

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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8th April 2022



TickerTape - News in Brief

Get ready for the Mayor's Eggs-ellent Easter Egg Hunt

Join the Mayor of Richmond upon Thames for a fun Easter Egg Hunt around the beautiful York House Gardens.

All kids who join the egg hunt will be given a fun gamecard which they will need to complete in order to win prizes.

The Mayor's Easter Egg Hunt takes place on Friday 15 April. There will be three egg hunts times to choose from. They will take place at 2, 2.30 and 3pm. Advance booking is essential with tickets priced at just £3.50. Tickets are only required for children taking part in the egg hunt.

Book your Easter Egg Hunt tickets [HERE](#)

The Twickenham Jobs Fair returns to Twickenham Stadium this month

The Jobs Fair will take place at Twickenham Stadium on Friday 22 April from 10am to 1pm.

The job fair attracts a wide array of different employers from various industries who are all recruiting for local jobs and is a great way to speak with potential employers face-to-face.

You can register with employers for jobs, collect info on employers, ask questions, apply for jobs, or even have a mini interview on the day. The jobs fair is completely free to attend, with no registration needed.

Attendees are encouraged to bring copies of their CV with them on the day.

Visit [Job Fair website](#) for more information about the event.

No change to waste and recycling services over Easter bank holiday weekend

There will be no change to the schedule of residential waste and recycling collections over the Easter bank holiday weekend.

Richmond Council will continue to collect residential waste and recycling on households' normal days of service. This also applies to garden waste collections.

Find your collection day [HERE](#)

Residents can report missed waste and recycling collections online [HERE](#)

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COVID-19

Teresa Read

World Health Organization

Weekly Epidemiological Report

Overview

After the increase observed during the first half of March 2022, the number of new COVID-19 cases has decreased for a second consecutive week, with a 16% decline during the week of 28 March through 3 April 2022 as compared to the previous week.

The number of new weekly deaths also decreased sharply (-43%) as compared to the previous week, during which an artificial spike in deaths was observed.

Across the six WHO regions, over nine million new cases and over 26 000 new deaths were reported, and all the regions show decreasing trends both in the number of new weekly cases and new weekly deaths.

As of 3 April 2022, just over 489 million cases and over 6 million deaths have been reported globally.

Total cases Locally

Richmond upon Thames	64,872 (63,518 previous week)
Kingston upon Thames	58,496 (57,399 previous week)
Hounslow	92,868 (91,438 previous week)
Wandsworth	114,368 (112,334 previous week)

COVID IN THE NEWS

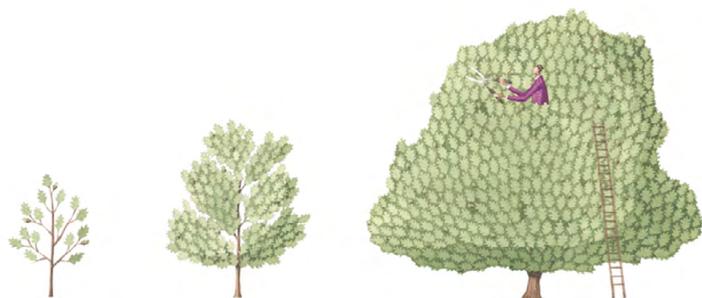
BBC, 8TH April 2022: Covid infections show signs of plateauing in UK

The Indian Express, 8th April 2022: Shanghai widens Covid-19 testing as other Chinese cities impose curbs

New York Post, 7th April 2022: 'Frankenstein' Omicron subvariant XE detected in UK, India and Thailand

CNBC, 6th April 2022: UK has detected a new Covid variant. Here's what we know so far about omicron XE

Mirror, 6th April 2022: Symptoms of new Covid Omicron XE variant as over 600 cases detected in UK



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The Man who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo

By Simon Fowler

April marks the centenary of the death of one of Victorian England's great conmen and gamblers. So far as is known Charles Delville Wells lies in an unmarked grave in North Sheen cemetery.

Wells is known as the man 'who broke the bank at Monte Carlo.' He was also one of the most successful conmen of the age promising people large sums of money if they invested in his spurious patents.

However, it was at the gaming table that Wells came to the attention of the wider world. In July 1891 he won 500,000 francs (£4000 worth over £50,000 today) over a three-day period at the Casino at Monte Carlo. His method, he explained, was based on calculations which had occurred to him while at work on mechanical inventions. In fact, there was no method, just a careful strategy and an awful lot of luck. He left at the end of July richer by £20,000.



By now his fame was spreading round the world. The Times described how 'engrossed was this fortunate gambler in the conduct of his operations that never once did he stir from his seat or partake of food during eleven hours of play...'

Wells returned in November, when again his luck held and he managed to break the bank several times. *The Times* reported that he sent £30,000 back to England, noting that he 'has the rare facility of knowing when to stop and the good sense to leave the table when he finds his good luck on the wane.'

The casino was now very nervous, fearing that he might really have an infallible system and employed private detectives to follow him. Wells' success actually proved to be a draw and the tables were never busier, as gamblers hoped his luck would rub off on them.

Unfortunately, when Wells returned in the following January, his luck had changed for good.

His success, however, provided the inspiration for the famous music hall song *The Man who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo*, which became a huge international hit.

At home his luck was changing as well. Wells was eventually successfully prosecuted for fraud. His methods were merciless, exposed when Wells' victims came forward to reveal how they had been fleeced. His defence tried to make out he was a hardworking and honest inventor who was thrown off balance by winning £40,000 in five days at the gaming tables. He was sentenced to eight years at Dartmoor, where he proved a model prisoner.

His later years are shrouded in mystery, even the date of death is disputed. But it is almost certain that he now lies in North Sheen, but exactly where perhaps remains his joke on posterity.

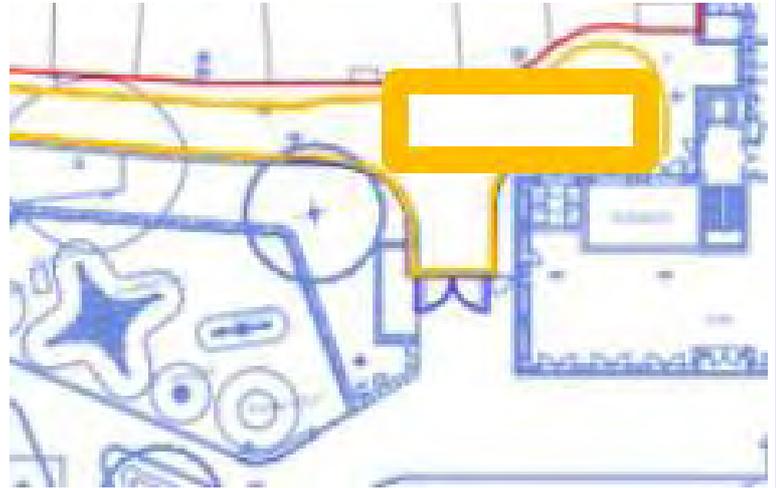
Dear Editors,

As they say “The devil is in the details”.

As planning permission has been given for a new supermarket at 11-15 King Street close to Waterstones, I thought I would have a look at plans for servicing both it, some of the shops and flats on King Street, the proposed new flats on Water Lane and the new cafe on the Diamond Jubilee Gardens. This will all be carried out along the narrow Service Road at the back of King Street accessed via two way Wharf Lane, or along the Embankment for articulated lorries and refuse lorries.

At present there is a large turning area on the disused car park behind the old Santander block, but this is being built on. Instead a small turning area has been provided between the children’s playground and the new cafe, with a locked gate that will need to be unlocked for larger lorries (e.g. refuse lorries) so that they can reverse onto the Diamond Jubilee Gardens to make the turn. Worryingly there is an adjacent pedestrian gate. Why has no safety audit has been done on this area, especially with the children’s playground alongside?

And where has the actual loading bay been put for this road? See below from the Council’s plans (yellow rectangular block). With vehicle trips forecast at weekends of one trip every five minutes in the morning and one trip every six minutes in the afternoon the problems are immediately obvious – or surely they should be? Someone’s having a laugh, but at our expense!



With best wishes,

Sue Hamilton-Miller
Twickenham

Dear Twickenham and Richmond Tribune,

Desperately Seeking ...

I am in need of your help.

Last Sunday, following the London Irish v Harlequins I met a charming lady at the 267 bus stop at Kew Bridge at around a quarter past five. She was wearing an endearing bonnet and was with three boys. There were so many people and the buses were filling up quickly. I couldn’t get on the one that was waiting and the bus driver shouted “Next Bus”. At this point I turned around and there she was, all smiley with a glint in her eye. “Next bus” I said looking her in the eye. “Next Bus” she said looking at mine and that is the end of this very romantic story.

