

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

Contents

- TickerTape
- COVID-19
- Coronation 1953
- Letters
- Twickenham Riverside – The Facts?
- Kew Village Market
- Twickers Foodie
- Coronation Mania
- WIZ Tales: Burundi
- Are you ready for the crown?
- Devastating impact of Long Covid on children

Contributors

- Simon Fowler
- Turner's House
- Alison Jee
- Bruce Lyons
- Mark Aspen
- World InfoZone
- Deep Patel
- Teddington Theatre Club
- St Mary's University
- Princess Alice Hospice
- Brentford FC
- RFU
- Mercato Metropolitano
- GB News
- GMB Union
- Middlesex University
- WHO
- LBRuT

Editors

Berkley Driscoll
Teresa Read



5th May 2023



Twickenham Coronation Bench
Photo by Berkley Driscoll



TickerTape - News in Brief

TRAVEL

Saturday 6 May

Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla

The Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla will take place in London this Saturday 6 May, and our public transport network will be running with no planned closures to support customers travelling around the capital.

There will be a few planned changes to bus routes and times, especially in central London as road closures will be in place. There will also be certain times and places where short term measures might be introduced such as queuing or changes to the way you enter or exit a station.

Make sure you plan ahead and check before you travel. Visit the website for more [information](#).

London Overground

Sunday 7 May

No service between **Richmond** and Willesden Junction
Use alternative Tube or rail replacement bus services.

Buses and roads

Saturday 6 May Richmond & Kingston area

The Ranelagh Harriers Richmond Half Marathon will be taking place. Increased traffic and large crowds are expected.

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Covid-19

By Teresa Read

IN THE NEWS

World Health Organization: COVID no longer a global health emergency, says World Health Organization

"It's with great hope that I declare COVID-19 over as a global health emergency," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, marking a symbolic end to the pandemic.

One thousand two hundred and twenty one days ago, WHO learned of a cluster of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan, China. On the 30th January 2020, on the advice of an Emergency Committee convened under the International Health Regulations, I declared a public health emergency of international concern over the global outbreak of COVID-19 – the highest level of alarm under international law.

At that time, outside China there were fewer than 100 reported cases, and no reported deaths. In the three years since then, COVID-19 has turned our world upside down. Almost 7 million deaths have been reported to WHO, but we know the toll is several times higher – at least 20 million. Health systems have been severely disrupted, with millions of people missing out on essential health services, including lifesaving vaccinations for children.

But COVID-19 has been so much more than a health crisis. It has caused severe economic upheaval, erasing trillions from GDP, disrupting travel and trade, shuttering businesses, and plunging millions into poverty. It has caused severe social upheaval, with borders closed, movement restricted, schools shut and millions of people experiencing loneliness, isolation, anxiety and depression.

Yesterday, the Emergency Committee met for the 15th time and recommended to me that I declare an end to the public health emergency of international concern. I have accepted that advice. It is therefore with great hope that I declare COVID-19 over as a global health emergency. However, that does not mean COVID-19 is over as a global health threat. Last week, COVID-19 claimed a life every three minutes – and that's just the deaths we know about. And millions more continue to live with the debilitating effects of post-COVID-19 condition. This virus is here to stay. It is still killing, and it's still changing. The risk remains of new variants emerging that cause new surges in cases and deaths.

The worst thing any country could do now is to use this news as a reason to let down its guard, to dismantle the systems it has built, or to send the message to its people that COVID-19 is nothing to worry about.

Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19

Data as of 30 April 2023

At the country level, the highest numbers of new 28-day cases were reported from the United States of America (392,480), the Republic of Korea (330,509), Japan (251,158), India (222,784) and France (197,190).

The highest numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from the United States of America (5,263), Brazil (1,255), the Russian Federation (993), France (871) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (762).

The European Region reported over 888,000 new cases. Seven 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, Sweden and Finland.

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from France (197,190), the Russian Federation (195,083) and Italy (87,240). The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Russian Federation (993), France (871), and Italy (583).



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darryl parkin

The Treehouse
25 King Edwards Grove
Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9LY
Telephone 020 8274 0107
Mobile 07960 123580
Fax 020 8274 0119
info@thetreeagency.co.uk
www.thetreeagency.co.uk

Coronation 1953

By Simon Fowler

The coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the mother of King Charles III, took place on an exceptionally cold and wet day 2 June 1953. There were major celebrations across the country. Here, however, the festivities were oddly muted, certainly compared to what had been seen at the coronation of 1937. Richmond, in particular, almost seemed to have turned its back on the Coronation. There were no official celebrations, not even any street decorations. The local papers said that this was out of concern for the ratepayers' pockets. The councils of Twickenham and Barnes were also fairly parsimonious but they organised a small number of low-key events.

Famously it was the first major royal event shown on television. Tens of thousands of sets were purchased or rented for the occasion. It's thought that as many as 27 million people saw all or part of the ceremony. And another half million or so thronged the streets of London hoping to see the procession. As a result, local streets were unusually quiet. Few shops opened.

There were loyal displays in houses and in shops. In Kew, for example, Newen's Bakery displayed a large iced crown on a red velvet cushion in the shop window. Although it looked good enough to eat it was largely made out of aluminium.

The highlight in Richmond was perhaps the tea parties, with shows by Punch and Judy, at all the borough's nursery schools. Bellringers at St Mary Magdalene Church rang the peel of eight bells continuously for three hours on the morning of the Coronation. In Twickenham there were several fireworks displays on the evening itself combined with the lighting of the official Coronation Beacon in Whitton, one of nationwide network of beacons. Another beacon, built by local scouts, was lit on Sawyers Hill in Richmond Park. Teddington's highlight, for some strange reason, was an amphibious attack on Lock Island by frogmen from the Royal Marines Reserve.

The outdoor events were affected by the dreary weather. Street parties took shelter in halls and schools. In Mereway, Twickenham: 'fifty children with their parents managed to crowd in the pavilion in Kneller Gardens for tea.' Fortunately, the weather cleared sufficiently to allow 'the children to enjoy the numerous races'. Every child received a coronation mug and medal.

Many street parties took place several weeks later when the weather had improved. Mrs S Jones, the wife of Richmond's macebearer, judged the fancy dress competition at Darrell Road's party in Kew. Carol and Linda Tilley won the under-fives category as 'the queen and the duke.' In a brush with genuine celebrity the actress Sheila Sim was presented with a bouquet at a party in Kilmorey Gardens. In the evening the adults were entertained by a kazoo band.

Fortunately the weather looks a bit better for the Coronation today. Vivat Rex!



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Dear Sir,

Parking restrictions at the Strawberry Hill Post Office parade

I attended the Strawberry Hill Residents Association AGM a few days ago and was made aware of new parking restrictions at the Strawberry Hill Post Office parade. We were told that the council has done a traffic study and at some point in the future will be undertaking a consultation. However they have already made a significant change with no consultation. They have removed the free parking in front of the shops on this parade and implemented charging. But not with meters – you have to ring a number. Concern was expressed at the meeting that:

- This makes it more difficult for people especially those with mobility problems to park and access the businesses;
- Many people find the process of ringing too complicated;
- Most people will not be able to get the free 30 minute Richmond Card parking as it is very difficult to set up on the Ringo app; and so
- This could have a bad impact on the Post Office and other businesses on the parade

I have noticed that the parking bays which used to be very busy with people going to the businesses are now deserted whenever I pass. (see attached photo taken today at lunchtime)



I wonder whether you might mention this in your Tribune which is an excellent paper we always look forward to reading.

Best wishes

Dugald Millar
Strawberry Hill

King Charles III Coronation Events in Richmond upon Thames

There are many Coronation events happening across our Borough over this Bank Holiday weekend.

You can find an event near you at the Visit Richmond website [HERE](#)





RICHMOND MAY FAIR IS BACK

Saturday 13 May 2023

10 - 5PM

Richmond Green

Charity Stalls

Dog Show

Craft Fair

Fun Fair

Fabulous Food & Drink

Entertainment | Bands



richmondmayfairweekend.org.uk

Richmond May Fair

Saturday 13th May

With just over a week to go to the Richmond May Fair, excitement is mounting!

