

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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25th June 2021

T&RT

Buckleuch Passage, From Richmond Bridge

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

Walk-in vaccinations in Twickenham

Walk-in vaccinations are being held this week at the Twickenham Stoop, **9am to 7pm Sunday 27 June**, if you are:

- Due a 2nd dose of the Oxford-AZ Vaccine (8 weeks after your first)
- Eligible for your first dose of the Oxford-AZ Vaccine

More information [HERE](#)

Mortlake Summer Fair

Join the Museum of Richmond at the Mortlake Summer Fair, **Saturday 26 June 2021 12-4pm**.

Takes place at Brewery Green, Mortlake SW14

There will be live music, entertainment, fair rides food and drink including a BBQ, a great selection of stalls and fantastic raffle prizes.

Townmead Road closed until further notice

Due to a major fire on Tuesday 20th June, the Townmead Road Re-use and Recycling Centre will be closed until further notice. Anyone with a booking will be contacted about rescheduling (although there have been reports of residents with bookings not being notified).

Ten fire engines and around 70 firefighters were called to the fire. Around 100 tonnes of household waste inside an open fronted warehouse was alight. There were no reports of any injuries. Firefighters remained at the scene throughout the night to dampen down the area. The Brigade was called at 2043 and the fire was under control by 2324. Fire crews from Richmond, Heston, Chiswick, Hammersmith. Wandsworth and other surrounding fire stations attended the scene.

The fire is believed to have been accidental, but the exact cause has been recorded as undetermined.



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So, on Monday 28th June the council is asking the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee for Compulsory Purchase Order [CPO] powers for the Diamond Jubilee Gardens [DJG].

Oh dear, a further example of the council's abject failure at delivering a proposal for Twickenham Riverside that we can all get behind and be proud of. The council is obviously not meeting the requirements to adequately 'reprovision' the DJG that is "equally advantageous to the people of Twickenham", as per the obligations defined by the Charities Commission and required by the Twickenham Riverside Trust.

The council's planning application is imminent, despite the plethora of unresolved issues. Perhaps what's important are the council elections in May 2022 and the need to 'get this done' before then?

Some have naively dismissed the DJG in its current form. But TwickerSeal found this photo of a wonderful event held on the gardens, enjoyed by many. It was held in a safe, gated and secure garden, with a paved town square and all well above the flood zone. That's a lot more than can be said for the council's alternative!

View the meeting agenda [HERE](#) and the webcast [HERE](#)



World Health Organization Overview 23 June 2021:

In the past week, the number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths continued to decrease, with over 2.6 million new cases and 72,000 new deaths reported globally. While the number of cases reported globally now exceeds 175 million, over the past week, the lowest weekly case incidence since February 2021 was reported. Declines in the number of new weekly cases, compared to the previous week, were reported across all Regions except for the African Region. The number of new deaths reported in the past week decreased across all the regions except for the African and South-East Asia Regions.

24 June World Health Organization: Africa faces steepest COVID-19 surge yet

“The pandemic is resurging in 12 African countries. A combination of factors including weak observance of public health measures, increased social interaction and movement as well as the spread of variants are powering the new surge. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda that are experiencing COVID-19 resurgence, the Delta variant has been detected in most samples sequenced in the past month. Across Africa, the variant—first identified in India—has been reported in 14 countries.”

NEWS:

23 June, ScienceMag.org: Delta variant triggers dangerous new phase in the pandemic

23 June, 9NEWS Australia: Breaking news Sydney COVID-19 restrictions introduced after surge in cases; WA, SA, Queensland close borders to Sydney, NSW; Victoria restrictions ease

24 June, The Irish News: Europe on thin ice amid delta variant rise, says Merkel

24 June, Independent: Portugal in reverse as delta variant grips Lisbon, cases up

24th June, Gibraltar Chronicle: Four residents and five visitors tested positive for Covid-19 on Wednesday, with a second resident case of the Delta strain also detected.

25 June, LBC.co.uk: UK Delta variant cases rise by 46% in one week.

Total cases to 25 June 2021

11,583 Richmond upon Thames

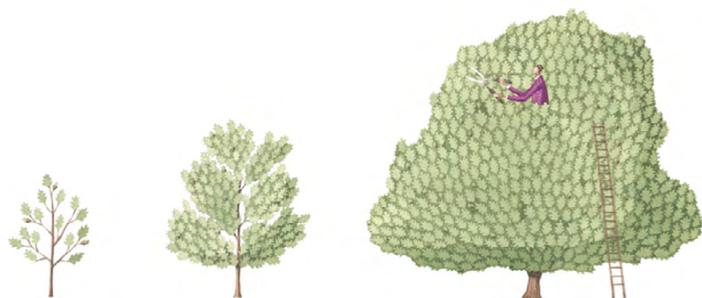
13,050 Kingston upon Thames

26,228 Hounslow

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

Deaths Worldwide 3,889,172

USA	597,727	Indonesia	56,371
Brazil	507,109	Ukraine	52,234
India	393,310	Turkey	49,417
Mexico	231,847	Romania	32,911
Peru	191,073	Chile	31,797
Russian Federation	132,064	Czechia	30,292
The United Kingdom	128,048	Hungary	29,896
Italy	127,362	Canada	26,175
France	110,001	Belgium	25,152
Colombia	101,947	Philippines	24,036
Argentina	90,986	Pakistan	22,108
Germany	90,678	Ecuador	21,377
Iran	83,473	Bulgaria	18,022
Spain	80,766	Netherlands	17,735
Poland	74,953	Portugal	17,079
South Africa	59,406	Iraq	16,999



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

Public Health England statement on Second dose importance

Professor Kevin Fenton, London Regional Director for Public Health England, said: “Getting both doses of the vaccine gives you maximum protection against the Delta variant. Without the second dose, there is more chance of falling ill and ending up in hospital if you catch COVID-19.

“Even if you experienced mild or moderate side effects from the first dose, you should still have your second dose and stick with the same vaccine brand. Millions of people who have already done so generally experienced a much milder reaction to the second dose. If you mix doses with different brands, any side effects may be worse than if you stick to the same one.

“If you have any concerns about your second dose, please speak to your local GP or another health professional and urge others to do the same. We know the vaccines are safe and by taking up both doses it gives you the best chance against the virus, which is increasing once again in our city.”

Background:

If you are over 40, you can now book your second jab just eight weeks after the date you received your first.

Current advice from the JCVI on doses is:

- adults aged 39 or younger who do not have serious underlying medical conditions should be preferentially offered an alternative to the AZ vaccine, where possible, and only where no substantial delay or barrier in access to vaccination would arise
- healthy individuals aged 40 years or older should continue to be offered any of the available vaccines
- those who have received their first dose of AZ vaccine without suffering rare side effects (blood clots) should continue to be offered the second dose to complete the course. This includes individuals who are aged 39 years or younger. There have been no confirmed reports of the side effects post second dose.



Public Health
England

Richmond's View of the Sky

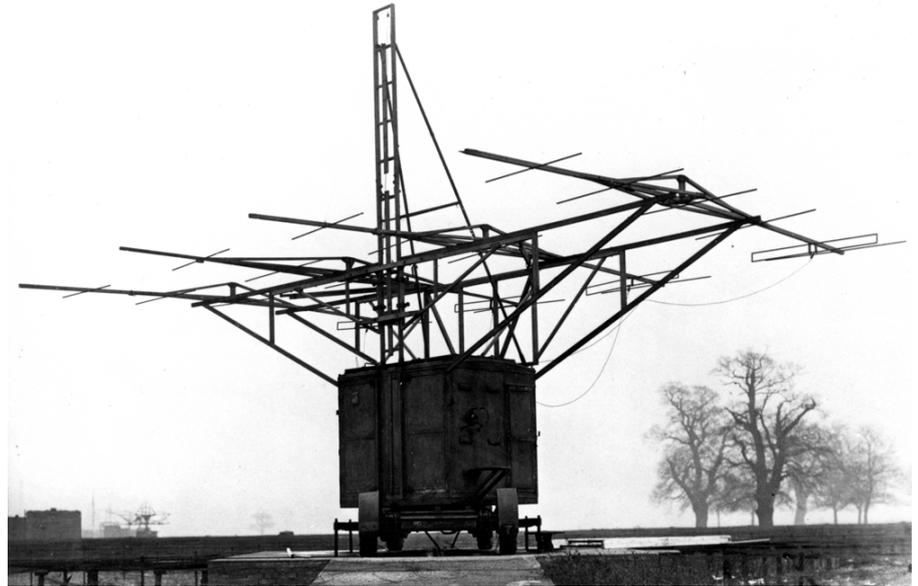
By Simon Fowler

One of the area's greatest contribution to science – and almost certainly the least known – lay in the development of radio astronomy, that is the detection of radio emissions from natural celestial objects, which has transformed our understanding of the Universe.

Specifically, near Sheen Cross in Richmond Park the eminent astronomer Stanley Hey and his team operated Britain's first radio observatory.

A pre-war schoolmaster during the Second World War Hey was a radar technician attached to the Army Operational Research Group (AORG) based at Petersham Old Vicarage. The Group maintained an experimental site near the anti-aircraft battery at Sheen Gate.

