

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

Contents

TickerTape
 TwickerSeal
 COVID-19
 The Loss Of The Salmon
 In Focus: Goldfish Bowl
 Spot The Fake
 Letters
 River Crane Sanctuary
 Hampton North Ward News
 Tribune Snippets
 Twickers Foodie
 Fingers Crossed!
 Traveller's Tales
 WIZ Tales - Barbados
 Review
 Film Screenings
 E-Scooters

Contributors

TwickerSeal
 Simon Fowler
 Strawberry Hill House
 Mac McInerny
 Sammi Macqueen
 Cllrs Geoffrey Samuel
 and Kate Howard
 Alison Jee
 Mark Aspen
 Doug Goodman
 World InfoZone
 Bruce Lyons
 Richmond Film Society
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2nd July 2021

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

Council grants itself Compulsory Purchase Order powers

At a meeting of the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee on Monday 28th June the council granted itself Compulsory Purchase Order powers “to facilitate the delivery of the Twickenham Riverside Scheme”. These powers will enable the compulsory purchase of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

You can view the agenda and resolutions [HERE](#), and the webcast [HERE](#)

Fire at Townmead Centre - FOI

A resident submitted a Freedom of Information request to Richmond Council asking, “How many residents were not notified of their cancelled appointments due to the Council system failure in the aftermath of the Townmead recycling centre fire?”

The council answered that “362 bookings were cancelled without notifications due to a systems error.”

EU Settled Status: understand your rights

Citizens Advice Richmond is hosting a free online webinar for EU/EEA citizens which will cover everything you need to know about your rights in the UK after Brexit, including Settled Status. The webinar takes place on Tuesday 27 July 2021 at 2.30pm.

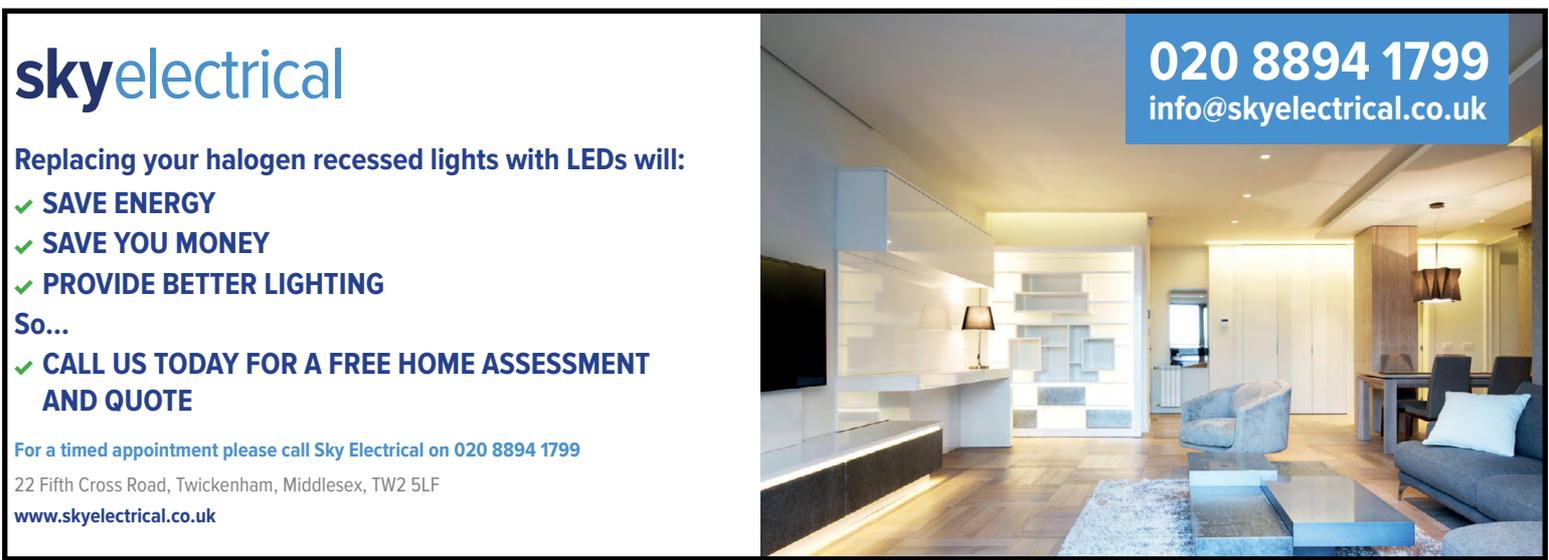
You can register to attend the online webinar free of charge [HERE](#)

If you are an EU citizen and you have not yet applied the Home Office is still accepting some applications. Details [HERE](#)

Planning application for Twickenham Riverside

On Friday 2nd July Richmond Council gave notice of an application for planning permission for the Twickenham Riverside site, namely “1, 1A, 1B and 1C King Street: 2-4 Water Lane; the site of the former swimming pool and associated buildings, The Embankment; the Diamond Jubilee Gardens, Twickenham”.

Applicant name: c/o Savills



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On Monday 28th June they had the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee, at which they granted themselves Compulsory Purchase Order powers to enable the council to forcibly take the Diamond Jubilee Gardens, despite the gardens being held in trust on a 125-year lease. Oh, the Trust is generously being given until the end of September to agree to handing over the land, otherwise the CPO will be implemented.

And on Friday 2nd July the council gave notice of an application for planning permission for the Twickenham Riverside site, so expect to see the application online any day now.

Below is an image of what will be placed on the Diamond Jubilee Gardens' current location; a large block of expensive, luxury private flats. As a local resident you will be allowed access to the pub on the ground floor, but the rest will be out of bounds (unless you know someone lucky enough to be able to afford one of the flats who invites you in for a look!)

But at least you have a pub, because that's what Twickenham needs to make it a destination ... another pub.



World Health Organization (WHO) Overview 2 July 2021:

In the past week, the number of new COVID-19 cases remained similar to the previous week, and the number of new deaths continued to decrease, with over 2.6 million new cases and 57 000 new deaths reported globally. This is the lowest weekly mortality figure since those recorded in early November 2020.

Globally, COVID-19 incidence remains very high, with an average of over 370 000 cases reported each day over the past week. The cumulative number of cases reported globally now exceeds now 180 million and the number of global deaths is almost 4 million. This week, the African region recorded a sharp increase in incidence (33%) and mortality (42%) when compared to the previous week.

All Regions, with the exception of the African Region, reported a decline in the number of new deaths in the past week.

“We are not safe until we are all safe”

Africa 1 July 2021

With case numbers doubling in Africa every three weeks, the Delta variant is spreading to a growing number of countries. It has been reported in 16 countries, including nine with surging cases. It is the most contagious variant yet, an estimated 30%–60% more transmissible than other variants. It is in three of the five countries reporting the highest caseloads for the week ending 27 June. And it is dominant in South Africa, which accounted for more than half of Africa’s cases in the same period.

According to the latest country reports, the Delta variant was detected in 97% of samples sequenced in Uganda and 79% of samples sequenced in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

“The speed and scale of Africa’s third wave is like nothing we’ve seen before. The rampant spread of more contagious variants pushes the threat to Africa up to a whole new level.

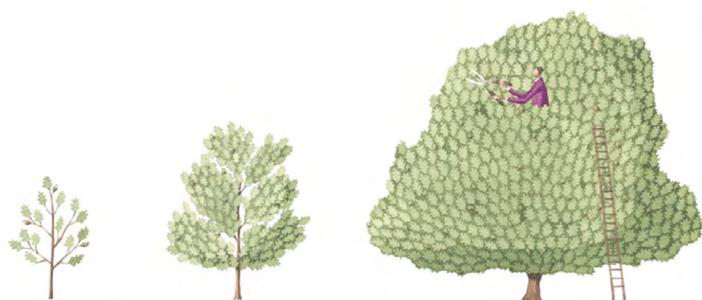
Total cases to 2 July 2021

11,846 Richmond upon Thames
13,240 Kingston upon Thames
26,534 Hounslow

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

Deaths Worldwide 3,950,876

USA	599,680	Indonesia	58,995
Brazil	518,066	Ukraine	52,391
India	399,459	Turkey	49,732
Mexico	233,047	Romania	33,861
Peru	192,331	Chile	32,588
Russian Federation	135,886	Czechia	30,304
The United Kingdom	128,140	Hungary	29,907
Italy	127,566	Canada	26,295
France	110,162	Belgium	25,173
Colombia	106,544	Philippines	24,797
Argentina	94,304	Pakistan	22,281
Germany	90,938	Ecuador	21,608
Iran	84,264	Bulgaria	18,061
Spain	80,875	Netherlands	17,745
Poland	75,044	Iraq	17,186
South Africa	60,647	Portugal	17,098



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

The loss of the salmon

By Simon Fowler

During the 1980s and 1990s there were several schemes to reintroduce salmon into the Thames. They were expensive failures, yet historically the river was full of the fish. The salmon seem to have vanished very rapidly in the 1820s.

A Parliamentary inquiry in 1861 heard from various witnesses about the loss of the Salmon in the Thames. An old Hampton fisherman, Thomas Milburn, remembered that there was plenty of the fish, when he was young: 'The smallest I ever caught was 4 pounds; they used to run from 8 to 10lbs; the biggest fish I ever caught was 41lbs. The fish caught themselves.

He and other witnesses described catching salmon fry or samlets, known locally as skeggars, which were 'about four inches long, and as soon as you took them in your hand to take the hook out the scales would come off and stick to your hand.' In the Spring they were so common that: 'I have seen them as thick as pebble stones at the bottom, with a little red fly you could take them fast as you put it in the water.'



