

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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### Editors

Berkley Driscoll  
Teresa Read



12<sup>th</sup> August 2022



Teddington Footbridge  
Photo by Berkley Driscoll





RG. I. PR. . . . . A. AJ. . . . . SS. I. . . . . ST. . . . . SF. I. PR. . . . .  
200.8 1/2 . . . . . 66.92 3/4 . . . . . 20.99 . . . . . 16 1/8 . . . . . 76

# TickerTape - News in Brief

## South Western Railway Disruption

the RMT union has announced that its members will be taking further nationwide strike action on **Thursday 18 to Sunday 21 August**. Please see impacted services below:

### Thursday 18 August

A severely reduced service will operate between 0730 and 1830. Large parts of our network will have no services at all.

### Friday 19 August

First services will start much later than usual and are likely to be very busy, after which a full service will run.

### Saturday 20 August

A severely reduced service will operate between 0730 and 1830. Large parts of our network will have no services at all.

### Sunday 21 August

First services will start much later than usual and are likely to be busy, after which a full Sunday service will run.

If you have to travel, please check our [website](#) for further details.

## TfL Strike Disruption

There is potential strike action taking place this weekend, and into next week.

### Saturday 13 August

No London Overground, Night Overground and minimal to no service on national rail is expected.

### Sunday 14 August

London Overground and national rail services expected to return to a good service by midday.

### Thursday 18, Friday 19 and Saturday 20 August

Further strike action is due to take place that will affect Tube, rail and bus services. Find more info [HERE](#)

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## Weekly Epidemiological Update

Published 10 August 2022, Data as of 7 August 2022

Globally, the number of new weekly cases remained stable during the week of 1 to 7 August 2022, as compared to the previous week, with over 6.9 million new cases reported. The number of new weekly deaths decreased by 9%, with over 14,000 fatalities reported, as compared to the previous week. As of 7 August 2022, 581.8 million confirmed cases and 6.4 million deaths have been reported globally.

At the country level, the highest numbers of new weekly cases were reported from Japan (1,496,968 new cases; +9%), the United States of America (759,806 new cases; -19%), the Republic of Korea (713,078 new cases; +26%), Viet Nam (571,458 new cases), and Türkiye (406,322 new cases). The highest numbers of new weekly deaths were reported from the United States of America (2,764 new deaths; -2%), Brazil (1,445 new deaths; -21%), Italy (1,059 new deaths; -12%), Japan (1,002 new deaths; +53%), and Spain (654 new deaths; +23%).

### European Region

The European Region reported over 1.9 million new cases, a 7% decrease as compared to the previous week. Seven (11%) countries in the Region reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with the highest proportional increases observed in the Republic of Moldova (9,528 vs 5,793 new cases; +64%), the Russian Federation (110,980 vs 69,464 new cases; +60%), and Andorra (285 vs 182 new cases; +57%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Türkiye (406,322 new cases; 481.8 new cases per 100,000), Germany (331,512 new cases; 398.6 new cases per 100,000; -33%), and Italy (283,998 new cases; 476.2 new cases per 100,000; -28%).

Over 4,700 new weekly deaths were reported in the Region, a 15% decrease as compared to the previous week. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Italy (1,059 new deaths; 1.8 new deaths per 100,000; -12%), Spain (654 new deaths; 1.4 new deaths per 100,000; +23%), and France (492 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; -19%).

### IN THE NEWS

Natural History Museum: Pandemic face masks could harm wildlife for years to come

Reuters: Post pandemic Britons still spend more time working from home

New York Times: CDC Eases Covid Guidelines, Noting Virus is "Here to Stay"

Nature: Will 'Centaurus' be the next global coronavirus variant? Indian cases offer clues

NDTV.com India Logs 16,561 New Covid Cases, 49 Deaths, in 24 Hours

Govt Western Australia: WA Health is reporting a total of 2,739 new cases from 6pm 10 August 2022

Kyodo Times: Japan's daily COVID-19 tally hits record 250,000 cases

The Japan Times: Omicron more likely to cause fever in children than previous variants, Japan study shows



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darryl parkin

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*The Tree Agency*

# Ho to the Wells

By Simon Fowler

What better place to be on a hot day than in a shady park, with friends and a little something to refresh the palate. The Georgians excelled in such Pleasure Gardens. The best known was Vauxhall Gardens in south London, a vast complex of walks, music stages, food and drink booths and, for the unwary, cutthroats and prostitutes.

For the proprietors pleasure gardens could be very profitable. And, as a result, they spread rapidly around London. One of the most popular, at least for a while, was the Richmond Wells, which was roughly between the Poppy Factory and Terrace Gardens off Petersham Road.



*Marylebone Gardens was another popular pleasure gardens on the outskirts of London*

It began as a spa where people came to sip the supposedly health-giving properties of a chalybeate spring, that had been discovered during the 1670s. The water had similar properties to Epsom salts. But by 1696 the Wells had become a pleasure garden, open every day during the summer months between May and September. In 1730, the grounds included a pump room, assembly and gaming rooms.

The gardens offered a wide range of entertainments for a discerning audience. In its early days it boasted the presence of John Abell, one of the most prominent singers and composers of the day.

A visitor to the town in 1724 noted that there were balls on Monday and Thursday evenings. And advertisements promised that: 'That there is an extraordinary set of music to play mornings and evenings and on Mondays will be a select band of music from the Opera that perform the most celebrated opera songs accompanied with the harpsichord, French horns, flutes and German flutes.'

