

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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### Editors

- Berkley Driscoll
- Teresa Read



13<sup>th</sup> August 2021



Parakeet, Strawberry Hill Village

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

# TickerTape - News in Brief

## Increasing the fine level for drivers who fail to follow the rules on TfL managed roads

To help keep London moving safely and reduce disruption and delays TfL are proposing to increase the fine level (TfL penalty charge) from £130 to £160 for people who fail to follow the rules of the red route network (those roads TfL manage in London). The fine level would be reduced by half to £80 if paid within 14 days. Find more info [HERE](#)

## Council's swift legal action sees Travellers move on from Kew Green

A group of Travellers who arrived on Kew Green on Wednesday evening (4 August) were forced to leave the site within days, following swift legal action by Richmond Council.

The Possession Order was granted on Friday evening, and High Court Enforcement Officers attended the site on Saturday (7 August) to ask the Travellers to leave.

The Travellers moved off voluntarily, although officers were ready for a forced eviction. Council officers were on site immediately following their departure to inspect for damage. The Group left some bags of rubbish, which Council contractors cleared, but no damage has been caused to the site.

## Harlequins prepare for new season

Harlequins FC are reassuring local residents of measures they are taking to keep people safe as they prepare to welcome back full capacity crowds for the new season.

The latest guidance from the government permits the full opening of sports stadiums for supporters, but the Harlequins are mindful of the ongoing impact of COVID.

There will be additional cleaning, hand sanitiser stations, and face masks will be advised but not obligatory.

More info [HERE](#)



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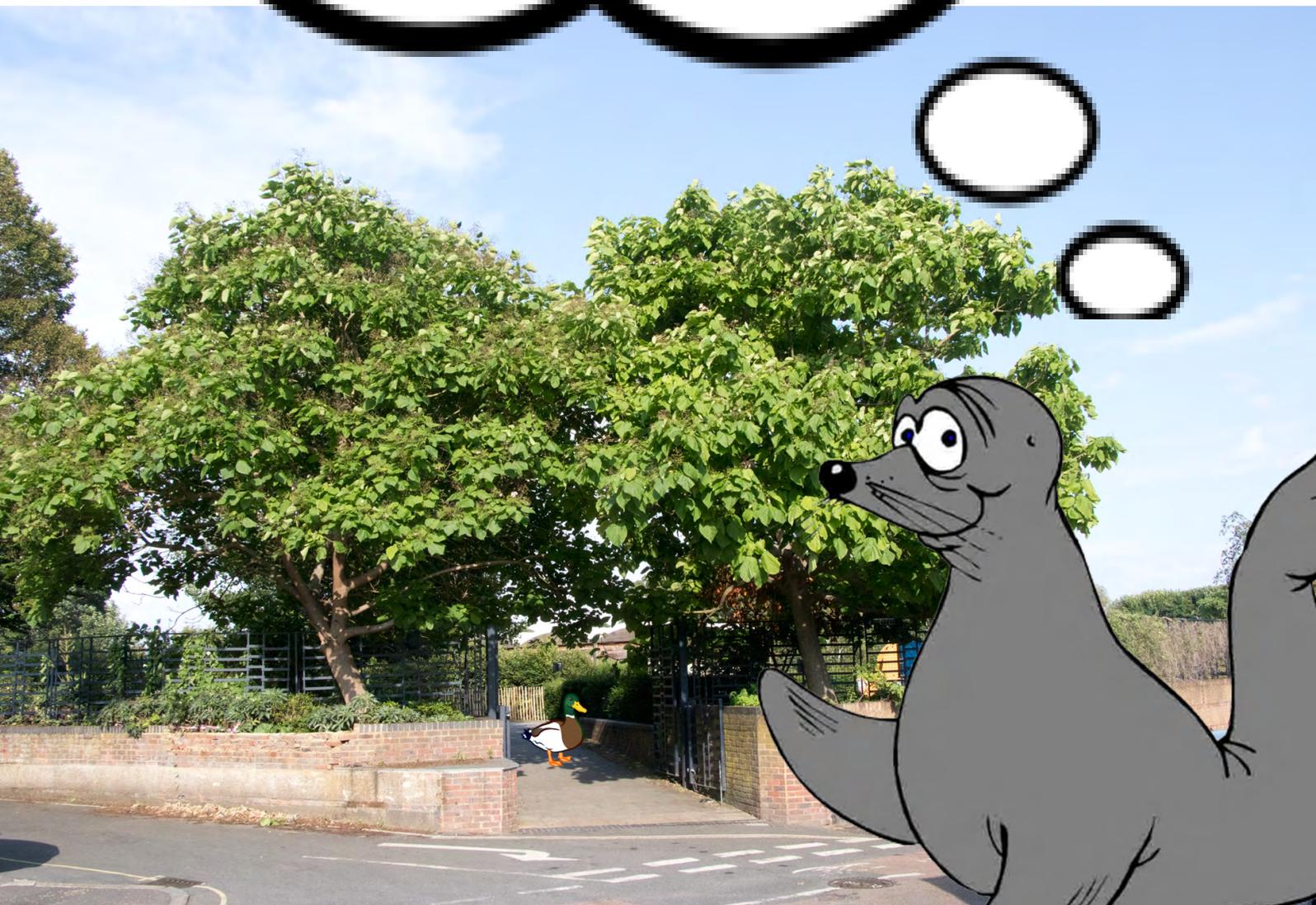
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TwickerSeal couldn't believe it!  
The council had finally come through for the people of Twickenham  
and were going to deliver a riverside to be proud of and to be enjoyed  
by future generations.

There would be a new Lido, smaller than the original Twickenham  
Baths, but fit for the modern age and there for the enjoyment of  
residents and visitors alike. There would be a wonderful new town  
square, suitable for all kinds of events year-round, including a winter  
ice skating rink. The wonderful boathouses would continue the  
riverside's history and promote river activities. And the new Diamond  
Jubilee Gardens would be upgraded and provide a safe, secure and  
enclosed environment for the enjoyment of all – particularly families.

But then TwickerDuck's loud quack from the DJG entrance pulled  
TwickerSeal from his daydream.  
None of it was real!



# COVID-19

Teresa Read

## World Health Organization epidemiological COVID-19 update - 10 August 2021

On 5 August, the cumulative number of COVID-19 cases globally surpassed 200 million, just six months after reaching 100 million cases. This week alone, over 4.2 million new cases and over 65 000 new deaths were reported, a slight increase as compared to the previous week. The largest proportionate increases in new cases were reported by the Region of the Americas and Western Pacific Region, with 1.3 million and over 375 000 new cases reported, respectively. Additionally, a substantial increase in the number of new deaths was reported this week in the Western Pacific Region.

### NEWS:

CTVNEWS, 11 August 2021: Canada has entered a fourth wave, doctors warn as COVID-19 cases rise

KYODO NEWS 11 August 2021: Experts warn Japan's coronavirus fight in critical phase

ALJAZEERA, 12 August 2021: Canberra enters snap lockdown as Sydney tightens COVID curbs

BBC News, 12 August 2021: New Zealand borders to remain closed for rest of the year

China | South China Morning Post, 12 August 2021:

Coronavirus may need to be managed like seasonal flu, Hong Kong expert says.

iNews, 12 August 2021: Spain travel warning as country tops list of UK Covid infections after surge of Brits holiday abroad

Helsinki Times, 12 August 2021: Finland records highest number of coronavirus cases over two-week period



Are you **missing this?**

IF YOU ARE  
OVER 18

MAKE SURE YOU  
HAVE THE VACCINE

and protect yourself  
from COVID-19

HANDS • FACE • SPACE

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

## Total cases to 13 August 2021:

15,455 Richmond upon Thames

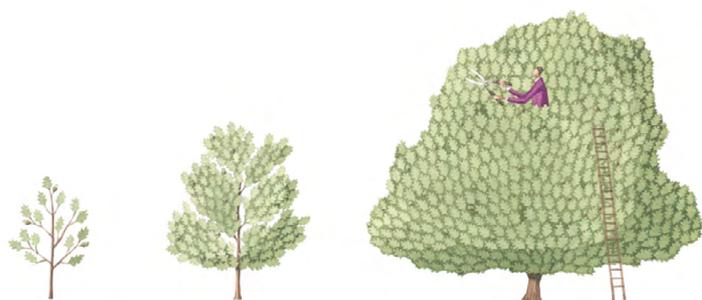
15,085 Kingston upon Thames

30,960 Hounslow

## **World Health Organization: Countries with High Numbers of Deaths. Deaths Worldwide**

4,323,139

USA	613,647	Romania	34,334
Brazil	564,773	Ecuador	31,788
India	429,669	Czechia	30,372
Mexico	245,476	Hungary	30,037
Peru	197,102	Philippines	29,374
Russian Federation	168,049	Canada	26,683
The United Kingdom	130,607	Belgium	25,282
Italy	128,304	Pakistan	24,085
Colombia	122,768	Bangladesh	23,613
Indonesia	113,664	Tunisia	21,220
France	111,278	Iraq	19,402
Argentina	108,165	Bulgaria	18,306
Iran	95,647	Bolivia	18,082
Germany	91,834	Netherlands	17,887
Spain	82,320	Portugal	17,514
South Africa	75,774	Egypt	16,597
Poland	75,291	Paraguay	15,341
Ukraine	53,173	Japan	15,330
Turkey	52,565	Sweden	14,658
Chile	36,157	Greece	13,138



### **The Tree Agency**

darryl parkin

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25 King Edwards Grove  
Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9LY  
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*The Tree Agency*

# Play up Brentford!

By Simon Fowler

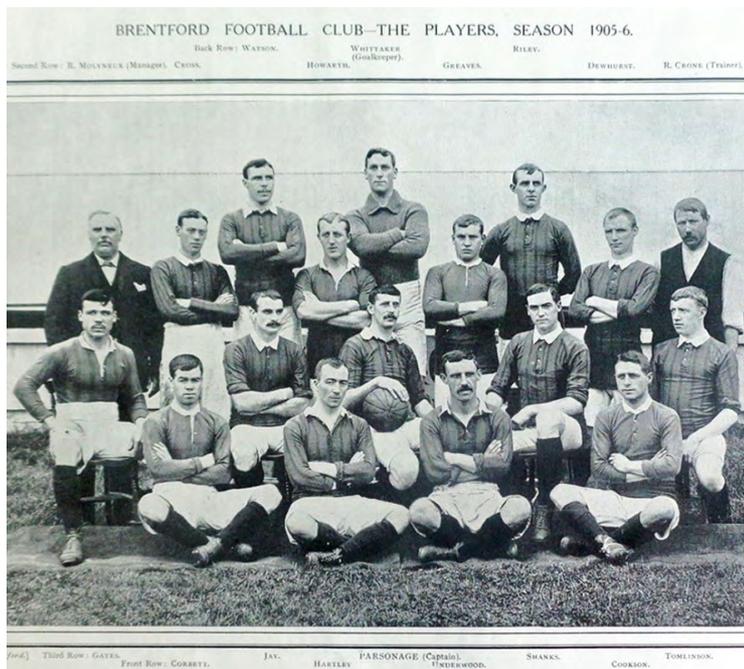
Last night Brentford played its first match in the Premiership. It was the first match in the top tier of English soccer since 1947, when the Bees crashed out of the First Division after a decade at the top.

