TickerTape - News in Brief

Townmead Road update
The Townmead Recycling Centre site works are now complete and the centre has reopened.

Booking
The council will be increasing the number of booking slots available back to the levels they were at before the fire with effect from Monday 18th October.

The Centre will also recommence accepting cardboard from Monday 18th October.

Book a slot HERE

ULEZ
The new Transport for London ULEZ charge will be implemented on Monday 25th October and includes Townmead Road.

Please check if you will be affected HERE

StreetSafe
The Home Office is trialling a new online tool StreetSafe to enable people, particularly women & girls, to pin point locations where they feel/have felt unsafe & identify features on why that location made them feel unsafe.

Find more information HERE. Data collected is anonymous

Richmond Park arrest
Police Officers from Operation Venice were deployed on Tuesday to Richmond Park and the surrounding area. Whilst on patrol in the local area they engaged and pursued a male on a motorbike, with tactical contact being made.

The male was arrested and taken into custody. The motorbike was established to have been stolen.

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TwickerSeal joined a few chums on the Diamond Jubilee Gardens last weekend. It was the safest place to be as there was an extremely high tide. Unlike the Embankment, the DJG was safe and dry.

TwickerDuck thought it amusing that the DJG had only recently been a venue for the popular High Tide Festival; he thought it ironic that they wouldn’t be able to use the council’s proposed Event Space / Town Square at high tide as it would be on the flood zone! Perhaps there could be a spinoff festival called the Low Tide Festival suggested TwickerMole?

TwickerSeal said he had heard almost all the trees around the DJG were going to be cut down as part of the council’s high rise luxury flat development.

TwickerDuck wondered about the trees on the land behind the turquoise hoarding. TwickerSeal confirmed that they would all go. TwickerMole asked why the council didn’t expand the DJG into that unused space, which is already public land, and use it to better connect a new, improved DJG to Water Lane and the Embankment while leaving all the new residential building on the Santander/car park brownfield site? Don’t be silly scoffed TwickerSeal. That would just benefit residents … the council is much more interested in selling luxury flats.
Covid-19
By Teresa Read

World Health Organization
Weekly Epidemiological Update

13 October 2021
Globally, the numbers of weekly COVID-19 cases and deaths has continued to decline since late August. Over 2.8 million new cases and over 46,000 new deaths were reported during the week of 4 to 10 October 2021, representing a 7% and 10% decrease respectively, as compared to the previous week. Apart from the European Region, which reported a 7% increase in new weekly cases, all the other regions reported a decline. The largest decrease in new weekly cases was reported from the African Region (32%), followed by the Western Pacific Region (26%). The cumulative number of confirmed cases reported globally is now over 237 million and the cumulative number of deaths is over 4.8 million.
The number of new weekly deaths reported, showed a large (>10%) decline for all regions except for the European Region, which reported an increase of 11% as compared to the previous week. The largest decline in weekly deaths was reported from the Western Pacific and the African Regions, with both showing a 34% decline as compared to the previous week.

Total cases to 15th October 2021
Richmond upon Thames 20,661 (19,688 previous week)
Kingston upon Thames 20,650 (19,864 previous week)
Hounslow 38,574 (37,231 previous week)
Wandsworth 40,302 this week

Note: flu vaccinations are particularly important this year as influenza and Covid-19 are circulating at the same time. Some pharmacies provide a flu vaccination service as well as GP surgeries. Covid booster vaccinations are available from various GP surgeries and via www.nhs.uk. Check websites for information.

World Health Organization: Countries with High Numbers of Deaths and the UK Red List. (Deaths Worldwide 4,879,235).

USA 715,179
Brazil 601,574
India 451,814
Mexico 283,193
Russian Federation 221,313
Peru 199,746 (R)
Indonesia 142,848
The United Kingdom 138,237
Italy 131,461

Colombia 126,726 (R)
Iran 123,498
Argentina 115,582
France 114,870
Germany 94,526
South Africa 88,506
Spain 86,917
Poland 76,067
Turkey 67,044

(R) Red list country

The Tree Agency

The Tree Agency
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25 King Edwards Grove
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Telephone 020 8274 0107
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Richmond’s Emma Raducanu
By Simon Fowler

Over the summer Emma Raducanu’s meteoric sporting career captured the nation’s imagination. But she was not the first British woman tennis player to become a star in this way. Betty Nuthall - a local girl from Ham - blazed the path ninety years ago.

Betty was born in 1911. Both of her parents were enthusiastic tennis players and taught their daughter to regard the game ‘as one of the most important...as well as the jolliest in the world.’

Coached by her father she was never ‘allowed to knock a ball about just for the sake of doing so,’ but always to improve. She developed into a ‘fine aggressive player’ and won the British junior singles three times in succession. Spectators queued to see her make her Wimbledon debut in 1927, where unfortunately she was knocked out in the quarter finals.

Indeed, she never won a Wimbledon title, perhaps because as she suffered badly from hay-fever she found it very hard to play on a grass court. Well, that’s what her family believed!

Her greatest triumph was to be the first British player to win the US ladies’ single championship. In the 1930 final she beat the top seed Anna McCune Harper 6-1, 6-4. The New York Times described her as being: ‘resourceful and enterprising in the range of her strokes, strong in endurance and agile in her movement.’

With Sarah Palfrey she also won the ladies’ double title. The following year she won the ladies’ doubles and mixed doubles at both the American and French championships.

She played at speed and hit hard, with good judgement of time and length. Ultimately, though, she lacked the strategic awareness of opponents’ strengths and weaknesses that is the mark of enduring champions. Emma Raducanu has this skill.

Miss Nuthall quickly became a celebrity, particularly in Richmond where a civic reception was held at the Old Town Hall in September 1927, after her return from America having lost the women’s final in the US Championships. She was mobbed by crowds as she tried to enter the building. The Mayor, Arthur Howitt, made much of her amateur status and presented her with a silver cup.

However, celebrity called. She was photographed a number of times with Charlie Chaplin. Indeed, an article in the New Yorker in August 1930 claimed that she was ‘England’s most photographed female’. And she appeared in several long forgotten films.

Betty eventually settled in New York where she died in 1983.

There’s an article about Betty Nuthall is in the latest issue of Richmond History, details at www.richmondhistory.org.uk/wordpress.

Coincidentally, I have been asked about another tennis star: Gem Hoahing who grew up in Twickenham. She was a Wimbledon quarter finalist in the immediate post-war period. Can readers help?

Leader of Richmond Council expresses condolences to family of Hazrat Wali

The Leader of Richmond Council has met with the Metropolitan Police following the tragic fatal stabbing of Hazrat Wali in Craneford Way, Twickenham on Tuesday.

