

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

Contents

TickerTape
 TwickerSeal
 COVID-19
 Borough View
 I Spy... Benchmarks
 Marble Hill Marvels
 Shooting Star Space Race
 Paul Martin To Move On
 What Do We Want on
 Twickenham Riverside?
 Letters
 Hampton North Ward News
 Twickers Foodie
 Reviews
 Traveller's Tales
 WIZ Tales - Stockholm Challenge
 Film Screenings
 Football Focus

Contributors

TwickerSeal
 Graeme Stoten
 Simon Fowler
 Marble Hill House
 Councillor Geoffrey Samuel
 Alison Jee
 Mark Aspen
 Richmond College
 Doug Goodman
 World InfoZone
 Bruce Lyons
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 Richmond Film Society
 James Dowden
 RFU
 London Fire Brigade
 Age UK
 London Chamber Of Commerce
 LBRuT

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29th January 2021

T&RT

Snow on Twickenham Green
 Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

Landmark Arts Centre Awarded Funds

The Landmark Arts Centre has been awarded £7,000 from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund for urgent repairs to the Grade II* listed building

The World Rugby Museum Needs Your Help

In Sept. 1936, Argentina played twice vs Chile in Santiago (final score 0-29 and 3-33). The museum can't find a detailed match report showing the name of individual try/points scorers. If you have any information, contact the museum at museum@rfu.com

Richmond Rugby Tech Drop-off Point

If you have any unused tech items that you would like to donate to local school children to help with their home schooling, the Richmond Rugby tech drop-off point will be open this Saturday at the Richmond Athletic Association from 11am-1pm. Find more details [HERE](#)

Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) For Twickenham Green

Following an appeal by The Friends of Twickenham Green a defibrillator has now been purchased, installed in Sainsbury's on The Green and is registered with the London Ambulance Service. The Friends of Twickenham Green would like to place on record it's sincere thanks to all those that made donations and to the local team at Sainsbury's for their help and support in bringing this project to a successful conclusion.

Richmond motorists amongst the least fined in London

New comparison data shows Richmond upon Thames is amongst the lowest boroughs in London for issuing Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) to motorists. The Council credits these new results to the number of residents who are acting considerately and complying with parking rules. Data compiled by Compare the Market shows Richmond amongst the London boroughs to issue the fewest on-street PCNs to motorists.

[Visit the News page for more stories](#)

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The council's Twickenham Riverside 'consultation' is almost over, ending on Wednesday 3rd February.

TwickerSeal and some of his friends took part in the council's second, and final, Zoom presentation on 23rd January. It wasn't a very satisfactory experience; many of the questions didn't receive adequate answers. TwickerDuck suggested that this was less a consultation and more a showing. She added that the council would not score very well on Arnstein's Ladder (see [Edition 214](#), page 9), probably barely reaching rung 3 Informing. TwickerMole commented that there seemed to be an overall negative feeling for the council's plans. He added that an alarmingly large proportion of the Hopkins plan was still not resolved, with many aspects requiring further examination and consideration, prompting him to think that maybe the council was premature in presenting its plans.

However, TwickerSeal urges everyone to make sure that their views are heard so please complete the council's questionnaire before the 3rd February closing date.

You can find the online questionnaire [HERE](#)



Snow at Moormead Park

A welcome relief to get outdoors for some family fun. Last Sunday, Moormead Park recreation ground in St Margarets provided the perfect spot to build snowmen, lob some friendly snowballs and pull along creaking sleighs. Intermittent snowfall and chilly temperatures were no obstacle to get into the winter mood!



COVID-19

Teresa Read

The Director General, WHO: *“This pandemic has tested us like never before, and now, even as we have developed vaccines in record time, it is testing us again. Vaccine equity is not just a moral imperative. Ending this pandemic depends upon it.”*

From the World Health Organization (WHO)

Globally, 4.1 million new cases were reported in the past week. This brings the cumulative numbers to over 98.2 million reported cases and over 2.1 million deaths globally since the start of the pandemic. (27 January 2021)

New COVID-19 Variants Fuelling Africa’s Second Wave (WHO)

Over 175 000 new COVID-19 cases and more than 6,200 deaths were reported in Africa in the last week, while infections rose by 50% on the continent between 29 December 2020 and 25 January 2021 when compared with the previous four weeks. In the past week there has been a small dip in cases in South Africa, but 22 countries continue to see their case numbers surge. Deaths rose two-fold in the same four-week period, with over 15 000 concentrated in 10 mainly southern and northern African nations.

The 501Y.V2 variant, first identified in South Africa, is predominant and powering record case numbers in South Africa and the sub-region. It has been found in Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, the French Indian Ocean region of Mayotte, Zambia and in 24 non-African nations.

Recommendations for Joggers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that you stay at least six feet away from other people when you are outside. But this may not be enough for runners.

Research suggests that standard social distancing guidelines might be insufficient to stop the spread of the virus when it comes to strenuous activities. (Lucy Marr, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Virginia Tech).

An infected person running releases more of the virus into the air than when walking, especially if talking at the same time.

The World Health Organization has emphasized the asymptomatic spread of the virus so people may be at risk when running with others.

COVID-19

Avoid places where the three Cs come together
Crowds, Closed spaces, Close contact

Follow strict personal hygiene advice, wear a mask
and keep indoor areas well ventilated

DO IT ALL

www.twickenhamtribune.com

Cases of COVID-19

Total cases to 29 January 2021

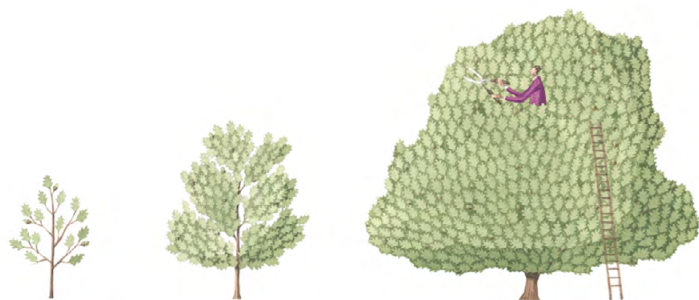
9,393 Richmond upon Thames
10,702 Kingston upon Thames
21,087 Hounslow

Countries with High Numbers of Deaths Recorded by the World Health Organization

Deaths Worldwide 2,176,159

USA 425,670
Brazil 220,161
India 154,010
Mexico 153,639
The United Kingdom 101,887
Italy 86,889
France 74,062
Russian Federation 71,651
Iran 57,736
Spain 57,291
Germany 54,913
Colombia 52,523
Argentina 47,435

South Africa 42,550
Peru 40,272
Poland 36,443
Indonesia 29,331
Turkey 25,476
Ukraine 22,351
Belgium 20,993
Canada 19,533
Chile 18,174
Romania 18,015
Czechia 15,944
Ecuador 14,766
Netherlands 13,733



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I Spy... Benchmarks

By Simon Fowler

The next time you go out for your 'permitted exercise' why not look out for Ordnance Survey benchmarks and triangulation (trig) pillars. This could be quite a challenge as they can be hard to find.

Benchmarks are fixed points which were used by Ordnance Survey (OS) surveyors to calculate a height above mean sea level. They have been around for a long time, much longer than the pillars. While the first systematic network of levelling lines and associated benchmarks was initiated in 1840, some benchmarks date back to 1831. The last one was carved on a milestone located outside The Fountain pub in Loughton as late as 1993.

There were some 500,000 benchmarks nationwide, but many have been destroyed by road works and building development. There are 19,000 in Greater London alone – and can be found mostly along roads or on the side of buildings and walls.

Several online databases list them. The best source is www.bench-marks.org.uk, which contains records of Ordnance Survey benchmarks, with particular focus on the numbered flush brackets which appear on walls and buildings.

A comprehensive list of benchmarks known to the Ordnance Survey is at www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/benchmarks. Also of interest is the Benchmark Sites blog <https://benchmark-sites.blogspot.com>.

Trig pillars are much easier to spot. These concrete monoliths are now instantly recognised by most walkers. Originally, they were part of a network built to re-map Britain established in 1936 and provided a solid base for the theodolites used by the survey teams to improve the accuracy of their readings.

Some 6,500 monoliths were eventually built, to be used for triangulation. This works by determining the location of a point by measuring angles to it from known points at either end of a fixed baseline and in this case, those known points were the trig pillars.

Several can be found locally. There's one in the grounds of Teddington Memorial Hospital and another close to Pembroke Lodge in Richmond Park. And oddly one trig point was established on the top of the Pagoda in Kew Gardens, although here of course there is physical trace. A full list can be found at <https://lonewalker.net/trigtable.php> and perhaps more complete at www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/gps/legacy-control-information/triangulation-stations. An interesting blog post about the pillars is at www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/blog/2016/04/happy-80th-birthday-to-the-trig-pillar.

Benchmarks also appear on large-scale Ordnance Survey maps, most of the historic series are now online and relatively easy to use. The best set, from the 1890s, is at <https://www.archiuk.com>. Trig pillars are marked on the 1:50,000 Landranger series of OS maps. Sheet 176 covers Twickenham and Richmond, as well on the larger scale 1:25,000 Explorer series. Sheet 161 is the one to look out for here.

Happy hunting!



A celebration of the humble potato

Last week, we have discussed which varieties of potatoes should be grown in the kitchen garden. This discussion took up a considerable amount of time as the humble vegetable has a large array of descendants. Each has its own characteristics and taste. The tubers of the Shetland Black are small and their skin is covered in minute freckles. The Highland Burgundy – which originated in the Scottish fields – has a distinct ring around its edge. The Pink Fir Apples - which previously have been cultivated in the kitchen garden of Marble Hill Park - have more of a nutty flavour. The volunteers recommend that this latter variety should be steamed or boiled.

The *solanum tuberosum* – or the common potato – belongs to the family of nightshades. Their tubers spread easily across different altitudes and they do not require a particularly fertile soil. It is said that the perennial plant is native to the Andes Mountains, where many varieties of both wild and domesticated potatoes are still occurrent. The cold temperatures of the night make it possible for their tubers to be preserved. The Andean farmers discovered that a large quantity of water should first be removed from the vegetables. To do so, they tread upon their harvest with bare feet.



There are over 500 varieties of potatoes, with an amazing array of colours, shapes, sizes and tastes



The potato bed at Marble Hill Kitchen garden

It may be difficult to imagine a kitchen garden without any potatoes, but the cultivar did not exist in Northern Europe until the sixteenth century. I have read that Basque fishermen bought them towards the villages of the Irish coast. A group of rebels from the Low Countries – also named the Sea-Beggars – interfered with their long voyages across the Atlantic waters. Following which, the Spanish travellers were forced to sail towards Italy, and then to proceed over the land. They marched across the Alps, heading north towards the Alsace and the Rhineland. It is said that they spread potatoes along their route.

There may be few vegetables that are as prominent in our histories as the humble potato. Their tubers have grown where nothing else could, and have saved many farmers from famine. Food might still be our most intimate connection to nature. Yet its gifts are denied to many, and, even in the city of London, hunger still prevails across its streets.

A tuber may spread easily, but a harvest is not a given. Both the soil and its gifts are fragile. Many diurnal revolutions are still enabled by the sun. Perhaps it is, therefore, that we should celebrate our potatoes. Yet do not place them on the compost pile, as even there they will grow.

5, 4, 3, 2, 1 ... Shooting Star Space Race has launched!

Local children's hospice charity, Shooting Star Children's Hospices have launched a brand-new mission that's sure to be a blast! From the 1st March they are calling all budding astronauts and moon marvellers to join them on a very special mission – the **Shooting Star Space Race**.

Supporters can help their virtual rocket shoot for the moon by walking, running, cycling, and scooting as many miles as they can to help their rocket reach its lunar destination.

It's an astronomical 238,855 miles to the moon, but don't worry the charity have used a special Shooting Star formula (one Earth mile = 50 miles) so the Space Race team of fundraisers need to collectively cover 4,777 miles in 31 days to make the mission to the moon a success.

However you planet, this is an out of this world challenge that is fun for all ages – and as it runs (or should that be flies) over the whole of March you can 'space' out your miles to work for you.