Yet the salmon and their spawn seem to have just vanished. Milburn thought that they had disappeared in about 1822. He blamed their loss on pollution 'when they find the filth of London they go back again into their own element' and on the pleasure steamers which cruised up the river: 'The water had been so bad ever since the steamers – sometimes it is all of a fermentation like a live body, so that the fish cannot come through it.'

A Twickenham resident, Henry Farnell, who was secretary of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, largely agreed with Thomas Milburn. He said that the salmon had disappeared in about 1825 and the cause was 'the filth that is turned into the Thames from London.' The sewage in the river was so bad that: 'I could not sit at the bottom of my own garden two years ago owing to the stench arising from the filthy state of the river.'

Yet it was not all bad news Farnell said that had been a great rise in the number of trout caught, as the use of large nets above Richmond Bridge had been banned: 'Nothing is allowed but a landing-net, and the increase of fish of all sorts had been immense.' And there was a thriving export trade in lampreys caught at Teddington lock which were sold to the Dutch who cut them 'into pieces and used as bait to catch Dogger Bank cod.'

But despite strenuous efforts to clean the Thames the salmon have never returned.

Notice of application for a Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that English Heritage has applied to Richmond Council for a new premises licence at Coach House Cafe (Marble Hill House, Marble Hill Park, Richmond Road, Twickenham TW1 2NL) for Sale of alcohol (on and off the premises)

Monday to Sunday 10:00 to 18:00

With a later terminal hour of 23:00 for special events on any given Thursday/Friday/Saturday/Sunday

Films (only to be shown as part of special events)

14:00 to 23:00 on which ever day the special event may fall

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing by 21st July 2021 stating the grounds for making said representation to: Richmond Licensing Authority, Regulatory Services Partnership (Serving Merton, Richmond and Wandsworth Councils) Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5DX or by email: licensing@merton.gov.uk

The record of this application may be inspected Monday to Friday (except Bank Holidays) by prior appointment at the offices of Richmond Licensing Authority, Regulatory Services Partnership (Serving Merton, Richmond and Wandsworth Councils) Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5DX between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. Information on all new and variation applications received by the Licensing Authority can be viewed on the Council's website www.richmond.gov.uk

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application, punishable upon conviction by an unlimited fine.

Richmond Music Trust launch new inclusive singing group

Richmond Music Trust are delighted to be launching Singing Together, an inclusive online community group for older people. The group will explore a variety of uplifting songs with the aim of making you feel good, whilst creating a sense of community.

If you'd like the chance to meet others, want to try something new that's great for your mental health, or just love singing, then join us, from the comfort of your own home. Everyone is welcome, the sessions are free of charge, and no experience is needed.

Singing Together is a dementia friendly group and carers are welcome to attend. Sessions will take place on a weekly basis on Fridays at 10.30am via Zoom. Richmond Music Trust are delighted that the group is supported by a grant from Music for Dementia's £500,000 Paul & Nick Harvey Fund, which was set up specifically to directly support musical activities for people with dementia.

To register your interest please complete an [application form](#) on the Richmond Music Trust website. If you would like discuss Singing Together with one of the RMT team, please contact Andreas on andreas@richmondmusictrust.org.uk

In Focus: Goldfish Bowl

6 July – 30 September 2021

A beautiful object with a macabre history returns to Strawberry Hill House & Garden

In the first of a new series of In Focus displays, featuring objects and artworks that tell us the extraordinary story of Strawberry Hill and its inhabitants, one of its most iconic objects is temporarily returning home - the 18th century Chinese porcelain vase in which Horace Walpole's favourite cat drowned.

As part of the mid-1700s craze for all things Chinese, especially porcelain, Horace Walpole amassed a collection of around 300 pieces. The most (in)famous was a large blue and white goldfish tub, which became immortalised in verse following his favourite cat, Selima, drowning in it while trying to catch a goldfish. It comes on loan to Strawberry Hill from The Derby Collection.

Walpole commissioned his old school friend – and fellow Italian Grand Tour companion - the celebrated poet Thomas Gray (1716-1771) to write the mock-elegy *Ode on the Death of a Favourite Cat, Drowned in a Tub of Gold Fishes*, in 1747.

Gray duly obliged, somewhat macabrely satirising the incident by imitating the lofty style of traditional odes, a poetic form usually employed to celebrate dignified subjects in an elevated language. In the poem, Selima becomes both a Nymph and a Maid, while the goldfishes take on supernatural forms as “*genii*” and “*angels*”, wearing “*scaly armours*”.

Divided into seven stanzas, the Ode describes Selima's vanity (1 and 2), her temptation and greed (3 and 4), the cat's fall (5 and 6), and culminates with Gray's didactic moralising (7), in which he lays out the moral of the story; that sometimes we can act on temptation without thinking. He also suggests that not everything that draws our eyes is “gold”, that some things are not what they seem, and the appeal of forbidden beauty leads us to our downfall.

In accordance with Gray's desire, the Ode was initially published anonymously in 1748, however the true identity of the author was soon discovered, giving Walpole the idea to publicly celebrate his friend's talent. He did this by publishing a collection of Gray's poems in an elegant quarto volume, illustrated by this other friend, the draftsman Richard Bentley (1708-1782). The book was finally published in in 1753, and a copy can be seen in the display.

Bentley's drawings perfectly reflect the semi-seriousness of the Ode thanks to the use of a classic iconography mixed with semi-grotesque motifs: one of the two caryatids that support the chimney,



a river god, stops his ears from hearing the cries of Selima drowning, while the other caryatid, a woman, is no other than Destiny cutting the threads of the cat's life.

The cat accident happened in 1747 in Arlington Street, Walpole's London house. The bowl, along with many other works of art, was moved to Strawberry Hill sometime in the 1760s. In 1773, Walpole commissioned a Gothic-style pedestal for the tub and a label to be affixed to it with the first stanza of the poem. After 1778 the tub was moved to the Little Cloister, outside of the house, with the 1784 Description describing the new location: "On a pedestal, stands the large blue and white china tub in which Mr. Walpole's cat was drowned; on a label of the pedestal is written the first stanza of Mr. Gray's beautiful ode on that occasion, 'Twas on this lofty vase's side, Where China's gayest art has dy'd. The azure flow'rs that blow, Demurest of the tabby kind, The pensive Selima reclin'd, Gaz'd on the lake below'".



This location is documented in John Carter's (1748-1817) pen and ink drawing designs of the hall and the cloister (1788) – also in the display.

The pedestal may have been an effort not to see further misfortunes happen to his pets – however Walpole had an unfortunate record as an animal owner, and Selima was not the only one of his pets to die in tragic circumstances.

In 1739 his dog, Tory, was killed by a wolf on Monte Censio in Italy. Another dog, Bettina, died falling from a balcony in Florence whilst spaniel, Rosette, died in a room fire. To compensate for his numerous losses, the Marchesa Grifoni gave him a new dog, Patapan, a Roman spaniel who fortunately went on to die of natural causes. In fact, Walpole had his very own pet cemetery that was situated behind his own Chapel in the Wood (that today sits in the grounds of St Mary's University that neighbours Strawberry Hill on Waldegrave Road).

William Blake (1757-1827) brought his own inimitable style to Gray's Ode in 1797-8, with the watercolour *Ode on the Death of a Favourite Cat*, also on display. Blake avoided parody in favour of focusing on various themes evoked by the poem, transforming the story of little Selima into one of the Fall leading to a new Spiritual Life.

In his version, Blake created a series of chimeras, in which Selima is not just a cat but also a woman, while the goldfish are part human, animal and angel. The characters wear contemporary dress, but also mythological garments. As ever, Blake's creations are beguiling and yet disturbing, beautiful and even today, remarkably strange.

Dr Silvia Davoli, Curator at Strawberry Hill House: "Walpole once said, "my buildings, like my writings are of paper, and will blow away ten years after I am dead". Walpole was wrong about their frailty, but certainly right about the paper. The history of the goldfish bowl perfectly exemplifies the close relationship that Walpole established between the house, the collection and the written word. Like in a pop-up book, Strawberry Hill emerges from Walpole's collection of architectural prints, while, conversely, a domestic accident and a real object are forever immortalized thanks to their descriptions on paper."

Derek Purnell, Director, Strawberry Hill House & Garden, says these displays will enable visitors to reconnect with the fascinating - and sometimes rather gruesome - history of the House: "Visitors will be able to discover some of the surprising objects and stories related to the House, many of which deserve their moment in the spotlight."

For more information visit www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk



STRAWBERRY HILL
House & Garden

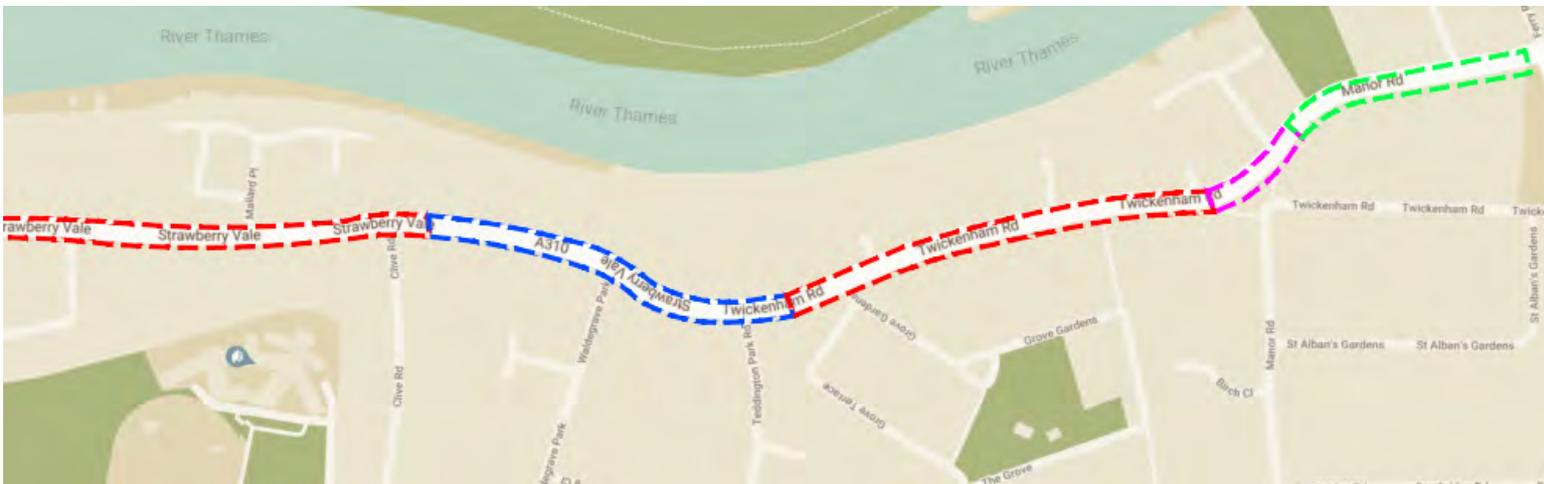
Have your say on cycle improvements along Strawberry Vale

Residents are invited to have their say on proposed cycle improvements along Strawberry Vale, Twickenham Road and Manor Road in Twickenham.

