

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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Editors

Berkley Driscoll
Teresa Read



27th May 2022

T&RT

Two baby robins

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

Twickenham Stadium – HSBC London Sevens

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 May

The events will run from 0900 - 1800 on each day with attendances of under 50,000.

It is hoped to keep road closures to around an hour on Saturday between 1700 and 1900 and not to have any on Sunday. Find live traffic updates on Twitter @rfuhometurf

Full CPZs will be in place, so please display permits.

Possible 'rogue' roofers in Kew

Kew Police are warning residents following possible reports of 'rogue' roofers knocking on doors in the Kew Green area.

The police have advised Please keep an eye on your vulnerable neighbours and point them in the direction of legitimate tradespeople rather than door-to-door sellers.

No change to waste and recycling services over Platinum Jubilee bank holiday

There will be no change to the schedule for residential waste and recycling collections over the Jubilee bank holiday's on Thursday 2 June and Friday 3 June 2022.

We will continue to collect residential waste and recycling on households' normal days of service even if your collection day is a bank holiday. This also applies to garden waste collections.

Find your [collection day](#). Residents can report missed waste and recycling collections online [HERE](#)

100 years of The Hampton War Memorial Charity

This year marks 100 years of the Hampton War Memorial Charity and the building of four bungalows for the use of local Hampton and Hampton Hill residents and their wives or widows who had served in the armed forces.

The cottages, based in Oldfield Road, remain as residencies for ex-service personnel and their families to this day.

The Trustees of the Charity celebrated the centenary of their construction with a blessing by the Chair of the Trustees, Rev Derek Winterburn and the planting of trees in the gardens of the cottages. The event was attended by the current residents and the Charity Trustees.

For further information on the Hampton War Memorial Cottages contact 0208 941 2016.

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COVID-19

Teresa Read

World Health Organization

Weekly Epidemiological Update

reported on ReliefWeb 22 May 2022

Globally, the number of new weekly cases has continued the declining trend observed since a peak in January 2022. During the week of 16 through 22 May 2022, over 3.7 million cases were reported, a 3% decrease as compared to the previous week. The number of new weekly deaths also continues to decline, with over 9000 fatalities reported, representing an 11% decrease as compared to the previous week.

At the regional level, the number of new weekly cases increased in the Region of the Americas (+13%) and in the Western Pacific Region (+6%), while decreasing trends were observed in the remaining four regions.

The number of new weekly deaths increased in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (+30%), remained stable in the Western Pacific and the Region of the Americas (both <1%), and decreased in the other three regions.

As of 22 May 2022, over 522 million confirmed cases and over six million deaths have been reported globally.

These trends should be interpreted with caution as several countries have been progressively changing COVID-19 testing strategies, resulting in lower overall numbers of tests performed and consequently lower numbers of cases detected.

COVID IN THE NEWS

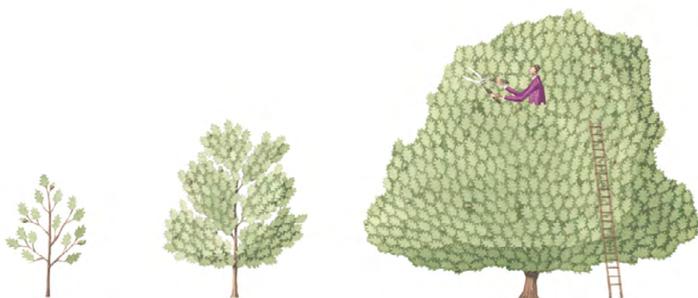
The Guardian, 26 May 2022: Scientists identify 'trigger molecule' for Covid-related changes to smell.

The Guardian, 25 May 2022: Are UK coronavirus cases actually going down or are they just harder to count?

New Scientist, 25 May 2022: Covid-19 news: Reinfection eight times higher with omicron than delta

Sky news, 25 May 2022: COVID-19 is more worrying than monkeypox says Pfizer boss

BMA, 19 May 2022: COVID: It never went away: The former health secretary has said the COVID pandemic is over. The reality could hardly be more different, with high case numbers, staff absences, and a terrible legacy of stress and overwork.



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darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

Long Live the King

By Simon Fowler

Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at how royal jubilees were celebrated across the borough.

The first monarch to be so honoured was King George III whose Golden Jubilee was celebrated on 25 October 1809. There were no national festivities. Neither Richmond nor Twickenham seem to have bothered.

Kew was one place, however, which marked the anniversary. This is not surprising considering the royal connections. In a very Kew way, the idea for a ball and supper to celebrate the Jubilee emerged at a dinner party. It was agreed to hire rooms at the Rose and Crown Inn on Kew Green.

One of the organisers was Elizabeth Tyrell, whose diary describes what happened. In

the afternoon Mrs Tyrell visited the Supper Room which had been 'laid out so scantily and many of the best dishes kept back, that we were obliged to completely dish up every dish and arrange the whole.'

The poor of the parish were also looked after. A collection among the wealthier residents provided 'meat, bread, beer, potatoes and coal.'

In the early evening Mrs Tyrell and her children walked around the Green to see the illuminations displayed in the windows of the residents – *The Times* reported that 'Every house was illuminated with various devices' And Elizabeth noted that: 'Mr Hobbs has a Crown in coloured lamps and let off a great many fireworks. There was a very noble bonfire near the pond and many men and boys with squibs and crackers. Mr Warren who is a carpenter and does work for the King, hung a good transparency of the King with the motto: 'Virtue, honour and glory' between two of his trees.'

At the supper her young daughters Ann and Eliza 'wore blue shoes, blue necklaces and blue ribbons across the right shoulders with "Long Live the King" worked in silver spangles and check pearls.'

The rooms were beautifully decorated with a centrepiece 'chalked by Mr Brown, botanical painter to the Queen in coloured chalks with a medallion in the middle.' *The Times* reported that 'Nothing surpassed the magnificence of the entertainment or the splendour of the rooms.'

Supper was served at midnight to seventy guests.

After the meal God Save the King was sung with 'some few lame speeches, many loyal toasts and some melancholy glees were sung, principally by the Miss Richardsons, of which everybody was very tired.' Then at about 1.30am the dancing 'began again with great spirit' The party wound up at six o'clock 'everybody left the ball room sufficiently tired – when we sat down to coffee 'this finished a day which is not likely to occur again in the lifetime of any of the party.'



*The medal struck to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of George III.
Credit: British Museum*

Flying Saucers, UFOs etc and the Fermi Paradox

By Jeremy Hamilton-Miller

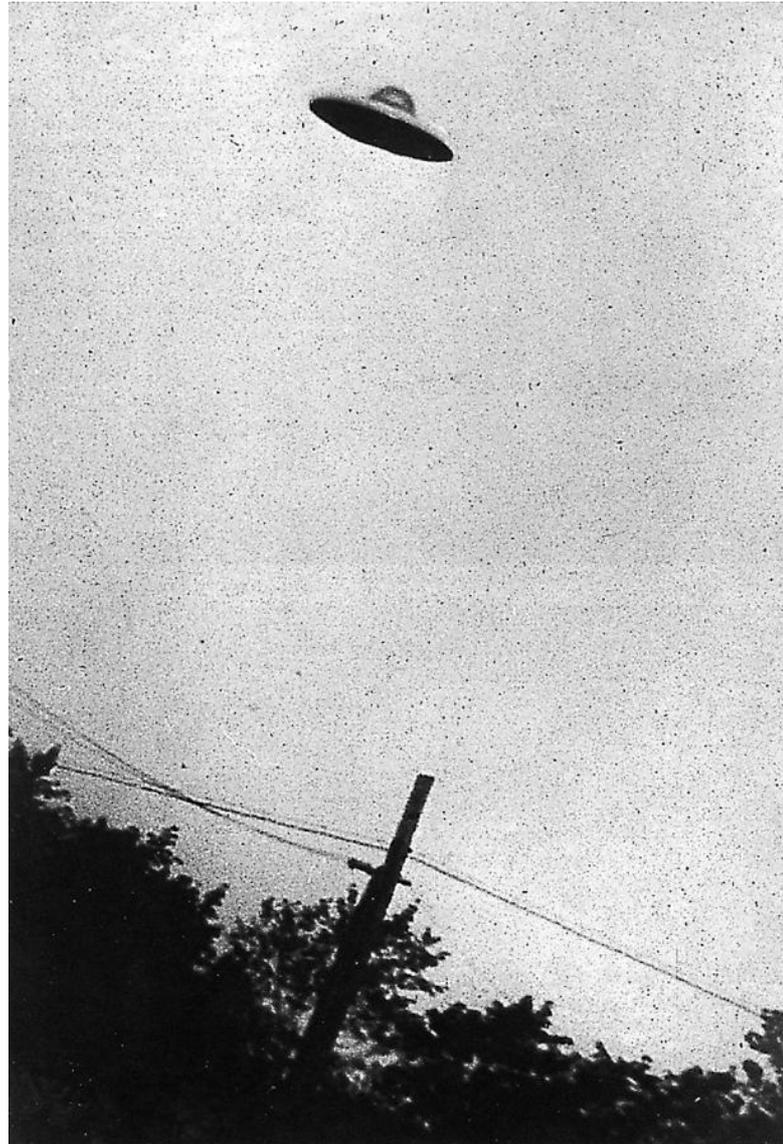
UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects) have been in the news in the last few weeks: the US military, in a report to Congress, reveal their investigations of about 400 sightings of UFOs (now officially called “unidentified aerial phenomena”) over some 50 years. While there was no evidence of extraterrestrial (ET) origins (as yet), there were definitely some events that could not be explained: of 144 reports (some by military pilots) since 2004, only one could be resolved.