Well maybe not totally as it gets worse. Rather than waiting for the 267, I got on the 237 which came first and was equally good for me. I put that down to the fact that I was cold. How dumb was that being a bit chilly or having the opportunity to chat with this charming lady.

I am hoping that Lady x or one of her friends or boys will reach out to you and give this man the opportunity to redeem himself.

Best,
David (Name and address supplied)

The Tribune encountered an 'incident' on Hampton Road



I don't think they will be collecting the mail from this post box on Hampton Road anytime soon! Maybe someone wasn't happy with yesterday's stamp price increases? The Tribune understands that a refuse lorry was the culprit.



Thanks to our wonderful NHS the post box has been saved! We understand the patient is doing well and hopefully normal posting duties will resume soon.

Local policing update - April 2022

Jon Mcloughlin, Richmond Neighbourhoods Inspector

Richmond's neighbourhood police teams have been working on lots of activity in the last week to respond to crime and the concerns of residents.

Most notably would be the charge of Leone Davies, 18 (25/01/04) of Twickenham, for the offences of murder and possession of an offensive weapon, after the tragic death of Mirko Naramcic in Ham on Thursday 17 of March 2022.

Detectives have led this investigation ably supported by our neighbourhood officers whom have been undertaking visible patrols and engaging with the community.

The street briefing on Thursday 24 March gave the residents the opportunity to meet the Ward team in person and ask questions regarding ongoing concerns and issues they are experiencing.

The Kew team arrested two 15 year olds found in possession of a stolen bicycle, further searches conducted at their properties recovered another bike believed to be stolen.

Both have been released and the investigation remains ongoing. They have also been patrolling areas highlighted by residents for drug use, resulting in multiple stop and searches.

As well as this, the teams PCSO Lorraine Childs visited a victim of burglary, and met their Ward Panel Meeting to discuss Neighbourhood Watch in the area.

The Barnes team held their Police Liaison Group meeting at the Castlenau Centre on Monday 28 March – it was great to hear residents' concerns and questions.

The South Twickenham Team are appealing to residents in relation to a series of smashed car windows on the weekend of Sunday 27 and Monday 28 of March around the Radnor Road area of Twickenham – if you were victim to these who has not yet reported it or you believe may have witnessed the incident please get in touch.

Our colleagues from Royal Parks Police, who police Richmond and Bushy Parks in Richmond are reminding the public to clean up after themselves as the weather gets warmer. Litter from picnics can be dangerous to wildlife, and is antisocial. They have been busy checking on unpermitted trade vehicles found driving in the park.

The Teddington and Hampton Wick Teams are photographed on patrols below. They held a street briefing to talk to residents on Sunday 27 March which was well received. The teams are regularly patrolling the high street, backstreets and searching our green spaces for discarded weapons or tools.

Our neighbourhood teams exist to address local crime problems in the community – they are our bobbies on the beat who deal with antisocial behaviour, persistent crime problems and know their areas well. If you have any concerns and want to speak to them you can find them on [What's happening in your area?](#)



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Dennis Gilbert, NEAC: Teddington artist celebrates 80 years of painting

Dennis and his wife Ann moved to Teddington some years ago. In previous years Dennis had visited Richmond and Twickenham sketching and painting local scenes and skaters at the East Twickenham rink, so it was not surprising that Dennis provided sketches for our Heritage Lottery ice rink project.

Dennis also provided photographs of some of his works for the Lidos Alive outdoor swimming book: *Lidos Alive, The Story of Our Lidos in the Boroughs of Twickenham and Richmond*. It was during a visit to



*Dennis Gilbert in his Teddington studio
Photo by Berkley Driscoll April 2018*

Dennis' studio at this time that we discovered his daughter is a keen outdoor swimmer.

A few years ago we attended Dennis' birthday party at his home and studio in Teddington and were pleased to be invited this week to the Private View of his 100th Birthday Exhibition in a gallery at the Kings Road, Chelsea.

Biography: Dennis Gilbert a figurative painter of portraits, figure compositions and landscapes.

Born in 1922, Dennis served in the RAF as a navigator 1942-46 and studied at St Martin's School of Art 1946-50. He taught at numerous art colleges, finally at Chelsea School of Art, where he was a Senior Lecturer until 1986. He has exhibited many times at the RA and at the Mall Galleries, with societies including the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and the New English Art Club, of which he is a member. His works are to be found in private and corporate collections in Europe, America, Asia, Africa and Australia.

Dennis' contributions to the Heritage Lottery funded ice rink and outdoor swimming projects

Dennis has contributed to two REIC (Richmond Environmental Information Centre) Heritage Lottery projects:

The Most Famous Ice Rink in the World (Sketches: pages 46, 47, 48, 49, 105)

Dennis sketched skaters at the East Twickenham Ice Rink:

<https://icerinx.com/PDF/BookRICHMONDrink.pdf>

Lidos Alive The Story of Our Lidos Boroughs of Twickenham and Richmond (the book is still available): Paintings: front cover, pages 7, 11 and last page: photograph of Dennis in his studio.

<https://lidosalive.com/>

Dennis Gilbert: Centenary Exhibition

Photos by Berkley Driscoll



Host businesses announced for new community cargo bike hire scheme

Three independent businesses have stepped forward to become the host locations for the new community cargo bike hire scheme coming to Richmond upon Thames.

The three businesses will serve as the collection points in their local area where the cargo bikes will be parked outside for people to pick-up. The community bike hire scheme is a collaboration between Richmond Council and cargo bike operator Peddle My Wheels.

The host businesses will help Peddle My Wheels monitor the new community asset and recharge the bikes. The host businesses are:

[Birdie Bikes Ltd](#) on Wensleydale Road in Hampton

[The Refill Larder](#) on Teddington High Street

[La Ciclista](#) on Sheen Lane



The community cargo bikes scheme will launch in mid-May with residents and businesses who register for the scheme set to benefit from two hours of free usage each day.

The cargo bikes selected for the scheme are designed to serve a range of functions; the family friendly Ridgeback MK5 cargo bike will be coming to Teddington and Hampton while the business orientated Babboe Trike-E will be coming to East Sheen. View the [full bike specifications](#).

[Register your interest](#) in joining the new cargo bike hire scheme.

Those who register will be contacted to book a face-to-face introductory session once the scheme launches. The introductory session will include a test drive, a tutorial of the OurBike app, how to reserve a bike and everything else you need to know.

Find out more about what the Council is doing to encourage the use of cargo bikes in the borough including [support to purchase a bike](#).



SIX LONDON LOCATIONS NAMED IN THE SUNDAY TIMES BEST PLACES TO LIVE 2022

CRYSTAL PALACE NAMED BEST PLACE TO LIVE IN LONDON

The Sunday Times Best Places to Live sponsored by Halifax

Crystal Palace has been named the Best Place to Live in London. It is top of a list of six locations in the capital chosen by The Sunday Times in the annual Sunday Times Best Places to Live guide.

The comprehensive guide, which includes 70 locations, is released online today and an edited version will be available in the paper on Sunday.

The Sunday Times's expert judges behind the guide assess a wide range of factors, from schools, transport and broadband to culture, green spaces and the health of the high street. They look to celebrate improving towns, villages or city centres, attractive, well-designed homes and locations bursting with community spirit – which the pandemic has shown to be the most vital quality of all.

An average house price for each location has been supplied by Halifax, the sponsor of the guide, and up-to-date information on broadband speeds has been provided by Thinkbroadband.com, the UK's leading independent guide to broadband.

Please note: apart from the regional winner, the other locations are not ranked, but listed in alphabetical order.

The Sunday Times Best Places to Live 2022: London

- Winner: Crystal Palace
- Hanwell
- King's Cross
- New Malden
- **Teddington**
- Victoria Park

Helen Davies, The Times and Sunday Times Property Editor said: *"The Sunday Times Best Places to Live list is necessarily subjective. Leave it just to statistics and you will never capture the spirit of a place. For that, you need to visit to take into account that 'you have to be here' feeling. Is the pub dog-friendly, for example? Can you live car-free? What are the schools and houses like? Is it multicultural and multigenerational, and can it offer a good way of life to lots of different sorts of people?"*

"Ten years ago, when we launched the inaugural list, London's gravitational pull was strong, the WFH revolution had not yet reached our doorstep and high streets were stacked with chains. How times have changed – and how welcome that change is.

"This year we have discovered new best places to live from resurgent city centres in the North, rejuvenated suburbs across the country, hidden villages in the Southwest, and a commutable Scottish island.

"We hope there is something to suit everyone."

