

# The Twickenham Tribune



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Eel Pie Island, Twickenham  
 Photo by Berkley Driscoll



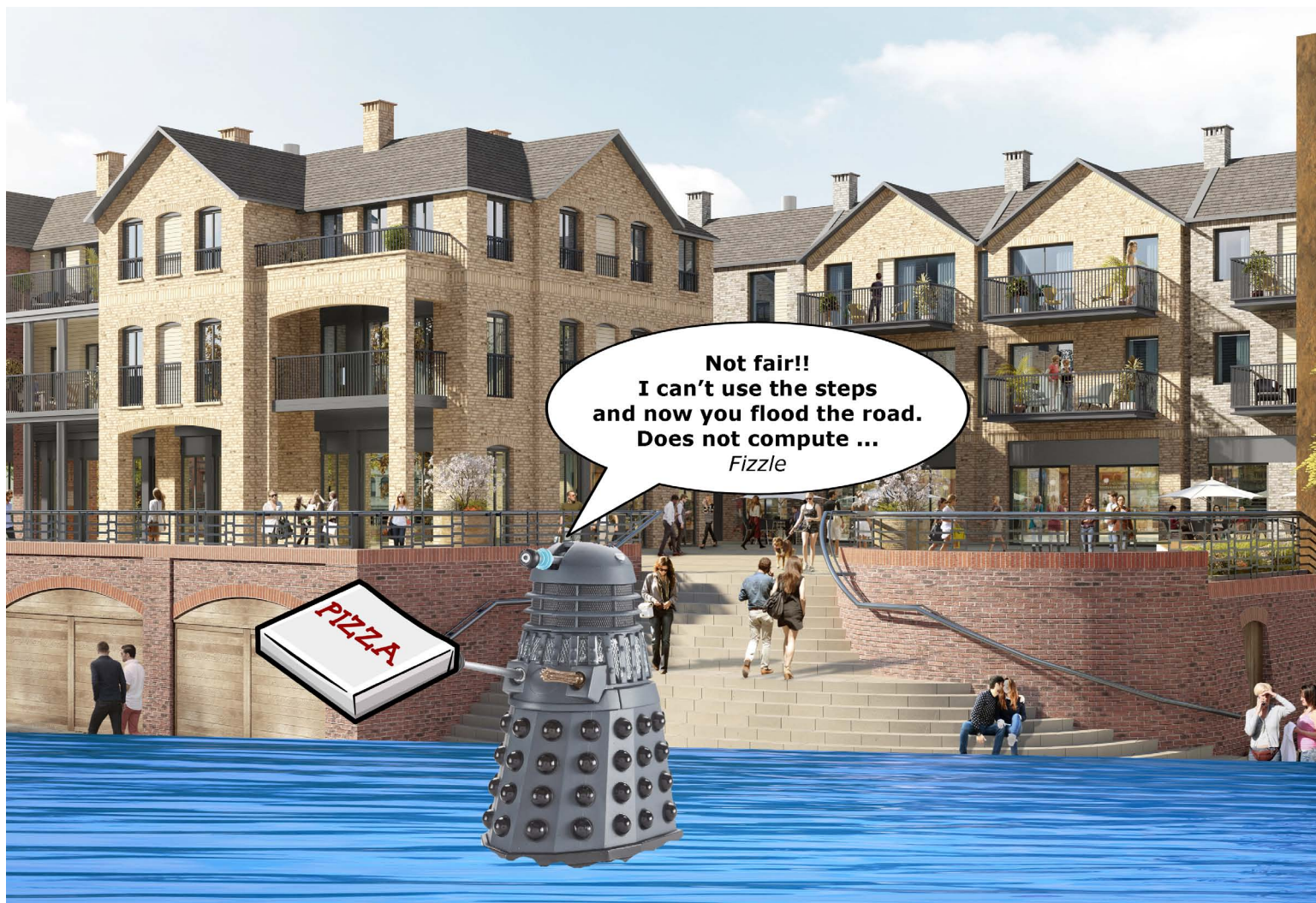
The council has announced that self-driving robots will be trialled in the borough (see article in this paper).

TwickerSeal is looking forward to seeing how these robots will manage the notoriously congested traffic in Twickenham.

Will they be able to manoeuvre past the infamous bollard at the top of Wharf Lane?

More importantly, how will they navigate the Embankment flood-zone on Twickenham Riverside now the council has closed access to the service road from Water Lane?

How will these 'bots' deliver to the new housing estate?





# TwickerTape - News in Brief

### St Patrick's Day

Happy St Patrick's Day, particularly on this final of the Six Nations!



### St George's Day

The annual parade will take place in Whitton on Saturday 21st April

### Flytipping

A flytipper who illegally deposited their household waste on Teddington High Street has been issued with a £400 fixed penalty notice.

### CPZ

Strawberry Hill parking (CPZ) consultation closes Monday 19 March. Have you responded yet?  
<https://haveyoursay.citizenspace.com/richmond/b8c791b6/>

### Vince Spices up the Green

Vince Cable, leader of the Liberal Democrats, joined prospective South Twickenham Ward councillors Katie Mansfield and Michael Butlin at the Green Spice restaurant on Twickenham Green

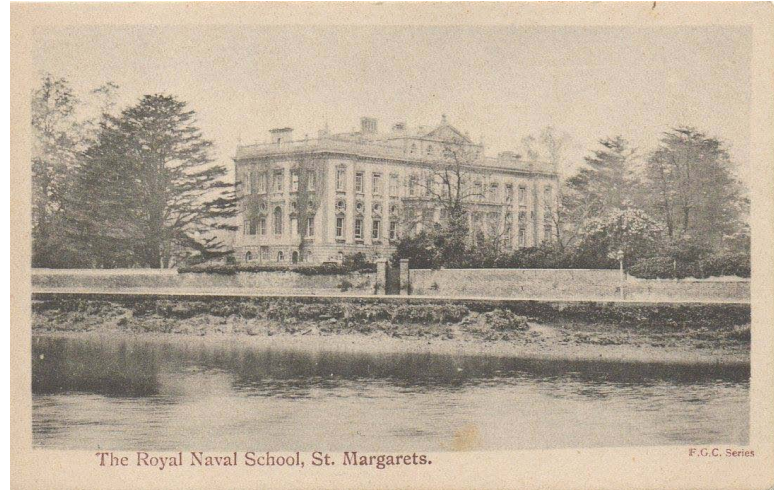


# PART 66. ROYAL NAVAL SCHOOL – ST MARGARETS

**M**y early life was spent around St Margarets. Living in Orleans Road, my infants school was “Little” Orleans in Hartington Road, then on to St Stephens before being shipped out to Chiswick. Moormead and Marble Hill parks were my playgrounds where countless games of “coats down” football matches took place. So let’s take a closer look at the area and an almost forgotten school - The Royal Naval School for Girls. Our postcards this week show what a fine and imposing building it was. They all date from the 1903 to 1915 period.

St Margarets lies about 9 miles west-southwest of central London. It is bounded by the River Thames to the north, east and south, and the River Crane to the northwest; the northern limit, less well defined, has changed with local government boundary revisions. St Margarets does not pass any further south than Richmond Road, Twickenham. The area closer to Richmond Bridge is known as East Twickenham and is not regarded as part of St Margarets. From the 16th century this area was the northern part of the Twickenham Park estate.

Many Victorian houses remain in the area. In 1854 the St Margarets Estate was laid out for building family houses, becoming one of the first garden suburbs. The St Margarets Railway Station opened in 1876.



