

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

Contents

- TickerTape
- TwickerSeal
- COVID-19
- Virginia walks by the river
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee Street Party
- River Crane Sanctuary
- Holocaust Memorial Day & our family
- Hampton North Ward News
- Twickers Foodie Review
- Travel News
- WIZ Tales: Hawaii
- Traveller's Tales
- Football Focus
- Highway Code changes
- Houses of Parliament restoration

Contributors

- TwickerSeal
- Simon Fowler
- Sammi Macqueen
- Councillors Geoffrey Samuel and Kate Howard
- Alison Jee
- Mark Aspen
- Bruce Lyons
- World InfoZone
- Doug Goodman
- St Mary's University
- James Dowden
- Brentford FC
- RFU
- NPL
- Department of Transport
- NAO
- LBRuT

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28th January 2022



River Crane gathering
Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

Richmond bookshop saved

Residents have been extremely concerned at the threatened closure of popular Richmond bookshop *The Open Book*. The closure seemed likely after a planning application was submitted to Richmond Council for change of use to residential accommodation.

However, residents were quick to lodge their objections to the proposal on the planning website. Faced with 470 objections the applicant withdrew the planning application on Wednesday 26th January. You can view the planning application 21/4432/FUL [HERE](#).

Parks Satisfaction Survey results

Richmond Council's Parks Satisfaction Survey has found that 94% of residents are happy with the parks services in the borough.

The Parks Satisfaction Survey takes place every two years and aims to assess overall satisfaction with local parks and highlight any areas for improvement.

The 2021 parks survey found that Council managed Parks and Open Spaces in the borough continue to operate to a high standard with a general satisfaction amongst residents of 94%. Significantly, 97% of respondents rated the ease of access in parks as excellent, good or satisfactory while 91% of respondents said they felt safe in the Council's parks.

The feedback received through the survey also showed respondents' satisfaction with park playgrounds with 95% of respondents providing positive feedback on playground facilities for young residents.

The biennial survey provides Richmond Council with an understanding of what residents would like to see. The survey informs spending on park improvements to reflect the views and lifestyle choices of local residents, current and potential park users.



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TwickerSeal bumped into TwickerDuck on the Diamond jubilee Gardens. They marvelled at the foresight of the previous council administration who established this popular public garden; safe and enclosed, with a town square, playground, community café, public toilets and ... above the flood zone!

TwickerSeal was about to mention the council's planning application to build a huge block of luxury, private flats on top of the gardens, when TwickerDuck interrupted asking if TwickerSeal had heard the wonderful news about The Open Book?

The Richmond bookshop had been threatened with closure following a planning application to change the use to residential. But, faced with 470 objections from residents the applicant withdrew the planning application!

If only the council would heed the many residents objecting to their overdevelopment of Twickenham Riverside, sighed TwickerSeal. The vast majority of residents want the riverside site to be developed and rejuvenated, but object to the ghastly Wharf Lane block of private flats and the effective loss of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens. If the council hadn't been in such a rush to 'Get It Done', they could probably have created a plan, with the Water Lane commercial/residential buildings and a genuine replacement for the DJG, that would have had overwhelming support. But, as we have repeatedly seen, this council doesn't listen!



COVID 19

Teresa Read

World Health Organization

Weekly Epidemiological Update

25 January 2022

Globally, the number of new COVID-19 cases increased in the past week (17-23 January 2022) by 5%, while the number of new deaths remained similar to that reported during the previous week. Across the six WHO regions, over 21 million new cases were reported this week, representing the highest number of weekly cases recorded since the beginning of the pandemic

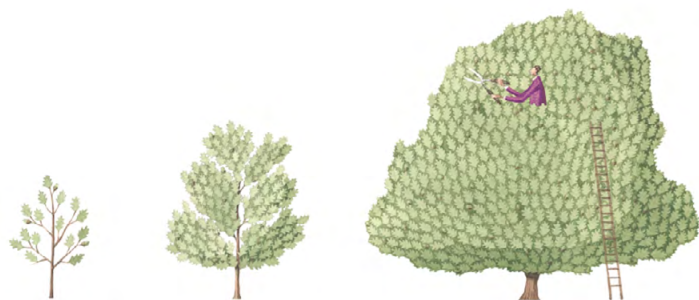
Nearly 50 000 new deaths were also reported. As of 23 January 2022, over 346 million confirmed cases and over 5.5 million deaths have been reported worldwide

A slower increase in case incidence was observed at the global level, with only half of the regions reporting an increase in the number of new weekly cases, as compared to five out of six regions in the previous week. The Eastern Mediterranean Region reported the largest increase in the number of new cases (39%), followed by the South-East Asia Region (36%) and the European Region (13%)

The number of new weekly deaths increased in the South-East Asia Region (44%), the Eastern Mediterranean Region (15%) and the Region of the Americas (7%), while the other Regions all reported declines in new weekly deaths

Local Covid total cases to Friday January 2022

Richmond upon Thames	47,928 (45,759 previous week)
Kingston upon Thames	43,651 (41,950 previous week)
Hounslow	74,093 (71,391 previous week)
Wandsworth	87,141 (84,607 previous week)



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The Tree Agency



COVID IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

The Guardian, 28 January 2022: Lifting England Covid rules while 3bn people unvaccinated reckless - experts

Indian Express, 28 January 2022: Delhi News Live: City sees 4,291 new Covid cases

Sky News: COVID-19, 27 January 2022: Sainsbury's and Waitrose advise shoppers and staff to keep wearing face coverings

South China Morning Post, 27 January 2022: Lifting travel ban would be 'catastrophic' for China: Covid-19 expert

Alarabiya News, 27 January 2022: Germany reports new daily record for Covid-19 infections

Sky News, 26 January 2022: Sir Elton John forced to delay shows after testing positive for coronavirus

BBC, 26 January 2022: Covid: Netherlands to ease restrictions despite rising case numbers

CNBC, 25 January 2022: The next Covid variant will be more contagious than omicron, but the question is whether it will be more deadly, WHO says

Sky News, 24 January 2022: COVID-19 tests for fully vaccinated travellers arriving in England to be scrapped from 11 February

London Informed: COVID vaccine and pregnancy Q&A webinar

An opportunity for pregnant women to ask questions, raise their concerns and receive expert advice on the COVID-19 vaccines.

Together, the NHS, GLA, Association of Directors of Public Health, and Maternity Action are partnering with community organisations across the city to give Londoners who are pregnant, or thinking about being pregnant, the opportunity to ask questions, raise concerns and receive expert advice on the COVID-19 vaccines, booster doses and the Omicron variant.



A panel of senior health experts will share details are holding a webinar on Thursday 3 February at 1pm on Zoom. Answering questions will be:

Nina Khazaezadeh, Deputy Chief Midwife for London

Dr Oge Ilozue, GP and Senior Clinical Advisor, COVID Vaccination Programme

Ayesha Mosin, Maternity Action Trustee

Register to attend COVID vaccine and pregnancy webinar [HERE](#)

Virginia walks by the river

By Simon Fowler

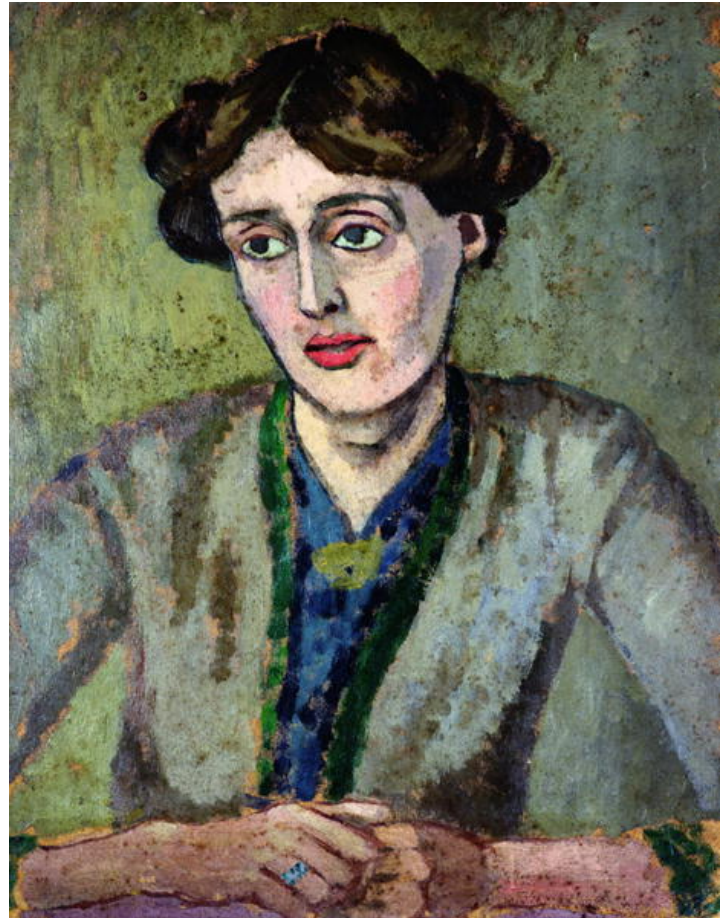
One of Richmond's most famous residents was the writer, Virginia Woolf. She and her husband Leonard lived here through the First World War. Her diary records some of the walks the couple took along the towpath.

On 5 January 1915, she wrote: 'After lunch we took the air in the Old Deer Park and marked by a line of straw how high the river had been and how a great tree had fallen across the towing path, crushing the railing beneath it. Three bodies were seen yesterday swiftly coursing downstream at Teddington. Does the weather prompt suicide?'

A few days later on 9 January she recorded that: 'At two o'clock this morning several barges moored in the river broke loose one crashed into Richmond Bridge & knocked off a good deal of stone from one of the arches ... All this I mention, not because we saw or heard anything of it, but because we noticed the damaged bridge as walked to Kingston this afternoon. The stone is yellower inside than out, which makes it obvious. We had a very good walk. The purplish fields outside Kingston somehow reminded me of Saragossa. There is a foreign look about a town which stands up against the sunset and is approached by a much-trodden footpath across a field...'

And on 3 December: 1915 'We walked along the river in the afternoon when Leonard came back from Staines & came to an old hollow elm tree in the sawdust of which someone we guessed had struck a match. The wind was blowing in & soon the flames were running high. A crowd stopped. The first old gentleman was so positive that I believed him; he said that it was a usual process, done to get rid of an old tree; nothing to marvel at; no question of accident or malice & so he marched on with obvious contentment. The second old gentleman admitted doubts, finally swung round to our view that no one would burn a tree down on the public path, on a Sunday too. Meanwhile the tree burnt rather beautifully.'

Three years later on 23 January 1918: 'I took a walk by myself. I went along the river to Marble Hill. I must retract what I said about the hell of the year. We have glimpses of heaven. So mild that the landing window is open & I sat by the river watching a boat launched & half expected to see buds on the willows. River very high, swift & yellow, testifying to the floods higher up. They say that it's been raining very heavily: I daresay that it has, but such is the civilisation of life in London that I really don't know.'



Virginia Woolf painted in 1917 by Roger Fry. Credit Wikipedia

Apply for your Street Party to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Richmond Council has announced that it has waived the administration fee for street party road closures this summer, to help residents celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

This year the United Kingdom (UK) will mark Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee with a four-day bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June 2022. Buckingham Palace has announced details of the Jubilee celebrations which include a pudding competition, a Service of Thanksgiving, a concert and the lighting of Platinum Jubilee beacons across the UK.



Richmond Council's decision to waive standard street closure fees for May and June will allow residents to close their streets to through-traffic and celebrate the Platinum Jubilee with neighbours, friends and family. The waiving of street party fees applies to residents of residential streets only. The waiving of fees does not apply to traders seeking to close high streets.

Residents will need to plan in plenty of time, applications are now open and will close on 30 April 2022 for anyone wishing to hold a street party over the bank holiday weekend of Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June 2022. Residents should allow between four- and six-weeks' notice for any street party to be approved.