Brentford Football Club was founded in October 1889 by members of the town's rowing club. The team initially played at a new recreation ground close to Griffin Park: the home of the Club between 1904 and 2020.

The colours chosen was a rather fetching salmon, claret and light blue, which were the ones enjoyed by the rowing club. The familiar red and white strip didn't come in until 1925.

The first match played by the new team was against Kew. The result was a 1-1 draw. The local press wrote that:

*"On Saturday last, in rather damp weather, the first match played by the new Brentford F.C took place on their own ground, when, in spite of a good deal of sharp play on the part of their opponents they managed to hold their own, the game resulting in a draw, one goal to one.*



Brentford FC 1905-06

*It was easily to be seen that neither team had had a long existence, and many faults could be pointed out on both sides: but as it is a newly started venture we will be kind.*

*The first goal fell to Brentford, being kicked by Bonell, who played excellently throughout, as did also Bloomer and Beavor.*

*Sterling service, it may also be mentioned, was rendered by Drabble and Gatrell.*

*This was close after the commencement of the game and the hopes of the Brentfordians, at such an auspicious start, ran high.*

*For a considerable time nothing but wild play all round the field, in the course of which the lack in both teams in practice in passing was clearly demonstrated, resulted, when a very narrow squeak happened for Brentford.*

*The ball was kicked to the goal very swiftly but was stopped by the actions of Edwardes (goal) and the cross-piece.*

*As it fell, however, a Kew Bridge man pushed the ball through with his hand, whereupon, after some excited discussion (which was fully frequent during the afternoon) a free kick was awarded by the umpire to Brentford.*

*The ball went to the other side with a rush and shortly afterwards returned, and the Brentford goal fell to a fine kick by A Day.*

*Corners, free kicks and outs were then the order of the hour, and in spite of a skilfully managed kick against the goalposts by Bonell, no further advantage was gained by either side.*

One hopes that the Arsenal match provided better fare for the supporters.

(Match report taken from the Brentford FC website [www.brentfordfc.com/news/2014/november/125-years-ago-today](http://www.brentfordfc.com/news/2014/november/125-years-ago-today))

# Providing an opportunity to build skills and experience at Marble Hill

Rachel Morrison, Audience Development Manager

The Marble Hill Revived project not only offers investment in the site and its landscape but also in people and we've been delighted to be able to offer two internships and five apprenticeships as part of the project. In addition, Marble Hill has been pleased to work with Jo Hawes and Margaret Dunmore from People Development team to offer a six month placement as part of the government's Kickstart scheme. This opportunity allows young people to get off Universal Credit and receive six months employment with English Heritage to give them a raft of experience, mentorship by senior management, expert advice on CVs and employment advice.

As part of EH's first cohort of 13 placements, Antony Lee joined us at the end of May as the Marble Hill Community engagement assistant and says of his time so far:

Over the last months at Marble Hill the park has been getting livelier by the day. The weather has helped the wildlife to flourish and it is really noticeable just how much the park feels alive! My role over the past month as the Community Engagement Assistant has focused more primarily with events and the local people of the area. I've had great opportunities to take part in many events over the course of June and July and now August, including but not limited to helping with the running of our inaugural Marble Hill Football Tournament, which was a huge success in giving teams the opportunity to play on some of the newly renovated football pitches. There have been a host of events that have linked us more with the park and its nature, from Meadow Dipping (seeing just how many insects there are is astonishing!) to the Forest Bathing sessions that have been put on, engaging ourselves directly with our surroundings and taking in the calmness that comes with enjoying the shade of the trees. But it's not just the park that's feeling alive, the house itself is getting closer to being ready for the reinstatement with each passing day. The amazing team of volunteers that I am working with and our lead Conservator Wendy are working incredibly hard to help get the house ready, and every minute has been a joy to be a part of.



The park is now at its busiest time yet for its events, with the Arts in the Park and for the first time Richmond Live events celebrating the breadth of talent within our community from professionals to grassroots organisations. From Rambert Dance to Boundless Dance that work with schools in the borough. These events are taking place every Sunday on the oval lawn on the riverside of the house from 2pm for free for all to enjoy- a time to celebrate the arts and to enjoy the park at its best! We are all looking forward to Tango music and dancing this weekend and next week Bollywood! Along with the talented entertainment comes also the first Marble Hill Silent Auction, an opportunity for the public to get some really enticing offers while helping the maintaining and enhancing of the park! It has been a peaceful and active time at Marble Hill Park and I am looking forward to each passing week for whatever new opportunities present themselves!



The past 18 months or so couldn't have been more debilitating for young people entering the world of work so we're really grateful that with the support of People Development and HR we've been able to explore these opportunities for young people to work with us at Marble Hill. Antony is a credit to English Heritage and we at Marble Hill, are delighted to be part of this initiative to help inspire our next generation of heritage specialists.

Dear Tribune,

## **E-scooters - Again!**

Every letter by Mr. Tim Lennon exposes his vitriolic hatred of cars.

In contrast to him, I have no hatred of anything. In fact, if he had taken the trouble to actually read what I have previously written, he would have seen that I have no objections to anything that is operated legally and safely. But so many e-scooters and e-bikes are NOT operated legally or safely, hence the accidents and deaths.

Instead of arguing with me, perhaps Mr. Lennon would like to put his case to others who have expressed serious concerns such as the RNIB, the Guide Dogs Association, disabled pedestrians, members of the House of Lords, Royal Parks, and the UK police forces and hospital emergency departments who have to deal with all the misery. To those he could add the number of adults and children who have been seriously injured or killed in connection with these machines all over the UK, Europe, Russia, and the USA.

Even in Italy, a country known for its love of fast cars and motorcycles, the government is now taking action to curb e-scooter misuse because of the chaos they have brought to city streets, with dangerous riding and inconsiderate parking.

Mr. Lennon has studiously ignored my reference to the report by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers about the shortcomings of their design.

In spite of all the evidence, it is now absolutely clear that no logical reasoning can penetrate the dogmatic views of those who blindly espouse these machines with such callous disregard for anyone else.

Mr. Lennon has also ignored my invitation to volunteer to serve as a Special Constable – as I did for 17 years.

Should he have the courage to do so, he would be able to enforce the law not only with regard to the misuse of bicycles and e-scooters but also with regard to the misuse of the motor vehicles he appears to hate so vociferously.

Perhaps he would like to put his money where his mouth is?

Michael Jay,  
Richmond

PS. Mr. Lennon has adopted the odious and ill-mannered modern habit of referring to people by their first names or, even more unacceptably, nicknames, without having been invited to do so. I have no idea why he should take such a liberty because I have never met him.

Dear Sir

## **E-Scooters**

With regard to Tim Lennon's letter in last week's Twickenham & Richmond Tribune I noted that he acknowledges that e-scooters can be dangerous. In view of this Mr Lennon, the Richmond Borough Coordinator for the London Cycling Campaign, could use his position to campaign to improve safety with regard to the use of e-scooters and bicycles.

E-scooters and bicycles are seen to be used on pavements as well as roads. I have experienced near misses by both types of vehicles within the last few months - on one occasion a bicycle user came up behind me on the pavement and nearly ran into me and not long after an e-scooter went through a red light at speed while I was using a pedestrian crossing.

Regulation and training is needed and Mr Lennon can start the ball rolling on this in conjunction with the e-scooter trial.

Pedestrians and other road users need to know e-scooters and bicycles are approaching, this means visible clothing, lights and a warning device in case of emergency.

The use of helmets and high visibility clothing should be compulsory. Lights should also be compulsory on bicycles and e-scooters as well as a fit-for purpose warning device. There should be on-the-spot fines for those who do not comply

Cyclists and e-scooter users sometimes seem to rely on pedestrians to move out of their way but there are many pedestrians with disabilities who cannot do this quickly. Some people might not be able to hear or see them, not everyone has the same level of hearing, sight - and agility; these vehicles are silent and can approach pedestrians quite quickly.

So perhaps Mr Lennon can work on positive aspects of regulation, training, protective clothing, visibility of the users of e-scooters and bicycles and fines for those who do not comply.

I would prefer not to have my details published as I do not want to become the butt of one of Mr Lennon's letters. Instead of defending e-scooters Mr Lennon could look at very real concerns of pedestrians and take positive action.

Name and Address Supplied (TW1)