St Margarets takes its name from the former St Margarets House completed in 1827, although an



earlier house of the same name stood on the site. It was the country house of Lord Cassilis, Marquess of Ailsa, and later belonged to the Earl of Kilmorey. Their names can be found in local street names, including



Kilmorey Gardens, Cassilis Road and Ailsa Road. The Earl never actually lived in the Kilmorey mansion and in 1856 the house became home to the Royal Naval School which had been founded 16 years earlier. In 1867 the Earl rebuilt the neighbouring Gordon House, which also subsequently became part of the naval school.

In 1840, The Royal Female School for the Daughters of Naval and Marine Officers was founded in a candle-lit, rented house on Richmond Green. The school later changed its name to The Royal Naval School or RNS - as it is still known today by its old girls. RNS was due to the inspiration of Admiral Sir Thomas Williams, a Royal Navy officer of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, who had served with distinction in numerous theatres of war during the American Revolutionary War, French Revolutionary Wars and Napoleonic Wars. The school flourished in the fine Kilmorey mansion beside the Thames, at St. Margarets, where it grew successfully until the building was destroyed by bombs in 1940. It was never rebuilt. The school had a couple of temporary locations before settling in Haslemere, Surrey in the early 1950s. Our story finishes in 1995 when The Royal Naval School for girls at Haslemere was amalgamated with The Grove School founded in 1864 to form The Royal School, Haslemere.

I am always looking for old postcards, so if you have any that are sitting unwanted in a drawer, in a box in the loft or the garage or under a bed, do contact me on 07875 578398 or [alanwinter192@hotmail.com](mailto:alanwinter192@hotmail.com)

I would like to see them and I pay cash!

### **POSTCARDS WANTED**

**Cash paid for Old Postcards**

**& postally franked envelopes.**

**Required by local collector / dealer.**

**Please ring Alan to discuss on**

**07875 578398**



# Arts and Entertainment

By Erica White



A reminder that the curtain goes up this weekend on two major drama productions, widely different in theme, by two very different playwrights, William Shakespeare and Bob Larbey.

RSS present **MACBETH** at the Mary Wallace Theatre on Twickenham Embankment, **Sat, 17-Sat 24 March at 7.45 eves, Sun. mat at 3pm, no perf Weds.**

Info: [richmondshakespeare.org.uk](http://richmondshakespeare.org.uk).

And TTC present **A MONTH OF SUNDAYS** at the Hampton Hill Theatre, **Sat. 17-FRI. 23 March, 7.45 eves, Sun. mat at 4pm.**

Info: [teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk](http://teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk).

Just time to catch two concerts, again very different in content: **NOW HERE'S A FUNNY STORY**, Music Hall with a Twist of Cabaret at Normansfield Theatre, on **Saturday, 17 March at 2.30 & 7.30.**

Info: [langdowndowncentre.org.uk](http://langdowndowncentre.org.uk).

Hampton Choral Society put on **A PARTY FOR PARRY** to celebrate the centenary of contemporaries, Hubert Parry and Edward Elgar, at St Mary's University Chapel, Strawberry Hill **on Saturday, 17 March at 7.30.**

Info: [bidwel.di@gmail.com](mailto:bidwel.di@gmail.com).

**On Sunday, 25 March at 6.30** at St Mary's Parish Church, the Parish Choir sings **STAINER' CRUCIFIXION** to celebrate Palm Sunday.

Info: [hampton-church.org.uk](http://hampton-church.org.uk).

The **CONTEMPORARY TEXTILES FAIR** is at the LAC, **Friday 16-Sunday 18 March, Fri. 6-8.30pm, Sat & Sun, 10-5pm.**

Info: [landmarkartscentre.org.uk](http://landmarkartscentre.org.uk).

A **SIMPLY BOWIE SUPPER** will be served at LAC **on Saturday 24 March at 7.30** by Teddington Choral Society/

Info: [landmarchartscentre.org.uk](http://landmarchartscentre.org.uk).

Folk, Rock and Jazz are catered for weekly at The Cabbage Patch Pub, TW1



**On Sunday 18 March at 7.45pm** Twickfolk host CHRIS CLEVERLY, award winning guitarist and songwriter.

Info: [twickfolk.co.uk](http://twickfolk.co.uk).

**On Tuesday, 20 March at 8pm** Twickenham Jazz Club play host to STUART HENDERSON : Tribute to Miles Davis.

Info: [twickenhamjazzclub.co.uk](http://twickenhamjazzclub.co.uk).

**On Thursday, 22 March at 8pm** the Eel Pie Club host Martin Turner, ex Wishbone Ash.

Info: [eelpieclub.com](http://eelpieclub.com).

KINDRED SPIRIT are live in concert at The Exchange, TW1 1BE **on Friday 23 March.**

Info: [exchangetwickenham.co.uk](http://exchangetwickenham.co.uk)

HANSONSON'S FINE ART & ANTIQUES AUCTION will take place at Normansfield Theatre, **on Saturday 24 March, viewing 9.15 - noon, auction noon onwards.**

Info: [langdondowncentre.org.uk](http://langdondowncentre.org.uk).

THE BALLET RAMBERT SPRING SHOWCASE is presented at the Anya Loden Studio Theatre at the Rambert School. Clifton Lodge, St Margaret's Drive, TW1 1QN **on Monday 10 -Friday 23 March at 7.30.**

Info: [rambertschool.org.uk/shows](http://rambertschool.org.uk/shows).



**The Tree Agency**

darryl parkin

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*The Tree Agency*



# Richmond Council forced to release data showing the consultation was a charade

**By the 105 Team, Teddington**

The Information Commissioner has required Richmond Council to disclose information that it consistently refused to reveal following a Freedom of Information (FOI) request. This information clearly shows that the “consultation” with the local community was a charade. Local residents submitted an FOI request to Richmond Council asking for information to explain why it proposed building a residential home for young people in Teddington instead at the site in Twickenham it had originally approved and which the Council had described “as being the site most likely to deliver the best outcomes for the young people involved”.

The Council refused to disclose any information whatsoever on the grounds that there was no proposal. This was clearly untrue since the proposal to change the location had been discussed at the Council’s Cabinet. An appeal to the Council was rejected, this time claiming it would cost too much to redact information.

We complained to the Information Commissioner. This resulted in her office overruling the Council and forcing the disclosure of information originally requested. This has revealed incompetence on the part of the Council and that the local community has been consistently misled.

The Council Cabinet approved the Twickenham residential home site on 17 November 2016. However, just a few days later, 1 to 6 December, officials advised that the home could not be delivered there before the second quarter of 2020. A competent council would have done this work before the Cabinet meeting - not after it. It would also have found a way to deliver the home at the Twickenham site within a reasonable timescale. However, Richmond Council made no effort to do so. Why not?

Although the decision to change the location to Teddington was made in December 2016, this change of location was not made public until late July 2017.

It is clear that the local community was deliberately misled by the Council and its agency, Achieving for Children. The whole process of engaging with the local community was a charade. In reality, everything was driven by the desire of the Council and AfC to get the home built by the end of 2018. Statements made at meetings and in documents were untrue in many cases and misleading in others.

At the planning stage, the Council has blatantly chosen to ignore its own planning policies relating to the character and appearance of the area, the amenities and privacy of neighbouring properties and highway safety; these policies were simply ignored.

In addition, what would be best for the young people in the home was considered far less important than the timing issue. It would appear that all that mattered was getting the home built to an artificial, self-imposed deadline of the end of 2018.

The whole process has fallen short of the standard of competence, honesty, openness and propriety a local authority and its agency should meet. Does open democracy not matter at all?



# ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY UPDATE

## Sport Success for St Mary's Athletes



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

Students from St Mary's University, Twickenham enjoyed sporting success at various events with two individual Gold medals and a team second place finish. Sports scholar Tom Toolis, who trains at St Mary's Endurance Performance and Coaching Centre (EPACC), won Gold in the British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) Modern Pentathlon in Oxfordshire. The event is competed over five sports: fencing, freestyle swimming, equestrian show jumping and a final combined event of pistol shooting and cross country running.