Patrons were mixture of affluent men and women who either had escaped from London for the summer months, and those who had just come for the day. Many of whom must have been rowed up from London, for an advertisement in 1705 reassured possible guests that 'The tide of flood begins at 1 o'clock, flows to 5, and ebbs to 12, for the convenience of returning.' And in May 1722 the proprietor was able to boast that 'Stairs at the waterside are new built for the convenience of the company.'

It was gambling which led to Richmond Wells' downfall. In 1730 the gardens were offering 'card-playing and raffling: gold chains and equipages, and, many other curious toys and fine old China, being put up as prizes.' Gradually the fashionable clientele, put off by the loss of respectability, found other places to frequent. By the 1750s it was attracting a noisy and rowdy crowd who disturbed the local inhabitants.

Two sisters Rebecca and Susannah Houblon, who lived almost opposite the Wells, purchased the buildings in 1763 and closed them down – much to the relief of many local residents. No trace of the Wells survives: not even a painting.



# Teddington Tidbits

By 'Teddington Resident'

Due to age and funding challenges, both the Lock Cut and Teddington Suspension Footbridge have deteriorated and need extensive repair. The two Grade II listed footbridges were built between 1887 and 1889 are owned and maintained by Richmond Council.

The **Lock Cut Footbridge** is comprised of a steel truss structure between brick abutments with two main members on either side of the deck and braced with steel sections and a metal troughing deck with an asphalt surface.



The main structure of the **Teddington Suspension Footbridge** is comprised of a series of jointed steel frames carrying the decking and hung from steel rods via main suspension wires that are stretched between two concrete support towers in the river with mass concrete anchorage blocks at each end.

An inspection in December 2019 by AECOM, the appointed Consultant, recommended urgent remedial works to be undertaken and bids were solicited but put on hold when new repairs and design changes were identified. AECOM put together a proposal that has been agreed and they have begun the early work.

Due to the heavy bridge pedestrian flows, it was decided that school summer holidays might be the most suitable window to undertake the construction works. Additional tests, design proposals, various required reviews, approvals and design/check certification pushed the date for issuing the construction package (drawings & spec) to late November 2022 followed by a few more hurdles.

As part of the construction works the suspension and lock cut truss bridges will need to be fully encapsulated to allow for the grit blasting and repainting and this process will require a structural assessment to ensure the safety of the structures.

In summary, Nick O'Donnell, Richmond Council project lead, explained that this extremely complex and challenging refurbishment package remains heavily dependent on and at risk from third party approvals and numerous hurdles to achieving this timeframe. Once there is a clearer position on a confirmed contractor and programme for works, the council will ensure there is adequate consultation with all local businesses and residents.

Specific questions answered by the council:

- When are repairs scheduled to be made?  
*Provisionally next summer.*
- How long would the bridge be closed?  
*TBC re: the winning contractor bid in early 2023.*
- What are the numbers of school children and non-school attendees who use the bridge in a month?  
*Further surveys planned in the Summer and Autumn.*
- Are there any plans to install a temporary bridge or are people expected to hike to Kingston or Richmond if they need/want to get to the other side of the river?  
*TBC as this remains a key issue to be reviewed.*
- Will the public be advised and/or consulted and if so, when will the plans be published – and importantly, how will people be notified?  
*There is a statutory duty to consult so of course people will be notified. Plans will be published next year.... and we will therefore update when there are firmer details and a confirmed programme for works.*



# Statement from The Royal Parks on managing the parks in the heatwave

Tom Jarvis, Director of Parks, The Royal Parks charity, said: “As we head into the second heatwave of the summer, The Royal Parks continues to provide a welcome refuge for the capital’s residents.

“This is particularly important for those people who don’t have any access to outdoor space. The thousands of trees in the parks provide vital shade, cooling the atmosphere by several degrees, helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change. And the environment continues to provide a vital habitat for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife during this challenging summer.

“It is our duty to sustain the health of the parks, and the ecosystems they support, during this prolonged period of drought. So, we must continue to water vulnerable plants and trees to ensure they survive the extreme stress they are facing. We are prioritising watering to where it is essential for the health of the parks, spot watering newly-planted trees and shrubs, and those showing signs of extreme stress, alongside establishing turf, and floral displays, which are so valuable to insects and pollinators. Unusually this year we are also having to water some of our older, more established trees which are suffering under the strain of the drought.



“The water we use is predominantly drawn from our boreholes and waterbodies, and mains water use is restricted to essential use and only where alternative sources aren’t available. Where possible we’ll water when it’s cooler – either early morning or late evening, or even overnight, ensuring watering is targeted and carefully managed to deliver maximum benefit.

“Longer-term we will be planning to develop and build the natural resilience of the landscape within the parks, increasing the coverage of meadows - which are more resistant to hot weather, enhancing biodiversity, planting tree species which are more resilient to drought, and strengthening the ecosystems within the parks to better withstand climatic stresses.”





Dear Tribune,

**Do we feel safe?**

How strange a coincidence it is that, yesterday, two of the concerns about which I have written many times to the Tribune and to Richmond Council were validated by leading figures in public office.

Last week, I wrote about the lack of visible policing on our streets and some of their failures to deal properly with victims' concerns. (see Tribune #300, 5.8.2022)

Only yesterday, Andy Cooke, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, stated that burglary, robbery and theft victims are being failed by police and called for improvement:

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-62491194.amp](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-62491194.amp)

And the new Chief Constable at Greater Manchester Police also has plans:

[www.gmp.police.uk/news/greater-manchester/news/news/2021/september/chief-constable-stephen-watson-unveils-plan-for-the-future-of-gmp-and-announces-promises-to-the-public/](http://www.gmp.police.uk/news/greater-manchester/news/news/2021/september/chief-constable-stephen-watson-unveils-plan-for-the-future-of-gmp-and-announces-promises-to-the-public/)

On 27 January 2022, it was reported that police are solving the lowest proportion of crimes ever, even as the number of sex offences soars, with just six per cent of all crimes resulting in a charge in the year to September 2021 (Home Office figures).

