

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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Editors

Berkley Driscoll
Teresa Read



26th January 2024

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

Stag Brewery – Planning Committee

The planning committee hearing for The Stag Brewery site will be held on Wednesday 31st January at 7pm.

Find more information [HERE](#)

Strawberry Hill House reopening

We are delighted to be reopening this coming Saturday 27 January with our ongoing double exhibition; ‘The Devil is in the Detail: Dürer’s Great Passion and Early Woodcuts from the Schroder Collection’ and ‘Christiane Baumgartner. There Goes the Sun’. Entry included in general admission. Details [HERE](#)

Barclays Bank Whitton

You can now visit Barclays at Whitton Library every Thursday from 9:30am to 4:30pm (closed 12:30pm to 1pm). Get one-to-one help with managing your account, digital banking and more. There’s no cash service but you can use the Post Office for anything to do with cash or cheques. Search ‘[Barclays local](#)’ for directions or to book an appointment.

Bushy Park Work

Please note that a boundary restoration project will be taking place in the Waterhouse Plantation between January and March 2024.

The existing timber fence which is currently in disrepair will be removed in sections and replaced with new estate rail fencing. A number of gates will also be replaced to improve accessibility for visitors. We hope to be able to forewarn our visitors in advance so as not to cause too much of an inconvenience.

A landscape contractor with experience of working with sensitive habitats and nature reserves will carry out the works under our supervision.

Twickenham Stadium vandalised

Twickenham Stadium was vandalised on Monday during a demonstration by about 300 pro-Palestinian protesters. Red paint was thrown over the front of the stadium and was daubed in graffiti saying, “Free Gaza”. Palestine Action said the action was taken in protest at an arms event taking place at the stadium.



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

Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 233

By Alan Winter

Gaumont Cinema - Richmond

Located at 5, Hill Street, Richmond, one of our Borough's earliest Cinemas - The New Royalty Kinema opened on 24th December 1914. It was operated by the Joseph Mears Theatres Ltd. chain, and the frontage and foyer of the building was originally an 18th century Georgian town house, with the cinema auditorium built at the rear. The original wood panelling and stairs of the town house were retained, as was an original fireplace, which heated the foyer on cold winter nights.

At the rear of the foyer, a short flight of steps on the left led down to a tea lounge, while a flight of steps to the right led to the small circle. Seating in the cinema was provided for 900 in the stalls and 120 in the circle. The decoration was carried out in a French Classical style. There was an illuminated dome in the centre of the ceiling towards the front of the auditorium, and a sliding roof over the circle seating area, which was used on hot summer days.

In 1922 a Hill Norman & Beard organ was installed, which was opened by noted organist G.T. Pattman. From 10th June 1929 the Cinema was re-named Royalty Kinema. (See our first postcard image). Closed in October 1940, due to war-time conditions, it re-opened in May 1942.



The Royalty Kinema was taken over by Oscar Deutsch's Odeon

Theatres Ltd. chain from 3rd January 1944. As they merged with the Gaumont British Theatres chain and became part of the Rank Organisation, the name was changed to Gaumont from 26th November 1949. The Odeon name was taken by the Richmond Kinema, just along the street, and it still operates as such today in 2024. In 1950, the tea lounge was closed and the organ was removed from the building.



Our second and third postcards are from the 1960's and 1970's and show the Hill Street frontage that many of us will remember.

At some point in the 1970's, the Gaumont had a refurb and a new and much larger screen and curtains were installed. At this time the gas lighting (secondary back up) was also removed and replaced with battery supported electric lamps which meant the Cinema lost its gas lamp burner smell.

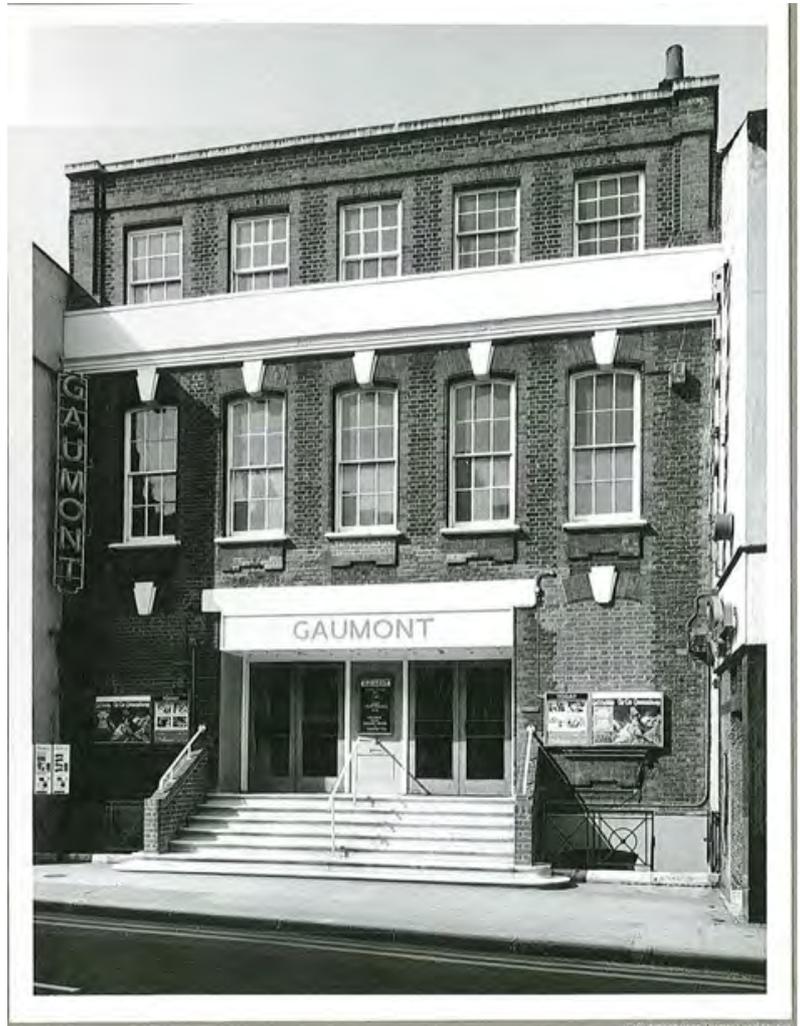
The Georgian style frontage was designated a Listed building by the Department of Environment. The Gaumont was closed by the Rank Organisation on 25th October 1980, with Michael Caine in "Dressed to Kill" being the final film shown. The auditorium was demolished in 1983 and due to a covenant on the site, stating that 'cinema use must be retained', the Film house was built on part of the site (this continues today in 2024 as the 150-seat, Curzon Richmond on Water Lane).

The Listed 18th Century facade and former foyer were retained and are now in use as offices and a restaurant.

All previous 200 plus articles in this weekly local postcard column are accessible by visiting www.twickenhamtribune.com Just go to the archive editions which start in 2016.

If you have any old postcards sitting in a box or album at home that you are considering parting with, I'd be very interested in arranging to see them. Please contact me on 07875 578398 or by email at alanwinter192@hotmail.com

I am happy to pay cash for any postcards or photographs that I find of interest. So don't throw old postcards etc. in the skip or recycling bins. Show them to me first!



Global overview - data as of 7 January 2024: the number of new weekly cases remained stable during the 28-day period of 11 December 2023 to 7 January 2024 as compared to the previous 28-day period, with over 1.1 million new cases reported. The number of new weekly deaths decreased by 26% as compared to the previous 28-day period, with 8,700 new fatalities reported. As of 7 January 2024, over 774 million confirmed cases and over 7 million deaths have been reported globally. According to estimates obtained from viral loads in wastewater surveillance, clinical detection of cases underestimated the real burden 2 to 19-fold.

As many countries discontinue COVID-19-specific reporting and integrate it into respiratory disease surveillance, WHO will use all available sources to continue monitoring the COVID-19 epidemiological situation, especially data on morbidity and impact on health systems. COVID-19 remains a major threat, and WHO urges Member States to maintain, not dismantle, their established COVID-19 infrastructure. It is crucial to sustain, inter alia, early warning, surveillance and reporting, variant tracking, early clinical care provision, administration of vaccine to high-risk groups, improvements in ventilation, and regular communication.

Current trends in reported COVID-19 cases and deaths should be interpreted with caution as several countries have been progressively changing COVID-19 testing strategies, resulting in lower overall numbers of tests performed and consequently lower numbers of cases detected. Additionally, data from previous weeks are continuously updated to retrospectively incorporate changes in reported COVID-19 cases and deaths made by countries.

At the regional level, the number of newly reported 28-day cases decreased across four of the six WHO regions: the African Region (-63%), the Region of the Americas (-18%), the Eastern Mediterranean Region (-13%), and the European Region (-13%); while case numbers increased in two WHO regions: the Western Pacific Region (+77%), and the South-East Asia Region (+379%).

The number of newly reported 28-day deaths decreased or remained stable across five regions: the African Region (-113%), the Eastern Mediterranean Region (-53%), the Western Pacific Region (-45%), the Region of the Americas (-41%), and the European Region (-3%); while death numbers increased in the South-East Asia Region (+564%).

At the country level, the highest numbers of new 28-day cases were reported from the Russian Federation (235,198), Singapore (174,643), Italy (163,599), Greece (68,590) and Malaysia (67,206). The numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from Italy (1,016), the Russian Federation (679), Poland (543), Sweden (446), and Greece (322).