The A310 road links Twickenham town centre with both Ham and Kingston and has been identified by Transport for London as a top strategic cycle route in London.

Whilst there are some existing cycle lanes along the A310 Strawberry Vale Road, the scheme has been proposed because of its importance in linking areas of the borough and because of the number of road traffic collisions involving cyclists.

The proposed scheme aims to provide safer cycle lanes in both directions and includes some areas of full and light segregated cycle lanes where possible.



The proposal divides the stretch of road into sections with suggested measures that include:

- Widening stretches of the cycle lane by placing parking partly onto the pavement (there will be sufficient pavement width remaining to ensure there is no negative impact on pedestrians)
- Improved cycle lane facility with light segregation by installing wands and armadillos
- Double yellow line waiting restrictions 'at any time'
- Fully segregated off carriageway cycle facility

The scheme aims to have minimal impact on existing parking, bus stops, driveways and pedestrian facilities.

Residents near to the proposed improvements will have received a letter and can [access the consultation and a detailed plan of the proposed scheme online](#).

The consultation closes on Friday 30 July.

If you require any further information or need to request a paper questionnaire or another format please contact us on 020 8891 1411, alternatively email trafficandengineering@richmond.gov.uk

Remember: Twickenham Riverside and LBRUT'S Linked Sites Strategy

In 2009 the Liberal Democrat administration of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames implemented a Linked Sites Strategy which moved the affordable housing component for the Twickenham Riverside development away from the Riverside site.

There were four sites in Twickenham (one in Strawberry Hill) and two sites in Teddington, approved for the abovementioned scheme.

Despite strong objections from residents and residents' associations the demolition and building went ahead; "affordable housing" was built on these sites instead of the Twickenham Riverside development.

09/0434/FUL	Land adjacent to 244 Lincoln Avenue, Twickenham
08/4195/FUL	Garage Site and Community Garden - Sherland Road, Twickenham
08/3355/FUL	Garage Site - Shacklegate Lane, Teddington
08/3314/FUL	Garage Site - Railway Road, Teddington
09/0441/FUL	Land rear of 291 Waldegrave Road, Strawberry Hill
08/4839/FUL	Land at Bell Lane and Water Lane, Twickenham

Residents given more time to have their say on Mortlake Brewery plan

Nicholas Rogers AM (Conservative Assembly Member for South West London) and Caroline Russell AM (Green Party London Assembly Member) put forward a motion asking the Mayor of London to delay the hearing on the Mortlake Stag Brewery redevelopment plan to allow residents more time to consider the proposals. It passed with cross-party support

Nicholas Rogers, Conservative London Assembly Member for South West, commented: "Residents need to be given time to have their say on plans to redevelop the Mortlake Brewery site. The current proposals would nearly double the local population and change the ancient Thames riverscape forever. With far-reaching and long-lasting effects like these, it's essential residents' views are heard.

"Nobody understands a local community and its potential more than the residents themselves. By listening to residents and taking on board their ideas and concerns, we can build something truly remarkable at Mortlake. However, there isn't time to have those meaningful discussions between now and the end of July. That's why I'm pleased the London Assembly has backed my call for the Mayor to delay the public hearing to allow residents to have their say."

Spot The Fake (2)

From Mac McInerny, Heatham Alliance community group and Neighbourhood Watch



By now we should be alert to fraudulent emails and text messages falsely claiming to be from 'Royal Mail'. They contain links to fake websites intended to get you to disclose your bank details to criminals. Earlier this year the son of a friend of mine was taken in by these fraudsters and lost £5,000.

What about this message from 'DHL' courier services?

DHL: Your parcel is arriving, track here:
<http://mipunet.cn/a/?lrw999laoj8eo66>

FAKE – This is a scam text which spreads the Flubot malware through Android mobile phones to steal banking and other information. Flubot can intercept text messages to Android phones, such as texts from banks containing one-time passwords, and will forward the bank details to the attackers.

Similar messages are fraudulent impersonations of FedEx, UPS, TNT and other courier services. Don't be fooled by them.

STAY SAFE FROM FRAUD

Sign up for the Mayor's Tennis Tournament to raise funds for this year's Mayor's charities

Join the Mayor of Richmond, Cllr Geoff Acton for a Tennis Tournament at David Lloyd Health Club, Hampton on Friday 16 July 2021.

Arrival on the day will be at 9.30am with matches starting at 10am. Tickets are £15 per person which includes light refreshments, use of changing facilities in the club and parking.

There will also be a raffle on the day with some great prizes to be won! Members and non members welcome are welcome to play. All proceeds from the tickets will go directly to the Mayors charities.



This year's Mayor's charities are Habitats & Heritage and A Dose of Nature. The charities have been chosen to help raise awareness of the impact of climate change and biodiversity loss within the borough, while helping to raise awareness of the practical and realistic steps residents and businesses can take to make a positive difference.

[Register now](#)

Dear Editor,

E-Scooters

At a time when nearly 1,500 people died on our roads and pavements, with more than 26,000 killed or seriously injured (DfT 2020 data), it's quite odd to see the fixation on the apparent danger of e-scooters (Michael Jay's letter of 25th June).

He is right that people should report scooters that have been inconsiderately parked, or people riding them recklessly.

But his breathless accounts of the apparent danger involved only show his lack of perspective - with the three people 'at speed on two Lime and a Dott scooter at speed on the footway ... at speed past Richmond Theatre'. He comments another group were going 'too fast to be stopped' yet later on wrings his hands about it not being for him to advise the public.

In reality, no-one has said there is 'no danger' as he implies. Yes, these *could* be dangerous, but so could a bicycle or a skateboard, or the rolling skis I see people on in Richmond Park, or carelessly driven mobility scooters.

The trial is just that - a trial. Surely even Michael can see that any journey made by e-scooter which was previously in a car is likely to be a positive thing? Surely he can also see that, in a simple hierarchy of 'what is dangerous on our roads and pavements' there are bigger fish to fry - if he's really concerned about making our roads and streets safer, he'd be better off asking 'how do we make scooter use as safe as possible' rather than trying to outlaw before the trial has even had a month.

Finally, his point about the 500 seized scooters? All of these are currently illegal - only the scooters in the trial may be used. Still, even here he's not reading his own data, I think: 500 seized implies many thousands more on London's roads, and yet there are so few news-worthy incidents that he's having to use data from Berlin and from the US in an attempt to prove how much carnage they're causing.

Let's all step back, observe the trial, and then use the actual data, rather than engaging in this breathless scare-mongering, please.

Sincerely,

Tim Lennon, Richmond Borough Coordinator, London Cycling Campaign.

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.



*“On warm summer nights
the porch becomes our living room
where Mama takes her reading
and Dad and I play games
in the patch of brightness
the lamp scatters on the floor.
From the darkness, others come -
small round bodies
clinging to the screens
which separate us
from the yard beyond.
Drawn to our light,
the June bugs watch our games
and listen to our talk till bedtime
when mama darkens the porch
and breaks the spell
that holds them close to us.”*

Enchantment Lily after the Rain: Love the Rain and all the Wildlife and Flora it sustains. The above poem ‘Enchantment’ by **Joanne Ryder** evokes images of family and comfort which is a gift for some and an ache for others. Nature heals and balances and draws together like-minded loving souls who form true friendship bonds. Appreciation for Greenspaces is growing as we find ourselves confined by the current situation in our world. Places where we can breathe, relax and connect with all living things. Nostalgic and wonderful as the above scene may present it is a far cry from ‘normal’ family life today with the advent of social media and crowded living conditions. There is also the on-going problem with light pollution which housing brings: Fire pits, Fairy Lights on fences, up-lighting on Trees for Garden Design extra room and outside spaces criteria and Security Lighting. Partying into the night as more people entertain at home or on their Streets/Greens which all adds to the disruption of dark spaces for insects and nocturnal pollinators. New street lighting which is so bright and is a hazard when positioned next to sensitive areas such as River Corridors but which our Council seems oblivious to rectifying as it is so ‘cost effective’. Enforcement is equally inefficient because of the pressures on our officers with cuts and therefore it is more important than ever to make sure that new builds/buildings of any sort are not given permission on, or impacting on, Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation. Who is listening when the Appeal Officer can overturn local objections and governmental pressure is on to build, build, build? It can be disheartening when we are encouraged to record sightings and get involved in citizen science by so many different groups when these have no effect on decisions we cannot control.



However, we can make a difference with little changes to our own behaviour to show consideration for wildlife and neighbours and we have seen more water bowls out in neighbouring gardens and people turning out lights or putting up blinds along the River Crane Sanctuary route when we have had conversations about light pollution and habitat loss.

