

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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Richmond Film Society

LBRUT

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Teresa Read



Diamond Jubilee Gardens, Twickenham

(Remains of Twickenham Lido Diving Board)

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

30<sup>th</sup> July 2021

T&RT

# TickerTape - News in Brief

## 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies

The Boundary Commission for England is the independent organisation responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England.

The current review will conclude with a formal report and recommendations in June 2023.

Consultation is currently open until Monday 2nd August 2021 - please make sure they receive your response by that date at the latest, or it will not be considered. Current proposals will affect Whitton, which will be moved from the Twickenham constituency.

View the BCE website [HERE](#)

## RMT union on four-day strike

A strike by Tube drivers is planned. If it goes ahead, services will be affected on 3, 4, 5, 6 August and 24, 25, 26, 27 August.

This means all Tube lines would run a significantly reduced service at some times and would not run at others. Please complete your journeys by 13:00 on Tuesday 3 and Thursday 5 August. Further information will be available ahead of, and during the strike on the TfL website [HERE](#)

## COVID-19 testing available this August!

People who are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, or have had a positive lateral flow test, are reminded that they can also get tested at the temporary testing centre in Old Deer Park on selected dates this August.

In addition to the drive-in testing centre at Twickenham Stadium and walk-in centre in Teddington, the PCR tests are being offered to anyone with coronavirus symptoms or those who have had a positive lateral flow test. See below for the dates.

Find more information [HERE](#)



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# TwickerSeal

TwickerSeal and his friends arranged a meeting in Diamond Jubilee Gardens to discuss the latest rumours that the people at the Council were planning a housing estate and noisy pub on the

Gardens overlooking their unique view of their river.

TwickerSeal took the chair but wanted to hear what his friends had to say. There were six of them altogether.

TwickerRobin said that he had unobtrusively seen a meeting of the Trust which had been appointed by the Council to make decisions on behalf of all the residents in Twickenham. He had counted the people at the meeting and said there were only twice as many of them as the friends at the Twicker meeting. He hoped they were discussing a consultation on the gardens.

TwickerDragonFly had overheard what was happening and said that this small group would make a decision about the Gardens which would affect all their lives. TwickerDuck said that this was not right as the land was held in trust for all the Twicker Folk and their children.

TwickerFox reminded them of the residents' referendum in 2009 which was run by an important organization called Electoral Reform Services. TwickerSeal remembered that 4,000 Twicker people had a vote and 93.5% of those who voted were against housing on their beautiful spot on the Thames. TwickerMole reminded his friends that the voters donated the money to pay for this referendum which was £1 for each person. TwickerMole said this donation was completely spontaneous and showed how much the TwickerFolk loved their Riverside.

**The Twicker friends agreed that this had been the most momentous consultation that they had heard about - and it was completely independent and run like a real election with people receiving voting forms in the post that they had to return in the post themselves. The friends agreed that there had never been anything like it in Twickenham, a real opportunity to have a say and a real show of support for the Twicker Friends' home.**



# COVID-19

Teresa Read

## World Health Organization

The global number of new cases reported last week (19-25 July 2021) was over 3.8 million, an 8% increase as compared to the previous week. An average of around 540 000 cases were reported each day over the past week as compared to 490 000 cases reported daily the week before. This increasing trend is largely attributed to substantial increases in the Region of the Americas and the Western Pacific Region. The number of deaths reported this week increased sharply with over 69 000 deaths, a 21% increase when compared to the previous week. The cumulative number of cases and deaths reported globally is almost 194 million and over 4 million respectively. If these trends continue, it is expected that the cumulative number of cases reported globally could exceed 200 million in the next two weeks.

## NEWS

### **New CDC data raises stakes on COVID**

Apple News, 30 July

Vaccinated people can spread the Delta variant of the coronavirus, new CDC research shows. The findings underscore the need both for prevention measures, such as mask-wearing, and widespread inoculations. The shots remain the best defence against severe illness and death



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**MAKE SURE YOU  
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**[nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19)**

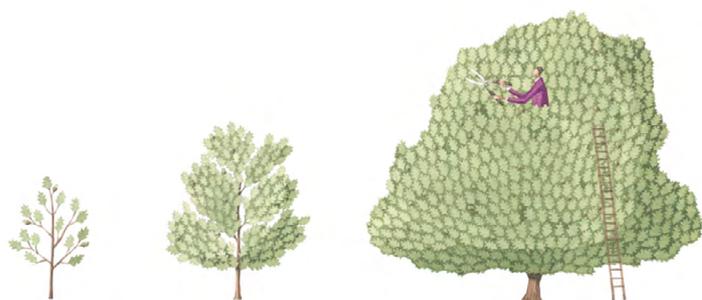
## Total cases to 30 July 2021:

14,596 Richmond upon Thames  
15,231 Kingston upon Thames  
29,662 Hounslow

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

Deaths Worldwide 4,200,412

USA	607,095	Romania	34,278
Brazil	553,179	Ecuador	31,454
India	423,217	Czechia	30,363
Mexico	239,616	Hungary	30,026
Peru	196,138	Philippines	27,577
Russian Federation	157,771	Canada	26,570
The United Kingdom	129,515	Belgium	25,235
Italy	128,029	Pakistan	23,209
Colombia	119,801	Bangladesh	20,267
France	110,746	Tunisia	19,336
Argentina	104,822	Iraq	18,533
Indonesia	92,311	Bulgaria	18,208
Germany	91,637	Netherlands	17,815
Iran	90,074	Bolivia	17,754
Spain	81,442	Portugal	17,330
Poland	75,259	Egypt	16,507
South Africa	71,431	Japan	15,173
Ukraine	52,930	Paraguay	14,820
Turkey	51,184	Sweden	14,656
Chile	35,295	Greece	12,935



### **The Tree Agency**

darryl parkin

The Treehouse  
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www.thetreeagency.co.uk



*The Tree Agency*

# Twickenham Museum

By Simon Fowler

Twickenham Museum reopens on 31 July. It can be found in an old waterman's cottage built about 1720 in the heart of the old village, close to St Mary's Church and the Riverside. The cottage has long associations with the Hammerton family of ferrymen.

The Museum celebrates the twentieth anniversary of its opening in December, although the idea for such an institution was first raised in 1986. Unlike the Museum of Richmond, which covers the Surrey side of the Borough (see issue 236), it is entirely run by volunteers.

The Museum tells the story of the people who lived in the town and the Middlesex side, including the Hamptons, Teddington and Whitton.

Visitors are greeted by a tableau recreating one of Professor Cockles' diving exploits. For decades the Professor – really George Wiltshire - entertained crowds by The Embankment with a range of hairbrained exploits using homemade diving equipment often from scrap metal. Such as helmets from coal scuttles and fire buckets. Underwater fireworks anyone?

On the first floor (beware the steep staircase) are a variety of miscellaneous exhibits, such as a collection of tobacco pipes, a war memorial rescued from the old Queens Road Methodist Church listing parishioners who lost their lives during the First World War. And look out for the sign from an old bookshop that closed in the 1970s., and a very detailed model of Hampton Court Palace. It is also where temporary exhibitions are held.

The Ministry of Defence has recently donated to the Museum the only surviving fragment of the foundation stone at Kneller Hall, showing the date 1709, when construction began on the building. The Hall was built by Sir Godfrey Kneller, the most eminent painter of his day. From the 1850s it housed the Royal Military School of Music, although apart from the foundation stone, the building was extensively rebuilt between 1847 and 1850. The School has recently closed and the site will largely be redeveloped for housing.



The Museum will initially be open twice a week on Sundays and Saturday afternoons, as it depends on volunteers. Indeed, if you can volunteer you will be welcomed with open arms.

Even if you can't pop in the Museum's impressive website offers a history of Twickenham and the surrounding areas and the people who have lived here for nearly a thousand years. There are short biographies of many local eminences and the notable current and former buildings, such as the Fulwell Depot and Normansfield Hospital.

Twickenham Museum, 25 The Embankment, Twickenham TW1 3DU, 020-8408 0070, [www.twickenham-museum.org.uk](http://www.twickenham-museum.org.uk). The Museum is currently open Saturdays from 1 - 3 pm and Sundays from 2 - 4 pm. Admission is free. There is a small shop selling cards and local history books.

# Mayor of London refuses larger Mortlake Brewery scheme

Richmond Council has welcomed the Mayor of London's decision to refuse the revised Planning Application A for the Mortlake Brewery site at a planning hearing at City Hall on Tuesday.

The Mayor cited inadequate levels and type of affordable housing, and the unacceptable impacts the additional height and massing would have on the historic buildings, important riverside views and neighbouring residents.

