

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

WELCOME TO
KING STREET

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Editors

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28th April 2023

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

Bank holiday waste and recycling collections

There will be no changes to the schedule of waste and recycling collections over the May bank holiday weekends.

The Bank Holiday dates are as follows:

- Monday 1 May 2023 - Early May bank holiday
- Monday 8 May 2023 - Coronation bank holiday. The Coronation Weekend takes place between Friday 5 and Monday 8 May 2023
- Monday 29 May 2023 - Spring bank holiday

LBRuT will continue to collect residential waste and recycling on households' usual collection dates of service. Find out your [collection day](#).

[Townmead Road Reuse and Recycling centre](#) will remain open, and residents will need to book a slot in advance. Please note that slots will be limited over the bank holiday weekend, so it is advised to book early.

Richmond Rugby: Richmond vs Cornish Pirates

22/23 Season ending at The RAG

Make sure you head down to The Richmond Athletic Ground this Saturday to support your Richmond side for the final time this season.

This weekend couldn't get more dramatic, as London Scottish travel up to Nottingham to round off their season, a win for the Archers will keep our Championship hopes very much alive!

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COVID

By Teresa Read

World Health Organization

Epidemiological update on COVID-19 - 27 April 2023

Data as of 23 April 2023

At the country level, the highest numbers of new 28-day cases were reported from the United States of America (383,887), the Republic of Korea (305,099), the Russian Federation (224,054), Japan (217,420), and France (213,732).

The highest numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from the United States of America (4,765), Brazil (1,298), the Russian Federation (995), France (797), and the Islamic Republic of Iran (718).

The European Region reported over one million new cases, a 34% decrease as compared to the previous 28-day period.

Eleven of the 61 countries for which data are available reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with the highest proportional increases observed in Gibraltar (+126%), Azerbaijan (+105%) and Sweden (+72%).

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Russian Federation (224,054), France (213,732) and Italy (85,071).

The number of new 28-day deaths in the Region decreased by 38% as compared to the previous 28-day period, with 6,679 new deaths reported.

The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Russian Federation (995), France (797) and Spain (680).

IN THE NEWS

SKY: The NHS COVID app is closing down - but is the pandemic really over?

United Nations: World Day for Health and Safety at Work 28 April: Governments, employers and workers all have a role to play in tackling COVID-19 crisis, and their collaboration is key.

Daily Mail: Arcturus. or XBB.1.16, now makes up one in 40 new cases: Britons should start wearing face masks on public transport again, experts have urged, as a super-infectious Covid variant sweeps the country.

The Telegraph: Raccoon dogs in Wuhan 'did not spread Covid to humans'



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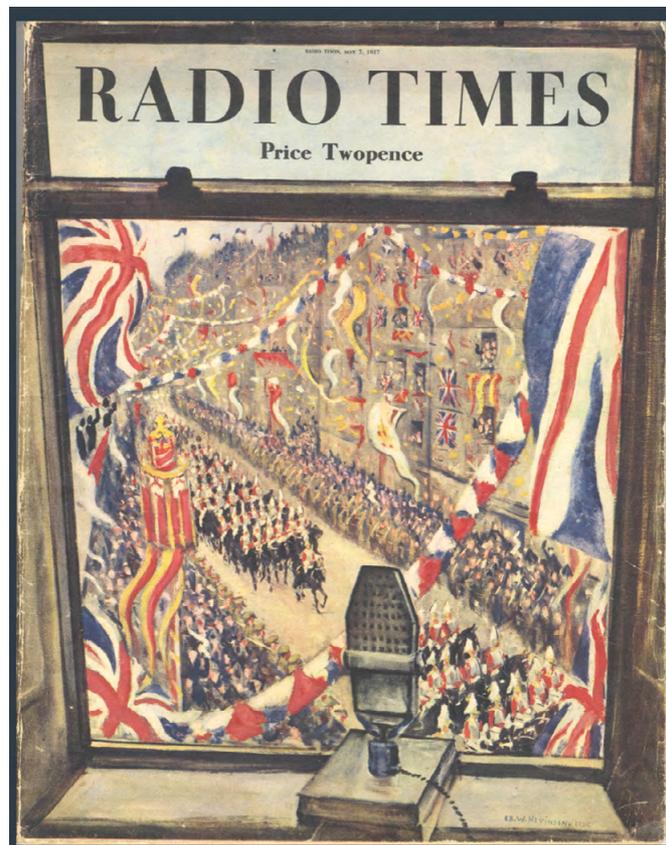
The Tree Agency

The coronation of their majesties King George VI and Queen Mary

By Simon Fowler

The last coronation to take place in May was in 1937, when the grandfather of HRH King Charles III was crowned. It took place on Wednesday 12 May. This was actually the date fixed for the coronation of Edward VIII, George's elder brother, who had abdicated the previous December. It was judged that the arrangements were too far advanced for the date to be changed.

The towns in the area were highly decorated in honour of the new king. The Richmond Electricity Company were selling 'handsome coloured shields for outside decoration Shields can be brilliantly lit by one 40-watt lamp and the cost of current for 24 hours, (say from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. daily during the Celebrations) will be about one penny.' Visitors to Kew Green found that it was: 'encircled with red, white and blue bunting and streamers, and nearly every house sports a Union Jack and coat-of-arms. Many of the houses present most colourful spectacles, especially after dark, when artistically-arranged fairy lights give the village almost a Venetian aspect.' In Richmond, Hill Rise: 'was a mass of flags and bunting and coloured lights. The Richmond Cinema was adorned with fairy lights. The Town Hall bore an elaborate shield and decorative scroll with the letters "G.R." The Union colours were also prominent.'



The festivities lasted a week, finishing with a splendid torchlight procession from Richmond Park to the Old Deer Park. A thousand torches were carried through the town centre. A journalist wrote of how a: 'thousand quivering flames lit up the dark shadows of the trees in the background. The whole road was a mass of light, creating a marvellous spectacle.'

But many people remembered the street parties, where residents had been setting aside small amounts each week towards the celebration. In Albert Road, Richmond: 'The substantial sum of £25 was collected and donated for a coronation tea. The children each received a gift. The girls were given a pinafore, and the boys a tie. They all received a Coronation mug, a bag of fruit, sweets and biscuits, and lemonade. There was a running buffet provided for the adults during the evening.'

Across the river, Kenley Road: 'was beautifully decorated with flags, bunting and electric lights, and the tables were put down the middle of the road for the tea party. The lady helpers wore red, white and blue aprons and bows on their hair, and the kiddies wore party hats. Billy Peacock and his band played dance music to the little ones during tea. After tea the rain started falling. So, headed by the band, the whole party marched to the strains of "Colonel Bogey" to St Stephen's School, much to the delight of the little ones.'

'Dogs on leads' to be compulsory during the deer birthing season

The Royal Parks charity is reminding people that 'dogs on leads' will be mandatory from 1 May until the 31 July in Richmond and Bushy Parks, to protect both dogs and deer during the deer birthing season.

Over the next few months, around 300 deer will be born across both parks. The season marks a vulnerable time for female deer, who hide their young in bracken and long grass to conceal them from dogs and other perceived predators.

During this sensitive time for the deer, park officials say the safest option is not to walk your dog in either Richmond or Bushy Parks.

Park Manager for Richmond Park, Paul Richards, says: *"Although deer are instinctively frightened of dogs, they will overcome this fear if they believe their young are at risk. This means female deer may chase and attack, even if the dog is at a distance, on a lead and not acting provocatively. This can be extremely frightening to witness, especially for the dog owner."*

Owners who choose, at their own risk, to walk their dog in Richmond and Bushy Parks during this season must have their dog on a lead, and for their own safety should also be on high alert for female deer, avoid areas of long grass and bracken where newly born deer could be concealed, and stick to the perimeter of the park in case they need to escape.

The Royal Parks also urges all visitors to give female deer respect, privacy and space, and not to go in search of young deer. Visitors must not handle newborn deer, under any circumstance. If visitors see a young deer on its own, they should rest assured that its mother will be grazing nearby. Female deer hide their young whilst they forage for food to create the milk they need to nourish their young. Throughout the course of the day, the mother will periodically return to suckle her newborn, but she may reject it if she picks up a human scent.

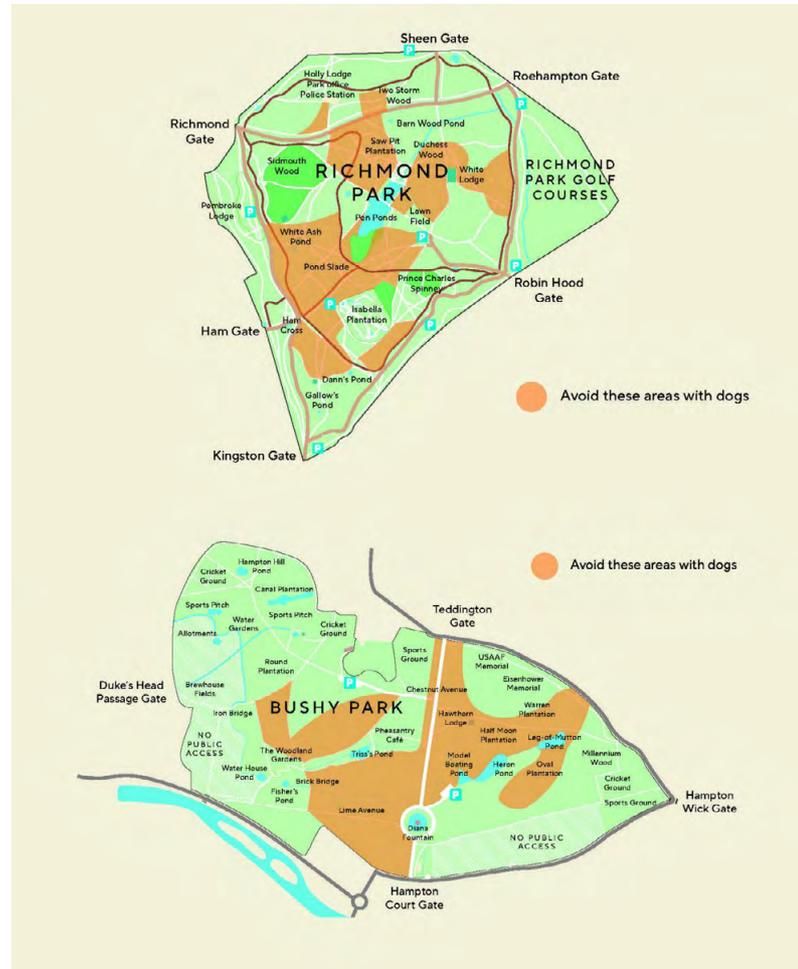
Richards adds: *"This is the fourth year we've had 'dogs on leads' during the deer birthing season and it's been an important step for deer welfare during this vulnerable time. As a result of this policy, our wildlife officers have noticed positive changes in the deer, with the deer appearing less on edge and exhibiting more natural behaviours such as roaming further into the park. Most importantly though, the number of dogs chasing deer dramatically reduces during this time. We'd like to thank the public for their continued support."*

Advice to dog walkers:

- It is compulsory to keep your dog on a lead at all times, and in all areas of the parks, from 1 May until 31 July.
- Avoid the areas shaded in orange on the maps. These are typically areas of long grass and bracken where newborn deer could be concealed.
- If a deer charges, let the dog off the lead so it can run away and doesn't get hurt.
- Consider walking your dog elsewhere.