According to the (now defunct) St Margarets Community website (Feb 2009), there were at least seven reports of sightings of “strange lights” in the sky over Richmond and Twickenham between 1997 and 2005; on 31 August 2009, the Ministry of Defence website reported a “ball of fire” sighted over Twickenham. The *Hounslow Chronicle* told of “dozens of sightings” of mysterious lights in the night sky on July 6 2008. Twenty seven sightings are reported from this region in the archiuk website.

Most sightings can be explained in terms of drones, stars, planets, Skylab or aeroplanes; in previous years (notwithstanding one from about 590 BC by the biblical prophet Ezekiel), many were dismissed as coming from cranks, but it seems now they are taken seriously. The SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Institute, founded in 1984, searches constantly for signs of alien life.

This brings one to the “Fermi Paradox”. This is a brainchild of the nuclear physicist Enrico Fermi, arising from a casual conversation about flying saucers with fellow scientists in 1950; he contrasted the lack of firm evidence of ET life and the very high estimates of its likely presence, considering the vastness and extreme age of the universe. Fermi is reported to have asked the very simple question: “But where is everybody?”. There are numerous different ideas as to the explanation of the Paradox. Among these are: perhaps there is ET life, but we are not listening properly, or perhaps we are alone in the universe. It certainly has given rise to lively debate, and will continue to do so ([wikipedia.org/wiki/Fermi_paradox](https://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fermi_paradox)).

Meanwhile, no “little green men” have been reported in the Royal Borough of Richmond upon Thames – yet.



Dear Editor,

St John Ambulance

2022 is a very significant year in the long life saving history of St John. Not only are we preparing in communities across the country to support the celebrations of the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, the Sovereign Head of the Order of St John since her accession to the throne, we are also celebrating a remarkable milestone for our young volunteers with the Centenary of our Cadets. Since 1922, young people have, through St John, learned and applied their first aid skills to save lives and support their communities. We regularly hear of volunteers under the age of 18 who have successfully used their first aid knowledge in often difficult situations and their dedication and compassion is a daily inspiration.

I would like to pass on my sincere personal thanks through your paper to all of our volunteers and staff, and especially our young volunteers, the next generation of first aiders, wishing them a very successful Centenary year. The actions of all will be celebrated during National Volunteers' Week (1-7 June) and Thank You Day on 5 June, as well as at our annual St John's Day celebrations on 25 June where we look forward to welcoming around 2,000 St John people to St Paul's Cathedral.

I hope that our work highlighting the skills, dedication and compassion of our volunteers around the country through our Ask Me campaign (see www.sja.org.uk) will keep St John in the forefront of your readers' minds and encourage more to get involved with St John, by volunteering, by taking a first aid course or by supporting our activities with a donation.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Messinger

Chancellor of the Priory of England and the Islands of the Order of St John

Dear Sir,

Council Failure

I am amazed that the Council which has failed in so many respects has been elected again. Once again we have Leader Gareth Roberts, but Cllr Ehmann has thought better of it and has handed the chalice to Cllr Julia Needham Watts, now Deputy Leader and Chair of Environment.

Perhaps as Chair of Environment Julia Needham Watts can do something about the most basic of human needs and in so doing stop the sight of groups of men urinating in the streets around Twickenham Green, publicly displaying themselves.

If Julia Needham Watts succeeds where the Friends of Twickenham Green, the Strawberry Hill Residents Association and the Council have failed she will earn her position. Perhaps she will understand that parents do not want their children and young girls to see groups of men lining up with their trousers undone.

The current majority political party of the Council spent four years prevaricating, sometimes providing temporary toilets and sometimes not. We are now in the Not phase.

Public hygiene is the responsibility of the Council and if those in charge cannot deal with this situation they do not deserve to be paid; in any commercial organization failures would be asked to leave, in this case those who cannot cut the mustard should stand down.

Exasperated of Twickenham Green
(Name and address supplied)

Dear Editors

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

I read in THE TIMES this week that the Government expects local authorities to provide public toilets. An expectation generally fulfilled by most Councils. Indeed some are so responsible and caring for their communities that they win prizes. Tetbury, a sizeable historic town in the Cotswolds being one example:

Alas, the only expectation in our own borough is another summer of public urination and defecation on and around Twickenham and Richmond Greens. Although, perhaps I do the Council an injustice in respect of Twickenham Green, where I believe they would like the Cricket Pavilion to double up as a public toilets. Presumably the parents of the young children who play cricket there will not mind the facilities being shared by drunks and drug users.

As ever, our shameful Council will defend its woeful provision of public toilets by reference to the Community Toilets Scheme. A scheme which is little more than a fiction and, as far as I can see, has not enlisted the participation of a single commercial user in the main shopping streets of Twickenham and Teddington.

Yours

W Stewart
Teddington



Letters published do not necessarily reflect the views of the Twickenham & Richmond Tribune, its Publisher, its staff or its advertisers.

Letters of approximately 500 words of body text will be printed at our standard 14pt font size, which will publish as a single page.

All letters must be submitted by the end of Thursday, prior to publication the following day on Friday.

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

Have your say on ULEZ

Have your say on our proposals to help improve air quality, tackle the climate emergency and reduce congestion in London



We are consulting on proposals to extend the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) London-wide on 29 August 2023.

Drivers of non-compliant vehicles would pay £12.50 per day to drive within Greater London.

We are also seeking views on changes to Auto Pay, penalties for non-payment for the ULEZ and Congestion Charge, and changes to the Mayor's Transport Strategy.

Additionally, we'd like to hear your views on how we shape the future of road user charging.

The consultation ends 29 July 2022.



Have your say [HERE](#)

22 new affordable homes open in Teddington

The redeveloped Informer House, located on Teddington High Street, was opened at a special unveiling event following the site's redevelopment by Richmond Housing Partnership (RHP).

Informer House was previously an office block that was built in the early 1980's and was once occupied by the former local newspaper – The Informer. The new development comprises of 22 one- and two-bedroom Shared Ownership homes following the site's redevelopment.

In line with the Council's Housing Strategy, RHP implemented a marketing scheme to prioritise households living and/or working in the borough to have the opportunity to buy these new homes.

All the homes have now been sold to first time buyers who are living and/or working in the borough, and on average have an annual household income of £51,000.



This development is the first of several affordable housing schemes currently under construction in the borough to be completed. The site was officially opened at a special unveiling event attended by the Council's Joint Deputy Leader and Spokesperson for Housing, Cllr Jim Millard, Council and RHP officers, contractors and some of the residents who have already moved in.

The 2022 London Loos Survey

Good provision of public toilets is a hallmark of a civilized and welcoming place to be.