Cllr Gareth Roberts, along with local councillor for St. Margarets and North Twickenham Alexander Ehmann, and Munira Wilson, MP for Twickenham, met senior police officers to be briefed on the details of the incident.

Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

“First and foremost, my thoughts are with the family and friends of this young man. While I can't go into detail on the aspects of the case, I have full confidence in the police investigation and that his family will see justice.

“I understand that this incident has left many residents shaken, however it’s important to remember that this is a safe borough and incidents such as this are incredibly rare in Richmond upon Thames. This Council stands ready to work with all partners to do what we can to eliminate knife crime in this borough.”

Munira Wilson MP added:

“I would firstly like to extend my deepest condolences to all the family and friends of Hazrat. My thoughts are with all those affected by this tragic and shocking incident.

“I know many local residents are understandably extremely concerned regarding safety in the area and knife crime. The police have significantly stepped up patrols in the area and will continue to do so for the next few days. I have urged them to continue doing so beyond this week and I will continue to work with the police, the Council, the college and local schools to tackle youth violence, knife crime and anti-social behaviour in our area.”

For more information, please check the Met Police website.
Dear Editor,

Twickenham Riverside Trees

Below is a plan of the trees that are going to be affected by the Council’s Twickenham Riverside development.

It makes a mockery of the Council’s Climate Emergency Strategy even though they will be planting new trees on the site. The four trees marked with a red cross to the left of the plan to the north of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens consist of two beautiful Indian Bean Trees that are in good condition and have 20+ more years of useful life. The big hornbeams next to them that are being removed to make way for a parking place are in good condition and have 40+ more years of useful life.

The design brief was “to look to retain the large trees at the rear of the site”. The 7 trees along the Embankment are Pin Oaks and are being replaced by a “species more suitable for the site” for “when the river floods on this lower part of the site”. The alternative name for these Pin Oaks is “swamp oak”!

Best wishes,
Sue Hamilton-Miller
Twickenham
Dear Editor,

**Re: TwickWatch Geriatric - What’s in a word?**

The article by TwickWatch last week reminded me of a headline on the front page of the Richmond and Twickenham Times some years ago.

"ELDERLY WOMAN ROBBED AT CASHPOINT"

The article then went on to give the woman’s name and age .... 50 (!)

I was also reminded of a cartoon showing four people sitting in an old fashioned train compartment. On one side sat a youngish woman, probably in her twenties. On the other side sat three males; a schoolboy in short trousers, a young man and an older man probably in his eighties. Each had a thought bubble above their head indicating what they saw opposite them. The young man saw an attractive young woman, the schoolboy saw a shrivelled crone, dressed in black and the elderly man saw a schoolgirl with pigtails.

Age has a lot to do with perception.

Yours,

Graham Kench, 77 and three quarters.

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Dear Sirs

**Kingfisher Leisure Centre**

I am a Teddington resident whose family has benefited over the years from the wonderful facilities at the Kingfisher Leisure Centre and I am appalled to read that the council in Kingston-upon-Thames is proposing to demolish this community asset.

I am particularly struck by similarities with the situation on the Twickenham Riverside.

Both sites were well loved swimming pools and an important centre of the community. There is concern about unknown costs involved in proposed developments. Kingston Council and the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames are currently controlled by Liberal Democrat administrations.

It has been said that Kingston council propose to demolish the public swimming pool with no firm plans for a new pool and leisure centre.

Residents in Kingston should look at what has happened to the Twickenham pool site. The pool was never replaced and now it seems that there is the prospect of a planning application for a tower block of apartments (like Kingston?).

What is the purpose of a local council? “Local councils work towards improving community well-being and providing better services. Their activities fall into three main categories: representing the local community; delivering services to meet local needs and striving to improve quality of life and community well-being.” (The National Association of Local Councils).

Name and address supplied, Teddington
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War Memorials
By TwickWatch

As many people are oblivious of a local War Memorial or a Roll of Honour in a church, workplace, public or social venue. The various memorials list the names and initials of the men (and occasionally women) who died or served but are rarely given a second glance in our busy daily routines.

Each name however represents someone's husband, wife, daughter, father, son or brother, formerly a living, breathing, human being with a personality, likes and dislikes, fears and aspirations. They weren't innately brave people on the whole, just ordinary people living out their lives with the hand fate had dealt them.

The remembrance tradition of Armistice Day was started by George V in 1919 to mark the end of World War I. The dedicated date was to be 11 November 1919, in commemoration of the one-year anniversary of the peace agreement that ended World War I. It was to be an opportunity, not to celebrate war as in the past, due to the thousands lost in conflict but to remember the soldiers, sailors, airmen and others who fought and died, in what they were led to believe was their line of duty.

Remembrance Day is derived from the original Armistice Day introduced after World War I by George V. At the outbreak of World War II in 1939, it was decided that would not be held on November 11 of that year. Instead, a proximate Sunday was observed as a "day of dedication" during the span of the war. After the conclusion of World War II, the British government, seeking to honour participants in both World Wars, officially replaced Armistice Day with the new Sunday observance, which was thereafter known as Remembrance Sunday. In 1956 the date was fixed as the second Sunday of the month.

A war memorial can be a permanent or temporary structure, or a living thing such as a tree. It might have a functional purpose, such as a school built in memory of those who died in war, or be a plaque, statue, monument or roll of honour. A war memorial can be located in a public or private place and might commemorate groups of people or individuals. Those commemorated may have been killed in action or in wartime accidents, or can have died from wounds or disease during or after a conflict. War memorials can also commemorate those who served and survived along with civilians affected by war, including animals.

There were no rules, funding for or government directives about, what form war memorials should take (advice existed but there were no regulations) and this means that each memorial is unique; a touchstone to the past that reflects how bereaved communities personally chose to remember their fallen. With no central organisation, each community raised funding and then together chose their own design and wording, meaning that every war memorial presents a unique historical record.

Some communities decided it was also a time to remember those left behind with permanent wounds, maimed by burns, amputations, disfigurement and blindness or psychologically impaired having seen friends around them killed or mutilated in the horror of battle. This is why some war memorials only include those who fought and died, whilst other also include those who fought and survived, and why some include civilian as well as service casualties.

The inordinately large numbers of dead confronted the warring nations with the question of what the military authorities and official authorities should do about registering the burials of the dead. The families who had lost a loved one would naturally expect that a record of the soldier's grave would be kept for pilgrimage visits or for the body's repatriation. War cemeteries were a means to give sense of order to the bloody chaos they memorialised. As a result, official war graves registration services were established by many of the fighting nations during or after the First World War.