A much-loved fixture in the Richmond calendar, the Fair is a great day out & plays an important role in helping our local charities raise funds.

We look forward to seeing you on Richmond Green May 13th!

<https://richmondmayfairweekend.org.uk/fair/>

Twickenham Riverside – The Facts?

Teresa Read

Cllr James Chard has recently tweeted that “a highly experienced and capable Planning Inspector will be fully informed of **“the real facts”** of the Council’s Twickenham Riverside development. However, a quick look at Google defines **facts** as “actually existing as a thing or occurring in fact; not imagined or supposed”. So, what are the facts about Twickenham Riverside?

1. The first fact is that the Council of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and the Liberal Democrat Party support the Hopkins’ plan for Twickenham Riverside; I know, because I have received unsolicited emails from them telling me so with the intention of getting support. Some emails have shown photographs of the disused car park, owned by the Council on Twickenham Riverside, but there are no photographs or mention of Diamond Jubilee Gardens with the children’s playground, café, spacious public toilets and all the work completed on The Embankment.
2. A second fact is that Cllr James Chard is very keen to promote the Council plan; it is known because he “Sponsored” a supporting advertisement on Facebook under the banner of Twickenham Riverside Lib Dems “Paid for by James Henry Chard” “After 40 years, it’s time to revive Twickenham’s riverside”

It would be helpful if our local politicians could stick to “the facts”, the history of what has taken place. “Twickenham Riverside” is not the disused Council car park behind the old Santander building. Improvements have taken place on Twickenham Riverside starting with the opening of the children’s playground, cafe and public toilets in 2005.

3. “Affordable” housing “linked” to Twickenham Riverside has already been built in Twickenham, Strawberry Hill and Teddington at considerable inconvenience to nearby residents - “The Linked Sites Strategy”.
4. Diamond Jubilee Gardens was opened in 2012, followed by the refurbishment of The Embankment on Twickenham Riverside – currently looking very attractive, but designated to become a building site for some years to come if the Council/Hopkins plans go ahead.
5. Our local environment will not only be affected by demolition on Twickenham Riverside, but over seventy trees and many shrubs will be lost and will no longer be able to absorb carbon dioxide into their leaves, branches, and roots; young trees cannot replace this crucial function to protect our environment until they are mature.
6. A sixth fact, if the Public Enquiry goes against those wishing to stop the development taking place, Twickenham Riverside will be no more than a building site for a very long time and would cause traffic problems in Twickenham for the years it will take to demolish and build in this Conservation Area.
7. And a seventh fact is that is that the waste of taxpayers’ money is involved – especially, after paying for all the previous improvements since 2005.

It should also be noted that the Council will not replace the public toilets currently in Diamond Jubilee Gardens and users of the “new children’s playground” will only have the use of the pub the Council plans to build on the site (although there are over 20 pubs withing walking distance).

Cllr Chard also criticizes the 38 Degrees petition in his recent tweet <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-twickenham-riverside-public-gardens>

This has reached over 3,000 in support of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens and against the CPO. I followed this petition until it reached around 2,500 and all seemed as it should be. If there have been some “mischievous” postings as mentioned in Cllr Chard’s tweet one wonders about this.

The Riverside has been a contentious issue for some years. Originally bought for the residents of Twickenham for “public walks and pleasure grounds” with the Title Absolute in the name of the Mayor and **Burgesses** of the Borough. Why does the Council want to develop this land for luxury flats that has one of the best views of the River Thames and was bought for the people who live here?

A Public Enquiry to assess the Council’s wish to impose a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) on the land begins in the first week of June, if you would like to make a submission in relation to the CPO emails must be received by this Tuesday at the following emails: Joanna.Vincent@gateleyhamer.com copied to brenda.taplin@gateleyhamer.com

Dates for the Public Enquiry are available in last week’s Twickenham & Richmond Tribune [HERE](#)

Turner's House: Inspiring Design by Kew School of Horticulture

Free exhibition from Friday 28th April to Sunday 4th June



Turner's House:
Inspiring design
by Kew School
of Horticulture

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12:00-16:00

More info on our website
www.turnershouse.org



TURNER'S HOUSE
TWICKENHAM

Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew



In 2022, Kew Horticultural students were asked to create a new design for Sandycombe Lodge's adjacent land.

Inspired by Turner, its painting, the house and its history, each design are unveiling a little aspect of JMW Turner's life.

To honour the brilliant work of these students, we have decided to show their designs in a garden exhibition.

Visit Turner's House and its garden to find out more about these beautiful and creative works!

<https://turnershouse.org/whats-on/>



TURNER'S HOUSE
TWICKENHAM

CHORAL FOUNDATION APPOINTMENTS

The Choral Foundation is seeking to appoint a both new **Chair for the Board**, as well as a **Trustee**. To this effect, profiles have been written for both positions, and we would be grateful if they could be circulated amongst those who might consider offering themselves for these important roles.

This is an exciting and critical time for the Foundation, as we seek to build up the endowment to underwrite it, and the appointment of a Chair to lead the Board forward in its planning and fundraising, along with a Trustee with expertise in the latter is crucial to this.



If you are interested, please contact Choral.Foundation@hrp.org.uk

Kew Village Market

Sunday May 7th, 10am - 2pm

Hands up for the market!

As well as all the crowning glories, the street parties and the coronation quiche, this weekend comes with a message dear to KVM's heart: by royal decree **The Big Help Out** will be inspiring people to volunteer for their communities. And the simple fact is that Kew Village Market really does need more volunteers to help make it happen – whether muscle for a couple of hours' heavy lifting on market Sundays or professional skills for a few days a month planning and organisation. Everyone says they love the market – so please show us by visiting the KVM stall for an informal chat or by emailing volunteers@kewvillagemarket.org



At this Sunday's Coronation Market you'll find over [40 bunting-bedecked stalls](#), including our newest foodie **The Cheeky Pea** offering falafel and hummus, Middle Eastern artisan street food at its best, and on the crafts side it's welcome back to Caroline at **Atelier Chokerbali** with her gorgeous gold and gemstone jewellery.

In our sunshine-yellow music marquee there'll be two local-hero bands: first soulful Roots and Americana from the ever-popular **Dustbowl Sinners** followed by the Latin-tinged jazz groove of **Squabble**. Why not meet up with friends and neighbours and make a right royal party of it?

Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday 7th May, from 10am to 2pm

KEW VILLAGE MARKET

Volunteers needed for Luke Jerram's Gaia!

Richmond Arts Service is launching a brand new festival this summer, the Richmond Arts and Ideas Festival, where you can explore a wide range of events and activities happening throughout the borough.

Part of the festival is Luke Jerram's Gaia, an awe-inspiring sight. Measuring seven metres in diameter and suspended inside the Landmark Arts Centre, Gaia features high-resolution NASA imagery of the Earth's surface and features surround sound composition by BAFTA award-winning composer, Dan Jones.



Richmond Arts Service and Landmark Arts Centre are looking for volunteers to support across a variety of roles over the installation's 17 days.

Visit the [Landmark Arts Centre](#) for further details and to sign up.

Explore Kew Gardens at the Community Open Week

Get outdoors and be inspired at the Community Open Week held at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew between Wednesday 1 May and Sunday 14 May.

Guests will have the opportunity to meet Kew scientists, horticulturists, engage with artists and take part in workshops and tours.

The Community Open Week is suitable for all ages. New community groups and [Community Access Scheme members](#) are all welcome.



For more information and the programme schedule, please visit the [Community Open Week 2023 webpage](#).



