

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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Berkley Driscoll
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16th June 2023

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

Twickenham Stadium – Saturday 17th June, Depeche Mode Concert

The concert will begin at 19:10 (doors open from 17:00).

Full CPZ in operation. There may be road closures pre-show but this is dependent on when crowds arrive. Post-show will see closures on Whitton, London & Rugby Roads between the hours of 22:10 – 00:00.

St Mary's Primary School, Twickenham Library flooded

Flooding from the torrential rain on Monday 12th June has seriously damaged the library. The ceiling collapsed in torrential rain, destroying books, furniture & children's artwork.

The PTA is fundraising to replace lost books. You can contribute [HERE](#)

Twickenham Firefighters receive plaque from local Ukraine community

Firefighters from Twickenham Fire Station were honoured to be presented with a special plaque this week from the people of Ukraine to thank them for all their support with humanitarian aid.

Alex Yarema from Prosperity Restaurant expressed his gratitude to the team who have been involved since the early days of the invasion by providing a dedicated space for receiving and sorting donations and loading trucks.

Alex told the firefighters that the 104th lorry of aid is due to leave this week.

Find more information [HERE](#)

Fire at fish and chip shop – Teddington

Six fire engines and around 40 firefighters tackled a fire at a fish and chip shop on Kingston Road in Teddington on Wednesday 14th.

Part of a fish and chip shop with flats above was damaged by fire. One man was taken to hospital. Firefighters checked neighbouring properties for fire spread and ventilated the premises.

The fire is believed to have been accidental and caused by a fault with a commercial deep fat fryer. The Brigade was called at 12:23 and the fire was under control by 13:47. Fire crews from Twickenham, Surbiton, Heston, Wimbledon and surrounding fire stations attended the scene.

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Well, here we are folks, the site of “40 years of neglect” on Twickenham Riverside, said TwickerSeal.

No wonder the council wants to spend £500,000 of residents’ money forcing a Compulsory Purchase Order on this site; it’s an eyesore! Said TwickerDuck. And it’s right on the path down to the riverside, Eel Pie Island and where visitors will walk past. Why would anyone object to the council trying to take over this derelict and ignored prime land? It’s covered in weeds, debris, graffiti and collapsing brickwork, frankly its dangerous and a disgrace!

Er, I don’t think you understand, said TwickerMole. The council owns this land. Since this administration was elected in 2018 it has had full control of this land but has chosen to leave it derelict, instead of maybe using some creativity and possibly using it for community use, a market maybe?

So where’s the area that’s been neglected for 40 years that the council wants to spend hundreds of thousands of residents’ money forcibly acquiring? Asked TwickerDuck.

Ah, that’s the bit over there, said TwickerMole, which is held on a 125-year lease in trust on behalf of residents. The area with the playground, the town square and event space, the community café, and public toilets.

Ah I see, said TwickerSeal. The council owns land that it can build affordable housing on and retail units. But it wants to leave it all derelict so it can force a CPO to take over a popular public garden to build private luxury flats. Hmmm, not very liberal, and certainly not very democratic!

You might very well think that; I couldn’t possibly comment, said TwickerWeasel.



Covid-19

By Teresa Read

World Health Organization

Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 - 15 June 2023

At the country level, the highest numbers of new 28-day cases were reported from the Republic of Korea (475,577), Australia (150,877), Brazil (113,995), France (80,644), and Singapore (59,914).

The highest numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from Brazil (1,175), the Russian Federation (516), Italy (503), Spain (499), and France (497).

The European Region reported over 367,000 new cases, a 47% decrease as compared to the previous 28-day period. One of the 61 countries for which data are available reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater: Spain (+40%).

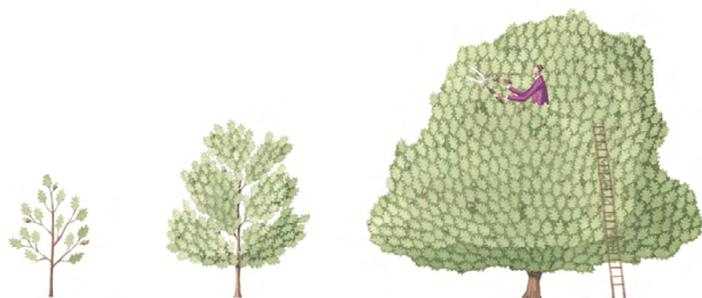
The highest numbers of new cases were reported from France (80,644), Greece (50,833), and Italy (47,471).

IN THE NEWS

Australian Government: COVID-19 outbreaks in Australian residential aged care facilities – 16 June 2023

News Medical: Study concludes a single intramuscular injection of adintrevimab provides prophylactic efficacy against COVID-19 without safety concerns.

Richmond Council: 16 June 2023. Eligible residents have until Friday 30 June 2023 to access their Spring booster.



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The Tree Agency



THE LOCAL POSTCARD PAGE - PART 201

By Alan Winter

Here we go again! After a break of about two and a half years the Local Postcard Page is back in the Tribune.

To recap. The Tribune featured 200 consecutive weekly columns of “The Postcard Page” between its 5th Edition in December 2016 through to the final and farewell column in October 2020. At that time, we were all in the grip of the Covid pandemic but now thankfully and hopefully we have come out the other side and now live in a world that has changed in several ways but in the main I think life has regained something close to normality for most of us.

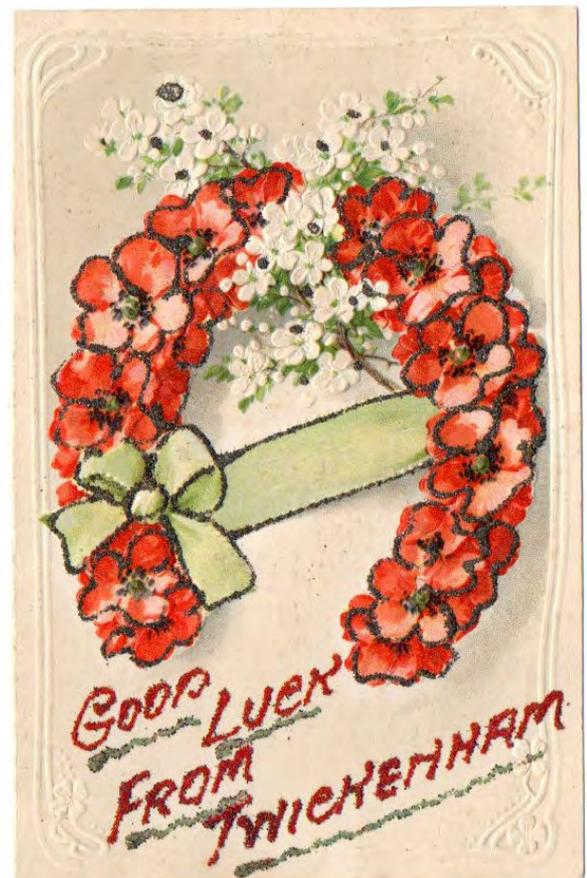
So, for readers that have joined the Tribune’s ever-growing family of readers in the last two to three years, what was the weekly Local Postcard Page about?

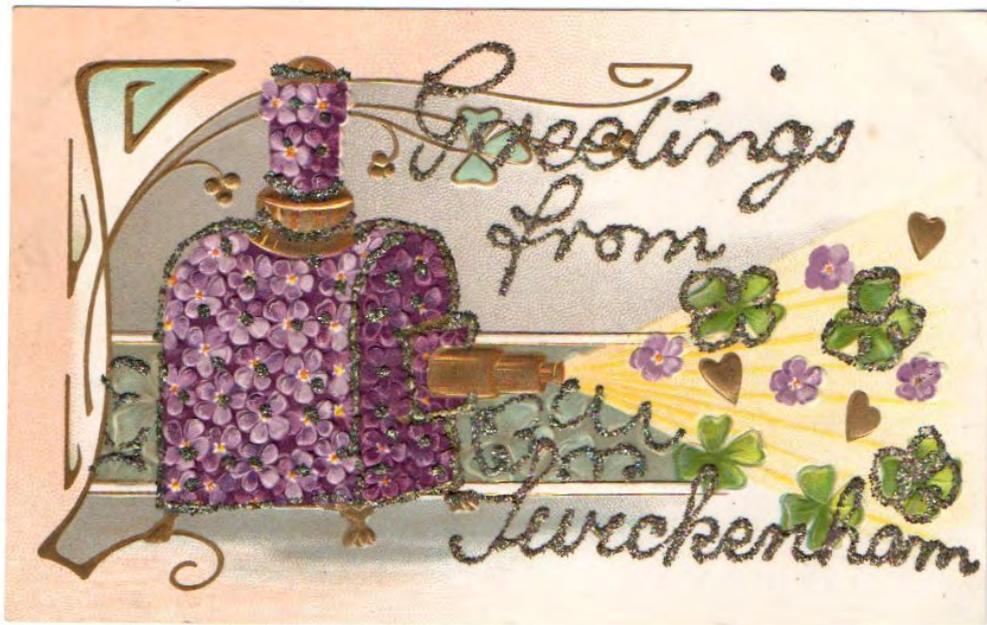
I have collected and bought and sold postcards for many years. Postcards first made their entrance in Britain in 1870 and Picture Postcards were first published for sale in 1894. By the end of Queen Victoria’s reign they were the world’s most popular form of communication and multi-millions were delivered through the nations letterboxes every day. The Edwardian period from 1902 through to the first world war in 1914 is rightly known as ‘The Golden Age of Postcards’.