Advice to all park visitors:

- Give deer plenty of space. Always keep at least 50 metres away.
- Avoid deer nursery areas where possible. Give female deer privacy and respect.
- Never touch or handle a newborn deer under any circumstances, even if it's on its own. It is not abandoned, and its mother will be grazing nearby.



Dame Joan Collins officially re-opens Shooting Star Children's Hospices newly refurbished charity shop and spends time with families at their Hampton hospice

Global superstar Dame Joan Collins brought her trademark glitz and glamour to Hampton Hill, west London, on Thursday (27 April) at the official re-opening of Shooting Star Children's Hospices charity shop, before visiting families supported by the charity at their Hampton hospice, Shooting Star House.



Shooting Star Children's Hospices provides vital care and support to children with life-limiting conditions, and their families across west London and Surrey.

Dame Joan Collins, one of the Vice-President's of the charity, officially re-opened charity shop, located on Hampton Hill High Street, which has been newly refurbished following a break in. Joined by staff, volunteers and supporters of the charity, she showed them first hand some of the beautiful items she had kindly donated – from designer hats to shoes, dresses and tops.

Following the shop re-opening, Dame Joan visited the charity's west London hospice, Shooting Star House in Hampton, their Outreach, Therapy and Family Support Centre. Here she met with families supported by the charity for a special afternoon tea and enjoy some special activities as well as sing a song using Makaton.

Dame Joan Collins, Shooting Star Children's Hospices Vice-President said; "I began my association with Shooting Star Children's Hospices in 2003. 2023 will mark my twentieth year, and I am thrilled to still be part of such a special charity and so happy to officially re-open their charity shop in Hampton Hill. It's an honour to be able to donate items from my own personal wardrobe to help Shooting Star Children's Hospices continue their wonderful work in supporting all those families who need them now and in the future. The day was all the more special by being able to enjoy an afternoon tea and spend time with supported families at their west London hospice, Shooting Star House."

Karen Sugarman MBE, Executive Vice-President at Shooting Star Children's Hospices said; "Dame Joan has made a significant difference to our work over the last 20 years, embracing the families we care for, whilst supporting on so many levels with our critical fundraising. We have shared so much fun, love and special moments over the last 20 years and Dame Joan is dearly loved by us all at the charity.



"A huge thank you must go to Fairlands Contractors Ltd, who kindly provided their valuable time and materials for the completion of the refurbishment at the Hampton Hill shop, following a break-in. They have one of our longest standing supported and provided much needed help for many projects in our shops and hospices."

A stalwart supporter of Shooting Star Children's Hospices, Dame Joan Collins' visit to the Hampton Hill shop and Shooting Star House, is just the latest in a number of generous activities she has undertaken as a Vice-President of the charity. Alongside regularly donating items from her personal wardrobe to the charity's retail shops, she has treated supported families to exclusive afternoon teas and special breakfasts. Dame Joan officially opened the Cobham and Weybridge shops and has appeared on *Celebrity Deal or No Deal* and *Celebrity Who Wants to be a Millionaire* to raise vital funds for the charity. Dame Joan received her Damehood in 2015 for years of charity work.

For more information about Shooting Star Children's Hospices shops, visit www.shootingstar.org.uk/shops and find out more about how you can support the charity visit www.shootingstar.org.uk



BUSHY PARK GIRLS CRICKET CLUB

Bushy Park Girls cricket club celebrated their 10th anniversary in 2022, and from small beginning by founders Mark Avery and Natalie Raja in 2012, they now have over 100 girl and lady cricketers playing regularly for the club. Historically there had been girls affiliated with the five existing cricket clubs situated in Bushy Park, but those clubs struggled to raise a full team of girls. Hence, the solution was to form the Bushy Park girls club, which has grown from strength to strength and now also includes an adult team for lady cricketers. We are one of the few exclusively girls' *and* women's clubs in the country, and we welcome players of all abilities from a very wide area.



Historically the club used the facilities of various other clubs in the park, but now have a settled base at the Bushy Park Sports Club in Teddington – formerly NPL. Starting with the “All Stars” programme for 5-year-olds and upwards (on a Friday night, with the bar open for parents), there is weekly practice and a programme of match fixtures across each age group: starting with softball cricket, transitioning to hard ball and participating in both boys and female only leagues: there is plenty of opportunity to play!

We are keen to grow further across all age groups and abilities, including in the ladies' section where we would like to be able to regularly field a second side. We offer “taster sessions” (to avoid paying a whole season's subscription up front) for those who want to come and try cricket, with no obligation to buy kit until you are ready to do so.

We are a welcoming and family friendly club and enjoy our cricket while simultaneously keen for girls to progress and do well. Last season we had several girls playing age group country cricket, three of our ladies playing for their county and a further lady playing for Western Storm, one of the six elite Super League sides.

In 2022 a number of our sides won their respective leagues and we were also defending champions in the Middlesex T20 league which we won in style in 2021 – so a high performance cricket club that welcomes girls of all ages and abilities.

Our season starts April 24 and we would love you to come to Bushy Park and join in the fun – please see www.bushyparkgirls.com, Instagram: @bushyparkgirls and Twitter: @bpcricketclub or contact bushyparkgirls@gmail.com for more information.



Walking Marathon raises over £9,000 for Teddington Lifeboat Station

On Saturday 22 April a group of forty four teachers and parents from Twickenham Preparatory School walked a full or a half marathon to raise money for Teddington RNLi Lifeboat Station, reaching a total of over £9,000 to date.

On the eve of the London Marathon, part of the group began their 26 mile trek at Tower Bridge to walk along the Thames to Teddington. In doing so, they passed three of the four RNLi lifeboat stations along the river (Tower, Chiswick and Teddington), some of the busiest in the country. Their efforts had raised £6,800 by the time they reached their destination at Teddington's boat shed for a welcome cup of tea and slice of cake.

Headmaster, Oliver Barrett said, 'I am so proud of this group and of the efforts that they have made for Teddington RNLi Lifeboat station. The station has a particular connection with the school as we often welcome members of the water safety team to speak to our pupils. The RNLi is an important charity and does great work on the busiest river in the country.'

Susy Avetoom, teaching assistant, underlined the importance of water safety messages to 'children the same age as our pupils, especially in the run up to summer when so many are tempted to swim and play in and around the river. Teddington RNLi is so important in helping them understand the dangers.'

Caroline Churchman, business manager added, 'We wanted to fund raise for a charity that meant something to our school with an activity that our whole staff community could participate in and enjoy. This walk has been a very positive experience for staff and a great way to thank Teddington RNLi for their fantastic work.'

Jon Chapman, helm at Teddington RNLi, said, 'What an amazing effort by the Twickenham Prep staff and parents! We simply couldn't do what we do without the wonderful support of our community, and all the money raised by this walk will help our life-saving mission.'

If you are interested in volunteering with the RNLi, visit <https://rnli.org/support-us/volunteer/how-you-can-volunteer>



Members of Teddington RNLi meet Twickenham Preparatory School Marathon Walkers (Credit: RNLi/Paul Roach)



Lifeboats

Celebrate the Coronation with a visit to The Poppy Factory

The Poppy Factory in Richmond is holding a specially themed discovery session to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

The session will be held on Wednesday 10 May. Further discovery sessions will also be held on selected dates throughout spring and summer.

The Poppy Factory's expert host will talk about the charity's close connections to the Royal Family, which date back to the 1920s and learn how the team worked with the Royal Household.



Guests can also enjoy artisan hot drinks and a special Coronation cupcake in the café area or blossoming garden terrace.

The new visitor centre, which tells the story of The Poppy Factory's 100-year-old community, was opened by Camilla, Queen Consort, in November 2021.

Regular discovery sessions for small groups and individual visitors are planned throughout June, July and August on the following dates:

- Wednesday 10 May (12.30pm)
- Friday 19 May (12.30pm)
- Monday 12 June (12.30pm)
- Monday 26 June (3pm)
- Tuesday 18 June (12.30pm)
- Monday 21 August (3pm)

Visit the [Poppy Factory website](https://www.thepoppyfactory.org.uk) to book a discovery session.



**THE
POPPY
FACTORY**

Hampton North Ward

Councillor Geoffrey Samuel

THE WHITE HOUSE- THE FUTURE?

Since The White House closed in March 2020 we have been waiting to hear of future plans. The Council set out its intentions at Finance committee in April. In recent weeks the YMCA which managed the Centre so well for many years with excellent provision of courses, classes and activities returned in a caretaking capacity: it had ended its contract some months ago as it was making a financial loss. After HOTCA, the Residents Body, which was the Leaseholder surrendered the lease and disbanded, the Council became solely responsible. At present the Centre is operating at 15-20% capacity including the Citizens Advice Bureau, Foodbank and Age UK and the café open a mere three days a week with very restricted hours. The Council is now proposing that management of The White House be handed to AfC [Achieving for Children -our Education service]. I have long believed that there needs to be 'campus' provision with rationalisation of Family Provision, Youth Centre and Community Centre integrated under one management. The Council has now accepted this approach and we will need to discuss how this affects Youth and other provision. There is also acceptance that the Outdoor games area [MUGA] currently abandoned and near derelict is brought back into use.