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MAY FOOD AND DRINK NEWS

The sun's shining, the King's about to be crowned, the blossom's out, and all's well with the world, we hope. It's amazing how a bit of sun can raise everyone's spirits! There are some great new products being launched at the moment, and here are a few that I can wholeheartedly recommend:

May is still the wild garlic season and I was pleased to be able to buy some recently at our farmers' market. But if you can't get your hands on any, fear not, **Tracklements** has come to the rescue: **Tracklements Special Edition Wild Garlic Sauce** is a careful balance of delicate wild garlic, (hand-picked in the Wiltshire woodlands), honey and mustard. The perfect partner for pork tenderloin, hot smoked trout or pan-fried Pollock, this little jar has a lot to give. Drizzle over steak, chicken, roasted vegetables, omelettes, scrambled eggs and tortillas or stir into a potato salad. It's also rather good mixed through mayonnaise or crème fraiche for a dip, or salted butter for a tasty little surprise on toast to accompany a bowl of soup. **Tracklements Special Edition Wild Garlic Sauce** rrp £3.75 for 170g, is available from fine food delis and farm shops nationwide and online at www.tracklements.co.uk.



Just Spices, the spice blend company, has launched new organic pasta sauces in three flavours:



Pomodoro (classic tomato), **Verdure** (classic tomato combined with courgette and aubergine and garlic) and **Funghi Porcini** (aromatic porcini mushrooms, parsley and garlic). The sauces are vegan, contain only natural ingredients, have no added sugar (unlike some well known brands) and use only Italian tomatoes. One jar is enough for two servings, but the Funghi will serve four. The sauces are really tasty on their own, and need no additions, but if you're not vegan or vegetarian,

will also make a fabulous base for adding your own extra ingredients. The 4-pack get-to-know bundles, with one or more flavours, are available online at justspices.co.uk from £17.96

I'm a great fan of Scandi food and drink, and I was delighted to discover that Swedish coffee company Ljöfbergs has launched **Fika Dark Roast Ground Coffee** into Tesco stores. Fika ('coffee' in Swedish) is the practice of reconnecting with others by making time to stop and catch up over coffee and snacks. Each 450g pack contains enough coffee for an average 75 cups and the coffee is certified by the Rainforest Alliance. It's a soft and delicate dark roast, with notes of cocoa, and has great length. 100% Arabica from South & Central America and East Africa, it's smooth and delicious! £5,50 a pack from [Tesco](https://www.tesco.com)



I've just found a gin that can transport me to a tropical paradise! **Santa Ana** is inspired by the dancehall days of 1920s Manila and the legendary Santa Ana Cabaret, a musical playground for Manileños of the time. It's made in France, in the Charente region, to extract four native Philippine botanicals: Ylang Ylang, Alpinia, Calamansi and Dalandan. Santa Ana's combination of delicate floral top notes and a fresh tropical citrus palate complements the seven traditional botanicals (including Juniper, Bitter Orange, Angelica and Orris Roots, Fennel) used in the gin, to create a richly exotic taste profile. It really is a very unusual gin, and perhaps an acquired taste as it's quite perfumed, but I love it! Buy online at [Santa Ana](http://SantaAna.com) or from [Master of Malt](http://MasterofMalt.com) and other online retailers for around £30 a 70cl bottle.

Having already talked about the **John Paul Jones** Lowland Rum some time ago, I was very pleased to hear that the company has added a new rum to the portfolio: **Ranger**, a premium white. It's named after one of the most famous vessels captained by JPJ during the Revolutionary War, Ranger. being the first ship commissioned by the US to raid enemy craft within the Irish Sea. Botanically flavoured, it uses real apples and limes, then, like the Lowland rum, is steeped in seaweed, handpicked from Southwest Scotland, (JPJ's birthplace). The result is smooth, balanced and light. It's refreshingly good served with a tonic, or just neat over ice. You'll find those apple notes, entwined with classic Caribbean fruits, result in a salty, coastal, finish. £35 for a 70cl bottle online from [John Paul Jones](#) or [Master of Malt](#).



Now that we can actually believe we are going to have a summer, maybe it's a good time to introduce a taste of California into your wine rack? I've tried a couple of excellent California wines recently: **Dark Horse Sauvignon Blanc** and **Franciscan Cabernet Sauvignon**.



The long, warm California days allow the grapes for the **Dark Horse** to reach their full juicy potential, resulting in a wine that's full of citrus fruit with melon notes and a balancing hint of green freshness. It's a lovely summer drink and a perfect match for grilled fish or a goat's cheese salad. £9 rrp and available from [Tesco](#).



The **Franciscan** is a rich, fruit-forward classic Californian profile example. Layered notes of ripe dark fruits and jam on the palate are complemented by well-integrated hints of caramel, mocha and sweet oak. With a really smooth finish, this is an ideal match for a juicy steak. £17 a bottle from [Ocado](#)

And a perfect end to your meal now awaits you in the freezer cabinet at Waitrose! **Crosta & Mollica** has just launched two deliciously authentic Italian sorbets. Crafted by scooping out the pulp from the fruit centre, then using the original flavour directly from the fruit, the result is a beautifully smooth sorbet. Each natural fruit half is then hand filled and sandwiched back together. A lighter alternative to ice cream or gelato, the **Crosta & Mollica Sorbetto Shells** simply contain smooth ice and fresh fruit purees.



This combination balances tangy and tart flavours with fruity sweetness. Vegan-friendly, these frozen desserts are available in two flavours; **Lemon Sorbetto and Pomegranate Sorbetto**. Crosta & Mollica Sorbetto Shells are exclusively available in Waitrose at £5.75 rrp. And they're *Bellissimo!*



Greek and Mediterranean fine food producer, [Odysea](#), has launched a new, Early Harvest, Extra Virgin Olive Oil - perfect for dressing dishes, salads or simply for dipping crusty bread. Produced using Megaritiki olives, the oil is packed full of goodness, with high levels of both monounsaturated fats and antioxidant polyphenols. Its flavour boasts fresh green aromas, distinct notes of dry herbs, and balanced pungency and bitterness. This **Odysea** oil comes in a beautiful green tin, and is available in Sainsbury's stores nationwide, £7.90.

GARDEN PARTY



Saturday 6 May 11am-3.30pm
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- ✿ Coronation shown on big screen
- ✿ Bar
- ✿ Barbecue
- ✿ Traditional English Tea Tent
- ✿ Bouncy Castle
- ✿ Live Music
- ✿ Crypt Tours
- ✿ Ice Cream

Come and raise a toast to His Majesty!

www.hampton-church.org.uk



Coronation Mania

By Bruce Lyons

All week we have been receiving emails offering “Holidays Fit for A King” Solicitations “Want to make your next Getaway truly Majestic” Snippets of Coronation Fever! Fly Emirates and you will be served with Coronation Quiche this weekend in flight. UK Hotels are singing the plaudits of their Majestic Gardens Holidays following in the Royal Footsteps”. In His Majesty’s 70+ years there can be few paces he hasn’t set foot in, so there must be plenty of scope for the copywriters to have a heyday.

One thing for sure the Coronation is a great stimulant for Travel. For a start many, many thousands of visitors are, at last, coming from overseas – long needed since the Pandemic practically shut the incoming market down and if you come from Brazil or New Zealand you can be sure you will go elsewhere in the British Isles whilst here, and at such a glorious time of year too in the Country when it is at its best.. Our Gardens are in full bloom, hopefully the weather will remain kind, we can, in the coming weeks. expect to see visitors from all over the Universe sampling the Best of Britain.

So, the Tourist Home trade, Hotels, Trains, Attractions, and more should all get a big boost – which may also help to bring inflation down and we may hear less about the “Cost of Living Crisis” in the coming weeks – not that the Media, nor the Politicians will give up on that I don’t suppose.

The overseas Holiday Trade is also in on the act with a plethora of discounts, mostly if you book by the 10th of May – small discounts overall, £100 to 300 off just to keep your mind focussed and to take it away from Street Parties, Coronation Chicken and Quiche and more. Some even describe the discounts as Royal Discounts 😊

Looking for a late deal at the High End – well there is one “Mystic Soul”! A small 2 cabin (for four) has a cancellation in the British Virgin Isles from the 12th May thru 20th with 25% discount this is yours for £3800 per person, fully crewed and victualled and all set for a Virgin Charter Yacht Caribbean Cruise – a Royal Snip don’t you think?