The European Region reported over 701,000 new cases, a 13% decrease as compared to the previous 28-day period. 10 of the 62 countries for which data are available reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with the highest proportional increases observed in Malta, Republic of Moldova, Ireland, Greece, the United Kingdom (37,787 vs 2,2791 new cases; +66%), Romania, Portugal, Belgium, Luxembourg and Netherlands.

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Russian Federation (235,198), Italy (163,599) and Greece (68,590).

The number of new 28-day deaths in the Region decreased by 3% as compared to the previous 28-day period, with 4,194 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Italy (1,016) and the Russian Federation (679 new deaths).

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Feel the love!

Limited edition Love magnet included with every booking that includes the 14th of Feb or if booked on the 14th of February!



Dear Editor,

The closure of Carluccio's in Richmond

It is with particular sadness that on Wednesday of this week, Richmond's local community and the Town's visitors will have seen the closure of the much valued and much loved branch of *Carluccio's* at 31-35, Kew Road, almost directly Richmond Station.

For many years, it has not only been one of the most attractive and well used cafe-restaurants and retail outlets in the Town, but also a conveniently located social and cultural asset and amenity for so many local people - offering all day Italian cuisine from breakfast-time through to dinner-time, and serving as an ideal venue for informal meetings and gatherings.

For many, *Carluccio's*, as founded by Antonio and Priscilla Carluccio as a modest retail business in Covent Garden back in 1991 and developed into some seventy or more cafe-restaurant-retail premises across the country from 1999 onwards reflected a way of life for folk of all ages - offering a distinctive and attractive alternative to expensive high-class restaurants, fast-food outlets and noisy bars.

Despite the closure of many branches and the acquisition of some thirty of the restaurants from the Administrators by the Boparan Restaurant Group in May, 2020, the Richmond branch appeared to remain busy, popular and commercially successful over the years since.

One can only hope that its replacement with a branch of Boparan's *Cinnamon Collection Restaurants* will maintain the much valued qualities of the *Carluccio's* we have known and enjoyed over past years.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Velluet,
St Margaret's, Twickenham

Dear Tribune,

Sour Gripes.

Well done, The Tribune, for publishing last week's letter by Jonathan Haydn-Williams.

Publishing it proves that the Tribune is not as biased as Mr. Haydn-Williams implies.

In any case, it is up to the publisher of any newspaper to choose what they print – it's called free speech.

Mr. Haydn-Williams unnecessarily states that he is a member of the Lib Dems and is a 'retired litigation solicitor (non-practicing)' [sic].

Could this be a veiled threat?

If so, against what? Free speech?

The Lib Dems constantly criticise the Conservatives but don't like it when anyone else criticises the Lib Dems – such as the numerous condemnations of their methods published in press sources such as:

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-67934669

www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/nov/06/lib-dems-accused-over-misleading-and-irresponsible-leaflets

www.thesun.co.uk/news/5518391/ex-lib-dem-mp-sarah-olney-pays-back-2000-after-using-your-cash-for-anti-heathrow-campaign/

<https://libdemwatch.org/f/kingston-lib-dems-caught-out-over-phoney-letters>

<https://libdemwatch.org/f/lib-dems-up-to-old-tricks-in-richmond-park>

<https://guildford-dragon.com/letter-i-stand-by-my-criticism-of-lib-dem-campaign-literature/>

I can't verify those reports but something I CAN verify is that Richmond's Lib Dem Council can't even repair the roads or keep the pavements free from rubbish and dumped e-bikes.

Even the Council Leader recently admitted that Richmond "*Could be a bit better*", but it's HIS Council and HIS party that run the town.

So, as a self-confessed Lib Dem member, perhaps Mr. Haydn-Williams might like to direct his criticism towards his own party's shortcomings instead of towards free speech?

People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw sour grapes.

They might get squashed.

Signed,
A Pilot, Retired, (Non-practising).
Name and address supplied

20mph speed limit extended to A310 and A305 corridors

From London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

On Monday 13 November 2023 the Transport and Air Quality Committee approved the lowering of the speed limit on the A305 Staines Road and A310 Kingston Road from 30mph to 20mph.

The rollout of the 20mph speed limit along the A310 corridor between Heath Road, Twickenham and High Street, Hampton Wick (Cross Deep, Strawberry Vale, Manor Road, Kingston Road, Upper Teddington Road) and the A305 Staines Road between Mill Road and Sixth Cross Road has now begun.

Signs are being updated and will be complemented with new 20mph road markings which are planned for early February and speed indicator flashing signs.



The expansion of 20mph to these stretches of the A310 and A305 is intended to create a safer and healthier environment for all road users

and bring the two corridors in line with the majority of the borough's road network, which is already 20mph.

This section of the A305 is particularly wide, often with heavy parking and concerns have been raised by residents about speeding vehicles. The A310 is a key route for many children getting to school and sections of the corridor rank highly for collisions, particularly cycle collisions. The introduction of 20mph will help to reduce collisions, create safer opportunities for active travel and make the borough a nice place to be and travel.

The 20mph speed limit was first introduced in the borough in March 2020 to reduce the severity of collisions, improve air quality and support the promotion of walking and cycling in the borough. Following the results of the Transport Survey in 2021 which found increased support from residents, the decision was made to expand the initiative to address community road safety concerns.

The World of Boris Pasternak

Piano recital showcasing the little known compositions of author **Boris Pasternak at St Mary's Church, Twickenham on Sunday 28th January**

Pianist Hannah-Elizabeth Teoh performs the only surviving compositions of Boris Pasternak, author of Dr Zhivago, alongside works by Scriabin, Rachmaninoff and Chopin.

Celebrated as the Nobel Prize awarded author of Dr Zhivago and one of Russia's most beloved poets, Boris Pasternak's first love was music. Raised amongst the Russian elite, his mother was a renowned concert pianist, and Scriabin and Rachmaninoff were regular household visitors. As a teenager Pasternak was an accomplished pianist with aspirations to become a composer; this concert provides a rare opportunity to hear his only surviving works.

PROGRAMME:

Boris Pasternak: Prelude No. 2 in G-sharp minor

Scriabin: Mazurka Op. 3 No. 6 in C-sharp minor

Scriabin: Prelude Op.11, No.15 in D-flat major

Boris Pasternak: Prelude No. 1 in E-flat minor

Scriabin: Etude Op. 42, No. 5 in C-sharp minor

Boris Pasternak: Piano Sonata in B minor

Chopin: Fantaisie in F minor, Op. 49

- Interval -

Rachmaninoff: *Morceaux de salon*, Op. 10:

.- Waltz in A Major

- Romance in F minor

Scriabin: Piano Sonata No. 3 in F-sharp minor, Op. 23



New Zealand born **Hannah-Elizabeth Teoh** studied at the Royal Academy of Music, the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris and the Royal College of Music, and has won numerous awards including the Harold Samuel Prize, the Florence Murray Award, the Lesley Holland Scholarship and the Ivy Corkill Recital Award. As a concerto soloist she has performed around the world, including a premiere recording of Ross Harris' Concertina for Piano and Orchestra with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, and most recently making her Italian debut with the Master Orchestra in Brescia playing Saint-Saëns' second piano concerto. Supporting her musical life, Hannah-Elizabeth draws inspiration from literature and art and has a Masters in Philosophy from Birkbeck University.

Time & Location

28 Jan 2024, 17:30 – 19:30

Twickenham, Church St, Twickenham TW1 3NJ

Find more details and booking [HERE](#)



International Holocaust Memorial Day

By Shona

Of course Dad and I cannot overlook HMD. Hedda was a holocaust survivor, we have friends who were born in Concentration camps, others who came here on the Kinder Transports.

My mum was in fact a holocaust survivor. Very sadly she died last year in May. She was born days after the Nazi's invaded Poland (6 September 1939). She came into a world of brutality and chaos; her mum was marched with her through Poland to Germany & interned in Berlin. Her mum, a Jew, had a British/Palestinian Passport and it was that which probably saved her as well as luck and her inherent intelligence and they finally made it to Palestine in 1942.

I really feel that her life came full circle last May and really tragically she also died in a world full of chaos & brutality, but there were many good and happy moments in between and lots of love shared between us in our island sanctuary of Eel Pie, where we lived in peace, consideration for each other & tolerance in our small family unit. A home of kindness and love.



Hedda Lyons, my beautiful mum and a Holocaust survivor.

Dad and I went to see the film about Nicholas Winton "One Life" about his extraordinary efforts to rescue children from Prague and bring them by train to Great Britain. It was very Inspiring.

Today, on HMD, it is a wonder that we are not living a total nightmare, although some are. Everything now seems to have disintegrated in the middle east again. The massacre of October 7TH is inexcusable as is the carnage we see today in Gaza. The brave new civilized world that people after the 2nd world war dreamt of seems as far away as ever.

We should pray on this day, the Holocaust Memorial Day, that sense will prevail and wise men & women will come together & forge a new and more positive future.

Audit, Standards and Statutory Accounts Committee

“Not a Good Look” & Twickenham Riverside

Monday 22nd January 2024

By James Knight

This was an additional meeting called as the council audit is behind schedule. The audit is supposed to be completed by the end of March but is now expected to be completed by the end of May. The officer gave a background to the situation: the audit schedule has been slipping in recent years. There have also been a higher number of vacancies and significant absences. To try to catch up, they have taken on four agency auditors but could not recruit all the staff needed due to shortages in the labour market. The audit manager role that had been vacant since August 2022 has now been filled with an appointment made in December, which is some good news.