Nicholas in his space suit ready for lift off in the hospice garden

Alexa Dizon, Head of Challenge Events at Shooting Star Children's Hospices explains more, *"We're super excited about the Shooting Star Space Race, particularly at a time when we're all still feeling so very far apart. Although we may not be able to come together physically, we can only make our mission a success by working together as a team – a super Space Race team. So, we hope to have lots of budding astronauts eager to sign up and cover as many miles as they can over the month of March. With our mission now launched it's really easy to sign up and once you do, you'll be taken to mission control where you'll be given lots of fundraising tips and ideas on how to get started on your Earth miles!"*



Nicholas at the hospice for a respite stay, creating his rocket that was the inspiration for the Shooting Star Space Race

Shooting Star Children's Hospices marvellous mission is inspired by Chief Astronaut Nicholas. Eight-year-old Nicholas has been supported by Shooting Star Children's Hospices for three years. Last year, during the pandemic, he stayed at Christopher's, the charity's Guildford based hospice for emergency respite.

Nicholas was born eight weeks premature, with a chromosomal abnormality. He was later diagnosed with lymphoedema, a chronic condition that causes swelling in the body's tissues. Nicholas' condition mainly affects his lungs, heart and bowel, and he has to have weekly immunoglobulin infusions in both legs to help protect his immune system. This means he has to spend a lot of time in hospital, something both his family and the hospital are keen to minimise if at all possible – particularly during this time.

So, Nicholas was over the moon when he stayed at the hospice for respite, so much so he decided to build and launch a space rocket, which became the inspiration for the Shooting Star Space Race.

By joining the Space Race team, you'll be helping to ensure Shooting Star Children's Hospices can continue to make every moment count for children just like Nicholas; giving them a chance to reach for the stars.

You can sign up for this cosmic virtual challenge at www.shootingstar.org.uk/event/shooting-star-space-race/ and find out more about how Shooting Star Children's Hospices are providing a lifeline to over 700 families across Surrey and London at www.shootingstar.org.uk



Dear Sir,

A dozen reasons why a consultation on Riverside plans is premature

Residents of the Borough are presently invited to give their opinion on the latest set of plans for the development of Twickenham Riverside. It is stated on the Council website that “the architectural style and site plan are largely fixed”. However closer scrutiny raises doubts about this statement, as there are a large number of points still, by the Council’s admission in various documents, to be decided. Some of these are detailed below.

The Council is still in discussion with Eel Pie Island as to their requirements
 [The Brief #2.4 states “Proposals will need to ensure that the island’s unusual access and servicing arrangements are fully understood and appropriately accommodated”, and #4.3 “Access, deliveries and servicing must be retained to Eel Pie Island”]

Negotiations with Twickenham Riverside Trust have not been completed
 [see #2.3 of Brief, and Report to Finance Committee]

The Council “continues to engage” about local parking. A feasibility study for a new parking zone for the area “will be conducted”

Provision of public toilets “is being considered”

The effects upon traffic movements resulting from both Water Lane and Wharf Lane becoming two-way “will be subject to detailed study”.
 [Brief states in three places #3.2 and #4.3 that there must be a through road between Water Lane and Wharf Lane; as the Service Road has now not been opened up, the only option is to allow traffic movement on The Embankment]

Is there to be a pontoon and/or boat storage on the site? This was suggested by the architects

Retail units are included in the plans, but their success was stated to be “speculative”. A study was suggested to determine suitable types of client for such units

It is not been decided yet whether there will be a pub or a restaurant as part of the Wharf Lane building.

We are told that the Council “is working closely with the owners of 3 – 31 King Street”. However nothing has been said about either the impact on the servicing plans of the proposal (20/2925) to build a supermarket on 11-15 King Street, or the possible effects of changes to the arrangements for the flats to rear

“It is envisioned that the office space at ground floor level of the Wharf Lane Building might be co-working space. The exact details and end users need to be worked out, but the Council is likely to conduct a soft-marketing exercise” [answer to question at Zoom meeting, 6 Jan]

Details remain to be revealed concerning arrangements for access, loading etc during the period of construction [Brief #3.2]

No SocioEconomic Impact Assessment has been made. This is essential to work out how the development will affect high street businesses and Church street (adversely or advantageously)

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Hamilton-Miller, Twickenham

To the Editor,

A Better Way Ahead

What's not to like about the new riverside development for Twickenham? Large grassy areas and trees, a new café and restaurant/pub overlooking the river, children's play area, a space for open air events, improved cycling routes and no parking free-for-all on The Embankment.

Look a bit deeper and is this really what you thought you were getting? There is so much that is unresolved, unclear and missing. Too much perhaps?

The first aspect that's missing is the key objective of this scheme, established seven years ago in Twickenham's Area Action Plan - regeneration and strengthening the local economy of Twickenham. This should drive the Council's requirements and the architects' designs for the site, but it is missing from the architects' brief and these proposals.

The second aspect that's missing is to create the public square / open space as Twickenham's focal point, to attract people to shop in the town, enjoy a drink and a meal or just visit, a focal point in Twickenham for meeting people, for outdoor events and other community activities. This is actually a 'must' – a mandatory requirement stated in the brief in 2019. But the Council now give it a 'suggested' status – not yet resolved either. 'A suggestion' is not good enough. What they have proposed is inadequate as a focal point for the town, clearly not fit for purpose and does not satisfy the stated requirement.

If we are spending £30 to £40 million on a scheme to regenerate Twickenham's economy and make improvements on the riverside, I would like to see a really good scheme on the table. Sadly this is not it. We need to get it right, before the Council pour more effort and more of our money pushing on with a flawed scheme.

It has taken more than six years to get the scheme to where we are now, so surely it is worth taking a short while longer in order to get it right and get what we will be proud of for generations to come.

Yours sincerely

Francis McInerny
Heatham Alliance - The community network

Dear Editor,

Twickenham Riverside

The Council officer who is in charge of overseeing the entire Twickenham Riverside building scheme keeps emphasising how much over budget it is going to be and that it will mean borrowing money as it “won’t wash its face”. The Brief to the architects gives an upper figure of £35million so does that mean we are now looking at a cost of £40million or even more?

Surely we should be told how much money this development is going to cost, so that we can judge for ourselves whether a rather uninspiring scheme is worth paying that amount of money for. Presumably costs are continuing to rise with so many changes and studies still being undertaken. Doesn’t a Council have a duty of care with the public’s money?

A Twickenham resident and Council tax payer
(Name and Address supplied)

Light Up At Night!!



Stay Safe
When cycling at night
always use a light

A Twickenham Tribune Campaign
www.TwickenhamTribune.com

Dear Sir,

Who else is tired of cyclists illegally riding on footways?

Last year, I had to get out of the way of a speeding female cycling illegally on the footway on a dark rainy night near my home. As she rode past me, she waved her fist and shouted the foulest abuse imaginable followed by *'Next time I'll run you over'*.

On previous police advice, I dialled 999 as this was a public order offence. Nothing was done.

I have been seriously crashed into, abused, and threatened with violence by cyclists on footways a total of 13 times in Richmond, Twickenham, Hampton and Sheen – all for merely walking along.

As a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, I have discussed this problem many times with the police and Richmond Council, but our local police say they cannot, and will not, do anything about it. After 17 years as a Special Constable in the Metropolitan Police I find this a blatant dereliction of duty because cycling on footways is an offence.

Richmond Council has dismissed my requests and suggestions to do anything and, incredibly, even rebuffed my offer to personally pay for a publicity campaign to educate cyclists by placing feather flags outside supermarkets and similar locations.

A community grant for such a campaign was also refused.

Richmond's official Borough Safety Officer showed no interest at all and merely made disparaging political remarks about the newspaper which contained the factual article I showed her about the Charlie Alliston case in which a female pedestrian was killed.

One young male riding on the footway told me: *'There are no signs prohibiting cycling on the pavement'* to which I replied *"There are no signs prohibiting murder but that doesn't make it legal"*.

I have even been threatened right outside my own home by a large male cycling on the footway while I waited to let him pass.

Richmond Council's fanatical obsession with cycling means that people can ride anywhere with impunity. The Council professes a lack of funds but is happy to waste our money on purple lights and 'Rainbow' crossings in spite of London collecting £891million in parking fines in the last year.

Cycle lanes, all paid for by us, are largely empty because cyclists ride on the footways. Even a Richmond Councillor has been seen cycling on the pavement in Sheen.

Council leaders tell me that street signs prohibiting cycling on footways would be ignored but they are happy to put 20mph speed limit signs all over the borough (also ignored).

I spend a large part of my life in Japan, where local councils constantly run publicity campaigns for safer cycling, driving and walking – because they work.

Here, nothing is done because the Council says this is a police matter.

But is not the council there to help the residents?

The proposed trial of licensed E scooters will exacerbate the problem and will not solve the problem of private scooters on footways. One councillor naïvely told me that they will be illegal to ride on footways. Some hope!

It's no good grumbling on social media. The bad cyclists get the good cyclists a bad name so it is in everyone's interests to fix this problem.

Is Richmond Council waiting for someone to be killed before they will do anything?

Yours sincerely,

Michael Jay, Hampton

Shona's Gallery

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LOVE IN THE TIME OF CORONA

Valentine's Day Cards

HAND – MADE



CAN BE CUSTOM MADE

Chief Executive for Richmond and Wandsworth councils to move on

Chief Executive Paul Martin will be leaving Richmond and Wandsworth councils from March, following his 2019 announcement that he would step down.

Paul Martin joined Wandsworth Council in 2010, and since 2016 has also been Chief Executive of Richmond Council in an innovative Shared Staffing Arrangement. The shared service is a unique staffing model serving half a million Londoners in south west London and focussed on improving public service, innovation and new ways of working.

Mr Martin announced that he would be stepping down from the Autumn of 2020. However, due to the pandemic – delayed his departure to lead the emergency response. He will now be leaving the organisation in March to take up a position as Interim Chief Executive of The Government of Jersey. Proposals will be made to both full councils that Mark Maidment, the Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive for the SSA will step-up as interim Chief Executive during the recruitment process.

Cllr Ravi Govindia, Leader of Wandsworth Council, said: *'Paul Martin has been Chief Executive at Wandsworth Council throughout my entire time as Leader; and he has carried out the role during a period of transformational change in the borough. We have worked closely together to ensure Wandsworth grows and develops for the benefit of the whole community. This includes the immense challenges brought by COVID-19. Paul has led an exceptional group of officers to support our community and enhance Wandsworth's reputation as an exemplar in the way it has risen to these challenges and he leaves a remarkable record of sound achievement. I would like to thank Paul for his eleven years of service here and wish him every success for the future.'*



Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, also paid tribute to Paul Martin's work since joining the SSA. *'Paul has been a steady hand on the tiller as we navigated our way through the Shared Staffing arrangement with Wandsworth and the perils of the pandemic. His professionalism and dedication to effective governance has ensured Richmond Council is on a strong footing as we move forward. I would like to thank Paul for everything he has done to lead our tremendous group of staff. Putting his original plans on hold due to the pandemic was just one example of his commitment and devotion to the people of Richmond upon Thames and Wandsworth. On behalf of all the councillors at Richmond – I would like to wish him the best of luck in his new role.'*

Paul Martin, said: *'It's been the privilege of my career to be Chief Executive at Wandsworth for the past decade, and also of Richmond since 2016. South West London is widely seen as the most attractive part of the capital city in which to live and work, and this is in no small part due to the work of the two councils. For the past four years, our shared service has delivered £60 million efficiency savings across the two boroughs, meaning we can provide better social care, cleaner streets and more parks and leisure services than would have otherwise been the case. All of this is down to our fantastic staff group which has risen to every challenge asked of them. It's not an easy decision to leave such a fantastic job, but I know in my heart this is the right time for a new Chief Executive to take the two councils into their next phase of growth and development and lead the boroughs through the recovery of the pandemic. My successor will find the spirit of municipal ambition alive and well amongst our members and staff.'*

What Do We Want on Twickenham Riverside?

Teresa Read

Quite recently documents have been circulated which may shed some light on what many consider the failure of the much-heralded RIBA competition for Twickenham Riverside.

It has now been revealed that RIBA, the Royal Institute of British Architects, asked the Council the following questions:

“Have you considered reinstatement of the Lido on the site and would you consider this a desirable aim of this project?”

“Why did the Council shut the Lido?”

Well, why did the Council close the outside pool on Twickenham Riverside? Videos on the Heritage Lottery funded project website www.lidosalive.com relay the views of those residents who were there at the time.

We should also remember that Twickenham Riverside is not as derelict as the Council would have us believe. Diamond Jubilee Gardens, a public park, was opened in 2012 by HRH Princess Alexandra. In fact, I took part in the organization of the weekend celebrations on behalf of the RFU. However, the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames has threatened a Compulsory Purchase Order to put a block of flats on this land.