First year Sport Science student Phoebe Law followed up her [Gold at the English National Cross Country Championships last month](#) with another first place finish, this time at Counties Athletics Union (CAU) Inter County Championships in the 8km cross country event in Loughborough, where she eased to victory by 42 seconds.

Elsewhere, St Mary's Men's Gaelic Football team came second in the British University Gaelic Football Championship in Birmingham. The team reached the final after winning all three group games against the University of Liverpool, University of Nottingham and last year's winners Robert Gordon University but were beaten at the final hurdle by Liverpool Hope University.

In the BUCS Indoor Archery final, student Dara Paleski finished eighth in the Compound Women event while Danielle Tighe came 17<sup>th</sup> in the Recurve Women event.

Tom Toolis said, "It has been a few

years since I competed at the BUCS championships in Modern Pentathlon, and it was extremely enjoyable to come back and compete representing St Mary's. The support they have provided this year with the Scholarship Scheme has enabled me to come back and win Gold."



Director for Sport at St Mary's Andrew Reid-Smith said, "We are delighted to see another set of impressive results from our athletes. The Gaelic football programme has a long tradition of excellence and came close to winning the student championship yet again. It was really great to see Tom winning the Modern Pentathlon and Phoebe's outstanding performance on an incredibly challenging course, saw her add this title to her win at the National Cross Country Championships."



# Richmond College Celebrates National Apprenticeship Week 2018

During National Apprenticeship Week 2018 (Monday 5 – Friday 9 March), current and prospective students attended a range of activities and events at Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) to find out more about apprenticeships.

This year's National Apprenticeship Week theme focussed on 'apprenticeships work'. As part of this, RuTC's dedicated employer engagement and apprenticeships team, Training Solutions, organised tutorial group sessions for current students. Members of the local community who were interested in finding out more about apprenticeships were also invited to attend one of four drop-in sessions running throughout the week.



In addition, RuTC hosted an apprenticeships workshop on Wednesday 7 March. Open to aspiring apprentices, the workshop included a range of activities and specialist information from employers, current apprentices and college staff. Susan Pieterse, Head of Employer Engagement at RuTC, said, "My team works closely with a wide range of local and national employers who all appreciate the value and benefits of apprenticeships in their organisation".



Susan added, "It is great having a week that celebrates the success of apprenticeships nationally. RuTC offers a great apprenticeships provision, so it is important for us to reach out to our current students, and young people in schools across London, Surrey and the local community with our diverse offering."

"We had a great week. Over 200 people expressed their interest in our apprenticeships. We hosted several events

during the week, all of which were well attended by prospective apprentices of all ages from across London and Surrey."



Spring is sprung and the buds, birds and bees are urging us to come out and have fun in nature. Beautiful bumble bees and honey bees visiting us and highlighting their need for natural food sources to thrive along with Green Finches which have been hit badly with sickness possibly from bird-feeders which experts think may be causing contamination from cross species feeding and lack of good hygiene in the feeders/birdbaths. We are urged to clean our feeders regularly and watch out for signs of sickness in visiting birds and if seen to stop feeding for awhile.



*Photo of bumble bee on plumtree branch and green finch on water table*

Below is our beautiful collared dove visitor and behind her you can see the sparse hedgerow which only last year was thriving with flowering ivy and elder. Follow the link to see the bees feeding on the hedgerow which was also used to nest and roost before it was cut away severely 'by mistake' last year. Just so happens to be right where a planning application was rejected but look out for another one soon!

[www.flickr.com/photos/18554479@N05/37086693606/in/album-72157680139604143/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/18554479@N05/37086693606/in/album-72157680139604143/)

Thanks to all who contacted us to say they were planting some wildflowers in their gardens after seeing the photo last week and below is another photo to encourage others to find a space for this valuable and beautiful addition to our homes and neighbourhoods.



*Photo collared dove and wildflowers:*

The River Crane Sanctuary Under Threat

<http://e-voice.org.uk/rcs/>

# My First Garden – by Bruce Lyons

In support of Friends of Bloom – School Gardening Appeal

In the last war we lived in Paddington (like the Bear) and my Mother had a bed and breakfast. My sister and I were evacuated so we didn't come home much. My first return visit was memorable for the walk our housekeeper took me on to Kensington Gardens. When the "doodle-bug" over-head stopped its engine, she whispered that we had better take cover under a little stone bridge!



When we did return home permanently it was all bombsites but even then nature was a magnet to me. The first thing I did was to make a roof garden with soil from Cleveland Square ( a bomb site) and filled an assortment of Pots and Tubs above Commander Luards apartment (Mother's best tenant) All went well until the rain! And then it all leaked into his apartment and Bruce`s beautiful garden had to be dismantled much to my dismay.



But from then till now I have always been drawn to plants, gardening and all things green. It became what many now get from mindfulness now I guess. It was my refuge and retreat, a great source of pleasure and relaxation. Years ago, when we first came to



Church Street, it was in a very dilapidated state and we started off with canopies and window boxes over the shop and today this has developed to the whole street being involved in our "Street Scene" Don't tell, but we even made planters, urns and flowers beds in



the square turning a concrete pavement into a little oasis in the Spring and Summer with masses of tulips, alliums, and Spring daffodils and Narcissus to a great display of floral bedding plants that we buy as plugs from catalogues or in bulk from Columbia Road and also an organic edible garden in the Summer where we use the half mangers to grow kilos of the sweetest and most flavoursome cherry tomatoes that we harvest with a ladder and also courgettes, cucumbers and peppers!

When Shona, my daughter, lived and worked in Eilat, Israel and I visited – I spent my holiday building her a desert garden (from which she caught my gardening bug and now whenever I visit relatives in Israel it only takes 24 hrs and I'm in a Garden Centre looking at all the tropical unusual species that I could never find here.



So, here we are in Richmond Borough in Bloom trying to raise a few pounds online to encourage young budding green fingers to get started. They could become like Shona and I Guerrilla Gardeners stealthily taking over little plots in their neighbourhood or they could even be the next Monty Don or Alan

Titmarch if they were more ambitious. It is really worth a few quid to help them on their way, it would provide a lifetime of pleasure to many and teach them all about the wonderful natural planet we inhabit. Who knows they might even weed your garden one day!

[www.swlen.org.uk/campaigns/school-gardening-grants-appeal/](http://www.swlen.org.uk/campaigns/school-gardening-grants-appeal/)

# Start your quitting journey on No Smoking Day

Today is National No Smoking Day (14th March), the perfect time to kick your smoking habit.

Smoking is the single biggest cause of preventable death, but research shows you are up to four times more likely to quit successfully if you use a local stop smoking service.

In Richmond free local support is available through the council's Stop Smoking Service. Specialist advisers can give you products to use, such as patches and inhalator, and can offer you regular support and information, whether you smoke cigarettes, e-cigarettes or other tobacco products such as shisha.

CLlr Mark Boyle, Cabinet Member for Public Health said:

“Quitting smoking is the best way to improve your overall health and the positive effects start immediately. You start to feel better as soon as you give up smoking, as your blood pressure is reduced, blood circulation improves, breathing becomes easier, and your skin looks better.

“We recognise that Londoners lead busy lives and from time to time will need some extra motivation to quit. That's the benefit of the personal services provided by the borough and London wide which give smokers access to advisers who coach them through the quitting process without the hassle of visits to a GP surgery or local clinic.

“This is a great time to take advantage of that service and take the first step to a healthier, smoke free life.”

You can access the Council's personalised Stop Smoking Service online, by emailing [stopsmoking@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:stopsmoking@richmond.gov.uk) or calling the 24hr helpline 0800 011 4558.