Crystal Palace (Winner): While the mix of green spaces, pretty Victorian streets and chichi shopping and dining isn't unique, Crystal Palace has a welcome urban edge, too – as well as community spirit and a fascinating history.

Average house price: £526,000

Growth since 2020: 17%

Teddington: Last year's London winner beats the naysayers to keep its place in the list, thanks to its gorgeous green spaces, dreamy Thames-side towpaths and vibrant high street.

Average house price: £815,000

Growth since 2020: 15%

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/best-places-to-live>



Local community railway needs more volunteers

Hampton Kempton Waterworks Railway (HKWR) is holding a Be a Volunteer! recruitment day event to encourage more local volunteers to help operate and manage their heritage community railway.

The volunteering roles range from train drivers, firemen/women, guards, platform personnel and various admin roles, to gardeners, and fundraising positions.

No experience is necessary and HKWR will train volunteers for free. Everybody is welcome but volunteers must be aged 18 years of age and over.



The programme on the day will include a tour around the railway including HKWR's 1903 locomotive and rolling stock. There will also be a general overview of managing the railway, its history and plans for restoration.

Visit Hampton Kempton Railway website for full details about the recruitment day (which is by advance booking only) are available through the website.

Contact David Wheeler, HKWR Volunteer Co-ordinator on 07984 862334 or email: volunteer@hamptonkemptonrailway.org.uk for more information.

Hampton Kempton Waterworks Railway's big Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg Hunt for kids returns to The Hampton Kempton Waterworks Railway on Easter Sunday 17 April.

It's a welcome return of the Hampton Kempton Waterworks Railway Easter Egg Hunt for 2022.

Railway volunteers who run and operate the community railway every Sunday, will be pleased to see loyal supporters of their railway events return, as well as new visitors.



This is the first event of the season and other events are planned throughout the summer.

Councillors Standing for the Local Council Election on 5th May 2022

Teresa Read

In East Sheen, the Conservative leader, Paul Hodgins, has put his name forward for election with fellow Conservatives Seamus Joyce and Brian Marcel. Aphra Brandreth, daughter of Giles Brandreth hopes to regain her seat in Barnes.

Fulwell & Hampton Hill see Joe Broughton, the son of the well-known architect, Maurice Broughton, put his name forward as a Conservative candidate. Present councillor Jonathan Cardy hopes to return for the Liberal Democrats.

Gareth Roberts, the current council leader would like to return and Jon Slinn, Conservative, also hopes for a Hampton seat.

Hampton North is interesting as it only has two Liberal Democrat candidates. Avril Coelho who is currently listed as an Independent Liberal is now listed as an Independent. This is not a surprise as Avril often appeared uncomfortable with the current administration. There is one Green Party candidate and three Labour Party candidates in Hampton North. Long term Conservative councillors, Geoffrey Samuel and Kate Howard are also listed as candidates.

In Hampton Wick and South Teddington Grant Healy and Jon Hollis return to the fray for the Conservatives and in Heathfield John Coombs and Michael Wilson will stand against Conservative Marc Hope.

In Kew as well as the Conservatives, Labour and Liberal candidates we have Ellana Reyes of the Women's Equality Party and in Mortlake and Barnes Cllr Avon is hoping to return.

Long-serving Cllr Pamela Fleming is standing in South Richmond along with fellow Conservatives Phillip Taylor and Tom O'Malley. There is one Green candidate and three Labour candidates, the Labour Party putting forward a number of candidates in this election.

Former councillors, husband and wife team Jane and David Marlow, are standing in South Twickenham. Richard Bennett of the Green Party also hopes to return as a councillor for the ward.

In St Margarets & North Twickenham we have former Mayor Ben Khosa and Alexander Ehmann. Cllr Ehmann is the Head of Public Affairs at Tata Ltd, as well as Deputy Leader of the Council and Chair of the Air Quality and Transport Committee.

Of course, Teddington will expect the return of Cllr Martin Elengorn who has been a member of the planning committee for an exceptionally long time.

Twickenham Riverside may see the return of former councillor Susan Chappell whose family has been involved in Twickenham for many years. Long term former Mayor Douglas Orchard also hopes to return as a councillor as no doubt does Julia Neden-Watts.

Will Piers Allen and Alan Juriansz return as West Twickenham councillors? Local residents hope that their manifesto might include the support of public toilets for Twickenham Green.

And finally in Whitton there are the three candidates for each of the main parties, Conservative, Labour and Liberal. The list of candidates by ward can be seen on the LBRUT website.

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/council/elections_voting_and_registration/richmond_council_elections_2022

The 5 May Local Election will give residents of the Borough the opportunity to give their verdict on the record of the current Council and perhaps help to influence policies for the next five years.

EASTER FOOD AND DRINK IDEAS

Not long now until the Easter weekend break! Many of us will be on holiday abroad, (flights permitting of course) and others will be visiting friends and family. What a change from the previous two Easters!

If you're planning to head to a holiday cottage or just wanting to relax at home and not have to go shopping, you'll do well to consider ordering one of the special Easter bundles from **44 Foods**. I've mentioned this great company before, for its wonderful breakfast hampers, and the [Easter Roast Lamb](#) dinner for four is brilliant value at £32. This meal bundle contains delicious, fresh veg and luxury extras to make your dinner special. The star of the show is the succulent JW Galloway Scotch rolled shoulder of lamb, and you can browse the site and add all sorts of indulgent extras, that have been carefully sourced and are available for nationwide delivery. There are also chicken, pork or beef Easter bundles. Celebrity Masterchef fans will be interested to note that **Phil Vickery** is now in partnership with 44 Foods, so you can create some of his recipes too.



For that pre-lunch glass of fizz, I'd highly recommend the **Codorniu Vintage Brut Cava**. It's from Spain's first ever cava producer and with its bubbles and creamy citrus notes the perfect partner for some pre lunch canapes. It's great value and available in Waitrose at £10.99 a bottle.

Easter Sunday happens also to be **World Malbec Day** and a great excuse to crack open a bottle or two to enjoy with your Easter roast. I've checked out a couple of cracking Malbecs for you - both excellent value too.

The first is the **2020 Graffigna Genuine Collection Reserve**. Bold, reliable and full of character, this Malbec from Uco Valley, Mendoza, Argentina, is a classic red wine that's perfect to drink on its own, or to accompany a roast. Founded in 1870 by Santiago Graffigna, a passionate Italian whose vision and entrepreneurial spirit led him to found what is now the third most historic winery in Argentina. It has retained its unique winemaking philosophy, crafting bold wines that convey a 150-year history of excellence. It's well-rounded, characterful and lightly oaked. It's really delicious and available in **Sainsbury's** at £9 a bottle.



Next for another good value - South African - Malbec from the **Tesco Finest range**. Rich, ripe Malbec made from grapes grown in vineyards that stretch along the foothills of South Africa's Western Cape. Bursting with dark fruit flavours of black cherry, plum and blackberry, this is a well structured wine with an elegant hint of spice on the finish. £7.50 a bottle.

I've recently tried the most deliciously smooth and rich hazelnut chocolate spread from **Bonne Maman**, that you'll be pleased to hear, is widely available at most major supermarkets at £2.80 a jar. It contains no palm oil, and is a luscious spread for croissants or crumpets (or anything else). What's more,

Bonne Maman has some fabulous recipes on the website, including this delicious one for [Easter Rocky Road](#) - an easy and very indulgent treat to make pre-Easter perhaps?



Happy Easter everyone!



A Monster Calls

by Patrick Ness, adapted by Sally Cookson and Adam Peck

Old Vic and Bristol Old Vic at Rose Theatre, Kingston until 9th April, then on tour until 12th June.

Adapted from Patrick Ness' novel, the story of *A Monster Calls* is brought to life on stage. Director Sally Cookson, having worked with the original company in devising the concepts, has melded brilliant ideas together, to make a very slick and emotionally effective production. The story is effectively and simply told using a sequence of hanging ropes forming the thickset sinister roots of a tree, an inspired concept by set designer Michael Vale.



Ten figures sit either side of thirteen year old Connor, played impressively by Anthony Aje, prepares for school. He has slept badly, because a Monster wakes him at his window, telling parables with unpredictable endings, until eventually Connor tells his own, which is the most significant of all.



We discover the tenderness of Connor's dying mother, the sternness of his grandmother and the mostly calming presence of his estranged Dad. The school bullying by his fellow pupils is highly disturbing, and only alleviated by his friend Lily (Eleanor Kane). We feel Connor's loneliness as he deals with these demons alone, bullying, grief, and feelings of inadequacy.

The Monster, outstanding played by Keith Gilmore is, quite frankly, absolutely terrifying. The hanging ropes are skilfully used to give the Monster the chilling effect of a deadly spider awaiting in a web.