Also yesterday, Westminster Council announced that they will be taking action about the number of electric bikes dumped dangerously on their streets:

[www.westminster.gov.uk/news/council-seizes-dockless-bikes-blocking-pavements](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/news/council-seizes-dockless-bikes-blocking-pavements)

And not only Westminster, because other cities are having similar problems and rethinking their strategies:

[www.france24.com/en/europe/20210630-france-to-crack-down-on-e-scooters-after-two-riders-knock-down-and-kill-woman](http://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210630-france-to-crack-down-on-e-scooters-after-two-riders-knock-down-and-kill-woman)

Our Council merely passes the buck to the police who have twice refused to do anything about the problem. In any case, our police are invisible.

But while other cities have finally got the message and are taking action to try to keep their residents safe, Richmond appears to be doing nothing.

Why?

Michael Jay,  
Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.  
Hampton.



# Crane Park meadows are struggling

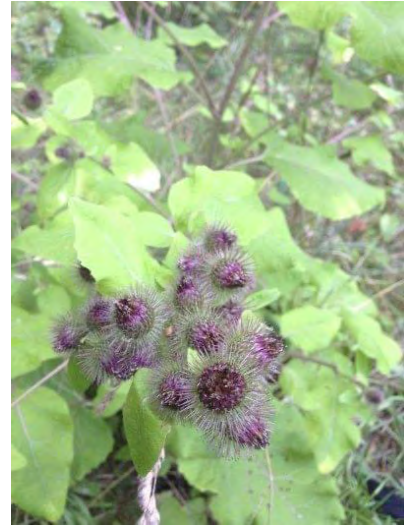
From Friends Of the River Crane Environment

In this heat the Crane Park meadows are struggling - burdock is starting to take over. This plant is invasive, and burrs can cause problems for dogs.

TCV West London will be out next Tuesday morning to cut them before they set seed - starting at Mill Road - **all welcome to join them.**

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

<https://www.tcv.org.uk/london/richmond/>



## Residents asked to think of young trees during the hot weather

Council teams are working hard to establish all of our new trees during the hot weather, but residents can play their part to help them to thrive!

The Council carries out a regular programme of tree watering, which begins in April and continues throughout the growing season. During hot and dry spells the Council operate increased watering regimes and monitors the condition of trees to ensure that they receive adequate aftercare.

With increasing frequency of heatwaves and risk of drought, community watering to support Council efforts is becoming increasingly important, especially as we have over 1,000 young trees to attend to across the borough.

With help from residents, we can ensure trees are able to thrive, accelerating growth rates and maximising the benefits they bring to people and biodiversity.

During hot and dry conditions, residents can support these young trees by watering newly planted street trees, following these simple instructions: Use two watering cans (containing around 10 litres of water in total) per tree, ideally every two days. Half the water (about 5 litres) should be poured into the installed watering tube and half poured over the surface of the tree pit. This is best done in the evenings or early mornings, to reduce water loss through evaporation that is more likely during the day.

Where possible, we encourage the use of collected rainwater and grey water (for example bath or washing up water – water containing soap isn't a problem). Please communicate with your neighbours, to help coordinate watering efforts, share the load and prevent overwatering.

Find out more about [tree planting and watering](#).





# Win your name on the Hampton & Richmond Football Club stadium

Hampton & Richmond Football Club has announced the launch of this year's draw to give the public the chance to name the Beveree Stadium.

Last year, Jimmy Saul won the draw and named it after his daughter Cleo and thus the Bev was officially known as the Cleo Saul Beveree.

With the new season comes a new opportunity to name the only football ground in Richmond upon Thames. Entry to the draw is just £10 per ticket with multiple entries permitted. The winners chosen name will be on all the signage, and all communications online and offline throughout the season.



Second prize is access to The 1921 Lounge for a Vanarama National League South Game for 10 people while third prize is ten pairs of tickets for a Vanarama National League South Game.

The draw will take place at half-time on Saturday 13 August 2022 when the club host Hemel Hempstead Town.

Enter the draw [HERE](#)

## Community Toilet Scheme (CTS) Twickenham Green

**Twickenham Cricket Club**  
**The Cricket Pavilion, The Green, Twickenham, TW2 5TU**  
**020 8894 3110**

Opening hours:

Monday/Wednesday/Friday - 10am to 5pm

Saturday 11am to 10pm

Sunday when cricket is being played

(Also open when there is a cricket match and the pavilion is in use)

The Cricket Pavilion does not seem to display the obligatory CTS LBRUT sign. A permanent, visible TOILET notice is needed in the central area of Twickenham Green.



# Richmond Council issues warning about river dangers as heat-health alert begins

A heat-health alert comes into force across England today with temperatures set to reach up to 35C this week.

Residents are being reminded of the dangers of jumping into and swimming in the River Thames during the hot weather.

Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, has said:

“The Thames is a dangerous river. It has a strong current, with houseboats in many areas, as well as moving river traffic, that pose dangers to anyone swimming in the river. It is full of debris including sharp metal, shopping trollies and other items that can cause serious risk to life if hit. There is also a risk of cold water shock, as parts of the Thames remain very cool even in this hot weather.

“For many years, this Council, along with our neighbouring local authorities and partners including the RNLI, Port of London Authority, Environment Agency and Met Police have been warning residents of the dangers of swimming in the Thames.