The nations involved in the First World War chose to commemorate the missing in various ways. There may be an official tomb or coffins in which an "Unknown" burial has been selected to represent the thousands of unidentified war dead of that country. There may be memorial walls in military burial grounds with names carved in stone or etched in bronze. Or there may be monuments with many thousands of names in battle sites to commemorate the individuals who are known to have died in that area but who have no known grave.
At the time these memorials were created the names still bought to mind vivid memories of the faces of the people remembered and who had been lost. As time passed many of the individuals were slowly forgotten. Contemporaries passed on or moved away, while new people arrived into the neighbourhood or workplace. Now all that remains visually to remember the dead, are names and initials, so it is important to understand and remember what those names represent.

Richmond like many others sought public subscriptions for a public war memorial. In the days before computers, names for the memorial were gathered from numerous sources. Some came from war office gazettes, from local newspaper adverts asking for information on those who had died. Those who had lodged in the area and formed allegiances were often included as were those who had died in local military hospitals. On occasion families often included relatives not actually living in the locality but originally born there.

"The Richmond Council on the 8 March 1921, accepted the design for a War Memorial submitted by Messrs Goodale & Co and also their estimate for executing and erecting the Memorial in the Town Hall Gardens at £625. This sum was to include panels with about 600 [later increased] names of Richmond men who gave their lives in the Great War carved thereon". The Council at the same meeting agreed to bear the cost of carving the Borough Arms on the memorial and also the cost of the necessary alterations to the wall and the construction of the foundation for the Memorial.

The Memorial was unveiled by Field Marshall Sir William Robertson Bart., GCB. GCMG. KCVO. DSO on 23 November 1921 and was dedicated by the Vicar of Richmond. The Council affixed their Corporate Seal to a document undertaking the maintenance by the Council of the Memorial in perpetuity“ [Council unable to locate any longer - 2021].

The minutes included thanks to Alderman Metzner and Mrs Metzner for the eminent services they rendered to the Committee in compiling the list of Richmond men who fell in the Great War and whose names are engraved on the Memorial and also in their work for organising the collection of funds.

Today we remember, the majority using the red poppy as a symbol. The tradition of wearing red poppies on Remembrance Day has its origins in Canadian poet John McCrae's 1915 piece, “In Flanders Fields” but was later formally adopted by the Royal British Legion in 1921, a charity which provides support to British veterans and their families, after meeting with a French woman named Anna Guérin who suggested it's use as a charitable connotation.

The Royal British Legion has always maintained that the red poppy “is a symbol of peace inclusive of all regardless of race, belief, origin, or sexual/gender identity... and is above partisan and political interpretation.” It should not be seen as a badge of militarism but a token of the bond between the living and the dead as when the poppies grew among the army battlefield crosses after hostilities ceased.

In recent years, white poppies on Remembrance Day have become much more commonplace, as a way to mourn the dead while emphasising a pacifistic, ‘never-again’ message. A white poppy alternative was actually launched in 1933, as the red poppy's message was feared to have been lost amidst what became to be perceived as militaristic commemorations. In modern times, white poppies have proven especially popular recently – around 100,000 are sold each year. Previously, there were also purple poppies, supplied by Animal Aid in remembrance of the animal lives lost in war, but they were discontinued after the charity concluded that their message was becoming distorted. Black poppies have been used to specifically commemorate the sacrifices of black, African and Caribbean people, which are commonly overlooked.

While they do not supply them, the Royal British Legion has made clear that it fully supports the wearing of all colours of poppy.

It may be surprising to learn that military “missing” dead from the First World War are still being found almost 100 years since the guns fell silent in 1918. They have remained undiscovered for nearly 100 years since they fell. Some bodies have been disturbed by the construction of roads and houses. Some have been found by chance in the undergrowth in remote places. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission to this day, respectfully exhume the bodies from both World Wars and re-inter them as appropriate with full military honours.
Join Habitats & Heritage for a Night at the Mausoleum

Join Habitats & Heritage this Halloween for a unique chance to tour the Kilmorey Mausoleum in St Margarets after dark.

Marvel at the Victorian neo-Egyptian temple and hear about the illustrious history of its creator and occupant, Francis Jack Needham, 2nd Earl of Kilmorey. The mausoleum will be illuminated from the outside making for excellent photographs.

This special tour will take place on the evening of Friday 29 October. Tours will be conducted in 30 minute slots starting at 6pm and finishing at 9pm. All tours must be booked in advance. Tickets are £5 plus booking fee.

Book now [HERE](#)

Join Orleans House Gallery for their Families in the Forest tour

Families in the Forest is an interactive experience for families to explore the Orleans House grounds through a series of encounters with inhabitants past and present.

Walking through the grounds you will encounter ancient trees, flowers, bats, moles, squirrels, even an antelope. Each plant and creature offers an invitation to us to consider their experience in the space by changing our own.

Each inhabitant will guide our interactions with the space and help us to reconsider our own role in the natural world by better understanding theirs.

This session is free and runs during the school holidays and on weekends.

Find out more and check available dates on the Orleans House Gallery [website](#).

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Trees Are Essential In Our Fight Against Climate Change
Teresa Read

My weekly WIZ Tales this week is about climate change and the front line islands in the Pacific experiencing rising sea levels. Perhaps if we could see the imminent loss of where we live, like the Pacific islanders, we might be more careful about cutting down trees.

“We need to seriously reduce our emissions, and find a way of reducing the damage already done. Technology is being explored to remove CO2 – the biggest culprit – from the atmosphere, but they are expensive and complex. There is a simpler solution – and it’s our most powerful weapon in the fight against climate change: TREES.” (The Woodland Trust).

Like many of us I see trees as essential to our survival. My Twickenham garden has a number of mature trees; some planted quite a few years ago and one or two seeded naturally by birds. Trees are natural air filters, absorbing and storing carbon dioxide.

So, I am particularly confused; as a resident I do my best to plant and conserve trees, but our Council which is keen to give us e-scooters in their attempt to save the planet intend to axe 37 trees which are flourishing on The Embankment on Twickenham Riverside and in Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

Some of us might have heard Ray Mears last week speaking on GB News about the importance of trees in the fight against climate change, and some years ago the Queen’s Commonwealth Canopy was formed to create a network of forest conservation projects.

Personally, I find it strange that a Council which promotes “green” issues should want to cut down 37 healthy and mature trees; the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames really should incorporate and actively support Conservation in their manifesto.

“Trees are vital. As the biggest plants on the planet, they give us oxygen, store carbon, stabilise the soil and give life to the world’s wildlife.” (The Royal Parks)
Stay Safe From Fraud
by Mac McInerny, Heatham Alliance community group and Neighbourhood Watch

How to avoid being targeted by doorstep criminals

Doorstep crime is a type of scam which involves an unexpected visitor at the door who uses lies and deceit to try to steal from you.