I have reservations about this proposal. It does of course benefit AfC which can bring together its Family and education work under one roof: it proposes that all the present hirers remain and new providers encouraged but there is no plan at all for the new Management to provide any of the courses, classes and activities which YMCA used to run and were of huge benefit to the community.

Personally I am happy to talk to AfC and I have written to the Director to begin discussions but am not prepared to give them the blank cheque that is proposed. Our community needs a real Community Centre which runs all the possible activities that local people need and I will continue to fight for local residents to ensure that such provision is available.

REPAIRING OUR STREETS

The Council has announced a programme of over 100 projects Borough-wide in the next twelve months – but only three in Hampton North. Several other wards have ten or more programmes. Our streets are part of **Broad Lane** [119-Oak Avenue], **Coombe Road** and **Kingswood Avenue** [both pavements]. However I am receiving so many complaints about potholes and state of roads [**Hanworth Road** is a particularly bad example] in a few weeks' time I want to make a submission to the Council of all the roads that need attention. So – if that applies to your road let me know! I should appreciate full details – and, of course, photographs if possible.

THE SQUARE

I am very pleased that following my intervention the "water feature" is now operating. Residents were rightly disappointed that it did not operate at all during the hot summer last

year. However I am still receiving some complaints about the Public House. Do let me know of your experiences.

RECYCLING CENTRE

We were all very pleased that, after my lobbying, the Council agreed to instal CCTV. It was therefore disappointing that the camera initially installed did not operate satisfactorily. However, instead of replacing it, the council has merely adjusted the existing camera in the Square and believes that this is sufficient. Has the situation improved? what are your views?

SHORTER ITEMS

- I am following up complaints from a resident of **Denning Close** that –once again –her paid-for green collection has been missed.
- Fly-tipping continues to be a problem. One of the latest examples is at the junction of **Fearnley Crescent and Green Walk** where dumping –including furniture –has been left. I have raised this with officers.
- It is regrettable that a resident of **Rectory Grove** is still having difficulty in ‘downsizing: this would make a family –size house available to RHP. I have been involved in this – and, at last, things are happening
- I did not support the excessive increase in double-yellow lines in **Fulmer Close** which did not have the full support of residents. Now, for example, a key worker coming off shift in the night has to leave her car elsewhere and walk home.
- There are still too many reports of lime bicycles abandoned on pavements and constricting access for prams, wheelchairs and vulnerable residents. The latest includes a lime bicycle thrown into the River Crane!
- A resident of **Uxbridge Road** who wants to buy an electric car is anxious to be able to charge it on her drive and therefore needs a cross-over. The Council supports electric vehicles but is not making it easy for residents.
- Residents are asking about “Voter ID”. At elections from now on voters will need to show proof of identity eg a driver’s licence or Passport. The Council can also issue an acceptable document although very few have applied. We do not have elections this year but it will apply eg next year for the London Mayor, GLA and General Elections.

I will continue to follow up every case reported to me on gjshn@btinternet.com and will forward your exact message unless you instruct me to the contrary. Please use this e-mail address.

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THE FATE OF THE BLACK POPLAR

With the coronation of King Charles III to take place on Saturday 6th May perhaps we should spare a thought for a royal gift to Twickenham from Queen Elizabeth II, a rare Black Poplar, planted on Her Majesty's behalf by Princess Alexandra during the Diamond Jubilee.

It seems that the fate of the Black Poplar has been sealed by the Council's planning permission to build on Diamond Jubilee Gardens; the rare tree has been growing in Twickenham since the beginning of 2012 and is to be cut down to make way for Council development and a parking space.

Save the Black Poplar Tree: The Twickenham Black Poplar [@BlackPoplarTW1](https://twitter.com/BlackPoplarTW1)

PUBLIC ENQUIRY DATES AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

Twickenham Riverside Development

The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities: **Public Inquiry**

Clarendon Hall, York House, LBRUT Council

The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Tuesday 6 - Thursday 8 June; Tuesday 13 - Thursday 15, June; Tuesday 20 - Thursday 22 June;
Tuesday 27 - Thursday 29 June.

Online webcast may be available.

Members of the public may attend. More details from the Council. Customer Services: 020 8891 1411

COUNCIL MEETINGS

April

<https://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1>

May

<https://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?M=4&CID=0&OT=&C=-1&MR=0&DL=0&D=1&ACT=Later&DD=2023>

Members of the public may ask questions at Council meetings. Contact the Council in advance.

RICHMOND VOLUNTEER FAIR

THURSDAY 25 MAY 2023

“Very valuable event, well organised and inspiring!” (2022 attendee)

The annual Richmond Volunteer Fair is back at Richmond and Hillcroft Adult and Community College (RHACC) in just a few weeks' time.

This year, there's added focus and impetus for volunteering with [The Big Help Out](#) - the national initiative launched to mark the King's Coronation which encourages everyone to 'join in, lend a hand and make a change' in their communities. The Volunteer Fair can help you to do just that.



It offers the chance to meet and connect with a diverse range of amazing local groups with whom you could make a real difference. You could be looking to fill a few hours of spare time with a new activity or looking for a role that uses your professional skills and experience on a more regular basis. There are literally hundreds of charities and groups with exciting and unique volunteering experiences to consider and this is the one of the best ways to start or extend your search.

At the Fair, there will be 40+ groups working in the areas of sport, health, nature/environment, children and young people, learning, inclusivity, mental health, neighbourhood/community, advice, specialist support and more.

It's free to visit but advance booking is requested.

[Register now](#) for volunteering ideas, information and inspiration on Thursday 25 May, between 2pm to 6pm, at RHACC, Parkshot, Richmond, TW9 2RE.

For more information and to book tickets, visit the Richmond Volunteer Fair 2023 Eventbrite page.

This event is organised by [Richmond CVS](#), who run the Richmond Volunteer Service. The service helps to promote local volunteer opportunities and volunteer recruitment in the borough of Richmond upon Thames.



STREET PARTY AND CELEBRATION FARE FOR THE CORONATION

The excitement is building, and whether you're involved with a street party, planning to head up to London to witness the Coronation procession and atmosphere, or just planning to be glued to the TV with friends and family, here are some recipes to inspire you to bake for the occasion! The first is from **Bonne Maman**, and there are lots more great Coronation recipes on the website [here](#):

Glittering Crown Shortbreads (Makes about 12 sandwiched biscuits)

An easy dough for little hands to roll and cut out. Use Crown-shaped cutters, add some glitter magic then sandwich with your favourite Bonne Maman Conserve or Hazelnut Chocolate Spread for a truly celebratory Coronation display.

- 225g unsalted butter, softened
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 115g caster sugar
- 340g plain flour
- 125g custard powder
- 4-5 tbsp milk
- Bonne Maman Conserve or Hazelnut Chocolate Spread
- Edible glue, gold glitter, sprinkles and spray

Method

1. Heat the oven to 150°C, 130°C Fan, gas 2
2. In a medium bowl, beat together the butter, vanilla and sugar until creamy. Mix in the dry ingredients and enough milk to form a firm dough.
3. Knead the dough into a ball and put it between two sheets of baking paper. Roll out the dough as thinly as you can, about 5mm, then chill for 20 minutes.
4. Using crown shaped cutters, stamp out an even number of biscuits. Now stamp out a small round from the centre of half the biscuits to make the tops.
5. Mix together all the dough off-cuts and re-roll between the paper as before. Stamp out more shapes.
6. Once the shapes are cut out, arrange on 2 baking sheets lined with paper and chill for 10 minutes.
7. Bake the biscuits for about 10-12 minutes or until firm and pale golden. Cool on the baking sheet.
8. Using edible glue, decorate the top biscuits with edible glitter and sprinkles then spray with edible gold spray.
9. When cool, spread your favourite Bonne Maman Conserve or Hazelnut Chocolate Spread on the bottom biscuits and top with another, pressing them together. Spoon a little extra conserve or spread into the centres.



Cook's tips:

- These will keep in an airtight container for 2-3 days.
- Why not make these shortbreads extra special with a base of chocolate shortbread? Just replace 25g of the butter for 25g of Bonne Maman Hazelnut Chocolate Spread and 15g of the custard powder with 15g cocoa powder.
- Crown-shaped cutters are available in good cookshops and online.

The second recipe is from www.lovecelery.co.uk and these tasty and very moreish savoury scones should, ideally, be served if possible warm, with the butter gently melting. But as well as being great for a street party, they will also make a perfect light lunch or teatime treat.

Cheese, Celery and Walnut Scones with Parsley Butter

Makes: 15

Preparation time: 20 minutes **Cooking time:** 10-12 minutes

- 225g self-raising flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 50g butter
- 125g mature cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 head celery, finely chop 2 of the stalks
- 50g walnuts, roughly chopped
- 1 large free range egg
- 6 tbsp Milk (approx.)
- for the parsley butter
- 50g butter, softened
- 2 tbsp parsley, finely chopped

1. Preheat the oven 220c /200c fan/ gas 7 and grease a baking tray.
2. Place the flour and baking powder into a large bowl, rub in the butter until it resembles fine breadcrumbs and then stir in the finely chopped Fenland celery, 100g of the grated cheese and the chopped walnuts.
3. Break the egg into a measuring jug, lightly beat and make up to 150ml with the milk, add all but a small amount, reserve to brush the tops with. Mix gently until you have a soft dough.
4. Knead lightly on a floured surface and roll out to approx. 2 cm thick, cut into 6 cm rounds and place on the baking tray, re roll any trimmings.
5. Brush the tops with a little of the reserved egg mix and sprinkle with the remaining cheese, bake for 12-15 minutes until well risen and golden. Cool on a wire rack.
6. Mix together the softened butter and parsley, serve the scones warm, split in half and topped with the butter with the remaining celery to crunch along with.



Whatever your plans, enjoy this historic event!



We Thought We Was “Cancelled”! Like J. K. Rowling & Co!

By Bruce Lyons



Well!! Last August we resigned from the Church Street Association but didn't expect to be excommunicated! It did seem that way, first we didn't get asked to the new meetings of the NEW TEAM. Then we didn't get minutes (despite me writing that I did want to stay in the Association), apparently my email address slipped off the list. Then I was told by a trader – OH, I thought you had left to live in Israel (where Hedda, my wife hails from) all this despite that the shop is open, we are there, and we are looking after the Square. In fact, our Spring planting was the best – sadly over now, but our summer planting is well underway, and we hope you will find some peace and quiet when walking about the town.