Cllr Nancy Baldwin (North Richmond) said, “I find kind of alarming is that there are some of these have slipped from year to year to year. That’s not a good look.” Several councillors then tried to tease out from officers what needed to be done. However, the replies were all essentially that they cannot recruit enough staff. Cllr Anton McNulty-Howard (Mortlake and Barnes Common) suggested employing part-qualified junior staff, as happened when he worked in audit in the private sector. The officer mentioned that the council has tried to ‘grow their own’ auditors by taking on apprentices, but out of the four recruited, only one remains at the council.

The last part of the meeting was about the committee’s forward plan. This opened up a discussion on the audit of the **Twickenham Riverside project**. The first parts to be audited were the project management and the public consultation. A public speaker, Celia Holman, secretary of the Twickenham Riverside Trust, said they had brought their concerns about the consultation process to the committee in November 2022. They asked to speak at the February 2023 committee but were told it was inappropriate to appear then. They did speak at the April 2023 committee, not having received any answers to questions to their concerns. On the 20th of April, they received an email from the audit committee saying, “The Council is confident that rigorous consultation has been carried out on the scheme,” and that was it. In November 2023, we were told very specific questions would be asked about the January 2021 Consultation. Figures from the consultation were used in the legal documents for the CPO, and the planning inspector used these figures, too. The trust had been challenging how these figures came about from November 2022, and now we are told the report will finally come to this committee in April 2024 – 18 months after we first raised them!

Cllr James Chard (Twickenham Riverside) said, “This is a really important project for the council,” what can be done to ensure the report is relatively up-to-date and tracking progress? The Chair, Cllr Richard Bennet (South Twickenham), said it was important not to be 18 months behind. Cllr Chard said the procurement for the construction is happening now, and we don’t want to be here in two years looking at how that went – we want to be looking at it sooner.

Thames Water's proposed scheme impacting Twickenham

From the Save Our Lands and River campaign (SOLAR)

The Save Our Lands and River campaign (SOLAR) is making waves with its strident opposition to Thames Water's proposals to build a new treated sewage outfall and water abstraction facility near Teddington Lock. They've already got almost 30000 signatures on their petition, over 60 local businesses signed up to their opposition statement, as well as local MPs, GLA members and councils raising serious concerns.

Ian McNuff one of the founders of the campaign said *"It's impossible to find any aspect of this scheme that makes sense. Its flawed environmentally, its ignored social impacts and its bad value for money. Having promised to take it through a local planning route and engage with the community, Thames Water has seen that absolutely no one thinks it makes sense so they are now seeking to gain a Direct Consent Order even though the scheme does not meet the criteria"*



<https://saveourlandsandriver.org.uk/>

Habitats & Heritage

Habitats & Heritage, a charity in south and west London that champions the natural and historic environment, appointed Paul Jennings as Chief Executive Officer, effective 5 February 2024.

He was appointed as the Nature Conservation Manager in 2023 and, before that, worked for the Aga Khan Foundation, which is a not-for-profit international developmental agency. He has a BA in Geology/Earth Science from the University of Bristol and an MSc in Environmental Technology from the Imperial College London.



Habitats & Heritage is the result of 2020 between the Environment Trust and South West London Environment Network. The charity focuses on work in nature conservation, heritage conservation, sustainability, and capacity building in the third sector.

In Richmond Borough, they steer the Biodiversity Partnership, coordinate the park friends groups, support community initiatives such as litter picking, and lead on projects to restore and manage historic buildings such as Grove Garden's Chapel and Thames Eyot Boathouse, among others.

Vote on what you'd like to see in the new Library of Things

From London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

From early February, residents can borrow over 30 useful DIY, gardening, cleaning, repair and home improvement items from the new branch in Patch Twickenham, rather than buying new.

Did you know the average drill is only used for three minutes a year? We all have things cluttering up our cupboards that we don't need and only use every so often, when we could be sharing instead.

That's why from the beginning of February, we're partnering with [Library of Things](#) and Twickenham [co-working space Patch](#) to offer affordable borrowing access to useful items. This will help residents save money and avoid wasteful one-time purchases.

Library of Things work like libraries but instead of books they're filled with over 30 rentable items, from things like carpet cleaners, drills and hedge trimmers, to sewing machines, projectors and waffle irons.

You can rent most things for under £10 and booking and collection is easy.

All items are housed in self-service lockers in Patch's ground floor.

In the lead up to launch, you can get involved by visiting the [Library of Things website](#) to cast your vote for the items you'd like to see stocked.

You can also join the [Library of Things mailing list](#) to be first in line to borrow – all sign ups before opening receive a 10% discount on their first borrow.



Twickenham Cyclis

Doug Goodman

Following the picture last week about the diversion for cyclis, we have noted a slight improvement in the signs. But we do wonder who is this lone cyclist who is being diverted all over Twickenham.



South Western Railway - Strike Action

Due to industrial action by the ASLEF union, we'll have to make changes to our timetables on the following dates.

Tuesday 30 January - only travel if absolutely necessary

A significantly reduced service will operate on a limited number of lines.

Large parts of our network will be closed and trains will only run between 0700 and 1900. There will be no services outside of these times.

Services will only run on these routes:

- London Waterloo to Woking
- London Waterloo to Guildford
- London Waterloo to Basingstoke
- London Waterloo to Feltham via Twickenham
- Basingstoke to Salisbury

We've illustrated how our network will be affected on this date. [Click here](#) to download the map.

Monday 29 and Wednesday 31 January to Tuesday 6 February – ASLEF overtime ban

Services will be subject to short notice alterations and cancellations.

Please check your entire journey before you travel as other operators will be affected.

For detailed Q&As on ticketing options, please visit our [FAQ page](#).

Journey planners are now up to date through to Thursday 1 February. Dates afterward will be updated in the coming days.

See our [website](#) for the latest information on strike plans.

**South Western
Railway**

Cllr Roberts' Conservative Party Past

By James Knight

Gareth Roberts talked about his background, his political assent to the leader of the council and his ambition to reach the red benches of the House of Lords in the Meet the Leader podcast produced by Cratus Public Relations. This is an interesting interview for residents because it shows his ambitions lay beyond Richmond Council.

He describes his upbringing and how he got into politics. His father was a staunch trade unionist working in the British Rail technical centre and was the deputy leader of Derby Council. He recalled his father calling his fellow socialists as a 'brother' or 'comrade.' Days out in London were not visits to the zoo but attending protest marches, sitting on his father's shoulders shouting Maggie-Maggie-Maggie Out-Out-Out at demonstrations at the age of six.

In the March 2023 Full Council meeting, Cllr Roberts said that he was fortunate to grow up in a house where his father was a committed socialist and trades unionist, was at one point president of the Co-operative Society, and a senior trades unionist.

He was scathing about the Twickenham and Richmond Labour Party after they asked him to join a picket line outside Fulwell Bus station. He branded them 'Starbucks socialists' and 'counterfeit comrades' and said that he knew more about supporting workers during industrial action than they did.

Against this backdrop, it's surprising that he confessed to having "the world's worst teenage rebellion."

While taking his A-levels, he pushed back against his father by becoming a **Conservative Party activist**, delivering leaflets, and knocking on doors. He put this down to being under the influence of one of his teachers, who was also a Conservative councillor. He remembers his father being "really, really, really, cross. He was absolutely livid."

He has been mocked on X (formerly Twitter) on this revelation by local Labour Party activists, with one saying it was a "youthful rebellion worthy of a Monty Python sketch".

You can listen to the full interview by following this link [link](https://cratus.co.uk/meet-the-leader-with-cllr-gareth-roberts/)

By-Election Analysis

By James Knight

The Richmond Liberal Democrats celebrated winning the Teddington and Hampton North By-Elections this week. Their website boasts they have **“firmly established their political dominance in Richmond Borough.”**

Richmond Council now has 49 Liberal Democrats councillors and 5 Green councillors, the latter because of an election pact, where they agreed to stand aside in the general election in return for council seats. Thus, there are no ‘true’ opposition councillors, as all of them owe their seats to the patronage of the Liberal Democrats, and the result of this is often muted criticism in the council chamber.

However, how real is this claimed ‘dominance?’ It reminds one of the famous quote from Margaret Thatcher; “Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren’t.” Both by-elections have had a low turnout, Teddington at 33.8% and Hampton North at 30.94, so it would be hard to draw firm conclusions. Richmond upon Thames has a long history of switching between the Conservative and Liberal Democrats, voting for one party locally and another nationally, which Gareth Roberts acknowledged in his interview on the LibDem Podcast last year. Their campaign coordinator, Cllr Alice Bridges-Westcott, also added that in constituencies like Twickenham, there are still x-thousands votes that go to the Tories; “they are kind of the blue wall Tories” you get in Chesham and Amersham that are “soft Tory, that we can win over.”

Both campaigns by the Liberal Democrats had a strong anti-Tory message, telling residents to send a message to the national Government. In recent years, the Liberal Democrats have been keen to distance themselves from the Coalition Government and their unpopular policies like austerity, the bedroom tax and the increase in tuition fees. This is part of Edward Davey’s strategy to move the Liberal Democrats to the left after years of the ‘Orange Book’ right of the party being in ascendance. They are now positioning themselves as a potential coalition partner for a future Labour Government tempered with the realisation of the need not to go too far and scare off soft Conservative voters.

In 1968, the Conservatives held every seat on the council, and the Liberal Democrats came very close to this in 1986 before the Conservatives recovered in 1994 and retook the council in 2002. The chart below shows the distribution of seats at every local election held in Richmond Borough since its inception in 1964, and broadly, the Conservatives do well locally when they are out of office nationally.