Describing it as a finely balanced case, the Mayor said that the public benefits offered within this GLA negotiated scheme would not clearly outweigh the "harm" of the proposal. Whilst acknowledging the challenge the site faces in meeting Council, GLA and community requirements, the Mayor suggested a review of the approach to the site might be needed to ensure the affordable housing aspirations of the London Plan are delivered.

Recognising that the school proposal was intrinsically linked to Application A and the re-provision of open space, the Mayor also refused the application for the school. Delays to the delivery of this much-needed school became sadly inevitable following the Mayor's call-in and have left local families anxious about future secondary school places in their community. However, the Council is glad that the need for the school, and its layout and design, have been accepted.

Cllr Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment & Sustainability Committee for Richmond Council, said:

*"We will need to see the written decision when it is provided and carefully check its content but subject to that, I welcome much of today's long-awaited decision. Providing affordable housing is as much a priority for the Council as it is for the Mayor of London and identifying suitable large-scale sites in Richmond upon Thames is a challenge. When sites come forward we work hard to ensure that they deliver as much genuinely affordable housing as possible, responding to the need in the borough, without negatively impacting the local area in terms of density or height. It is an important balance.*

*"As requested by the Mayor, the developer amended the proposals that were approved by Richmond Council, increasing the amount of affordable housing. In order to do this, they increased the height and the density of the development.*

*"Despite retaining some positive elements, such as the much-needed secondary school, we felt that the revised scheme crossed the line of acceptability. The amended design would have a detrimental physical impact on the local area, and as the Mayor pointed out, would overwhelm heritage buildings and adversely affect the arcadian and open character of the area."*



# What's in a Name You Might Ask?

By Teresa Read

There has been an Ask Italian restaurant on the Staines Road side of Twickenham Green for many years. Long-term residents will remember when it sold take-away pasta dishes as well as pizza.

An updated version of the restaurant with new decor and logo has been on the site for some years but that closed months ago.

It seems that another Italian restaurant will open on the site soon but residents might be bemused at the sudden change of name and signage.

The sign heralded Loganda Luna a week or so ago but before opening the restaurant has unexpectedly changed its name to Da Alfredo

And some local history from Google (and local residents):

*Before the restaurant became ASK it was called "Orange Balloon".*

November 21, 1997

"The first restaurant in a new chain has opened in Tonbridge, Kent, set up by TV chef Brian Turner and Jebcorp Trading.



Rotherham group Barnes Design created the identity for Orange Balloon, and London group Chameleon designed the interiors. A second restaurant is planned for Twickenham.

"I want the restaurant to operate as a brasserie at lunch time and to be slightly more upmarket in the evening, so people returning from the City won't feel out of place," says Jebcorp Trading managing director Jerry Brand.

## Have your say on the future of the Pools on the Park Health Suite

Pools on the Park forms part of the Council's Sports and Fitness Centres and includes an indoor pool, teaching pool, outdoor pool, gym, group exercise studios and Health Suite.

The Health Suite at Pools on the Park has historically been available for use by both members and paying non-members attending the facilities.

The Health Suite has had ongoing repairs over the last few years to the sauna, steam room and spa bath. However, more recent works have identified that the facilities have all now reached the end of the natural life and are no longer viable for repair.

The Council would like to hear users and non-users views of the Health Suite and the future options for this area.

Two options are being considered for the Health Suite. The first option is to replace the existing Health Suite with new environmentally sustainable facilities and to maintain the area as a Health Suite facility. The second option is to replace the Health Suite with a multi-purpose group exercise space.

Have your say [HERE](#). The deadline is Friday 27 August 2021.

# Destruction of the wildlife corridor at the “Back lands” plot of land behind 16-24 Hampton Road, and 3-4 First Cross Road

## Statement from the Friends of Twickenham Green Environment Officer:

As some of you may be aware the above plot of private land, currently accessed beside 24 Hampton Road, was formerly owned by Fullers Brewery. This land is within the Twickenham Green Conservation Area, and thus monitored by The Friends, who have a duty to protect and preserve. It has been left undeveloped, and undisturbed for many years, and has become a haven for wild life as part of the wild life corridor that runs behind First Cross Road, and Second Cross Road. It is home to diverse species, including bats, hedgehogs, nesting birds, frogs and newts, and extensive insects and invertebrates. Members of the Friends have been undertaking monthly wild life surveys to record the diversity of species. Parks have managed to list a particularly fine eucalyptus tree as worthy of a tree preservation order.

Fullers owned 24 Hampton Road, the block of flats beside The Albert, and this was recently sold, along with the vacant land, by Fullers, via a local estate agent. The estate agent stressed the development potential of the vacant land. We have now identified the new owner.



On Saturday morning (24/07/21), the new owner ordered contractors to clear all the shrubs and ground cover, whilst leaving the trees intact for the time being. The loss of the shrubs will have a significant negative impact on the extensive wild life in the back land. The Police were called, as damaging nesting birds is a criminal offence. We understand they did attend, but have heard nothing further. In an act of environmental vandalism, the habitats have now been destroyed. All bushes, shrubs and ground cover have been removed.

Problems exist in that the creation of a conservation area seems to have little to do with protecting wild life and habitats, and is principally concerned with protecting buildings.

We now need to consider our next steps. If you are a resident of West Ward, could you please contact your local councillors, and ask them what they can do to protect this, and other, unique local habitats: -

Cllr. Piers Allen, Lib Dem, West Ward. [Cllr.P.Allen@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.P.Allen@richmond.gov.uk)

Cllr. Alan Juriansz, Lib Dem, West Ward. [Cllr.A.Juriansz@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.A.Juriansz@richmond.gov.uk)

Cllr. Helen Lee-Parson, Lib Dem, West Ward. [Cllr.H.Lee-Parsons@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.H.Lee-Parsons@richmond.gov.uk)

If you are not a West Ward resident then could you please contact your local councillors, whose contact details can be found on the [Richmond.gov.uk](http://Richmond.gov.uk) [website](#).

We would request that people please respect the privacy of the private tenants residing at 24 Hampton Road.

View the Friends of Twickenham Green statement and website [HERE](#)

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Good accommodation is always at a premium in Kalamí, 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 Kalamí, no more than a minute or two's walk (c 100m) down to the beach and village.

The studios are open-plan, and all boast panoramic views over the pool area to the sea and Albania beyond. While the apartments offer either a side sea view or a full sea view with excellent balcony privacy. All are spacious and neatly furnished, with an air-conditioned twin bedroom; a kitchen area with 3-ring mini-oven and fridge; a bathroom with walk-in shower and a hairdryer; and of course, a generous covered balcony.

A stay here, at Kalamí Bay, can be as relaxed as you desire. If you do not move from the freshwater pool, other than to buy your fresh pastries for breakfast and your evening meal, you will have a wonderful week. If you venture further afield you will discover for yourself the charm and diverse attractions of Corfu.

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Dear Sir,

### E-scooter Dangers.

Mr. Tim Lennon's sarcastic letters are unhelpful; his oversimple statement that a small object is less of a risk than a large one is dangerously misleading. Safety is not dependent purely on size.

One only has to look up to see machines weighing hundreds of tons travelling at up to 600 mph in perfect safety. I know that's true because I've flown them for 31 years.

In contrast, an E-scooter and rider, even if weighing well under the 105 kgs which he quotes, can cause life-changing injury as has recently happened to children in Feltham and Lambeth. Of course, unlike scooters, aircraft are operated by highly trained, skillful experts operating under strict rules and within the law.

Principles of physics and mechanics have been well established by scientists such as Isaac Newton and have no need of data to prove them (Linear & angular momentum, stability, gyroscopic effects, precession, counter-steering, high centre of mass, moment arms of handlebars, etc.) Pilots have to know all this. Scooter riders don't.

This report by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers says much. Note the reference to the high centre of gravity when braking (or hitting kerbs or potholes):

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0954407021992176>

*'The analysis has shown that the current e-scooter designs are not as stable as the reference safety bicycle. Moreover, these e-scooters have been found unstable within the most common range of legislated riding velocity. The results corroborate with the general perception that the current designs of e-scooters are less stable, easy to lose control, twitchy, or wobbly to ride. Furthermore, **the standing posture of the rider on the e-scooter has been found dangerous while braking** to avoid any disturbances such as potholes or obstacles.'*

Mr. Lennon quoted the numbers of deaths on our roads. But few of those are true accidents in that many are caused by human carelessness, lack of training, and disregard of the law.

