

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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## Editors

Berkley Driscoll  
Teresa Read



2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

T&RT

Crescent Moon over Twickenham Green

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

# TickerTape - News in Brief

## Apply for a free community air quality sensor for your area!

Residents can now apply for a free air quality monitor for their local community. Improving air quality, even by a little, can lead to better health and wellbeing for everyone. Breathe London are looking for the best ideas from groups and communities across the borough with a passion to monitor and improve air quality in their area. Selected groups will receive a Breathe London sensor plus help with installation and data interpretation from scientists at Imperial College London. The closing date to apply is Friday 30 September 2022. Further details of how to apply are available on [Breathe London website](#).

## New Room for Work employability course for over 40's

Room for Work is a free employability course designed for skilled workers aged 40+ with work experience ranging from administrative to managerial and professional roles. The next Room for Work course will begin on Wednesday 7 September and run over six weeks until Thursday 13 October 2022. The course is taught online on Wednesdays and Thursday mornings from 10:30am to 1pm and includes tailored one-to-one mentoring provided by experts. Find out more and register for Room for Work [HERE](#)

## Health Bus back in Richmond next week

The 'come and have a chat about your health' bus will be in Richmond on Monday 5 September and Tuesday 6 September to answer any health questions and to offer free services to help you remain healthy and well!

On Monday from 10am to 3pm the bus will be parked on Back Lane, Ham, TW10 7LF. Then on Tuesday 11am until 6pm it will be parked at York House on Richmond Road, TW1 3AA.



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[info@skyelectrical.co.uk](mailto:info@skyelectrical.co.uk)

# COVID-19

Teresa Read

## World Health Organization

### Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19

As of 28 August 2022, over 598 million confirmed cases and over 6.4 million deaths have been reported globally.

**At the regional level**, the number of newly reported weekly cases decreased across all six regions: the Eastern Mediterranean Region (-37%), the European Region (-20%), the South-East Asia Region (-16%), the Western Pacific Region (-15%), the African Region (-13%) and the Region of the Americas (-13%). The number of new weekly deaths decreased across four of the six regions: the African Region (-64%), the Eastern Mediterranean Region (-35%), the European Region (-30%), and the Region of the Americas (-9%); while it increased in the South-East Asian Region (+15%) and remained stable in the Western Pacific Region (+3%).

**At the country level**, the highest numbers of new weekly cases were reported from Japan (1,258,772 new cases; -15%), the Republic of Korea (743,487 new cases; -16%), the United States of America (576,437 new cases; -10%), the Russian Federation (288,580 new cases; +23%) and Germany (206,860 new cases; -22%). The highest numbers of new weekly deaths were reported from the United States of America (2,818 new deaths; -6%), Japan (1,990 new deaths; +23%), Brazil (1,039 new deaths; -6%), Italy (647 new deaths; -4%) and the Republic of Korea (525 new deaths; +25%).

### Special Focus: Update on SARS-CoV-2 variants of interest and variants of concern

Globally, from 29 July to 29 August 2022, 138,779 SARS-CoV-2 sequences were shared through GISAID. Among these, 138,236 sequences were the Omicron variant of concern (VOC), accounting for 99.6% of sequences reported globally in the past 30 days.

### European Region

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Russian Federation (288,580 new cases; 197.7 new cases per 100,000; +23%), Germany (206,860 new cases; 248.7 new cases per 100,000; -22%) and Italy (157,864 new cases; 264.7 new cases per 100,000; +5%).

The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Italy (647 new deaths; 1.1 new deaths per 100,000; -4%), the Russian Federation (523 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; +20%) and Spain (326 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; -29%).

### COVID in the News This Week

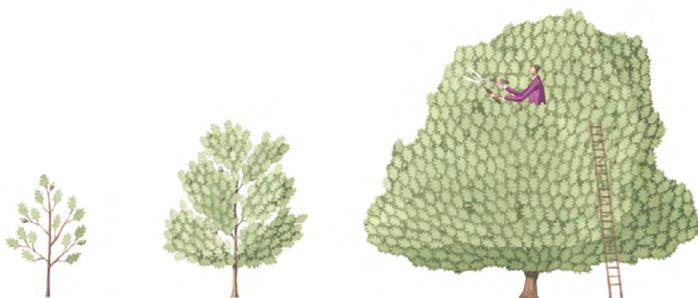
Aljazeera: 'Completely new' COVID strains possible in winter: EU drug agency

Straits Times: Shenzhen shuts most public transport as China battles outbreaks

BBC: Covid in China: Chengdu lockdown after outbreak

ABC Australia: Australia's COVID-19 numbers are dropping but experts warn the pandemic will not end this year

Voice of America: Studies Show COVID'S Negative Impact on US Education and Life Expectancy



### The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9LY  
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*The Tree Agency*

# Peaky Blinders on Kew Green

By Simon Fowler

In July 1921 the national press reported that a:

Search is being made for a large open touring car, the occupants which last night are said to have fired at a police officer at Kew Green. The car, believed to contain three men, was proceeding towards Kew Green from the direction of Richmond when, at the crossroad it swerved to the right and passed rapidly along the Mortlake Road. Shots were fired by the occupants at a constable who was on patrol duty near the corner of Mortlake Road. The car is believed to have been occupied by Sinn Feiners, who, probably fearing that they had run into a police barrier, determined to run through it. A short distance further on a barrier had been put up. The officer who was shot at, but fortunately not hit, held a warning hand to the driver of the car, who, instead of slowing down, put on speed when the car swerved and the shots were fired.

The barrier may have been part of a search conducted by the police across London as they tried to track down a specific motor car, for reasons that remain uncertain.

On the night of the incident barriers had been erected on Petersham Road near Richmond Bridge, where drivers were stopped and asked to show their licences. Local papers reported that there was considerable grumbling by delayed motorists.



*A Crossley 20/5 touring car, which may have been the vehicle in the incident on Kew Green*

It is unlikely that the vehicle was driven by Irish terrorists as there were few at large in England. More likely the car belonged to a criminal gang, driving to or from a race track where they operated protection rackets.

The real Peaky Blinders gang was one such organisation who operated in this way across the Midlands and the South East.

It was not unknown for gang-members to attack the police. Indeed, there had been an outbreak of violence in Salisbury earlier in July, which may have made the police determined to track down the gang members.

Fast touring cars gave villains the edge. With few mainly elderly and slow cars at their disposal, the Met found it hard to give chase.

In September 1920, William Horwood, the Commissioner of Metropolitan Police, promised a greater use of motor vehicles to bring gangs to justice: ‘...great developments are at hand, and the police cannot afford to be left behind in the race.’ But almost a year later few fast cars had been delivered. Instead, they had to resort to ineffectual road blocks as the criminals sped away in their touring autos.

Fortunately, no gun shots appeared to have been fired on Kew Green. The *Richmond Herald*, reported that: ‘the rumour is said to have had its origin in the back-firing of a motor cycle.’

*This weekend the National Archives has the first of two weekends devoted to Kew in the 1920s.*

*Details at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20s-people/local-history-weekends-at-the-national-archives/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20s-people/local-history-weekends-at-the-national-archives/)*

# Kew Village Market

**Next market is on Sunday 4th September from 10am to 2pm**

Roll up, roll up for a busy, buzzy happening of a market with around 45 stalls selling the finest food and hand-made crafts, including all your favourite regulars home from their holidays – and a delicious newcomer with wonderfully wicked chocolate treats.

The National Archives will be spreading the word about their local history heritage weekeds and there's a new Kew Community in Action project to help Ukraine.

Plus a feast of live music of course, with the sassy salsa Latin jazz of Banda Bomba followed by the classical charms of the Whittington Duet to soothe the soul. Not to be missed.