You could buy a postcard for a halfpenny and by affixing a stamp that also cost a halfpenny you could communicate with anyone in the UK within one day for a penny. If you posted a card to another address in your town in the morning it would most likely be delivered within a couple of hours as there were 3 or 4 deliveries a day depending on where you lived.

Collecting albums full of postcards became a leading hobby at that time and there are still many of these old albums sitting around in lofts, garages or in a box under the bed.

My own interest in postcards was based on images of Twickenham, Richmond and the surrounding areas where I have lived for all my life. Unlike today when we nearly all carry cameras, photography was a specialist art and pictures and photos in newspapers and magazines were a rarity. Postcards captured many images that became an important part of social history. Many street scenes with shops and buildings would have remained unknown had it not been for local postcard publishers. There tended to be one or two in each town or area and they were always taking photos at the scene of occasions and accidents with postcards of the event on sale outside shops by the next morning. That was usually much quicker than newspaper reports.





All 200 articles that appeared in the Tribune between 2016 and 2020 are available to read in the Tribune's archive section that is easily accessible.

So, I will kick off Part 201 this week with a couple of local greetings cards and then from next week the postcards will reflect roads, shops, churches, pubs, parks, cinemas, and occasions that have appeared on postcards picturing places

in the borough during the last 125 years or so.

If you are interested in local history, you may like to know of 3 events taking place in the area this month.

Throughout June – A wall mounted exhibition of Twickenham postcards in The Twickenham Club at 7, Church Street Twickenham. You will find them in the main bar which is open between 1.00 lunchtimes and 11. O'Clock at night.

Tuesday 20th June – I am giving a talk at the monthly meeting of the Twickenham Society. This will take place at The Twickenham Club in Church Street starting at 7.30. The talk is titled 'Beer and Celebrities – A Marble Hill Story' and will take us around the 4 nearest pubs to the park to find out who has been drinking in them over the last 300 years or so. You will be surprised! Entrance is £2.00.

Saturday 24th June – It's the West London Postcard Fair which takes place at Teddington Baptist Church in Church Road, Teddington TW11 8PF. Open from 10.00 – 4.00, Light refreshments are available all day and there will be about 14 dealers on 25 tables with tens of thousands of postcards on sale as well as other collectables like stamps, coins, postal history, football programmes and books etc. My stall has many local postcards for sale and is situated by the stage. I'm also buying postcards so do bring along any you may have for sale.

WEST LONDON POSTCARD FAIR

Including STAMPS and POSTAL HISTORY

**TEDDINGTON BAPTIST
CHURCH
CHURCH ROAD, TW11 8PF
SATURDAY 24th
JUNE**

10am – 4pm Admission £2.00

14 DEALERS REFRESHMENTS

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EASY BY ROAD – From M3/A316

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SUNNY DAY FOR ST. MARY'S

Report and pictures by Doug Goodman

Sun and high temperatures ensured a busy time on the beer and Pimms stall at last Saturday's St. Mary's Church fete.

The second-hand book stall had items to please most reading tastes: as someone remarked, 'you always find quality books in Twickenham'.

Charity, cake and tombola stands did a good trade and children were entertained in the church garden. The tea tent provided nourishment for those needing the energy to climb to the top of the tower to get spectacular views over the river and surrounding area. An art exhibition was held inside St. Mary's and the bell ringers demonstrated their musical skills and strength.



Teddington Tidbits

The fabulous **Teddington Village Fair** is back again! So, save Sunday 25 June from noon to 17.00 to participate in all the fun for all ages at Udney Hall Gardens – whatever your age! This exciting event includes music, dancing, games and food and drink. A highlight is sure to be the Teddington Pram Race.

The Village Fair is also celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Teddington Society, which encourages all residents to join and have a say in shaping the town's future. The Village Fair is a perfect opportunity to learn more about local businesses and how they contribute to making Teddington such a nice place to live. Details can be found on [The Teddington Society](#).

Bothered by **lower, louder planes over Teddington**? Social media sites reflect a tsunami of complaints from Teddington residents about more concentrated flight paths and noise disturbance – day and night. There are no legal restrictions on night flights and currently Heathrow says they are experimenting with flight paths that could increase airport capacity.

If you have concerns about noise, flight paths or dispersed pollution from planes, then be sure to participate in the Heathrow Noise Action Plan consultation that ends July 17th. Information: www.heathrow.com/quieter You can download the feedback form and also schedule a 20-minute meeting with the Heathrow Noise Action team at Heathrow Academy on 24 June and 6 July. The new Noise Action Plan takes effect 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2028. So, if you have any concerns, this is your opportunity to speak up.

Visit the first Urban Woodland Craft Fair!

On Saturday 24 June, Barnes Common are hosting the first Urban Woodland Craft Fair, with support from the Mayor's Community Weekend Grant.

The community event takes place from 10am to 4pm, on Barnes Common, with a range of fun activities for everyone. The fair is an opportunity to showcase the work of local wood crafters, artists, and also the conservation work by the team at Barnes Common.

The Barnes Common team members will demonstrate the benefits of woodlands in an urban setting and provide small woodcraft sessions. The team will also host guided woodland walks.



Entry is free, but fees apply to some activities. Find out more information about the [Urban Woodland Craft Fair](#).

KEW MIDSUMMER FETE

SATURDAY 17 JUNE 2023

11AM TILL 6PM
KEW GREEN

VICTORIAN FUN FAIR, OVER 100 STALLS,
FRIENDLY DOG SHOW, BEER TENT,
TUG OF WAR, FUN INFLATABLES,
DELICIOUS FOOD STALLS, MOBILE FARM,
CRAFT MARQUEE, TEA TENT, LIVE MUSIC,
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THE
BRENTFORD
PROJECT



**LIVING IN
MAGAZINES**

Protect the parks by not using BBQs

As temperatures soar in London this weekend and into next week, we're reminding visitors that BBQs are not permitted in the parks, due to the risk of causing an accidental fire which could destroy wildlife, landscapes and be a danger to visitors. The Met Office has issued the first heat-health alert of the year and put a 'very high fire severity' warning in place for the weekend.

Several fires are accidentally started in the Royal Parks every year by embers and ash falling from disposable BBQs. Previously we have lost wildlife such as slower moving reptiles, amphibians and insects to [grassland fires in Richmond Park](#), which is an important habitat for wildlife and a National Nature Reserve.

The fires can have a devastating effect, destroying historic parkland that hosts a rich diversity of wildlife and wiping out valuable wildflower meadowland. In previous years, fires have destroyed veteran trees, destroyed flower seed banks, and harmed or even killed birds and mammals.

The charity warns that fires have started when people have positioned their BBQs under the shade of large trees which could be hundreds of years old. Some of the oldest trees in the parks have become hollow over time, creating a chimney effect when a fire starts – enabling the fire to spread through the tree rapidly, destroying the tree and killing animals.

In Richmond Park, trees that have stood for over 700 years have gone up in flames following accidental fires caused by BBQs.

As well as the impacts to the important natural environment, these fires also pose risks to people and property including those people tackling the fires.

Please do not use BBQs and protect this wonderful wildlife.

Michael Rowland, Head of Park Operations at The Royal Parks, said: "As many of us look forward to the first heatwave of the year, please remember that BBQs are banned from the parks. We also ask people to take litter home as dropped cigarettes and glass bottles increase the risk of a fire. Fires can spread extremely quickly across dry landscapes and are a danger to people, wildlife, and property.

"The parks are brimming with wonderful wildlife and incredible landscapes and with this seasonal, sunny weather it is a fantastic time to soak up the nature and enjoy a picnic in this beautiful environment.