[www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/transportation/sd-me-dockless-scooter-lawsuits-20181105-story.html](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/transportation/sd-me-dockless-scooter-lawsuits-20181105-story.html)

I do not, as he says, 'struggle with where the danger is coming from' because I know that it comes from the cavalier attitude of many scooter riders and the lack of law enforcement.

His sarcastic statement about me: 'If he genuinely cares about the safety of this country's citizens...' is offensive. I wonder whether he has spent, as I have, 17 years as a Special Constable putting himself in danger trying to keep the people of this country safe, including restraining extremely violent passengers on-board two long-haul flights which I was piloting. In fact, the present lack of police means that the need for police officers is even greater now – if only to ensure that scooter riders do not go around crashing into people or killing themselves.

Perhaps he'd like to volunteer?

Michael Jay, Richmond.

To the Editor, Twickenham and Richmond Tribune

### **E-scooters (again)**

I guess I am not alone in my amazement at reading in these pages the over-stated arguments in favour of e-scooters and the current trial in Richmond Borough. I refer of course to correspondence from London Cycling Campaign's Richmond Borough Coordinator, Tim Lennon.

Last week Mr Lennon wrote that surely even Mr Jay, the writer whose views he generally disagrees with, can see that any journey made by e-scooter which was previously in a car is likely to be a positive thing. Surely Mr Lennon can see that it is not.

Are journeys on the public roads riding illegal e-scooters a positive thing? And e-scooters driven on public footpaths – are they a positive thing? Then there are the illegal machines with 5600W electric motors and capable of speeds over 50 mph.

There is a more fundamental question - whether the riders of e-scooters are really making journeys they would have otherwise made by car?

Promo material from several suppliers describes the 'adrenaline-packed' fun sought by owners of e-scooters. The demographic of riders of e-scooters does not seem to fit Mr Lennon's perception that they would otherwise be driving cars and there are practical considerations that can't be ignored either.

According to Richmond Council, the aim of the current trial is to test the viability and safety of e-scooters as part of a long-term solution to air quality and congestion issues across London. Unfortunately the Council approved this trial without full regard for very real safety risks pointed out by the RNIB and others. Not everyone can see and hear these silent machines approaching and their riders will often not be aware either that people ahead are blind or partially sighted.

It was a case of Richmond Council putting the cart before the horse, apparently prioritising a supposed reduction in car use and pollution at the expense of personal safety. They should have properly considered and resolved the conflict between e-scooters and disabled pedestrians before authorising this trial. Not passing the buck on to Transport for London.

Mortality data, 2007 to 2015, as quoted by Mr Lennon last week, were not helpful in informing the public about the comparative dangers to pedestrians from pedal cycles, motorcycles and other motor vehicles. These ONS figures he highlighted took no account of far, far higher mileages by motor vehicle in comparison with cycle traffic. The statistics he quoted simply do not support his case and it is very misleading to suggest that they did.

So let's get away from the Orwellian view of two wheels good, four wheels bad and take a more realistic view of the benefits and dangers posed by e-scooters, both privately owned and the hired ones that Richmond Council have invited onto our streets.

Yours sincerely

Mac McNerny  
Heatham Alliance community group  
Twickenham

To the Editor,

### **Twickenham Riverside**

Having alerted the readership of the Tribune to the height of the block of flats that the Council is planning to build on Twickenham Riverside I had intended to retreat from the discussion.

However, I can't allow Deon Lombard's comments to pass without pointing out to him that he is mistaken in so many of his statements. How do I know? Because I actually looked at Hopkins' plans for Twickenham Riverside!

Maybe the final design will remove a storey from each building but at the moment the 4-storey block of flats on Water Lane is higher than the King Street buildings and the Wharf Lane building is even higher than the Water Lane building, by an extra storey! In fact, it is very much higher than the adjacent Thames Eyot, the Embankment conservation area, Eel Pie Island and the town centre itself (excluding the Station development).

People living in the private penthouse suites will have an uninterrupted view for miles around. The residents of the Borough only have to look at the plans on the Council website to judge for themselves.

Mr Lombard needs to understand that we are talking about a very rare riverside site – not a site in a built-up town centre. He claims that it is right that a five-storey block of private luxury flats of the “right scale and size befitting a town centre building” should be built on Twickenham Riverside on what is currently Public Open Space, namely the Diamond Jubilee Gardens. This is the sort of remark that only sits comfortably with architects, developers and cash-strapped Councils.

The residents of the Borough may well feel differently.

Best wishes,

A 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.*

*The Tribune prefers letters to include the writer's name, but will publish anonymously provided details are supplied.*

# MARBLE HILL HOUSE

# ARTS IN THE PARK

FROM 2-3PM, OVAL LAWN (RIVER SIDE OF HOUSE)

**Jazz with Perrin Jazz Collective**

Sun 1 Aug

**Lovekyn Trio**

Sun 8 Aug

**Balkinta Tango Trio**

Sun 15 Aug

**Bollywood Dancing**

Sun 22 Aug

**Richmond Shakespeare Society**

Sun 29 Aug

**Richmond Live Celebrates Music**

Sun 5 Sep

**Richmond Live Celebrates Dance**

Sun 12 Sep

**Richmond Live Celebrates Theatre**

Sun 19 Sep



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Search 'Marble Hill House Events' for more information



**ENGLISH HERITAGE**

*Step into England's story*

# Carriage rides begin at Bushy Park this weekend

Make the most of our great British summer with a glorious carriage ride in Bushy Park on weekends during the month of August.

The Royal Parks Shires will be put to a stunning Charabanc, evoking memories of times gone by with their horse-drawn carriage rides operating in Bushy Park throughout the month of August.

Rides last 30 minutes and start and finish on Chestnut Avenue, between The Pheasantry Cafe and the main car park.

It's also for a good cause with all proceeds from the rides helping to enable the Shire horses to undertake conservation work in winter, making Bushy Park even greener.

Tickets cost just £11 with the carriage rides in operation from this Saturday 31 July 2021 to Monday 30 August 2021 on weekends only.



Book tickets [HERE](#)

## Sign up for RSBP's online talk: an osprey in a shopping bag with Alasdair McKee

Alasdair McKee of the RSPB and Cumbria Wildlife Trust works closely with ospreys in south Cumbria and will share his experience and findings at this online talk on Wednesday 4 August.

Alasdair will be talking about how this most charismatic bird of prey has returned from extinction in England in the last twenty years, and also updating viewers on how the regular pair at Foulshaw Moss has fared in 2021.

This entertaining talk will introduce you to these remarkable birds and tell the story of a remarkable conservation comeback in Cumbria and beyond.

The event begins at 7.30pm. Tickets are free for Richmond and Twickenham Local Group members and a suggested donation of £5 for non-members.

For more information email [claremillion@gmail.com](mailto:claremillion@gmail.com) or visit the [website](#).



# Spot The Fake (6)

by Mac McInerny, Heatham Alliance community group  
and Neighbourhood Watch



You receive a phone call –

“This is your broadband provider calling. How are you today? Are you the account holder? Please will you confirm the exact name on this account?”

“Please can you confirm the memorable word for your account?”

“Sorry, please would you confirm instead the first line of your address and your postcode.”

“And please confirm your email address and your date of birth.”

TRUE OR FAKE?

Well, Virgin Media confirm that they do ask these questions to check that you are indeed the account holder and to help you to work out if you’re talking to the person they say they are.

But a fraudster could phone and ask you the same questions to find out your full name, your address and postcode, your email address and date of birth. Easy, isn’t it!

So, you need to be absolutely sure you are talking to a genuine representative of the company before you answer any questions that might give away personal information.

STAY SAFE FROM FRAUD

## PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE HABITATS

There has recently been clearance of land which is partially within sight of Twickenham Green / First Cross Road.

Commenting on concern for wildlife which may have been affected in this part of the Twickenham conservation area West Twickenham councillor Piers Allen is reported to have said that conservation areas are restricted to buildings and trees and not to habitats.

However, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 is legislation which protects animals, plants and habitats in the UK.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/wildlife-and-the-law/wildlife-and-countryside-act/>

For example, it is an offence to *“Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.”*

Penalties include unlimited fines and up to six months imprisonment.

# Hampton North Ward News

Councillors Geoffrey Samuel and Kate Howard

## THE WHITE HOUSE

Disappointing news. The Council took back the Lease and reached provisional agreement with the YMCA until the end of August with the aim of agreeing a 25-year lease thereafter. In all of this we supported the Council. Although HOTCA managed The White House very well in its early days it began to falter and we brought in the YMCA to manage it. They provided an excellent range of classes, courses and activities as well as a thriving café – but made a huge loss. HOTCA declined to accept the compromises needed to retain the YMCA and eventually surrendered the Lease. We were therefore delighted by the news that this Council was bringing back the YMCA. But now there is no 25-year Lease and only a one-year provisional extension but without the return of most of the popular activities nor any of the new ideas put forward by residents. This is a real blow to the local community.