With tension, graphic violence and the Monster's unnerving presence, the sound effects (by Michael Beer) and composer Benji Bower's musicscape, underlines the whole feeling of the piece. Bringing together Aideen Malone's lighting design with its striking silhouettes, it engenders an eerily edgy ambience. In the background is a clock that grows larger, until it reaches a colourful climax.

Conor asks, "How do you fight it? How do you fight all the different stuff inside?"

Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/04/01/monster-calls

Photography by Manuel Harlan





The Gondoliers

by Arthur Sullivan, libretto by W. S. Gilbert
Scottish Opera at the Hackney Empire

Let's go to Venice, it may be flooded under Climate Change, but what the hell, it still holds its romance and not a little bit of mystery. Or perhaps cross the Adriatic to Barataria. In 2022 it is probably unwise to go too far in that direction, but you probably won't find Barataria on a map. Let's put the terrible tribulations of the present time aside for two and a half hours of Gilbert and Sullivan froth and froufrou, with outrageous plots that make even Shakespeare's look plausible. Fast, flippant and frolicsome, Scottish Opera's *Gondoliers* captures all that is best in the Savoy opera style, that strange mix of memorable music, subtle satire and hearty humour.



We open to a view of Venice that would make Canaletto proud, filled with a chocolate-box tableau of wonderful pastel crinolines. The superb setting by Designer Dick Bird is outstanding. It has plenty of other painterly pastiches: we see Ingres' portrait of Napoleon purloined as a fairground double cut-out for the presentation of the two gondoliers Marco and Giuseppe, each now potentially but ambiguously King of Barataria. Gillray makes his mark in the design of the outrageously OTT panniers in the gown of The Duchess of Plaza-Toro, who has come from Spain to re-claim the King for her daughter, who has just become Queen of Barataria. Casilda, the daughter, arrayed in black and silver, is pure Velázquez. She also sports an eye-patch like Princess of *Éboli*, referencing Verdi's *Don Carlos*. Or could it be that she cannot compete with Marco's formula for his sweetheart when he sings, "Take a pair of sparkling eyes"?

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/04/01/gondoliers

Photography by James Glossop



Utopia, Limited

by Arthur Sullivan, libretto by W. S. Gilbert
Scottish Opera at the Hackney Empire

Gilbert and Sullivan's *Utopia, Limited* is their penultimate work together. It's a work not often performed, and it wasn't as enthusiastically received by contemporary audiences as the other Savoy operas. Revisiting themes satirised in the more complex plots of *Iolanthe* and *The Mikado*, it does so in a simpler way with a pared down plot, plus the added feature of Utopia having made itself a limited company on the wishes of its king, Paramount, who is obsessed with all things British.



Set on a beautiful, faraway paradise island, King Paramount awaits the return of his daughter, Princess Zara from Girton College ladies education in Britain. In the meantime King Paramount has fallen in love with his younger daughter's governess, Lady Sophy, which appals his advisors, Scaphio and Phantis, as it weakens their influence.

On her return, Princess Zara is accompanied by her British protectors, the Flowers of Progress, including Captain Fitzbattleaxe to whom she is engaged. The usual shenanigans then ensue, including Scaphio and Phantis' efforts to prevent the king and Lady Sophy getting together, and the island's rulers descending into chaos, all against Gilbert's satirical commentary on powerful institutions of all sorts.

Charlie Drummond, with her exceptional soprano voice, played a beautifully arch Princess Zara, and raised the banner for Girton's potential graduates by suggesting the possible solution to Utopia's chaos: "Government by Party ... No political measures will endure, because one party will assuredly undo all that the other party has done". Sioned Gwen Davies and [Catriona Hewitson](#) as Princesses Kalyba and Nekaye respectively, did a great comic turn whilst endearingly bringing to mind the Teddy Bear Ladies from *Repair Shop* !



Read Eleanor Lewis' review at
www.markaspen.com/2022/04/03/utopia-ltd

Photography by Julie Howden



Our House! The Madness Musical

by Tim Firth, music and lyrics by Madness

HEOS Musical Theatre at the Judi Dench Playhouse, Ealing

Our House features the music of the iconic London band Madness, who were around in the late Seventies - early Eighties. The book is by Tim Firth, whose catalogue includes *Calendar Girls* and *Kinky Boots*, both of which relate true stories and authentically capture the essence of the people involved, their relationships and dialogue. Similarly, Madness evolved from a Ska revival band into a band that could portray common experiences and feeling using everyday language, with songs such as *Baggy Trousers* evoking chaotic school days, and *Welcome To The House Of Fun*, recording with great humour the apprehension of that first experience of purchasing, er, ... protection, at the chemists. These songs show bring back fond memories.



The show presents two parallel storylines, reflecting the choices arising from a single incident early in the show. The action reflects the consequences, in both personal development and relationships, on the hero of the show, Joey Casey. Effectively, we see “good Joey” vs “bad Joey”.

In terms of choreography, the chorus takes the glitter-ball in this show. That’s not to say others are in any way weak: they aren’t. This chorus nails it. Well-drilled and

confident, they use the space fully, execute with gusto and, in an important consideration with large numbers on stage, get off elegantly and quickly.

The very talented Director and Choreographer, Dawn Wightman clearly knows her cast and the space well enough to exploit all available advantages and it shows. Chorus numbers are used, very slickly, to cover quick changes and trick appearances.

Musical Director Janette Hutchinson brings out the best in all performers. The show features various combinations of duets, trios and quartets, which can be demanding on performers, in terms of holding tricky harmonies, but where there is a cast such as this who are confident, capable and enthusiastic, the audience can sit back and soak up these features.

A definite “Go-see” from yours truly.

Read Vince Francis’ review at

www.markaspen.com/2022/04/07/our-house

Photography by Carey Reese



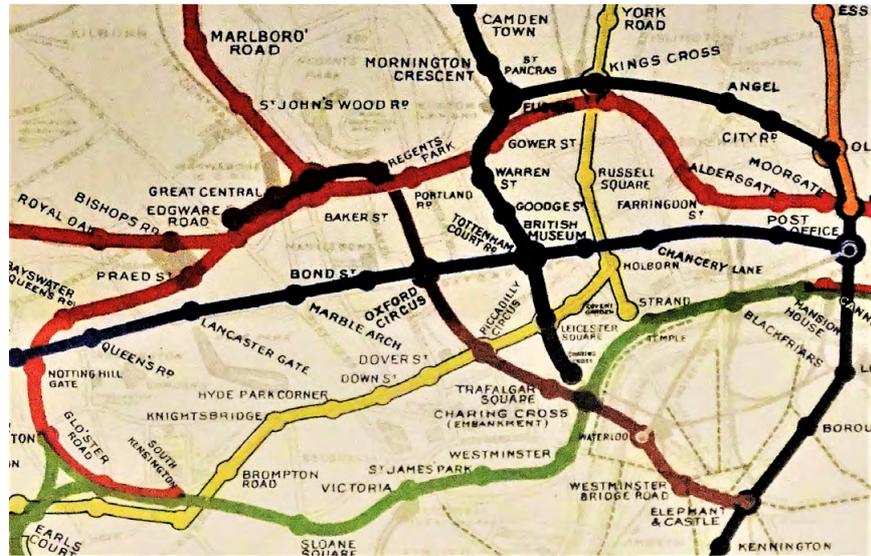
TRAVELLER'S TALES 120

LONDON'S CURIOSITIES PART TWO



Doug Goodman visits some more London sites

Two weeks ago the feature on London's curiosities seems to have generated a lot of interest with requests for details of more unusual spots in the Capital. Armed with a street map, an old bus route guide, (sadly TFL has stopped printing these), the invaluable 'London's Hidden Walks' and a tube map; I took a long walk during the recent sunny weather. Maps are so interesting, particularly old ones and those in the huge collection of the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden. I can happily spend a day in the museum studying the history of London's transport development and examining the vintage buses and trams and re-living travel in the old, stuffy tube trains. From a very early underground map of the central part of the system I counted up the number of stations which have been renamed or vanished. I got to 15. How many can you spot in the first image?