*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.*

Dear Editor,

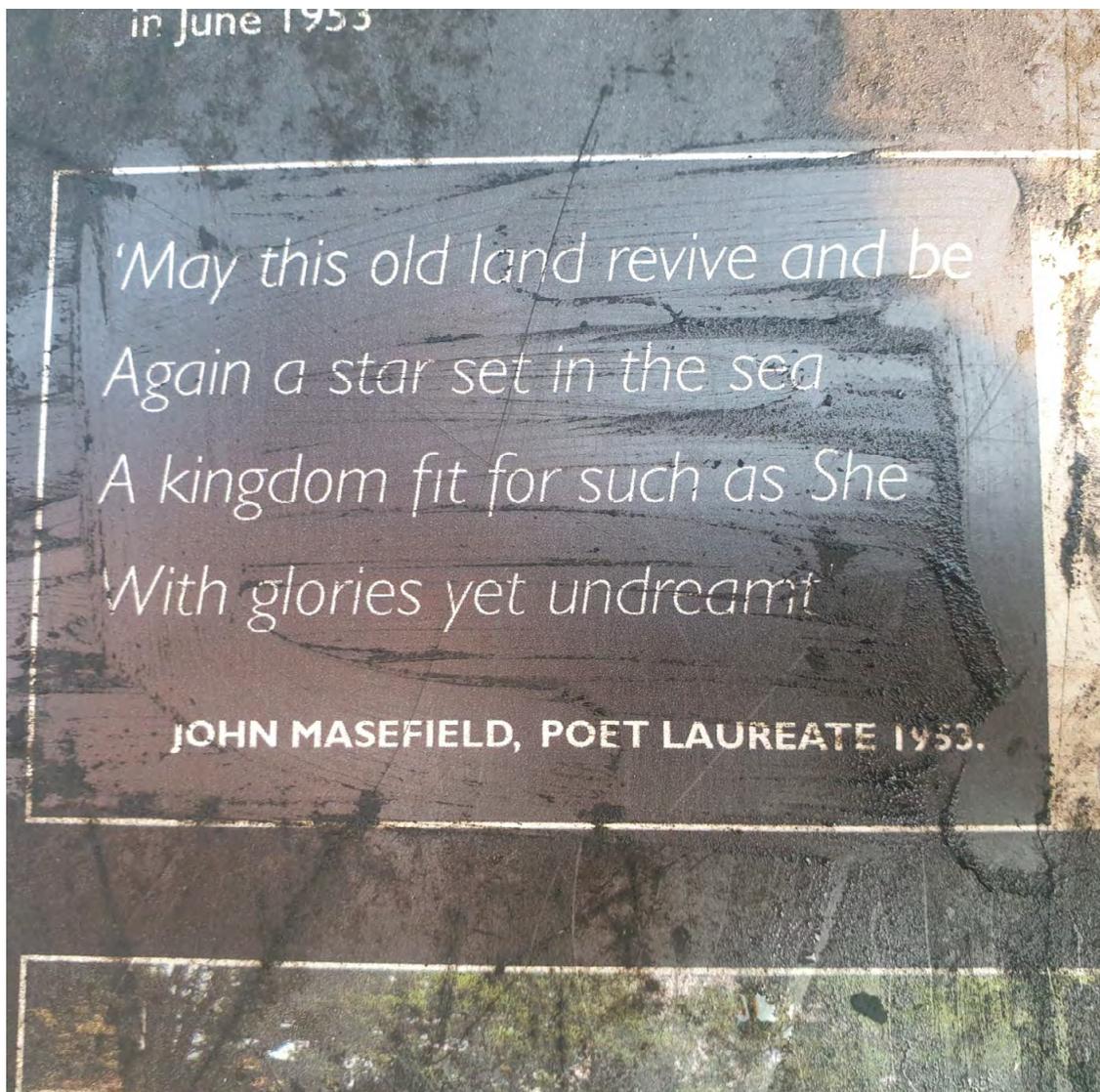
### **Diamond Jubilee Gardens**

A sad day for Jubilee Gardens to be replaced by “industrial looking” unwanted and unaffordable apartments.

No surprise the council have gone back on their promise of fully rental subsidised homes.

What exactly does this council stand for? What is their definition of affordable housing?

This sign was left filthy and unreadable after the gardens were recently renovated after over a year of council neglect.



With the number of other developments in Twickenham this space should be left as open as possible for the enjoyment of all Borough residents.

Andrew Sparkes  
Borough Resident

# Freda Hammerton

We were saddened to learn that well known Twickenham resident Freda Hammerton died on 10th July, aged over 90.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday 16th October at 11am at St Mary's Twickenham.

A few years ago, Freda took part in a Heritage Lottery project: Memories of Twickenham Riverside. The following is a transcript of Freda's memories, recorded on video and available at the following link: <https://www.memoriesoftwickenhamriverside.com/transcript.html>

## WATERMEN AND LIGHTERMEN, Twickenham Riverside

FREDA HAMMERTON

### Video transcription

"I am Freda Hammerton and I live on the Embankment and I have lived there all my life nearly.

I am the daughter of a Waterman and Lighterman who was killed on the river front and there have been Watermen Lightermen on the Embankment in Twickenham for some 400 years.

One of the Hammertons was married to Charlie Shore, he would have been related because all the Hammertons were interrelated; there were Watermen here for as far as I can remember.

It [the Charlie Shore Regatta] used to be a very simple thing. All the Watermen helped with it and when they won prizes, the mayor and the Council and councillors gave them tea and buns in the Barmy Arms.

I can remember my aunt Tilly who died when she was 92 saying to the then Mayor, who came to visit where she was living in an old people's home, that she wondered what happened to all the silver cups which used to be awarded and he looked slightly embarrassed and said well they must be somewhere in the cellars of York House.

My father was 18 when he rowed in Kingston Regatta and if you were a Waterman you could row it; on the arm went this badge, you see them on the Queen's Watermen on the arms.

When my father was killed in the Second World War the men he worked with took this off [the badge] and made this case for my mother so that she could see what it was. It was all very elaborate.

What he also got was a medal, a gold medal. They were very generous to people who rowed well and it was only Watermen who could row them.

Actually, this one he got for being the youngest swimmer, at the local school, he was 9 and swum the farthest for his age."

You can see more about the Charlie Shore Regatta [HERE](#)



*Click image to view the video*

# Celebrate the return of live music, art and theatre with RichmondLive!

RichmondLive will see a huge array of free music, dance and theatre performances take place in Richmond upon Thames across four weekends, beginning on the August bank holiday weekend.

The festival of music, art and theatre will run on consecutive weekends from 28 August until the final day of performances on Sunday 19 September. The events include:

- The **Richmond Riverside Music Festival** on Saturday 28 August and Sunday 29 August from 11am to 6pm, which is a two-day free Blues and Jazz festival with performances from Emma Wilson, The Mustangs, The Milk Men and many more
- **RichmondLive Music** on Sunday 5 September from 2 to 3.30pm in Marble Hill Park, which will include performances from the Richmond Community Choir, Jazz Perrin Collective and the Richmond Brass Band all performing a special free Sunday afternoon concert in the grounds of Marble Hill Park
- **RichmondLive Dance** on 12 September from 2 to 3.30pm in Marble Hill Park will see performances from local groups including RISE, Combination Dance, Rambert Ballet School, Marble Hill School of Dance and Boundless Dance
- **RichmondLive Theatre** on Sunday 19 September from 2 to 3.30pm in Marble Hill Park, which will conclude the festival proceedings on the final weekend of the festival with performances from the Orange Tree Theatre, Mary Wallace Theatre and OSO Arts Centre

There is no need to register for these events, simply turn up and enjoy the performances for free. Check out the [full programme of events](#).

CLLr John Coombs, Spokesperson for Arts, said:

*"I am absolutely delighted that the RichmondLive festival will be taking place in the borough this August and September with so many amazing free events for residents to enjoy. This year's festival promises to be extra special following the lack of live performances over the past seventeen months due to the pandemic.*

*"I would encourage all residents to get out to see as much of the wonderful performance on offer for this year's RichmondLive festival and support our local arts who have suffered greatly during the pandemic. The festival will provide the perfect opportunity for residents to get back out and explore the borough. I look forward to seeing you there."*



# Stay Safe From Fraud

by Mac McInerney, Heatham Alliance community group  
and Neighbourhood Watch



## What are a strong passwords for your email and other online accounts?

Last May I repeated the top advice for staying safe online –

Use a strong password for your email, different from other passwords you use.  
(Twickenham and Richmond Tribune edition 236, page 20)

For five years the National Cyber Security Centre has been giving advice on how home users can make strong passwords, simply. They advise us to create unique passwords with three random words, words which are memorable for you personally and not easy for someone else to guess.

The examples they give are ‘coffeetrainfish’ or ‘walltinshirt’. Not words such as ‘password’, ‘pa55word’, ‘manunited’ or ‘harrystiles’ – these are far too easy for criminals to discover.

It’s really a balance between ‘keeping the bad guys out’ and having passwords that you can remember, without having them written down anywhere or recorded on a computer for someone else to find.

The one thing that the NCSC’s advice does not cover is websites that require passwords to include upper and lower case, at least one number and a special symbol. The NCSC places its emphasis simply on using random words and apparently leaves it up to you and me how we include upper case characters, etc. Really the rule for passwords is the longer the better!

(The National Cyber Security Centre is part of GCHQ, so they should know!)

You can read the latest advice here – <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware/home>

And remember: Never use your email password on other internet sites and do keep your computer software up-to-date to stay secure.

STAY SAFE FROM FRAUD

# Garden waste collections suspended

Garden waste collections will continue to be suspended until further notice. This is due to a number of the collection crews having to self-isolate, so we (LBRuT) 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. **BREAKING NEWS: Garden waste collections will resume from Monday 16 August. There may still be delays to some collection services.** Check for updates [HERE](#)

# The Pen Ponds causeway



The Pen Ponds causeway will be closed from 16th August for approximately eight weeks while work is undertaken to improve it.

Contractors will be raising the height and adding reinforcements to guard against extreme weather and “one in a thousand year” flood events.

During this time, for safety there will be no public access. Apologies for any inconvenience and we’ll let you know updates as we have them.



# Garrick’s Temple reopens

Garrick’s Temple reopens to the public on the weekend of 4 and 5 September (to coincide with the start of the Open House London Festival) until Sunday 24 October 2021.

Garrick’s Temple to Shakespeare on the Riverside at Hampton (TW12 2EJ) was built by the great 18th century actor-manager David Garrick in 1756 to celebrate the genius of William Shakespeare.



The Temple will be open between 11am and 5pm on both Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 September, and on Sundays only, through to and including Sunday 24 October.

Public Transport available to the Temple include the R68, 111, 216 buses to the Garrick Villa stop and the nearest train stations are Hampton or Hampton Court with a 20 minute walk to the Temple or 111 bus ride or R68 Bus ride from the stations.

# Twickenham Riverside Sell Off

Teresa Read

The planning application for housing and a pub has been submitted by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (LBRUT) Council to London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Planning. (The majority of decision makers for the planning application are members of the majority at the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames). What are the odds of LBRUT obtaining planning permission?

The loss of Twickenham [open air] baths followed on from the loss of the East Twickenham ice rink; two of the major venues for sport and leisure in LBRUT. One wonders what the Council has against providing facilities for families and young people - the envy of residents in other boroughs in years past.

Of course, housing is needed and it must be on the prime site of Twickenham Riverside - which is public open space - in order to maximise profit.

Savills estate agents will no doubt emphasise the unique view of the Thames and the new pub, but will they mention the rugby crowds who throng the pubs on rugby days with raucous renditions of "Swing Low Sweet Chariot", Sweet Caroline, Danny Boy and Delilah?

Presumably the target audience will not be those with young families and those who are not too keen on rugby crowds outside their door.

So, it seems that the Council is keen on yet another pub in Twickenham – over 20 within walking distance. What imagination!

I am told by a reader that the application states sui generis for the "pub": *"In the planning context 'sui generis' means 'in a class of its own' and refers to any use that does not fall within the specific use-classes under the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order, 1987 as amended by the town and Country Planning (Use Classes) (Amendment) (England) Regulations, 2020 which came into force in September, 2020. It embraces a range of uses including public houses, wine-bars, drinking establishments, drinking establishments with expanded food provision, hot food takeaways, live music venues, concert halls and theatres."*

Another reader wrote to suggest *"a strip club? That would be a USP!!* The mind boggles; who is making the decisions in this Council?

Well, however it turns out remember to put this date in your diary: **5<sup>th</sup> May 2022** - the London Local Council local elections. They might concrete over our hard won public open space but at least we will have the opportunity to make our views known - eventually.

Thank goodness I did not buy that house on Eel Pie Island across from the "development site".