Usually they have a convincing story to tell. They may even pretend to be a courier or from the police or the council or have an accomplice to distract you while a robbery takes place.

The first important step is to avoid being targeted - make your home appear less attractive to bogus callers and rogue traders:

• Keep the front door and windows painted and in good condition
• Replace any old curtains, especially net curtains
• Keep the front garden well maintained
• If you have a key safe box, make sure it is out of sight from passersby and visitors at the door
• Put a NO COLD CALLERS sign on your front door or next to it.

Contact your local Neighbourhood Watch for how to get in touch with your Met Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team or Ask your Safer Neighbourhoods Team for a sign and advice – find them by dialling 101.

And of course keep front and back doors locked at all times, fit a spy hole and security chain on the front door – and use them whenever an unknown visitor arrives on your doorstep.

For more information go to www.met.police.uk and put ‘doorstep crime’ into the How can we help you? search box.

STAY SAFE FROM FRAUD

Get Fit for Free with The Royal Park’s ‘Our Parks’ classes

Although it may be colder and darker and you might feel your motivation slipping, The Royal Park's 'Our Parks' classes can help you stay active with free fitness classes in Richmond Park.

'Our Parks' is a brand-new initiative from Royal Parks allowing you to participate in quality group exercise classes, outdoors in one of the borough's great outdoor spaces for free.

There are yoga, boot camp and many more fitness classes for you to choose from all regularly held in Richmond Park.

Find out more about the classes HERE.
New woodland play area and nature trail for East Sheen Common

As part of Richmond Council’s commitment to improve our parks and open spaces, and in partnership with the Friends of Sheen Common, East Sheen Common has a new woodland play area and nature trail!

The new play area has been open to the public since last month and had an official opening on Sunday 26 September. It is the second woodland playground to be installed and brings the borough’s total number of playgrounds to sixty-four!

The play area is within the historic woodlands and adjacent to the football pitch. Play equipment includes a mix of swings, multi-play units, an accessible wide slide and climbing apparatus. The nature trail consists of steeping stones, a bridge and other elements. Equipment is suitable for children up to 11 years old and there is an accessible footpath from the football pitch to the playground.

A public consultation took place in September 2019 to invite feedback on the proposed new play area and nature trail. Nearly 80% of respondents supported the proposal.

Cllr Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee for Richmond Council, said:
“Spaces that encourage play are so important for young people’s mental and physical health. It’s wonderful to see the new play area nestled in the woods on East Sheen Common for local families to enjoy.”
THE LOCH AND THE TYNE: NEW LIFE IN OLD WINDSOR

You might have heard of Adam Handling? He's the multi award-winning chef who cooked for the G7 Summit in Cornwall this summer. He started his career at Gleneagles, since when he has achieved a stratospheric rise and developed an enviable culinary reputation, as well as his restaurant empire. He recently took over a pub with rooms in Old Windsor, and put two of his chefs in as co-proprietors: hence the name the Loch & the Tyne (Jonny McNeil and Steven Kerr, who hail from Scotland and Newcastle respectively). It's only been open a few months, and already gleaned a raft of rave reviews I decided to check it out.

And am I glad I did! Once we’d found the place (it's in Crimp Hill but signage isn't very clear, so if you plan to go, check the illustrations on the website so you know what to look for!) We were welcomed warmly by the front of house team, headed up extremely professionally by the lovely GM Karolina.

Everything about The Loch & The Tyne is rooted in ‘Sustainable British luxury’, with attention to detail in every corner and personal touches throughout. Service was exemplary and they have achieved a rarity: relaxed, friendly, yet top-notch attention to customers’ needs. The venue is the perfect countryside location with wonderful views over fields that we were told belong to Sir Elton John, no less!

It's a pub, a restaurant and there are also two bedrooms available. Behind the pub is a large open-air terrace overlooking the kitchen garden, which was brimming with lots of healthy looking herbs and veg. The restaurant interior has exposed brickwork, original fireplaces and mahogany tables with tartan-upholstered chairs. The adjacent bar area is a relaxed place for anyone looking just to indulge in bar snacks and a pint.
We started with a glass of the house English fizz, a bespoke blend by Gusbourne that was not only delicious, but also well priced at £9 a glass. A range of snacks is offered, including cheese doughnuts and also sourdough with chicken butter – both well priced at £5. Reader, these were fabulous, but be warned, you could easily over indulge in these and spoil your appetite for the wonderful dishes to follow! I never thought chicken skin could be presented in such a novel but delicious way!

We shared starters: one was ‘Mother’ (salt baked celeriac, apple, dates and black truffle) and the other was salmon, caviar, crème fraîche, fennel pollen. I was in foodie heaven as both were excellent, but ‘Mother’ was the ‘mother of all starters’ as far as I was concerned. For mains, we chose salt-aged lamb rump with black radish and goat’s cheese. This was well presented and proportioned and beautifully tender. Our other main was poached cod with smoked mussels and sea herbs, also delicious and perfectly cooked.

A good range of wines, including many by the glass, is available, again sensibly priced, and – like the whole concept of the place - with a strong emphasis on British produce. Despite initially declining a pudding, we were persuaded to share a cooling caramel soft serve ice cream with honeycomb and salted peanuts. Not being a fan of honeycomb, I managed (and enjoyed) a good taste of the rest of the portion, while my lunch companion struggled to remove honeycomb from her teeth!

The Loch & The Tyne also offers a great value Sunday lunch (£45 for two courses, £55 for three).

Adam and the team have created a great pub and restaurant that will appeal to locals and tourists alike, and looks set to be a popular destination on the foodie map. I thoroughly recommend it, and it’s definitely worth the short drive to Windsor! If you plan to go by train, the nearest station is Datchet, rather than Windsor.

And (subject of course to us not being forced into yet another lockdown) it’s open on Christmas Day, but I’d urge you to book soon. Further information is on the restaurant website lochandtyne.com and on the link here.
**Bull and Contraction**

by Mike Bartlett

The Questors at the Judi Dench Playhouse, Ealing until 16th October

Questors’ double bill of one hour-long plays by controversial modern playwright Mike Bartlett, is about two very different forms of workplace bullying. In both, the setting is a high pressure sales environment, where making the numbers underpins everything, and job security is scant to non-existent.

The first play, *Contractions*, is a two-hander, featuring Alison Griffin as an anonymous manager, and Anne Marie Ryan as Kate, a new recruit into her team. In a series of job appraisals it becomes clear that the manager has issues of her own. These interviews become increasingly intrusive, and at first the questions asked were very funny, as the audience could see how outrageous they were. This play highlights how such rules can be exploited to victimise individuals. Kate is eventually driven insane by the Manager’s creeping control of her personal life. The scene where she digs up her dead baby and brings him in to the office may stretch credibility, but is chilling. The end, reminiscent of Orwell’s *1984*, is more so.

