

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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### Editors

- Berkley Driscoll
- Teresa Read



23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021



# TickerTape - News in Brief

## Rail and Tube disruption

There will be reduced timetables and cancellations following staff shortages due to self-isolation. This weekend the Circle Line, Hammersmith & City Line and Metropolitan Line will be suspended.

The District Line will be part suspended, as will the Piccadilly Line and London Overground. Check for details [HERE](#)

South Western Railway have stated that “Train services running across the whole South Western Railway network may be cancelled, delayed or revised. Disruption is expected until the end of the day on 25/07/21.” This is “Due to high levels of Covid-related absences amongst our colleagues.”

Trains between **Waterloo, Teddington and Shepperton** are among those affected on Saturday 23rd July, with reduced services and bus replacements. Check for details [HERE](#)

## The Richmond COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan published

This plan is a collaborative effort developed locally across the council describing the interface with various levels of the national NHS Test and Trace Service, and with the regional service led by Public Health England’s London Coronavirus Response Cell (LCRC). The Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) sets out how the local authority responds to outbreaks of COVID-19 in the borough including emerging variants and how we work with our partners to keep residents safe. The plan outlines how we support our residents, communities, and businesses to understand and follow public health advice to prevent and control the spread of coronavirus.

The LOMP also explains the local authority’s role in working with local and national partners to investigate, manage and control local outbreaks to keep people in Richmond upon Thames safe.

Read the [COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan](#)

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TwickerSeal heard that this week Liverpool was stripped of its UNESCO World Heritage status.

Apparently, the UN body decided that the “outstanding universal value” of Liverpool’s waterfront had been destroyed by development.

TwickerSeal somehow doubts that Twickenham will be taking Liverpool’s place and any honours for the council’s Twickenham Riverside plans are unlikely. After all, plonking a big block of private luxury flats on top of public open space is hardly an imaginative or inspired solution after forty years and is a poor replacement for the much-loved Lido that served the community for forty-five years. And forcibly taking the Diamond Jubilee Gardens and replacing them with an amorphous collection of terraced landscaping is hardly going to win plaudits.

TwickerSeal supposes that at least Hopkins could win the Wooden Spoon Award for architects incapable of designing boathouses on a riverside, on a site well known for its ... boathouses.

<https://lidosalive.com/twickenham.html>



# COVID-19

Teresa Read

## World Health Organization

WHO Director General at the International Olympic Committee Session on 21 July:

“The global failure to share vaccines, tests, and treatments – including oxygen – is fuelling a two-track pandemic: the haves are opening up, while the have-nots are locking down. The longer this discrepancy persists, the longer the pandemic will drag on, and so will the social and economic turmoil it brings.”

“I have called for a massive global push to vaccinate at least 10% of the population of every country by September, at least 40% by the end of the year, and 70% by mid-next year. If we can reach those targets, we can not only end the pandemic, we can also reboot the global economy.”

Weekly Epidemiological update (20 July)

12% increase in global new cases reported compared to previous week, with over 3.4 million new cases

Increase in global COVID-19 case weekly incidence, with around 490 000 cases reported each day compared to 400 000 in the previous week

Almost 57 000 deaths were reported last week, a similar number to the previous week, following a steady decline in the number of deaths for over two months

Cumulative number of over 190 million cases and more than 4 million deaths reported globally

## NEWS

**The Telegraph, 23 July:**

Three quarters of a million people in England had Covid last week, ONS estimates

**Independent, 23 July:**

Covid UK news - live: Government accused of letting virus ‘rip through’ nation, as one in 75 people infected

**The Telegraph, 23 July:**

Spain wrestles with fresh wave of coronavirus as tourists return

**Independent, 23 July:**

Covid UK news - live: Train services to be cut due to ‘pingdemic’ as support given to seven local authorities

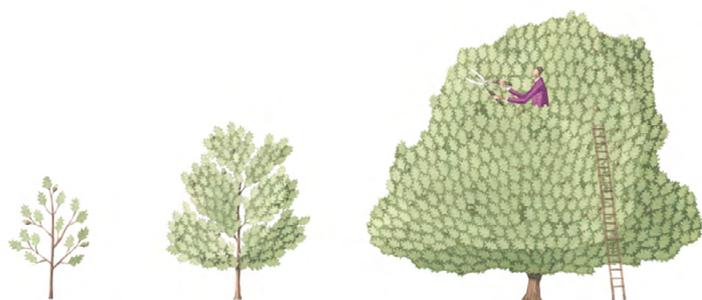
## Total cases to 23 July 2021:

13,929 Richmond upon Thames  
14,722 Kingston upon Thames  
28,668 Hounslow

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

Deaths Worldwide 4,136,518

USA	604,546	Romania	34,266
Brazil	545,604	Ecuador	30,752
India	419,470	Czechia	30,347
Mexico	237,207	Hungary	30,020
Peru	195,429	Philippines	26,891
Russian Federation	152,296	Canada	26,512
The United Kingdom	128,980	Belgium	25,217
Italy	127,920	Pakistan	22,928
Colombia	117,482	Bangladesh	18,851
France	110,556	Bulgaria	18,189
Argentina	102,818	Iraq	18,101
Germany	91,492	Tunisia	17,913
Iran	88,063	Netherlands	17,789
Spain	81,194	Bolivia	17,546
Indonesia	80,598	Portugal	17,248
Poland	75,235	Egypt	16,465
South Africa	68,625	Japan	15,108
Ukraine	52,811	Sweden	14,651
Turkey	50,761	Paraguay	14,446
Chile	34,347	Malawi	14,010



### The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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*The Tree Agency*

# The British Restaurant

By Simon Fowler

Before the War eating out had been something of the preserve of the middle classes. Work canteens were rare. People either went home to eat or brought sandwiches with them.

Despite rationing and the travails of everyday life in wartime eating out boomed as workers sought a quick and filling meal. Restaurants were not affected by rationing, but they were restricted in what they could serve and the most they could charge for a meal was five shillings.

From 1941 the Government encouraged local councils to set up Orwellian sounding Communal Feeding Centres, better known as 'British Restaurants', to provide subsidised meals for local workers. The councils in Kingston and Richmond were pioneers in the movement. The first one in the area opened in Kingston in May 1941. It was possible to take a meal away to be eaten at your work bench or office desk.

By 1943 there were four such restaurants in Kew and Richmond. The largest was at Carrington Lodge on Sheen Road, which opened in March 1943. It could seat 120 in a room painted grey with art 'worth thousands' on the walls.

A main course cost nine pence; a sweet was tuppence, bread a penny, soup also tuppence, and a cup of tea a penny ha'penny. Although bread was not rationed it was often in short supply, so to encourage people to eat potatoes instead, they were provided free with the soup.

Cooking was undertaken by members of the Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) under the supervision of dinner ladies from Gainsborough Road School in Kew. It was cheap and cheerful and provided a nutritious if not, by today's standards, a particularly tasty meal.

Across the river Twickenham was roundly abused for its delay in providing civic catering. A local resident described the plight of people 'scrambling for a seat in cafes to eat vegetable cutlets', adding that 'when the Luftwaffe strikes, mobile canteens have to be rushed 100 miles to feed the dazed, stricken, homeless and bereaved... Twickenham has 100,000 inhabitants in the borough and is still hesitating over the provision of one civic restaurant.'

Ham, close to the giant Hawker factory in Kingston, proved its mettle by having its first civic restaurant opened in May 1941:

'The menu was sufficiently appetising, and plentiful to satisfy any ordinary needs,' reported the *Surrey Comet*, adding that the WVS volunteers: 'have no time or funds to supply the frills and fancies of cooking, nor do customers expect them.' The paper concluded that: 'With a penny cup of tea to wash it down, this made as good a meal as the ordinary German would sell his Swastika to get every day.'



The British Restaurant in Woolmore Street, Poplar.  
Credit: Imperial War Museum (D10676)

## Yarrow

By Kate Slack

The Orchard meadow at Marble Hill is still looking magnificent at the moment and now that the Oxeye daisies have flowered and set seed, the Yarrow is coming into its own. Yarrow is a wide spread plant which can be found in grasslands, roadside verges and your own lawns, although you may not have noticed it if you regularly cut your grass.



Yarrow is a highly under rated plant which produces attractive flatheads of white or pink flowers which appear to float above the grassland from June through till autumn when the dried seed heads can be used in dried flower arrangements. The leaves have a feathery appearance and are highly aromatic when crushed as well as being an attractive addition to a meadow, the flowers attract an array of insects including bees, hoverflies, lacewing as well as spiders and beetles.

Yarrow is surrounded by superstition and folk-lore and was used as a charm against evil spirits in many cultures. Most gardens will have Yarrow in the lawn and if part of the lawn is allowed to grow after April you may find this lovely flower appear in your grass, giving you a summers worth of elegant flowers and providing insects with food and a home.

# 'Help Nature Thrive' in the Royal Parks by not feeding wildlife

The Royal Parks charity is launching a campaign urging visitors to 'Help Nature Thrive' in some of the capital's largest and busiest green spaces.

The campaign kicks off with a plea to #KeepWildlifeWild by appreciating and observing wildlife in its natural habitat, rather than seeking an up close and personal experience. This will include asking visitors not to feed wildlife in the parks, by drawing attention to the harmful effect it can have on animals and their habitats.

The Royal Parks are some of the most popular and iconic parks in the country. Hyde Park, for example, attracts almost 13 million visits a year. Its popularity results in high volumes of wildlife feeding, which is upsetting the park's delicate ecosystem.