Spread the message and take action ourselves seems to be a positive way forward so please join us and take a look at:

[Fight for The Stars](#)

[Website](#)

[Instagram](#)

Hampton North Ward News

Councillors Geoffrey Samuel and Kate Howard

OUR SURVEY

We thank all those who have returned our Survey – far more than we expected! The processing procedure is taking time and we must apologise if we are failing to send this Newsletter to any of the many residents who requested it – apologies also to those who are now receiving two copies! We set out the provisional results: “provisional” because returns are still arriving and also because we will make a further check before declaring the final results.

PROVISIONAL RESULTS

- 62% want Council Tax to be kept as low as possible:38% ask for it to be set at a level to protect services.
- 78% want 30mph to be restored on through roads and 20mph where residents want it: 17% support the 20mph limit :5% suggest a: new consultation
- 73% want ‘education’ on the Clarendon site, 27% housing
- 65% wish to return to the previous policy on verges and open spaces: 35% like the new approach
- 73% request a return to the previous traffic arrangements for Burtons Road: 27% like the new restrictions.
- 62% want barriers on the Longford Close/Dean Road Bridge
- 21% report problems with waste collection, 16% with recycling and 3% with Green waste
-
- We will list some of the other responses in the August edition and set out how we intend to take further action on these results.

NEW PITCH ON HAMPTON COMMON

In principle we are in favour – provided it has local support. We recently arranged a site meeting with a Parks officer and were pleased to hear of the involvement of the Friends of Hampton Common. We inspected the two possible sites. One issue is still unclear. We were assured that there would be no permanent goal posts so that the area would be fully available to the public except when a match was in progress: however the Consultation document states that there will be goal posts in place throughout the season. That makes a difference. We therefore need to pursue the matter. We do urge you if “consulted” to express your point of view – and tell us as well.

BROAD LANE CROSSING

The council has devised a scheme in answer to the many requests from local residents and is now committed to a consultation. If the scheme has local support we shall urge the council to find the funds to implement it.

GRASS VERGES, OPEN SPACES

We continue to receive representations from many residents. Those in favour of the new approach are pleased that it supports both biodiversity and the Council's Climate Change policy. Others [the majority in our Survey] strongly dislike the appearance and point to litter deposited in the long grass and injury to dogs. For our part we believe that the Council should work with local people to deliver accepted objectives – in other words there should be a consultation.

LONGFORD CLOSE/DEAN ROAD BRIDGE

We were surprised by the sheer number of residents asking for barriers on this bridge. Clearly any barrier must not unduly impede a pram or wheelchair. We are investigating the possibility of one [or two] chicanes,

SHORTER ITEMS

- We are supporting local residents on a number of issues regarding **trees** where there is doubt about the actual ownership of the trees.
- We continue to receive complaints about **Waste Collection** and the two **Recycling Centres** used by local people.
- We have reported to the Council complaints about the condition of the **Holly Lane Cemetery**
- A local resident has consulted us about the failure of the Council to respond within the required time to two **Freedom of Information requests**
- There was chaos and gridlock for far too long in **Uxbridge Road** recently which was reduced to one lane for road works although for most of the time there was no work actually being carried out
- We are pursuing one request for a litter bin to be attached to a bus stop; let us know if there are other bus stops where this would be welcome
- Residents at the end of **Rumsey Close** are disappointed that the Council seems unwilling to arrange a site meeting to discuss a request which has total local support – and which we endorse.
- Several residents have reported problems with **Foxes**. We have found the **Fox Project** to be very helpful.

Geoffrey apologises for any delays which occurred during the time when he was on holiday followed by the ten days in which his landline was not working

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

East Sheen

East Sheen Common will get a new playground

As part of Richmond Council's commitment to improve our parks and open spaces, works have started on a new woodland play area on East Sheen Common.

Equipment being installed in the play area includes a rope tunnel, trapeze rings, accessible wide slide, a hammock, a large raised play deck, swings, and more! The works are due to finish at the end of this month.

Teddington

Landmark Arts Centre to host Richmond Orchestra Summer Concert

The Landmark Arts Centre in Teddington will welcome guests back for the Summer Concert on 11 July.

Composed with the intention to 'stir the world', Dvořák's 7th Symphony is an unshackling of emotional intensity from a turbulent period in his life.

Together with Rimsky-Korsakov's triumphant Overture on Three Russian Themes, Richmond Orchestra welcomes all ages to the Landmark to celebrate the return of live music.

Advance booking is strongly recommended to avoid disappointment. Book your tickets [HERE](#)

Kew Green

The Sunday afternoon concert series at St Anne's Church continues this weekend

High quality musical entertainment is on offer at St Anne's Church on Kew Green this Sunday 4 July.

As part of the Sunday afternoon concert series, this weekend will see international opera singer Colin Judson and pianist Stuart Hutchinson perform works by Finzi and Britten that celebrate the poems of Thomas Hardy.

Advanced booking is advised but some places will be available on the day. COVID-19 precautions will be in place at this event. Read full details and book [HERE](#)

Kew Village

Kew Village Market takes place this Sunday

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 4 July.

Woodcarving skills will be on show this weekend as a new stallholder will be demonstrating her craft and selling spoons and baskets. The usual fine array of food and crafts will be available and some wonderful live music from Banda Bomba performing Latin salsa and jazz, followed by the original story-telling numbers of singer-songwriter Callum Granger.

Council launches next phase of Local Area Fund to support community projects

Richmond Council is welcoming applications for its Local Area Fund, which provides funding for local ward areas to support community driven projects to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of local communities. Individuals, local groups and organisations can all apply for the fund.

The Local Area Fund was introduced in 2020 to provide funding to support local initiatives, help launch new ideas and developing projects to make a positive difference to the borough. Each ward in the borough has been allocated a budget of £10,000 for local projects.



Through this fund Richmond Council is keen to work with local people and organisations to improve their local community. The Council is asking residents, local groups and organisations to come forward with innovative ideas that reflect local priorities and improve the overall quality of life in Richmond upon Thames.

The Council's Community Engagement Team are looking to work with residents to help develop projects in each local area. The Council is also encouraging residents to get in touch with their local Ward Councillors to discuss their project ideas and the difference their project could make to the ward. Find your [local Ward Councillor](#).

If a Ward Councillor is supportive of a local project, they can provide an endorsement as part of the application process. Individuals and groups who are not looking to apply for funding can still share their ideas of ways to improve their local areas with the Council who can then help to support these ideas.

Previous examples of some of the projects awarded funding during the last round of applications include the building of a wooded play area and nature trail structure for children under 12 in East Sheen, intergenerational music therapy sessions for children and older people in Kew, the creation of a new gaming lounge for young people at Ham Youth Centre and the creation of a sensory garden for local community use in Twickenham Riverside.

Find out about [previous funding awards](#) in your local area.

View [Local Area Fund](#) for further information and details of how to apply for funding.

Council announces upgrade to trading sites as part of London Climate Action Week

This London Climate Action Week, Richmond Council has announced an upgrade to outdoor trading sites with new electric points to be installed across the borough throughout the year.

The annual London Climate Action Week began in 2019 and is the largest independent climate change event in Europe. It brings together climate professionals and communities across London in order to find practical solutions to climate change.

In celebration of London Climate Action Week, Richmond Council have announced the commencement of the upgrade and electrification of trading sites across the borough. Going forward, this upgrade will allow trade vans and stalls, including ice cream vans, to operate using newly installed electric plug-in points.

The upgrade to the sites across the borough, including outside Hampton Court Palace and Buccleuch Gardens, off Petersham Road, will in the future allow local traders to operate without having to idle their engine or use other polluting energy sources like generators.

This will have a positive impact on both carbon emissions and air quality in the borough which contributes to poor health amongst residents. These upgrades are part of Richmond Council's commitment to tackling climate change and local air pollution as set out in the Council's Climate Emergency Strategy and action plan.



Council to deliver 30 new affordable homes and new nursery in Teddington

Richmond Council has approved a planning application for 30 new affordable housing units at the site of the old Strathmore Centre in Teddington. The sites will be developed by PA Housing.

The new development on Strathmore Road will see the replacing of all existing buildings with two new three-storey buildings made up of a combination of one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom family homes as well as a single storey nursery building that will serve the local community.

The new development at Strathmore Road will also deliver a communal amenity space and an ecological enhancement area close-by for residents to enjoy.

The land on which the old Strathmore Centre is located was council-owned land that was identified as surplus to requirements in 2010. Following a review of the site, the Council sought to sell the site to local housing association PA housing on the condition of delivering 100% affordable housing units on the site as well as a replacement nursery.

PA Housing subsequently submitted a planning application and on 7 October 2020 which has since been approved by the Council. Construction is due to commence in early 2022.

A GLORIOUS TURKISH CELEBRATION

I love Turkey; it's one of our favourite holiday destinations, and I adore Turkish cuisine. So when I heard about **Ghillie Basan's** fabulous new Turkish tome, I couldn't wait to see it. Well, reader, that wait was certainly worth it; particularly for anyone who, like me, is missing those enticing aromas of grilling, baking and spices. And of course, at £20 for this gloriously illustrated hardback book (published by Lorenz Books) with 150 recipes, it's snip. (not even the price of that PCR test you'll probably need when those travel corridors open up!)