LINKS:

East Twickenham Ice Rink, <https://icerinx.com>

Lidos Alive, <https://lidosalive.com/>

Saving Twickenham Riverside <https://www.worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=SavingTwickenhamRiverside>

# Calling parents - ask your back to school and COVID-19 vaccine questions

Parents and carers of school-aged children and young people are invited to a virtual Q&A to ask their questions about the impact of COVID-19 on schools this September, along with any questions about the vaccine rollout for 16 to 17 year olds.

Answering questions will be leading experts in the borough, including:

- Dr Patrick Gibson, GP Lead for Richmond upon Thames on the NHS South West London CCG.
- Ian Dodds, Director of Childrens Services at Richmond Council.
- Representative from Public Health at Richmond Council.

Parents can register for the events on:

- [26 August from 6.30 to 8pm](#)
- [1 September from 6.30 to 8pm](#)

At the events, the panel will be talking about the new guidance for schools in the Autumn term and the planned rollout of the vaccine for 16 to 17 year olds. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions to the panel.



The event will be hosted on Zoom. Once registered you will be sent a personal link (around 24 hours in advance and again around 20 minutes before) and will be able to log in and hear and take part in the conversation. Attendees will be invited to have their say via video, audio or text chat.

By registering to the event, participants are agreeing to the [event etiquette](#).

Ian Dodds, Director of Children's Services for Richmond at Achieving for Children, said:  
*"We know that over the past 18 months COVID-19 has caused incredible disruption for our schools and local families. Schools have worked so hard at making sure that children and young people continue to receive high quality education and support.*

*"As children return in the new school year, I know that parents will have questions about the arrangements and how they can support their children's schools to make sure that everyone stays safe. Please come along to one of the Q&A and we will try to answer your questions."*

Dr Patrick Gibson, GP Lead for Richmond upon Thames on the NHS South West London CCG, added:

*"We have welcomed the JCVI guidance encouraging the vaccination of 16 to 17 year olds and will be making this available to young people as soon as possible across our borough. When you're invited by your GP, please come along. The vaccine really is the best way to build a defence against the virus and protect you and your family and a more normal way of life."*

# Richmond Council's Democratic Deficit

By the Teddington Residents (Neighbours of Elleray Hall) Association

The council's Local Plan Strategic Vision is ambitious and inspires confidence in the way our local communities are organised and protected, aspiring to:

*"to build on the success of maintaining and enhancing the borough's villages, its unique character and developing a strong and varied sense of place, in partnership with local communities and other key stakeholders."*

The plan reassuringly states that Richmond *"will be the best place in London to live as a result of the quality of the built environment and the high-quality design of new development that respects and enhances its distinctive character. The amenity of residents and local neighbourhoods will have been protected and action taken on environmental issues and pollution."*

**Fine words indeed that we can all support but what about the practice?**

## No Local Housing Style resembles proposed block of flats

- The site is surrounded by 11 houses with Townscape Merit (TM) classification
- All local houses use light buff London Brick (not dark brick suggested for Hall & flats).



Regrettably, the council's actions in recent years have flown in the face of these worthy ambitions. A case in point is the Elleray Hall redevelopment in conjunction with affordable housing. The council's plans for the two sites remain contentious and deserve a much broader debate than has been offered by the council.

From the outset, the residents most directly impacted by the proposals have been made to feel at best peripheral and, at worst, overlooked entirely.

The engagement process was deeply flawed, with the virtual meeting closely controlled and directed by the council officials and the biased questionnaires drawn up with partial or leading questions. The engagement allowed no scrutiny or meaningful discussion of alternative ideas but was rather designed as a self-congratulatory exercise. The council's decision-making appears to be informed not by an objective evaluation of the merits of different proposals, but instead grants privileged consideration to its preferred stakeholders. Despite its flaws, the engagement solicited significant and legitimate local challenges regarding the overbearing scale of the proposals, the substance of which the council has simply refused to engage with.

To represent the physical impact of the proposed developments on the surrounding area, Teddington Residents have created a three-dimensional model that shows, in stark contrast to council's misleading images that were used to sell the project, the hugely overbearing nature of the proposed developments, which go against the council's own planning guidelines. The 3D tour illustrates the long-lasting impact on the reasonable quality of life for potential residents of the new flats and those that will live next to them from a sense of complete enclosure (the sorts of dense developments one associates with parts of the city that did not take sufficient care in its previous developments built in haste). Architecturally, the scope will swamp the structures of historic townscape merit houses surrounding the sites.

View faced by residents and neighbouring houses  
<https://teddingtonresidents.uk/ellerayhall>



Above: Misleading Algarve style Council image

Few would argue with new and existing residents' right to live in their homes and enjoy their outdoor spaces without a complete sense of enclosure. Moreover, it is through the diligence and care provided by past local councils that residents in Teddington have been protected from the sorts of high-density developments seen elsewhere in London. In its most recent proposals, the council has not only neglected its duty of care to protect the local community, but it has also morphed into the type of over-reaching and rapacious developer that it should be protecting its residents from.

The reckless haste in pushing through with the current plans may serve politicians' short term electoral ambitions, but the price will be despoiling the delicate and valued social and architectural ecosystem developed in Teddington over many years whilst providing poor quality social housing.

The council's intention to apparently proceed regardless is highly disquieting. It is instructive to note the council's objections to a proposed private development project in Udney Park, citing the adverse effects. Such adverse effects it seems to believe are irrelevant in its own plans for the Elleray Hall overdevelopment. This despite, as the 3D visuals clearly demonstrate, the Elleray Hall plans being significantly more adversely impactful on the *'unique character...and sense of place.'* This hypocrisy apparently does not cause any embarrassment to councillors.

The drive to meet targets at all costs is overriding the rights and well-being of the potential new and existing residents. Indeed, in the council's haste to cram as many flats as possible in this dense space to maximise revenues which are to cover the cost of the new centre also short-changes the potential new residents. Affordable housing does not have to mean a race to the bottom in terms of the quality of provision for the less well off. Everyone deserves better.

The Elleray Hall development plans and the associated housing estate are one of many schemes the council has put forward to overdevelop Teddington village and other areas of Richmond.

The social contract that has existed for decades between residents and policymakers is that residents supply the taxes in order for policymakers to provide the services their community needs. Naturally, this includes vital services for our most vulnerable elderly users. It is wholly inappropriate that the council has now turned to raising funds through inappropriate and intrusive developments, pitting residents against one another by creating a false choice between vital services for some and preservation of quality of life for others. In the same way that our schools should not be funded by high-rise apartment blocks next door, there is no logical, practical or moral mandate for the provision of elderly care services to necessitate an intrusive housing development in the immediate vicinity.

We support a fit for purpose centre for the elderly and we support appropriate construction of good quality affordable housing that are carefully and sensitively designed so that we enhance our communities rather than vandalise them.

We deserve for our voices to be heard; we demand that our democratic representatives look beyond the fulfilment of arbitrary targets and consider the impacts of railroading of developments that will destroy our beautiful and fragile social and architectural heritage.

If the experiences that we have shared resonate with you, please join other local residents that have already given their support to our cause by signing the petition below:

Link to 3D model- Virtual Tour of the Elleray Hall and Housing Development: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzaxUmHvu8c>  
To register your opposition to these proposals, please sign and share the petition: <https://www.change.org/saveourcarpark>  
Visit residents' website: <https://teddingtonresidents.uk/ellerayhall>

# Local policing update - August

Rebecca Robinson, Neighbourhoods Inspector, Richmond



We've had another busy month in Richmond.

I am pleased to say we have continued our proactive work, resulting in a few noteworthy pieces of work from the team. We have executed a number of warrants again this month, seizing a potentially dangerous dog and a large amount of drugs.

We continue these investigations and will likely continue to execute more warrants in the coming months. We absolutely could not do this without the intelligence we get fed it so please do encourage the residents of Richmond to continue to feed through information.

As well as this, we have also assisted flying squad in finding a suspect to a burglary and other offences highlighting the importance of our grass roots policing.

On a personal note this has been my last month in charge of Richmond Neighbourhood teams, and I am sad to be leaving just as we are to start public engagements again.

I have in the last month visited the synagogue to discuss patrol around High Holy days and other concerns. I have attended the University in order to answer questions over stop and search.

I know this good engagement will continue as will the dedication of the ward officers.



## SPEAR awards partners for supporting rough sleepers during the pandemic

Following the Government's 'Everyone In' directive, offering every rough sleeper with accommodation, SPEAR urgently found people a safe living environment, which helped prevent the spread of coronavirus amongst the most vulnerable in our community.



The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/21 led to one of SPEAR's busiest years in its 33-year history. SPEAR worked with many partners during this time, who were overwhelming with their support, but there were two organisations that SPEAR partnered with who went above and beyond with the provisions they offered.

SPEAR's Outreach teams across Richmond, Kingston, Wandsworth and Sutton worked tirelessly to support homeless people off the streets. In 2020/21 they worked with almost 700 people.

Outreach Workers persevered and were able to engage with many entrenched rough sleepers who had previously not accepted help, or people who had recently found themselves homeless due to the impact of the pandemic on precarious living environments.

SPEAR is grateful to all its partners and thanks them all for their dedication during the last year. Check out the full list of award winners [HERE](#)

## Kew

### **The Kew Horticultural Society Summer Show returns this August**

The Kew Horticultural Society are delighted to announce that the 76th Kew Horticultural Show is not only going ahead this summer, but returning to Kew Green on **Saturday 28 August**.

This is one of the few remaining traditional produce fairs in London, and if you haven't been before, then a treat awaits you!

Please do come along and enjoy all that this fabulous community event has to offer: besides the glorious 'exhibit marquee' bursting with vegetables, fruit, flowers, baking, and craft, there will be local and horticultural-based stalls, a jazz band, a tea tent, a barbecue, and traditional family fun, including a Punch and Judy show, Treasure Hunt and Beat the Goalie competition.

But don't just come along, join in the real fun by entering your produce, flowers, cakes or craft into one of over 100 categories, with specific classes for children, and experience the excitement of participating in this joyful community event. Find out more about this year's fair [HERE](#)

## Richmond

Instant Opera's Grand Opera Gala comes to Richmond

Richmond's 5 star opera company opens the new season at Richmond Theatre with a Grand Opera Gala on Saturday 25 September at 7:30pm.

This unmissable event celebrates a long-awaited return to the stage post lockdown with superb local performance artists at the forefront. These include international soloists, The Instant Opera Orchestra and Chorus, conducted by Oliver Till and Daniel Wain as the MC for the evening.

The gala will feature much loved arias ensembles and grand choruses by Mozart, Verdi, Bizet, Tchaikovsky, Donizetti, Gilbert & Sullivan and many more. Tickets are on sale now [online](#) or by calling 0333 009 6690.