[www.kewvillagemarket.org](http://www.kewvillagemarket.org)

## The White House opens new café, alongside community activities and foodbank

From early September the newly refurbished café at the White House, Hampton, will be open Tuesday to Thursday serving a range of hot and cold drinks, light meals and snacks.

Starting in September the café will open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am to 3pm and on Thursdays 11am to 2pm.

With both a cosy inside space and garden seating, the café provides a great place to meet friends and unwind. While there, speak to the manager about activities and room hire. Find out more about [what is on](#).

A Foodbank operates from the centre on Tuesdays from 9.30am to 3pm. View [how to access the Foodbank](#) via one of the local referral agencies.

YMCA Hampton Preschool also re-opens in September for children aged 2 to 5 years providing a wide range of creative and engaging activities, enabling them to learn and develop through play. Funded places are accepted. Visit the [YMCA website](#) for more information and booking a tour.





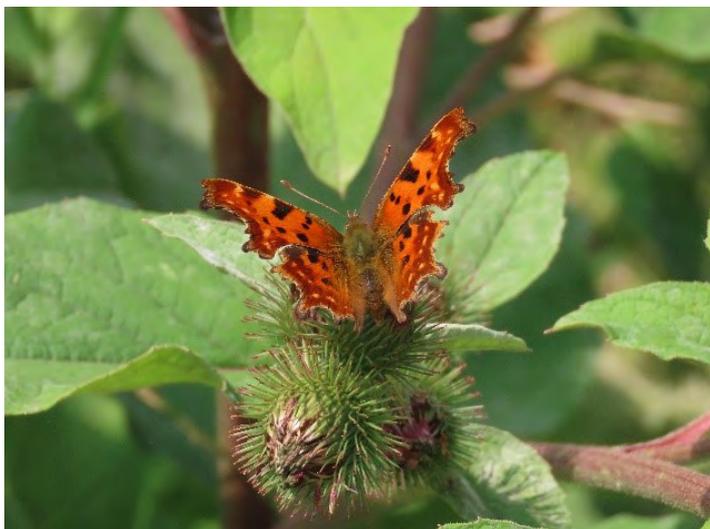
“Long before Dinosaurs walked the earth, there were Dragonflies in the sky. They were some of the first winged insects to evolve, around 300 million years ago. Back then oxygen levels were much higher, allowing giant dragonflies to evolve, with wingspans like eagles.”

[Joe Bates Woodland Trust](#)

Kestrel Hovers above its prey

Website: [River Crane Sanctuary](#)  
[Instagram](#)

The Emperor Dragonfly is Britain’s largest species and the male below left is Royal Blue and the female predominantly Green. They will eat other insects as large as wasps, dragonflies and damselflies. The Darter Dragonfly below right landed on our mirror table and rested awhile. Probably confused by its reflection and maybe thought this was still water which attracts them! Follow the link above to Joe Bates insightful article on Dragonflies.



Butterfly Conservation has a good Identification page to help us record what we see. This Comma butterfly looked spectacular against the green foliage ID Page. [Butterflies](#)

*“Butterflies and moths are important indicators of the health of the environment, and a decline in abundance is a serious cause for concern”*

Hoping that this year’s results for some species are better than the 2021 Butterfly Count.

# Teddington Tidbits

By Teddington Resident

## Elleray Hall and North Lane East Car Park

The new Teddington CPZs have reduced parking spaces – a council initiative aligned with the 20 mph speed limit whose goal is to reduce car speed, flow and pollution. The council also revealed plans to remove the North Lane East car park spaces and rebuild Elleray Hall, a long established (though deteriorating social hall) as a community centre on this car park. Multiple houses are proposed for the Elleray Hall location followed by some acrimonious consultations to reveal the new plans.

Neighbours to the housing plans opposed both the housing designs and the removal of parking spaces, which the council says could be replaced (via a paid permit) in the council owned Tesco parking lot. TRANEH (Teddington Residents Association – Neighbours of Elleray Hall) deemed the plans “ill conceived, unreasonable, unjustified and will cause lasting harm to Teddington”. Thus far, over 1500 local residents have registered their opinion.

## Derelict Teddington Police Building

On June 22, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), Sophie Linden, responded to Lib Dem’s Caroline Pidgeon’s request made on April 5th for an update on the status of this rapidly deteriorating eyesore building. The response was that legal advice was being sought (but would not be shared) regarding disposal of the site and that an Estate Strategy would be published later this year.

## Uncover the secrets of the past with the Archive Explorers family workshop

The Archive Explorers family workshop is for children aged 5 to 14 years and is run by Richmond Libraries as part of the ‘Know Your Place’ festival.

Archives carry the stories of human lives from the past into the present, and beyond to the distant future.

Join the Archive Explorers and become a detective, hunting for clues to uncover the secrets of past people and bring them to life.

The workshops take place on Saturday 3 and 10 September in Whittaker Ellis Suite at the Old Town Hall in Richmond from 10 to 11am and are aimed at children aged 5 to 14 years. Children should be accompanied by an adult at the workshop. This is a free event but booking required.



Book your tickets for Know Your Place 2022 [HERE](#)

Dear Editors,

### **Cost of living crisis**

Yesterday I wrote to the Leader of the Council to urge the Council to spend all or most of the £4m they have added to the Reserves to help local people struggling with the Cost of living crisis. People expect their government – local as well as national- to act now to support them. The Council can afford to do so.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Geoffrey Samuel,  
Hampton North Ward

“I write to ask the Administration to devote to our residents most of the £4m recently added to the Reserves to assist them with the cost of living

Finance Committee agreed that you and the Director should agree how best to spend the third tranche of Government funding and I propose that the Council should add at least £2m - £3m from the Reserves to augment this. It would also boost confidence if you could announce now that Council Tax will be cut or frozen next year. Residents are already reducing local spending which will hit local businesses and local employment; an announcement to this effect now could be effective in limiting this.

Of course I am committed to the policy on Reserves which has been common ground in recent years but page 88 of the Committee report stated that “The Council’s financial position remains robust” whilst acknowledging the problem of inflation.

At the last Council meeting I supported the Administration in pressing the Government to take action [although not agreeing to the particular remedies proposed]. The Government must take unprecedented financial measures now in view of a situation itself unprecedented. Councils also need to take positive action

GEOFFREY SAMUEL”

Dear Sir

## **Do We Feel Safe?**

I am replying to Michael Jay's letter in [Edition 301](#) Do We Feel Safe?

The answer is often No.

As a resident of the Borough for most of my life I have witnessed a change in some social behaviour, detrimental to the local community.

Following the incidents and murder on Twickenham Green some years ago we saw an increase in police patrolling the area. We had a very good Neighbourhood Police presence, a group of police officers who were friendly and proactive.

Today, it is difficult to find a police officer, park guard, or get through to the police on the phone, so residents are being let down. Even councillors are not around as they used to be and if they are contacted by email there is little response.

For those of us who did not think twice about going to the local shops at around eight in the evening this is no longer an option for some.

It seems that the lack of presence of any type of authority is giving way to groups smoking strong smelling substances and drinking in the streets and public places.

Obviously, there are those of us who do not feel safe and long for the days of the friendly neighbourhood police on the streets.

There is also the danger of cyclists and e-scooters, sometimes on pavements, with no concern for pedestrians – and no one to stop them.

A big thank you to people like Michael Jay who are bringing these issues to the attention of those who should be dealing with them; the police, Council officers and councillors - we pay them to serve the community but is our money being well spent?