The interest in radio astronomy was precipitated by the Channel Dash in February 1942, when the Germans jammed British radar to enable three battleships to escape blockade in Brest. Hey's group investigated the enemy's radar-jamming.



The original radio telescope in Richmond Park.

Credit: National Radio Astronomy Observatory/Associated Universities, Inc. Archives, Papers of Woodruff T. Sullivan III, Cosmic Noise.

From his office in the attic at the Vicarage, Hey collated reports of heavy daytime jamming across Britain. The source moved, following the Sun. Greenwich Observatory confirmed that a large sunspot was pointing directly at the Earth. This was the first time that the Sun had been identified as a radio source.

The discovery was kept secret, for fear that the enemy would schedule attacks to coincide with solar activity.

After the War, Hey and his team began to map the sky using radio frequencies locating Cygnus A, in the constellation of Cygnus. It was the first known radio galaxy: one of the brightest objects in the Universe.

In addition to this work, after the war the group studied radio emissions from the Sun when it became active again in 1946.

A 1946 photograph shows the 5-metre receiver with which Hey and his colleagues mapped the sky and identified Cygnus A. It was a modified anti-aircraft radar, a rotatable wheeled cabin supporting four Yagi aerials. A clump of Richmond Park oaks looms in the background. The two big trees are still there, on the south side of the Polo Field rugby grounds, east of the road from Sheen Cross up to White Lodge.

Hey's observations continued in Richmond Park until 1948, when increasing interference from London's electrical infrastructure made observation too difficult.

Richmond Park pioneering role was soon overshadowed by the glamour of its offspring: Lovell's giant dish at Jodrell Bank, now Britain's newest UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Today all traces of the observatory have gone. Only the oaks, and the sky, remain to tell that here radio astronomy began.

Thanks to Timothy MM Baker for his help with this article

Oxeye daisies.-Moon flowers

By Kate Slack

If you have walked around the newly restored gardens at Marble Hill Park recently you can't fail to have noticed the swathes of oxeye daisies in the meadow area. These lovely flowers are a common sight these days on road side verges everywhere and even on the sides of motorways.



The Orchard meadow, abundant with oxeye or moon daisies this month

The flowers are a great source of nectar for all sorts of insects, mainly flies because of their rather unpleasant scent, so although it is a lovely abundant flower, it is not recommended to cut them and take them indoors!

Although we see the daisies as a fairly humble common plant, it is surrounded by mysticism and superstition in many countries. The game of 'he loves me, he loves me not' which involves picking the petals off one at a time to predict one's future love originated in France where the oxeye daisy was linked to divination.

The Greeks dedicated this modest flower to Artemis, Goddess of the moon, and when you see the flowers at dusk you can understand why. They appear to glow in the fading light like tiny moons hence their less well-known name 'Moon daisy' or 'Moonpenny'. So if you are passing the Orchard meadow in the park in the evening, take a moment to appreciate the glowing moon faces of these humble but mystical flowers.

Don't ignore voter registration emails from the Council

Residents in Richmond upon Thames are urged to look out for their annual voter registration email from the Council and do not delete the message as spam.

Over the next few weeks, residents will receive emails with their registration information – inviting them to make sure that their information is up to date. With elections taking place in London Borough of Richmond upon Thames in May 2022, it is important that residents do not ignore these communications.

The annual canvass ensures that the Richmond Council can keep the electoral register up to date, identifying any residents who are not registered so that they can be encouraged to do so. They would then be able to take part in any future elections.

Mike Gravatt, Electoral Registration Officer at the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames said:

'It's important that residents do not delete these messages from the Council so we can make sure we have the right details on the electoral register for every address in the borough.

'If you're not currently registered, your name will not appear in the messages we send. If you want to register, the easiest way is online at [gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote), or we'll send you information explaining how to do this in the post.'

When you are contacted, if you need to make a change to your registration information, please respond as soon as possible. It will make sure the process runs smoothly. It also means there will be no need for additional contact. If people do not respond, they will be sent a paper form to their home address, followed by a personal visit if necessary. Residents are encouraged to respond to the email as quickly as possible, to avoid un-necessary costs to the Council.

People who have moved recently are particularly encouraged to look out for the voter registration messages from the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and check the details.

Any residents who have any questions can contact their local registration team at the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames by e-mail to electoral.services@richmond.gov.uk

If you want to check that the e-mail is authentic, go to our [annual household canvass page](#).



Dear Editor,

Twickenham Riverside Compulsory Purchase Orders

By the end of this coming week the Council is planning to put in for planning permission its scheme for Twickenham Riverside. Before then, on Monday, it is seeking permission from its Finance Committee to press ahead with the Compulsory Purchase Orders of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens from the Twickenham Riverside Trust and the Embankment Road from the Port of London Authority.

Let's take a moment to consider the journey the Council has taken to get to this point, while remembering that:

- the flooding issues have always been there.
- the levels on the site between Water Lane and the Service Road have always been there.
- the needs of the boatyards and riparian clubs on Eel Pie Island have always been paramount and are set out in the London Plan.

So why, oh why, is it only after the RIBA competition ended that these crucial points were acknowledged and the winning design changed (and is still changing) to try to accommodate them? In fact, the Hopkins winning design has changed so much already that the lay members on the Design Group (outnumbered by LibDem Councillors) say that the plans, as they now are, would not have passed the Design Brief criteria of the RIBA competition.

It remains to be seen whether the Port of London Authority and/or the Twickenham Riverside Trust decide to object to the Compulsory Purchase Orders that are being made on them. There are still a considerable number of studies that need to be conducted such as the various safety (or lack of safety) aspects of the whole scheme, the parking issues which will impact on the whole town (and the elderly in particular) and the continuing changes to the design itself.

Just don't get me started on the height and dominance of the 5 storey block of **private flats** that is being built on Wharf Lane, 6 storey if you take into account the high concrete podium it is being built on. As it is so close to the river this building will spoil the view of the riverside from both upstream and downstream of the site. The affordable housing will be in Water Lane.

Surely there should be a delay to a planning application going forward while so many problems are still to be ironed out? Otherwise our Council Tax money is at risk again of being wasted on what I have heard someone call the design for Twickenham Riverside "Blot-on-Thames".

Yours sincerely,
Sue Hamilton-Miller
Twickenham



Dear Tribune,

E-scooter Trial.

Richmond's year-long trial of rental electric scooters began on 7 June 2021.

They are already being misused.

On 15 June, an adult male was seen using his phone with an obviously underage boy riding a Dott scooter in a road in Sheen; clearly he had logged in to enable the boy to ride – illegal and dangerous because no child has a driving licence.

Later that day, a Dott scooter was abandoned on the footway on the opposite side of the road from the official parking bay, similarly a Lime scooter the same week.

These incidents were photographed and reported but, as yet, the culprits not traced.

On 22 June, and group of two men and a woman were seen at speed on two Limes and a Dott scooter at speed on the footway in Duke Street, Richmond, clearly to avoid the one-way opposite direction traffic flow. They then rode off at speed past Richmond Theatre, still on the footway.

Earlier that afternoon, a man with his daughter aged around four clinging on in front of him sped downhill on the pavement in Eton Street (again, opposite direction to the one-way traffic) and round the corner past Whole Foods - too fast to be stopped. Pedestrians stare in amazement at these brazen law-breakers so, by the time they decide to do anything about it, it's too late – they've gone.

These incidents are proof that the much-vaunted geo-fencing is ineffective.

On 15 June, during a local Police Liaison Group online meeting, I asked the two police officers what to do should anyone be seen riding dangerously. It is not for me to advise the public but their reply was confirmed in MP Sarah Olney's Newsletter of 22 June so I refer readers to that.

Grumbling on social media like 'Nextdoor' does nothing.

Transport for London are requesting feedback and reports of incidents at:
<https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/e-scooter-trial/maps/interactive-map>

You can also report them to police at:
www.met.police.uk/ro/report/rti/rti-a/report-a-road-traffic-incident/

Reporting ANY incident benefits us all and helps our overworked police to request more officers on our streets.

Last week, police removed over 500 e-scooters from London's roads, five from Twickenham:

<https://news.sky.com/topic/e-scooters-9423>

www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9706695/Electric-scooter-driver-dies-horrific-injuries-smashing-Amazon-delivery-van-NYC.html

www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9693435/Electric-scooters-e-bikes-run-red-lights-NYC-Gone-Girl-actress-dies.html

<https://emj.bmj.com/content/early/2021/06/10/emjmed-2020-210268>

So let us not ignore ANY incidents. If we do, the trial will be deemed to be 'proof' that there is no danger.

News reports and hospitals say otherwise.

Michael Jay, Hampton

Hampton

Have your say on the location of a new football pitch on Hampton Common
Following feedback on last year's Hampton Common football pitch consultation, Richmond Council is re-consulting on options for the location of the new football pitch. The new 9vs9 football pitch would be used by age groups up to 13 years of age and primarily focused on allowing additional women's and girls' teams to be developed, whilst protecting the existing football pitch from overuse.