"But sadly there have been some awful occasions where we've seen wildlife, trees, plants, and grasslands destroyed because of an accidental fire. The last grassland fire in Richmond Park covered 100m² after which we found the charred bodies of several lizards. Grass snakes, toads, frogs, newts, and stag beetles have been killed in other fires.

"Fires also put pressure on the emergency services who are called upon to put them out.

"No-one ever believes it'll be their actions that cause a fire, but fires can start easily. Please protect wildlife and leave no trace by enjoying a picnic not a BBQ, and by taking any litter home if the bins are full."



THE
ROYAL
PARKS

Final opportunity this June to receive booster vaccines at local walk-in clinics

Eligible residents have until Friday 30 June 2023 to access their spring booster, as well as first and second doses of the COVID-19 jab, at regular walk-in clinics around the borough.

The clinics will take place every week at multiple locations in Richmond upon Thames until Friday 30 June 2023.

The [spring booster](#) will be offered to:

- Adults aged 75 years and older
- Individuals aged 5 years and over with a severely weakened immune system

Residents can also access their first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

All members of public, including children, may also receive the spring booster or primary doses at the Richmond and Hillcroft Adult Community College, detailed below.

While all clinics accept walk-ins, there are a select number of bookable times available at Our Lady of Peace Church and Live Well in Kew.

Clinic locations

The locations of clinics offering COVID-19 vaccines in Richmond:

Richmond and Hillcroft Adult Community College

Clinic details:

- **Date:** Thursday 22 June
- **Time:** 3 to 6pm
- **Location:** Parkshot Centre, Parkshot Road, Richmond TW9 2RE
- **Type:** Walk-in - available for all members of public, including children

Our Lady Queen of Peace Church

Clinic details:

- **Date:** Tuesday 20 and Tuesday 27 June
- **Time:** 10.30am to 2.30pm
- **Location:** 222 Sheen Road, Richmond, TW10 5AN
- **Type:** Walk in or [book a time](#)

LiveWell, Kew

Clinic details:

- **Date:** Tuesday 20 and Tuesday 27 June
- **Time:** 12 to 4pm
- **Location:** Unit A, Quadrant House, Levett Square, Kew, TW9 4FF
- **Type:** Walk in or [book a time](#)



Mayor unveils 20 new trees in honour of the Coronation of King Charles III

The Mayor of Richmond upon Thames has celebrated the planting of twenty Yoshino cherry trees in Old Deer Park in Richmond, as a dedication to the Coronation of King Charles III.

The Council's Trees and Parks teams have worked together with the Old Deer Park Working Group to provide the new trees.

Councillor Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee said:

"It is wonderful that we can celebrate the Coronation by planting trees, especially as they play a crucial role in ensuring the sustainability of our borough. We are proud to have a tree planting programme in place, that has seen over 2000 trees planted in the last four years, and over 700 during our most recent planting season.

As we enter the warmer months, we will need support from the community with watering the newly planted trees. Their help can ensure our trees continue to thrive."

The Yoshino cherry trees will grow to become a standout feature in the park, which is renowned for its historic royal connections.

This variety of the plant produces a visually stunning floral display, providing a valuable source of nectar and pollen for bees, that are emerging at the start of spring.

The Yoshino cherry trees offer different attributes throughout the year, and visitors will see an array of bold autumnal colours in later months.



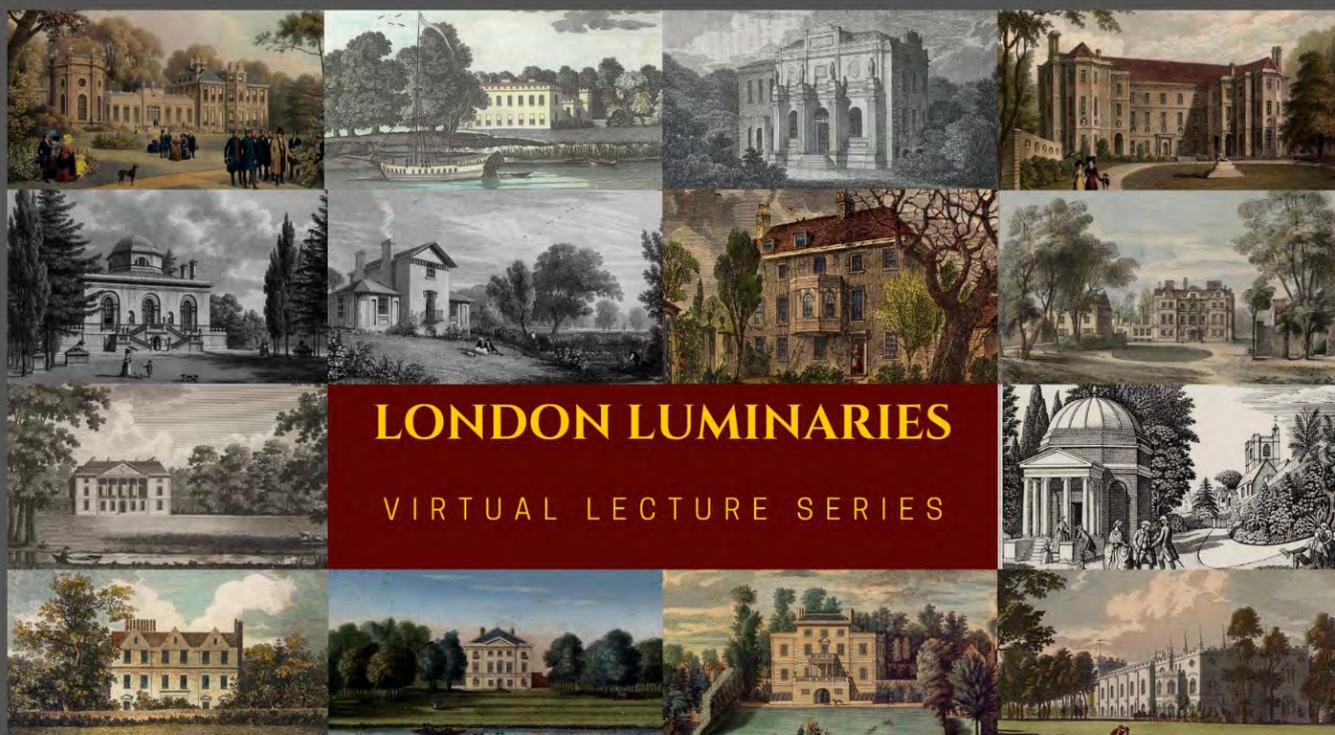
Peter Willan, Chair of the Old Deer Park Working Group, said:

"The Group is delighted to be working with the Council's Trees and Parks teams on the tree planting and other enhancements of the Old Deer Park. The Group comprises five societies: The Richmond Society, The Kew Society, The Friends of Richmond Green, The Friends of Old Deer Park and The St. Margarets Estate Residents Association."

The project has been made possible through the generous support and funding donated by the Old Deer Park Working Group, who are invested in the current and future treescape of this valuable open space.

The Council's Trees team are committed to increasing tree planting across the borough. Find out more about [tree planting and watering](#) in the borough.

ENHANCING WELL-BEING WITH THE LONDON LUMINARIES



7PM 21ST JUNE 2023

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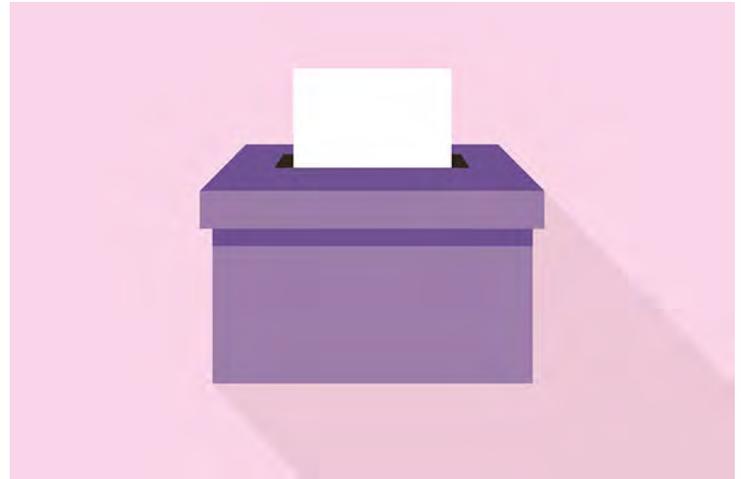
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Don't lose your vote - check your voter registration details today!

Residents are being urged to check their electoral registration details or risk losing their chance to vote on decisions that affect them. The annual canvass allows the Council to keep the electoral register up to date, to identify who risks losing their voice at elections, and to encourage them to register before it's too late.