Specialist advice is available in pharmacies and GP surgeries borough-wide, and there are drop-in clinics that anyone can visit without an appointment at the Civic Centre every Tuesday 12-2pm.

To access the pan-London anti-smoking service you can ring the helpline on 0300 132 1044 between 9.00am to 8.00pm Mon-Fri and 11.00am to 4.00pm Sat-Sun and get one-to-one support a trained adviser. There's also an online portal where you can get information about other stop smoking services in your area.

## Would you like to learn watercolour painting or improve your skills?

Enjoy the pleasures of watercolour painting in small classes with  
leading tutor, Lee Campbell, in an outstanding location

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Summer Term  
bookings now

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[www.creativearttwickenham.uk](http://www.creativearttwickenham.uk)



**creative Art**  
Twickenham



# The Following Freedom of Information Question Has Been Asked About The Council's Plans for Twickenham Riverside

Dear London Borough of Richmond Council,

A request for £700k for RIBA4 drawings for the LBRuT Twickenham Riverside plans was made before the Planning Application was heard. Now the planning application has gone to the Secretary of State, triggered by the Environment Agency's objection. Has any of this money been spent, or allocated, and if so how much? Additionally what is the total amount spent so far on the Twickenham Riverside proposal? All this money has been approved by the LBRuT Cabinet without any assurance that the plan will go ahead.

[https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/spending\\_on\\_twickenham\\_riverside](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/spending_on_twickenham_riverside)

## Alternative Plans for Twickenham Riverside

### **ATKINS**

Five members of a large team were Twickenham residents and addressed the flooding problem in their design.

[www.richmond.gov.uk/media/7145/twickenham\\_riverside\\_itt\\_atkins.pdf](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/7145/twickenham_riverside_itt_atkins.pdf)

### **KEMP MUIR WEALLEANS**

[www.richmond.gov.uk/media/7146/kemp\\_muir\\_wealleans\\_full\\_design\\_proposal.pdf](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/7146/kemp_muir_wealleans_full_design_proposal.pdf)

**JOHN SIMPSON ARCHITECTS** [https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/7144/twickenham\\_riverside\\_john\\_simpson-2.pdf](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/7144/twickenham_riverside_john_simpson-2.pdf)

### **THE COUNCIL PLAN**

Architect unknown

[www2.richmond.gov.uk/lbrplanning/Planning\\_CaseNo.aspx?strCASENO=17/4213/FUL](http://www2.richmond.gov.uk/lbrplanning/Planning_CaseNo.aspx?strCASENO=17/4213/FUL)

The Planning Application has been Called in by the Environment Agency and is now with the Secretary of State. The Environment Agency has REFUSED a Flood Risk Activity Permit

### **THE TWICKENHAM LIDO PLAN**

Originally based on the concept of the Bristol Lido but could be based on a similar business plan to Hampton Pool. £250k has been offered as seed funding for this plan.

<http://twickenhamlido.com>

PETITION 3,922 Supporters [HERE](#)

### **THE TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE PARK PLAN**

This looks at the whole of the original Richmond House site and includes Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

PETITION 2,542 Supporters

[www.change.org/p/a-town-square-and-riverside-park-for-twickenham](http://www.change.org/p/a-town-square-and-riverside-park-for-twickenham)

# Vince Cable Takes Up Concerns About Closure Of Rose Hill Sorting Office With Royal Mail

There is serious concern in Hampton over the potential impact of the closure of Rose Hill Sorting Office and switching the operation to Ashford.

Vince Cable MP and Cllr Gareth Roberts are to meet Royal Mail management over the prospect. They will tell the Royal Mail that the closure will:

- Cause major inconvenience to local residents if they have to collect undelivered mail or parcels from Ashford
- Cause uncertainty for local businesses whose PO addresses are lodged in Hampton
- Put at risk the jobs of local workers who will find it difficult to commute to and from Ashford
- Cause an increase traffic in already congested local roads with an estimated 11 vans a day having to go to Ashford and back

Vince Cable said: “The Royal Mail has made some big moves – from Twickenham to Hanworth Road – without causing serious dislocation. But this relatively small move seems not to have been thought through at all: for very small savings, a lot of disruption will generated.”

*Photograph of St Mary's Twickenham by Doug Goodman*





# Planning brief to help shape future of Kneller Hall

Over £100k funding grant secured to develop new Supplementary Planning Document for Kneller Hall in Whitton, home to the Royal Military School of Music.

Two years ago the Ministry of Defence (MoD), who own the site, announced their decision to sell Kneller Hall as part of a wider estates disposal plan. At the time, the Council expressed concern and disappointment that a site of such key national, cultural and military heritage could be sold off.

Specifically, the Council is concerned about the loss of green, open space. The site dates back to 1850 and consists of a number of buildings, including a Grade II listed Victorian neo-Jacobean mansion, with large parts designated as Metropolitan Open Land, giving it the same protection as a green belt site. Since the announcement, the Council has given legal protection to over 300 trees on the site. This includes oak, lime and horse chestnuts. This protection will ensure they remain as an important part of any new development.

Now, the Council has received £130,000 funding from the Cabinet Office Government Property Unit and the Local Government Association to create a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the site. This would ensure that any future development on the site can as far as possible meet community needs.

Over the next few months the Council will work with the Ministry of Defence to look at the scope of the SPD. It will then carry out consultation and engagement with residents, businesses and local groups to establish what their priorities would be for the site.

## World InfoZone: Eating The WIZ Way

By Teresa Read

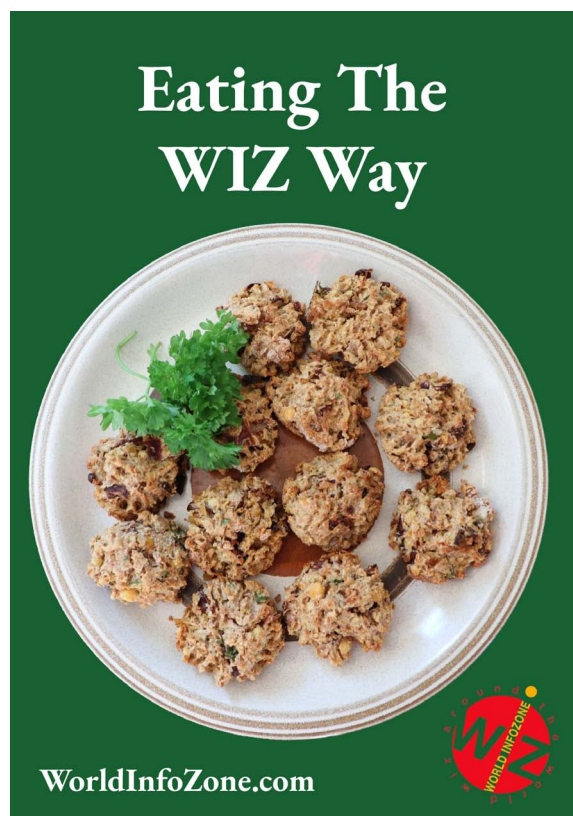
Eating the WIZ Way was written following a change in diet which I embarked upon in June last year. Finding that my lazy eating habits had finally caught up with me I decided it was time to do something about it.

As the author of one of the very first world encyclopedias on the internet - WorldInfoZone.com (WIZ) - I had a good start as I had looked at food for every country as well as many islands.

Catching up on some of the latest healthy eating reports together with WIZ I produced a small book which was a result of my research and a synopsis of my new diet. I decided to keep it simple and graphical using photographs where possible rather than lots of text.

I must admit that I have been very strict with what I eat and drink but I have been rewarded with a significant easy loss of weight - an unintended side effect - and consequently I feel a lot healthier.