The second play, *Bull*, features three salespeople about to be culled to two. These were Thomas (Adam Hampton-Matthews), Isobel (Claire Durrant) and Tony (Joshua Perry). From the outset it was clear that the loser was always going to be Thomas. They pick on Thomas relentlessly criticising his appearance, and generally goading him. This is a bullfight and eventually Isobel actually acts the toreador, goading Tom, now the maddened bull, into trying to physically attack her, sidestepping and making fun of him. When their boss, Carter (David Erdos) makes his appearance, we see what a lousy manager he is. Anyone who has ever worked in a sales team will have met him!

Both plays come highly recommended for employment ministers, business leaders and HR professionals!

Read Nick Swyft’s review at [www.markaspen.com/2021/10/14/bull-contractn](http://www.markaspen.com/2021/10/14/bull-contractn)

Photography by Jane Arnold-Forster
In the opening moments of *Great Ideas by Geniuses* by Privates, a small torch projects the show's title on to the inside of a small tent. From the moment the tent revolves to reveal all three performers cramped inside, it’s clear that we’re in for an enjoyable evening of spirited physical comedy. While the performers all begin the show dressed in primary-coloured jumpsuits, they are quickly shedding costumes and knocking themselves unconscious left, right and centre.

“It’s a show about ideas,” wild-eyed Luke Rollason tells the audience, while curly-haired Christian Brighty attempts to revive the unconscious and jolly tall Tom Curzon. Once all three are on their feet again, they ask the audience to nominate famous thinkers. A gentleman in the front row suggests “David Hume”, but the trio are more interested in his somewhat striking baritone voice.

And really, that is the show in a nutshell. Everyday objects are repurposed, imaginatively and ambitiously, into ad hoc inventions that vary in effectiveness but which are always playful and very funny indeed. Whether laminating slices of ham, using an angle-poise lamp to launch a model rocket, or creating bionic comedians with slinky spring limbs, it’s hard to tell whether the innovations that work are more or less satisfying than the damp squibs.

The show continues much along these lines, the delivery comes over as unhurried, and the performers are having just as much fun as the audience. Some of the material is unsophisticated, whether the performers are “milking” a pantomime cow, or attempting to pull down each other’s underwear, but it’s all delivered with such playful energy, and alongside one-liners like “Newton went scrumping for gravity” that the audience remain firmly on side throughout.

Read Andrew Lawston’s review at [www.markaspen.com/2021/10/11/great-ideas](http://www.markaspen.com/2021/10/11/great-ideas)

Photography by Onsen Presents
Secret Life of Humans
by David Byrne
Progress Company at Progress Theatre, Reading until 16th October

What would one expect to find in the secret locked room of one of the world’s leading intellectuals? What could Jacob (Bruno) Bronowski, writer of The Ascent of Man, possibly have to hide from the world? A corpse, or some plundered work of art, or even his porn stash? No. The answer was far worse.

The plot of Secret Life of Humans revolves around Bronowski’s grandson Jamie (Katie Moreton), meeting Ava (Lara Collins), on a chance Tinder date. Ava has spent her life studying Bronowski, and becomes drawn to the boy when she finds out who he is. They end up going to the family home, where she learns of this secret room. Jamie doesn’t seem particularly interested in talking about his grandfather, more in getting into bed with Ava. She, however, is about to lose her job and career, and needs the sexual distraction he provides. The secret they discover distresses Jamie, since he always believed his grandfather was a good man. For Ava, however, it provides her with what she needs to salvage her career.

The plot is overlaid with manifestations of Bronowski’s ghost (John R. Goodman), voicing the great man’s thoughts, together with dialogues with his friend George (Eli Taryn) and documentary clips featuring ‘Bruno’ himself. For those who only vaguely know of Bronowski’s work, this provided valuable background and Goodman portrayed the great man very convincingly.

His wife Rita (Emma Sterry) also gave us an insight into Bruno the man, never quite getting an adequate answer as to whether or not he loved her, but nevertheless fairly comfortable with that. She had, of course, been into the secret room, having agonised about it for almost an hour after his funeral – it didn’t take long for her curiosity to get the better of whatever respect she had for her dead husband. We were not told if she found the secret Jamie and Ava did, but if she had, she wasn’t the sort of woman who would have worried about it.

Read Nick Swyft’s review at www.markaspen.com/2021/10/12/secret-life

Photography by Heike Gani and Richard Brown
Gilbert and Sullivan – the very names conjure up a chorus of thousands, sumptuous costumes and set, full orchestra and an audience as likely to be humming the tunes on the way in as on the way out. However, as a small company touring countrywide, Opera Anywhere’s programme of one-nighters does not lend itself to any of the above, but it results in a refreshingly innovative approach to this most traditional of pieces.

All credit to Tristan Stocks, who as well as playing our handsome hero Frederic, is responsible for directing the piece, which was definitely the funniest production of this old warhorse that I’ve ever seen. There were gags where I’d never seen gags before, which worked best for Catrin Lewis’ Mabel. A little predictability is a small price to pay for squeezing so much comedy out of Gilbert’s libretto.

With a “chorus” of four, also doubling as named characters, there was never any possibility that the company would get away with just singing the notes. Those actor-singers were uniformly excellent. The chorus of ladies (who also doubled as Edith, Kate and a random policeman), comprised Freya Jacklin and Olivia Bell and they had some wonderful scene-stealers that had the audience laughing out loud. Maciek O’Shea, Mark Horner and Sam Young as the “male chorus” - and also Samuel, Sergeant of Police and the Pirate King respectively - are fine singers with excellent comic timing and, getting into their stride, they were soon on fire.

Being a touring company, Opera Anywhere did not go overboard (pun intended) with a complicated design. This simplicity was mirrored in the musical supervision by Matthew Rickard who wisely kept the accompaniment to piano and woodwind. Less was definitely more and it was a real treat to see a company understand this so well.

Read Eleanor Marsh’s review at www.markaspen.com/2021/10/10/pirates-penz

Photography by John Alcock
The Marshall Islands are low-lying islands in Micronesia in the Pacific Ocean. The islands of the Pacific are usually divided into three areas: Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

It was predicted in a United Nations report in 1989 that the Marshall Islands would be covered by rising sea levels by 2030. A US Geological survey predicted that some of the islands would be submerged by 2035 and others would have drinking water contaminated by salt water.

Kiribati, also in Micronesia, and Tuvalu in Polynesia are also experiencing rising sea levels.

