

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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TickerTape - News in Brief

Iran Plane Crash - Two of the four British passengers were from Twickenham

On Wednesday 8th January a Ukraine International Airlines Boeing 737 crashed shortly after takeoff from Tehran, killing all 176 people on board. Of the four British victims, two were from Twickenham.

Seventeen year old **Arad Zarei** was born in Twickenham and had attended St Mary's Primary School and Orleans Park School, although he had moved to Canada to live with his father.

Sam Zokaei lived in Twickenham and worked as a senior reservoir engineer for BP Exploration in Sunbury-on-Thames.

Experience everything Richmond upon Thames has to offer in 2020!

Find out exactly why millions of people fall in love with our borough every year with the new 2020 VisitRichmond Guide.

The guide is available for tourists and locals alike and is packed with all the borough has to offer. Discover everything there is to do from visiting world-famous destinations like the Royal Botanic Gardens to exploring less well-known historic sites such as the Kilmorey Mausoleum. The guide is available online, at Richmond Station and at libraries around the borough. View the guide at VisitRichmond.

Teddington RNLi and Chiswick RNLi rescue four people from drifting boat

Teddington RNLi and Chiswick RNLi were tasked on Saturday (4 Jan 2020) at 10:45pm, to four people adrift in a small dinghy without power in a fast stream on the River Thames. As Teddington RNLi Helm, Toby Banks explained: 'The call came in from London Coastguard to help rescue four people in a small vessel that had lost power on the River Thames at Corporation Island, just by Richmond.' Find out more [HERE](#)

Twickenham Library Closed

Twickenham Library will be closed from Monday 27 January until early April 2020 for an internal refurbishment.

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Oh well, the festivities are behind us and things are getting back to normal.

TwickerSeal wonders what the year ahead brings, but if you want to hear our Fearless Leader's thoughts, you can find them [here](#).

Twickenham Riverside continues to be high on the agenda and many of us will be following the ongoing saga closely.

The chosen architects, Hopkins, were supposed to be confirmed at the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee meeting on Wednesday 15th January, but it seems this has been postponed until the 20th February meeting. This means the council will not be releasing the engagement report (results of the public consultation) until after this date. TwickerSeal finds it rather odd that the council is holding back the report on the public engagement, but looks forward to seeing it next month along with the five letters from 'select' stakeholder groups.



This column encompasses the whole of the Twickenham and Richmond areas and the LBRUT area. This week we visit Mortlake which is a suburban district of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames on the south bank of the River Thames between Kew and Barnes. Historically it was part of Surrey and until 1965 was in the Municipal Borough of Barnes.



Today the riverside at Mortlake is changing with the closure of the Stag Brewery (formerly Watney's). Just west of the brewery site, and part of the new development, is a piece of land formerly laid out as two bowling greens. These were part of Watney's Sports & Social Club, which closed in 2000, leaving the greens to become derelict. At the site entrance on Williams Lane stands a fine mid-17th century gate with piers (Grade II listed): they were the entrance gates of Old Cromwell House which was a two-

winged brick built mansion with high surrounding walls whose land stretched north from the Lower Richmond Road to the tow path on what is now Thames Bank.

Architectural gate piers were a feature of mid-17th century houses The Mortlake gate piers are relatively modest in scale, surmounted by plain finials with seated niches on the outside and the gate has fine ironwork over. Our first image this week is of a painting c.1790 and shows the gates opening into the courtyard of a compact villa with hipped roof, casement windows still on the top floor and a Venetian window over the entrance, which confirm a mid-17th century date. The gates in Williams Lane have been moved from their original site some 40 meters to the west.

The next two postcards images show the gates in Williams Lane.

There is much evidence that Thomas Cromwell sometime resided in Cromwell House from whom it gained its name. Cromwell's sister Katherine lived in Mortlake in the early 16th century with her brewer husband Morgan Williams, nephew and heir of John, and there is evidence that the couple lived in old Cromwell House in their later years at least. Thomas, who had been born in Putney, also had another local connection in that he was given the manor of Mortlake by Henry VIII in 1536, the manor house of which stood by the river on the eastern side of Ship Lane.



The old house also had connections with Oliver Cromwell although there is no evidence that he owned it. Many of his supporters lived in Mortlake and the two John Blackwells (father and son) who became captains in Cromwell's army, lived in Cromwell House for many years. Edward Colston, an early slave trader, lived in the house from 1695 until his death in 1721. He was an enthusiastic gardener and the grounds of Cromwell House were reported to be most impressive. A gazebo was built into the north wall which gave good views onto the river. The Aynscombe family then lived in the house for almost 60 years, the last surviving member, Valentina dying there in 1841.



Old Cromwell House then fell into disrepair. James Wigan, a partner in the Phillips and Wigan brewery, which was then situated at the old Mortlake manor house site, acquired the lease of the old Cromwell House, had it demolished in 1857 and built a new Cromwell House. The house stood at the river end of the estate with its large gardens facing onto Williams Lane. Wigan's Cromwell House was an impressive red brick Victorian villa with fine Tudor style chimneys. It had 14 bedrooms, a nursery and school-room, servants' quarters, vast cellars, a billiard room and several offices and other minor rooms. The estate consisted of five acres of land, the house, barns, stables, yards, a landscaped garden, orchard, outhouses and edifices, and it was enclosed by brick walls.

James Wigan and his young wife Maria moved into their new house in June 1858. Maria went on to have 13 children, all of whom were born in the house. James became a wealthy man and active in both local political and church matters. He died in 1902. Maria died in 1918, having lived in the house for 60 years.

By the 1920s the house was in the hands of the Watney company (who had gained full ownership of the brewery in 1898). In December 1928 the house magazine 'Hand in Hand' noted that the Directors had had the beautiful gardens of Cromwell House put in order and they would be opened to Sports Club members. In 1947, uninhabitable from bomb damage, the house was demolished and the whole area east of what is now Williams lane was incorporated into the brewery site.

Remarkably, the gates of Old Cromwell House remained *in situ* until 1961. In that year SPAB surveyed them, recording their good craftsmanship and current state. In a private road, not well lit and used as a playground by children, they were being seriously damaged. It appeared impossible to protect them in their original position, so Watney's took them down and re-erected them about 100 yards to the west as the entrance to the Bowling Greens at the corner of Williams Lane, where, intact but neglected, they still stand.

I have taken much of this detail on the history of Cromwell House from the website of the Barnes and Mortlake History Society. <http://www.barnes-history.org.uk/>

My thanks and acknowledgements to the Society. There is also a book by Helen Deaton available 'The story of Cromwell House at Mortlake'. Please visit the BMHS website for details.

