with over 30 florists and designers sharing their own artistic visions inspired by native flowers and foliage, plus dried and natural elements. All the floral designers – including Holly Bee Flowers, Twisted Sister Floral Design and Wildly Beautiful Flowers - have sustainable practices at the heart of what they do and will be demonstrating what can be achieved using traditional techniques.

“They may grow their own flowers; work with local flower farmers, or be cutting back and eliminating single-use plastics in their work,” explains Twickenham-based floral designer Leigh Chappell, who co-organises the Festival with flower photographer, Janne Ford. “For the third year, we've brought together exciting and innovative designers and growers from across the country to transform this magical house into a floral extravaganza.

These include such stars of contemporary floristry as Simply by Arrangement, Wolves Lane Flower Company, Xyris Botanicals and Tallulah Rose Flower School, along with some new talented designers, including Ravens Hill Flower Farm, A Glimpse of the Garden and Johnny Crows Garden.”

Highlights of this year's Festival will be intricate and dramatic floral installations throughout the rooms of the house, each one inspired by the setting of Horace Walpole's 18th-century gothic castle. Demonstrations of sustainable methods of flower arranging will also be a key part of the weekend, as will children's workshops – including seed sowing and flower crowns – while a flower clinic for visitors with Strawberry Hill House's very own horticultural experts will seek to answer any thorny questions about quince and find a solution for troublesome tulips.

The Flower Festival will also be presenting the work of artist Flora Roberts. Renowned for her murals and large-scale paintings for private houses and commercial projects, Flora is also a highly sought-after fabric and wallpaper designer, creating beautiful floral patterns for companies such as Hamilton Weston Ltd, Zoffany and Mulberry Home.

Throughout the Festival, guided tours of the transformed House will be available, including an evening of tours and a talk by Lucy Hunter, author of the lavish Flower Hunter book, on Friday 8th October.

One of the UK's best-loved gardeners, writers, radio and television presenters, Alan Titchmarsh MBE is a Patron of Strawberry Hill House & Garden and says: “Part interior design exhibition and part art installation, Strawberry Hill's Flower Festival is a wonderful demonstration of the sheer artistry that exists here in the UK and the incredible variety, versatility and, of course, beauty of our domestic flowers and plants. The Flower Festival is a unique opportunity to be inspired and learn how you too can transform your home and garden into a place of wonder.”

Tickets for the Flower Festival will be available online from Monday 31 May.

Prices, tour and talk times can be found at

www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/flower-festival/



STRAWBERRY HILL
House & Garden

Dear Tribune,

Richmond's E-scooter Trial starting on 7 June 2021.

I feel obliged to respond to Mr. Tim Lennon's letter about the forthcoming e-scooter trial especially as he mentioned me by name with regard to aviation safety. (Tribune Issue 238, 28 May 2021).

Firstly, I have never objected to anyone doing anything that is legal. I do object to cyclists and e-scooters illegally on footways crashing into me and threatening me with violence or injury, as has happened at least 15 times in Richmond.

Mr. Lennon stated: *'Michael appears not to have understood the difference between those privately owned e-scooters and the rental e-scooters.'*

Maybe Mr. Lennon thinks that the Kent Police Commissioner, Northampton Police, RoSPA, the Federation for the Blind, and members of the House of Lords also appear not to have understood the difference, because they have all expressed concerns about the trials.

In fact, I am fully aware of the difference and have studied all the UK government's recommendations for the trials. As a professional pilot and navigator, I have also studied the information supplied by the Institute of Navigation and the U.S. government regarding the accuracy (or inaccuracy, especially in built-up areas) of the global positioning system which, one assumes, will be used for the geo fencing of these scooters.

Mr. Lennon also stated: *'As an airline pilot, Michael surely has some experience in evaluating and categorising risk.'*

Well, there is a massive difference between a professional pilot and most of the people who will rent or buy an e-scooter. In fact, there is simply no comparison.

Professional pilots undergo extremely strict selection, then years of training followed by constant evaluation and re-training throughout their careers. This includes two days of exhaustive (and exhausting) simulator checks twice a year, cabin safety procedures and fire training, written examinations, emergency medical training, personal medical examinations, hi-jack training, cockpit resource management, and checks by senior instructors in flight along the routes. Failure in any of these can mean loss of licence and one's career.

In addition to that, every pilot's professional pride and love of flying means that he or she is highly motivated to do it properly. Contrary to popular belief, it is not all done by computer and we can have up to 400 people's lives directly in our hands.

Flying heavy jets involves at least two pilots, often three or four, occasionally more, who work as a team and constantly monitor each other. Unlike e-scooters and the like, aircraft are not flown according to the whims of amateurs.

Properly run and regulated airlines such as British Airways operate to strict rules and standard operating procedures based on 100 years of airline operations. In addition, the UK Civil Aviation Authority regulates every aspect of airline flying under UK law and conducts its own independent checks.

And the CHIRP system ensures that any incident, however minor, is disseminated throughout the aviation world (www.chirp.co.uk) so that everyone can learn from the experiences of others, something which Richmond Council apparently has no intention of doing.

New aircraft and procedures are tested to the limit before the public are allowed on board.

The rare occasion which is not specifically covered by the rules is handled by the skill and very considerable experience of the pilots (I have 25,000 hours in the air).

The cost, both physical and financial, of improper operation is astronomical and disastrous.

I have never flown with anyone who has taken the slightest risk. We are simply not in the business of taking risks because, if passengers thought that we were, they would not fly with us.

If car drivers had even a fraction of a pilot's training and regulation, there would be far fewer deaths on the road. On duty as a Special Constable, I have asked many drivers when they last read the Highway Code. The answer is invariably: 'When I took my driving test – years ago'.

My own experience of operating transport started with a child's scooter and bicycle, adult cycling (on the roads, never the pavements), a motor scooter, then riding large motorcycles on-road, off-road, and on the race track (for which I hold advanced driving certificates awarded by police and BMW training schemes), driving all over the world including in the African and Alaskan bush, sailing boats, traditional horse racing in armour in Japan, and flying numerous types of single and multi engine aircraft from a Tiger Moth up to a Boeing 747-400 all over the world.

I have never had an accident using any of these forms of transport because I have always made considerable efforts to learn how to operate them safely.

In contrast to all that, there appears to be little training for renters of e-scooters and no training at all for purchasers of them. Online theory tests are hardly a substitute for proper training. After all, would you fly with a pilot who had done a simple online course?

No pilot interferes with his aircraft systems or modifies them as has been done with e-scooters having their speed systems disabled in order to go faster. And I don't know of any pilot who has used his aircraft to commit a robbery, an assault, or a drive-by shooting.

Is it any wonder that the law regarding scooters is so blatantly flouted when police have already said that they cannot and will not enforce it?

Mr. Lennon and Richmond Council appear hell-bent on promoting e-scooters whatever the cost, particularly with regard to the child labour used for mining the metals for their batteries.

In the case of cobalt, 60% of the world's supply comes from the Democratic Republic of the Congo where large numbers of unregulated mines use children as young as seven as miners. They breathe in cobalt-laden dust that can cause fatal lung ailments while working in tunnels that are liable to collapse. Lithium mining, too, is causing serious environmental damage. (www.amnesty.org/en/search/?q=cobalt,+mining,+congo)

One must assume that this is condoned by those who espouse these machines.

Unlike the manufacturers, sellers, and rental companies, I have no vested interest in them.

Nor have I any interest in ever getting on one; I'd rather stay alive.

I'd like the children in the Congo to stay alive, too.

Michael Jay
Richmond

Letter to the Editor,

Twickenham Riverside - Getting it right

There are a few, brief but important, notes of caution arising from Ben Makins' letter in last week's Tribune (28 May).

Firstly, the writer's 'outside the box' thinking presupposes amendments to the design brief produced by the RIBA and Richmond Council and formally approved two years ago. The Twickenham Coalition holds the Council to account to deliver the development as specified in the design brief, no more, no less, with improvements to make the plans workable in practice.

Last week's letter also contained a quotation which misrepresented what was written in The Twickenham Coalition's original letter, by leaving out the town square as a place for every-day community activities, where people can meet and socialise.