The charity has released a video showing the scale of the feeding that takes place at the Serpentine Lake in Hyde Park. The video, filmed in May 2021, shows birds being fed 15 times in a two-hour period by a small stretch of the lake. View video [HERE](#)

Tom Jarvis, Director of Parks at The Royal Parks says: *"We understand that visitors want to get close to nature, particularly in a busy city like London, and the desire to feed wildlife comes from a good place, but leaving wildlife alone is often the kindest thing to do. There is an abundance of natural food in the parks for all wildlife to feed on, including insects and wildflower seeds."*



Excessive feeding in the parks encourages large groups of birds such as gulls and crows. They bully other birds, stealing their eggs and killing their chicks. Leftover food can attract rats, and water quality can

be impacted through uneaten soggy bread and waterfowl faeces. Feeding from the public also attracts large numbers of waterfowl, which leads to overcrowding and stress, and helps wildlife diseases spread.

As part of the campaign, visitors to Richmond and Bushy Parks, will also be reminded to keep a minimum of 50m from the herds of free-roaming wild deer, and to protect their natural way of life by not feeding or touching these wild and unpredictable animals.

Jarvis adds: *"We hope this campaign will educate visitors on why feeding wildlife can be harmful. It will also offer people an alternative nature activity when they visit the parks, whether that's bird spotting or embarking on some of the wildlife self-led trails we have created, providing opportunities to enjoy wildlife in a natural setting."*

The Royal Parks proactively manages the parks to help nature thrive, as set out in its 10-year Biodiversity Framework. This includes creating and managing wildflower meadows and reedbeds, planting new trees, and creating and restoring ponds for invertebrates and amphibians.

*"These measures help nature thrive,"* explains Jarvis, *"and this in turn boosts the natural food available for wildlife to eat. This food gives them a balanced diet and helps them lead a wild, natural and ultimately better life."*

As well as asking visitors to #KeepWildlifeWild, the campaign will encourage people to learn more about nature through online resources, blogs, competitions, and fun facts.

*"If we want people to care about nature, they need to learn about it, understand it and enjoy it."* Says Jarvis. *"For many, that connection has always been through feeding animals, but we want to help visitors discover other ways to observe wildlife."*

Pete Lawrence, Biodiversity Manager, concludes: *"Biodiversity loss is one of the defining challenges of our generation. We must all be part of the solution to reverse this decline and help nature thrive as time is running out. Keeping wildlife wild is just one way in which people can help and enjoy nature."*

For more information on the campaign visit [www.royalparks.org.uk/helpnaturethrive](http://www.royalparks.org.uk/helpnaturethrive)





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Departing this Monday - 26 July

Dear Fellow Travel Enthusiast

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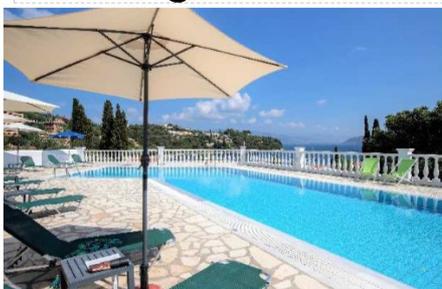
Good accommodation is always at a premium in Kalami, one of the prettiest hamlets along Corfu's favoured northeast coast, so we are delighted to offer these studio apartments which enjoy an enviable position and views. They are quietly located on the hillside above Kalami, no more than a minute or two's walk (c 100m) down to the beach and village.

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Dear Editor,

### Twickenham Riverside

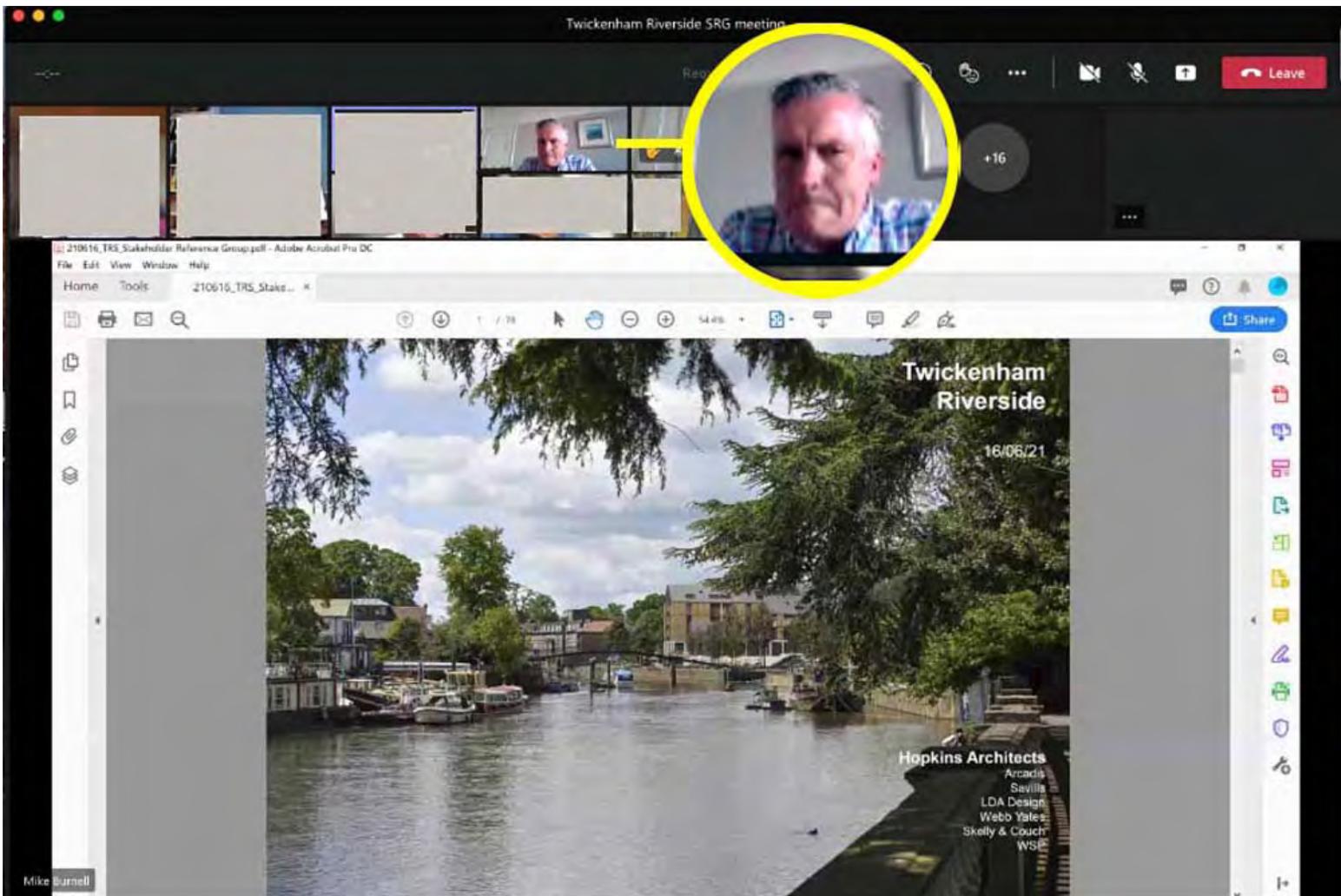
Further to last week's letter from "A disillusioned Twickenham Resident" titled "Twickenham Riverside - height of wharf lane building", it would seem it is not only the good citizens of Twickenham who are unhappy at the height of the Wharf Lane building towering over the adjacent Thames Eyot flats.

Some of your readers may have seen this webcast showing the council's Hopkins proposals. The leader of Richmond Council seems to be wincing at the sight of the overbearing block of flats.

I wonder if it is something he wished hadn't been shown!

Yours sincerely,

An equally disillusioned Twickenham Resident, (Name and address supplied)



*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.*

Dear Sir,

## Twickenham Riverside: Misrepresentations will Not Derail this Fantastic Project

Unlike the massive outcry by the people of Twickenham against the previous ghastly proposals which Lord True and his cohorts attempted to foist on us, it is clear that the majority of Twickenham residents support the current project. It is designed by one of the best architects in the country, the product of a thorough brief and professionally run competition process with no political strings attached.

A small core of so-called 'disillusioned Twickenham residents' who operate under various mantras is campaigning against the Twickenham Riverside scheme. A significant number of these 'naysayers' supported the previous scheme which included the retention of parking on our Riverside. They mostly hide behind a cloak of anonymity – revealing who they are would expose the insignificance of their numbers. They are resorting to a carefully orchestrated campaign of misrepresentation which will no doubt underpin their objections to the planning application.