I am always looking for old postcards and old photograph albums etc. so if you have any that are sitting unwanted in a drawer, in a box in the loft or in the garage or under a bed, please contact me on 07875 578398 or alanwinter192@hotmail.com I would like to see them and I pay cash!



**Richmond
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Society**

The next concert is on

Tuesday 28th January 7.45pm

Sublime choral masterpieces

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**St Mary Magdalene, Paradise Road,
Richmond TW9 1SN**

See our website for further details

www.richmondconcerts.co.uk



Theatre

Thursday 9 January to Saturday 11 January 7.30pm plus matinee. A Christmas Carol, a youth production presented by Step on Stage Productions info@steponstageacademy.co.uk

Friday 17 - Saturday 25 January (matinees and evenings) Jack and the Beanstalk at St Edmund's Church, Nelson Road, Whitton www.edmundianplayers.com

Saturday 25 January to Friday 31 January. Teddington Theatre Club, Hampton Hill Theatre: Main Auditorium. Amadeus by Peter Shaffer. Music, power, jealousy and the genius of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Poetry

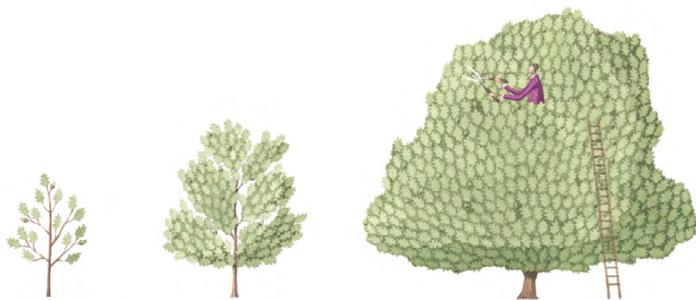
Poetry Performance at the Adelaide pub, Park Road, Teddington. Open mic spots on the first Sunday of every month from 6 to 8pm.

Music

18 January 7.30 pm at the Landmark Arts Centre, The Songs of Leonard Cohen (Keith James).

Jazz, rock, and blues music enthusiasts who head to the bars at The Cabbage Patch Pub in London Road are advised to visit Twickfolk, Twickenham Jazz Club and Eel Pie Club websites to check what's on.

If you are interested in advertising an Arts & Entertainment event write to advertise@twickenhamtribune.com for further information.



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by Eugene O'Neill
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DREAM
by William Shakespeare ... *re-invented*
20th to 23rd February 2020

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI
by John Webster
21st to 28th March 2020

SUMMERLAND
by Arlitia Jones
2nd to 9th May 2020





Richmond upon Thames Performing Arts Festival 2020

Competitions and Performance Opportunities

for all ages

Piano, Vocal, All Orchestral Instruments, Speech & Drama
February to March in Richmond (Kew) and Hampton

For full information, fees and entry forms visit

<http://www.richmondfestival.org.uk>

Performance opportunities for all ages in piano (jazz, classical & exam sections), singing (for choirs and soloists), string & wind orchestral instruments, including harp, guitar & percussion. Acting, verse and prose speaking, musical theatre for solos and groups. Every performer receives a verbal and written assessment. Trophies, Medals, Cash prizes and vouchers to be awarded including: £100 prizes each for the Young Pianist, Young Singer, Young Instrumentalist and Young Speech & Drama Performer of the Year

Dates, Venues, Adjudicators 2020

Vocal Section - Adjudicator: **Belinda Mikhail**, BMus(Hons),PgDipRCM, ARCM

February 28th at YMCA White House, 45 The Avenue, Hampton, TW12 3RN (mainly choirs and ensembles)

February 29th & March 1st at Kew Community Centre, (St. Luke's), The Avenue, Richmond TW9 2AJ (Solos)

Piano section: - Adjudicator: **Li Lin Teo**, ARAM,LRAM,ARCM(Hons), LRSM

March 6th, 7th, 8th, 14th at Kew Community Centre, (St. Luke's), The Avenue, Richmond TW9 2AJ

Instrumental:

March 15th (Wind/Brass & Percussion) - Adjudicator: **Paul Harris**, FRAM, HonTCL, GRSM, LRAM, ARCM ARAM, MTC, FRSA

March 21st, 22nd (other orchestral instruments) - Adjudicator: **Fiona McLean Buechel**, BA (RSAMD) Cert RAM. All Instrumental sections at Kew Community Centre

Speech & Drama March 28th & 29th - Adjudicators: **Tish Nicoll** LGSM, DipCE, FESB, MSTSD

& **Ann Bauer**, MEd, BA (Hons),LRAM, LGSM, PGCE, DipSpLD at YMCA White House. Hampton TW12 3RN

Section Secretaries (to whom entries should be made)

Instrumental: Pamela Frazer, pam@fra3zer.demon.co.uk

Piano: Sue Thornton, suethornton101@virginmedia.com Assistant Piano Secretary: Kay Aldridge

Vocal: Judy Hildesley judyhildesley@btinternet.com

Speech & Drama: Emma-Louise Tinniswood richmonddramafestival@gmail.com

Closing dates for Receipt of Entries

Piano - January 19th 2020

Vocal & Speech & Drama - January 31st 2020

Instrumental - February 8th 2020



General enquiries - info@richmondfestival.org.uk



Exhibition at the Landmark Arts Centre

Wednesday 15 January – Sunday 2 February 2020, 10 am – 3 pm

Holocaust Memorial Day - Monday 27 January

HMD 2020 is the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau

One Way Train

Teresa Read

In 2004 I was working on the internet with schools in a number of countries; a project called Linking Our World. Many topics were discussed by children and teachers from around twenty countries.

I have saved comments from the project which include the Holocaust - the 27th is the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. The title of this article is from a posting by Saar from Israel:

“Today is the Remembrance Day of 6 Million Jews who were murdered by Hitler and his Nazi party. Innocent Jews, Poles, Russians and Gypsies throughout Europe, were sent to concentration camps. Then they went on a train. A one-way train, a Train, for their death. On this day, we remember all the victims of The Shoah (The Holocaust).”

This second posting from Amity, a school friend of Saar, (2005) is the memory of a child's story he heard from his grandfather:

“When I heard about the ceremony in Auschwitz, I was very excited, because, people continue to remember the evil and terrible thing that the Nazis did to the Jews - they killed in cold blood six million Jews! People must never forget this. My grandfather was a survivor of the Holocaust - he was a Partisan and fought against the Nazis. He hid in the forest of Belarus. One day, the partisans group heard noises outside of the bunker. My grandfather's father, Dov Heiman, who was the leader of the group, went out of the bunker to look for the people who made the noises. He was shot by a Nazi soldier. My grandfather became an orphan. He buried his father in the snow, and took some things from him, that symbolized him: a partisan's spoon - every Partisan had a spoon, that he ate with; some buttons from the shirt - as a souvenir; a mirror and a piece of cloth with blood stains. Nowadays, all of these souvenirs are in my home. I told this sad story to you so that you will remember the story about the Holocaust, and you will never forget.”