As a long-term resident of the Borough, and a resident of Strawberry Hill when the pool site closed, I noted with interest a question at last Saturday’s zoom meeting with the Council: a resident asked about the view of the Twickenham Riverside site from Ham Lands.

As a resident active in the community, I am aware of the LBRUT **Supplementary Planning Guidance [for Strawberry Hill] to Protect Views & Vistas**

“Policy LP 5 ‘Views and Vistas Seeks to protect the quality of views, vistas, gaps and the skyline that contribute significantly to the character and quality of the local and wider area. Within the existing Development Management Plan the equivalent policy is DM TC 7”

As a regular visitor to Radnor Gardens, and Strawberry Hill House, I am aware of the view of Twickenham Riverside from Strawberry Hill, just as Horace Walpole wrote from his vantagepoint at Strawberry Hill House:

“The lawn before the house is situated on the top of a small hill, from whence to the left you see the town and church of Twickenham encircling a turn of the river, that looks exactly like a sea-port in miniature.”

<https://worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=StrawberryHillHouse&page=2>

It should be remembered that the result of the Electoral Reform Services Referendum in 2009 for the Twickenham Riverside site revealed 6.5% of the vote for housing and **93.5% against housing** on Twickenham Riverside.

Twickenham has an ailing High Street; the COVID-19 pandemic has shifted much retail to the internet; we need a plan which acknowledges this trend as well as Twickenham Riverside's history. One of the most famous great houses once stood on Twickenham Riverside, Richmond House, and this does not even get a mention. (Richmond House: <https://worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=StrawberryHillNeighbours>)

A plan for the future? At the moment we are looking at flats, a pub and more [empty] shops. Where is the creative and innovative thinking which we expect from a RIBA competition?

Further information on the history of Twickenham Riverside funded by the Heritage Lottery: <https://www.memoriesoftwickenhamriverside.com>

and

<https://twickenhamlido.com>: A Video of an alternative concept for the site; at the time of writing there are 4,764 supporters.

NOTE: *Edition 219* Pages 8 and 9 of the Tribune listed over 20 pubs within walking distance of Twickenham Riverside.

The council consultation closes on 3rd February 2021

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/twickenham_redevelopment_background

Science in 5: I am vaccinated, what next?

SUBJECT: In *Science in 5* this week, WHO's Dr Kate O'Brien explains some questions that may arise after vaccination such as: When does immunity kick in? How long does it last? Can I still catch COVID-19 and infect others after vaccination? Why do I still need to take precautions?

Science in 5 is WHO's conversation in science. In this video and podcast series WHO experts explain the science related to COVID-19. The series is available every week on WHO's [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) channels and on all major podcasts platforms. For media partnerships for embedding this series, please contact us: communications@who.int

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/YgfeV9b1K4M>

Podcasts available on your preferred platforms: <https://lnk.to/science-in-5>

Playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9S6xGsoqIBXROzSDOfFb13iPrbL8fgy1>

Transcripts, podcast: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/media-resources/science-in-5>

Broadcast quality files: <https://who.canto.global/s/J7TN2?viewIndex=0>

More information:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>



**World Health
Organization**

What is happening in Church Street Twickenham?

By Shona Lyons

Well behind the many closed doors quite a lot is happening in actual fact.

The cafés (Snax and Rosie Chai) and Corto deli are offering take away & Italian Provisions every day and when they close then Pulcinella (Thursday till Saturday) and Masaniello, Twickenham Tandoori and Naz Balti are open for take away every night & the Brewery Market are open for evening take away. Limpopo is selling his South African Biltong, other specialities and BBQ meats every day except for Mondays and Tuesdays & you can also buy take way drinks from Riccardo's Cellar from Limpopo's hatch. The Estate Agents are open by appointment as is the pet grooming shop Basil & Ruby & also the charity Off The Record. The gift shops Mojo, Allissias Attic and Miss Pretty, The Bloomery flower shop, Eel Pie Records, The Vape Shack and even the spas (mint Hair and Beauty, KissnMakeup and Sheer Laser) are offering (often for free if it's local) click and collect and delivery & even though Crusader Travel's door are also closed, the office is still beavering away. We are all still here offering an alternative service that keeps people safe but still maintains a service & where you may not be able to meet in person, there is still a healthy and active online presence.



In fact we were even able to put together quite a comprehensive Valentine's newsletter which features a lot of trader's up to date news, competitions, offers, Valentine gifts, cards and flowers for click and collect or delivery <https://conta.cc/3cfgbpT>

It snowed last Sunday and we took some beautiful pictures of Church Street and the Church. You can see a few here. Even the church is offering zoom & online services and the Remembrance Garden is often opened for individual prayer.



Tree-mendous effort with over 500 trees scheduled to be planted

We are on track to plant over 500 trees across Richmond upon Thames by the end of the tree planting season (31 March 2021).

This is the highest number of trees to be planted in a single planting season for over 10 years. Since the start of November, 253 trees have been planted in line with Richmond's Climate Emergency Strategy commitment to increase tree cover in the borough.

The Council would like to thank the local groups and organisations who have so far helped to plant trees in the following sites:

- Heathfield Recreation Ground, Heathfield - 16 new trees including types of elm and lime
- Carlisle Park, Hampton – 11 new trees to form a sensory trail as part of the Friendly Parks for All initiative
- School House Lane, Teddington – new fruit trees added to the community orchard
- Twickenham Green, Twickenham – new Horse Chesnuts
- Moormead Recreation Ground, St Margaret's and North Twickenham – 9 new trees including hawthorn and cherry



Trees are currently being planted or scheduled to be planted soon will be in the following sites:

- Cambridge Gardens, Twickenham
- Chase Green, Whitton
- Ham Common, Ham
- North Sheen Recreation Ground, Kew

The Council was also successful in its bid for funding from the Government initiative The Urban Tree Challenge Fund. This will see 123 trees planted in areas where canopy cover is less than 20% in Heathfield, Whitton, Barnes and Hampton.

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

'This is excellent news! Trees are essential for people, wildlife and the environment, and they're a hugely important part of our plans to address the climate emergency. Trees are a powerful ally; they can help by reducing carbon dioxide levels and flood risk, moderating extremes of temperature, and improving air quality. They also provide habitat for many species, supporting biodiversity in the borough.'

'I am thrilled to see so many trees being planted in this planting season, and I thank everyone involved.'

Dancing day and night for Princess Alice Hospice

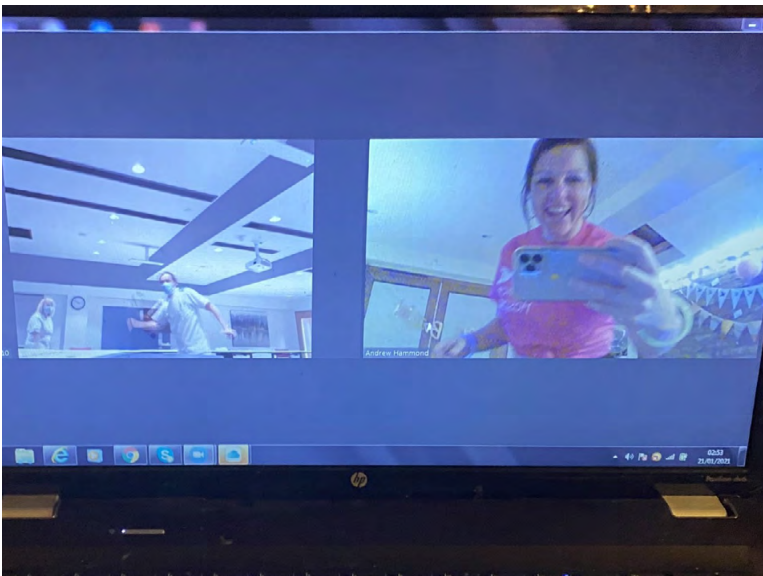
Princess Alice Hospice staff nurse Rebecca Allkins, recently set herself the tough challenge of dancing non-stop for 24 hours to celebrate her 40th birthday during lockdown. At the same time, she wanted to raise funds for the Hospice in memory of her Dad, who died under their care in 2019.

Rebecca began organising the challenge during tier 4 restrictions, but she wasn't worried when most of the UK went into a third lockdown as it was an online event that allowed family, friends and colleagues to log on at any point to keep her company and wish her well.

Rebecca says, 'when I thought about doing the danceathon we weren't in lockdown, but I knew a traditional Birthday party wouldn't be allowed in tier 4. I felt an online party would be a fun way to still see my friends and family whilst making some money for the Hospice in memory of my Dad. I never imagined it would raise so much money... it will certainly be a 40th to remember and I am so grateful to everyone who sponsored me and joined in to make the day so special. I have some amazing friends!'



Rebecca let us in on the highs and lows of taking on such a challenge:



The 5am low: 'I knew the kids would be waking up soon and I'd have to juggle schooling, breakfast and dancing! And there was still a long way to go.'

The highs: 'whenever anyone logged on! The evening was brilliant with friends, family, glow sticks, disco lights and loud music. The 'kiddie hour' was fab with so many on the screen at once, I couldn't even say exactly who joined! Seeing friends in America and Singapore in the middle of the night helped see me though. And of course, reaching the end! Barry and Amy joined from the Hospice's Night Response

team and saw me across the finish line.'

Community Partnerships and Events Lead for the Hospice, Claire Woodward, says, 'as one of our staff nurses, Becca might be used to working through the night, but to dance solidly for 24 hours was no mean feat. The support she received and the funds she raised show just how much people wanted to support her, raise vital funds for the Hospice, and help make her 40th birthday one she will never forget.'

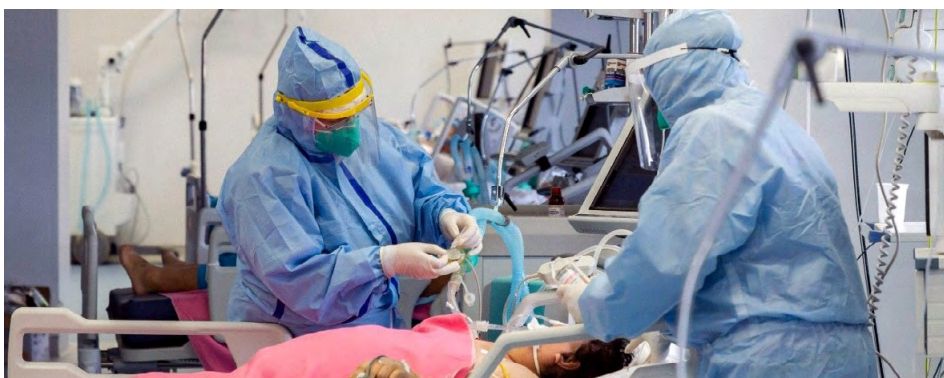
There are plenty of ways to raise funds for the Hospice while having fun at the same time, even during lockdown. For details of other Hospice events, click here: <https://www.pah.org.uk/how-you-can-help/events/>

WHO recommends follow-up care, low-dose anticoagulants for COVID-19 patients

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that patients who have COVID-19 - both confirmed and suspected - should have access to follow-up care if they have persistent, new or changing symptoms.

This is one of the recommendations made by WHO in revised clinical management guidelines.

Evidence was gathered on the post COVID condition, so-called 'long COVID', where people who have recovered from COVID-19 continue to have longer-term issues like extreme fatigue, persistent cough and exercise intolerance.



Understanding this condition is one of WHO's priority areas of work. In February 2021, WHO will organize a series of consultations to reach consensus on a description of this condition and its subtypes, and case definitions. This scientific understanding will inform the name of the condition. The consultations will include a broad range of stakeholders, including patient groups.

For COVID-19 patients at home, WHO suggests the use of pulse oximetry to measure oxygen levels in the blood. This needs to be coordinated with other aspects of home care, such as education for the patient and care provider and regular follow-up of the patient.

For hospitalized patients, WHO suggests the use of low dose anticoagulants for preventing the blood clots forming in blood vessels (thrombosis).

For hospitalized patients who are taking supplemental oxygen (including high-flow nasal oxygen) or non-invasive ventilation, WHO suggests positioning patients on their stomachs to increase oxygen flow (awake prone positioning).

The guidelines also include recommendations on the use of care bundles to systematize care provision for COVID-19 patients, as well as a recommendation to favour clinical judgement over models in making decisions for the patient's care.

The recommendations were made by an independent panel of experts, the Guideline Development Group, on the basis of detailed rapid reviews of all available evidence.