NEAR WATERLOO

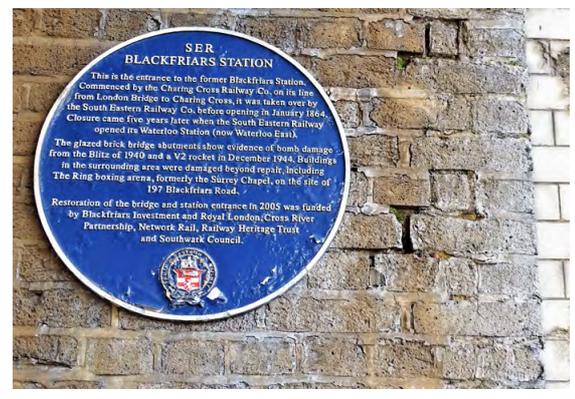
Whenever I cross Westminster Bridge I stop and look at the lion. This magnificent sculpture on the south side of the bridge made from Coade Stone once stood outside the Red Lion Brewery near Hungerford Bride and was, not unsurprisingly, coloured red. Coade Stone is an artificial stone made weather-proof and invented by Eleanor Coade. The exact recipe for formulating the stone is not fully known but legend says that the formula is inside the lion. A house in Lyme Regis, which Eleanor built of Coade Stone, was later the home of John Fowles. Opposite the Victoria Embankment Gardens, which were constructed on reclaimed land when the Embankment was built, you'll find Cleopatra's Needle. This obelisk was once sited in the Egyptian city of Heliopolis in 1450 BC. The public donated £15,000 for the monument to be shipped from Alexandria by sea in 1877. Several times the Needle, towed in a wooded container was lost at sea but it was eventually erected in London. Crossing the Thames on Blackfriars Bridge I stopped on the south-east side opposite Southwark tube station to photograph an interesting plaque on a bomb-scarred wall. Here was the original London, Chatham and Dover Railway station built in 1864. The rail bridge was demolished in 1985 leaving in place the railway company's logo and red pillars spanning the river. The new Blackfriars Station, built over the Thames in 2009 has 4,400 photovoltaic panels on its roof and claims to be the world's largest solar-panelled bridge.



Secret Formula



The Needle



Site of Blackfriars Station

INTO THE CITY

Hanging Sword Alley, just off Fleet Street, was once a dangerous place to walk. Robbery was common so perhaps that's why several sword-fighting schools were established there. In Dickens' Tale of Two Cities the alley was home to Jerry Cruncher, a notorious body-snatcher. In the narrow streets of the City you never needed to ask a policeman the time. Huge ornate clocks abound jutting out from the upper floors of the office buildings especially in Lombard Street. On the former head-office of The Daily Telegraph building in Fleet Street there's a magnificent art-deco example. City Churches provide

a great deal of historic information: from names of famous benefactors, memorials to those killed in wars and lists of those buried in the church-yard. Above the entrance to St. Olave's Church you can see skulls denoting the former burial ground. The building is dedicated to King Olav of Norway, who fought against The Danes at the Battle of London Bridge in 1014. Samuel Pepys and his wife were buried here along with Mary Ramsey credited with bringing the Great Plague to London in 1664.



Sharpen Your Skills



One of Many City Clocks



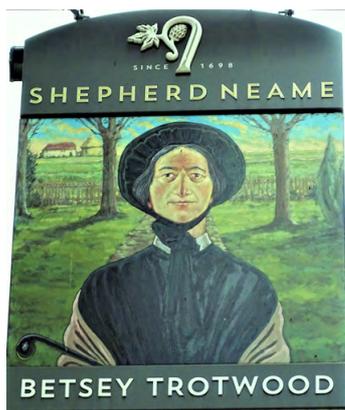
Graveyard



City Water Pump

WATER BEER AND CIGARETTES

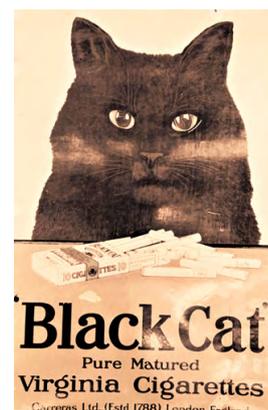
At the corner of Leadenhall Street and Fenchurch Street is the public water pump erected in 1870 before houses received mains water. It drew its supply from water which flowed below a nearby grave-yard and was eventually joined to a safer supply provided by the New River Water Company. Pubs, like churches, are a good place to learn about local characters. Many carry the name of a local person – sometimes a notorious villain or a philanthropist, Names from the classics are often to be seen on pub signs too. Above the Victorian pub in Clerkenwell I saw a colourful image of Betsy Trotwell. She, I read, was the rather strange great-aunt of David Copperfield in Dickens' wonderful novel.



Pub Sign



Greater London House in Mornington Crescent

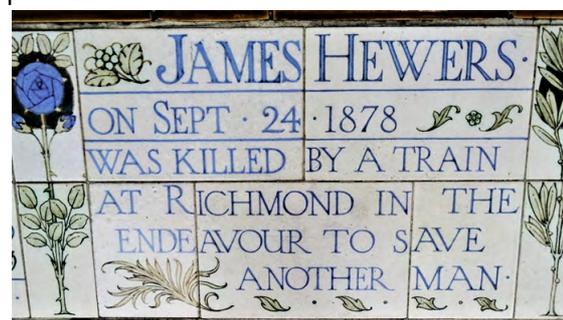


Black Cat Cigarettes

Heading to Mornington Crescent on the Northern Line I wanted to revisit Camden Town and my old office. In 1971 when I joined Thomson Holidays in their headquarters in Greater London House I was saddened by the state of the huge block constructed in the 1920s for the manufacture of Black Cat cigarettes. It was a confusing warren-like place but its proximity to the Irish pubs and Greek Cypriot restaurants of a fairly run-down area of London was perfect for drinking and eating. I was so happy on leaving Mornington Crescent Station, with its plaque dedicated to Humphrey Littleton the chairman of that very confusing panel game named after the station, to see that Greater London House had been repainted with its Egyptian black cats guarding the entrance to the place where I had spent 17 happy years.

A RICHMOND HERO

Next time you are near St. Paul's find the little square called Postman's Park. Named after postal workers from the nearby King Edward Street HQ it was created in 1900 by G.F.Watts a painter and sculptor. Born in 1815 and a member of the Symbolist Movement he has a gallery devoted to his work at Compton south of Guildford where he lived. In Postman's Park is a wall of tiles naming people who performed life-saving actions. One that struck me was to James Hewers who tried to save the life of John Jepson, who had fallen under a train at Richmond Station on September 24th 1878. Both men died. Press reports suggested that Jepson from Mortlake was intoxicated. Hewers lived in East Sheen and was buried in Mortlake cemetery.



I'm indebted to Stephen Millar for his superb guides 'London's Hidden Walks'.

Schools Out! Time for Adventure

Travel News by Bruce Lyons.

As Easter gets closer and closer and the Travel Covid-19 restrictions get easier and easier families are stretching their limbs and looking for adventure. Not just Sun Sea and Sand.

In Africa, Trekking in Morocco – Skiing in Canada. Covid remains an obstacle but with care can be navigated. But availability and cost increases seem a bigger Hindrance

Just this week we have seen prices increase as we book – thanks to those nasty algorithms which seem to govern our lives these days. So when we find you see what you like, you had better tell us fast to book it! It never goes down in price – sad to say!

Over the last months/weeks we have seen prices rise at the same time as travellers' confidence to travel returns – But for Easter there has been a problem. Whilst the operators and airlines are putting on extra capacity, the public's appetite is outstripping the supply – and causing airport congestion.

For Sun, most of the old favourites are still available at reasonable prices – The Canaries, and Morocco (better value) Malta and Cyprus – Egypt is proving more expensive as they haven't increased the flight availability – But this destination has warmer seas and loads of the ever-popular Water Parks to say nothing of the wonderful snorkelling in Coral Gardens in the translucent Sea with tropical fish. Not for nothing is the Red Sea often dubbed the Underwater Classroom of the World and there is no better place to learn to Scuba in a safe environment. Excellent for Adults and Youngsters alike.



City breaks are also in demand – Especially to those that, before Pandemic, were getting overcrowded – like Venice, Florence, Rome, Prague and Dubrovnik and more!!

We also had some last-minute Ski-ing from the adrenalin seekers – but hurry whilst the snow is around. But you do need to keep an eye on the FCO website for changes as they come along – and once you have booked be sure to ask us about any communications about PLF's (Passenger Locator Forms) and any minor changes to Children requirements and needing or not needing PCR's or Antigen test.

Check your passport validity (Brexit change all that) – a big problem is surfacing as people realise that the passport office no longer offer an emergency service for minors – just last week we heard of a family denied boarding at Gatwick to Egypt with catastrophic repercussions (not one of our bookings – we always check this kind of thing!) – in another incident a client told us he could get his child's new passport in 3 days – next day he transferred his booking to the May date – so be warned -don't take chances and then if research the driving new regs that may apply and driving licences.



Exciting Times EH!! But precarious too!

Belgium - and the Twickenham Connection

Belgium is divided into three main regions: Brussels Capital, Flanders and Wallonia. Brussels is the capital city; Antwerp, is Belgium's leading port and a major European port. The oldest cities in Belgium are Ghent and Bruges.