Yours sincerely,

Twickenham Resident  
(Name and address supplied)

# Save the North Lane East Car Park

This article has been produced by TRANEH (Teddington Residents Association – Neighbours of Elleray Hall)

The proposed closure of the North Lane East car park has generated considerable community concern as reflected by almost 1500 “Save the Car Park” petition signatures. The community needs this car park.

The car park is an important public asset serving the needs of local businesses and residents. The importance of this asset was recognised and supported by the former MP, Vince Cable who, along with others, successfully campaigned against the previous closure proposal.

The Council’s latest proposal to close this long-established public service is again ill conceived, unreasonable and unjustified, and will cause lasting harm to Teddington. Such poor decision making based on evidence from outdated and misleading surveys must be challenged in the strongest of terms.



*North Lane East Car Park in full use-July 2022*

The proposed new CPZs in the neighbouring roads will reduce the number of parking spaces and increase the need for paid parking availability. The greater traffic generated by the wider scope envisaged for the “community centre” will inevitably exacerbate stresses further. The Council admits that the increase in parking pressure, would significantly surpass its own guidelines and recommendations on acceptable levels. The adverse impact on residents and local businesses has not been given due legal consideration in the headlong pursuit to redevelop at all costs.

Residents local to Elleray Hall have made it clear in their objections to the planning application to re-site the hall, that rather than starting with the planning application and then turning to the parking issue, the Council should have started first by considering the effect upon the local highways and parking situation. In failing to do this, the Council has approached this whole issue the wrong way round and are pursuing an irrational project to the detriment of the local parking situation and neighbour amenity. Residents support a viable solution of a refurbished or rebuilt hall on the same site and social housing in the hoarded off area in the old depot site.

The Highways Department’s proposal to issue a notice of the closure of the car park was apparently automatically triggered by the Planning Committee’s permission to the plans for a new community centre on the car park location. However, as the Senior Planning Officer informed, the granting of planning permission for the new hall does not grant permission to close the car park. These are two separate processes, and the closure of a long-established public service has to be subject to a separate assessment process.

The car park closure proposal should be rejected and the Elleray Hall reprovision scheme properly reconsidered based on factual information including parking, service provision required, actual numbers of users and the high and escalating costs associated with the present scheme.

Many local authorities recognise the importance of a robust off-street parking infrastructure and support it by offering free parking and by being proactive in the installation of electric vehicle charging points in town centre car parks. Richmond Council would do well to consider such good practice, North Lane East car park can offer this option.

If you share our concerns about the closure of the North Lane East car park, you may wish to take part in the consultation process and register your objections, using the direct link or email address below.

[Direct link](#) or [parkingpolicy@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:parkingpolicy@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)

# Twickenham Riverside

Teresa Read

In 1968, the year Fleetwood Mac released Albatross, Twickenham Riverside was a hive of activity - a social hub with a popular music scene and a much-loved outdoor swimming pool.

Thinking of Twickenham Riverside, Albatross comes to mind, not only the instrumental but “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” by Samuel Taylor Coleridge which led to the saying of an “albatross around the neck”.

An albatross is a good sign to a mariner but unfortunately the albatross in the poem was shot and killed leading to the association of an albatross with a burden.

One could say that the old pool site on Twickenham Riverside has become an “albatross around the neck” to some; those whose only thought is to build high-rise housing on this area which has various “protections”, initially bought for the residents of the Borough and more recently declared Public Open Space.



The latest organization that has produced a plan for the area is Hopkin’s Architects with inputs from Savills property company.

Over the years many architects have put forward their ideas for Twickenham Riverside but so far all have failed, either refused by the Council or those who live in the area.

Is Hopkins feeling the weight of the albatross? A Public Enquiry into the Council’s plan is to take place but has been delayed. Will Hopkin’s Architects stay the course, or will residents win the day?

Twickenham Baths <https://lidosalive.com/twickenham.html>

# The King's Observatory is opening their doors to visitors again!

The King's Observatory will again be open to the public for a limited period, Mondays to Fridays from 15th September to 28th October this year.

The King's Observatory, located in the Old Deer Park, Richmond, Surrey, was commissioned in 1769 by King George III. It's arcadian setting in just under 7 acres must be one of the most beautiful properties in the London area.



The most recent landscaping for the building completed in 2018 was in line with the Thames Landscape Strategy Study and has restored some of the views of the King's Observatory to what they would have been 250 years ago. It has also been designed to be ecologically friendly and act as a haven for bird life and a refuge for insects and other wildlife.

The building – constructed by a King and designed by one of the Nation's foremost architects – stands today as part of the Nation's Heritage. The beauty of the building and its surroundings are shared with the local residents when it opens its doors to the public annually.

To get your tickets, visit [HERE](#)

To find out more about the Observatory explore the online exhibition: *The King's Observatory: Richmond's Science Story*: View exhibition [HERE](#)

## Community Toilet Scheme (CTS) Twickenham Green

**Twickenham Cricket Club**  
**The Cricket Pavilion, The Green, Twickenham, TW2 5TU**  
**020 8894 3110**

Opening hours:

Monday/Wednesday/Friday - 10am to 5pm

Saturday 11am to 10pm

Sunday when cricket is being played

(Also open when there is a cricket match and the pavilion is in use)

The Cricket Pavilion does not seem to display the obligatory CTS LBRUT sign. A permanent, visible TOILET notice is needed in the central area of Twickenham Green.

# STRAWBERRY HILL HOUSE FLOWER FESTIVAL 2022

23 – 25 September 2022

The Strawberry Hill House Flower Festival returns for a fourth successive year on 23rd-25th September with a spectacular showcase of the very best of British-grown flowers, foam-free sustainable floristry and the design creativity of the UK's leading floral designers.

Curated by Leigh Chappell and Janne Ford, the Flower Festival is produced for the first time this year in association with Flowers from the Farm, the award-winning membership organisation championing artisan growers of local, seasonal British cut flowers.

With vividly decorated or gilded rooms, illuminated by beautifully shaped windows, complete with stained glass, Strawberry Hill House in Twickenham offers a breath-taking setting for the three-day Flower Festival. Shining a spotlight on the beauty, variety and versatility of the fresh and dried flowers and foliage's cultivated by British flower farmers, the Flower Festival gives free creative rein to the invited florists to share their artistry, expertise and passion for sustainable floral design in design installations and floral demonstrations throughout the remarkable Gothic manor house.



The Flower Festival has developed a devoted following and become a highlight in the event diary at Strawberry Hill House, as festival manager, Claire Leighton explains: "Visitors were amazed. I spotted one visitor looking at the stairs and saying, 'I didn't realise flowers could look like this!'"



Flowers from the Farm Co-Chair, Meg Edmonds, says: "We see a perfect synergy between the creative vision of the Strawberry Hill House Flower Festival and Flowers from the Farm. The Flower Festival presents a unique opportunity to showcase the talents of our farmer-florists and the beauty of local, seasonal British cut flowers in creative floral design."

The Flower Festival features designs by floral designers and farmer-florists including Electric Daisy Flower Company, Frances & Rose, Botanical Tales, Wild Bunch, Nettlewood Flowers, Bayntun Flowers, Christophe Berretot, Aelisabet Flowers, Lunabloom, Queen of the Meadow, Smokebush Floral Design, Twisted Sisters, Viridis Flowers, Lunaria, Myrtle and Smith, The Divine Flower Company,



Joanne Truby, and Xyris Botanicals. Every stem of cut flower material at the Strawberry Hill House Flower Festival has been grown for the designers by members of Flowers from the Farm.