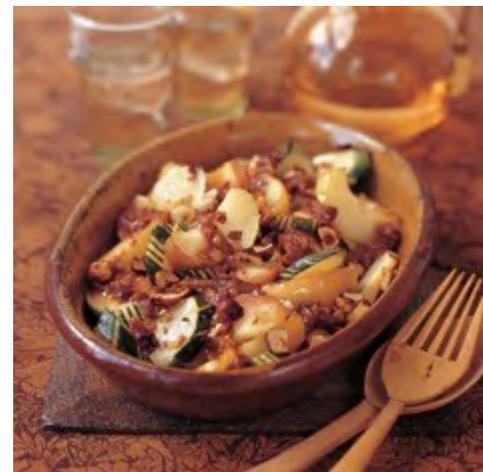
Award-winning cook and traveller Ghillie Basan has written **The Turkish Cookbook** a beautiful and detailed exploration of the food of Turkey and she's done a magnificent job. She takes the reader through the history of the country, food traditions, religious days and festivals, and of course, Turkish ingredients, in enough detail to be educational, as well as fascinating. One of my key gastronomic memories from our many Turkish holidays is the fabulous chilled rice pudding. I'm not usually a fan of rice pud, but those Turks take it to another level, so I've included Ghillie's recipe. And another recipe that is perfect for that glut of courgettes in the garden. Hopefully they will whet your appetite for the whole book.



Courgette And Apple With A Hazelnut And Lemon Sauce (Serves four)

"The Turkish nut sauce, tarator, is delicious served with many vegetable and seafood dishes. Along the Black Sea Coast, tarator is often made with the local hazelnuts, which makes a lighter sauce than the walnut version in Istanbul. The courgettes and apples are roasted in this recipe, taratorlu kabak, but they could be cooked by any method, such as grilling or steaming. This dish can be served as a side dish or part of a meze spread."

2 firm, fat courgettes
2 sweet, firm red, pink, or yellow apples
30–45ml/2–3 tbsp olive oil
15–30ml/1–2 tbsp chopped roasted hazelnuts, to garnish
For the nut sauce:
115g/4oz hazelnuts
1–2 garlic cloves
30ml/2 tbsp olive oil
juice of 1 lemon
15ml/1 tbsp grape pekmez, or molasses or clear honey
salt and ground black pepper



Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4.

Using a vegetable peeler, partially peel the courgettes in stripes. Slice them on the diagonal. Quarter and core the apples then cut each quarter into 2 or 3 segments.

Place the courgette and apple slices in an ovenproof dish and pour over the olive oil. Roast in the oven for 35–40 minutes, or until golden brown.

Meanwhile, make the nut sauce. Using a mortar and pestle, or a food processor, pound the hazelnuts with the garlic to form a thick paste. Gradually beat in the oil and lemon juice, until the mixture is quite creamy. Sweeten with the pekmez, molasses or clear honey, and season to taste.

Arrange the roasted courgette and apple on a serving dish and drizzle the nut sauce over them. Sprinkle the chopped roasted hazelnuts over the top and serve while still warm.

Variation: Other vegetables served this way include whole bell peppers, sliced aubergine, pumpkin and squash, and fruit such as plums.

Classic Almond Milk Pudding (Serves four)

“This Ottoman milk pudding, keşkül, is thought to have got its name from the oval bowl called keşkül that beggars would carry from house to house seeking food. Perhaps for that reason it is revered, and always served in individual bowls. Traditionally, it is decorated with grated pistachios.”

115g/4oz blanched almonds
600ml/1 pint milk
25g/1oz rice flour
115g/4oz sugar
15–30ml/1–2 tbsp finely grated pistachio nuts

Using a mortar and pestle, food processor or nut mill, pound or grind the almonds to a paste. Blend the paste with a little of the milk until smooth, and set aside. In a small bowl, slake the rice flour with a little more milk to form a paste with the consistency of thick cream. Set the bowl aside.

Pour the rest of the milk into a heavy pan. Add the sugar and bring the milk to the boil, stirring constantly. Stir 30ml/2 tbsp of the hot milk into the slaked rice flour and then add this paste to the pan. Make sure you keep stirring to prevent the rice flour from cooking in clumps. Cook until the mixture coats the back of the wooden spoon.

Stir in the almond paste and reduce the heat. Simmer the mixture gently for about 25 minutes, stirring from time to time, until the mixture is thick. Pour into individual bowls or glasses and leave to cool.

Sprinkle the grated pistachio nuts over each bowl of keşkül – this is often done in a thin line across the middle – and chill in the refrigerator.

Variation: Another classic milk pudding is mulhallebi, which is made in a similar way but without the nuts, and which is flavoured with mastick and dusted with icing (confectioner’s) sugar. It can also be set in a mould and cut into blocks, then served with rose water



The German Doner Kebab comes to Twickers

GDK opened its first restaurant in Berlin, where it developed its products and recipes, creating a unique blend of spices, signature sauces and its distinctive ‘Doner Kebab’ waffle bread. The brand’s grown apace in the UK, Europe and Middle East plus the USA, Canada, Saudi Arabia and Ireland.

The Twickenham branch opened recently, and as its Turkish community introduced those German doner kebabs in Berlin, I thought it worth mentioning that we, too, can now enjoy fabulous doner kebabs at a very reasonable price.

GDK’s doner kebabs are made using premium ingredients. To maintain quality and consistency the company uses lean meats imported from Germany, and fresh locally produced vegetables that’re delivered and prepared daily, along with the handmade bread. Portions are very generous indeed and there’s something on the menu to suit all tastes and appetites. The fries are amazingly good and available in three additional flavours. Kebabs, wraps, burgers, low cal salad kebabs, quesadillas, spring rolls, nachos and much more are on the menu. You can eat in (ideal for a quick family meal and very child-friendly) or you can get takeaway or order online for home delivery. We really enjoyed the dishes we’ve had and I know it will be a popular addition to the Twickenham food scene. I suspect its main competitor is likely to be Nando’s, in terms of ambience and pricing.



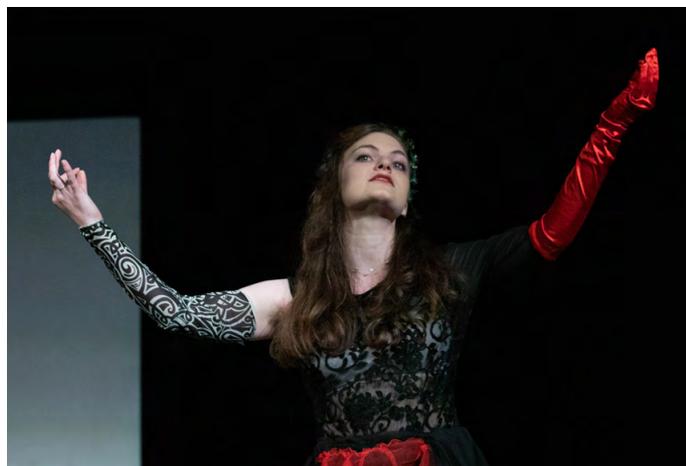


Quietus (The Extra-Ordinary Tale of Hamlet)

by Nicholas Jonne Wilson

The Questors at the Judi Dench Playhouse, Ealing

A new, spell-binding world ... Two white box uprights form the background set, all that is needed for actors and audience to transcend time and place and travel in and out of the mind. We are magnetically placed with Hamlet sleeping on a simple white board on the very edge of the stage and within seconds he pulls us into his world as he is taunted by 'Ophelia'. The powerful angst-ridden start as he finds himself unable to make sense of things is not a melodramatic opening, but indicative of both his real struggle and the powerful performance from all cast that is to come.



Skilful and thoughtful writing, imaginatively realised, makes clever use of the text of *Hamlet* to create the compelling, original script *Quietus*. 'When he himself might his quietus make / With a bare bodkin?' Wilson gives four characters from *Hamlet* their attendant spirits to intrude into the innermost mind with thoughts of death, and with the torment and confusion of dreams crossing into physical existence, to question what is reality to a mind that is already broken?

The choreography and movement are excellent in both conception and execution with just one example being a sex scene which is cleverly and clearly portrayed by an unselfconscious cast.

Throughout the production the ensemble is balletic and elegant, forceful and powerful. Timing is excellent. The drive is palpable with intense physicality

as performers linger both out of reach and invade one another's minds and space ... in and out ... feeding and starving ... loving, hating ... a continual poetic, tormenting dance.

Almost as an out of body experience we are drawn into a nightmare that is fascinating to watch. Wickedly humorous? - possibly not, but dangerously teasing as a deliciously terrible anguish plays flirting games with sanity, mortality and sexual desire.



Read Poppy Rose Jarvis' review at www.markaspen.com/2021/06/28/quietus-extra

Photography by Robert Vass

Annie Jr.

music by Charles Strouse, lyrics by Martin Charnin

Dramacube, Twickenham Green Cast at Hampton Hill Theatre until 26th June

“Don’t put your daughter on the stage, Mrs Robinson!” said Noël Coward, though he might have added “unless it’s a Dramacube production”, if he’d been around to see one.

One of the most satisfying features of Dramacube productions is the level of professionalism consistently on show. Twickenham Green cast bowled along at a brisk pace driving forward the story of little orphan Annie, delivering lines, comedy, dance routines and songs with non-showy confidence and quite a lot of skill. Their seamless move from one particular ensemble scene into NYC, the song and dance routine, which involved a very quick change for all, was particularly impressive.



Two young actors shared the leading role of Annie: Megan Went and Tabitha Gooding. Both brought out Annie’s self-reliance and personal strength and managed to be endearing in a non-sentimental way despite this being a show drenched in sentiment.

Emily McCarthy and Giacomo Frasson, as the opportunists hoping to be taken for Annie’s parents, were suitably louche in their rendition of *Easy Street*; Gael De Bonnières’ played a gentle,

calm Oliver Warbucks, and Esme Mcdowell did a great job playing Warbucks’ secretary, the sensible Grace Farrell. Mathis De Bonnières, in a probably underrated role, was a very loveable Sandy the dog – I particularly liked the roll-over!

I remain terrified of Ramona Sleight’s Miss Hannigan. Ms Sleight gave her absolute all to the performance, whilst brilliantly dressed as an eccentric, dangerously unhinged art teacher and made everyone grateful we hadn’t been subjected to 1930s childcare in the US.