As part of the Out and About campaign Age UK London have launched 'London Loos' – a campaign for better public toilet provision in the capital. The next stage of the campaign will focus on what local councils can do.

To make sure we are calling for the things that will make a difference we want to hear from you.

One in five of us experience 'the loo leash' where we don't leave our homes as much as we might like because we are anxious that we won't be able to find a toilet when we need to. We believe action towards better provision of public toilets is crucial.

The next stage of our Out and About campaign will focus on the provision of toilets across London. We have launched our [London Loos Survey](#). The feedback we receive will provide important insight into the toilet facilities available across the boroughs, so please do help by taking part, sharing and encouraging friends and family to spend a few minutes completing the survey.



Please take part in the survey [HERE](#)

London's largest children's literature festival returns to Barnes

Liz Pichon, the superstar creator of the Tom Gates series, the million selling author, Dr Adam Kay, and rock star comedian, David Baddiel, are just a few of the big names on their way to this year's Barnes Children's Literature Festival.

There are more than 100 fun family-friendly readings, workshops, performances, and free activities around the village over the festival weekend including appearances by festival favourites draw along genius Rob Biddulph and Gruffalo illustrator Axel Scheffler.

Also on their way to Barnes are a few famous faces including the Green Wing funny man Steven Mangan, the star of much loved family television shows including Horrible Histories and Ghosts, Simon Farnaby, and BBC Radio One's Chris Smith.



This year's event will take place on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 June. Highlights include a performance of Paddington Bear's First Concert, a chance to meet the Ancient Egyptians with Mr Dilly and workshops with Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and Aardman Animations.

[Book your tickets now.](#)

Celebrate the Jubilee bank holiday in Richmond upon Thames

The UK will mark Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee with a four-day bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June 2022. Over the weekend, Richmond upon Thames will be transformed as residents celebrate 70 years of Her Majesty's reign.

Richmond Council will be unveiling the borough's Platinum Jubilee Beacon at a special ceremony on Thursday 2 June at 9.45pm on The Terrace, Richmond Hill.

The Council has also waived fees for 331 street parties throughout May and June, and over 100 grants have been given to residents and local groups to help fund street parties and support The Big Jubilee Lunch and larger commemorative events.

Whitton High Street, as well as streets in Hampton Wick, will close to through traffic at different times over the Bank Holiday, with local traders offering food and drink stalls, live music and entertainment at both sites. The Whitton celebration will take place on Friday 3 June with the high street closed to traffic from 12 noon to 7pm while the Hampton Wick event will take place on Saturday 4 June with Park Road and St. Johns Road to close to traffic from 8am to 8pm.



Explore the [full list of public events](#) taking place across the borough to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and download our [Platinum Jubilee map](#).

Find out about the Nature Kaleidoscope project and events taking place in our parks this summer

Would you like to spend more time outdoors in parks? Join our information event at Kneller Gardens to find out more about some of the events and activities that are happening in our parks.

There are plenty of opportunities to improve habitats through volunteering or join walking groups that explore amazing parks. You can spend time outdoors, learn something new and meet new people. You can explore local history, ecology, and even join a walking book group. There is something for everyone.

Come and find out more at our information event taking place on Saturday 11 June from 10.30am to 12.30pm at Kneller Gardens where attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about other events that are going on in the borough over the coming months including an intergenerational picnic, Festival of Harvest, and Thames Festival.

This event is part of our Nature's Kaleidoscope project with Lets Go Outside and Learn and Multicultural Richmond, which aims to improve the experience of different communities and their access to nature.



For more information email Frances.bennett@lgoal.org.uk or call 020 8401 6837.

What Do They Know – Freedom of Information Requests

Teresa Read

“You have the **right** to request information from any public body and receive answers “. WhatDoTheyKnow - <https://www.whatdotheyknow.com> - helps you make a Freedom of Information (FOI) request; it publishes requests and the answers online.

To see examples of how this works and, in particular, requests about the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (LBRUT) search Public Authorities; What Do They Know is used by a number of people and organizations in LBRUT.

My latest FOI concerns information in letters I received from the Liberal Democrat party in September 2021 stating: “After forty years of neglect, a plan that offers the chance to transform Twickenham’s riverside has at last been submitted for planning approval”



A scene of dereliction and decay

And on 23 September 2021 a letter was sent from Gareth Roberts, as the Leader of the Council, that stated “Please do ensure you have your say on these exciting proposals. After 40 years of dereliction and decay”

These statements of neglect, dereliction and decay are incorrect and were circulated widely so I have made a Freedom of Information Request to LBRUT via WhatDoTheyKnow asking for details of works carried out and what has been spent on the Twickenham Riverside area in the last twenty years so we can see the expenditure on an area which has been erroneously advertised as “neglected”.

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/give_details_of_all_works_carrie#describe_state_form_1

Such widely spread misinformation should be rectified with an apology by those responsible - and sent to all recipients who may have made a judgement on the Council’s planning application in view of what they had read, with a “Click Here” link leading straight to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames planning application for Twickenham Riverside.

Thus, we can see that Organizations such as What Do They Know are important to democracy.

The Royal Parks to create new woodland in Richmond Park to mark Queen's Platinum Jubilee

As part of The Queen's Green Canopy initiative, The Royal Parks will create a new woodland of 70 trees in Richmond Park to celebrate the 70 years of The Queen's reign and mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

An area slightly larger than two standard football pitches in the western part of the park, close to Ham Cross plantation and adjacent to the Tamsin Trail, will be transformed into a tranquil woodland for visitors to enjoy.

Initially it will be planted with climate resilient tree species, including oak, Dutch Elm-resistant elm, small-leaved lime and sweet chestnut. The 70 trees will be planted around a focal point which is likely to incorporate a seating area, for rest and reflection.

In this central area, the larger canopy trees will be complemented by smaller trees such as hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, elder, and dogwood.

The woodland provide an area of respite for visitors as well as a new habitat to support and sustain a wide variety of wildlife – including the endangered white-letter hairstreak butterfly and the cardinal click beetle – both being found on just a few sites across the UK, which include Richmond Park. The shrubs will provide shelter and a food source for small mammals and invertebrates.

The Royal Parks will begin planting the woodland in late autumn to winter 2022, whilst most trees are dormant, being the optimum time for tree planting. Community activities to celebrate the new woodland are being planned for this time.



EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE FORMATION OF THE TWICKENHAM & RICHMOND TRIBUNE

TWICKENHAM ALIVE COMMUNITY EVENTS - PART 2 OF 6: 2012

Teresa Read

In 2012, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year, Twickenham Alive organized the [Twickenham Alive Jubilee Festival](#) producing a programme of events over a two-week (three weekend) period from 2 June until 16 June finishing with a live music stage at the Barmy Arms. Events included two live music stages on The Embankment, dragon boat racing, the Blue Mile (a national Stand-Up Paddleboarding event), the Charlie Shore Boys and Girls Regatta, markets on The Embankment, a children's fairground, water zorbing and Shetland pony rides in the Statue Gardens.



On the weekend of the 23rd June Diamond Jubilee Gardens was opened by HRH Princess Alexandra; Twickenham Alive participated in the organization of a two-day opening event on behalf of the RFU. In addition, an exhibition of photographs was provided from our HLF Memories of Twickenham Riverside project.

On 22nd July Berkley Driscoll and I worked alongside the RFU organizing the Strawberry Hill Music and Fun Day, a charity event with 8,000 people attending, raising £11,000 towards the restoration of Strawberry Hill House.



Friday 23 August 2012 saw the announcement of the Twickenham Alive Film Festival with an outdoor film showing of Stand By Me in the grounds of Strawberry Hill House, ten days later we helped out at the Radnor Gardens Family Fun Day.

In December Twickenham Alive's Christmas celebration in Diamond Jubilee Gardens was a fun packed event with a live music stage introducing The Carnabys, an exhibition of breakdancing, a Christmas Market and lots of entertainment for children.



The programme for the Twickenham Riverside Jubilee Festival 2012 can be seen in the Rugby Post pages 6 and 7

<https://www.twickenhamalive.com/PDF/Rugby%20Post/Rugby%20Post%2046%20=%2025%20Apr%2012.pdf>

A two-year research project [Memories of Twickenham Riverside](#) funded by the Heritage Lottery (HLF) is another of our projects at that time (as trustees of the Richmond Environmental Information Centre with fellow trustee Jeremy Hamilton-Miller).