It is not just a space for occasional events, as is very plain in the approved design brief. The design brief defines the town square as an important, mandatory part of the Twickenham Riverside development and a focal point for the town.

Finally, revitalising the Twickenham Riverside site and strengthening the local economy are a chance in a lifetime and not to be treated as a political football. In March we wrote urging a member of the Twickenham Riverside Park Team and others to leave politics out of it.

Previous redevelopment attempts failed when political cards were played. The present opportunity is just too important to lose. We call for Richmond Council to pause, hold a full and proper consultation and get it right this time.

Let's not see the same errors being repeated.

Yours sincerely

The Twickenham Coalition

'Love our town'

<https://thetwickenhamcoalition.org>

Letters published do not necessarily reflect the views of the Twickenham & Richmond Tribune, its Publisher, its staff or its advertisers

Letters of approximately 500 words of body text will be printed at our standard 14pt font size, which will publish as a single page.

All letters must be submitted by the end of Thursday, prior to publication the following day on Friday.

News from a sunny Church Street

By Shona Lyons



This week saw Church Street embraced by a heat wave. The final part of the street washing was done and we also managed to get all the summer bedding plants in.

I spent quite a lot of time watering with my (found abandoned in the river

and not stolen) trolley which is really great for getting to places that can't be reached with a hose. Years ago we actually brought two huge heavy duty hoses and put them together and for a couple of years I watered everything with the hose even the hanging baskets as it reached all the way from the



bottom of the street to the top (150 meters more or less) but now that would be impossible, because one, half the hose mysteriously vanished and also with all the Al Fresco dining it just wouldn't be possible now. So the trolley works really well, even if it does look a bit funny, it does the job. I load it up with petrol canisters filled with water and also watering cans and take it up the street to the planters and also stop a bit on the way and water pots and window boxes here and there that look dry. The hanging baskets are all here too but there was a little mix up with a few placed in error.

That unfortunately does happen from time to time (when you are

ordering over 60 baskets for individual traders with all sorts of instructions for the contractor about new and old brackets that are needed and if they need to be higher or lower and moved etc. it can all get a little complicated) but we will get it rectified in a day or so.

The street washing was finished this week too, but it is York Stone and it does stain really easily so it gets dirty fast and with so many hospitality businesses in the street there are inevitable stains already. I saw one of the residents Chris Stutz washing outside his



place & in front of Mojo and Allissias Attic too and it looks really good. I think we will all need to do that, some traders do that already of course but some don't and Bruce already says he is going to get an apron and an old fashioned hat and get a broom and we will wash some parts of it down ourselves & take pictures and make a bit of a story about it and hopefully encourage some others to wash their fronts too. He did have an idea of buying everyone aprons and making a photoshoot of us all standing outside our shops washing the pavement down. We will see. It was beautifully hot in the week and the street looks so lovely with all the tables out. Many of the hospitality traders have such a lot of style and it all looks lovely with their quirky chairs and umbrellas & pots of plants etc. The street again was full of people every day enjoying the sun & this safe, hospitable and pedestrianised space.

York House and the Naked Ladies statues have been restored

York House and York House Gardens in Twickenham have been restored for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Over the years, the building's original window shutters had become tired and the 'Naked Ladies' marble statues in York House Gardens had become discoloured due to algae growth. Richmond Council used the recent lockdown as an opportunity to carry out repair and restoration work to York House and the Gardens.

The 'Naked Ladies' statues were first acquired in 1909 and are made from Italian marble. The statues include giant sea horses, seashells, sea nymphs and a central female figure. They sit in the riverside gardens of York House and are open for the public to enjoy.

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

"York House Gardens date back to the 17th Century and offer visitors a wonderful place to relax and explore.

"The pandemic showed us just how important the borough's parks and open spaces are for people wanting to be outside in the comfort of nature. It's great to see York House and Gardens carefully and beautifully restored. Thank you to all who have worked to achieve this."



Local community groups receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Two local community groups, River Thames Boat Project and Barnes Children's Literature Festival, have been honoured this National Volunteers Week (1 to 7 June) with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by volunteer groups to benefit their local communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate The Queen's Golden Jubilee. Winners are announced each year on 2 June – the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation.

[River Thames Boat Project](#) is a small local charity based in Teddington, whose aim is to provide access to The Thames through two wheelchair accessible community boats Thames Venturer and Thames Discoverer. Operating on the river between Teddington and Windsor, River Thames Boat Project provides therapeutic cruises for people of all ages with disabilities and older people, as well as environmental education days for children.



[Barnes Children's Literature Festival](#) is London's largest dedicated children's books event. Founded by local families in 2015, it is the only top tier literature festival to be completely organised and delivered by unpaid volunteers. The Festival is led by the original families, but they have since been joined by more than 150 volunteers, aged from 8 to 80, from Barnes schools, charity and community organisations.

Volunteers from both groups will attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace in May 2022 along with other recipients of this year's Award. River Thames Boat Project and Barnes Children's Literature Festival are two of 241 charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service this year – with only 21 organisations receiving the award from London.

CLLr Geoff Acton, Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, said:

"I am delighted that two amazing voluntary groups from Richmond upon Thames have been recognised by the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. It is great to see both groups being recognised for their work with such a prestigious award.

"There are so many people who give up their time everyday to help others and serve others in their community. This was seen particularly throughout the pandemic when we saw a surge in residents offering to help others in any way they could. Congratulations to the teams at Barnes Children's Literature Festival and the River Thames Boat Project for the award and their continued amazing work."

Find out more about [this year's awards](#), and a [full list of winners](#).

Reality and Myth: The Twickenham Riverside Road

The Twickenham Riverside Park Team (TRPT)

The information in this article derives from the input of three professionals who have considerable experience in transport design, engineering and logistics (over 120 years combined!): **Deon Lombard** (architect and urban designer), **Graham Strudwick** (civil and transport engineer) and **John Milner** (supply chain & logistics consultant).

The roadway on Twickenham Riverside serves a primary purpose – to provide access and egress from the current riverside carpark on a one-way route down Water Lane and up Wharf Lane. The removal of this carpark will result in a significant reduction in the volume of traffic using Water and Wharf Lanes. This reduction in traffic together with full pedestrianisation of the riverfront will greatly improve pedestrian safety across the site.

The sheer volume of traffic to and from the carpark makes it untenable for Water and Wharf Lanes to be two-way. However, the removal of the carpark completely changes that. The only vehicles that would use Water and Wharf Lanes would be service vehicles, and the relatively small number accessing designated disabled and residential parking downstream of the site, and to the rear of the King Street properties.

Servicing provision to Eel Pie Island would be improved with the new scheme. More service parking bays for different sized vehicles than exist currently will be provided, together with a dedicated service area that can accommodate drop-off supplies and the turning requirements for large vehicles up to the maximum size of a 16.5 metre articulated truck. Furthermore, servicing parking and manoeuvring will not be interrupted by a continual stream of traffic in the servicing area as is currently the case.

The lower volume of traffic makes it tenable for both Water and Wharf Lanes to be two-way. It also means that the riverside road between them would now be redundant - thus allowing the creation of a fully pedestrianised riverside between Water and Wharf Lanes. This is a key principle in the brief, clearly requested by a majority of Twickenham residents going back to the Barefoot Consultation in 2010.

There are a minority who are determined to retain the riverside road. They claim that the road is 'essential' for a 16.5 metre articulated truck and other large vehicles to leave via Wharf Lane. These vehicles provide servicing to the Eel Pie Island boatyards (a 16.5 metre artic once in every two months or so) and to shops along King Street (Iceland is mentioned). There are solutions to both these situations.

It is possible to turn a 16.5 metre vehicle at the lower end of Water Lane. Trucks of this size regularly service the nearby Waitrose and Alsford Timbers on Heath Road, and turn around in far more restricted areas than those on the riverside. It is accepted that such a vehicle would enter down Water Lane (as is currently the case). The Riverside project transport consultants, WSP, have provided tracking diagrams that show that these vehicles can do a 'hammerhead' turn and return back up Water Lane.