This was a strong ensemble cast, though and those playing leading and named roles were very well supported by everyone else on stage. The musical numbers, including the famous *Hard Knock Life*, were simply but effectively choreographed and worked well and at pace. This is a jolly and very entertaining production



Read Eleanor Lewis’ review at www.markaspen.com/2021/06/26/annie-jr-21-twick-grn

Photography by Bomi Cooper



Stray Dogs

By Matt Wixey

Anarchy Division at Bread and Roses Theatre, Clapham

Stray Dogs is a timely and interesting snapshot into parts of the lives and mind-sets of two people working within the Police Force and offers a certain perspective at a time where police relations and practices are foremost in the public consciousness. The fact that it is written by an ex-officer adds an immediate air of authenticity and keeps the lingering question of just how much is this based on real events and personal testimony throughout.

Firstly the two actors – Catherine Adams as Mason and Bridges played by Richard de Lisle – are both very strong in their roles and show great versatility when they transition from directly interviewing each other, to audience addresses, as well as moments which require them to briefly inhabit different characters and voices.



Adams switches well early on, from the hardened interviewer into a more informative persona, with whom the audience can relate more to and trust to gain some insight behind the 'Officer' (which as the play later suggests are just one and the same). The desperation and helplessness in the way Adams brilliantly delivers the lines here really leave a lasting impact.

As Bridges, de Lisle does well to really embody the play's tag line - "There are old coppers, and there are good coppers. There are no old good coppers."

Through

his character work we are given hints of the man before the beaten-down realities of the job takes its toll.

The dialogue is delivered in slick, well-crafted fashion and it is impossible for it not to be reminiscent of some of the great police interrogation scenes popularised most recently by shows such as *Line of Duty* – "I don't recall" being the "no comment" of the day.



Read Denis Valentine's review at www.markaspen.com/2021/06/30/stray-dogs

Photography by Josephine Baker

FINGERS CROSSED!

Travel news by Bruce Lyons



After an exhausting week of mixed messages, swings and roundabouts.

And everybody not understanding which rule applied to them and when we might just be in for some good news.

If the Downing Street leaks hold any water at all, we may hear that Boris and Angela (always social distancing of course) are making it up. Took your time Boris!

Don't too carried away though – I know elsewhere in the edition Doug Goodman has written of all his favourites in his lifetime of travel – but they are unlikely to go GREEN overnight -so you will need to add them to your “WISH LIST” and Teresa is adding some information about Barbados, which **has** gone Green!

However you can get your suitcases down and dust them off- check your passports (need 6 months validity showing on the return- not a Pandemic but a Brexit must!) and follow the news. Be at the ready to book – many already have!

So!! What do we know?

Gibraltar, Iceland, Malta, The Balearics, Madeira are all Green and the little hitches are all being ironed out and they work. Still some tricky hurdles to navigate on some but all are possible and booking well.



As to Amber- the mysterious magical resin that is another matter. Especially as the mixed messages really came to rest here with the FCO giving several Amber destinations an OK – making those good for Insurance but still retains the protocols and disciplines of Quarantining and often more.....

In simple terms you can visit Portugal, The Canaries, Rhodes, Crete, Corfu, Zante, & Kos without your travel insurance being invalid but all the rest of the Covid disciplines will still apply especially the quarantining on your return- But it is noticeable that people are

booking these destinations in the hope they turn Green before their departure – as my son-in-law always mutters “Don’t hold your breath!!” But then I`m a Leo – always optimistic!



Our Eurofins drop box outside the office has been getting loads of visits and not a single complaint – In fact one of our clients stopped by on her return from Prague and told us her experience with them was faultless and not in the least stressful!

And where are all these people going and why – most are visiting friends and family – Weddings – Funerals and also to stay in their overseas 2nd homes many of which might need some TLC as they have been empty for over 18 months-

Don’t get confused – **ask us – we cross-check everything - and if there are changes, we let you know and discuss how to adapt your booking –**

As to the UK. Staycations and Sea-cations are still very much in demand and actually still available. As I have written before the travel industry has been exceedingly creative in adapting to this new need and there is the most eclectic mix of offerings like we have never seen before; Biking, Walking (small groups and self-guided) Discovery trips for the curios but less energetic with transport and guides, city breaks with small groups, rail tours and of course hotels & house lets’ all over the British Isles.

And much the same goes for the Cruise market – never, ever have we seen so many cruise boats and expedition boats plying the waters of our Isles so make the most of this! I am sure we will all look back on the Summer of 2021 and realise that there was a real renaissance in the UK Travel Industry and some of the unsung delights of our Isles rose to light. Itching to get away?

Drop in to number 58 Church Street. We`d love to see you. Bruce

TRAVELLER'S TALES 100

A HOLIDAY FANTASY

Doug Goodman describes his perfect world-wide holiday

As this is my 100th feature I thought I'd combine some of the best places I've visited and the most enjoyable experiences I've had into one amazing short holiday. To travel backwards and forwards around the world during my past 50 years I needed a device to make this possible. I enlisted the help of computer wizard Steve from A to Z Computers in Twickenham to build an app which would enable me to zip from country to country without actually flying and would avoid all the tiresome rules and regulations involved in travel at this time. It didn't have to be as elaborate as The Time Machine which H.G.Wells used, just a device to allow travel back into the past 50 years: delivered in a day my time-app allowed me to start my travels.



Kerala Backwaters



Brunton's Boatyard Hotel



Mysore Palace

I'll begin in Kerala, Southern India, where I started the day after a very memorable night with water gently lapping a foot below the window by my bed in the Kettuvallam. We were cruising the Backwaters in an old rice boat converted into a three-cabin vessel which travels slowly along the narrow waterways. The crew cooked for us and the captain stopped at farms, schools and homes for us to explore and meet local people. It was the most relaxing three days I've ever spent. I adjusted my time travel app for a short trip to Cochin for coffee at Brunton's Boatyard, one of my four favourite hotels, with rooms overlooking the harbour where giant ships passed close by. I moved north to Karnataka to an animal sanctuary on the Cauvery River to meet an elephant I had scrubbed on a previous visit. He was so pleased to see me as, of course, elephants never forget. Then onto Mysore to meet my old friend Emmanuel Devapriya, an historian and tour operator, at the illuminated Mysore Palace. It's a stunning spectacle and second in popularity to The Taj Mahal.



Bath Time



Beijing



Laos Food Market

I arrived in Beijing and managed to dodge vast numbers of bikes in Tiananmen Square to enter The Forbidden City. It was 1984 when western tourists were still a curiosity and little infrastructure existed for visitors. The People's Republic of Laos was my next stop where Luang Prabang waited to be explored. The Buddhist temples, food markets, a Mekong River cruise, a two-night stay in a safari camp to meet the villagers, home visits and a chance to learn about rice planting, made the visit to Laos so memorable. To the south is Cambodia and the famous site of Angkor Watt near Siem Reap. Several visits at different times during three days, arranged by our brilliant guide Denise Heywood, ensured that we saw the best parts of the ancient city. I hired a Tuk-Tuk for a visit to a place described as a military museum. In fact it was a grave-yard for tanks, guns, aircraft and assorted weapons from the many conflicts fought in Cambodia. Next on the programme was an eight-hour journey on a narrow boat across Lake Tonle Sap to Battambang near the border with Thailand. Here the highlights were visiting the markets, seeing some of the memorials to those who were killed by the Khmer Rouge and riding on the rickety Bamboo Railway.



Cambodia. Military Museum



Bamboo Railway



Siberian Scene



Welcome to Tajikistan

SOMEWHERE COLD

The temperature in the Far-East had been hot and humid so I decided to find a cooler climate. Siberia in winter was perfect and walking on the frozen Lake Baikal was fascinating. Nearby, at Bratsk, visiting the world's largest hydro-electric power station, the temperature was minus 30. A quick trip to Moscow via Tajikistan in Central Asia, avoided five days travel on the Trans-Siberian Express as I wanted to see the Revolution Day parade. Gorky Street was filled with smoke and roaring engines as the parade advanced into Red Square. Soviet military might was indeed impressive. I joined my friend Tanya for coffee in GUM and had lunch in the Georgian Restaurant the Aragvi – a favourite of Stalin. In the late 70s I had bumped into Kim Philby the spy. Moscow's traffic had increased to an impossible level since my early trips to the Russian capital so I was pleased to retrace my Volga River cruise. Uglich, with its dramatic onion-domed skyline was my favourite town during the 12 day cruise to St. Petersburg.



Moscow Parade



Uglich on the Volga



Seychelles



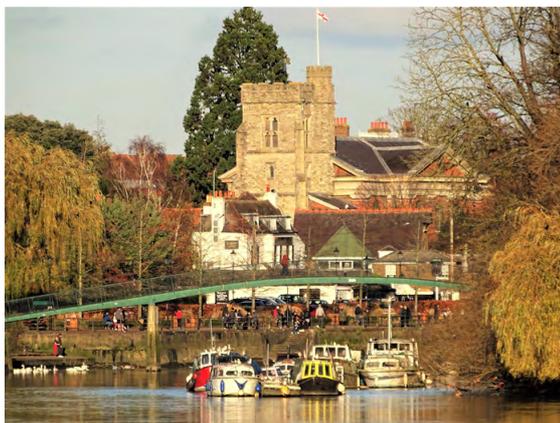
Kenya Safari

TROPICS

Having cooled down during the Russian winter I travelled south to The Seychelles in The Indian Ocean for a spot of island hopping. Local planes were not needed on this visit as my time-travel app took care of everything. Round Island, La Digue and Praslin for their birdlife, flowers, jeep safaris and lazing on hot sandy beaches were the top spots before it was time to head west to Kenya for a trek to find some of the big beasts. Lazy lion families slept, rhinos charged at us and elephants simply ignored us but our guide identified creatures that we couldn't even see. Night-time viewing of the animals feeding below us from Tree Tops Lodge was a wonderful sight. After a few Tusker beers it was time to move to Israel. A short tour of Jerusalem with a stop at The Western Wall was followed by a drive past the Dead Sea to Eilat on the Red Sea. Here, a sailing ship was provided to cruise down to Taba Heights where I had learned to scuba dive on a previous visit to the desert resort. The Negev Desert with its strange-shaped rock formations and wild animal reserves with gazelle and ibex was a short jeep drive from Eilat.