Throughout the Flower Festival, guided tours of the transformed House will be available, including an evening of tours and a much-anticipated floral demonstration on Friday, 23rd September by acclaimed florist and sustainable floristry advocate, Shane Connolly. Shane holds Royal Warrants of appointment to HM The Queen and HRH The Prince of Wales and is possibly best known for decorating Westminster Abbey with an avenue of growing trees for the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Shane says: “We floral designers owe a debt of gratitude to Nature and the planet; so, we must create designs that are beautiful without and within. Designing sustainably does not stop creativity and magic, so it’s time we stopped hiding behind the pretty flowers, acknowledge the huge environmental issues, and

show how it can be done, with festivals like The Strawberry Hill House Flower Festival.”

There will be sessions showing visitors how they too can adopt more sustainable methods of flower arranging, plus a chance to quiz Strawberry Hill’s own gardening team about your horticultural hiccups; from reluctant rhododendrons to drooping dahlias and glean advice on how to grow gorgeous geraniums or impressive Italian Asters.

Visitors to the Flower Festival should make time to wander around the wonderful grounds. Horace Walpole was a keen gardener, writing the hugely influential essay *The History of the Modern Taste in Gardening* which was first published in 1780. Walpole’s five-acre garden has been faithfully restored to much of its original appearance, with a variety of beds, borders, walks, groves, lawns and woodland that would be wholly familiar to him today.

Tickets for the Flower Festival are available online now. Prices, tour and talk times can be found at [www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/flower-festival/](http://www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/flower-festival/)

The participating florists and growers will also be sharing blogs, tips, photographs and other content across social media, leading up to and during the festival, using the hashtag: #StrawberryFlowerFestival

The Flower Festival is proudly sponsored by Savills Teddington. Robin Chatwin, Head of Savills South West London says; “We are so pleased to have been invited to sponsor the Strawberry Hill House Flower Festival. Having recently opened our new Teddington Office, we are keen to get involved with the community and support local businesses and events. The Flower Festival will be a great opportunity for us to connect with local residents and we look forward to working with such a significant and long-standing part of Teddington and Twickenham’s history.”



**STRAWBERRY HILL**  
House & Garden

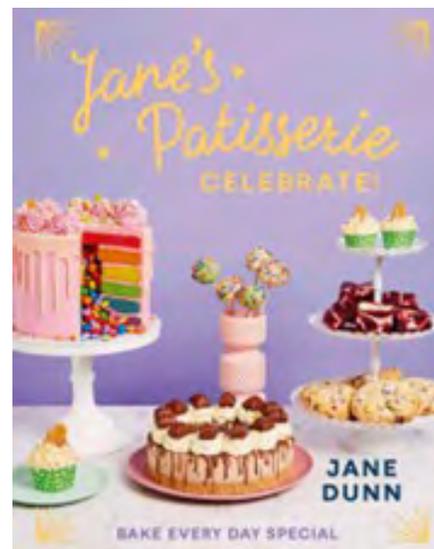
## CAKE WEEK - LET'S BAKE!

Okay, summer's officially over apparently, but we can at least take comfort from the fact that as the schools go back for a new year, September also heralds **Cake Week (5-11 September)**. This is a rather smart initiative by the same clever team that invented Chocolate Week, now well established in the culinary calendar. Cake Week has announced a jam-packed week of celebrations, launches and specials, with brands such as Hotel Chocolat, Lily Vanilli, Cutter & Squidge and Rosalind Miller Cakes marking the UK's sweetest seven days. Its aim is to promote cake to UK consumers, encouraging them to support their local bakeries, bake at home and eat more cake! Whether it's coffee and walnut, lemon drizzle or something more adventurous, there's something for everyone to get a taste of Cake Week this September. For more information visit [cakeweek.co.uk](http://cakeweek.co.uk). Add to this the fact that a new series of Great British Bake Off starts on September 13 there should be no stopping you wielding that wooden spoon or hot footing it to the nearest bakery.

And, perfectly timed for you, I have news of a fabulous new



cookbook called Jane's Patisserie **Celebrate!** From bestselling author Jane Dunn, the book is packed with simple bakes, flavours and iconic treats to make every day special (and don't we all need that at the moment!). It's published by Ebury Press, at £20 for a lovely hardback. Jane has an enviable number of followers on Facebook and Instagram (talking of which, please follow me @theseasonedgastronome) and this



new book has a recipe for every occasion, featuring her trademark twists on classic flavours, customisable ideas and added sparkle. With 70 new and exclusive recipes requested by her followers, along with some popular classics from her blog, and with a photo for every recipe, this book has everything you need to treat yourself and others.

To whet your appetite and inspire you, here's a recipe for Eton Mess Cake, just in time to catch the last of those delicious fresh strawberries, but in true Jane fashion, she also gives tips to adapt it for year-round enjoyment.

### ETON MESS CAKE

*"During the summer months I still crave cake, but I usually want something light and easy to make and this is the perfect celebration bake. Eton Mess in cake form is something that's hard to dislike! The sponges are studded with strawberries to bring some moisture to the cake and it has a wonderful airy texture. Add freshly whipped cream, crushed meringues and some jam and you have the ultimate dessert. If you want to mix it up a little, use a different flavour jam, or even a different berry in the cake."*

**SERVES: 12+** PREP: 30 minutes BAKE: 25–30 minutes COOL: 2 hours DECORATE: 1 hour  
LASTS: 2–3+ days, in the fridge

300g unsalted butter, at room temperature  
300g caster sugar  
300g self-raising flour  
6 eggs  
300g fresh strawberries, chopped

**Decoration:**

450ml double cream  
75g icing sugar  
2–4 tbsp strawberry jam  
6 meringue nests  
12 fresh strawberries  
10g freeze-dried strawberries  
Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan and line three 20cm springform cake tins with parchment paper.



Add the butter, sugar, flour and eggs to a large bowl and beat until the mixture is smooth. Divide the mixture evenly between the three tins. Lay the strawberries on the tops of the cakes

Put the cakes into the oven and bake for 25–30 minutes. The strawberries create more moisture in the cake batter, so it can sometimes take a little longer to bake. Keep an eye on the sponges – a cocktail stick or skewer inserted into the middle of the cakes should come out clean when the cakes are ready.

Leave to cool in the tins for about 30 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack to cool fully.

**Decoration:**

In a large bowl, whip the double cream with the icing sugar to form soft peaks.

Spread a tablespoon or two of jam onto the first cooled sponge, and crush over some meringue. Spoon over one-third of the whipped cream and spread as evenly as possible. Add the second sponge layer and repeat. Finally, add the third sponge layer and slather on the remaining cream. Add the fresh strawberries, crumble over the remaining crushed meringue, and garnish with a sprinkling of freeze-dried strawberries.

Extracted from Jane's Patisserie Celebrate! by Jane Dunn (Ebury Press, £20)

Photography by Ellis Parrinder



## Duke Bluebeard's Castle

by Béla Bartók, libretto by Béla Balázs

Green Opera at the Arcola Theatre, Dalston and then at the Asylum Chapel Theatre, Peckham until 18<sup>th</sup> September

Béla Bartók's *Duke Bluebeard's Castle*, with its intense focus on a destructive male-female relationship, is ideal for a concentrated treatment. Thomas Ang's reduced arrangement for Green Opera's small band retains the glitter yet exposes the barbed wire in this score. John Paul Jennings, while letting the music breathe, exercises a firm grip as musical director, even if there is potential for pumping the tension more.



This story of a man who hands over keys to seven locked rooms for the woman who loves him to unlock is fraught with possibilities. Nowadays, it feels less like a sexist cautionary tale about the dangers of female curiosity than an examination of "toxic masculinity". However, the heroine Judith is not a passive victim. She asks for the keys and opens the doors in Bluebeard's presence rather than unlocking the rooms behind his back.