These 'misrepresentations' should be challenged as follows:

- **Misrepresentation: The removal of the riverside parking and the through road would lead to the demise of the Eel Pie Island boatyards:** The misrepresentation here is to conflate 'parking' and 'servicing'. There is no doubt that servicing of the boatyards is essential to their survival – but parking is not. The boatyards were operating successfully long before parking was introduced on the riverside. The servicing provision under the new proposals has been carefully considered and greatly improved as a dedicated facility to accommodate a range of servicing vehicles, including the largest articulated trucks. The servicing will also not be interrupted by a continuous stream of traffic seeking parking on the riverside, often parking in the service bays themselves, as is currently the case;
  - **Misrepresentation: The proposed Wharf Lane Building is higher than the building on the corner of Heath Road and Cross Deep:** In the last 'Tribune' the 'disillusioned Twickenham resident' provided a diagram purporting to compare these buildings. It is clear that the Wharf Lane building is shown at a greater scale (just look at the comparative floor to ceiling height as can be gauged on the elevations). It is also a nonsense to include the flood wall as a storey of the Wharf Lane building. If that philosophy were to be adopted, then a storey and a half should be added to the King Street parade of buildings, as they are at least that much higher above the riverside level. The roof height of the Wharf Lane building will not project above those on King Street; it should be viewed in an overall context. It is important to have a building of significance on the site, most of which will (quite correctly) be given over to public open space. The Wharf Lane Building is of the right scale and size befitting a town centre building – and that is the ideal location for it.
  - **Misrepresentation: The Wharf Lane building is being located on the Diamond Jubilee Gardens.** The intention here is to imply that the Diamond Jubilee Gardens would be reduced in size and quality. The opposite is the case. It was a requirement of the brief that at least an equivalent area be provided for the gardens. This has been done – only better, with much improved accessibility from Water Lane and the riverside, and a terrific landscape design with larger natural (not plastic) lawns, many more trees, a boules court (as requested by residents) a larger playground and a larger café and terraces overlooking this beautiful public space.
- 'Shock' has also been expressed that the Wharf Lane building would contain 'luxury' flats. It was ever so in the brief! It will be one of the primary ways of financing this project.

The Lib Dems have stuck to their commitment of over 40% affordable housing – with the remainder given over to the market. It has also been proven time and again that having residential accommodation overlooking public spaces is a great deterrent to criminal and anti-social behaviour.

There is no space given over to private gardens (quite rightly). All the outdoor space has been given over to public use – the beautiful gardens, the riverside space for activities such as markets, outdoor cinema, plays, festivals etc – and the south-west corner of the site for access to the river and river-based activities. I have no problem with wealthy flat owners effectively subsidising the project – in particular the public open space which has been carefully considered in a unified way across the entire site.

We should not allow this small minority of naysayers to derail this visionary project. It will redefine our town, transforming our Riverside into a magnificent town centre with a beautiful garden at its heart.

Deon Lombard, Twickenham

To the Editor, Twickenham and Richmond Tribune

## **Diamond Jubilee Gardens under threat of Compulsory Purchase by Richmond Council**

The letter last week from a disillusioned Twickenham Resident wasn't far off the truth. Yes, a five-storey block with luxury apartments is what Richmond Council intend that their Planners will grant planning permission for in September. This five-storey block in the Twickenham Riverside development would be built on part of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens, at the corner next to Wharf Lane where the children's playground is today.

This Twickenham Resident asked what is the reason that compels Richmond Council to use a Compulsory Purchase Order on the Diamond Jubilee Gardens? Well, what we heard at the Committee meeting last month, chaired by Cllr Gareth Roberts, was that the reason for the CPO is to keep the Twickenham Riverside project on schedule. That is, of course, the Council's project which has been behind schedule throughout 2021.

The Diamond Jubilee Gardens are a Public Open Space, managed by Twickenham Riverside Trust, a registered charity, under a 125-year lease granted by Richmond Council in 2014. The Trust have been in negotiation for nearly three years to agree a replacement/relocation of the Gardens within the Council's Twickenham Riverside site.

Two years ago the Council set out the base line for replacing and relocating the Gardens in the design brief for Twickenham Riverside but they have not yet 'gone public' with the details of what they now offer to the Trust in return.

The Director of Environment and Community Affairs, Paul Chadwick, told the Committee that the Council need to put 'pressure of time' on the Trust to come to a 'voluntary agreement'. Otherwise, the Trust will be compelled to surrender its lease back to the Council. Compulsory Purchase would put Richmond Council in complete control of replacing and relocating the Diamond Jubilee Gardens elsewhere in the Riverside site, thus by-passing the authority of the Charity Commission.

The Twickenham Coalition are firmly of the opinion that the CPO for the Diamond Jubilee Gardens is unnecessary, unjustified morally and legally, against the public interest, based on misleading views and a bad decision made by a majority of the Committee Members.

The Coalition calls for Richmond Council

- to publish the details of the arrangements for replacing/relocating the Diamond Jubilee Gardens,
- to exclude the Gardens from the CPO preparations they are now rushing ahead with,
- to concentrate on the Council's commitments to the Trust and the people of Twickenham and
- to listen to the conclusions of a public consultation to be held by the Trust very soon.

Yours sincerely

The Twickenham Coalition  
hello@thetwickenhamcoalition.org

The Twickenham Coalition is supported by Doug Orchard - Chair of the Twickenham Society, Mac McInerny of Heatham Alliance community group, Helen Montgomery-Smith - Chair of the Eel Pie Island Association, Yvonne Hewett - York House Society and Jack Betteridge – Vice President of the River Thames Society, as well as individual members of the community in Twickenham.

Dear Editor,

## E-Scooters

Earlier this week, there was a fatal crash involving an e-scooter in Bromley. a 20 year old man has been arrested “on suspicion of failing to stop at the scene of a collision, causing death by dangerous driving and providing a positive alcohol breath test”.

Someone much better with words than me said “Imagine reading about a 16-year-old boy on an e-scooter being killed by a drunk hit-and-run car driver and thinking that the problem is e-scooters.”

But that’s just what Michael Jay insists on doing. Similarly with the unfortunate incident in Twickenham. Michael is right that e-scooters *can* be dangerous, just like walking or cycling *can* be dangerous, but what he seems to struggle with is where the danger is coming from. Between 2007 and 2015, mortality data from the ONS shows that 1% of pedestrians deaths on the road involve pedal cycles, 5% motorcycles, and 94% cars, vans, buses and HGVs.

So when Michael questions the statement “every journey made by escooter rather than car is likely to make us more safe” I invite him to find some data. If he genuinely cares about the safety of this country’s citizens, he needs to look at where the danger actually is. He appeals to us to understand the basic principles of physics, yet seems not to understand that an 80kg person on a 25kg scooter is something less of a risk to themselves or anyone else than the same person driving a 2,000 kg SUV ...

Sincerely,

Tim Lennon.

Richmond Borough Coordinator, London Cycling Campaign.

Dear Tribune,

## E-scooter Accidents

This week has seen three more terrible incidents involving E-scooters:

- An adult has died after using one in Twickenham.
- A 3-year-old girl has been left with 'life-changing' injuries after being hit by one in Lambeth (a scooter trial area).
- And a 16-year-old boy was killed while riding one in Bromley, Kent.

Whatever the causes of these accidents, it's now very obvious that scooter riders are not only putting themselves in danger, but all of us, too.

Little or no training and little or no protection means little or no safety – for anyone.

The callous insistence on the 'benefits' of these machines by the two-wheel-lobby fanatics is cold comfort to victims and their families. E-scooters are touted as 'green' but the blood on the road is red.

The UK's National Federation of the Blind has petitioned Downing Street to halt all rental schemes. Will they be ignored as well as us? Look at these videos and photos:

[www.itv.com/news/central/2021-07-20/campaigners-present-petition-calling-for-e-scooters-to-be-banned](http://www.itv.com/news/central/2021-07-20/campaigners-present-petition-calling-for-e-scooters-to-be-banned)

[www.santamonicajurylawfirm.com/electric-scooter-accidents/electric-scooter-accident-stories/](http://www.santamonicajurylawfirm.com/electric-scooter-accidents/electric-scooter-accident-stories/)

Local authorities in Japan constantly conduct public safety campaigns for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. But what is Richmond Council doing in this respect?

I know what they are NOT doing because my offer to personally pay for a campaign to educate cyclists about the dangers of riding on pavements was blatantly thrown back in my face by our Council's so-called 'Borough Safety Officer'. Why?

And their next brilliant plan is to let cyclists ride in the opposite direction to traffic in one-way streets. So a one-way street is now NOT a one-way street. Watch out!

In recent letters to the Tribune, Mr. Tim Lennon of the Richmond Cycling Campaign said:

*'Any journey made by e-scooter which was previously in a car is likely to be a positive thing.'*

*'Every journey by car which is replaced by one on an e-scooter will ... cause lower environmental impact. Encouraging more active forms of travel for local trips is also a step to making active travel the norm...with consequent benefits for physical and mental health.'*

Well, hitting the road with your face has quite an impact, too, and hardly counts as a benefit for physical and mental health. Nor is standing on a scooter particularly active. Or positive.

There is now enough evidence to show that the temptation to misuse them is irresistible.

The result, not only for riders but also for pedestrians, the elderly, the partially sighted, and other road users, is disaster. Haven't the police and the NHS got enough to do already?

The authorities keep repeating that private scooters are illegal and that only rental ones are legal.

But legal or illegal makes no difference to the human body – as shown by the horrible injuries and numerous UK deaths so far.

How many more before common sense and the law prevail?

Michael Jay,  
Richmond.

Dear Editor,

## **The proposed imposition of contraflow cycle-movement in St Margaret's and other locations in the Borough**

Is there no limit to the present Council administration's susceptibility to the influences of the powerful pro-cycling and e-scooter lobbies and its disregard for the interests of pedestrian safety and amenity?

