

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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10th December 2021

T&RT

Half moon over the Alexander Pope, Strawberry Hill

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

No e-scooters on TfL services

All privately-owned e-scooters and e-unicycles, including those that can be folded or carried, will be banned on London's transport network **from Monday 13 December**. This is the result of safety concerns about these items following recent fires on TfL premises & services. Customers in possession of such devices will not be permitted to enter any premises on TfL's network or travel on any of its services, including on the Tube, buses, Overground, TfL Rail, Trams and DLR.

More information can be found on the TfL website [HERE](#)

Free Christmas dinner for carers from the RFU

Every year, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) hosts a community Christmas Dinner at Twickenham Stadium and this year they are offering spaces to local carers.

The special Christmas event will take place on **Thursday 16 December**.

The event takes place in the Live Room at the stadium. The London Rock Choir will perform and a full Christmas dinner will be served free to all guests.

To book a space or for further information, call the Carers Support Line on 020 8867 2380 or email support@richmondcarers.org.

View full details of the event [HERE](#)

Christmas and New Year waste and recycling collection

Richmond Council has announced that this year there will be **no changes** to household waste, recycling and garden waste collections over the Christmas and New Year period – including bank holidays. All collections will be carried out on your normal collection days. There will also be no change for those receiving commercial waste and recycling collection services.

Real Christmas trees will be collected between Tuesday 4 January and Friday 14 January 2022.

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TwickerDuck asked TwickerSeal if he had seen the council's latest press release regarding the Compulsory Purchase Order for the DJG and their incompetence over providing residents with the correct information for making their objections to the snappily titled Department for Levelling Up Housing & Communities?

TwickerSeal had, and laughed at the abject failure of the council to even admit their mistakes; instead, they used the press release to further attack the Twickenham Riverside Trust and its Trustees!

And to illustrate their press release about the CPO on the DJG, the council used a picture of the old, disused riverside buildings, rather than an actual picture of the gardens. TwickerSeal could have given them a nice picture of a very busy, popular Christmas event that was held on the DJG ..., but maybe that wouldn't fit with the council's spin.

At least the council has finally published a new notice extending the period for objections to the CPO until 14th January 2022. Yes, quipped TwickerDuck, but they've cunningly put it in the back of the RTT, ensuring that hardly anyone will see it!



Covid-19

By Teresa Read

World Health Organization

Weekly Epidemiological Update:

7 December 2021

Globally, weekly COVID-19 case incidence plateaued this week with over 4 million confirmed new cases reported, similar to the number reported in the previous week's figures. However, new weekly deaths increased by 10% as compared to the previous week, with over 52 500 new deaths reported. As of 5 December, nearly 265 million confirmed cases and over 5.2 million deaths have been reported globally.

8 December 2021

- The Omicron variant has now been reported in 57 countries, and we expect that number to continue growing. Certain features of Omicron, including its global spread and large number of mutations, suggest it could have a major impact on the course of the pandemic. Exactly what that impact will be is still difficult to know.
- Any complacency now will cost lives.
- Many of those who don't die could be left battling long COVID, or post-COVID condition, a disease with debilitating, lingering symptoms that we are only beginning to understand.

In the News:

The Telegraph, 9 December: Omicron Covid cases could soon exceed one million a day, says Sajid Javid
Evening Standard, 9 December: Denmark imposes own 'Plan B'-style Covid clampdown as Omicron cases soar
BBC News, 8 December: Nearly 70 Spanish medics Covid positive after Christmas party.

Red List Countries:

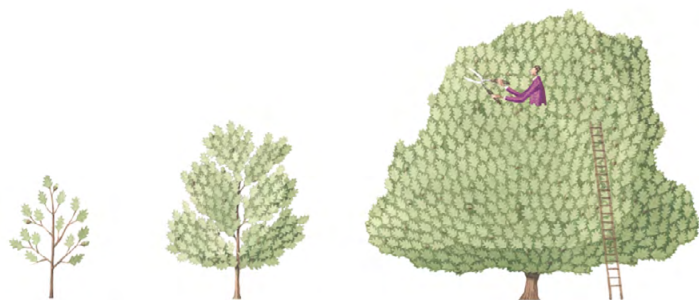
Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Country Information - Africa

<https://worldinfozone.com/newslink.php?section=Africa>

Local Covid total cases to 9 December 2021

Richmond upon Thames	28,775 (27,694 previous week)
Kingston upon Thames	26,841 (25,982 previous week)
Hounslow	46,959(45,868 previous week)
Wandsworth	49,801 (48,262 previous week)



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The Tree Agency

Raving upon Thames

By Simon Fowler

If you are of a certain age you may have been there and if you are younger you probably wish you had been. We are talking here of Richmond's music scene in the 1950s and 1960s, which centred upon a decrepit hotel on Eel Pie Island and overcrowded club opposite Richmond station. If the media proclaimed London as being the centre of the 'Swinging Sixties' its beating heart lay here on the Thames riverside.

This story is marvellously revealed in Andrew Humphreys' new book *Raving Upon Thames* which tells the story of the Richmond Scene from trad jazz in the mid 1950s to hard rock a decade later.

Much of the book inevitably concentrates on the big venues: Richmond's Crawdaddy Club launched the careers of both the Rolling Stones and the Yardbirds, with their guitarists Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck and Jimmy Page. At the same time, UK festival culture was born in the Old Deer Park, with the National Jazz and Blues Festival. But above all was Eel Pie Island a magical ravers' hideaway where Rod Stewart, David Bowie and Jimmy Page hung out before becoming stars themselves.

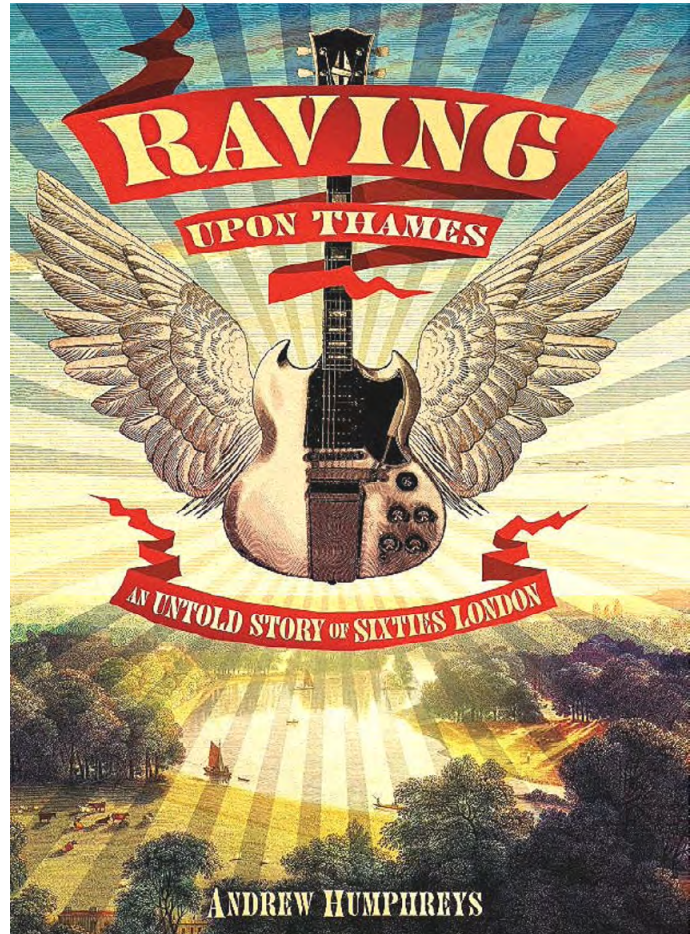
As the author points for much of the sixties music was seemingly everywhere across the borough. Hundreds of largely forgotten musicians played before enthusiastic audiences of young people. Here were the venues which were as exciting as any to be found in central London and for a fraction of the price.

Every pub seemingly offered jam sessions and folk singalongs. In 1964 the basement of the Labour Club saw the first British performance by Paul Simon. Further up Richmond Hill the Crypt at St Elizabeth's Church hosted the Hanging Lamp, where John Martyn played. And in the cellar of the Vineyard Church next door Tony Blair's musical career began before it was snuffed out in a wave of audience apathy.

In the end the scene collapsed when the Eel Pie Island Hotel closed in November 1970. The Quintessence, with their mash-up of acid rock and hymn-like Indian chants, were the last on the stage. They were a far cry from the more innocent trad jazz offered by the Grove Jazz Band the first group to use the Hotel's ballroom back in 1956.

Andrew Humphreys has seemingly interviewed every old muso who performed in or around the area, and read every memoir. And there are some great pictures. It is a brilliant account of a world that's gone for ever.

More's the pity.



Andrew Humphreys, *Raving Upon Thames: an untold story of Sixties London* (Paradise Road, 2021 £20) ISBN 978-0-9935702-3-0. Available from Open Book in Richmond and other local bookshops. More at www.paradiseroad.co.uk

Richmond upon Thames in December

By Lucilius

Christmas Lights

It can seem a bit nanny-ish of the powers-that-be to keep banging on about road safety, so a more subtle approach often helps.

We all recall back in the summer, the Council's clever idea of not collecting garden waste bins, thereby providing hefty safety barriers on the pavement against the ubiquitous e-scooters. One could at least step onto the pavement for a quick glance to see if it were safe to launch into the velodrome of the ex-pedestrian footway. Will they be hefty enough to slow down the new Lime electric mopeds? One may ask.

An earlier idea had been to introduce a Borough-wide 20mph speed limit (only applicable to those vehicles unlucky enough to have number plates). No vehicles, apart for hearses, had been designed to run at that speed, so the then inefficient engines poured out a lot more exhaust fumes. And they were on the road 90 minutes for every hour they had been before. The idea was that the lovely smog would so reduce the visibility that they would all have to crawl along. A smoke (sorry I meant stroke) of genius, but it didn't work as no-one drove less than 40mph, as was their wont; so it was all blown away.