“Despite these stark warnings of the dangers, swimming in dangerous parts of the river has remained a problem in Richmond upon Thames, particularly at Teddington Lock. Here we have put in place mitigations, including Heras fencing and cactus spikes, to deter people from jumping into the river off the bridge. Despite our efforts, these are being removed and ripped off to allow access to the parapets. Unfortunately, it is usually young people and children who are gathering, jumping and swimming in these areas.

“Richmond upon Thames has over 20 miles of Thames riverbank and 16 bridges. The river is a commercial river - we cannot put up barriers to stop swimming in all areas, and the Council and the emergency services cannot be in all places at all times to disperse gatherings and keep swimmers out of the water.

“Equally, we know that parents cannot have eyes on their children at all times, so education about the dangers of the river is the most important thing. I would urge parents to fully understand the risks and make sure their children know that they are putting their lives in danger every time they jump or swim in the Thames.”

The Environment Agency has [guidance for staying safe around the River Thames](#).

“There are many safe ways to enjoy the river, such as through local water sports providers, rowing clubs or boating companies. All have stringent health and safety in place, including trained guides and coaches.”

Watch Teddington RNLI on the dangers of jumping into the Thames:

*Click image to view video*



# Polio booster for all London children aged 1 to 9

All children aged 1 to 9 years in London are being offered a polio vaccination. This comes following the recommendation by the [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\)](#).

The NHS will contact you to ask you to book an appointment for your child's polio vaccine.

Type 2 vaccine-derived poliovirus has been found in sewage in north and east London, and whilst no one has been diagnosed with polio and the risk to the UK population is low, the booster will ensure a high level of protection from paralysis and will help prevent further spread of the virus. For some children this may be an extra dose on top of their routine vaccinations. In other children it may bring them up to date with their routine vaccinations. The vaccine being used is the same inactivated poliovirus vaccine as normally given as part of the standard polio immunisation schedule. This is the only vaccine used against polio in the UK.

The vaccination programme will initially begin in affected areas in north and east London where the poliovirus has been detected and vaccination rates are low. This will be followed by rapid rollout across all boroughs. It is not yet clear when the vaccination programme will reach residents in Richmond upon Thames. Please do not contact health services regarding the polio booster as the NHS staff are extremely busy setting up the vaccination programme. You will be contacted as soon as the vaccine is ready for your child.

In the meantime, parents and carers of 1- to 9-year-olds are urged to check their children's polio vaccination status via their Red Book. It is important all children aged 1 to 9, even if up to date with their vaccinations, accept this vaccine when offered to further strengthen their protection against the poliovirus.

Visit the NHS website for more information on [Polio](#).



Shannon Katiyo, Director of Public Health at Richmond Council, said:

“We will be working closely with the NHS to ensure the smooth delivery of the polio vaccine booster programme in Richmond upon Thames. While polio is a serious infection that can cause paralysis, the poliovirus found in London should not pose any risk to those who are fully vaccinated. However, whilst it is spreading, there is a small chance that those who have not been fully vaccinated, or those who cannot respond well to vaccines, could be at risk of catching polio.

“We want to act now to protect as many children as we can so, please come forward when you are invited.”



# Thames Water to begin energy upgrade works in Twickenham

Thames Water is installing new technology at the Mogden Sewage Treatment Works that will produce enough renewable energy to heat around 3,500 local homes.

Thames Water will use excess biogas from the sewage treatment process to generate biomethane for supply to the local gas grid network.

The installation will involve development of a small area of the treatment works site for the new equipment together with a new 1km biomethane export pipeline from Thames Water's Waste Water Treatment site on Mogden Lane to Chertsey Road where it will connect to the gas grid network. Local wastewater and gas services will not be impacted.

Works to install the new pipeline will begin on Monday 15 August in Whitton Road.

Engineers will be working on site Monday to Friday 7am to 7pm. If required, weekend working hours will be Saturday 9am to 4pm and Sunday 9am to 1pm.

The works are due to be completed by summer 2023.

Traffic will be managed through a combination of stop/go and temporary traffic light controls while working in Whitton Road. This will be followed by the closure of the northbound lane of Rugby Road while the pipeline is constructed from Whitton Road to the Mogden Lane roundabout which is planned to be completed by 4 November 2022.

The works will be suspended and removed from site for the Autumn internationals at Twickenham in November 2022 and all of December 2022.

The works will then resume in Mogden Lane in January for a three-week period before demobilizing for the Rugby Six Nations fixtures at Twickenham throughout February and March 2023. The final elements of the works will then take place in Mogden Lane in April/May 2023.

Further details on the project can be found on the [Thames Water website](#).



## HOP ABOARD THE PEGGY JEAN!

Located at one of Richmond-upon-Thames' most desirable summertime locations, the Peggy Jean restaurant and bar is the recently restored, former Jesus College Oxford barge. Long term locals might remember that she was once a restaurant before, then fell into disrepair and more recently caught fire and sank. But I'm pleased to say that she has been lovingly brought back to life with the help of local boat builder Mark Edwards MBE and the not-insubstantial investment by the Australian-led Daisy Green Collection. The night we visited there was a queue of folk hoping for a last-minute table and the riverside was packed.



We were shown to our table, in fact on an adjacent pontoon, not the barge itself, but had the benefit of spectacular views of Richmond Bridge and the river itself. It's decked out in soft blues and pinks, making it a very striking addition to the Richmond scene.

I enjoyed a negroni and my husband enjoyed a home made lemonade while we perused the menu. The drinks are all served - very sensibly - in very acceptable plastic glasses for safety reasons. The range of tapas-style 'small's' was incredibly tempting, but knowing that my husband had his eyes on a steak, we chose just three: Hot Smoked Olives (£6), Fresh calamari with chilli & lime (£12.40) and we couldn't resist the Sheep's Milk Feta in filo pastry (£8.90). The olives were very interesting - I'd never had them smoked, let alone hot smoked. They were lovely olives, but to be honest I think they might have been just as nice without the smoking. The calamari and the feta were both divine!



