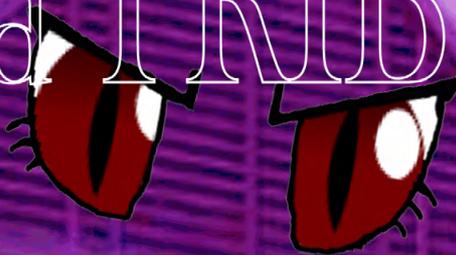


Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE



Private

Private

Private

PUB

Contents

- TickerTape
- COVID-19
- Strawberry Hill Music & Family Fun Day
- Twickenham Riverside
- Ham Parade improvements
- Letters
- Twickers Foodie
- Traveller's Tales
- WIZ Tales: Sierra Leone
- The Sun is Shining...
- Art House Open Studios

Contributors

- Fraser Cullen
- Alison Jee
- Doug Goodman
- Mark Aspen
- World InfoZone
- Deep Patel
- St Mary's University
- Royal Star & Garter
- Brentford FC
- RFU
- Local Government Association
- HM Treasury
- LBRuT

Editors

Berkley Driscoll
Teresa Read



9th June 2023



Council's vision for Twickenham Riverside
Replace public gardens with private housing and a pub!

TickerTape - News in Brief

Council extends supports for women to make residents feel safer at night

We are extending our Safe Space initiative by 12 months. The Safe Space, which launched in July 2022, has supported numerous vulnerable residents and helped people stay safe during weekend evenings in Richmond town centre.

The Safe Space is part of our long-term approach to improve safety in Richmond Upon Thames and end violence against women and girls.

Cllr Ben Khosa, Richmond Council's White Ribbon Ambassador, said: *"We all have a responsibility to end violence against women and that means taking part however we can to change the culture that allows violence to take root. From the Safe Space to the White Ribbon walks, there are many local initiatives that show our borough cares about women's experiences and will work as a community to make everyone feel safe."*

As a White Ribbon accredited organisation, we are committed to encouraging allyship within the borough. To do this, we work with local organisations and groups to build community engagement. The Safe Space marquee is delivered in partnership with the Community Police, British Transport Police, South West Railways, and supported by Street Pastors and volunteers assisting anyone out during the evening who may be feeling vulnerable.

We have also organised a White Ribbon Walk in June to show solidarity with women. It will be led by the Mayor and Cllr Khosa, who will be joined by fellow ward councillors for North Twickenham and St Margarets Cllr Alexander Ehmann and Cllr Katie Mansfield.

The walk aims to encourage residents to make a stand and call out abusive behaviour. Everyone can take part by turning up on the day to demonstrate the borough's solidarity with victims and the collective determination to eliminate abusive behaviours against women and girls. The walk will be marshalled and will pass by Moor Mead Park and Twickenham Station.

Event details:

- **Date:** Saturday 10 June 2023
- **Time:** 4pm
- **Location:** Starting point at St Margaret's Station to Twickenham Stadium

Our [VAWG Strategy](#) works to tackle violence against women and girls by prioritising changing behaviours, accessing support, and holding perpetrators to account. The walk and Safe Space form part of a wider approach to make women and girls feel safer.

Richmond upon Thames is also a member of the South West London [Safer Streets Partnership](#), alongside Kingston, Merton and Wandsworth Councils and the Metropolitan Police. This partnership delivers initiatives to engage men as well as provide bystander training to residents, empowering them support vulnerable people. Training for night-time economy workers is being delivered next month in collaboration with local publicans.

White Ribbon is a global campaign that encourages people, especially men and boys, to act and change the culture that leads to abuse.

Learn more about [White Ribbon](#).



skyelectrical

Replacing your halogen recessed lights with LEDs will:

- ✓ SAVE ENERGY
- ✓ SAVE YOU MONEY
- ✓ PROVIDE BETTER LIGHTING

So...

- ✓ CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE HOME ASSESSMENT AND QUOTE

For a timed appointment please call Sky Electrical on 020 8894 1799
22 Fifth Cross Road, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW2 5LF
www.skyelectrical.co.uk

020 8894 1799
info@skyelectrical.co.uk

Covid -19

By Teresa Read

World Health Organization, Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 - 8 June 2023

At the country level, the highest numbers of new 28-day cases were reported from the Republic of Korea (470,093), Australia (147,684), Brazil (113,286), France (93,850) and the United States of America (93,260).

The highest numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from the United States of America (1,943), Brazil (1,074), France (555), Italy (549) and the Russian Federation (532).

The European Region reported nearly 421,000 new cases, a 49% decrease as compared to the previous 28-day period.

No country has reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater compared to the previous 28-day period.

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from France (93,850), Italy (55,430) and Greece (54,712).

The number of new 28-day deaths in the Region decreased by 54% as compared to the previous 28-day period, with 4,008 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from France (555), Italy (549) and the Russian Federation (532).

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

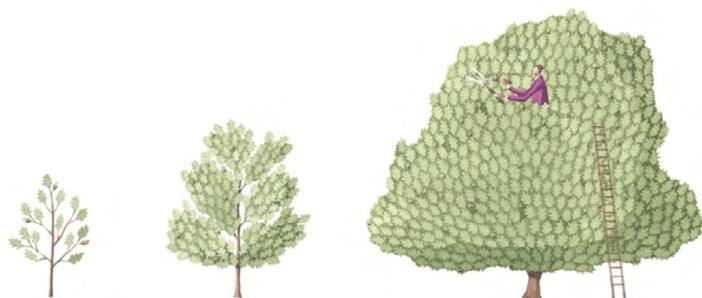
The Lancet: No time for complacency on COVID-19 in Europe

University of Queensland: Researchers at The University of Queensland have discovered viruses such as SARS-CoV-2 can cause brain cells to fuse, initiating malfunctions that lead to chronic neurological symptoms.

UK Government: People urged to get COVID-19 jab before offer ends. The offer of a first or second dose of COVID-19 vaccine will end on 30 June 2023 for most people.

UK Covid-19 Inquiry

The UK Covid-19 Inquiry will begin hearing evidence for its first investigation into the UK's preparedness and resilience for a pandemic on Tuesday 13 June 2023



The Tree Agency

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

The Tree Agency



The Strawberry Hill Music & Family Fun Day, A Brief History 2006 - 2019

By Fraser Cullen

Music Stage Venues: Radnor Gardens, Twickenham Green, Strawberry Hill House gardens

The Strawberry Hill Music & Family Fun Day was introduced by the Rugby Football Union in June 2006. The aim of the event was to raise funds for the restoration of Strawberry Hill House, to support local musicians and provide the local community with a fun day out.

The RFU had previously organised and financed community music and fun days at Radnor Gardens in 2002, 2003, and 2004. Local resident Ben Makins, from the Friends of Radnor Gardens, provided the initial encouragement, gaining support from David McGeachie in 2003 and 2004. The events raised funds for Radnor Gardens and local charities.

In June 2005, with support from Twickenham Town Manager Esther Worboys, the event was moved to Twickenham Green. It was the first live music and fun day at this location. Although very successful, as with Radnor Gardens, there were issues at these locations.

As a result, Strawberry Hill House with its extensive and secure grounds, was identified as a more suitable venue. Discussions began with the Friends of Strawberry Hill and St Mary's University. The RFU's Community Relations Manager, Fraser Cullen, working with local event coordinator Ingrid van der Weide, organised the initial event on Sunday 11th June 2006.



The event was aimed at attracting the Twickenham community with a focus on live music with local connections, craft stalls and plenty of fun for children. With a small voluntary donation on entry, an estimated 5,000 attended and the RFU raised £11,000 towards the restoration of the house.

Further successful events were held between 2007 and 2011, all blessed with wonderful weather. In 2012 and 2013, with the event increasing in popularity and attracting many thousands of mainly local people, local event organisers Twickenham Alive (Teresa Read and Berkley Driscoll) were brought on board to help with the organisation.

In 2014 and 2015 Twickenham Alive took over management from Fraser Cullen who retired from the RFU. Despite the loss of RFU support they managed two very successful events, increasing fun activities for children, with David McGeachie as music sponsor and compère.

With changes to Strawberry Hill House management and a new sponsor for the 2016 event, Fraser and Ingrid were asked to return to work with the sponsor, Stadium Support Services.

The 2017 and 2018 events continued the event. However, owing to imposed changes and arrangements prior to the 2019 music day, Fraser decided it was time to move on from the event he introduced in 2006.

A proposed expanded two-day event for June 2020, to be known as the Strawberry Hill Music Festival, was cancelled owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key supporters over the years have been the RFU, Kevin Hudson and Stadium Support Services, Twickenham Alive (Teresa Read and Berkley Driscoll), the Eel Pie Club and St John Ambulance. Local resident, musician and businessman, David McGeachie was involved in the Twickenham Alive music stages and Radnor Gardens events.