Details [contact@twickenhamtribune.com](mailto:contact@twickenhamtribune.com)



# Twickers Foodie ALL WHITE ON THE NIGHT

By Alison Jee

I've been meaning to check out the Marco Pierre White Steakhouse, Bar & Grill at the Hilton Syon Park for some time now. It is in such a fabulous setting and in the summer it must be really lovely as there is an outside terrace.

We arrived in what seemed, at first, to be a pretty empty restaurant, but discovered that the majority of tables are out of sight of the main restaurant entrance. The word 'steakhouse' is a bit of a misnomer, as it is in reality quite a posh hotel restaurant, with white tablecloths and very comfy leather armchairs; more fine dining than casual as the name might suggest. There was a rather 'corporate' feel about it, but on a weekday evening at an hotel frequented by the business community it is to be expected (quite a few tables had a solitary diner, focused intently on their book or magazine).



We started with Mediterranean Fish Soup (£6.95) and Mr White's Fresh Dressed Crab (£9.95). My husband's soup - with croutons, rouille and Gruyere - was tasty, on the thin side though, with no chunks of fish. The rouille was nice with plenty of paprika. It was served on a wooden board, which was unnecessary and didn't suit the style of restaurant. My crab was prettily arranged with grated egg and a couple of thin, lightly grilled, slices of baguette, but I think it would be

better with brown bread, or the 'toast Melba' as per the menu. As starters they both pretty much fulfilled the restaurant's promise of serving classic British and French food. I enquired about the 'finest quality smoked salmon' which was described as 'properly garnished, brown bread and butter' and sounded intriguing: I was informed 'properly garnished' means that it is served with fresh lemon!

Onto our mains: being in a steakhouse, I opted for a grilled 35 day aged sirloin £25.95. It was cooked to perfection and served with delicious Béarnaise sauce with fresh tarragon and 'pommes frites' (in fact they were rather-too-tempting, nice, fat



chips.) My husband loves a good steak and ale pie, so chose 'The Governor's Steak and Ale Pie' (£15.50) which was served with peas. It was interesting; a very delicious filling, with not a puff, but a crisp and tasty short crust pastry top. But we were rather surprised that it was served in a rather incongruous, shallow gratin dish.



The dessert menu was interesting. Never one to resist it, my husband chose 'Mr Coulson's Sticky Toffee Pudding'. I asked our waiter if he knew who Mr Coulson was, but he didn't have any idea, nor did any other waiter. I assume that it is the late Francis Coulson of Sharrow Bay hotel fame, who is reputed to have invented the original Sticky Toffee Pudding. But apparently the recipe is top secret, so I can only assume that Marco Pierre White was the anonymous buyer who paid a very generous £32,000 to Children in Need in 2007 to be allowed to make it alongside the Sharrow Bay chef! (see [link here](#) for info). I was tempted to try the sherry soaked fruitcake, served with either Blue Monday or Keen's cheddar cheese. The kitchen kindly provided me with a taster sample of each cheese for comparison, but it was all taken straight from a cold fridge or larder, so one couldn't really appreciate the combination, as flavours hadn't had a chance to open up. It is a shame, as I am a real fan of sweet and savoury and it sounded amazing.



Our waiter – Jeronio – was very charming and helpful, as were all the staff. We were told that the restaurant has a very different dynamic at the weekends. There is a set lunch menu (£29) on Saturday and Sunday and apparently a new special offer menu is about to be launched, so do check the hotel's website for details.

To summarise, this is one of 24 MP White Steakhouse, Bar and Grills around the UK, so the menu does have a rather prescribed feel. That said, my husband commented that he would have been delighted to dine in one when travelling on business during his previous career in marketing. The hotel isn't particularly well situated for public transport but it is an inexpensive cab ride if you are based in Twickenham. They also serve afternoon tea for £24 (with a gluten free version available). Or the Cornish cream tea (for just £8.50) seems great value for such a lovely setting, particularly in summer, when I presume it is available on the terrace.



Please ask for full  
Itineraries 020 8744 0474



## Holy Land Tour in Israel

21 October 6 nights departing Heathrow. From £1130 per person

## Jewish Budapest wide range of dates available

24 August 3 nights departing from Heathrow. From £650 p.p

## Jewish Prague wide range of dates available

30 March 3 nights departing from Heathrow. From £825 p.p



# Offers and Competitions

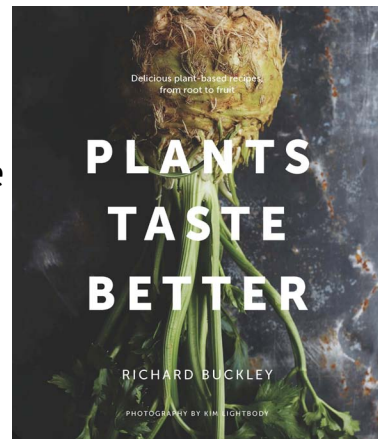
## FREE TICKETS FOR THE EAT & DRINK FESTIVAL UP FOR GRABS!

The Ideal Home Show at Olympia has a new section this year – the Eat & Drink Festival. It runs from 17 March till 2 April (Easter Monday). We have five pairs of tickets available on a first come/first served basis. So please email [win@twickenhamtribune.com](mailto:win@twickenhamtribune.com) with the subject header Eat & Drink ASAP for a chance to win a pair.

Winners will be notified by Tuesday 20 March, leaving them plenty of time to plan their visit.

## Win a copy of Plants Taste Better by Richard Buckley, worth £25

The lovely people at Jacqui Small, publisher of this gorgeous book, have kindly offered a copy as a competition prize for one lucky Twickenham Tribune reader to win. To enter, email [win@twickenhamtribune.com](mailto:win@twickenhamtribune.com) with your contact details and in the subject header, the name of Twickenham's very own greengrocer and fruit seller, located in King Street.



Closing date: Noon, Friday 23 March 2018. Prize is as stated and no cash alternative will be offered. Entry deems permission for the winner to be named in the Twickenham Tribune.

## Monthly Photography Competition

Win an 18 hole round of golf for 4 at Strawberry Hill Golf Club  
With a glass of wine or beer at the bar afterwards



Email your photo to [win@TwickenhamTribune.com](mailto:win@TwickenhamTribune.com)  
(include your name and postcode) All 4 players must play the same round.

**Photos of pets or wildlife, or any scenes taken within the local villages, ie Twickenham, St Margaret's, East Twickenham, Strawberry Hill, Teddington, Hampton Wick, Hampton, Hampton Hill and Whitton/Heathfield**

This competition is run in conjunction with [Strawberry Hill Golf Club](http://Strawberry Hill Golf Club) [www.shgc.net](http://www.shgc.net)

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Peter Buchan  
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**Strawberry Hill Golf Club**

Wellesley Road, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham TW2 5SD

Tel: Club Manager 020 8894 0165

Email: [secretary@shgc.net](mailto:secretary@shgc.net)

To find out more visit: [www.shgc.net](http://www.shgc.net)



# Homeownership Scheme supported by Richmond Council to offer home loans up to £75,000

A scheme to get more people into their own home through an interest free loan of up to £75,000 to help them buy was approved and supported by Richmond Council's Cabinet this week.

The affordable housing scheme will see applicants raise a mortgage with a bank or building society and then secure the Council's loan as a second fixed charge on the property. Owners would not have to make any interest or capital repayments on the loan during the time they own the house.

The programme is intended to help applicants unable to raise the large deposits now required by mortgage lenders to buy homes on the open market. The same percentage of the home's value is used to calculate the amount that must be repaid when the owner comes to repay the loan. This will then be refunded to the Council to re-invest in other schemes.

The Council is investing £1.54m in the scheme and the next step will be to seek a housing association to run the scheme with the aim of being able to offer loans by the autumn of this year.