## Strawberry Hill

### **Possible Removal of the Recycling Area in Popes Avenue, Strawberry Hill**

It seems that the recycling bins at the village end of Popes Avenue, Strawberry Hill may be removed according to the Minutes of the Strawberry Hill Residents Association. The decision to remove the recycling area is currently with councillors for South Ward at the London Borough or Richmond upon Thames:

<https://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx>:

Cllr Katie Mansfield, Cllr Richard Bennett and Cllr Michael Butlin

The situation has been particularly difficult with the closure of the Townmead Recycling Centre; obviously not an option for those without cars. If the proposal goes ahead other recycling areas such as Twickenham Green will suffer more use although there are currently problems on Twickenham Green as well.

An elderly lady who lives in flats nearby the Popes Avenue recycling site said that she had not heard anything about the removal of the recycling area. She thought that local people should be informed of any proposals to remove the bins and tell them about replacement recycling facilities.

This is obviously an issue of concern, especially since the lockdowns, with more and more people buying online, and consequently recycling large amounts of cardboard which in turn becomes new packaging.

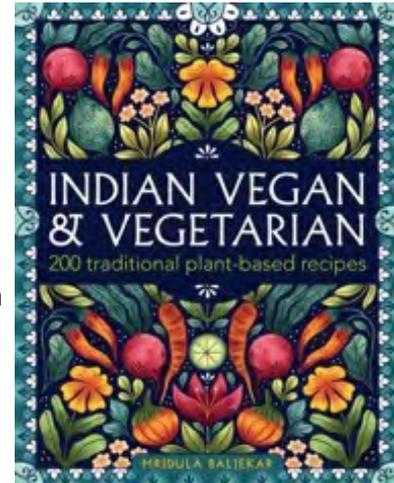
This is a borough-wide issue which should be addressed by the London Borough or Richmond upon Thames with public consultation. Perhaps someone will come up with a solution?

## SPICE UP YOUR CULINARY REPERTOIRE

Mridula Baljekar is the best-selling author of numerous, award-winning, Indian cookbooks. She's appeared as guest chef on Channel 4, BBC2, UKTV Food and Sky One, has her own product range of award-winning chutneys, and set up Mridula's Cookery School, in partnership with the Berkshire College of Agriculture, (offering the public the opportunity to learn the secrets involved in creating delicious Indian cuisine). Her latest book, *Indian*



*Vegan & Vegetarian*, (recently published by **Lorenz Books** £20, hardback) draws on the very best plant based recipes from around the country, many of them naturally vegan anyway. She introduces the different regions of the continent, then takes the reader through the wide range of components and utensils, group by group: it's a veritable encyclopaedia of Indian recipe ingredients. She then takes one on a journey around the different regions presenting a mouth-watering array of dishes: lentils cooked a myriad of ways from mustard with cumin to spiced butter; kebabs made from lotus roots, coconut and wild fig; spiced yam fingers and plantain curry; all manner of stuffed vegetables and breads. And, of course, there are pilaus, bhajiyas, samosas and chutneys bursting with flavour.



At a time when we are all being urged to eat more plant-based foods, this book will inspire even the most hardened carnivore! Here are some of her recipes to inspire you to invest in the complete book.

### **Bread Fritters** *Double Roti Ke Pakore*

Sold by street vendors in north India, these vegan fritters are an ideal way to liven up stale bread and are irresistible eaten hot, straight from the pan. Store-bought sauces are used to make a quick and easy snack or appetizer, but you can vary the fillings. **Makes 12**

45ml/3 tbsp chilli sauce  
5ml/1 tsp mint sauce  
15ml/1 tbsp mango chutney, mashed to a pulp  
6 large slices of slightly stale white bread, crusts removed  
115g/4oz gram flour (besan)  
2 fresh green chillies, finely chopped (seeded if preferred)  
30ml/2 tbsp chopped fresh coriander/cilantro leaves  
5ml/1 tsp fennel seeds  
7.5ml/1½ tsp garam masala  
2.5ml/½ tsp ground turmeric  
3.75ml/¾ tsp salt, or to taste  
vegetable oil, for deep-frying  
sauces of your choice, to serve



1 Mix together the sauces and chutney in a bowl. Spread the mixture evenly over 3 slices of bread. Top each slice with the remaining bread to make 3 sandwiches. Cut each sandwich into 4 triangles or squares.

2 Combine the remaining ingredients, except the oil, in a mixing bowl and gradually add 175ml/6fl oz cold water. Stir until you have a thick batter of coating consistency.

3 Heat the oil in a wok or other suitable pan for deep-frying over a medium heat. Test that the temperature is right by dropping a little batter into the oil. If it floats quickly to the surface without browning, it is ready.

4 Dip a triangle into the batter, using your fingers or two forks. Make sure it is coated with batter all over, including the edges. Lower the triangle into the hot oil and fry for 3–4 minutes, until crisp and browned. Lift out using a slotted spoon and drain on kitchen paper.

5 Repeat the dipping and frying process with the remaining sandwich triangles. Serve immediately with sauces of your choice.

### Leeks with Bell Pepper, Chilli and Gram Flour *Jhunko*

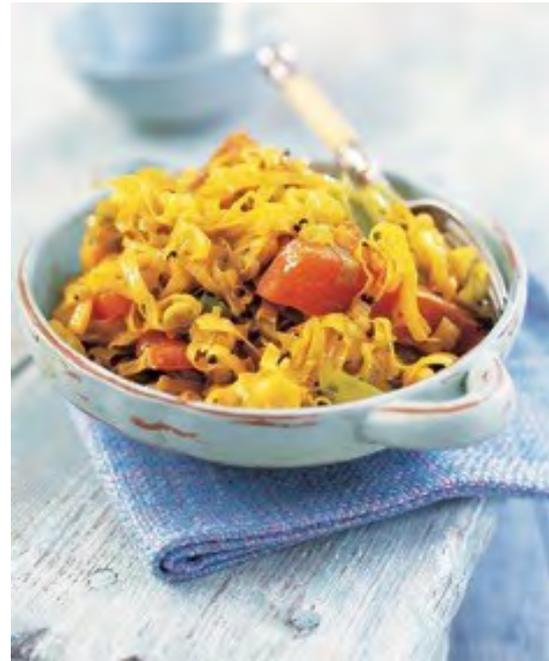
Traditionally, in this recipe, a large amount of sliced onion is sautéed with spices and chillies, and gram flour is added at the end to soak up all the juices. The mixture is then stir-fried until the gram flour releases its nutty, toasted aroma. I have used leeks instead of onions for a slightly more subtle flavour, although both work very well. **Serves 4**

60ml/4 tbsp vegetable oil  
2.5ml/½ tsp black mustard seeds  
5ml/1 tsp cumin seeds  
450g/1lb young leeks, finely sliced  
1 small red bell pepper, cut into 2.5cm/1in strips  
2.5ml/½ tsp ground turmeric  
2.5ml/½ tsp chilli powder  
2.5ml/½ tsp salt, or to taste  
50g/2oz gram flour (besan), sifted

1 Heat the oil in a heavy pan over a medium heat. When it is smoking hot, throw in the mustard seeds, followed by the cumin seeds.

2 Add the leeks, red pepper, turmeric, chilli powder and salt. Increase the heat slightly and stir-fry the vegetables for 4–5 minutes.

3 Sprinkle the gram flour into the pan and stir-fry for a further minute. Remove from the heat and serve.



### Baked Cashew Nut Diamonds *Kaju Burfi*

An extremely popular sweet dish found all over India, these tasty cakes are flavoured with delicate cardamom. Kaju Burfi is very simple to make: a soft dough is formed from a mixture of ground cashew nuts, sugar and ghee, then flattened and baked in the oven. They are delicious served at tea time or after dinner with coffee or tea. **Makes 16**

225g/8oz raw cashew nuts  
100g/3¾oz/ caster/superfine sugar  
15g/½oz/1 tbsp ghee or unsalted butter, or a vegan alternative  
2.5ml/½ tsp ground cardamom

1 Put the cashew nuts in a small heatproof bowl and pour over enough boiling water to cover. Soak for 20 minutes.

2 Drain the cashew nuts and place in a food processor or blender. Blend until a smooth paste forms, then transfer the paste to a large mixing bowl.

3 Add the remaining ingredients to the bowl and knead the mixture carefully, until it becomes smooth and buttery in texture.

4 Preheat the oven to 160°C/325°F/Gas 3. Line a baking sheet with well-greased baking parchment and spread the mixture on it to form a 20cm/8in square. Bake in the middle of the oven for 35–40 minutes, until lightly browned on the surface.

5 Remove the baking sheet from the oven and allow the mixture to cool for 15 minutes. Remove the burfi from the baking sheet and cut it into 16 diamonds or squares.



**Cook's Tip:** Ghee is the Indian version of clarified butter (i.e. butter that has had its moisture and milk solids removed, making it clear) and is traditionally made with buffalo rather than cow's milk. It has a nuttier flavour and darker colour than standard clarified butter and a higher burning point, which means it is good for frying. It is available in tins or jars and should be stored in the refrigerator, where it will keep for up to 6 months.



## The Comedy of Errors

by William Shakespeare,

Richmond Shakespeare Society, York House, Twickenham until 14<sup>th</sup> August

Yee-Hah! In the Wild West of Ephesus folks are likely to be seeing double. Could be the local hooch or moonshine hereabouts, or m'be it's more than that? So I moseyed down to the Naked Ladies' tavern in Twickenham to take me a look. The Richmond Shakespeare Society is back in town, or rather out of its theatre and it's the Fountain Gardens for its traditional annual open-air show.



With its errors resulting from the mistaken identities of identical twin brothers, the plot of Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* has travelled far, from its original Latin farce the *Menæchmi*, penned by Plautus around 200 BC, all the way to Rodgers and Hart's 1938 Broadway musical *The Boys from Syracuse*. So it's got (gotten?) to America, but possibly never to the Wild West.

Shakespeare takes Plautus' plot of the two twins, each confusingly named Antipholus and redoubles the mayhem with each having a slave confusingly named Dromio, both the masters and the servants being identical twins. The possibilities for farce go up fourfold and the clownish Dromio brothers provide opportunities for slapstick. Director Fiona Poole exploits all these potentialities in her break-neck self-deprecating production, which exudes fun from every pore.

Antipholus of Syracuse and his servant, Dromio of Syracuse arrive in Ephesus, not knowing that they have entered a lion's den, but rather enjoy the cordiality with which they are received. Everyone mistakes them for Antipholus of Ephesus and his servant, Dromio of Ephesus. The Antiphologi suffer arrest, the Dromios beatings. There are allegations of theft and of madness. Seductions, and romantic and sexual shenanigans lead to accusations of infidelity. If it's hard to keep up, just sit back and enjoy the ride. Yee-Hah!