CLlr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

"I am delighted that the Council is taking the opportunity to turn the streets outside our homes into fun and safe spaces. Jubilee street parties will help to bring communities together to celebrate the Queen's incredible 70-year reign.

"Roads can often feel like busy places so I encourage everyone who can to take the chance to replace the usual hustle and bustle of vehicles with the buzz of community spirit!

"Street parties are just the start of the exciting things that will be happening in Richmond upon Thames to celebrate the Jubilee – watch this space! We will be sharing more details in the coming months."

Find out more information about hosting a street party [HERE](#)

Apply to host a Jubilee street party [HERE](#)



Cleo and Patra Egyptian Goslings Woodland Gardens Song Thrush in River Crane Sanctuary Garden

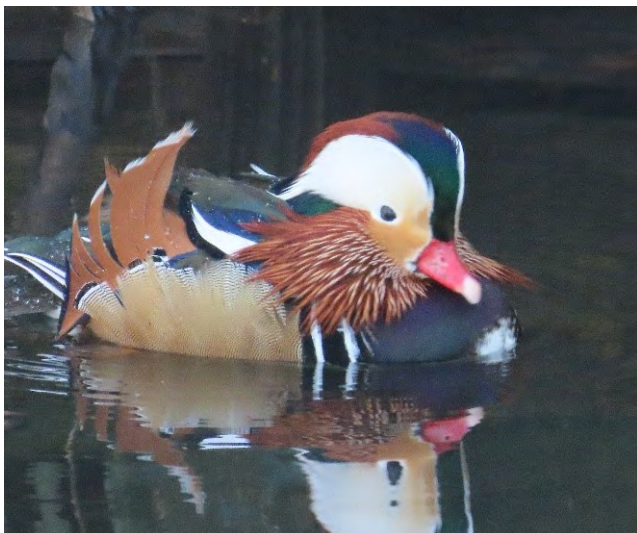
[My5 Go Veggie and Vegan with Matt Tebbutt](#) Gives simple recipes to try delicious meals that help the planet by reducing our reliance on meat and dairy products and thereby encourage food production that is more sustainable and nature friendly. One way we can all help others and maybe even benefit ourselves.

[Don't Look Up](#),” featuring **Rewild Founding Board member Leonardo DiCaprio**, is the number one trending film globally on Netflix. We do not have this but would love to see it sometime and meanwhile we are enjoying ancient TV fantastic programmes like Winterwatch and Blue/Green Planet.

Rewild is: Remembering conservation heroes. “The close of 2021 marked the end of some remarkable lives. We are especially sad to lose biodiversity heroes E.O. Wilson and Tom Lovejoy, who passed away within one day of each other, palaeontologist and conservationist Richard Leakey, and Betty White—who devoted much of her nearly 100 years on this planet to the care and protection of animals.”

“Tom is widely credited with coming up with the term “biodiversity”, derived from “biological diversity”, in the early 1980s, and certainly became one of its major proponents over the years. It was a word that gave focus to all concerned about the vast variety of life on Earth. At the same time, he was one of the earliest scientists to really push the importance of climate change when it was nowhere near the level of popularity and visibility that it has today, and, most importantly, to link biodiversity and climate change, especially through the importance of tropical forests like Amazonia. This could in many ways be considered his most important contribution and led to a growing focus on what today we call “nature-based solutions.”

[Remembering Tom Lovejoy](#)



We are lucky to have beautiful, free public spaces to enjoy nature and engage in wildlife monitoring activities even if we do not have a private garden. So many local groups offer expertise and opportunities to learn and volunteer and all we have to do is join in!

What will you record in RSPB's the [Big Garden Bird watch](#) from 28th – 30th January? Our photos will be on our sites below.

[Website: River Crane Sanctuary](#) [Instagram](#)

One week to get your hero the recognition they deserve in the Community Heroes Awards!

It's your last chance to nominate an inspirational person, group, or business who has helped to make Richmond upon Thames a better place.

The 2021 [Community Heroes Awards](#) is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the people in your local community who go above and beyond to make a difference. There are 10 award categories that you can nominate for:

- Young person achievement
- Trustee of the year
- Business contribution to the community
- Community group of the year
- Community project of the year
- Lifetime achievement
- Outstanding volunteer
- Environmental
- Helping hands
- Communities together

Read the criteria for each category [HERE](#)

If you know someone who you consider to be a hero, submit your nomination by Thursday 3 February 2022. Video nominations are also accepted this year, and more information about how to submit can be found on our website. Nominees will attend an awards ceremony on 23 March 2022.

Cllr Michael Wilson, Vice Chair of Richmond Council's Finance, Policy and Resource Committee and Spokesperson for Communities, Equalities & the Voluntary Sector said:

"We really want to make the 2021 Community Heroes Awards a celebration to remember and so we are looking for as many nominations as possible! We have an abundance of selfless and amazing people in this borough, so let's get nominating to make sure that they are recognised and celebrated!"

For further information about Community Heroes, please email events@richmond.gov.uk or phone 020 8891 7662.



Holocaust Memorial Day & our family

By Bruce Lyons

All week, as in this week over the years, I am reminded of the unspeakable experiences



Of Hedda's family who lived in Belarus – Stolpzy- completely destroyed in 1942. Here you see Hedda's family from a photo taken in 1936. In the top line are her mother's sisters and top right is Uncle Josef who came from Palestine with Moshe his son (bottom right) to visit that year, father and son returned to Palestine and all the other people you see in this photograph all perished when the Jews were murdered in 1942, not before they had to dig their own graves!! Initially the two other children (the baby and the young man- bottom left) escaped as their parents shielded them with their bodies as they were shot into the grave pits- but in the 2nd round up the vulnerable small children just 6 and 10 were captured and murdered.

Josef & his son, Moishe returned to Palestine soon after. In 1939 Hedda's very pregnant mother, went on a perilous journey to visit her sisters, Judith and Johevit In the back middle of the picture but on the way home to Palestine she became stranded in Warsaw and gave birth to Hedda on the 6th of September. Poland was invaded by the Nazis on the 8th & both Mother and Daughter were interned. They were transferred to Berlin and it took them 2 years to reach Palestine in a prisoner swap, after the most exhausting journey by rail and ship. I often think how lucky I have been in meeting and marrying Hedda, who but for the grace of God would never have been here for me!



Hedda and her 3 sisters wrote a book (in Hebrew) "Zipora and Aria Nir – Love Letters and a Love Story" about their lives and their journey. It was an amazing feat with help from many strangers to get them back to Palestine a true testimony of love! Many years later I visited Israel by chance (I stood in for my boss who was unwell at the time) and fell in love with this vibrant young country and it's people – who had made the Desert bloom. When we married we settled here in Twickenham and as I wanted to be part of the story of Israel, I promoted travel to Israel and especially to the Desert. We were the first to fly tourists to Eilat, Israel – on the Red Sea and then later to Egypt - Sharm, Hurghada, Luxor and Cairo.

It was during this time that I learnt about my Grandfather's connection to Palestine- He was a young officer in Allenby's Expeditionary Force that relieved Jerusalem in 1917 and I have etchings of his (he was hung in the Royal Academy) which of course I invited my girlfriend (Have you seen my Grandfather's etchings?) to see.



The harrowing stories we have all been hearing this week of these survivors of the holocaust and their amazing courage in recounting all of their experiences and their lives, reminds us all that we should every day thank God for our lives and offer love and friendship to the many who are less well off.

For many years now I have worked hard to send people on wonderful journeys to the "Land of Milk and Honey" – The Holy land and the amazing Red Sea of Israel/Jordan and Israel as well as adventures' on the Nile and more.

I would be delighted to share my experiences with you on this magical place, peopled by extraordinary Egyptians. Israelis and Jordanians & take you there to experience adventures of your own. You know where I am, Crusader Travel @58 Church Street where I am busy everyday with my daughter Shona where we are busily working on all kinds of travel itineraries near and far including the Middle East, my personal love.

Residents reminded to report graffiti

Richmond Council is encouraging residents to continue to report incidents of graffiti in the borough and not to paint over or try to remove graffiti themselves.

The Council is committed to reducing and removing graffiti. Graffiti is a criminal offence; if you are a victim of graffiti or witness an act of graffiti please report it to the police in the first instance.

Residents should then contact Richmond Council about removing the graffiti and provide additional details. The Council's Street Scene Enforcement Team work closely with the police to share information about graffiti offenders.



Report it online:
www.richmond.gov.uk/report_graffiti

The Council will remove graffiti as long as it is accessible and not higher than three metres within five working days, or within one working day of notification if it is racist or offensive. Graffiti is removed free of charge from private properties and small businesses.

Report graffiti [HERE](#)

Develop your new year idea to improve your local area

Richmond Council and Richmond CVS have launched a new step by step guide called the Project Toolkit which will help residents bring their community project ideas to life.

This guide has been developed to help residents and local groups set up new community projects and enable them to apply for local funding opportunities, including our Local Area Fund. This fund specifically supports community driven projects to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of local communities.

The [Project Toolkit booklet](#) guides residents through the different steps involved in creating a community project and aims to make it easier for residents and local groups to get their projects ready to apply for funding.

If you are interested in applying for funding for your project idea, please visit the [Local Area Fund page](#). Each ward has £10,000 available for community projects. We have already awarded a number of groups with funding to support their projects. Check the previous [Local Area Fund awards](#) page to see how much funding is available in your ward.

Turner's House Trust was awarded £1,000 to create new interpretation panels for their Exhibition Room.

BOROUGH OF TWICKENHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

MONDAY 7th FEBRUARY. DOORS 7.30 TALK STARTS AT 8.00

A TALK BY LOCAL HISTORIAN ALAN WINTER “WANDERING AROUND EAST TWICKENHAM IN POSTCARDS”

ALAN WILL TAKE YOU ON AN ANECDOTAL WALK AROUND EAST TWICKENHAM & ST. MARGARETS USING POSTCARD IMAGES FROM THE LAST 125 YEARS. SEE HOW IT'S ALL CHANGED (OR HASN'T)

AT ST MARYS CHURCH HALL IN CHURCH STREET, TWICKENHAM.
NON-MEMBERS WELCOME - £2.50 OR JOIN UP ON THE NIGHT

All secondary schools in Richmond upon Thames rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted

All eleven secondary schools in Richmond upon Thames are now graded 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted.

This is an improvement from 2018 when three of the borough's secondary schools Requires Improvement' ratings.

Teddington School was one of the borough's schools that recently improved its rating from 'requires improvement' to 'good' after an inspection in November 2021. The school was recognised for its inclusive and supportive classroom environment where pupils enjoy their lessons, feel happy and are safe.

Cllr Penny Frost, Chair of the Education and Children's Services Committee at Richmond Council, said:



“This is a fantastic achievement for the borough's secondary schools. It goes to show how hard working the school leaders and staff members and I want to thank them for going above and beyond to deliver a education to young people in Richmond upon Thames. Well done to everyone involved!”

Ofsted is the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. Its purpose is to make sure that organisations providing education, training and care services in England do so to a high standard for children and students. Ofsted uses four grades – outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate. Inspections usually take place once every four years.

Strawberry Hill House Reopens

We are delighted to reopen our castle doors from this Sunday 30 January 2022.

Booking is open for our revised opening days.

House & Shop: Sunday – Wednesday, 11 – 4. *Final entry one hour before closing*

Garden & Garden Café: Sunday – Thursday: 10am – 4pm.

[Book Now](#)

Following government advice about Covid-19, although legal restrictions are being removed, Strawberry Hill House & Garden are committed to prioritising the safety of our visitors, volunteers and staff. Therefore, we will be asking visitors to please book ahead, with revised time slots to help us stagger numbers entering the House and ensure that social distancing can be maintained.

www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk



STRAWBERRY HILL
House & Garden



Hampton North Ward News

Councillors Geoffrey Samuel and Kate Howard

OUR NEW RESIDENTS

Hampton North Ward was created in time for the local Elections in 2002. Every twenty years the Boundary Commission reviews all the Wards in the country with the aim of ensuring that in any Council the Wards are, as near as possible, of comparable size. Hampton North has been the smallest Ward in the Borough and therefore it was inevitable that additional roads would be added in time for the May 2022 Elections. On that basis there have been transferred to us some houses on the odd side of Broad Lane [the even side is already in the Ward] and Garside Close from Hampton Ward. An earlier proposal to transfer a small number of voters from Fulwell & Hampton Hill Ward has been dropped.