At the beginning of the year, January 2012, as part of the Memories project we arranged the temporary removal of a false ceiling in Queen's Hall (Bu'sen) in King Street to unveil an impressive fresco which was to be lost forever during expansion work on the building.



Photographs and the history can be seen in the Memories project including Queen's Hall.

https://www.memoriesoftwickenhamriverside.com/queens_hall.html

Former Liberal Democrats leader Sir Vince Cable awarded honorary doctorate from Kingston University

Former Liberal Democrats leader Sir Vince Cable has been awarded an honorary degree by Kingston University in recognition of his lifelong achievements in politics and economics. He crossed the stage at Twickenham Stadium in the heart of his former constituency this week in the company of hundreds of Kingston University graduates celebrating their degree successes.

As he took centre stage, Sir Vince told the audience of graduates and academics that the recipients of honorary degrees were not the stars of the graduations. “The heroes of the day are the students who earned their degree the hard way and, moreover, had to study and be tested for two years living under the restrictions of the pandemic,” he said. “The pandemic is now receding into history, at least in the UK, but for young people at school and college it has been a defining experience,” he added.

Although best known for his time at the helm of the Liberal Democrats and for his role as Secretary of State for Business, Sir Vince has held a multitude of roles across different sectors, among them chief economist at Shell, a Treasury official in Kenya, university lecturer, best-selling author – and even a brief stint as a celebrity ballroom dancer on the BBC show, *Strictly Come Dancing*.



His career trajectory into politics wasn't direct as Sir Vince was also passionate about drama as a child, an aspiration cemented when he played the lead role in *Macbeth* at school, he said. “It wasn't clear what I was going to do. As a youngster I enjoyed acting, as well as politics, and it was acting that got me into public performance,” he recalled.

Sir Vince got a taste for politics as an undergraduate at the University of Cambridge and while working in East Africa. On his return to the United Kingdom, he campaigned on housing and anti-racism issues as a local Labour councillor in Glasgow from 1971-74. “I was motivated by the idealism of youth,” he said. “I was living in a city with widespread poverty and terrible housing conditions, so I campaigned on those issues. I was also heavily involved in anti-racism and anti-apartheid themes.”

The path to parliament was a bumpy one, however, as it took Sir Vince five attempts over 30 years before he gained his seat in Twickenham in 1997. This required persistence and resilience and he credits his late wife, Olympia, for providing moral support during his campaigns. “It was difficult to keep going. My wife was suffering from cancer and needed a lot of care and support. I also had to support the family and was doing a challenging job as chief economist for Shell. Trying to keep all those things going required a lot of stamina,” he said.

Sir Vince said his most memorable period of national politics was during the Conservative-Liberal Democrats coalition government when he served as deputy to Liberal Democrats leader Nick Clegg and Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

He managed an extensive portfolio of business, trade and banking, as well as policies on universities, colleges and science. “There were some difficult and controversial issues at that time, such as the banking crisis. My most important achievement at that time was pushing through the reforms to the banking industry, which have made the banks a great deal safer today,” he said.

Other legacies include setting up the British Business Bank, which provided support for businesses during the pandemic, and the Green Investment Bank, which funded expansion of offshore wind power generation, creating the Industrial Strategy to help revive key British industries like motoring, aerospace and pharmaceuticals, and setting up the Catapult Network of centres of innovation to support industry.



Sir Vince said he was honoured to receive an award from Kingston University. Congratulating graduates at the ceremony, he described achieving a degree as an excellent investment for the future as it prepared students for a life of learning. “It’s important for graduates to consider that higher education is the first step. Their degree is about learning how to learn, it’s not a fixed body of knowledge. In the course of their careers they may do as many as 10 different jobs, this means they’ll have to be adaptable, so learning how

to learn is crucial,” he said.

Although he retired from politics in 2019, the father of three and grandfather of three, who still lives a stone’s throw from the stadium where he collected his honorary degree, remains extraordinarily busy. With a range of fiction and non-fiction books already published – including *The Storm*, a best-seller about the financial crisis – Sir Vince is working on two new titles to be released later this year. One is a satire about how to be a politician and the second a joint memoir, written with his second wife, Rachel Smith, giving a shared account of the decade from 2010-2019.

Sir Vince is patron to numerous charities including CrossRoads Care, Together as One and SPEARLondon. He writes a weekly column for the Independent, is visiting professor at LSE, University of Nottingham and St Mary’s University in Twickenham, and is launching a business start-up involved in the distribution of hydrogen for the transport sector.



Help The NHS by sharing your views on pharmacy services

The NHS wants to hear from residents on how you use your pharmacy in order to help them with a future campaign.

The NHS wants to know why people visit pharmacies and whether people know about the range of services on offer.

Did you know that pharmacies provide over-the-counter medication as well as those that your GP prescribes? They also offer a lot of other services including healthy living advice.

The survey has 17 questions and shouldn't take longer than 10 minutes to complete.

When you've completed the survey, you can take part in a prize draw to win a £100 voucher.

Complete the survey [HERE](#)

The survey will close at 5pm on 30 May 2022.



NHS
South West
London

**Complete our
Pharmacy
Survey
for a chance to win £100**



**POP
IN!
RICHMOND**

NHS
COVID-19
Vaccination Centre

**COVID-19
vaccine walk-ins**

Teddington Health and Social Care Centre

**Moderna vaccination clinic, 18+ 1st and 2nd doses
Monday 30 May 2022, 9am to 5pm**

**Vaccination clinic, 5-17 walk-in
Tuesday 31 May 2022 and Wednesday 1 June 2022, 9am to 5pm
Saturday 4 June 2022, 9am to 3.45pm**

**For times & full details visit swlondonccg.nhs.uk/covid-walk-in-clinics
12+, 1st, 2nd & booster doses available.
No appointment needed or book at nhs.uk**

Are SLUGS & SNAILS eating your GARDEN?

By Deep Patel (Certified Entomologist and Good Karma Gardening Pioneer)

So, you've finally planted up the garden...

it's looking BEAUTIFUL and you are excited for the plentiful veg and blooms that you will soon be rewarded with, right? But then it RAINS heavily and the very next morning...

IT'S ALL GONE...EVERY LAST LEAF...

The SLUGS & SNAILS have declared war again and they are in no mood for peace talks of any kind... Does this sound familiar...?

YOU ARE NOT ALONE...

They may well look all slimey and yucky... but before you reach for the salt and before you set up the beer trap, have you ever considered kinder ways? I mean sure they are as annoying as heck, but at the end of the day, what's their crime? Being hungry? Being unattractive? Can you imagine we treated humans who were considered to be any of these things the same and poisoned or drowned them?! It just wouldn't be acceptable... so why is it ok for us to behave his way with slugs and snails? I don't want them to eat my plants as much as the next person, but SURELY there has to be nicer, kinder and more humane ways to stop them, right?



Following the UK NATIONAL BAN from April 1st 2022 on the use of slug pellets due to their harmful and sometimes fatal effects on cats, dogs and wildlife (and also their cruel way of making the slugs slowly dehydrate to a horrible suffering death), this article aims to inform you of exactly that! How to keep your plants lush, busy and green this summer, as well as keeping your karma super positive...

Slugs and snails have been sliming this planet for over 150 million years, since the Cretaceous period...that's one hell of a lot of sliming and a whole lot of plant eating too ...did you know that slugs are actually hermaphrodites, meaning they have both male and female reproductive organs. When two slugs meet, they can mate with one another and fertilize each other's eggs. A few days later, both will deposit eggs in a sheltered spot with adequate moisture. So, there is our first tip in stopping them in our gardens...DO NOT keep sheltered, moist areas in your garden, these are where they will lay their eggs!! The remainder of this article will provide the BEST and KINDEST ways to stop slugs and snails without harming them, in the spirit of compassion, environmental awareness and or course...good karma, because new research no shows that they are capable of feeling pain, however, in ways different to us, none the less, still suffer for so many hours if poisoned or stepped on.