The two options for the location of the new pitch are in the bottom left corner of the Common, close to the footpath that leads to Fearnley Crescent and Tangle Park Road, or in line with the existing pitch further along Buckingham Road. More details and maps of the two options can be found on the [consultation webpage](#). Some respondents to last year's consultation expressed concern over the proposed location of the new football pitch due to its proximity to houses.

The consultation will run for four weeks from Wednesday 23 June 2021.

Strawberry Hill

Antipodea have confirmed that they will be opening their new café in Radnor Gardens on **Tuesday 6th July**.

Whitton

Surplus food stall crowdfunding for a van to tackle food poverty
Food for Thought Heathfield are crowdfunding for a refrigerated van to support their surplus food stall. Their pop-up stall operates twice a week on Heathfield Recreation ground in Whitton, Richmond Upon Thames.

Food for Thought serve an average of 140 individuals and families a week. Everybody is welcome to come and save food from landfill and do their bit for the environment.

You can also [make a donation to Food for Thought](#).

Kew Gardens

Fundraising book sale in aid of Rotary Club of Kew Gardens

The book sale will run from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 26 June, at 62 Mortlake Road at the junction of Beechwood Avenue in Kew, TW9 4AT.

You can donate any unwanted books at any time during the day. Books can be placed on the table under the Rotary gazebo. Find out more about the book sale [HERE](#)

Covid Passport Scam Alert

From Mac McInerney, Heatham Alliance community group and Neighbourhood Watch



We are happy to introduce Digital Coronavirus Passports

Dear Sir/Madam,

Starting today you can apply for a Digital Passport.

The Coronavirus Digital Passport is documentation proving that you have been vaccinated against COVID-19 or you recently recovered from COVID-19.

The passport will allow you to travel safely and freely around the world without having to self-isolate.

Who is eligible?

UK citizens and their families, and legal residents.

How do I get the certificate?

You can get your Digital Passport via NHS portal by clicking the button below

[Get Digital Passport]

DON'T CLICK ON ANYTHING – THIS EMAIL WAS A SCAM.

This email was a fraud to get you to put in your personal details via a very convincing website impersonating the NHS and pay a 'fee' for your passport. With this information criminals could make further payments themselves at will from your bank account.

The fraudulent 'NHS' website linked to this particular email has been taken down but others can – and probably will – spring up.

NB Your vaccination status can be obtained FREE through the NHS App on your smartphone, via the NHS website or by calling the NHS on 119.

Source: Metropolitan Police Cyber Crime Unit

Local policing update

Rebecca Robinson

Neighbourhoods Inspector, Richmond



The month of May has been challenging for police and understandably concerning for the community. This follows a handful of serious offences that have taken place across the borough in May, including the tragic, fatal stabbing of Tim Hipperson on 17 May and a separate, unrelated violent incident in Teddington.

I understand the concerns many will have about crime in Richmond after these and other incidents. However, I want to reassure you that as well as working to ensure justice is brought to offenders, local officers, with the support of the local authority, are working to prevent such crime from recurring. For example, officers have increased patrols and will take swift action against any anti-social or violent behaviour and, together with the Met's Design Out Crime Team and Richmond Council's Community Safety team, we'll be looking at ways to improve safety in the borough.

As we have welcomed the warmer weather, we have also been working to prevent Antisocial behaviour in key areas that were affected last year, such as Teddington Lock. In the summer months of 2020, we saw increased ASB in this area and also people jumping off the bridge, into the Thames. We have therefore increased patrols in this area and worked with the local Council to issue water safety and crime prevention advice to prevent this from happening again.

Finally, as COVID restrictions have lifted, officers welcomed back our first face to face contact sessions. It was lovely to see more of the public and look forward to more public meetings in the coming months. As always, if you have any concerns, please [contact your local policing team](#).



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

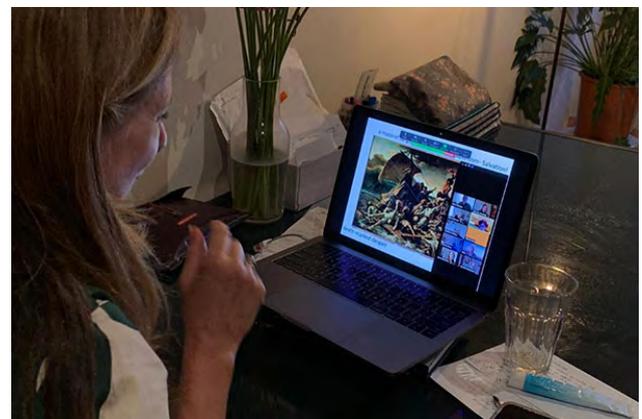
Travel the world without leaving your home

Art Historical London organises cultural events as they hope to be back in the Old Town Hall in Richmond this Autumn, they also offer live events online.

Visit the Dutch city of The Hague with a local guide, the Vancouver Art Gallery with one of their own museum guides, or revisit the Elgin Marbles without the need of leave your home.

All talks are given in real time by a local art historian especially for the benefit of those viewing. Each group is small so there is plenty of opportunity to ask questions and you will be able to see details which you couldn't see with the naked eye even if you were there!

No need to be a member, simply pay as you go. Take a look at the [Art Historical London calendar of events](#).



Shooting Star Children's Hospices Executive Vice-President Karen Sugarman MBE embarks on special Sunset Walk to celebrate milestone year in charity sector with friends Simon Cowell and Lauren Silverman

On the evening of Wednesday 23 June, during Children's Hospice Week, Shooting Star Children's Hospices Executive Vice-President Karen Sugarman MBE, was joined by close friends and fellow Vice-President Simon Cowell and Patron Lauren Silverman for a special Sunset Walk to raise money to support babies, children and young people with life-limiting conditions, and their families across London and Surrey.

2021 marks a very special year for Karen, as her 35th year working in the charity sector, with 18 years of that time working for Shooting Star Children's Hospices.

Her dedication to fundraising for cancer and palliative care has been recognised in the Queen's birthday honours list, with Karen awarded an MBE for her services.

To celebrate this momentous milestone Karen has decided to take on various fundraising challenges throughout the year to raise as much as she can for a cause very close to her heart.



Karen Sugarman MBE explains, *“Due to personal circumstances, as a family we were introduced to palliative care at a young age and my ambition was to work in the charity sector. I have been privileged over the last 35 years to meet so many incredibly brave families and work with the best colleagues, volunteers and supporters.”*

The 12km Sunset Walk echoed the charity's much-loved Sunrise Walk, with the trio following a personalised route to Karen. They set off from Shooting Star House, the charity's Hampton based hospice, pausing briefly at the charity's Hampton Hill shop. The walk then continued through Twickenham, stopping at the famous Twickenham Film Studios.

Karen said, *“The studios are a special place on the route, where 35 years ago, I met with the late George Michael who was the first person to help me with my charity work.”*

The walk continued through to Richmond, ending at Richmond Hill. Here, Simon, Lauren and Karen hung lit lanterns decorated by children supported by Shooting Star Children's Hospices, in a tree, in memory of loved ones and the many babies, children and young people who have tragically lost their lives. As the sun set, Karen, Simon and Lauren, joined by Karen's brother Adam, took the time to quietly reflect on the special charity that remains close to their hearts.

Karen said, *“Simon and Lauren have worked tirelessly for the charity, along with their fellow Vice-Presidents and Patrons. With regular visits to our hospices, hosting a special Afternoon Tea in London for families and having Shooting Star Children's Hospices as an official charity beneficiary of the X Factor, they continue to make a lasting difference to the charity. It was a privilege to walk alongside my friends Simon and Lauren. The walk had a special poignancy for me, beginning at our Hampton hospice and ending in Richmond, where I started as a volunteer in palliative and cancer care. I feel so honoured in continuing to support families in the most unimaginable circumstances now and long into the future.”*

Karen, Simon and Lauren have raised over £50,000, and are encouraging supporters to sponsor them via her Just Giving page - www.justgiving.com/fundraising/karen-sugarman2
You can find out more about Shooting Star Children's Hospices at www.shootingstar.co.uk

Local Heritage Railway Reopens

Hampton Kempton Waterworks Railway will reopen to the public on 26/27 June after being closed since March 2020.

Working under strict government guidelines, volunteers have been able to carry out maintenance work to ensure that 1915 steam locomotive 'Darent' is ready for the public on reopening day.

They even managed to start work on laying the foundations for their new coach shed (with the help of a grant from Heathrow Community Fund) to house and maintain the railway's rolling stock.

Volunteers also spent much of their time making sure the railway was safely maintained and COVID-19 compliant. Open every Sunday 10.30am to 4pm throughout the summer, HKWR offers the local community train rides on 'Darent' as well as the opportunity to enjoy their picnic field with a play train.

All train tickets must be booked in advance through their [website](#).



Council issues warning over Oak Processionary Moth

Residents out and about enjoying borough parks and open spaces this summer are reminded to keep on the lookout for the Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) – a pest that can pose serious health risks for those who come in contact.

Earlier this year, the Council commissioned specialist tree contractors to treat oak trees in the borough which are being affected by the hatching of the OPM. However, due to periods of cold and wet weather, conditions have been ideal to encourage the growth of local populations.