Now the Council has turned its attention to the plethora of traffic lights that clutter the Borough. A junction in Teddington is the *sine qua non*. A simple crossroads, it has 62 traffic lights. To cross from Stanley Road into Queen's Road requires a driver to pass three conflicting sets so close together that a long vehicle can be driving past red, green and amber lights all at the same time. Fortunately Teddington Memorial Hospital is right there, and it is very good for minor injuries. There a number of garages in Teddington that excel at bodywork repairs (only for the vehicle though).

That Council genius though has now seen the light. Lucilius has been privy to the answer: put all the traffic lights on one pole in the middle. It's neater, easier, safer, and here is the brilliance: just in time of the festive season ... it doubles up as a Christmas Tree!



Dear Editors,

Council spin

The biggest spin that the Council is spinning us is their constantly repeated mantra that “there is overwhelming support for the Twickenham Riverside plans”. But where is the evidence?

Looking more closely at the planning documents, only 829 people filled in the Council’s questionnaire on its development plans. Leaflets were pushed through all doors in postcode TW1 (23,875 electors), so only 3% responded if you take just these people into account. The figure if you think of responses coming from the whole Borough (196,000 people) is much lower (0.4%) but that is probably because most people weren’t aware of the plans. However, as Council Tax payers they will be picking up some of the bill of £11million over the next decades.

The claimed “support” from the LibDem Councillors is based on 84% of respondents (609 people) saying they would visit the area when it has been built, but one needs to remember that for those living on Eel Pie Island or in Water Lane this is a necessity, not a choice, in order to reach their homes.

Looking through the comments of those supporting the Council’s planning application (225 as against 309 objections) I see that a quarter of the supporters either say “just get on with it” or add concerns about different aspects of the plans that they would like to see changed, so not 100% in favour of the plans as they stand.

And “overwhelm”? Chambers Dictionary – “to defeat utterly, usually with superior numbers”. Hmm.

With best wishes,

Sue Hamilton-Miller
Twickenham

Dear Tribune

An Integrated Whole Site Solution for Twickenham Riverside

I am one of many Twickenham residents who support the removal of parking from our Riverside and the creation of a fully pedestrianised public events space, park and gardens. A petition by the Twickenham Riverside Park Team encapsulating these principles to date has over 3,000 signatures.

The Council appointed an independent body, the RIBA, to oversee an architectural competition which was won by Hopkins Architects with the support of the majority of Twickenham residents.

The brief required the integration of disparate parts of the site to provide a 'whole site' solution, including the Diamond Jubilee Gardens. A proviso by the Twickenham Riverside Trust (TRT), who have jurisdiction over the gardens on behalf of residents, was that an area at least equal in size to the current gardens to be provided with equivalent or better amenities.

This proviso has not only been met, but clearly exceeded. The Gardens, children's play area and café/tea room are considerably larger and of a better standard than the existing. The area has been opened up to the riverside in a series of grassed terraces, planting and trees extending down to the riverside. A large, flexible multi-functional space has been created for public events and markets at a scale that currently is not possible.

Accessibility is considerably improved for the disabled, including wheelchair users, from access points around the Gardens. The removal of a roadway and parking would enable the entire Riverside area to be fully pedestrianised, including a widened Water Lane linking with a successful recently pedestrianised Church Street - thus creating a new heart for Twickenham that is people and not vehicle centred.

It is clear that the above improvements can only be brought about by bringing together the constituent parts of the overall site, including the sub-optimal area currently occupied by the Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

These proposals were agreed to by the TRT prior to the appointment of new trustees shortly before the departure of the previous chairman. The TRT has now done a u-turn, and decided to oppose the current scheme. It is no co-incidence that the current chairman and a large number of the current trustees support parking on the riverside. They have engaged in tortuous, complex and expensive legal argument (paid for by the residents of Twickenham), essentially claiming that the current Diamond Jubilee Gardens are of a superior standard to the new proposals.

The TRT was set up to protect the interests of the majority of Twickenham residents. It has been hi-jacked as a vehicle for a minority who are hell bent on stopping the Hopkins scheme from proceeding.

Under these circumstances it is clear that a CPO is necessary to overcome the unjustified obstacles of an unelected minority, to enable the creation of a 'whole site' solution as proposed by Hopkins Architects and supported by the majority of Twickenham residents.

Yours sincerely,

Deon Lombard, Twickenham

Letters published do not necessarily reflect the views of the Twickenham & Richmond Tribune, its Publisher, its staff or its advertisers.

Letters of approximately 500 words of body text will be printed at our standard 14pt font size, which will publish as a single page.

All letters must be submitted by the end of Thursday, prior to publication the following day on Friday.

The Tribune prefers letters to include the writer's name, but will publish anonymously provided details are supplied.

Twickenham Riverside DIAMOND JUBILEE GARDENS DOG SHOW

Sat. Dec. 11th

REGISTRATION: 10.00am onwards
SHOW TIME: 11.00am-1.00pm

SHOW CATEGORIES:

Best Puppy under 7mths | Best Junior 7-18mths
Best Dressed Dog | Waggiest Tail
Fabulous Female under 7yrs
Marvellous Male under 7yrs
Best Rescue under 7yrs | Best Rescue 7yrs+
Best Veteran 7yrs+ | Best Trick
Best Child Handler under 10yrs
Best Young Handler 10-17yrs | Best in Show



WE'RE JAMMIN' – ARE YOU?

The Return of the legendary Twickenham Sunday Jam – now 28 years old.

The George pub came alive again to the sound of loud music last Sunday when the Twickenham Sunday Jam resumed again after Covid stopped it in March 2020.

The musicians and music fans who attended enjoyed a buzzing evening with some first class sounds from great players and singers. Everyone was thrilled to see their friends again; the music was fantastic and it felt like a real celebration of friendship and music. The 'house band' was the brilliant Laurence Penfold & The Business.

The jam has been going nearly 30 years now at various Twickenham venues and is basically a full band open-mic evening at which:



An established local band brings their gear and sets up. They play a short set. Then various permutations of other players get up and perform 2 songs each. The main band then finishes the evening by playing another set. Performers only have to bring their own instruments or drum sticks, as amps and drums are supplied. The audience is made up of all the performers and - importantly - music fans too who simply want to see and hear some good music. There are guitarists, pianists, bass players, trumpet players, sax players and we have even had a trombone player...

The jam started as the 'Blues Jam' and blues are still a big part of it, however, rock and soul are always well represented too. Most songs played are covers but originals are welcome - as are people who haven't attended before; most weeks, there will be people there who have come for 20 years alongside those who only started a few weeks ago. The only rule is for performers can you play or sing a bit? Then just turn up in good time, get your name on the list and you will be asked to play. By the second week you attend, you will be In The Gang! Needless to say, in music, no-one notices race or gender or age..... all really ARE welcome here and always have been.

The Jam started in 1993 at the former Red Lion pub in King Street. Pete Karpel was there when it started and he left town a few years ago but still comes back - for the Jam! The first time I went in was a few years later and it was led by the great and very sadly late, Keith Tice. Like many 'jammers' I went a few times before getting the nerve to ask the extremely friendly Keith to get up and play.

Some time later, I was playing bass in the house band, then soon after, in 2006 an opportunity came to lead and host the jam and so Ray Clark and I took over. We then had some fantastic years at the Red Lion which had a name change to Filthy's. It was quite thrilling to arrive every Sunday to set up the gear, always 100% knowing that you were going to have an amazing and packed music party that night. After 4 years and 200 gig nights there, I stepped aside and incredibly Ray has run it in all the years since then - a total service of over 15 years. Every Sunday!

Sadly, the pub was eventually turned into a supermarket - but it wasn't the end of the Jam: from 2010 it simply moved to other venues, enjoying long residencies at The Fox, The Royal Oak, Rising Sun, Hobgoblin, Up and Under, The Shack and finally The George in the town centre, where it now resides.

The Jam is basically a social club for music fans - endless friendships have blossomed, some marriages

too, including my own, via friends I made there. Bands have been formed and some well-known names have come through the door - Steve Lukather, the superstar guitar player from Toto, famously came to play once, and was too late! It had ended! Bruce Springsteen's guitarist Steve van Zandt came one night to check out the local talent, then there was the night the amazing Dennis Greaves from Nine Below Zero arrived to play with the locals... and tore the place apart. Will Johns was 'just' a great guitar player and great guy, then after about a year we found he was Eric Clapton's nephew. He is now a top touring pro in his own right. Andy Cortes came to play at the Jam as a young boy then a few years later was playing Twickenham Stadium as James Bay's guitar player when he supported the Rolling Stones.



The well-known local band The Carnabys played their first gigs aged 16 at the jam and went on to tour the world after winning the Worldwide Hard Rock Cafe Battle Of The Bands. Frankie and Ben from the band still come to jam and the Carnabys singer VC Pines is becoming very well-known with his original music. Fabulous local young bands like Marner Brown and Klezma Villanova used to come in and jam. Pros including Robin Bibi, Sam Kelly, Darby Todd, Alix Anthony, Dan See, Dan Gulino, Jack Ellis, Will Shackleton and many more have played many times. I had the wry pleasure one night of informing the crowd that our usual bass player couldn't play that night - because he had another gig - for 20,000 people at

the O2 Arena. Our most sadly missed friend and singer is the late and wonderful Dottaye Green who used to stride in most weeks and whip up a storm belting out Steve Wonder classics.

The weekly heart and soul of the Jam however is the crowd of great amateur and semi-pro players who simply love music - and the fans who come to watch it. Why not pop down? It is every Sunday at The George, 32 King Street, from 7pm-1030pm. Grab a drink and find a spot and enjoy the incredible talent on offer... and if you want to play, ask for Ray.

The jam will be 30 years old in 2023. I'll bet it reaches 40 in 2033 too... many jams and open mics have come and gone in that time - how has this one survived? In my view it is because 1. Everyone understands that Ray makes sure it is very fairly run; 2. his consistency - being there every week for all those years and 3. His and the regulars' genuine warm welcome to visitors.