The Chess is proving ever popular with all ages and particularly popular with youngsters after school.

The planters hadn't been replanted, that is until today King Charles and Queen Camilla came to our rescue with the Coronation and today, we not only have a Regal Seat at the top of the street, but the planters have also been endowed with a planting of Royal Colours – Red White and Blue

This week we were shortlisted for a “Lifetime Achievement Award” in the LBRUT Community Heroes Award, though not the winner it was an honour to be included in a group of such Illustrious local people.

Travel Tricky – yes? But lots of fun. The Gloomy newspapers go on and on about “cost of living” but believe me, European Family Holidays are, compared to UK Staycations extremely competitive. Long haul flights have increased, but not dramatically. Last minute bargains, they exist, and as always are well priced as operators are keen to fill empty places. The maxim is always think flexible – the late offers are not necessarily to the destination you had in mind, so if you openminded about where you go, you will often be well rewarded.



TRAVELLER'S TALES 145

TALES FROM HAMELIN IN LOWER SAXONY

DOUG GOODMAN IS ENCHANTED BY THE PIPER

He seemed a nice enough chap. He greeted us on the S Bahn platform at Hamelin, joined us on the number 30 bus and played his pipe to entertain everyone. In his colourful costume he gave a fascinating tour of the city and greeted locals and visitors with a tune and a smile. He led us astray only once and that was to the Rattenkeller where large quantities of excellent beer were consumed. Our visit to the historic city of Hamelin in Lower Saxony had a happy ending unlike the legend of the Pied Piper, who lured 130 children to their deaths in 1284.



Meet the Pied Piper



Statue in Hamelin



Children Last Seen Here



At the Sign of the Rat Catcher

In 1284 the population of Hamelin was about 3000 and the town was overwhelmed by rats. A rat catcher arrived and offered to rid the town of the vermin for a fee of 50 Guilders. Using his magic pipe he gathered thousands of rats and drove them into the River Weser where they perished. On requesting his payment the council refused to pay the Piper: this they were entitled to do as the Piper was classed as a vagrant with no work permit. Little did the council realise the consequences. In a rage the Piper departed but promised to return. On his return he played his pipe to the town's children as they left church and led them away never to be seen again. One hundred and thirty children vanished into the mountains while three remained, who had witnessed the departure. Legends suggest the children were sealed in a cave, were sold as slaves or drowned like the rats. Bungenlosenstrasse – street without music- on the corner of the Gaststätt Ratten was the place where they were last sighted. A period of 300 years passed when the forgotten legend came back to haunt the people. The church advised that the Piper was returning and ordered that houses should be decorated with holy faces and gargoyles to keep the evil spirit away. Today the city has 60,000 inhabitants who commemorate the Piper with statues, celebrations, rat toys, rat coffee and rat beer. The carvings on the beautiful half-timbered house remind you of the legend.

RATS EVERYWHERE

After a glass of Rattenkiller – not particularly recommended – we visited the Piper's museum. Here a mechanical theatre, ancient manuscripts, books and painting are displayed to explain the legend. But was it just a legend? Several sources speak of a stranger who visited the town in 1284 and abducted 130 children. Over hundreds of years artists, writers and poets have ensured that the story has not lost its appeal.



Hamelin Children

In Robert Browning's 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin' his poem becomes a fable with a moral about what can happen when promises are not kept. He writes:

They fought the dogs and killed the cats,
 And bit the babies in the cradles,
 And ate the cheese out of the vats,
 And licked the soup from the cook's own ladles,
 Split open the kegs of salted sprats,
 Made nests inside men's Sunday hats,
 And even spoiled the women's chats.
 Out of the houses the rats came tumbling.
 Great rats, small rats, lean rats, brawny rats, black rats.
 Brown rats, grey rats, tawny rats.
 Grave old plodders, gay young friskers.
 Fathers, mothers, uncles, cousins.
 Cocking tails and pricking whiskers
 Families by tens and dozens. Brothers, sisters, husbands, wives –
 followed the piper for their lives.

And there's much more which brings the colourful legend to life. Michael the Piper was brilliant as our guide and raconteur so make a point of meeting him when you visit Hamelin.



Rats' Trail



Local Beer



In Hamelin Rats Get Everywhere

MARIENBURG CASTLE

Lower Saxony has 16 States and nine cities: Braunschweig, Celle, Einbeck, Gottingen, Goslar, Hameln, Hannover, Hildesheim and Wolfenbuttel. Also included in the tourist guides are Wolfsburg known as Autostadt after the VW car centre and the very efficient Hannover airport. The tourist board in Hanover provided two very knowledgeable guides – Elke and Petra, who were great companions. The next visit was to the imposing castle at Marienburg. Seen from a distance the castle, built between 1858 and 1867, resembles a Disney set-piece. Inside the neo-Gothic building are state rooms furnished in period style. George V of Hanover gave the castle to his wife Queen Marie but neither of them really enjoyed living there. The King, who had become blind in his youth could not see his gift and his wife would live there with her two daughters for only a short while. The Prussians forced George V and his son into exile in Austria in 1866 and shortly after Marie joined the King in exile. Marienburg is the only Royal castle in Northern Germany and has become one of the country's most impressive neo-Gothic monuments.



Entrance to Marienburg Castle



Castle Kitchen



Castle Interior



Marienburg Castle

Information: www.9cities@hannover-tourismus.de , www.hameln.de. www.schloss-marienburg.de

Next time more of Lower Saxony is explored including Wolfsburg the car city, Celle and Hildesheim.

WIZ TALES: ETHIOPIA

Teresa Read



The BBC has reported that Ethiopia, as well as the United Nations and South Sudan, are playing a mediating role in the current situation in Sudan.

Ethiopia is located in the Horn of Africa, bordered by Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan and Kenya.

Ethiopia began building a dam on the Blue Nile in 2011; Africa's largest hydroelectric dam on completion in 2023. The project will also benefit Sudan and Egypt, countries depending on the Nile River for their water. There are fears that this project could be affected by the armed conflict in Sudan.



Mount Ayalu, the westernmost and older of two volcanoes at the southern end of the Danakil Depression



Kibish has the site of oldest fossil of human bones believed to be 195,000 years old along with Omo River.



The earliest urban dwelling typically made up of hut cluster. Here is an example of a British legation pictured in 1910



Haile Selassie with U.S. President John F. Kennedy, October 1963

Ethiopia Information and Photographs: <https://worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=Ethiopia>

How out of date would you eat chocolate?

By Deep Patel

~ Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

So here's a weird one...how long after the date has passed would you eat chocolate? So you may be aware that supermarkets recently removed sell by dates from a number of items such as grapes and onions to try and cut down on the exceptionally high volume of food we as a nation waste and unnecessarily throw away each and every day, but how much passed the sell by date is too much?

The answer to my question varies depending on the product in question right? I mean salt you would probably eat weeks after the sell by date right? However, what about milk? I guess our level of acceptance of foods past their sell by date really does change with the item in question...so what about chocolate?

In my shop, the number 1 selling department is probably that of chocolate so it is extremely rare that we have any chocolate bars that go "out of date" (well we are a sweet shop after all), but on the rare occasions when we do have chocolate that has passed the sell by date, guess who gets to eat it? (no, not the dustbin, although I have been called that before). I get to eat it! So I secretly hope we get some out of date chocolate as then my father won't mind me eating it, but how long after the date has passed is too long?

For the first 2 weeks, it's literally EXACTLY the same, then after a month, depending on the brand and cocoa content there is a slight difference in the taste, but still blooming delicious! So after 2 months, you can taste the difference, but again... nothing wrong with it, at least when I ate it, nothing happened to me...still tastes like chocolate and still delicious...but what I am about to tell you may shock you...

Well over a year ago, a kind customer came into the shop and gave us a beautiful box of chocolates, and at the time, I placed it in our stock storage cupboard as it is cool and dark there.

As time passed, we forgot it was there, and without realizing it, we put some old shelves in front of it to store away... We recently emptied that cupboard, and sure as hell, there was the box of chocolates, still wrapped and untouched. I looked at the "best before" date and saw the chocolate box was exactly one year out of date...dare I try them I found myself debating in my head...no as I may get sick...or yes as they were a gift from a kind customer who had to spend money on them...no as the date had well passed over a whole entire year ago...or yes as it's bad to waste food...? Can you guess what I did? Go on...guess...what would you do?...what do you think I did?...well I have just decided...I am not going to tell you. You'll never know I guess. Oh well, some things are better left unsaid. Who am I kidding, I will tell you, the lovely readers of the Tribune whom I know are not judgmental at all and are all my dear friends too...right?... Well...I opened the box, had a sniff...then ate one...tasted great...so I ate another...and another six more after that...I sat and thought am I going to be in the loo all day tomorrow, struggling terribly either from the front or the back?...I'll have you know I wasn't...all was well...so that evening I scoffed the entire box (none of my family wanted to eat a year out of date chocolate)...and do you know what? I would do it again too!

So there we have it, a date is sometimes just a date, and chocolate is always your mate!

Those who follow my articles will know what I am about to say about kindness towards little lives (another of my passions)...but just in case you are a first-time reader; I always like to share these little good-karma gems. We are not the only inhabitants of this beautiful planet and there is a kind way for everything...If you see a bird or any wildlife suffering at a roadside, don't leave it there for someone else to help...slowly edge closer to it and throw over a towel, hoody or jacket when close enough to trap under it, wrap it up with the head out so it can breathe and take to a local wildlife centre (pigeons are best reported to London Wildlife Protection as other places will put them to sleep without giving them a chance, same with squirrels and parakeets, even mice injured by cats can be helped...). If you have rodent issues, consider live capture traps where you can catch the rodents alive and release them in woodland or parkland areas far from homes. Try electronic high-frequency sound deterrents (check online for ones with good reviews and ones that are safe for your pets if you have any). Put empty jam jar lids filled with white vinegar all around areas where you don't want them to stop them without harming them (they HATE the smell of white vinegar). This also works for foxes, squirrels, mice and rabbits. Just picking up a slug off a pavement with a leaf and moving it over a wall counts as a good deed... choosing a kind way to stop ants (like talcum powder around where they come but not on them) counts as a good deed. Avoid sweeping/washing the garden patio too often to help save countless tiny almost invisible little lives that live there (particularly under large pots in the garden, hence I say gently lift the pots if you need to move them rather than dragging them to avoid crushing little lives).