The guidelines are a living document, updated regularly as more data becomes available. Read the guidelines: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-clinical-2021-1>



Hampton North Ward News

Councillors Geoffrey Samuel and Kate Howard

A GOOD CAUSE WHICH WE SUPPORT

We are both supporting the Park Lane Stables. Situated in Teddington at our end of the Borough this RDA [Riding for the Disabled] carries out 3000 sessions of therapy for disabled adults and children per year. Natali O'Rourke who runs the stables tells us "Young people are referred to us from all over the Borough with challenging circumstances and for many we are a safe haven. We have launched a Crowdfunder to save the stables and any help would be appreciated - <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/save-our-stables>. We are both answering the call – it is a cause worthy of support.

THE WHITE HOUSE

HOTCA surrendered the Lease to the Council which is now responsible. The Council has agreed an interim arrangement until September with the YMCA which previously provided such an excellent service. In September the YMCA will be granted a 25-year Lease. The Council will also pay for a new boiler system at a cost of about £150,000. The YMCA will, of course, be in contact with local people but we will do our best to ensure that the YMCA is free to make its own decisions without the involvement of any other organisation. Personally we worked very well with the YMCA during their previous period of management and look forward to their return which has our full support.

HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS

We have regular contact – and regular meetings – with the two largest associations, RHP and PA, and are able to take up issues for local residents. Recently at our request PA has dealt with a tree problem affecting a resident of **Stevens Close** and currently we have raised another tree issue with PA and a wider problem affecting Chapter Way with RHP. We do not have the same success with Inquilab and Places for People but do let us know if we can be of assistance

WASTE, RECYCLING AND FLY-TIPPING

We receive and follow up all your complaints. This is understandable as, for example, on one day last week the Council reported problems with 21 roads in the Borough, of which 15 were in Hampton North. Nor is the Council at present able to deliver its policy of a special collection within two days for any missed collection. Residents who subscribe to the Garden refuse service are, of course, angry that this service, for which they pay, has been suspended. We have contacted the Council to secure refunds or credits for all affected residents. The recycling Centre on **Hampton Square** is all too often overflowing and messy. We have recently raised with officers the state of the centre at the junction of **Windmill Road and Uxbridge Road** which is attracting fly-tipping of bulky household items.

SCHOOLS

We regret the fact that our schools remain closed although we commend them for the arrangements they are making to compensate. Parents are particularly worried by uncertainty and we have contacted those schools where parents tell us that they would welcome more information

COUNCIL QUESTIONS

We placed four questions on the Agenda for the meeting on 26th January. We have set out the answer to Kate's Question on The White House above. She will receive a written answer to her inquiry about the future of the MUGA on Hampton Square. Geoffrey will receive written answers to his question about nitrous oxide cylinders [featured in the January Newsletter] and his request to the Leader to condemn any Councillor who, in a submission on a Planning application, uses language which is offensive, defamatory or imputes motives.

WEST MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL

We raised with the hospital issues reported to us by the Ramsgate-dwelling daughter of a local resident who was concerned her Mother's treatment. We also contacted Social Services to try to ensure that a care package would be in place when she was discharged.

SHORTER ITEMS

- A resident was threatened with a charge of over £100 for the removal of a dead fox: we secured the assurance that there would be no charge as it was on public property
- We are still trying to resolve the parking problems in **Rumsey Close**
- We have available the full details of grants available to residents on low incomes for necessary boiler replacements
- We have received a number of complaints about electric scooters
- We would like to hear from residents who share our concern about the traffic restrictions in **Burtens Road** which were supported by 14% of those consulted
- We have followed a variety of complaints about pavements and litter in a number of roads including **Dean Road, Garden Close, Hanworth Road and Holles Close**.

TwickerSeal spotted by Radnor Gardens

TwickerSeal has been out and about and was spotted opposite Radnor Gardens on Thursday.

He appeared to be heading towards Teddington, possibly to pick up nautical supplies from Teddington Harbour

Photos courtesy of Captain Quack (@KaptainKwack)



Flat fire - Teddington

Firefighters have issued a cooking safety reminder after a fire at a flat on Harrowdene Gardens in Teddington on Saturday evening.

A flat on the first floor of a three-storey block was damaged by the fire. One man left the property before the Brigade arrived. He was taken to hospital suffering smoke inhalation by London Ambulance Service crews.

The Brigade's fire investigators believe the fire was caused by cooking left unattended.

A London Fire Brigade spokesperson said: *"Fires are more likely to start in your kitchen than any other room in your home.*

"Cooking should never be left unattended on the hob or grill and if you have to leave the kitchen, turn off the heat.

"Chip pans and cooking with hot oil can be really dangerous and the risk increases when you start frying food more than once.

"All it can take it for you to become distracted for a few seconds and your cooking oil can quickly go up in flames."

The Brigade was called at 2113 and the fire was under control by 2227. Four fire engines and around 25 firefighters from Twickenham and Kingston fire stations were at the scene.

Firefighters' tips for safer cooking

- Don't leave cooking unattended on the hob or grill – if you have to leave the kitchen, turn off the heat.
- Take extra care when cooking with hot oil as it can easily overheat and catch fire.
- Never fill a pan more than one third full of fat or oil.
- Make sure food is dry before putting it in hot oil – oil and water are a dangerous mix.
- If the oil starts to smoke, it's too hot. Turn off the heat and leave it to cool.
- Not feeling 100%? Order a takeaway – if you're very tired, have been drinking alcohol or are taking medication that might make you drowsy, it's safer not to risk it.
- Be fabric aware – loose clothing can easily catch fire, so take care not to lean over a hot hob, and always keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob.

Shop fire - Twickenham

Firefighters have tackled a fire at a shop with flats above on Richmond Road in Twickenham this afternoon.

A small part of the ground floor of a three-storey building was damaged by the fire. Six people left the building before the Brigade arrived. There were no reports of any injuries.

The Brigade was called at 1347 and the fire was under control by 1534. Four fire engines and around 25 firefighters from Twickenham, Richmond and Heston fire stations were at the scene.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.



The Big Knit

These little hats change lives!!! The Big Knit is back!

Would you like to knit tiny hats and help raise money for Age UK Richmond? Now seems like the perfect time to join in! You'll be part of a huge team of knitters helping us raise funds so we can continue helping and supporting older people in the borough.

What is The Big Knit?

It's a joint campaign between the national charity Age UK and Innocent Drinks to raise funds and valuable awareness of the struggles vulnerable older people go through over the difficult winter months. Innocent Drinks gives Age UK Richmond 25p for every mini hat knitted; the woolly masterpieces will go on the innocent bottles in 2022.



How can you help Age UK Richmond?

Spend some of your lockdown time helping us. We are aiming to collect 3,000 hats by September 2021. Get yourself some needles, wool and your favourite chair.

There are many patterns to choose from (see links below) or you can make your own. Tell us how many hats you or your knitting group are planning to make and get knitting!

If you need wool, we have some spare wool available which was donated to us previously, please email wellbeingservices@ageukrichmond.org.uk

Where to send your creations to.

Don't send your creations to us just yet! While restrictions are in place, please keep knitting and hold on to your hats! Once restrictions are eased, we will let you know where to send them to. However, if you really can't wait, we can collect them for you. Please email wellbeingservices@ageukrichmond.org.uk.

No time to knit? You can still help us!

Spread the word about our knitting campaign, use #thebigknit2021 on social media.

If knitting is simply not for you, you can always donate directly on our JustGiving page [HERE](#).

Do you need extra information?

If you need to contact us about patterns, donations or completed hats, please call us on 020 8744 1965 or email wellbeingservices@ageukrichmond.org.uk

Thank you for your support!



A FOODIE LOCKDOWN LOVE-IN

What a change from when I wrote the Valentine's column last year! This year it's all about eating in, hunkering down, and 'hands, face, space' etc. Many of us are furloughed, or worse still have lost our jobs, and those who can, are working from home (as well as possibly juggling home schooling!). And some of us are separated from our loved ones too, making this Valentine's weekend even more poignant. Whatever you decide to do for Valentine's Day this year (remember it falls on a Sunday), I would urge you to arrange it in the next week to avoid disappointment.

In the light of this, I've researched a range of options for gifts, and meals, to suit a range of budgets, starting from the easily affordable, and working up to something a tad more luxurious as we all deserve a treat:

If you like cheese, then **Godminster's** 'Heart to Heart' gift box is a great gift for just £17.50 (includes next day UK delivery and available for a limited time godminster.com). The set comprises indulgent Black Truffle Vintage Organic Cheddar – made with European Black Truffles, giving it rich and moreish flavours. Alongside this is its acclaimed Vintage Organic Cheddar.



A simple, but tasty, hamper with an easy Italian dinner for two at just £28 from **Sacla** is another excellent value gift. The gift box contains a bottle of Catarratto Sicilian white wine, a jar of whole cherry tomato sauce with burrata, quality Chitarrone pasta, and a beautiful keepsake tin of yummy Italian chocs. Perfect for a romantic, simple dinner. Sacla.co.uk has lots of other unusual foodie gifts too. Or you can buy its delicious truffle pesto from most supermarkets – try spreading it on toast and topping with scrambled eggs... heavenly!



Or you could indulge in a jar of the ultimate chocolate spread from multi award winning company **Amedei** £10.75 (what you spread it on is up to you!). Check out this, and other indulgent foodie gifts at **Kings Fine Foods**, where you can also order smoked salmon, caviar, chocolates, champagne and a host other delicacies online. Kingsfinefood.co.uk

If you don't want to splash out too much, have a look at the different supermarket meal deals. There're ones in **M&S** (£20), **Tesco** (£15) **Waitrose** (£20) and the other major supermarkets, or one can always enjoy an excellent **Charlie Bigham's** meal - widely available. The Chicken Tagine and the individual pies are our favourites. The company has recently launched a range of award-winning delicious classic British desserts (Proper Puds) that are perfect for sharing on a cold February night. Sticky ginger; Sticky Toffee, Bread & Butter; Chocolate Fondant or Cherry Bakewell – any of those take your fancy? To hell with that diet! Available from most major supermarkets.



We can't go out to any restaurants this year of course, but it is definitely worth checking with your favourite local eatery if they are planning to do a take away or cook at home Valentine's meal. You'll be surprised at how many are now turning their hands (and kitchen) to offer customers the chance to enjoy their food in their own home. In some cases you might have to pick up your meal, but many also have delivery services. Again though, I would stress that you don't leave it till the last minute! In the Twickers area, Le [Salon Privé](#) in St Margaret's, [Beech House Hampton Hill](#), (see para below) [The Mitre](#) hotel at Hampton Court (see right), [One One Four](#) in Teddington, [The Dysart Petersham](#) (which retained its Michelin star this week) and [The Kings Arms](#) at Hampton Court are all doing either home deliveries or takeaway packages that sound fabulous and excellent value, so check out their websites. But again, many need those orders confirmed very soon, so don't leave it too late! There are lots of other top restaurants offering wider delivery of their meal boxes: have a look at [restokit.co.uk](#)

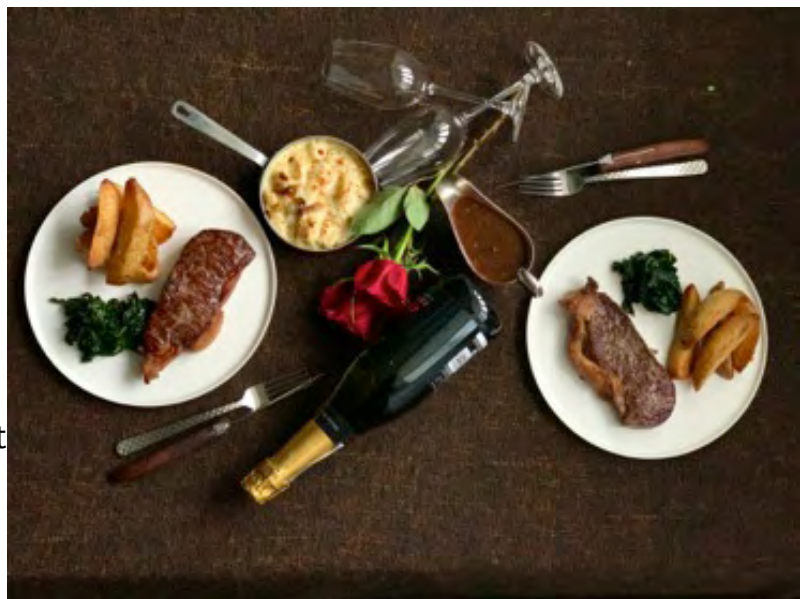


And it's not just restaurants having to change their modus operandi. In the absence of catering for parties, lots of local caterers are now offering home deliveries too, and a lovely Valentine gift (perhaps for an elderly relative locally) might be to arrange a delivery of afternoon tea. [Piptree Catering](#) will deliver a Sunday roast with all the trimmings, a Valentine's dinner (including a delicious beef wellington) or its special Valentine's tea (£18 a head) to a range of areas in SW and West London. Twickenham's **Heavenly Dish** is also doing takeaway food now (collection only).