The local Liberal Democrats are well aware of the “x-thousands” of Conservative voters in Richmond Borough and how they are relying upon the soft Conservative vote to get elected. With the prospect of a Labour Government, many may no longer view voting Liberal Democrats as a ‘safe’ form of protest. The Labour Party have made commitments to increase taxes on the ‘rich’, though their definition of rich seems to include the comfortable middle classes that our borough has in abundance.

Labour’s proposal to add VAT on private school fees gives a foretaste of how indirect taxes could be increased – and this will particularly affect Richmond borough as we have one of the highest take-ups of private education in the borough. They also plan to force pension funds to invest in national champions, which could risk people’s retirement savings if we have a rerun of the 1970s record of the government picking ‘winners’ that go spectacularly bust.

The Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party are also committed to reforming council tax to raise more revenue, which many have dubbed Mansion Tax 2.0. With Richmond Borough having some of the highest property values in London, their proposals to carry out a full revaluation and add extra bands will see most people in Richmond moving up one or two bands (at the cost of around £500 to £1,000 per year) with the increased revenue likely to be captured by the national Government rather than spent on local services.

Locally, the Liberal Democrats are coming under pressure because of the deterioration in local services whilst increasing council tax by the maximum amount possible. Residents are still reporting serious issues with refuse collection after the botched implementation of the new contract. There are cuts to services for disabled children, and the council is trying to restrict the number of children who can get an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) so they can wriggle out of paying for extra support. Roads and pavements are declining, and the council no longer removes graffiti from utility boxes. The council has also had to implement a ‘change program’ to cut millions of pounds of services as a black hole has appeared in the medium-term financial forecasts due to the capital expenditure they have committed to.

If Labour is elected to government, the Liberal Democrats could be in a tricky situation. The main thrust of the campaigning in Richmond is that they are the ‘anti-Tory’ option locally. But if the Conservatives are in opposition, that evaporates, and where does that leave them? Would they go full circle and swing back to being Orange Book Liberals and start advocating for increases in personal allowance and tax cuts again? In conclusion, despite the bravo, the local Liberal Democrats know their position is fragile, and there is everything to play for in the upcoming elections this year.

By-Election Results

The results for Teddington:

Election Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Outcome
Richard Scott Baker	Liberal Democrat Party	1716	64.27%	Elected
Elizabeth Foster	Conservative Party	561	21.01%	Not elected
Chantal Lyn Kerr-Sheppard	Green Party	184	6.89%	Not elected
James Dylan Thomson	Labour Party	163	6.10%	Not elected
Dominic Francis Stockford	Independent	46	1.72%	Not elected

Voting Summary	Number
Seats	1
Total votes	2670
Electorate	7923
Number of ballot papers issued	2678
Number of ballot papers rejected	8
Turnout	33.80%

The Results for Hampton North:

Election Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Outcome
Carey Anne Leuw Bishop	Liberal Democrat Party	1177	53.19%	Elected
Nupur Majumdar	Conservative Party	771	34.84%	Not elected
Sam Cullen	Labour Party	159	7.18%	Not elected
Danielle Anne Cornelia Coleman	Green Party	106	4.79%	Not elected

Voting Summary	Number
Seats	1
Total votes	2213
Electorate	7205
Number of ballot papers issued	2229
Number of ballot papers rejected	16
Turnout	30.94%

A WARM CÔTE!

On a Thursday evening during the January sales, one would expect the restaurants on Kingston riverside to be busy. This certainly wasn't the case the other evening, as most restaurants were exceptionally empty...with the exception of **Côte**. This could have been due to the extensive ad campaign for the Kingston branch, but I think it is more the fact that folk know that Côte offers excellent value for money, and consistently good food. This particular branch has just benefitted from a mega refurb, resulting in a new bar, tables more spaced out, and a fabulous cheese counter.



There is also currently a special Alpine menu, that looks very yummy, but rather too carb heavy for our taste. On that subject, now that large restaurant groups have, by law, to denote the calorie counts on their menus, I was relieved to see that the ones at Côte were in such small type that one could easily ignore them! That said, trying to read the menu was rather difficult as the 'soft' lighting and tea lights on the tables meant that we, and people at other tables, had to use our phone torches to be able to see! Luckily, Jack, the assistant manager, spotted our dilemma and produced a cordless table lamp that did the trick beautifully. He explained that these are being trialled: well, we can definitely give them the proverbial thumbs up, and suggest they have one on every table.

Never one to resist a Negroni, I chose the Rose Negroni from the cocktail menu (Mirabeau French pink gin, Lillet rosé, Pampelle grapefruit apéritif & lemon peel). It was pleasant, but I felt it lacked the all-important bitter element.

For starters, my husband chose the cheese souffle (twice-baked Camembert soufflé with a chive & mustard sauce) and I opted for Crab Madison (crab, avocado, cucumber, capers, shallots & mayonnaise, topped with sliced radish & served with toasted sourdough baguette). The baguette slices were served warm with my crab and the dish was beautifully presented and packed with flavour and fresh herbs - tarragon being foremost. The radish slices added texture and a gentle hint of bitterness. The souffle was rather heavy on the flour, we felt, and not that cheesy, but the sauce was really delicious and definitely saved the dish.



A bottle of French Malbec paired beautifully with our meal, and especially with my choice of lamb rump on a bed of anchovy braised lentils with Chantenay carrots & crispy leeks. The lamb was pink and perfectly cooked and the lentils divinely garlicky! The crispy shredded leeks were a lovely touch too. The other main dish was Boeuf Bourguignon from the Côte Classics section of the menu (6 hour slow-cooked beef, mushrooms, bacon lardons with potato purée & French streaky bacon). It was declared a triumph, but my main was so good I think I made the better choice.

We weren't in the mood for anything sweet, so Jack persuaded us to try some cheese to accompany the rest of our red wine. I'm so glad we did: the special cheese menu is sensational - a choice of 13 different cheeses, all perfectly ripe and served with membrillo, fig chutney, baguette slices and rye crackers. The cheese menu is divided into sections for ease of choice and we chose a creamy Delice de Bourgogne, a truffled brie and Roquefort. The cheese was so good and in such prime condition that there was no need, in fact, for the membrillo or chutney to accompany it.



We had a lovely evening at Côte, and we were charmingly and efficiently served by Naimh, our waitress. The good thing about this chain of restaurants is the consistency and value for money.

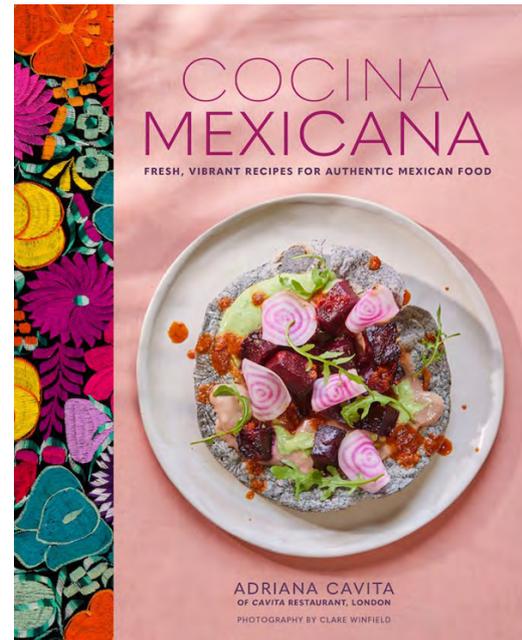
There are a number of special promotions in addition to the Prix Fixe menu. A special Valentine's menu at £80 for two and of course the current Alpine menu. Brunch is also served at the weekend and, if you sign up on the website for updates, you might benefit from one of their promotional offers too. And, of course, with some of the weather we've endured recently, there is the option to cook your meal yourself with the excellent delivery service Côte at Home.

AUTHENTIC MEXICAN FROM COCINA MEXICANA

While I haven't actually been to Mexico (yet, but still hoping!) I do know a fair amount about Mexican food, as we had two consecutive Mexican au pairs some years ago, so for over two years, we had a strong Mexican influence in our home. So I was delighted to find **Cocina Mexicana**, by **Adriana Cavita**, a recently published cookbook that's packed with fresh, vibrant recipes for authentic Mexican food.

The author, Adriana, grew up in a small village in Mexico and was inspired to become a chef by her grandmother, who ran a street-food business. She has since travelled extensively around the country, from Mexico City across to Oaxaca and the Yucatán. Visiting the small towns around the coast and perched up in the mountains sparked in Adriana a fascination with traditional cooking methods, and how these vary from region to region. This temptingly illustrated collection of recipes is built around her experiences.