These events raised around £130,000 to support Strawberry Hill House. It was 18 years ago on Sunday the first Music Day took place ... time flies!

All bands and performers from 2006 to 2019

2006 Sunday 11th June: The Acoustic Strawbs, Tom Nolan & The Bluescasters, The Downliners Sect, The Mustangs, The Draytones, Dudley and The Deputies, The Groove Academy, Dr Bob & Big John

2008 Sunday 13th July: Tom Nolan & The Bluescasters with Eel Pie All Star Guests, Leaf Hound, The Vibrants, Nark Drool & The Shudders, The Draytones, Dunk n' Disorderly, Narration, Death in Vogue, The Three Mustgetbeers

2010 Sunday 18th July: The Acoustic Strawbs. The Downliners Sect, The Mustangs, Tom Nolan & The Bluescasters, Bible Code Sundays, Robin Bibi Band, The Draytones, The Three Mustgetbeers

2012 Sunday 22nd July: Scalextric, The Mustangs, The Blue Meanies, Nark Drool & The Shudders, Marner Brown, The Wild Archive, Friday Mistress

2014 Sunday 20th July: Nark Drool & The Shudders, The Carnabys, Alix Anthony Band, The Deputies, Shelle & Band, K, Lips

2016 Sunday 26th June: Skalectrix, The Blue Bishops, Adam Norsworthy, Robin Bibi Band; Naomi Bedford & Paul Simmonds, The Biblecode Sundays, Big Tooth

2018 Sunday 29th July: The Launchers, The Persuaders with Robin Bibi, The Mustangs, Northsyde, Nark Drool & The Shudders, The Deputies, Little Steam (Staffell and Stewart)

2007 Sunday 17th June: Tom Nolan & The Bluescasters with Eel Pie All Star Guests, The Mustangs, Dark Ska, Bible Code Sundays, The Vibrants, Marner Brown, Adam Norsworthy, The Draytones, The Deputies, The Groove Academy

2009 Sunday 21st June: Tom Nolan & The Bluescasters, Robin Bibi Band, Grapevine Blues Band, Kelvin Christiane Quartet, Alix Anthony Band, True Beat, Psycho Circus, Monck {Kneller Hall Musicians}

2011 Sunday 26th June: Scalextric, The Mustangs, Leaf Hound, Nark Drool & The Shudders, Robin Bibi Band, Cry No More, John Fiddler (Medicine Head), Learn to Swim, All Theory No Action, Orleans Park School Soul Band, Heatham House B Stage for various young local bands

2013 Sunday 7th July: Nark Drool & The Shudders, The Mustangs, The Blue Meanies, The Carnabys, Dr Ika's Pharmacy, John Idan Group, James & Big John with Sam Holt

2015 Sunday 12th July: Alix Anthony Band, Nark Drool & The Shudders, Frankie Connolly, Alex Dew, Lips, Mantic Muddlers, White Noise, T Bone Band

2017 Sunday 2nd July: The Eel Pie Allstars, Nark Drool & The Shudders, The Mustangs, Odgers, Simmonds & Bedford, Big Steam, The Holt Brothers, Big Tooth

2019 Sunday 9th June: Nark Drool & The Shudders, The Mustangs, The Persuaders, The Launchers, The Milk Men, The Deputies, Powerjam

[Click image to view Rugby Post Issue 50, Summer 2013](#)



CrusaderTravel

020 8744 0474

crusadertravel.com

Escapology Experts

info@crusadertravel.com

Your friendly local Travel Agency
established in Twickenham since 1966

With over 50 years experience we pride ourselves on being able to offer an unrivalled service with attention to detail. Come and have a chat with us in our cosy office off the Church Street Square, we are open 6 days a week from 11am until 6pm (Closed Sunday)



TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE

Teresa Read

The Public Inquiry began on 6th June and continues Tuesday to Thursday inclusive until 29th June 2023

If you have missed the proceedings during the last week you can catch up by watching the recordings at the Twickenham Riverside Livestream links: https://richmond.gov.uk/council/regeneration_projects/twickenham_redevelopment/twickenham_riverside_compulsory_purchase_order/twickenham_riverside_cpo_inquiry

Ted Cremin, the Chair of the Twickenham Riverside Trust, made an excellent summary of the situation on the first day – I recommend watching Ted’s contribution to the Public Inquiry.

Cllr Geoffrey Samuel, a previous Deputy Leader of the Council, acknowledged that the disputed area of Twickenham Riverside, now the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order by our Council, has been a political football. Cllr Samuel said that was exactly why the Trust was set up, to protect this unique area.

On Wednesday morning, Geoffrey, who first became an elected councillor sixty-six years ago, showed himself to be a true statesman saying that he did not think that this Compulsory Purchase Order on Charitable Trust land sat comfortably in a democracy.

However, it was obvious that the submission to the Inquiry of The Rugby Posts had influenced at least one councillor as Councillor James Chard, who had previously echoed the Council’s slogan of forty years of neglect of the area, revised it to twenty years, even stumbling over perhaps ten years. In fact, the neglected area is the Council-owned car park next to Water Lane.

Of course, it is not easy to contradict the veracity of the reported printed word, and photographs, at the time so I hope the Inspector enjoys reading The Rugby Post PDFs that have been submitted to the Inquiry as they show a vibrant Twickenham Riverside full of activity and fun for many hundreds of residents and certainly well past the years mentioned during the Inquiry.

And, despite these difficulties, the Twickenham Riverside Trust is continuing to use Trust land for the benefit and enjoyment of the residents of the borough – as it was intended by the members of the Council in 1924 who bought the land for public walks and pleasure grounds for the residents of the borough.

Inquiry Programme:

<https://gateleyhamer-pi.com/en-gb/twickenham-riverside/inquiry-programme/>

Twickenham Riverside compulsory purchase order inquiry

A compulsory purchase order inquiry into the Twickenham Riverside redevelopment is scheduled for June 2023, starting on Tuesday 6 June.

Venue

The inquiry will be held in Clarendon Hall, York House, Richmond road, Twickenham TW1 3AA.

Programme

View the [inquiry programme](#), which lists the planned timetable for each session.

Watch the inquiry

You are welcome to attend in person at Clarendon Hall. Please be prompt and do not arrive after the session has started.

If you cannot attend the inquiry in person, you may watch a live stream:

6 to 8 June

- [Tuesday 6 June - 10am](#)
- [Tuesday 6 June - 1pm](#)
- [Wednesday 7 June - 9.30am](#)
- [Wednesday 7 June - 1pm](#)
- [Thursday 8 June - 9.30am](#)
- [Thursday 8 June - 1pm](#)

13 to 15 June

- [Tuesday 13 June - 9.30am](#)
- [Tuesday 13 June - 1pm](#)
- [Wednesday 14 June - 9.30am](#)
- [Wednesday 14 June - 1pm](#)
- [Thursday 15 June - 9.30am](#)
- [Thursday 15 June - 1pm](#)

20 to 22 June

- [Tuesday 20 June - 9.30am](#)
- [Tuesday 20 June - 1pm](#)
- [Wednesday 21 June - 9.30am](#)
- [Wednesday 21 June - 1pm](#)
- [Thursday 22 June - 9.30am](#)
- [Thursday 22 June - 1pm](#)

27 to 29 June

- [Tuesday 27 June - 9.30am](#)
- [Tuesday 27 June - 1pm](#)
- [Wednesday 28 June - 9.30am](#)
- [Wednesday 28 June - 1pm](#)
- [Thursday 29 June - 9.30am](#)
- [Thursday 29 June - 1pm](#)

Have your say on Ham Parade improvements

From Richmond Council

We have published a proposed scheme to improve Ham Parade and residents are invited to have their say on the plans.

The scheme is designed to improve the trading environment for Ham Parade businesses and the Saturday market, by enhancing the area alongside improved access for pedestrians and cyclists. While we have identified the area for works, the scheme progressed as a result of the [Council's 2021 Future of the High Streets Community Conversation](#), where residents reinforced it as a local priority.

CLlr Phil Giesler, the Council's Lead Member for Business and Growth, said:

“The Community Conversation gave us insightful, creative and valuable feedback and ideas. Because of those events and the residents of Ham, Petersham and Richmond Riverside Ward who came along and got involved, we have been able to fast-track this scheme as part of our public realm improvement programme.”

Residents are being asked to comment on two design options, both of which will refurbish the east side of Ham Parade, addressing the quality of the pedestrian environment, including narrow pavements, accessibility for wheelchair users, seating and support for those travelling to the area on foot, bus or bicycle.