COUNCIL QUESTIONS

We are now awaiting written answers to three local questions which we asked at Council this week. As far as The White House [see also below] is concerned we asked what future plans the Council had for the MUGA: at present it has just become a Covid Test centre but that is a short-term commitment. It is almost certain that The White House will need real financial support from the Council if it is to offer the full range of courses, classes and activities: is the Council prepared to provide it? Finally we raised the issue of car thefts in the ward.

HAMPTON STATION

Residents will remember that some months ago we organised a petition asking for an improved service. There were three main issues: the unreliability of the service, the inadequate provision on Sundays and the lack of a good service from Hampton to Richmond: this is an important issue as residents go to Richmond not just for what the town has to offer but also to access the District and Overland train services. In fact the service has now declined and we are pursuing this on behalf of local residents with both South Western Railway and our GLA Member, Nick Rogers.

BURTONS ROAD

A key meeting of the Transport Committee on 14th February will receive revised proposals from the Council. Early indications suggest that the Council will persevere with the present scheme – including the camera and fines – but, in effect allow some local residents free passage. However they may also propose to extend the current hours. We want to hear your views.

COMMUNITY PROVISION

There is still no decision about the future of The White House. Residents really miss the excellent classes, courses and activities – and the popular café. At the moment the YMCA is doing little more than keep the building open. This is a serious loss. We have supported

All Saints Church on its plans for a new Community Hall which would really benefit the local community and will report to you next month on the current position.

PITCH ON HAMPTON COMMON

Local residents complained of a lack of communication and the premature marking of the pitch. The Council had agreed before Christmas that an explanatory notice would be placed at every entry point. Regrettably this was not done until we reminded the Council. Similarly the pitch was marked out earlier than residents had been told. The Council has confirmed that this is a trial scheme subject to review so we are anxious to hear from local residents whether they are happy with the location and operation of new pitch which, in principle, we support.

SHORTER ITEMS

- We are pleased that the Council rejected an application for a mast outside **80 Broad Lane** as we had requested
- We are supporting a family of five who are living in a **one-bedroom flat** full of mould in the Ward and will be raising this at a public meeting
- We continue to make no progress with the Housing Association Inquilab. They repeatedly fail to deliver on their promises to deal with the rubbish and debris outside one of their houses. We are urging the Council to act
- We have been supporting residents in **Rectory Grove, Hanworth Road** and elsewhere over unfair Parking fines. We have heard of several residents who simply have not received from the Council details of their fine – and thereby incurred a higher charge.
- We were pleased to meet a Director of PA in **Fulmer Close** and discuss with him and residents some of the issues of concern. Parking is already a key issue and there still remains the danger of Council action to reduce parking in the development which will have an adverse effect on residents with cars.
- Residents are pleased that the Council is finally dealing with pavement problems in **Rectory Grove** which we first raised some months ago
- We continue to receive too many complaints about missed waste and recycling collections eg in **Buckingham Road**. Residents are also upset when promises are not kept and ‘catch-up’ collections also missed. There are also too many incidents of fly-tipping – let us know of any problems you experience.

Keep in touch with us by phone or gjshn@btinternet.com: tell us of issues which concern you: we are both here to help

Play:Make:Art at Orleans House Gallery

Have fun exploring art skills and techniques with Orleans House Gallery's new fortnightly Friday morning workshops for 2 to 5-year-olds.

Join artist Abigail Hunt to explore playful and creative environments for early years children and their accompanying adults. Through building, making, playing and investigating you and your child will work together to make and experience images, sculptures, textures, sounds and light.

These workshops have been designed to nurture creativity and curiosity, and support early years skill development in communication, co-ordination and social interaction.

Abigail Hunt is a visual artist and a freelance arts educator, who has been facilitating creative projects and creating resources for families in galleries for over twenty years. She has extensive experience working with the early years age group.

Sessions run from 10.30am to 1pm with last admission at 12.30pm. The spring dates for 2022 are as follows:

- Friday 28 January
- Friday 11 February
- Friday 18 February – Half term
- Friday 25 February
- Friday 11 March
- Friday 25 March



Arts Richmond February Newsletter

Arts Richmond's February Newsletter is packed with lots of events happening in and around Richmond upon Thames, and is available to view now.

Arts Richmond's February Newsletter is packed with lots of events happening in and around Richmond upon Thames, and is available to view now.

Read February newsletter [HERE](#)

You can also follow [@ArtsRichmondUK](#) on Twitter for any other updates.



Data resource published to assess and guide health and care in Richmond upon Thames

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) brings together data and evidence to assess the health, care and wellbeing needs of residents in Richmond upon Thames to make it easier to plan for the provision of services that will address current and future health needs, while reducing inequalities.

Publishing the JSNA is one of the duties of the Richmond Health and Wellbeing Board, from work carried out by Richmond Council's Public Health team.

The information in the JSNA will guide partners in the health and care system in Richmond upon Thames to make decisions regarding spending, planning, and commissioning, all with the overarching aim of improving residents' health and address health inequalities. The JSNA is split into different sub-headings to provide an overview of health and wellbeing across the life course of borough residents.



The subheadings are:

- 'People' which describes the borough's population structure including its demography and how the population is changing
- 'Start well' which covers the borough's under 18 population, including prenatal and postnatal health and the emotional and mental health needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- 'Live well' discusses healthy lifestyle and behaviours, as well as the prevalence and needs of people living with long term health conditions in the borough
- 'Age well' provides a high-level summary on the older population in Richmond upon Thames, and the factors affecting their health, wellbeing, and social care needs
- 'Place' discusses how our environment can affect our health and wellbeing, for example climate change, community safety and modes of travel
- 'Community voice' provides the views of the community on their health and social care needs
- 'Vulnerable groups' looks at vulnerable people in our community, and the factors that affect health and wellbeing of specific groups, including carers and people with learning disabilities

The data in the JSNA is from 2014-2019 and generally predates the COVID-19 pandemic. It provides a baseline that will help to measure the local effects of COVID-19 on health, care, and wellbeing outcomes for residents.

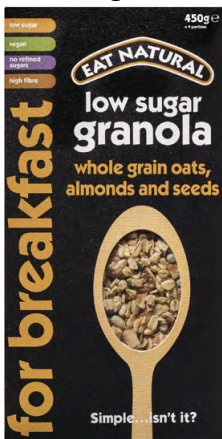
View the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) [HERE](#)

Cllr Piers Allen, Lead member for Adult Social Care and Health and Chair of the Richmond Health and Wellbeing Board, said: *"This is a tremendous piece of work that will help guide and inform our decision making when it comes to improving health for everyone in Richmond upon Thames. It is fundamental that we provide quality health, care and wellbeing services to our residents so that everyone has the best opportunity to start well, live well and age well."*

VEGANUARY FOOD AND DRINK NEWS

Did you go vegan (or at least attempt it) for Veganuary? Perhaps you are exploring the plant based food world? (one that's seen incredible growth in the last year or two) Well, I've been checking out some of the myriad of vegan products now on the market and here is a round up of the better ones.

Breakfast cereals are often vegan anyway, but if you're watching those carbs too, with new **Grandma Crunch** you can enjoy a delicious coconut, cinnamon or cocoa breakfast for under 110 calories per serving. It's keto, plant based and high in protein, as well as gluten, wheat, dairy and preservative free...and will keep hunger at bay, and help energy levels during the morning. Available online from [GrandmaCrunch](https://www.grandmacrunch.com)



Another excellent cereal is **Eat Natural Gluten Free Toasted Muesli** - there are two versions available - one with vine fruit and the other with buckwheat. They have yummy ingredients such as pumpkin and linseeds, almonds, coconut and cinnamon. They're widely available in most supermarkets at £3 a box. **Eat Natural low sugar Granola** is also very tasty and satisfying. (and I've been eating it dry as a snack) But, of course, as with all cereals, it will go perfectly with nut milks or 'co-yo' if you're vegan.

Let's face it, we're in the coldest time of the year, so many of us like a hot breakfast. Porridge has for centuries been one of the breakfast stalwarts and **The Great British Porridge Co.** has just added an exciting new flavour to its range, Apple and Cinnamon - the perfect winter warmer! Available throughout the winter this new Apple & Cinnamon may be just what you're looking for, with its comforting mix of flavours. It contains real apple pieces, with the rest of the sweetness coming naturally from dates. Made from 100% natural ingredients, it's vegan-friendly, high in fibre and contains no added sugar. Best of all, it can be ready in just 60 seconds - just add boiling water or your favourite milk.



And talking of milk, have you tried **Rude Health's** drinks as an alternative? The new organic **Roasted Almond & Oat Drink** combines two of its best-selling dairy-free drinks: creaminess of oats mixed with the delicious, nutty flavour of roasted almonds. It comprises organic oats, organic almonds, natural spring water and sea salt. That's it. And it comes packaged in Rude Health's 100% recyclable carton made from 88% renewable materials. RRP £2 a litre from Waitrose, Ocado or Amazon

Moving on from breakfast ideas, let's look at cheese alternatives... Having tested quite a few recently, I've singled out some, that in my opinion, best pass muster. **Violife** has a wide range of very acceptable non-dairy cheeses. We particularly rated the Greek White, the Smoky Cheddar Flavour slices and the Creamy (which was a pretty good substitute for cream cheese). The Greek white was

good for a Greek salad and the slices were good in a wrap or sandwich. Violife also produces alternatives to cream and butter (Vioblock). Available from most major supermarkets.



Still on cheese alternatives, **Aldi** sells a great value, own-label block of mature 'cheddar' alternative that's pretty good and would probably even hold its own on a regular cheeseboard.



However, very few of the cheese alternatives melt like the real McCoy, but I'm pleased to report that **Ilchester® Vegan Melting Mature** does the job very well indeed in a toasted sandwich! Ilchester also has a range of other cheese alternatives (as well as making some of my favourite real cheeses!)

When it comes to sauces and condiments, many of our much-loved ones are already, in fact, vegan. **Sacla** has added two delicious sauces to its vegan range of pestos and other products: **Tartare and Horseradish**. The horseradish one is delicious with beetroot in a salad, or to garnish a soup. It also



makes for a rather daring dip for parsnip fries, but this is not for the faint-hearted! **Sacla' Vegan Tartare Sauce** adds another level of flavour stirred through mashed sweet potatoes and is a welcome addition to courgette fritters, beer-battered mushrooms and a wonderful dip for chunky potato fries, root vegetable patties and crudités. £2.50 for 180g from major supermarkets



There are numerous 'meat' alternatives on the market - some much better than others. **Squeaky Bean** produces a range of sliced products made from pea protein that are great for sandwiches, salads and recipe inclusion. In particular I rated the **Kick of Tikka** and **Sweet Smoky BBQ** chicken style pieces. They really do taste like chicken, have a great texture and are suitable for all manner of recipes. The company also makes a wide selection of other products - sweet as well as savoury. Available from most major supermarkets.

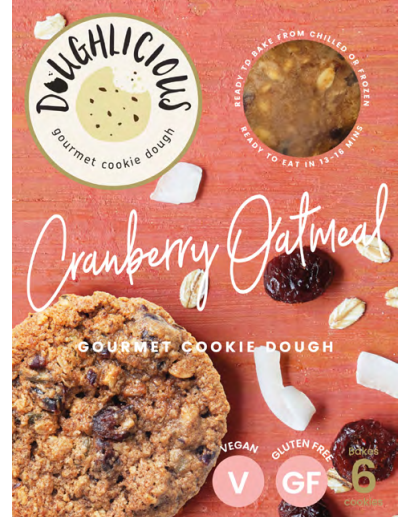
Companies like **Heinz** are also now offering a vegan range, including soups, sauces and excellent vegan mayonnaise and salad cream, but don't forget that one of the most iconic vegan dishes is, of course, original **Heinz baked beans!**

Nut Blend's award-winning butters are a blend of just nuts and a pinch of natural spices - literally nothing else, with no added sugar,



sweeteners, palm oil or salt. The range comprises: Cacao, Cashew & Almond; Maca, Pecan & Almond; Coconut, Macadamia & Almond and Cinnamon, Hazelnut & Almond. Nut Blend varieties are available to buy [online](#) in 200g jars priced at £5.99 or a whopping 1kg jar at £23.99. If you fancy tasting them all before choosing your favourite, there is a [taster pack](#) priced at £22.00 which has all four varieties in 200g jars.