Recent home movers in particular are urged to check their details. Electoral Commission research has found that recent home movers are less likely to be registered than those who have lived at the same address for a long time. In Great Britain, 92% of those who have lived in their home for 16 years will be registered, compared with 36% of people who have lived at an address for less than a year.



The easiest way to register is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

Information on registering to vote is available on the Electoral Commission website.

Residents with questions about their registration status can contact the Council's Electoral Services team at electoral.services@richmond.gov.uk or by calling 020 8891 7775.

Residents warned to beware of Council Tax scammers

Residents are warned to be on the lookout for Council Tax scams and not to give out any personal details if you have any concerns or doubts about a message you receive.

We may contact you by phone, email or text message to tell you that a payment is due or overdue, but our messages will **never** ask for your bank details.

A message is a scam if it asks for your card or bank details. It is also a scam if it says you are entitled to a refund or band reduction, or if it offers to write-off Council Tax arrears for a fee.



If you receive a text message from us, you will be required to enter your postcode as part of the authentication process; this is for security and GDPR reasons.

If you have any doubt about a message you have received, [contact us directly](#) - **do not** give out your personal details.

Ukraine plaque unveiling

From Prosperity Centre - Humanitarian Aid for Ukraine

We would like to invite you for a plaque unveiling ceremony at the Civic Centre, Twickenham (opposite Prosperity Cafe) on **19th June at 4pm**. This very special plaque arrived from Ukraine to thank the Twickenham community for their incredible support. Please come and join us.



Local schools helping to reduce plastic waste by opening refill shops

On National Refill Day, we want to highlight the work of students at four schools in Richmond upon Thames, who have set up refill shops for their school communities, selling sustainable, affordable products including body wash and washing up liquid.

The pilot project, which launched this month, is being funded by Richmond Council and run in collaboration with [Pupils Profit](#), an organisation that works to empower young pupils to discourage use of single-use plastics and develop business skills by running school eco-refill shops and, as a result, increasing conversations and behaviours related to sustainability in their communities.

The students run the shops themselves, which includes drawing up a business plan, holding board meetings, allocating jobs and taking payment. The shops run once a month after school, and parents, students and school faculty bring containers to refill with a variety of everyday household products.

The four schools taking part are Darell Primary School, The Queens Church of England Primary School, St James's Roman Catholic Primary School and Holy Trinity Primary School.

Curious about what else is available locally to reduce waste and support refill practices? We have a variety of local refill shops where you can buy your staple dry goods and cleaning supplies, such as The Refill Larder in Teddington. Not sure how refill shops work, or what you need to bring? Watch [Kate from The Refill Larder](#) explain.

Saturday 15 July

12 - 3pm

Richmond and Hillcroft
Adult Community College

Parkshot Centre,
Richmond, TW9 2RE

**COMMUNITY
HEALTH
CHAMPIONS**

Summer Health Fair

Community Health Champions in Richmond Upon Thames, in partnership with Public Health Richmond, invite residents to their free summer health and wellbeing event.

Come and take advantage of a range of local services available to support your health and wellbeing and that of those around you, particularly during the current Cost of Living crisis. You can also meet your local Health Champions and the Mayor of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Councillor Suzette Nicholson.

Local services and advice stalls include:

- Cost of Living support
- Habitats and Heritage
- Mental Health support services
- Richmond MIND
- Healthy Eating - Cooking Up
- Social Prescribing - Richmond Walks
- Support to stop smoking
- Local NHS community services
- Healthy Living & Wellbeing - DORCAS
- Cancer care and support
- The Mulberry Centre
- Diabetes prevention and management -
Richmond & Twickenham Diabetes Group
- Childhood Immunisations
- South West London NHS

FREE face painting for kids

FREE entry to our raffle prize draw

Register for free
by scanning the QR code
or email: communityhealthchampions@richmond.gov.uk



Designed and produced by Richmond and Wandsworth Design & Print - wdp@wandsworth.gov.uk - TC2986 (6.23)

HAVE A BUTCHER'S AT SWALEDALE - ONLINE MEAT PAR EXCELLENCE

I know we're blessed with some really excellent butchers locally, but there are always occasions when one either wants to send a gift to someone, or you're just too busy to queue and lug your shopping home. Also, with summer holidays on their way soon, if you're going self-catering, it would be great to know that you can rely on some top-notch meat for the first few days while you find your feet in the retail locale. This is where **Swaledale Butchers** will fit the bill perfectly!

Now I'm a judge at the **Great Taste Awards** - a great honour, and a really fascinating experience. And having judged for the last couple of years, I know how strict the judging process is - and how important it is to be awarded a star. If you see one of the Great Taste labels on a product, you know that it has been tasted and scrutinised very thoroughly and must be pretty damned good! See this list for an explanation. Now, lots of companies win the odd Great Taste Award, but with Swaledale, I was amazed to see that the company has a whole section [here](#) on its website for its numerous products that have won!



So I thought I should check out the quality of this meat from the Yorkshire Dales, especially as it can be delivered to my door - always fresh - and never frozen. Swaledale Butchers specialises in Heritage and Native breeds of cattle, sheep and pigs, raised slowly on small, sustainable farms and butchered and packaged to order. The company has built relationships with a collective of like-minded farmers, heroes of the Yorkshire Dales, without whom the preservation of native breeds wouldn't be possible. They also work with some of our top chefs - many of whom have actually visited the farms to see for themselves where their meat was raised.

The company was established by brothers-in-law Jorge Thomas and Charlie Cowling. Starting out with a refrigerated van, Jorge worked directly with heritage breed farmers and brought it to some of the best kitchens in London in his refrigerated van. He was joined by Charlie and together they formalised their commitment: to support small scale farmers, promote heritage

and native livestock breeds and supply sustainably reared, traceable fresh meat. Based in Skipton, Swaledale Butchers has become synonymous with whole-carcass, nose-to-tail butchery - and by its very nature, there is a cap on how much can be obtained from a single carcass, so many cuts are only available either in limited quantities or on a seasonal basis.



The mass commoditisation of meat for low-priced supermarket-style retail has favoured fast-growing, lean, and high-yielding continental breeds. The lifespan of these animals is usually short to optimise profitability, with the cost of supplementary feed being measured as it converts to grams of meat on the carcass.

I was fascinated, so keen to try a delivery - and boy, am I glad I did! You can order well in advance (ideal for planning holiday catering) and the products arrived on time, beautifully packed in sustainable packaging (not expanded polystyrene as quite often the case).

Slower maturing, grass-fed, native British breeds live for years longer than commercial breeds, and in terms of fat content, texture and depth of flavour, there's no comparison. I was amazed by the difference in taste, but this comes as no surprise, considering the difference in the lives of the animals.

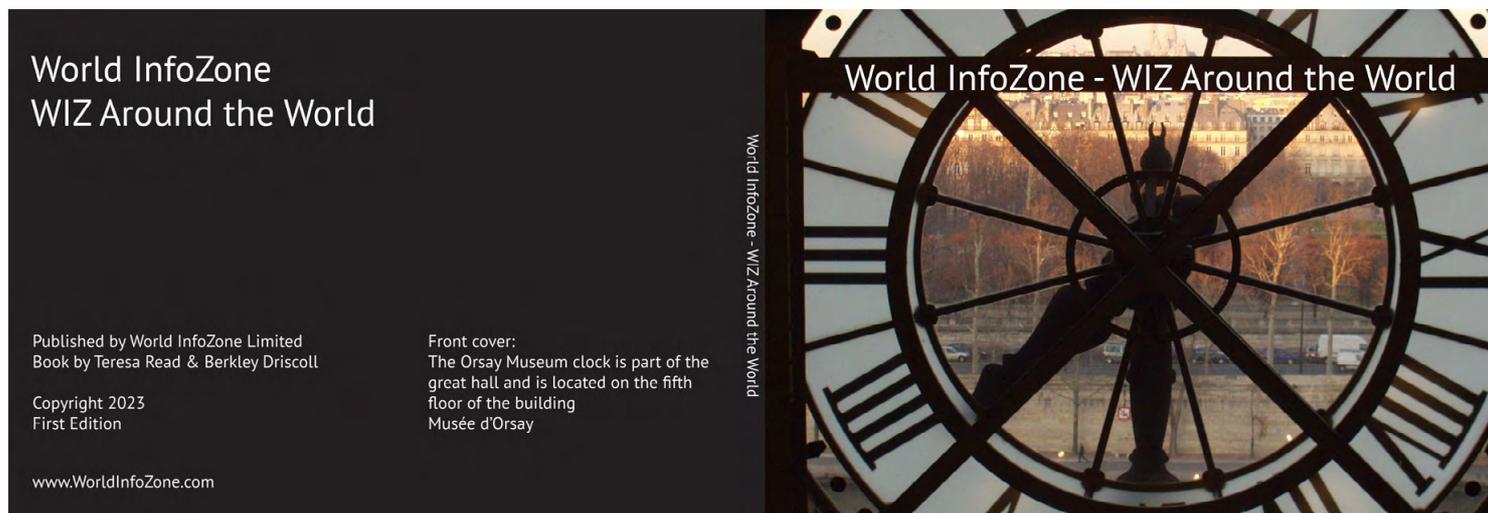
The quality of the meat was really excellent. Steaks were very tasty indeed. And I loved the lamb merguez sausages - one of the best-sellers. The Tuscan style pork, fennel and red wine sausage meat added another dimension to the pizzas we cooked recently, and the slow cooked half shoulder of mutton was a tasty reminder of fabulous Greek holidays.