Tempting as the 45 day aged tomahawk steak looked, there was no way we could eat 1.25kg of meat, so my husband



opted for the 30 day dry aged ribeye (£34) served with crispy new potatoes, salad and a rather delicious béarnaise sauce (I managed to snaffle a tiny taste 'in the interests of this review'). I chose the sashimi grade tuna steak (£22.90) that was served with white bean & avocado puree, tenderstem broccoli, raw kohlrabi, candied beetroot, soft herb & citrus salad. A beautifully presented tower of freshness hid the perfectly cooked tuna steak. It was ideal for a warm evening, and accompanied by a glass of sauvignon blanc, was the epitome of freshness and summer eating.







To finish, we both tried the mini gelato cones (3 for £7.90). There was some confusion, as we assumed from the menu description that we would be able to order a selection, but were told that they all needed to be the same. We found out later that this had been a mistake, a tiny one considering the restaurant has been open for such a short time. It was delicious ice cream, but I felt the rather strange presentation in a teacup didn't do the scrumptious fig and roasted almond praline ice cream justice.

We will be back soon, and having also had a chance to observe other diners enjoying their meals, will be tempted by either a pizza (from one of the twin bespoke Gozney woodfired pizza ovens - 'Peggy' and 'Jean' - which deliver freshly baked Neapolitan style pizzas). Also, very tempting, looked the Fire Roasted Aubergine, with coconut risotto, pomegranate, crispy kale and miso tahini dressing (£15.50) which the woman on the next table was thoroughly enjoying.

It's dog friendly, child-friendly, and the bar and dining area inside the boat is a cosy place to relax. Daisy Green Collection is famous for its Aussie-style brunches too, and I'm sure the Peggy Jean will soon be 'the' destination brunch venue for Richmond residents and visitors. The service is charming, professional, and relaxed and I'm delighted that we have such a stellar addition to Richmond Riverside!

## SOME DIARY DATES FOR FOODIES

A reminder of a couple of fab foodie events coming up soon on the SW London foodie calendar:

The **Hampton Court Palace Food Festival** returns this **August Bank Holiday (Saturday 27th to Monday 29th August 2022)**. This year, the festival welcomes even more stalls and the Tudor palace will house tempting treats and street food, authentic local fare and international cuisine. The bandstand will host toe-tapping tunes while adults relax in the summer sunshine, and there'll be plenty for the kids - from face painting and Shire horse rides, to arts & crafts and circus skills.

And French biscuit brand **LU** invites you to taste their range at the **LU Café**, new for 2022. Visitors are also able to explore the hallways of Hampton Court Palace, the former home of King Henry VIII, including the Great Hall where he dined and entertained guests, and visit the kitchens (transporting them back to the 1500s). Hampton Court Palace admission tickets include free entry to the Food Festival, while Historic Royal Palaces members can enjoy free entry across the sites throughout the year. **For further information and to purchase tickets visit [hrpfoodfestivals.com/](http://hrpfoodfestivals.com/)**

**Pub in the Park**, the UK's biggest celebration of food and music, has revealed the full line-up of incredible music acts set to take to the stage at **Chiswick House & Gardens** from 2-4 September. For full details see link [here](#)

As well as great music acts, the hosts for the weekend will be Tom Kerridge, plus Saturday Kitchen host Matt Tebbutt. There'll be demos from chefs such as Atul Kochhar and Jo Pratt (whose fab 'Flexible' series of books I've reviewed in the past). Making the line-up even tastier is singer-songwriter and cook - disco queen **Sophie Ellis-Bextor** and her husband, **The Feeling's Richard Jones!** They'll be on the Chef Demo Stage, cooking up some of the recipes from their new cookbook. **The Firepit** one-stop shop for sizzling sessions is hosted by **Adam Purnell AKA Shropshire Lad** and BBQ sensation **Josh Moroney and Mursal Saiq** from Chiswick local Cue Point and **Ben Tish**, of Cubitt House,

There'll also be award-winning pubs and restaurants serving tasting dishes showcasing their signature style - giving you the chance to savour food you might not otherwise get to sink your teeth into.

The event will feature plenty of festival fun - with chef demonstrations, produce stalls, shopping and a kid's area to keep the little ones entertained. Tickets available from the ticket office [here](#)





## Get Up, Stand Up!

by Bob Marley, book by Lee Hall

Playful Productions at the Lyric Theatre, London, until 8<sup>th</sup> January, then on tour.

Jazz and pop critic, Vince Francis talks to Michael Duke, who plays Bob Marley in the West End musical *Get Up, Stand Up!*

Once in a while, an opportunity arises that should be grasped firmly with both hands. Such was with the meeting with the actor, producer and musician Michael Duke, currently playing Bob Marley in *Get Up, Stand Up!*, which has just been nominated for four Olivier Awards, including Best New Musical.



The show takes a truly objective look at Bob Marley, celebrating the music, for sure, but it doesn't shy away from Marley's darker side, his cavalier approach to his relationship with his wife, or his attempt at political activism.

VF: How aware were you of Bob Marley before the show?

MD: Oh, very much. My heritage is Jamaican and my parents loved his music - it was often playing at home, or around friends' places.

VF: Was there anything you found difficult about finding the character?

MD: Yes. The accent. Even though I'm from a Jamaican background, the accent you hear here in London is just a bit different from what you hear on the island – different inflections and phrases.

VF: Did anything surprise you about Bob Marley?