The moth may affect the health of oak trees but also poses a serious risk to people and animals. It feeds on the leaves of oak trees and creates nests in branches and tree trunks. The tiny hairs from the pests can cause nasty rashes, conjunctivitis type symptoms and breathing difficulties for anyone who comes into contact.

Residents are being warned not to handle the creatures or remove or disturb the nests but leave it to the Council's specialist contractors who are already on the case. For anyone who spots the pest it is important to stay away, sightings on council trees should be reported and personnel will be deployed to remove the caterpillars and their nests.

OPM on council trees can be reported by calling 020 8891 1411 or by email to trees&parks@richmond.gov.uk. View further information on OPM [HERE](#)



Twickers Foodie – By Alison Jee

A TALE OF TWO INDIANS...NEAR, AND SLIGHTLY FURTHER AFIELD

When we go to an Indian restaurant, I often find that I've enjoyed the starters and the side dishes far more than the main courses. So when I found out that one of Twickenham's finest Indian restaurants – **Tsaretta Spice** at the end of Church Street – had just launched a new tapas menu, I couldn't wait to try it! It was a scorching hot day, and we sat on the terrace under an awning, enjoying a cooling cocktail and perusing the new menu. Reader, it is mouth-watering



– and the food lives up to expectations. There are stacks of vegetarian and vegan options. Prices are very reasonable and two people, sharing four dishes will have an elegant sufficiency and still have not spent more than about £15 ahead, excluding



drinks. We enjoyed Avocado Bhel (puffed rice, roasted peanuts and avocado tossed with spicy garlic tomato chutney and a tamarind & coriander chutney. It was delicious, refreshing and a great mix of textures, but the cocktail glass it was served in, was awkward to share from so it would be better served in a more conventional vessel. We also enjoyed Kesari Tikka (chicken fillets marinated with saffron, yellow chilli, mace and cream cheese),



Spiced Lamb Scotch Eggs (quail eggs wrapped in spiced lamb, served with turmeric, shallot puree and kachumber salad. The tikka had a gentle heat, and was a testament to the skill of the spice master in the kitchen. The eggs were the perfect size and crispy and very tasty. But the star of the show for us was Punjabi Fish Fingers! They were piping hot, gently spiced Tilapia fillets, marinated in lemon and carom seeds. It was served with a Taka mayo and we could have happily devoured another portion if the rest hadn't been so good.

As well as the full menu, the snack menu includes Naanwiches and salads – again very reasonably priced at under £7 a portion. We will be back there very soon!

Up to town now for another great place...**Pali Hill**. It's the part of Mumbai where the top Bollywood celebs live and it



is also the name of a great new Indian restaurant in the heart of London's Fitzrovia. Situated in the premises that had been occupied by the famous Gaylord Restaurant for over half a century, locals must have been concerned when it opened with such a hard act to follow, but they needn't have worried!

Bringing together the regional flavours of Mumbai's vast culinary communities, head chef Avinash Shashidhara (previously River Café and Hibiscus) creates a menu focused on local, seasonal, and high-quality ingredients, pairing his classical training with inspiration from his upbringing in Bangalore. His food is vibrant and flavourful. According to Avinash they are: "Dishes you would find on your mother's table, chutneys you would get from a neighbour, grills you would enjoy in the inner-city street markets late night and the traditional dishes that have been passed down for generations, all given a London edge for a taste of India you might not yet have experienced."



My friend and I shared Papadi Chat and also Mangalore Bun & Crab Sukkha to start. (Having enjoyed excellent Indian inspired cocktails while perusing the menu).

The Papadi Chat was a delightful mix of spiced yogurt, tomatoes, pomegranate, sev and chutneys. It was not only very refreshing, but the mix of textures and flavours was divine.

The bun was more like a pastry shell, and the crab sukukha was served warm and delicately flavoured.



For mains we shared Sea Bass steamed in a Banana Leaf (with raw mango, mint, coriander and lime)...fabulous! Also 'Paper' Dosa with spring veg and potato sagu and chutneys. This we both felt it to be rather disappointing, as it was very greasy, albeit tasty.

However, the sweet plates at the end were stunning: Alphonso Mango Cheesecake was a highlight, and I thought I had died and gone to cheesecake heaven! The Pistachio ice cream was probably one of the best ice creams I've tasted – it was like a frozen kulfi and the perfect end to a lovely lunch. We were admirably and charmingly looked after by Tuli, who told us at the end that she was new to Pali Hill – I hope she likes it there, as she is a great asset.





Annie Jr.

music by Charles Strouse, lyrics by Martin Charnin

Dramacube, Hampton Hill Blue Cast at Hampton Hill Theatre until 26th June

The feeling I experienced when walking through the doors of Hampton Hill Theatre was quite emotional for it was fifteen months since last setting foot in a theatre due to that very vicious virus who shall remain nameless. In many ways it was appropriate that the production I was about to see was *Annie Jr.*, produced by Dramacube. Cast memories back to March 2020 when this production had been ready to go: the stage had been set, lines learned, tickets sold and then 'lockdown' immediately prior the opening performance. Everything was frozen, not even the stage could be struck.



How fitting it is that the first production now being shown at Hampton Hill Theatre is that same musical, *Annie Jr.* Despite being a huge fan of musicals I've never seen the production of *Annie* on the stage. *Annie Jr.* didn't disappoint, capturing much of the amusement and charm of the story, supported by an enthusiastic and capable young cast.

The success of the production is helped by the impressive stage set with a backcloth with a projected image of 1930s Brooklyn that

effectively establishes the period of the musical.

The songs in this musical are memorable, sung by this cast of young performers with great enthusiasm and the main characters were well supported by a very strong, enthusiastic ensemble. The singing was always tuneful, songs were well delivered, and it was great to see the level of attention given to characterisation by these young performers. The choreography was creative, and the blocking succeeded in achieving pleasing stage pictures. The production is not without humour as exemplified by the small orphan, played by Emilia Bralow, being knocked into the basket, wonderful timing ... lovely little cameo role.

Read Celia Bard's review at

www.markaspen.com/2021/06/25/annie-jr-21-hh-bl

Photography by Bomi Cooper





Prima le Parole : Preview

Opera Live At Home, On-Line from 29th June

Opera critic Thomas Forsythe discusses the forthcoming production of *Prima le Parole* with Helen Astrid, founder of *Opera Live At Home*

TF: [Opera Live At Home](http://www.operaliveathome.com) seems to have established an international following during lockdown as an opera recital and discussion programme.

HA: However, this month the evening will be slightly different, as it will feature an actor and opera director, Tama Matheson, who is following on from the incredible success of *His Quest for Peace* at the Barnes Music Festival last month.

TF: About the life of the composer, the late Sir Andrzej Panufnik, who lived in Twickenham?

HA: Yes, Tama's lyric drama brought out the epitome of Panufnik's music, the victory of the human spirit over adversity. Now, Tama Matheson takes centre stage again with *Prima le Parole*. He will delve into the history of opera and will excavate the theatre works that underpin the libretti.

TF: What will Tama's excavations reveal?

HA: They will answer many questions. What are the plays that inspired the great operas? What was it about them that captivated the imaginations of the composers who wrote them?

TF: And has *Opera Live at Home* specially commissioned *Prima le Parole* as a performance, rather than a talk?

HA: Very much so. It will offer treasures rarely seen in their theatrical form, from Shakespeare to Schiller, Goethe to Garrick. I am really thrilled to be able to feature Tama, known worldwide for his lyric dramas.

TF: This should be quite something. Tama Matheson has won lots of awards as a writer and an actor, but he is a prolific opera director, Sydney Opera House and Covent Garden, as well as right across Europe.

HA: The icing on the cake, is that you'll get to meet him afterwards! Unique to any *Opera Live At Home* experience is the chance to chat informally with the artists after the show. Come along on 29th June. [You don't need to leave home](http://www.operaliveathome.com). Just sit back in your favourite armchair, relax and pour yourself a drink. You're in for a real treat!

Read the full interview at www.markaspen.com/2021/06/23/prima-parole-prev

Photography courtesy of *Opera Live at Home*



Quietus

by Nicholas Jonne Wilson

The Questors at the Judi Dench Playhouse, Ealing until 26th June

Hamlet is Shakespeare's longest play, but this version came in at under an hour. Its purpose wasn't to retell the story but rather to examine the psychology of the main protagonists, in what is described as "the extra-ordinary tale of Hamlet". Each of the main characters, Hamlet, Ophelia and the Queen, were represented as both themselves and as their demons.



The play opens with Hamlet being taunted by images of Ophelia and her demon as he sleeps, but the true nature of these demons is revealed in the steamy sessions of the second scene. Sex scenes on stage are sometimes awkward, but this one was pretty tame. However, the gist was clear enough – demons are not respectable creatures.

The famous 'To be or not to be...' soliloquy became a dialogue between Hamlet and one of the demons acting as a psychiatrist. The cliché that the speech has become was nicely offset by another cliché from the psychiatrist; 'How does that make you feel?' Other pleasurable highlights included a verbal duel between Ophelia and one of the demons, starting over a rivalry about herbs. This quickly escalated to insults based on the names of these herbs, into which words such as 'bitch' and 'whore' were incorporated. This verbal duel felt a little like a long entertaining Wimbledon tennis rally.