As publicised in the 9th July issue of *The Tribune* and in a limited consultation to local residents who will be affected by the proposals, the latest initiative proposes the imposition of contraflow cycle-movement – presumably facilitating potential use by users of powered bikes and scooters too - in four, narrow roads in St Margaret's, three narrow roads in East Twickenham, three narrow roads in Mortlake and one narrow road in Hampton Wick, based on the entirely spurious claim 'to enable safe cycling against the direction of existing one-way restrictions', as part of the Council's 'efforts to encourage active travel (sic)' and 'reduce some residents' reliance on private car use'. Importantly, the consultation refers to parallel proposals to reduce on-street parking at one or both ends of each of all but two of the affected roads, exacerbating yet further the existing under-provision of on-street parking for local residents in the relevant CPZs.

Significantly, the Council's consultation which closes next Monday, says nothing about the potential risks to pedestrian safety of the proposed measures – not least, for parents and children who use roads like Bridge Road, St Margaret's to walk to and from St Stephen's School, or the potential risks to both cyclists and other road-users resulting from the re-imposition of two-way vehicle movement in the narrow roads involved - rightly and justifiably set aside thirty years ago - and the limited sightlines at the 'blind' corners at the relevant junctions.

Perhaps the present Administration needs to look back and learn from the disastrous creation of contra-flow movement for cyclists on Hill Rise/Richmond Hill twenty or more years ago, thankfully abandoned further to the damaging impact on pedestrian safety and amenity. Perhaps the present Administration might also address the real pressing need for both cyclists and other road-users in St Margaret's – namely, the long overdue repair and resurfacing of Winchester Road, the condition of which poses very real dangers for cyclists in particular. The Administration might even get around to addressing the long unresolved risks to pedestrian safety for those crossing the junction of Crown Road and St Margaret's Road at the very heart of St Margaret's.

Can one expect the present Administration to listen to and respond to such concerns? Judging from a number of recent 'initiatives' imposed on local communities in the Borough without consultation or disregarding the outcome of consultation, sadly, it seems not.

Kind regards,

Paul Velluet, St Margaret's

# FOX WATCH

By Doug Goodman

The Times' Nature Notebook last Saturday informed us that country foxes are having a tough time because of a shortage of food. However, Twickenham foxes seem to be thriving, at least the family in my neighbour's garden is looking well fed with glossy coats. The family has regularly produced cubs who enjoy digging holes and squashing plants in my garden so this year I tried to watch their growth.



Keeping Watch



Proud Male



Four Venture Out

Four cubs, born in April, have now grown up and hopefully will be leaving home soon. I photographed the cubs' first timid foray into the world and watched them as they became braver and began to explore. At first they showed no fear of humans but now they are wary and conceal themselves in long grass.



First Out



Exploring



Blue Eyes

Judging by the left-overs at the end of my garden they enjoy sausages, biscuits and KFC. Maybe someone is feeding them or perhaps they order a take-away from time to time. We should not feed them or attempt to domesticate foxes. They are wild animals and can be dangerous. Once, when a fox took up residence in a bedroom at the front of the house I could not persuade it to leave. The RSPCA advised not to touch it as when a fox is cornered it will bite. Eventually it jumped from the window and vanished. Love them or hate them you cannot help but wanting to cuddle a furry fox cub that looks so much like a teddy bear.



Four Weeks Old



Breakfast Biscuit



More Please

# RIP Anthony Mumford

By Shona Lyons

It is hard to believe that just 8 days ago, Tony the cobbler who ran his shop Toes and Knees was on his way home on his scooter. We often saw him going home as he took initially the same route as us, along Kings Street & Heath Road and then onto Twickenham Green where he could park his car for free. I didn't know that. I thought he lived near the Green perhaps, as I often saw him at the start of Heath Road as I do my evening shop at about the same time, after work and before I go home.

That journey to the Green is just a few minutes and it is just so unfortunate that on that fateful evening Tony somehow hit a car or the car hit him, I don't know which. I think the enquiries are on-going. He didn't wear a helmet & the injury he sustained was fatal.

All I know is that evening my dad and me went together to Marks and saw that one side of Heath Road was closed to traffic and a police car was across the width of the road stopping anything getting passed.

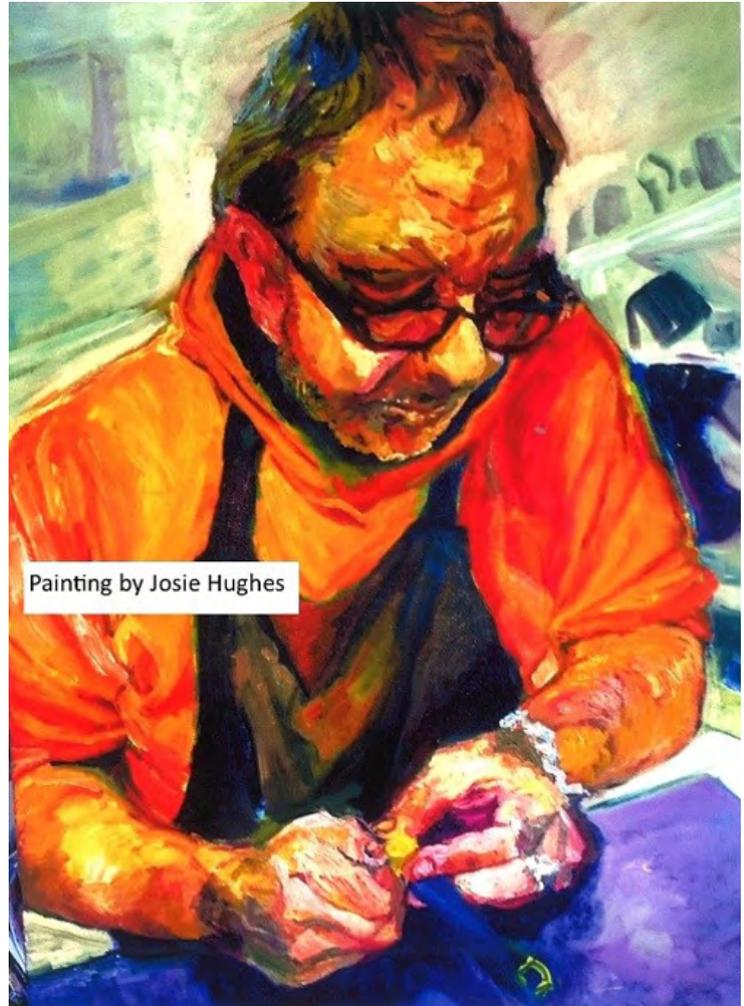
We asked the police what had happened, they just said that there had been an accident. Then the air ambulance passed us & as I looked up at the helicopter my phone rang, and a fellow trader told me that the police had come to Church Street asking if anyone knew Tony's next of kin.

It doesn't seem possible that this all happened just 8 days ago and that I won't see Tony on his way home anymore.

In the week that has passed, we saw after the second day that the door to his shop was open and found his stepson, Mick and his partner Cheryl there trying to make sense of everything, and give the clients their shoes etc. It was all very surreal as I suppose this kind of situations probably often are. I saw how upset they were, and Cheryl seemed inconsolable. I didn't know what to do. I gave her my number and told her to call if she needed anything.

But as soon as I got to the office, I realised that maybe I could help her by setting up a crowd funding page as I felt it must be such a bewildering situation for her wondering how she will cope with Tony's recovery and keeping the shop open etc. I thought that maybe if we could help her financially get through the next few months at least that might ease the anxiety for her.

It was very easy and, in a few minutes, I set it up. I told her first and she agreed it would help.



Bruce went quickly to the shop to see if she had a photo I could use. It was all very rushed really and emotional, and she just quickly handed us a picture someone had painted of him in the shop which he had really treasured. I didn't look on the back, but I have since been told by the painter that apparently it had her details on the back. I just quickly scanned it and handed it back and set up the page and within minutes the donations and well wishes were flooding in.

I always enjoyed going to Tony's shop and often had some funny chats with him. I always enjoyed his very dry humour. He often helped me with keys, locks and even fixing things and often charged me very little. We actually had a bit of an argument recently as he could be a bit cranky and he didn't like the street being pedestrianised and when a few months ago I wanted to drop off some very worn shoes to his shoe recycling he got a bit cross and told me that he wasn't doing it any more as the van wouldn't come and collect now the street was closed. I tried to reason with him, and asked him if he didn't think that the road was now so much more pleasant for everyone without huge juggernauts hurtling down it day and night & that other deliveries were possible etc and maybe they could come earlier or even borrow a trolley from me etc but he was just cross and shouted at me and to be honest I hadn't gone to his shop since then, until this all happened.

But I always liked him and still liked him and it shows from all the notes that people have left on the Just giving page how much other people enjoyed his banter and his company and actually he was really loved in the community and everyone would traipse in with their broken bits of bags and shoes and all kinds of things really and he had a well-deserved reputation for fixing it for everyone, often charging next to nothing and often with a bit of banter, humour and wit.

I think his shop was a refuge for him, a little sanctuary he had, where he could be himself and show all this kindness & humour to everyone. I think he really enjoyed his craft and used a lot of ingenuity fixing things for people. I now know that like many of us traders in Church Street, keeping the shop was often a struggle. But his partner told me that after she read all the lovely comments people had left that it just showed how much it was worth it and the pride he had in his work.