SO, WHAT CAN WE DO TO STOP THE SLIMEY TERRORS WITHOUT BEING CRUEL AND WITHOUT GETTING BAD KARMA FOR MAKING THEM SUFFER?

DEE'S TOP FIVE TIPS:

1. Put a bamboo cane in each corner of your vegetable patch or flower bed and wrap PURE COPPER MESH around the very bottom part (touching the soil). Wrap the mesh around twice to achieve even more success. This is my absolute FAVOURITE method as it works so well

(much better than copper tape) and lasts years! If you try this method, make sure you remove any slugs and snails already on the patch and kindly relocate them to avoid locking them inside the copper barrier! See below for example of how to use pure copper mesh. Make sure you only buy mesh that is 100% pure copper as cheaper mixed alloy metal will not work as effectively. You can buy pure copper mesh online or also at Meet & Deep Newsagents on Hampton Road. You can also wrap it around pots to stop slugs and snails kindly. It's much more effective than copper tape if used correctly.

2. Use WOOL TABLETS. These are horticultural wool tablets mixed with a type of manure (available online or at decent garden centres). Sprinkle them around the plants and water them. They will form a thick mulch that will suppress weed growth, help retain moisture, the manure part will feed the plants and most importantly...the wool fibres within will deter slugs and snails!
3. Make your own dry powdery mixture using SHARP builder's sand, sharp grit, cheap coffee powder/used coffee grounds and garlic powder. Make a thick border of this mixture on the soil surrounding vulnerable plants. Reapply this mixture regularly for best results.
4. Make friends with your local barber or dog grooming salon and ask for the offcuts of hair... spreading these around your plants will keep slugs and snails away.
5. Plant lavender, mint, chives, geraniums, foxgloves garlic, fennel and rosemary ALL around the BORDERS of your vegetable patches and flower beds to keep slugs and snails away naturally.

SO...THERE YOU HAVE IT...AS EASY AS THAT...FOLLOW THESE 5 TIPS AND YOUR SLUG & SNAIL PROBLEM WILL FINALLY BE OVER!

For anyone who missed last week's article on the perils of Ants...the main essence of it was to sprinkle baby powder, FINE black pepper powder, or white vinegar where they come but NOT directly on them...and they will STOP without us needing to hurt their little souls...and best of all...we will have good karma for choosing a kind way...win-win!

Olbas or essential peppermint oil also works great, but keep it away from pets as they may find this irritates them! If you have many in the house to start with, use a wet kitchen towel to gently dab on them (so they stick to it) and quickly place it outside and then immediately seal the areas they were coming from with baby powder, fine black pepper powder, white vinegar, Olbas or peppermint oil and reapply if needed and... hey presto.... ant problem GONE!



Like all good things in life... the enjoyment is doubled when shared... so don't keep these tips to yourself...share them far and wide, screen shot or share the poster below this article and you will have good karma for caring x

Look out for my next Good Karma Gardening article here soon...

Meanwhile, for more tips or specific questions, please email me on thedeepatel@gmail.com or through my Facebook page "Kindness Guy".

You will surely have good karma for caring x

New Mayor to raise money for disabilities charity Ruils Independent Living

The new Mayor of Richmond upon Thames and her chosen Deputy were formally announced following Tuesday's Full Council Meeting.

Cllr Julia Cambridge, a Liberal Democrat councillor for East Sheen, becomes the 57th Mayor of the borough and will serve a 12-month term.

She has chosen to raise money for local charity Ruils Independent Living during her Mayoral term. Ruils supports disabled children and adults and people with long term health and mental health conditions to live independently, be part of their community and to live life to the full. They provide information, advice, advocacy, befriending and activities to our clients and their families.

Cllr Cambridge has lived in the borough with her family since 2007 and has served as a councillor since 2019. She previously served as the Deputy Mayor of the borough in 2020/21. After a career in arts and fashion, she took early retirement to focus on supporting her community through voluntary work and as a ward councillor.

As a councillor she has taken a keen interest in children's services, serving as Vice-Chair of the Childrens Services and Education Committee in 2021/22.



Cllr Cambridge will be supported by her daughter, Blue Bates Cambridge, who shall be her consort. Cllr Rhi Lee, from South Twickenham ward, will serve as Deputy Mayor.

Cllr Cambridge said:

“Ruils have always shone a light on the barriers we need to break to create a level playing field for every member of the community. As a successful organisation they have provided exceptional programs for disabled people and its specifically on their help with children and young people that I hope to focus on.

“Next year will mark 20 years since Ruils became a charity, so it seems fitting to celebrate this by highlighting their work and raising funds to help them.”

Cathy Maker, Chief Executive of Ruils, said:

“We are absolutely delighted to be chosen as the Mayor's charity. Working with Cllr Cambridge will enable us to support more young people with additional needs to get the right start in life - an important step towards living independently.”

Cllr Cambridge replaces Geoff Acton who has served as Mayor since 2020.

Find out more about [Ruils](#).

JUBILEE STYLE

It'll soon be the long bank holiday weekend to celebrate **Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee**. It looks like the UK will be celebrating this unique occurrence in great style, with street parties, festivals, and lots of special Jubilee products and offers to share and enjoy. I've checked out a few for you:



Starting at a great value price point, The Cadbury Dairy Milk Jubilee bar will host a distinguished Pageant stamp of approval, reflecting the long-standing relationship between Cadbury and the monarchy. The **Cadbury Dairy**



Milk Jubilee Tablet is 360g, and has a recommended retail price of £4.23. And another great Jubilee souvenir from Cadbury is the commemorative, limited-edition tin of Roses adorned with a regal red and diamond crown design. It's a great prize for any street party competitions! The 420g **Roses Jubilee Tin** costs around £6.59

M&S, as to be expected, has come up with a fabulous range of commemorative products at excellent prices. The ever-popular Connie the Caterpillar has been given a touch of royal treatment including a crown and Jubilee cape and she has been paired with a limited edition Corgi pal cake, adorned with a Union Jack cape - a delightful duo, and both made to the usual recipe in a milk chocolate shell. So you get two cakes instead of one large one, but with the same number of servings as the original - £10, and available in store now. What a fab table display for a street party! Also added to the M&S range for the Jubilee is a range of savoury snack platters: sandwiches; mini rolls and wraps, to make your life even easier.



Lots of companies are launching special editions and ranges to commemorate this momentous occasion, and one of my favourite condiment companies, **Tricklements**, has launched a limited edition **Right Royal Pickle**. Packed in a Kilner Jar, it contains vegetables and all manner of spices such as tamarind paste, chill and other spices, resulting in a sweet tang with a sharp bite - the perfect addition to sandwiches, a ploughman's lunch, or just to enjoy with a slice of pork pie or a Scotch egg. Available from delis and farm shops at around £5.80 for a 200g jar or online from tricklements.co.uk

Perhaps you want to send someone a tasty souvenir gift? It is a rather special occasion! Well,

Paxton & Whitfield have prepared a '**Little Box of Jubilee**'. The expert cheesemongers have curated a box of treats, containing a balanced selection of hard, soft and blue cheese, paired with apple and chilli jelly and accompanied by Cornish Buttermilk biscuits for cheese, and freshly baked white chocolate and raspberry flapjack. £35 and available to order [now](#) (you choose the delivery date at checkout)



Want to toast Her Majesty in style with some English sparkling wine? Well, Vranken Pommery is the first champagne house to launch an English sparkling: **Louis Pommery England**. The Pinglestone Estate in Hampshire has created this delicious, award-winning sparkling, that's crisp and concentrated, with notes of waxy lemon, Granny Smiths, freshly baked bread and honeycomb. This seriously good English fizz is available at Majestic or Ocado at £36 a bottle.



And to celebrate in the right royal style, splash out on the **King's Platinum Jubilee Hamper** – and celebrate in style with a selection of the [King's Fine Food's](#) finest produce.

King's Platinum Caviar is hybrid caviar of Oscietra and Siberian Sturgeon, Platinum has a fresh and intense flavour, often with long nutty notes and a buttery undertone and a colour ranging from dark



grey to ebony. This stupendous hamper contains: Ayala Brut Champagne; 125g King's Platinum Caviar; 2 mother of pearl spoons; a caviar tin opener; a King's cool bag; a caviar tin opener; a selection box of special Drinks Biscuits; a King's Chocolate Caviar tin and a pack of Out of Africa Mixed Nuts - all presented in a beautiful wicker basket. Quality and luxury like this comes at a price of course, £270, but you're worth it!