The revelation to Hamlet of Ophelia's death, at the end of the play, is a genuinely chilling moment, prosaically done, but this is a no spoiler zone.

Lockdown has not been easy and, although the audience wasn't really big enough to give them the reward they deserved, the cast, drawn from Questors' second year students, did a good job with clear enthusiasm for a quirky play.

Read Nick Swyft's review at www.markaspen.com/2021/06/24/quietus

Photography by Robert Vass

Pierre du Preez and Limpopo Biltong 41 Church Street Twickenham

I was born in Pretoria, South Africa in 1972. I spent my first 23 years there, growing up in Menlo Park and my schooling was Brooklyn Primary School and Pretoria Boys High School. After school I attended Pretoria Technikon, now known as (Tshwane University of Technology) where I studied Marketing. I graduated there in 1994 and came over to England in January 1995.

Initially I came over on a 2 years "Working Holiday" visa. Once here, I discovered that I was entitled to an ancestral visa, as my maternal grandparents were British. After 5 years I was able to apply for my British citizenship, which I indeed did.

My first job here was as a live-in carer for an elderly man in Oxfordshire, which I did for 6 months. I then moved to London, sofa surfing with friends, and got my first job in banking at Goldman Sachs Asset Management as a temp, where I was the photocopy guy. This then led to a 10-year career in Investment Banking which included permanent positions at ING Barings, Lazard Asset Management and finished at JP Morgan Chase Private Bank as a Client Relationship Manager team leader. I left in May 2006 to return to South Africa for personal reasons and spent 6 years back there where I worked as manager of Madam Zingara restaurant (Until it burnt down. Nothing to do with me!) and a couple of years with Discovery Health.

I returned to the UK in January 2011 and things went downhill fast. My fault for the most part, I have to admit, after making a series of poor life choices. In 2013 I was homeless for a year, living in a homeless hostel in Hackney. Slowly I put my life together, with help from the government, some very loyal friends and the unwavering love and support from my parents. I started to find work on various food markets around London. Eventually in October 2018 I came across a Limpopo Biltong stand in Victoria Park in the East End. I tried the biltong and immediately fell in love with the product. Finally I, as a biltong lover, had found decent biltong in the UK! I asked for a job with them on the markets, which I got, running stalls across London. I really enjoyed this time, and started to thrive again. Having a product you believe in makes it easy and a joy to sell.

In March 2019 Francois van der Zee, the Biltong Boss and butcher who is the magician who makes our meat products, offered me the Twickenham shop to run as my own and have made it so. He, his wife Tania (And partners), own and run the Limpopo Biltong brand supported by a great team. They are two of the best people I have ever met and who I owe more to than I can express. Their work ethic and commitment have made Limpopo Biltong the premier biltong brand in the UK that it is, and one I am proud to be a part of the Limpopo Biltong family. I encourage you to look up their website www.limpopobiltong.com and read the history of Limpopo Biltong. For far away friends who are not luckily local enough to buy from me, they can also access the on-line shop there.



I took the shop over and ran with it. Turning it from a modestly successful business into a thriving one through hard work, a great product and being myself. This could not have been done without the amazing support I have received from the locals, and not-so-local, customer friends. I coined the phrase "Customer friends", as those who follow me on social media well know, as that is exactly what they are. You can follow me, Limpopo Biltong Twickenham, on Facebook and Instagram.

After sub-letting the space from Ricardo of Ricardo's Cellar (Another really good bloke) the time came for me to move into my own premises. It was vital I stay on Church Street and was fortunate enough to secure my own premises a short 30 meters away! Opening on Saturday 19 June.

Church Street is the most amazing community and I feel so fortunate to be part of it. I have made some genuine friends along the way. The combination of good neighbours, both fellow traders and private residents, to the lovely people who support us or simply come for a stroll down this pretty and safe pedestrianised street, to the dogs! The latter of which I am especially a hit with! It might have something to do with the treats they get from me. Of course, none of this would be what it is, if not for the selfless and tireless efforts of the fabulous Shona and Bruce from Crusader Travel, to which we owe a huge debt of gratitude! Thank you.

Butterflies released at Princess Alice Hospice

The family of a patient at Princess Alice Hospice gathered together in the early June sunshine to release some beautiful butterflies into the grounds of the Hospice in Esher.

Sue, who has been receiving palliative care at the Hospice, was keen to release the butterflies herself as she had reared them from eggs. Sue's husband arranged to transport the butterflies and Hospice staff organised for Sue's bed to be moved out onto the terrace so that she could be part of the release. Sue wanted her grandson present so he could see them fly off and the whole family was involved.



The Hospice has always tried to accommodate the wishes of patients and families, encouraging pets to visit, allowing puppies to be born and now butterflies to be released.

Senior Health Care Assistant at the Hospice, Gill Samsun, said, "It was lovely to watch the whole family get together in the sunshine and release the butterflies that Sue had raised. Her grandson loved it. There were lots of squeals of delight, a real family memory for them all to cherish."



Flexi Season tickets now available for South Western Railway customers

South Western Railway customers who split their time between home and the office are set to save money and enjoy more flexible travel thanks to a new ticketing product which is available to buy from June 22.

A new Flexi Season ticket is now available to buy and can be used from Monday 28 June.

This new product will offer SWR customers more flexibility - enabling people to travel on any eight days in a 28-day period - and could lead to significant financial savings. SWR customers can now also change advance ticket bookings to a different date or time for no extra cost.



Another week goes by in Church Street

By Shona Lyons



This week Pierre finally opened his shop at number 41 Church

Street, moving Limpopo Biltong Twickenham from his shared space at 44-45 with Eel Pie Records and Ricardo's Cellar. The new shop has a lot of history and he took down the old Par Ici Shop sign (a shop selling local crafts that closed quite a few years ago) to reveal an either older sign for "Beach" which used to sell cut and fossilized stones, but he has kept the metal work at the doorway which still says Par Ici.

This week also saw a lot of activity around the chess set with lots of groups of youngsters coming down for quite some time and playing serious games of chess. They have a lot of fun with their friends too but it is great to see that it being such a nice community amenity and gives the kids some enjoyable time with friends playing something quite educational and entertaining for them and keeping them out of trouble! We also had Orleans School kids come down for a photo opportunity and also had a call from Richard Reynolds School who want to come to the Square and visit Crusader Travel to show the kids who are studying tourism how a working travel agency operates.



It was great to see more and more traders washing their frontages, we even saw that Elmaz at Snax has brought a new jet spray toy and it looks like he is sharing it with his neighbours at the top of the street too as the pavements look nice and clean again.

This week also saw the final tweaks to the positioning of the hanging baskets, so that just leaves the bill to be paid!

And last but not least we are flying flags for the Gallagher Cup Premiership Rugby match tomorrow. It is the Exeter Chiefs vs Harlequins at the stadium with a kick off at 5.30pm. We have got flags up already in London Road and tomorrow the flags will go up in Church Street.



GREEN or AMBER

**We have the
Expertise to help**

It's Interesting (and confusing) to watch and read the constant news about overseas travel – even more so since last night (Thursday night) and the new Greens – Oddly practically all differ in the disciplines to follow and really practically nowhere is really free of disciplines that have to be followed, oddly only the Balearics ask for nothing more than a pre travel declaration form- Whilst Malta and Gibraltar have modest “asks” followed by still easy to follow Iceland and Madeira. Israel whilst still Green is refusing British travellers till 1st August.

Today there is an interesting comprehensive chart in the Times newspaper – though even here I would crosscheck the information with the official UK GOVT FCO website as the rules change at the “drop of a vaccine” – just like Grant Shapps threatened on TV this morning that they could – Quite a few Caribbean Islands are now Green but again check the websites as almost all require something – even though you will not have to quarantine on your return to the UK.

So who is travelling, you may ask. On the whole just now it is those who have to, for funerals, weddings and owners going to their villas which have long been neglected these last 18 Months. But from now on there is fresh demand for Green destinations, though uncertainty that they may become Amber certainly dampens people enthusiasm and it looks like a Summer of last minute bookings as that seems to be a safer bet.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

What we have seen today is that customers are changing from Amber destinations to Green and using the BA Book with confidence offer to change their bookings without penalty – Though the new flights are invariably more expensive to change to as availability diminishes.

What Mr Grant Shapps seems to have forgotten in his treatise on Pandemic Travelling and Traffic Lights is that whilst he recommends you not to book without travel insurance – being Amber negates the possibility of travel insurance unless the FCO gave a special “Thumbs UP” to your destination – Like they have to for Kos, Crete, Rhodes, Corfu, Zante and the Canaries and Portugal, mainland.

Sorry to say we all have a long journey (Metaphorically speaking) ahead of us. They say that travel broadens the mind – Don't worry that it's a long journey, it's worth it!

Confused – just drop in for a chat and we will sort it out. 58 Church Street Twickenham.

WIZ TALES - Cayman Islands

Teresa Read



It seems that the Cayman Islands, an Overseas Territory of the UK, will be on the travel Green List from 30 June 2021.