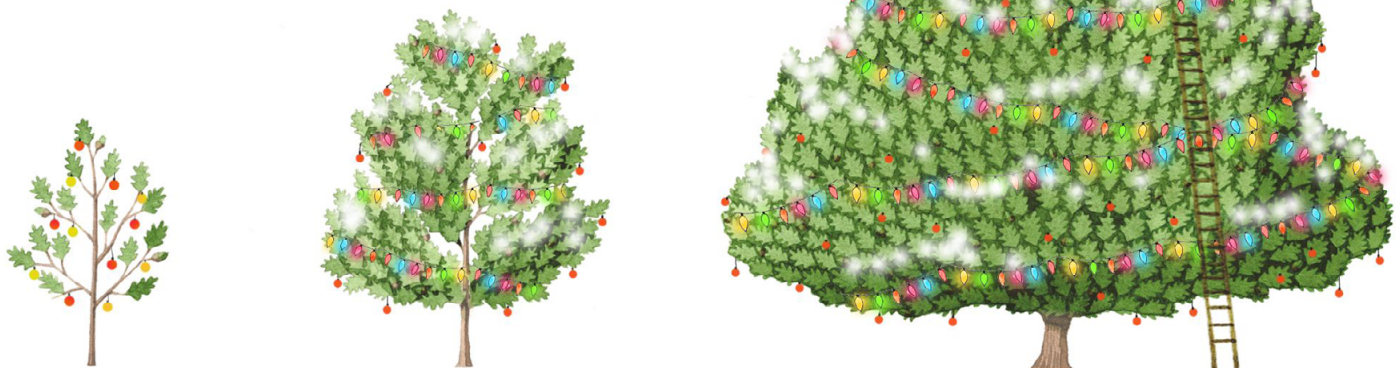
The Twickenham Sunday Jam now takes its well-deserved place alongside the other important and legendary Twickenham music scenes from across the decades.

See you there?

Dave McGeachie

Dave is a local estate agent and also releases his own music under the name David Anstruther

*Happy Christmas to All
from The Agents
Of The Tree Agency*



The Tree Agency

Calling all canine companions!

Get your owners to wrap up warm, and come on down to the Twickenham Riverside Festive Dog Show on Diamond Jubilee Gardens THIS SATURDAY (11 Dec).

There's a rosette for EVERY entrant and lots of categories to enter, so come prepared to strut your stuff in the show ring - and "Best in Show" could be you!



RETURN OF TEDDINGTON CHORAL SOCIETY

By Doug Goodman

Teddington Choral Society sang to a packed audience last Saturday during its 70th anniversary concert at The Landmark Arts Centre.

After an absence of almost two years, due to the pandemic, the society made a very successful return and presented an evening of the choir's favourite classical and contemporary music.

Welcomed by Rebecca Clarke, chairperson of the 76 strong choral society and conducted by Julian Collings, works by Verdi, Brahms, Vivaldi and Mozart as well as popular carols were greatly enjoyed by the audience. Accompanist was Phil Culling and soprano soloist Lisa Swayne performed The Easter Hymn from Cavalleria Rusticana.

Several members of the choir recalled happy memories of their time spent with The Teddington Choral Society.

Next concerts in 2022 are: April 2nd at All Saints Kingston; July 9th at The Landmark Arts Centre Teddington; December 10th in St. Mary's Church Twickenham.



Richmond resident who became an international tennis champion

Richmond Local History Society

A Richmond resident who became an international tennis champion and was pictured on the cover of *Time* magazine in 1931, is featured in the new 2021/22 issue of the Richmond Local History Society's journal *Richmond History*. When Betty Nuthall won the women's singles title at the US National Championships in 1930, *The New Yorker* described her as "England's most photographed female".

The fascinating story of Betty's life and career, told by former Waldegrave School deputy head Rose Barling, is the lead article in a collection of ten pieces about local people and places. They include a history of Richmond Park through six historical maps – reproduced in colour – and ground-breaking research revealing the site of a Second World War radio observatory in the park, where pioneering discoveries were made about the Sun as a radio source.

With plenty of images in eye-catching full colour, the new issue of *Richmond History* is a must-have addition to the bookshelves of anybody with an interest in finding out more about the rich history of their local area. It is available, price £7, from local independent bookshops or from the Richmond Local History Society's online bookshop at www.richmondhistory.org.uk



NOEL COWARD is BIRTHDAY BOY at the MARY WALLACE

Noel Coward, multi-talented Master of the theatre, actor, playwright, composer, lyricist and much more, was born in Teddington on December 16th 1899 and now, 122 years later, we celebrate his birthday with a production of one of his most cherished comedies - HAY FEVER. Described as "brittle, paper thin, plotless, dull and shallow" by its initial critics in 1925 it has nevertheless delighted and charmed audiences ever since with its style, charm and wit. Please join us to watch the theatrical Bliss family embarrass, neglect and intimidate their house-guests over the worst weekend they will ever endure and, incidentally, help us to celebrate Noel's birthday.



The production runs from Saturday 11th to Saturday 18th at the riverside Mary Wallace Theatre, with performances at 7.45 and 3 pm matinees on the 13th and 18th. Booking now at www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk



Christmas Trees & Wreaths at The Bloomery



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Rosie Chai, Pulcinella, Tsaretta Spice, Naz Balti

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*SPEND CHRISTMAS IN
CHURCH STREET
TWICKENHAM*



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Twickenham Riverside Trust - latest uploads

A few weeks back we set out our opposition to the Council's lodging of a CPO on the Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

We wanted to flag to you that we have now published associated documents and via the news link below you can view these plus a comprehensive Q&A.

You may also recall that Cllr James Chard sent an open letter to the Trust recently - the majority of these questions are also answered in this Q&A with a smaller number (regarding minor matters that we didn't feel best sat on the site) answered directly. Do let us know if you have any other questions?

It is important to say that all of this is connected entirely to the Council's decision to lodge a CPO and not to the overall scheme.

LINK - <https://www.twickenhamriversidetrust.org.uk/post/trust-sets-out-further-cpo-objection-detail>

Q&A set out at the end of this page - <https://www.twickenhamriversidetrust.org.uk/riverside-development>

Holy Trinity Church, Twickenham Green Christmas Services

Online: www.httchurch.org/christmas

Sunday 12 December

9.00 am Holy Communion with the Advent Antiphons
4.00 pm Christingle Service

Sunday 19 December

10.30 am Carol Service with the Trinity Singers
6.00 pm Carols by Candlelight

Friday 24 December

3.30 pm Christmas Eve – The Story of Christmas
11.00 pm Midnight Communion

Saturday 25 December

10.30 pm Christmas Family Communion



HOLY TRINITY TWICKENHAM

Why Did the Council initially decide against giving an email address for objection letters to the Twickenham Riverside Compulsory Purchase Order?

On 18 November 2021 the Council's agent, Ardent, wrote to residents on Twickenham Riverside informing them that their Objections to the Council's Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the Twickenham Riverside had been sent to the wrong address; the address that the Council had provided in their original Compulsory Purchase Order notice in the Richmond and Twickenham Times. The Council had decided against providing the Department's email address.

Of course, there were many residents who wrote to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up Housing & Communities who were not informed of the Council's error until the Twickenham and Richmond Tribune published details on 19 November.

The Tribune has been told that the move of the abovementioned government Department took place three months prior to the letter sent to residents by the Council's agent, and it now seems that there is confusion as to whether there was a redirection in place at the time for letters to be forwarded to the new address.

Additionally, an officer at the Department stated that as they were working from home the use of an email address pcu@communities.gov.uk would have been preferred, but the Council decided against this.

On 9 December the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames re-advertised their Compulsory Purchase Order.

On the same day the Council issued a press release informing residents that they were allowing residents "more time" to contact the government Department. However, it was noted that the Council did not keep to an explanation of their error but used the opportunity to put forward their plans for the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO). However, the photograph shown to illustrate the area in question in the LBRUT press release is of the area to the side of Water Lane where the segregated affordable housing is to be built, which is not representative of the area for the CPO which includes Diamond Jubilee Gardens.

An officer at the Department of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up Housing & Communities has said that there is no way of knowing if they have received all the Objection letters.

In reply to a question from the Tribune, a spokesperson for the Department of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up Housing & Communities said that anyone who has sent an Objection, received at the correct address, will get an acknowledgement. Presumably if you do not get an acknowledgement, or if in doubt, you should send your Objection again to pcu@communities.gov.uk or write to:

Planning Casework Unit
Department for Levelling Up Housing & Communities
23 Stephenson Street, Birmingham, B2 4BH

Email: pcu@communities.gov.uk

Young artists chosen to create Mayor's and Council Leader's Christmas cards

Six young artists have been selected to design the Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Cllr Geoff Acton and Leader of the Council, Cllr Gareth Roberts' annual Christmas cards.

After a tough judging session, the below young residents had their entries chosen to be used for the Christmas cards for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Leader of the Council.

The winners are:

- [Anthony Simonov \(Age 11\) Holy Trinity \(Mayor's Card\)](#)
- [Ralphie Morriss \(Age 6\) St Osmunds \(Mayor's Card\)](#)
- [Lilly Sophia Smee \(Age 8\) Vineyard \(Mayor's Card\)](#)
- [Viana Madad \(Age 7\) Hampton Wick Infants \(Leader's Card\)](#)
- [Emma Kecskes \(Age 10\) Kew Riverside Primary \(Leader's Card\)](#)
- [James Carey \(Age 6\) Hampton Infant School \(Leader's Card\)](#)

Runners up:

- Lois Bryson (Age 8) Holy Trinity
- Hayley Gold (Age 7) Chase Bridge
- Ella Lau (Year 6) St Richards
- Alexandra Foster (Age 6) Hampton Wick Infant School
- Chloe Hadcroft-Parrouty (Age 6) Hampton Wick Infant School
- Zoey Gray (Age 6) Hampton Wick Infant School

The Christmas cards will be sent to organisations, businesses and charities that the Council and Mayor have worked with throughout the year.