Information and photographs of the Marshall Islands:

Kiribati: https://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=Kiribati
Tuvalu: https://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=Tuvalu
Plant more trees and improve the state of our woods and trees or miss vital climate change targets – Woodland Trust

With trees one of the Government’s top priorities at COP 26, the UK risks failing to meet its carbon net zero ambitions unless more trees are planted, woodland restored and the condition of woods improved, warns the Woodland Trust.

The stark prediction comes just weeks before international climate change conference COP26 and on the eve of the launch of its third nationwide campaign – the Big Climate Fightback – to get people planting more trees.

The charity is sending more than 700,000 free native trees to schools and communities to kickstart an autumnal blitz on tree planting, with a further 680,000 trees available to apply for now to be planted next March.

In total, the Woodland Trust will be sending out nearly 1.4 million free trees* over the coming planting season to support the Big Climate Fightback, which is backed by players of People’s Postcode Lottery.

Dr Darren Moorcroft is chief executive of the Woodland Trust, which is aiming to establish 50 million new trees by 2025.

He said not enough trees have been planted in the past, but “things can change”.

“With recent decades warmer, wetter and sunnier than the 20th century and 2020 the third warmest on record, it is clear we are in a climate crisis, but we are in a nature crisis too,” Dr Moorcroft said.

“This is a dismal and sobering picture. Our woods are not in great shape, and we remain one of the least wooded countries at 13 per cent woodland cover, compared to 37 per cent in the rest of Europe.

“Without greater action, small and fragmented woods will remain that way and species will face extinction. But it is not too late – things can change.”

The Woodland Trust’s recent State of the UK’s Woods and Trees report highlighted some stark warnings on the health of the UK’s trees and woods:

• Woodlands are already impacted by climate change – spring now arrives on average 8.4 days earlier than the first part of the 20th century, which can be catastrophic for nature.

• Woodland species are in steep decline. Woodland specialist birds have declined by over 80% since 1970: including willow tit (declined 94% since 1970 – Britain’s fastest declining resident
• Tree disease and pests are causing local extinctions of wildlife species across the UK; up to 120 million ash trees alone to be lost to ash dieback meaning at least 106 ash-dependent species could see dramatic declines.

• Only 7 per cent of UK native woodlands are in good condition.

• The majority of UK woods exceed thresholds for nitrogen pollution which is wiping out lichens and other species leading to disruption and decline of ecosystems, causing micro-extinctions.

• Only 2.5% of UK land area is ancient woodland, which is the UK’s richest wildlife habitat, with ecosystems having developed over centuries. Worryingly, at least 1,225 ancient woodlands are currently under threat from destruction by new built development.

• 85% of individual field trees have been lost over last 150 years, shown in a study of the ‘Eastern claylands’ of Norfolk and Suffolk likely to be replicated across the UK.

Dr Moorcroft continued:
“Not only do we not have enough trees, what we have is still at risk and as a result nature has declined steeply. While action on biosecurity and woodland loss is largely outside the influence of the public, we can all play a role in increasing tree numbers to help nature recover and tackle the climate crisis.

“The UK has created less than 300,000 hectares of new woodland in the last 20 years. Over the next 20 years, we need three times that amount – and 1.44 million hectares of new woodland by 2050. It’s an uphill task and the pace needs to pick up, but together it can be done.”

Laura Chow, Head of Charities at People’s Postcode Lottery said:
“The Big Climate Fightback aims to rally the nation to get behind tree planting by finding those underused areas in our communities that could accommodate more trees and make a difference in the fight against climate change and provide havens for wildlife. We’re delighted our players are supporting this vital call to action”

With the international community about to gather for the climate conference in Glasgow (COP26) you can do your bit and join the Big Climate Fightback. The Trust has scores of free trees that community groups and schools can apply for now.

Alternatively, people can buy native trees such as rowan, oak, wild cherry and silver birch from its online shop.

To learn more, go to woodlandtrust.org.uk/bigclimatefightback
London’s Royal Parks retain prestigious Green Flag Award

London’s Royal Parks have been recognised as among the best in the UK, after they retained their Green Flag awards - the international quality mark for parks and green spaces.

The Royal Parks charity manages London’s eight Royal Parks along with other important green spaces in the capital. Greenwich Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Richmond Park, Bushy Park, The Green Park, St James’s Park and The Regent’s Park all have the award together with Brompton Cemetery.

They were all scored exceptionally well this year, with Brompton Cemetery receiving the highest award of those inspected, receiving very positive feedback from the judge.

All sites also achieved the much-coveted Green Heritage Site Accreditation, supported by Historic England, for the management of its historic features.

Over the last 18 months, parks and green spaces have played a vital role for people through lockdowns as a place to relax, exercise and meet friends and family safely. This award recognises the hard work and dedication of The Royal Parks’ teams who make these iconic green spaces beautiful, welcoming spaces that everyone can enjoy for free, to boost physical and mental wellbeing and discover the natural world on their doorstep.

Nicholas Petridis, The Royal Parks’ Landscape Management Officer, said: “The award brings with it a vast amount of prestige. It is an excellent example of community achievement and provides our park management teams with a great sense of pride.”

In a record-breaking year for the Green Flag Award, as the scheme marks its Silver Jubilee, the parks are among 2,127 celebrating success today. The Royal Parks joins parks and green spaces as diverse as the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, Woodhouse Park in Peterlee and Chiswick Old Cemetery in London.

Green Flag Award Scheme Manager Paul Todd said: “I would like to congratulate everyone involved in making all these wonderful Royal Parks and Brompton Cemetery worthy of a Green Flag Award. To meet the requirements demanded by the scheme is testament to the hard work of the staff and volunteers who do so much to ensure that the parks have high standards of horticulture, safety and environmental management and are places that support people to live healthy lives.”

The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

A full list of Green Flag Award-winning parks and green spaces is available here.
A Manifesto for Richmond from The Richmond Society

Civic pride, community engagement and a passion to enhance and preserve Richmond’s special character are at the heart of a new declaration of aims by The Richmond Society.

The Richmond Society Manifesto sets out a vision for a town that is culturally rich, commercially competitive and consistent with the increasingly popular concept of the ten-minute neighbourhood - a place where people can live, work and play in an environment that is safe, clean and well maintained, where biodiversity is supported, climate change is mitigated, and pollution is reduced.

The civic and amenity charity, which has 1,250 members, has been caring for Richmond’s natural and built environment since 1957.

The Manifesto was launched on Thursday 14 October at the Society's Annual Awards for a distinguished contribution to Richmond. The winner’s plaque was presented by the Deputy Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Cllr Suzette Nicholson, to the Vineyard Life Church for the renovation of its 19th century building as a centre for multiple uses ranging from a pre-school for girls to a food bank and a drop-in centre for the homeless as well as for religious worship.