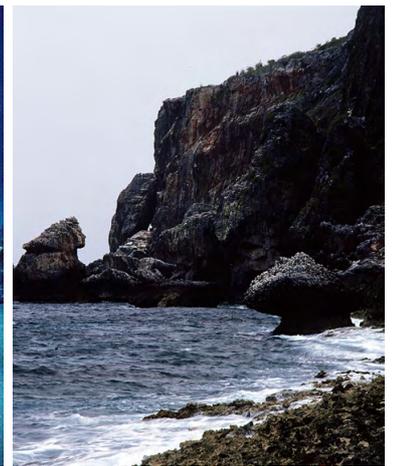
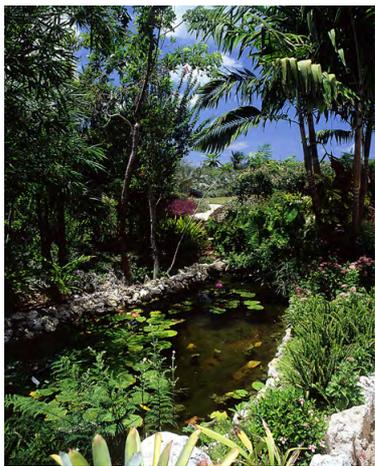
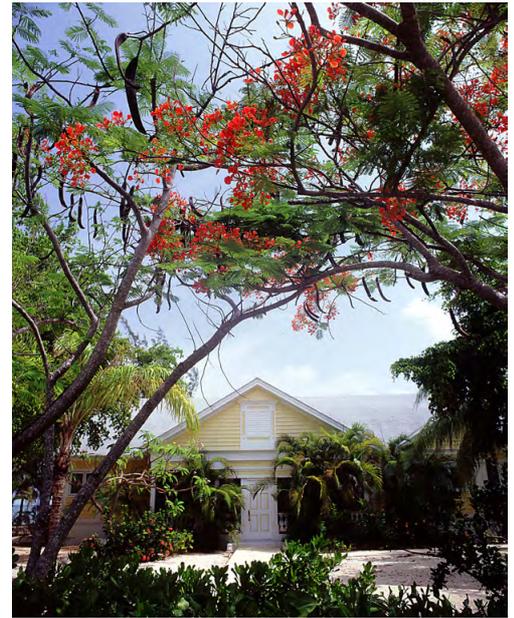
The Cayman Islands are around one hundred and fifty miles from Cuba and one hundred and eighty miles north west of Jamaica.

The Cayman Islands are well known as one of the most sought-after financial centres in the world.

Protected areas include Grand Cayman's Central Mangrove Wetland and Cayman Brac Parrot Reserve.

The islands are known as one of the world's top diving destinations; there are over a hundred dive sites in the seas surrounding Grand Cayman alone.

Snorkelling is also very popular with eighteen listed sites around Grand Cayman, twelve are for Cayman Brac and nine for Little Cayman.



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

We would like to thank the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism for the photographs

St Mary's University

St Mary's to Host British Weightlifting Championships



St Mary's University, Twickenham is delighted to host the 2021 Weightlifting British Championships on 26th June.

Classed as a Tier 1 event the results from the competition can be used for rankings and qualification to future national events, and the winners from each category will be crowned '2021 British Champion'. The event can be used to set records and is a qualifier for the Commonwealth Games in 2022.

The competition has been setup with Covid-19 protocols in place to keep participants safe. Given the Covid restrictions, spectators will not be able to attend, however British Weightlifting will be live streaming the event.

Head of Sport Andrew Reid-Smith said: "We are delighted to continue the proud history of St Mary's being a recognised venue for elite sport. We hope this can provide some inspiration to our own student athletes particularly those involved in strength and conditioning programmes."

To find out more about the event, visit the [British Weight Lifting website](#).

St Mary's to Host Launch for Joanna Bogle's New Book

St Mary's University is pleased to announce it will be hosting a book launch for Joanne Bogle's new book *SIMMARIES, The History of St Mary's University Twickenham*.

Joanne Bogle is a Catholic journalist, and with the release of this book she has written 17 books including *Newman's London: A Pilgrim Handbook*, all published by Gracewing. *SIMMARIES, The History of St Mary's University* chronicles the full background of the establishment.



The event will be held in the University's chapel at 6pm on 30th June; it will be a celebration of the book and of the University's rich heritage.

Provost Professor John Charmley said of the book "As we marked our 170th anniversary last year at St Mary's, it is a good time to celebrate our history with this lively history portraying the experiences of Simmarians down the years. Joanne Bogle has provided us with an entertaining and informative account of life at St Mary's down the decades".

Find out more about the event on the University [website](#).



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London



RFS The Best of our Recent Historic Screenings

Issue 66 25th June 2021

OUTSIDE THE LAW

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.

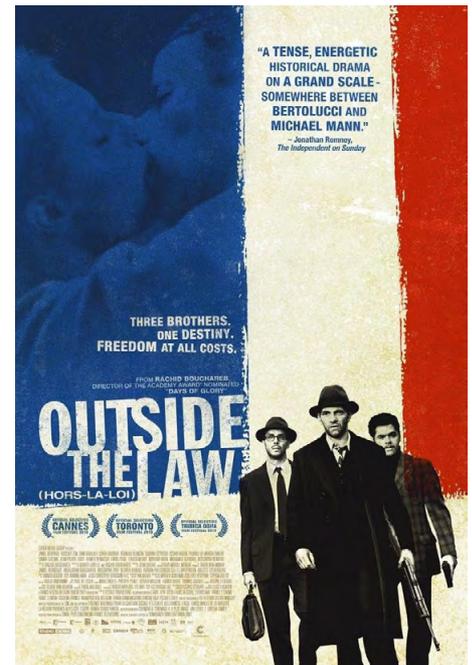
RFS Context: OUTSIDE THE LAW was the 781st film screened by RFS on 13th March 2018. **Outside The Law** was the fifth equal ranked film of Season 55 (equal fifth with **Letters from Baghdad**), it got an approval mark of 89% from those attending; from season 55 we have also already featured the higher ranked films, in order: **A Man Called Ove**, **Julieta**, **Tangerines**, **The Other Side of Hope**, **Marshland** and **Letters from Baghdad** as **Issues 42, 48, 50, 43, 60** and **59** respectively. **Outside The Law** can be streamed from Amazon Prime the discs are available from Amazon and others.

OUTSIDE THE LAW (Hors la loi)

Director: Rachid Bouchareb
Country: France, 2010
Screenplay: Rachid Bouchareb & Olivier Lorelle
Running Time: 138 min., colour
Language: French/Arabic
Music: Armand Amar
Cinematography: Christophe Beaucarne
Editor: Yannick Kergoat

Leading Players:

Jamel Debbouze	(Saïd)
Roschdy Zem	(Messaoud)
Sami Bouajila	(Abdelkader)
Chafia Boudraa	(La mère)
Bernard Blancan	(Colonel Faivre)
Sabrina Seyvecou	(Hélène)
Assaad Bouab	(Ali)
Thibault de Montalembert	(Morvan)



This film was the director Rachid Bouchareb's follow-up to **Days of Glory** (screened by RFS in Nov 2006) using the same actors. The earlier film you will recall dealt with the African colonial forces that helped France rid herself of Nazi occupation. This takes the story a stage further to when those same soldiers fight against France for the self determination of Algeria.

An academic whose thesis was on the Algerian war would recommend this film but with some reservations as Bouchareb has included some scenes that are not based on historical facts - the FLN

delegation never met in top class Geneva hotels since most of them were underground and any contacts were strictly clandestine.

He also wonders why Bouchareb mainly relied on Moroccan actors while there are plenty of both professional and amateur actors of Algerian origin available in both Algeria and France... but does it matter it's a great story.

He goes on to say the film is a great gangster movie but not a true Algerian historical epic story, for sure the FLN vs the MNA and the conflict was sometimes brutal but the film relies on a few FLN characters.

He concludes the three brother's story makes a good fancy/fiction story but not an history of nationalism...but after all the film was financed by France. I get the feeling from the general tone of this reviewer it's too westernised for his liking.

To those of us who probably know very little about this post war period in both France and Algeria it's a bit of an eye opener. The film pulls no punches in its portrayal of French injustice and brutality, or the ruthlessness - and cruelty - of the Algerian nationalists. It has been criticised for being anti French, but it is really anti colonial and some might see this as a post revisionist guilt trip, but I think it is a slice of awkward history from Frances' recent past.

The depiction of the paramilitary death squads, extra judicial, executions as well as legitimate ones, show a willingness to really explore the story in all its' facets. A third "Algerian" instalment was planned, but as this **Outside the Law** did not do as well as **Days of Glory** it may be a bit of a wait. Anyway, you do not need to have seen the earlier film to follow **Outside the Law**. I thought it was exceptionally good and kept me guessing as to its final denouement right up to the end and held my interest through out, I you all agree with my strong recommendation and give it the high mark it deserves. Not only that but my wife really enjoyed it too and for her to stick with a subtitled film and recommend it is an endorsement indeed.

Outside the Law represented Algeria at the 2011 Academy Awards, where it was nominated for Best Foreign Language Film.

Peter Sheil with help from Amazon

Final week to enter Arts Richmond's first ever radio play writing competition

Arts Richmond is looking for aspiring radio dramatists to take part in this exciting project.