As I always say, the true key to our own happiness lies in the happiness of others...be they big or small life forms...until the next time...have a lovely week ahead and look after the smaller life forms and the universe will look after you. For further tips, check out my Facebook page "Kind World". As always... Peace, love and good karma to all xx

Remember...

"Sometimes a date is just a date...and nothing more"



Henry V

by William Shakespeare

Richmond Shakespeare Society at Mary Wallace Theatre, Twickenham until 29th April

Shakespeare paints Henry V of England as a complex and charismatic figure, burdened by the weight of his responsibilities and struggling to reconcile his moral and political obligations. RSS captures this in a thoroughly engaging and powerful production of *Henry V* as it follows the young king as he grapples with the challenges of leadership and warfare in medieval England.

The acting created real volume in the theatre, which drew one in. Luciano Dodero, as the titular character, was superb as an anchor, captivating the audience as the rest of the cast add colour and nuance. Henry's authority and indeed charm was conveyed in a performance of stature where at times he felt like a man ten-feet tall.



The darkest vignette of lighting and simple staging created an appropriately sombre and contemplative atmosphere, while the effective use of the stage by the actors brought a sense of extended physical dimension to the play, particularly in the battle scenes, and creating a sense of depth and scale.



The leadership, patriotism, and power Shakespeare intended Henry to embody were explored deftly through the central performance and an able supporting cast including the Duke of Exeter (Darren McIlroy), Duke of Gloucester (Dana Acharya) and the ever-sneaky Pistol (Vaughan Pierce), allowing the moral complexities of war and the responsibilities of rulers to be examined. Traditional costumes worked well, further immersing the audience in the world of medieval England.

Director Francesca Ellis made some effective changes to the play, with the narration handled by three female characters – Mistress Quickly (Dionne King), Princess Katherine (Anna Fitz), and Alice (Deborah Tinsdale) – to progress the plot with clever storytelling, and to provide moments of light humour.

Much of the play's multi-layered themes have relevance in evaluating leadership today, and this production didn't hesitate in bringing them to life for modern audiences of all levels of familiarity with the Bard's work. RSS's *Henry V* was as robust as the chainmail worn in battle by the king himself, and furthermore a thought-provoking exploration of one of Shakespeare's most enduring works.

Read Brent Muirhouse's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/04/25/henry-v-rss

Photography courtesy of RSS



Carousel

by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II
TOPS Musical Company at Hampton Hill Theatre until 29th April

What goes round comes around. *Oklahoma!* Rodgers and Hammerstein's first musical, was such a rip-roaring success that they immediately got their teeth into a follow-up, giving it a spin with *Carousel*, which opened on Broadway two years later to even greater success. It takes the symbolisms of the carousel image, and sets them as a piquant centre to a musical filled with business, colour and joy, drawing the sting of the tragedy.

TOPS's magnificent production has this busy-ness (particularly in its choreography), the colour (look at the costumes), and joy in its



exuberant singing, energetic acting and exciting dancing. However, it does not fail to hit on poignancies, ironies or cruelties that form the undercurrents: witness how a very animated audience, full of first-night effervescence, can fall attentively silent or quietly moved.

The set is dominated, but not overwhelmed, by projections evoking a fishing community in Maine in 1893. The artwork, with a hint of fantastical whimsy, is executed brilliantly, forming the backdrop to each scene, various costal locations a constant presence.

Carousel opens with a dumbshow, acting out the immediate backstory, here augmented with light-footed dancing, juggling and ribbon poi, transforming into maypole festivities. This prologue also showcases the music, including the well-known Carousel Waltz. TOPS musicians excel throughout the show. Who could have thought that a dozen strong band could produce such rich all-round sound?

There is quite an epic cast too, 43 performers augmented by two children's groups of 11 each, yet the stage never seems cluttered. Chorus dances have an impulsive energy, whereas solos have outbursts of measured spontaneity. Remarkably, with such a big cast, there is no weak link in their concatenated acting, singing and dancing. Nevertheless, each is an individual character.

TOPS has brought this multi-faceted show into an amazingly integrated work of art. Its *Carousel* is quite a merry-go-round of talents, which the audience loved right up to its tear-jerking end. What goes round has come around.



Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/04/26/carousel

Photography by Tom Daniels Photography

Bracken Moor

by Alexi Kaye Campbell

Q2, at the National Archives, Kew

Think *Wuthering Heights* set in a Yorkshire mining community in 1937. In *Bracken Moor*, it is the inter-war years, and the hedonistic rebound of the twenties has settled into the economic reality of the late thirties. The play starts as social commentary on the livelihood of the miners, but turns on its head and becomes a chilling ghost story, the plight of the miners quickly forgotten.

It is the first time in ten years that the Averys have seen their old friends when come to visit Harold Pritchard, the owner of a struggling mine, inherited from his father. With them is their son, Terence, and it emerges that he and the Pritchard's son Edgar were inseparable childhood friends. Evidently something unspeakable happened to Edgar. We discover later the ensuing toll this has had on Elizabeth Pritchard and on Terence.



Q2 players portray the etiquette and manners of the time well, and with their ramshackle broken down set, designers Harriet Muir and Bob Gingell complement its atmosphere.

The heart of the play is about the different ways that people grieve. Harold has carried on entirely emotionless, as if nothing had happened; Elizabeth has retreated into herself and the house; Terence has given up his establishment Oxford education.

The brooding atmosphere of *Bracken Moor* eventually comes into its own and the play reaches its climax when Terence, precipitated by sleeping in Edgar's old room, takes on the persona of his childhood soulmate, and there ensues a sort of exorcism of his ghost.

Newcomer Jamie Rhodes takes on the complicated role of Terence. Mark Cairns, as Harold, sustains the determined detachment of Harold, although one can briefly see a chink in his emotional armour. Performance of the evening, however, came from Anna Piggott as the tortured Elizabeth who found a believable balance for long suppressed emotions.

Director Harriet Muir's bold attempt at this multi-layered play brings out touching personal moments amidst the overall chilling narrative, in a spirited and insightful production of *Bracken Moor*.



Read Claire Alexander's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/04/21/brack-moor

Photography by Bob Gingell



-PLANT SALE-

and

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FROM: 10AM | UNTIL: 12PM

SATURDAY 29TH APRIL



Teddington
School

The Welkin

by Lucy Kirkwood

Putney Theatre Company at the Putney Arts Theatre until 29th April

“Men are afraid that women will laugh at them, women are afraid that men will kill them”.

[Margaret Atwood](#)’s observation, made fortyish years ago, remains pin-sharp in its relevance.

Set in mid-eighteenth Century, [Lucy Kirkwood](#)’s play, *The Welkin* sees a group of women brought together to pass judgement on one of their number.

The Welkin isn’t a comedy, but it is full of humour; and PTC’s production, ably directed by Kim Dyas and Veronika Wilson is very engaging, and it moves along at a healthy pace.

Sally Poppy, a murderess, has been sentenced to hang but will avoid the hanging and instead be deported if she proves to be pregnant as she claims to be. Twelve local women are gathered in one room to determine whether Sally is telling the truth. She is neither repentant nor remorseful and has no time for any of the strictures society expects her to bend to, but she’s no heroine either, being unswervingly dislikeable. Lizzy Luke, the midwife, having been brought reluctantly to the proceedings, is the only one with any will to defend her.



The women, while deciding Sally’s fate, discuss life, death, men, marriage, sex, childbirth and menopause in graphic, gory, entertaining detail, forgetting Mr Coombes the local bailiff, who hears it all.

Each of the twelve was women gave a fully rounded performance. Lois Savill’s wordless but endearing Sarah Hollis was particularly effective, while Sarah Perkins’s layered portrayal of Lizzy Luke was really impressive. Lucy Mabbitt’s Sally Poppy was pitched just the right side of deranged as to make her both terrifying and recognisable.

Kim Dyas’ set allows for elegant tableaux, but provides room for the women to be seen as individuals. The jury room symbolises an arena for action, as does Halley’s Comet, referred to throughout, which dominated the sky the year before.

Well written, well directed and well performed, the characters become fully authentic people whose lives are colourful and interesting. Yet, *The Welkin* poses the idea that while much has moved on, certain fundamental issues remain the same.

Read Eleanor Lewis’ review at www.markaspen.com/2023/04/26/welkin-ptc

Photography by Steve Lippitt



Blue

by Jeanine Tesori, libretto by Tazewell Thompson

English National Opera at the London Coliseum until 4th May

The thirty year anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence has renewed accusations of the Metropolitan Police Force being “institutionally racist”. So it may be seen either as timely, or as provocative, for ENO to be putting on a 2019 opera from America about a young black man murdered by a white policeman. However, the issues it raises are not confined to the United States; and this is the relevance of *Blue*.



The opera’s depiction of the pain of one family who have lost their child is emotionally devastating. The beauty of Jeanine Tesori’s music, blues and Gospel based, doesn’t hide the anguish, and rises to a Verdian grandeur of grief, presided over by Ronald Samms’s Reverend, who ultimately realises that words have nothing to add.

words have nothing to add.



Tellingly *Blue* doesn’t depict the murder or provide any details of it. Instead it focuses on the victim: his early life, cut cruelly short, and the anguish of his surviving parents. His is a middle class black family, with Mother (Nadine Benjamin in thrilling voice) having a thriving restaurant business, Father (Kenneth Kellogg, creator of the role) a policeman, and Son (Zwakele Tshabalala, very impressive) a vegan.

This refusal to give space to the murderer has the effect of creating a lack of dramatic urgency. Watching Kellogg put on police uniform isn’t exactly a dramatic start. The characters sit around and discuss the Mother’s pregnancy. There is a beautiful scene in which Nurse teaches Father how to hold his baby son. But it all feels a bit too leisurely.

Tinuke Craig’s production and Alex Lowde’s ingenious set with its rotating box in a circle don’t help. The main action feels placed back as though there is a barrier between the cast and the audience when there isn’t one.



There is so much to admire here, even if it wasn’t good as anticipated. And ENO is refusing to play safe; instead here is an opera that engages directly with today’s issues.