Lots of great local establishments aren't, of course, just catering for Valentine's. They're offering this new service on a regular basis, so please consider and support them. And don't forget to keep supporting those other fabulous local establishments: Asian, Mediterranean and Middle Eastern, They desperately need our backing and custom in these nightmare times for the whole hospitality industry.

Do you know a deserving Valentine's Couple?

Oakman Inns (which owns The Beech House in Hampton Hill) has just launched a rather nice promotion to celebrate Valentine's day and spread the love. It has launched a search to find a special Valentine's Day Couple. The company is asking for nominations, via social media, for a couple that deserve a Valentine's Day to remember... or just a big thank you. Maybe it's a nurse neighbour, whose partner has been home schooling the kids while they've been working at the local hospital; a couple forced to celebrate a silver or golden wedding anniversary all on their own at home, or just a couple who really deserve a token of love from their grandchildren.



The winning couple will receive an Oakman At Home four course Valentine's Day Feast for two, with champagne, plus a £100 voucher to celebrate in their local Oakman establishment, once pubs and restaurants are allowed to open again. Closing date is midnight **7 February**.

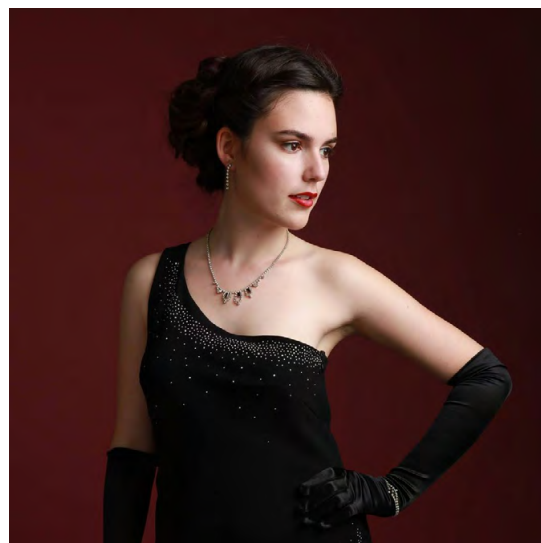


Sofia Kirwan-Baez

Live Lounge, OSO, on-line via YouTube from 20th January

Quite a trans-Atlantic day: the 46th President of the United States was sworn in, in splendidly soulless isolation, in sleety-snowy Washington, around about midday. Meanwhile, Venezuelan soprano Sofia Kirwan-Baez slipped in, in splendidly soulful isolation, in sleepy-slinky Barnes. But, yes, it was some hours short of being around about midnight.

Sofia Kirwan-Baez has started the OSO Arts Centre's series of *Live Lounge*, interactive on-line recitals, recreating the ambience of a jazz club. Here she was back in [the second of the continuing series](#). Dark drapes and relaxed atmosphere, all that was missing was midnight, tobacco smoke and a crowded room. Tier 4 has scotched the packed audience, and who needs cigarette smoke, particularly on your hair the next morning? Mid-evening, but the *Live Lounge's* virtual midnight set the atmosphere and the smoky sounds of Kirwan-Baez completed the ambience, with a chatty but intimate, relaxed but animated, style.



Kirwan-Baez's charm comes from an ability to engage with her audience with vivacity, slowly waving her arms or a cheeky thumbs-up to pep things up. This was two-way, the audience commenting, praising and importantly requesting numbers via livestream chat: jazz standards, show numbers, with languid French classics or torrid numbers in her native Spanish.

However, much of this Live Lounge session stayed in the USA, reflecting the events of that day. The Inauguration had seen Lady Gaga singing an anthem designed to unite that nation, but the choice of her hit, *Bad Romance* could be a sardonic comment on either side of that divided country.

However, when crossing the Rio Grande Kirwan-Baez really comes into her own. Her skill in Latin American music was epitomised by the Mexican bolero, Consuelo Velázquez's *Bésame Mucho*. Kirwan-Baez's soft but passionate treatment of the lyrics harked back to the dreamy sensuality of the 1940 original.

Nevertheless, it was in a French song that Kirwan-Baez excelled, Edith Piaf's immortalised *La Vie en Rose*. Perfect in words and music, and fervent in its performance, she expressed exactly the powered of infatuated love. Great stuff, and in these straightened times, we all need to see the *vie en rose*, a world through rose-tinted spectacles.

OSO has billed Sofia Kirwan-Baez for every other Live Lounge session. However, for those who cannot wait, the release of her latest album *Take One and a Half* [comes out on 7th February](#). For the others, they will have be like to people of the USA, just Biden their time.

Read Thomas Forsythe's review at www.markaspen.com/2021/01/22/kirwan-baez-1

Photography by Studio 52 and Capitol Records ™

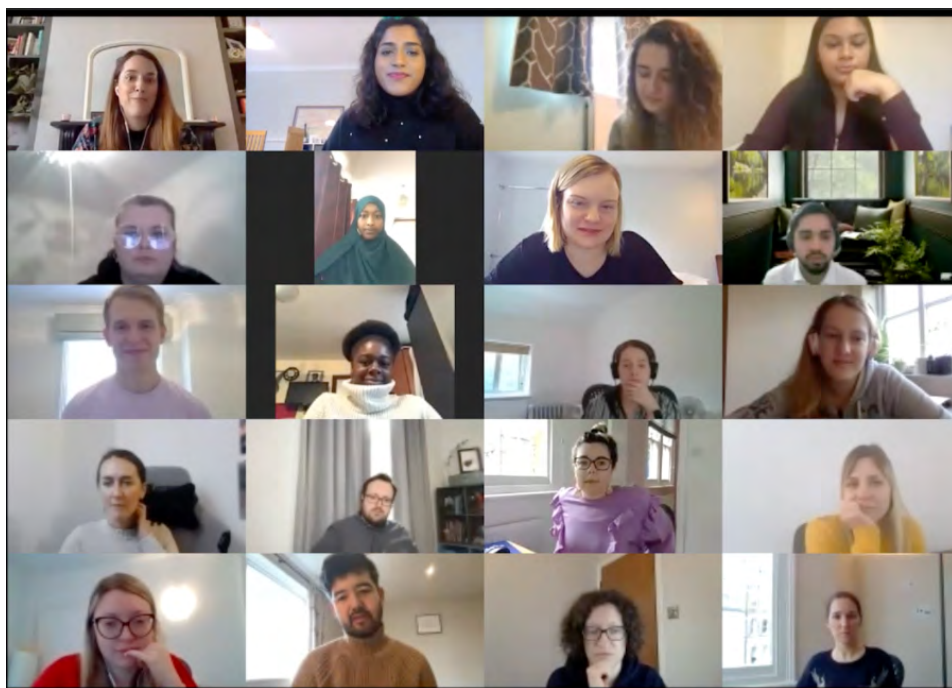


RuTC Students Graduate from Circl Leadership Programme with Tails

Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) is proud of its 15 students who graduated in January 2021 from the Circl Leadership Programme in partnership with Tails, gaining a Professional Leadership Qualification worth £1,500.

When students returned to college in September 2020, 15 RuTC students from different course areas started their virtual Leadership Programme, organised by Circl and founded in 2018. Circl's mission is "to build a world where anyone, regardless of their background, can learn to lead. The way to get there is through real world coaching experience alongside the next generation of diverse leaders."

The programme not only helps students to develop leadership skills, but also supports managers to become better mentors. For this programme, 15 RuTC students were paired with 15 managers from the Richmond company Tails, which sells customised dog food. Students and mentors had weekly sessions and one to one calls. Students benefitted from mentoring with support on their challenges and goal setting along with productivity and creativity, whilst mentors from the company gained coaching and leadership skills.



One student commented, "I have been able to develop professionally and personally as a result of the Circl Leadership Programme. Professionally, I do not have much experience and I found this to be very difficult while entering the world of work. The Programme taught me how to build good working relationships and how to act in a professional setting. It has also improved my communication skills and made me feel more confident when speaking to new people."

Other students commented that as a result of the programme, they felt more confident in taking mentoring roles, such as teaching a friend how to drive, and that the programme helped them to push through difficult times in their life. Others found part time jobs through the skills they gained.

A representative from Tails said, "Meeting with a future leader was like a breath of fresh air, it was great to meet someone from outside of my usual bubble. I loved meeting young people with such bold ambitions, with their working life ahead of them."



**Richmond upon
Thames College**

Win a professional recording and release with Powerjam, worth £1,000!

Powerjam, the local not-for-profit band project, is offering young songwriters and bands ages 12-17 the chance to win a professional recording and release worth £1,000!

Residents of Kingston, Richmond, and Hounslow boroughs are invited to send in demos of their original songs to: contact@powerjambands.com.

No entry fees. Deadline for submissions 31st of March 2021.

Full details of the competition can be found on Powerjam's website at <https://www.powerjambands.com/competition>.

Stay creative and productive during lockdown!



POWERJAM PRESENTS SW LONDON SONGWRITING COMPETITION



Win a professional recording, song production, and release on all streaming platforms!

- **Worth £1,000!** -

Open to residents of Richmond, Kingston, and Hounslow, ages 12-17

TRAVELLER'S TALES 89

AN INVITATION TO ISRAEL

Doug Goodman describes his visits to Israel



As our driver climbed into the cab of the mini bus at Tel Aviv airport I glimpsed what I thought was a suspender holding up his sock: but it was a pistol strapped to his ankle. My first impression of a visit to Israel 40 years ago was of an armed populace. On entering The Western Wall in Jerusalem guns seemed to be the standard personal item. At least we felt well protected!



Jerusalem



Western Wall



Western Wall Security

The Western Wall was crowded with men in traditional Orthodox clothing reading and chanting close to the stone wall. Sometimes known as The Wailing Wall it's an ancient limestone construction originally built as part of the expansion of The Second Jewish Temple in the old city by Herod. Sacred to the Jewish people it is a prime spot for pilgrimage and prayer. During the weekend visit we went to Bethlehem, saw the Church of the Sepulchre, walked the Via Dolorosa, bargained furiously in the souks for ceramics and leather gear and enjoyed delicious food from street markets and local restaurants. On the drive out of Jerusalem we passed lines of military vehicles destroyed in the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. They had been left as a memorial to the troops killed in the War of Independence when fighting took place around Jerusalem.



Dome on the Rock



Route 90



Sea Level

DEAD SEA

On the way to The Dead Sea there's a road side sign indicating sea level – in the middle of mountains and deep valleys. The Dead Sea is the deepest salt lake in the world at 1421 feet below sea level. Its 234 square miles contain the world's saltiest stretch of water which makes it a perfect place to learn to swim. We stopped at Masada to visit the ancient fortress where the Romans besieged the mountain-top settlement of the Jews who had fled from Jerusalem after its fall in 70 AD. Just 960 held out against 8,000 Roman attackers before being overwhelmed

and committing suicide. The climb to the summit up a steep and rocky track took 40 minutes but the view from the UNESCO site over the Judean Desert made it worthwhile. Here new army conscripts swear their oath of allegiance to their country and affirm 'Masada will not fall again'.

TO THE RED SEA

My second visit to Israel was in 1984 at the invitation of British business man David Lewis. His company Isrotel had been given the opportunity to develop the area at the top of the Red Sea called Eilat. It had been a bit of a frontier town until package tours and holidays for Israelis became available as the resort's infrastructure grew. I travelled with five key UK travel writers in a private Lear jet to Ovda airport and met David Lewis in strange circumstances. As I was about to tip the porter who carried our luggage into the terminal, the pilot introduced me to him. He was one of the kindest and most generous people I've met. A sailing ship was at our disposal for a cruise along the coast and sumptuous suites in The King Solomon's Palace were our home for five days. The view took in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and, of course Israel. Scuba diving lessons in the crystal-clear water were eagerly accepted and a jeep safari into the Negev Desert was arranged. The dusty, hot and very rough drive caused some discomfort to one of the guests – the deputy editor of a very prominent woman's magazine. Her none too polite request for a gin and tonic was instantly granted to everyone's amazement from a hidden cool box in my vehicle. Strange rock shapes have formed in The Negev which covers a vast part of Israel. Wild and endangered animals include leopard, sand cats, ibex and asses and wild-life sanctuaries have been established for their protection.