MD: Yes. His association with what I guess we would call gangsters. But then, when I thought about it, he would only have seen the person in front of him, if you know what I mean.

VF: And what's your next project? Can you say a bit about that?

MD: Yes, I'll be workshopping some ideas for performance around an idea that I have, but I don't want to say too much at this stage.

I'm not reviewing the show here, but I have to say that Clint Dyer's direction gives us a show which feels natural and truthful, and the musicianship of the cast is outstanding. If you're a fan of Marley, you will love it. If you're not, you will be.

Read Vince Francis's interview at

[www.markaspen.com/2022/08/07/bob-marley](http://www.markaspen.com/2022/08/07/bob-marley)

Photography by Craig Sugden





## The Tempest

by William Shakespeare

The Globe Theatre, Southwark until 22<sup>nd</sup> October

A sun-bathing brunette wearing nothing but a scarlet sweetheart costume, matching lipstick, designer shades and a worried expression, introduces *The Tempest* ... but not as you've known it. Heavy on comedy, lighter on drama, this new production, directed by Sean Holmes, is energetic, playful and always engaging. If enchanted means spellbinding this inventive production has the audience in its thrall.



The busy stage of plastic palms, pink inflatable flamingo and Daliesque lobster, yellow plastic ducks and shipping crates, zinged with colour and styles thanks to designer Paul

Wills. His costumes present a razzmatazz of cowboy boots, Hawaiian shirts, brightly embroidered white dungarees, and bling.



However, you can't take your eyes off the commanding presence of Prospero who, with a grand flourish, whips off his robe to reveal - cue audience gasp - his muscular frame in a pair of itsy-bitsy, eye-achingly hi-vis, yellow budgie-smugglers. Ferdy Roberts wears it well. His body is tanned and toned, his greying beard and nattily tied top-knot straight out of Shoreditch. But his voice that demands even more attention, as his strong, stentorian voice declares Shakespeare.

Prospero, like a guest on Desert Island Discs, has his luxury item: his beloved books of alchemy. At the mercurial Prospero's behest, the spirit Ariel orchestrates a storm to shipwreck his enemies as they sail close to the enchanted isle. On board is Ferdinand, prince of Naples, the only young man Miranda has ever set eyes on. Love is inevitable.

Plots and plans, romance and royalty, lords a-leaping and a-sleeping, magic, marriage and merriment are the ingredients of this intoxicating mix. Movement director Rachael Nanyonjo provided a feast for the eyes in the vivacious physicality of the production, where the hip-grinding guests at a magical fast food feast would have impressed *Strictly Come Dancing* judges, in a comedy that's fresh and frothy, cheeky and contemporary.



Read Gill Martin's review at [www.markaspen.com/2022/08/01/tempest-globe](http://www.markaspen.com/2022/08/01/tempest-globe)

Photography by Marc Brenner

## *Colloquium* by Katherine Stockton and *The Dumb Man* by Jagoda Kamov Cavendish Productions at the Hen and Chickens and at the Cockpit Theatre, on the Camden Fringe

A Colloquium is by definition an academic meeting of specialists, and this was the Oxford University setting for the intense short play *Colloquium*. During the interviewing of two candidates for a place in the English department, there are clashes of brilliant minds, arrogant candidates and internal power games. There is a stand-off with a weary professor and a maverick younger colleague who indeed sees things very much outside the box. Wry humour excels during these encounters.



The candidates are seen in turn. The first, a very diffident Welsh girl, is a complete contrast to her self-assured opponent, but she is slyly clever, if over-guarded. The second interviewee is a brilliant undergraduate who is struggling with a mental breakdown. He delivers a vibrant monologue of eclectically rich content.

Some scenes felt misplaced; however, the strong writing has real potential. Skilfully directed by Steven Bowyer, the cast is strong and intelligent, in this balanced study of modern-day academia.

*The Dumb Man* is billed as a dark comedy. Dark it certainly is. Comedic? The jury is still out.

The man character of Richard is angst-ridden and grief-stricken. The balding widower in his comfy rocking chair and cosy cardie cannot come to terms with the death of his wife. Loss, pain and the denial of reality are meshed as Richard remains in a state of limbo. Conflicting emotions are played out as two younger versions of himself.

The bereaved Richard is convincing himself that his wife lives on. Anne is sensitively portrayed in moods that swing from girlish delight to the misery of her impending death. She is, as her husband describes, his 'gentle, fragile, graceful wife.' He remains a tragic figure trapped in a fantasy world of denial and delusion.



Read Heather Moulson's review of *Colloquium* at <https://markaspen.com/2022/08/02/colloquium>, and Gill Martin's review of *The Dumb Man* at <https://markaspen.com/2022/08/06/dumb-man>

Photography by Miles Mycroft and Takatusna Mukai



## *L'elisir d'amore*

by Gaetano Donizetti, libretto by Felice Romani, after Eugene Scribe  
West Green House Opera, Hartley Wintney

The Theatre on the Lake goes to sea! Director Victoria Newlyn has an inspired self-referential idea to take the sleepy Italian village in *L'elisir d'amore* and transform it to the cruise ship Il Villaggio.

The lake in the charming gardens of West Green House widens in the imagination of designer Adrian Linford to become the Med, while the “floating” stage, which has become the idiosyncratic image of West Green Opera, grows a prow and a funnel as the white-painted love-boat. The quack apothecary, Dr. Dulcamara arrives in a dingy rowed across the lake ... er, in the ship's tender across the breakers. Didn't they use to call these, appropriately, bumboats?