And finally, here are a couple of great recipes - perfect for street parties!

Lemon Curd Platinum Pudding Prep time: 40 mins Cook time: 3 hours chill time Serves: 8

- 420g lemon sponge swiss roll
- 1 jar **Cottage Delight Lush Lemony Curd**
- 270g lemon jelly
- 500ml ready-made custard
- 100g amaretti biscuits
- 600ml double cream
- 200g white chocolate
- 10g mixed peel

Make your decorative chocolate bark in advance. Melt 200g of white chocolate then pour into a shallow 20cm dish and sprinkle over mixed peel while warm. Leave to set in the fridge.



1. Cut swiss roll into 1 inch slices and line the bottom and bottom half of the trifle bowl with the slices. Press slices halfway up along the sides of the bowl.
2. Make lemon jelly according to pack instructions and pour over the swiss roll layer. Place in fridge to set (approximately 3 hours).
3. Once set, pour over custard and arrange a single layer of amaretti biscuits, keeping a few back for the decoration. Dollop 4 tbsp of the Lush Lemony Curd over.
4. In a large bowl, whip the double cream until soft peaks form then stir through 6 tbsp Lush Lemony Curd into the cream.
5. Spoon the cream mixture on to the curd layer and amaretti biscuits.
6. Break white chocolate and peel mix into shards and decorate your trifle, finish with a crumbling of amaretti biscuits and remaining dollops of Lush Lemony Curd.

Goat's Cheese, Grilled Red Peppers and Red Onion Tart (serves 6)

Preparation time: 10 mins Cooking time: 50 mins

Level: easy Total time: 1hr

- 1 pack ready to roll puff pastry
- 3 red peppers
- 4 red onions
- 180g soft goat's cheese
- 1 egg for glaze
- Olive oil drizzle
- Honey for drizzling
- Green salad
- 6 tbsp Mary Berry's Honey & Balsamic Vinaigrette

Preheat the oven to 180°C.

Chop the red peppers and red onions into medium size chunks (approx. 3cm x 3cm). Place on a baking tray, each on its own side. Drizzle both with olive oil and the onion side with some honey too. Cook for 20-25 mins until softened.

Meanwhile, prepare the pastry. Line a flat baking sheet with baking parchment and unroll the puff pastry sheet onto it. Prick all over the inside of the rectangle with a fork.

Then arrange the filling as you like (you can create the union jack like we did). Add the grilled peppers, onions and goat's cheese and brush the sides of the pastry with beaten egg.

Bake for 15-25 minutes, until the pastry is golden and crisp.

Toss the salad in Mary Berry's Honey & Balsamic Vinaigrette and serve. This is also great at room temperature.





La Bohème

by Giacomo Puccini, new libretto by Philip Lee and David Eaton

KHT and Making Productions at King's Head Theatre, Islington until 28th May

Putting on *La Bohème* these days can be tricky, as Puccini's characters can easily come across as rather middle-aged and respectable. By the time your operatic career has developed sufficiently for you to sing Mimi or Rodolpho, you are probably going to be too old to pass muster as a youngster living on the brink.



Mark Ravenhill's production does a great job of restoring some edginess to the piece by transposing it to contemporary London. Rob

(Rodolpho) is a hack writer, who one Christmas Eve meets on-line with Mimi ("But my real name is Lucas"). Transposing Mimi's soaring lines down for a tenor is initially a shock - more shocking than the gender swap - but still works musically and as a concept. In this context, Lucas is perhaps stereotyped: charismatic, damaged, and hedonistic (i.e. dysfunctional). I found myself sympathising with Rob here, whereas usually in

La Bohème he comes across - like all too many operatic tenor roles - as emotionally insecure, controlling, and possessive. By contrast Marcus (Marcello) and Marissa (Musetta) are more operatic business as usual, but none the worse for that, for Grace Nyandoro's Marissa steals the show, as Musettas tend to.

We may lose the sumptuous orchestral colour and thrilling big voices, but we get an immediacy and directness that just isn't possible in the opera house. The cast are able to sing conversationally, and they deliver the witty libretto with real point (including a good line about fuel costs). Nevertheless, they have plenty left vocally for the big dramatic moments which come across with tremendous force thanks to Puccini's glorious music. Musical Director David Eaton has to do it all with nothing but a piano, but you are so caught up in the drama that you barely notice, such is the intense conviction of the performances in this wonderfully intimate space.

Read Patrick Shorrock's review at

www.markaspen.com/2022/05/19/boheme-kht

Photography by thebrittainphotography



Apologia

by Alexi Kaye Campbell

The Questors at the Judi Dench Playhouse, Ealing

“Every generation, blames the one before,” states the hit song, *The Living Years*. The song, about conflict between father and son, hits a nerve with almost everyone. For children of the counterculture ‘60s generation though, the dissonance is particularly acute and reaches that much further. The central character of *Apologia* is one such ‘60s idealist, Kristin Miller. An active campaigner throughout her professional life as a respected art historian, she continued as she became mother to two sons. In later life her opinions are many and strong and she seems largely oblivious to the needs and feelings of those around her, including her children.



Long separated from the children’s father and living comfortably but alone in the countryside, Kristin invites her adult sons and their respective girlfriends, plus a family friend, to a small birthday celebration. The evening then presents a series of conversations and events which serve to illustrate both the effect of parental absence on the children of Kristin and others who fought for the seismic changes that took place in the sixties.

Apologia isn’t just an interesting piece of social commentary though, it’s funny and engaging too, not least because it’s well constructed – there isn’t a wasted line in it – and very well directed. It doesn’t feel like the two hours it occupies and the actors rattle along at a great pace, all of them recognisable as people we all know, or perhaps are.

As the title suggests, *Apologia* is a defence, so the challenge may not be to make Kristen sympathetic, but rather to make her actions understandable. Pamela Major succeeded admirably in this and gave Kristin dignity and vulnerability which made her to some degree relatable.

The changing status of women during the 1960s and beyond, and the effect of those changes on their children, is a rich seam for playwrights to mine, but *Apologia* is one of the most insightful explorations of it I have seen.

Read Eleanor Lewis’s review at www.markaspen.com/2022/05/19/apologia

Photography by Evelina Plonyte





Maynard's End

by Jeremy Gill

Q2 at The National Archives, Kew

Miss Marple meets *Midsomer Murders* in Q2's premiere of Jeremy Gill's post-pandemic parody of a much-loved genre, the murder mystery. His is a gentle take on the form: it is no harsh send-up, but a lovingly massaged homage to a peculiarly English theatre genre.



Gill sets *Maynard's End* in the rural heart of the Cotswolds in 1968, perhaps late for the genre, but in a period-perfect setting. A trio of designers create props, costume and hair styles with great authenticity, within a neatly versatile set. The local pub tucks in stage right, and book-flats transform stage left into variously a confectioner's shop, the village hall, the cottage hospital and a number of other locations.

The only period detail missing was the smoking; even the hashish was eaten (by mistake, in a laced cake) rather than smoked. Otherwise the play would nowadays be described as a Fagatha Christie (whoops, couldn't resist that!).

Maynard's End and the other neighbouring villages are the sort of place where nothing ever happens, except of course the odd random acts of arson, kidnapping, extortion, bigamy and murder.

Such is the nature of the murder mystery genre. Notwithstanding all this mayhem in Maynard's End, the plot of the play is no lightweight. It is not short of humour and some finely written moments of pathos. There are plenty of convoluted plotlines, plenty of red herrings and plenty of hidden motives and more twists, turns and cliff-hangers than the Stelvio Pass.

In fact, there are whole shoals of red herrings in this play ... and an impenetrable plot, but don't worry about that, just enjoy unadulterated fun and froth in a show that doesn't take itself too seriously. As Gill himself says, it's "a right load of escapist nonsense really".