Eilat, King Solomon's Palace



Dead Sea



Negev Desert

People born in Israel are sometimes referred to as Sabras- 'prickly pears' but only once did I experience anything other than great friendliness and a desire to be made to feel welcome. The only disappointing occurrence was when an official government guide expressed his dislike of Arabs and barged into a tented camp demanding that the Bedouin occupants let us look around.

Eilat has expanded greatly since my visit and the resort has become very popular with British visitors. The ancient attractions of Jerusalem remain but with the addition of Yad Vashem, The World Holocaust Remembrance Centre, there's another very important site to visit.

WIZ TALES World InfoZone at the Stockholm Challenge

Teresa Read

The World InfoZone project was invited on three occasions by the City of Stockholm to take part in exhibitions and conferences; in 2004 seminars took place in The Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) with the final event in Stockholm's historic City Hall.

On this occasion I decided to put forward the World InfoZone Linking Our World project, under the title "Shalom From Israel". The World InfoZone project worked with many schools over the years but the school in Israel was the most active participant in saying "Hello" to other schools around the world.



The World InfoZone country information allowed participants a quick and easy way to find out about partner countries, especially as in the years the project developed information on the internet was often sparse. (World InfoZone began compiling information three and a half years before Wikipedia).

I am writing this article on International Holocaust Day (27 January). The following is the memory of a story heard from a participant's grandfather (referring to Yom HaShoah):

"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)".

"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."



More Photographs of Israel:

<https://worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=Israel>

Photographs of Stockholm

<https://worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=StockholmChallenge>

Linking Our World - schools around the world working together:

<https://worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=sMenu>



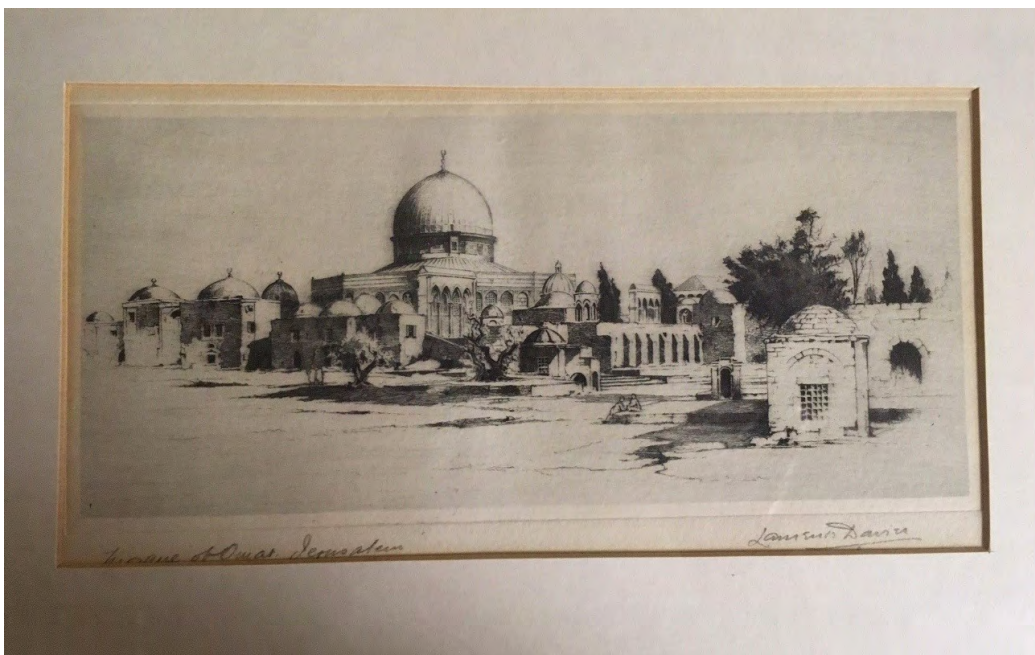
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

By Bruce Lyons

With an Israeli wife (born in Warsaw 6/9/1939) and who as a new born baby was interned in a prisoner of war camp in Germany with her Jewish mother as the Nazis invaded Poland. A father-in-law who fought for Israeli Independence in the Haggana and was in a British prison in Israel under the Brits & who became on Independence a high ranking official and a British Grandfather who fought in the Great War alongside General Allenby in the British Expeditionary Force in the relief of Jerusalem (he was also a renowned artist - see his etching here of Jerusalem) my thoughts turn to Israel on Holocaust Memorial Day, for me it is an important benchmark in my calendar year.



Hedda as a small child with her mother Zipora and father Ariah at the refugee centre at Atleet (Israel) where they arrived after escaping from Nazi occupied Poland



Actually I met Hedda in London. She was the Hebrew secretary at the Israel Government Tourist Office and I was planning to emigrate so I could work in Desert Tourism (Israel has a fair bit of Desert) my passion. But Hedda persuaded me that as a non-Jew I could do more for Israel by staying here and we would promote Israel and Desert tourism from here and that is exactly what we did. In fact, we

started the first charter programme to Eilat back in 1975 At the end of our time we actually accounted for 55% of tourism to Israel, excluding Pilgrims and I was actually awarded the Freedom of the City of Eilat. This week Doug Goodman is writing about Eilat and Teresa is putting in some scenes from Israel so instead of writing what I had planned I thought I would add to theirs a little bit about our experiences.

I am afraid in this, the year of COVID-19 Eilat will see more International Birds as tourists. You see Eilat is the junction on the World Highways for Bird emigration as they travel in their

The free vulture in the
Judea desert; 7 Oct 09



millions between Africa and the Steppes of Eastern Europe and strangely there are famous Bird conferences in Eilat. The rubbish dump at the back of Eilat featured in Bird Guides and the

original sewage site in Sharm had to be covered with wire mesh to stop Pelicans belly-flopping into it and getting stuck. As many of these migration species are raptures we are fortunate that species have slightly different calendars otherwise the little brown jobs would often become a tasty supper for the bigger birds.



Eilat is not only famous for its Bird Highway, this part of the Red Sea is also famous all over the world for its Coral and the Undersea panorama of exotic fish - in fact part of our family Now live in Eilat and run the city's premier Dive Centre.

Soon we should all be able to travel again and hopefully I will Plan for you fascinating travels to this - The Land of Milk and Honey If you plan a self-drive journey you can incorporate both Beach/ History/ and the amazing Religious sites which are to be found all over Israel.

MOTHER

A new series for those of you who are missing Richmond Film Society's screenings or, indeed, trips to the cinema generally as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Their committee is producing a number of weekly recommendations of films screened during the last 20 years that were extremely well received by their audiences. Should the notes reproduced below entice you to try and catch-up with this recommendation, then you should be able to do so, as it is available on streaming services and for purchase as DVD/Blu-Ray discs from the online retailers as indicated below.

RFS Context: **MOTHER** was 688th film screened by RFS on 21st February 2012. **Mother** was the fourth equal ranked film of Season 49, it got an approval mark of 86% from those attending; from season 49 we have also already featured its equal fourth place film along with the first, second and third ranked ones. In rank order they are **North Face**, **Broken Embraces**, **Days of Glory** and **The Sea Inside** as **Issues 2, 15, 22** and **32** respectively. **Mother** is an earlier work from last year's Oscar winning Parasite director **Joon-ho Bong**. Post-pandemic, when RFS is once more up and running, we hope to be able to screen **Parasite**. **Mother** can be streamed from Amazon Prime plus the discs are available from Amazon and others.

MOTHER (Maeo)

Country: South Korea, 2009
 Director: Joon-ho Bong
 Screenplay: Eun-kyo Park & Joon-ho Bong
 Music: Byung-woo Lee
 Cinematography: Kyung-Pyo Hong
 Running Time: 128 min., colour
 Language: Korean
 Editor: Sae-kyoung Moon

Leading Players:

Hye-ja Kim (Mother)
 Bin Won (Yoon Do-joon)
 Ku Jin (Jin-tae as Goo Jin)
 Je-mun Yun (Je-moon as Jae-moon Yoon)
 Mi-sun Jun (Mi-sun)
 Sae-Byeok Song (Sepaktakraw Detective as Sae-beauk Song)



Because of phonetic differences between English and Korean, both “Mother” and “Murder” are spelled the same when translated to Korean characters. The movie title, “Maeo”, is a play on this similarity, suggesting both “Mother” and “Murder”.

The strange, fascinating film “Mother” begins with what seems like a straightforward premise. A young man of marginal intelligence is accused of murder. A clue with his name on it and eyewitness testimony tie him to the crime. His mother, a dynamo, plunges into action to prove

her son innocent. So there we have it, right? He's either guilty or not, and his mom will get to the bottom of things. Or not.

The mother of the title, played by respected South Korean actress Kim Hye-ja, is a force of nature. In a village, she runs a little shop selling herbs, roots and spices. Her sideline is prescribing herbal cures. Her son Do-jun (Weon Bin), in his late 20s, lives at home and they sleep in the same bed. He's a few slices short of a pie. Early in the film, he's saved from death in traffic when his mother races to the rescue.

Do-jun has a friend named Jin-tae (Jin Gu). Jin-tae easily manipulates him. Do-jun's mental foggy quality may be his most attractive quality. In the town, a shocking murder occurs. A girl's body is left where all can see. A golf ball with Do-jun's name is found near the death site. Did he do it? We can't be sure. Did Jin-tae do it and plant the evidence? Or persuade Do-jun to do it when he was drunk? Again, we can't be sure. Under the Law of Economy of Characters, Jin-tae must have been involved, because there are no other eligible suspects. You can't simply produce a killer. Of course Do-jun could be guilty and Jin-tae had no involvement. Or, at least technically, the mother could have done it.

Mother (she's given no other name) marches tirelessly around the village, doing her own detective work. She questions people, badgers them, harasses police, comforts her son, hires a worthless lawyer. We learn everything she learns. It seems she's getting nowhere. At this point the movie might become upsetting for a mass audience, because **Mother** creates new levels in the previously established story.

The film is labyrinthine and deceptive, and not in a way we anticipate. It becomes a pleasure for the mind. Long after a conventional thriller would have its destination in plain sight, **Mother** is still penetrating our assumptions. So much depends on Kim Hye-ja's performance as a remorseless parent defending her fledgling. Likely she has spent years helping her clueless son escape one dilemma after another, and now she rises to the great occasion of her life. Her struggle is made more difficult because the police find it child's play to extract a confession from him.

A film like **Mother** is an adult film, not in the sense that it contains X-rated material, but in the sense that it appeals to intelligent grown-ups. A bright 10-year-old can understand most Hollywood films. Disney recently announced it will make only 3-D "event" movies, comic hero stories and franchises like **Pirates of the Caribbean**. It has essentially abandoned films about plausible human beings. It isn't a luxury to see indie or alternative films. It's a necessity. **Mother** will have you discussing the plot, not entirely to your satisfaction. I would argue: The stories in movies are complete fictions and can be resolved in any way the director chooses. If he actually cheats or lies, we have a case against him. If not, no matter what his strange conclusions, we can be grateful that we remained involved and even fascinated. Why do we buy a ticket? To confirm that a movie ends just the way we expect it to?

after Roger Ebert

Petitions

Stop the introduction of parking charges in Richmond Park and Bushy Park

The Royal Parks intend to introduce car parking charges in Richmond Park and Bushy Park. This is an indefensible proposal, particularly at a time when the link between poverty, obesity and poor health has been so clearly highlighted by the impact of Covid 19.

Spending time in the park is one of the very few free and healthy options for families and individuals. It is essential for people's mental and physical well being that access to the parks is encouraged rather than restricted. If, as a society, we really want to fight obesity we must continue to provide spaces for free and healthy exercise.

During lockdown, a much more diverse and geographically widespread group of people discovered the joys of Bushy and Richmond Park; this is a cause for celebration and should be viewed as a positive and healthy development and encouraged as much as possible. The petition can be viewed [HERE](#)

Accept the proposal to reinstate a Lido on Twickenham Riverside

During consultations with local stakeholders it has become clear that there is a wish to bring back a Lido on Twickenham Riverside.