Read Mark Aspen's review at [www.markaspen.com/2021/08/11/com-errors](http://www.markaspen.com/2021/08/11/com-errors)

Photography by Handwritten Photography



## Robin Hood: The Legend of Bushy Park

by Josh Clarke

YAT, The Woodland Gardens, Teddington

Dressed up all in Green Yo, Ho! ... well, in a mac actually, just in case, I went in search of the legendary Robin Hood in his Bushy Park hideaway. Arriving at the verdant Pheasantry grounds, a grass stage before the audience, with an abundance of foliage as the only stage entrance, I was intrigued and slightly worried by these elements ... and by the looming precipitation. Even the natural elements held back for such a skilled production ... then poured down straight afterwards!



The narrator, Meaghan Baxter built us up nicely for the treats to come. A lynch mob of serfs following, with a noisy and impressive entrance, colourful, humorous, tongue-in-cheek, and reminiscent of Monty Python's era.

Smartly dressed Tax Collectors (Joe Evans and Charlie Scowsill), not dissimilar to a sinister Laurel and Hardy, worked the energy between them as personal guards to [Benjamin Buckley](#)'s very watchable Sheriff of Teddington, the real villain of the piece, whose pace and timing were impeccable. With the foppish King John (Edward Boore) making a dynamic entrance, the story flowed nicely. The slightly convoluted plot didn't make it any the less enjoyable.

Maid Marion (Naomi Pink) and Friar Tuck (Esme Fraser) had solid rapport and I warmed to Ella Barnett as Little John. But, my favourite, out of a wealth of stand-out characters, was Guy of Guildford, played slickly by Cameron Christie, a very glamorous trouble shooter indeed.

The charismatic Robin Hood was shown to be hapless and desperate for a good plan, dismantling the folklore of his bravery. Jake O'Hare fully embraced his title role ... and is quite believable as a heart throb ...

...

Read Heather Moulson's review at [www.markaspen.com/2021/08/10/robin-hood-yat](http://www.markaspen.com/2021/08/10/robin-hood-yat)

Photography by JoJo Leppink





## Marie Lloyd Stole My Life

by J.J. Leppink

Blue Fire Theatre Company at Water Rats, now at Museum of Comedy, Bloomsbury until 21<sup>st</sup> August.

“I’m reviewing a play about a Victorian Music Hall singer.”

“Oh, is it Marie Lloyd?”

“No... but funny you should say that...”



The above is an excerpt from a conversation with a family member prior to the first night of *Marie Lloyd Stole My Life*, at this year’s Camden Fringe Festival, and, by the end of this short exchange, the author’s apparent need to tell this relatively unknown story immediately dawned on me. Most people, even with only a vague knowledge of theatrical history, will recognise the name of the ‘queen’ of British music hall, Marie Lloyd, but how many will have heard of Nelly Power, one of the early stars of this theatrical genre, whose sparkle was dulled significantly when the former burst onto the scene, stealing more than just her limelight? This brilliantly written monologue leaves us in no doubt about who, according to Power at least, the true star of music hall really was.

Staged in the perfectly-suited theatre at the rear of the iconic Water Rats Theatre Bar, a stone’s throw from St. Pancras, the birthplace of Nelly Power, it was in public houses such as this that the music hall genre was originally born, allowing raucous audiences to eat, drink, smoke, cheer and sing-along to their favourite acts in affordable surroundings. It was almost like stepping back in time when, walking into the ex-Saloon Bar of this pub, we were immediately greeted by the tinkling ivories of the “old Joanna”, under orange-tinged lighting, perfectly replicating the dimly-lit venues of bygone times.

The piece is beautifully crafted by J.J. Leppink and superbly acted by Lottie Walker, who appears in a superbly detailed costume and really brings the character and her fascinating story to life. The songs, a mixture of cockney knees-up classics such as, *My Ol’ Man Said Foller the Van*, contrasted with the heart-warming, *The Boy I Love is Up in the Gallery*, offered the perfect blend of comedy and poignancy, and Walker’s contrasting performance of these well-known favourites was an absolute treat. One could not help but tap one’s feet and quietly sing along.

Read David Stephens’ review at [www.markaspen.com/2021/08/09/marie-lloyd](http://www.markaspen.com/2021/08/09/marie-lloyd)

Photography courtesy of Blue Fire

# TRAVELLER'S TALES 103

## I SPY

Doug Goodman recalls some experiences behind the Iron Curtain

I became accustomed to the comments from my work colleagues at Thomson Holidays each time I prepared for another trip to the USSR: "off to collect your pay cheque from the KGB", or "another spying assignment from MI6." The comments were, I suppose, to be expected as I visited The Soviet Union twenty times in the twelve years between 1974 and 1986. I spoke Russian and had studied in Leningrad so it was natural for me to organise and accompany press groups and look at prospective new destinations in the vast country. But never once did I step out of line or did anything illegal. However, there were many incidents – some potentially risky which I faced during visits to Eastern European countries before the fall of communism.

My earliest encounter with police – East German Stasi was when I took a group of students to Moscow by train. One of the party swore at the guards when they opened his luggage. He was promptly arrested and vanished. I had a group visa and was powerless to intervene. He did somehow get back to London. The import and export of Russian Roubles was forbidden and one of the holiday reps was found with a large amount of currency in his shoes. I had my own shoes minutely examined and an original, amateur painting confiscated. Letters from friends in Russia always seemed to have been opened and resealed while letters from me was undoubtedly scrutinised. On arrival at Sheremetyevo airport passengers from their charter flight were searched and 'suspicious' books and newspapers confiscated. One winter's day on arriving in Leningrad on Aeroflot I was whisked off to the Botkin isolation hospital with suspected cholera. I had been in Tunisia three days before where an outbreak had occurred. With a health form to complete on landing and a date stamp in my passport I could not answer 'none' to the question about recent visits. Locked in a room with bars while the five day incubation period expired was not a pleasant experience. Another situation arose when an armed security guard approached me with a menacing look and demanded my camera. I had just photographed an old man leaving his huge limousine at Moscow's Novodevichy Convent. It was Soviet leader Brezhnev visiting his mother's grave. Happily the Intourist guide sorted out the problem.



Soviet Spy Philby



Moscow Hotel



Soviet Leaders

### THEY HAVE EARS

Visitors to Moscow from the UK were usually accommodated at The Hotel Intourist in Gorky Street close to Red Square. The journalists were always put in room 14 or 15 on various floors. The reps' office in the hotel reported hearing their own conversations being played down the phone line when they made a subsequent call. Once in a Leningrad hotel I said to my photographer in a loud voice "if only they would supply us with city maps and guides..." Shortly after you can guess what was delivered! I had several friends in Moscow for whom I took gifts of cigarettes, books and clothes. Chewing gum and jeans were in great demand by the young and with an exchange you could acquire various bits of a military uniform. I was once taken to the War Store by a friend who bought for me badges and insignia. He was a major in the army and used his pass to purchase items that were 'only for soldiers'. Friends would never come to my hotel room and were reluctant even to enter the building. Citizens were controlled and were supposed to report any contact with foreigners. Whenever I visited friends' flats they would unplug and remove their phones from the room where we held discussions. 'They have ears' I was informed. Even my friend the major and a communist party member turned up the radio in his hotel room. It may have prevented 'them' from hearing us but it was almost impossible to hear each other. When

making a phone call I always used a public phone box. Foreigners were forbidden to travel more than 40 kms from the city except on organised excursions. I used to take local buses with friends to explore little villages and found that people outside the city had a hard life. After parties in a flat on Moscow's outskirts, when public transport had ended, I would flag down a car, even a snow plough, and offer a fist full of Roubles for a lift home.



KGB HQ



Political History Museum



Exiled Statues

A good friend lived in a prestigious apartment block opposite the Aragvi restaurant in Gorki Street. The restaurant was a favourite of Stalin and I enjoyed magnificent Georgian food and wine there. The only way to secure a table, unless you were a party member, was to offer the doorman a packet of cigarettes. It always worked. The Aragvi was frequented by the spy Kim Philby who lived in the same block as my friend. I once greeted him in a corridor without recognising him and only discovered his identity when a postage stamp carried his image.

A British journalist friend based in Moscow showed me his well-appointed flat in the press compound. Entry was controlled by guards so I had to speak English for their benefit as Russians were not allowed to enter. I was shown indentations below the wallpaper in the main bedroom where microphones were concealed. Special shops were available selling top quality items to foreigners with 'hard currency'. These were unavailable to Russian so I often took friends shopping using Sterling or Dollars. Exploring Moscow on foot was a wonderful experience and once, asking what an imposing building was for, I was advised not to enquire. It was the Lubyanka, the HQ of the KGB. The statue of Felix Derzhinski, its founder, is long gone but can be seen in a little park along with statues for which the public have no love.

### SAME SYSTEM JUST A DIFFERENT COUNTRY

Bulgaria's security apparatus was linked to Moscow. On a visit to Sofia I copied the James Bond trick of sticking a hair across the lock of my suitcase left in my hotel room. I discovered the case had been opened and my address book stolen. A guest on my Bulgarian trip had a book written by Robert Maxwell to present to dictator Todor Zhivkov. On a subsequent trip to Moscow the journalist was accused of passing information to the KGB. In Romania we were followed, I'm sure, by members of the Securitate.

With the end of communism everything has changed: people on my last visit were open about the previous regime and many were ready to condemn Putin. I was amazed at the displays and information at the Political History Museum in St. Petersburg. The persecution by Stalin of the Kulaks, the crimes committed by every Soviet leader up to the reign of Gorbachov, the Gulag camps where millions of citizens were incarcerated - it was all explained in great detail. One thing that has changed and for the worst are the formalities and cost of obtaining a visa for Russia. The KGB has been renamed the FSB but spying still continues. On Thursday the press revealed a plot to gather secret material from the British embassy in Berlin. A British citizen was accused of passing information to the Russians. It would seem therefore that the business of espionage is flourishing. Let's be pleased GCHQ and MI6 do their best to protect us.



GCHQ London



MI6 HQ

# Celebrate the “Glorious 12th” with a trip to the SUN

Travel News by Bruce Lyons

Did you know dear reader that yesterday, 12th August JetBlue, an American no frills airline flew their inaugural flight from New York to London with American travellers only – flew back empty as the Brits are not allowed to visit the USA, how reasonable is that? – at least it will help the UK hospitality business with some US tourists – but when can the double jabbed UK passport holders go to America and see their families – we are barred jabs or no jabs – though you are ok if you have an American Passport! Not fair you say ! But that is what’s happening.

However you can travel – believe me many are and whilst there are still places you can’t visit there are plenty you can – and many are, don’t worry about the testing and the forms – we are here to help!

Staycations may soon be off the menu as Camping in the Glens is not so attractive in the Autumn And sea-cations in a Force 9 is also a little underwhelming. No worries! because by then for October and School Break there will be plenty to choose from and far less Red Tape.