They have also confirmed that there is adequate space for such vehicles to do a left-turn sweep back into King Street. This requirement can be accommodated in the layout of the new space to be created at the top end of Water Lane. Such movements always need to be managed. It could be made a requirement that such vehicles leave the site at restricted hours with trained traffic marshalls guiding the vehicle – and this once every two months or so.

This would be far safer than allowing large vehicles to continue upstream along the riverside, do a sweeping right-hand turn up into Wharf Lane, and then a complicated left turn into King Street (*refer to the photograph below*). The restricted space between existing buildings at the top of Wharf Lane mean that large vehicles such as the 16.5 metre artics have to do 2 or 3-point turns to enter King Street at this difficult location near the traffic light junction with Cross Deep. These vehicles also

cannot straighten up in the relatively short space between Wharf Lane and the junction, resulting in considerable disruption to this heavily trafficked road. Why maintain this dangerous situation when it can be avoided?

A 15 metre fixed body truck attempting to turn from Wharf Lane into King Street (Right)

As regards the servicing for Iceland and other shops along King Street, we understand that the Council is currently speaking to the owners about their requirements. It is entirely possible for Iceland and other shops to use smaller rigid body trucks, up to 12 metres in length, which can exit and enter Wharf Lane from King Street in a single turn with minimum traffic disruption. Such vehicles could also service the remaining King Street shops, as well as the new facilities that will be provided in the Riverside scheme.



There is sufficient space in Wharf Lane for vehicles of this size to turn around, as well as having a turning circle provided at the end of the revamped King Street service road. Wharf Lane would in effect become a dedicated service road restricted to set early morning hours, with no other traffic other than access to a small number of existing resident and new disabled parking bays - and NO trucks coming up from the riverside. Pedestrian and cycle access would be prioritised for most of the day and night.

It would be remarkable if Iceland insisted on maintaining the use of a 16.5 metre articulated vehicle to service their premises. This would in effect mean that a riverside road would be maintained exclusively for their use! It would be even more remarkable if the Council acceded to their demand, thereby effectively overriding a core principle of the Riverside project brief and what the majority of Twickenham residents want – a fully pedestrianised Riverside. Would Iceland pursue such a course of action against the interests of their local community?

There are those who argue that large service vehicles would only use the riverside road on an occasional basis. This misses the point - in fact, three important points:

- The riverside frontage would need to be designed primarily to accommodate the movement and loading requirements of a 16.5 metre vehicle - thus in fact a substantial roadway capable of carrying such a vehicle; the important south-west corner area, currently designated for boating/boarding and riverside activities, would be shaped by the wide sweep of turning requirements for such a vehicle from the Riverside right into Wharf Lane; small boats, children and large trucks simply do not mix;
- A large part of the river frontage would need to remain clear for the movement of such large vehicles; for example, temporary installations and structures such as stages, booths and exhibitions could not be left in situ for any length of time – thus restricting the desired flexibility in the use of this important space; the area that can be landscaped and planted would also be significantly restricted - we want a green riverside;
- If a riverside roadway is created, it is inevitable that in time a greater volume of vehicles would make use of this facility – and parking would follow. Is this perhaps the agenda of the small vocal minority?

Finally, we have not forgotten that emergency vehicles have to have access to all parts of the site. This can be achieved without a dedicated connecting road along the riverfront. All parts of the site would be accessible from Water Lane, Wharf Lane and by driving onto the riverside open space.

Tribune Snippets

Strawberry Hill

Strawberry Hill Bowls Club Open Day

Ever fancied a go at lawn bowls? Now's your chance. Come along this Sunday 6 June from 11am to 4pm to join in the fun. <http://strawberryhillbowling.co.uk/>

Ham

Ham Parade Market takes place this Saturday

<https://www.hamparademarket.org/>

Support your local market and traders by visiting this Saturday 5 June, from 10am to 2pm.

Ham Polo security fence has been refused

After 276 objections Ham Polo have had the application for a new 2m high security fence declined. This decision means that the beautiful open views from the historic Ham Avenues can still be enjoyed

Kew

Kew Village Market takes place this Sunday

<https://kewvillagemarket.org/>

Enjoy over 40 stalls selling the finest food and handmade crafts, and a live band playing at the market from 10am to 2pm on Sunday 6 June. We're going for green this month with the return of two intriguing (and RHS award-winning) stalls.

Travellers move on from Kew Green

A group of travellers who have been on Kew Green since Thursday 27th May have left the site, after swift legal action from Richmond Council resulted in a High Court decision to give the Council powers to evict them. The travellers voluntarily left Tuesday 1st June and Council officers were on site immediately to inspect for damage.

Barnes

Saturday Collectors' Market

Paula Mortimer and friends who for years have run Daisy's Den at the Barnes Jumble Sales will be selling bric a brac for FiSH at tomorrow's open air Saturday Collectors' Market around Barnes Pond. 9:00 for the bargains... Come and buy!

<https://www.fishhelp.org.uk/>



Love in a Mist flower welcomes our precious pollinators and 'No Mow May' resulted in lots of seeds, buttercups, dandelions and hiding places for all wildlife visitors. Carefully cutting the long grass now but leaving wild areas.

National Hedgerow week ends today and we trust more awareness has been raised for those planning to build in sensitive areas or 'manage' their property. Predation was a hot topic on Springwatch and challenging to see this happening on our patch too. The Magpies got all our baby Robins last year but luckily this year we had

a survivor and the 'Orca' of the bird world, our resident dominant Magpie, poses in the hedge without a care in the world! [Website](#) [Instagram](#)



Unfortunately, the Coot Chicks did not survive in this nest as a rather large Carp was too quick for the parents; but what is that in the beak? Frog!

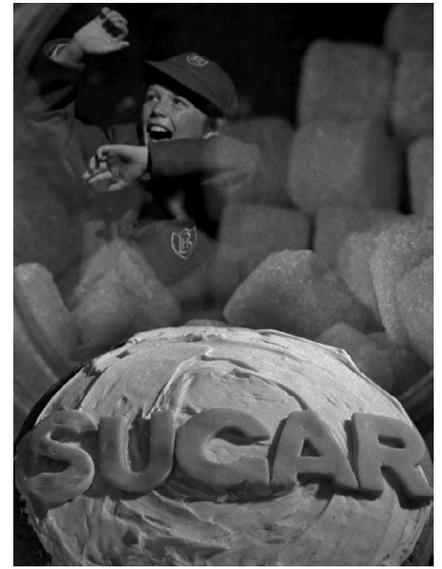


Holly Blue on Pyracantha

Sugar Short

By Simon Fowler

Local dentist and amateur film-maker Howard Stean's latest film 'Sugar' will be shown on Talking Pictures TV this week – at 1.40pm on 7 June, 6.30pm on 9 June and 11.45am on 13 June. Howard's film looks at the damage that sugary foods does to our teeth, based on his experiences of the devastating effect that the sweet stuff has on patients' teeth. But the film is far from a joyless diatribe; It is the latest in a series of entertaining and witty short movies, filmed around Kew or in the studio above his surgery on Mortlake Road.



Spot The Fake

From Mac McInerny, Heatham Alliance community group and Neighbourhood Watch



1) Telephone call with recorded message: “Hi, you missed a call from your internet service provider. We have been trying to get in touch with you.”

FAKE – It's not from your internet service provider, so hang up straight away.

2) Telephone call with recorded message: “Hello, this is Ofcom, the telecoms regulator. Your broadband connection is about to be cut off. To speak to customer services, press 1 on your phone keypad.”

FAKE – They're not from Ofcom either, so just hang up.

3) Telephone call from BT's support team, informing you that they believe your computer is infected with viruses. They ask to remotely access your PC to prove to you that your computer is infected.