*Twickenham Embankment, by Doug Goodman*





## Borough's cyclists to benefit from Brompton bike hire scheme

Commuters in Richmond upon Thames will have more options available to them following the installation of a Brompton Bicycle Rack outside one of the borough's busiest train stations.

Beginning April 2018 cyclists in Twickenham and those using the station will be able to rent Brompton folding bikes.

As part of the scheme commuters will be able to hire a bike on a daily or weekly basis. All you need to do is register your details online. You can then book a bike online or via text message.

Bicycles can be returned at any time to any Brompton docking station.

CLLr Peter Buckwell, Cabinet Member for Highways and Street Scene said:

"The Brompton Bike Hire scheme will provide residents and visitors with even more travel options for getting around the borough.

"They offer fantastic flexibility for combined journeys as they are portable on buses, trains, taxis and cars. Bringing these docking stations to the two busiest stations in our borough will make travelling to and from the stations stress free and encourage more environmentally friendly and healthier travel."

A further installation at Richmond Station is due later this year. Depending on take up, we propose to roll the scheme out to other stations across the Borough.

Register online. To register you need a credit or debit card in your name, your residential address, card billing address, mobile phone number and email address.

## Self-driving robots to hit the streets of Richmond

A fleet of self-driving robots will be trialled across the borough – aimed at reducing carbon emissions and delivery costs.

Richmond Council has agreed that Starship Technologies can pilot their latest innovation, a self-driving delivery robot, on the borough's highway network.

The six-wheeled intelligent robots are 55cm (22in) tall and 70cm (28in) long. They can travel up to 4mph. Each one has nine on-board cameras, two-way audio and movement sensors and they will be driven autonomously and make every day local deliveries for consumers.

The robots generate zero carbon emissions and move around without human input for most of the time – but they are monitored by human controllers, who can take the reins if they need to.

The technology is already in use in other boroughs (e.g. Greenwich) and by takeaway companies including Just Eat and couriers Hermes.



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**To find out more visit:** [www.shgc.net](http://www.shgc.net)



Places People Play





# Stagecoach Performing Arts Twickenham & Teddington to wow Premiership Rugby crowds at London Stadium

Students from Stagecoach Performing Arts Twickenham & Teddington are set to wow audiences at the iconic London Stadium this spring.

During the festivities surrounding the highly anticipated Saracens vs Harlequins Premiership Rugby match on 24th March, Stagecoach students from across the country will take to the field to perform in front of the expected, sell-out 60,000-strong.



Among them will be children from Stagecoach Twickenham & Teddington who will entertain the crowd during both the pre-match and half-time shows, which will be headlined by former Britain's Got Talent winner Tokio Myers.

Saracens are well placed in the Premiership Rugby standings, narrowly trailing the Exeter Chiefs at the top of the table, and will look to cement their place in the league's Top 4 as the season approaches its thrilling climax. Victory for the 'home' side in this Round 18 fixture will help them progress to the knockout stages of the tournament.

For Stagecoach Performing Arts, the spectacle marks part of the network's 30th anniversary celebrations and London Stadium's crowds will be the largest ever live audience for its students. It will dwarf the audiences of previous live shows, such as a performance of Cats at the Arena Birmingham – to mark the 25th anniversary of Stagecoach in 2013 – with 10,000 watching, and support of Robbie Williams at The O2, watched by 20,000. When Stagecoach students take part in Dance the Dream, during the parades at Disneyland Paris, they can typically expect an audience of around 26,000.



Sarah & Will Chitty, Principals of Stagecoach Performing Arts Twickenham & Teddington, said: "Performing in front of such a large crowd will be an incredible experience for the students and it is exciting to be part of the 30th anniversary year celebrations. This is an amazing opportunity for the students in their formative years. It will teach them how to work with others and will help them build their confidence and performing abilities, cultivating a real 'Creative Courage for Life'. I'm sure it will create some wonderful memories too."

Stagecoach Twickenham & Teddington is also running an Evening of Song this March for local charity Momentum, which supports families of children with cancer.

Stagecoach Performing Arts Twickenham & Teddington is part of a network of more than 700 extra-curricular Performing Arts Schools worldwide. Stagecoach aims to make a difference in its students lives by teaching Creative Courage for Life and many children have gone on to study and work in Performing Arts from blockbuster films to countless roles in local theatre productions. Early Stages classes are available for children aged four to six and Main Stages classes take place for six to 18 year olds every weekend.

# Our Space Award: Up to £5,000 Available for Green Spaces in London

Groundwork London's new grant scheme, "Our Space Award - Promoting Greener Communities", is now open for applications. The closing date is 30 April, with decisions expected at the end of May.

The Our Space Award is a grant scheme that aims to help Londoners green their city through active community engagement and participation. It will support Londoners of all ages and backgrounds, communities and schools in improving community open spaces, making them inclusive places for all to enjoy.

The Our Space Award provides grants of £500 to £5,000 for community groups to improve their local spaces.

More information, including links to application documents, can be found on the Groundwork London website here: <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/london/pages/our-space-award>



**SOS SAVE OUTDOOR SPORTS FIELDS**

**SOME THINGS IN LIFE ARE JUST PLAIN WRONG. BUILDING ON UDNEY PARK IS ONE OF THEM.**

**DEADLINE FOR OBJECTIONS TO RUTC: 2 APRIL 2018**

In January 2018 the current owners of Udney Park Playing Fields submitted plans to build 107 flats and other large buildings, which will reduce the number of pitches from 9 of varying sizes to 2, and end all cricket. Even less space to play for our children, despite schools being short of fields and many local clubs having waiting lists. The then Mayor of London Boris Johnson described building on Udney Park as "a scandal and an outrage".

There is now a very short window of opportunity for you to object to these proposals. Although we are confident the Council will refuse planning, because playing fields are heavily protected in the London Plan and Udney Park is local green space (= to green belt in planning policy), we expect Quantum will appeal to the Planning Inspector as they stand to make an estimated £30 million profit.

To avoid Quantum having any chance of the Planning Inspector overturning the Council's decision we need a massive amount of local objections to the initial planning application. There will be no other opportunity to be heard. At local events we found over 90% of you feel like we do, that Udney Park is a community asset meant for future generations to play sport and to meet as a community.

The Udney Park Playing Fields Trust has been formed to help Quantum restore the fields to full community ownership

once their speculative plans fail to get approval – there is a Plan B: we have willing financial backers and a number of interested community groups to take-over and run all of Udney Park for use as a Community Asset!

It's not just about building on playing fields – there will be many more cars and more pressure on parking. There is already a massive development at Teddington Lock and we are in danger of losing the attractiveness of our town, which is why we all came to live here in the first place.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

1. Go to our website [www.saveudneypark.org.uk](http://www.saveudneypark.org.uk) and look at our alternative plan to save the playing fields.
2. Visit [www.richmond.gov.uk/planning](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/planning) immediately, search planning application number: **18/0151/FUL** and object in the strongest possible terms to this wicked loss of our children's space to play!  
We need 1,000's of objections to stop this disaster in our town happening.
3. Tell your friends and ask them to help the cause.
4. Sign up to our newsletter to receive the latest news with tips on how to object to Quantum's multi-million pound, profit making proposal to rip up all these wonderful pitches.
5. We are fundraising for a leading Planning Consultant to counter Quantum, please give at: <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/udneyparkplayingfieldstrust>

**DON'T BE FOOLED BY QUANTUM'S PLANS; THEY ARE DESIGNED TO LOOK ATTRACTIVE BUT THIS IS A PROFIT MAKING EXERCISE. IN THEIR OWN PROSPECTUS TO INVESTORS QUANTUM STATED THAT THEIR INTENTION WAS TO SELL TO A DEVELOPER ONCE PLANNING PERMISSION WAS GRANTED, TO MAXIMISE THEIR PROFIT WITHOUT EVER LAYING A BRICK.**

**AS LOCAL COUNCILLOR STEPHEN KNIGHT SAID "DON'T BELIEVE FOR ONE SECOND THAT QUANTUM PARTNERING WITH LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IS ANYTHING OTHER THAN CAMOUFLAGE FOR THEIR GRUBBY LAND DEAL"**

You can email us at [fuppf.teddington@gmail.com](mailto:fuppf.teddington@gmail.com) or visit [www.saveudneypark.org.uk](http://www.saveudneypark.org.uk)





# NPL CEO to lead national activity to engage industry in the quantum technologies opportunity for the UK

LONDON – 13 March 2018 – NPL, the UK's National Measurement Institute (NMI), has today announced its CEO, Dr Peter Thompson, will lead a new national activity to engage UK industry in emerging quantum technologies; a potential multi-billion-pound industry for the UK. The programme will work with business leaders to foster the conditions for industry to invest in, and benefit from, quantum technologies; and ensure that any future government investment in this area is focussed on the biggest opportunities for the UK economy.