## TURING HOUSE SCHOOL

A successful visit when we met the Headmaster and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Governors. The aim is to move to the purpose-built school on its new site next February. The admissions policy gives preference to pupils from Hampton, Teddington and the west of Twickenham. The school is not able to run a dedicated school bus for us but will rely on the 111bus which will take pupils to within a few minutes of the school. It is essential that this service is adequate and we have engaged Nick Rogers, our new GLA member, in adding to pressure on TfL to provide a service good enough for pupils from our ward.

## SURVEY

The last batch of returns did not affect the figures quoted in our last Newsletter and we therefore declare them final. We shall address all the issues raised with us by those who completed the Survey

## OUR QUESTIONS

At the July Council meeting we raised the refuse service [see below] and are awaiting written answers to questions on e-scooters, the Dean Road/Longford Close bridge and charging points on estates. We shall report on these in the September issue

## HAMPTON COMMON PITCH

Local residents have sent us some detailed objections which we have endorsed in our communication with the Council. The issue of goalposts has not been resolved. We were assured that they would be in place only during matches so that the area could be generally available at all other times. Indeed this was indicated in original briefings from the Council. But now it appears that this is not the case. That alters our position and needs to be clarified before any further progress is made.

## WASTE AND RECYCLING

We continue to receive complaints about missed collections, failure to honour the promise for catch-up collections within two days and the state of the recycling centres. Matters have been made worse by the closing of the Townmead centre and its only partial re-opening. We have been promised more frequent collections from our local recycling centres. We have come to the view that the present Contractor is not capable of delivering the quality of service which our residents expect and said so at the last Council meeting. The Council does not agree! We shall continue to support dissatisfied local people.

## VERGES AND OPEN SPACES

Also a source of concern to many residents who were not consulted about this major change. We understand that some residents are now mowing their own verges. As we would expect! Some residents have suggested to us an acceptable compromise called NoMay. This approach [i.e., no mowing in the key season of May but normal in other months] promotes biodiversity whilst largely retaining the usual appearance of verges and open spaces. What do you think?

## SHORTER ITEMS

- **All Saints Church** hopes to begin work on its new Hall and associated houses in the New Year and now has a Project Manager
- Residents in **Hawthorn Close** are still badly inconvenienced by selfish parking by school parents who even ignore the double yellow lines: we will be urging Buckingham School to help by warning its parents
- At our request the Council will be patching the damaged **Tangley Park Road** – but will patching be enough?
- We are asking for improvements to street cleaning in **Gloxinia Walk**
- We are disappointed that the Council has done a poor job of a pavement repair in **Kingswood Avenue**
- We are following up a number of worrying reports about e-scooters in places such as **Ringwood Way** and **The Avenue**. Local people have been shocked by the death on an e-scooter in Heath Road, Twickenham of a popular shop-keeper in Church Street Twickenham
- We have reported to the Council those places where flooding was at its worst during recent storms.

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

# Did We Miss A Communication from Our Council?

## Richmond Council Help Retweeted

Jul 27

Due to a number of collection crews having to self-isolate, all garden waste collections have been suspended until Friday 30 July so we can prioritise household and food waste collections.



On 30 July and Green Bins waited to be emptied in Twickenham and Teddington, etc.

It was noticed that the Council said that there would not be green bin collections in Richmond this week. Does this mean the London Borough of Richmond or Richmond, the town? What about the other towns/villages??

## The LBRUT Website

Stated on 30 July:

“Garden waste collections will continue to be suspended from Monday 2 to Friday 6 August 2021. This is due to a number of the collection crews having to self-isolate, so we do not have enough staff to continue all collections streams. Logistically we have had to make the decision to prioritise household waste/food collections followed by blue and black box recycling collections.”



Does this mean that those expecting a collection on 30 July now have to wait until the week after next or do we leave our bins out over the weekend?

*The council website currently states:*

*All garden waste collections are suspended from Monday 2 to Friday 6 August 2021*

*Black box collections have not been made in a number of roads in Whitton and Twickenham*

*Blue box collections have not been made in a number of roads in Hampton*

## Kew

### **Kew Village Market**

Don't let August catch you on the hop – the next Kew Village Market is this **Sunday 1st August (10am – 2pm)** with lots of ways to make summertime living both easy and delicious. There'll be around 35 independent traders selling the very best food – lots of it perfect for picnics and takeaways, such as Carolyn Dawson's savoury tarts and seasonal salads and the delicious deli choices from Thee Olive Tree.

Of course, there'll be live music in our sunshine-yellow marquee with big band oomph from The St Margarets Elastic Band followed by warm-hearted rock from David Sinclair Four.

## Marble Hill

### **Marble Hill: Celebrities and Beer throughout the years!**

Step back in time with local historian Alan Winter and discover his fascinating postcard collection, all from the comfort of your own home. Through Alan's collection, enjoy a virtual journey to Marble Hill's closest pubs and discover more about their past and the intriguing celebrities that visited them - you'll be surprised how many there are!

This talk will be hosted via Zoom. Please note that booking for this event will close 24 hours in advance.

DATE: **Tue 3 Aug 2021** TIME: 6-7pm LOCATION: Marble Hill House

Find more information and booking [HERE](#)

## Teddington

### **Udney Park Playing Fields latest: estate agent rebuked by Council for misleading sales brochure**

Richmond Council have issued a sharp rebuke to Savills estate agents for publishing a misleading sales brochure highlighting the "development and investment potential" of the Udney Park Playing Fields in Teddington, particularly its car park and pavilion facilities.

In an open letter to Savills, Paul Chadwick, Richmond's Director of Environment and Community Services, writes, "Your suggestion that partial development of the wider property may be justifiable is unrealistic, to say the least." He also complains of a lack of engagement prior to, and since, the publication of the company's current marketing details, so "I have therefore chosen to write to you as a matter of public record."

Read more at the Teddington Society website [HERE](#)

# Twickers Foodie – By Alison Jee

## SUMMER DRINKS, HARD SELTZERS ETC – JUST A FLASH IN THE CAN?

Unless you're a Millennial, or share a house with one, it's quite likely that you haven't heard of hard seltzers. But this new drinks category has enjoyed a staggering 600 per cent uplift in sales in the past two years and is now estimated to be worth over £4 billion!

So what exactly is a hard seltzer? Well, it's alcoholic sparkling water (usually with fruit juice or juices added). They made their way over to the UK from the US, where they are big business. They tend to be lower calorie than your average alcoholic drink and often have added herbs or minerals for 'health' reasons as well as palatability. They have a low-ish ABV, are usually low calorie and often low sugar, gluten-free, or with no added sweeteners (though not all). The manufacturers use an array of different alcohol bases – from gin and vodka to fermented fruit and cane sugar, or a neutral grain spirit, and even white rum.

With a summer of outdoor gatherings and the fact that they tend to come in pre-mixed single serve cans, they're proving very popular, so I've checked out a few for you:

**Whisp** is a seltzer with added milk thistle (the detox hero) that apparently helps tackle inflammation and supports a healthy liver. It's available in two refreshing flavours: Whisp **Cucumber & Mint** and, Whisp **Raspberry & Elderflower**. The former was my favourite. Enjoy at home poured over ice and garnished, or 'on-the-go', Whisp can be enjoyed straight from the can (RRP £2.50 each / four for £10 from [whispdrinks.co.uk](http://whispdrinks.co.uk))



Another is **SENTZ** and this has added minerals – calcium, magnesium and potassium. It's just 92 calories a can and comes in three flavours: **Sweet Melon & Mint**, **Tangy Raspberry & Lime** or **Spiced Orange & Ginger**. These flavours give you the choice of a range of taste palates from sweet to spicy (I liked the spicy one best). It has no artificial flavourings, artificial sweeteners or artificial colourings and has a 4% alcohol fermented fruit base with fruits 'of provenance',

along with British sparkling spring water from the Cotswolds. The full SENTZ range is available online at [SENTZ.co.uk](http://SENTZ.co.uk) at £2.50 per can or 12x330ml for £25.95.