Looking for a vegan biscuit fix that isn't Bourbons? **Doughlicious'** range of ready-to-bake dough is the perfect choice. Choose from Cranberry Oatmeal, Vegan Double Chocolate or Peanut Butter. These are really delicious and so very easy - just bake delicious cookies in 15 minutes (and pretend you made them from scratch!). Buy from the frozen section of Waitrose or www.doughlicious.co.uk RRP £3.99.



And if you're a chocoholic, there are plenty of options for vegans. [Seed & Bean](#), for example, has an excellent range as does [Divine](#) (including hot chocolate) and for those who only like milk chocolate, brands like [Ombar](#) and [Happi Oat](#)



[Milk Chocolate](#) or [Chocolate & Love](#) and [Montezuma's](#) all have great products. Something to consider as well if you're planning a gift for a vegan!

YOU BE CHEF - A TOUCH OF MICHELIN MAGIC!

At the height of lockdown, I tried quite a few different meal kits for home delivery - even one from a Michelin-starred Spanish restaurant for my husband's birthday. On the whole they were very good, but sometimes the portion size was a tad on the mean side. But now I believe I have discovered the ultimate meal kit, a **You Be Chef** menu box from chef Robert Thompson. Robert was head chef at Winteringham Fields in Lincolnshire, with a Michelin star at the tender age of just 23. Now living on the Isle of Wight with his family, this multi award-winning chef runs his own restaurant. The other day I tried his other business venture...You Be Chef. This he runs with colleagues, all Michelin experienced chefs, and being champions of Isle of Wight produce, they've firmly made their mark on the Island's food scene.



My box, with preselected dishes, arrived beautifully packed on a Friday morning. The presentation was superb and everything exuded quality - even down to the specially branded baking parchment sheet and the folder with instruction cards. But that's not enough for You Be Chef - they also make a video each week that details the prep and gives tips on presentation. Reader, this was obviously a seriously professional, and well curated set up! Also, sustainability is at the core of You Be Chef, with notes on recycling and how to dispose of/ reuse the special wool insulation and cold blocks.

Fast forward a day and it was time to prepare our meal. I'm happy to report that it was an absolute doddle, and not only were the results very impressive, but delicious, and the portion sizes very generous. Having watched Robert's short videos detailing the prep, and with the instruction cards to hand, I was able to present a splendid and very tasty meal with a definite sprinkle of Michelin magic! Robert believes food is so much more than just nourishment. Its aroma, colours, aesthetics, flavours, and even its sounds bring pleasure and sparks joy in people's lives.

Our chosen menu included starters of carpaccio of aged grass-fed beef and also a day boat mackerel paté with XO cured mackerel. They were a doddle to prepare: just a question of opening a few packs and squeezing some delicious sauces. Next was our main course: Ballotine of pheasant roasted in Serrano ham. This, too, was so easy - just popping into the oven then warming the accompanying purée and sauce. The ballotines then needed their strings to be removed and sliced into three. Plating up was a cinch. Dessert was a banoffee 'trifle' presented in a lovely glass dish and only needing topping with roasted banana purée and vanilla cream, before sprinkling with the bitter chocolate shards - not exactly difficult, but OMG so good!



So how much does this all cost, you're no doubt thinking? Well, as one would expect to find in a restaurant, the different dishes on the menu are individually priced, so you can choose from that week's selection. Starters from around £12, mains from £19-28 (including accompanying vegetables) and desserts at around £12 compare pretty well with a good pub in fact, let alone a fine dining restaurant. Menus for up to a month ahead are on the website and each week the menu changes, with always a vegetarian option. There are 'extras' too that one can order, including a weekly bake to accompany the meal (such as smoked paprika crackers with citrus hummus and preserved lemon and olive salsa, or perhaps a focaccia with whipped and flavoured butter). And if you are planning a gastronomic blow out, you can add from a selection of other items like a cheese selection, or baked truffle and cheese gougères.

You Be Chef is a wonderful idea if you've booked a weekend cottage or plan a self-catering holiday in the UK this summer. Delivery (£12.95) is on Friday or Saturday and available throughout the UK (do check with them if you are planning a delivery to an offshore or remote address!) But if living or holidaying on the Isle of Wight, collection is also available on a Friday.



With Valentine's Day and Mother's Day on the horizon, this is definitely worth considering for an indulgent gift. **NB:** last date for ordering the [Valentine's special dinner menu](#) is **Sunday February 6** but if you're not in time, visit [youbechef.com](#) where you can buy vouchers.



Aladdin

by Jackie Howting

Edmundians at Cheray Hall, Whitton until 29th January

A full auditorium and Edmundians back in action, however their *Aladdin* was still hit by virus viciousness, hence eleventh-hour stand-ins, but true to the spirit of panto and the enthusiasm and talent of this drama society, the show goes on.



Aladdin is a traditional panto with an atypical twist, the opening scene being in a ski resort (Beijing Winter Olympics?). Its varied, bright and colourful scenery, and lighting designs set the atmosphere, mood and setting. Likewise the Chinese traditional costumes are excellently designed. The parrot's costume is superb ... I wondered how long it took to assemble all those feathers! The music, arranged by 'Wiz' Baker, is slick and the songs and choreography well chosen, and delivered with zest.



Pantomimes performed by Edmundians have a balance between young and adult actors, allowing everyone to enter wholeheartedly into storytelling and fantasy. Aoife Kingsland, who plays Aladdin, although just thirteen is able to portray an older character with confidence. Emily Hill-Kelly as Marigold conveys a strong bond of loyalty to Princess Jasmin, played by the very charming young performer, Mary McGrath, who interprets the role with great sensitivity. Imogen Goddard's Spirit of the Ring has an ethereal presence and seems to float on the stage. Ding a Ling, the parrot, is played by eleven year old Evie Schaapveld.

What is striking about Evie is her ability to play an audience, gesturing when she seeks greater participation. This was an extremely assured performance.

Jackie Howting stepped into the role of the Empress at the very last moment, with an assertive portrayal, conveying the authority of the character. The Genie, played by Kayleigh Easterbrook, looking grand in her costume, is superb. Becky Halden is a splendid Wishee Washee, her timing is faultless, and she engages brilliantly with the audience. Matt Ludbrook as Widow Twankey is just fabulous as the pantomime dame. Matt relishes the role and his not so subtle flirting with Nick Garvey's Vizier is truly priceless. Marc Batten, splendid as the evil Mustavit, is a tour de force. His eyes expressively reveal innermost thoughts, at odds with what he says. I would like to see Marc play the Shakespeare's Iago!!



Read Celia Bard's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/01/25/aladdin-ed

Photography by Jackie Howting

Teachers

by John Godber

Teddington Theatre Club, Hampton Hill Theatre, until 29th January

Three young actors. Countless characters. One stage. A theatre in the round. TTC smashes it! Their comedy *Teachers* seems particularly relevant post-Covid when so many children have had their education severely disrupted, and when the gap between privileged and struggling schools has widened. A frantic play within a play, it depicts three pupils, Gail, Hobby and Salty, along with their newly qualified drama teacher Mr Nixon, attempting to navigate a tortured journey through school life, social policy, bureaucracy, teenage crushes and thuggish bullies.



The trio dominate the stage, addressing the audience directly: 'All we want you to do is use your imagination, because there's only three of us and we all have to play different characters ... and narrators, so you'll have to concentrate!'



In fact Josh Clarke, who plays young Salty, Caroline Gudge (Hobby) and Joanna Taylor (Gail) also have to nail twenty other characters ranging from gushing headmistress and idealistic drama teacher to scary school bully and grumpy caretaker. They gender bend, playing parts of different ages and vastly different personalities, exploring their hang-ups and insecurities.

It's dazzlingly swift paced so we did have to concentrate, relying on minimal props and actors' talents. Fizzing with comic one-liners, the dialogue comes thick and fast, while lively music keeps up the pace. And the backstage crew, led by Mike Elgey, successfully tackled the transformation of Hampton Hill Theatre to build a set in the round and bring all the audience closer to the boisterous action.

As director Asha Gill echoes in her programme notes, drama, thanks to Mr Nixon, could be the saviour for the swearing, smoking low-achievers of Whitewall High comprehensive school in a Special Priority Area: drama, "where we could step out of our shells, be silly, and develop and understand our own identity without fear of ridicule".



Read Gill Martin's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/01/26/teachers

Photography by Jojo Leppink, Handwritten Photography



House of Bernarda

by Margaret Lawless after Federico Garcia Lorca

Putney Theatre Company at the Putney Arts Theatre until 29th January

Several years ago I was in a production of Lorca's *House of Bernarda Alba* and I know the play well. I have always found it a somewhat difficult play to follow, with five daughters vying for the same man's, Johnny's, attention under the jealous and distrustful eye of their mother Bernarda. There always seems to be a tension between making the story really clear and listening to Lorca's evocative and beautiful writing. But this version, entitled *House of Bernarda*, was inspired and fell into none of those traps. The story is simplified slightly by reducing the daughters to four. Angustias, the daughter I played, was omitted, but I recognised many of her lines and motivations in the others.



The adaptation is set in rural USA; as hot, remote and socially divisive, as is the original set in rustic Spain. It keeps faith with the original text, such that there were many lines and references I recognised, and the same arc of storyline. The story, dealing with jealousy, desire and repression translates perfectly to a remote ranch-house, surrounded by American hillbillies who were not considered 'good enough' for Bernarda's long-suffering daughters.

One of the most creative additions to this production was the visualisation of all of the daughter's dreams about Johnny into dance. This was brilliantly conceived and is not in the original where Johnny is a shadowy figure in our imaginations. The dances were beautifully and sensitively performed. Dance says so much more than words, as the play progresses towards its ultimate inevitable tragedy.

PAC has struck gold with committed and truthful performances from everyone, who achieve a really ensemble feel and a sense of the heat and boredom. Director Jerome Joseph Kennedy and everyone involved have created a memorable and honest production. Performed with integrity, it is a story that translates to so many cultures, faiths and communities and it was refreshing to see a version interpreted with such depth.



Read Claire Alexander's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/01/27/house-bernarda

Photography by Cait Hart Dyke

Dear Brutus

by J. M. Barrie

Questors Theatre at The Studio, Ealing until 29th January

‘The fault, dear Brutus, is in ourselves, not in our stars.’ This is the keystone of *Dear Brutus*, by J.M. Barrie. A group of people have been invited to a country house on midsummer’s eve by the mysterious Lob. We learn about the ‘faults in themselves’ and how these have led each to the current state of their lives.

But who is Lob? He knows about the magic wood that appears on midsummer’s eve and the effect it will have on his guests. Magic as an elemental force doesn’t try to fix things. It shows them how things would have been if they had chosen a different path. Is he trying to help or hurt them, or is he merely stirring the pot for his own pleasure? Act Two is set in this wood and shows the consequences of each character’s chosen alternative life.



In the final act, they return to the house one by one, believing that they are who they were in the woods. Their memories slowly return and lessons are learned. Maybe they will change as a result, maybe they won’t, or don’t have to.

The acting and costumes in this production were exemplary, and Questor’s smaller Studio theatre provided an intimate environment that forced the audience to engage with the action, and perhaps reflect. Special mention should go out to Arabella

Jackson, for her portrayal of the deliciously catty mistress Joanna Trout, and to David Hovatter who was very convincing as the disillusioned drunk Will Dearth in the real world, but loving father in the alternative one.