Lots of things have now happened this week. I was hoping we would raise money for his recovery and Cheryl would be able to keep the shop open for him to be able to look forward to coming back to it. But we found out soon that he was in a very bad way and probably if he had recovered, he wouldn't have been able to go back to the shop. I didn't think for one minute we would be raising it for his funeral as he has now already been taken off life support and he is no longer with us. Or is he? I think he is still here in spirit. A lot of people knew him and really liked him and we are hoping that the cortege although coming from Bracknell where he lived will hopefully be able to come through Church Street in the morning so we can all pay our last respects to him. He was a big part of our community and I have heard that George from Pulcinella and his team would like, if that happens, to organise with all the hospitality traders in the street to give everyone in the community who comes to join us, a glass so we can all have one final toast to Tony as he passes.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ChurchStreetAssociation>

# A new bench for Twickenham Green

## In loving memory of Geoffrey Morgan 1931 - 2020

Resident 1981 - 2020 and Founder Member of Friends of Twickenham Green



## The Big Butterfly Count

Help us take nature's pulse by joining the Big Butterfly Count.

The Big Butterfly Count is a UK-wide survey aimed at helping us assess the health of our environment simply by counting the amount and type of butterflies (and some day-flying moths) we see.

This year's Big Butterfly Count will run from the 16th July to the 8th August.

If you want to use the Big Butterfly Count app to take part then you can download the app and submit sightings during the Count period

More details [HERE](#)



# Spot The Fake (5)

by Mac McNerny, Heatham Alliance community group  
and Neighbourhood Watch



Email received –

## **PAYMENT US 1626884290JB**

Dear Customer, I hope you're well!

We've received your payment . . . . .

FAKE: 'Hover' over the sender's name to see the email address

– Does it look like an official name?

Mine was from **prince Smith** princeSmith4[nn]9@gmail.com

'Dear Customer' – If you were indeed their customer, they would use your name to address you.

No, I am not their customer and the mention of a payment sets off warning bells too.

Message deleted!



## **Spelling?**

A Tribune reader sent in this photograph of a notice on the bus stop in Stanley Rd, Teddington.

# Kew targeted for vaccine walk-ins this weekend!

As part of a series of vaccine walk-in clinics for areas around the borough with a lower take up rate, residents in Kew are invited to attend an event this coming Saturday!

Following a successful event in Heathfield, where hundreds of people turned up to have their jab, those in Kew are now being specially invited, as we know that around 42% of residents aged 18 to 39 in the area have not yet had their first jab.

**The clinic will be at Queen's C of E Primary School in Kew (Cumberland Road, Kew, TW9 3HJ) from 10am to 6pm on Saturday 24 July.**

No appointments will be needed and both Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines will be available. The walk-in clinic will allow people to attend at a time that is convenient for them and means groups of friends can attend together to have their first doses.

It is also an opportunity for people who missed their second dose of the vaccine or haven't got round to booking it, to ensure they are fully vaccinated. However, please remember that second doses are **only** given to those who received their first dose eight weeks' ago or more (no later than 29 May).

This is the latest pop-up clinic available in Richmond upon Thames, with others planned in the weeks ahead around the borough.

Cllr Piers Allen, Chair of the Adult Social Services, Health and Housing Services Committee and Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board at Richmond Council, said:

*"Whilst the move towards normality and greater personal freedom will be welcomed by many, we must all understand that the virus is still very much here in our communities. Cases of the Delta variant are rising in our borough and it is therefore important to make sure that you and your loved ones are vaccinated to prevent serious illness and stop the spread. Together with the NHS, we are pulling out all the stops to make it as easy as possible for residents to learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and where they are able to get their jab. Over the next week we will be knocking on doors in Kew, speaking to residents directly to encourage them to attend the event on Saturday. If you haven't had your vaccine yet - please come along."*

Richmond GP, Dr Patrick Gibson said:

*"The NHS and Richmond Council have worked together closely to organise this local walk-in clinic for Richmond residents to make getting the vaccination as convenient and easy as possible. If you're planning to be in Kew on Saturday, or live near-by, and haven't yet had your vaccine, please come along and see us. If you missed your second dose of the vaccine or didn't get round to booking it, you are also welcome to attend - but please make sure you had your first jab eight weeks ago or more. Otherwise you will be turned away and asked to return to a future clinic."*



A recent study by Public Health England found that having both doses of the vaccine significantly increased protection against the more transmissible Delta and Beta variants.

People who have had both vaccinations can demonstrate their vaccination status two weeks after their second dose through the NHS COVID Pass. This can be used for travelling abroad to some countries and at a series of event trials in England.

For more information, go to [South West London CCG](https://www.southwestlondonccg.nhs.uk/).

# Strawberry Moon

Tribune reader **Maurice Parry-Wingfield** sent in these photos of the 'Strawberry Moon'. These were taken at 9.45 on Thursday evening from the viewpoint towards Ham House from the end of Orleans Road, Twickenham. Magical!



## ETNA's transformation - visit your new and improved community centre!

Changes have been afoot during lockdown to provide East Twickenham with a beautifully transformed community centre. So drop by to see the amazing changes for yourself!

Experience the newly planted sensory garden, improving biodiversity and providing a calm and beautiful space for the local neighbourhood. We now have fabulous community kitchen where a pay as you feel lunch café is available three times a week, with seating on the spacious outdoor deck.

Accessibility and inclusivity have improved with step free access, disabled parking, induction loops and acoustic panels. And

as expected, ETNA continues to run a range of classes and activities for all members of the community and rents out rooms for all to enjoy. Visit us in person and/or [online](#).



# Adventures at the Archives this summer

Explore a national treasure right on your doorstep which is free and open to all ages with a lot to be experienced at the National Archives this summer! Explore fascinating exhibitions, family adventures and original documents from their extensive collections.

As well as exciting summer activities, there is plenty more waiting to be discovered. Visit the peaceful parks and ponds, relax in the garden with delicious treats from summer catering partner Maids of Honour and browse our curated selection of gifts and books in the shop.

[The Pickles Mission](#), for 8 to 12 years is calling all secret agents... the Ministry of Time Travel needs you!



You can investigate the past, crack the code and complete the mission for a handsome reward.

Book a place on The Pickles Mission [HERE](#)

The Pickles Mission is an interactive experience that requires the use of an adult's smartphone. You will be instructed to arrive at The National Archives on your selected date and will be sent your top-secret starting location and further instructions.

Archives Nature Trail for 5 to 7 year olds. Come and experience the family-friendly nature trail and see what wildlife you can discover while exploring our park. Along the way, try to solve the mystery of The National Archives building.

The Archives Nature Trail is a brilliant way to discover our wonderful grounds with fun activities along the way to keep little explorers entertained.

Visit the Reading Rooms which are free and open to all who are interested in research and contains one of the largest and most significant archival collections in the world.

Find out more about these and many [more activities at the National Archives](#) this summer.



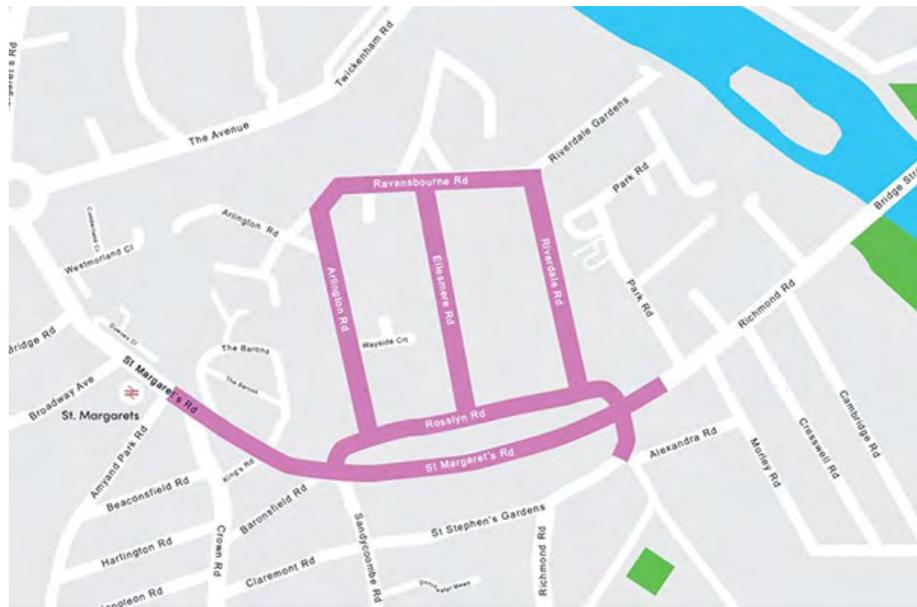
# Have your say on extending the BPAS Clinic PSPO

People are being asked to have their say on the proposal to extend a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) around the British Pregnancy Advisory Service Clinic in Rosslyn Road, Twickenham.

The current PSPO, which was put in place in April 2019 to address concerns raised around protests and vigils taking place outside the Clinic, comes to an end on 31 March 2022. The Council is now consulting with the public to extend the PSPO for a further three years.

A PSPO under section 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 allows the Council to prohibit specific activities, and/or require certain things to be done by people engaged in particular activities, to stop a detrimental impact on people in a defined public area.

Since the PSPO was introduced there have been no known breaches of the restrictions in the buffer zone area and there have been no further petitions, complaints or concerns raised with the Council. There were some reports of vigils/protests just outside the boundary of the buffer zone near St Margaret's station soon after the PSPO came into force and a lone protest outside the Civic Centre building.



Although there have been no breaches of the PSPO since it was put in place, the consultation and decision-making process will need to consider the likelihood of these activities happening again if the PSPO was not extended.

Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

“It is important that people are allowed to access the clinic without being intimidated or distress being caused. The current PSPO has had a positive impact for both users of the clinic and residents of the local area - we have seen no breaches so I am grateful that people have been respectful of it.

“As with the current PSPO, going forward, it would not ban anyone from protesting or hosting a vigil, but would prevent such protests or vigils taking place near the clinic.