Adriana's take on traditional Mexican recipes tells a story of her heritage and the people who taught her the craft of cooking and will open your eyes to real, authentic Mexican food. She now has her own restaurant - **Cavita** - in **Wigmore Street, London**, that I'm keen to visit (in preparation, of course, for a trip to Mexico itself). The book is published by Ryland, Peters & Small at £22 for a beautiful hardback. It would also make a lovely gift (with Valentine's Day and Mothers' Day coming up soon)



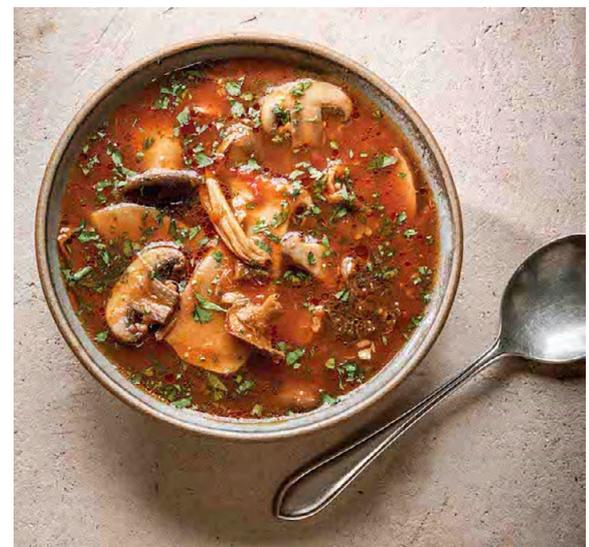
To inspire you, too, here are a couple of recipes:

MUSHROOM SOUP (SOPA DE HONGOS) SERVES 4

This soup is very common in the state of Mexico. The region is surrounded by forests and the weather is generally colder, which makes this soup very popular.

- 200 ml vegetable oil
- ½ white onion, thinly sliced
- 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 350 g sliced mushrooms (use whatever types are in season)
- 400 g chopped tomatoes
- 1 litre vegetable or chicken stock
- 40 g chopped fresh coriander, plus extra to garnish
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

Heat the oil in a saucepan over a medium-high heat. Add the onion and cook for 5 minutes or until translucent. Add the garlic and cook for about 2 minutes. Add the mushrooms, season with salt and black pepper and cook for about 5 minutes. Add the tomatoes and cook for about 8 minutes, then add the stock. Leave it to boil for about 5 minutes, then add the coriander and stir through. Taste and adjust the seasoning if needed. Simmer for about 20 minutes, then serve garnished with a little extra chopped coriander if liked.



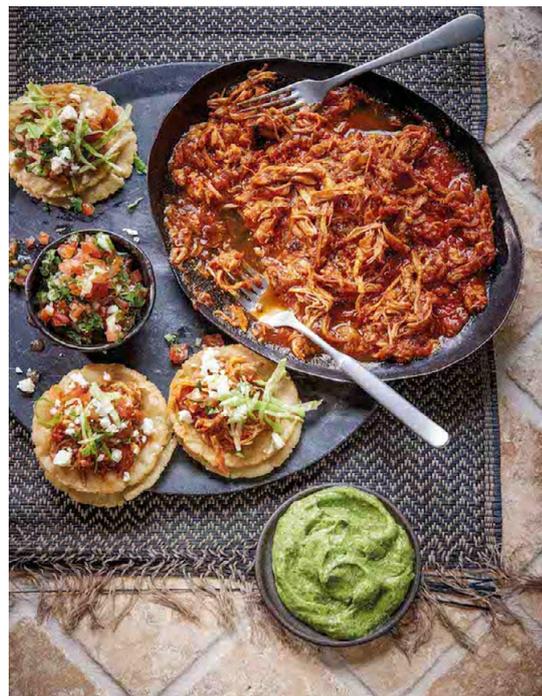
CHICKEN STEW (TINGA) SERVES 8

This recipe is typically served each year on 16th September as part of the Mexican Independence Day celebrations but it is also enjoyed as a daily meal. Some people use canned chillies, however I prefer to use dried chillies for their smoky flavour.

- 60 ml/¼ cup vegetable oil
- 2 white onions, thinly sliced
- 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1.2 kg tomatoes, blended and strained
- 2 tablespoons salt
- 60 ml chipotle paste (see Note below)
- 6 whole allspice berries
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 6 fresh bay leaves
- 800 g cooked and shredded chicken breast
- 240 ml chicken stock or water

TO SERVE

- tostadas
- fresh cheese
- sour cream
- finely chopped iceberg lettuce
- any of your favourite spicy salsas and sauces



Heat the oil in a saucepan over a medium-high heat. Add the onions and cook for 5 minutes or until translucent. Add the garlic and cook for about 2 minutes or until they start to take on some colour. Add the strained tomatoes, salt, chipotle paste, allspice berries, black pepper and bay leaves. Cook for about 5 minutes, stirring every couple of minutes, then lower the heat and add the shredded chicken and stock or water. Cook for another 10 minutes. Taste and add more salt if needed. Simmer for a further 10 minutes.

Serve the stewed chicken on top of tostadas with fresh cheese, sour cream, lettuce and one or two spicy salsas and sauces.

Notes

To make your own chipotle paste, blend a 200-g can of chipotles in adobo (available from online stockists) in a food processor or blender. Just be careful when adding it to the stew if you don't like too much spice.

You can also use the chicken stew as the filling for quesadillas.

Can You Keep A Secret? We Can!

By Bruce Lyons from Crusader Travel 58 Church Street



VALENTINE'S DAY OFFERS

Valid for bookings from Feb 7-21, 2024

#1 Best Honeymoon Cruise Line 2023 - USA TODAY



Variety Cruises, longtime operators of Small Ship Cruises Worldwide, first pioneered this brand back in 1949. They have selected many dates in their 2024 Schedule to book between 7th & 21st February. They are offering 20% discounts or no single supplements and two go for the price of 1 fare.

They have sailings, Costa Rica & Panama; Cape Verde; West Africa; Greece; Malta & Italy; Egypt & The Red Sea; Seychelles & Tahiti (French Polynesia) & Tuamotu Islands.

Great for Honeymoons!

A 7-night Polynesian cruise with the 20% included starts from £2080 per person. Flights extra, of course and we can add Island stays too!

We have a long list of dates, the discounts apply over all seasons and in nearly all the destinations. So, ask for dates – bookings must be made in the window 7th thru 21st Feb.

The Luxury, Adults Only Sonesta in Dutch Antilles (Caribbean) is offering 30% Discount over the Valentine break along with Dining “deals”.

GREAT LITTLE VALENTINE'S DAY BREAKS



For the romantics, but less well heeled, Great Little Breaks have some offers with great meal offers for 1 and 2 nights in the UK. Include free Prosecco! Give your partner a surprise – we won't tell - For some – you may like to be reminded it is a Leap Year.

Veganuary?

By Deep Patel

~ Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

Veganuary... ever heard of it? Well, it's been going on all month...about to end...a fairly new tradition...where people commit to being vegan for the whole of January...

50% of you reading this right now will be thinking "what a load of crap, I am not gonna spend the first month of the year eating rabbit food" whereas the other 50% may be thinking "this is a good opportunity for me to detox and adapt a plant-based diet and my body will thank me"...or maybe you fall somewhere in the middle?



So is there actually any benefit of Veganuary and why on earth do people do it? Well, for one, doing so can actually cut your individual carbon foot print by up to 73% (I kid you not, it's an actual fact). Promote weight loss. Vegan diets can reduce your risk of heart disease by lowering cholesterol levels, lower your chances of getting certain types of cancer, such as colon cancer, Manage diabetes by lowering A1C levels, and improve Kidney function amongst many other benefits. Well there is always the old argument "vegans are weak as you need meat to have power"...but is it REALLY true often wonder?...I mean look at the STRONGEST animal in the world...An elephant...totally vegan...I mean they obviously have a different body set up...but If they can do it...maybe it can be at least an indicator for us...

My shop is now getting more and more plant-based/vegan products in, not because I want them... but because so many more people are buying them! One thing I have noted also is how INCREDIBLY young the vegans/plant-based people that come into my shop are looking...could it be their fortunate genetics...or are the plants they eat somehow keeping them youthful?!

Even some of the most famous products I sell have ditched their traditional recipes in favour of vegan versions!...Fruit Pastilles...FULLY plant-based recipe now...Flora margarine... FULLY plant-based recipe now too...Oreo biscuits...also FULLY plant-based...there are so many...and they still sell massively in my shop...people can't seem to taste the difference...at least no one has complained in my shop... so I guess this is a good thing...people are eating more plant-based and reaping so many proven health benefits also, as well as lowering their carbon footprint...even if in a small way...even if only for "veganuary" this month...it still helps...every little helps (gosh, now I sound like a blooming Tesco advert). So there we have it...a little "food for thought" in this week's article...maybe it's not "just for rabbits" after all?

Remember..

"Don't knock it until you have tried it.."

CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK:

GOT MICE OR RATS?

Choose humane live-capture traps...you can get them online...they allow you to capture the mouse/rat alive and then release far from your home, in a parkland/woodland area...poison makes their veins slowly rip over a period of 5 days as they painfully die, bleeding internally to death...always choose a kind way...you will get blessings in your life and have good karma too! Share this tip!

For more tips, email: thedeepatel@gmail.com or join my Facebook group: "INSECT LOVERS UNITE". Thank you!

WIZ Tales: Seafood Trawling and the Environment

Teresa Read

We are probably all aware of various ways that food production results in carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere, but have we thought about the role played by seafood.

It is estimated that around a quarter of seafood worldwide is collected by dragging nets over the seabed, harming marine ecosystems.

An article in Nature in 2021 said that trawling stirs up and releases 1 billion metric tons of carbon each year, said to be almost the equivalent to annual emissions from the global aviation industry.

It is calculated that there are four million trawlers worldwide; sediment smoky white plumes caused by trawlers can be seen from space. Remaining stirred-up carbon contributes to ocean acidification affecting many organisms at the bottom of the food chain.