Bluebeard is oddly passive and sympathetic for a villain, often meekly complying, as though he wishes at some level for Judith to probe the recesses of his psyche. April Fredrick (unusually a soprano in this mezzo part) is a splendidly confident Judith. James Corrigan's brooding Bluebeard is younger than the usual ageing bass having a night off from singing Wotan. While the libretto drops disturbing hints about the colour of blood, it is not explicit about his previous life. We only get hard evidence when the last door is opened, and it reveals the previous four wives – still alive but disconcertingly silent – waiting for Judith to join them.

The opening of the doors gets gradually rather more disturbing, as the bed is stripped of its sheets to reveal the pale lake of tears, and finally Bluebeard opens a box to take out a sculpture cum sex doll. The ending has Judith impaled against the wardrobe with Bluebeard prostrate before the wooden box in a state of emotional collapse.



Read Patrick Shorrock's review at [www.markaspen.com/2022/09/01/duke-bluebeard](http://www.markaspen.com/2022/09/01/duke-bluebeard)

Photography courtesy of Green Opera



## Sin, the Musical

by John-Michael Mahoney

Dmii Productions at The Arcola Theatre.

Salute John-Michael Mahoney for his bravery, some might say audacity, in attempting to cover all bases, for *Sin* is a musical written, scored, arranged and directed by John-Michael Mahoney, who also plays the role of Michael.

The plot, set in 1920s New York, centres around a power struggle within a group of friends led by the key character, Jack, who has inherited a considerable amount of money, which he has invested in a speakeasy. Early on, Jack's leadership is tested, and factions start to form. To say more than that would give the game away. Plot twists that are nicely executed among the strands that lead you to believe you know where this is going. The script is well turned, with believable dialogue and well-drawn characters.



Charlie Toland, who plays Jack the legatee who draws his friends together to establish the speakeasy, gives a strong and convincing performance which draws us into Jack's world. Houston McDowall's Sam is equally engaging, full of energy and a quick wit which sometimes belies his more human side. John-Michael Mahoney's Michael is reminiscent of Al Pacino's Michael in *The Godfather*. They share an awareness of the wider world, an understanding of the implications of actions and the ability to identify the strengths and weaknesses of friend and foe alike.

Taylor Quinell's Sarah combines an innocence and glamour which disguises a background of domestic violence, whilst Emily Rose-Tucker is the new girl in town who marries the boss. Thomas Stansfield's Ross was, for me, particularly noteworthy. He really inhabited the role of a "heavy" and made excellent use of his stature and physicality to reinforce the image. Harry Osborne as Otto provides the gofer role very ably.



Musically, I had an expectation of up-beat, two in the bar footstompin' jazz, led by wailing trumpets and clarinets ripping through the blues and jazz forms fashionable at the time. However, the band configuration seemed a more pragmatic solution, and the overall feel is contemporary musical theatre throughout.

Read Vince Francis' review at [www.markaspen.com/2022/07/29/sin](http://www.markaspen.com/2022/07/29/sin)

Image courtesy of Dmii

## Larkin With Women

by Ben Brown

Strut and Fret at the Old Red Lion, Islington until 17<sup>th</sup> September

Philip Larkin was a nexus of contradictions. Covering the last thirty years of his life, *Larkin With Women*, a sublime and very funny play begins as Larkin becomes the Librarian at Hull University. In his thirties, he maintained an addiction for “top shelf” magazines and was still swapping self-penned salacious fiction with friends. Yet Larkin wrote insightfully about the *truth* of love. Although self-obsessed and fearful of commitment, he remained committed, in his way, for decades to those who loved him.



As Larkin, Daniel Wain is utterly convincing. Wain focuses on giving a compelling and un sentimental portrayal, without striving for the audience’s understanding or sympathy. Wain captures the stark fluid beauty of Larkin’s verse while, as the years pass on stage, he ages subtly and convincingly, his voice becoming gravelled with nicotine as he moves inexorably towards “the sure extinction that we travel to”.



As Monica Jones, the enigmatic lecturer with whom Larkin maintained a relationship for almost forty years, Mia Skytte is superb, bringing vividly to life a passionate, complex and ambiguous woman who was Larkin’s intellectual equal yet was obsessively, almost masochistically forgiving in her love.

Lynne Harrison plays Maeve Brennan, a member of the staff at Hull who knew Larkin for almost as long as Jones. Harrison is delightful, heart-breakingly torn between her passion for Larkin and the abstinence dictated by her faith.

The third of the Women is Larkin’s secretary, Betty Mackereth. Mackereth became Larkin’s lover after working with him for almost twenty years. As Mackereth, Annabel Miller is a magnetic blend of vivacity and brisk efficiency.

Directed by John Gilbert, this is a very strong production of this exceptional play, which culminates in with a beautifully judged final scene that ends with an appropriately “sharp and tender” gesture, echoing one of Larkin’s most famous poems. “What will survive of us is love”.



Read Louis Mazzini’s review at [www.markaspen.com/2022/09/01/larkin-2](http://www.markaspen.com/2022/09/01/larkin-2)

Photography by Marc Brenner

# SEPTEMBER 5<sup>th</sup> - OPEN AUDITIONS at the MARY WALLACE THEATRE!

Open Auditions for our Christmas production of THE FLINT STREET NATIVITY will be held on Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 7.45pm at the Mary Wallace Theatre.

This delightful comedy follows the preparations for the annual nativity play to be put on by the kids at the Flint Street Primary School.... but with a difference! The children are to be played by adults - so we are looking for five male and five female actors who can convincingly play children. If the idea of reverting to being a seven-year-old appeals to you, come along and give it a go. Our auditions are open to all and we actively encourage diversity in casting. And, you do not have to be a member to audition.

For further information and more audition details please see [www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk](http://www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk) or contact the director at [Chadsworth1969@gmail.com](mailto:Chadsworth1969@gmail.com)



Richmond Shakespeare Society



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

## Arts Richmond's new What's On newsletter is out now

Arts Richmond have released their September What's On newsletter full of news and events happening in the borough.

What's On newsletter for September 2022 is now available, full of news, events and fun things to see and do in and around the borough over the coming month.

If you are interested in becoming a member and supporting Arts Richmond, contact [info@artsrichmond.org.uk](mailto:info@artsrichmond.org.uk)

Read What's On newsletter [HERE](#)



# WIZ Tales - Zimbabwe Wildlife

Teresa Read

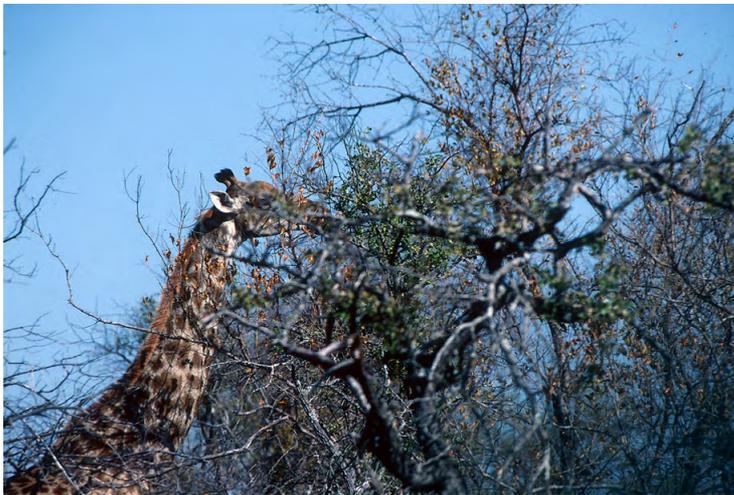
This week the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority took action to save thousands of wild animals from drought resulting from climate change.