Cllr Geoff Acton, Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, said:

“The standard of the entries for my card competition this year was amazing! Thank you to all the children who took part and sent me their entries. All of the young artists showed off their talent and the winning designs will look fantastic on my Christmas cards.”



Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, added:

“With so many wonderful creations to choose from the job of judging was incredibly difficult. Well done to everyone who took part in this year's competition.”

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Local Plan Pre-Publication (Regulation 18)

Consultation 10 December 2021 to 31 January 2022

Following our consultation in spring 2020 on the Direction of Travel, we have now prepared the first draft of the Local Plan, known as the 'Pre-Publication Local Plan'.

We are consulting on the first draft of the Local Plan, which sets out a 15-year strategic vision, objectives and the spatial strategy. The draft Plan includes place-based strategies covering the whole borough, along with accompanying site allocations, as well as the thematic planning policies that will guide future development in the borough. It will inform how growth will be accommodated across the borough. The draft Plan seeks to address future challenges including climate change, health, affordability and liveability.

The draft Plan has been informed by a number of evidence base studies including an Open Land Review (Green Belt, Metropolitan Open Land, Local Green Space and Other Open Land of Townscape Importance), a review of nature conservation sites, an Urban Design Study, assessments of future needs for housing, retail and leisure, and employment land and premises.

The draft Local Plan, the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal, and other documents and evidence that support the draft Local Plan, are all available on our website.

The consultation is open to everyone. We would like to hear your thoughts and views on the draft Local Plan, and we are particularly keen to hear from our local communities, businesses as well as landowners and other key organisations in the borough. We have produced a response form, containing a number of questions, which we hope will help you in responding.

We will also hold a number of themed virtual events in January 2022, which will explain more about the draft Local Plan and provide an opportunity to discuss topics – more details, including how to register, will be on our website by the end of the year.

Where to view the documents and how to respond by 31 January 2022

The documents can be viewed as follows:

- Read the consultation documents at:

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/draft_local_plan_pre_publication_version and through our Consultation Portal at: <https://richmond-consult.objective.co.uk/kse>

- View the consultation material at the Civic Centre, 44 York Street, Twickenham, TW1 3BZ and in the Borough's main libraries.

Please contact us should you have problems accessing or printing the documents.

You can respond by:

- Completing the **online response form** through our Consultation Portal <https://richmond-consult.objective.co.uk/kse>
- Completing the word or pdf version of the **response form** available from https://www.richmond.gov.uk/draft_local_plan_pre_publication_version and sending it by
 - **email** to LocalPlan@richmond.gov.uk or
 - **post** to Spatial Planning and Design, LB Richmond upon Thames, Civic Centre, 44 York Street, Twickenham, TW1 3BZ

We would prefer all comments to be made electronically. Please note that the **deadline for comments is Monday 31 January 2022**, and responses will not be treated as confidential.

What happens next

Following this consultation, we will consider and analyse all responses received and make changes to the Plan, where appropriate. There will be a further round of public consultation on our final version of the Local Plan (so called 'Publication' or 'Regulation 19' version) later in 2022. This will be the version that we will submit – together with the representations received – to the Secretary of State for independent examination in public. The Local Plan is anticipated to be adopted in Autumn 2024.

PLANNING SOME OF THAT FESTIVE FARE

With predicted shortages of turkey this Christmas, if you haven't already ordered yours, perhaps this is the year to consider other options for your Christmas dinner? Goose, perhaps? Truly delicious and often likened in flavour to beef, goose has dark meat with an intense flavour. It pairs well with apples, cranberries and prunes – and you can be assured of the most fabulous goose fat roast potatoes to accompany it! **Gressingham** (famed for duck) also produces whole oven-ready geese and they're available from leading supermarkets including Sainsbury's, Asda, Tesco and Ocado in three weights, from around £9 per kilo.



A whisky mac had long been my favourite festive fireside tippie, until I discovered **The King's Ginger**. Apparently, King Edward VII's doctor, concerned about the monarch, in 1903 asked Berry Bros & Rudd to create something to warm him – so this lovely gingery, lemony liqueur was born. Today's modern take on this historical tippie is 'Christmas in a glass' as far as I'm concerned. Waitrose and online, at around £20 a 50cl bottle. And nearer to home, The King's Ginger has its winter terrace at **The Mitre Hotel at Hampton Court** for the festive season. It's the second year of collaboration and



you can pop in for a cosy, warming snifter and try some of the delicious cocktails made with the liqueur.



And you'll need a stock of festive fizz! I've recently been very impressed with the **Codorniu Anna Cava**. Codorniu, the oldest family-owned business in Spain, was the first vineyard to produce Cava. I think Cava beats many other sparklings hands down; not just for value, but also for taste. Multi award-winning Codorniu Anna is 70 per cent Chardonnay, and Macbeo, Xaerio and Parellada grapes form the remainder. Delicate bubbles, elegant, citrus notes, and a long finish... this is just £11.99 in Waitrose. It's a great aperitif for any celebration – Christmas or New Year.

I know we tend to associate Stilton with Christmas, but for me, **Parmigiano Reggiano** is the king of cheeses. It pairs beautifully with drinks as an aperitif. Try grating some, put it into little piles on baking parchment and pop into a hot oven for a few minutes. Keep an eye on them; once cooked and cooled the result is a delicious umami crisp that will have you hooked! Parmigiano Reggiano is also the perfect fridge standby – just a few shreds will elevate any dish.



If you're planning a trip up to town to see the Christmas lights and do some festive shopping, then try to visit the Laderach shop in Regent Street (or pop into the branches in Harrods or Westfield). This Swiss chocolatier makes extraordinarily good pralines, truffles and other products; I love the different Christmas figures, such as Santa Claus, and gorgeous Finn the Reindeer, with his creamy hazelnut gianduja filling (£5.90 or £15.90 for 35g or 95g respectively) They're available [online](#) too, with a cut off date of 22/12 for guaranteed Christmas delivery.



Rumble!

by Yasir Senna

Razor Sharp Productions at the Drayton Arms Theatre, South Kensington until 4th December

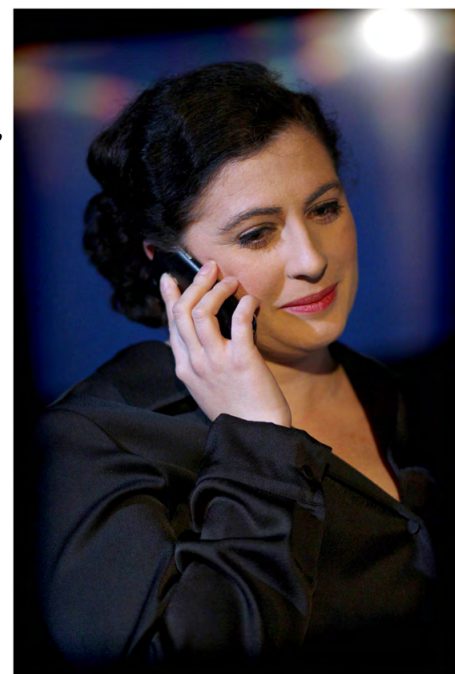
Bijou pub theatres have become very familiar, but this venue really is a delight. On a deceptively large stage for its intimate surroundings, *Rumble!* opens to what could be misconstrued as a dry, corporate piece. However, this is soon thoroughly disproved.

Set in 2009, at a construction firm called Deveraux, Alisha faces the boardroom, and three very hostile directors, after being overshadowed by her boorish manager. The atmosphere is one of doom for Alisha, with written warnings and poor reports, until with concise wit and cunning, she reveals a clever unbricking of a corporate wall.



With a play on a David and Goliath concept, we are taken on the very edge of Alisha being pressured to resign, despite working thankless hours for this company, being cast out of favour for a younger attractive woman.

A good paced plot against red-blooded power, but there was a whiff of overkill, mainly stereotypes such as the 'lunchtime o'booze' director, plus the aggressive director, the sexist dim manager, with a 'dolly bird' culture. I did however, change my view in the interval when I heard audience members exclaim that that would not have happened a mere twelve years ago, but possibly the eighties and early nineties. I silently disagreed, it's quite feasible this kind of corporate bullying still goes on. So in the second half, Alisha continues her dangerous game, taking us with her. The climax being Mr Deveraux himself entering the room.



105 minutes of wonderful theatre and performances, *Rumble!* is a very well written play that unravels a sense of danger and resets a power balance. A charismatic leading role by Claire Monique Martin, made for a powerfully delivered performance. In fact, all the cast were very strong, and the direction was sharp and intense. According to programme notes, Yasir Senna is working on another script – make it soon, please.

Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2021/12/05/rumble

Photography courtesy of Razor Sharp Productions



2.22, A Ghost Story

by Danny Robins

Runaway Entertainment at the Gielgud Theatre, West End until February 2022

“Deer-in-the-headlights moments” were what several reviewers expected of BBC’s young doyen ghost story scriptwriter when his new play, 2.22, *A Ghost Story* premiered last August. In fact it enjoyed weeks of sell-out performances in a record-breaking run. So confident trepidation is understandable when going to the opening of its revival run. However, a very late start and no available programme was a not a good sign for a previously successful West End play. They were not on sale until Wednesday “if I was in the area”.



Finally opening to an effective set of a kitchen cum dining room, the living area half renovated from the previous tenant’s seventies surroundings, things looked promising. Eyes were drawn to the red digital numbers above a glass door into the rest of the house. The eeriness of a baby monitor, a child’s random cry and a back door that often lit up gave an effective ghostly atmosphere. Especially after the terrifying prologue, that made one look forward to a supernatural journey.