Negev Desert



Thames at Twickenham

By now I was beginning to feel weary from so much time travel. There was the Middle-East, Europe and North America on the schedule but that would have to wait. With a swift tap on the app I returned to Twickenham for a rest.

To be continued next time.

WIZ TALES - Barbados

Teresa Read



Barbados, in the Caribbean, will be on the Green Watchlist travel list from this week.

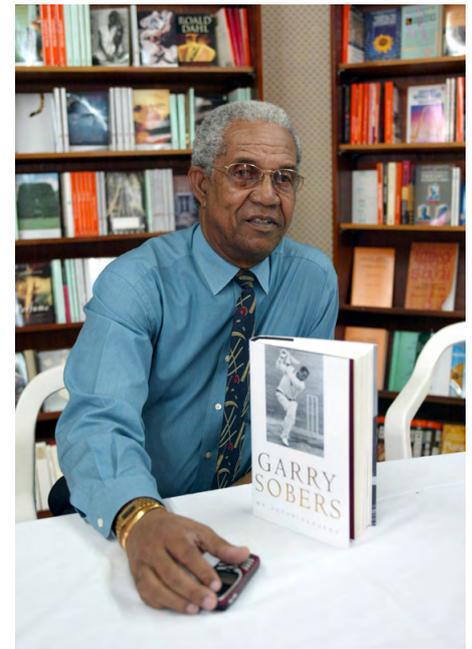
Barbados is to the north of Trinidad and Tobago and east of St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada.

Barbados was named by the Portuguese explorer Pedro a Campos. The name Los Barbados means “the bearded ones” and refers to trees on the island that have many aerial roots resembling beards.



Captain John Powell, an English navigator, visited Barbados in 1625 and claimed the island in the name of King James I.

Cricket is the national sport of Barbados. Famous Barbadian players include John Goddard, Sir Garfield Sobers and Sir Clyde Walcott.



More photographs of Barbados:

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



RFS The Best of our Recent Historic Screenings

Issue 67

2nd July 2021

GRANDMA

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: **GRANDMA** was the 781st film screened by RFS on 13th December 2016. **Grandma** was the sixth equal ranked film of Season 54, it got an approval mark of 88% from those attending; from season 54 we have also already featured all the higher ranked films, in order: **Tehran Taxi**, **Mystery Road**, **The Commune**, **Slow West** and **A Second Chance** as **Issues 29, 35, 38, 41** and **52** respectively. **Grandma** can be streamed from Amazon Prime the discs are available from Amazon and others.

GRANDMA

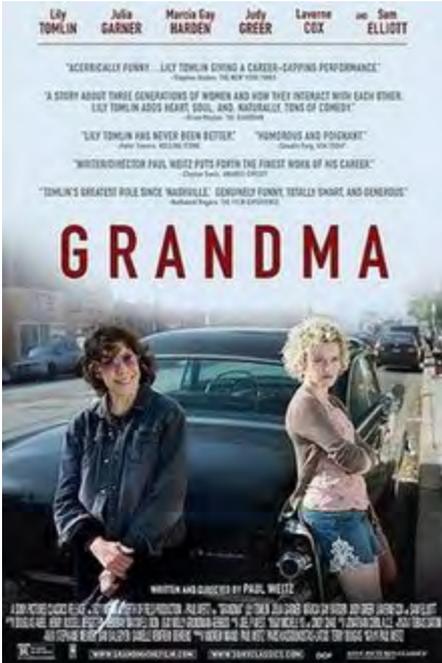
Country:	USA, 2015	Director:	Paul Weitz
Screenplay:	Paul Weitz	Music:	Joel P. West
Cinematography:	Tobias Datum	Editor:	Jon Corn
Running Time:	79 min., colour	Language:	English

Leading Players:

Lily Tomlin (Elle)	Judy Greer (Olivia)
Julia Garner (Sage)	Robert Miranda (Young Man)
John Cho (Chau)	Nat Wolff (Cam)

A comedy-drama to see us into the Christmas season (and pandemic end!). Although, like all good comedies *Grandma* tackles serious (often taboo) subjects within society. The film is an opportunity to see a film with a predominantly female cast, and a substantial role for the older woman.

Grandma follows the attempts of a poet-cum-unemployed-academic Elle Reid (Lily Tomlin) - mourning the death of her life partner Violet and splitting up with her younger girlfriend (Judy Greer) - to help her granddaughter Sage (Julia Garner) find \$630 for abortion. Elle and Sage spend the day trying to borrow the money through a series of unannounced visits to old friends and flames end up rattling skeletons and digging up secrets.



“Grandma is a gem of a film with a very abrasive edge. It features a brilliant performance from Lily Tomlin. The writer-director Paul Weitz manages the unlikely feat of combining family drama, subversive comedy and pro-choice polemic in 80 brisk and very funny minutes ... The glory of Tomlin’s performance lies in its beguiling mix of obnoxiousness and sweetness. Elle has brilliant timing when it comes to delivering caustic put-downs, yet Tomlin shows us the woman behind the brittle facade, who, for all her reserves of sarcasm, is vulnerable and even a little naive. Garner underplays cleverly as the fey granddaughter who turns out to be almost as tough and resilient as Elle. It is heartening to see a film that tackles unintended pregnancy and abortion in a humorous and sensitive way.”

After The Independant

England team announcement: England v USA

Eddie Jones has named his England team for this weekend's Test match against USA.



Eight uncapped players are set to make their debuts at Twickenham Stadium on Sunday 4 July (2pm KO). Lewis Ludlow will captain the side at blind-side flanker, with Sam Underhill at open-side flanker and Callum Chick at No.8.

Ellis Genge (loose-head prop) will be vice-captain and is joined by Curtis Langdon (hooker) and Joe Heyes (tight-head prop) in the front row. Locks Josh McNally and Charlie Ewels complete the tight five.

Henry Slade, the most-capped player in the squad, will be at outside centre with Ollie Lawrence at inside centre. Marcus Smith will start at fly half and Harry Randall is at scrum half.

Freddie Steward is at full back, while Max Malins (left) and Joe Cokanasiga (right) are on the wings in attack.

Among the finishers there are four further uncapped players who could make their first appearance for England – Jamie Blamire, Trevor Davison, Ben Curry and Jacob Umaga. Beno Obano, Ted Hill, Lewis Ludlam and Dan Robson are also named as finishers.

Jones said: *“Over the past three weeks our biggest message to the players is what an opportunity this is to show what they can do and make their mark with England.*

“They’ve applied themselves as a group and worked very hard individually during this camp to reach their personal bests.

“Now it’s all about coming together as a team, gelling and putting in a good performance at the weekend.”

England v USA is live on Channel 4, with coverage starting from 1.30pm.

England XV Starters

15. Freddie Steward (Leicester Tigers, uncapped)
14. Joe Cokanasiga (Bath Rugby, 9 caps)
13. Henry Slade (Exeter Chiefs, 38 caps)
12. Ollie Lawrence (Worcester Warriors, 6 caps)
11. Max Malins (Saracens, 7 caps)
10. Marcus Smith (Harlequins, uncapped)
9. Harry Randall (Bristol Bears, uncapped)

1. Ellis Genge (Leicester Tigers, 28 caps)
2. Curtis Langdon (Sale Sharks, uncapped)
3. Joe Heyes (Leicester Tigers, uncapped)
4. Josh McNally (Bath Rugby, uncapped)
5. Charlie Ewels (Bath Rugby, 21 caps)
6. Lewis Ludlow (C) (Gloucester Rugby, uncapped)
7. Sam Underhill (Bath Rugby, 22 caps)
8. Callum Chick (Newcastle Falcons, uncapped)

Finishers

16. Jamie Blamire (Newcastle Falcons, uncapped)
17. Beno Obano (Bath Rugby, 1 cap)
18. Trevor Davison (Newcastle Falcons, uncapped)
19. Ted Hill (Worcester Warriors, 1 cap)
20. Ben Curry (Sale Sharks, uncapped)
21. Lewis Ludlam (Northampton Saints, 8 caps)
22. Dan Robson (Wasps, 12 caps)
23. Jacob Umaga (Wasps, uncapped)

Insurance giant issues warning for E-scooter users

- Analysis of Admiral data reveals a rise in E-scooter claims this year
- E-scooter trials currently in place in more than 30 locations across England
- Admiral predicts accidents involving E-scooters and cars will increase this year

Adam Gavin, Deputy Head of Claims, from Admiral said: “With E-scooter trials now taking place in more than 30 locations¹ across England, there’s no doubt they’re going to become even more popular on our roads as they offer a cheap, easy and environmentally friendly way for people to get around.

“However, with the rise in the number of people using E-scooters comes an increase in risk for all road users, including motorists who have an additional hazard to look out for. So far this year, Admiral has seen a spike in the number of accidents reported to us involving E-scooter riders, with 52 registered to date. Although this may not sound like a lot, it’s a big difference compared to the start of last year where there were just 13 accidents reported to us in total² from January to June 2020. Our data shows there is a definite trend in the number of accidents involving drivers and E-scooter riders, and we believe the number of accidents will continue to rise.