Over two and a half thousand wild animals are on the move from a wildlife reserve in the south of Zimbabwe, travelling four hundred miles to the north of the country.



More than four hundred elephants are making the journey to Chizarira National Park, Matusadonha National Park and Sapi - a private reserve - along with impalas, zebras, giraffes and lions.

The Sapi Reserve is to the east of Mana Pools National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site on the banks the Zambezi River.



The name Zimbabwe was derived from the stone structures of Great Zimbabwe or Dzimbahwe, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1986. Great Zimbabwe was built by Shona (Bantu) people between the eleventh and fifteenth centuries; eight birds carved in soapstone were found during excavations of Great Zimbabwe.

World InfoZone information and photographs on Zimbabwe:  
<https://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=Zimbabwe>



# Would you drive 3 hours to rescue an injured mouse?

## The guys at LWP would...

probably the most compassionate people you will EVER meet...

By Deep Patel

As many people may know, myself and my family have run Meet & Deep Newsagents in Twickenham, Hampton Road for the past 38 years. We love any activity that involves helping others and spreading good karma.

If you have ever walked past our shop, you may have noticed our window absolutely plastered with posters promoting the use of talcum or rosemary powder/white vinegar around where ants come (but not directly on them!) to stop them without killing them, live capture traps for mice/rats to release them in park lands far away instead of cruel poison and copper mesh (much better than the tape) wrapped vertically around 4 bamboo cains (one on each corner of your vegetable patch) to stop slugs and snails without the cruelty of poison, salt or beer drowning...and all in the spirit of compassion and good karma. We even tell people to be careful not to over-sweep or hose down their patios too much (to avoid drowning the tiny lives we can't see...and to gently lift or waddle large pots if you need to move them rather than drag them (to avoid crushing the little life forms)...but the guys at LWP are something above this even...

In doing everything that we try to do, we are still nowhere near as compassionate as the lovely people of LWP (London Wildlife Protection). In fact, we were so impressed with the extent of the compassion shown by these guys, that we decided to join them and volunteered to be a drop-off location for any injured garden wildlife or lost pets and boy have we learnt a lot from them these past few weeks... We have had 6 parakeets, 5 baby gold finches, 4 pigeons,

3 wood pigeons, 2 door mice, 1 lost budgie...but NO.... ..sorry...no "partridge in a pear tree" (at least not yet)...but genuinely, this completely un-paid volunteer run charity is absolutely sickeningly brimming with kindness, compassion and good karma...these are the local unsung heroes of the wildlife world... the guys who will go to EXTRAORDINARY lengths to help the smallest of lives in their time of need...

We have all done it at some point in our lives... seen a sick looking pigeon and walked by either not quite knowing what to do or wondering if it is diseased and will cause us to die if we touch it...you have done it right? I know I have in the past...

You may have seen a baby bird or squirrel out of the nest too early and thought I will leave it to nature, that's not MY responsibility... (baby squirrels look like baby rats at that age so many people think that's what they are!) but it is our responsibility...all of us...I mean would we like it if one our family were unwell sitting on the corner of the street and others walked by thinking "not my responsibility"? I wouldn't like that for humans, so why do this to animals that can't talk, can't call an ambulance and can't take their own medicine? Just seems a little inhumane for humans to behave this way...and the volunteers at London Wildlife Protection agree!

There are 100 of these volunteers dotted around London...all working full time jobs or living full lives with family commitments etc but STILL managing to give up every minute of spare time to help rescue little lives that no one else will help (including other animal charities and some vets). I'm talking about the foxes, grey squirrels, the feral pigeons, the so called "invasive" parakeets and even rats and mice...yep you read right. Many of us consider these things to be "vermin" but why? Because they are good at breeding? Because there are too many of them? Because they take food from us and dig up

and mess up our land? If this is what we call “vermin” than surely humans should be considered the biggest “vermin” of all...as we do all of these things too...our species has pretty much ruined planet earth between us...it’s a fact.

Vermin-labels aside, whatever we want to call them. They are not “out to get us” but simply trying to feed themselves and their families...pretty much like the rest of us? They feel suffering too (like the rest of us) and can live long live too (a pigeon can live up to 25 years old)...so next time you see a little “vermin” type creature suffering...or a young bird unable to fly and in danger of being attacked by a cat, dog or fox, please DON’T just walk by, but instead contact London Wildlife Protection. They will endeavour to come to pick up the animal and treat it, rehabilitate it and release it into the wild again...and not only will you feel GREAT but you will have good karma and would have added a little bit of compassion out there in a world that seriously needs it.

To give you some examples of the commitment and EXTREME kindness of the volunteers of LWP, I would like to tell you about a couple who are in their 70’s and give up their free time to rescue and heal injured rats, bats and squirrels (no rats didn’t “cause the plague”! It has now been proven it was us that caused it through our extremely poor hygiene and sewerage systems during that time...rats just got the rap for it). This is kind of like you having a filthy stinking home and then blaming your cat for smelling bad!

A little girl came into our shop with a tiny weeny door mouse which her cat took into her house. The back legs of the little mouse looked broken. They were going to “put it out of its misery” but I called LWP and the couple in their seventies DROVE to Twickenham on a 3 hour round trip at 11 o’clock at night simply to pick up the mouse...but it didn’t stop there. They took it back and gave it anti biotics, pain killers and a drip feed...three days later they rang me...I was expecting the worse...but they said it was running around happy and well again!?!

Another example is a lovely woman volunteer who lives by Twickenham, and works at a local bakery every morning. She gets up at 4.30am and walks her dog (which she adopted from Ukraine). Then she cycles 45 mins to work, after her shift at the bakery she spends the rest of the day transporting injured or desperate birds and other wildlife from places where they are found to specialist rehabilitators... sometimes traveling 4 hours for a sparrow. She asks for no recognition, pays her own bus fares and does what she does for the love of animals...she’s basically an angel on Earth.

And not to forget the rehabilitation experts who stay up from midnight to 6am medicating, injecting, feeding and curing 100’s of London’s sick wildlife each day using their own funds, or the young woman who hires taxis to transport desperate injured pigeons from roadsides to the specialist rehabbers...so for these reasons and more (and there are many more), I can genuinely say, with full confidence and justification that the guys at London Wildlife Protection are probably THE MOST COMPASSIONATE people in the country.

If you would like to donate towards this beautiful organisation, please do, none of them are paid, and all the medicines and costs come from their own pockets...there are various rehabilitators who would really appreciate any help from anyone...if you are lucky enough to be in a position to donate please contact me for details on [thedeepatel@gmail.com](mailto:thedeepatel@gmail.com)

Also...they are always EXTREMELY short of volunteers, if you could give just a couple of hours to volunteer for them, could just be driving from A to B in your area or helping to do their paper work, please contact them. They will be so grateful for any little bit that you can do for them You will also get good karma as well as being part of a team that is now known to me as...

**...THE MOST COMPASSIONATE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY!**

# St Mary's University

## St Mary's Shortlisted for Two Times Higher Education Awards

**St Mary's University, Twickenham has been shortlisted for two awards recognising initiatives in widening participation at the 18<sup>th</sup> Times Higher Education (THE) Awards.**

The annual award ceremony, often called the *Oscars of Higher Education*, celebrates achievements in universities across the country in a range of academic, outreach, student success and professional services categories.

# THE AWARDS 2022

St Mary's has been shortlisted in two categories this year, Widening Participation or Outreach Initiative of the Year and Outstanding Support for Students.

In the Widening Participation category, St Mary's has been shortlisted for its annual [Get Set for Success](#) programme. Celebrating its tenth year, Get Set for Success is a pre-induction initiative for new students. It is specifically designed to provide increased support for students from non-traditional or low participation backgrounds to help them get the most out their time at university.