Read the full manifesto HERE

Photo credit: Andrew Duncan
HUSBAND and WIFE PLAY ILL-FATED LOVERS IN WEBSTER’s THE DUCHESS of MALFI at THE MARY WALLACE THEATRE

A rare occurrence for a real-life married couple to appear as husband and wife on stage, but Amy and John Dodero will be playing the doomed Duchess and her lover in Richmond Shakespeare Society’s updated version of John Webster’s acclaimed THE DUCHESS of MALFI at the Mary Wallace Theatre on Twickenham’s Embankment.

THE DUCHESS of MALFI is the best-known Jacobean tragedy by a playwright generally regarded as Shakespeare’s greatest rival. When the recently widowed Duchess elects to take the manager of her household as lover and new husband, disobeying her brothers and transgressing class boundaries, she evokes their fury and a terrible process of revenge, murder and infanticide is set in motion.

Join us in this tragedy of passion, betrayal and retribution at the Mary Wallace Theatre on Twickenham’s Riverside from October 23rd - 30th. Tickets are available online at www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk - or on 07484 927 662

Photo shows John Dodero as Antonio

Photo credit - Charlotte Horobin.
Young people based in South West London are invited to join the new Youth Theatre at St Mary's University, Twickenham.

The new Drama St Mary's Youth Theatre is a free Saturday drama club open to young people aged 13-16. St Mary's has teamed up with the National Saturday Club to offer the weekly Saturday Club to teenagers from underrepresented backgrounds. This is part of St Mary's University's commitment to widening participation in Higher Education and the arts.

Mark Griffin Head of Drama commented, “We’re really excited to have launched the Youth Theatre as we continue to look for ways in which Drama St Mary’s can expand its reach and reputation as a centre of excellence with a genuine focus on widening participation. We’ve appointed a brilliant team of young leaders who I know will ensure that every Saturday morning participant is given a fantastic opportunity to be part of a creative and supportive company. I can’t wait to see what they produce.”

Across the UK, the National Saturday Club enables 13–16-year-olds to take part in creative subjects they love at their local university, for free. Drama St Mary's is leading the Youth Theatre as part of the Saturday Club ‘Writing & Talking’ strand.

Young people can apply online at www.saturday-club.org/join-a-club/ and selecting St Mary's University from the drop-down list. The Youth Theatre launches on Saturday 6th November and will take place on up to 30 Saturdays this year. To find out more and apply to join please email DramaSaturdayClub@stmarys.ac.uk.
International break round up
A number of first team Brentford players were involved in games across the recent international break.

Christian Nørgaard and Mathias Jensen helped to guide Denmark to qualification to the 2022 Qatar World Cup following a 100% record in the qualifying stages so far. The Danes won 4-0 away against Moldova before at victory in Copenhagen against Austria ensured they became the third team to book their place at the finals next winter. Nørgaard and Jensen both appeared in the two games with the former scoring his first international goal in the win against Andorra.

Frank Onyeka also featured for his respective international side over the break with the Brentford midfielder returning to the Super Eagles side after more than a year. He played in both games in the double header against the Central African Republic in which Nigeria lost the first 1-0 but bounced back to win the second 2-0.

Elsewhere Saman Ghoddos did not make an appearance for Iran, while Halil Dervişoğlu, who is on loan at Galatasaray, appeared off the bench as Turkey beat Latvia 2-1.

At U21 level Jan Žambůrek was involved in both games for the Czech national side as they completed two victories over Kosovo U21. Fellow first team player Mads Bidstrup made his maiden appearance for the Denmark U21 side, who won 1-0 against Scotland.

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD
Opponent: Chelsea (H) Saturday 16th October 17:30 Brentford Community Stadium
Nickname: The Blues, The Pensioners
Competition: Premier League – Matchday 8
Opponent record: P7 W5 D1 L1 GF15 GA3 (1st in League)
Manager: Thomas Tuchel

Interesting fact: Chelsea, along with Arsenal, were the first clubs to play with numbered shirts. The Blues wore them during their game against Swansea City in August 1928.
Beavers score four in the sunshine

Hampton & Richmond Borough 4 – 2

Hampton & Richmond Borough continue their recent fruitful patch of scoring goals with a victory at the Beveree Stadium against Chelmsford City 4-2. Goals from Sam Deadfield, Zach Dronfield, Ruaridh Donaldson and David Fisher ensured the Beavers moved into the play off places for the first time this season.

The away side could have taken the lead in the opening minutes of the game when Charlie Sheringham had an excellent chance with a header at the back post, but his header went narrowly wide.

However, on eight minutes they did take the lead when a corner from the left-hand side was delivered with pace into the box and Simeon Jackson glanced a header in at the near post.

At the other end David Fisher teed up a cross to the back post that Donaldson rose highest too, but the Beavers player could only head over from the edge of the six-yard box.

Some quick thinking then very nearly brought Hampton & Richmond level when Donaldson was tripped on the edge of the box but Dara Dada-Anite. Quickly bouncing back to his feet from the foul he immediately played a pass through to Jake Gray who cut inside his man and curled a shot towards the bottom corner that Jacob Marsden did well to get down low to and tip away.

The Beaver did soon level though and when it came it was a real team goal. Starting with goalkeeper Alan Julian, who picked out Charlie Wassmer with a pin point ball, the ball then was flicked onto Deadfield who found Kyron Farrell down the left with a first-time pass. Farrell’s initial powerful shot was saved by Marsden but when the ball came out to Fisher, he played the ball inside to Deadfield who adjusted his feet and found the bottom corner.

With the sides heading into half-time with the scores level it wasn’t soon after the restart that Hampton & Richmond Borough had taken the lead. On loan midfielder Dronfield got his first for the club after Ryan Gondoh had dribbled down the wing and found Dronfield, who produced a composed finish into the bottom corner.

Things got even better for the Beavers five minutes later when they further extended their lead. Once more it was Gondoh who got the assist but the strike from distance by Donaldson was a stunner with the ball arching into the top corner and giving Marsden no chance.

With just over an hour Chelmsford hit back to reduce the deficit when Sheringham bundled it a corner to give the away side hope.

However, a fourth goal from Hampton & Richmond Borough from Fisher helped to extinguish hopes of a comeback. Jorome Slew took advantage of some sloppy defending at the back from...
Chelmsford and dribbled towards the box. He then slid in Fisher whose powerful shot went through the legs of Marsden and into the back of the net.

There was drama late on as Chelmsford were awarded a penalty after Jackson was fouled in the box by Wassmer. Julian stood firm though in the Beavers goal to save Sheringham’s strike and to help Hampton to a fine victory.