A neon red strip around the proscenium arch that crackled at significant times turned out to be the most nail-biting moment; though I felt that we shouldn’t have to be reminded when to be scared.

Giovanna Fletcher as Jenny was convincing as a tired and brittle new mother, but became inaudibly shrill in places. Lauren’s boyfriend (James Buckley) who nursed a grudge against Jenny’s over superior partner (Elliot Cowan) and middle classes in general, became ghost-whisperer. Stephanie Beatriz, who played a guest Lauren, and whom I adored [In The Heights](#), unfortunately came over as dull and badly needed to project. The subtext and tension between the foursome, however, was tangible.

Before the contrived end, and the anticipated digital numbers reaching 2.22, I stopped caring about them and the outcome. After a strong start, it had fallen flat with inconsistent projection. Matthew Dunster’s direction was tight in places, but unfortunately it simply didn’t get there. My nails remained unbitten.

Read Heather Moulson’s review at www.markaspen.com/2021/12/07/2-22-ghost

Photography by Helen Murray (images from premiere)



Loot

by Joe Orton

Teddington Theatre Club at Hampton Hill Theatre until 11th December

Loot is a farce, a black comedy, one in which Orton makes pointed digs at the establishment, whether it's religion, the police, sex, anything related to societal norms. The plot of the play centres around two would-be thieves, Dennis and Hal, who have robbed a bank next door to the undertakers where Dennis works as a hearse driver. Their solution as to what to do with the loot is to hide it in the coffin of Hal's recently deceased mother, whom they stash away in a wardrobe. But as others become involved, an entangled web of lies and deception ensues, as they attempt to keep the body and the money away from a mysterious police Inspector.



The design setting that this dysfunctional group of characters inhabit is the world of the strongly held Catholic beliefs of the dead woman. The set is dominated by two objects, a large period wardrobe and a life-sized coffin resting on a plinth. An inspirational ingredient to this production is the Pearl and Dean cinema adverts projected on the theatre's red proscenium curtains. You feel as if you are sitting in a 1960's cinema waiting for the performance to begin.

The play is full of funny one-liners, and it would be so easy to play them for laughs. None of this cast do. They are all deadly serious and this is why the auditorium is full of appreciative laughter: the audience is not laughing at the characters but at the absurdity of lines they are uttering, full of double standards and innuendo.

Loot, as performed by this gifted group of performers, is not a production to be missed. I left the theatre wishing that its run were longer, so that I could return and enjoy the show all over again. This play needs to be appreciated for its witty insightful commentary on prevailing social attitudes in the sixties and the wonderful characters Orton portrays.

Read Celia Bard's review at www.markaspen.com/2021/12/08/loot/



Photography by Sarah J Carter



Babe, The Sheep-Pig

by Dick King-Smith, adapted by David Wood

Progress Company at Progress Theatre, Reading until 11th December

This is not the 1995 Hollywood spectacular. It is far better. In the film, all the animals were played by ... well animals, supplemented by the voices of real actors and some CGI. Here they were played by real people, wearing beautiful animal masks made by the director Beckie Moir (look out for the cockerel in particular).



The plot of *Babe, The Sheep-Pig* follows the adventures of Babe (Milly Allen), who is won at a fair by the bland Farmer Hogget (Guy Nichols).

There are some great asides from Mrs Hogget (Michelle Appleby) who thinks that he is to be fattened up to provide their Christmas dinner.

He is adopted by the sheepdog Fly (Amelia Sammons) and brought up alongside her pups, who tease him, telling him he's stupid, though we learn in due course that pigs are actually very intelligent animals. Here we have an object lesson in how to treat individuals who are different from community norms. Babe wants to follow in Fly's footsteps and become a sheepdog, except he's a pig!

Although nobody, least of all Fly, believes in him, Babe comes through. Milly Allen does an excellent job in playing the shy nervous piglet who finds his niche, eventually getting invited into the house with Fly and Farmer Hogget, to watch TV- not as Christmas dinner!

Things start to change for him when he encounters the senior ewe Ma (Heather Eley), suffering alone from foot rot. Ma doesn't like dogs, and sees no difference between them and wolves. They become friends and she teaches Babe how to really manage sheep, gaining their trust, rather than intimidating them as Fly does.



Thus Babe becomes a really successful sheep pig, with more help from Fly and the audience, so much so that Farmer Hogget enters him into the televised sheepdog trials. But will he become Fly's successor?

Read Nick Swyft's review at www.markaspen.com/2021/12/09/babe

Photography by Richard Brown

HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU! TRAVEL IN THE TIME OF CORONA

Travel news by Bruce Lyons



Dear traveller with the help of Health Minister Sajid Javed, Xmas just became a lot more affordable! The incredible jungle of Tests to Go, Tests to Come Home, Passenger Locator Forms etc all this has sorted the wheat from the chaff so to speak.

With lower appetite to travel prices are dropping – Our clients are getting late offers at what is usually a very high priced and peak season to travel.

This Christmas and New Year we have seen this week drops up to 25% less than last month – something we never usually see and as long as you book a fully protected ATOL package if there are sudden changes, COVID-19 style;

- You are fully protected & your money is safe.

For our Senior friends I reckon January will be an absolute bonanza get some safe sun under your belt. A good protection for the rest of the winter.

- Always take an insurance as well with Covid protection.

If all this seems confusing just check with us – From what we are Reading & hearing on our news channels, you are more likely to get infected in our crowded towns and cities than in open air and sunny climates of the Canaries or the Red Sea.

- There is plenty of choice too, where travel is OK, though as you read some disciplines need to be followed.

Last week we found a Xmas 7-day Caribbean Cruise at under £1000 – this week Swiss Holidays plummeted as a result of the Swiss sticking a 10-day quarantine but this was removed 2 days later, the damage was done! Take advantage of all this uncertainty, a week or two in the sun will do you the world of good.

- Destinations that are OK for now include The Red Sea, Egypt and Jordan, THE UAE/Maldives and The Oman, Lot of the Caribbean, Mexico and the USA but watch the USA – they need a PCR – negative result within 24 hrs of Travel.

I would be wrong to say there's never been a better time to travel – but it is showing excellent prices and if you have to watch the pennies, this maybe your moment! Check out all the offers with us, you may be in for a nice surprise -as place on your wish list be maybe suddenly affordable, as our overseas friends are anxious to see you – and so are we! We can help with all the protocols, just pop into 58 Church Street for a chat anytime!

www.crusadertravel.com



WIZ Tales: The Ring of Fire - Indonesia

Teresa Read

Indonesia is part of the “Ring of Fire” which includes over seventy-five percent of all the world’s volcanoes. The rim of the Pacific Basin is ringed with volcanoes, from Alaska through the USA, Mexico and South America, then on to New Zealand and up to Japan and Russia.

Mount Semeru, one of Indonesia’s most active volcanoes, erupted last week with over thirty people losing their lives on the island of Java.

The eruption of Mount Tambora, on Indonesia’s Sumbawa Island, in 1815 was the most powerful volcanic eruption in recorded history; 1816 was known as the “Year Without Summer” because of the global climatic effects of the eruption.

In 1883 seventy percent of the volcanic island of Krakatoa - part of the Indonesian archipelago - was destroyed by a volcanic eruption; this caused a tsunami killing over thirty-six thousand people.



Information about Indonesia

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

REMEMBER! THE SIEGE OF GIBRALTAR

By Doug Goodman

No, not The Great Siege of Gibraltar from 1779 to 1783 when Spanish and French land and sea forces tried to take The Rock from us, but the much more recent siege. The Great Siege was lifted on February 7th 1783 when Admiral Howe's forces relieved the garrison under General George Eliot. The Treaty of Utrecht, signed in July 1713 by the belligerents in the Spanish War of Accession, gave Gibraltar to Britain in perpetuity. The treaty was renewed in 1763 in Paris and again in 1783 at Versailles.

The more recent siege ended on December 13th 1982 after the border between Gibraltar and Spain was shut in 1969 by Franco to bring pressure on the territory disputed by Spain. The 13 year blockade caused enormous hardship to the Gibraltarians: fresh produce had to be flown in from the UK or imported from North Africa. A significant number of the workforce employed in Gibraltar could no longer cross the border from La Linea and nearby Spanish towns so workers were brought in from Morocco. Thirty-nine years ago when the border restrictions were lifted by Spain the very first vehicle to cross over was a tourist coach emblazoned with the colours of Thomson Holidays and operated by leading Rock company Parody Tours. Shown on TV news the publicity was superb and I felt very happy as I was head of PR for Thomson at the time.

Spain regularly uses the threat of border closure to pressurize the Governments of Gibraltar and the UK to hold talks on sovereignty. On one occasion, when Santana was booked to play at a sell-out concert on The Rock, the border authorities refused to let the band's trucks pass through. A gift of many VIP seats for the performances solved the dispute.



Rock Steady



The Border Between Gibraltar and Spain



Top of The Rock with Spain in the Background



Spain This Way



100 Ton Gun

St Mary's University

St Mary's Athletes Selected to Represent Team GB at Cross Country Championships

Several athletes and alumni from St Mary's University, Twickenham were among competitors at the British Athletics Cross Country Challenge in Liverpool on the 27th November.



The race also served as a trial for the European Cross Country Championships in Dublin on the 12th of December. In the Men's short course, alumnus Ricky Harvie finished 6th place. Meanwhile, in the Senior Men's Race, alumni Jacob Allen and Ben Bradley finished in 14th and 17th place respectively and current student Alex Ediker finished 9th in the U23s race.

Elsewhere in the Women's Senior and U23s race, alumna Izzy Fry claimed 7th place overall and 2nd in the U23s and fellow alumna Rebecca Murray finished 19th. Meanwhile in the Women's U20s current student Megan Gadsby finished in 14th place.

Three athletes were selected to represent Team GB later this month. Alumnus Jack Rowe secured the top spot to represent the team in Men's Senior race and current student Henry McLuckie who claimed 1st place in the Men's U20s has also been selected. Joining them is alumna Izzy Fry who will represent Team GB in the U23s race.