“I would encourage everyone who lives locally or has an interest to take part in the consultation as soon as possible.”

The consultation runs until **Monday 30 August 2021**. [Have your say before the deadline.](#)

## Strawberry Hill

Within a short time of the temporary toilets closing on Twickenham Green a number of men were seen urinating in a nearby road in Strawberry Hill.

## Hampton

### **Council commits to White House future**

Services at the White House Community Centre in Hampton are protected for another 12 months, whilst the Council work with interested parties to secure the long-term future of this important community facility.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the YMCA are not currently in a position to commit to a 25-year-contract. However, they have agreed to manage the centre until the summer 2022 and are working closely with the Council and others to help ensure the delivery of a longer-term sustainable future for the White House.

This arrangement guarantees that services currently operating from the Centre, for example The Foodbank and the Preschool Nursery can continue to do so, and some community activities can be welcomed back to the building.

The Council has also committed to continuing to fund the administrative costs at the centre during this time.

## Teddington

Hampton Hill now has three external defibrillators

The Hampton Hill Town Centre Manager says “After some great fundraising by our local community, a very generous and kind donator, three very helpful businesses on our high street and a great local electrician who donated his time.... Hampton Hill now have three external defibrillators accessible 24/7!”

The defibrillators can be found at Paws for Coffee, Cavan Bakery and Stewart & Young.

## Mortlake

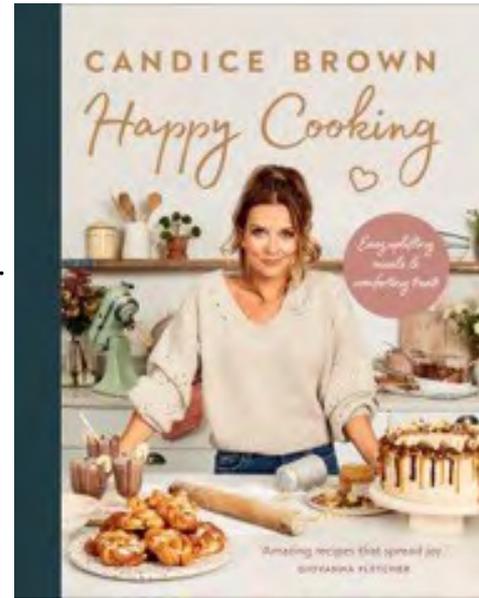
### **Stag Brewery**

The GLA has called a public hearing on Tue 27 July, 2pm to discuss plans to re-develop the former Stag Brewery in Mortlake. Plans involve up to 1,250 homes, a cinema, shops, offices and a secondary school.

Find more information [HERE](#)

## HAPPY COOKING – JUST WHAT’S NEEDED!

For the millions of us who are fans of Great British Bake Off, the name **Candice Brown** is a familiar one. Candice, [pub landlord and 2016 GBBO winner) has always found the kitchen to be a happy place which she can relax, take stock and create comforting treats. And comforting treats are just what most of us need at the moment, so this great new cookbook by Candice is a real gem. She shares the uplifting meals and those comforting treats that have seen her through the toughest times. **Ebury Press** published **Happy Cooking by Candice Brown** this month (£22). It has great photos by Ellis Parrinder and is one of those tomes that will inspire you...these are recipes to live for, to get out of bed for, to eat under the duvet (or sheet if it's as hot as it has been of late!). More importantly, share them with those you love.



There are her favourite bakes, quick pick-me-ups for busy weekdays, therapeutic recipes to keep those hands busy and hearty dishes that'll take care of themselves as well as you. This is packed with food to lift your spirits. Here are a couple of recipes from the book that I've chosen for you: Goat's cheese, smoked salmon & asparagus filo tart is the perfect summer supper dish and the Whack-it-all-in Chocolate Cornflake Rocky Road will go down a storm, especially with those with a sweet tooth!

### **GOAT'S CHEESE, SMOKED SALMON & ASPARAGUS FILO TART** (SERVES 4– 6)

“A gorgeous spring/summer tart that's light enough for lunch but also perfect if you are not too hungry but know you have to have something to eat. This happens a lot to me, so a dish like this in the fridge or even made into little individual tarts is ideal. Not a fan of fish, then swap it out for extra vegetables, ham hock or even more cheese. You can use shortcrust pastry too – I always keep pastry in the freezer for recipes like this.”

6–8 sheets of ready-made filo pastry  
50g unsalted butter, melted  
250g fine asparagus  
5 eggs  
100ml double cream  
100ml whole milk  
small bunch of fresh flat-leaf parsley  
200g baby spinach  
5 spring onions, trimmed and finely chopped  
200g smoked salmon  
250g soft goat's cheese  
salt and freshly ground black pepper



Preheat the oven to 160 deg C fan (180 C/350 F/Gas Mark 4).  
Brush a 25cm flan or quiche tin with melted butter and then lay in the first layer of filo pastry. Brush this with melted butter and lay in the second layer, then brush with more melted butter. Repeat with the filo and butter until there are no gaps in the pastry, the tin is covered, and you have lots of lovely jagged edges sticking up.  
You will have to arrange the sheets at different angles – about 6–8 sheets of pastry should work.

Brush the last layer of pastry with butter and bake for 8–10 minutes until the filo starts to turn golden and crispy. Remove from the oven and set aside. Bend the asparagus spears until they snap – this is the bit that is too woody to eat – then blanch for 2 minutes in boiling water.

Mix the eggs, cream, milk and some salt and pepper together in a jug. Finely chop the parsley and stir through. Layer up the spinach, asparagus and spring onions in the baked filo pastry case and tear the smoked salmon over the top. Pour over the egg mixture and top with slices of the goat's cheese. Very carefully transfer the filled filo pastry case to the oven. (You may find it easier to put the flan tin on a flat baking tray and pour the egg mixture into the pastry while it is in the oven – just be careful not to burn yourself.)

Bake for 25–30 minutes until the egg is just set with a slight wobble and the filo is golden brown – if it starts to catch, simply cover it with foil.

Serve warm on its own or with a heap of salad.

**Note:** You can also make individual tarts in muffin tins – just reduce cooking time to 15-20 minutes

### **WHACK-IT-ALL-IN CHOCOLATE CORNFLAKE ROCKY ROAD (MAKES ABOUT 9 SQUARES)**

“The title basically says it all. Any leftover chocolate (though when I have chocolate left over I don't know), old Easter eggs or odd biscuits, then whack it all in, melt it together and pop it in the fridge. The nice thing about this recipe is that you can theme it for different times of the year – bunnies and chicks for Easter, snowflakes and reindeer for Christmas. Other cereal works well too.”

250g dark chocolate (70% cocoa solids for a more grown-up flavour), chopped or dark chocolate chips

125g unsalted butter, cubed

4 tbsp golden syrup

100g cornflakes

100g oaty biscuits

75g dried cherries

50g sultanas

100g marshmallows either mini or larger ones roughly chopped

50g pecans

100g chocolate caramel bars

50g white chocolate, chopped or white chocolate chips

Heat a saucepan of water over a medium heat until simmering.

Place a heatproof bowl over the saucepan, but don't let the water touch the bottom of the bowl (this is a bain-marie).

Put the dark chocolate, butter and golden syrup in the bowl and melt slowly, stirring with a wooden spoon. Once melted, remove from the heat and leave to cool slightly.

Stir through the cornflakes. Break up the oaty biscuits, add to the melted chocolate along with the remaining ingredients, except the chocolate caramel bars and white chocolate.

Gently fold through so everything is evenly coated in melted chocolate.

Line a 20 x 20cm baking dish with greaseproof paper and scrape the mixture evenly into the tray.

Gently spread it out but leave it jagged and lumpy. Break or cut up the chocolate caramel bars and dot over the top. Melt the white chocolate in a bain-marie or in 20-second bursts in a microwave. Drizzle melted chocolate over the top of the rocky road, then transfer to the fridge to set for 20–30 minutes for a soft-set rocky road. Any leftovers will keep in an airtight container in the fridge or a cool place for up to a week.





## Quartermaine's Terms

by Simon Gray

Richmond Shakespeare Society, Mary Wallace Theatre, until 24<sup>th</sup> July

As St John Quartermaine enters the common room of Cull-Loomis Academy, Cambridge, he touches various pieces of furniture as though to affirm their reality, a silent conceit that effectively sets the play's contrast between words and world. The premise allows director Rodney Figaro and his cast to mine a rich seam of misunderstanding in what proves to be a farce of the mind.



Quartermaine's colleagues tend to info-dump their private lives on him, which brings us up to speed without making them seem particularly real at first. Characterisations are a little broad, be they the absent-minded professor or wronged wife, and subsequently a depressive writer, angry northerner and bluff windbag. They are the English equivalents of the stereotypes the faculty harbours about their international students. The script's strength, then, and the cast's, is in playing off these expectations.

The strongest of the cast are the pairing of Fiona Smith's Melanie Garth and Daniel Wain's Henry Windscape. Smith's Garth is an impressive study in repression, whether it comes to the matter of her ailing mother or her unrequited love for her middle-aged colleague. Meanwhile, red-faced Wain could easily be as blustery as the name Windscape suggests, but makes his the most sympathetic character in this eccentric faculty, with a haunted air behind his cheery good manner. I particularly appreciated his use of the play's common device to have characters' dialogue tail off. This could easily have been lost or over-egged, but Wain pitches it between comedy and poignancy to fine effect.