I've still got a giant pork shoulder chop in the freezer ready for the BBQ, but I'm already planning another order as I'm keen to try more of the Great Taste winners!



You can order [meat boxes](#) - again perfect for that self-catering trip, or just select your own order. The Chef's Choice [meat box](#) looks particularly appealing, but with the barbecue season in full swing, the [BBQ box](#) has rave reviews and contains chicken, koftas, sausages and much more. Decisions, decisions!

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WORLD INFOZONE GLOBAL COMMUNICATION PROJECT



The coming week is a very significant time for World InfoZone as it is exactly twenty-five years since the project began. During this time, I have “whizzed around the world” with the help of over three hundred organizations and many individuals I have met along the way.

What is World InfoZone (WIZ)? Well, it started as an interest in the internet in the very early days when I was a teacher of Information Technology and Information Systems leading me to be involved with one of the first internet school partnerships. In the years to come, I was not only interested in communicating with and writing about people around the world, but I was interested in taking part in a European initiative to promote the use of the internet following a report by Commissioner Martin Bangemann on Europe and the Information Society.

World InfoZone aimed to provide information about countries world-wide, suited to a general school curriculum, but, at the same time working with schools around the world to promote international friendship, as well as learning about other ways of life. During this time WIZ was in contact with over three hundred organizations and individuals, and additionally bringing together young people by email partnership from around fifty countries.

It was for this reason that WIZ was regularly invited to exhibit at international challenges, particularly in Rome and Stockholm, totalling over three months working abroad, meeting people from many cultures from around the world.

There were many reviews of the World InfoZone work but this one from Stockholm is quite succinct:

“The 2008 Stockholm Challenge programme has been targeting ICT for Development projects globally. Great efforts have been put into the search for excellent examples of information and communication technologies, that show convincing benefits to people and communities and that help to build a global knowledge society. World InfoZone is such a project and therefore it deserves its place among this year’s Finalists.”

And, I quite like this one from an American student in Madison, Wisconsin:

“It has wonderful pictures, interesting facts, and a well-written report ... It loads quickly and easily, is well organized, and is up-to-date. I found tons of good information to use ...”

WIZ Around the World – A TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY BOOK FOR KEY MEMBERS OF THE WORLD INFOZONE PROJECT

In order to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of World InfoZone in the coming week Berkley and I have put together a book of around one hundred pages for those who have participated in the project. As well as key points of information about the project we have used over two hundred and fifty photographs from the WIZ website with the aim of bringing the text alive.

I usually like to have something of international interest to write about in WIZ Tales, but unfortunately not all news is good news.

This week saw the death of Silvio Berlusconi, who was a generous host to participants of the Rome Global Challenge, following on from the death of the Italian Education Minister Tullio De Mauro, also a wonderful host who died in 2017. My last visit to Rome was to take part in events to commemorate Tullio’s work in the promotion of global communication in education.



Are You a Jet WASHER?...

By Deep Patel

~ Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~



This week I have seen more and more people cracking out their jet wash spray hoses to blast their patios and drives...but do they know of the damage they are causing...I wondered...

There seems to be an obsession we have these days with making everything “squeaky clean” ...our kitchens...our homes...and now our gardens too...? However, is this ALWAYS necessary? I have seen local residents continually power blasting their drives and patios and sweeping them down every day to make them so “clean” that you could eat your dinner off them (I wouldn’t, but some might)...BUT I bet they have never stopped to think about the fact that each time the blast that patio or drive way, they are destroying the homes of 1000’s of tiny little almost invisible life forms that thrive in the tiny gaps and crack between each drive way stone and patio tile...there are literally thousands of these almost tiny harmless insects living there in peace, but when you spray those jet washes or sweep the grounds unnecessarily, you’ll be butchering the poor little souls and drowning them and their homes...we’re talking 1000’s of deaths through a single spray or sweep down with a broom...you’re basically a mass-murderer to the insect world...so maybe next time you’re other half is nagging you to get out the spray hose and hose down the patio or drive, tell them that you will NOT be a part of their plan of murder and you will not be responsible for the deaths of 1000’s of innocent almost invisible and harmless lives that are trying to live in peace in-between the patio tiles and drive way slabs...tell them that you value your karma and the lives of over 1000 little creatures more than their petty little requests...if they give you grief...send them to me at Meet & Deep Newsagents in Twickenham and I will set them straight and you will have good karma for avoiding mass death of tiny innocent lives.

If you are tidying out your shed this weekend (probably as your partner is nagging you to do so) please also take a moment to check over any large bits of wood that have been laying on the ground or behind plants or under plant pots for a long time...there will usually be 100s of tiny (almost invisible little HARMLESS mites and insects that have been living under these bits of wood, and before you cart them away to the dump or into a skip, thoroughly bang one edge on the concrete repeatedly at one corner or side of your garden (choose a spot where people won't be walking near)...the banging of the waste wood in this way will cause vibrations to make the many tiny (almost invisible to the naked eye) insects fall off to safety rather than be tossed into the skip...you may think this is silly, but if you have old off cuts of wood that you are throwing away that have been laying around your garden or shed or bushes (or on grass/under plant pots) for more than a couple of days...trust me there will be many little lives to save (meaning many more chances for getting good karma for you...a win-win situation!)...So try these 2 ways of saving more little lives from suffering this coming week...to everyone reading this right now...try to implement and follow these suggestions or shaking the wood onto the ground and stopping the jet washing and over sweeping like I say here in this article today and I guarantee you...something good WILL happen to you or your family in the coming days...try it...you'll see...try it...what have you got to lose...maybe a lot to gain...

Remember...

“If you are kinder to the smaller life forms... then life in turn will be kinder to you...”

CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK: FOR ANY HOME OR GARDEN “PEST”...

Sprinkle talcum powder, essential peppermint oil or white vinegar around where they come (but not directly on them) and they will stop without having to harm or kill them...you will get blessings in your life or have good karma for choosing a kind way too! This remedy also works to deter virtually any insect without harming them...like it & share it!

For more tips, email: thedeepatel@gmail.com or join my Facebook page: “KIND WORLD”. Thank you!

Mitridate, re di Ponto

by W.A. Mozart, libretto by Vittorio Cigna-Santi
Garsington Opera, at Stokenchurch until 2nd July

Brattish princes, pining princess, warring kings and musical fireworks, *Mitridate, re di Ponto* has it all, as it tangles overlapping love triangles in the royal family of the eponymous King during the war with Rome in 63BC. Sibling rivalry kicks in, as two princes clash on political, military and familial loyalties. Moreover, the brothers vie for the affections of one lady, the Queen apparent ... their father's fiancée!



Mozart taps this boiler house of passions, musically upping the pressure of the libretto, in a way that is both precociously subtle, yet youthfully exuberant. Famously Mozart wrote it when he was fourteen, but he had had five operas staged by the time *Mitridate* premiered in Milan, on Boxing Day 1770.



The action takes place in the King's palace at Ninfea, on the Crimean peninsula (near the present day Kerch Bridge, which was severely damaged in the Russian invasion of Ukraine). The set is as enclosed as the protagonists' passions. Upstage, a full height wall accentuates the claustrophobic action, as it oh-so gradually advances during the opera.

Finely placed acting during the Prologue tells the backstory. We feel the anxiety of Queen Aspasia (an impassioned Elizabeth Watts) as she paces nervously; the ennui of Prince Farnace (renowned countertenor Iestyn_

Davies) oozing dissipation as he sprawls from whisky bottle to sofa, idly rearranging toy soldiers; and the concern of the upright younger Prince Sifare (Louise Kemeny expressing exquisite yearning in this breeches role). Conductor Clemens Schuldt hones the comprehensive skills of The English Concert

A vitrine repurposed as gun-cabinet, a gigantic sofa with a buzzy print, and a zany zebra taxidermic specimen, all hint at characters' proclivities. The zebra becomes the steed of the patriotic yet deluded King Mitridate, powerfully portrayed by resonant tenor Robert Murray, while Soraya Mafi sparkles as an empathetic Ismene, the princess betrothed to Farnace.