At a loose end this weekend – head for West Wittering Beach EasyJet has commissioned a full-blown sand model of Buckingham Palace on the beach – something you didn’t know!



Burundi And The Need For Reforestation

An article in a recent edition of the New Scientist has given details about a project which has calculated the number of trees in Africa using satellite images; the article states it has been possible to map every tree.

Another article in the Nature Journal informs us that more than one quarter of Africa's tree cover is found outside areas previously classified as forest.

Trees particularly suffer in areas of the world where people are dependent on subsistence farming, such as Burundi.

Burundi is one of the world's poorest countries, with a history of a long ethnic civil war; subsistence farming provides the livelihood for a large percentage of the population. Consequently, Burundi is one of the most eroded and deforested countries in Africa.

Wood and charcoal are important for cooking and heating; trees are cut down, even in protected areas such as the Kibira National Park.

A national reforestation initiative was established in Burundi 2018 to run until 2025, to replace the country's forest cover.

Considering the information from this project of the importance of trees outside the forests perhaps it is an indication of what we can do to grow and preserve trees wherever there is a suitable space for growth. Climate change is a serious issue and we should all do our bit; remember the slogan in the Second World War "Dig for Victory".



Bujumbura skyline



Gitega

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



Are you ready for the crown?

By Deep Patel

~ Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

Whether you approve or not...this weekend will be dedicated to the momentous occasion of the crowning of King Charles the Third, and what a mixed bag of opinions I have heard throughout this week in the conversations I have been having with customers in my newsagents...I am personally rather neutral when it comes to such topics, but I am always interested to hear what others think, and why...



So what did I learn from my customers this week? In general, there has been considerably less excitement than there was for the jubilee, people seem to have a “not bothered” kind of attitude, yet when asked are you going to watch it, everyone says “yes”, so there must be something that they are drawn to?

I think people generally are not as excited as they were for the jubilee because the Queen held a special place in so many hearts across so many generations as “the mother of the nation”, yet when I asked customers, they did not seem to see Charles as “father of the nation” in the same way...

Prince Charles (yes I am writing it for the last time as next time I write it will officially be King!) has a lot to say about the environment and preservation, in that sense, he and I are very similar and I think that is something we are lucky to have in our King, a leader who values nature and addresses environmental concerns, so that’s a big tick from me. However, speaking to others in the shop this past week, many have said that they feel the coronation is unnecessary and a dated concept which has no place today. They feel that inherited wealth and putting others above themselves is not the way we should be living? Others however have said they see this occasion as a great moment in British history of national pride that we should be glad to be a part of.

After talking to so many customers, with so many varying views, I concluded that it doesn’t really matter what you think of the monarchy, or of the coronation, but this is something that brings people of all backgrounds, ages and nationalities together, with a shared purpose of celebration and unity, so maybe we can focus on the togetherness aspect of this period of time and enjoy being with each other to witness something different, rather than the ins and outs of the actual coronation, after all... in today’s world...any occasion that promotes togetherness in any way should surely be welcomed and treasured...whatever you do this weekend, crown or no crown...simply enjoy being together.

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..

“It’s not the occasion that matters as much as the people that you share it with”



Il Viaggio a Reims

by Gioachino Rossini, libretto by Luigi Balocchi
English Touring Opera until 29th May

It is quite a coup to put on an opera about the coronation of King Charles. ETO's perambulations around the country take it to Cheltenham on 6th May, Coronation Day. And what a glorious way for this genteel spa to celebrate ... However, the opera is not about May 2023 and the coronation of our own King Charles III, but about the coronation of the restored French monarch, King Charles X in May 1825. But let's not allow a mere 198 years spoil a review.



Il viaggio a Reims is, as the name suggests, about a journey to Rheims. The travellers are a group of aristocrats, who are on their way to King Charles X's coronation. They never get there.



The motley group are stuck at The Golden Lily hotel in Plombières-les-Bains, two hundred miles from Rheims. With a heavy demand for horses, they are on a long waiting list. Stranded, they spend their time in romantic intrigues, amorous adventures, and related oh-so-French pursuits. Eventually, they blow the money they would have spent at the coronation on a blow-out banquet at the Golden Lily.

The opera is really just a series of anecdotes, sketches to show off some of Rossini's most extravagant music and his most sparkling *bel canto* gymnastics for eighteen named roles.

The set, a remarkable luminous picture, is paradoxically both vivid and pastel. Via a wonderful *coup de théâtre*, a scrolling backdrop, it appears that the whole hotel is flying off by hot-air balloon. In this lightly ironic tone, *Il viaggio a Reims* becomes a metaphor for travelling hopefully.



The finale is a robust, rousing and reassuring chorus, *Viva il diletto augusto regnator* (long live our beloved noble monarch). Now, nearly two centuries later, on this weekend all in Twickenham and Richmond, and throughout the realm, we too can cheer ... **God save King Charles!**

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/03/06/viaggio-reims

Photography by Richard Hubert Smith

Richard III

by William Shakespeare

Liverpool Everyman at the Rose Theatre, Kingston until 13th May

King Richard III spent just two years on the throne before his death, aged 32, in the final battle of the Wars of the Roses in 1485 at Bosworth. This event marked the beginning of England as we know it and the present monarchy, so much at the forefront this Coronation weekend.

This interpretation of one of Shakespeare's major classics brings a fresh, energetic and powerful version to the Rose stage. Chilling and engrossing in equal measure, this is a powerful re-imagining of *Richard III*, full of movement, sound and fury.



Actor-director, Adjoa Andoh brings a mesmerising intensity to the title role. Any issues concerning differences in physicality between the historical King and the actor, in terms of gender, age and ethnicity are swept away as she struts and frets. Crop haired and menacing, Andoh brings this faulted character vividly to life, delicately balancing tyranny and sensitivity.

The famous opening lines, "now is the winter of our discontent" becomes a group ballad, a simple and effective folk song. Set in the Gloucestershire Cotswolds, it creates a rustic world with wenches and peasants maypole dancing before veering off into a world of tyranny and treachery.

Costumes are uniformly tailored tunics, like sophisticated judo suits, white for York, red for Lancaster, and the dead dressed in robes of tattered shreds. A mesmerising electronic soundscape and moving lighting plot, creates an oppressive atmosphere. Executions and murders are carried out

in silhouette. A puppet plays one of the Princes in the Tower in a delightfully effective and powerful scene. There are some good comedy moments, leading to the climax in a cleverly choreographed Battle of Bosworth.

This challenging and stimulating interpretation begs the question, was Richard's tyrannical behaviour motivated by his isolation and rejection as an outcast from his peer group. Could his tyranny have been triggered by his deformity? Was he perhaps an "other" in today's terminology? Casting a brilliant black female actor in the title role emphasise this point in an engrossing *Richard III*.



Read Steve Mackrell's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/04/28/richard-iii

Photography by Manuel Harlan and Shonay Shote



Much Ado about Nothing

by William Shakespeare

The Questors at the Judi Dench Playhouse, Ealing until 6th May

As soon as I'd read that Anne Neville's direction of *Much Ado About Nothing* was to be set in 1923 and would feature *Gatsby*-esque flappers, jazz hands and art deco decadence of the Charleston dance craze, the likes of which Shakespeare himself was at least 400 years too early to embrace (alas, poor playwright), I was entertained by the mere premise.



Much like being submerged into the glitz and glamour of one of F. Scott Fitzgerald's most famous literary son's parties, it wasn't long into the production that I – and the audience and large – felt invited to enjoy the revelry, with anybody leftover surely swayed by the multiple eight-string ukulele bops conjured up by the recurring Balthasar (the self-confessed mini-instrument obsessed Julian Smith). Yes, this is Shakespeare, but with the surprising yet welcome balance of the Bard's words with barre chords.