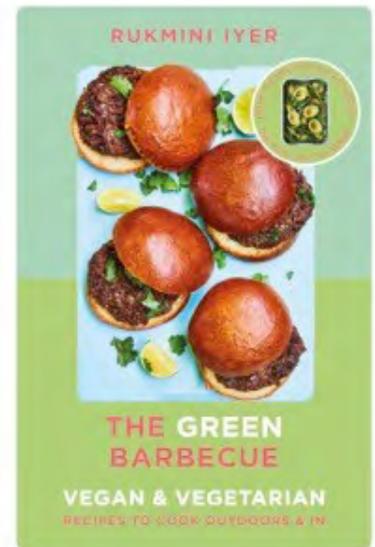
FAKE - One member of the public thought he was speaking to someone from BT and was then tricked into paying nearly £400 to remove viruses from his PC. The fraudster explained he needed remote access to his computer to fix it. His computer shut down and he was unable to start it up again.

- Never allow someone remote access to your computer when you do not know and trust them totally. It would just put them in control.
- One sign of a scam is when the caller tries to rush you into following their instructions by threatening a financial penalty or other consequences. Genuine callers do not do this.
- After receiving a phone call 'out of the blue' like these, don't use the same phone without first calling your number from another phone to check the line is clear. The fraudsters might be hanging on to intercept your calls.

STAY SAFE FROM FRAUD

YIPPEE! IT'S FINALLY BBQ WEATHER, LET'S MAKE IT A GREEN ONE

Sadly, for some of us, the very suggestion of a barbecue conjures up images of burnt sausages and undercooked chicken drumsticks. If you're lucky enough to have a home smoker, you can take barbecuing to another level, but if you use a bit of imagination and savoir-faire you really can produce a superb meal over charcoal. But even so, how often do you embark on a vegetarian BBQ? Well, now's the time to give it a try, as the weather is perfect, and I've just got my hands on a fabulous new cook book by **Rukmini Iyer** (of Roasting Tin fame). **The Green Barbecue** moves Rukmini to the barbecue and grill. It's a lovely vegetarian and vegan barbecue book, a collection of 75 flavour-packed, recipes (all completely meat-free), with over half the recipes entirely plant-based so suitable for vegans. Whether you're entertaining veggie guests or preparing a flexitarian feast, her recipes are quick and easy, great for all the family and completely fuss-free. And don't worry if you don't have ready access to a barbecue; Rukmini provides alternative indoor cooking instructions for inclement weather, (particularly useful in Britain!) if you feel like making the dishes all year round, or live in a flat where barbecuing is impractical.



There's a section on 'Something to Start' (Griddled Pineapple, Halloumi & Mint Skewers, or Crispy Gnocchi – on a stick!) perfect for kicking off that socially distanced party. 'Fresh & Light' looks at the perfect combination of griddled and charred vegetables with fresh leaves, herbs, salad bits and punchy dressings. The 'Something Substantial' chapter has the hearty hero vegetable dishes taking centre stage (Squash with Charred Carrots, Red Onions, Coriander Seeds, Pistachios & Lime or Gunpowder Potatoes with Fennel Seeds, Chilli, Coriander & Cashews). And for those into more traditional barbecue-style food, there's a moreish array of genius veggie burgers and salads. 'Something Sweet' will finish your outdoor feast with anything from fresh-griddled fruit to indulgent melted chocolate, caramel or peanut butter (or all three!).

I've chosen a couple of recipes from the book to share with you – I'm sure they will inspire you to 'go green' and make use of some of the fabulous seasonal produce in abundance at the moment and months to come.

AUBERGINE & GOAT'S CHEESE BURGER STACKS WITH HONEY & THYME - Vegetarian

"One of my favourite Spanish dishes is berenjenas con miel – aubergines, deep-fried in batter, served with honey. It occurred to me that goat's cheese is just as lovely with honey as aubergine, and so these moreish burger stacks were born. The cheese melts between the aubergine slices, scented with thyme – perfect by themselves or squashed between crusty white rolls."

Serves: 4/Prep: 10 minutes/Cook: 30 minutes



2 large, evenly sized aubergines
 2 x 100g rind-on goat's cheese wheels
 A handful of fresh lemon thyme sprigs
 Olive oil, for brushing
 Sea salt flakes
 Freshly ground black pepper
 Runny honey
 Crusty bread rolls, to serve

Cut the aubergines into 1cm slices, and the goat's cheese into very thin rounds. Sandwich each piece of goat's cheese between two similarly sized slices of aubergine, along with a sprig of thyme. Brush both sides of the aubergine with oil and add a tiny pinch of sea salt flakes and black pepper.

Once your barbecue is ready, place the aubergine stacks on the grill and cook for 10–15 minutes per side, until the aubergine is cooked through and the cheese has melted. You can flip them every 5–6 minutes or so and give them a brush with olive oil.

Transfer to a serving platter, drizzle with honey, scatter over the remaining thyme, and serve with crusty rolls on the side.

SUMMER PUDDING PACKETS: VANILLA ROASTED BERRIES WITH BRIOCHE, MASCARPONE & ALMONDS

- Vegetarian

“This deconstructed spin on a summer pudding (where deconstructed is code for much, much easier) lets you gently cook your fruit in a packet on the barbecue, and toast your brioche alongside. Replace the chilled mascarpone with ice cream, if you wish.”

Serves: 4/Prep: 10 minutes/ Cook: 10 minutes

150g blackberries
 275g raspberries
 225g blueberries or grapes
 2 teaspoons caster sugar
 1 vanilla pod, split
 8 slices of brioche
 4 tablespoons chilled mascarpone
 A handful of toasted almonds and fresh mint leaves, to serve

Take a large piece of foil and place the blackberries, raspberries and blueberries or grapes in the middle. Scatter over the caster sugar, lay the vanilla pod on top, then fold the foil into a neat parcel, with the seams at the top.

Once your barbecue is medium hot, place the foil packet on one side of the barbecue, and let the berries cook for 10–15 minutes. Meanwhile, toast your sliced brioche in batches on the other side of the barbecue, cutting them into triangles once toasted.

Divide the lightly cooked fruit between four plates, with the toasted brioche. Add a tablespoon of mascarpone, scatter over the toasted almonds and mint leaves, and serve hot.



Extracted from: The Green Barbecue (Vegan & Vegetarian Recipes to Cook Outdoors & In) by Rukmini Iyer (Square Peg) 29th April 2021, £17.99 HBK Photography by David Loftus

What the Dickens?!

by David Hovatter

The Questors Theatre, The Courtyard, Ealing until 31st May

On a bright day and buzz-wuzzing with anticipation, we find ourselves sitting in a courtyard (maybe not Dicken's flag-stoned type) and with a pocketful of Curiosity in spite of Shops being closed; and having been released, not from debtors' prison but the 'locked-in' Covid jail where, although not paying a debt to society, we have all certainly been doing our bit for it's good; and thinking to ourselves, 'What the dickens is *What the Dickens!?!* ?'



Swap the damp, dark alleyways of Old London Town for a pleasant outdoor, leafy setting in Ealing, coupled with a gentle warming sun and light breeze (and even a little bird song), throw in an all-female cast and you will get the idea No, wait, swap the pleasant etc etc in Ealing for a 1960's holiday camp and think Dickens meets *Carry on Butlins*, fasten your socially distanced seatbelt for a roller-coaster into Dickens' Butlin's Land, David Hovatter style and you're almost there. Pack your pre-conceived ideas (along with your political correctness) firmly away in your battered old suitcase, shove it into a bedroom at Bognor Regis, leave it there, and you've just about made it.

The Pickwick Papers was Dicken's first and probably least dark and

most amusing novel, widely popular with many theatre adaptations at the time. True to story, *What the Dickens?!* Hovatter's devised up-dation follows the sequence of a small group of men having misadventures and involves more than a little fun poking, as their endeavours show their foolishness. Instead of travelling around they are staying at a holiday camp while searching for the Tittlebat; (don't ask!)



Read Poppy Rose Jarvis' review at www.markaspen.com/2021/05/31/what-dickens

Photography courtesy of Questors Theatre

Back to Square One?

Travel News by Bruce Lyons

Not since I came to Church Street in 1966 can I remember a more stressed time. I can recall V Forms (to limit the amount of sterling you could use on your overseas holiday-£50 max per person!), 3 day working week!, a major fraud in Idi Amin's time, a long story, being burnt down by arsonists and more.

And the Street. We've seen some changes too since 1966. Back then the street was two way traffic! Many shops were in a serious state of dilapidation. Now, thanks to many, but not forgetting John Betjeman, the street is entirely different. An urban oasis of calm and tranquillity.