Director, Tim Albery's *Mitridate, re di Ponto* captures the young Mozart's vivacity and virtuosity, as it tells of the emotional turmoil of a court under siege externally and from within.

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/06/11/mitridate

Photography by Craig Fuller





One Last Waltz

by Luke Adamson

JLA Productions at Bridge House Theatre, Penge until 17th June

One Last Waltz takes a real look into the world of Alzheimer's and how its onset can affect not only the person suffering from it, but also those close to them. Co-directors Luke Adamson and Joseph Lindoe create a theatrical piece around a serious and sad topic, but injecting it with enough humour and recognisable realism that it can still radiate joy and hope.

Alice and her daughter Mandy hope to go on a trip to Blackpool to relive some old memories and help the process in grieving for Alice's recently deceased husband. Judy Tcherniak and Janna Fox create a well-balanced mother-daughter dynamic. Tcherniak captures someone reaching for the memories and right things to say as they become harder and harder to grasp. Fox plays a very recognisable character struggling to keep things together, as different aspects of life seem to be in a constant challenging spiral.



With the entrance of receptionist Georgette the play shifts in tone. The more sombre reality is now pierced by a character who leans more towards comedy, especially in her first few scenes, before giving way to a much darker element. Julia Faulkner gives a strong and confident performance, although it does feel at odds with what has gone before. The humour also explores the realities and issues of dealing with Alzheimer's. It is especially true in those moments where the trio come together to paint a vivid picture of a subject tinted in sadness, but also to offer the chance of hope and redemption.

The set's jumbled packing area is a good visual metaphor for the memories packed away in Alice's head. There are scenes which benefit from the quietness and space that the directors allow the actors whether it is Alice sitting quietly with her shoes or Fox stood there for a moment wondering what is happening to the woman she once knew.

For the play's climax there is an eloquent beauty to the stage. *One Last Waltz* explores with interesting insight what Alzheimer's might entail, yet despite its sombre topic, it shows that there are still wonderful things to behold in life.

Read Denis Valentine's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/06/11/one-last-waltz

Image by Renard Press



The Contingency Plan

by Steve Waters

The Questors at the Studio, Ealing until 17th June

The Contingency Plan comprises a repertory of two full-length plays about an impending disaster, deftly directed by David Emmet. The plays show very different perspectives on the same events. They are not simply polemic about climate change; but the relentless progression of its effects is the theme that unites them.



In *On the Beach*, the scientist Will Paxton, in a convincing portrayal by Jake Burnam, returns from a spell in the Antarctic to his family home with Sarika, his new partner. His mother, is intrigued by her. His father is more interested in talking about the research results. What data is there on the melting of the Antarctic ice? Will is optimistic that Sarika, a high-flying civil servant, can get the introductions he needs to make his work known.



The parents are obsessively living off-grid, foraging, buying local, minimising carbon emissions. Fiona Partington's Jenny perfectly expresses the frustrations of a woman who has thrown herself into the life chosen by her husband, but occasionally can't suppress them any longer. Simon Taylor plays Robin as an intelligent, mildly eccentric old man, more interested in birdwatching than talking to his wife.

As the difference in views between the generations becomes more obvious a long-hidden secret is revealed.

Resilience, firmly set in the realm of politics, shows a real understanding of the weight that each decision carries. Sarika tussles between maintaining her civil service sang-froid and her desire to promote the new Antarctica research. It is a tension that Priya Patel's performance maintains throughout the play.

Stark choices facing officials gathering for a meeting. Following a catastrophic flood politicians must be seen to act. The two politicians, Despina Sellar as Tessa Fortnum, a red-wall no nonsense Tory; and Julian Casey as Christopher "Call me Chris" Casson, an affable but lightweight Secretary of State, stole the show for me.

What both plays share is the ability to shock. As the sirens wail, the urge to leap up and save them from imminent doom is overwhelming.



Read Polly Davies' review of *On the Beach* at www.markaspen.com/2023/06/14/beach, and of *Resilience* at www.markaspen.com/2023/06/12/resilience

Photography by Jane Arnold-Forster



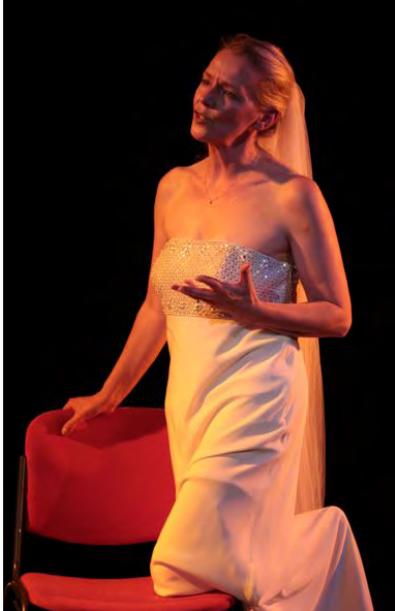
Veiled

by Annabel Miller

Blend Productions at the Studio, New Wimbledon Theatre

Regardless of the fact it was one of the warmest days of the year, entering a sold-out performance of a new play unequivocally indicated that *Veiled* was certainly a hot ticket. What it didn't necessarily indicate was that writer-performer [Annabel Miller](#)'s solo performance would light up the stage.

Directed by [Barney Hart Dyke](#), the play is split into four acts named after the character embodied in each. *Veiled* examines different arenas in the life of a fifty-something year-old woman going through crises: workplace attitudes to women, parenting, mental health, and relationships. Treading the line of a dark comedy isn't always as well-executed as it is here in *Veiled*, given the inherent sensitivity around these themes. Fastidiously observed, Miller makes the narrative amusing and relatable yet doesn't shy from shifting to some more emotionally hard-hitting aspects.



Dinah, who is struggling working from home and balancing a range of competing demands and challenges, and Marianne, who delivers a wedding speech with melancholic flashbacks, both have comic moments that serve to reinforce the storytelling. Another admirable accomplishment is the switch in character and tone, twice embodied in the form of a between-act novelty song, firstly about menopause and latterly focused on 'other people's kids'. Although not safe for uttering in school without consequence, they are a brash yet welcome shout-out to bridge the transitions of character and psyche.

Desiree leads workplace training session on 'having difficult conversations', delivered straight as if they were participating in learning the three F's ('focus on facts not feelings' a mantra almost too believably taken straight from a modern human resources handbook).

This style of performance, alone on stage talking to other unseen individuals, is highly effective at isolating the focus onto Miller's characters and submerging us into the world she creates. Perhaps this is why they are often hard-hitting underneath the relative zing and entertainment of the lines and their timing.

Read Brent Muirhouse's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/06/15/veiled

Photography by Esme Williams

Children's Art Competition for Teddington Village Fair

On Saturday 25 June 2023, the Teddington Village Fair will be hosting a Children's Art Competition, supported by Landmark Arts Centre.

The theme for submissions is 'The Earth'. The theme can be interpreted in a variety of ways including:

The beauty and fragility of our planet
Sustainability and ecology
Our globe from space

Entrants may also be inspired by the upcoming [Gaia](#) exhibition at the Landmark.

The competition will be judged by the curator at the Landmark Arts Centre, with winners announced at a Prize Giving Event at the fair.

The winning and highly commended entries will be displayed in St Mary's Parish Hall.

Submissions should be handed in to the Landmark Arts Centre by Friday 23 June 2023.

If you like further information, visit [The Teddington Society website](#).

Teddington
Society



Ham Youth Centre launch 2023 Summer Programme

This summer, Ham Youth Centre is offering an exciting variety of themed weeks for 10 to 16 year olds, where they can try new things, make new friends and learn new skills.

Starting from Monday 24 July 2023, the free programme will include a week to celebrate the local Hong Kong community, a film making course with Richmond Theatre, an arts week at Fuse Box, and a week all about enhancing young peoples' emotional wellbeing.



All weeks are based at Ham Youth Centre, Richmond TW10 7PL, apart from week two, which is at the Fusebox in Kingston.

A healthy nutritious lunch will also be provided every day.

If you would like more information about the programme, contact Ben Skelton at ben.skelton@achievingforchildren.org.uk.

Ideas Camp to take place for Community Grants Programme

The Greater London Authority (GLA) has opened a second round of the Skills for Londoners Community Grant Programme.