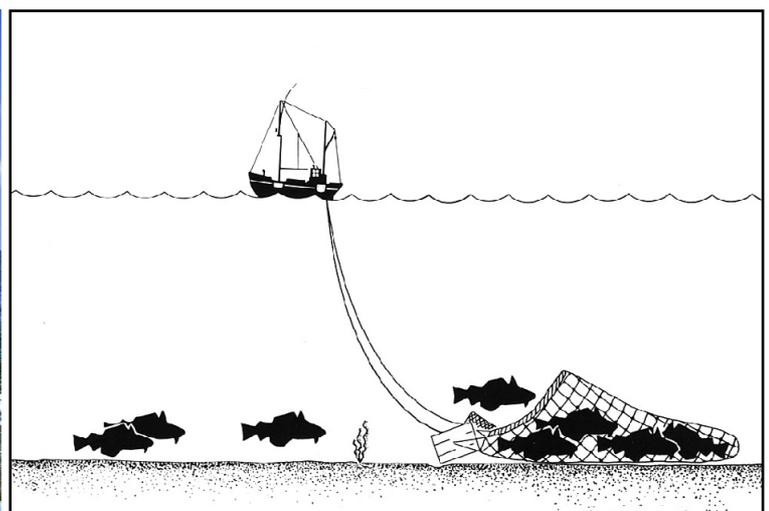
Areas said to be particularly at fault include the Baltic, Europe, Greenland seas, the Arabian Sea, East China, South-East Asia, the Bay of Bengal and the Gulf of Mexico.



Setting a trawl in Stephens Passage, Alaska



Small shrimp trawler with outriggers



Bottom trawling

Atlantic and Pacific Oceans:

<https://worldinfozone.com/oceans.php?country=Atlantic>

<https://worldinfozone.com/oceans.php?country=Pacific&type=gallery>





Measure for Measure

by William Shakespeare

Richmond Shakespeare Society at the Mary Wallace Theatre, Twickenham until 27th January

A kaleidoscope onto the emotions of an array of characters, as they navigate the intricacies of power, morality, and justice, this retelling of *Measure for Measure* merges the prose of the Bard with a vibrant contemporary heartbeat, building a production that more than measures up.



A classic hotel in Vienna, shades of The Savoy, is a metaphorical microcosm of the city's changing society. Hotel Manager, Duke Vincentio departs, delegating authority to the stern and strict Deputy Manager Angelo, who vows to restore order and virtue to the city. Angelo's overzealous powers lead to the sentencing of Claudio for "premarital relations", while his sister Isabella pleads for his freedom. Here is built the base of morality and absolute power, the foundation for *Measure for Measure's* unravelling plot, a Viennese swirl of the characters and their morals, reflecting greater themes beyond.



Shakespeare's narrative device allows the Duke, sneakily disguised as a janitor so nobody recognises him, to be an active fly-on-the-wall, buzzing around to manipulate events to reveal the true nature of those in power.

Clearly the study of power and morals is one that has been pertinent through the ages, and Joe Olney's sound design transforms the play, bridging lute melodies of the Shakespearean era and a contemporary odyssey. Industrial techno pulses, punctuating tense moments, sound a heartbeat echoing the emotional undercurrents.

The ensemble cast bring the characters to life with an infectious energy that reverberates through the audience, making *Measure for Measure* feel complete.

Daniel Drema's Angelo, played with meticulous and dark nuance, feels as cold as his calculated actions suggest. Ben Collingwood Best as Duke Vincento confidently synthesises narrative and performance. Equally Hanne Evhammar brings deep emotion as Isabella, and Hetty Steele as Escalus has moral presence, with Hugh Cox providing comic relief as Constable Elbow.



A celebration of the enduring spirit of Shakespearean drama, *Measure for Measure* is joyfully choreographed, all in all a theatrical experience that will resonate long after the curtain call.

Read Brent Muirhouse's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/01/21/measure-rss

Photography by Handwritten Photography



Oh, Wouldn't It Be Luverly!

by Jackie Howting

The Edmundians, Cheray Hall, Whitton until 27th January

Oh, isn't this a louverly toe tapping show, an intriguing and refreshing adaptation of a much loved classic, with so many twists to keep us guessing, you wouldn't Adam and Eve it! GBS, Lerner and Loewe, eat your heart out, for here is *Oh, Wouldn't It Be Luverly!* Musical or panto? Both are in the pot that the indefatigable director Jackie Howting has cooked up.



Music maestro Terry Bedell transports us to Edwardian London, with lively dances creatively choreographed by Ellen Walker-Dibella and Savannah Swyer.



But Swyer also shows tremendous talents, acting and singing an iconic role, which here is Liza Do-less. With the equally talented Saoirse Kingsland as Liza's sister Betsy, they convey a true feeling of sisterhood as they support each other in their new job working for Frankie (think Freddy Henshaw).

Frankie's suave persona and his absolute love for Liza is perfectly portrayed by Emily Hill-Kelly, whose passion for Lisa is expressed in duets such as *Love is an Open Door*. Frankie's confidante, butler and best friend George is amazingly acted by Evie Schaapveld, who depicts George's sweet nature with care and conviction, as well as the seriousness of his butler status.

Knock-about comedy comes from Terry Bedell as Liza's dad Albert, and Walker-Dibella as his wife, dame Hattie. They energise the show with electrifying chemistry. Their *Summer Loving* is another highlight, and brings the house down.

Over a third of the cast are of school age. The youngest include the servants of Frankie (Roisin McKernan-Wink, Sophia-Lilly Kiernan, Ciara Nunn, James Kingsland and Lily Halden). Their lament for not being loved really tugs the heartstrings.

In contrast, eloquently evil Hugo Higgs, brilliantly brought to life by Sean Carey, hides depth and secrecy (more twists and turns to the story), in a delightful double act with Matt Power as Colonel Pickles, whose sweet nature and singing would warm anyone's strawberry tart!



This sentiment describes all of the cast, whose care and characterisation makes for a proper panto, bringing playful pranks to propriety and profundity.

Read Viola Selby's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/01/26/oh-luverly

Photography courtesy of Edmundians



Look Behind You

by Daniel Wain

Strut and Fret Theatre Co at the Tabard Theatre, Chiswick until 3rd February

Who can resist an adult pantomime? (The promos warn, “*Look Behind You* contains lots of Pussy, Dick... and Nuts”!) Updated from its earlier incarnation twenty-five years ago, this revival gives onstage and offstage insight into a traditional theatre genre. Hiding under the greasepaint is strong drama.

A jaded theatre company is staging well-worn panto *Dick Whittington* in the crumbling Britannia Theatre, culture centre of a rundown seaside town.



A powerful entrance by Cait Hart Dyke as Fairy Bowbells, formerly Page Three star Camille Crabbe, welcomes us with earthy couplets and bawdy humour. She is joined by the evil Queen Rat cum worldly thespian Norma Bailey. Mia Skytte has great stage presence in the role. Annabelle Miller gives an edgily witty performance as Maggie Dunn, cynical stage manager, fretting for the doomed theatre.



Olivia Jackson conveys real energy as a stage hand playing Tommy the Cat builds up to a confrontation with the demanding Camille. Relationships and interactions feature strongly in this vibrant piece. The exchange between a conniving chorus member (Ellie Armstrong) and the established actor playing Alderman Fitzwarren (Stephen Pratt), reveals a lot about the business. As pop star now Dick Whittington, Matt Tester is charming and sincere.

Daniel Wain, as Sarah the Cook, the alter ego of Sam Nancarrow, is as strong a presence as always, with his grotesque make-up and costumes. Nancarrow’s despair resonates from underneath the garishness.

Nevertheless, I lost my heart to Pistachio, the monkey, a promising performer stealing the show.

Sensitive lighting, by Rich Evans, capture an intimacy, while his authentically designed set creates the tense atmosphere.



Under the pacy direction by Barney Hart Dyke, *Look Behind You* satirically tastes the sweet and the sour of provincial theatre. Yet there an allegory of how we are today, an overarching message, looming ... behind you. Take a look.

Read Heather Moulson’s review at www.markaspen.com/2024/01/26/behind-you

Photography by Marc Brenner

Cowboys

by Charlie Josephine

Royal Shakespeare Company, at the Royal Court Theatre, Chelsea until 10th February

Come out with your guns blazing, your Stetson at a jaunty angle and your spurs sparkling for the wildest Western. *Cowboys* is a rare rootin' tootin' night of lively music, livelier dance, the steamiest of erotic sex scenes, and furious gun fights.

Womenfolk drift through their days like tumbleweed, fanning their pale faces, eating grits and praying for the safe return of husbands swept up in the Gold Rush. The macho men have been missing for almost a year and show no sign of returning to the town they built. Their women has assumed masculine roles to survive. One (shock horror) even shoots a lame horse.



The pastor is absent. The only guy in this god-forsaken one-saloon town is the alcoholic sheriff with his penchant for whiskey and wearing silk. Until, that is, handsome bandit Jack Cannon swaggers into the town's saloon where house rules decree: No Guns, No Politics. Played by Vinnie Heaven in scarlet and white leather, all smouldering dark eyes and attitude, Jack is seeking a place to hide from the bounty hunters on his tail.

Now we can brace for romance, bromance; sexual politics served with riotous humour among the gun-slingers; and repressed rustling of petticoats and heaving bodices.

Jack's love interest, saloon landlady Miss Lillian, is played by Sophie Melville, who could pass as *Bonnie and Clyde's* Faye Dunaway. She works up a lustful lather of longing in a memorable bath scene, even sexier for keeping their clothes on ... well, most of them.

A splendid quartet of musicians pump out banjo, harmonica, guitar and bass for thigh-slapping, foot-tapping, hip-swivelling moves from the talented cast.