Children from Ein Ganim school and their teacher, Marsha Goran, continued to work with other schools after the Linking Our World project came to an end. Their memories project of the Second World War won a place in the Yad Vashem museum in Jerusalem; i was pleased to be able to provide a short article for the project with thanks to the children who made my work on www.worldinfozone.com come alive.

Richmond's stunning New Year's Day Parade entry wins big in Borough Competition

- Richmond awarded second place in annual Borough Competition, winning £9,000 prize for local charities Home-Start and the Otakar Kraus Music Trust
- Parade entry was organised entirely by local volunteers and crowdfunded through donations
- Top local talent including Operation Centaur based in the Royal Parks, The Young Set, Richmond Brass Band, and White Rabbit Drama all took part



Richmond's first entry to the London New Year's Day Parade in over a decade has won second place in their annual Borough Competition. With 16 London boroughs taking part, Richmond's colourful entry featuring a diverse and exciting line-up of talent secured £9,000 in prize money. The parade entry was organised from scratch by a committee of dedicated local volunteers and funded entirely through donations from the community and local software business Minesoft.

Prize money will benefit the Mayor's charities, which this year are Home-Start and the Otakar Kraus Music Trust. Richmond's prize money comes from a total prize pot of £65,000 shared amongst this year's top entries.

Richmond's entry "Hidden Richmond" was assessed by a panel of volunteer judges along the parade route. Each borough was rated on a range of criteria including entertainment value, effort, relevance to the theme and visual impact. With the support of the Poppy Factory and talented groups from across the borough, Richmond's entry aimed to promote Richmond's lust for life and the many achievements its local charities and community groups.



Dancers, musicians and performers from Richmond wowed more than 500,000 people packed onto the streets of Central London, along with a television audience of millions from across the world. A highlight were Shire horses from Operation Centaur, some of

the last working Shire horses in the world who also act as therapy horses; particularly in the treatment of PTSD.



Joining the Mayor Cllr Nancy Baldwin in the parade were the Young Set Dance Group, the Richmond Brass Band, Operation Centaur and the White Rabbit Drama Club. Children and families from the Mayor's charities were also part of the event travelling in the carriage provided by Operation Centaur. Richmond's entry for this year's parade was entirely organised

by a committee of local volunteers, financed solely through community crowdfunding, and led by committee chair Alison Goodbrand.

Mayor of Richmond Cllr Nancy Baldwin, comments: "I could not be more grateful for the wonderful work of my community volunteers led so very enthusiastically by Alison Goodbrand. A big thank you to all the participants, the Poppy Factory for supporting us and all our community donors for contributing to our crowdfunding. It was a true demonstration of how 'Richmond Loves Life'"

Alison Goodbrand, Chair of the Richmond New Year's Day Parade Steering Group,

comments: "I am so proud of this Richmond team. Our Artistic Director Gioia Gray did a brilliant job with the dancers and performers, the equine team under Andreas Liefoghe with the magnificent shire horses from the Royal Park's Operation Centaur was exceptional, and the Richmond Brass Band led by Paul Van Uden



provided fantastic music. Topping it all off was the enthusiastic leadership of our Mayor Cllr Nancy Baldwin who kept us energised and motivated. Everyone played their part on the day and we had a wonderful time entertaining the crowds."

Anna Izquierdo from White Rabbit Drama Club comments: "Taking part in London's New Year's Day Parade was an unforgettable experience and we're bursting with pride for all of the children involved. Seeing the joy on their faces each time the crowd smiled or waved was simply wonderful and the best way to welcome in the New Year."

Victoria van Uden, Musical Director of Richmond Brass Band comments: "We were so thrilled to be part of such a creative and energetic entry into London's New Year's Day Parade - there's nothing better than representing and supporting our diverse and wonderful community."

Are we on the right route? Have your say on the draft Transport Supplementary Planning Document

People are being given a chance to help drive future plans for how new development contributes to active travel, public transport, roads and parking in Richmond upon Thames.

The Council adopted a new ambitious Transport Plan (Local Implementation Plan) in 2019, detailing its vision for how the transport network will be transformed over the next 20 years. The Council also recently consulted on a new Active Travel Strategy which will also help ensure that walking, cycling and public transport are the natural choice for trips to and from new developments. This is vital if these goals are to be achieved.

A draft Transport SPD has now been created to help people when they are submitting planning applications. It supports the Council's adopted planning and transport policies by detailing the expectations for planning applications and signposting to existing plans and further information that may assist in the development of applications.



The SPD includes information on travel plans, deliveries and servicing, sustainable development and active travel, cycling, car clubs, electric vehicle charging, car parking, dropped kerbs and vehicle crossovers. By promoting best practice in transport provision and highway design we aim to maintain or improve the borough's already high-quality environment.

The deadline for feedback is the 27 January 2020.

CLlr Martin Elengorn, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee, said:

"The Council has been working to ensure walking, cycling and public transport are the natural choice for trips to and from new development, reflecting our transport strategies and our response to the climate emergency.

"I hope as many people as possible can take the time to get involved in helping to finalise the scope and content of this supplementary guidance.

"We want your comments to help the Council in producing a final SPD to influence new development."

For more information or to have your say, visit our [Draft Supplementary Planning Documents](#) page.



Never Mind - Never Mind - Never Mind

By:TwickWatch

What's in a name? Nowadays we are used to seeing people's names in the format of forename and surname, sometimes with a middle name/s. The sources from which names are derived are almost endless: nicknames, physical attributes, counties, trades, heraldic charges, and almost every object known to mankind. Surnames deriving from a place are probably the oldest and most common. They can be derived from numerous sources - country, town or estate - or from features in the landscape - hill, wood or stream. Nowadays names are a necessary part of our existence, especially to the tax man, enabling us to smoothly function in society.

Alongside personal names an important necessity was the naming of streets along with inns and taverns and public buildings; all became important elements of navigating between and around towns, villages and cities. Street naming and then additionally numbering, became even more critical when on 10 January 1840, the Uniform Penny Post was established throughout the UK, facilitating the safe, speedy and cheap conveyance of letters to your door and from 6 May could be prepaid with the first postage stamp, known as the Penny Black.

We see and use street names everyday but do the people who live in the homes that line those streets have any idea where the names come from? Many councils have struggled to explain how and why streets within their towns and cities were named - saying decisions usually pre-date their records. This is not surprising considering how far back the use of the terminology dates. A road is an open paved path for vehicles, persons and animals that connects between two distant points, first used before the 12th century whereas streets are usually small public roads that are based inside towns and cities, first used before the 14th century. Avenues, meanwhile, have the same attributes as streets but run perpendicular to them and a lane is, predictably, smaller.



c1900 Montpellier Row

Generally, street names are selected that commemorate people, places or events connected to the area, with a view to preserving local history and reinforcing our sense of place.