The programme invites small community organisations to apply for funding to increase participation in adult education and skills training. Grants of up to £27,000 are available for community organisations who can work with local communities and help signpost Londoners to various adult education opportunities.

The South London Partnership have announced they will be supporting GLA to run an [Ideas Camp](#) and bid writing surgery. The event will be a day of brainstorming and networking opportunities.

Event details:

- **Date:** Wednesday 21 June 2023
- **Time:** Between 1.30 to 5pm
- **Location:** LSBU Croydon Campus, Electric House, 3 Wellesley Rd, Croydon CR0 2AG
- **Price:** Free

[Book your place](#)

Our Alumni: Author Debi Schofield's journey after Richmond

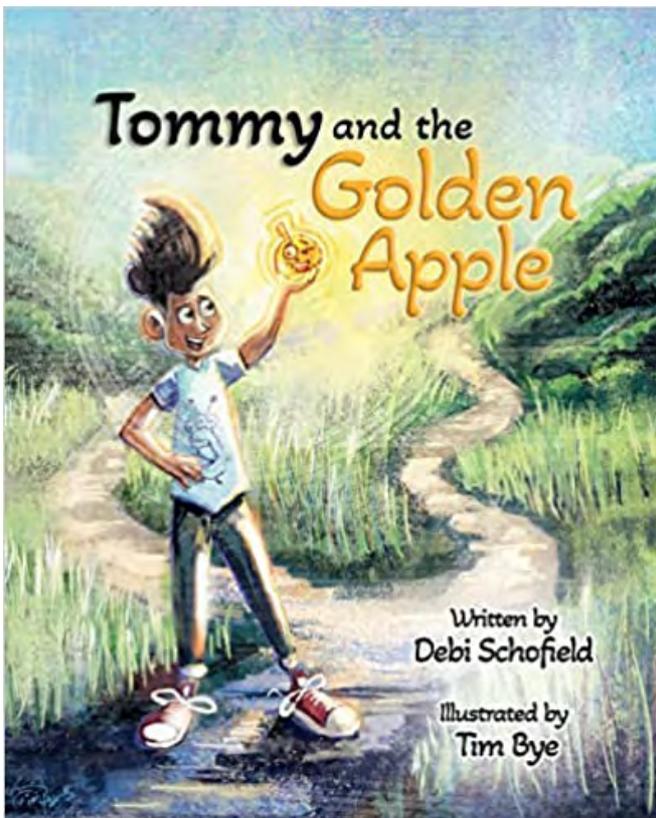
Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) is really proud to celebrate an accomplishment of one of our Alumni students, Debi Schofield nee Chaudhuri, for publishing her very first book!

Debi studied her A Levels at RuTC from 1986 – 1989 and after this, studied an undergraduate and postgraduate degree at Stirling University in marketing and public relations respectively.

Following her time at university, Debi went on to have an interesting and varied career, having spent the last 15 years working as part of teaching support staff for primary schools in south-west London.



Before this, she spent nine years working at a dating agency and working for a television company.



Most recently and to great excitement, Debi has published her first children's book for 6–12-year-olds, titled 'Tommy and the Golden Apple'. The book centres around young Tommy and the bad choices he makes which affect everyone around him.

Debi will be giving part of her royalties from the book to the CBM (Christian Blind Mission) charity who do an extraordinary amount of amazing work for people with disabilities.

Debi looks back on her time at RuTC very fondly, professing her praise for the college, "I visited the college with my son a few months back and remembered fondly the old building where I spent many happy times ... the new building is fantastic!

"When I was 16 I went to Lady Margaret School in Fulham. In those days, it was easier to stay at your

school to do A levels, but I was one of the only girls to decide to go elsewhere.

"Deciding to go to Richmond upon Thames College helped to lay the foundation for everything that followed and broadened my mind and experience, it was a great decision!" Click [here](#) to buy Tommy and the Golden Apple.



**Richmond upon
Thames College**

St Mary's University

St Mary's Appoints Prof Jamie North as Director of Research

St Mary's University, Twickenham has today announced the appointment of Prof Jamie North as its new Director of Research.

Jamie first joined St Mary's in 2011 and was appointed interim Deputy Head of School in 2017. He subsequently took up the position of Associate Dean for Research and Enterprise in the Faculty of Sport, Allied Health, and Performance Science in 2018.



St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran welcomed the appointment, saying, "We are pleased that this post attracted a very strong field and delighted to appoint Jamie North to the role of Director of Research. With the granting of our Research Degree Awarding Powers and excellent REF performance in 2021, research is going from strength to strength at St Mary's. Jamie is ideally placed to take us forward on the next stage of that journey."

Speaking of his appointment, Jamie added, "I am delighted to be taking on this new role at St Mary's. We have an amazing research culture, which I have got to know well through my work on the Research Excellence Framework. I look forward to developing and growing our research output and supporting my amazing academic colleagues".

In Jamie's role as Associate Dean, he was responsible for overseeing and coordinating the University's Research Excellence Framework 2021 (REF 2021) submission to Unit of Assessment 24 in which St Mary's

increased its grade point average for this unit by 43.5% from 2014.

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.

Having completed his undergraduate studies in Psychology at the University of Birmingham, Jamie subsequently completed an M.Sc. in Sport Psychology at Liverpool John Moores University where he also undertook his Ph.D. having been awarded a research studentship by the Research Institute for Sport and Exercise Sciences.

Jamie's personal research interests are focused upon the study of expert

performance and factors that influence the acquisition of skill, spanning cognitive science, psychology, and sport science. To date, Jamie has published over 70 peer-reviewed research articles, as well as book chapters and monographs. Jamie's international renown is illustrated by his having delivered on invited symposia and keynote presentations across three continents. Jamie is also Associate Editor with two leading international journals.



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Twickenham
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Day Timings

Flying Owls Show
From 10:15 - 11:00

Nursery FAQs
@11:00 @13:00

Bubbleologist Show
@11:30 @12:30 and @13:30

Parenting Talk
@12:00

Ceilidh Dancing
@10:45 @13:15



All day

Forest School
Play Activities
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Cooking classes
Petting animals
OO Shop and Coffee Van!

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Saturday 17th June
from 10am - 2pm



Outdoor Owls
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KT11 1HB



Outdoor Owls, an innovative forest school nursery based in Cobham also with move-out minibuses from Richmond and Putney to get more city-based children outdoors. www.outdoorowls.com

Hunter & Cox recognised in King's Birthday Honours

- **Hunter has been awarded a CBE**
- **Referee Cox has been awarded an MBE**
- **[RFU announce landmark contracts for Red Roses](#)**

Both women have been trailblazers in the women's game, Hunter having recently retired as England's most capped player, and Sara a pioneer for female match officials, as the world's first professional female referee when centrally contracted by the RFU in 2016 and the first female to referee a Premiership Rugby league and cup game.

Hunter, who is to join the Red Roses coaching set-up, captained her country from 2015-2023, having made her England debut in 2007. She was part of the 2014 World Cup winning squad and led her team to finals in 2017 and 2022. The North Shields-born forward won 10 Six Nations titles and nine grand slams during her career.



“I feel very honoured to have been awarded a CBE,” said Hunter. “My decision to retire this year as England captain was a really tough one as I loved every minute of it, but I am so proud to have represented my country and worked alongside some inspirational people. Rugby for women and girls is in such a different place to when I first started playing and it's been so exciting to be part of that change and growth.

“I'm really looking forward to the next phase of my career as a coach with England Rugby and helping to share my knowledge and develop Red Roses of the future.”

Cox has officiated at three Rugby World Cups: as an assistant referee in 2014, as a referee in 2017 and the delayed 2021 event held in New Zealand in 2022, where she was part of an all-female officiating line-up.

Her international career has also seen her referee in two Olympics, initially as the only English referee for rugby sevens at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, followed by Tokyo where she refereed the gold medal match. She also refereed at the Commonwealth Games, Six Nations and international Test matches.

“I feel very privileged to have been awarded an MBE,” she said. “Refereeing has given me some amazing opportunities and, if in doing my job to the best of my ability, I am able to motivate and inspire others to give officiating a go then that's an added bonus.

“With significant growth in the numbers of women and girls playing rugby in England there is no better time to get involved in the game as a referee. I'd encourage everyone to give it a go.”



Brentford's 2023/24 fixtures: the key dates

Brentford fixtures for the 2023/24 season have been released; find all of the Bees' key games and important dates for next term

Written by Brentford Football Club

With Brentford's 2023/24 Premier League fixtures released, here are all the key dates you need to know for next season.