Travel starved Brits can also expect a lot more of Eastern Europe to stay open till the End of October And the weather can be really sunny then. Last week the UAE opened up too, a strong favourite for Winter Sun.



River Cruising is well and truly back on the menu with a fabulous offer in GREEN Germany on Amadeus Silver 11 cruising the Rhine and Danube with a whopping 40% discount on their September 1st 9-day sailing. It was £1103 and now is reduced to £650, including full board and entertainment.

France is also open to cruising and river boat hire and the Duoro in Portugal as well.



Winter Breaks – true some are still “off limits” so to speak but there is already a big choice, thought it would be nice to have Italy in the choice- maybe on the next announcement at the end of August.

The Caribbean is already open, with a good choice ; Turks & Caicos, Barbados ,St Lucia, Grenada & More, as is Bermuda all great for Autumn – Asia you ask – Thailand is fine too, so it is with the UAE and soon we should have a good list of options with the Indian Ocean and Mauritius included too.

So, don’t let Grant Shapps have his way – Travel is coming back and you could be part of it.

Did you know last week Regent Seven Seas Cruises launched their 2023/4 World Cruise and the rest of the programme and the World Cruise sold out in ONE HOUR.

Last week we had a Saga Cruise client who had her trip cancelled /deferred three times – but being an optimist she went with the latest revised itinerary – came back last week and emailed to say that she really just loved it and she is in her 80s and went alone. So there you Anchors Away – it’s time to travel- again.



# WIZ TALES - Bermuda

Teresa Read



Bermuda, an Overseas Territory of the UK, is a group of isolated islands in the North Atlantic Ocean, east of South Carolina, USA. Bermuda is the oldest remaining British Colony and has one of the oldest parliamentary democracies in the world.

Bermuda is named after Juan de Bermudez, a Spanish seafarer, who discovered the island in 1503.

The Bermuda National Trust preserves buildings, lands, artefacts and places of beauty or historic interest. The Trust's headquarters is located in a three hundred- and twenty-year-old house built by the Trimmingham family. An even older Trust property is a cottage built by Captain Dew around the turn of the seventeenth century.

The Historic Town of St George was founded in 1612. Designated a World Heritage Site in 2000, St George is an excellent example of early settlement in the New World.

The Bermuda National Trust looks after the conservation of the environment. Nature reserves under the care of the Trust include Idwal Hughes Nature Reserve (woodland with an extensive cave system), Spittal Pond (Bermuda's largest bird sanctuary), Warwick Pond (the second largest freshwater pond in Bermuda) and Gladys Morrell Nature Reserve (a nesting area of the Bermuda Bluebird).

The coral reefs and beaches of Bermuda have made the islands famous for water sports such as underwater swimming, water-skiing and windsurfing. Sailing clubs include the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club and the Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club. Two of Bermuda's sailing events are the Bermuda Christmas Boat Parade and the King Edward VII Gold Cup. Bermuda is also known for big-game fishing. Visitors can fish for barracuda, dorado and marlin.

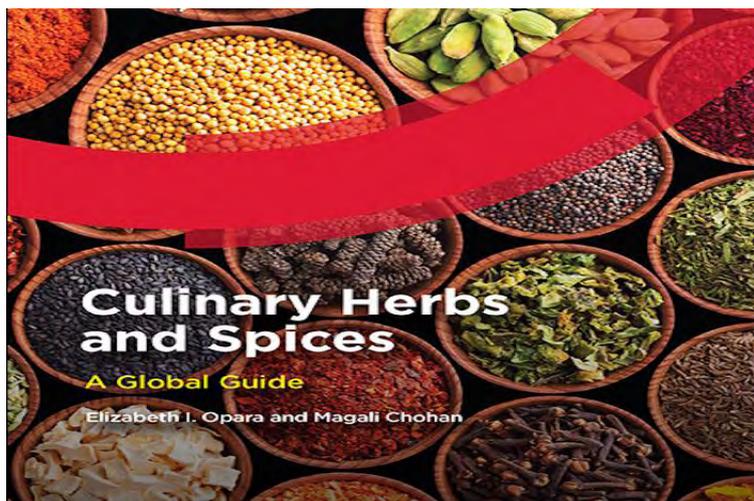
At the time of writing Bermuda is on the UK's Green watch list.



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

# St Mary's University

## St Mary's Lecturer Writes New Book 'Culinary Herbs and Spices: A Global Guide'



Senior lecturer in Nutrition at St Mary's University, Twickenham, Dr Magali Chohan has co-authored a new book with Dr Elisabeth Opara.

The book encompasses knowledge of 30 of the most commonly used culinary herbs and spices from across the globe including cinnamon, ginger, rosemary, saffron, thyme and turmeric.

It covers a range of information on each herb or spice including the origin and history of use, nutritional composition and the health and therapeutic benefits. *Culinary Herbs and Spices: A Global Guide* is an essential book for those who are studying plant and food science and nutrition or have a general interest in herbs and spices.

Author and Programme Director of BSc Nutrition, Dr Magali Chohan said "When Dr Opara invited me to lunch 2 years ago to discuss the project, we did not anticipate the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, I am delighted to have contributed to completing this work and present the fascinating chronicles of this selection of culinary herbs and spices and how they still feature in high-quality research today".

The book is available [online](#).

## St Mary's Academics Write New Textbook

Academic staff from the [Institute of Business, Law and Society](#) at St Mary's University, Twickenham have been involved in writing and editing a new textbook The Routledge Companion to Market Research.

This single-volume reference provides an alternative to traditional marketing research methods handbooks, focusing entirely on the new innovative methods and technologies that are transforming marketing research and practice. Transcending the old divisions between qualitative and quantitative research methods, this book is an essential tool for market researchers in academia and practice.

A number of St Mary's current and past marketing research experts have contributed to the book including Visiting Lecturer Professor Merlin Stone, Senior Lecturer in Marketing Robin Birn, Module Convenor Emmanuel Kosack, Senior Lecturer in Business Management Eleni Aravopoulou and Visiting Research Fellow Dr Geraint Evans.

Chapters include *Key Issues in Managing Marketing Research and Customer Insight*, *Artificial Intelligence in Marketing and Marketing Research*, and *Smart Cities and Smart Transport - the Role of Data and Insight*.



Senior Lecturer in Marketing at St Mary's, Robin Birn said "This book brings together academics and practitioners with thought-provoking case studies. It includes research completed by St Mary's University for [The Archive of Market and Social Research](#) and is an important contribution to professional learning".

The book can be purchased [online](#), for more information please contact [Robin Birn](#).



St Mary's  
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## BRENTFORD FC

### **Brentford 1 - 0 Arsenal**

#### **Bees off and running with victory over Arsenal**

Brentford got their Premier League season up and running with a bang after defeating Arsenal 2-0 on the opening Friday night of the season. A first-half strike from Sergi Canós coupled with a header from Christian Nørgaard ensured it was a memorable night for the Bees.



Early on the high press up the pitch from Brentford caused Arsenal problems from a defensive stand point and new signing Frank Onyeka did well to lead the charge up the field and forced Pablo Mari into a rushed clearance.

The visiting side's first opening came when a cross from Nicholas Pepe was whipped into the box looking for Folarin Balogun but David Raya came out to confidently claim.

Brentford's earliest chance fell to Bryan Mbeumo as a header from Onyeka was flicked on in the midfield to Ivan Toney. Toney instantly flicked the ball round the corner for Mbeumo to race onto and the Frenchman crashed a shot against the frame of the goal from a tight angle.

Mbeumo then had a couple of nice touches inside the Arsenal penalty area but couldn't manufacture a clear cut chance.

Minutes later however Brentford did take the league through Sergi Canós. The goal came from a long ball up the field from Raya that was flicked on. The ball eventually found it ways to Canós after Ethan Pinnock had headed an attempted clearance from Granit Xhaka. Canós pounced and dribbled past Callum Chambers, before curling a shot through the defender's legs and into the bottom corner and out of the reach of Bernd Leno.

Canós was lively in the opening half and just after scoring the first goal in the Premier League this season he attempted to slide a pass through to Mbeumo, but it just had too much on it and Pablo Mari had time to get across and cover.

Mbeumo was also proving a threat and he too had an excellent chance to make it two before the break. An accurate ball over the top from Kristoffer Ajer found him breaking down the right flank and Mbeumo did well to shift his feet and jink inside past Mari and Ben White. Unfortunately for him he then pulled his shot wide from just outside the six-yard box.

The large majority of positive attacking play in the first-half came from Brentford and Onyeka was once again involved as he slipped in Toney out wide. The centre forward then put a teasing cross into the back post but Vitaly Janelt advancing from deep but it drifted behind for a goal kick.

After the restart Arsenal looked much better and in the opening minutes Kieran Tierney combined well with Emile Smith-Rowe, although Raya was alert to gather the cross and the near post.

Raya was then on hand to make a good save from Smith-Rowe after a bursting central run but he was once again denied by the Spaniard.

Brentford doubled their lead win just under 20 minutes to play through Christian Nørgaard after a long throw in caused problems at the back for Arsenal. Mads Bech Sørensen on as a substitute launched a throw in from out wide and after Mari missed the ball at the front post after jumping with Toney and Nørgaard arrived from deep to crash a header in and give Brentford breathing room.

Ten minutes later Nørgaard had a chance to make it three after a set piece once was threatening for Brentford. This time it was a corner which caused problems as the Dane glanced a header that very narrowly drifted wide of the far post with Leno stranded.

Late on Raya was forced into his first significant save of the evening when he got down to deny Pepe after some good interplay between Smith-Rowe and Tierney again, as the Spaniard looked to maintain his clean sheet.

In the end it proved enough as Brentford stood firm to record their first victory in the top-flight in more than 74 years and cap a night that will live long in the memory.

## **Bees beat Valencia in final pre-season game**

Brentford recovered from a goal down to be La Liga side Valencia CF in their final pre-season match at the Brentford Community Stadium before they embark on their maiden Premier League campaign.

The Bees thought they had taken the lead but were denied by VAR after Marcus Forss had pull the ball past Christian Rivero but it was brought back for an offside in the build-up.

The Bees initially went a goal down to Diego López after the Spaniard went on a mazy run through the Bees defence and finished past his fellow compatriot David Raya.

In the second-half an Ethan Pinnock goal from a corner goes the Bees back on level terms and then Frank Onyeka scored what proved to be the winners minutes later as the Bees rounded off a good pre-season with a one final victory.

## **Brentford announce signing off Yoane Wissa**

Brentford FC have confirmed the signing of winger Yoane Wissa from French side FC Lorient on a four year deal. It has been announced that the 24 year old moves for an undisclosed fee after impressive in France in recent season, during which he made a total of 128 appearances with a tally of 37 goals and 17 assists.