Then the Gold Rush men return, sowing discord against Apaches, homosexuals and Europeans. This Wild West world turns on its axis when bounty hunters threaten and the women take up weapons.

As Miss Lillian says, 'After all the shit women have to put up with I'm surprised they don't ALL shoot.'



Read Gill Martin's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/01/19/cowboys

Photography by HenriT © RSC

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Council Reports

Health and Wellbeing Board

18 Jan 2024

By James Knight

The meeting started with an update on the work of the **Richmond Pharmaceutical Needs group**. In 2023, two branches of Boots Chemists closed in Hampton North Ward, leaving many vulnerable people struggling to obtain their medicines – and this became one of the main issues in the Hampton North bi-election. Some of the candidates in that election said the council had not done enough to get Boots to reconsider their decision, something the Liberal Democrats strongly denied. Health Watch, a statutory committee of the independent regulator of the Care Quality Commission, conducted an online and face-to-face survey with over 600 responses. Due to the closures, the council has also produced a supplementary pharmaceutical needs statement that was agreed upon & published.

The NHS Integrated Care Board has also discussed the current capacity in Hampton Ward with the pharmacies based there. As a result, they contacted the Boots head office about the lack of access to basic medicines in the area and asked for more staffing at the remaining Station Road branch. The council is also looking to pursue the prescribing practice option where GPs in the area can dispense medicine directly. Cllr Richard Bennett (South Twickenham) said that when he visited the one remaining chemist before Christmas, “it was absolute chaos; there was a queue stretching right out, and then they didn’t have it!” The meeting chair, Cllr Piers Allen (West Twickenham), said it was still inadequate despite increased staffing.

Moving on to the next item, **public involvement**. A member of the public spoke and said she hallucinates and hears voices, but she is not ill and does not take psychiatric drugs. She is involved in a community group affiliated with the **Hearing Voices Network** and has no public funding. She has been campaigning about the mental health system over the last 15 years. Recently, the United Nations and the World Health Organization have called for the end of coercive practices within the mental health system. She said, “We know what these coercive practices are; they are seclusion, restraints, medication errors, forced sectioning, and for many people, the most alarming is electroconvulsive treatment.” She said that over 1,000 people in the UK have this treatment, and a petition with over 134,000 signatures calls for the practice to be banned. The committee had no questions for clarity.

The Better Care Fund update was given; this is a national programme to support better health and social care integration. There is an issue with patients having their discharge delayed from Kingston Hospital as the provider of community equipment is not performing as expected; thus, some patients must go to bridging providers/care homes until the equipment arrives.

The Richmond & Wandsworth Combating Drugs Partnership update was then given. This is a government-mandated multi-agency partnership that has three strategic aims: breaking the drug supply network, delivering world-class treatment and recovery, and achieving a shift in demand for drugs. This is jointly chaired by the Director of Public Health and the Chief Inspector for Safer Neighbourhoods. They have gaps on their board, such as with primary care professionals and those with direct experiences of drug use harm. A member of the board mentioned they were worried about the increasing use of Ketamine in the area.

The **Southwest London Child Death Overview Panel** was next. This is a multi-agency panel that reviews the circumstances of deaths among the under-18s. Southwest London has a consistently slightly higher level of deaths from self-harm and stabbings, but that may be down to having a higher child population. Factors in the family section suggested that the threshold between the child in need plan and child protection plans must be reviewed. Some of the deaths were also attributed to inappropriate care placements, so there have been efforts to improve the recruitment and training of private carers. Ian Dodds, joint director for Children Services for Richmond, queried if the concerns about foster places were a Richmond issue and asked for the data in reports to be broken down into the six boroughs because ones like Croydon were very different. The report for more after-school activities to reduce knife crime. Ian Dodds said he did not think Richmond lacked an after-school offer as there are 6 youth clubs and a mobile youth bus. He said it was the choice of young people to engage in these activities, and some chose not to.

The board had an update on the **South West London Mental Health Strategy**. The key challenges are service demand and mental health complexity, which has increased since the pandemic; continuing challenges to recruit and retain the workforce; gaps in pathways and service performance do vary by borough.

The Special Educational Needs and/or Disabled (**SEND**) **Future Plan** draft report was given. This strategic plan will drive improved outcomes for children and young people and improve the system's financial sustainability. The Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission inspected, and the partnership received the highest grade. The council is still spending £2 million a year more on SEND than it receives from the government, so work is still needed to reduce costs. As a result of the feedback from the Education and Children's Services Committee, they are going to amend the draft to 'name' continuing healthcare and transitioning to adult services as areas where improvement is needed.

Ian Dodds, Director of Children Services for Achieving for Children, the body Richmond Council has dedicated its Children's services to, gave the **Kingston & Richmond Safeguarding Partnership annual report**. It has three statutory partners: the council, the NHS integrated care board and the police, and it has a rotating chair. It also brings in other organisations such as schools, probation, fire service and the voluntary & community sector. The purpose is to ensure there is a strong multi-agency to safeguard children and young people. The report highlighted issues they are tackling: some police data they need is missing, health checks for children in foster care need to be done faster, and maternity services at Kingston Hospital need some improvements so that midwives get better support at safeguarding, some children are not attending school, and it's difficult to find homes for families in need. One of the board members pointed out that some of the services signposted were for Richmond Children only, and other important providers were not mentioned.

There was a presentation on the **Social Prescribing report**. This is where GPs can refer people to community activities. The report noted some resource gaps: transport, services for young people, befriending groups for people with ADHD, autism or learning disabilities, mental health support, and a lack of volunteers and resources for information sharing. One of the board members reminded the board that many of these activities cost the participants money, which means that many people could not participate.

Twickenham Riverside March PLG survey

From Twickenham Riverside Police

Please can I ask you all to complete this survey, this gives feedback to officers so that relevant concerns and enquiries are talked about during contact sessions. This is especially important for contacts that cannot make the Meeting in March!

Find the survey [HERE](#)



Alexander Pope's Grotto named a winner

From Pope's Grotto Trust

Here's some excellent news to kick off 2024! The careful restoration of Alexander Pope's Grotto has been named a Winner in the 2024 Civic Trust Awards.

The level of award will be revealed at a ceremony in March.

<https://popesgrotto.org.uk/>



St Mary's University

St Mary's launches short course on Resources for Trauma-Informed Practice

Prior to the launch of the new MA in Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Sexual Violence: Trauma Informed Practice at St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU), the University is offering a taster module in the form of a short course on [Resources for Trauma-Informed Practice](#).



This is a new short course available for UK and international participants engaging in work with trauma survivors. The aim of this course is to provide a collective and tailored environment to reflect and develop individual practice, in order to understand the impact of trauma on practitioners and researchers. The course focuses on finding different ways to support individuals in their workplace.

The week-long module will run from Monday 8th July to Saturday 13th July 2024, and includes an optional assessment. Participants can attend the course on campus at SMU, as well as online via Zoom.

Upon completion of the course, students will receive a certificate of attendance. For those completing the assessment element, they will also receive a transcript detailing 20 credits at master's level, which can be transferred to the full MA should they wish to enrol.

The Resources for Trauma-Informed Practice course offers an innovative learning opportunity for students to explore the effects of working and researching with traumatised people. Students will be encouraged to reflect on their personal experiences of this work during their participation.

Input from global experts throughout the course will provide a rich and diverse learning experience for students. These include a world-leading American educator on care and power dynamics, an internationally recognised choreographer specialising in movement and the arts, a Jungian analyst who will provide tips on spiritual practice, and a master trainer offering guidance through somatic regulation.

Speaking on the purpose of this short course, Dr Anna Westin said, "This course will enable students to better understand the way in which trauma might be affecting them in their practice and research. Students will receive help in developing tools to get the best out of their work, whilst also gaining insights into well-being support when working with survivors of trauma.

"Underpinning the course are core philosophical and psychological insights delivered by the scholars and authors of key tests used within the course."

You can register for a place on the short course [now](#).

For any queries, please contact Dr Anna Westin at anna.westin@stmarys.ac.uk or Dr Maria Mellins at maria.mellins@stmarys.ac.uk.



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Fly-tippers to face fines of up to £1,000

From London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Richmond Council is sending out the message that fly-tippers will not be allowed to spoil the borough for others, as it introduces heavier penalties for anyone caught fly-tipping in Richmond upon Thames.

Last year, the government increased the maximum Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) allowed for fly-tipping from £400 to £1,000.

On Tuesday 16 January, the Council's Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee approved amending local policies to reflect this change, bringing in powers to enforce the highest rate for FPNs for those caught breaking the law in this way.

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

"We want the borough's streets to be kept clean, green and safe for everyone.

"There is no excuse for fly-tipping in Richmond upon Thames. The Council provides re-use and recycling services at Townmead Road, as well as a bulky waste collection service for those who prefer larger items to be picked up from their property. We have regular domestic waste and recycling collections from households, and local recycling sites for those without a kerbside recycling collection service.

We've also introduced a programme of mega skips across the borough to help residents dispose of unwanted items responsibly and conveniently.

"Fly-tipping is anti-social, harmful to wildlife, and an eyesore. It's especially offensive to those who live or work nearby and dispose of their waste responsibly.

"From now on, anyone who is found to have fly-tipped will face a fine of up to £1,000."



The Committee approved increasing the penalty for fly-tipping offences to the maximum amount of £1,000. This will be reduced to £500 if paid within ten days.

During the last three years there has been an increase in the number of enforcement actions undertaken, from 1,336 in 2020/2021 to 1,620 in 2022/2023.