We have carried out analysis of parking usage in the area to ensure proposed changes to parking capacity meet the demand on the area.

[Have your say](#)



Dear Tribune,

Back to Earth!

Having just been the main guest speaker Cunard's Queen Elizabeth for two cruises around Japan, it was heaven being on this superb ship and in such a wonderful country where everyone is polite and friendly, everything works, with incredible public services and trains, and everything is clean.

Unfortunately, my return to Heathrow Airport Terminal 5 brought me back to earth with an unpleasant bang – and it wasn't the landing!

The first sign that I was back in the UK was the electronic passport gate failing to open three times so I apologised to the thousands of passengers waiting behind me and went to find a Heathrow Airport staff member.

Three times I asked her what to do and three times, in barely comprehensible English, she told me to join the EU passport queue. I explained that I had a UK passport and merely wanted to enter my own country but she was not only unpleasant but useless so I gave up and found an immigration desk where my passport was checked by a bored-looking member of the so-called Border Force. Border Farce, more likely.

After a 90 minute wait for the baggage, I helped a Japanese passenger order a minicab and we went to the Costa Coffee shop to wait for it. Having been a guest at the official opening of Terminal 5 when the whole building was immaculate for the Queen's visit, I was absolutely shocked to see the disgusting state of this flagship coffee shop, where all the chairs were stained and filthy and the bench seating was shredded and torn with cups and rubbish littering the tables. How embarrassing! What kind of first impression does this give to visitors from abroad?

While waiting, I photographed this disgusting display (see photos) and wrote to Costa Coffee and to the Heathrow Airport Chief Executive and received apologies from both of them. Incredibly, this was one of the LHR food outlets advertised in a British Airways advertising email which I received the next day. Even the offer of several free cups of coffee from Costa will not induce me to ever go in one of their shops again.

I then went outside to get a black cab. That was my next 'Welcome to England'. As I walked towards the taxi, the driver jumped out and started shouting at me to keep away from his cab, saying he didn't want the luggage trolley to scratch it. Naturally, I had no intention of scratching it but he was extremely abusive and clearly wanted a fight. Even after two weeks practising martial arts in Japan, I did not want an argument after a 15 hour flight, so I followed his charming advice to keep away from his cab – by getting into another one! Even then, what should have been a pleasant journey home was completely ruined by the appalling potholes in the road jarring my spine all the way.

All that was topped by two days of train strikes.

Welcome to Britain!

During my month in Japan, I did not see a single pothole (nor have I in my previous 380 trips there), everything worked, everyone was extremely polite including the taxi drivers, and, unlike here, everyone spoke their national language. And the restaurants and coffee shops were all welcoming and spotlessly clean.

Not so here.

Michael Jay
Hampton

The Queen's Reading Room festival supports Tickets For Troops

The Queen's Reading Room charity has joined forces with the military charity [Tickets For Troops](#) by offering free tickets to members of the Armed Forces for its first ever literary festival in the majestic setting of Hampton Court Palace.

The newly formed charity is giving away a total of 2,500 tickets to the military as well as NHS staff and other charity workers.

The Queen is the new Patron of British Forces Broadcasting Services (BFBS) which provides news and entertainment for members of the Armed Forces serving all over the world and celebrated its 80th anniversary of broadcasting this week.

The one day event at the historic home of Henry VIII takes place on Sunday 11 June with a star studded bill of actors including Dame Judi Dench, David Harewood, Dame Joanna Lumley, Richard E. Grant, Sir Derek Jacobi, and more.

Up to 8,000 people are expected to attend the celebration of the written word, held at the historic royal home. The free tickets are available via [Tickets For Good](#) and [Tickets For Troops](#).

The Queen launched her own Reading Room as an Instagram book club in 2021 to inspire readers during lockdown.

The Queen's Reading Room is a charity working to provide opportunities for the appreciation of literature among adults and children. The festival is a co-production between The Queen's Reading Room and Historic Royal Palaces, the independent charity that cares for Hampton Court Palace.

Find out more information about the [Queen's Reading Room](#).



London Borough of Richmond upon Thames - Local Plan Publication

We are now consulting on the Council's final version of the Local Plan (referred to as the 'Publication' or 'Regulation 19' version).

The Local Plan sets out a 15-year strategic vision, objectives and the spatial strategy. The draft Plan includes place-based strategies covering the whole borough, along with accompanying site allocations, as well as the thematic planning policies that will guide future development in the borough. It will inform how growth will be accommodated across the borough. The draft Plan seeks to address future challenges including climate change, health, affordability and liveability.

We started work on a new Local Plan in spring 2020, with a [Direction of Travel consultation](#), where we asked about the vision, key issues and priorities to be addressed in the emerging Plan. We also invited landowners and stakeholders to submit information on sites that could be suitable for development. During 2021, a variety of informal engagement took place, where we have been listening to and reflecting on feedback from residents and stakeholders. This included a series of the Council's community conversations as well as workshops with schools. In December 2021 - January 2022, we consulted on a [first full draft](#) of the Local Plan, which reflected all the feedback from the earlier engagement as well as our evidence that we produced. All of these earlier stages and feedback from a range of stakeholders - including residents, community groups, development professionals, neighbouring boroughs and other key agencies - as well as updated evidence base studies have culminated in the 'Publication' Local Plan, on which we are now inviting comments.

The consultation is open to everyone. This is the last opportunity for the public to comment. The next stage will be for the Publication Plan, including comments received during this consultation period, as well as the supporting and evidence base documents, to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination. If you would like to participate in the Examination in Public, you will need to respond to this stage to secure your right to appear and be heard (even if you have responded to our earlier consultations).

As this is the final representations stage before the documents are submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination, your **comments should relate to issues of legal and procedural compliance, the "soundness" of the Plan and the "Duty to Co-operate"**. There are accompanying guidance notes available on the website (via the below links).

Where to view the documents and how to respond by 24 July 2023

The Publication Local Plan (including changes to the Policies Map designations), and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal, are available:

- Online at www.richmond.gov.uk/draft_local_plan_publication_version and through our Consultation Portal at: <https://richmond-consult.objective.co.uk/kse>
- To view at the Civic Centre, 44 York Street, Twickenham, TW1 3BZ and in the Borough's main libraries.

Please contact us should you have problems accessing or printing the documents. In addition, other supporting documents, evidence and research that support the Local Plan are available on the website (via the above links).

You can respond by:

- Completing the **online response form** through our Consultation Portal <https://richmond-consult.objective.co.uk/kse>
- Completing the word or pdf version of the **response form** available from www.richmond.gov.uk/draft_local_plan_publication_version and sending it by
 - **email** to LocalPlan@richmond.gov.uk or
 - **post** to Spatial Planning and Design, LB Richmond upon Thames, Civic Centre, 44 York Street, Twickenham, TW1 3BZ

We would prefer all comments to be made electronically. The use of the standard representation form is strongly recommended as this will ensure that comments are related to matters relevant to the subsequent examination by the Planning Inspectorate.

Please note that the **deadline for comments is Monday 24 July 2023**, and responses will not be treated as confidential.

What happens next

Once the consultation closes, the Plan along with all representations received will be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent Examination in Public. We are expecting submission to be later in 2023. At the Examination in Public, the Planning Inspector(s) will consider all representations received and examine the Plan, the evidence supporting it and make a decision whether it is sound and meets the legal requirements. It is anticipated that the Plan will be adopted in winter 2024/25, at which point it will supersede the existing Local Plan and the Twickenham Area Action Plan.

You have received this notification as you have previously engaged with the Richmond Spatial Planning and Design team or we have identified you as a stakeholder. The Council is committed to ensuring that personal data is processed in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) data protection principles including keeping data secure. The Council's Privacy Notice is published on the webpage www.richmond.gov.uk/data_protection

If you submit comments, the responses and your personal data will be passed to the Planning Inspectorate and a Programme Officer. The Programme Officer manages the procedural and administrative aspects of the Examination; they will contact you using the personal information you have provided if you have indicated in the response form your wish to engage in the Examination.

We hope that you or your organisation will continue to take an interest in, and contribute to, future planning policy and design policy. If you'd like to continue hearing from us, then you do not need to do anything to respond to this. If, however, you would prefer not to receive notifications regarding planning policy and design matters from us, then please notify us, preferably by email to LocalPlan@richmond.gov.uk

The start of a new role

Councillor Fiona Sacks, Deputy Mayor of Richmond upon Thames

I feel honoured and privileged to be able to support our Mayor, Councillor Suzette Nicholson.