Street naming and the changing of existing names can be a source of contention, both past and present. At Twickenham in June 1879 Henry Bohn of North End House,

wrote to the Local Board Naming Committee. "In reference to Montpellier Row, which they have lately re-named, I think somewhat wantonly, Montpellier Road, whereas it never was a road, and never was

intended to be one since its original construction by Captain Gray in or about 1720, and in corroboration of which a fence connected with a turnstile was originally placed at the western end of the Chapel Path to prevent access to the row by any but foot passengers". The name was returned to Montpellier Row!

Many other roads in the Borough have been renamed over time for various reasons. Amyand Park Road was originally Shoe Lane and Crown Road was renamed from Crown Lane. Hamilton Road was originally Athelstan Road, Warwick Road was originally Alfgar Road, Station Road was

originally Staten Lane and Cross Deep Gardens was originally Maitland Gardens. Windsor Road was originally called Battenberg Road (in Richmond), which is a turning off Sandycombe Road, presumably renamed in the anti-German hysteria of the Great War.

The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames was created in 1965 by the amalgamation of Twickenham, Barnes and Richmond Municipal Boroughs, previously Urban District Councils in their own right. The UDCs mentioned, began numbering and rationalising numbering of properties from 1894 onwards (into the early 1900s) as can be seen in the extract below for Grosvenor Road, where chaos turned to order.

New Number	Name Street /Road	Old Name/Number of House	Date of Order
1	Grosvenor Road	Grosvenor Cottage	7 NOV 1884
3	Grosvenor Road	Ham Cottage	11 NOV 1884
5	Grosvenor Road	Rose Villa	11 NOV 1884
7	Grosvenor Road	Rye Cottage	11 NOV 1884
9	Grosvenor Road	1 Mount Terrace	11 NOV 1884
11	Grosvenor Road	2 Mount Terrace	11 NOV 1884
13	Grosvenor Road	3 Mount Terrace	11 NOV 1884
15	Grosvenor Road	4 Mount Terrace	11 NOV 1884
17	Grosvenor Road	5 Mount Terrace	11 NOV 1884
19	Grosvenor Road	1 Stanley Villas	11 NOV 1884
21	Grosvenor Road	2 Stanley Villas	11 NOV 1884
25	Grosvenor Road	Mount Villa	11 NOV 1884
27	Grosvenor Road	Edgecumbe Villa	11 NOV 1884
29	Grosvenor Road	Ararat Lodge	11 NOV 1884
31	Grosvenor Road	Lynton Villa	11 NOV 1884
2	Grosvenor Road	1 Grosvenor Road	11 NOV 1884
4	Grosvenor Road	2 Grosvenor Road	11 NOV 1884
6	Grosvenor Road	1 Grosvenor Villas	11 NOV 1884
8	Grosvenor Road	2 Grosvenor Villas	11 NOV 1884

Street naming and numbering ultimately became a statutory Council function: The original main acts are Sections 64 and 65 of the Towns Improvement Clauses Act 1847 (for the numbering of properties and street naming), Section 21 of the Public Health Act Amendment Act 1907 (for alteration of names of Streets), and Sections 17, 18 and 19 of the Public Health Act of 1925. In London, the London Building Acts (Amendment) Act 1939 Part II and the London Government Act 1963 Section 43(1)(a) and (2) apply.

Where a Local Authority wishes to charge for discretionary services, it can under Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003. This allows charging on a “not for profit” basis, that is, the Council can only aim to recover costs incurred. This is to encourage improvements to existing services and develop new services, with the aim of improving overall services to the customer.

A Street Naming team’s primary consideration when issuing new addresses is public safety as, in an emergency, it is important that a specific address can be identified quickly and easily. For this reason allowed no longer, are duplicate street names with different suffixes (such as Sandycombe Road and Sandycoombe Road) due to the potential for confusion, especially for emergency services.

If a property is not “registered” through the street naming and numbering process it will not appear on the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG). Updates of changes to addresses and the LLPG are provided to a number of organisations, including Royal Mail, emergency services, credit agencies, satellite navigation system suppliers and many private companies. Difficulties may be encountered in obtaining mail, goods and services from a variety of sources (e.g.: applying for a credit card or obtaining goods by mail order) when address information is not officially maintained.

Councils don’t allocate house names. You can add a house name to an existing postal address, but you cannot remove the number from the address and the name must be agreed and authorised by the Council. As the property name is not officially part of the address, you must still display on the property and use the house number in any correspondence.

Further information on Street Naming and Numbering in the Borough can be found on the Richmond Council website where detailed [help and guidance is available](#), including information on permissions required and any charges involved.



A real street sign at Levenshulme Manchester - not recommended!

Twickers Foodie – By Alison Jee

JUST HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?

Well, if you have decided to do 'Dry January' you can't have missed the expanded range of low-alcohol and alcohol-free drinks now on the market. Many of them - in my humble opinion - are 'the emperor's clothes' and at very high prices too, particularly some of the 'spirits'. You are often better saving your money and putting a drop of angostura bitters or good balsamic vinegar into a glass and topping up with tonic or soda. (yes, the balsamic vinegar tip really does work but you need a good one! Tastes quite like Pimms actually and even better with a sprig of mint).

But there are some rather decent new drinks on the market too... and here are a few I've checked out for you. I was very impressed by the Tesco range of low alcohol wines, at extremely reasonable prices (£2.75 a bottle). The sparkling white 2018 (0.5 % abv) is very acceptable indeed. The rosé is slightly sweeter but still a very pleasant, light, sparkling wine. They also do a Cabernet Temperanillo and a Sauvignon Blanc but I haven't yet tried these.



If you like kombucha, check out the Genie Living Drinks range. It includes the UK's first live soda, and delicious kombuchas. They're probiotic, low cal, vegan and a refreshing alternative to alcohol. Available from Farmdrop, selected pubs and cafés and hopefully more places soon. Around £2 a bottle.

I've discovered a new, non-alcoholic spirit that is inspired by the flavours of South America. A tropical infusion of juniper, citrus and spice botanicals, its key ingredient is the South American Inca berry; sweet, yet tangy. It certainly grows on you. Like so many non-alcoholic spirits, it's not cheap, but this one is worth trying. 50cl £18 Sainsbury.



One of the best alternatives to a Campari soda or Aperol spritz is a drink called Everleaf. Also available in Sainsbury at £16 a 50 cl bottle (on offer at the time of writing), this delicious, bitter aperitif has an 'ecclesiastical' note, which is rather unusual, and the gentian comes through subtly. Serve with ice, light tonic or soda and a slice of orange.