This production is not only very entertaining, it also gives each and every one of us food for thought. Should we blame our misfortunes on things we have little control of, or should we be looking at our own natures?

Read Nick Swyft’s review at www.markaspen.com/2022/01/22/dear-brutus

Photography by Jane Arnold-Foster



TRAVELLER'S TALES 115

EARLY HOLIDAY MEMORIES

Doug Goodman recalls his first holidays

During World War 2 the seas and beaches around Southern and Eastern England were heavily fortified against an expected invasion by German troops. It wasn't until after 1945 when the obstacles had been removed and the land made safe that holiday resorts were opened to visitors. Kent's beaches had been particularly well defended and I can remember cutting my toes on barbed wire in the sand dunes near New Romney when my parent rented a bungalow for annual holidays from 1948 onwards. I still have pieces I collected from a crashed aircraft which was exposed at low tide. It was the perfect spot for a young child to swim and play on the wide sandy beaches and explore the area. The drive from London took many hours in the Morris Eight and the car struggled to climb Wrotham Hill on the A20. Little space in the Morris was available for luggage for the family holiday so a trunk was delivered to Clapham Junction station and collected a day later from New Romney terminus. Watching steam trains on the branch line from Ashford and riding on the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch miniature line was great fun.



Kent Coast Holiday



Ten Year Old Doug With His Brother Roger



Steam Train to Edinburgh

Holidays in North Devon in the early 1950s at Coombe Martin offered great opportunities for paddling, building sand castles and fishing in pools. I can just remember perching on a rock with my brother Roger to be photographed by my father using a box Brownie camera. At age 10 I made my first long-distance journey on a steam train with my mother. We travelled from Kings Cross to Edinburgh on the Flying Scotsman. Seeing the restored and gleaming locomotive in York a year ago brought back happy memories.



To Paris in 1957



Paris by Car



Paris Metro

FRENCH ADVENTURES

My first foreign holiday remains a very memorable experience. We flew from Heathrow to Le Bourget on an Air France Constellation – the aircraft shown in the picture I think. I remember an exotic city with bright lights and brand new cars. The friend of my aunt drove us around Paris in his Renault Dauphine. Memories of the smell of Gauloise cigarettes and garlic in the trains and the wooden metro carriages, where you lifted a catch to open the doors, always come flooding back whenever I return to Paris. At 13 I spent a month on a school exchange in Tournon on the Rhone travelling to and from Wandsworth by train under the care of school prefects. Freedom with the French family allowed me to discover wine, learn French and develop a love for the country. At 14 we had a circular tour of France by car in my parents' Morris Minor covering around 2,000 kms: another holiday which boosted my love of France. At 17 I spent a few weeks in Paris as a waiter and returned a few months later seeking a job only to be caught up in the student riots. I had work as a courier on train trips from London to Milan but only lasted a month as the ridiculous uniform and peaked cap were not for me. The same year I enjoyed my final family holiday when I travelled to Austria with a large group of friends and neighbours. It was a time to visit beer cellars, walk in the mountains and learn German.

In the 1950s and early 1960s foreign holidays were for the rich and famous. I remember talking to parents' friends after a holiday in Ibiza. It sounded so exotic. Package holidays had hardly been invented and a flight on ex-WW2 aircraft took hours to reach Southern France or Northern Spain. Coach was the main form of transport in those early years. Holiday brochures were in their infancy with travel magazines instructing us how to dress abroad, to avoid 'foreign' food and to learn a few words of the local language.



Holiday Magazine
1958



The Rhone



Warsaw Station 1964



Camping in Germany

RUSSIAN ADVENTURE

As part of a language study course I spent many weeks in Leningrad at the State University in 1964. This was an amazing experience of the Soviet system and a shock seeing the food shortages and destruction following the siege of 900 days during the war. I learnt much about the Russian way of life, its history and literature and made friends, with whom I've remained in contact to this day. My first 'real' job at 18 was with the National Union of Students arranging exchange tour between the USSR and Great Britain on behalf of the British Council. Looking back on the responsibility I had of taking a party of 25 British and American students for a month on a cultural tour to the USSR by train, really scares me. This was to be the beginning of a desire to explore the country and 24 visits later that great interest in Russia has not diminished.

Early holiday memories must end in 1969 when we drove to the Austrian Tyrol for a camping trip in a Triumph Herald convertible. It was exciting to discover European towns and cities and to decide where to camp from day to day. Driving on fairly empty motorways with the hood down was exhilarating. I still enjoy exploring the Continent, crossing the Channel by ferry with a car or travelling below the Channel by train. But memories of those early 'pioneering' trips over 60 years ago remain strong.

WIZ TALES - HAWAII

Teresa Read



The islands of Hawaii, a state of the USA, are in Polynesia which covers many islands between Hawaii, New Zealand and Easter Island.

The Hawaiian Islands were created by volcanic activity and today the USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory monitors volcanic activity in Hawaii.

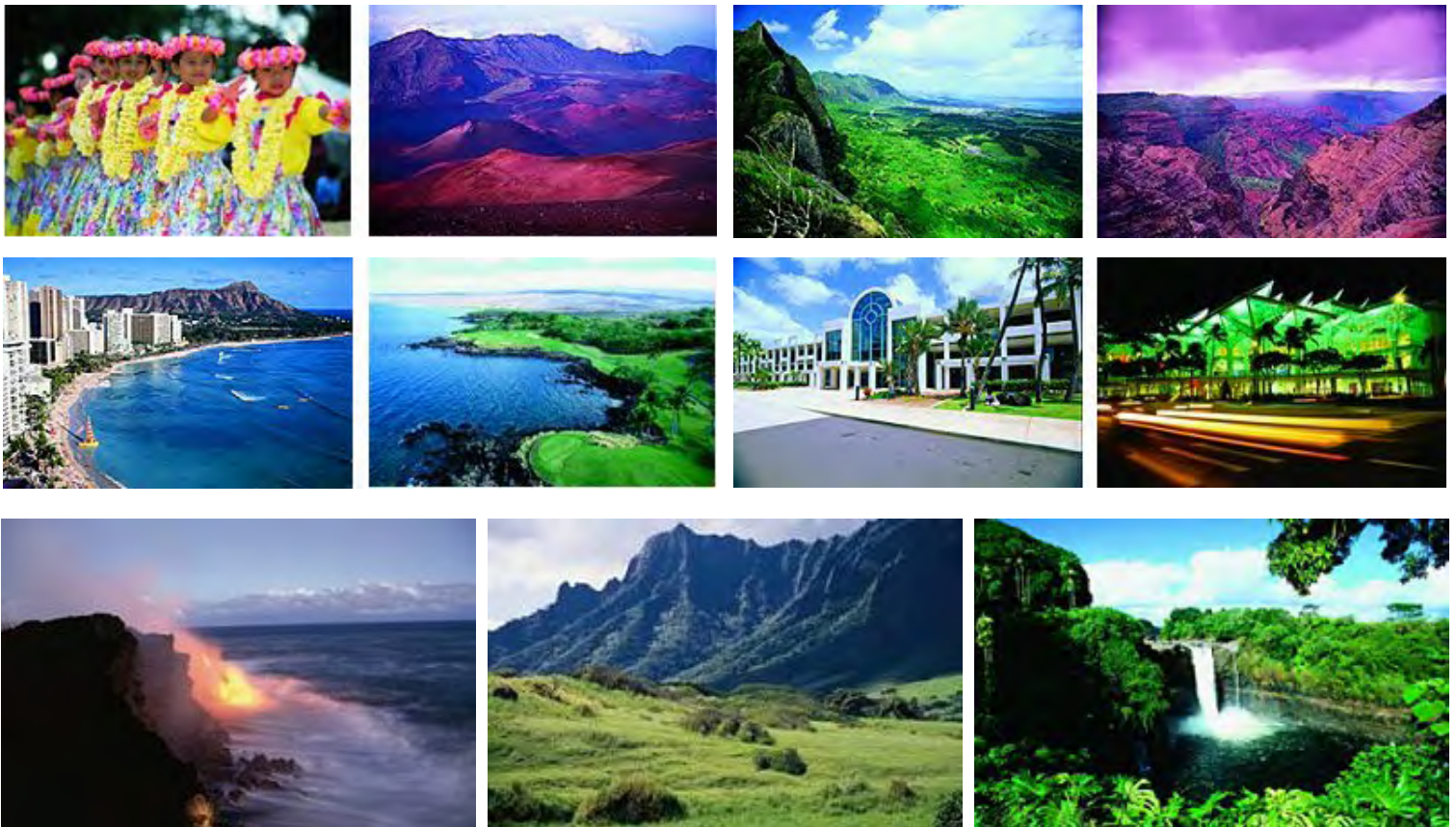
Hawaii's Mauna Loa is the world's largest active volcano and has erupted over thirty times since the mid nineteenth century. Kīlauea on the island of Hawai'i continued to erupt between 1983 to 2018.

Hawaii also experiences earthquakes with the largest recorded earthquake in Hawaii taking place in 1868. This week the Star Advertiser reported that an earthquake magnitude 4.7 was felt off East Maui overnight.

Earthquakes and volcanic activity can cause tsunamis and in January the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai underwater volcano caused tsunamis warnings in Hawaii and the North American Pacific coast.

The biggest tsunami known to affect Hawaii hit Hilo in 1946 killing over one hundred people and causing immense damage.

It is strange to remember that following the undersea quake near Aceh (8.9 on the Richter scale) on 26 December 2004 - resulting in tsunamis affecting Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Thailand, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and the east coast of Africa - there were a flood of questions on the internet asking about tsunamis with some people saying they had never heard of them.



Information about Hawaii

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

Information about Tonga

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

St Mary's University

St Mary's to Host Politics and Society Book Launch Series

St Mary's University, Twickenham is pleased to announce the Politics and Society book launch series which will feature four events across February and March 2022.

[The first event](#) in the series, on the 2nd of February, will celebrate the release of *Christianity and Confucianism: Culture, Faith and Politics* (ix, 635pp; Bloomsbury, 2021), by Visiting Professor Christopher Hancock (Director of Oxford House Research, Ltd). The book is a historical and textual analysis of the cultural, political, and religious interaction between China and the West. Written for the generalist and the specialist, the book tells an extraordinary story of mutual formation and cultural indebtedness over more than 2000 years. At a time of acute East-West tension, Professor Hancock's book is an eirenic study of how China and the West have shaped the mind, heart, culture, philosophy, and politics of the other more than they may want to admit.

Respondent: Lord Stephen Green of Hurstpierpoint, former Conservative Minister of State for Trade and Investment and Group Chairman of HSBC Holdings plc, who is also an Anglican priest.

[The second event](#) in the series on the 16th of March will mark the release of *Land Abandoned to the Sea* by Senior Lecturer Stuart Oliver. The book explores the significant changes affecting the contemporary coast due to climate change and sea-level rise. It explores the social, cultural and political contexts of the process of managed 'coastal realignment', the strategic abandonment of the coast as a means of coping with these changes.

The 23rd of March will see [the launch of *Sailing Free - the saga of Kari the Iclander*](#) by Associate Lecturers of EU Studies Gabriel

Stein and John Nugée. The book explores, through the format of a novel set in 11th Century Iceland, eternal questions such as the rule of law, equality before the law, freedom and freedom of religion.



[The final event](#) on the 30th of March will mark the launch of Lecturer in Politics and International Relations, Dr Andrea Sau's book *A Marxist Theory of Ideology*. The book explores the question of defining ideology from a Marxist perspective. A systematic articulation of a theory of ideology that combines the works of Karl Marx and Antonio Gramsci, as well as adding elements of Pierre Bourdieu's social theory and William James's psychology, this volume will appeal to scholars of social and political theory with interests in political economy and Marxist thought.

Lecturer in Politics and International Relations, Dr Andrea Sau, said "Come and join us to celebrate the works of our esteemed staff at St Mary's University".

All events will be in-person at St Mary's in the Senior Common Room, from 6pm-8:30pm. To book, please visit the [University website](#).