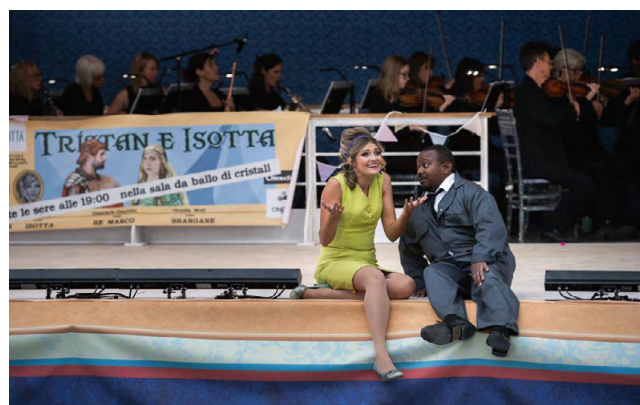
Adina is now Il Villaggio's cruise director, a snappy smart executive. The tall, slim and statuesque Samantha Clarke references a young Gina Lollobrigida. She gets all the admiring sideways glances, but none more so than from the doe-eyed besotted Nemorino, the ship's odd-job man. John Colyn Gyeantey is perfect in this role, for a start his statue is the antithesis of Clarke's. He looks up to her in more ways than one. Adina and Nemorino are more than different in looks, their cultures and intellectual levels are different.

Whilst everyone on board buys from Dr Dulcamara, most do so on an I'll-give-it-a-try basis. However, poor Nemorino falls for the sales pitch. When he asks Dulcamara for a love potion, he gets Claret, but worse, he does not get the idea that you give an aphrodisiac to the object of your desire, not drink it yourself.

Is the plot a picaresque tale of the mountebank Dulcamara, flogging the elixir of love of the opera's title, together with all his other dubious panaceas, to a gullible clientele ... or is it the gentle story of Nemorino's unrequited love for Adina, redeemed by fate? Well, it is both, and Newlyn's retelling brilliantly balances the dodgy and the endearing.

Read Mark Aspen's review at  
<https://markaspen.com/2022/08/03/elisir-amore/>

Photography courtesy of West Green Opera



# LATEST ACTIVITY AT THE MARY WALLACE THEATRE

No grass grows beneath our feet here at the Mary Wallace as rehearsals for Strindberg's MISS JULIE are well under way. This classic exploration of class tensions and subdued passion plays from September 17th - 24th.

Looking to the remaining season, Moliere's THE HYPOCHONDRIAC is now cast, and rehearsals will begin shortly. The Moliere opens on October 22nd and plays for a week.

And our Christmas show? Open Auditions for THE FLINT STREET NATIVITY will be held at the theatre on the evening of September 5th. A traditional nativity show - with a twist. The primary school cast are to be played by adults! And you don't have to be a member to audition for our shows - allcomers are welcome.

For further information on membership, forthcoming shows and open auditions please see

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

The Mary Wallace Theatre is situated on Twickenham's Embankment, TW1 3DU, between St Mary's Church and the Barmy Arms.



## Get your tickets for next month's 'The Big Family Picnic'

Picnic in the grounds of Strawberry Hill House and get to know other Strawberry Hill residents at The Big Family Picnic.

On the day there will be music from Richmond Brass Band. Attendees will have the opportunity to get to know families from across Strawberry Hill. There will be children's activities such as colouring and eighteenth century fancy dress (with thanks to Strawberry Hill House) and kids entertainment from Jolly Julie.



Picnic treats and snacks will be available for children but it is recommended that visitors bring their own picnic.

The Big Family Picnic will take place on Sunday 4 September from 4 to 6pm. The event will be raising funds to support Together for Short Lives.

[Register your place](#)



# TRAVELLER'S TALES 129

## A BREAK IN BANGKOK

Doug Goodman explores Thailand's big city



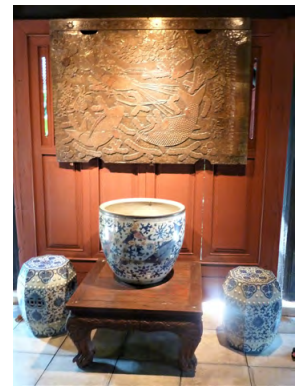
I used to enjoy splendid meals at a restaurant in the Upper Richmond Road near Putney called Jim Thompson. It served tasty Thai dishes in a large room filled with ceramics, cane furniture, statues and silk items. Everything was for sale. The restaurant closed some years ago and is now a mini-market. I wondered, at the time, who Jim Thompson was. Many years later I discovered the story of his life in Bangkok.



Original Restaurant



Jim Thompson's House



Ceramics

During a three week tour to Laos and Cambodia it was necessary to change flights in Bangkok where it seemed a great idea to spend a few days to see some of the city, acclimatise and have an introduction into Far-Eastern culture, way of life and history. Opening the Eyewitness guide to Thailand, by chance, at page 120 I saw a description of Jim Thompson's House and museum at Rama 1 Road, only a short metro ride from our hotel. The visit to this beautifully preserved Thai house with its exotic furnishings and history of silk weaving was fascinating. First of all my question, as to who was Jim Thompson, was quickly answered. Born in 1906 he served in WW2 with the US forces in Europe and was sent after demobilisation in 1945 to Bangkok as America's head of the OSS – now the CIA.