Developments in this field promise to transform every industry, from the automotive sector to healthcare. Quantum technologies will make our computers more powerful, increase synchronisation in communications systems and dramatically improve our ability to uncover oil and gas sources. They will also provide sensors for driverless cars that work in all conditions, improve medical diagnosis and make utilities maintenance more efficient.

Dr Thompson will work alongside government colleagues across Innovate UK and EPSRC and other stakeholders in the UK National Quantum Technologies Programme. The activity will aim to establish the challenges and opportunities within each industry sector that quantum technologies can tackle, and build a strong industry voice in support of a future programme. It will then work to create the optimum environment for public and private investment to turn these opportunities into reality. This approach will give UK businesses first access to disruptive quantum technologies to drive international trade and business growth.

Dr Thompson will work closely with Sir Peter Knight FRS, Emeritus Professor at Imperial College London, and Chair of the Quantum Metrology Institute at NPL, who will be acting as interim Challenge Director for the government's Industrial Strategy challenge in quantum technology.

This announcement follows hard on the heels of a 'breaking ground' ceremony for the construction of a new quantum facility on NPL's main site in Teddington; involving both Dr Thompson, and Sir Peter Knight. This facility will be a centre for industry engagement and will provide technical support for industrial uptake of quantum technologies.

The new building will offer industry access to world-class capabilities and equipment to support and drive the development, testing and evaluation of new products based on quantum technologies. Housing new state-of-the-art laboratories, the centre is due for completion in early 2019, by construction company M+W's high-tech projects arm.

Measurement is crucial to realising the benefits that quantum products can offer. It is vital in translating complex scientific advances into products with real world application. The centre will help to deliver a world-class underpinning measurement capability, providing a unique environment for industry to develop new quantum technologies.

Dr Peter Thompson, CEO of NPL, said: "Quantum technologies hold enormous promise for a wide range of industry sectors – from healthcare to transport. The UK is ideally placed to emerge as a global leader in quantum technologies and there is a unique opportunity for industry to shape new developments to their needs and the market opportunities from the outset. That's why we're calling on business leaders across all sectors to work with us to ensure the world-class research and technology development being conducted by the UK's quantum hubs, their university partners, the wider academic community and the emerging quantum supply chain can deliver the maximum business and economic benefit."

Rhys Lewis, Director of the NPL Quantum Metrology Institute, said: "The opening of the new facility here in Teddington will play a vital role in commercialising exciting new quantum products. It will bring quantum innovation to life in new ways, helping to showcase the latest advancements in quantum technologies, but also offering a world leading space for industry to develop, test and verify new breakthroughs."



# GREAT EXPECTATIONS



Mark Aspen

[www.markaspen.wordpress.com](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com)

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

by Charles Dickens, adapted for the stage by Ken Bentley  
Malvern Theatres and Tilted Wig co-production  
at Richmond Theatre and on tour until 23rd June  
Review by Celia Bard

Condensing such a long and involved story as Great Expectations is something of a challenge. In short, Pip's story is that of an orphan, his early beginnings from childhood to adulthood and his attempts to become a gentleman. I was curious to see whether this new stage adaptation by Ken Bentley at Richmond Theatre, would succeed in capturing the



spirit, humour, and humanity of the quintessential world of Dickens. I was not disappointed for Bentley successfully manages to weave together the story's many complex subplots. Director, Sophie Boyce Couzens successfully achieved this through elements of the narrative being spoken by all actors from different stage levels, and the imaginative use of mime, music, physical movement and sudden outbursts of song.

However, what makes this production stand apart from others is its modern theatre set designed by James Turner. Its dominant piece of architecture was that of a metal cube built on the diagonal that morphs seamlessly through time and space from a blacksmith's forge to Miss Havisham's house to Pip's lodging.



Of period furniture there is little, and this liberates the audience from a literal



representation of the drama. Instead it provides a mental landscape of the mindset of the characters as well as allowing actors greater freedom of movement to embody the characters they are playing. What was most effective were the voile drapes hanging from the walls of Miss Havisham's room, symbolising her physical and mental imprisonment. Like the voile her mind is shrouded, a condition that blinds her to the cruelty of her actions, driven by her relentless quest to seek vengeance on all men ... ..

Read Celia Bard's full review at [www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/03/13/gt-expectations](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/03/13/gt-expectations)

Photography by Lisa Roberts Photography



# 'There's No Easy Way to Say This'



Mark Aspen

[www.markaspen.wordpress.com](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com)

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

## A Play Filled With the Magic to Escape the Real World A Midsummer Night's Dream

by William Shakespeare

Questors Theatre Company at The Judi Dench Playhouse until 17th March

Review by Viola Selby

In A Midsummer Night's Dream, Bottom states that 'reason and love keep little company together', and although this maybe true for many things in life, I can find many reasons to love this play. Anne Neville has excellently directed a much-loved tale in a way that encapsulates its main themes of love, marriage, and the power of the imagination, keeping true to Shakespeare's writing whilst bringing in a few new additions to keep the play funny for all and giving the whole play a



feeling of freshness. Their use by the workmen, in particular, brilliantly rounds off their characters, the most famous of which must be Bottom, cleverly acted out by Anthony Curran. Through Curran's amazing acting abilities, Bottom is given a modern makeover, with a Phil Mitchel-esque persona mixed in with a hilarious thespian superiority complex.

In addition, such comedic talent is also brought in by the other actors, through their brilliantly timed responses, use of body language and facial expressions. James Stephen and James Burgess are flawless in their depiction of the two young men, Lysander and Demetrius, competing for first Hermia and then for Helena. They create a comedy duo that have the audience in stitches with their witty banter and attempts at seduction, made even better by the brilliant responses of the two women, perfectly portrayed by Lauren Grant, as Hermia, and Clementine Medforth, as Helena.

And although no Midsummer Night's Dream would be complete without its Puck, made marvellously mischievous by Annabelle Williams, the true star of the show has to be Moon's Dog, played by either Minnie or Django, both superlative canine thespians, who I am sure now have their own fan club after the reactions of the audience as the dog made its starring entrance on stage ... ..