It is now pedestrianised! With no vacant shops, our bomb site car park now a charming pleasant square, a magnet for our local community to rest and relax away from traffic pollution.

Overtime I have spent many hours with colleagues improving the street, working with the Council and local amenity groups to create the welcome we now have and at the same time developing our travel business - firstly as a community travel business" all things to all men" and latterly as a tour operator - Twicker's World (small group wildlife tours), Red Sea Holidays, a USA programme, Finnski, Iceland tours (just after the Cod Wars) French villas and European Self-catering programme and more.....

And now we are back to where we began- a community travel agency in a time none of us ever imagined. A Pandemic is something that none of us had plans for and what's more, nor did the public, our industry not at all. Even the Government Ministers and their Scientists neither,



None of them envisaged the chaos that exists today. So how does the "New Normal" look like in the travel business? Green & the Traffic Lights, seems no panacea to plan your 2021 Summer Holiday- you would be safer, maybe, to focus a on the few GREENS and UK Holiday scene, which by the way, has been inspirational in re-inventing itself.

So here are some pointers, first the GREENS; Gibraltar, Small and beautiful - with History at every corner and very British too. Beaches. Old Town, Al Fresco dining, duty free shopping a day wide choice of accommodations, flights from many airports and reasonable prices. It has been consistently free from high infection and the total population has been vaccinated (actually 115%. As they also vaccinated day workers from Spain) Israel another highly vaccinated



population-with amazing history, great countryside. Wonderful beaches, desert experiences and lively cities many flights from most UK airports too. Iceland, the land of Waterfalls, glaciers, volcanoes, whales, geysers and more. Great for discovery, excellent for fly drive-adventure - loads of FUN for all the family very strong on their Anti COVID policies - again any different flight departure points The Falkland Islands are also GREEN but not exactly a destination for a family

holiday. We know all these destinations well.

But then there is the Inspirational UK, yes the Pandemic, possibly aided and abetted by Global Warming has brought about something of. Renaissance in UK Travel offerings and has resulted in a diverse choice of new products “closer to home” Holiday Homes probably about a 3/400 percent increase on previous years - though now tricky to find on the beach - but we do know of one three-bedroom cottage by the sea available for a week late June and in August, dog friendly too! but there are all sorts to be found from 1-bedroom cottages by lakes, up mountains to manor houses. There are hotels of course, small group tours, walking or cycling-



even bike touring and there are both walking – self guided trips too. And for the more inquisitive but less energetic there are “Discovery” trips of different durations with guides and transport and one centre based ,there has been an explosion of rail Holidays some on steam trains -Scotland and Wales are especially strong on these .

Coach tours everywhere many to places hitherto

overlooked and even “Backroad” trips in small luxury small buses with expert guides - spoiled for choice! Lastly there are Sea-cations something the cruise industry has created just for this Summer and we now have every shape, size and style of cruise boat stationed in the UK with an extraordinary range of offerings for you to choose from.

So don't be too exasperated - maybe this is the year to discover our wonderful Island and by the way it's GREEN

TRAVELLER'S TALES 98

AROUND THE SQUARES



Doug Goodman visits some of the world's squares

Cities have main squares: some large, some small, some grandiose and some unassuming. When we visit a new city or town for the first time as a tourist we tend to gravitate to the centre. Many squares were built to commemorate a victory or came into being around the Government buildings of a country. Military parades, festivals, exhibitions and demonstrations have taken place in and around a city square. Travel literature, news reports and postcards usually portray a square as the most prominent and recognisable spot in a city. Trafalgar Square shares prominence with Big Ben, Tower Bridge and St. Pauls Cathedral as the symbol of London. We are fortunate to have so many famous landmarks.

When I'm a tourist abroad I always head to the central square to admire the buildings and statues, watch the people and to read a guide book. When you look around in Trafalgar Square at the many statues you can learn a lot about the history of the UK through battles won and famous leaders commemorated. I found Place de la Concorde in Paris the worst for traffic, Red Square in Moscow the most overwhelming for its size and colour, Beijing's Tiananmen Square the most daunting, New York's Rockefeller Plaza the most exciting when skating there and Vientiane's Patuxi Square the scariest when I was nearly arrested for photographing the president's car.

But we've all visited a square somewhere and no doubt have a favourite. See how many of the 18 squares you can identify. Answers on the next page.



1



2



3



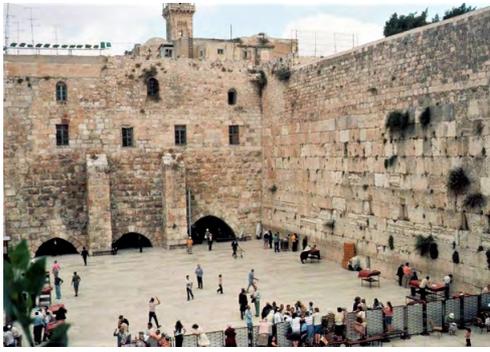
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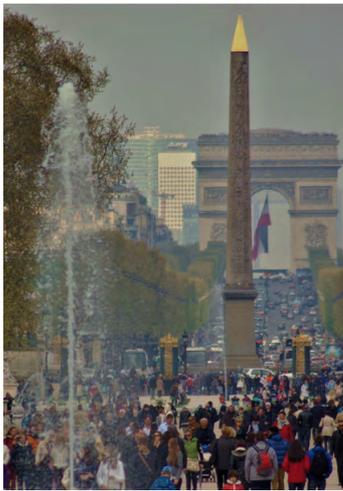
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11



12



13



14



15



16



17



18

Answers below!

Around the Squares. 1 Trafalgar Square. 2 Bruges in Belgium. 3 Moscow. 4 Amsterdam. 5 Beijing. 6 Venice. 7 Jerusalem. 8 Lille. 9 Lisbon. 10 Marrakech. 11 New York. 12 Athens. 13 Paris. 14 Bucharest. 15 St. Petersburg. 16 Vienna. 17 Vientiane in Laos. 18 Bologna.

WIZ TALES - Timor-Leste

Teresa Read

Timor-Leste, the first new sovereign state of the twenty-first century, was in the news not long ago as devastating flooding followed Cyclone Seroja.

Timor-Leste (East Timor) is in Southeastern Asia, northwest of Australia. The island of Timor is said to resemble the shape of a crocodile. Timorese legend says that a crocodile turned itself into the island in thanks to a boy who saved his life.

The first Europeans to settle in Timor were the Portuguese. In the mid eighteenth-century Timor was divided between the Portuguese and the Dutch; East Timor went to the Portuguese and West Timor to the Dutch.

Following a short civil war between opposing political parties, East Timor was annexed in 1975 by Indonesia, previously part of the Dutch colonial empire.

In August 1999 seventy-eight percent of Timorese voters chose independence in a United Nations supervised referendum. Australian-led peacekeeping troops of the International Force for East Timor brought an end to violence which followed the referendum.

Independence celebrations took place in East Timor in May 2002 as Timor-Leste became the newest nation of the twenty-first century.



©2005 Bob Girdo



©2005 Bob Girdo



More photographs of East Timor
<https://worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=EastTimor>

All photographs contributed to the World InfoZone project by Bob Girdo 2005



THE PAST

A new series for those of you who are missing Richmond Film Society's screenings or, indeed, trips to the cinema generally as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Their committee is producing a number of weekly recommendations of films screened during the last 20 years that were extremely well received by their audiences. Should the notes reproduced below entice you to try and catch-up with this recommendation, then you should be able to do so, as it is available on streaming services and for purchase as DVD/Blu-Ray discs from the online retailers as indicated below.

RFS Context: **THE PAST** was the 749th film screened by RFS, on 9th February 2016. **The Past** was the fifth ranked film of Season 53, it got an approval mark of 91% 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. The Past can be streamed from Curzon and Amazon Prime and the discs are available from Amazon and others.