In the Middle Ages Bruges, then directly linked to the sea, was one of the wealthiest cities in Europe. By the sixteenth century access to the sea had been cut off as the channels silted up. The decline that followed meant that development passed the city by. As a result, it now represents one of the best examples of medieval architecture and city layout in existence; Bruges is known as the "Venice of the North" because of its many canals.

During the First World War six thousand Belgian refugees settled in the 'Belgian Village on the Thames' in East Twickenham. Charles Pelabon set up a munitions factory in the area, aiding the war effort and providing work for the inhabitants of the "village". In 2017 the East Twickenham Centennial Group installed a memorial accompanied by an information board (which we produced) telling the east Twickenham Belgian story from WW1.

As well as being famous for its high-quality chocolates, Belgium has around four hundred different kinds of beer; some of the most famous are made by Trappist monks. Following the ceremony to mark the "Belgian Village on the Thames" bottles of Belgian beer, produced for the occasion, were distributed; on the back of the bottles were photographs of Belgians who had lived in Twickenham and their stories.



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

Read the Mark Aspen review of the ceremony in Twickenham: Belgian Village on the Thames:
<https://markaspen.com/2017/04/05/friendship-and-cooperation-in-europe-belgian-village-on-the-thames/>

WE ARE HELPING UKRAINE

TWICKENHAM YOU CAN TOO

100% OF THE MONEY

WE MAKE UNTIL THE END OF APRIL WILL GO TO LIFE SAVING CHARITIES IN UKRAINE

CULTURED CONSTRUCTION

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Cultured construction ltd is donating all profits from clients that accept a project contract from 15th of march 2022 to 30th of April 2022. all of the company profit will go to life-saving charities in Ukraine.

for more information, feel free to email or call us with questions.

our company was founded on creating relationships with the community, so we offer free advice from DIY home renovation to how to tender for specialist works that we might not supply such as electrical works or specialist carpentry.

Also, take a look at our new Instagram page which will be featuring our company story; completed projects and design tips. scan the qr code or search the @ below.

PHONE: 07444432675

EMAIL: CONTACT@CULTUREDCONSTRUCTION.CO.UK



@CULTUREDCONSTRUCTION.LONDON



The Landmark Arts Centre announces summer season

Teddington's Landmark Arts Centre has announced its new summer programme of events which offers a line-up bursting with music, comedy, classes and art.

Highlights of this summer's events include an evening with Dire Straits founder member John Illsley and a performance from The Blues Band as part of their Farewell Tour.

The season launches on 4 May with Dire Straits founder member, John Illsley, who will be performing iconic hits from the Dire Straits back catalogue and Q&A session.

Other artists amongst the line-up include: American singer-songwriter, Dean Friedman, the legendary Irish folk band, Dervish, Irish indie-folk pop band, LORE, songwriter John Elliott's alt-pop band The Little Unsaid as well as rising, must-see act The Chapin Sisters plus support The Ocelots.

The Landmark and community business organisation, Teddington Together, are partnering to hold a fundraising music festival, Rockin' the Lockin' Live, featuring some of the area's best music talent.

For comedy fans, the Comedy Network is returning with a line-up of some of the best acts on the UK's comedy circuit with Glenn Moore, Lou Sanders and Sarah Callaghan among the headliners. There will be a packed programme of exhibitions and fairs with the Spring Art Fair, The Korean Expo 2022, The Richmond Art Society Summer Exhibition and the Art Course Show.

For more information on the The Landmark's May to August 2022 programme and how to book tickets, visit the website [HERE](#)



PaddleTime launches to make paddling accessible to all at UK's "honeypot" locations

Two outdoor activity entrepreneurs are launching a new venture with the aim to let wider audiences experience their unrivalled paddling experiences in new locations across the UK.

Sam Sutton and Rich Pearsall are the owners and founders of New Forest Activities, from where they have offered canoeing tours on the Beaulieu River in The New Forest since 2003.

Now the adventurous duo are launching a new venture; "PaddleTime" and they are seeking people with a passion for the great outdoors to join them, with 6 jobs up for grabs.

The first PaddleTime location can be found on the Thames at the National Trust run Buscot and Coleshill Estate, just 60 minutes from both Oxford and Reading.

'Our canoeing sessions really are, and always have been, our bread and butter', says Sam Sutton founder of PaddleTime. They're by far our most popular and in-demand activity and our customers really do have the time of their lives.



'We've been absolutely spoiled with our beautiful location in Beaulieu with New Forest Activities and now having the Thames to explore too we're excited about what PaddleTime is going to offer.

With a river bank sprinkled in historic monuments, stunning sights and a variety of wildlife, their guided canoeing tours at Buscot are the perfect vehicle for those looking to try something new, have some fun and create memories to last a lifetime.

'A positive that the pandemic brought to us was that more and more people were exploring where they live,' says Rich Pearsall, co-founder of PaddleTime. 'This led to people also holidaying in the UK and resulted in us having our busiest year ever at New Forest Activities.

'We made it our mission to find other stunning locations across the UK to offer what we do. And so, PaddleTime was born. We're really excited about our first site at Buscot and can't wait to discover and open up even more locations across the UK. Of course to do that, we will need people who are just as passionate about canoeing, paddling and just being out on the water and in nature as we are.'

For more information about the job opportunities, including 2 senior roles looking after the location and 3-4 instructor roles, email info@paddletime.co.uk

PRINCE HAL at the MARY WALLACE THEATRE

Prince Hal, Falstaff, Harry Hotspur, Doll Tearsheet and a small army of accomplices are currently strutting their stuff in the RSS production of HENRY IV. Both parts of “*the double history of King Henry the forth*” are playing at Twickenham’s Mary Wallace Theatre until April 23rd. In this, their most ambitious production in decades the Richmond Shakespeare Society casts 22 actors in more than 60 roles.



A rare opportunity to witness the demise of one king and the rise of another, pausing on the way to eavesdrop on treasonous plots, debauch in the stews of Eastcheap and visit the bloody battle at Shrewsbury.



HENRY IV parts one and two are performing in repertoire until April 23rd.

For Performance Schedule and Booking Details see

www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk

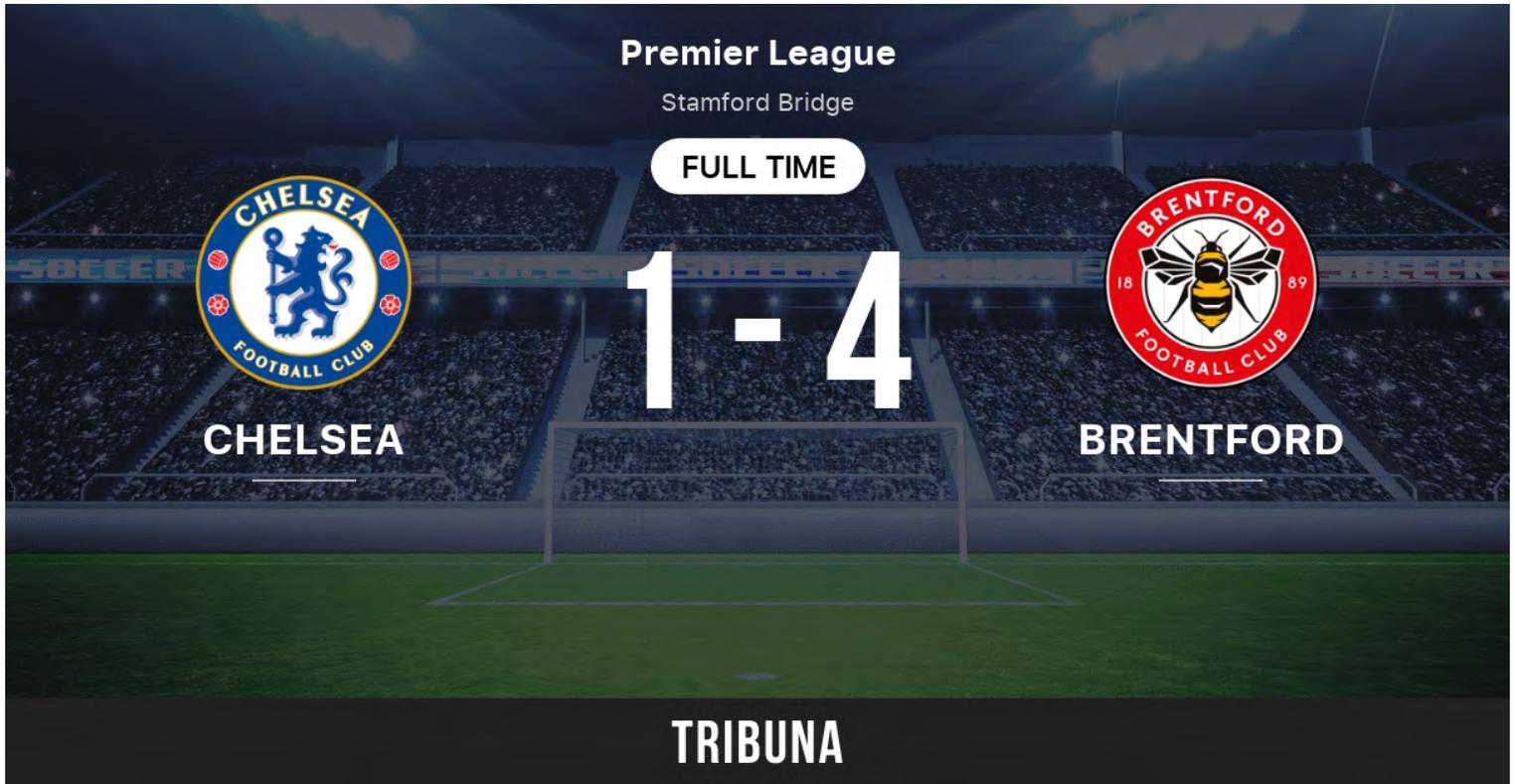
The Mary Wallace Theatre is situated on Twickenham Embankment, TW1 3DU - between St Mary’s Church and the Barmy Arms.