**Long Shot** is an award-winning take on the craze. Using all-natural fruit juices and a neutral grain spirit, Long Shot offers a 'lighter, cleaner' way to drink – all are under 70 calories and come in three different flavours: Grapefruit (my favourite) Strawberry & Rhubarb and Raspberry & Blackcurrant. Long Shot is 4% ABV, Gluten Free, suitable for vegans, low sugar, less than 70 calories per can, and keto friendly. £26.50 for 12 from [longshotdrinks.co.uk](http://longshotdrinks.co.uk) and Not on the High Street. Mixed cases also available



And last, but by no means least of the ones I've tried, is **Berczy**. At just 75 calories a can, there are three tasty and fruity flavours in the range, all made using fresh fruit and real ingredients. Choose from zingy Lemon & Lime, fruity Peach & Raspberry or tropical Passion fruit & Turmeric (surprisingly my favourite, as I thought I'd like Lemon & Lime best) £2.30 for a 250ml can and available from Planet Organic stores, [berczydrinks.com](http://berczydrinks.com) and Amazon.



To sum up though, these are all very pleasant and refreshing drinks, but you aren't aware of the alcohol content in the taste of the drinks. So, for that reason, and for the life of me, I don't really see the point of them! If I want an alcoholic drink I will have one, and there are some lovely premixed, refreshing cocktails available, such as this one from **Conker gin**. The company takes its **Dorset Dry Gin** and blends it with Hill Farm Apple & Elderflower juice and finishes it with a spritz of bubbles. It's fabulous, just 5% alcohol by volume and a great addition to a summer picnic. No added sweeteners, flavourings or preservations and what's more, the four pack 'biocane' rings are made from a special compostable material, so if wrongly disposed of, they won't harm wildlife. Just under £3 a can from [conkerspirit.co.uk](http://conkerspirit.co.uk) or [masterofmalt.com](http://masterofmalt.com) and when you compare it to the price of a cocktail in a bar, a bargain!

Now, I'm not generally a fan of beer, but I really like this refreshing, low alcohol, low calorie drink that's a lovely summer thirst-quencher from **Stiegl**. Produced by combining **Stiegl's Goldbräu** lager with fresh grapefruit juice, this naturally cloudy Radler-style beer contains just 2% alcohol by volume. It is available in a 500ml can in Sainsburys, priced at £2.00. It's a great one for some sun-drenched summer sipping.



There are loads of other premixed drinks and cocktails available in supermarkets and other retailers and, of course, lots of other brands of hard seltzers but those are the ones I've tasted and rate.

If you crave the flavour of a ready made cocktail. And want to avoid alcohol altogether, have a look at **Crave Drinks**. This is a range of healthy energy drinks with flavours based on popular cocktails. A blend of natural and functional ingredients help you stay energized and support your immune system. Zero sugar, zero artificial flavourings or sweeteners, they're also gluten free and vegan friendly, but these are only 10 calories per 250ml can! They're available in Mint & Lime (Mojito, my favourite of the three), Passionfruit & Vanilla (Pornstar Martini) and Pineapple & Coconut (Piña Colada). A trial pack of three is £5 and packs of 12 and 24 are £17 and £29 respectively from [cravedrinks.com](http://cravedrinks.com)



Cheers, here's to some better summer weather!



## How to Spot an Alien

by Georgia Christou

The Questors, at the Judy Dench Playhouse, Ealing until 31<sup>st</sup> July

Something awfully strange is happening in Ealing. I mean something really scary! Your reviewer thought she had better check it out. So I took along my daughter who, at five - bless her timid little heart - hates even mild peril on screen. I wasn't sure if she'd make it through, especially when our protagonists, Jonjo and Jelly - played with charm and enthusiasm by Sara Page and Emily Sanctuary - warned that there was no guarantee of a happy ending. The spell cast by Jelly and Jonjo's aunt Liena (played with twittering menace by Lisa Varty) was however just unsettling enough.



Despite a few "watching through her fingers" moments, my daughter was entranced enough by the show, and the very reasonably priced Smarties stocked behind the Questors Theatre bar, to stay for the full fifty minutes without an interval that the show runs.

The set and costume design by Carla Marker and Sarah Andrews draw from a striking palette of crayon-box colours that lends an otherworldly

atmosphere to the stage. But it is director Shaan Latif-Shaikh's background in puppeteering that truly brings the magic. The cast of characters is impressive in its breadth, from salt-of-the-galaxy space van driver Rennie, brought to life by William Connor and Lucy Aley-Parker working in glorious tandem - to the towering antagonist, via a supporting cast of alien species and beautiful space voyage sequence.

I do wish that the final beat of the play had been allowed to register just a little longer; there's a lot of emotion invested in Jonjo and Jelly's desire to reunite with their mum, but the eventual reunion was almost blink-and-miss-it. But overall the show was enjoyable, exciting, and just long enough for the stamina of my small companion.



Read Emma Byrne's review at [www.markaspen.com/2021/07/30/alien](http://www.markaspen.com/2021/07/30/alien)

Photography by Jane Arnold-Forster



## Invictus: a Passion

by Howard Goodall

West Green House Opera, Theatre on the Lake, Hartley Wintney

What has *Mr Bean* and *Blackadder* to do with *The King James Bible* or *Requiem Æternam*? They are pieces of music by Howard Goodall, a prolific and wide-ranging composer, who fills a mixed bag of genres, film and TV scores, stage musicals and sacred choral works.

West Green House Opera opened its 2021 season with Goodall's latest work *Invictus: A Passion*, the first major production in oratorio form, with a chamber orchestra and forty voices, including soloists from The Sixteen, chorus Aurum Vocale and [The Quiristers](#) from Winchester College Chapel.

The opera company's new location is the Theatre on the Lake.

Ten-acres of gardens at West Green House scintillate with by a galaxy of lights, delicately different from [last winter's illuminations](#). The stage floats on the island in the lake, while we are social distanced at café-théâtre tables in pavilions on the water's edge.

We start with three pieces based on the Psalms, an enchanting performance Vivaldi's *Beatus Vir*, featuring The Quiristers; Mozart's *Laudate Dominum*, with the soprano soloist, the wonderful [Kirsty Hopkins](#); and the piercingly beautifully *Psalm 23*, in Goodall's own setting. Appropriately, tenor soloist Mark Dobell's offering was Handel's *Where'ere You Walk* from his opera *Semele*. Jupiter turns Princess Semele's surroundings into Arcadia, telling her that "... cool gales shall fan the glade" (just breezes at West Green). The evening marked the end of the heatwave, and in the unwonted coolness, the soft sound of the wind in the willows by the lake formed a foil to the unfolding music.

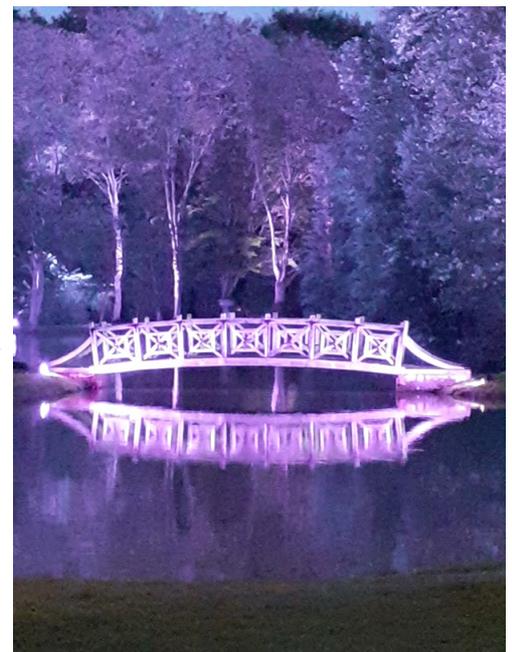
Thus, we met all the players in *Invictus: A Passion*, choirs, soloists and composer, and to the Lanyer Ensemble, its chamber orchestra. The stage was lit in purple, an appropriately liturgical colour for the passion, but Goodall wants the piece to "find relevance" and be "approachable". The message of the passion could have been trampled by the zeitgeist, but, no, here he succeeds in producing, albeit from eclectic sources, a work of rich magnificence.

Running throughout the libretto is the heart-beat of *Salve Deus*, a narrative poem of 1611, by Æmelia Lanyer, who is purported to be the 'Dark Lady' of Shakespeare's sonnets ... ..

Read Mark Aspen's review at

[www.markaspen.com/2021/07/25/invictus](http://www.markaspen.com/2021/07/25/invictus)

Photography by Andrew Armanios and Elizabeth Wait



## La Rondine

by Giacomo Puccini, libretto by Giuseppe Adami  
West Green House Opera, Theatre on the Lake, Hartley Wintney

“Every soul contains a romantic demon”. The whimsical words of the poet Prunier, casually tossed into the playful chatter at a Parisian society rendezvous, prove their prescience in the life of Magda de Civry, the party’s glamorous hostess. Within her heart, there are four personalities, Magda, the self-assured courtesan; Doretta, the fictitious subject of poem that points to her heart’s desire; Paulette, her escapist *alto ego*; and La Rondine, the eponymous swallow that flies away but must always return.