Minhas moves on from Beavers
Hampton & Richmond Borough have announced that striker Nathan Minhas is to leave the club in search of regular first team football. The striker has suffered with injuries during his time at the club and has registered 12 appearances, having scored once. He is set to join Southern League Premier Division South side Beaconsfield Town.

Speaking to club media about the departure Gary McCann said, “After a heart-to-heart with Nathan Minhas we both agreed that for the long-term progression of his career it would be better for him to move on. He wants regular football between now and the end of the season, which unfortunately was not something that I could guarantee. He has been extremely unlucky with injuries during his spell at the club and has unfortunately missed far too much football. We wish him well for the future and in particular hope he stays fit and healthy. We'll certainly be keeping a close eye on him to see how he gets on.”

Minhas himself said that “I have loved every minute at Hampton & Richmond, but it’s been an unfortunate year and a half for me. I’ve come to the decision that I need to go to play regular football and show what I can do. Hampton is a very special club and I wish everyone connected with HRBFC all the success possible this season.”

The Beavers will travel to Stonebridge Rd on Saturday 16th October for the right to play in the First Round Proper, where teams from League One and League Two enter.

This marks the third season in four that the Beavers have reached this stage of the competition and they have progressed through two rounds of qualifying to reach this stage, beating Walton Casuals 3-0 and Wimborne Town 3-1.

The two sides have already played each other in the National League South this season with the Beavers running out comfortable 3-0 winners at the Beveree Stadium.

UP NEXT FOR HAMPTON
Opponent: Ebbsfleet United (A) 9th October 15:00 Beveree Stadium
Nickname: The Fleet, The Reds
Competition: FA Cup Fourth Qualifying Round
Manager: Dennis Kutrieb

Interesting fact: Between 2008 and 2013, the club was owned by the web-based venture MyFootballClub, whose members voted on player transfers, budgets and ticket prices among other things instead of those decisions being made exclusively by the club's management and staff as at most other clubs.
Annual information published on cost of
NHS estate

Information relating to the costs of providing, maintaining and servicing the NHS estate has been published by NHS Digital.

The Estates Return Information Collection, 2020-21 (ERIC) includes national and local level information from all NHS Trusts in England that delivered secondary care and ambulance services between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021.

Data was received from 216 trusts including 10 ambulance trusts.

The report includes information at trust and site level, including those trusts operating under a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangement.

It includes comparisons with the previous year at national level in key areas such as:

- Financial information
- Safety
- Buildings – quality, function, area and utilisation of space
- Utilities – energy and water
- Waste
- Car parking
- Inpatient food, laundry and linen, cleaning and portering services

The scope and content of the ERIC collection are reviewed annually to ensure that the information gathered is necessary for, and relevant to, monitoring efficiencies and the funding of the NHS estate.

Key Facts

NHS Digital has continued to work alongside stakeholders and data providers to improve data quality for the 2020/21 collection. This included an extensive data assurance exercise, and further data definition refinement. At national level, information is considered to be broadly comparable across the same type of data providers although statistics should still be treated with caution, especially where labelled as experimental.

Please ensure you use these statistics with reference to the Data Quality Statement. This will be updated should any errors be reported after publication.

For the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021, NHS organisations reported:

- The total costs of running the NHS estate were £10.2 billion
- This is a 4.8 per cent increase since 2019/20

- The total energy usage from all energy sources across the NHS estate was 11.4 billion kWh
- This is a 1.6 per cent increase since 2019/20

- The total cost of providing inpatient food was £0.6 billion
- This figure cannot be compared with earlier figures due to a change in definition

- The total cost to eradicate backlog was £9.2 billion
- This is a 2.2 per cent increase since 2019/20. This is also known as 'backlog maintenance' and is measure of how much would need to be invested to restore a building to a certain state based on a state of assessed risk criteria. It does not include planned maintenance work (rather, it is work that should already have taken place).

Please note that any costs, capital and/or revenue related to Covid-19 incurred during the reporting year are not included in ERIC figures where they were allocated to a specific trust-wide Covid-19 budget. However, any additional costs allocated to pay and non-pay budgets in specific areas such as cleaning, waste and energy relating to Covid-19 were included where they could not be identified and removed.
WHO Announces Proposed Members of its Scientific Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens (SAGO)

Following a public call for experts, the World Health Organization (WHO) today announced proposed members of the WHO Scientific Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens (SAGO). The SAGO will advise WHO on the development of a global framework to define and guide studies into the origins of emerging and re-emerging pathogens of epidemic and pandemic potential, including SARS-CoV-2.

“The emergence of new viruses with the potential to spark epidemics and pandemics is a fact of nature, and while SARS-CoV-2 is the latest such virus, it will not be the last,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. “Understanding where new pathogens come from is essential for preventing future outbreaks with epidemic and pandemic potential, and requires a broad range of expertise. We are very pleased with the calibre of experts selected for SAGO from around the world, and look forward to working with them to make the world safer.”

Selected from more than 700 applications, the 26 proposed SAGO members have expertise in a range of areas, including epidemiology, animal health, ecology, clinical medicine, virology, genomics, molecular epidemiology, molecular biology, biology, food safety, biosafety, biosecurity, and public health. The composition of the SAGO reflects geographic and gender diversity.

As per WHO processes, there will now be a two-week public consultation period for WHO to receive feedback on the proposed SAGO members and set in place the modalities for the SAGO’s first meeting, which is planned to take place following this consultation period.

The final membership to the SAGO is subject to the above-mentioned public consultation period and relevant WHO practices and procedures.

Functions of the SAGO

In its capacity as an advisory body to WHO, the SAGO will have the following functions:

1. To advise WHO on the development of a WHO global framework to define and guide studies into the origins of emerging and re-emerging pathogens of epidemic and pandemic potential;
2. To advise WHO on prioritizing studies and field investigations into the origins of emerging and re-emerging pathogens of epidemic and pandemic potential, in accordance with the WHO global framework described in point (1) above;
3. To provide information and views to assist the WHO Secretariat in the development of a detailed work plan of the SAGO;
4. In the context of SARS-CoV-2 origins:
   - To provide the WHO Secretariat with an independent evaluation of all available scientific and technical findings from global studies on the origins of SARS-CoV-2;
   - To advise the WHO Secretariat regarding developing, monitoring and supporting the next series of studies into the origins of SARS-CoV-2, including rapid advice on WHO’s operational plans to implement the next series of global studies into the origins of SARS-CoV-2, as outlined in the Joint WHO-China Global Study of Origins of SARS-CoV-2: China Part report published on 30 March 2021 and advise on additional studies as needed; and
   - To provide additional advice and support to WHO, as requested by the WHO SAGO Secretariat, which may include participation in future WHO-international missions to study the origins of SARS-CoV-2 or for other emerging pathogens.
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