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London



BRENTFORD FC



Bees suffer another defeat at home

Brentford 1 – 2 Wolves

Brentford suffered another defeat as their worrying run of recent form continued with a 2-1 loss at the Brentford Community Stadium against Wolves. In an unusual game which was stopped at one point due to a drone flying over the stadium, João Moutinho gave the away side the lead before Ivan Toney looked to have grabbed a point with twenty minutes to play. However, Wolves secured all three points through Rúben Neves late on.

The first chance of the game fell the way of the home side after good combination play down the left wing. Rico Henry exchanged passes with Toney who then fed the ball inside to the advancing Vitaly Janelt. The German then delivered a teasing pass along the floor towards the back post for Sergi Canós but under pressure from the defender he unable to divert a shot on target.

The game was then stopped with just over half an hour played due to a drone that was spotted circling above the pitch. This then led to the unique phenomenon of their being a total of 19 additional minutes at the end of first half injury time.

In this period the away side had their best attacking chance of the game so far when Fábio Silva latched onto a long through ball over the top from Neves, chested it down and narrowly fired wide of Jonas Lössl's far post.

Wolves then took the lead for the first time in the game with a little of three minutes played on the second half. Patient build up play saw Semedo recycle a pass from Neves and feed Moutinho on the edge of the box. The Portuguese then produced a moment of magic as he curl and strike with the outside of his foot into the back of the net.

Brentford fought back though and levelled up the scores when Kristoffer Ajer was fouled in the first phase. Toti Gomes was initially sent off for the tackle but after a VAR decision the decision was overruled and changed to a yellow card.

Even with eleven men on the pitch for Wolves though it didn't make a difference as they conceded from the subsequent set piece. Mbeumo curled a ball into the area where Toney found himself unmarked to volley the ball home first time and level up the scores.

This wouldn't last long through as Wolves soon after restored their lead. The Bees were guilty of being slow to come out and make the block and Moutinho took full advantage to squeeze a shot past Lössl to turn the game again with ten minutes to play.

Late on Wolves thought they had sealed it with a third when Adam Traore lashed a stop in also at the near post but he was denied by a tight offside decision although it didn't matter as Brentford couldn't find the equaliser in stoppage time.

Bees announce new contracts

Brentford have announced that Head Coach and Assistant Head Coach Brian Reimer have signed contracts that will see them stay at the Brentford Community Stadium until at least the 2024/25 season.

Speaking to club media after the news Brentford FC Director of Football Phil Giles said, “On behalf of everyone at Brentford, I'd like to congratulate Thomas and Brian on their new contracts. First and foremost, they are fantastic people to work with and I'm sure everyone at the Club will be pleased that they have committed to stay with us until 2025.

“They have been integral to the success that we've shared over recent seasons, culminating in achieving our shared target of playing in the Premier League. We want to continue to take Brentford forward, to compete with clubs far bigger than us, and to see how far we can progress. I am sure that we can build on the success that Thomas and Brian have helped deliver along with all of the other staff and players and look forward to what I hope will be a successful conclusion to the season and beyond.”

In a further boost to the club, it was also confirmed that Bryan Mbeumo has signed a contract extension that will see him stay with the club until 2026.

Speaking to club media about the extension Brentford FC Head Coach Thomas Frank said “I am very pleased that Bryan has decided to extend his contract with us. He has been an important player for us since he arrived in 2019. He had a fantastic first season in the Championship and just as good a follow-up year last season, as he developed other parts of his game. His Premier League performances have been even more impressive.

“As everyone knows, Bryan has hit the woodwork seven times this season. Margins have gone against him, but he has given us a lot. He has been a constant threat to our opponents.

“I am also very pleased that we have a chance to maximise Bryan's potential. We are only seeing the start of what he will be able to produce. He has a brilliant future in front of him.”

Hampton & Richmond Borough

Beavers show fight in draw

Dartford 2 – 2 Hampton & Richmond Borough

Up against tough opposition the Beavers played well and goals from Sam Deadfield and Jack McKnight ensured they would be returning from Kent with a point for the afternoon's work.



The Beavers however made a nightmare start and found themselves a goal down within five minutes. A free kick into the box from Jack Jebb for the home side was headed back across goal for striker Jake Robinson to finish.

The home side could have made it two midway through the first half when Kalala got a shot away but he was kept out by a magnificent save from Alan Julian in goal.

They then went even closer when they hit the woodwork through Kieran Murtagh but in a game that swung back and forth the Beavers then punished the miss but scoring moments later.

Jake Gray found Deadfield who levelled up the scoring on his return to the team after suspension.

They were not on level terms for long though as they conceded against shortly after. Once again, they failed to deal with a cross into the box and were duly punished by Robinson again who scored his second of the afternoon.

The Darts could have been out of sight shortly into the second save when Julian parried a shot from distance but the rebound was unable to be converted by any of the players closing in.

The Beavers once again fought their way back to level up one more and this time it came from the penalty spot. Brandon Barzey drew foul from the away side's defence in the box and Jake McKnight then picked up the ball and put it on the spot to equalise.

Barzey was dangerous all game and he crossed from the right to Gary whose shot was saved brilliantly by home goalkeeper Dan Wilks.

Neither side could grab a late winner as both sides came away from their respective afternoon's work with a hard fought point.

Beavers roll over Romans

Hampton & Richmond Borough 4 – 0 Bath City

Hampton & Richmond Borough swept as Bath City on a Tuesday night 4-0. A brace from defender Dean Inman got the Beavers up and running in the first half and then two late goals from Tyrell Miller-Rodney and Zach Robinson rounded off a comprehensive performance and victory.

The Beavers had a huge chance on twenty minutes when Zach Robinson got on the end of a long ball over the top and the young striker then found Sam Deadfield inside who shot narrowly wide.

It didn't prove a consequential miss however as a minute later the home side opened the scoring. It came through the unlikely source of Inman with his first of the season with a corner delivered into the box that he headed into the back of the net.

Before half time it was two and it was once more Inman who scored. It was a case of lighting

striking twice as one more the tall central defender got on the end of a Hampton & Richmond Borough corner to head home to give the Beavers a two goal cushion at the break.

It could have been three though before the interval as they hit the post through David Fisher. The youngster did well to skip inside and curled a shot that came back off the back of the post.

In the second half the Beavers continued to assert their dominance and two goals late on added the cherry on top to the victory. Brandon Barzey who has come in an improved the side in recent weeks won the ball back and then sent Miller-Rodney who scored the third.

The fourth and final of the night then came with eight minutes to play. Robinson got his first league goal for the club since arriving on loan from AFC Wimbledon earlier in the month with a well taken finish past the keeper to cap a perfect night for the Beavers.

Niko Muir departs Beveree

Hampton & Richmond Borough have announced that striker Niko Muir has left the club to join fellow National League South club Billericay Town. The striker made a total of 35 appearances for the club in which he scored 11 goals.

Speaking to club media after the news manager Gary McCann said ““It’s with a heavy heart that we allow Niko to leave. He is a player that I’ve got a real affection for and I’ve worked with for numerous years. There does come a stage when a different voice in a different environment is best to reignite your form and get your career back on track. We wish Niko the best of luck in pastures new.”

Muir himself said “To all the Beavers fans, I thank you for all the support over the past couple of years. I wish each and every one of you all the best in the future. Massive shoutout to the management team, chairman and staff as well. To my teammates you’ve been amazing, good luck with the rest of the season.”

UP NEXT FOR HAMPTON

Game 1

Opponent: Ebbsfleet United (H) Saturday 29th January 15:00 Stonebridge Road

Nickname: The Fleet

Competition: National League South – Matchday 23

Opponent record: P21 W12 D2 L7 GF44 GA33 (4th in National League South)

Manager: Dennis Kutrieb

Game 2

Opponent: Eastbourne Borough (H) Tuesday 1st February 19:45 Beveree Stadium

Nickname: The Sports

Competition: National League South – Matchday 24

Opponent record: P21 W8 D5 L9 GF30 GA43 (12th in National League South)

Manager: Danny Bloor

Premier League confirms updated COVID-19 guidance for match-attending fans

From Brentford FC

Update from the Premier League

Following the Government's easing of COVID-19 'Autumn and Winter Plan B' restrictions, the Premier League can confirm what this will mean for fans attending Premier League matches. In line with the latest Government guidance, COVID passes will no longer be enforced as a condition of entry to a Premier League match. The Premier League and clubs will continue to urge fans to follow public health guidance to keep each other safe on a matchday, including wearing face coverings when indoors or in crowded areas.



As COVID-19 restrictions ease, it is vital supporters continue to do all they can to minimise the risk of passing on COVID-19. There are some simple ways fans can help keep each other safe on a matchday:

- Be responsible and do not travel if you have COVID-19 symptoms
- Wear face coverings in indoor and crowded areas
- Continue to regularly wash your hands
- If possible, take a COVID-19 test on a matchday to check there is no risk of passing on the virus
- The best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 is to get vaccinated

Premier League Chief Executive Richard Masters said: "Fans have shown fantastic support for the measures in place and we thank them for helping keep each other safe and grounds open at full capacity. Despite Government restrictions easing, everyone still has a role to play in making sure people feel safe at our matches. We and our clubs urge supporters to continue to do all they can to follow public health guidance to minimise the risk of passing on COVID-19."

The new matchday protocols for fans will come into effect immediately. The League and clubs will continue to work with Government and local public health authorities to update safety measures in line with the latest guidance.

As a result of these changes, Brentford FC will update its stadium policies and Supporter Code of Conduct. These changes will be shared with supporters next week. The Club thanks all supporters for their cooperation to reduce transmission rates of COVID-19 at our matches.

<https://www.brentfordfc.com/>



England squad update

Jonny May has withdrawn from the England men's squad with a knee injury.

Courtney Lawes is unavailable to train this week as he is undergoing head injury return to play protocols.

Elliot Daly and George Ford have been called up to the squad, while Nick Isiekwe has also joined as injury cover for Lawes. Eddie Jones' side have met today in Brighton to begin training for the Guinness Six Nations.

England's first game is against Scotland in Edinburgh on Saturday 5 February. Following Owen Farrell's withdrawal from the squad, Jones will now name a new team captain ahead of the Calcutta Cup fixture.

England will then travel to Rome to face Italy (Sunday 13 February) before two home games at Twickenham Stadium against Wales (Saturday 26 February) and Ireland (Saturday 12 March). Their final game is in Paris against France on Saturday 19 March.

Latest update

Joe Marler has tested positive for COVID and has withdrawn from the England squad for this week's training camp in Brighton.

After returning a positive lateral flow test on Tuesday morning, he immediately went into isolation.

A subsequent PCR test taken that morning confirmed the result.

All of the other England players and staff have undergone daily lateral flow testing – all of which returned negative results.

The squad will train in Brighton until Friday as they begin their preparations as they prepare for their opening game against Scotland in Edinburgh (Saturday 5 February).



National Physical Laboratory (NPL) welcomes Lee Rowley Minister for Industry at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to Teddington site

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Industry met with NPL scientists to hear about current work in the Health, Environment and Advanced Materials sectors and the applications of this, across UK industry

The National Physical Laboratory (NPL), the UK's National Metrology Institute, welcomed Lee Rowley, UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Industry at the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), to its headquarters in Teddington, south-west London, to meet NPL scientists and engineers and hear about the latest work being conducted across a range of areas and challenges, with virtual attendance from NPL's Huddersfield based team.



In the two-hour visit, Rowley – who is also the Conservative MP for north-east Derbyshire - met with and spoke to NPL scientists and engineers engaged with multiple projects that are driving innovation, providing confidence to industry and making the UK an attractive place to do business.

The projects include:

- **Collaboration with manufacturers and engineers in the north of England** – NPL, via its laboratory at the 3M Buckley Innovation Centre in Huddersfield, help manufacturers and precision engineering firms make better measurements, characterise new and existing materials, and support new technologies, including the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT). NPL identifies appropriate validation methods for components and processes with the aim of increasing efficiency, reducing waste, and improving product quality. NPL also operates a Manufacturer Measurement Network (MMN), which provides the manufacturing sector with frequent events and networking opportunities.
- **Access to expertise for UK start-ups and scale-ups** – NPL's Measurement for Recovery (M4R) programme was developed to help UK companies gain access to the expertise and resources of the UK's measurement science experts, to help them recover and innovate during COVID-19. M4R is funded by the Department for Business, Energy, Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and is a collaboration between NPL and National Measurement System laboratory partners.