If you are also trying to lose weight (join the club!) these new cans of dry soft drink from Cawston are extremely good and they are less than 10 calories! Available in two flavours, Ginger & Lemon or Raspberry, they're a simple blend of British sparkling spring water, a twist of Cawston's pressed juice and natural extracts. No added sugar or sweeteners, or artificial nonsense. I'm pretty addicted to them; serve them in a nice glass with some ice and you can fool yourself that you are drinking something much more naughty. They're available from Ocado, Wholefoods, Amazon and independents including cafés, gyms and galleries. The slim 250ml cans retail for around £1.20.



And finally, if planning to cut your alcohol consumption or you already avoid it, check out thedrydrinker.com. It's a wealth of carefully sourced drinks: wines, beers, ciders, spirits, kombuchas.. It's the brainchild of local resident Stuart Elkington who, fed up with poor availability of decent low and non-alcoholic beers, started sourcing his own. The result is a global online cornucopia for careful imbibers. Sinzero Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon £9.49 is a very acceptable alternative to the real McCoy. Cheers!



Get crafty this year

New knitting and needle craft groups will meet once a month for friendly chats, tea, biscuits and crafts.

Groups will meet once a month from 10am to 12 noon. Simply bring yarn and needles or your own project with you to join.

- The Richmond Lending Library will host a group every third Thursday of the month (beginning 16 January)
- East Sheen Library will be every second Thursday of the month (beginning 9 January)
- Castelnau Library will be every third Friday of the month (beginning 17 January)



Cllr John Coombs, Lead Member for Libraries and Culture, said:

“Crafting is a wonderful way to have fun, clear the mind and improve your memory. It is a very affordable hobby and easy to join in on, even if you don’t have any experience. So, why not get involved and express your creativity in a new craft group this year.”

To find out more visit the [Libraries event pages](#).

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Keeping Classics Alive

by Tamsin Shasha

Actors of Dionysus at the Athenæum Club, Pall Mall

What you can learn under the auspices of Actors of Dionysus is surprisingly broad: for example how to get into the Athenæum Club without a tie or a cure for impotence! I speak not for myself about either subterfuge you understand, but I can tell you the secret of the first ... you wear a dog collar and say you are a clergyman!

However the most enriching thing you can learn with Actors of Dionysus is the enduring vibrancy of Classical drama. AoD's approach is to enhance the Classics with lively translations and an innovative approach. Hence its *Medea* featured aerial ballet, whereas *Antigone* used drones flying above its austere set. Nevertheless, the ancient texts are the guiding beacon and this was consummately exhibited in this private event, where a specially invited audience witnessed the skills at the core of the company.



The performance that was offered took place within the leather and oak surroundings of the Athenæum's Smoking Room, without set, and focus was on the text, and on the performers, who included a chorus of singers from the world music ensemble Vocal Explosion. The pieces chosen were archetypal tragedies, Aeschylus' trilogy *The Oresteia* (Ὀρέστεια) and Euripides' *Women of Troy* (Τρωάδες). Both deal with the aftermath of the Trojan War, seen from different sides of the Aegean. In the hands of Actors of Dionysus, these are not withering curiosities of 2,435 years ago, but a real event happening now, the agonising torment of real women.

However Actors of Dionysus are not all about tragedy and the evening was rounded off by a surprise appearance of the stand-up comedian Joe Pasquale. Pasquale's idiosyncratic voice, and his self-deprecating style was full of wit. Pasquale's all too short performance was of snippets of Classical poetry, revolving around Eros as the god of lust. It is the greybeard Eros in his later years who is searching for the cure for impotence

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2019/11/17/classics-alive

Photography courtesy of Actors of Dionysus and Joe Pasquale



Blast from the Past

by Marc Harris

Barnes Community Players at the OSO Arts Centre, Barnes, 7th January

The subject of ageing and coming to terms with the life changes accompanying it is currently a hot topic for dramatists. Marc Harris has taken up the theme in his new play, *Blast from the Past*.

The story is that of Tim Horton, a successful actor who has reached retirement age where he is struggling with the loss of his wife and some issues with his memory, but otherwise living a reasonably happy life. Tim has been offered an audition for a small part in a very decent, upcoming film and he's nervous about going to it. In five distinct scenes Horton, played by Rodger Hayward-Smith, converses with his brother to whom he is close, his twin daughters and his young neighbour who invites him to dinner and the prospect of friendship across the generations. The play takes us through the usual themes of how the generations interact and how families function, or don't, particularly when faced with an ageing parent.



Presented as a rehearsed reading, the play itself is efficiently constructed and progresses steadily through its five stages. Its strengths are in the accessibility of its subject matter – it seems everyone in the developed world is seeking comfort and help with ageing – and the gentle, generally positive way in which the story is told.

Accompanying *Blast from the Past* was a second, short sketch rather than a play, (it's about ten minutes long) entitled *Stage Door Blues*. This involved a couple waiting at the stage door for one of the actors from the first play. It's cold and they are sniping at each other but there is a little plot twist to entertain the audience

Read Eleanor Lewis' review at www.markaspen.com/2020/01/08/blast-past

Photography by Courtney Everett





Le Corsaire,

choreography by Anna-Marie Holmes

English National Ballet at the London Coliseum until 14th January

Ah, *Le Corsaire*, what a joy you are! Ballet's majestic romp took to the high-seas, with a triumphant opening at London's indisputably splendiferous Coliseum.

Performed by a hot cast of lithe dancers and returning to the capital after a successful stint in 2016, this firm favourite has been sorely missed. Delivering on spectacle and stunning virtuosic dance, not only does

Le Corsaire have the visuals to keep the eyes stimulated, audiences can be strangely charmed by its bombastic, unbelievably believable turn of events.



Of course the protagonists survive every hurdle unscathed. Only in illusionary ballet can a ballerina keep her tiara on during a ferocious storm at sea! Suspend all belief when embarking on the escapist *Le Corsaire*. Abandon all desires to follow a narrative, and just sit back and absorb the magnificence of this extravagant feast.

Le Corsaire follows the story of the heroic Conrad (Francesco Gabriele Frola), who is heading towards the Ottoman Empire to rescue his belle, Medora (Erina Takahashi) from the wretched hands of slave-trader, Lankendem. Guest artist Brooklyn Mack looks completely at home onstage as Lankendem, who plans on selling Medora for a hefty price to the bumbling Pasha, another guest artist, Michael Coleman.

The opening scene is a medley of ENB's talented principals and soloists, all of them throwing down the gauntlet with their *jeté*-ing and pirouetting. The Odalisque *pas de trois* includes Precious Adams's lightening-speed beats and oozing upper body extensions, as well as Julia Conway's fluttering *chaine* turns.