A Lido on Twickenham Riverside would provide a leisure and sport facility for the people of Twickenham and surrounding areas.

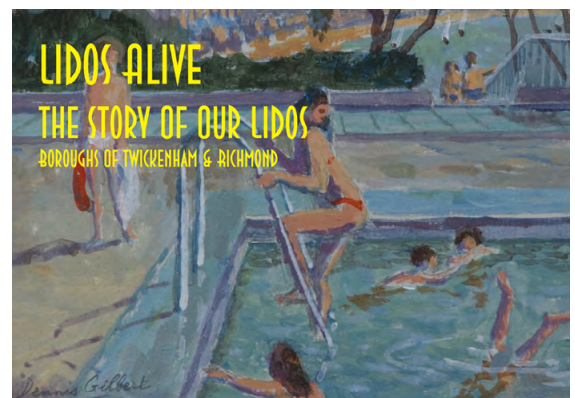
More importantly though, it provides the local people with an everyday escape from modern life, an accessible urban retreat.

Such a facility on Twickenham Riverside would act as a Magnet and contribute to the rejuvenation of the town. The petition can be viewed [HERE](#)

An Ideal Present for just £6

Lidos Alive – the Story of Our Lidos - is a 63-page A5 book with colour photos and illustrations full of interesting information about the history of outdoor swimming in the Borough and the rise of the lido. Contents include Mereway Bathing Place, pools in Bushy Park, Hampton Pool, Teddington Pool, Hampton Wick, Tagg's Island, Marble Hill, Twickenham Baths, Pools on the Park and other interesting stories.

To purchase a book contact info@TwickenhamTribune.com



Appeal in Twickenham over highest ever number of potential plasma donors

NHS Blood and Transplant is urging people in Twickenham hitting the 28-day COVID recovery mark to register as plasma donors.

People can only donate 28 days after they've recovered, so the number of potential donors is now at the highest ever level following the national record number of cases over the New Year.

More than 8200 people living in and around Twickenham donor centre have already registered to donate convalescent plasma after having coronavirus.

The antibody-rich plasma of people who've had the disease might save the lives of people who struggle to develop their own immune response to the virus.

Professor Dave Roberts, Associate Medical Director for Blood Donation at NHSBT, said:

“More people than ever are now able to help – the time to donate is now.”

“We especially need donations from people in Bristol who've had hospital care. Men who had hospital care are around six times more likely to have the high antibody levels which might save lives.”



NHSBT is collecting plasma for new trials for older people or those with cancer to treat them early in the course of the infection.

More than 2200 donations have been taken at Twickenham donor centre on 70 London Road, so far.

Prof Roberts added: *“We have completed two trials and analysis is ongoing. We now need to collect plasma for further planned clinical studies. We're particularly looking at high risk groups such as the elderly and people with cancer.”*

“Donations are vital to the ongoing lifesaving research, which gives us a better understanding of how we can best treat patients with COVID-19 and help prevent deaths in the future.”

Donations are being taken at NHSBT's 23 blood donor centres and a further 20 pop-up plasma donor centres. Donation takes about 45 minutes. Your body quickly replaces the donated plasma and donated antibodies. All donations are tested for COVID antibodies. Men, black and Asian people, and people aged over 35, are more likely to have the high antibody levels needed for donation.

Nationally, more than 300,000 people have offered to donate and more than 60,000 donations have been taken.

People can register to donate online at www.nhsbt.nhs.uk

NHS
Blood and Transplant



BRENTFORD FC



Bees knocked out of the FA Cup by Foxes

Brentford 1 – 3 Leicester City

Brentford were knocked out of the FA Cup in the Fourth Round for the second consecutive season by Leicester City despite taking an early lead. Mads Bech Sørensen had given the home side the dream start when he turned in a corner inside the opening ten minutes but the game turned on its head in a five minute spell in the second-half. First, James Maddison played in Cengiz Ünder for the equaliser and then Youri Tielemans converted from the spot to give the visitors the lead. The cup tie was then sealed with twenty minutes to play as James Maddison scored from inside the six-yard box to seal Leicester City's passage through to the next round.

On a wintry January afternoon at the Brentford Community Stadium the early there was a light covering of snow across the pitch in the early stages of the game. Luke Daniels was called into action inside the opening minutes when Ünder escaped the Brentford defence but Daniels palmed diverted the ball behind for a corner which came to nothing.

Brentford opened the scoring in the cup tie via a set piece as Vitaly Janelt delivered a dangerous corner into the near post. Marcus Forss made the initial contact with the cross and after the ball had deflected off Leicester defender Nampalys Mendy, Sørensen reacted quickest to stab the ball past Danny Ward.

Leicester City have been challenging for the Premier League title this season and showed this quality with some good attacking football that Brentford to their credit did well to resist, with Ethan Pinnock at the heart of the defensive unit.

The central defender did brilliantly to slide in at the feet Ayoze Pérez and block the Spaniard's shot and Pinnock also then had to hook the ball away from danger after Daniels had saved from Harvey Barnes.

Maddison then clipped the outside of the side netting with a free-kick but Brentford had a good chance to double their advantage before half-time from a corner. Once again a delivery from Janelt caused problems as it picked out Fosu unmarked at the back post, who forced Ward into tipping the ball past the post.

Ward was the called into action again from a Brentford set piece as Saman Ghoddos curled a free-kick toward the top corner, which Ward did well to divert over his own crossbar as the Bees took the advantage into half-time.

However, the game turned around in a devastating period just after the interval. Within a minute of the restart they had levelled through Ünder. The architect of the goal though was Maddison as the England international weaved through a number of challenges after picking the ball up inside the final third and released Ünder into space, who curled home first time.

Things got worse for Brentford five minutes later when Fosu was penalised for a challenge from behind on Tielemans inside the area. The Belgian then stepped up to score from the spot as Brentford's lead was evaporated just five minutes into the second-half.

The young Bees side pushed for an equaliser and were thwarted when another corner was inadvertently headed into a dangerous area by Leicester defender Çağlar Söyüncü. Marcus Forss got to the flick on but was quickly closed down and was blocked by a combination of Tielemans and Daniel Amartey.

Ünder had a good chance to seal the game and claim his second of the afternoon when Ricardo Pereira found himself high up the pitch from fullback and pulled the ball back across goal but coming across the ball his shot narrowly went past the post.

A clinical counterattack from the visitors with twenty minutes to play sealed the game. Pereira initiated the move as he picked up the ball just beyond the halfway line and switched play out to Barnes on the left wing. Barnes took the ball down in one touch and dribbled in on goal where his shot was initially saved by Daniels but rebounded kindly for Maddison to squeeze the ball in.

Adam Pressley on as a substitute nearly pulled one back late on as a shot from Forss was parried by Ward into the path of the 19 year old but he couldn't keep the shot down which looped over the crossbar as Brentford's cup activity was ended for another season.

Bees held by ten men Swans Swansea City 1 – 1 Brentford

Brentford were held to a 1-1 draw in south Wales despite dominating for large spells against fellow promotion rivals Swansea City. The Swans had been reduced to ten men with just over twenty minutes to play after Kyle Naughton was dismissed for a second bookable offence. Brentford took advantage as Tariqe Fosu, on as a substitute, headed in from a Henrik Dalsgaard cross but they were forced to settle for a share of the points after Conor Hourihane scored with a free-kick on his debut for the home side.

On a wet night at the Liberty Stadium, it was Brentford who produced the first chance of note as a long ball from Ethan Pinnock picked out Rico Henry in behind the Swansea defence. Henry took the ball down well and got a shot away that beat Freddie Woodman in goal for the home side but narrowly flashed past the outside of the post.

The Bees then had another good chance when a clearance from Woodman was intercepted by Vitaly Janelt, with the ball eventually breaking to Henry who crossed first time into the box. Arriving at the back post was Josh Dasilva but having outjumped Jake Bidwell the midfielder could only head over from the edge of the six-yard area.

Crosses from wide were proving threatening from Brentford as this time it was Sergi Canós who's deep cross was picked by Ivan Toney at the back post. The Brentford top scorer then crossed himself as Bryan Mbeumo connected with the delivery but mistimed his jump and Woodman gathered easily.

After the half-time break Brentford came out in a similar attacking vein to the way they had played in the first and they had a glorious opportunity to score after Mathias Jensen had dribbled past a number of opposition challenges before sliding a perfectly weighted through ball into the path of Dasilva. Dasilva took a touch and then fired a shot goal bound but it was straight at Woodman who palmed the ball away.

Swansea were then reduced to ten men after Naughton received his second yellow card of the game. Having already been booked in the first-half for a last man challenge on Toney, he then was late on Canós and after receiving a yellow card for the second time, he was given his marching orders.

Five minutes later Brentford had capitalised as Fosu came off the bench to score. Patient build up play from the Bees was rewarded when Fosu found himself in space between Marc Guéhi and Ben Cabango to head in the opener.

The Brentford lead lasted a matter of minutes as Swansea levelled via a free-kick. From out wide Hourihane whipped in a delivery that evaded everyone inside the area including David Raya as the Swansea hit back.

Brentford could have claimed all three points in the latter stages after a shot from Janelt was initially saved by Woodman but came to substitute Marcus Forss on the edge of the six-yard box but his close range strike was brilliantly blocked by Guéhi to ensure Swansea held out for a point.

Halil Dervişoğlu joins Galatasaray on loan

Brentford striker Halil Dervişoğlu has joined top flight Turkish side Galatasaray on loan until the end of the season.

The Striker had spent the first half of the campaign on loan at Dutch side FC Twente where he played ten times in all competitions. He also made one appearance for Brentford in the FA Cup in the FA Cup Third Round against Middlesbrough in which he scored and assisted. Due to changes in FIFA rules for this season players are now allowed to play for three clubs in a season and the Turkish U21 international will head out to the country that he represents on the international stage for the remainder of the season.

Speaking to club media Head Coach Thomas Frank said, “Halil is a young player that we have a lot of belief in and one we think has a big future at Brentford. He made a real impact in the cup tie against Middlesbrough but the competition for him here, with Ivan Toney and Marcus Forss, is very strong. He is at the stage of his career where he needs to play First Team matches.

“He had a good spell at Twente, but this move to Galatasaray should mean he plays more games in the second half of the season. He is also going in to a club with a great history, challenging for the league, where there will be lots of pressure on him, which is a good way for him to develop. When we send players out we see them coming back stronger, you can see it with Marcus, Mads Bech Sørensen, and Emiliano Marcondes in our team this season. We think this loan will help Halil do the same.”

Benrahma loan deal made permanent

Said Benrahma has completed his permanent move to Premier League side West Ham United. The Algerian, who had moved to the club in October on a loan move, has moved to the club after the terms of the transfer agreement.

The forward has played 12 times for West Ham so far this term during which time he has assisted twice as David Moyes' side have climbed to fifth in the Premier League table.

The Algerian was a fan favourite during his time with the Bees during which time he helped to guide the team to the Championship play-off final at the end of the 2019/20 season, during which he was also named in the Championship PFA team of the season. In total he played 94 times for Brentford scoring 30 goals and contributing 31 assists.

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Game 1

Opponent: Wycombe Wanderers (H) Saturday 30th January 15:00 Brentford Community Stadium

Nickname: The Chairboys

Competition: Championship – Matchday 25

Manager: Gareth Ainsworth

Opponent record: P23 W3 D6 L14 GF16 GA35 (24th in Championship)

Interesting fact: The club are play in the EFL Championship, the second tier of English football, for the first time in their history, having earned promotion in the 2019-20 League One playoffs.

Game 2

Opponent: Bristol City (H) Wednesday 3rd February 19:45 Brentford Community Stadium

Nickname: The Robins

Competition: Championship - Matchday 26

Head Coach: Dean Holden

Opponent record: P24 W11 D3 L10 GF27 GA27 (8th in Championship)

Interesting fact: Bristol City have one of the few international club derbies in the United Kingdom with their rivalry with Cardiff City, which is known as the Severnside derby.

Come on you Bees!

Hampton & Richmond Borough

National League clubs set to meet to decide season outcome

Hampton & Richmond Borough season's fate is set to be decided on Monday following the temporary suspension of their National League South season. Clubs in the National League will be asked to respond to a formal "resolution to consider the outcome of the season" will the details of the resolution process set to be sent to be clubs on Monday.

Clubs have been told that funding to cover the cost of games from January to March will take the form of loans although the Department for Culture, Media and Sport said that grants can be applied for in extreme circumstances and that no clubs "will be allowed to go to the wall."