THE PAST (Le Passé)

Country: Iran/France, 2013
 Director: Asghar Farhadi
 Writing: Asghar Farhadi
 Music: Evgueni Galperine & Youli Galperine
 Cinematography: Mahmoud Kalari
 Running Time: 103 min., colour
 Language: Farsi/French
 Editor: Juliette Welfling

Leading Players:

Bérénice Bejo	.. Marie Brisson	Ali Mosaffa	.. Ahmad
Tahar Rahim	.. Samir	Pauline Burlet	.. Lucie
Elyes Aguis	.. Fouad	Jeanne Jestin	.. Léa
Sabrina Ouazani	.. Naïma	Babak Karimi	.. Shahryar



The Past is Farhadi's first film since his Oscar-winning 2011 drama A Separation (previously shown by RFS and to be addressed in Issue 65 of our best films), and also the first he has made outside his native Iran. Bérénice Bejo won the Best Actress award at the Cannes Film Festival in 2013 for her role as Marie (She was also nominated best supporting actress for her role in The Artist).

Following a four-year separation, Ahmad returns to Paris from Teheran to finalise a divorce from his estranged French wife Marie. She is now in a relationship with Samir, a young dry-cleaner, who has moved into Marie's house with his seven-year-old son Fouad but such is the difficulty and pain of their situation that these characters never so much as smile at each other throughout the film.

Both are encumbered. Marie has two daughters from a previous relationship. Samir is married but his situation is even more difficult: his wife is in hospital, in a coma.

Ahmad soon discovers tensions in Marie's relationship with her teenage daughter Lucie but his attempt to build bridges between them creates conflict with her new partner and soon unveils a secret from the past.

Gabriele Cullen

Sunflowers bring cheer and cash to local charities

Squire's Garden Centres has raised £2,562.21 for numerous local charities thanks to their recent sunflower seed campaign.

In April Squire's gave away free packs of sunflower seeds to children to help brighten up their Easter holidays, and in return they asked customers to donate money to the charities that they support. The collection tins have been counted, and donations from the sunflower seed campaign and other recent fundraising initiatives has meant that Squire's has been able to donate over £2,500 to help various local charities.

Sarah Squire, Chairman of Squire's, commented, "We know that many charities have found it a challenge to raise money during the pandemic, so we wanted to do something to help them and cheer people up at the same time. Thanks to the generosity of our customers, we were able to donate this terrific amount to the various local charities that each of our garden centres support.

Some of the comments from the charities that Squire's support include:

"Thank you for the fundraising efforts at Squires Crawley, we truly appreciate the donation, which will go a long way in helping the family and friend carers we support in West Sussex." **Sonia Mangan, Carers Support West Sussex**

"We are incredibly grateful to the team at Squire's and the customers for their continued support." **Louise Bingham, Horsley & Bookham Riding for the Disabled**

"As well as helping to raise the profile of The Meath Epilepsy Charity, this donation from Squire's is a very helpful boost to us, as we work hard to fundraise to cover the cost of our daily activity sessions which offer the people we support a fulfilled life." **Helen Jackson, The Meath Epilepsy Charity**

"We are grateful to the support Squire's Long Ditton has offered us over a number of years. Thank you so much for developing this campaign and fundraising for the veterans we care for." **Lauren Baker, Royal Star & Garter**

Enter Squire's 'Tallest Sunflower Competition' and you could win £100!

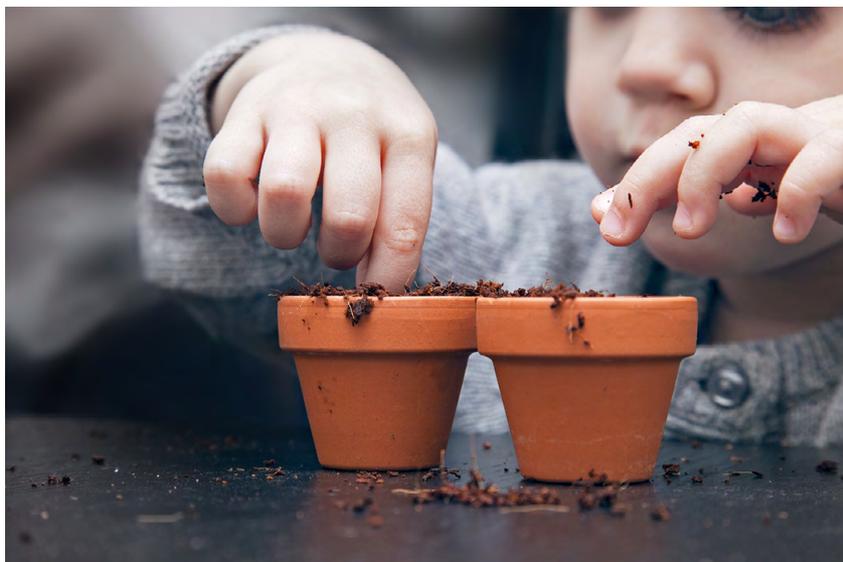
If you haven't already planted some sunflower seeds then it's not too late! Buy a pack from Squire's, plant seeds in a pot or directly into the soil, water well then see how tall they grow.

Children can enter Squire's 'Tallest Sunflower' competition by sending a photo of them next to their tallest sunflower between 1-20 August 2021 to Squire's. The winner will be announced at the end of August and will receive a £100 gift voucher to spend at Squire's! There are also 2 Runners Up prizes of a £50 gift voucher.

Squire's has raised money for the following local charities

Squire's Centre	Local Charity	Amount Donated
Badshot Lea	Woodlarks Camp Site	£145.44
Cobham	Cancer Research UK	£116.80
Crawley	Carers Support West Sussex	£127.68
Frensham	Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care	£85*
Hersham	Elmbridge Mencap	£208.52
Long Ditton	Royal Star & Garter	£85*
Milford	The Meath	£216.80
Reigate	SASH Charity	£97.48
Shepperton	Quest Riding for The Disabled	£126
Stanmore	Penniwells Riding for The Disabled	£85*
Twickenham	Integrated Neurological Services	£286.81
Washington	Chestnut Tree House	£85*
West Horsley	Horsley & Bookham Riding for the Disabled	£726.68
Woking	Woking Age Concern	£85*
Wokingham	COATS For Crowthorne's Seniors	£85*
TOTAL		£2,562.21

**Where customer donations were below £85, Squire's has topped up the amount to £85, in recognition that it is the company's 85th Anniversary this year.*





BRENTFORD FC



Bees vanquish play-off hoodoo to reach Premier League Brentford 2 – 0 Swansea City

Nine previous play-off campaigns and no prior promotions. However, the 2020/21 Brentford vintage have rewritten the history books as they defeated Swansea City 2-0 to reach the top flight of English football for the first time in 74 years.

First-half goals from Ivan Toney and Emiliano Marcondes ensured the Bees will be playing Premier League football next season after a spectacular day in the Wembley sunshine, which had seen also Conor Roberts sent off for Swansea.

The Bees made a dream start under the iconic arch and were awarded a penalty inside the opening ten minutes. Ethan Pinnock picked the ball up just beyond the halfway line and found Sergi Canós, who played an excellent reverse pass. Chasing onto it was Bryan Mbeumo and after getting in between Ben Cabango and Marc Guéhi he then took the ball past goalkeeper Freddie Woodman, who brought him down for a penalty. Toney stepped up to send the ball into the side netting and to get Bees up and running in the Championship play-off final.

Things got even better ten minutes later as the doubled their lead. In a devastating counterattack the ball originally started inside Brentford's own box with Vitaly Janelt who cleared the ball away. His clearance found Mbeumo in space and the Frenchman then dribbled 60 yards up the pitch before slipping the ball on for the overlapping Mads Roerslev. Roerslev then waited a split second and pulled the ball back across to the back post when Marcondes arrived to put the ball into the bottom corner and out of the reach of Woodman.

Just a minute later it could have been three for Brentford after a sublime individual effort from Toney. Picking the ball up on the edge of the area the ball sat up on the half volley and his volleyed effort beat Woodman, but cruelly hit the crossbar and bounced back off the goal line.

At the other end the industrious Sergi Canós did well to get back and make a recovery challenge on Connor Roberts after the Swansea forward looked to have escaped from the backline of Brentford.