This leaves us with St John Quartermaine himself, the Peter Principle in person. He experiences little of the unseen drama that surrounds the others. Indeed, in the scene closest to conventional farce in the play, he finds himself accepting a succession of invitations that he will be unable to honour, as though he can only live through others. It's a difficult role, but Luke Daxon finds a precision in the vagueness, bringing life to what might otherwise be an abstract portrait of tweedy English chauvinism for whom the clock is ticking.



Read Matthew Grierson's review at [www.markaspen.com/2021/07/19/quartermaines-terms](http://www.markaspen.com/2021/07/19/quartermaines-terms)

Photography by Jessica Warrior

# Mixed Messages – But it's not deterring the BRITS!

TRAVEL NEWS BY Bruce Lyons

The Pandemic is testament to our stubbornness We will NOT be deterred! With all this twisting and turning – Green is Green, Amber is not though most can't really tell the difference. Now you really need a travel agent, at last – as they say "it's all in the detail" – but we can help!

What happened with last week's changes is there are a lot more openings as now much of "Amber" is now a sort of "Green" if you follow my drift and much of Green is now on the so called "Watch List"

How are you meant to understand all that goodness knows? What is clear is, if an adult has two vaccinations, then much of Europe (not the World) is now your Oyster- so to speak.

The protocols may be tricky to navigate and even cost a tad to comply with. But sit yourself down quietly have a good read & you'll find that neither following the rules, or the cost is that exhausting and hey ho! You'll be off to foreign parts in a jiff.

Much of these last months I got the distinct impression that all this muddle was out there to put us off – You don't deserve beaches – European Art, -delicious wines and foreign food – you'll just have to make do with Surfing in Cornwall and fish n chips! – and enjoy – at least you can take the dog! But we Brits are made of sterner stuff, dear Mr Grant Shapps! it just doesn't work that way.

I can now reveal that our "Drop Box" outside our office has been very, very busy all week with people dropping off their test packs. So we know there are plenty travelling! Strangely as it is still "sort of" "Amber, Greece seems the flavour of the week! though I have to admit enquiries are as diverse as peas in a pod.

Prices are also surprising – I must say clients may think that with the Pandemic prices would be depressed and I may have thought the opposite with less Green and "Amber" product around to choose from. Actually, neither is correct- prices are pretty much as usual. Though there is a reduction of choice, with so many countries RED and not on sale at all.

Nevertheless, there are still BARGAINS like the Corfu offer in our advert- £449 next Monday- and yes everything can be organised in the "bat of an eyelid" you'll see. So, Greece (yes!) and Canaries, Portugal- even Balearics, now all Amber and Croatia, Iceland, Malta and Gibraltar as well as BRUNEI (see elsewhere in the Tribune) are all Green but Brunei will not allow you in, the rest are the most popular enquiries! There are also GREEN Caribbean destinations Antigua, Grenada, Turks & Caicos, Bermuda, Barbados great beaches, but most of these are on the Green Watch List!



About Staycations and Seacations they are all pretty busy but not a lot of choice left as UK Breaks are up by as much as 50%. On previous years Seacations have an odd twist as Cruise Boats were told to limit their capacity to more than 50% of previous occupancy and the result is that they have cabins to offer without Single Supplement- so if Cruising is your bag this is the moment. And what's more you will never, ever see such a magnificent flotilla of vessels sailing around the British Isles as there are this year – No time like the present to try cruising for the first time and prices are really reasonable with everything included.

So that this week's news folks – get the suitcase down – dust off the passport (should have 6 months validity) and think of the view from the Taverna with a glass of Ouzo and a plate of Olives AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH Bliss

# WIZ TALES - Brunei

Teresa Read



This week the photographs are of Brunei, on the green travel list.

Brunei (Negara Brunei Darussalam - “Abode of Peace”) is on the island of Borneo in South-eastern Asia. Brunei, a small state, shares Borneo, one of the largest islands in the world, with Malaysia and Indonesia.

Towards the end of the 1880s Brunei became a British Protectorate; administration by a British Resident began in 1906. In 1963 Brunei decided not to join the Federation of Malaysia and remained a British dependency, gaining independence in 1984.

Malay - Bahasa Melayu - is the official language. English is widely spoken.

Since the discovery of major oilfields in Brunei, in the 1920s, oil and gas has dominated Brunei’s economy.



Information and more photographs of Brunei from the Prime Minister’s Office, Negara Brunei Darussalam:

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

Photographs of Borneo (World InfoZone):

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

# St Mary's University

## Tokyo 2020 Olympian Matilda Horn Talks to St Mary's

**We recently caught up with alumna of Sports Rehabilitation at St Mary's University, Twickenham Matilda Horn whilst she was on a pre-Olympic training camp with the Women's Team GB Rowing Team in Italy.**

We spoke to the Tokyo 2020 Olympian about preparing for the Games, her rowing career, her time at St Mary's, and what it means to be a cox.

Missed part one? [Read it now!](#)

St Mary's alumni have had a lot of rowing success in recent years and there are two other Simmies in the GB Rowing Crews with you, there's Moe Sbihi MBE in the men's eight and Karen Bennett in the women's four. Do you ever find you have a special St Mary's connection when you train together?



I remember on my Graduation Day, it was Moe that gave the graduation speech, so that was really strange! My partner's brother had rowed with Moe at London 2012, and then was also the spare rower also at Rio 2016, so they knew each other really well and they kept pushing me to have a photo with Moe when I didn't know him that well. So I've got this photo of me and Moe from 2015, and then I joined the team at the end of 2016, and now we see each other almost daily.

With Karen, she knows this now (but she didn't at the time!), but I always looked up to her because she was a year ahead of me at uni. I actually knew her a little bit before joining the rowing team, but she didn't know me then, and now we also interact daily. We raced together quite a lot in the eight, which has been really, really fun.

Karen rowed in the eight at Rio 2016, taking the Silver by just under a length to the winners America. Who do you think are your biggest competition in

Tokyo?

In the past, it always would have been the Americans; they have always been the crew that stand out in the women's eight, but over this Olympiad it hasn't been the case. Because of the covid situation in the last two years, we really have no idea how fast anyone is from outside Europe. We haven't seen anyone race because they haven't been able to come over, so it's a complete unknown.

The only thing we know is earlier in the year Romania and China were fast. That could all change though, as they were racing at the final Olympic qualification regattas, and the risk for them is that they were competing at their best to secure qualification. So they've already kind of had to peak, and it's a really hard thing to do twice.

But ultimately, it's a complete unknown. Which is really bizarre! It's something I've never experienced before as you always have two or three races leading into the World Championships to see the competition. But this year going into the Olympic Games we've had one race. I imagine anybody could be fast, which also means we could be the fastest!

*"I saw Sonny Bill Williams walk in, and then I had to leave to go training! I just thought, 'oh my God what am I doing!'"*

### **What was your favourite memory of studying at St Mary's?**

I remember one day where the All Blacks Rugby Team came in (and this is an example of where sometimes rowing can get in the way). I had to go rowing, and I saw all the All Blacks come into the rehab room. I saw Sonny Bill Williams walk in, and then I had to leave to go training! I just thought, 'oh my God what am I doing!!'

I think that was probably one of my highlights. Just seeing how big some parts of St Mary's are for sport. I think that it just cemented that, I was right there thinking – 'look at all these people who are here where I study!'

The other thing I remember was when I went to watch the West London Varsity in my third year. I hadn't been able to go to the Varsity before because usually, we'd have a rowing event on the day.

I was really excited. It was away at Brunel that year, so we got on the bus and we went over. I remember

arriving and everybody was singing songs and everybody getting into the spirit. One of my course mates Rachel was a rugby player who was injured so she was telling us about all the girls that were there, and she knew everything about them. I remember that being awesome and really cool to go and watch and to be part of it.

*"I remember being in the gym on the rowing machine, and Mo Farah would be on the cross trainer behind me, and I'd be thinking what is happening!! Then you'd have the All Blacks turning up, and you've got the England rugby team just down the road."*

### **What was your highlight from your Sports Rehabilitation degree?**

We went to the London Marathon, and we worked for the charity Scope. We had a full rehab setup there and did massages for people running for the charity. The thing that stood out to me were the first two women who came in to have their massages. They were a mother and daughter, and it was the mum's first marathon. They came in and they were both absolutely beaming, and they were so excited they'd had the best time having run the London Marathon.

They had both run insane times and I couldn't believe it. I couldn't get my head around the fact that they were still walking and talking. The mum was looking at us and just smiling, she could barely talk, and her daughter was just twittering away saying how amazing it was how proud she was of her mum. I think we gave them a massage and we talked them through what they could do their speed up their recovery. It was my first experience of the London marathon as well, so it was a special day.

### **How did you find balancing your studies around your rowing? Did your academic team support you?**

I was a sports scholar at St Mary's, but I still found it really hard. Sports Rehab is not like the other courses at St Mary's, you must attend at least 90% of your classes so that you can pass the course because it's so practical.

To me, that wasn't a problem because I absolutely loved my course. I absolutely loved being in there, I loved learning about the body, and I loved learning all the little tricks and the things that you could do to just manipulate an injury or just slightly progress the rehabilitation of an injury.

*"I think that was probably one of my highlights. Just seeing how big some parts of St Mary's are for sport. I think that it just cemented that, I was right there thinking – 'look at all these people who are here where I study!"*

Whilst I was writing my dissertation, I was trialling for

the Paralympic team, which was interesting timing. Connor Gissane was my supervisor, and I remember going to him and really panicking and saying, 'I'm not going to get this finished'. He sat me down and helped me prioritise my work and gave me an extension to allow me to compete and get the work completed. I had never been so grateful for his help, it was amazing.