Fly-tipping is when waste is dumped illegally. Subject to the scale of the fly-tip, with sufficient evidence perpetrators can be prosecuted. The maximum fine that can be imposed for a large-scale fly-tip at a Magistrates Court is £50,000 and at Crown Court is unlimited.

Fly-tipping can be [reported on the website](#) or via the [My Richmond app](#). Any information provided will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Healthcare worker retires after 41 years at veterans' charity

Royal Star & Garter's longest serving member of staff has retired.

Lead Healthcare Assistant Emrys Owen bid farewell to the charity and residents at its Surbiton Home on Friday 19 January, 41 years after starting work.

The 65-year-old enjoyed a farewell party, with cake and live music entertainment.

Royal Star & Garter provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their partners living with disability or dementia, and has new services reaching out into the community.

Emrys joined in 1982, when the charity was based in Richmond, and has been at the Surbiton Home since it opened in 2013.

In 2021, he was awarded a British Empire Medal by Queen Elizabeth II for services to veterans during Covid-19. He later described this as "the proudest moment of my working life."



At his retirement party, Emrys was given a round of applause by residents. RAF veteran Michael said: *"You could not ask for a more meticulous, caring and skilled carer. I have come to rely on him enormously and I like to regard him as a really good friend. He will be missed."*

Emrys, from Dorking, said: *"It seems such a long time ago since I first started, but it's been a wonderful and enjoyable life. I'll miss the residents, and their camaraderie and friendship. I'll miss the people I work with, it's like working in a family. And I'm grateful for everything the charity has done for me. The opportunities I've had to learn and develop over the years have been exceptional. It's been a good place for me, and I shall miss getting up to come to work. Being at Royal Star & Garter was where I needed to be, it was my vocation."*

Offering advice to new staff members, he added: *"Embrace all that this job has to offer, because it's a good place to work. Make the most of your opportunities to develop your career."*

Helena Maher is the Home Manager at Surbiton. She said: *"I know Emrys will be greatly missed by staff, as well as residents. We were lucky to have had him with us for so long, and we all wish him a very happy retirement."*

Following the tea party, band Side by Side performed for residents, and dedicated their first song to Emrys.

Kate Silver, Director of People at the charity, said: *"Emrys was one of many members of staff we have at Royal Star & Garter who have been with us a long time. The fact that so many people have spent such a large portion of their working lives here hopefully reflects well on the way that we value our staff, and indicates it's a good place to work."*

Royal Star & Garter in Surbiton is welcoming new residents. For more information on this, or to work at the Home, go to www.starandgarter.org/surbiton



England Men's Team to Host Open Training Session in York

Steve Borthwick and his squad will host a second open training session during the 2024 Guinness Six Nations campaign, held in York on Friday 1st March.

The training session will be held at the LNER Community Stadium, with tickets available for free (£1 booking fee per ticket applies).

To secure your seat, please [click here](#)!

The LNER Community Stadium, home of York City Football Club and York Rugby League Football Club, sits within the York Stadium Leisure Complex which provides a multi-purpose sports hall, three swimming pools and much more to the local community residents.

Borthwick and his squad will head north during the second fallow week of the competition to continue their preparations for the Round 4 clash against Ireland at Twickenham Stadium the following week.

The open training session in York will be the second of the campaign that Borthwick's squad host and will follow the one taking place at Twickenham Stadium on Friday 16th February at 10am.

To book tickets for the Twickenham session, please [click here](#).

Pete Kitchen, York Community Stadium Manager, added: *"We are delighted to be welcoming England Men's Senior team to the LNER Community Stadium.*

"This is a multi-purpose venue that caters for both the local community and elite sport. We can't wait to welcome rugby fans from around the country to our home."

England squad update

Charlie Ewels (Bath Rugby) has been called into England Men's Guinness Six Nations training squad to replace Nick Isiekwe (Saracens) who has returned home because of illness. Ewels will arrive at England's training base in Girona later today.



Brentford and Frank win Utilita Performance of the Week

Thomas Frank and Brentford have been awarded the Utilita Performance of the Week award for the Bees' 3-2 Premier League victory over Nottingham Forest; this was decided by the LMA panel, comprising of chair Howard Wilkinson, Sir Alex Ferguson, Chris Hughton, Rachel Yankey, Les Ferdinand, Clare Tomlinson, Dave Bassett and Barry Fry

Written by Brentford Football Club

Thomas Frank and his Brentford team have been awarded the Utilita Performance of the Week award for the Bees' 3-2 victory over Nottingham Forest at Gtech Community Stadium.

The LMA panel comprises of chair Howard Wilkinson, Sir Alex Ferguson, Chris Hughton, Rachel Yankey, Les Ferdinand, Clare Tomlinson, Dave Bassett and Barry Fry.

And they decided that [the Bees' win over Forest on Saturday night](#) - a first league victory since 2 December - was deserving of the Performance of the Week award.

Ivan Toney marked his return from an eight-month ban with a goal at the Gtech, before strikes from Ben Mee and Neal Maupay secured victory for the west Londoners.

After the game, Frank said: "It's so difficult to keep your excitement, joy and happiness down when you win. But it's about having that consistency for me, for the players, for everyone - and I think we're quite good at that."

"It was crucial today; a big three points for us. I said to the boys, 'Let's do this a little bit more often, like we usually do'. We are back to winning ways and of course we need to keep up the good performances moving forward."

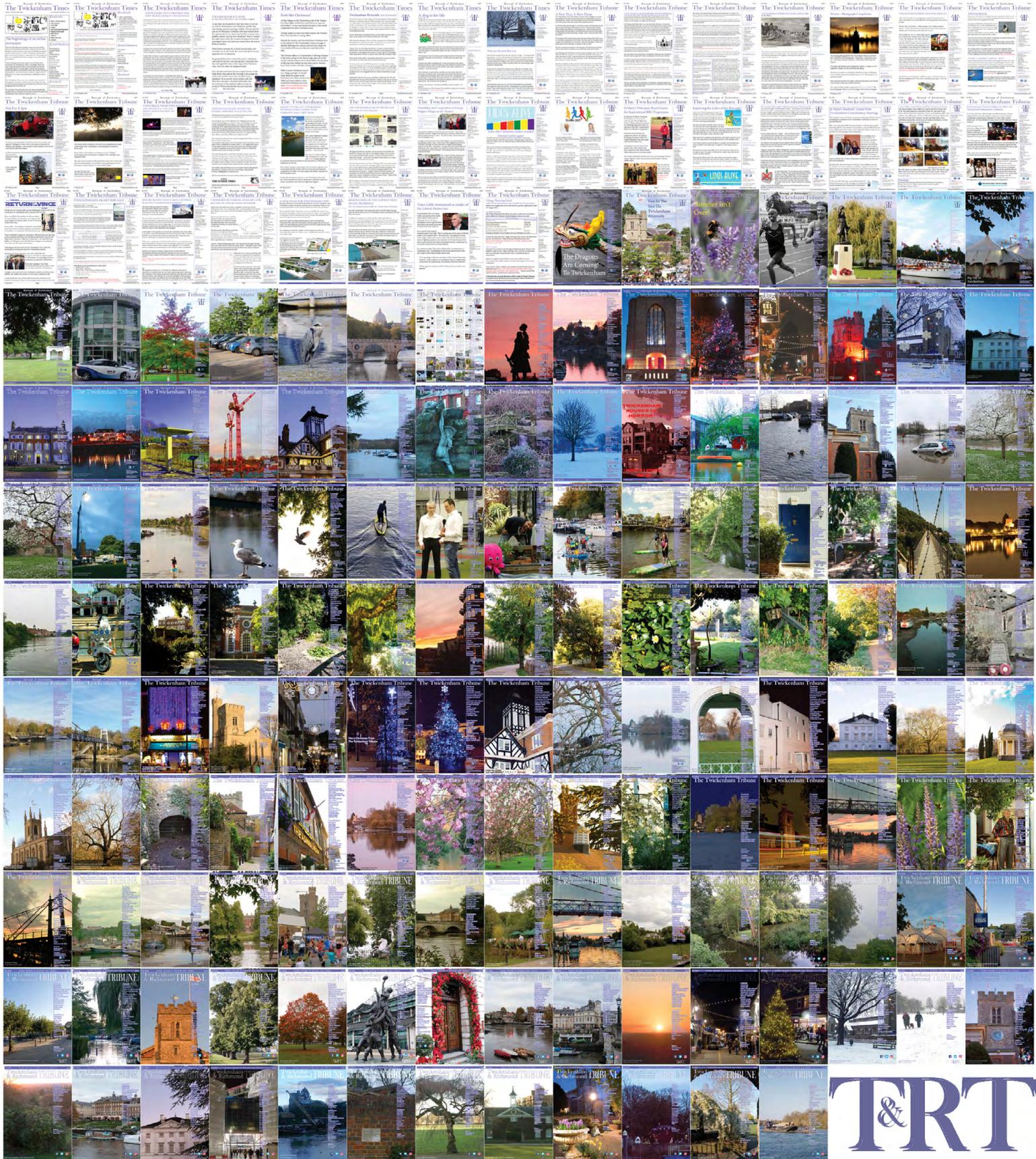
"We played a fine game, and actually maybe not that much better than some of the other games, but we did more than enough to win the game. It was a fair and square win."

The Bees boss added: "No one can do anything on their own in life; if you want to achieve something big, you can't go alone."

"Ivan is an eleventh of the team and if the 10 others are not performing, it doesn't help. We need them all to perform together."



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