My new role as Deputy Mayor began rather appropriately with a visit to Arts Richmond's Turning Point Photographic Exhibition at The Exchange, Twickenham. Arts Richmond offered photographers from across London, whatever their background or experience, the chance to answer an open call on the theme Turning Point. How differently and evocatively the photographers, some of whom were completely self-taught, interpreted that theme - I was humbled by their skill and imagination and thoroughly enjoyed talking to them about what inspired each photograph.

Hot on the heels of the photographic exhibition came Arts Richmond's wonderful celebration of literary talent, with the Roger McGough Poetry Competition. Focused on the same theme, we were treated to an afternoon of uplifting poetry, including Roger reading a couple of his own. The turning point in people's lives often occurs after the loss of a loved one, felt poignantly in the swimming pool by the mother to be in Love Goggles by Lucy Payne (1st prize), in finding love as in Coming Out by Vera Meister (2nd prize), or in the care home/classroom of Five Foot in her Slippers by Judith Wozniak (3rd prize). An anthology of shortlisted entries is available from [Arts Richmond](#).



Thankfully, the weather was kind for the beautifully scenic but challenging [Richmond Park Full Marathon](#) where I was delighted to present medals to the early runners crossing the finishing line including Lee Rogers, who completed the course in a staggering 02:56:33 and Alice Robinson in 03:29:03. Congratulations to all participants and many thanks to the volunteers who made the race possible. Volunteers are the ties that bind us and help make our community tick as I'm sure the Mayor will also attest, having visited the Rotary Fair last week in Twickenham and spoken to some of the brilliant charities we are lucky enough to have in the Borough.

One of the most pleasurable mayoral commitments is the Citizenship Ceremony which regularly takes place at York House. We are delighted that people chose to make their lifelong commitment to the UK here in Richmond. We are a historic borough but also a modern, cosmopolitan place to live within a vibrant world city, where people of many nationalities and faiths have made their home and contribute hugely to our local community.

When I attended my first ceremony, I found that each person had made a different citizenship journey. Some had arrived quite recently; others had been here for years. Some had applied for citizenship for work-related or family reasons, or even because they had fallen in love. No matter how or why they had come, I quickly realized how much bravery and determination it takes to uproot yourself and move to a new country with a distinct culture and possibly different language. I salute their courage.

At our last ceremony, we had 31 people who became British citizens from 26 different countries, bringing with them a wealth of experience and expertise plus fresh thinking and diversity. I felt deeply honoured to welcome them into our community and I look forward to seeing all they are going to achieve.

MEGAN'S RICHMOND

Richmond town centre has seen quite a few new openings of late, one of the most recent being **Megan's**, situated in the **Old Town Hall**, on the corner of Whittaker Avenue and Hill Street. It's a great location for shoppers and for anyone wanting to stroll along the riverside before or after a meal. It's an 'all-day' restaurant, opening for breakfast, through brunch, lunch and dinner. The menu is Mediterranean inspired, but with a distinct leaning towards Turkey. That's fine by me, as I love Turkey and Turkish food!



We went for dinner the other week, with Crystal Poodle in tow (Megan's prides itself on being very dog friendly). The decor is rather nice - casual, but cleverly designed with macramé curtains between some of the tables. This offers an element of privacy, but you still feel that you are 'part of things'. We were welcomed by our lovely waitress, Sophie, who explained the menu to us and fetched me a G&T and my husband a beer, while we deliberated over the plethora of highly tempting dishes on offer.

I love labneh, so the Labneh & Hummus board (£9.90) appealed to me, while my husband was completely sold on the idea of the Buttermilk Fried Chicken (£8.50). We shared (well, I was allowed a tiny taste of the wonderful chicken!). The chicken was particularly good, and another time, it would be an ideal main course served with a side salad and some sweet potato fries.



Doner Open Kebab (£15.90) which looked excellent - a picture of deliciousness and confirmed so by him!

The fries actually came with my main course - grilled salmon with a mixed salad and the choice of fries or tabbouleh (£16.90). It was really excellent, but seeing some of the other dishes being served on other tables, I did regret, though, not ordering something a bit different and perhaps more exciting! Husband opted for the Posh Lamb





I was too full for any dessert, but the Baklava & Ice Cream tempted him, and I must say, it looked absolutely delicious. On many Turkish holidays we've had baklava but serving it with ice cream apparently really hits the mark and takes off some of the rich sweetness.

We enjoyed a bottle of Mirabeau Rosé (£36) with our meal. Wines are from £25 a bottle, and it's worth noting that there's an excellent range available by the glass.

I've been back to Megan's since - with a friend for a spot of lunch - and I would thoroughly recommend the Veggie Brunch (£13.90). Strangely though, it is quite noisy at lunchtimes, and less so in the evening - I think the background music is turned down later in the day.



Megan's isn't expensive, and the quality of the food is great. It's a relaxed, dog friendly, and highly enjoyable place to meet friends, and enjoy a drink and a bite or two to eat.



It caters really well for vegetarians and vegans (I was also given the opportunity of a tiny taste of the plant-based 'lamb' which was surprisingly good!).

There are a number of special promotions running such as Rosé Hour and Neighbours' Nights, so do check the website [here](#) when choosing the time of your visit.

Twickers Foodie – By Alison Jee

ALL THE FUN OF THE CIRCUS AT CHISWICK HOUSE - BY LINDSAY KENWRIGHT



Giffords [Circus](#) isn't just any old circus - it's SO much more! The most beautiful, enchanting circus I have ever seen.. and I've been to a few in the world!

Started 19 years ago by Toti and the late Nell Gifford - it's a traditional British village circus, blended with extraordinary acts from all over the world. This year's show is **Les Enfants du Paradis**, taking inspiration from French Romanticism in the mid-19th Century. I found the show to be wild and wonderful; gone are the tacky circus clowns: hello to amazing athletes and performers creating a magical and exciting atmosphere.

Giffords Circus has entertained over a million people so far, worked with some extraordinary circus performers and creative geniuses: Attila the Hungarian horseman from the Great Hungarian Plain; Ethiopian jugglers and longtime friends of the family Bibi and Bichu; Tweedy the clown; The Donnert Family and their team of jockey riders flipping from horse to horse; Gabor Vosteen who played Mozart on



five recorders, three in his mouth, one in each nostril; lovely Liverpudlian Michael Fletcher who stole the show as swinging 7's ringmaster in Xanadu; the ethereal and inimitable clown Nancy Trotter Landry; Molly Molloy, the choreographer who redefines Burlesque; eccentric dancer Barry Grantham; the amazing Angela de Castro and of course the comedy genius that is Cal McCrystal. My favourite at Chiswick House was Antony Cesar performing on his aerial straps.

It also has a travelling restaurant, **Circus Sauce**, headed by chef Ols Halas. Circus Sauce is Giffords Circus unique, travelling licensed restaurant which opens for dinner in the evening. It has a weekly changing menu of three-courses costing from £50 adults and £30 children. It's held in a beautifully decorated tent, on-site, for circus goers to satisfy their appetites after all the fun of the performances!

If you're not having dinner, then there are circus wagons and tents in front of the big top where you will find all kinds of delights. In the main tent you will be able to buy cans of water and drinks, sweets, freshly spun pink candyfloss and popcorn. In the cafe wagon we serve such delicious food such as loaded fries, veg tempura, pulled pork burgers with rhubarb and hot dogs, also tea and coffee. New for 2023 they have a French style bistrot serving steak frites, tartiflette and other French inspired dishes.



Nell Gifford discovered she had breast cancer in 2015, and in 2019 before she passed away made this poignant film with Gem Hall, sharing her very personal experience of living a creative and inspiring life with cancer. See link [here](#)

Giffords Circus 2023 tour will be calling at Chiswick House and Gardens 2nd - 19th June and tickets are on sale now on the link [here!](#)

It's also touring the country, so check out the dates on the link [here](#) and, if you're lucky enough, you might be able to to catch it on your holidays.

TRAVELLER'S TALES 147

DORSET REDISCOVERED

DOUG GOODMAN RETURNS TO HIS FAVOURITE COUNTY



Withdrawal symptoms set in just a few weeks after leaving our holiday home in Lyme Regis for the last time. Over 15 years of long weekends and summer breaks had come to an end. The remedy was obvious: we booked a cottage near Bridport seven miles from Lyme and set out to revisit friends and familiar places as well as discovering new attractions in West Dorset and Devon. We found on the website of Sykes Cottages an interesting looking place called Colly Cottage. Ten minutes' drive north of Bridport, along narrow lanes with verges covered in wild flowers, we found our home for a week. Three very noisy ducks greeted our arrival with loud squawks. I thought our host called them rubber ducks but they were in fact runner ducks. The three kept so close together wherever they went that they appeared to be tied to each other. Cats and the owners' dogs were equally friendly.