Read Viola's full review at [www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/03/10/dream-q](http://www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2018/03/10/dream-q)

*Photography courtesy of Questors Theatre Company*

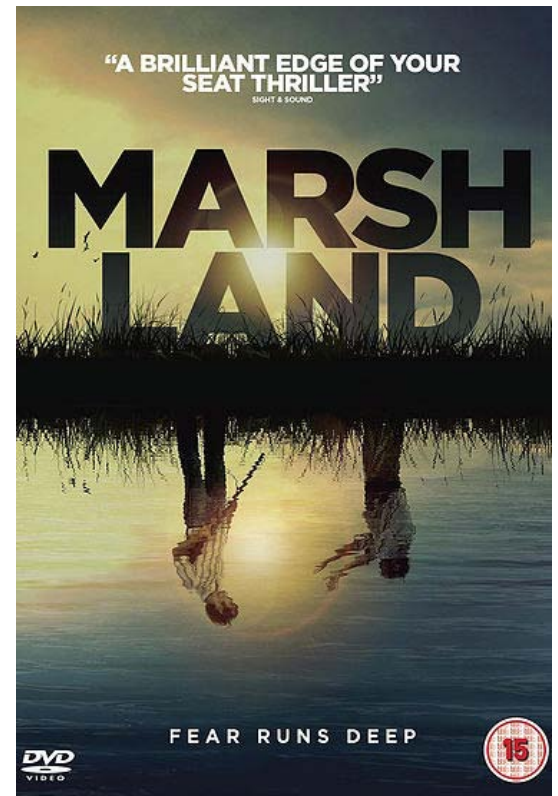
The second half of Richmond Film Society's Season comprises the following eight films at The Exchange:

27th March

## Marshland (Spain)

Directed by Alberto Rodríguez

Set in the early years of a post-Franco Spain, two detectives with things to hide are assigned to a remote part of Andalusia to investigate the murder of two sisters. Clues are scarce, the locals are unwelcoming and the ghosts of the past are everywhere.



10th April – Toni Erdmann (Germany) - Directed by Maren Ade

A father, concerned about his career-obsessed and apparently joyless daughter, deploys his dishevelled prankster alter ego, Toni Erdmann, to make mischief, travelling to her workplace and posing as an executive 'life coach'. A startlingly original and uproarious comedy, suffused with pathos and tenderness. Oscar-shortlisted and winner of 73 awards worldwide.

24th April – A Man Called Ove (Sweden) - Directed by Hannes Holm

Short-listed for the 2017 Foreign Language Oscar, Ove is the archetypal angry old man who spends his days enforcing block association rules and visiting his wife's grave. After reaching a life changing decision, an unlikely friendship develops and life takes a new path. A funny, tragic and heart-warming transformation of an angry, solitary and regimented old man.

<https://www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk/>





Dear Sir

## Pope's Grotto

Alan Winter's article on Pope's Villa was very welcome in last week's issue and it gives me another opportunity to draw wider attention to the work of the Trust.

Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust is charged with ensuring that the Grotto becomes a better visitor experience and that its importance in the understanding of the Landscape Movement generally is never overlooked. To that end the Trust is currently working hard to fundraise, in conjunction with the owners of the Grotto, Radnor House School, and is proud to say that Phase One of our programme, namely the restoration of the South Chamber, is now complete.

Visits to the Grotto are available on one Saturday morning every month as well as during Twickenham Festival as before. More information and booking details are available on the Trust's website <https://popesgrotto.org.uk>

The Trust is always looking for volunteers. The best way to get in touch is through the website.

**David Cornwell**

**Chairman**

**Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust**

Dear Sir

## Twickenham Riverside Planning

Wednesday 7th March 2018 will go down in history as the day the Conservative Administration betrayed the people of Twickenham and voted 5:3 to turn the Twickenham Riverside prime site into a housing estate, shops and bars.

Having anticipated huge banner waving crowds, the Council held the Planning Meeting in The Clarendon Hall. The low attendance as can be seen on the video of the proceedings, was not an indication of people's support for their scheme or indifference. Quite the contrary. It clearly illustrated that people knew it was a done deal and that the vote would as usual, be purely along party lines. No mention was made of the hundreds of people who care deeply about this important site and who had submitted very valid objections to the unpopular scheme and continued to challenge it and put forward viable alternatives throughout the CONSultation period.

From the outset Cllr Fleming had been given the lead to do something with the Twickenham Riverside site. The problem was having spent £6.84 millions of Council tax payers money buying the site and entering into some secret agreement with an Architect whose ideas for the site very few people liked, there could be no deviation and certainly no u turn.

People have been worn down by the endless fight to save the Riverside and the Council has capitalised on this - "Any scheme is better than no scheme and another decade of dereliction".

In addition to the Council's refusal to allow any alternative scheme to be presented at the initial consultation and ignoring the petition signed by over three thousand people, readers should be aware of the following facts:

1. Private Car Parking - At the Planning Meeting it was stated that residents of the new flats would not be allowed to sub-let parking spaces nor would they be allowed to buy residents' parking permits. This is NOT TRUE. The Council knows full well by law, they CANNOT prevent the purchase of permits in an area where others benefit from parking permits. Nor do they have means to stop anyone renting out their space or buying visitors' permits. 39 new build flat owners could in theory bring two cars with them and purchase permits / visitor permits and park off site, or rent out their space privately and park off site.

2. Flooding - The car park is constantly at high risk of flooding – especially during the Spring High tides - as it sits level with the flood area. Yet the Council refused to take any notice of the objection from the Environment Agency who stated "The proposed development will require a Flood Risk Activity Permit from the Environment Agency, which will be refused". So to reduce costs, they are prepared to defy the Environment Agency and build an entrance to an underground car park knowing what the consequences will be. When asked what would happen to the electric points in the car park in the event of water cascading in, they said they



had factored this in. So again, proof they are expecting it to constantly flood. I wonder if they will warn prospective buyers that their cars will regularly be submerged?

3. Lack of open space – It was stated that there will be 70% open space. This is simply not true. The majority of the development area is for housing, bars and shops. In her estimate, Cllr Curran included the Diamond Jubilee Gardens in her calculation. This adjacent garden is run by a Trust and was NEVER part of the planning application. Any permissions for use of this open land is required to be considered are entirely separately to the Riverside Housing Estate development and indeed, it would only be linked to the proposed dense housing development through a walkway. Hardly an open area in which films and many other mass outdoor activities could be held.

4. Cost of the development – Having already spent £6.84m to purchase the Santander building, the cost is already spiralling out of control and the Council has admitted they will NEVER make a profit and I doubt if they will EVER break even. Surely they should not be allowed to use Council tax payers money to prop up a white elephant in a bottomless pit?

5. Site of Historical Importance – Cllr Tippet made a seemingly tongue in cheek comment about what would happen if archaeological remains were found but the historical importance of this site was not addressed. Indeed, my interpretation was that it was actually mocked. The Council has ignored any regeneration of the old and ugly Embankment steps and no river-based activities (eg rowing boat hire, paddle-boarding, pontoons) are designed into the scheme. Indeed the ‘boat houses’ as illustrated on the plans are nothing more than a façade to the private underground car park!

6. Pre-determination – In addition to the behaviour of the Conservative Councillors at the Meeting and the unanimous Conservative vote in favour (one of whom never spoke or asked a question the entire meeting), the day after the decision was publically announced, the car park off Water Lane was closed off by Council contractors. This surely confirms that they were booked in advance to do this as quickly as possible after the farce of a Meeting had taken place?

7. Voting – Some Councillors who were whipped into voting in favour actually expressed their dismay at the unimaginative scheme and that it was a wasted opportunity. This is so wrong. Planning decisions are supposed to be on the merit of a scheme, not along party political lines because of pressure to push something through before the Election.

8. Summing up - Chair Cllr Curran’s summing up consisted of saying she looked forward to seeing bird and insect boxes on the Riverside, and an open space for outdoor cinema. Her crass comments were an insult to the thousands of people who opposed the scheme.

I sincerely hope that the Call In by the Secretary of State under the Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009 is successful and that if the Lib Dems are elected, they will halt this hideous scheme and work with local groups to bring about a sympathetic regeneration of this precious site.

**Julie Hill**

**Twickenham Riverside Ward**

Half Page

Quarter Page Landscape

Quarter Page Portrait

Eighth Page Landscape

Eighth Page

Example advert sizes shown above

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