“As the world of transport is evolving, it’s important all road users understand the current rules in place for using E-scooters to avoid being hit with hefty fines, penalty points or even having the device seized³. The rules currently state that anyone who owns a private E-scooter cannot ride on public roads, pavements or cycle lanes. As it’s illegal to do so, if caught, riders could be given an on-the-spot fine. In fact, only permitted rental E-scooters are allowed to be used in certain English towns and cities taking part in the trials across the UK¹. These scooters have a top speed limit of 15 mph and riders must only use them on the road and cycle lanes or again, risk being handed a fixed penalty notice.

“There have been several reports in the media about E-scooter riders being involved in accidents with both motorists and pedestrians and we’ve certainly seen more incidents reported to us this year. We think this could just be the tip of the iceberg as many cases go unreported and as more people use E-scooters and roads get busier we believe the number of accidents will increase.

“When lockdown restrictions ease across the UK and people start commuting once again, we want to remind all road users to be more alert to try and prevent serious accidents. Motorists need to be aware of the additional E-scooter traffic and be extra vigilant, while anyone looking to hire the devices need to keep themselves and others safe. Before taking an E-scooter out for a spin remember to wear a helmet, make sure you have a valid provisional driving licence⁴ and double check the rental E-scooter operator has the correct insurance so that you know you’re protected in case of an accident.”

The total number of accidents reported to Admiral from 2017 to 2021

To help all road users navigate the new rules that E-scooters introduce, Admiral has created a handy E-scooter myth buster including common misconceptions [HERE](#)

Date	Number of accidents reported
2017	
July – September 2017	2
October – December 2017	2
2018	
January – March 2018	1
April – June 2018	2
July – September 2018	1
2019	
January – March 2019	1
April – June 2019	3
July – September 2019	3
October – December 2019	4
2020	
January – March 2020	7
April – June 2020	6
July – September 2020	25
October – December 2020	22
2021	
January – March 2021	22
April – June 2021	30

School funding in England

A report by the National Audit Office (NAO) has found that while government funding per pupil has remained virtually unchanged since 2014, a new national funding formula has contributed to a shift in the balance of funding from more deprived schools to less deprived schools.

The Department for Education's (the Department's) total funding for mainstream schools increased from £36.2 billion in 2014-15 to £43.4 billion 2020-21. However, the increase in pupil numbers meant real-terms funding per pupil rose by only 0.4%. The Department plans to increase school funding in 2021-22 and 2022-23, so total and per-pupil funding is expected to rise in real terms by around 4%.

Between 2015-16 and 2019-20, cost pressures on mainstream schools were estimated by the Department to have exceeded funding increases by £2.2 billion, mainly because of rising staff costs. Teaching staff costs increased by an estimated £3.6 billion (17%) during this period because of rises in teachers' pay costs and higher pension and national insurance costs. The cost of supporting an increased proportion of pupils with education, health and care plans also grew by around £650 million between 2015-16 and 2020-21. Overall, funding increases were projected to exceed cost pressures in 2020-21.

However, the Department did not take account of the potential impact of COVID-19 as part of its assessment of cost pressures. While the Department provided schools with funding during the early stages of the pandemic for exceptional costs, and later in 2020 to help schools cover costs arising from staff absences, several stakeholders told the NAO that this funding would be insufficient. The Department also provided funding for the extra costs of providing free school meals in early 2021, and plans to spend a further £3.1 billion between 2020-21 and 2024-25 to help pupils to catch up on learning lost during the pandemic.



The Department implemented a new national funding formula in 2018-19, which means funding for schools is now allocated more transparently and consistently. It allocates three-quarters of school funding based on pupil numbers, and the remainder is based on factors relating to the characteristics of pupils and schools. Before 2018-19, local authorities received a per-pupil funding rate largely determined by the rate they had received in the previous year. The Department did not calculate funding at school level or explicitly base funding on need,

which meant similar schools in different local authorities could receive quite different funding allocations.

As part of the national funding formula, the Department introduced a new minimum per-pupil funding arrangement. In 2020-21, the levels were set at £3,750 per primary pupil and £5,000 per secondary pupil. Under the minimum funding arrangement, 37% of the least deprived fifth of schools were allocated more funding in 2020-21. However, none of the most deprived fifth of schools were allocated an increase in funding as a result of this arrangement. This is because these schools were already receiving per-pupil funding above the new minimum requirement.

Under the national funding formula, more deprived local areas receive more per-pupil funding than less deprived areas as funding is linked to need, but the difference has decreased. The main reasons for the relative re-distribution of funding between local authorities were the introduction of minimum per-pupil funding levels and changes in relative need, such as the proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals.

Between 2017-18 and 2020-21, average per-pupil funding in the most deprived fifth of schools fell in real terms by 1.2%, while per-pupil funding in the least deprived fifth increased by 2.9%. In total, 58.3% of the most deprived fifth of schools saw a real-terms decrease in per-pupil funding.

The Department cannot ensure that that each school receives the funding calculated by the national funding formula or the intended minimum funding levels, since this is decided by local authorities and academy trusts. Local authorities can apply local funding formulae but must pass on minimum per-pupil funding to their maintained schools, while academy trusts do not have to do the same for academy schools. The government has said that it intends to move to a 'hard' national funding formula where schools' budgets would be set directly by the Department based on the formula.

The NAO recommends that the Department evaluates the impact of the national funding formula and minimum funding levels over time. The Department should use this information to review whether it is meeting its objective of allocating funding fairly with resources matched to need, paying particular attention to the shift in the balance of funding away from more deprived schools to less deprived schools.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:

“The Department for Education has met its objective of making the way it allocates school funding more transparent and consistent. However, it is less clear whether it has met its objective of allocating funding fairly.

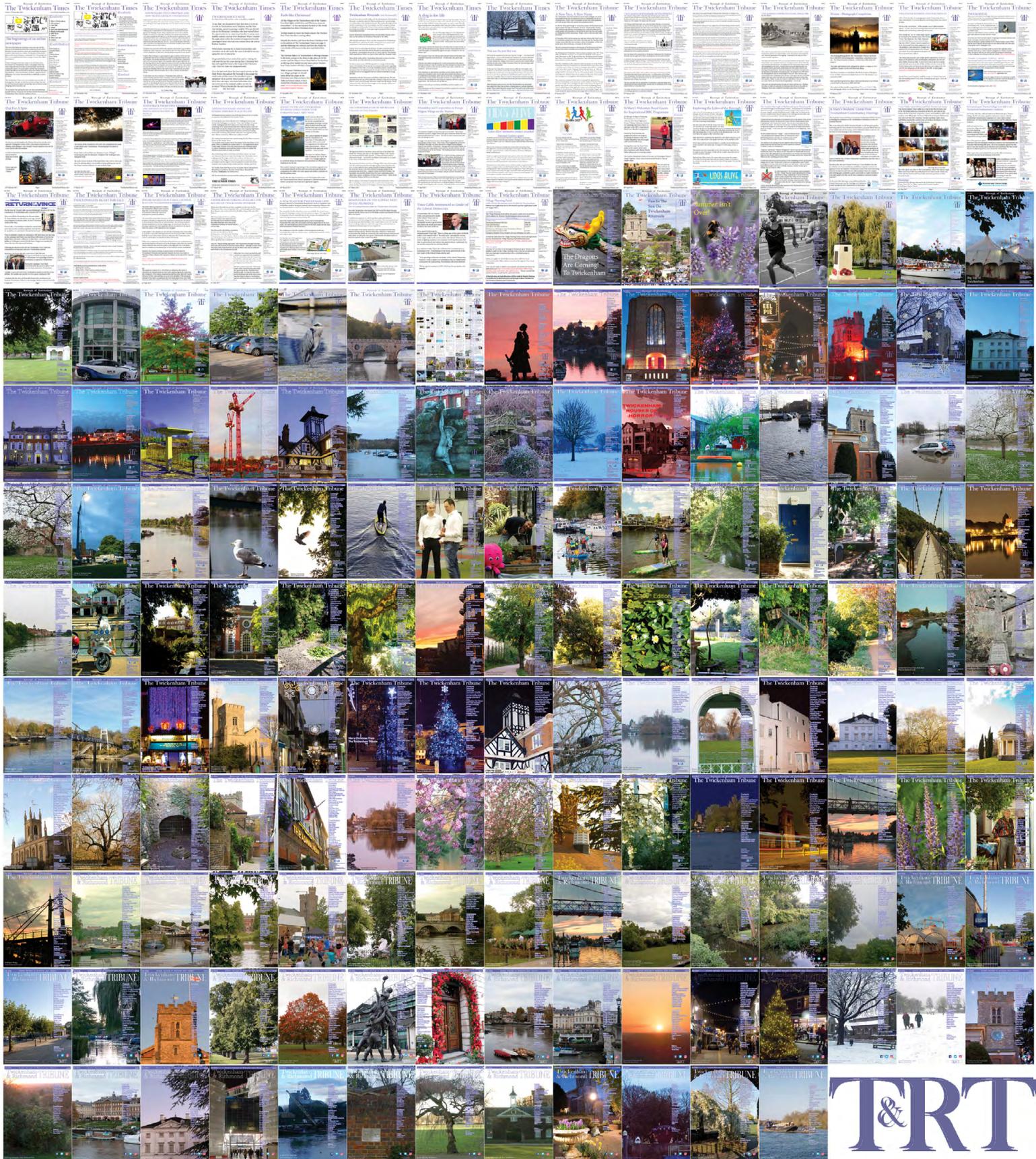
“There has been a shift in the balance of funding from more deprived to less deprived local areas. Although more deprived areas and schools continue to receive more per-pupil funding than those that are less deprived, the difference in funding has narrowed. The Department must evaluate whether this funding model is matching resources to need.”



National Audit Office

Read the full report [HERE](#)

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Registered in England & Wales
Reg No 10549345

The Twickenham Tribune is registered with the ICO under the Data
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