The St Mary's Cares initiative has been shortlisted for the Outstanding Support for Students award. The initiative is designed

to support care leaver, care experienced or estranged students, who are amongst the least likely to achieve in HE, not through lack of potential, but because of the significant barriers their life-experiences create. St Mary's Cares provides a holistic package of support to addresses financial, emotional, pastoral, transition, employability, and accommodation issues and includes staff development activity at its heart.

Speaking of the nominations Anthony McClaran, St Mary's Vice-Chancellor, said, "Congratulations to our brilliant colleagues in Widening Participation and Student Services who work diligently to ensure all our students have the tools they need to access and succeed in Higher Education. The two categories we have been nominated in are part of our core mission as a university and have a direct impact on the outcomes of the students they support."

The Award Ceremony will take place in November in Central London.

THE Editor John Gill said of the awards, "This is the 18th year that the THE Awards will celebrate the best that UK higher education has to offer, across 20 categories covering all aspects of university activity. Once again, the shortlists reflect universities doing extraordinary things in extraordinary times, during the 2020-21 academic year, when the pandemic continued to force higher education and all who work in it to respond to an unprecedented challenge."



**St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London**

# Thomas on Leeds test

By [Brentford FC](#)

## Thomas Frank is expecting an 'intense battle' with Leeds United on Saturday afternoon.

The Whites sit seventh in the Premier League having taken eight points from their first five fixtures.

"I respect Leeds as a massive club; one of the biggest in England," said Thomas during his pre-match press conference at Jersey Road.

"Jesse Marsch, together with his staff, have got a good start together.

"They look very intense. On numbers, they play with the biggest intensity. Their high-press numbers are the highest. It's going to be a very intense battle, which we're ready for and looking forward to. I think it's going to be a good game to watch.

"They look very, very dangerous going forward with their front four. [Jack] Harrison has been really impressive. [Luis] Sinisterra as well. Let's see if it's [Patrick] Bamford and [Joe] Gelhardt who will play, we don't know, but they look impressive going forward."

Leeds secured their top flight survival with a 2-1 win at the Gtech Community Stadium on the final day of the 2021/22 season.

The Bees head coach said that he is happy with how his squad has progressed since that meeting in May.

"I think we have a stronger squad compared to back then.

"Josh Dasilva is back. We've added Aaron Hickey, Keane Lewis-Potter and [Mikkel] Damsgaard – three players who add something to the squad, whether you're talking about the starting XI or the first 15.

"I think it's been a good start. We've scored nine goals, which is a good amount of goals compared to the league average. We look like a threat when we go forward and that's massively important if you want to win football matches. We need to keep that up.

"The last game was a step forward in terms of defending as a team; we gave very little away. It took a bit of a brilliance from a world-class player in [Wilfried] Zaha for them to score the goal. For me, it's about keeping consistency in our performances."



# Jansson set to return

By [Brentford FC](#)

## **Pontus Jansson will return to the Brentford starting XI for the visit of Leeds United.**

The Bees skipper has missed our last two games with a foot injury, but Thomas Frank has confirmed that Pontus will lead the team out at the Gtech Community Stadium tomorrow afternoon.

Having featured in two games for Brentford B, Kristoffer Ajer is also in contention for Leeds' visit to West London.

"It's a big boost," Thomas told the media at his pre-match press conference.

"I want my captain in, but I want to praise Zanka because he's done a top job in there. We have some good centre-backs with some good quality.

"Kristoffer is definitely knocking on the door, literally on my office door and also on the training pitch. Hopefully I will involve him."

Christian Nørgaard was another absentee during our midweek draw with Crystal Palace.

"Christian has an achilles problem, so he'll be out for some weeks," said Thomas.

"No surgery; it'll just recover over time. He's had issues with the achilles over a period of time and now it's too much."

Mikkel Damsgaard has been introduced as a second-half substitute during our last two league games. Thomas stressed that he is happy with the Denmark international's progress, but said that he is not quite ready for a Premier League start.

"He's getting better. Can he start and play 60? Yes, of course he can. He's in a fine place; he's looking sharper and sharper.

"There's still some time before I think he is fit to go 90 non-stop at Premier League pace, but he's come on in two games and looked good. I expect him to have a role tomorrow."



# Red Roses name matchday squad to play USA

Head coach Simon Middleton has named his matchday squad to play USA at Sandy Park, Exeter this weekend.



The Red Roses face the Eagles in their opening Summer Nations Series match on Saturday, 3 September (KO 3pm) with the game live on ITV4 and ITV Hub.

Emily Scarratt captains the side at outside centre with flanker Zoe Aldcroft vice-captain. Tatyana Heard starts at inside centre for her first England appearance since February 2019 with Saracens fly half Zoe Harrison making up the 10-12 axis.

Cath O'Donnell returns at lock following an injury lay-off while her Loughborough Lightning teammate Morwenna Talling is named among the finishers. Claudia MacDonald, who signed for Exeter Chiefs in the summer, starts on the left wing at her new home stadium with Ellie Kildunne (full back) and Jess Breach (right wing) forming the back three.

Hannah Botterman (loose-head prop), Amy Cokayne (hooker) and Bryony Cleall (tight-head prop) form the front row. After an impressive 2022 TikTok Women's Six Nations, Harlequins' Rosie Galligan is at lock while Sadia Kabeya (open-side flanker) and Poppy Cleall (No.8) also start.

Gloucester-Hartpury's Natasha Hunt takes her place at scrum half. Connie Powell, Maud Muir, Vicky Fleetwood, Shaunagh Brown, Leanne Infante, Helena Rowland and Holly Aitchison are also named as finishers.

Middleton said: *"We're really looking forward to this weekend's game at Sandy Park in front of what's set to be another big crowd.*

*"The team have had a brilliant period of preparation since the start of July, the longest run-in we've had in pre-season, and have worked tirelessly to ensure we're in the best possible place.*

*"This is a really important game for everyone selected in the matchday 23. Sometimes in sport opportunities are limited and with just the two matches before the tournament in New Zealand this is one of those occasions, so it's important that individually and collectively this team performs to their best on Saturday afternoon.*

*"We know the USA are a strong side and performed well against Scotland last week.*

*"The whole 35-player squad have remained in camp to continue preparations and it's been a real team effort to prepare for this game.*

*"There is always a fantastic atmosphere down here in Devon and we hope to put on a show."*

## England matchday 23 to play USA

15. Ellie Kildunne (Harlequins, 23 caps)
14. Jess Breach (Saracens, 22 caps)
13. Emily Scarratt (C; Loughborough Lightning, 101 caps)
12. Tatyana Heard (Gloucester-Hartpury, 4 caps)
11. Claudia MacDonald (Exeter Chiefs, 18 caps)
10. Zoe Harrison (Saracens, 38 caps)
9. Natasha Hunt (Gloucester-Hartpury, 59 caps)

## Finishers

16. Connie Powell (Gloucester-Hartpury, 4 caps)
17. Maud Muir (Gloucester-Hartpury, 9 caps)
18. Shaunagh Brown (Harlequins, 26 caps)
19. Morwenna Talling (Loughborough Lightning, 3 caps)

1. Hannah Botterman (Saracens, 28 caps)
2. Amy Cokayne (Harlequins, 62 caps)
3. Bryony Cleall (Wasps, 6 caps)
4. Rosie Galligan (Harlequins, 6 caps)
5. Cath O'Donnell (Loughborough Lightning, 19 caps)
6. Zoe Aldcroft (VC; Gloucester-Hartpury, 30 caps)
7. Sadia Kabeya (Loughborough Lightning, 3 caps)
8. Poppy Cleall (Saracens, 55 caps)

20. Vicky Fleetwood (Saracens, 81 caps)
21. Leanne Infante (Saracens, 51 caps)
22. Helena Rowland (Loughborough Lightning, 15 caps)
23. Holly Aitchison (Saracens, 8 caps)

# Greater London Authority to help age-discriminated over 50s set up their own businesses

By Suzanne Noble

**50, 60 and 70-somethings in London are being invited to join a free online course – sponsored by the Greater London Authority and [Learn Ealing](#) – for ‘olderpreneurs’ seeking to set up in business post-Covid and to earn extra income as the cost of living crisis bites.**

The latest cohort of the [Startup School for Seniors](#), which kicks off on 9th September, is the brainchild of entrepreneur Suzanne Noble, 61, who came up with the idea of the free, eight-week course as a result of successive lockdowns causing large rises in unemployment for over-50s – and a sharp increase in age discrimination among employers who deem them non-tech savvy in an age when remote working is more prevalent.