The set design of Alex Marker (who retained some of the comparable style of the era featured in the Questors' recent production of *Murder on the Nile*) underpinned this party atmosphere, with the clever use of trellis windows and plants on stage acting as snooping spots for nosy characters to hear secrets and generate the gossip that fuels what becomes about as close to an attention-grabbing soap opera storyline as Shakespeare could possibly be.



The location is retained as Messina, a city in north-eastern Sicily, beginning in Leonato's villa (Robert Staines). Therein much of the cast arrive, including the two pairs central to the play, entangled in a dance of love's complications, the first of whom being Beatrice (Kate Langston) – niece of Leonato - and army officer Benedick (Richard Graylin), former lovers who spent much of the play engaged in a verbal fencing match, their hearts unwittingly caught in the crossfire. Both Langston and Graylin lean into the comic elements of the role superbly, carrying themselves with a great energy and confidence making them inherently watchable.

Meanwhile, the second pair consists of Leonato's young daughter Hero (Fionna Gough) betrothed to a lovestruck Claudio (Adam Keenan), who's path to the altar faces a bumpy ride when the nefarious Don John (Pip Nixon) engages in wicked games, spreading lies which threaten to alter the course of destiny.

A large ensemble cast all play a part in a performance fit for the bejewelled bedazzlement associated with the roaring twenties, balanced with the focused precision of delivering a revered Shakespearean comedy. Merit must also go to the inept duo of Constable of the Watch, Dogberry (Anthony Curran), and second-in-command Verges (Gareth Bevan), with slapstick moments akin to thespian Chuckle Brothers, and who look like they are less in control than their dependable watchdog (who goes by the name of Benji). All of this accumulates to a whirlwind of mistaken identities, merry pranks, and genuinely funny misunderstandings, which means the slimmed down two-hour duration of the play flies by.

Much Ado About Nothing is as uncommon, as it is a Shakespearean title which describes almost the entire narrative arc. However, this production's exploration of the irrationality of love's, the fragility of ego, and the unrivalled power of words and gossip, make this a narrative well worth watching as it uproariously unfurls from start to finish.

This marks the second Bard-based outing of the week for this reviewer after a production of *Henry V*, and with it a newfound appreciation and enjoyment of the difference in tone and emotion at two very opposite ends of the playwright's spectrum. This version of *Much Ado About Nothing* definitely had something about it and, being brought into the perceived harmonic and carefree era of the Charleston, embodies it as a merry dance until the curtain call, with my foot still tapping along to the tune as left the theatre into comparably subdued evening, lit only by the streetlights of suburbia.



Review by Brent Muirhouse, April 2023

<https://markaspen.com/2023/04/29/much-ado-q/>

Photography courtesy of Questors

CORONATION AFTERNOON TEA PARTY

- Live Music - The Decibelles
- Face Painter
- Children Art and Craft Activities
- Food
- Fun and community!



**Join us to celebrate the Coronation of
His Majesty The King**

**Monday 8 May 12 noon to 3pm
Mortlake Hall, Mullins Path, SW14 8EZ**



Mortlake
community
association

**For more information please contact:
timi@mortlakecommunityassociation.org.uk or call 020 8487 5500
Registered charity number: 282067**

Teddington Theatre Club

May 2023 Productions

New Writer's Fringe

Date: Tuesday 16th – Saturday 20th May

A chance to see a selection of fantastic new writing from TTC members during a 5-day fringe event. The format will be two sets of four plays performed on alternative nights and all eight on the final Saturday.

Time: 7.45pm with a Saturday matinee at 3pm

Prices: Tickets £10.00

Address: Coward Studio, Hampton Hill Theatre, 90 High Street, Hampton Hill TW12 1NZ

Website: www.hamptonhilltheatre.org.uk



Local heritage railway celebrates its 10th Anniversary!

Hampton Kempton Waterworks Railway is celebrating 10 years of operating the steam railway for the local community, with a special Gala Weekend featuring their 1903 locomotive and displays of their heritage rolling stock.

The star of the Gala Weekend is the same Thomas Wicksteed locomotive that opened the railway 10 years ago!

Gain access to all steam and diesel displays, as well as an exhibition of nine model railways and much more.

The gala event is going to be extremely popular as Kempton Steam Museum next door to the railway, will also be holding their Weekend of Power Water, Steam and Oil.



[Book tickets](#)

(No joint ticket available. Entry tickets for the museum must be booked separately.)

St Mary's University

Coronation of HRH King Charles III

Many staff and students here at St Mary's will join together with their families, friends and communities this weekend to celebrate the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and Queen Camilla. We are looking forward to taking part in, and observing, events throughout the country.



rally behind, as we at St Mary's continue to put our students at the heart of our purpose, with our vision to support each individual as a whole person: intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually.

Indeed, the core values which form the foundation of our University, particularly those of inclusivity, generosity of spirit, and respect, are also strongly aligned with the principles of the weekend's festivities.

The service itself will include religious leaders representing the Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh traditions. St Mary's Chancellor, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, will be present and will, with other faith leaders, offer a blessing and, in an ecumenical gesture, Westminster Cathedral is lending a cope to be worn by one of the participating bishops. The Pope has given a relic of the True Cross to be used in the Coronation procession.

The Coronation itself will take place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6th May 2023 and be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. If you're on campus, please note that the ceremony will be shown live on the big screen in the DV Lounge. It will provide us with the opportunity to celebrate a solemn and historic religious and constitutional ceremony, to reflect on The King's dedication to public service, and celebrate those values which unite our country and the wider Commonwealth.

A number of leading figures from ethnic minority backgrounds will play key roles in the ceremony, reflecting the diversity of a country which has changed so much since the last Coronation in 1953. Those presenting the Regalia during the Coronation Service, chosen on the advice of Government, will include St Mary's Professor of Politics and International Relations and member of the House of Lords, Lord Syed Kamall.

His Majesty has played a keen and active part in public life for decades. The King has been instrumental in establishing more than 20 charities over 40 years. His Majesty's work in establishing The Prince's Trust in particular has directly benefited over one million young people, in particular those from disadvantaged communities, helping them to build confidence and essential life skills.

On Monday 8th May, the public are invited to take part in [The Big Help Out](#), encouraging them to volunteer and join projects being undertaken to support their local areas. This practice of altruism and service goes to the very heart of our foundation as an inclusive Catholic university.

The King's tenacity and dedication in providing young people with the tools they need to create more stable, fulfilling lives, is a cause we can

St Mary's University offers our warmest congratulations to HRH King Charles III and HRH Queen Camilla.



**St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London**

Princess Alice Hospice charity Coronation chair that's fit for a King

Dedicated volunteers at Princess Alice Hospice have been finding crafty ways to weave fundraising opportunities into their Coronation celebrations. They've knitted crowns, dug flower beds, and even created the most magnificent replica Coronation Chair for visitors to take 'throne selfies'.

The Hospice Man Shed volunteers and attendees – known as the Shedders - stepped up to the regal challenge when they were asked to create a throne that could be used for the Hospice's own Coronation celebrations. In under two weeks they had dismantled a donated wardrobe, done some extensive research and created a replica of the Coronation Chair that's fit for a king. The actual Coronation Chair was used by King Charles III in Westminster Abbey and is more than 700 years old; the Shedders worked tirelessly to create a beautiful modern-day version which was displayed at the Hospice's Coronation lunch and enjoyed by staff, volunteers, families and Wellbeing visitors over the bank holiday weekend.



The Royal links continue, and the Hospice is proud to have its very own Charles and Camilla in their volunteering team. Charles is a new gardening volunteer and shares his royal namesake's love of gardening; since taking up his role, he has been busy digging over flower beds and helped create the marvelous display of blooms in the Hospice grounds. Volunteer Camilla gives her time at weekends in the Hospice shop in Twickenham and, like Queen Consort Camilla, loves books and reading.



Other volunteers have been raising funds for the Hospice by knitting Coronation crowns and filling them with chocolates to sell to supporters. So far, they have raised an amazing £600 and are well on the way to reaching their annual fundraising target of £1000.



Lend a hand. Make a change.