Whilst exhibiting herself to the Pasha, Medora's fellow enslaved girl, Gulnare (Shiori Kase), flitters around the stage with the determination of a single-winged, wounded butterfly. In this *Corsaire*, however, Gulnare is a force to be reckoned with. During her *pas de deux* with Lankendem she is resolute and does not engage with him as he vaingloriously parades her in front of the Pasha



Read Katie Hagan's review at www.markaspen.com/2020/01/09/le-corsaire

Photography by Laurent Liotardo

I first came into contact with Roshan, a regional journalist for an Asian radio station, when I was writing about Afghanistan. As I found, one contact leads to another so when I was researching Tajikistan it was Roshan who put me in touch with Marielle who worked for a NGO implementing rehabilitation projects in countries in crisis.

My thanks goes to both Roshan and Marielle who were both instrumental in bringing these interesting photographs into the public domain via World InfoZone. I am aware that some readers may be shocked by the sport but all countries have their traditions and views have changed over the years everywhere.

The sport in question is Buskachi - or Buzkashi - and has been played in Tajikistan, and surrounding countries, for centuries.

As can be seen from the photos, the players are on horseback carrying whips; the participating [two] teams aim to control the body of an animal, maybe a goat, and score a "goal".

It is said that the game dates back to the time of Alexander the Great, around three thousand years ago when he invaded Afghanistan.





BRENTFORD FC

Brentford progress in the FA Cup

Brentford 1 – Stoke City 0

A wonder free kick from Emiliano Marcondes just before halftime secured Brentford's passage into the Fourth Round of the FA Cup for the third time in four years against a much changed Stoke City side.

In a cagey opening period, the visitors from Staffordshire had the better chances of breaking the deadlock. Stoke striker Lee Gregory was denied by a block from Ethan Pinnock at the heart of the Bees defence following a smart flick. Tyrese Campbell then picked up the ball and released a shot goalwards, but his driven effort flew over the bar.



With just two minutes until halftime Brentford were awarded a freekick on the left-hand side following a foul on Dominic Thompson. Emiliano Marcondes then promptly stepped up to whip home a delicious free kick which caught keeper Adam Davies by surprise as it looped in.

Into the second half and Dru Yearwood had a major chance to double Brentford's advantage. Picking off the ball in midfielder, he breezed though the middle and past the central defensive pairing of Stoke, yet he could only put the ball over the crossbar when one on one.

Thibaud Verlinden picked up a headed clearance from Brentford and turned away from Pontus Jansson but he too could not find the quality to finish, as his effort drifted wide.

At the death Stoke could have forced an equaliser but were denied by some superb defending from Pinnock. A throw in on the right-hand touchline arrived to Julien Ngoy who dribbled into the penalty area before feinting inside the sliding challenge of Mads Sorensen. However, Pinnock was on hand to diver the ball over the bar as Brentford ultimately came out on top in the cup-tie.

Speaking after the game Brentford head coach Thomas Frank said “I’m massively delighted, I told them in the dressing room I’m so proud of them for various reasons, we went up against an experienced Stoke side and they’d played 9,000 minutes as a group in the Championship this year, our team had played 2,000 compared.

“Our average age was 20.1, theirs was 24.5, and I think that’s minor proof the Brentford model is working with the B team. Of course, we needed to get into the game in the first 30 minutes, without being under massive pressure, and then we grew into the game and the last 10, 15 minutes of the first half we were on top and scored a very nice goal.

“The second half was even; we didn’t take the good counter-attacking opportunities we had to put the game to bed, and we needed a crucial Ethan Pinnock block in the end for a nice 1-0 win. I can’t praise the boys enough.

Bees to face Leicester City in the Cup

Brentford have been drawn to play against Premier League opposition in the form of Leicester City in the Fourth Round of the FA Cup. The match has also been selected for live TV coverage and will be shown on BBC One. The game is scheduled for Saturday 25 January with a 12.45pm kick off.

The Foxes are flying high in the Premier League and are currently second and so a stern test awaits Brentford at Griffin Park. The two sides have not played a competitive match in over thirty years and you have to go back to 1952 for the last time the Bees beat Leicester at home!

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Brentford face a London derby this week as QPR made the sort journey to Griffin Park. The game takes place on Saturday with a 12:30pm kick off due to the Sky Sports cameras being in town. QPR are currently lying in fifteenth in the table and so the Bees start as clear favourites and they will be desperate to win in their last ever derby meeting at Griffin Park ahead of their stadium move.

Come on you Bees!

HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH

Beavers brush aside the Beach Boys

Concord Rangers 0 – 2 Hampton

Hampton produced a fine away performance to overcome an inform Concord Rangers side that had not tasted defeat since late November.

Goals in each half from Ryan Hill and Danilo Orsi-Dadomo ensured the Beavers returned from Canvey Island with all three point, having played well for large periods.

Hampton took the lead in the fourteenth minute through Hill who clinically dispatch from the penalty area past the Concord keeper for his fourth goal of the season following a throw in from Ruaridh Donaldson that had been flicked on by Charlie Wassmer.

Orsi-Dadomo then nearly added a second for the Beavers but was kept at bay by a good save from Beach boy’s keeper Chris Haigh.

Concord hit back and Guyana international Sam Cox was called upon to divert a threatening free kick from Tom Clifford.



Heading into the second half Concord improved and the lively Joel Nouble skipped through a number of Hampton challenges before his cross was blocked.

Hill then turned provider as he slid the ball into the path of teammate Orsi-Dadomo who delicately clipped the ball over Haigh from close range to give Hampton breathing space.

Dan Lincoln stayed alert in the Hampton goal and produced a decent save low down to his left-hand side late on to keep out Lamar Nouble, but Hampton calmly saw the game out to take all three points from Thames Road.

New Keeper in for Hampton

Gary McCann has reinforced his goalkeeping department with the arrival of Christian Paulat-Brigg on a short-term deal. He will help provide cover for Dan Lincoln and is available for selection immediately.

Paulat-Brigg came through the youth ranks as a scholar at Leeds United and has played for Molesey and Clitheroe and arrives from Woking, currently managed by former Beavers boss Alan Dowson.

UP NEXT FOR HAMPTON

Hampton face their biggest game of the season when they take on National League side Yeovil Town in the FA Trophy Second Round. The Beavers have come through two rounds of qualifying to make this stage, having faced replays in both ties.

The Beavers are among 32 sides dreaming of running out at Wembley in May and a win for Hampton would see them equal their best performance in the competition which they set back in the 2011-12 season.

Yeovil will provide a stern test though and currently sit second in the National League and have aspirations of making a quick return to the Football League having been relegated last season.

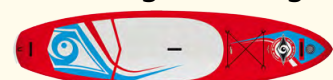
A large number of travelling Hampton fans are expected taking a variety of cars, minibuses and trains to make it to Huish Park for the 3.00pm kick off on Saturday.