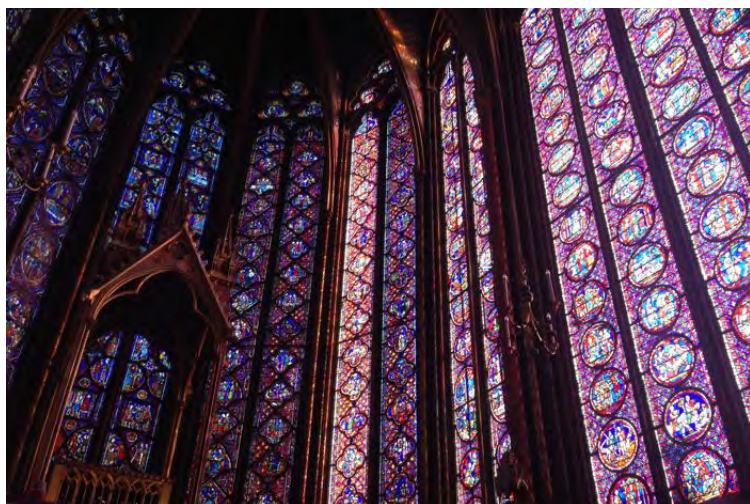
Head of Sports St Mary's Andrew Reid-Smith said, "It is great news to see the EPC alumni athletes being selected to represent GB and the European Cross Country in Dublin. St Mary's coaches and

athletes wish them all the best for next week's champs."

St Mary's Research Professor Wins Award

Professor Chris Keith, Director of the Centre for the Study of Judaism and Christianity in Antiquity (CJCA) at St Mary's University, Twickenham, is the lead editor of a book that has won the Biblical Archaeology Society's Publication Award 2021 for *Best Book Related to the New Testament*.

The award-winning publication is *The Reception of Jesus in the First Three Centuries*, a three-volume reference work published by T&T Clark. The origins for the volume were CJCA's 2016 *Memory and the Jesus Tradition* research conference, hosted at St Mary's.



The collection explores an extensive range of media representations of Jesus in the ancient period, and all traditions are discussed in detail to illustrate how they have developed over time. Prof Keith's co-editors are Helen K. Bond, Christine Jacobi, and Jens Schröter.

Professor Keith said, "This award is testament to the vision of academic leaders at St Mary's who saw the value in our research centre and the ground-breaking work that we and our students do in it."



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Richmond Council prosecutes rogue landlord

Richmond Council wants to assure residents renting in the borough that its Private Sector Housing Team will address and enforce rogue landlords and letting agents.

It recently prosecuted a rogue landlord after receiving a complaint on 4 March 2019 from a tenant living in one of the landlord's flats in Twickenham. The landlord also had an outstanding previous improvement notice for another flat in the same building. Inspections took place just after the complaint was received and several items of disrepair were discovered.

In May 2019, the landlord was served two statutory Improvement Notices and was ordered to begin improvement works no later than the 3 July 2019 and to complete all the works within two weeks from that date.

Compliant inspections then took place in August 2019 and an inspection of one of the flats revealed that the bathroom ceiling had collapsed due to damp plaster, making the only bathroom unusable and creating a dangerous living situation for the tenant and her young son. Similarly, the inspection of the other flat revealed that no improvement works had taken place whatsoever.



The landlord was asked to attend a formal interview under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 in August and was then warned that if the Council did not hear from him in the next seven days, then legal proceedings would begin.

To date, the landlord has not responded to any of the Council's requests. The Council therefore recently took the landlord to court. The landlord has received a substantial fine of over £60,000. Furthermore, the Council has applied for a Rent Repayment Order to claim back all Housing Allowance paid for the last 12 months and the hearing at the Tribunal is scheduled to take place in the New Year.

Cllr Jim Millard, Spokesperson for Housing, said:

“The Council's Private Sector Housing Team works hard to hold landlords and letting agents to account. It's a key part of improving the borough's housing standards and we are pleased with the outcome of this investigation.

“We encourage residents who might be experiencing issues to contact us. Rogue landlords should take notice that the Council will not hesitate to act when it comes to sub-standard housing.”

If you have an issue, you can contact the Private Sector Housing Team on 0208 545 3025 or privatehousing@merton.gov.uk

Covid marshals back on patrol

A small team of COVID-19 marshals are back on patrol in high streets across the borough to help support local people and businesses in the lead up to Christmas.

The aim of the marshals is to help advise local people and businesses on what they can do to help slow the spread of coronavirus.

The COVID marshals will:

- Undertake walks within areas of high footfall, including transport hubs e.g. outside rail and bus stations, in order to help reinforce the importance of adhering to COVID-19 regulations and provide information, guidance and reassurance.
- Visit premises and delivering COVID advice positively, documenting any findings and highlighting any concerns to the Regulatory Services Teams Environmental Protection Team
- Answer queries from residents and businesses regarding COVID-19 guidance and give advice

Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

“As we move closer to Christmas, our high streets are getting a lot busier. Which is great news! Particularly for those businesses who have struggled over the past 18 months.

“We want people to shop local, keeping our high streets open and thriving. But to

do so we must restrict the spread of Coronavirus. Richmond is continuing to top the London league tables for high case numbers. This is having a huge impact on our schools, on people’s health, and of course our businesses. Some businesses really do struggle when their staff are forced to isolate or take sick leave.

“We all have a role to play, and that means wearing face coverings, keeping our distance whenever possible, having the vaccine and of course regularly testing and isolating if we test positive.

“The Government has not ruled out further measures. Therefore, let’s double down and ensure that there isn’t a need for restrictions in the future.”



Council calls for stronger policy to stop sewage leaking into local rivers

Richmond Council has raised serious concerns about the government's voting down of the Duke of Wellington's amendment to the Environment Bill, which would have placed a duty on water companies to stop untreated sewage going into rivers via storm overflows.

A motion, moved by Councillor Julia Neden-Watts and seconded by Councillor Lotte Campanale, was passed at the council meeting on Tuesday 30 November. Councillor Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee, said that untreated sewage causes damage to the environment and can cause harm to individual and public health.

"[With] so many more people than previously taking to our waters for recreational purposes, as we've seen locally on and around the Thames, and with so many efforts and plans being made around the Crane and Beverley Brook to improve river health and biodiversity, our rivers are a vital part of the green and blue infrastructure of our borough. Long-term sewage discharge raises nitrate and phosphate levels, depletes oxygen levels and harms river health. Modern sewage treatment methods do help eliminate phosphates, but this is no use if the sewage is discharged untreated."



[Environment Agency figures](#) show that water companies were responsible for 400,000 discharges of raw sewage into water courses in 2020 - containing untreated human waste, wipes, hygiene and contraceptive products.

The Duke of Wellington's amendment sought to ensure water companies aim to eliminate, rather than reduce, harm caused by untreated sewage and that various agencies use power of enforcement to ensure compliance. MPs voted down the amendment but, after public backlash, later approved an amended version which specified 'progressive reduction', rather than elimination.

Councillor Neden-Watts added: *"This makes light of the scale of raw sewage pumped into our waters and offers no definitive commitment on how and when to bring it to an end. Releases take place to avoid sewage and surface water backing up into homes and businesses, so it's not as simple as just saying 'don't do it'. It's not simple at all.*

"The Duke's amendment referenced the failings of the wider sewerage system, not just the storm overflows, and the need to demonstrate improvement, as well as the role of effective oversight. For now, I fear the situation will continue with legal release of sewage into rivers after heavy rain, and little incentive or requirement to do anything radically different."

As part of its Climate Emergency strategy, Richmond Council has committed to improving and protecting the biodiversity and ecology of the borough's green and blue spaces. [Find out more.](#)



BRENTFORD FC

Bamford denies Bees late on Leeds United 2–2 Brentford

A late goal from Patrick Bamford deep into injury time denied Brentford all three points at Elland Road. They had initially gone a goal down to a strike from Tyler Roberts but the game was turned on its head when Shandon Baptise and Sergi Canós scored to put the Bees ahead, although they were denied late on.

In an entertaining game with two attacking sides there were lots of chances and the first one of note came when Bryan Mbeumo had a shot that was blocked that Canós managed to get onto and look for Vitaly Janelt but at the last minute Junior Fipro was able to make a vital intervention to avert danger.



It was however the away side that opened the scoring in West London through Roberts with just under half an hour played. Leeds broke down the right hand side where Raphina's initial cross was blocked but was then at the second time of asking he got the cross in for Roberts to apply the finish past Álvaro Fernández.

Leeds could have then doubled their lead soon into the second half kicking off when Fernández had to be alert to keep the ball out. A free kick from Raphina found Luke Ayling in the box as Fernández made the save to keep him out, with Mads Roerslev then coming in to make the vital block as Ayling followed in.

Brentford then rallied and scored two goals in the space of seven minutes to turn the game on its head. The equaliser came when a cross from Canós was blocked first time but then Baptise was lurking on the edge of the area to calmly stroke the ball into the bottom corner.

The teams weren't level long though as soon after Brentford scored again to take the lead. So neat passing in the box was rewarded when Mbeumo slipped a pass through for Canós who did well to finish past Illan Meslier at the near post.

Unfortunately for the Bees though they couldn't hang on to the win and they were struck with a sucker punch at the end. With everyone forward, including the goalkeeper Meslier, for a corner the ball was whipped in with pace and Bamford found himself on the end of it to apply the finish from close range and deny Brentford at the death.

Brentford drawn against Port Vale in FA Cup

Brentford will start their 2020/21 FA Cup campaign in the Third Round Proper away to Port Vale.

The tie is due to take place on Saturday 8th January 2022 at Vale Park.

Last season Brentford reached the Fourth Round where they lost 3-1 to Leicester City. Meanwhile Port Vale have progressed through to the Third Round following wins over Accrington Stanley (5-1) and Burton Albion (2-1) respectively.

UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD

Game 1

Opponent: Manchester United (H) Tuesday 14th December 19:30 Brentford Community Stadium

Nickname: The Red Devils

Competition: Premier League – Matchday 17

Opponent record: P15 W7 D3 L5 GF25 GA24 (6th in Premier League)

Manager: Ralf Rangnick (interim)

Interesting fact: Manchester United made history in 1999 by becoming only the second British team to achieve the feat of winning the treble (after Celtic in 1967). They are also the only English club to ever do so.

Hampton & Richmond Borough

Beavers defeated late on

Hampton & Richmond Borough 0 – 1 Hemel Hempstead Town

Hampton & Richmond Borough suffered another setback on Saturday as they continued their recent indifferent form with a defeat to the Beavers. A goal from Craig Fasanmade with just three minutes left to play will have stung the Beavers, especially so late on.

The first key moment of the game came when Alfie Cerulli managed to get a shot away for the away side on the turn that Alan Julian did well to get a hand to and divert it away. Fasanmade then also dragged a shot wide off the post.

After the restart the Beavers came out with a fresh vigour and enthusiasm and started promisingly. Nick Hayes made a brilliant double save and then Charlie Wassmer up from the back couldn't divert a header on target from the resulting corner.

As the game entered the dying embers it was Hemel Hempstead who found the late winner.



Sam Mantom played the ball through to Cerulli to run on, although his shot was saved by Julian, on the rebound Fasanmade made sure it crossed the line to deny the Beavers a share of the spoils.

Transfer activity at the Beveree

Hampton & Richmond Borough have once again been busy in the transfer market with one arrival and one departure during the course of the week.

Fan favourite Sam Cox has left the club by mutual consent, having originally joined the club made in 2019 from Wealdstone.

Speaking to club media about the decision Sam Cox said “It’s been a great few years with this football club, and I leave with a heavy heart with some fantastic memories. It’s been a pleasure to play alongside the players I have in the last four seasons, and to give my all for the Beavers faithful. My only regret is that I didn’t achieve what I set out to do when I arrived and get this club promoted. There’s still plenty of the season left and I wish the club, the fans and the players the very best for the future. Hampton & Richmond Borough Football Club will always have a special place in my heart. Thanks for the memories.”

Manager Gary McCann added “Sam and I have mutually agreed to go our separate ways. “We needed to redress the balance of the squad going forward, as there are areas of improvement required. The departures of Kadell and Sam will allow me to strengthen in areas of need to make us as competitive and as successful as possible and we hope to have one incoming in time for the Braintree game. However, the overriding factor was Sam’s work commitments, which are increasing and Tuesdays have been an issue for a while. I thank him for his committed contribution and wish him well in pastures new.”

Meanwhile it has been confirmed that midfielder Zach Dronfield has returned to the club on loan from Wealdstone, with the loan being for one month until the first week in 2022.

UP NEXT FOR HAMPTON

Opponent: St Albans City (A) Saturday 11th December 15:00 Clarence Park

Nickname: The Saints

Competition: National League South – Matchday 15

Opponent record: P13 W7 D2 L4 GF27 GA18 (7th in National League South)

Manager: Ian Allinson

Interesting fact: When St Albans played Dulwich Hamlet in the FA Cup in 1922 their played Wilfed Minter scored seven goals in an 8-7 defeat which remains the highest tally by a player on the losing side in an FA Cup tie.

RFU Appoints Paul Hull as Head of Professional Game Match Officials

The RFU is pleased to announce that former England international and Premiership Rugby Head Coach, Paul Hull, has been appointed Head of Professional Game Match Officials.

Paul, a full-back during his playing days, was capped four times for England during the 1990s and was a one-club-man appearing in 289 first team games for Bristol before retiring in 1999. He remained at Bristol Bears as Academy Manager and Head Coach and also had a spell as Assistant Coach for England Saxons before moving on from professional rugby. For the past seven years he has been a Citing Officer within the disciplinary team.

In recent years Paul's passion for rugby has seen him take on roles within secondary schools, currently as Director of Rugby and Housemaster at Prior Park College in Bath, a role he has held for more than seven years. He will formally take up his new RFU role at the end of the academic year.

Conor O'Shea, RFU Director of Performance Rugby said: *"We are delighted that Paul will be joining us. Tony Spreadbury left us in an incredibly strong position with a world class panel of professional referees; the challenge for us is to build on that and make them better.*

"We have worked hard with PRL, Tony and others, including Wayne Barnes, to identify the person we believe will move us forward and, in Paul, we feel we have a person steeped in the game, who will understand officiating from a coaching perspective and will challenge the officials in a different way.

"In the short-term Phil Winstanley and I will support Chris White, Steve Leyshon and Gary Welsh and we hope this group will form part of the longer-term strategy of the match officials' technical development when Paul joins us full time at the end of the current season.

"As well as his coaching and playing background Paul has been part of the disciplinary process for a number of years and we believe he will bring a fresh perspective to the officials' group and to the wider game."

Phil Winstanley the Rugby Director at Premiership Rugby said: *"On behalf of everyone at Premiership Rugby, I'd like to acknowledge the fantastic job that Tony Spreadbury has done over the years. He will be greatly missed, but we now move on to a new era.*

"This is one of the most crucial roles in the English game and we need to have someone who can challenge and develop our existing and future match officials. We believe that Paul's background will introduce a new perspective into what is a group of world-class officials and coaches, and we believe that he is the right person to take this group to the next level."

Speaking about his appointment Paul Hull said: *"Although I've been away from the professional game for a time, my involvement and passion for rugby has continued in my role as Housemaster and Director of Rugby at Prior Park College: a role I've thoroughly enjoyed and the decision to leave was tough.*

"Through my work as a Citing Officer, I've got to know many of the match officials and as discussions about the role took place it became clear it was an opportunity I couldn't refuse.

"I am extremely excited to be taking on this new position. I will be joining a talented group of match officials, who are amongst the best in the world. I am very much looking forward to joining them in the summer to see how far these accomplished officials can go as a group and individually."



RFU

Progress with trade negotiations

The Department for International Trade (DIT) has successfully led the delivery of a challenging and intense programme of trade negotiations to a tight timeframe, but it needs to manage potential risks associated with negotiating and implementing multiple trade agreements, according to a new report from the National Audit Office (NAO).

Following the UK's exit from the EU, the UK is responsible for its own international trade policy for the first time in almost 50 years. The UK government is now responsible for negotiating multiple free trade agreements (FTAs) at the same time as developing an independent trade policy, new functions, and capabilities across government. DIT has made significant progress in building its capacity to run multiple trade negotiations. It has increased the number of staff supporting trade negotiations and has worked with other departments to set up effective governance and project management arrangements, develop capability and agree a trade negotiations plan.

Ahead of the EU transition period deadline of 31 December 2020, DIT worked with other departments to successfully transition 33 of the 39 existing EU trade agreements (98.6% by value) that the UK was previously party to, with three further deals agreed during 2021. The transitioned deals include an agreement with Japan which ensured market access for UK and Japanese traders and went further than the existing EU agreement in some areas, including provisions to allow data to flow freely between the two countries.

DIT has also made progress with an intense programme of negotiations with new trade partners. In June 2021, DIT signed an agreement in principle with Australia, and in October 2021 with New Zealand. In 2021 the UK began trade negotiations to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, an FTA between 11 countries around the Pacific Rim. DIT also undertook public consultations on planned negotiations with India, the Gulf Cooperation Council, Canada and Mexico. DIT has also progressed negotiations with the US, a trading relationship representing 16.8% of UK trade in 2020, but the US administration is reviewing its approach to trade policy generally, including with the UK.

However, the speed and intensity of the negotiations puts pressure on resources across government. It also compresses the time available for analysis to support decision making, and for consultation with Parliament, stakeholders and the wider public. 64% of total UK trade is with countries now covered by FTAs (including agreements in principle), against DIT's aim of bringing 80% of trade under FTAs by 2022. By 15 years after implementation the FTAs are projected to contribute between 0 and 0.16% of GDP (0 - £3.4 billion). DIT estimates that the UK's agreement with Japan will add 0.07% (£1.5 billion) to GDP each year. If signed, the UK's agreement with Australia will add up to 0.02% (£500 million) and with the US up to 0.16% (£3.4 billion). FTAs may deliver other benefits such as supporting broader geopolitical objectives or achieving greater global influence on key issues, but these are more difficult to measure.

The success of an FTA depends on DIT and other departments supporting UK exporters to seek new commercial opportunities using these agreements. However, indicative data suggests that UK businesses' use of FTAs may be low. In 2020-21, 24% of DIT's total spend was on supporting exports. In 2021-22, DIT's initial budget for supporting exports was £127 million, 19% of its total budget, and the 2021 Spending Review provided additional funding to improve services for exporters and investors. DIT needs to have the right balance of effort between negotiating new deals and ensuring that secured agreements deliver benefits.

As DIT's programme of trade negotiations progresses to the next stage, the NAO recommends that DIT should bring together its trade strategy in one place. This would help to clarify how the government's international trade ambitions help it achieve domestic and wider policy objectives. DIT should work with other departments to develop a clear plan setting out how it will implement and promote each new FTA. It should also continue to improve the effectiveness of its engagement with businesses, consumers, the public and Parliament.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said: *"The Department for International Trade has built its capacity to lead a challenging and intense programme of trade negotiations to a tight timeframe. It now needs to ensure that the deals it is pursuing deliver real benefits to businesses, consumers and the UK economy. It should provide greater transparency of objectives, make best use of stakeholder views, and ensure there is enough focus on implementing the deals already secured."*



Regulation of private renting

A report by the National Audit Office (NAO) has found that the way private renting is regulated is not effective in ensuring the sector is consistently fair for renters or that housing is safe and secure. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) does not yet have a detailed plan to address the problems that renters face.