Noisy Welcome



Colly Farm House



Farm House

The cottage is part of an 18th century listed Dorset Long House. Our two bedroom home was joined to the manor house and was superbly furnished and very comfortable. It was like staying in a friend's house. Colly farm also offers b&b stays and a refurbished, brightly painted 1905 showman's wagon for two guests. A well laid out garden at the back of the property, a patio with table and chairs giving views over Marshwood Vale, the iconic Colmer's Hill and sheep in the adjacent fields all added to the calm atmosphere of the spot. The owners, John and Sue were on hand to sort out any little problems and were delightful hosts.

LAMBS LEAPING

The lambs were due just before Easter and I saw the first one born and watched its proud mother cleaning it. The rest of the flock would give birth just after our departure. The Dorset countryside was at its best with wild flowers in abundance and dry foot paths perfect for long walks. The long - distance trail, The Monarch's Way is close, The Jurassic Coast path offer spectacular views over Lyme Bay and the beaches around Lyme Regis are a paradise for fossil hunters.

Nearby is The Symonds Estate. Here you'll find an excellent restaurant serving local produce, an art gallery, gift and life-style shops and plants for sale. To keep the children amused there are pigs, goats and donkeys to stroke and for the energetic, bikes are available

for hire. Three beautiful gardens are within a short drive at Forde Abbey, Mapperton and my favourite at Burrow Farm. Bridport, the fashionable market town is well worth visiting on Saturdays and Wednesday when the streets are lined with stall selling antiques, clothes, crafts, food and much more. The town is particularly well served with bookshops selling both second hand and new items.



Room for Two



Just Arrived



View from Cottage

GOOD DINING

The Bull Hotel in East Street has a good restaurant and a sheltered patio. This has always been a favourite spot for lunch. Opposite is the Olive Tree nominated by The Guardian as one of Dorset's top ten fish and seafood restaurants. Described as 'an unassuming restaurant', the menu revolves around the day's fresh fish from Lyme Bay. Country pubs are easy to find either by car or on a carefully planned walk. The Ilchester Arms in Symondsburry is a great place for lunch. A climb to the top of the steep, local landmark Colmer's Hill is best done before a large lunch at the pub.



Tulips at Forde Abbey



Landmark. Colmers Hill



View from Burrows Farm

The week's stay in Dorset was the perfect way to overcome withdrawal symptoms and Colly Cottage is the place to return next time when we miss our favourite county.

Information:

Colly Cottage farm. www.collyfarmbridport.co.uk Sykes Cottages www.sykescottages.co.uk/cottages/dorset .

Olive Tree Restaurant www.olivetreerestaurant.net. The Bull Hotel www.thebullhotel.co.uk.

WIZ Tales: Sierra Leone

By Teresa Read



Sierra Leone is one of the poorest countries in the world.

Many homes in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, are concrete and metal constructions known to trap the heat, particularly extreme with climate change.

It has been reported this week that reflective mirrored film is being used to cover buildings in Freetown in an attempt reduce the heat inside.



Sierra Leone was named "Lion Mountain" by the Portuguese who arrived in Sierra Leone in the middle of the fifteenth century. Later, the British began trading in the area.

In 1787 British abolitionists established the Province of Freedom - Freetown - for those who had escaped slavery. Freetown became a British Colony in 1808; a British Protectorate was established in 1896.

Sierra Leone achieved independence in 1961 becoming a member of the Commonwealth.



World InfoZone Information for Sierra Leone:

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

The Sun is Shining... People are Smiling... and Ants are Bloody Everywhere...

By Deep Patel
~ Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~



The sun has been out in full force this past week, so what have I been asked for most in my shop? Cold drinks? Ice cream? Sun lotion? Or perhaps deodorant (yes people do forget...) well actually if you guessed any of these...you would be wrong...the item I have been asked MOST about this past week is...ANT POWDER 🤢...Of all things... It's that time of year again, we all know it well...oh so well... you put down your empty plate after enjoying Jam on toast and within minutes...there's an ant right there...get the heck out of my kitchen I used to scream... sometimes I even used to reach for the bleach spray...but then I stopped and started to think (yes, I do stop and think from time to time thank you very much...)

As annoying as they may be, they have been on this planet for over 160 million years, right from the Jurassic period when dinosaurs roamed the land...we are quick to say it to our kids, so perhaps we as humans should learn to respect our elders?... That said, I still don't want them in my kitchen, but I don't think we should reach for the ant killer powder either because did you know, ant powder actually makes their tiny stomachs cruelly explode, and diatomaceous earth cuts up their little bodies until they die... is there really any need? I mean they are only looking for food for their babies...They are not intentionally trying to harm us, they are only trying to live, like we all are on this planet? So, is DEATH really a fair punishment for the crime of simply being hungry?? I mean imagine that was what we did to our fellow human beings too...🤢

I hear you though...I don't want the jammy little buggers in my kitchen either, so when

customers ask me for ant powder, I feel their pain...no one wants ants in their home... So, what have I been selling instead?

Well...it's stuff you may already have knocking around your cupboards...white vinegar, talcum powder and essential peppermint or Olbas Oil. Sprinkle baby powder or white vinegar where they come and they will STOP without us needing to hurt their little souls...and best of all... we will have good karma for choosing a kind way...win-win! Olbas or essential peppermint oil also works great, but keep it away from pets as they may find this irritates them! If you have many in the house to start with, use a wet kitchen towel to gently dab on them (so they stick to it) and quickly place it outside and then immediately seal the areas they were coming from with baby powder, white vinegar, Olbas oil, peppermint or essential rosemary oil and reapply regularly as needed... there you have it.... ant problem GONE!

If you need to stop them outdoors, sprinkle finely ground rosemary powder where they come... it works! Like all good things in life... the enjoyment is doubled when shared... so don't keep these tips to yourself...share them far and wide, after all...in the joy of others...lies our own...so help an ant today...and something good will happen in return...try it and let me know... 😊

Look out for my next article here soon... it will have tips on how to stop the much-DREADED slugs and snails kindly using copper mesh fences around pots and plants in beds, sawdust and cheap coffee powder or grounds piled around bases of plant stems (following the slug pellet ban from April last year).

For more tips or specific KIND WAYS to stop ANT “pest” for good karma, please email me on thedeepatel@gmail.com or through my Facebook page:

“KIND WORLD” ...

You will surely have good karma for caring 😊 x

Remember...

“All lives matter...big and small...”



Murder in the Cathedral

by T.S. Eliot

Richmond Shakespeare Society at St Mary's Parish Church, Twickenham

Any play that starts with a single supersonic scream at a pitch a common pipistrelle bat would be frightened by, is a play that immediately grabs attention. This is exactly the beginning of the staging of the classic exploration of the final days of Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Becket that led to his assassination in 1170.

After the ear-piercing shriek, *Murder in the Cathedral*, delves into an equally uncomfortable power struggle between the secular and the spiritual, revolving around the political tensions between Becket and King Henry II. As Becket returns from exile in France, he knows he is walking into danger, but he chooses to defend the Church's autonomy against the King's perceived encroachment.



St. Mary's, Twickenham provides an historical and eerily fitting backdrop for the performance. With much of the stature of Canterbury Cathedral, despite being a diminutive architectural sibling, the church's rich history dates back to medieval times, with its Fifteenth Century tower still standing today. The atmosphere feels contemporary of Becket and Henry II, the church's architecture and interior standing as a mirror to the central conflict of the play.



The cast admirably bring Eliot's intricate and often heavy narrative to life, although its complexities occasionally catches them off-guard. Nevertheless, the ensemble is unwavering in a determination which propels the story, and the immersive setting more than compensates, sweeping us back to a time almost a thousand years ago.

Francis Abbott's portrayal of Thomas Becket is a standout performance, capturing the character's internal conflict and spiritual fervour, whose distant stares are those of a man possessed by something beyond realms of Earth and kings, to the pull of paradise beyond. The appropriately named Abbott powered through his extensive lines, aptly demonstrating Becket's complete commitment to his faith and his unshakable belief in divine protection.

The dedication of the cast, coupled with the profound historical relevance of the setting, makes *Murder in the Cathedral* an engaging theatrical experience.

Read Brent Muirhouse's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/06/02/murder-cathdl-rss

Photography by Simone Sutton



Arcadia

by Tom Stoppard

The Questors at the Judi Dench Playhouse, Ealing until 10th June

Past and present collide, complement, and inform each other in an assured new production of *Arcadia*. In 1809, Septimus Hodge attempts to tutor Thomasina Coverly, deflecting her uncomfortable questions about “carnal knowledge” to the mathematical conundrum of Fermat’s Last Theorem. Suddenly, the action moves to the present day Sidley Park, where the academic Bernard Nightingale, researching Byron’s departure from England on the Grand Tour, clashes with the writer Hannah Jarvis Hannah.