*La Rondine* is an opera that is unmistakably romantic. After all, as Sir Tony Pappano says, “Puccini does love like no other composer”. But in most of Puccini’s operas the heroine (or someone) dies. In *La Rondine* no-one does; the final tragedy is an emotional tragedy.

So, *La Rondine* is just the operatic diversion to be enjoyed on a summer’s evening in the idyllic new location of West Green House Opera’s theatre, amongst delicately lit trees reflected magically in the waters of the lake. The audience sits in pavilions at the waterside, looking across to a stage poised on the edge of an island. This is the wonderful Theatre on the Lake.

Magda, as Prunier predicts, flies like the swallow, towards the sun, with Ruggero, an innocent young man from the country, but in the end Magda cannot live the lie of her past life, and Ruggero’s hopes are shattered as she flies back to Paris and her life as a kept woman.

With the ending left hanging, we can wander in the illuminated gardens of West Green House, with its avenues and grottos and lakes full of gentle light, and discuss our own conclusions. Which of the four personalities wins after the end of our story, Magda, Doretta, Paulette, or La Rondine? With its lure of wanted luxury, does the money win; or is it a case of love conquers all?



In spite of those romantic demons, I say *Amor Vincit Omnia*.

Read Mark Aspen’s review at  
[www.markaspen.com/2021/07/26/rondine](http://www.markaspen.com/2021/07/26/rondine)

Photography by Richard Pendar and Elizabeth Wait

**“Yee-haw!”**

**Less than two weeks to Opening Night**

## The Comedy of Errors

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Fiona Poole

**“Small cheer and great welcome makes a merry feast”**

Well, Howdy partner! With less than two weeks to go now is the time to snap your tickets up for Richmond Shakespeare Society’s open-air, technicolour, Wild West extravaganza, **The Comedy of Errors**.

Known as one of Shakespeare’s funniest plays this is the perfect night out for all the family - a delightful romp of mistaken identities, lost families, and Tomfoolery.

A Wild West world of childhood stories, Hollywood films and fantastical costumes awaits you.

*Antipholus and his servant Dromio arrive in the town of Ephesus - not knowing their identical twins live there already! A slapstick farce - where mistaken identities occur at every turn. Can these four unknot their fates and set the world back to rights?*

*“Ready your horses, grab your Stetson and join us for a ‘hog killin’ good time!”*



**Venue:** The Fountain Gardens, Champions Wharf, The Embankment, Twickenham, TW1 3DU

**Dates:** Monday 9th – Saturday 14th August 2021

**Doors:** 18:30 (Sat Matinee 13:00) | Performance: 20:00 (Sat Matinee 15:00)

**No seats provided. Please bring own rugs or chairs and a picnic!**

**ONLY Guide dogs and Assistance Dogs are permitted**

**Please kindly take all rubbish away with you and dispose of it correctly**

**Ticket prices: £16** [richmondshakespeare.org.uk](http://richmondshakespeare.org.uk) | Box Office 07484 927662 (10:00-19:00)



# TRAVELLER'S TALES 102

## WE ARE SAILING

### Doug Goodman takes to cruising

My first experience of cruising was when I became involved in the launch of the liner 'Ithaca' for Thomson Holidays in 1972. She was one of the very first package cruise ships to arrive – tiny by today's standards, but very popular with a week's tour of Mediterranean ports for £69. It was a perfect opportunity to see five countries and get to know a little about their history and culture from lectures and excursions. While enjoying the sights I decided that cruise ships were not for me. I felt claustrophobic and wanted to see more of the places on the itinerary rather than the inside of the ship. Since then I have enjoyed many river cruises, ferry crossings and trips on small boats but have avoided big ships.



China's Grand Canal



Li River Guilin



Mighty Mekong

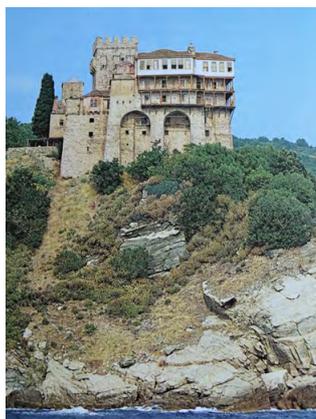


Kerala Back Waters

Sailing to Crete from Piraeus overnight on the SS Sophia was a great experience. We slept on the deck and listened to conscripts in their brand new army uniforms singing Greek folk songs. The most exciting cruises were in the Far East particularly in China and Laos. The Grand Canal was started in the 5th century BC and stretches over 1,000 miles connecting the south of China with the north. A day's trip on a barge on this World Heritage Site from Hangzhou was like travelling on the M1 in the rush hour. In the south in Guilin excursions on the Li River offer a stunning backdrop of strange pointed hills and you see fishermen using tethered cormorants to catch fish. Taking a fast, narrow boat on The Mekong in Laos to a safari camp, where we met local tribes' people and learned to plant rice, was another highlight in the Far East. In Cambodia a normal four hour trip from Siem Reap to Battambang across Lake Tonle Sap took eight hours due to low water. Near Cambodia's second city we had to push the boat off a bank, paddling in knee-deep muddy water while water buffalo watched in amazement. A junk was the ideal way to see some of Hong Kong's islands and to observe the people who live on the water. In Kerala, Southern India, a Kettuvallam - a converted cargo boat was home for two days slowly gliding through the Backwaters. Life is lived alongside and in the canals.



Hong Kong



Mt. Athos Stavronikitas



Istanbul

#### MEDITERRANEAN SITES

Closer to home there are many fascinating boat excursions from popular holiday destinations. If you are in Halkidiki in Northern Greece a boat ride along the Mt. Athos Peninsula passes several of the magnificent monasteries. Many look like fortified castles and some are perched high on the mountain side. They were built from the 9th century to keep the monks safe from Turkish raiders. Today 20 monasteries and small settlements are home to over 2,000 monks but you cannot land without a visa from the Government and females are forbidden. Crossing The Bosphorus from Istanbul's European to Asian side on an old jam-packed steamer was

an interesting experience, wondering how the giant cargo ships heading to and from The Black Sea would avoid a collision.



Nile cruise



Venice by Gondola



Amsterdam

I hired a Felucca in Cairo and spent a happy day viewing the sites along The Nile. The city is so polluted and hot that it was nice to feel cool on the great river. You cannot avoid boat travel in Venice. A water bus from the airport, a trip to the islands or a ride in a Gondola are really enjoyable but the cost of hiring one of the Gondolas, a Venetian flat-bottom rowing boat with a traditionally-dressed Gondolier is somewhat high. The view over the canals from one of the many ancient bridges is a photographer's dream. When travelling to France I always take the DFDS crossing from Dover to Calais or Dunkirk. It's a mini cruise lasting 90 minutes to Calais with time to shop and relax. For extra cost you can book priority boarding and a seat in the Club Lounge. A cruise on the Rhone north from Avignon to celebrate friends' wedding anniversary was a happy occasion. Vineyards and castles as well as the Pont D'Avignon looked beautiful from the deck of the boat. An Amsterdam water tour with low bridges, colourful house boats and vast numbers of bikes parked at the canal side, was another fine trip. Two short cruises – one to view the Rhine castles and another from Chishan in Romania to watch flocks of pelicans, were equally fascinating.

Another spectacular cruise was through The Inland Passage from Port Hardy in the north of Vancouver Island to Prince Rupert in British Columbia near Alaska. The 15 hour ferry trip covered nearly 300 miles and sailed close to shore for much of the time. Small communities dotted the forested coastline with brightly-painted wooden houses. Eagles perched in the trees, bears were watching, we imagined, and the ship's tannoy drew our attention to a wolf swimming near us. Prince Rupert was once a centre for fish canning but now the local inhabitants, First Nation Indians, have little employment apart from wood carving and making ceremonial totem poles.



Port Hardy to Prince Rupert



On the Volga



Thames View

### **VOLGA BOATMEN**

The most recent cruise just before lockdown was with Viking in Russia. A 12 day journey from Moscow to St. Petersburg with two nights in each city and stops at Yaroslavl, Uglich, Kizhi and Mondragi Island provided an opportunity, through excellent lectures, to learn about Russian history, culture and language. It was extremely comfortable with really good food and free drinks. The vessel accommodated nearly 200 passengers with the vast majority from America.

Back on home waters you cannot beat a Thames cruise. It's great fun going from Charing Cross pier past Greenwich and through the Thames Barrier. With many bridges floodlit a night time trip is spectacular. Even a short trip from Richmond to Hampton Court is relaxing but I wish there was a landing stage in Twickenham.