Come on you Beavers!

SUP-YOGA & SUP-PILATES CLASSES IN TWICKENHAM

SUP-Yoga & SUP-Pilates classes offer a unique, dynamic and fun way to challenge your fitness on water! The sessions are taken on anchored paddleboards floating on water. The buoyancy of the water adds intensity to every movement and makes a refreshing change from usual mat classes. The classes suit all levels and abilities. EPIC SUP are running SUP-Yoga and SUP-Pilates classes from Twickenham Rowing Club, this summer.

To book or for enquiries contact: coach@epicsup.org



National Physical Laboratory, Teddington

Annual review 2018-19

Find out more about how NPL is working with companies and addressing the UK's national challenges, as well as some of the key highlights from our research over the last year, and how we are delivering extraordinary impact from excellent science and engineering.

Our vision is to deliver extraordinary impact from excellent science and engineering as an exemplary national laboratory. The NPL Annual Review 2018-19 highlights our many achievements over the last year, which show how we are delivering this vision.

The Review summarises how NPL is contributing to UK prosperity and quality of life. We have seized new opportunities and are responding rapidly to our customers' needs while continuing to play a leading role in the international metrology community. Over the last year we've taken the lead on further national challenges where measurement has a key role to play; continued to develop products and services that solve our customers' measurement challenges; and extended our presence across the UK to enable more companies to benefit from our expertise.

Dr Peter Thompson, Chief Executive Officer said *"Our vision is to deliver extraordinary impact from excellent science and engineering as an exemplary national laboratory. I have been delighted with our many achievements that show how we are making progress towards this vision. It was an honour to witness the revision of the International System of Units (SI), so that all SI units are now defined in terms of constants that describe the natural world. This was a historic, once in a lifetime change; with scientists working at NPL over many decades making pivotal scientific contributions as part of this worldwide collaboration. The late Bryan Kibble, who developed the Watt balance while working at NPL, was internationally recognised as a critical contributor to the revision, and in recognition of this, the SI community renamed the Watt balance as the Kibble balance. Our people are our greatest asset and continue to demonstrate leadership in a wide range of scientific fields. Helen Margolis, Martin Seah and Andrew Hanson were recognised with MBEs in the QueensHonours list, while Graham Machin, Gareth Hinds and I became Fellows of the Royal Academy of Engineering. Martyn Sené, NPL's Deputy CEO, became President of the International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM) Consultative Committee on Ionizing Radiation, the first person from NPL to hold such a position in 25 years. Perdi Williams was selected as one of the UK's Top 50 Women in Engineering for her work on helping to redefine the kilogram. We also recognised three of our own scientists as new NPL Fellows: Josephine Bunch, Olga Kazakova and Paul Brewer, for their expertise in Biomolecular Analysis, Quantum Materials and Sensors, and Chemical Metrology, respectively."*



See the Annual Review [HERE](#)

Have your say on updated guidance for developer contributions

Richmond residents, local groups and businesses are being asked to have their say on updated planning guidance setting out the expectation that developments should contribute to local infrastructure.

The existing supplementary planning document (SPD) was last updated in 2014. The Council has prepared an updated Planning Obligations SPD to reflect the policies in the Local Plan adopted in 2018.

Specifically, this SPD outlines the borough's approach to Section 106 agreements. This is the mechanism that makes a development proposal acceptable in planning terms. The updated SPD also reflects national government changes to infrastructure funding regimes which give greater flexibility for the use of Section 106 alongside the existing Community Infrastructure Levy to fund infrastructure.

The SPD sets out the basis of the calculation for financial contributions and obligations to be sought from development for the provision of infrastructure necessary to support development. This includes open space, community facilities including for sport and recreation, trees, biodiversity, education, health care, and transport requirements.



It includes details to support the implementation of employment policy requirements introduced in the Local Plan for large developments in relation to local employment agreements and affordable workspace - to ensure that employment and training/skills development opportunities are provided to local people, and that lower-cost workspace is available. The SPD also includes measures to be provided as part of developments that seek to address the challenges of climate change.

Once adopted the updated SPD will have statutory weight in the decision-making process and will be used in the determination of planning applications.

CLLr Martin Elengorn, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee, said:

We know that vital infrastructure is needed to support new homes and businesses - even before a shovel hits the ground.

This infrastructure and funding is critical in ensuring that the site-specific impacts of new development are mitigated, and that we can deliver new homes, commercial development and community facilities across the borough to support our growing communities.

This SPD outlines our approach. We want it to be simple, transparent and easy for developers to understand. I encourage residents across the borough to give us their view."

The deadline for feedback is 27 January 2020.

For more information or to have your say, go to our [Draft Supplementary Planning Documents page](#).

New Climate Emergency Strategy now published!

An amended strategy outlining the borough's approach to combating climate change and reducing the borough's carbon footprint has been published, following extensive consultation and engagement with residents, businesses and local organisations.

In July 2019 the Council declared a climate change emergency and asked residents across the borough to help develop a draft strategy aimed at presenting the borough's contribution to saving our planet.

Over 85% of people who had their say agreed that the Council should make climate change a top priority, with 75% saying that the target of the Council becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 was appropriate. In addition to the consultation, a youth focused summit was held, which involved 160 children from 19 schools across the borough, including Sir David Attenborough. An adult focused event was also held, and 130 people attended to help develop the draft plan further.

The amended Climate Emergency Strategy has been overhauled to reflect the feedback. This includes improved language to reflect the urgency of the situation, but also the strategy now sets out not just what the Council will do, but also what the community and local businesses can do and how the Council can support them.

A detailed action plan setting out what the Council will deliver, with clear reporting and evaluation, has also been published. In addition, analysis and data on borough-wide carbon emissions has also been included, along with stronger actions on using the influence of the Council to lobby for more support and action on climate change.

One of the key commitments from the Council is to do more to educate and support local people to make their own changes. Over the next few months, a Climate Change campaign will be launched. The Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee will consider the amended report on 13 January.

Cllr Martin Elengorn, Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee, said:

"Climate Change is the biggest challenge society faces. No community is exempt from its effects and moving the borough towards a low-carbon future is everyone's responsibility.

Hundreds of people, local groups and businesses gave us their views on our original draft. This just demonstrates how important Climate Change is as an issue to the borough.

This strategy is ambitious. It will not be a quick fix and will require investment. We have put together an internal team who will be responsible for making sure that the strategy is implemented. However, we need to remember that reducing the borough's carbon footprint is not just our responsibility - it is yours too.

One thing was clear during the consultation. Young people in this borough are concerned that the decisions that we are making as adults will impact their future. We owe it to them and to future generations to protect this planet, before it is too late."