Arcadia is notable for how many of its key characters never appear on-stage. Mrs Chater, who is the catalyst for most of the events in the play, never appears. Lord Byron casts a long shadow over events in both 1809 and the present day, but the audience never sees him. In the present day, Lord and Lady Croom are often mentioned, but also remain unseen.

The cast that do appear, however, do a wonderful job in this production. Alexandra Upton’s ingénue Thomasina Coverly sparkles with curiosity and intelligence, and great comic timing in her exchanges with Septimus. Oscar Gill’s Septimus Hodge is a delight of a part, drily witty and sophisticated, and Gill carries him off with great aplomb. He works extremely well with all the 1809 characters, especially Tony Sears as the ridiculous amateur poet and amateur botanist Ezra Chater, as Septimus runs verbal rings around the poet.

Sidley Park is represented in both 1809 and the present day by Bron Blake’s set whose foreground is a naturalistic study, complete with leather-bound books and a chaise-longue, and a more expressionistic backdrop of pillars of books, with pages suspended from the ceiling.

Arcadia toys with tragedy, but ultimately feels like a highly intelligent comedy. It is a long play, and very wordy, but director Simon Rudkin ensures the pace never lapses, with the cast absolutely on top of their dialogue. The science discussed, iterative equations and the second law of thermodynamics, which dominates the play’s second half, are weighty concepts, but presented so that audiences can grasp the ideas. *Questor’s Arcadia* is a resoundingly successful production of a key play from one of our greatest living playwrights.

Read Andrew Lawston’s review at www.markaspen.com/2023/06/04/arcadia

Image by Evelina Plonyte

Cry Freedom

Compiled by Anne Warrington

Poetry Performance at Hampton Hill Theatre

Cry Freedom, a *pot pourri* of poems, prose and folk songs by Teddington's Poetry Performance was aimed at bringing its work to a wider audience. Judging by the full and appreciative auditorium on a sunny Sunday afternoon, its brave and ambitious mission was completely successful. Two hours of excellent entertainment showcased its talents, fleshed out by familiar faces from the local drama scene and professional actors and musicians.



Congratulations to the musicians, the always excellent Ian Lee-Dolphin together with Annie Morris and the spine tingling voice of Suzy Rowland.

Compere Sam Ball introduced this exploration of people, life and freedom with the spirited line "Cry freedom and let soar the doves of peace" from *A Dream of Freedom*, which set the tone of a series of interlocking themes. Two further poems by Patricia Cammish brought evocative expression, *Freedom Decanted* and *Credo for the Cancel Culture*, the later read by Sue Bell with crystal clear diction.



Turning to prose, Francis Abbott delivered an extract from Orwell's *1984* with great style and conviction, an extraordinary feat given that his monumental role of Becket from [RSS's *Murder in the Cathedral*](#) finished hours before. Continuing the theme of dictatorship, a further engrossing prose item, *The Good Town*, was performed by the choral group, followed by *Blue on Yellow*, written and performed by Keith Wait, a subtle and moving poem finishing with the lines, "Fly blue for bravery and yellow now for love."

The mood was lightened by Dilly Orme and Andrew Evzona performing *Rockets* and *A Piece of Cake*; and Anthony Josolyne's *Freedom*, a touching tale of an imprisoned lonely budgerigar; then Anne Warrington's amusing sketch of Adam, Eve and God discussing apples, pies and pi, 3.14 to infinity!

A striking and memorable sequence, written by Daniel Haisey, turned to the loss of freedom through imprisonment. Nathan Haisey's reading of *From Behind the Bars* was a highlight with its intensity and power of delivery.

As two robust songs *Freedom Highway* and *If I Had a Hammer* finished off an enjoyable afternoon, director Ken Mason's *Cry Freedom*, with its mix of serious thought-provoking subjects in a varied and compelling format, was an undoubted success.

Read Michelle Hood's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/06/05/cry-freedom

Photography by Jake Rigg

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW



**DON'T DREAM IT
SEE IT ON THE BIG SCREEN**

**Saturday 10th June, 7.30pm
Hampton Hill Theatre**

GIVE YOURSELF OVER TO ABSOLUTE PLEASURE

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX PRESENTS A LOU ADLER-MICHAEL WHITE PRODUCTION "THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW"
STARRING TIM CURRY SUSAN SARANDON BARRY BOSTWICK ORIGINAL MUSICAL BY RICHARD O'BRIEN SCREENPLAY BY JIM SHARMAN AND RICHARD O'BRIEN
MUSICAL DIRECTOR RICHARD HARTLEY ASSOCIATE PRODUCER JOHN GOLDSTONE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER LOU ADLER PRODUCED BY MICHAEL WHITE
DIRECTED BY JIM SHARMAN www.rockyhorror.com



DIRECTED BY JIM SHARMAN

www.rockyhorror.com



Art House Open Studios Festival returns for 2023

Local charity Arts Richmond has been commissioned by Richmond Arts Service to coordinate the borough's open studios festival, Art House, for 2023.

Art House is a chance for local artists, craftspeople, artist and community groups to open their homes, studios and group venues to showcase their talents to members of the public.

Individual artists, artist groups and local arts organisations will be displaying a fantastic range of artworks for two weekends this summer: Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 July, and Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 July. Special events and demonstrations will also take place at several venues throughout the festival.

Group exhibitions featuring borough artists will also take place at FAAM Gallery in Whitton, the Landmark Arts Centre in Teddington and RuptureXIBIT in Hampton Wick between 14 and 24 July.

Visit the [Art House website](#) for more information.



Visit new interactive installation at the Arts and Ideas Festival

As part of the Richmond Arts and Ideas Festival, a new interactive installation by Marie Klimis lands at four of our borough libraries.

'I am Bird' is an immersive experience for library spaces, taking place at Richmond Lending Library, Teddington, Ham and Whitton Libraries

Equipped with your own smartphone and headphones, you'll be transported on an adventure across the library, following the extraordinary and everyday story of a young bird migrating from West Africa to the UK.



This is a personal, interactive experience that will last between 45 and 60 minutes. It is suitable for adults and children (aged 7+). Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

This event is free of charge, and a unique experience for residents and visitors alike. You will need to [book an entry slot online](#).

Dates, times and locations

Where and when to visit:

- **Richmond Lending Library:** Saturday 17 June 12 to 2.30pm, and Sunday 18 June 1.30 to 3.30pm
- **Teddington Library:** Saturday 23 June 2.30 to 4.30pm
- **Ham Library:** Saturday 24 June 12.30 to 2.30pm
- **Whitton Library:** Saturday 1 July 12.30 to 2.30pm

Find out more

For more details about the event, including what you'll need to bring with you and accessibility information, please [visit the festival's website](#).

St Mary's University

St Mary's Rated Top Ten for Student Satisfaction

St Mary's University, Twickenham has been rated in the top ten nationally for student satisfaction in the 2024 edition of the Complete University Guide, published today, Wednesday 8th June 2023.

latest publication. Excellence is one of our core values, and continued recognition of our achievement and progress by external parties helps to show us that we are successfully putting this value into action.



“I would like to thank our outstanding academic and support staff for their care and dedication to deliver the best outcomes for our students.”

St Mary's has seen similar excellent ratings for student experience,

The University has continued its rise in the overall ranking in the guide, climbing to 85th, up 26 places on the 2022 edition. The rise follows similar impressive results in the Guardian University Guide, which saw the University climb 34 places, and the Sunday Times Good University Guide, in which St Mary's is rated in the top ten institutions in London, and 51st nationally.

Speaking of St Mary's performance in the rankings, Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran said,

“St Mary's rose to its highest ever position in all the major rankings last year. It is brilliant to see this University continue to climb in this

with The Good University Guide placing the University in the top five nationally for teaching quality and top ten for student experience. The Guardian University Guide also rates the University sixth nationally for teaching satisfaction and in the top 15 for course and feedback satisfaction.

The 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) results published in 2022 also found that the majority of research submitted by St Mary's was 4* World Leading or 3* Internationally Excellent in its originality, significance, and rigour.



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Royal Star & Garter extends vital support to reach more veterans



**Royal Star
& Garter**

Care with courage

A charity which has been caring for veterans for over a century has launched new services to support the Armed Forces community.

Royal Star & Garter is aiming to tackle isolation and loneliness by introducing a Telephone Friendship Service and Lunch Clubs.

The charity, which was formed in 1916 to help severely injured young men returning from the battlegrounds of the First World War, provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their partners living with disability or dementia, from Homes in Solihull, Surbiton and High Wycombe.

The Telephone Friendship Service and Lunch Clubs are part of a series of new initiatives being developed by Royal Star & Garter to help the nation's military family.