Read Patrick Shorrock’s review at www.markaspen.com/2023/04/21/blue

Photography by Zoe Martin

Twickenham Ukrainian Café among heroes honoured at Community Heroes Awards ceremony

Prosperity Café and the Ukrainian Social Club were among individuals, groups and businesses honoured at Richmond upon Thames' annual Community Heroes Awards last night.

Over 140 inspiring local heroes were nominated across ten categories.

Cllr Nancy Baldwin, Spokesperson for Communities, Equalities and the Voluntary Sector said: *"It has been wonderful to come together to recognise and celebrate all of our amazing, shortlisted nominees and their achievements. It's a privilege to live in a borough where we can see so many incredible examples of selfless service to others, and we are grateful for their continued contribution to our community. Congratulations to this year's shortlisted nominees and winners and thank you to all those who made submissions for their Community Heroes."*

The Community Heroes Awards aim to highlight and celebrate those working and living in Richmond upon Thames who go above and beyond to make their community a better place to live, work and learn.

Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, who presented a special Leader's Award to The Ukrainian Social Club, added:

"I am delighted that we have had a chance to recognise and celebrate the local effort to support those impacted by the war in Ukraine. Prosperity Café and the Ukrainian Social Club have had national recognition for the work they have done, but we feel very proud to recognise them here tonight, alongside all our other winners who do so much to improve the lives of those around them."



Winners

Winners for the different categories:

Business contribution in the community

Prosperity Café & Restaurant for their vast support of Ukrainian refugees in the borough, turning their café into a donation hub and partnering with many members of the community to set up the Ukrainian Social Club, which provides critical support to those new to our borough and celebrates Ukrainian culture in Richmond.

Communities together

Teddington Community Café for the work of volunteers to provide a safe space for people across the borough to enjoy new and old company, a warm drink and homemade treats, following periods of increased social isolation.

Community group of the year

GoodGym Richmond for the tireless work of volunteer runners, cyclists and walkers, who carried out hundreds of wide-ranging good deeds over countless hours within the community through 2022, as well as supporting day to day work and projects run by local groups and charities in the borough.

Community project of the year

Ruils & Cambridge Park Bowls Club for creating a positive and inclusive environment by partnering together to bring the sport of bowls to people who are disabled, have mental health challenges and are experiencing loneliness and isolation, which has helped members to learn new skills, make friends and share experiences.

Environmental award

The Real Junk Food Project for their pioneer work in helping to reduce food waste and feed the community by collecting surplus food 7 days a week from local businesses, retailers, individuals and allotments and redistributing it back into the community, educating people along the way about the impact our food choices have on the environment.

Helping hands

Theofanis Andrews for his efforts to, in his own time, develop the garden landscapes around Howorth House in East Sheen, providing a beautiful and uplifting space for the community to enjoy, cultivating all types of interesting plants and sharing his gardening knowledge with the community.

Lifetime achievement

Christopher Bligh for over 18 years of volunteer service with the Whitton Network, including supporting hundreds of clients to hospital, dentist and GP appointments, setting up improved databases and automating processes and acting as a volunteer treasurer, ensuring the charity has continued to thrive amid difficult times.

Outstanding volunteer

Rebecca Butler for her hard work bringing her enthusiasm for and knowledge of children's literature to hundreds of primary school children across the community, running many book clubs across the borough and instilling a love of reading in young people.

Trustee of the year

Jane Kelly for her work as a Trustee at The Mulberry Centre, where she has volunteered for over 25 years, playing a key role in the launch of the charity and more recently building partnerships with local hospitals, businesses and community organisations, benefitting the lives of many local people affected by cancer.

Young person achievement

Caterina Bargioni for her inspiring work to launch and run a fundraising campaign, forging a partnership with the Richmond Foodbank and engaging her school and the wider community, ahead of Christmas, which provided over 150 individually wrapped presents and several pallets of festive sweet treats to local families with young children who were struggling with the rising cost of living

Leader's award

This year, in recognition of the immense way many members of our community have banded together to provide a warm network of support for Ukrainian refugees in our borough, Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, extended a special Leader's Award to the Ukrainian Social Club, which has served as a central hub for this work.

Read more about all of our amazing [shortlisted nominees](#).

RuTC alumnus Adele James cast as lead in Netflix documentary, Queen Cleopatra

Last week, RuTC alumnus Adele James, announced she was cast as lead in the upcoming 'Queen Cleopatra' docuseries on streaming giant, Netflix.

Emmy winner, Jada Pinkett-Smith along with actors Craig Russell and John Partridge, star alongside Adele in the Egyptian docuseries based on the life of Egypt's last pharaoh, Queen Cleopatra.

In 2018, Adele began to establish herself as a screenwriter, with her debut award-winning short film, Last Call.

Following Last Call, Adele has started to develop her own original TV concepts with major broadcasters and production companies, including Channel 4.

Before her Netflix debut on the 10th of May, Adele's best-known role was starring as Christina 'Tina' Mollett in the long-running BBC drama, Casualty.

Adele studied BTEC Acting during her time as a student at RuTC.

Jane Swift, Adele's acting teacher is so pleased and proud of Adele for attaining this role of a lifetime, saying "I am beyond proud and pleased for Adele for achieving a lead role in a groundbreaking series for the largest streaming platform in the world!"

"Adele was an extremely hard working, conscientious student and this has carried over into her working life, she is a hugely talented actress as well as a down-to-earth, kind individual who has given back to the college in many ways since leaving.

"We are looking forward to seeing the docuseries and cheering her on from the side-lines as she continues to forge an illustrious career for herself."



Richmond upon
Thames College

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Match Preview: Brentford v Nottingham Forest

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of Brentford's Premier League game against Nottingham Forest

Written by Brentford Football Club

Nottingham Forest are next to visit the Gtech Community Stadium this season, with Steve Cooper's side heading to west London with their heads just about above water in the relegation battle.

Wednesday's 3-1 win at home to Brighton and Hove Albion, their first victory in 12 Premier League matches, lifted Forest up to 17th in the table, out of the relegation zone by a point.

Thomas Frank's Bees also picked up a long overdue success in midweek, a 2-0 victory at Chelsea ending a six-match winless streak.

The opposition

Brighton win could be crucial in relegation battle

It is still quite unbelievable to think Nottingham Forest were propping up the Championship when Steve Cooper took over in September 2021.

What followed was remarkable - no team in the division took more points than Forest over the next 38 games. Their tally of 76 (W22 D10 L6) was two better than eventual champions Fulham.

They then had to face the uncertainty of the Play-Offs, but after defeating Sheffield United in the semi-final all it took was a Levi Colwill own goal in the final against Huddersfield Town to secure a return to the top flight for the first time in 23 years.

All eyes were on the City Ground as the Reds geared up to take on the challenge of the Premier League. Throughout the summer, those eyes seldom moved due to one of the busiest transfer windows in recent history.

After striker Taiwo Awoniyi's £17 million move from Union Berlin was ratified on 25 June, the club must have made several stationary orders as contract after contract was signed. In total, by 20 September, less than three months later, no fewer than 22 players had been brought in, either permanently or on loan.

By the World Cup break, it looked as though the chaotic exploits had come back to bite them. The form had improved by that point, but five-straight defeats from the end of August to the beginning of October had left Cooper's side in 18th, with 13 points to their name after 15 games.

The run of defeats brought about intense speculation regarding Cooper's future at the club, but instead, the Welshman was handed a new contract until the summer of 2025, instantly dispelling any rumours. "I don't know how close that [being sacked] might have been," he admitted.

Putting the 3-0 defeat to Manchester United on their return to one side, things got a lot better for Forest at the start of the year, aided by the customary additions – of which they made six in January.



They beat fellow strugglers Southampton, Leicester City and Leeds United and held Chelsea, Bournemouth and Manchester City. By the start of March, they were only six points outside the top half.

However, 11 league games without a win, eight of which have been defeats, which sucked them back into a relegation battle.

Earlier this month, reports again suggested Cooper was on his way out. Owner Evangelos Marinakis released a statement insisting the speculation came from “false and disruptive reporting”, yet, in the same breath, issued a warning that results had to improve “immediately”.

But a superb 3-1 win over Brighton on Wednesday night at the City Ground shows signs of improvement for Forest, and could indicate that things might be on the up.

The gameplan

With *Nottinghamshire Live's* Sarah Clapson

Nottinghamshire Live's Nottingham Forest correspondent Sarah Clapson discusses Nottingham Forest's relegation chances, their key players, and how head coach Steve Cooper is likely to set his team up on Saturday in [Hot off the Press](#).

“Recently they have gone into games with a low block and tried to hit teams on the counter, using the pace of Johnson and Gibbs-White.

“At this stage of the season, the fans want to see them have a go and it gets to a point where you have to roll the dice and really go for it, but I think they are still quite wary of trying to be tough to beat, though it does not really show in the results.

“They have tried a few different formations, so it is difficult to say exactly which one he will go with.”

Team news

Three players unavailable for Forest fixture

Thomas Frank has confirmed that tomorrow's game will come too soon for a trio of Brentford players.

Christian Norgaard (Achilles), Kristoffer Ajer (hamstring) and Thomas Strakosha (calf) all missed Wednesday's win at Stamford Bridge and will be absent tomorrow too.

Pontus Jansson (hamstring) and Keane Lewis-Potter (knee) are likely out for the rest of the season.

Nottingham Forest lost three more players on Wednesday night to add to their extensive injury woes.

Neco Williams (broken jaw) is out for the rest of the season while Moussa Niakhate (thigh) and Taiwo Awoniyi (shoulder) are touch and go for tomorrow after going off in the win over Brighton and Hove Albion.

Ryan Yates (shoulder), Gustavo Scarpa (knee) and Jack Colback (concussion) all missed Wednesday's win at the City Ground but could return tomorrow.

Jonjo Shelvey could feature following his internal disciplinary issue but Dean Henderson (thigh), Giulian Biancone (knee), Chris Wood (thigh), Scott McKenna (collarbone), Omar Richards (leg) and Willy Boly (thigh) are all out for the season.



Red Roses name matchday 23 for TikTok Women's Six Nations match against France

Head coach Simon Middleton has named his England matchday 23 to take on France in Saturday's TikTok Women's Six Nations match at Twickenham Stadium (Saturday 29 April, kick-off 1pm and live on BBC Two).