Hampton & Richmond Borough's season is currently suspended with their next scheduled fixtured due to take place on Saturday 6 February away to Tonbridge Angels.

Come on you Beavers!



England discover schedule for 2021 Rugby World Cup

The Red Roses have discovered their schedule for the pool stage of the 2021 Rugby World Cup in New Zealand.

England were drawn in a Pool C with France, South Africa and Fiji in November in what will be the first women's Rugby World Cup to be held in the southern hemisphere, but have now found out the locations and kick-off times of their games.

In their tournament opener, England begin against World Cup newcomers Fiji on Saturday, 18 September at Eden Park (KO 0445 BST), before playing South Africa on Thursday, 23 September at Northland Events Centre (KO 0715 BST) and are at that same venue to end their pool matches against France on Tuesday, 28 September (KO 0715 BST).

The Rugby World Cup 2021 will see the return of the quarter-final stage, longer rest periods between match days and expanded squad sizes as the tournament aims to break the record for attendance at a women's Rugby World Cup. The 44,000 capacity Eden Park will host some pool matches, the semi-finals, the bronze final as well as the final on Saturday, 16 October.

England have competed at eight Rugby World Cups and have been in the final in all but one, winning two of the seven finals they have contested.

At the Rugby World Cup 2017 in Ireland, the Red Roses progressed to the final where they were beaten by the Black Ferns 41-32 in a game that was watched on television by a peak audience of 2.6m people on ITV.

Head coach Simon Middleton said: "There are various landmarks in the build-up to a World Cup and the match scheduling is another one of those.

"It's a great first day of fixtures and for us, opening against Fiji as they make their World Cup debut at Eden Park will be a fantastic occasion.

"Australia against New Zealand is a classic game at any time for southern hemisphere rugby, so as an opening day fixture will be extra special I'm sure for both the New Zealand and Australian public.

"We all know there's an even bigger picture outside of rugby and sport at the moment but the World Cup is a huge opportunity for not only the worldwide rugby community, but everyone to come together and celebrate a great event at a time when the world is struggling.

"The tournament will give so many people much to look forward to and the chance of getting behind the World Cup will hopefully raise moral."



New report sheds light on the 2020 pandemic challenge for London business, and the road to recovery

With London's economy still in lockdown and the capital facing the highest rates of unemployment in the UK, a new [report](#) released on Thursday 28th January provides an insight into the impact of the pandemic on the capital's businesses, and their recruitment plans and skills requirements as they look towards economic recovery during 2021.

The 'London 1000' report from London Chamber of Commerce and Industry and London Councils, with survey work from YouGov*, highlights a constrained labour market during 2020 with reduced business confidence in London's economy and fewer apprenticeship opportunities.

The report also considers the role of increased remote working in focussing the labour market on professional and digital skills, and the financial support measures that business leaders wish to see to continue to help them through the pandemic.

The report, based upon the views of more than 1000 London business leaders across the capital's boroughs, also shows a plan to continue remote working throughout 2021. Business leaders are also saying that remote working is now their leading measure in helping to deliver their carbon reduction plans – perhaps suggesting a longer-term pattern of hybrid working in the capital.



Headline findings show that:

- Half of business leaders see cashflow as a main threat to business recovery from COVID-19.
- Grants via local councils, VAT relief, an extension of the business rates holiday, and continuation of workforce support are all seen as the most useful business support to deal with the impact of COVID-19.
- 84% of London business leaders are less confident about London's economy than they were a year ago, and 86% in the UK economy.
- 44% of businesses recruited or tried to recruit in 2020, with 41% of business leaders expecting to recruit staff over the next year (rising to 77% of large firms).
- 63% of businesses say that staff retention has stayed the same since the COVID-19 outbreak, but three in ten (31%) say it has decreased.
- Upskilling employees' digital skills is the highest priority for London businesses in training their own workforce.
- The number of London businesses that had no one working remotely moved from 51% in 2019, to 24% in 2020.
- Almost half (46%) of business leaders expect to have over two-fifths of their staff still regularly working remotely in twelve months' time. A third (32%) of business leaders say all of their staff will return to working in-person in a year's time. The number of business leaders saying that 81-100% of their staff will regularly work from home a year from now

has doubled (22%) compared to 2019's figure (11%).

- Only 8% of London businesses employ apprentices.
- 78% of businesses are currently taking action to reduce their environmental impact.
- Encouraging tele-commuting or remote working (37%) is the most common way businesses plan to reduce their environmental impact.

This year's London 1000 report tells that the most common type of role recruited for was professional/managerial staff, whereas in 2019 it was skilled manual/technical staff. This may well reflect the impact on the labour market for certain sectors, such as financial and professional services, which were more resilient to Covid-19 restrictions and lockdowns than industries such as hospitality.

The report shows support for Government support mechanisms to maximise cash flow, with continued grants, VAT and business rates relief all highlighted as methods to aid the chances of business recovery – something that both LCCI and London Councils have been campaigning for to enable business to make longer term plans and safeguard their future.

There has been a downward trend in recruitment over the past three years – in 2018, over half of businesses had tried to recruit staff in the last twelve months (55%), dropping to 50% in 2019 and 44% in 2020. A similar pattern is seen in intentions to recruit over the next twelve months, with the drop even more marked from three-fifths in 2018 (59%) to two-fifths (41%) in 2020.

Initiatives to boost employment, such as the apprenticeship levy, are still failing to have an impact in growing staffing numbers. London Councils and LCCI again repeat their call of recent years for devolved apprenticeship funding, to allow for local design and delivery of apprenticeship programmes that ensure businesses and employees have the skills they need.

63% of businesses reported that staff retention had stayed the same as 2019. Over half of business leaders reported training of their existing staff is currently the most important way to acquire the new skills their firm needs. Upskilling digital skills is the main priority, whilst a fifth (22%) of London businesses cite managing a remote workforce as their main skills and labour market challenge over the next 12 months, growing to 39% for larger firms.

Unsurprisingly, given the ongoing restrictions, the role remote working will continue to play for businesses and their staff is evident, including through 2021. However, remote working is now also judged as the key measure to helping deliver carbon reduction and an environmentally sustainable recovery for London.

The large majority of London's business leaders clearly understand the importance of their role in tackling climate change and as such most firms already have measures underway. In addition to the role of tele-commuting or remote working, using greener technologies and using sustainable suppliers or procurement policies are most common amongst business plans.

Businesses also recognise the role that government and councils have to play in carbon reduction and over half of business leaders said that financial incentives, such as grants, would help further motivate businesses to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

The report tells that Government should support green recovery via fiscal levers, and supporting sectors that are critical to a green recovery; for example, reducing VAT on energy efficiency measures and increasing green skills support.

Overall, whilst the current business environment remains a significantly challenging one, the London 1000 report outlines some clear agreements about the route to London's economic recovery from COVID-19.

Richard Burge, Chief Executive of London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said: *"This is a detailed report and I urge all London councillors, MPs, and the Government to read it. Commitment now from the Government to VAT and business rates relief beyond Spring will give more businesses the chance to survive to fuel London's economic recovery, once vaccination roll-out allows it to fully get underway.*

"It's pleasing to see the appetite for that recovery to be an environmentally sustainable one. The large majority of firms have carbon reduction plans underway, and it's interesting to see how many employers believe that a continuation of some form of remote working each week will play a key part in their carbon reduction efforts. The likes of flexible rail season tickets could help to support that and a footfall recovery in London's many high streets.

"It's clear that London will come out of this pandemic with a different economy and ways of working than when it went into it. We need all London players to come together to consider these changes, the opportunities, and how we can best ensure the economic recovery of capital and country."

Cllr Danny Thorpe, London Councils' Executive Member for Business, Europe, and Good Growth, said: *"This report is a vital window into the main issues businesses are facing in the capital. This year especially, we must listen to what businesses need and create the right environment for them to recover from the challenges of the pandemic and prosper moving forwards.*

"Based on the findings of this report, and working closely with London's businesses, we will continue to make the case for the immediate on-going support businesses need, but also plan for the recovery. We also need certainty for businesses as they plan for the future, including an immediate announcement of a targeted extension to the Business Rates holiday and extension to VAT reliefs beyond March 2021.

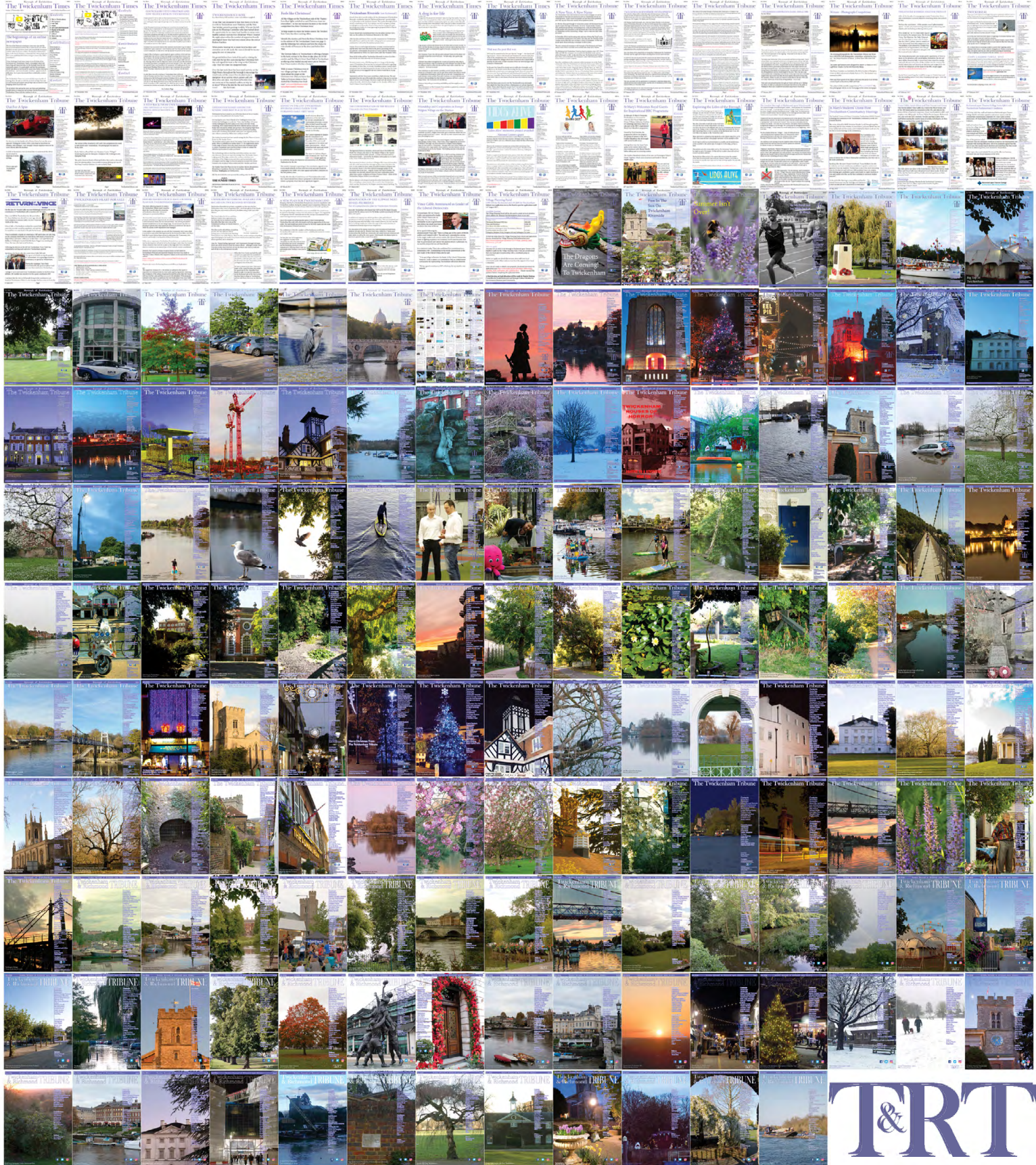
"London's businesses are facing a turning point, with many of them reviewing their practices as a result. It is great to see that so many of them are focussing on an environmentally sustainable recovery with carbon reduction as a firm feature.

"London boroughs are calling for reform of the apprenticeship levy to increase the skills and employability of Londoners of all ages. This is especially crucial given that London is facing the highest unemployment rates in the country.

"London's businesses are a huge part of what makes our city so unique. We must listen to them and work together to build a clear, successful road to recovery.

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