The free Telephone Friendship Service sees trained volunteers call veterans and their partners who live in their own homes, anywhere in the country. The aim is to provide support and a friendly voice to someone who is feeling lonely or isolated.

The first Lunch Clubs have been successfully held in each of Royal Star & Garter's three Homes, in recent weeks. They consist of a two-hour visit with a two or three course meal, conversation and support from staff, and cost just **£10 a session. People attending must be able to** arrange their own transport to and from the Homes.

The Telephone Friendship Service has already drawn praise from users. Doreen, 84, is a full-time carer for her Army veteran husband Mac. She now receives regular calls, and said they are "a lifeline". She said: "I look after my husband 24-7 and don't go out unless it's for a hospital appointment. So these calls mean everything to me. We used to be so busy and active, but after Mac's stroke all that stopped and I stopped seeing my friends too. They're a lifeline." Women's Royal Army Corp veteran Pat added: "Lockdown wasn't an easy time for anyone, and my world has shrunk as I no longer drive, and find walking increasingly difficult. So I think this is a very important new service, and I'm glad other people will also benefit from this."

The Lunch Clubs have also been praised. Kevin's mother was among those who attended, and he said: "She's hardly been out since lockdown. I had to persuade Mum to attend, but she absolutely loved it. The staff made it a special day for her and the rest of the group. It seems a really good idea and well appreciated by all those who attended."

Pauline Shaw is the Director of Care at Royal Star & Garter. She said: "We know that loneliness and social isolation are issues which need addressing in the Armed Forces community, and I'm glad that we've been able to do this with our Telephone Friendship Service and Lunch Clubs. These regular calls from a trained volunteer, or face-to-face contact and interaction with Lunch Clubs, can make all the difference to someone feeling lonely or isolated."

More information about the Telephone Friendship Service can be seen here www.starandgarter.org/telephone-friendship. Anyone interested in hearing more about it can call 0121 711 6330 or email telephone.friendship@starandgarter.org

Brentford Penguins documentary to premiere at Tribeca Festival

Mighty Penguins, a film about the Brentford Penguins led by former Bees player Allan Cockram, will premiere at this month's Tribeca Festival

Written by Brentford Football Club

A documentary, *Mighty Penguins*, has been produced about [Brentford Penguins FC](#), a Down's Syndrome children's football team in west London led by former Bees player Allan Cockram.

The [documentary is set to premiere at the Tribeca Festival](#) in New York on 10 June. The film is part of a wider series called *Sports Explains the World*, executive produced by John Skipper.

The film follows the Brentford Penguins and features their appearance at Brentford's Premier League fixture against Leicester in March when they formed a guard of honour for the first-team players.



The story looks at the life of children with Down's Syndrome children, showing how the Brentford Penguins is a community built around football.

Allan Cockram leads the team to build their own support system as they show how football can make a difference to the lives of so many.

Brentford Penguins started in 2017 and is supported by Brentford FC and Down's Syndrome Active.

The team hold weekly outdoor training sessions open to children with Down's Syndrome aged five and over who want to learn and practice their football skills such as passing, dribbling and shooting while also improving their balance, coordination and agility.

Details on the streaming of the *Mighty Penguins* will be released soon.



ENGLAND MEN'S WORLD RUGBY U20 CHAMPIONSHIP SQUAD ANNOUNCEMENT

England men's U20 head coach Mark Mapletoft has named his squad for the World Rugby U20 Championship in South Africa starting later this month. Leicester's Lewis Chessum captains the 30-player squad.

There is a strong mix of experienced and emerging players selected, with nine yet to make their England U20 debut, however all have previously been part of the England Rugby pathways programme. Preparations for the [World Rugby U20 Championship](#) will continue when the side trains at the Honda England Rugby Performance Centre, Pennyhill Park on 17th June.

The tournament, hosted in the Cape Town region, returns for the first time in four years, running from 24 June to 14 July, and featuring the top 12 U20 rugby nations. Played over five match days, England is in Pool B where they will face Ireland, Fiji and Australia.

England match schedule

England men's U20 v Ireland U20 – Saturday, 24 June – KO 12:30pm BST

England men's U20 v Fiji U20 – Thursday, 29 June – KO 6:00pm BST

England men's U20 v Australia U20 – Tuesday, 4 July – KO 1:00pm BST

A full playing schedule is available on the [World Rugby website](#), and tickets to the tournament are available [here](#). England men's U20 is part of the England Rugby pathways programme, a vital development tool for future international rugby; of the 48 men's players capped for England last year, 42 of them played England U20.

England men's U20 head coach, Mark Mapletoft, said: *“Congratulations to all players selected. The World Rugby U20 Championship is the peak of the age-grade calendar year and for many this will be the highlight of their rugby journeys so far. The players have learned a lot as a team and about themselves this year, including during our Six Nations campaign and on our recent tour of Georgia, and we'll be better as a group for it. This is the first time since 2019 that the World Rugby U20 Championship has been played, so we're very excited to take this squad to South Africa and test ourselves against the world's best teams. Our squad reflects the diversity and strength of English rugby with every Premiership club represented, and we trust each player to play with pride every time they pull on an England shirt.”*

England men's World Rugby U20 Championship squad

Forwards

Afolabi Fasogbon (London Irish)

Archie McArthur (Gloucester)

Asher Opoku-Fordjour (Sale Sharks)

Chandler Cunningham-South (London Irish)

Craig Wright (Northampton Saints)*

Ethan Clarke (Harlequins)*

Finn Carnduff (Leicester Tigers)

Finn Theobald-Thomas (Gloucester)

Greg Fisilau (Exeter Chiefs)

Harry Browne (Harlequins)

Harvey Cuckson (Bath Rugby)*

James Halliwell (Bristol Bears)*

Lewis Chessum (Leicester Tigers)

Nathan Jibulu (Harlequins)

Nathan Michelow (Saracens)*

Tristan Woodman (Sale Sharks)

Zach Carr (Harlequins)*

Backs

Alex Wills (Sale Sharks)*

Cassius Cleaves (Harlequins)

Charlie Bracken (Saracens)

Connor Slevin (Harlequins)*

Jacob Cusick (Leicester Tigers)

Joe Jenkins (Bristol Bears)

Joseph Woodward (Leicester Tigers)

Louie Johnson (Newcastle Falcons)

Nye Thomas (Sale Sharks)

Rekeiti Ma'asi-White (Sale Sharks)

Sam Harris (Bath Rugby)

Tobias Elliott (Saracens)

Toby Thame (Northampton Saints)*

*Uncapped England U20 (note: matches during the recent tour of Georgia were friendlies and therefore not capped)



LGA responds to Heat Health Alert announcement

Commenting on the announcement of a new Heat Health Alert by the UK Health Security Agency, Cllr David Fothergill, Chairman of the Local Government Association's Community Wellbeing Board said:

"As the Met Office and UK Health Security Agency issue a heat health alert for parts of the UK this weekend, councils are urging people to take care.

"Some people are more at risk of harm from high temperatures and need to be more careful. These include older people, especially those over 75, people who live on their own, those with a pre-existing health condition, babies and young children and people who spend a lot of time outside.

"No-one is immune to the power of the sun and we know that there is growing evidence to suggest that extreme heat has an adverse effect on our health. It may sound like common sense, but drinking plenty of water, keeping our homes cool, avoiding direct sunlight during the hottest hours of the day and using sunscreen are sensible precautions we all need to remember."



Keeping safe during the hot weather

As temperatures continue to rise, you should take extra care to protect your health and the health of those around you.

The top ways for keeping safe in the heat include:

- Look out for those who may struggle to keep themselves cool and hydrated. Older people, those with underlying conditions and those who live alone are particularly at risk
- Close curtains in rooms that face the sun to keep indoor spaces cooler and remember, it may be cooler outdoors than indoors
- Use cool spaces if going outdoors, like [parks](#) with plenty of trees. Find out about more [cool spaces available in London](#)
- Drink plenty of fluids and avoid excess alcohol
- Never leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle, especially infants, young children, vulnerable adults, or animals
- Try to keep out of the sun between 11am to 3pm, when the UV rays are strongest
- If you have to go outside in the heat, walk in the shade, apply sunscreen, and wear a wide-brimmed hat
- Avoid physical exertion during the hottest parts of the day
- Make sure you take water with you if you are travelling
- While swimming can be a nice way to cool off, [do not be tempted to jump into the River Thames](#)

Look out for signs of heat-related harm:

- If you feel dizzy, weak or have intense thirst and a headache, move to a cool place as soon as possible. Drink some water or diluted fruit juice to rehydrate. Avoid excess alcohol
- If you have painful muscular spasms (particularly in the legs, arms, or abdomen), rest immediately in a cool place and drink electrolyte drinks. Most people should start to recover within 30 mins and if not, you should seek medical help.