Photo Credit:
Pete Messum.

Richmond Shakespeare Society
RSS
at the Mary Wallace Theatre



Chelsea 1 - Brentford 4



“I can’t imagine that there are many readers who haven’t caught up with what has been the most astonishing result in the Premier Football League this season.

To put things in perspective, Chelsea are the current European Champions. They have not lost a premier league game at home this year. They have also recently won the World Club Championship which more or less christens them the best club football team in the world!

Then along comes little Brentford FC. Enjoying their first ever season at Premier League level and most pundits favourites to get relegated again.

As a Brentford supporter of over 60 years, I and all current supporters are far more used to standing behind the goal on a wet Tuesday night watching the Bees lose 1-0 at home to the likes of Workington Town in front of a crowd of 1,500 or so.

Then a few years ago along came Mathew Benham to take over the reins and ever since, the Bees have moved up from the old third division to the Premier League with millions of people in over 100 countries watching every game. Brentford now have a first team squad full of current international players drawn from around the world. They also have a shiny new stadium holding just short of 18,000 next to Kew Bridge Station.

As they travelled the few miles to Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground last Saturday the Brentford team and their supporters knew that the Bees still needed a few more points in their last few games to stay up this season. Very few of their supporters thought they would get anything from Chelsea but of course football supporters are optimists aren't they.

And so to the game, where Brentford gave an excellent account of themselves in the first half holding Chelsea to a 0-0 scoreline although the best chances had gone to the Bees.

As soon as the second half started Chelsea scored an amazing long distance goal from their German International centre back Antonio Rudiger. He lashed it in off a goal post from fully 40 yards.

Were Brentford disheartened? Not a bit of it. In the next 10 minutes the game went mad with the Bees scoring 3 goals in 10 minutes in front of their fans with Chelsea not knowing what hit them. Brentford's young German midfielder, Vitaly Janelt, who had just signed a new contract a few days before, smashed in two of the goals with Danish captain Christian Eriksen firing home another following a break covering the length of the pitch by Brian Mbuemo.

Chelsea tried everything to rescue the game by introducing substitutes Romelo Lukaku and other world class players but the Brentford back three of Janssen, Ajer and Pinnock stood firm.

The clock was ticking towards the end of the game when Brentford Manager Thomas Frank put on Congolese forward Johan Wissa who had only been on the pitch for a matter of seconds before smashing a loose ball into the Chelsea net through a crowded penalty area.

That was it and within minutes the game was over. 4-1 to the Bees away to one of the best teams in the world? Could we really believe what we had seen?

So probably the most exciting game and best result ever seen by the majority of the lucky Brentford fans who made it to the stadium.

With a few more games to go Brentford are now nine points above the relegation zone and although another few points are probably needed the Bees are beginning to look as if they will start next season in the Premier League for the second season running."

COME ON YOU BEES!

Red Roses name matchday squad to take on Wales at Kingsholm

Head coach Simon Middleton has named his matchday squad to take on Wales at Kingsholm Gloucester in the third round of the TikTok Women's Six Nations on Saturday (9 April, kick-off 4.45pm and live on BBC Two).

Captain Sarah Hunter leads the side at No.8 while wing Jess Breach makes her first Red Roses appearance since May 2021. Lucy Packer is set for her maiden international start at scrum half and Zoe Harrison and Helena Rowland continue at 10-12. Poppy Cleall (lock) lines up alongside Abbie Ward (lock) while Alex Matthews retains her place at blindside flanker.

There are returns for Marlie Packer (openside flanker) and Abby Dow, who starts at full-back. Vickii Cornborough (loosehead prop), Lark Davies (hooker) and Sarah Bern (tighthead prop) form the front row. Fresh from her brace in last Sunday's victory over Italy, Sarah McKenna is on the left wing while Emily Scarratt takes her place at outside centre. Gloucester-Hartpury duo Connie Powell and Natasha Hunt are named among the finishers alongside Amber Reed.

Middleton said: *"We're really looking forward to our first home game of this year's Six Nations.*

"We're pleased with our performances to date and this weekend provides another opportunity for other players to step up.

"Selection has been very tough and I know some players will be bitterly disappointed to not have made the line-up. We said all along we would rotate the squad and we have again this week with another eight either positional or personnel changes in the starting line-up alone.

"However, that also came with the requirement of training well enough to merit selection. Some players have pulled up a little short of that mark and given the intense competitive nature of the squad you just can't afford to not be at your best. At the same time that doesn't necessarily rule them out of the rest of the competition or any squad going forward. Those decisions rest with them and how they react to the disappointment of not making the squad this time around.

"Wales' new contracts have galvanised and lifted their group and that's shown in the nature of their performances and two wins out of two to date. They have looked well organised and have finished strong in both games, that's testimony to the work loan (Cunningham) and his staff group have put in and of course the attitude of the players. It's great to see and makes for a top-class game and a stadium that will be bouncing.

"A good number of their players play their club rugby in the Allianz Premier 15s and they have some real talent.

"We've had another good week of preparation and would also like to thank Maidenhead RFC for making us so welcome for one of our sessions.

"It's great to hear there are over 12,000 tickets sold. Kingsholm is a fantastic stadium in a real rugby hotbed and as players and staff we can't wait for Saturday."

England team to play Wales

15. Abby Dow (Wasps, 23 caps)
14. Jess Breach (Harlequins, 19 caps)
13. Emily Scarratt (VC; Loughborough Lightning, 98 caps)
12. Helena Rowland (Loughborough Lightning, 12 caps)
11. Sarah McKenna (Saracens, 40 caps)
10. Zoe Harrison (Saracens, 35 caps)
9. Lucy Packer (Harlequins, 3 caps)

Finishers

16. Connie Powell (Gloucester-Hartpury, 3 caps)
17. Maud Muir (Wasps, 6 caps)
18. Shaunagh Brown (Harlequins, 25 caps)
19. Rosie Galligan (Harlequins, 3 caps)

1. Vickii Cornborough (Harlequins, 66 caps)
2. Lark Davies (Loughborough Lightning, 37 caps)
3. Sarah Bern (Bristol Bears, 42 caps)
4. Poppy Cleall (Saracens, 52 caps)
5. Abbie Ward (Bristol Bears, 52 caps)
6. Alex Matthews (Worcester Warriors, 47 caps)
7. Marlie Packer (Saracens, 80 caps)
8. Sarah Hunter (C; Loughborough Lightning, 132 caps)

20. Vicky Fleetwood (Saracens, 80 caps)
21. Natasha Hunt (Gloucester-Hartpury, 56 caps)
22. Amber Reed (Bristol Bears, 59 caps)
23. Ellie Kildunne (Harlequins, 20 caps)



Free pack of Sunflower Seeds at Squire's



Pick up a free pack of sunflower seeds at Squire's Garden Centres in May

Squire's Garden Centres is offering children a free pack of sunflower seeds in May. A voluntary donation to the local charities that Squire's support is requested in return.

Collect a FREE pack of sunflower seeds at Squire's in May and donate to charity

Pick up a free pack of sunflower seeds and a growing guide from Squire's Information Desk throughout May. A donation to Squire's local charity is invited, simply pop some cash into the collection box. Your donation will go directly to the local charity to help raise vital funds for them. One pack of sunflower seeds per household, under 16s only, while stocks last.