[View the amended strategy](#)



Have your say on Richmond's aspirations for greener new developments

A newly updated checklist that aims to help developers make new developments as green as possible has been published by Richmond Council – and local people are being encouraged to have their say.

The draft checklist is an update to the existing supplementary planning document (SPD), which was last updated in 2016. When adopted, it will give housebuilders and those developing non-residential spaces, a clear steer on what is expected of them to reduce the environmental impact of their developments, regardless of whether their projects are new builds, conversions or extensions.

The SPD and checklist aims to ensure that new developments contribute to meeting the challenges posed by the growing climate emergency. It sets out the need to minimise carbon emissions, flood risks, pollution and pressure on water sources, and helps protect and enhance biodiversity. This is all aimed at helping to ensure any development meets the highest standards of design and construction to improve the environmental performance of developments.

The update reflects the changes to the policy requirements set out in the adopted Local Plan and the London Plan, including energy and water efficiency standards.

The draft sets out the information that should be submitted with planning applications to demonstrate how schemes meet the Council's requirements. It includes information on:

- Energy Performance and Assessments
- Water use / Flooding and Drainage
- Environmental Rating: BREEAM
- Energy use and pollution
- Transport
- Biodiversity
- Design standards and Accessibility



Cllr Martin Elengorn, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee, said:

“Last year we declared a Climate Change Emergency and we have just republished our post-consultation draft strategy for dealing with the local response to this. However, one thing is clear – Climate Change is everyone’s problem. We need to make sure that all future development in the borough meets our planning requirements for sustainable design and construction. Having a checklist that makes it easier for applicants is key.

“The updated SPD, once adopted, will be a material consideration for the planning authority in determining any planning applications. Therefore, we would like to hear from as many residents as possible on their views on the updated checklist.”

The deadline for feedback is the 27 January 2020.

For more information or to have your say, go to our [Supplementary planning document](#) page

BBC Studios

This report examines the rationale, implementation and success of BBC Studios.

Background to the report

In May 2016, the BBC brought together in-house production teams from across its public service broadcasting (PSB) operations to form BBC Studios as a separate division within PSB. It then established the division as a commercial subsidiary in April 2017 to create and produce content, principally TV programmes, for itself, and, crucially, for the first time for non-BBC clients. In April 2018 the BBC created the new BBC Studios as its largest commercial subsidiary following a merger of the existing BBC Studios and BBC Worldwide, its commercial distribution business.

£1.2bn **£243m** **£1,373m**

BBC's target returns for BBC Studios for the five years to 2021-22

BBC Studios' cash returns to the BBC in 2018-19

BBC Studios' revenue in 2018-19 as a merged business

1 April 2017 date BBC Studios was established as a commercial subsidiary

3 April 2018 date a single entity, BBC Studios, formed from a merger of BBC Studios and BBC Worldwide, began trading

4 number of BBC Studios' forecast 16 top revenue-generating in-house produced shows in 2019-20 first produced after 2010

13.4% BBC Studios' profit margin in 2018-19 against a target of 9%–11% (£159 million)

Before the merger, the BBC faced strategic challenges from increased competition for content and the talent needed to create this content, and from a significant change in how audiences in the UK and globally were consuming this content, moving away from watching a traditional TV set to online viewing.

Content and scope of the report

According to the BBC, BBC Studios' success in creating and commercially exploiting new content and its associated intellectual property will be critical in helping it meet its

ongoing challenges. Given this, this report examines:

- the BBC's rationale for the creation of BBC Studios (Part One);
- implementation of the merger to create the new BBC Studios (Part Two); and
- the success of BBC Studios so far (Part Three).

Report conclusions

The April 2018 merger of the BBC's production and distribution businesses to create the new BBC Studios was supported by a clear strategic rationale and the BBC planned well to get the merger off to a good start. However, it is still too early to tell if the merger is delivering sustainable value for money as delivering the associated changes in organisational culture takes time. BBC Studios still has work to do to align the differing cultures and processes in its production and distribution arms, but lacks performance indicators for assessing the extent to which it is achieving this alignment. Also, the BBC and BBC Studios cannot easily identify the extent to which the non-financial benefits expected from the merger have been delivered, and the extent to which the merger has impacted on BBC Studios' financial performance to date.

In its first full year, 2018-19, BBC Studios met the overall profitability target set for it by the BBC Board, despite lower than expected sales. Beneath this top-level performance, it faces wide differences in profitability within business areas, and its continued profitability remains dependent on parts of its business performing well. Faced with a highly dynamic and competitive market for ownership of intellectual property (IP), from which it can generate profitability and returns to the BBC, BBC Studios faces a rising risk profile in its business. It is therefore crucial that the oversight of the BBC Board and the BBC Commercial Holdings Board is informed by a sound understanding of where weaknesses lie across BBC Studios' full range of activities. This includes clarity about the extent to which BBC Studios is winning new business and generating valuable IP against its plans, and how far its investments, particularly in some of the new, more complex deals, are leading to sustainable margins and returns. Since April 2019, the BBC has strengthened governance over BBC Studios and taken steps in November 2019 to improve reporting of BBC Studios' performance to the BBC Commercial Holdings Board. However, it is too early to tell how effective these changes will be in practice, and there is still scope for improving the reporting to the Board of BBC Studios' non-financial performance. View the report [HERE](#)



National Audit Office

Richmond Film Society's 57th Season of World Cinema continues at The Exchange, Twickenham

21st January 2020, 8.00pm

'Capernaum' (Lebanon)

In Nadine Labaki's endearing and heart-wrenching drama, a young Lebanese boy runs away from his negligent parents and is befriended by an Ethiopian immigrant; he then, in turn, looks after her infant. Ultimately imprisoned for a violent crime, he sues his parents for giving birth to him and seeks justice in a courtroom.

Winner of 33 awards worldwide and shortlisted for the 2019 Foreign Language Oscar, Golden Globe and BAFTA awards.

www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk

Non-member tickets are £5 (full-time students £3) and can be purchased in advance from The Exchange's Box Office (subject to a cap of 70) - in person, by telephone on 020 8240 2399 or online at www.exchangetwickenham.co.uk/events/.

A further 50 or so tickets will be available to purchase on the door on the night of screenings (cash only) on a 'first-come-first-served' basis.

Films are shown at 8.00pm sharp on alternate Tuesdays (no trailers and no ads) and are screened at The Exchange, 75 London Road, Twickenham, TW1 1BE. On screening nights, the Bar is open from 7.00pm and remains open after the film. Drinks can be taken into the auditorium and coffee, tea and snacks are also available. Film notes are provided for each screening and audience feedback is obtained via response slips.



Half Page

Quarter Page
Landscape

Quarter Page Portrait

Eighth Page

Eighth Page
Landscape

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