Speaking to club media follow the signing Thomas Frank said about the signing, “Wissa is someone who fits many different positions for us. He can play as a winger, as a number 10, and as a striker. He has that pace and power which we think is really important to be a threat in behind. He has good ability to take on players and create overloads. He also has good pressing abilities; he will need to learn our style of play but he fits the pressing criteria we want from a winger, a striker, or a number 10. He had one good season in Ligue 2 and one very good season in Ligue 1 and now we look forward to developing him further. I’m sure that he will help the

team. He is a very good character as well; everyone knows that it is very important for our culture that we only get good characters in. He is very keen to come in and help the team.”

## **Brentford to play Forest Green Rovers in League Cup**

Brentford will host League Two side Forest Green Rovers in the Second Round of the League cup following the draw. It will be a first ever meeting for the two sides with the tie due to be played on the week of the 24 August.

Brentford received a bye in the First Round and will look to continue where they left off in this competition last season where they knocked out a number of Premier League sides on route to making club history with a first ever major cup semi-final, where they lost 2-0 to Tottenham Hotspur.

## Hampton & Richmond Borough

### **Beavers round off pre-season with draw against Cardinals**

Hampton & Richmond Borough finished off their pre-season with a 1-1 draw at home against National League side Woking FC.

In a competitive workout in the sunshine for both teams at the Beavers the Beavers did well to go toe to toe with full time opposition from a league above and it will give them lots of confidence heading into the new season.

Woking opened the scoring through a trialist when he combined with former Hampton & Richmond player Max Kretschmar.

After half-time Hampton & Richmond put in a much better display and were unfortunate not to grab a victory against higher division opposition when Craig Ross pulled out a couple of excellent saves to deny the Beavers.

In the end however Jerome Slew did get on the scoresheet for the home side with an unsavable shot into the bottom corner as Hampton & Richmond will take a lot of positives from the games moving forward.

### **UP NEXT FOR HAMPTON**

Opponent: Eastbourne Borough (A) Saturday 14th August 15:00 Priory Lane

Nickname: The Sports

Competition: National League South – Matchday 1

Manager: Danny Bloor

Interesting fact: Eastbourne Borough reached the National League with a playoff final victory over Hampton & Richmond Borough back in 2008 in a game played at the home ground over Stevenage FC. They won 2-0 .



# Ken Bruce and Laurie Holloway to help The Ember Big Band shine for Shooting Star Children's Hospices

Radio 2 stalwart Ken Bruce is set to host a spectacular musical event 'Live and Kickin' with The Ember Big Band on Saturday 20th November in aid of Shooting Star Children's Hospices.

The concert, which will be held at Hammond Theatre, Hampton School, will be raising money for the local children's hospice charity who care for babies, children and young people with life-limiting conditions, and their families across Surrey and London.

Band member Nick Handel said, "This will be the second show the band has done to support Shooting Star Children's Hospices. This time we're looking back at 60 years of popular music from Duke Ellington and Fred Astaire to The Beatles and Queen – and there will be numbers from movies too. The mood of each musical decade will be evoked with back projected news clips and videos of each musical decade."



The band comprises of 18 musicians and three talented singers with a repertoire ranging from the Great American Songbook through swing and Latin to funk and rock.

The band will be conducted by the one and only Laurie Holloway, the original musical director of Strictly Come Dancing, often creating 14 dance arrangements a week.

Taking the helm as the host for the evening is broadcasting legend Ken Bruce. In 2019 Ken's national mid-morning show on Radio 2 became the most popular radio programme in the UK and in 2021 he was named Britain's favourite radio presenter in a survey carried out by the digital radio manufacturer Pure.

Ken Bruce said, "I'm very pleased to be able to join The Ember Big Band for this special concert in aid of such a worthwhile cause. Shooting Star Children's Hospices is doing stellar work in helping youngsters and their families cope with the most trying circumstances, and they need our support even more after a year in which Covid-19 has added extra difficulties in carrying out their vital services."

You can find out more and book tickets from early September at [www.shootingstar.org.uk/EEB21](http://www.shootingstar.org.uk/EEB21)

## Event timings and information:

Saturday 20 November 8pm | Hammond Theatre, Hampton School, Hampton TW12 3HD

Tickets £25 and a premium seat and champagne reception package available for £75



# Multi-million-pound initiative to improve local roads across England

A multimillion-pound scheme to improve traffic signals and a commitment to explore how new technology – such as drones and 3D printing – could be used to find and fix potholes are part of a raft of measures announced by Transport Secretary Grant Shapps today.

The package will see councils across England receive a share of £15m in Government funding to improve their traffic light systems to cut congestion, boost safety and reduce journey times and emissions – a commitment set out in the recently announced Transport Decarbonisation Plan.

In addition to announcing today's funding, the Government has also published the findings from a new initiative called the Digital Intelligence Brokerage (DIB), which aims to encourage more work with small and medium enterprises outside of the transport sector and to speed up research into new and innovative ways to fix potholes.

The DIB has already made waves in this area, identifying graphite nanoparticles in asphalt to reduce surface cracks, the use of bio-bitumen materials to create environmentally-friendly road surfaces which contribute to the decarbonisation of highways maintenance, and automated repair operations to minimise risk to road maintenance workers

This work supports wider Government commitments to use advanced technology, such as drones to spot defects in roads and 3D printing to repair cracks.

This all comes as the Government continues its drive to level up the country's transport network and build back better from the pandemic.

## **Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said:**

*“Whether you're a motorist, cyclist or pedestrian, every road-user across our country deserves the best possible journey. That's why, despite already having some of the best and safest roads in the world, this Government is providing millions of pounds to improve them further still.*

*“This vital funding and work will cut journey times for millions of people, reduce emissions and keep the UK at the forefront of technological developments in roads maintenance, as we continue to invest in local economies and build back both better and greener from the pandemic.”*

## **RAC Head of Roads Policy Nicholas Lyes said:**

*“Additional investment to cut congestion and make pothole repairs better for the future is very welcome. Improving traffic lights can make a significant difference to local roads by efficiently maximising the number of vehicles which can safely pass through junctions, while hitting a pothole can be an expensive and even a dangerous experience, so we look forward to seeing how drivers and road users more widely can benefit from the use of 21st century technology to repair their local roads more quickly.”*

The £15m announced today builds on the £1.125bn that has already been made available to local authorities for local road maintenance.

Councils will be expected to not only use the extra funding to repair and improve existing traffic signals but also consider how to future-proof their local road networks and prepare for technological innovations.

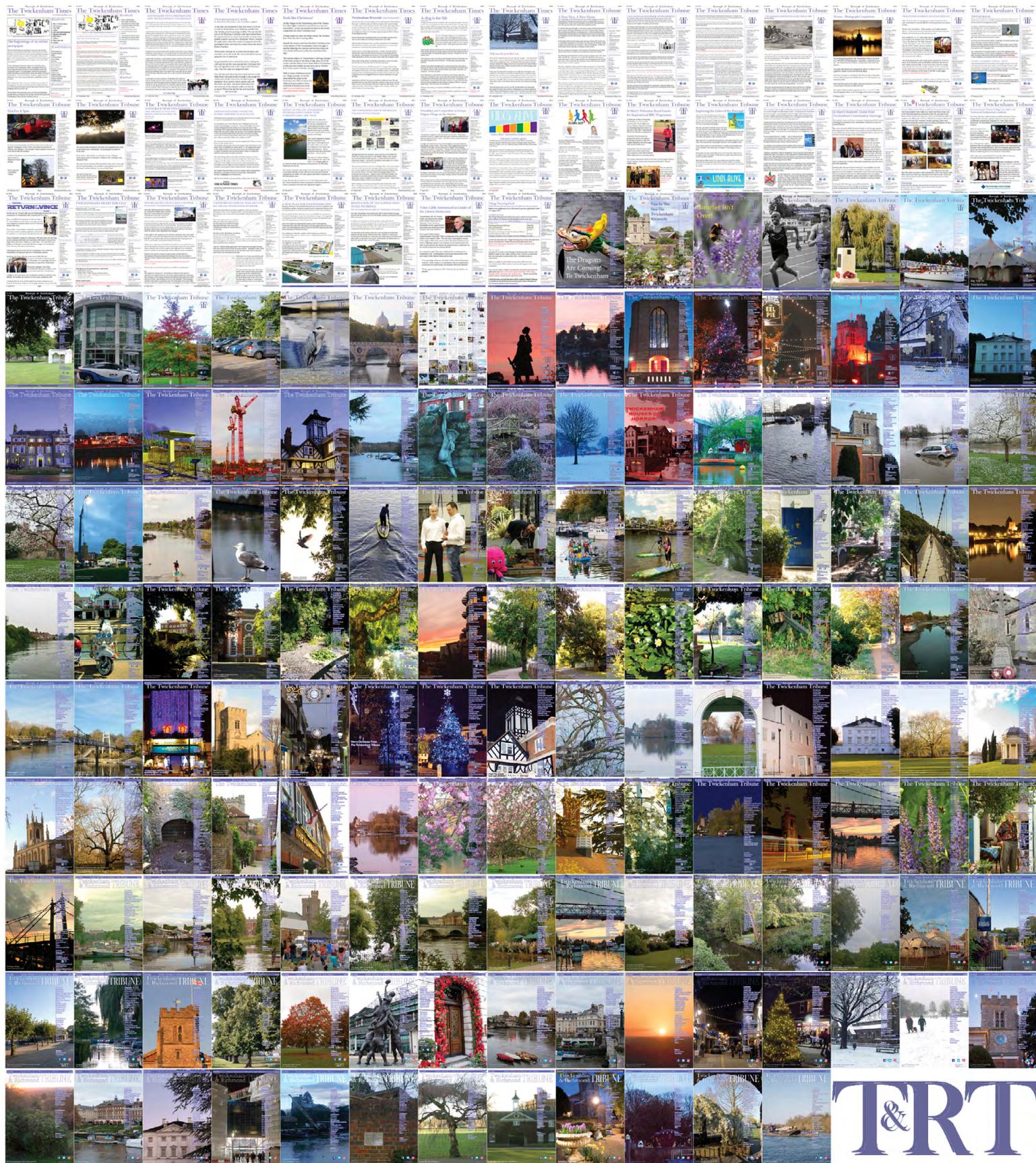
In addition to these measures, the Department for Transport has also today announced the development of a new data standard for local road condition monitoring, which will allow councils to use multiple technologies to carry out road condition surveys for national reporting purposes. This will lead to more accurate and useful data being collected.

£100,000 of funding is also being put towards the Transport Technology Forum. The open forum is funded by the Department for Transport and Innovate UK and brings together road operators and suppliers from across the industry to offer their skills and experience to drive technological advances in the traffic management sector.



Department  
for Transport

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**Published by:**

Twickenham Alive Limited (in association with World InfoZone Limited)  
Registered in England & Wales  
Reg No 10549345

The Twickenham Tribune is registered with the ICO under the Data  
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