**MONDAY
8TH MAY**

HAMPTON CLEAN UP

10:00 am - 12:00 pm



Lend a hand. Make a change.

**MONDAY
8TH MAY**

Mortlake Tow Path Clean Up

10:00 am - 12:00 pm



Lend a hand. Make a change.

**MONDAY
8TH MAY**

OLD DEER PARK CLEAN UP

10:00 am - 12:00 pm



Hi litter Heores Please lend a hand, make a change and join us on any of the below litter picks as part of the #BigHelpOut:

Old Deer Park - Hampton - Mortlake Towpath

Monday, 8 May 10AM to 12 PM

All the info is on our [What's On page](#)

Papa Johns Community Cup Finals: Competition set for a thrilling close with 23 finals across the weekend

The inaugural season of the Papa Johns Community Cup comes to a thrilling conclusion this weekend as 23 finals take place across the country.

There was plenty of excitement last weekend at the Papa Johns Women's Community Cup and Men's Regional 1 Championship Finals, where Drifffield, Dings Crusaders, Cheltenham Tigers 1st XV and 2nd XV, Workington Zebra Finches and Drybrook triumphed.

The second set of Finals Days are set to be another celebration of grassroots rugby where players and their clubs will make memories to last a lifetime.

The home of English rugby will play host to four finals on Sunday, culminating with the Papa Johns Men's Regional 2 Championship Final when Horsham are heading to Twickenham en masse for their showdown with Old Northamptonians.

"We're expecting around 1000 people to make the trip, we filled up 12 supporters' coaches in 48 hours," said Horsham chair Richard Ordidge.

"We could fill up a lot more but there aren't enough coaches available in Sussex. Our average crowd is about 150, which looks disproportionate, but not only have we got the whole club involved, we've got the town rallying round and it seems to have paid off as there's huge interest."

Opponents Old Northamptonians have their own party to throw and are determined to close out their centenary season in style.

Director of Rugby Richard Blank said: *"We are hugely excited. For pretty much everybody it's a once in a lifetime opportunity."*

"It's a huge honour for us to play in the final match at Twickenham and effectively close out the whole competition. It gives us a day to experience, we're expecting about 400-plus fans and we're looking forward to the final chapter of a hugely enjoyable journey."

Elsewhere at Twickenham on Sunday, North Bristol play Gloucester Old Boys, Wensleydale play Teddington and Harlow look to finish their season unbeaten against Old Alleynians.

On Saturday, Sixways hosts the Papa Johns Men's Regional 1 Bowl, Shield and Plate Finals, with Banbury facing West Bridgford, Wirral taking on Launceston and Macclesfield going head-to-head with Maidenhead.

Macclesfield Chair Stephen Branch will soon be stepping down from his position and says he would be overjoyed to bow out on a high.

"I'll be proud as punch whatever happens, the whole day will be a great experience," he said.

"The boys and the coaching staff are determined to enjoy it all. It's not just about the game, it's about soaking up the whole event."

Elsewhere on Saturday, StoneX Stadium welcomes Counties 1, 2, 3 and 4 and Regional 2 men's teams competing in the Papa Johns Men's South Plate.

Old Patesians go up against Harlequin Amateurs, Chipstead play Bream, Reeds Weybridge battle Battersea Ironsides and Twickenham face Longlevens.

Reeds Weybridge are coming up against a familiar foe in their showpiece against fellow Regional 2 South East side Battersea Ironsides - who they finished two places and six points above during the league season - but an unknown surface could level the playing field.

Director of Rugby Nige Connell said: *"We are super excited, we are not used to 4G, so that will be something new for us, but we have a couple of buses of supporters already booked. It's ironic that the tournament has gone all over the country, and we*

are playing Battersea in the final, who we know very well.”

The action continues in the capital on Sunday in the South Shield finals as Chess Valley play Dartmouth, Wells meet Vigo, Thanet Wanderers clash with Crowborough, and Beaconsfield take on Dartfordians.

There’s a double header at Darlington Arena too with the North Plate finals on Saturday and the North Shield finals on Sunday.

Burley play Thornton, Lutterworth entertain Percy Park, Wath Upon Dearne meet Ripon and Aldwinians go up against Widnes on day one before Rolls Royce clash with Bury, Bramley battle Phoenix Belper, Newcastle (Staffs) take on Huddersfield Laund Hill and Newbold-on-Avon encounter Winnington Park.

Over 500 clubs have competed for a place in one of the 29 Papa Johns Cup finals across the women’s and men’s game.

The new competition was created to provide a crescendo to the end of the grassroots season, keeping players engaged throughout the spring and giving clubs a chance to compete for silverware whatever their final league positions.

Through the Papa Johns Community Cup, clubs have been able to play different opposition and visit new places, while others have reignited old local rivalries.

Alongside the incredible array of talent on display, the competition has showcased rugby’s values of teamwork, respect and enjoyment across endless close encounters throughout the campaign.

Winnington Park chairman Paul Dean believes the competition offers all players a chance to write their name into club folklore.

“It means a lot,” he said.

“We’re organising transport for our players, coaches and then one for our supporters and I think we’re going to get quite a lot of people going at short notice, which is great. If we win it’s going to be very, very enjoyable. It’s definitely up there in the history of the Rugby Club.”

As well as lifting a trophy, all 29 teams that win across the Papa Johns Community Cup Finals will be entered in a prize draw to win a visit from a Red Roses’ coach and a free Papa Johns pizza order.

Other teams who competed in the Papa Johns Community Cup competitions also have a chance to win by submitting their best try from the competition.

Entry to all of the finals is free to the public. For more Papa Johns Community Cup action follow @RFU Twitter and #PapaJohnsCommunityCup

For further Papa Johns Community Cup Finals previews for Sixways Stadium, the Darlington Arena and StoneX Stadium, please contact JohnHouse@RFU.com

Livestreams of all the games can be found below:

May 6th:

Sixways Stadium

[11am & 1pm games](#)

[3pm & 5pm games](#)

The Darlington Arena

[11am & 1pm games](#)

[3pm & 5pm games](#)

StoneX Stadium

[11am & 1pm games](#)

[3pm & 5pm games](#)

May 7th

The Darlington Arena

[11am & 1pm games](#)

[3pm & 5pm games](#)

StoneX Stadium

[11am & 1pm games](#)

[3pm & 5pm games](#)

Twickenham Stadium

[All games](#)



Liverpool v Brentford build-up with Sky Sports' Richard Morgan

Sky Sports journalist Richard Morgan on Liverpool's Champions League aspirations, Jurgen Klopp's preferred set-up and the player that has shone the most in recent weeks

Written by Dan Long @DanLong__

From [Brentford FC](#)

Liverpool are on the charge for Champions League qualification having won their last five Premier League games, while Brentford head to Merseyside following back-to-back victories.

We spoke with Sky Sports journalist Richard Morgan to get his thoughts ahead of Saturday's game at Anfield.

Liverpool are fifth in the Premier League with four games left to play, four points outside the top four. How would you summarise their season to date?

It has been a hugely frustrating and underwhelming campaign to date for Jurgen Klopp's side, albeit one that has got better as it has progressed as they are now left with an outside chance of Champions League qualification.

At the outset, Liverpool were expected to once again be Manchester City's main challengers for the title, but that never materialised after a slow start due to a combination of injuries and a general malaise among the players following on from a draining season last time around.

In patches throughout the campaign, a mid-table finish has not looked beyond the realms of possibility. Things are looking brighter now, but given the tricky spells they have had to navigate, will securing European football of some sort be the priority?

Absolutely. Liverpool will be desperate to end the campaign on a high by winning their remaining four league matches and finishing as high as possible in the Premier League table. Ideally, that would lead to a top-four spot and Champions League football come the season's finale, but more likely a place in the Europa League, which the Reds would much prefer to qualify for than its less fancied cousin, the Europa Conference League.

Which player should Brentford fans be keeping an eye out for on Saturday?

Curtis Jones has been handed a first-team lifeline of late after season-ending injuries to Thiago Alcantara and Stefan Bajcetic and grabbed it with both hands.