- As part of M4R, NPL provided technical support to JET Engineering System Solutions Ltd to develop networks of 5G-connected buoys for monitoring waves and currents at sea. JET's buoys measure and report in-shore wave height and currents for water safety to multiple users, including emergency services and also the general public. JET brought a prototype of the buoy to NPL's site, highlighting how vital the work with NPL has been to get the concept through from design to development.
- **Hydrogen fuel and batteries** – NPL provides research capabilities, measurement standards and quality assurance tools for the production, storage, distribution, and end uses for hydrogen as a future carbon-free fuel source for the transport sector. NPL also supports the development of energy storage technologies such as batteries, helping to build a greener and more sustainable infrastructure to power industry and society in the future.
- **Cancer research** – As part of Cancer Research UK's Grand Challenge scheme, NPL leads a group of British and international multidisciplinary chemists, physicists, and biologists to develop reproducible, standardised methods to more fully and precisely map cancerous tumours as they develop or respond to treatment.
- **Advanced materials** - NPL is continually developing new and enhanced instruments and measurement methods to improve the accuracy and reliability of existing measurement techniques used by science, industry, and academia.

Enabling technologies, such as advanced manufacturing and processing, are also key to achieving our net zero targets. A lack of agreed standards can be a barrier to the uptake of new materials and processes across business and industry. Improved measurement helps organisations better understand and make better use of materials and processes to increase their output and productivity, and also reduce costs and waste.

Lee Rowley, UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Industry at the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) said: "It has been fantastic to see how National Physical Laboratory (NPL) scientists and engineers are innovating in areas including advanced manufacturing materials, battery technology and cancer research. It is just this kind of world-leading research that puts the UK at the forefront of global research and development and shows why we are one of the best places in the world to do business."

Minister Rowley was accompanied during his visit by NPL CEO Dr Peter Thompson FEng, who commented, "I was thrilled to welcome Minister Rowley, Minister for Industry at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to our Teddington laboratories, to show the Minister just a small proportion of the work that is currently being undertaken at NPL. Our scientists and engineers spoke to the Minister about the impact we have delivered for net zero, health and advanced materials, as well as our award winning activities during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure innovative businesses across the UK had access to our world class facilities and experts, with direct economic impact."



Highway Code changes set to take effect this weekend

- Highway Code set to be updated with fresh guidance in boost to road safety
- Government to launch communications campaign ensuring people across the country are aware of how updates will affect them
- Changes will include a hierarchy of road users

Changes to The Highway Code designed to enhance safety for all road-users – particularly those most at risk – are set to come into effect from Saturday 29th January 2022, as the Government continues to build back safer.

If approved by Parliament, a hierarchy of road-users will be introduced this weekend, ensuring quicker or heavier modes of travel have the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger or threat they may pose to others on the road.

Cyclists will also receive fresh guidance to ride in the centre of a lane on quieter roads, in slower-moving traffic and at the approach to junctions in order to make themselves as clearly visible as possible. They'll also be reminded they can ride two abreast – as has always been the case and which can be safer in large groups or with children – but they must be aware of drivers behind them and allow them to overtake if it is safe to do so.



Meanwhile motorists will be encouraged to adopt the so-called «Dutch Reach», opening the door next to them with the opposite hand so they look over their shoulder, meaning they're less likely to injure passing cyclists and pedestrians.

The Government's award-winning THINK! campaign will soon launch a communications drive, backed by over £500,000 in funding, raising awareness of the changes and ensuring road-users across the country understand their responsibilities. The campaign will run across radio and social media channels, with further campaign activity to follow later in the summer.

The new updates are advisory, so non-compliance will not result in a fine.

Roads Minister, Baroness Vere, said:

"I'm proud to say we have some of the safest roads in the world, but I'm determined to make them safer still for everyone.

"These updates to The Highway Code will do just that by bringing the rules into the 21st century, encouraging people to respect and consider the needs of those around them, and ensuring all road-users know the rules of the road."

The Government initially [announced the detail of the incoming updates to The Highway Code](#) to national media last summer. They follow a public consultation where nearly 21,000 people submitted their views, with the majority supporting every single one of the changes coming into force this weekend.

The changes seek to improve the safety of those most at risk on our roads. Everyone has an equal right to use the road, and likewise everyone has a shared responsibility to behave in a safe and considerate manner.

The Department for Transport engaged with key stakeholders while developing the changes, and a Highway Code Communications Working Group has been established, with industry working alongside Government to raise awareness.

The changes will be made to the digital version of The Highway Code this weekend, followed by an update to the printed version which is due to be published in April 2022. Eight of the most significant changes are explained [here](#).

Active Travel Commissioner for England, Chris Boardman, said:

‘It shouldn’t take bravery to cross a road or ride to school with kids but sometimes it feels that way. These changes to the highway code clarify our responsibility to each other and simply reinforce what good road users already do. This refresh does more than offer guidance though, it makes our towns, cities and villages nicer places to live.’

The Government recognises the importance of The Highway Code keeping pace with the way in which people get about as well as with changes to transport infrastructure. For example, the updates recognise new cycle-friendly signals and cycle junctions, so people know how to use modern carriageways. Cyclists are also encouraged to consider training in order to have the skills, knowledge and confidence to ride safely and responsibly on the road. Last year, the Transport Secretary provided £18 million for Bikeability cycle training for children and families.

Emily Cherry, Chief Executive at The Bikeability Trust said:

‘We welcome these changes to the Highway Code because they encourage all road users to share their space, whilst protecting the most vulnerable.’

‘Millions of children in England have been taught how to interact positively with other road users, thanks to Bikeability cycle training. We are pleased the updated Highway Code will now reflect the lessons we already teach children and help the next generation grow up as confident, competent and courteous road users.’

RAC Head of Roads Policy Nicholas Lyes said:

‘These major changes to the Highway Code should make the roads safer for the most vulnerable road users, in particular those walking and cycling, so are to be welcomed. But it’s vitally important that all road users – especially drivers – take the time to fully understand what’s new as some of the changes are a significant departure from what’s gone before. For instance, drivers turning into a road should now give way to any pedestrians waiting to cross.’

As we look towards a net zero future, safer roads will encourage more and more people to travel by foot, bike or public transport, helping reduce congestion and emissions. Improvements to road safety measures will also lead to fewer road traffic collisions, not only saving lives but also the billions of pounds spent every year on dealing with such collisions.

As part of their work to improve road safety even further, the Department for Transport also recently announced [plans to change the laws around using handheld mobile phones while driving](#). They will be made stricter later this year, making virtually any use of them behind the wheel illegal, with those caught breaking the law potentially facing 6 penalty points and a £200 fine.



Department
for Transport

Alarming research from Slater and Gordon shows more than three-

quarters of drivers in London could be at risk of £1,000 fines

Significant changes to the Highway Code are set to be introduced at the end of the month and failure to comply could land motorists with increased fines of up to £1,000. Worryingly, according to recent research from leading consumer legal services company, Slater and Gordon (S+G), more than three-quarters of drivers within London (76%) failed to correctly identify what the new rules were, leaving them at significant risk of prosecution.

The driving law changes, which will be introduced on 29th January 2022, see vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians and cyclists, take priority over vehicle users for the first time. Under the latest changes, drivers will have to give priority to cyclists, pedestrians, motorbike users and horse riders who are waiting to cross a road the driver wishes to turn into.

Additional rules include:

- All traffic must stop for pedestrians waiting to cross;
- Cars indicating to turn left or right must give way to cyclists coming from behind and going straight on;
- Cyclists can ride wherever they feel safest, even if that is in the middle of the road;
- Drivers must wait for cyclists to pass and treat as if the cyclist is a motor vehicle;
- Poor driving decisions are more punishable with local authorities able to prosecute driving in box junctions and failure to give way;

Under the new hierarchy of road users, pedestrians are placed at the top, followed by cyclists, horse riders, motorcyclists and cars. Vans, HGVs and buses find themselves at the bottom of the list.

Alarmingly, S+G research shows that only 55% of people within the city are aware that the rules are changing.

For those aware of the changes, more than two-fifths of London drivers (42%) said they would turn into the road, despite a pedestrian waiting, as they believe it is their right of way, meaning they would be liable in the event of an accident. Almost one in five (16%) believe that under the new rules, pedestrians are to be placed at the bottom of the hierarchy. This however comes as no surprise as 17% admit to not having looked at the Highway Code in at least a decade.

Tracey Benson, Head of Serious Injury at Slater and Gordon, said: “The changes to the Highway Code help to protect all road users by granting the most priority to the most vulnerable users. As pedestrians are more likely to suffer serious injury, they are now placed at the top.”

“The changes together with the fines it is hoped will raise awareness and lead to a decrease in serious injuries and fatalities on our roads. The increased danger comes from a lack of awareness of these significant changes. It is crucial all road users educate themselves about the new hierarchy and how they now need to conduct themselves whilst using the road. Failure to do so could quickly result in a driving ban and significant fines, never mind injuries to other road users. It’s essential to stay up to date with the Highway Code, no matter how long you’ve been driving and not to be complacent.”

Parliament's underground secrets to be examined as small businesses appointed to next stage of restoration work

- Experts will dig boreholes to carry out underground investigations and carry out archaeological digs, look at how best to repair crumbling historic stonework, and inspect asbestos in more detail.
- Suppliers from across the country will carry out in-depth survey work, with two thirds classed as small and medium sized businesses.
- Palace of Westminster investigations are vital to continue developing most detailed record of Parliament ever created ahead of essential restoration programme.

Engineers and construction experts planning the essential work to save the failing Palace of Westminster will soon be unearthing the 150-year-old building's secrets as part of the next stage of detailed and in-depth investigations.

Investigators will carry out dozens of detailed building surveys, looking at historic stonework, digging boreholes to carry out underground examinations, carrying out archaeological digs, and mapping out asbestos in more detail.

Tens of thousands of hours of building surveys have already been carried out as the Houses of Parliament Restoration and Renewal Programme, set up in law to save and restore the building, develops a detailed plan that will for the first time set out costs and timescales for the essential work. Parliament will be invited to approve this detailed plan next year.

In recent months, surveyors have been looking at a range of issues, including crumbling stonework and cracking ceilings. Over the Christmas recess, dozens of experts surveyed hundreds of areas for potential asbestos. Next month, teams will carry out a further 19 studies over Parliament's February recess period.

The next phase will see engineers and surveyors undertaking larger and more in-depth surveys to understand the condition of Parliament in far greater detail than ever before. This work is essential as the restoration programme develops the detailed and costed restoration plan which Parliament will be invited to approve next year.

Experts will dig around 20 boreholes to develop an understanding of the ground conditions at the Palace of Westminster to assist in ongoing design work. Elsewhere, building measuring devices will be installed across Parliament to monitor any structural movement. Specialist teams will continue to inspect the hundreds of miles of power cables, gas, water and heating pipes and sewerage, and further in-depth asbestos surveys will be carried out to build on existing records.

Specialist heritage teams are also getting on with the enormous task of recording and tagging every one of the 13,000 heritage items including furniture, artwork and statues, all of which will need removing and storing in controlled conditions during the programme of work to restore the Palace of Westminster.

Sarah Johnson, CEO of the Houses of Parliament Restoration and Renewal Sponsor Body said: "Our thorough and careful work to map out all the issues that need fixing within the Palace of Westminster is a vital part of the essential restoration of the iconic 150-year-old building."

David Goldstone, CEO of the Houses of Parliament Restoration and Renewal Delivery Authority, said: "Small businesses are at the heart of local economies, bringing growth, and innovation, so I'm delighted to be working with so many from right across the country as we carry out dozens more intensive surveys of the Palace of Westminster. "The hard work of these specialists will be invaluable in developing the detailed plan for Parliament's restoration



and renewal that will for the first time set out the true costs of the work needed to save the building.”