Swansea had a couple of corners but David Raya came out to intervene and Jay Fulton found space on the edge of the area but was quickly closed down by Pinnock who got across to make the block.

With five minutes to play at the end of the first-half a misdirected header from Guéhi nearly allowed Mbeumo to steal in but under pressure from former Brentford player Jake Bidwell, he couldn't spin away and direct an effort on goal from a promising chance.

Right at the start of the second-half Swansea produced their best chance of the game when Conor Hourihane delivered a teasing cross into the box and André Ayew managed to get in between Pontus Jansson and Pinnock but couldn't direct his header on target.

As the game approached the hour mark Canós did well to pull a cross back into the box but Mbeumo under pressure from Guéhi leant back as he went to take the shot and curled his strike over the crossbar.

Jamal Lowe had his first chance of note soon after when he nipped in at the near post ahead on Jansson to pick up a cross from Kyle Naughton, but on the swivel he shot went wide of Raya's post.

The key moment of the second-half then came when Swansea were reduced to ten men to effectively extinguish any lingering hopes of a comeback. Jay Fulton was the player to receive his marching orders after he lunged into the back of Mathias Jensen with his studs to give Brentford the man advantage for the remainder of the game.

With the man advantage Brentford pushed for a third and Toney had a chance to do just that with just under ten minutes to play. An adventurous run from Jensen forward saw the Dane break into the box and then he chipped a ball over to Toney but Bidwell got back to make the block as the golden boot winner looked to pick out the bottom corner.

Late on Cabango found himself up the pitch for the Swans but the linesman's flag was raised for offside and with it all the agony and pain of last season was banished as it was confirmed Brentford will play Premier League football next season.

Thomas Frank named Danish Coach of the Year

Brentford head coach Thomas Frank has been named as the Danish Coach of the Year by the Danish national association.

Frank, who led Brentford into the top flight of English football for the first time in 74 years, became the first person to win the award whilst managing a team from outside of Denmark.

Frank also guided the Bees into their first ever League Cup semi-final against Tottenham Hotspur as well as presiding over a 21-game unbeaten run in the Championship.

Three Brentford players name in the PFA Team of the Year

Ivan Toney, Ethan Pinnock and Rico Henry have all been rewarded for their fine individual seasons after they were recognised in the PFA Championship Team of the Year for the 2020/21 season. The award was voted for by the players in each division and caps a successful end to the season for the club.

Toney enjoyed a record-breaking season after arriving to the club in the summer and scored an impressive 33 goals in his maiden season for the club. This brought him the Championship golden boot and broke the single-season goalscoring record in the division, as well as providing 10 assists.

Pinnock made 48 appearances in all competitions for the club during the course of the season and formed part of a successful defensive unit alongside fellow winner Henry who despite missing the end of the campaign, managed to make 35 appearances in which he scored one goal and made two assists.

International round up

A number of Brentford players have received call ups and played for their respective national sides at both full and youth level.

Halil Dervişoğlu will be heading to the delayed Euro 2020 Championships this summer after he was called up to the Turkish national side for the tournament. Turkey face a final warmup game scheduled against Moldova before their tournament gets underway with games against Italy, Wales and Switzerland in the group stage. It rounded off a successful week for the Turk after he had earlier scored on his international debut against Azerbaijan in a 2-1 victory.

Another Brentford player who will be at Euro 2020 is Marcus Forss after the striker was confirmed in the final Finland squad for the tournament. The Finn's final warmup game will see them take on Estonia and then in the group stage they will face Denmark, Russia and Belgium.

At U21 level Vitaly Janelt and his Germany side have progressed through to the final of the U21 Euros after overcoming Denmark and the Netherlands. Janelt didn't feature in the quarter-final but came off the bench for a cameo appearance in the semi-final with the Germans set to face Portugal in the final.

Come on you Bees!

Portugal moved to amber list to guard public health against Variants of Concern following first traffic light review

- First three-weekly review of the Government's traffic light list for travel sees no new countries added to green list
- Portugal (including Madeira and the Azores) moved to the amber list from Tuesday due to variants of concern and emerging mutations
- Further measures to safeguard vaccine rollout implemented as seven countries added to the red list

The latest update to the Government's traffic light list for international travel has taken place today (Thursday 3 June), with Portugal moved to the amber list to safeguard public health against variants of concern and protect our vaccine rollout.

Seven countries – including Sri Lanka and Egypt – have also been added to the red list. All changes to the lists will come into effect at 4am on Tuesday 8 June.

The decision to move Portugal (including Madeira and the Azores) to the amber list follows increased concern in the spread of variants of coronavirus, including a mutation of the Delta variant, and the risk that is posed of bringing these back to the UK if people are not required to quarantine.

The situation in Portugal has required swift action to protect the gains made with the vaccine rollout – there has been an almost doubling in the COVID-19 test positivity rate in Portugal since the first review for traffic light allocations, far exceeding the ONS estimated national positivity rate in the UK. More significantly, according to data published on GISAID, 68 cases of the Delta Variant of Concern have been identified in Portugal, including cases of the Delta variant with an additional, potentially detrimental, mutation.

Public Health England are investigating this variant and mutation, to better understand whether it could be more transmissible and less effectively tackled by vaccines potentially putting our progress with the roadmap at risk.

The Government's priority is to protect public health, and has therefore decided to act quickly to make this change. All classification changes have been decided by Ministers, informed by the latest data and analysis by the Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC) and wider public health factors, to help people understand the risks to public health here from travellers returning from different destinations.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said:

“The public has always known travel will be different this year and we must continue to take a cautious approach to reopening international travel in a way that protects public health and the vaccine rollout.

“While we are making great progress in the UK with the vaccine rollout, we continue to say that the public should not travel to destinations outside the green list.”

The full list of additional countries added to the 'red list' includes Afghanistan, Bahrain, Costa Rica, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Trinidad & Tobago. For countries going on the red list today, COVID-19

prevalence is assessed to be high and there is evidence to suggest community transmission of variants of concern.

While the number of 'green list' destinations remains low, the Government is urging the public not to travel to amber classified destinations to play their role in protecting public health. This is due to the prevalence of variants of concern and general rates of coronavirus being greater in amber destinations, meaning the risk to public health is also greater.

UK Health Security Agency chief executive Dr Jenny Harries said:

“Increases in case rates in the UK serve as a reminder that this pandemic is not over yet and we need to take a cautious approach. Everyone should observe the travel guidance, continue to follow hands, face, space and fresh air, and have both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine when offered. Testing will help to break chains of transmission and allow us to see which variants are circulating so make sure you get tested when you return to the UK in line with the guidance.”

People returning to the UK require proof of a negative test, taken within three days before the service on which you will arrive in England departs. Those returning from amber countries must also book and pay for day 2 and day 8 COVID-19 travel tests for when they return to the UK; only the day 2 test is required for those returning from green countries.

The Government has always stated that international travel will be different this year, both in terms of passenger experience and with regards to what countries the public could visit to protect the hard-fought gains of the vaccine programme rollout. However, passengers should be aware that whilst Covid travel restrictions are in place, queue waiting times may be longer than usual.

The Government is also announcing that as part of a limited trial, from 8 June, direct flights will be permitted to England from countries on the 'red list' that were previously subject to flight bans, so long as they arrive at dedicated terminals at Heathrow and Birmingham airports.

The requirement for these direct flights to arrive at dedicated facilities will help keep more red list passengers separate from other arrivals, helping to ensure they are processed as safely and efficiently as possible and then travel straight to their managed quarantine hotel and reduce queues at the border.

As international travel reopens safely, the Government will maintain 100% health checks at the border. Our top priority is protecting the health of the public and our enhanced borders regime, including mandatory hotel quarantine for arrivals from 'red list' countries, is helping minimise the risk of new variants being imported into the UK.

However, many 'green list' countries will continue to place restrictions on travellers from the UK, including quarantine measures, so passengers are strongly encouraged to check all entry requirements and FCDO [travel advice](#) before they book any foreign travel.

If travelling abroad, you need to take steps to keep safe and prepare in case things change while you are there. Check and subscribe to FCDO [travel advice](#) updates to understand the latest entry requirements and COVID 19 rules.