Read Mark Aspen's review at

www.markaspen.com/2022/05/20/maynards-end

Photography by Ben Gingell





The Rocky Horror Show

by Richard O'Brien

Trafalgar Theatre Productions at Richmond Theatre until 28th May, then on tour until January 2023

Review by Mark Aspen

Tonight I lost my virginity. Yes, it came as a surprise to me too, especially as I have three children and three grandchildren. But it seems that if you have not seen *The Rocky Horror Show* before, then you are a virgin. At least that's what the lady in the seat next to me said. She was wearing stockings, suspenders and a basque. The gentleman with her was not wearing trousers, but he did look quite, er ... fetching, in fishnet tights.



There are lots of conventions to trap the unwary audience member in this cult musical, although [there is a useful virgin's guide](#). Moreover, the audience needs to know its lines, or have ready ripostes when cued by a character's half-beat pause. It's a bit like the pantomime, but a hundred times naughtier. *The Rocky Horror Show* is loosely based on [Frankenstein](#) ... fast and loose in fact. Mary Shelley would have difficulty recognising it, wrapped up as it is in a sci-fi package.

Lost and car-less, newly engaged Brad and Janet shelter from a downpour in Frank N Furter's foreboding pile. They enter a laboratory to outrageous experiments and temple to eroticism, sex in all its most freely fluid forms.

Deranged scientist, Frank N Furter is a bisexual, trisexual, transvestite, megalomaniacal pervert. That aside, he has quite a following. His admirers and acolytes adore him and he holds them in thrall. Stephen Webb gives a mighty performance, bursting onto the stage with *Sweet Transvestite*, his theme song.

Bemused innocents abroad Brad (played by [the all-round performer](#) Ore Oduba, previous winner of *Strictly Come Dancing*) and Janet (Haley Flaherty, the fan's favourite) provide contrasting respite to the rest of the show.

The Rocky Horror Show is a cult show of continuing popular following. It has unashamed sexual licence and lack of inhibition, and of course outrageous costumes, with tonnage quantities of suspender belts, teddies and high heels, and of glitz and glitter. Take the risk!

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/05/24/rocky-horror

Photography David Freeman



WIZ Tales - The Federal Republic of Germany

Teresa Read

On 1 May 2022 Aljazeera reported that Chancellor Olaf Scholz rejected criticism that Germany was not supporting Western efforts to supply Ukraine with heavy weapons. Obviously with Germany's history in the two World Wars providing weapons to Ukraine has been a sensitive topic.



Later in the month, at the Annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Chancellor Scholz said “For the first time ever, Germany is supplying arms to a war zone – including heavy weapons. To my mind, if one thing is clear, it is that Putin will only seriously negotiate a peace when he realises that he cannot break Ukraine’s defences.

That is why we are supporting Ukraine. This support is closely coordinated with our partners and allies. For on this, too, we are united: we will do nothing that could make NATO a party to the conflict.”



Information About Germany

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



ICYMI - Brentford v Leeds United

Some of the news around the final game of the campaign

From [Brentford FC](#)

Brentford ended their Premier League season with nine men on the pitch and home defeat to Leeds United.



The Bees had slightly the better of the first half but fell behind early in the second. Kristoffer Ajer limped off after Brentford had made three substitutions and Sergi Canós was sent off after equalising for The Bees.

Leeds made their advantage count and scored the decisive goal in the dying seconds.

Fans will have seen the reports, highlights and reaction but here are a few bits you may have missed.

[Brentford FC Head Coach Thomas Frank speaks to Sky Sports](#)

[Thomas also spoke to BBC Match of the Day](#)



England U18 men's squad named for summer tour to South Africa

England U18 men's head coach, Jonathan Pendlebury, has named his 26-man squad to travel to South Africa to take part in the summer tour.

The three-match international series takes place in the Cape Town area between Sunday 14 and Monday 29 August. Match details will be released in due course.

Head coach Jonathan Pendlebury speaking about the squad selection said: "This is an exciting overseas tour for this U18s group and for a good majority of them it will be their first time putting on an England shirt.

"Seven of last year's U18s are returning to the squad and will add to their experiences as well as those of the player group overall. I know they will all be looking forward to the opportunity, will work hard with their academies through the summer, support one another and embrace the opportunity that playing overseas against different nations brings. Experiences that will develop their game over the long term."

England U18 squad

Finn Baker (Newcastle Falcons, Sedbergh School)
Jack Bennett (Bath Rugby, Monkton Combe School)
Tom Burrow (Yorkshire Academy, Heckmondwike Grammar School)
Tom Burton (Newcastle Falcons, Sedbergh School)
*Conor Byrne (Harlequins, Trinity College)
Frank Chatterton (Sale Sharks, Stockport Grammar School)
*Toby Cousins (Northampton Saints, Oakham School)
George Edson (Exeter Chiefs, Truro College)
*Will Glister (Wasps, City of Oxford College)
*Ioan Jones (Gloucester Rugby, Dean Close School)
Loic Keasey (Worcester Warriors, RGS Worcester)
Sean Kerr (Harlequins, Whitgift School)
*Archie McParland (Northampton Saints, Stowe School)
Barney Merrett (Saracens, Sutton Valence School)
Alex O'Driscoll (Wasps, Berkhamsted)
Jacob Oliver (Newcastle Falcons, Barnard Castle School)
George Perkins (Leicester Tigers, Denstone College)
Henry Pollock (Northampton Saints, Stowe School)
Tye Raymont (Yorkshire Academy, Bishop Burton School)
*Ben Redshaw (Newcastle Falcons, Sedbergh School)
Billy Sela (Bath Rugby, Beechen Cliff)
Olamide Sodeke (Saracens, Gravesend Grammar School)
*Rory Taylor (London Irish, Wellington College)
Louie Trevett (Bristol Bears, Clifton College)
Raff Weston (Bath Rugby, Beechen Cliff)
Will Wootton (Sale Sharks, Sedbergh School)

*Capped at U18 level in the 2021-22 season.



London 7s: England Women squad named for inter-squad exhibition matches



The England Women Sevens squad who will play inter-squad exhibition matches at this weekend's London 7s (28-29 May, Twickenham Stadium) has been named.

The 22-player group is made up of core sevens players, players who have represented England U20s this season as well as those who have stood out in England Sevens camps and in the Allianz Premier 15s throughout the 2021/22 campaign.

Core players Ellie Boatman, Abbie Brown, Abi Burton, Heather Cowell, Grace Crompton, Amy Wilson Hardy, Alicia Maude, Isla Norman-Bell and Jodie Ounsley are selected. British Army's Courtney Pursglove joins the group alongside England U20s' Maisy Allan, Jenny Hesketh, Nikita Prothero, Georgina Tasker, Ella Lovibond and Holly Thorpe.

Harlequins' Lagi Tuima is included and joined by Loughborough Lightning duo Emma Hardy and Jess Weaver. Lauren Torley and Jade Shekells have featured in recent sevens tournaments and return while Vicky Laflin (Worcester Warriors) is selected.

The teams will play three matches across the weekend. On Saturday England Women will be on the pitch immediately after the last scheduled men's match (KO 18.55) and on Sunday they kick off the day (KO 9.00) and then return to the pitch between match 41 and 42 (KO 16.09).

London follows the sevens' participation in the Toulouse leg of the World Series and will act as key preparation for the home Commonwealth Games taking place in Birmingham this summer.

Rodwell said: *"This is a brilliant opportunity for the group and one we're all looking forward to. The chance to play in an England shirt anywhere in the world is a huge honour but to do it in front of home support including friends and family is something a number of these players will get to do for the first time which will be special.*

"We have an exciting summer coming up with European legs in Zagreb and Budapest followed by a home Commonwealth Games and these intersquad games will be paramount and are an opportunity for players to put their hands up for selection across the summer too.

"All of the players selected have performed well in training and matches and thoroughly deserve the opportunity to play at Twickenham in front of a home crowd.

"We as a sevens programme are passionate about inspiring the next generation of players within England and want to showcase the sport. That's our aim come Saturday."