According to the most recent ONS data, the number of people aged 50-64 who are ‘economically inactive’ in the UK has risen to **3.6 million**. This figure is a rise of nearly **10%** since the start of the pandemic and has been dubbed a ‘silver exodus’ from the workforce.

A significant percentage of those who have attended previous [Startup School for Seniors](#) courses have said growing age discrimination among UK employers has made it impossible for them to even secure interviews, let alone jobs.

The online course comprises over 25 hours of video lessons from Suzanne and co-founder Mark Elliott, 57, plus a weekly exploration and collaboration call designed to encourage participants to articulate their business ideas in a safe and welcoming space.

Of previous cohort participants, nearly **40%** had made money from their business before they finished the course. Many also reported feeling more confident, which helped them to go back into full-time employment alongside their newly created side hustle.

Suzanne advises course participants to take stock of what they enjoy and are experienced in, such as monetising a lifelong hobby or putting the experience they’ve gleaned through their employed careers into use for themselves. She says:

*“The pandemic has changed the employment market irreversibly and the cost of living crisis has made earning an income more important than ever. Despite calls for more older people in the workplace, many of our applicants have struggled to get an interview, let alone find suitable employment. They’re seen as digital Neanderthals who can’t adapt to the remote working culture. With this in mind, we want to give older people a platform to regain control by launching their own businesses. When people think of start-ups, they tend to picture high-growth tech businesses launched by 20-somethings wearing Converse. In reality, the decision for many people to set up their own company is increasingly driven by necessity and putting food on the table, especially amid the cost of living crisis. One positive to come from the past two years is that it has made many Brits think “it’s now or never” and has spurred them to set up their own business or side hustle. Older people should remember that they have many transferable skills that are hugely relevant in the modern workplace.”*

# Situation reports on the flooding in Pakistan

The heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan which started in mid-July 2022 are continuing in many parts of the country and have affected 116 districts (75%) out of 154 districts in Pakistan. The most affected province is Sindh, followed by Balochistan.



**World Health  
Organization**

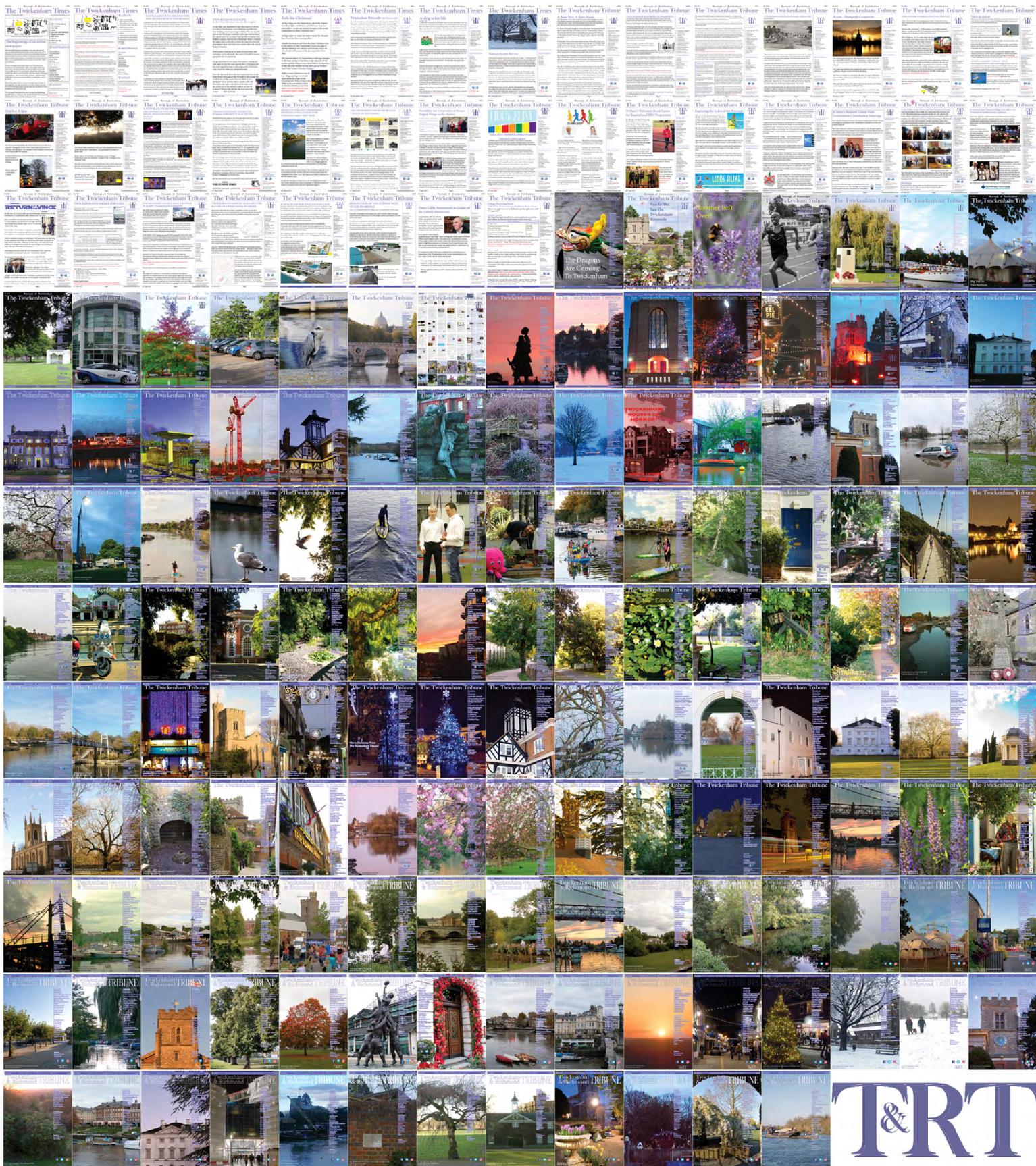
As of 25 August 2022, 33+ million people have been affected. 6.4+ million people are in dire need of humanitarian aid, including 421 000 refugees. Over a thousand lives have been lost and almost 15000 people injured.

Health facilities have been severely affected. As 28 August 2022, 888 health facilities have been damaged in the country of which 180 of them are completely damaged. Access to health facilities, health care workers, and essential medicines and medical supplies remain the main health challenges for now.

Country's health system is already battling multiple concurrent health threats including COVID 19, and outbreaks of cholera, typhoid, measles, leishmaniasis and HIV. Even before the current floods, there was a significant disparity in access to health services between rural and urban areas. The current situation will highly likely increase the spread of disease especially if/when response capacities are hindered.

[Situation report on the flooding in Pakistan, 30 August 2022](#)

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