Risk of COVID-19 surge threatens Africa's health facilities

Brazzaville, 3 June 2021

As the risk of a surge in COVID-19 cases increases, African countries must urgently boost critical care capacity to prevent health facilities from being overwhelmed. This comes as vaccine shipments to the continent grind to a near halt.

Weak observance of preventive measures, increased population movement and interaction as well as the arrival of winter in southern Africa have heightened the risk of COVID-19 resurgence in many countries.

In the last two weeks, Africa recorded a 20% increase in cases compared with the previous fortnight. The pandemic is trending upwards in 14 countries and in the past week alone, eight countries witnessed an abrupt rise of over 30% in cases. South Africa is reporting a sustained increase in cases, while Uganda saw a 131% week-on-week rise last week, with infection clusters in schools, rising cases among health workers and isolation centres and intensive care units filling up. Angola and Namibia are also experiencing a resurgence in cases.

The increase comes as COVID-19 vaccine shipments continue to slow down. Burkina Faso this week received just 115 000 doses from the COVAX Facility, while Rwanda and Togo each received around 100 000 Pfizer vaccine doses. Nearly 20 African countries have used up more than two-thirds of their doses. The COVAX Facility is in talks with several manufacturers, as well as with countries which have vaccinated their high-risk groups to share doses.

“The threat of a third wave in Africa is real and rising. Our priority is clear – it’s crucial that we swiftly get vaccines into the arms of Africans at high risk of falling seriously ill and dying of COVID-19,” said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Africa. “While many countries outside Africa have now vaccinated their high-priority groups and are able to even consider vaccinating their children, African countries are unable to even follow up with second doses for high-risk groups. I’m urging countries that have reached a significant vaccination coverage to release doses and keep the most vulnerable Africans out of critical care.”

Altogether, 48.6 million doses have been received and 31.4 million doses have been administered in 50 countries in Africa, where around 2% of the population have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, while globally 24% have been vaccinated.

As the continent struggles with vaccine shortages, the care of critically ill COVID-19 patients is also lagging behind other parts of the world. While Africa has 2.9% of cases globally, it accounts for 3.7% of deaths.

A WHO survey carried out in May found that in many African countries, crucial equipment and the health workforce required to handle severely ill COVID-19 patients fall far short of needs. Of the 23 countries responding to the survey, most have fewer than one intensive care unit bed

per 100 000 population and will require an increase of between 2500% and 3000% to meet needs during a surge. Among the countries providing information on ventilators, only a third of their intensive care unit beds are equipped with mechanical ventilators.

High-income countries such as Germany, Luxemburg or the United States of America that have been able to cope with COVID-19 surges have over 25 beds per 100 000 population.

“Many African hospitals and clinics are still far from ready to cope with a huge rise in critically-ill patients. We must better equip our hospitals and medical staff to avert the worst effects of a runaway surge,” said Dr Moeti. “Treatment is the last line of defence against this virus and we cannot let it be breached.”

Since the onset of the pandemic, WHO has worked around the clock and in collaboration with countries to ramp up COVID-19 treatment capacity by delivering essential medical supplies as well as health worker training. The number of oxygen concentrators, for instance, has increased to over 6700 as of April 2021 compared with 2600 in April 2020, with WHO providing around 3700 of the medical equipment to countries in addition to shipping about 680 ventilators.

The Organization has also deployed 21 experts in COVID-19 treatment to eight countries to assist in the clinical care of critically ill patients and share expertise with national health workers.

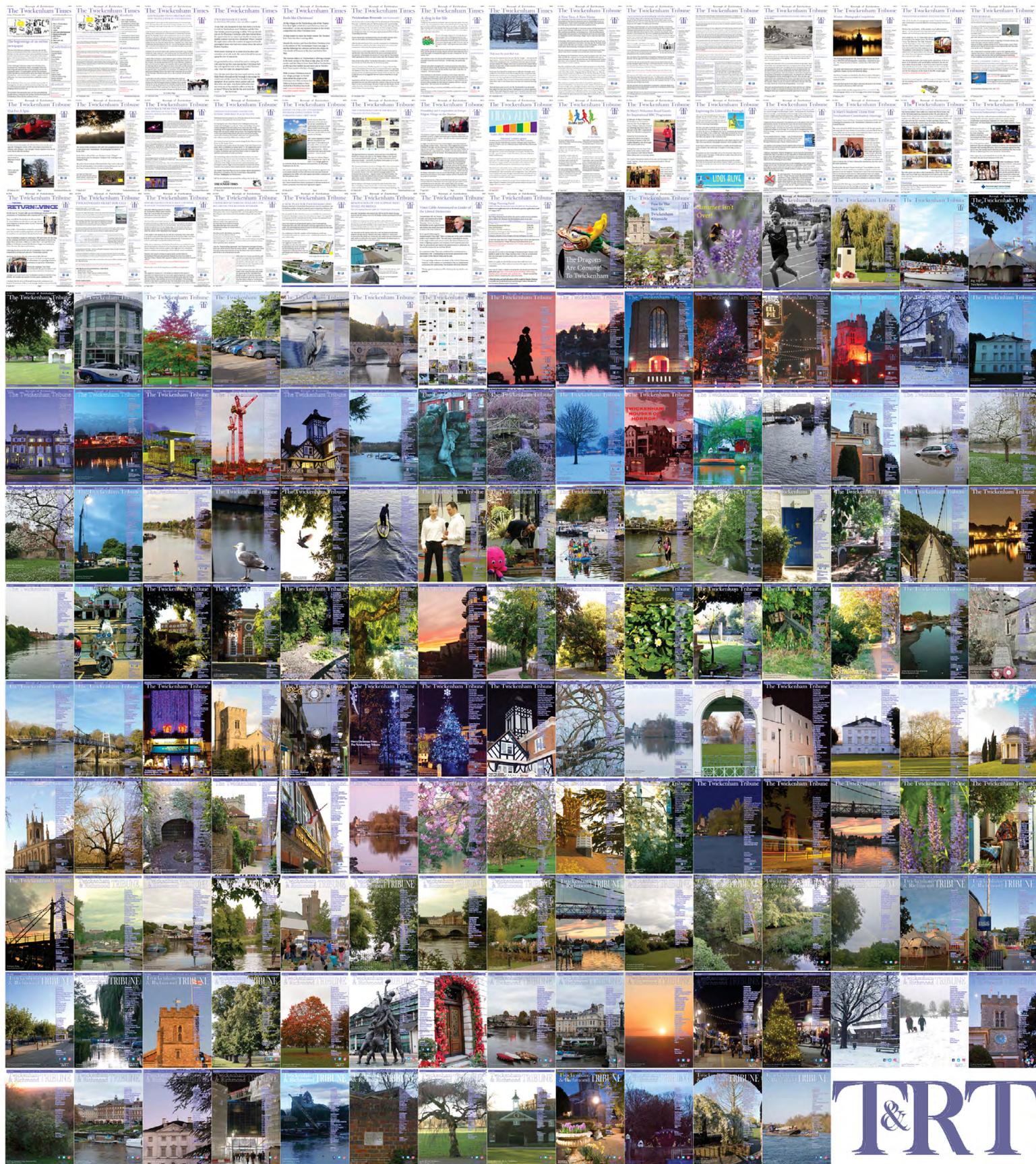
To further reinforce COVID-19 critical care services, WHO recommends that every district hospital should have a high-dependency unit, while those at the regional or provincial level have an intensive care unit and higher-level health facilities set up 2–3 intensive care units. All intensive care units must be adequately equipped.

Dr Moeti spoke during a virtual press conference today facilitated by APO Group. She was joined by Professor Daye Ka, Infectious and Tropical Disease Expert, Member of COVID-19 task force, treatment pillar, Senegal, and Dr Norbert Ndjeka, Director, Drug-Resistant TB, TB & HIV, Department of Health, South Africa. Also on hand to answer questions were Dr Richard Mihigo, Coordinator, Immunization and Vaccines Development Programme, WHO Regional Office for Africa, and Dr Thierno Balde, Team Leader, Operational Partnerships, WHO Regional Office for Africa.



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