# One leg in one leg out other leg in other leg out

Travel news by Bruce Lyons

What a week!!!! Schools out – It's raining here and in Japan!!! You need a negative PCR or you don't need a PCR – Grant Shapps threatens to change Traffic lights if he has too much Lemonade – Worse, even if we say it's Green, Like Bulgaria they turn us RED.

Then to cap it all we (THE UK) decide they can all come here except the French of course, without quarantining even if we can't go there.

Confusing you say!! No – you need a travel agent, don't you!

Last week I wrote about the travel enigma. You see you need to narrow down your options and then take the plunge – It is really evident that one hand of the GOVT doesn't really know what the other hand is doing. However, it is not impossible to travel, on holiday, you just need to be extra careful with the protocols, testings and form filing.

We have been inundated with enquiries, most of which don't get past the apprehensive stage. But you see the tour operators are also experiencing the same difficulties and many have become amazingly resourceful – especially the Greek ones you don't need anything more than JABs on your phone – locator forms completed and the rep does the rest in resort. Even so there is still concern by many to get it right – which is where we come in. We made the same offer last week for MONDAY (see advert) and people phoned on Saturday and booked and why not as much is still reduced.

There are excellent offers all over Greece, some in Croatia too.

Moreover there are destinations in the Green list that have stood the test of time, Malta ,Gibraltar, Madeira, Barbados ,Bermuda ,Antigua, Grenada and more -but not Bulgaria and Israel who won't let us in, their loss I say!



This week they (the Grant Shapps and his buddies) changed the incoming rules and that Included the Americans and I am wondering if in next week's announcement ( promised – but no specific day) that we may suddenly hear that it is OK to cross the "POND" and that will be a huge uplift for many who are just itching to see family and friends as soon as possible – and that may be on the cards soon .

In the meantime, dear reader, you may have to put up with some lovely wet barbeques and sing songs around the Camp Fire.

You can get away but I say that travel just now is the for the Brave and Adventurous – but there is great value out there – even in the School holidays I So why not call you could get the surprise of your life!!

Lovely day today – in Church Street!!!

If you're free on Monday – call today (Saturday) still time to get your sun cream. 020 8744 0474 [info@crusadertravel.com](mailto:info@crusadertravel.com)



# WIZ TALES - Turks and Caicos Islands

Teresa Read



Turks and Caicos is a British Overseas Territory currently on the UK's green watch list.

These islands are in the Caribbean, southwest of the Bahamas and to the north of Haiti.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are low-lying, composed of limestone, and surrounded by coral reefs.

Many ships were wrecked on the reefs surrounding the Turks and Caicos Islands including the Trouvadore slave ship in 1841.

It is estimated that almost two hundred slaves survived the Trouvadore wreck, making their home on the Turks and Caicos Islands and the [British] Bahamas where slavery had come to an end.



View from Sapolla Hill



Turks and Caicos Museum



Cultural Show



Conch Farm

We would like to thank the Turks and Caicos National Museum for the photographs.

More information on the Turks and Caicos Islands:

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

# St Mary's University

## St Mary's University Vice-Chancellor Appointed to Papal Higher Education Agency

Pope Francis has appointed Anthony McClaran, Vice Chancellor of St Mary's University Twickenham, to the Governing Council of the Holy See's Agency for the Evaluation and Promotion of the Quality of Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties (AVEPRO).

Mr McClaran is one of three new members whose appointment was announced in L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican's daily paper, yesterday (28th July).



AVEPRO's duty is to promote and develop a culture of quality within the academic institutions around the world that offer pontifical degree qualifications and ensure they possess internationally valid quality criteria.

Speaking of the appointment, Anthony McClaran said,

"I am honoured that the Holy Father has invited me to join AVEPRO's governing council. St Mary's is both a long-established Catholic

institution of civil higher education and home to Mater Ecclesiae College, a pontifical institute.



We have a rich history in promoting the quality and transformative power of Catholic higher education. I look forward to sharing this experience and learning from the many pontifical institutions around the world, through AVEPRO in the coming years."

Anthony McClaran became Vice Chancellor of St Mary's University in April 2020 after holding a number of senior posts in HE quality assurance and regulation, including CEO of the UK's Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) from 2009-2015 and CEO of Australia's Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) from 2015-2020.

He has served on the Boards of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London



SEASON 57 COVID Special Programme 2  
July 20th, 2021

### WILD ROSE

UK/USA/Canada, 2018  
Director: Tom Harper  
Screenplay: Nicole Taylor  
Editor: Mark Eckersley  
Cinematography: George Steel  
Music: Jack Arnold  
Running Time: 101 mins, Colour  
Language: English & Glaswegian

Richmond Film Society was back on at **The Exchange** for a very successful in-person screening after our long enforced COVID absence (since March 16th 2020), as the delayed lockdown release step 4 happened on 19th of July. This was a free **Member's Only (no guests)** in-person showing of **Wild Rose**.

This film is the first film we have been able to show to an audience since the pandemic enforced March 2020 period of house arrest. As we are all still very much aware COVID is still out there so we maintained Social Distancing (limited to only 130 seats from 285 available) and mask wearing that had been in force until 19th July. We supplied ours and The Exchanges' joint COVID **Risk Assessments** for the screening and The Exchange's **H&S summary** to all potential attendees. We all understand that everyone has their own perception of what level of risk is acceptable, so this material was provided to help potential attendees decide where they might fall in wrestling with the two conflicting issues: "***I have been under house arrest due to lockdown long enough and need to get out***" vs "***Do I feel safe in going out and doing things I did before lockdown?***". The committee's position is unchanged since there were the first rumblings of an approaching pandemic in January 2020, when we gave the screening of films long and diligent consideration and were following the evolving government and health advice. Our aim has always been to put our members and subscribers in a position to make an informed decision as to whether or not to attend screenings: "***We are dealing with consenting adults here, all of whom are more than capable of making their own judgments.***"

**RFS Context:** **WILD ROSE** was the 823rd film screened by RFS on 20th July 2021, the last film of season 57, originally planned as the Twickenham Festival 2021 film, shown about a year late. **Wild Rose** was the 10th ranked film of Season 57, COVID truncating the season to 13 films. **Wild Rose** got an approval mark of 81% from those attending (c. 90); from season 57 the top four ranked films, in order were: **Capernaum**, **White Crow**, **Wajib** and **Everybody Knows**; with marks of **97**, **94**, **94** and **91%** respectively. **Wild Rose** can be streamed from Amazon Prime the discs are available from Amazon and others.

### LEADING PLAYERS

Jessie Buckley	(Rose-Lynn)
Sophie Okonedo	(Susannah)
Julie Walters	(Marion)
Adam Mitchell	(Lyle)
Bob Harris	(Bob Harris)

"***Three chords and the truth***" is the tattoo the Glaswegian singer Rose-Lynn Harlan (Jessie Buckley) has stencilled on her arm in **Wild Rose** – there to remind her why she loves country music. And Nicole Taylor's screenplay confronts its wayward young heroine with as much misfortune and heartbreak as you will find in even the most overwrought Hank Williams ballad.

As a single mum fresh out of prison, with two kids to support, Rose-Lynn can barely afford to pay her utility bills. Underneath those cowboy boots, she wears an ankle tag. With a 7pm curfew, her chances of making it all the way to Nashville seem non-existent – the main bands haven't even taken to the stage at Glasgow's Grand Ole Opry by that time.

From the moment we hear her singing Patsy Cline songs, though, Rose-Lynn's talent and force of personality are apparent. But this is more than just another rousing, feelgood film about a talented outsider overcoming

adversity. *Wild Rose* has some thorny observations to make about class, opportunity (or lack thereof), and family values.

Irish singer and actor Jessie Buckley gives a searing performance as the would-be Loretta Lynn from a Glasgow housing estate. She plays her role in the same reckless and uninhibited way as she did the young woman with the psychotic boyfriend in Michael Pearce's *Beast*. Whether crooning through a letterbox to announce she is back home from jail, guzzling down her employer's brandy, or having sex in the park with her even more delinquent boyfriend, she simply can't be constrained.

There are echoes here of 1960s British kitchen-sink dramas like *A Taste of Honey*, in which similarly irrepressible, young working-class protagonists chafe against their backgrounds. Director Tom Harper (whose previous credits include TV's *War and Peace* and *The Woman in Black 2*) highlights the social inequalities in Rose-Lynn's world. Susannah (Sophie Okonedo), the affluent, middle-class woman in the big suburban house who hires Rose-Lynn as a cleaner, has the money and the contacts to play the system. The scenes between the two characters are toe-curling to watch. Susannah is portrayed ambivalently – she is well meaning and sympathetic but patronising and sometimes grotesque in her high-handedness and sense of entitlement.