Have you or your group been looking for a new, COVID-secure way to express yourself? Then enter Arts Richmond's first ever radio play writing competition.

Plays should be 15 minutes long, have four characters and must never have been produced previously. The competition is open only to those who live or study in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

After being read by an experienced panel, four playwrights will then be invited to submit their recorded work for final judging by an industry professional. Each of the four finalists will receive personalised feedback from an experienced radio writer. The winner will receive an Arts Richmond/Colin Skipp Radio Drama Cup and £100.



Read the full contest description [HERE](#). Submit your work to: info@artsrichmond.org.uk

Squire's celebrate 85th Anniversary with a delicious cream tea

Come to Squire's Garden Centres this July and August and you can enjoy a very special Anniversary Cream Tea. This exclusive treat is to celebrate Squire's 85th Anniversary this summer.

Anniversary Cream Tea

From 28 June until 31 August, you can tuck into a delicious scone with jam and clotted cream, a slice of Eton Mess gateaux and a pot of loose-leaf tea for £7.95.

Squire's is a great place to catch up with friends and family, and with free parking there's plenty of time to pick up some plants for the garden whilst you are there.

Dine Safely

You can choose to eat indoors or outdoors (at most centres), and many outdoor areas have new pergolas to protect you from the changeable British weather! All tables are well spaced to allow for social distancing or have screens in-between them. Staff are equipped with PPE and enhanced regular cleaning is undertaken. Only card payments or Squire's Gift Cards are accepted.

Book A Table

Book online at www.squiresgardencentres.co.uk, via the Squire's App, or call your local centre.

Squire's Café Bars are open 9am-5pm Monday to Saturday and 10am-4.30pm on Sundays (10am-4pm at Squire's Frensham).

85th Anniversary

Squire's is a family business that was started by D.J. Squire on 8th July 1936. His son Colin Squire, who is also 85 this summer, developed the company into one of the first garden centre businesses in the UK when he opened Squire's in Twickenham in 1964.

Today Squire's is run by Colin's daughter Sarah Squire, and has 16 garden centres across Surrey, Sussex, Middlesex and Berkshire.



SQUIRES
GARDEN CENTRES

England A team announcement: England A v Scotland A

The England A team to face Scotland A on Sunday [27 June, 2pm KO] has been named.



While caps will not be awarded for this game, 11 uncapped players will start for England A who will be led by head coach John Mitchell. Lewis Ludlow will captain the side at blind-side flanker, with Ben Curry at open-side flanker and Callum Chick at No.8.

Five Leicester Tigers players will start the game at their home ground - Mattioli Woods Welford Road. Ellis Genge (loose-head prop), who will be vice-captain for the game, joins his club teammates Joe Heyes (tight-head prop), Harry Wells (lock), Dan Kelly (inside centre) and Freddie Steward (full back). Curtis Langdon (hooker) and Charlie Ewels (lock) complete the forward pack.

Jacob Umaga will start at fly half and Harry Randall is at scrum half. Ollie Lawrence is outside centre with Max Malins (left) and Adam Radwan (right) on the wings in attack. Uncapped Jamie Blamire and Trevor Davison are named as finishers, alongside Beno Obano, Ted Hill, Lewis Ludlam, Dan Robson, George Furbank and Joe Cokanasiga.

Mitchell said: *“This squad has grown over the past few weeks, full of energy and competition and the players have given their all. Now the next step is for us to work even harder at becoming more cohesive in our final stages of our preparation. “We are looking forward to a tough game against Scotland A. We’ve prepared well and will arrive ready for it.”*

Sam Underhill (concussion) and Fraser Dingwall (calf) are unavailable for selection after sustaining injuries in training.

Tickets for England A v Scotland A are available via the Leicester ticket office. The game is also live on Channel 4.

England will then play two Test matches at Twickenham Stadium – against USA (Sunday 4 July, 2pm KO) and Canada (Saturday 10 July, 3pm KO).

England A XV Starters

- | | |
|---|--|
| 15. Freddie Steward (Leicester Tigers, uncapped) | 1. Ellis Genge (Leicester Tigers, 28 caps) |
| 14. Adam Radwan (Newcastle Falcons, uncapped) | 2. Curtis Langdon (Sale Sharks, uncapped) |
| 13. Ollie Lawrence (Worcester Warriors, 6 caps) | 3. Joe Heyes (Leicester Tigers, uncapped) |
| 12. Dan Kelly (Leicester Tigers, uncapped) | 4. Harry Wells (Leicester Tigers, uncapped) |
| 11. Max Malins (Bristol Bears, on loan from Saracens, 7 caps) | 5. Charlie Ewels (Bath Rugby, 21 caps) |
| 10. Jacob Umaga (Wasps, uncapped) | 6. Lewis Ludlow (C) (Gloucester Rugby, uncapped) |
| 9. Harry Randall (Bristol Bears, uncapped) | 7. Ben Curry (Sale Sharks, uncapped) |
| | 8. Callum Chick (Newcastle Falcons, uncapped) |

Finishers

- | | |
|--|---|
| 16. Jamie Blamire (Newcastle Falcons, uncapped) | 20. Lewis Ludlam (Northampton Saints, 8 caps) |
| 17. Beno Obano (Bath Rugby, 1 cap) | 21. Dan Robson (Wasps, 12 caps) |
| 18. Trevor Davison (Newcastle Falcons, uncapped) | 22. George Furbank (Northampton Saints, 3 caps) |
| 19. Ted Hill (Worcester Warriors, 1 cap) | 23. Joe Cokanasiga (Bath Rugby, 9 caps) |

Test and trace in England - progress update

With one of the largest pandemic-related budgets, the NHS Test and Trace Service (NHST&T) has expanded its testing capacity, tracing activities and distribution of rapid tests, but has further to go in reducing the overall time taken for reaching all cases and their contacts, according to the National Audit Office (NAO).

Today's report is the NAO's second on government's approach to test and trace services in England and focuses on the period from November 2020 to April 2021.

For a test and trace system to be effective, it must work quickly. NHST&T has reduced the time taken between a person booking a test and their contacts being asked to self-isolate for in-person PCR tests, which make up a minority of tests. However, NHST&T does not have targets for how quickly the contacts of those testing positive should be reached for other types of PCR tests, such as home-based tests. Furthermore, its internal targets don't cover the period between a person experiencing symptoms and coming forward for a test.

While NHST&T's performance has improved since the end of October 2020, it fell well below its targets when cases rose sharply in December. NHST&T provided results for 90% of PCR tests taken in person in the community within 24 hours in April 2021, up from 38% in October 2020. However, this dropped to 17% during December when testing and tracing activity was increased to manage the surge in infections. NHST&T met published targets for the overall proportion it reaches of people testing positive in mid-March 2021, and of identified contacts from the start of December 2020, although performance slipped a little below both targets during April.

From October 2020, NHST&T rolled out mass testing for people without symptoms, using lateral flow device (LFD) tests to identify COVID-19, but only a small proportion of the tests distributed have been registered as used. NHST&T forecast that between March and May 2021 655 million LFD tests would be used in the UK, but up to 26 May only 96 million (14%) of the 691 million tests distributed in England had been registered. NHST&T does not know whether the tests that have not been registered have been used or not. It has started a programme of research to understand why the registration of test results is so low and is working to increase public awareness of the need to register results and improve its ability to track tests.

Local authorities' involvement in testing and tracing has increased significantly, but challenges to effective partnership working remain. Local stakeholders told the NAO that NHST&T's engagement and data sharing with local authorities has improved, but that they cannot yet access all the data they need. This makes it difficult for them to deal with localised outbreaks.

NHST&T has developed a programme of work to identify and contain variant forms of COVID-19, and currently screens all viable positive PCR tests for variants. NHST&T also provides testing and tracing services in support of border controls, aiming to minimise the entry of new variants to the country. The UK has made a very significant contribution to international efforts to track and understand new variants: about 30% of genomic sequencing results shared internationally come from the UK, making it the largest single contributor. Samples are collected by the NHS and NHST&T and processed by the COVID-19 Genomics Consortium, Wellcome Sanger Institute and the public health agencies in the four nations.

NHST&T reports it has spent £13.5 billion of its £22.2 billion budget in 2020-21, an underspend of £8.7 billion (39%). Of this, NHST&T spent £10.4 billion on testing; £1.8 billion on identifying and

containing local outbreaks; and £0.9 billion on tracing. NHST&T told the NAO that the underspend is because a predicted high level of demand for testing in January and February 2021 did not materialise due to the national lockdown. The delay in the rollout of mass testing from January to March also contributed to the underspend, as did some commercial savings.

NHST&T has introduced more flexibility into its contact centre contracts but, across its testing and tracing activities, is still paying for capacity it does not use. NHST&T aims for a 50% average utilisation rate for its contact tracers (the percentage of paid time they spend working) but daily utilisation rates have remained well below this since November 2020, peaking at 49% in January and falling to around 11% in February.