The Bees won't have to wait long for their first west London derby of the campaign, as they take on Fulham



at Craven Cottage on Saturday 19 August - the second game of the season.

Find out all the dates for next season's noteworthy games below.

First game of the season

Tottenham Hotspur (H) - Sunday 13 August, 2pm

The Bees take on Ange Postecoglou's Tottenham at the Gtech Community Stadium on the opening day of the season, which will be shown live on Sky Sports.

The west Londoners drew 2-2 with Spurs in last season's home game, before winning 3-1 at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on the final away game of last term.

West London derbies

Fulham (A) - Saturday 19 August, 3pm

Brentford's first west London derby of the campaign comes just two weeks into the season, when Thomas Frank's side face Fulham at Craven Cottage.

Chelsea (A) - Saturday 28 October, 3pm

The Bees will be looking for their third win in a row at Stamford Bridge when they travel to

face Chelsea at the end of October. Their last two visits to the Blues have ended in 4-1 and 2-0 victories.

Chelsea (H) - Saturday 2 March, 3pm

Mauricio Pochettino's side will then visit the Gtech Community Stadium in 2024. This fixture last season ended in a 0-0 draw last October.

Fulham (H) - Saturday 4 May, 3pm

Bees fans will have to wait nine months for the second clash of the season against Fulham, with the Cottagers set to make the short trip across the capital with just three games of the campaign to go.

[The full list of the Bees' 2023/24 Premier League fixtures](#)

Festive fixtures

Manchester City (A) - Saturday 23 December, 3pm

A trip to Premier League champions Manchester City kicks off the festive schedule for Brentford, with a trip to the Etihad Stadium on the cards three days before Christmas.

The Bees travelled to Manchester to face Pep Guardiola's side in November last year, when they recorded a historic 2-1 win, thanks to a late winner from Ivan Toney.

Wolverhampton Wanderers (H) - Tuesday 26 December, 3pm

Wolves will join us at the Gtech Community Stadium on Boxing Day, for the penultimate game of the year.

Brentford's game on 26 December 2022 was a 2-2 draw at home to Tottenham.

Crystal Palace (A) - Saturday 30 December, 3pm

The club's final game of 2023 will be away at Crystal Palace.

Yoane Wissa scored a last-minute equaliser when we faced the Eagles at Selhurst Park last term.

Final game of the season

Newcastle United (H) - Sunday 19 May, 4pm

Frank and his side host Eddie Howe's Newcastle on the final game of the season.

The Bees' final game of the last campaign came just 18 days ago, when they recorded a 1-0 win over treble winners Man City.

These fixtures are subject to change. Broadcast schedules will be announced when confirmed.



GMB WELCOMES APPOINTMENT OF DAME SUE CARR AS CHIEF JUSTICE

GMB, the union for Judges, has welcomed the appointment of Dame Sue Carr as the new Lady Chief Justice.

Dame Carr will be the first woman to lead the judiciary in England and Wales.

In February this year the GMB established a branch consisting of union members who work in the Judiciary.

Stuart Fegan Senior Organiser said: *“GMB notes with great pleasure the decision to appoint Dame Sue Carr as the new Lady Chief Justice. This breakthrough for senior women judges is historic and GMB offers congratulations.*

“Our members look forward to starting afresh in October 2023 to work with her to modernise. We need improvements including judicial workers’ conditions, equality, quality of recruitment, promotion of judges, making discipline procedures functional and fair and to offer our skills in the service of the rule of law in this country. There are many challenges ahead including backlogs and modernising digital justice. GMB stands ready to be around the table in progressing matters on all fronts.”

GMB opens historic Judges’ branch

GMB is now the union for judges, after the first union branch in the country specifically for judges was opened this week.

The branch consists of union members who work in the judiciary system, which is traditionally a sector without trade union representation.

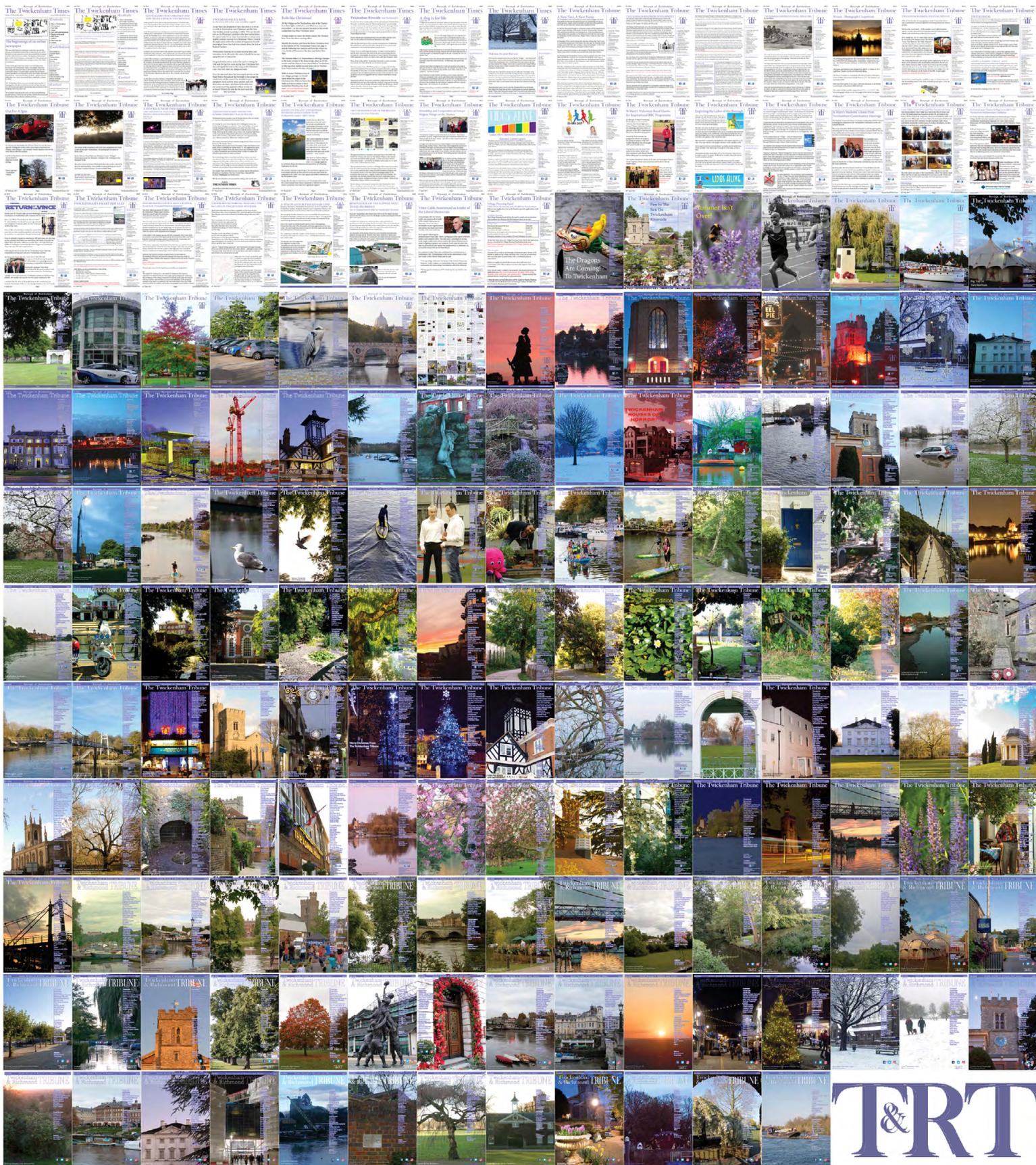
Following reports that the judicial appointment system is ‘institutionally discriminatory’, GMB union will be seeking to ensure that judges are appointed in a transparent manner, which should lead to judges better reflecting UK society, as well as protecting the workplace rights; health, safety and welfare; and work-life balance of those working in the judiciary.

Stuart Fegan, GMB Senior Organiser said: *“Judges are workers and are subject to the same rules as any other worker in the United Kingdom.*

“Accordingly, they can be subjected to the same treatments, such as bullying, harassment and discrimination and are entitled to the same advice, support and assistance from a trade union. There is a perception that judges are treated like Kings and Queens and therefore any poor terms of employment or working conditions should be seen as part and parcel of that, but that is simply wrong. These are workers who are funded by taxpayers and as such if we want our judiciary to be the best in the world we need to ensure that our judges are treated fairly. As the only trade union branch dedicated to workers in the judiciary system, this is an historic moment and GMB looks forward to working with members new and old to make work better for those who seek to uphold the law for the rest of us.”



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