Marlie Packer captains the Red Roses at open-side flanker while Sadia Kabeya is blind-side flanker and Alex Matthews number eight in what is the Grand Slam decider. Helena Rowland makes her first start of the 2023 tournament at outside centre with Holly Aitchison and Tatyana Heard the 10-12 axis.

Hannah Botterman (loose-head prop), Lark Davies (hooker) and Sarah Bern (tight-head prop) make up the front row. Zoe Aldcroft and last weekend's player of the match against Ireland, Sarah Beckett, are the lock pairing. Lucy Packer starts at scrum half with her Harlequins team mates Ellie Kildunne (full-back), Abby Dow (right wing) and Exeter Chiefs' Claudia MacDonald (left wing) in the back three. There's a return for Saracens' Poppy Cleall following injury, she is named among the finishers.

Over 53,000 tickets have already been sold for this fixture and you can secure your seat [here](#).

Middleton said: *"We're really excited and looking forward to Saturday's match against France in what will be another landmark moment in the women's game.*

"We've had some entertaining and tight battles with France over a long period of time and this one will be no different. Both teams have had strong Six Nations campaigns off the back of presenting different game plans from what we have seen before.

"France will also be relishing the challenge and David Ortiz, Gaëlle Mignot and their team will have prepared their players well.

"I think it's only fitting at this point to also recognise and pay tribute to Jessy Trémoulière, one of the greats of the game, as she calls time on her international playing career. She will be missed, for sure.

"Notwithstanding, the players we knew at the start to be unavailable for the tournament, this is the first week in the competition we can say we have a near-full squad to select from. Credit must go to our medical and strength and conditioning teams who have worked tirelessly with our players to ensure their availability. At the same time, the return of some of our more established players means that others will inevitably miss out. Whilst I know they will be bitterly disappointed in missing the game, they should take immense pride in their performances throughout the Six Nations in terms of both playing and helping to prepare the side. Once again, this has been a tremendous squad effort and typifies everything good about the Red Roses.

"Playing in front of a record crowd is a huge marker of where the game is at. It's huge testament to the hard work of many people at the RFU and it bodes extremely well building up to the 2025 World Cup."

England team to play France

15. Ellie Kildunne (Harlequins, 33 caps)
14. Abby Dow (Harlequins, 34 caps)
13. Helena Rowland (Loughborough Lightning, 23 caps)
12. Tatyana Heard (Gloucester-Hartpury, 13 caps)
11. Claudia MacDonald (Exeter Chiefs, 27 caps)
10. Holly Aitchison (Saracens, 19 caps)
9. Lucy Packer (Harlequins, 13 caps)

Finishers

16. Connie Powell (Gloucester-Hartpury, 8 caps)
17. Mackenzie Carson (Saracens, 4 caps)
18. Maud Muir (Gloucester-Hartpury, 19 caps)
19. Poppy Cleall (Saracens, 64 caps)

1. Hannah Botterman (Saracens, 36 caps)
2. Lark Davies (Bristol Bears, 48 caps)
3. Sarah Bern (Bristol Bears, 56 caps)
4. Zoe Aldcroft (VC; Gloucester Hartpury, 42 caps)
5. Sarah Beckett (Gloucester-Hartpury, 29 caps)
6. Sadia Kabeya (Loughborough Lightning, 12 caps)
7. Marlie Packer (C; Saracens, 93 caps)
8. Alex Matthews (Gloucester-Hartpury, 58 caps)

20. Morwenna Talling (Loughborough Lightning, 6 caps)
21. Natasha Hunt (Gloucester-Hartpury, 61 caps)
22. Amber Reed (Bristol Bears, 64 caps)
23. Jess Breach (Saracens, 27 caps)

Players currently injured/ undertaking rehab and therefore unavailable for selection for this fixture: Amy Cokayne, Detysha Harper, Cath O'Donnell, Hannah Sims.

Other long-term absentees: Vickii Cornborough, Vicky Fleetwood, Rosie Galligan, Zoe Harrison, Emily Scarratt, Abbie Ward.



KING'S CORONATION PARKING STRIKE TO GO AHEAD AS TALKS STALL

People in this country are fed up of private companies making millions off the public purse while the people that do the job that generates that money are asked to justify maintaining their standard of living, says GMB

GMB, the union for parking wardens, can confirm that the strike action being undertaken by parking wardens in Westminster will be going ahead from Tuesday 2 May and will include the day of King Charles III's coronation.

The union members are employed by Westminster Council's contractor NSL, part of the Marston Holdings Group and are asking for a pay rise which reflects the rate of inflation and rising cost of living.

The employer made an improved offer after the strike was announced which was overwhelmingly rejected by the members on Wednesday 26 April.

With this offer having been rejected, the strike is now scheduled to go ahead as planned, on Tuesday 2, Thursday 4 and Saturday 6 May, with action short of a strike being carried out from 1 to 7 May inclusive.

Alex Etches, GMB Organiser said:

"Our members have once again rejected another below inflation pay offer from the company.

"There is no reason why our members, who do a difficult and dangerous job should be poorer this year than the last.

"People in this country are fed up of private companies making millions off the public purse while the people that do the job that generates that money are asked to justify maintaining their standard of living.

"Our members' strike action will lead to chaos on the roads of Westminster during the coronation.

"NSL must get serious about giving our members an offer that doesn't leave them worse off this year or they will be to blame for the disruption on the day of the coronation."



EV CHARGING POINTS

[News today](#) reveals that there is just 1 public charging point per 36 electric vehicles on UK roads. Louise Thomas, [Confused.com car insurance](#) expert comments:

"As electric vehicles grow in popularity, they're certainly becoming more prominent on UK roads. The initial upfront fees can be expensive, but there's lots of long-term benefits for both the environment and the driver.

"Generally, EVs are cheaper to run than other vehicles. And as electricity doesn't give off harmful chemicals, they're currently free to tax until 2025. As a result, the financial benefits can be tempting for many. In fact, our latest research found that 1 in 5 (20%) drivers have considered selling their current car and making the switch because of the current cost of driving.

"But as demands for EVs continue to rise, so does the need for charging points. With many fuel stations still outnumbering EV charge points, it might be hard for drivers to find one if they don't know where to look.

"Our [EV charging point map](#) can help drivers locate the nearest charge points from a growing network. All they need to do is pop in the nearest town or postcode. The map will even let drivers know of the charging speeds and whether they're free to use."

LIFE & DEBT: STORIES FROM THE EDGE

“I FEEL LIKE I’VE WASTED MY ENTIRE LIFE.” THE DEVASTATING PRICE OF THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS

Britain is experiencing the largest fall in living standards since records began almost 70 years ago, with the rising cost of everyday essentials - such as food and household bills- thought to have pushed many into poverty.

ITV News’ Daniel Hewitt has followed the impact of this crisis for more than a year and examines how it’s changed lives across the country. Filmed over the course of the winter, ITV’s *Life & Debt: Stories from the Edge* follows working people battling every day just to stay afloat, shocked by how their circumstances have changed and often unable to see light at the end of the tunnel.

People like 55-year-old Dee, a grandmother of nine, who - like more than 5 million others - has been forced to take on a second job to cover her bills, even after rationing her heating all winter. Cold homes are known to have a serious - and sometimes fatal - impact on health. ITV has discovered this winter more than 130,000 deaths in England and Wales involved circulatory or respiratory conditions like strokes and pneumonia - both of which are linked to cold temperatures. This was an increase of 15,000 on the year before, though it’s still too early to know how many were linked to cold homes.



Others like Chanice, a young person living in the capital, have faced eviction from their homes. Chanice feared losing her home after being unable to pay a sudden 45% increase in her rent. New figures shared with ITV revealed one in 12 private renters in England are currently facing eviction - almost a million people.

The government told us they’ve delivered one of the most generous cost of living packages in the world – worth £96 billion, including an estimated five million Cold Weather Payments. And they are focussing on halving inflation and growing the economy.

But for some, the crisis has upturned their whole future. Denise is an unpaid carer for her mum whose life’s savings are now almost used up; while pub owners Michelle and Tim are battling to save their business from closure. For many, a sense of financial security that was taken for granted has been swept away in just a matter of months. This poignant portrait captures the reality of those trying everything simply to get by.

About the contributors

Chanice Hird – London

Chanice juggles two jobs as an actor and educator in the tourism industry, earning enough to rent a room on the outskirts of London for three years. But in November her landlord demanded a 45% rent increase out of the blue, blaming the rising cost of essentials – and tried to evict her from the property after she said she couldn’t pay.

“I’ve worked since I was 16 yet I don’t feel like I get any help from the government. They just don’t care.”

“It just seems massively unfair. I’ve paid my rent on time. I’ve kept the house clean. I just feel like I’m being punished even though I’ve done everything the right way.”

Denise Wilkins and Maureen Shields – London

Denise worked for decades as a chartered accountant but left her lucrative role to become her mum Maureen’s unpaid carer after her health suddenly deteriorated. Before the cost of living crisis Denise was debt-free with a healthy nest egg, but she now owes £2,000 and her life savings will run out by the end of the year at the current rate.

“I feel like I’ve wasted my entire life. Everything I’ve tried to do to support myself, to support my family and it’s just been a complete waste of time because I’m ending up with absolutely nothing at the end of the day.”

“Seeing my savings decrease has been absolutely devastating. It was there for my retirement.”

Michelle and Tim Ritchie – Burwarton, Shropshire

Tim and Michelle have run The Boyne Arms for five years and survived the pandemic but have been pushed to the brink of closure by rising prices. Their fixed rate energy tariff came to an end in December - their new rate is triple the price. To reduce their usage, and hopefully save the pub, they’ve had to shut their doors two days per week, cut staff hours and cover most shifts themselves – and still face an uncertain future with Government support for businesses set to drop sharply from April.

Michelle- *“We don’t take a salary even though we’re working ridiculous numbers of hours.”*

Tim – *“It’s quite easy to say, well people have got to expect to pay more, but if they haven’t got anymore, they can’t pay anymore.”*

itv NEWS

SUDAN is teetering on the brink of a humanitarian crisis, a leading expert warns today

Shameet Thakkar says “every second counts” for the region where Brits are currently being evacuated from.

[Mr Thakkar](#), the founder managing director of Unimed Procurement Services, based in Leicester, said:

“Like many others I’ve watched the scenes unfolding in Sudan with dismay. But the most disturbing reality is the fact that in all likelihood, the worst is yet to come.