There was also Claire McLaughlin and Clare Gibson, they also were hugely, hugely helpful. They both were just really inspirational, and every single day would make sure I was on top of what I was doing. I had the approach that if I was at uni, I was focussed on doing my uni work, and if I was rowing, I was focused on my rowing. I just had to really compartmentalize those two things.

On top of that, every year we would go on a training camp with my rowing team, and I struggled a little bit financially, but I was given a sports scholarship every year. It was a thousand-pound sports scholarship towards my fees, which was immensely helpful from St Mary's. St Mary's were also incredibly helpful in helping pay for two of the training camps that I went on, it just made my life just so much easier.

*"I think, my biggest piece of advice would be, just use everybody around you because they really care and really enjoy it!"*

### **What advice would you have for someone joining St Mary's this September?**

Just enjoy it as much as you possibly can get the most out of every lecture you go to. Get the most out of the lecturers because they are so willing to help and they care so much about you. Also, just really enjoy the history that St Mary's holds, especially in the sporting side, which is obviously the side I experienced quite a lot.

I remember being in the gym on the rowing machine, and Mo Farah would be on the cross trainer behind me, and I'd be thinking what is happening!! Then you'd have the All Blacks turning up, and you've got the England rugby team just down the road. There is also so much history on campus. I think you should look at where you are and look at the buildings. The chapel building is just stunning.

I think, my biggest piece of advice would be, just use everybody around you because they really care and really enjoy it!



**St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London**

# England to play Tonga in November

England will play Tonga at Twickenham Stadium this November.

The game is one of a trio of Test matches that Eddie Jones' side will host this autumn. England will open against Tonga on Saturday 6 November (3.15pm KO).

They will then play Australia on Saturday 13 November (5.30pm KO) before taking on World Champions South Africa in their final game on Saturday 20 November (3.15pm KO).

England last faced Tonga in the 2019 Rugby World Cup – winning 35-3 in the group stage, on their way to the Final.

Jones said: “This match will continue our rivalry from the World Cup where we had a good, tough game against them.

“They produce a lot of good players and play physical, exciting rugby. It’s a great way to start our autumn internationals.

“This summer it was great to be back playing in front of supporters at Twickenham, the difference it made to the players was enormous.

“With the young squad we had in July, the 13 players who joined up with the Lions and the others who have spent the summer regenerating, we know that it will be a strong, competitive group of players this autumn and it should make for some really exciting Test matches for our supporters.”

In addition to a good will gesture of a donation for the Tonga game, the RFU is working with World Rugby and Tonga Rugby to make coaching and other resource personnel available to Tonga, which they hope will have a dual benefit of providing support to the Tongan team while also offering some good experience for the resource personnel involved.

It's hoped that the reciprocal benefit will extend beyond the tour with some support staff and programmes assistance in Tonga, once the pandemic allows. This is in addition to the high performance financial support provided by World Rugby.

Tickets for the three fixtures go on sale to the rugby family on Wednesday 28 July.

Hospitality packages for the games are on sale now at [www.englandrugby.com/hospitality](http://www.englandrugby.com/hospitality).

Matches are subject to licences being granted by the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames.

The RFU is working closely with Richmond Council and other key stakeholders to ensure the events are as safe as possible for spectators, staff and local residents.



# The challenges in implementing digital change

To deliver digital business change effectively, senior government decision makers need to better understand the business, technical and delivery risks associated with digital programmes, a new report by the National Audit Office (NAO) has found.

Transformation of public services is increasingly led by digitally enabled business change. It is essential that public bodies deliver high quality digital services in a time when our way of life is increasingly digital.

Despite 25 years of government strategies and countless attempts to deliver digital business change successfully, there is a consistent pattern of underperformance. This underperformance is often the result of decision makers fixing on technology solutions before fundamental aspects of projects and programmes are sufficiently thought through.

The NAO found that only a small proportion of senior officials in government have first-hand experience of digital business change and as a result many lack sufficient understanding of the technical and delivery risks for which they are responsible. Many of the problems that occur in large digital operational change programmes stem from senior decision-makers' inability to understand the issues and make the decisions required to implement digital change in an effective way.

Pressures on public finances mean there is an urgent need for those designing and delivering digital business change programmes to learn from past mistakes. Our work shows that there are six vital areas decision-makers need to get right if they are to stand the best chance of delivering these projects successfully:

- understanding aim, ambition and risk;
- engaging commercial partners;
- approach to legacy systems<sup>1</sup> and data;
- using the right mix of capability;
- choice of delivery method;
- and effective funding mechanisms.

The NAO recommends that the Central Digital and Data Office, along with the Government Digital Service and the Cabinet Office, reviews and applies lessons learned from past failures and successes to improve government's delivery of digital programmes. They should revise existing training programmes to better equip decision-makers who are responsible for digital transformation programmes. Individual departments and public bodies should ensure that senior digital, data and technology colleagues have greater influence on digital change programmes.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:

“Whilst digital leaders bring much needed expertise to the public sector, they often struggle to get the understanding and support they need from senior decision-makers, who lack knowledge in this area.

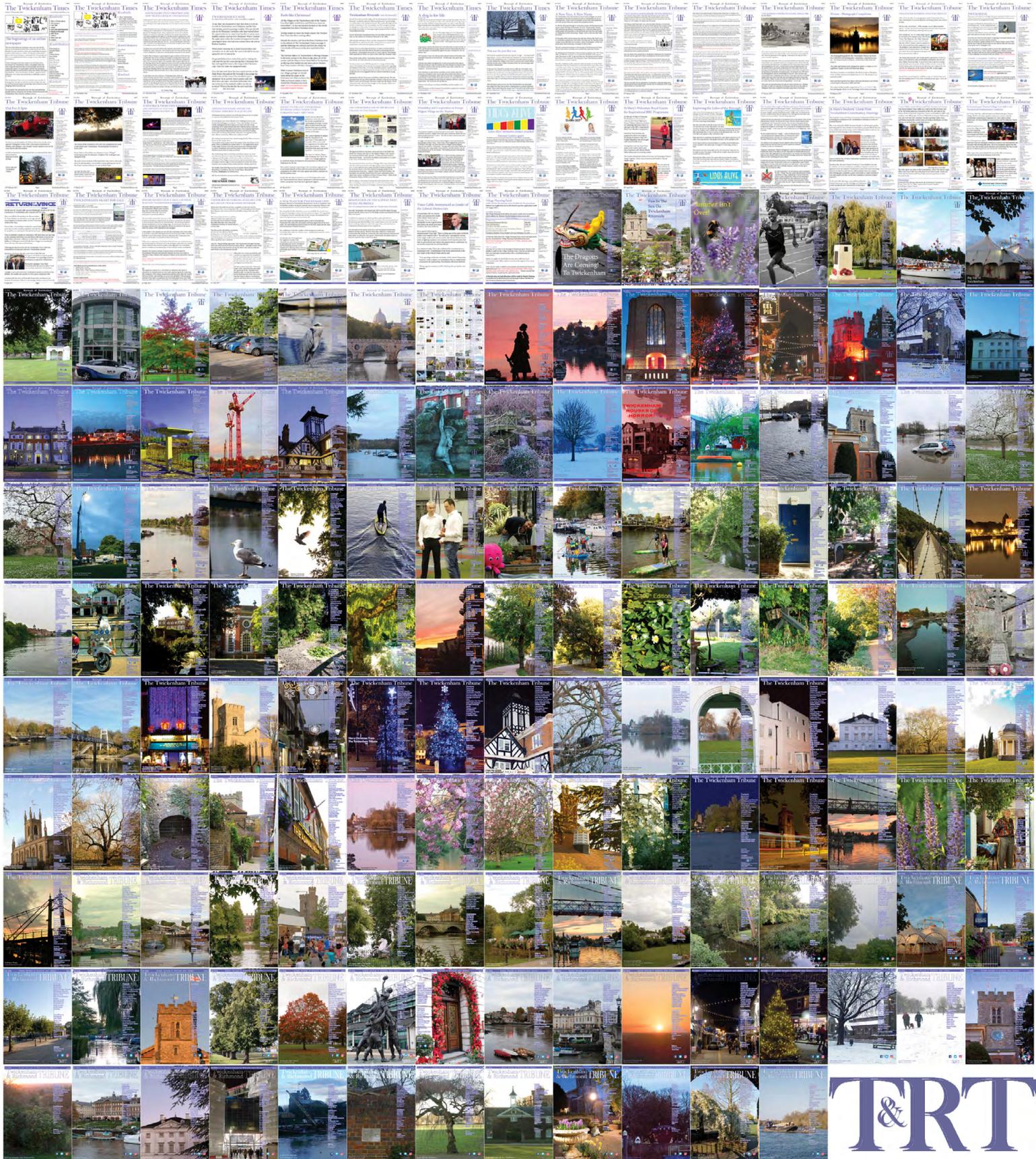
“There has been a consistent pattern of underperformance in delivering digital business change, often resulting from decisions on technology being taken too early, before the business problem is properly understood.

“Government must learn from past experience and better equip senior leaders if it is to improve its track record of delivering digital change.”



Click here for the [full report](#)

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Registered in England & Wales  
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The Twickenham Tribune is registered with the ICO under the Data  
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