There are an estimated 4.4 million privately rented households in England. While most tenants have a good experience of renting, those who do not can end up with serious illness, financial issues, or homelessness. DLUHC aims to ensure the private rented sector is fair for tenants, and to protect them from such harms by setting regulatory laws and policies.

Privately rented properties are less likely to comply with safety requirements than other types of housing, and are more likely to be classified as non-decent. An estimated 13% of private rented homes (589,000 properties) have at least one category 1 hazard - a serious threat to health and safety - with associated costs to the NHS estimated at £340 million per year. This compares with 10% of owner-occupied homes and 5% of social housing. In addition, an estimated 23% of private rented homes are classified as non-decent.



DLUHC has taken a piecemeal approach when introducing legislative changes to protect tenants' rights. In recent years it has introduced changes such as a mandatory redress requirement for letting agency work, a ban on charging letting fees to tenants, and temporary restrictions on evictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, DLUHC does not yet have a strategy for what it wants the regulation of the sector to look like as a whole. DLUHC told the NAO that it is currently defining the strategic objectives of its reform programme.

DLUHC's approach is also limited by gaps in the data showing what problems are occurring and where. DLUHC has some insight into how the sector is working, such as on property conditions and tenants' finances, but it lacks data on key issues where regulatory action may be required. These key issues include harassment, evictions, disrepair that is not being addressed, or on the costs to landlords of complying with obligations. Without this data, DLUHC will also struggle to measure the impact of its interventions. DLUHC told the NAO that it wants to collect better data as part of the planned reforms, but it has not yet developed a plan to improve its data.

Local authorities take different approaches to regulating the sector in their areas, including how they ensure landlords comply with legal obligations. For example, some authorities inspect almost none of their privately rented properties while others inspect a large proportion. There is also little evidence of local authorities making use of certain regulatory tools such as banning orders and penalty notices - only 10 landlords and letting agents having been banned by local authorities since new powers were introduced in 2016. DLUHC has limited data on what tools and approaches are used by local authorities, and therefore cannot meaningfully

analyse which are more effective at improving compliance and protecting tenants.

Tenants face several barriers to enforcing their rights. There are limited redress options (which usually provide a more accessible path than the legal system) for tenants when attempting to resolve disputes. For example, in the social rented sector, all housing providers must be part of an ombudsman scheme which is actively used by tenants to resolve enquiries and complaints. In 2018, DLUHC introduced mandatory redress arrangements for letting agency work, but landlords are not required to be members of a redress scheme.

The system therefore relies heavily on tenants enforcing their own rights. This means that tenants must negotiate with landlords directly or take action through the courts, which can be costly. This also relies on tenants having an awareness of their rights. Surveys estimate that 35% of tenants say that a lack of knowledge of their rights made negotiating with their landlord difficult. Other barriers for tenant when enforcing rights include a lack of recourse to public funds, language barriers and distrust of services.

An estimated 35,000 households live in properties unsuitable for their disability or long-term health condition, and 7% of rented properties were overcrowded in 2019-20 (which doubled to 15% during the COVID-19 pandemic). Some households also experience discrimination, with an estimated 25% of landlords unwilling to let to non-UK passport holders, and 52% unwilling to let to those on housing benefit. DLUHC does not have a sufficient understanding of the causes and impacts of tenant experiences meaning it cannot provide tailored guidance and support to those who need it most.

DLUHC is planning to introduce reforms to the private rented sector, and has committed to produce a white paper in 2022. To support this process, the NAO recommends that DLUHC defines an overall vision and strategy for the regulation of private renting. It should review whether current dispute resolutions arrangements for private renters are appropriate and accessible for all tenants, and improve its understanding of the experiences among private renters to inform how support is targeted at those most in need.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:

“The proportion of private renters living in properties that are unsafe or fail the standards for a decent home is concerning. The government relies on these tenants being able to enforce their own rights, but they face significant barriers to doing so.

“The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities should improve the quality of its data and insight into the private rented sector, so that it can oversee the regulation of the sector more effectively. It should develop a clear strategy to meet its aim of providing a better deal for renters.”

Click here for the [full report](#) and click here for the [PAC Chair's statement](#)



National Audit Office

Data show thousands of elective care operations cancelled, amid crisis in urgent and emergency care

Data from The Royal College of Emergency Medicine's [Winter Flow Project 2021/22](#) reveals that in November 2021 6,726 elective care operations were cancelled and in October 2021 6,335 elective care operations were cancelled.

Dr Adrian Boyle, Vice-President of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, said:

“In its first week of reporting, the Royal College’s Winter Flow project 2021/22 has a stark warning for the months ahead. Nearly 7,000 elective care operations were cancelled at reporting sites in November alone. This data comes as the [National Audit Office](#), in their latest report, predict that the elective care waiting list could reach 12 million by March 2025.

“Data show 12-hour stays are twice as high as the same time last year; four-hour performance remains incredibly low averaging at 62% in November; long hospital stays have increased 13% since the beginning of October. Urgent and Emergency Care is verging on crisis and it is impacting and derailing elective care, meaning surgery for patients with serious conditions is delayed.

“The situation is unsustainable; we must see a willingness to address these crises and tackle the problems. The core of the issue is poor patient flow throughout the hospital and exit block caused by difficulties in discharging patients. These blockages cause ambulance handover delays, crowding and corridor care.

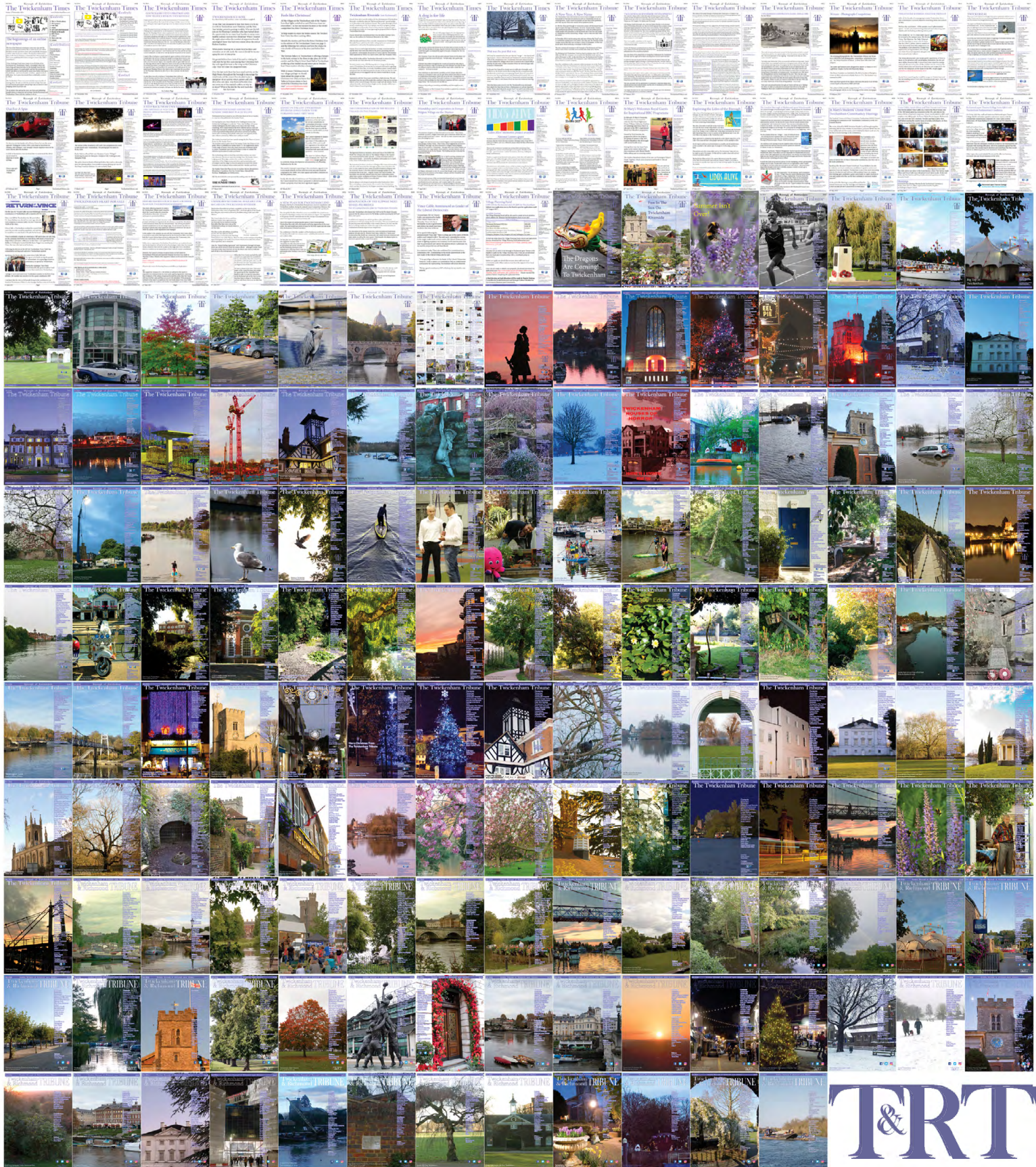
“Capacity must be expanded to avoid a hard-hitting impact on elective care. While it is crucial that social care is resourced to enable a timely and supported discharge of patients. In the long-term, restoring bed capacity to pre-pandemic levels and publishing a long-term workforce plan are vital to ensuring no parts of the system are compromised or derailed; to promoting good flow throughout the system; and keeping patients safe.”

Winter Flow data for November 2021 also show:

- There were 275,596 attendances
- 20,169 patients spent 12 hours or more in an Emergency Department from time of arrival; this is equal to 7.3% of attendances
- 48,154 patients spent seven days or more in hospital from admission

Winter Flow is an annual project run by the Royal College of Emergency Medicine since 2015. It is now in its seventh year. The Winter Flow Project runs from October 2021 to March 2022. Anonymised data from 40 sites across the UK will be published on a weekly basis.

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