Operating on the left side of a midfield three, the England Under-21 international has really caught the eye with some impressive displays, including a well-taken goal in the 4-3 win against Tottenham last weekend, reminding everyone of his prodigious talents in the process.

How is Jurgen Klopp likely to set up his side at Anfield?

As he always does, in a 4-3-3 formation, albeit one that now sees versatile right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold also utilised as an auxiliary holding midfielder when Liverpool are in possession.

The last three meetings have seen a win, a draw and a loss for each team and produced 13 goals. What's your score prediction for this one?

I expect it to be another close-run and hard-fought contest at Anfield, with no more than one goal between the sides as Liverpool run out 2-1 winners.



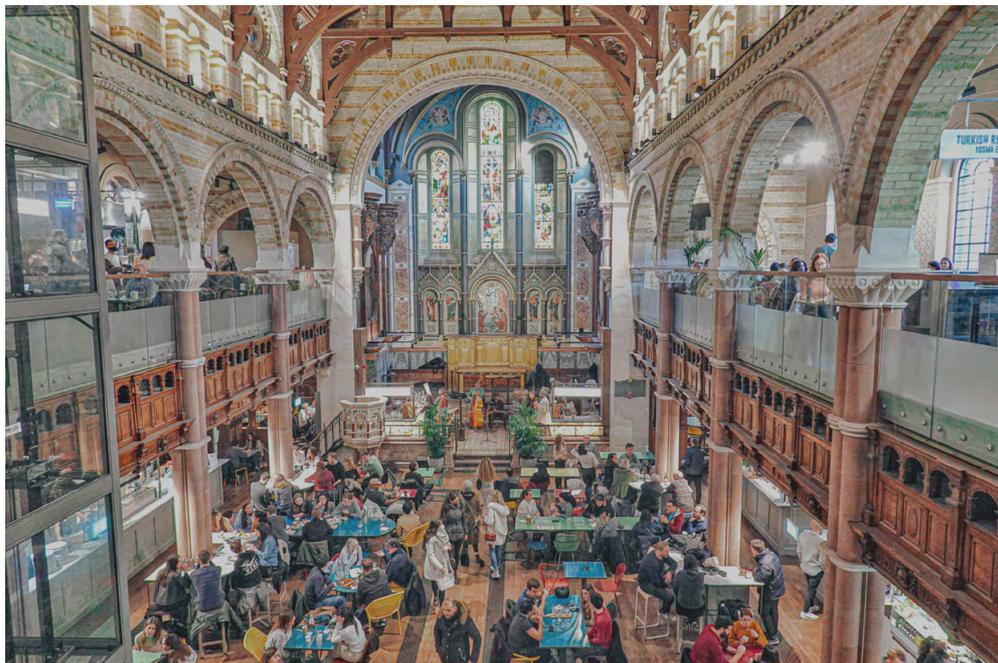
Mercato Metropolitan is offering aspiring entrepreneurs a rent-free tenure in its popular food market

[Mercato Metropolitan \(MM\)](#), part of the MMovement, has announced its '**dreaMM campaign**'; an initiative that provides a local entrepreneur with the means to realise their 'dreaMM'.

As many feel the strain of the cost-of-living crisis and potential new business ventures are put on pause, MM wants to support a local citizen to take the first step towards turning their 'dreaMM' into a successful business.

MM is a movement (MMovement) that brings people together through food and community engagement. MM believes that everyone should have access to good, nutritious, and affordable food. Building a sustainable and inclusive future for both people and planet is at the heart of MMovement.

Now, the marketplace, which runs a number of sites across London and is soon to open a new site in Ilford, is inviting new entrepreneurs and 'dreaMMers', which share its vision and values, to join the 'MMovement' – by opening [applications](#) to secure a rent-free, three-month tenure in one of MM's vibrant community markets.



Alongside the rent-free tenure, the selected 'dreaMMer' will have access to free 1-2-1 consultations with the MM team, to help them create a business plan, source sustainable, local ingredients, receive branding and marketing advice, and much more.

They will also be receiving support and advice, as needed, from one of MM's current trading partners.

Additionally, MM will support the winner with financial resources to help cover the fixed costs associated with the pop-up.

The initiative is part of MM's 'dreaMM campaign', which aims to discover and support new talent, ideas, projects – leaving everyone involved inspired and motivated to pursue their 'dreaMM'.

Andrea Rasca, Mercato Metropolitan's CEO and Chief Leader of the MMovement, said: "Community building is at the very heart of the MM ethos. We believe in encouraging human interaction, in the spirit of community and engagement, and in creating thriving, vibrant urban communities – and what better way to do that than sitting around a table and sharing good food with friends and family? As part of this, we're passionate about supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs who have innovative and sustainable business concepts, to help bring their dreaMM to life, and to make a living from their culinary craft. Unfortunately, the current cost of living crisis poses a major threat to local businesses and to those looking to embark on a new adventure. So we want to provide all the necessary means to enable one person's dreaMM business to come to life. Here at Mercato Metropolitan, we've built a wonderful model which offers all of the tools that our trading partners need – we source the best ingredients, sort out the waste and recycling, the cleaning, and much more. All we ask them to do is *cook*."

Submissions are open until 30th May, with applicants asked to answer a few key questions, either in writing or through a short video. Shortlisted entries will then be invited to pitch their concept in-person to a number of panelists at the dreaMM pitch day on Thursday 15th June 2023, following which a winner will be selected.

For more information, or to apply to become a 'dreaMMer', visit <https://mercatometropolitano.com/dreamm-with-us/>



Face recognition tech at coronation condemned by campaigners as a 'waste of resources'

Silkie Carlo told Jacob Rees-Mogg the system is 86% inaccurate: 'we should be incredibly worried'

POLICE use of facial recognition technology during the coronation means that hundreds of thousands of people will effectively be participating in an identity parade, a civil rights campaigner has said.

Silkie Carlo, director of Big Brother Watch, told [GB News](#): "We should be incredibly worried about this.

"We'll all be expecting there to be effective policing over the weekend and I don't think anyone would underestimate the challenges, but the problem with live facial recognition surveillance is not only is it dangerously authoritarian but it's also dangerously inaccurate.

"The Metropolitan Police's facial recognition flags have been 86% inaccurate since they started using the tech, so what we'll see is a wasting of police resources whilst also turning London on what should be a very important day into something that looks more like Beijing."

In a discussion with Jacob Rees-Mogg, she continued: "It really is the kind of thing that would make Orwell roll in his grave and unfortunately the Government has allowed this to go on for far too long.

"Millions of pounds are being spent on technology that is very dystopian, very intrusive, and that means that all of the hundreds of thousands of people that will be going out on the weekend will effectively be being put in a high-tech police line-up.

"Now if this event were happening in Russia, you might not be surprised, if it were happening in China, you might not be surprised.

"It's happening in England, it's happening in London in what is supposed to be the heart of our democracy."

She added: "Hundreds of thousands of people will basically be going through an identity check.

"It's a very important principle in the UK that a police officer cannot ask for your identity unless you have done something wrong, and this technology flips that position on its head."



CORONATION PARKING WARDEN STRIKE: GMB CONDEMNS MANAGEMENT BEHAVIOUR AHEAD OF KING'S BIG DAY

Company should de-escalate dispute, but instead it is going to war with its workers, says GMB union

GMB, the union for public sector workers, has condemned the behaviour of NSL managers towards its members undertaking industrial action on the King's Coronation.

Workers taking lawful strike action yesterday were physically blocked from using the toilet on this week's traffic warden picket line which continues on Saturday in Westminster as follows:

Date: Saturday 6th May 2023

Time: From 11am

Venue: Outside Circus House, Little Portland Street, W1W 8BX

Contact: Alex Etches on 07581 021 081

The dispute centres around pay, with the union members unhappy with the pay offer so far tabled by NSL, the parking contractor for Westminster Council.