Following a thorough procurement process, 18 businesses have been appointed to a commercial framework agreement, with around £10m of contracts expected this year to investigate the Palace as the detailed restoration plan continues to be developed.

Of the 18 businesses appointed, over two thirds (67%) are small to medium sized, showing the opportunity for firms of all sizes and from across the nation to be involved in the restoration of the Palace of Westminster. In total, there are eight categories where suppliers have been appointed.

The categories are:

Civil Engineering / Structural
Ground Investigations & Geotechnical
Instrumentation & Monitoring
Environmental
Mechanical, Electrical & Public Health
Archaeology
Asbestos Removal
Conservation Contractor

The new framework agreement sets up the next tranche of more detailed and intrusive surveys which are an essential step in the development of a detailed and costed restoration and renewal plan for Palace of Westminster which Parliament will be invited to approve next year.

Despite the dedicated work of Parliament's in-house teams, the building itself is falling apart faster than it can be fixed and needs a programme of essential restoration. The annual cost of maintenance and ongoing projects to keep the building operating continues to increase. Costs have doubled in just three years, to £127m a year – more than £2.5m a week. The National Audit Office recently stated that House authorities expect to spend another £308m on repairs and maintenance by 2025.

Over the summer and autumn of 2021, 50 highly skilled engineers, architectural surveyors, acoustics, lighting specialists and ecologists, spent a combined 4,700 hours visually inspecting the building. In total, 2,343 rooms and spaces were examined, with experts recording thousands of issues including cracks in stonework, widespread water damage, and analysing the complex network of outdated electrical and mechanical systems. Further surveying conducted throughout winter examined lighting levels, building risers and the presence of asbestos.

Throughout 2022 and 2023 hundreds of further in-depth surveys will be carried out, building on tens of thousands of hours of investigations already completed.

Individual survey contracts within the new framework are expected to be announced from March onwards, with building investigators on-site soon after. Every supplier will go through the same rigorous security checks as existing Parliamentary contractors and suppliers.

The 18 successful suppliers scored highly (75%) on a new Government procurement measure aimed at levelling up, that considers the number of local jobs or apprenticeships a contractor will provide, the care they show the environment in their business practices, how they drive equal opportunity and the number of SMEs involved in their wider supply chain. The measure came into effect in January 2021 to promote new jobs and skills, encourage economic growth and prosperity, tackle climate change and level up the UK.

There will be many more opportunities for SMEs to get involved in the Restoration and Renewal programme, which is meeting business groups across the UK as it develops a commercial, procurement and skills development approach.

Restoring the building will create thousands of jobs across the UK, including through an industry-leading apprentice loan scheme that will see around 160 apprentices, including engineers, designers, stonemasons, and carpenters, employed by the organisations overseeing and delivering the restoration of the Palace of Westminster and loaned to UK businesses working on the restoration.



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
RESTORATION & RENEWAL

Financial modelling in government

Government has improved its use of financial modelling in decision making, but significant weaknesses remain, and errors have led to financial losses and delays to critical public programmes, according to the National Audit Office (NAO).

Financial modelling is at the heart of how the government understands its spending, performance and risks, and influences decisions that often have major impacts on people's lives. In recent years departments have used models to plan NHS test and trace services, set allocations for teacher training places, and estimate the cost of the financial settlement when leaving the EU.

Errors in government models have caused significant losses of public money and delays to critical public programmes. Since the completion of the Macpherson Review - which was initiated following the collapse of the West Coast Main Line franchise competition in 2012 - the government has improved the quality of its models. Government has also introduced cross-government functions including the Analysis Function and the Finance Function to provide support to departments.



Although progress has been made, there remain important weaknesses in how government produces and uses models. Departments often rely too heavily on best estimates from models which do not always fully reflect uncertainty and risks. It is also unclear who is ultimately accountable for upholding modelling standards and for driving improvement across government. Without further progress, government plans will continue to be developed with limitations that place public money at risk.

Today's NAO report examines:

- how the responsibility for modelling is organised across government;
- the quality assurance processes across government and how organisations provide assurance that models are fit for use; and
- how uncertainty is assessed, communicated and considered when developing plans.

The NAO has also updated its [Framework to review models](#) document. The framework builds on the NAO's extensive work to audit models across government, and the findings and recommendations from the Financial modelling in government report, which publishes on Thursday. The framework provides a structured approach to review models, which organisations can use to determine whether the modelling outputs they produce are reasonable, robust and have a minimal likelihood of errors being made.

Click here for the [full report](#).



National Audit Office

The decommissioning of the AGR nuclear power stations

The government has entered into new arrangements to decommission seven AGR nuclear power stations. While the arrangements could deliver savings, their success will ultimately depend on the relevant parties working collaboratively to overcome risks, according to the National Audit Office (NAO).

The UK has eight second generation nuclear power stations, accounting for around 16% of UK electricity generation in 2020. Seven of the eight stations are Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors (AGRs), which are all due to stop generating electricity by 2028.

The Nuclear Liabilities Fund (the Fund) was established to meet the costs of decommissioning these eight stations, but significant additional taxpayer support has been required with more likely to be necessary. The UK government has provided a guarantee to underwrite the Fund in the event that its assets are insufficient to meet the total costs of decommissioning. In 2020, government contributed £5.1 billion to strengthen the Fund's position and the Fund has recently requested a further £5.6 billion. The Fund's assets were valued at £14.8 billion at the end of March 2021. The aim is that growth in the Fund's investments will be sufficient to meet the long-term costs of decommissioning (£23.5 billion). However, cost estimates have doubled in real terms since 2004-05. If this upward trend is maintained and investment growth is not sufficient, there is a risk that the taxpayer will have to make further contributions.

In June 2021, the AGR stations' owner EDF Energy (EDFE) agreed to defuel each of the stations in an arrangement that the Department for Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (the Department) estimates could save the taxpayer around £1 billion. Once defueling is completed, ownership of the stations will transfer to the government's Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) for its subsidiary Magnox Ltd to complete the rest of the decommissioning process, which is likely to take several decades.

In 2015, a government review had highlighted concerns about the ability of the existing arrangements with EDFE to incentivise efficient decommissioning of AGR stations. The Department's revised agreement with EDFE in 2021 provides the company with greater clarity about its role, and a commercial incentive to accelerate defueling and transfer stations to Magnox Ltd. EDFE could now earn up to £100 million, or potentially incur penalties up to £100 million, based primarily on performance during defueling.

The rate at which stations can be defueled will impact on overall costs. The estimated cost of defueling could be between £3.1 billion and £8.0 billion. A bottleneck at any point between EDFE removing fuel, and the NDA transporting the fuel to safely store at Sellafield, could have repercussions across the programme. The costs to be borne by the Fund are therefore dependent on how quickly defueling begins once a station stops generating electricity, as well as the rate of defueling. Early unexpected closures of stations may increase costs.

The Department, EDFE and the NDA have taken steps to establish joint arrangements to plan and oversee defueling, which the NAO considers sensible. These arrangements will be tested once defueling accelerates and all parties operate under the revised decommissioning agreements.

Once defueling is complete, the details of exactly what EDFE will transfer to the NDA and Magnox Ltd, when and how, are still to be agreed. There is a history of transfers in the nuclear sector taking longer than expected, and similar risks will need to be managed for the transfer of AGR stations.

The long-term benefits of taking the AGR stations back into public ownership will depend on the ability of Magnox Ltd to deliver efficiencies from combining the AGR stations with its existing portfolio of nuclear stations. There is potential for Magnox Ltd to realise some of these efficiencies from deconstruction work in the years immediately after transfer of the stations. NDA's ability to deliver benefits from combining Magnox and AGR sites will depend on the quality of the plans developed in the years prior to transfer.

Gareth Davies, head of the NAO said:

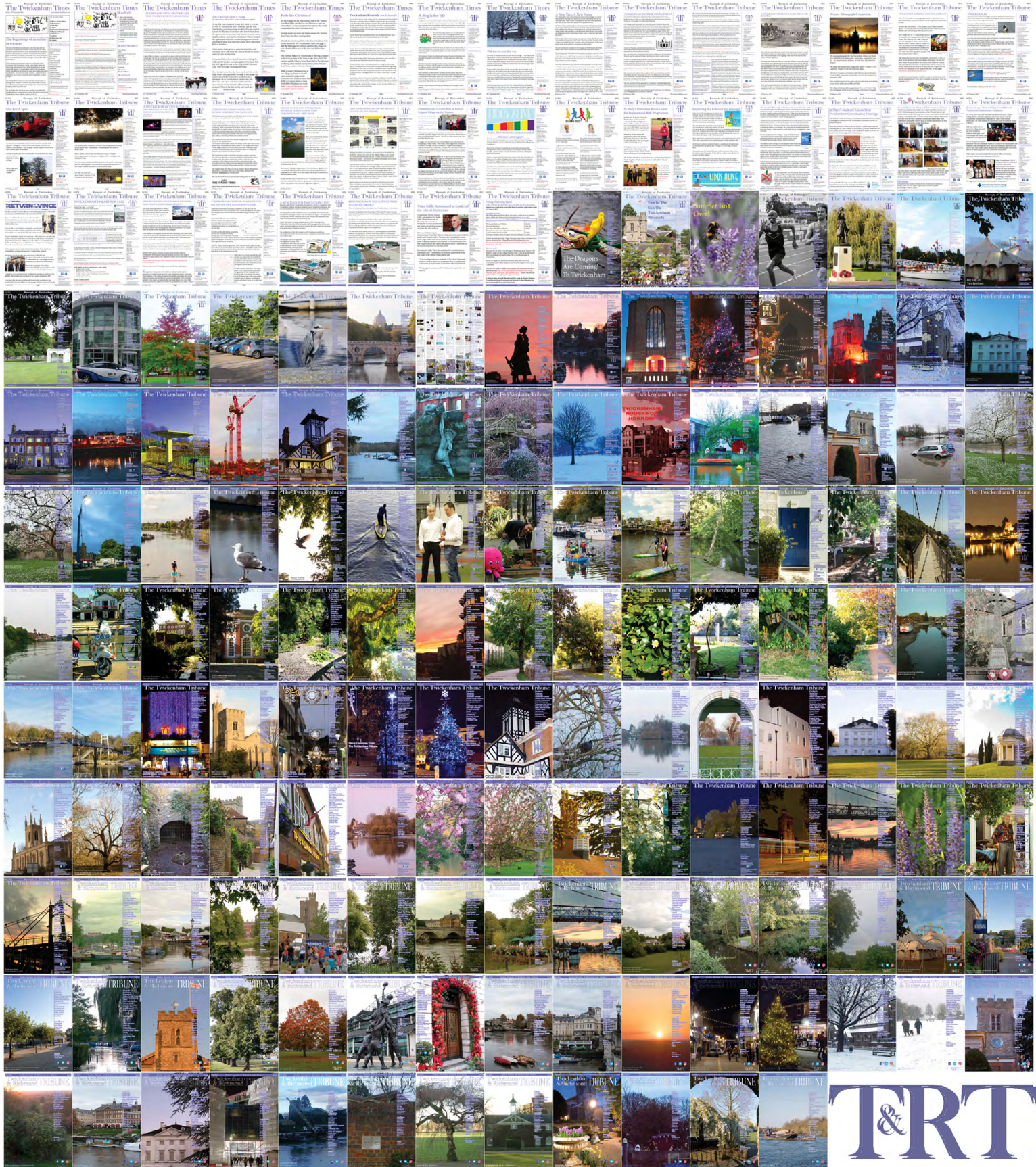
“By providing clarity over the future decommissioning of second-generation nuclear power stations, the government has created incentives to deliver a safe and efficient clean-up. However, many financial risks remain, and if poorly managed costs could escalate. Success will only be achieved if all parties work effectively together.

“Government needs to maintain a clear view of how the nuclear decommissioning programme is performing as a whole, and given the large amounts of public money at stake it must act decisively should performance begin to lag.”



Click here for the [full report](#) and here for the [PAC Chair statement](#).

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