Call 111 if you feel unusual symptoms, or if symptoms persist. Call 999 if a person develops any signs of heatstroke as this is a medical emergency.

Further information on [heatstroke and heat-related illness](#) are available on the NHS website.

Read the [government guidance on staying safe in hot weather](#), where you can also read more about the Adverse Weather and Health Plan, which aims to protect individuals and communities from health affects of adverse weather.

New oil and gas tax changes set to protect energy security and British jobs

The Energy Profits Levy, which puts a marginal tax rate of 75% on North Sea oil and gas production, will remain in place for the next five years while oil and gas prices remain higher than historic norms – but this will fall back to 40% when prices consistently return to normal levels for a sustained period.

Put in place to tax extraordinary profits made by industry following record high prices of oil and gas driven by Putin's invasion of Ukraine, the levy has raised around £2.8 billion to date and is expected to raise almost £26 billion by March 2028 – helping to fund the measures to help with the cost of living, such as the Energy Price Guarantee.

While the levy included an investment allowance to encourage firms to continue to invest in oil and gas extraction in the UK, industry has warned that companies are cutting back on investment. This puts the long-term future of the UK's domestic supply at risk, meaning we would be forced to import more from abroad at a time when reliable and affordable energy is a focus for families and businesses.

In response to this, the Government has today announced an Energy Security Investment Mechanism to give the oil and gas sector certainty to raise capital and invest in new and existing projects, securing affordable and reliable domestic energy supply and protecting some of the 215,000 British jobs the sector supports. It will mean that if prices fall to historically normal levels for a sustained period the tax rate for oil and gas companies will return to 40%, the rate before the Energy Profits Levy was introduced. Based on the independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecast the Energy Security Investment Mechanism won't be triggered before the tax's planned end date in March 2028.

In light of Putin's weaponisation of energy, the UK government is taking concrete steps to accelerate home-grown sources of energy to reduce the UK's reliance on foreign imports. In October 2022, the industry regulator the North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA) opened applications for oil and gas licences to explore and potentially develop 898 blocks and part-blocks in the North Sea which may lead to over 100 licences being awarded from later this year.

Gareth Davies MP, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, said:

"It is right that we recover excess profits resulting from Putin's war and use the money to help people with their energy bills. Thanks to the revenue raised from windfall taxes on energy profits, we will have helped save the typical household £1,500 on their energy bill by July.

"While we stepped into help, never again can our energy supplies be at the whim of petrostate despots like Putin. That's why it's so important that we secure investment in our own domestic supply, protecting the tens of thousands of British jobs that come with it.

"It would be beyond irresponsible to turn off the North Sea taps overnight. Without oil and gas from British waters, we would be forced to import even more from overseas, putting our security of supply at risk."

This 'windfall tax' takes the total revenues from taxes on oil and gas companies to £50 billion over the next five years. These taxes will have helped the Government save the typical household over £1,500 to July. It also helped cut the energy bills of businesses from pubs to leisure centres, with just under £40 billion paid out across businesses and households to date.

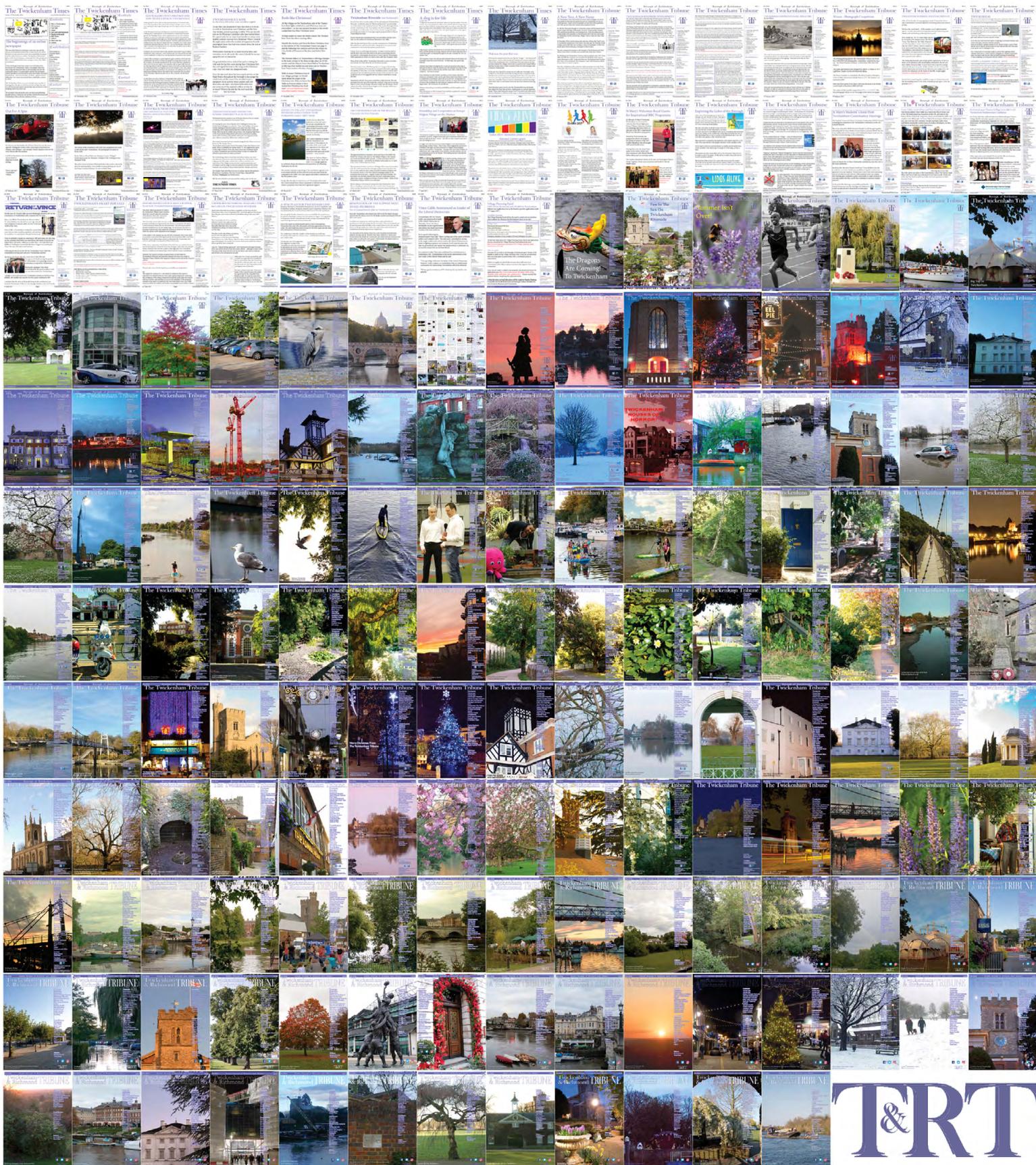
The tax rate for oil and gas companies will only return to 40% if both average oil and gas prices fall to, or below, \$71.40 per barrel for oil and £0.54 per therm for gas, for two consecutive quarters. This level is based on 20-year historical averages. The Energy Security Investment Mechanism is not expected to impact receipts from the Energy Profits Levy, based on current market forecasts.

Today the Government has also published the terms of reference for the oil and gas fiscal regime review that was announced at the Autumn Statement. The review will focus on how the tax regime can support the country's energy security and our net-zero commitments, while ensuring the country retains a fair return in exchange for the use of its resources when responding to any future price shocks.



HM Treasury

344 editions of the **Twickenham & Richmond Tribune** online - Lots to read: News, Reviews, History, Sports and On-going Sagas in the Borough of Richmond upon Thames



Half Page

Quarter Page
Landscape

Quarter Page Portrait

Eighth Page

Eighth Page
Landscape

Example advert sizes shown above

Thousands read The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune

If you are reading this you could be advertising your business with
The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune. Community rates are
available

Contact: advertise@TwickenhamTribune.com

View ad details at www.TwickenhamTribune.com/advertise

Contact

contact@TwickenhamTribune.com
letters@TwickenhamTribune.com
advertise@TwickenhamTribune.com



Published by:

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune (in association with World InfoZone Limited)

Registered in England & Wales

Reg No 10549345

The Twickenham Tribune is registered with the ICO under the Data Protection Act, Reg No ZA224725

©Twickenham & Richmond Tribune. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be used or reproduced without the permission of Twickenham & Richmond Tribune. While we take reasonable efforts, this online newspaper cannot be held responsible for the accuracy or reliability of information. The views and opinions in these pages do not necessarily represent those of The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune.

[Terms & Conditions](#)