Plant seeds at home

Follow the growing guide which contains expert tips to ensure that your sunflowers reach for the sky! With many seeds in each pack your garden could soon be transformed into a swathe of bright yellow cheery sunflowers, which your child can grow and nurture.

Enter the competition in August to win £100!

Take a photo of your child next to their tallest sunflower with a measuring tape showing the sunflowers height between 22 July - 22 Aug 2022.

Email your photo to competitions@squiresgardencentres.co.uk or post it on Squire's Facebook or Instagram page. Full details can be found on the growing guide or at

www.squiresgardencentres.co.uk. The winner will be announced on 26 August 2022 and will receive a £100 gift voucher to spend at Squire's! There are also 2 Runners Up prizes of a £50 gift voucher to spend at Squire's.

Squire's Twickenham is raising money for Vineyard Community - A charity with community at its heart, they help individuals overcome personal crises (homelessness, addiction, loneliness and mental health), and build stronger bonds with the community at large.

<https://www.vineyardcommunity.org/>

SQUIRES
GARDEN CENTRES

The Royal Parks creates new garden to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

To mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, The Royal Parks is transforming the site of a former plant nursery into a unique new garden - an outstanding space at the heart of what is already one of London's best loved landscapes - to celebrate the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The brownfield site, which covers more than 1.5 acres and currently has no public access, is in the heart of The Regent's Park near the Inner Circle.

The new garden will complement the outstanding Grade I listed landscape, already one of the most popular green spaces in the capital, and plans will be developed to complement the nearby gardens within the wider park, Queen Mary's Gardens and St John's Lodge Garden. The Royal Parks' own expert horticulturalists, arboriculturists and landscape teams will work alongside others to create a garden of the highest quality, a brand-new public amenity space with significant ecological and environmental value.



Plans for the garden are at an early stage, but it will include design features that reflect Her Majesty's love of trees and nature, and her impact throughout the Commonwealth and world.

Loyd Grossman CBE, Chairman of The Royal Parks, said: "We're delighted that we are able to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with the creation of this very special garden. The Regent's Park is a masterpiece of landscape design and town planning, and we believe that the garden will enhance the park's outstanding Grade 1 listed landscape, which is already one of the most popular green spaces in the capital. As a charity, we are committed to doing all we can to increase green space in London, and this site will add a significant 1.5 acres of biodiverse parkland for people to enjoy and explore."

The Royal Parks will be sharing its designs with the public as they develop and will use a video timelapse camera to record the transformation.

The charity will commit at least £1m to the project and will seek external funding and public donations.

Additionally, as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, The Royal Parks will be creating a new wood in **Richmond Park**. The new woodland will be planted with 70 large trees, each one to mark a year of Her Majesty's reign and will be located adjacent to Ham Cross.



WHO records 100th attack on health care in Ukraine

A grim milestone has been crossed today in the war in Ukraine – more than 100 attacks on health care verified by WHO since the start of the war on February 24. The attacks so far have claimed 73 lives and injured 51.

Of the current total of 103 attacks, 89 have impacted health facilities and 13 have impacted transport, including ambulances.

“We are outraged that attacks on health care are continuing. Attacks on health care are a violation of international humanitarian law, said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, at a press conference. “Peace is the only way forward. I again call on the Russian Federation to stop the war.”

“It’s a truly sad irony that we are recording this milestone of over 100 attacks on health in Ukraine on World Health Day,” noted Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe who visited the humanitarian hub of Lviv in western Ukraine today. “I have been personally struck by the resilience and fortitude of health care providers and indeed of the health system itself in Ukraine. WHO has been working to ensure supply lines remain open to allow lifesaving health and medical supplies to reach cities and towns nationwide, and continued attacks on health make this effort all the more challenging.”

This milestone of over 100 attacks on health spans barely 42 days since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine began. The impact of this violence is not only immediate, in the numbers of deaths and injuries – but also long-term in the consequences for Ukraine’s health care system. It’s a major blow to the country’s efforts to institute health reforms and achieve universal health coverage, a goal it had made significant progress on before the war erupted.

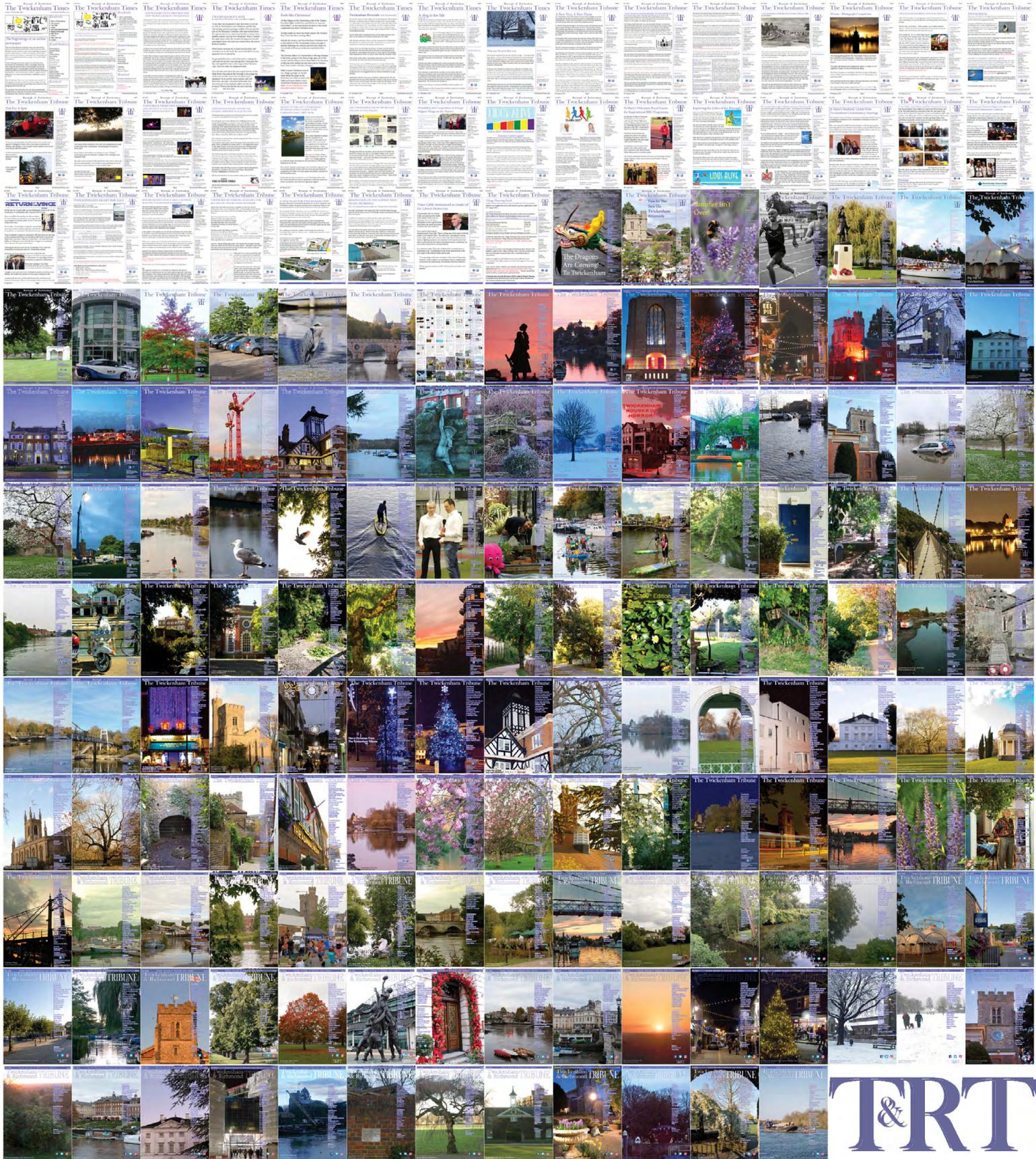
“Across Ukraine, 1000 health facilities are in proximity to conflict areas or in changed areas of control,” explained Dr Jarno Habicht, WHO Representative in Ukraine. “Health workers throughout the country are [risking their lives](#) to serve those in need of medical services, and they, and their patients, must never be targeted. Further, when people are prevented from seeking and accessing health care, either because the facilities have been destroyed or out of fear that they may become a target, they lose hope. The mental health toll wreaked by the war cannot be underestimated, affecting civilians and the health workforce alike.”

Attacks on health are unfortunately seen amid conflicts globally. Since 1 January 2022, WHO has verified 160 attacks on health care in 11 countries and territories resulting in 97 deaths and 74 injuries. Outside of Ukraine at this time, Sudan is also witnessing a recent increase in attacks on health care.



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