The members have complained to the union that an NSL manager physically blocked the entrance to the building, which is not owned by the company and therefore not out of bounds for striking workers, preventing the picketers from entering the building containing the toilet facilities.

Alex Etches, GMB Organiser said:

"This is disgraceful and inhumane behaviour from a company that has grown fabulously rich off the public purse.

"Westminster residents will be shocked that their taxes are funding this sort of aggressive and bullying behaviour.

"This company should be looking to de-escalate this dispute in the run up to the coronation but instead it is going to war with its workers.

"NSL makes tens of millions in profit, because of our members hard work, yet they are being treated like naughty children by bosses.

"The strike action over the coronation is set to bring traffic chaos to the streets of Westminster on Saturday as thousands take advantage of free parking."



Devastating impact of Long Covid on children

Children living with Long Covid have spoken about the devastating impact it can have on their lives.

Disabling and chronic symptoms mean many children spend their days resting or sleeping, unable to lead a normal life.

Working with the Long Covid Kids charity, academics from Middlesex University interviewed children and asked them to draw a picture or provide an image to describe their life before and after developing the illness. They developed an exhibition which took place at Middlesex University and is now available online.

Mia, 12, described an image of her on the beach and recalled learning to become a lifeguard and swimming against the current before Long Covid, said “Now I can’t even have enough energy to get in and out of a pool, let alone swim or do anything.



“Most days I have to either a really long sleep or have to have a couple of naps during the day because I don’t have the energy to stay awake.

“Tired, cold and probably in pain, it feels like even though you’re doing things that people said helps, they don’t. And it sometimes feels like it won’t go away and you’ll have to live like this forever.”

Henry, 14, who drew a roadrunner to show his emotions before Long Covid and a sloth to represent his state afterwards, said: “It’s an animal that historically doesn’t move much, doesn’t have a lot of energy and sleeps all the time.

“I feel I just impersonate the sloth these days.”

Tom, 14, who described an image of a dark tunnel, said: “It’s quite a dark, long journey to the light at the end of the tunnel.

“It’s (Long Covid) completely limited my life, so I can only do one thing a day because that tires me out. I have to get into bed at four or five o’clock because with Long COVID you don’t know when you’re going to recover.”

Long Covid is the term for ongoing symptoms and clinical signs from a Covid-19 infection which remain unresolved for four weeks or longer.

One study by the National Institute for Health and Care Research found that 14% of children could develop Long Covid, the equivalent of two to four children in each classroom.

Some studies suggest symptoms may last for three to six months in children but it can be much longer as children in this research experienced.

Symptoms can include fatigue, dizziness, rashes, brain fog, stomach pain, joint or muscle swelling or pain, headaches, chest pain, sore throat and eyes, sickness or nausea, and mood changes.

Early studies indicate female children are more susceptible to Long Covid along with those who have suffered from conditions such as asthma, eczema, hay fever, post viral fatigue or have allergies to cats and dogs.

Dr Camille Alexis-Garsee, an associate professor of health psychology at Middlesex University who co-led the research, said: “Life has drastically changed for some of these children. These persistent symptoms have impacted children’s lives as they are unable to concentrate and engage in physical activity for long periods of time.

“For all of these children there have been negative impacts on their education as most are unable to attend full days at school. Many found it difficult getting a diagnosis and being listened to by medical professionals, and they also experienced feelings of loneliness.”

Dr Nicola Payne, an associate professor of psychology at Middlesex University who co-led the project, said:

“Long Covid has negatively impacted many areas of these children’s lives.

“Alongside the physical symptoms, they get this terrible brain fog and find it very difficult to concentrate.

“Much of their time is spent having lots of naps and resting. It’s changed their entire lives and that of their families, with many parents giving up work or reducing hours due to caring responsibilities.

“Despite not knowing when life will return to normal, the children still remain remarkably resilient and optimistic.”

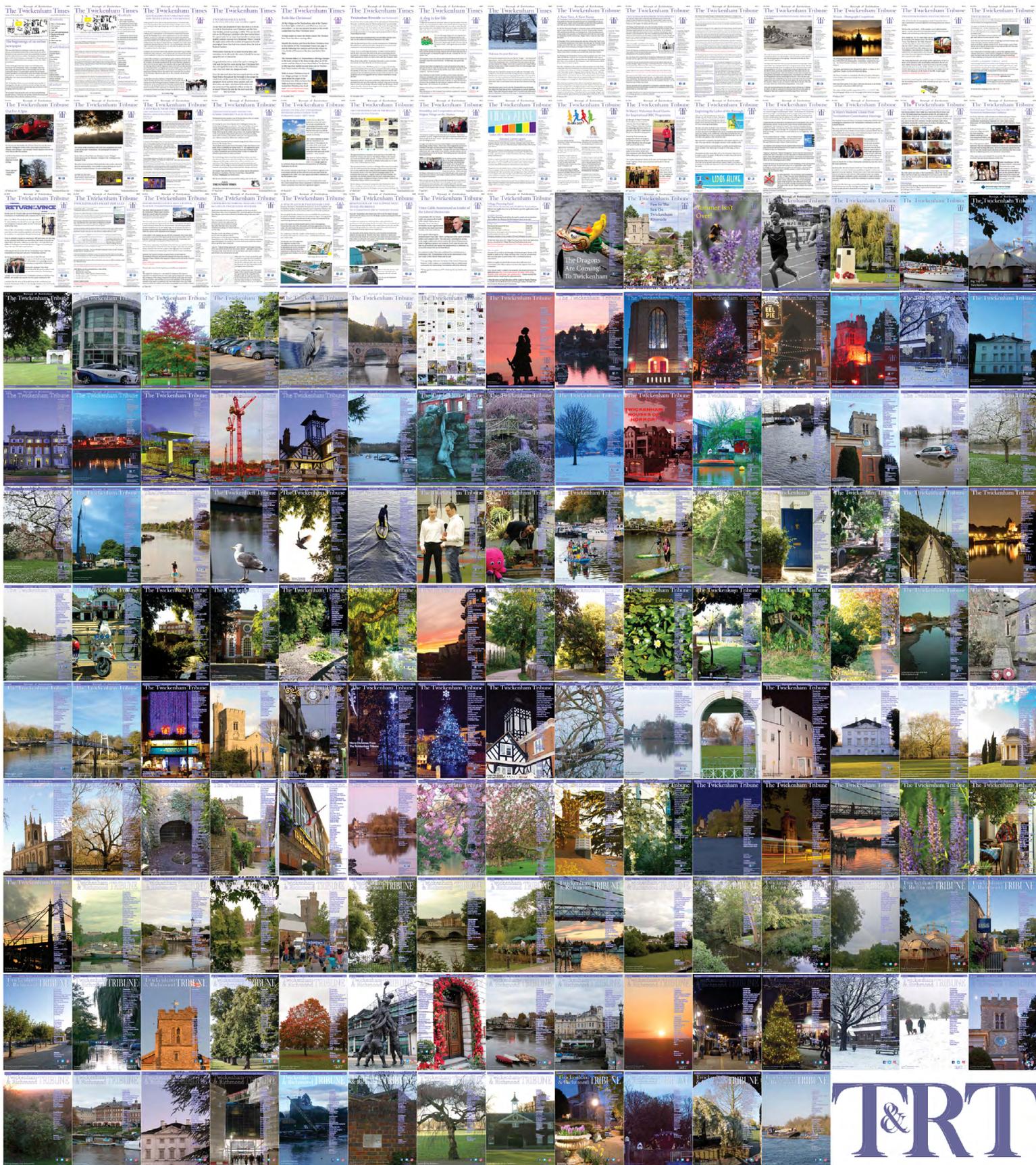
Sammie McFarland, the founder of Long Covid Kids, said: “Long Covid Kids were honoured to participate in this important research project on Long Covid in children with Middlesex University.

“By providing children with the opportunity to express their experiences creatively; and contribute to the study we can all improve our understanding of this complex health condition and ultimately improve outcomes for children and families affected by Long Covid.”

View the exhibition [HERE](#)



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