“The aftermath of the conflict in Sudan will be nothing short of disastrous, exacerbating what are already precarious humanitarian circumstances.

“Sudan’s healthcare system is not equipped to cope with the consequences of the conflict.

“It has already devastated populations in areas affected, who are suffering shortages of food, water and medicines.”

Reflecting on the current situation he continued:

“Refugees are flooding to neighbouring countries, many of which don’t have the resources to adequately support an influx of individuals needing protection, basic commodities and stable healthcare services.

Like Sudan, its neighbouring countries are dealing with complex humanitarian crises and significant economic and political turmoil.

With more than 3,700 people wounded, medicine shortages are a particular cause for concern – simple yet essential medical supplies make all the difference in these circumstances, but what happens when a country just doesn’t have the resources to look after its population?

“It raises the issue of healthcare resilience – or lack thereof – in the region, and shows us exactly why building resilience in health systems in countries like Sudan should be a priority.

“Many make the mistake of thinking ‘we’ll never get to that point’, and when armed conflicts do break out, they are not prepared to respond. This is why proactivity and resilience in healthcare are key.

“There’s such a strong need to build solid healthcare systems and increase equal access to healthcare. Intensifying our support to that end should be paramount.”

Offering his advice on the best approach he said: “Resilience in healthcare means having the ability to prepare, adapt and move forward in response to sudden and extreme circumstances affecting health systems, but achieving this is not an easy feat.

“There is a significant number of communities in the region and beyond that live without access to essential healthcare. And when a crisis arises, these communities are particularly at risk – Sudan is a prime example. Its health system is simply not equipped to cope with the additional burden.

“More than ten million individuals in Sudan were in need of health assistance prior to the “conflict breaking out, amidst shortages of medical supplies and outbreaks of illnesses and diseases such as malaria and dengue fever.

“You also have to ask why preparations weren’t better in the first place. After all, residents of Khartoum have been warning about such a clash for months. Both factions had been mobilising for a struggle, stockpiling ammunition, accelerating recruitment, and bringing in extra fuel and medical supplies, even blood.”

Describing what he thinks will happen next, he added: “The impact of the conflict on Sudan will be multifaceted, likely causing long-term damage that will be difficult to mend. With Sudan already battling disease outbreaks and a socioeconomic crisis, the conflict will create a cycle of continued crisis that will be almost impossible to break.

“This means we need to develop resources in the short term to provide humanitarian aid to communities in Sudan. There’s also a need to think about the long-term wellbeing of the country. But for the moment every second counts for Sudan, and for its people.”



Vaccinating on the Borderlands, Mali

With a population of just over 20 000, Ménaka is the largest outpost in the Malian southeast frontier with Niger.

Regional security is volatile and violence is present: armed groups attack and constrict routes between Ménaka and its nearest neighbouring localities, Anderamboukane and Ansongo.

As a result, people are displaced and on the move from the Ader Douchi hills to what is the nearest town with services, Ménaka. They need safety and shelter—but they also need vaccines. In December 2022 Ménaka and its surroundings were included in a Malian vaccination campaign against COVID-19. The vaccines are to be sent in by plane for delivery 1500 kilometres away.

The journey starts with a close look in the capital, Bamako.

It was only at the end of August 2021 that Mali's National Immunisation Center, comprising three cold rooms and a dry store in the capital district in Bamako, got up and running near the city administration centers. It's seen heavy use since.

Dr Soumana Daou, the centre director, inspects COVID-19 vaccines on 14 December 2022. He's getting the vaccines ready for delivery from the capital to Ménaka. They'll soon be heading to the country's arid eastern borderlands.



Photo credit: WHO / Fatoumata Diabaté

The next morning, 15 December 2022, COVID-19 vaccines and coolers are strapped in on a waiting plane at President Modibo Keita Airport in Bamako. They are bound for Ménaka in eastern Mali.

“Together, we can!”

Mohamed Touré, 39, is a recently-arrived Ménaka-based consultant for UNICEF. He's focused on water, sanitation and hygiene issues (WASH), nutrition, and education in emergency situations.

Touré works with many kinds of partners, including NGOs and government, and this was so during the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Ménaka in December 2022: “We intervene via the regional health department by receiving the vaccines, storing them and keeping the calendar for the campaign,” he says.

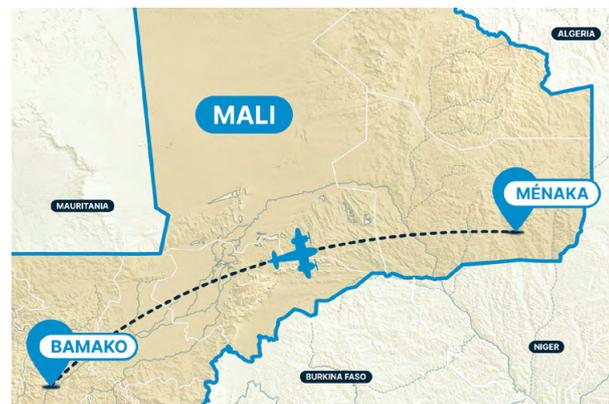


Photo credit: © WHO / Fatoumata Diabaté

State services preside over campaigns.

“We also provide support through communication, mobilisation, document preparation and monitoring in the field, both at the level of mobile clinics and at the level of fixed points in health centres and health districts.”

On the move: as of June 2022, 163 schools in the Ménaka area were closed and there were residents displaced in outlying areas and moving to town because of threats from armed groups. In December, the International Organization for Migration distributed aid kits including sleeping and cooking equipment to 335 displaced households.



Photo credit: © WHO / Fatoumata Diabaté

Many of the people seeking temporary shelter in the region will wind up here, at Garde camp (camp de garde) in Ménaka.

A great deal of vaccination in Mali is done through mass campaigns, including against polio, measles and meningococcal disease. This was true also for COVID-19, even under hard conditions and with meagre means.

Bouba Traoré, 36, a psychologist working for WHO, arrives at the Regional Health Directorate of Ménaka on 19 December 2022. He has been based in the area since June 2022.

“We provide psychosocial care to people in psychological distress,” he says. “We pay special attention to people who are victims of stigmatization for having contracted COVID-19.”

Bouba’s goals more generally are to raise awareness about mental health and let people know that some experiences can cause trauma that requires support.



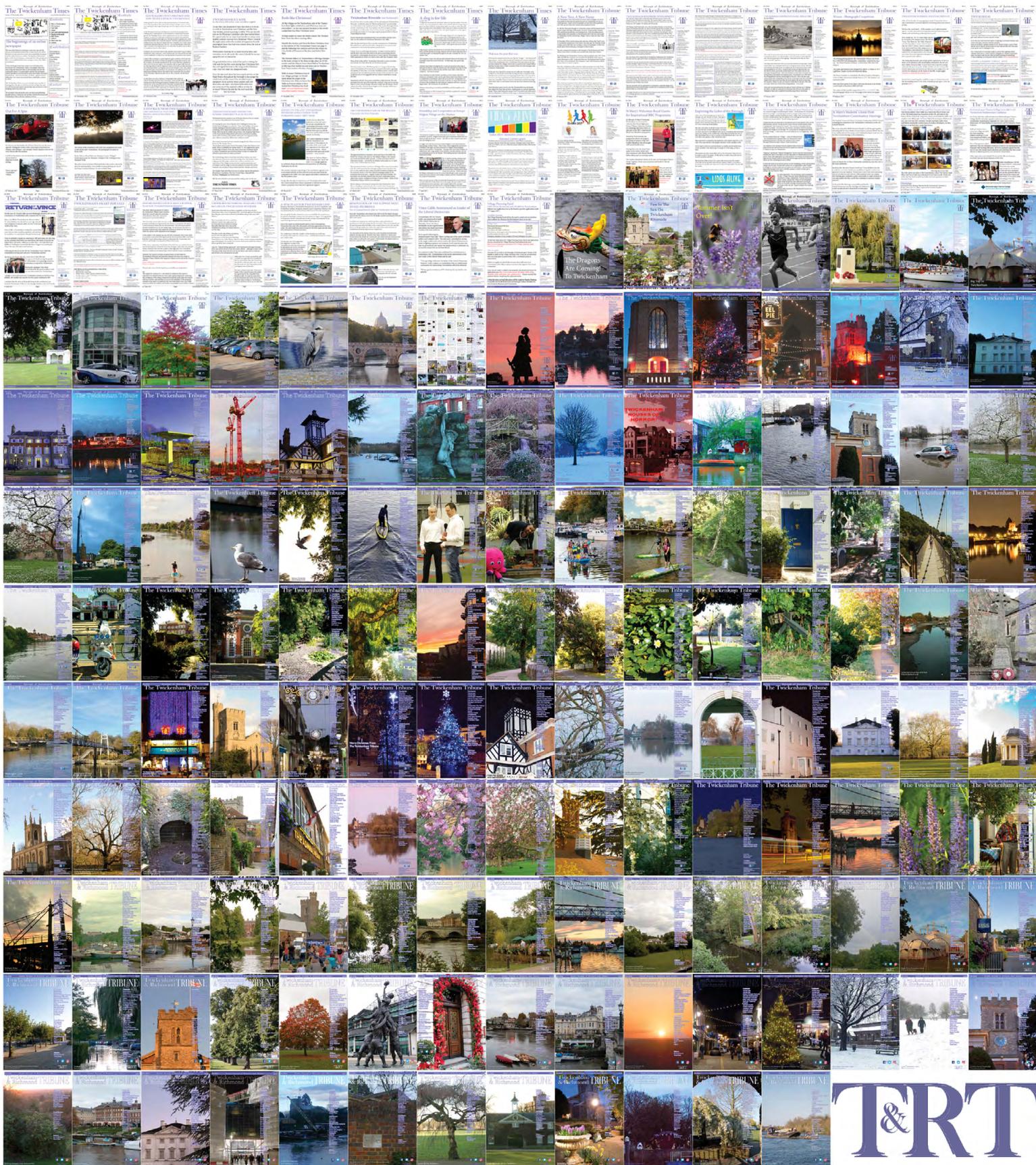
Photo credit: © WHO / Fatoumata Diabaté

“This is why we go to people in crisis situations to listen to them, comfort them and accompany them. Here in Ménaka, people are open and easily accept our support.”



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