Some testing and tracing services are still being procured under emergency regulations, without competition. Although NHST&T has steadily reduced the number of contracts awarded using emergency regulations (6% in January-March 2021, compared to 46% in April-June 2020), in terms of contract value, the amount awarded has more than doubled (£2.6 billion in January-March 2021, compared to £1.1 billion in April-June 2020). NHST&T continues to rely heavily on consultants and has not reduced this as planned, with 45% of staff at its central office being consultants as at mid-April 2021.

The overall effectiveness of the test and trace process also relies on public compliance, which is still low or variable: only a minority of people who develop symptoms request a test, and not everyone self-isolates in line with requirements. However, NHST&T has no targets for increasing the number of people coming forward for a test or self-isolating.

NHST&T will transition to the new UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) between April and October 2021 and there is a risk that the restructuring will divert NHST&T's attention away from efforts to contain the spread of the virus. Local stakeholders also told the NAO there is uncertainty about the roles that national and local bodies will play following the transition to UKHSA. While NHST&T has sought to improve its understanding of future testing and tracing needs, it has not yet determined what capacity will be required in the future.

Speed, reach, and levels of public compliance still constrain the effectiveness of the test and trace approach. The NAO recommends that the Department of Health & Social Care, through NHST&T and relevant partners, should set out plans by October 2021 for improving the overall test and trace process, including addressing how to best support citizens to come forward for tests and comply with self-isolation requirements. They should also establish a clear strategy for how to integrate national and local efforts once England is no longer in lockdown.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:

“Since we last reported in December, NHS Test and Trace has introduced a lot of changes, including mass testing, closer working with local authorities and initiatives to identify and contain variant forms of COVID-19. However, some pressing challenges need to be tackled if it is to achieve its objectives and deliver value for taxpayers, including understanding how many lateral flow devices are actually being used and increasing public compliance with testing and self-isolation.”

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



National Audit Office

WHO supporting South African consortium to establish first COVID mRNA vaccine technology transfer hub

Geneva/Johannesburg/Paris: The World Health Organization (WHO) and its [COVAX](#) partners are working with a South African consortium comprising Biovac, Afrigen Biologics and Vaccines, a network of universities and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to establish its first COVID mRNA vaccine technology transfer hub.

The move follows WHO's global [call for Expression of Interest \(EOI\)](#) on 16 April 2021 to establish COVID mRNA vaccine technology transfer hubs to scale up production and access to COVID vaccines. Over the coming weeks, the partners will negotiate details with the Government of South Africa and public and private partners inside the country and from around the world.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said: "The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the full extent of the vaccine gap between developed and developing economies, and how that gap can severely undermine global health security. This landmark initiative is a major advance in the international effort to build vaccine development and manufacturing capacity that will put Africa on a path to self determination. South Africa welcomes the opportunity to host a vaccine technology transfer hub and to build on the capacity and expertise that already exists on the continent to contribute to this effort."

"This is great news, particularly for Africa, which has the least access to vaccines," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of local production to address health emergencies, strengthen regional health security and expand sustainable access to health products."

The announcement follows the recent visit to South Africa by the President of France, Mr Emmanuel Macron, who said his country was committed to supporting efforts in Africa to scale up local manufacturing capacity of COVID-19 vaccines and other medical solutions.

"Today is a great day for Africa. It is also a great day for all those who work towards a more equitable access to health products. I am proud for Biovac and our South African partners to have been selected by WHO, as France has been supporting them for years," said President Macron. "This initiative is the first of a long list to come, that we will keep supporting, with our partners, united in the belief that acting for global public goods is the fight of the century and that it cannot wait."

Technology transfer hubs are training facilities where the technology is established at industrial scale and clinical development performed. Interested manufacturers from low- and middle-income countries can receive training and any necessary licenses to the technology. WHO and partners will bring in the production know-how, quality control and necessary

licenses to a single entity to facilitate a broad and rapid technology transfer to multiple recipients.

The technology transfer hub will benefit from the [Medicines Patent Pool's](#) (MPP's) vast experience of intellectual property (IP) management and issuing of IP licenses. MPP is also assisting WHO to negotiate with technical partners and supporting in the governance of the hubs.

Biovac is a bio-pharmaceutical company that is the result of a partnership formed with the South African government in 2003 to establish local vaccine manufacturing capability for the provision of vaccines for national health management and security.

Afrigen Biologics and Vaccines is a biotechnology company focuses on product development, bulk adjuvant manufacturing and supply and distribution of key biologicals to address unmet healthcare needs.

The organizations complement one another, and can each take on different roles within the proposed collaboration: Afrigen will act as developer, Biovac as manufacturer and a consortium of universities as academic supporters providing mRNA know-how, and Africa CDC for technical and regional support.

The South African consortium benefits from having existing operating facilities that have spare capacity and because it has experience in technology transfers. It is also a global hub that can start training technology recipients immediately.

Other hubs in the pipeline

WHO's April call for expressions of interest has so far generated 28 offers to either provide technology for mRNA vaccines or to host a technology hub or both. There have been 25 expressions of interest from low- and middle-income country respondents who could receive the technology to produce mRNA vaccines.

Over the coming weeks, WHO will continue the rolling evaluation of other proposals and identify additional hubs, as needed, to contribute to health security and equity in all regions.

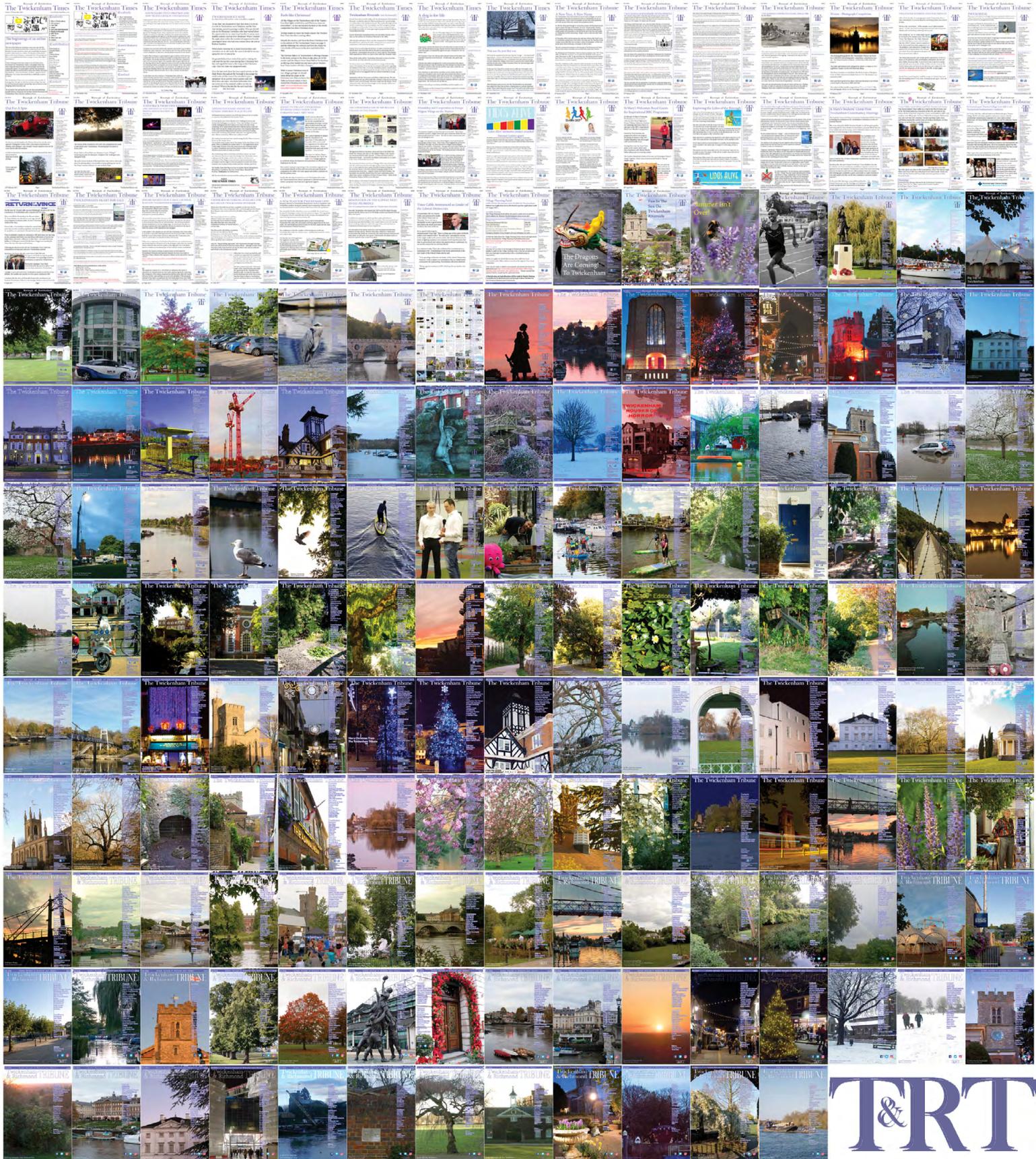
Through the COVAX partnership, WHO will continue its assessment of potential mRNA technology donors and will launch subsequent calls for other technologies, such as viral vectors and proteins, in coming months.

WHO is also hosting the [Local production forum](#) this week, to identify strategies to expand pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity in low- and middle-income countries for COVID-19 and other priority diseases.



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