The men of *Wild Rose* are conspicuous by their absence. Rose-Lynn's father is barely mentioned. Her boyfriend flits in and out of the story but is not to be relied upon. We learn very little about the male members of her backing band, who turn up and stoically play whenever she needs them. The most significant male figure in the movie is the BBC DJ, Whispering Bob Harris (cast as himself). In Rose-Lynn's opinion, he is the only person in Britain who understands country music as well as she does. While Harris is a benign figure, Susannah's husband, a self-made businessman, is strangely malevolent.

Rose-Lynn can barely even bring herself to own up to outsiders that she has children. They hold her back. She is too immature to look after them properly. Julie Walters excels as Rose-Lynn's mother, Marion, a scolding and sceptical figure, trying to warn her daughter of the damage her fantasies of country music stardom are doing to her family. "You don't stick at things," her mother chides her, but Rose-Lynn is far too stubborn to give up on her dream. Marion, who has never got "further than Dunoon" herself, can't help but admire her daughter's determination to escape. In a soft-centred story like this, you know that the misery and bad luck will always have an upside. The more Rose-Lynn suffers, the more heartfelt her songs will become – and the quicker she will grow up too. *Wild Rose* has plenty of gentle and ironic humour along the way. When Rose-Lynn is wearing her country music gear, her little son asks her what she is doing, "all done up like a fish supper". Slide guitar may fit well over scenes from US-set movies like *Paris, Texas* but seems very incongruous when heard at the breakfast table on a damp, grey Glaswegian morning. Country bands in the city have bizarre names. For example, one is called Mississippi Tundra.

But Harper includes some corny moments. When Rose-Lynn is making a demo, in that haunting voice, a shaft of sunlight will suddenly illuminate her hair. If she sees an unattended microphone, she can't resist singing into it. Although she is an outspoken and acerbic character, she becomes cowed and demure in the presence of those she admires. The music brings out an emotional side in her that she otherwise tries very hard to hide.

Elsewhere, parts of the film are very thin. The Nashville scenes could come straight out of a TV travel show and aren't nearly as vivid as those set in Glasgow. A London interlude doesn't lead anywhere in particular. Still, Buckley plays Rose-Lynn with such effrontery, abrasiveness and charm that we barely notice how creaky the storytelling often becomes. And it helps, of course, that she can belt out a country song just as well as any of those Nashville legends she so idolises.

Sara Steinke with credit to *The Independent* and Geoffrey Macnab

# Funding to help Richmond upon Thames be more active

Local organisations are invited to apply for funding through the Active Richmond Fund to boost the borough's offering of activities that improve people's health and wellbeing.

The Fund is there to support both current and emerging needs for organisations offering social and physical activities (including sports, fitness, arts and social groups).

Applications are particularly encouraged from organisations and groups who work with adults who are less active, in underserved communities, in care or offer Social Prescribing. Social Prescribing supports people to take control of their health and wellbeing by connecting them with activities and support in their local community. In Richmond upon Thames, a major element of the Social Prescribing Service is delivered by RUILS Charity in partnership with Richmond GPs, and Richmond Council is working to deliver more Social Prescribing.

Applicants can either apply for Micro Grants of up to £1,000 or Main Grants of up to £5,000. A Micro Grant provides short-term and quick funding, for example if an organisation needed some extra gym equipment. A Main Grant is for those needing funding for long-term projects, for example if an organisation wanted to introduce a new activity for a twelve-month period.

£65,000 is available through the fund and so far there have been 22 applications. Examples of funding so far awarded include:

- Richmond Rugby - to help deliver a project aimed at encouraging men aged 35-55 to become more active through fitness activities with their sons/daughters
- United Response – to help deliver 36 additional fitness and wellbeing sessions over the next 6 months for disabled adults aged 18-65
- Activate Sport and Wellbeing Hub – to fund sport activities for families, young people and older people to improve their wellbeing

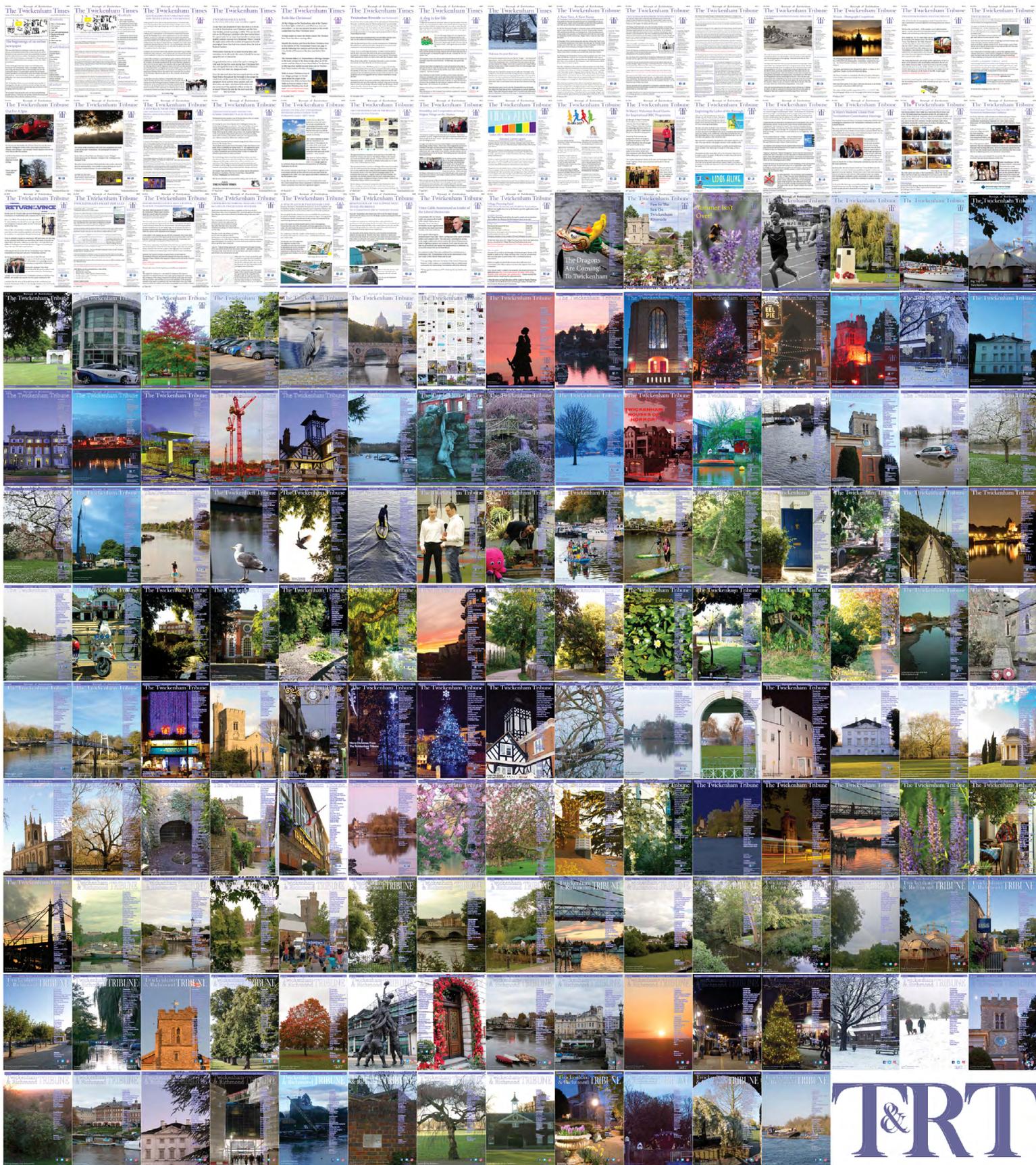
Any project that encourages people to be active and look after their wellbeing could be awarded funding. Find out more [information and apply](#)

Cllr Piers Allen, Lead member for Adult Social Care and Health and Chair of the Richmond Health and Wellbeing Board, said:

*“Social Prescribing is being rolled out across the country by the NHS in partnership with Councils and health and community partners and allows medical professionals to signpost patients to amazing services in their community which can help them lead healthier and happier lives. This fund aims to increase our Social Prescribing offering. It’s great to see funding already awarded to some brilliant organisations in Richmond upon Thames who are improving people’s lives, by putting health and wellbeing at the forefront of everything they do. We are keen to see lots of applications so that we can work towards becoming an even healthier borough, so do please apply.”*



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