England Women Sevens squad

Maisy Allan (Exeter Chiefs)
Ellie Boatman (England 7s, Wasps)
Abbie Brown (England 7s, Loughborough Lightning)
Abi Burton (England 7s, Wasps)
Heather Cowell (England 7s, Harlequins)
Grace Crompton (England 7s, Bristol Bears)
Emma Hardy (Loughborough Lightning)
Amy Wilson Hardy (England 7s, Wasps)
Jenny Hesketh (Bristol Bears)
Vicky Laflin (Worcester Warriors)
Ella Lovibond (Bristol Bears)

Alicia Maude (England 7s, Gloucester-Hartpury)
Isla Norman-Bell (England 7s)
Jodie Ounsley (England 7s, Sale Sharks)
Nikita Prothero (Loughborough Lightning)
Courtney Pursglove (British Army)
Jade Shekells (Worcester Warriors)
Georgina Tasker (Loughborough Lightning)
Holly Thorpe (DMP Durham Sharks)
Lauren Torley (DMP Durham Sharks)
Lagi Tuima (Harlequins)
Jess Weaver (Loughborough Lightning)

Tickets for London 7s are available [here](#).

ENERGY PROFITS LEVY FACTSHEET: 26 May 2022

- Following record high oil and gas prices over the past year due to global circumstances, and to help fund more cost-of-living support for UK families, the government is introducing the Energy Profits Levy, a new 25% surcharge on the extraordinary profits the oil and gas sector is making.
- Oil and gas prices have risen substantially, with oil prices nearly doubling since early last year, and gas prices more than doubling, resulting in significant increases in profits earned from UK oil and gas extraction.
- The new Energy Profits Levy will raise around £5 billion over the next year which will go towards supporting people with the new cost of living measures announced by the Chancellor.
- The government has also been clear that it wants to see the oil and gas sector reinvest its profits to support the economy, jobs, and the UK's energy security.
- That's why, within the levy, a new 'super-deduction' style relief is being introduced to encourage firms to invest in oil and gas extraction in the UK.
- The new 80% Investment Allowance will mean businesses will overall get a 91p tax saving for every £1 they invest – providing them with an additional, immediate incentive to invest. This nearly doubles the tax relief available and means the more investment a firm makes, the less tax they will pay.
- The levy does not apply to the electricity generation sector. However, certain parts of it have also seen extraordinary profits partly due to record gas prices. As set out in the Energy Security Strategy, the government is consulting with the power generation sector and investors to drive forward energy market reforms and ensure that the price paid for electricity is more reflective of the costs of production. Those reforms will take time to implement. In the meantime, the government will urgently evaluate the scale of these extraordinary profits and the appropriate steps to take.

How will the Energy Profits Levy work?

- Currently, the oil and gas sector pay a 40% headline rate tax on profits consisting of 30% Ring Fence Corporation Tax and 10% Supplementary Charge.
- In recent years, under the existing regime, fewer than 35 groups have made tax payments each year. In 2021, the top 7 groups accounted for around 95% of payments.
- The Energy Profits Levy is an additional 25% tax on UK oil and gas profits on top of the existing 40% headline rate of tax, taking the combined rate of tax on profits to 65%.
- To appropriately tax the extraordinary profits, companies will not be able to offset previous losses or decommissioning expenditure against profits subject to the levy.
- It is expected to raise around £5 billion in its first 12 months.
- The tax will take effect from today, 26 May 2022, and will be legislated for via a standalone Bill to be introduced shortly.
- In future years, if oil and gas prices return to historically more normal levels, the Government will phase out the Energy Profits Levy, and also the legislation will include a sunset clause, effective at the end of December 2025.

How the new Investment Allowance will work?

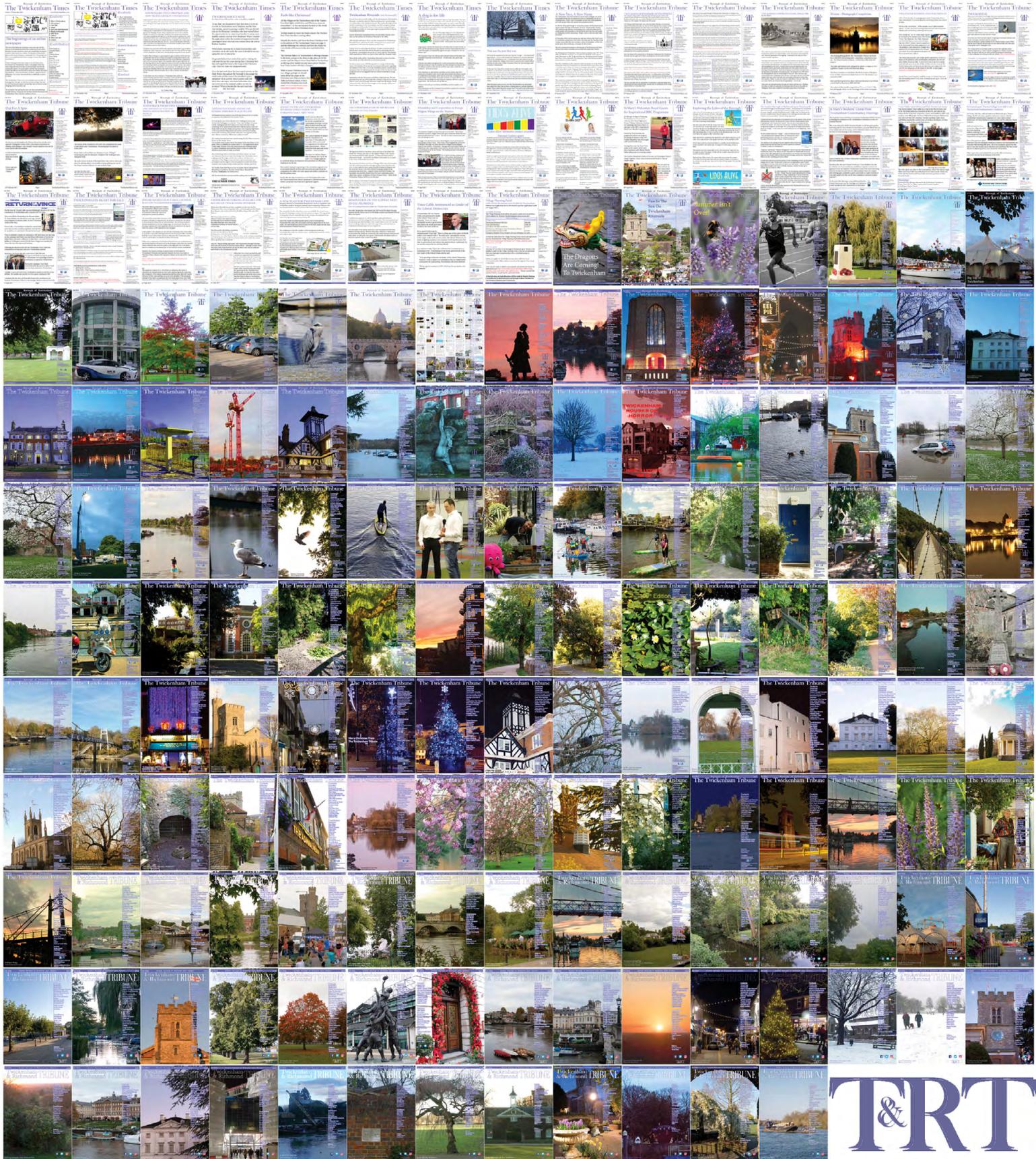
- The government has also been clear that it wants to see the oil and gas sector reinvest their profits to support the economy, jobs and the UK's energy security.
- To encourage this, a 'super-deduction' style investment allowance will be introduced within the levy to provide an immediate incentive for the oil and gas sector to invest in UK extraction.
- The new investment allowance rate is 80% and means the total tax relief on investment nearly doubles - for every £1 businesses invest they will overall get a 91p tax saving.
- The current 10% Supplementary Charge provides companies with an investment allowance that can only be claimed once income is received from the field subject to the investment (which can take several years).
- In contrast, the new 80% Investment Allowance for the Energy Profits Levy will be available to companies at the point of investment, making it both more immediate and more generous.
- The government expects the combination of the levy and this investment allowance to lead to an overall increase in investment, and the OBR will take account of this policy in their next forecast.

Overall, the tax relief companies receive from qualifying expenditure will nearly double, from 46p for every £1 of extra investment to 91p



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