Silk Worms



Weaving



Silk Items

The Thai silk industry had virtually closed down during WW2 but in 1948, through the efforts of Thompson, the business was revived and thrived. He became a celebrity through his philanthropic efforts in supporting the local economy and bringing back to life forgotten techniques and skills. Two key factors for the increased demand for Thai silk were the introduction of colour-fast dyes and the lavish use of silk by Deborah Kerr and Yul Brynner in the 1956 film *The King and I*. In spring 1969 he moved into the house, which had been constructed from six teak buildings transported to the capital from various parts of Thailand. His famous collection of antiques and artworks from South-East Asia spans 14 centuries, draws in visitors from around the world and makes the place feel more like a home than a museum. The art of cultivating silk worms, making the thread and weaving are well documented and the shop has a colourful display of just about everything made from silk. Little has



changed since 1967 when Jim Thompson vanished. In March of that year he was walking in Malaysia's Cameron Highlands where he disappeared without trace. Theories still exist as to whether he was kidnapped, assassinated or had an unfortunate accident. But his memory lives on and today, through Thompson's skills in design and colouring, Thai silk is acclaimed throughout the world.



Hire a Tuk-Tuk



Giant Buddha



Temple

### BUSTLING BANGKOK

The easiest way to travel in the jammed, noisy city is to hire a Tuk-Tuk. The Old City is the spiritual heart of Bangkok with a vast array of gleaming temples. A giant Buddha dominates the skyline while everywhere you see monks in their saffron robes making offerings and people buying flower garlands to place in the temples. Sacred cows are well fed and, unlike in India where they roam free, in Bangkok at least they are kept in pens in the temple grounds. The area where our hotel was situated was rather sleazy. While it might have been interesting from a sociological research viewpoint, the shop windows on the main street filled with girls anxious to provide a massage and more, were somewhat disconcerting. The bars were noticeably frequented by European men with attractive local girls as companions.

### GOOD SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES

Silk items are excellent value along with cotton clothing. You could have a suit or two made overnight for a very reasonable price. Soft white shirts could be bought from street traders after a little bargaining for about \$3 US. Eating in street markets was cheap, safe and an enjoyable experience. Fruit and vegetable markets offered a challenge in identifying the strange-shaped and brightly coloured wares. To avoid the midday heat a tour of the large, air-conditioned, modern shopping centres with multi-national restaurants was a wise diversion from sight-seeing.



Sacred Animals



Made for You



Street Protest

During our stay there were public transport strikes and civil servants shut down their offices. Students were much in evidence protesting about Government control and high taxes. In the noisy, flag-waving processions, student camp sites and stalls selling anti-Government 'T' shirts all was good natured. A two day stop-over in Bangkok was far too short a time to gain anything except a very basic feel for Thai culture but it did provide the chance to discover Jim Thompson.



# WIZ Tales: Mongolia - a personal recollection

Teresa Read

Mongolia, bordered by China and Russia, is a very interesting country.

Many Mongolians still live in the traditional yer or yurt with a large proportion of the population living in Ulaanbaatar, the capital.

The name Genghis Khan is synonymous with Mongolia; Kublai Khan, Genghis' grandson, became the emperor of China in the Yuan Dynasty.

Very few Mongolians live in the UK, so I was surprised to meet a Mongolian innovator of the internet at the turn of the century (MIDAS, the Mongolian Information Development Application Scheme), in a palace outside Rome, (Quirinal Palace) where he took to the dance floor, alone, encouraging other members of an international conference to join him.



Educators involved in the early use of the internet have much to thank the Italian government for as being the leading light in the collaborative use of the internet in education; Silvio Berlusconi and his Education Minister, the late Tullio De Mauro, brought together internet innovators at the turn of the century to share the promotion of the internet in education. The Stockholm Challenge must also be thanked.

My other connection with Mongolia was a very supportive email from participants of the Mongolian Rally:

*"I found a fantastic link ... to 'World InfoZone' and the bit on Kazakhstan, which of course led me onto searching through the whole World InfoZone site and several hours later I realised I needed to go to bed" - Mongol Rally blog*



Information about Mongolia: <https://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=Mongolia>

Conferences, [Rome](#) and [Stockholm](#) Challenge

# St Mary's University

## St Mary's Announces Return of Walpole Public Lecture series

**St Mary's University, Twickenham is delighted to announce the return of the Walpole Public Lecture series this autumn.**

The Series is an opportunity to discover more about the work, interests and cutting-edge research of academics in the [Institute of Theology and Liberal Arts](#) in a relaxed and accessible environment.



The first of three events, [What is Public History](#) will be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. Presented by Dr Mark Donnelly Associate Professor in History at St Mary's, this lecture will discuss the notion that how we understand the past shapes many contemporary debates about politics and culture. However, it is not always clear how the traditional practices associated with history as an academic subject relate to these questions. While exploring the different kinds of 'public' activity that historians have engaged in and how this may help the subject of History remain relevant.

The second event, delivered by the Course Lead of our [Creative Writing programmes](#), Dr Russell Schechter will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. [A Novel Idea - Creative Writing](#)

[Taster Workshop](#) is an opportunity for aspiring writers at all stages to discover ways to develop their ideas and take the first steps to begin their writing process.

The final event of the series, [Napoleon and History](#) will be hosted by Dr Stewart McCain Senior Lecturer in History, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2022. The lecture will explore how the Napoleonic regime used historical narratives and symbolism to maintain power and the role of history in the context of politics and the public.

Subject Lead for the [Postgraduate taught programmes in the Institute of Theology and Liberal Arts](#) at St Mary's, Dr Stewart McCain said "We are delighted to have the opportunity to share some of our work with the University and local community. I think that this should be a thought-provoking and engaging series for everyone, and one that addresses questions that society is grappling with right now".

All the events will be held in the historic Waldegrave Drawing Room from 6:15pm - 7:30pm. They are free to attend and open to all. To explore a topic from a range of fields including History, Literature, and Theology, book your place on [the University website](#).



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London



# St Mary's University

## Commonwealth Medals for St Mary's Alumni and Athletes

Alumna of St Mary's University, Twickenham, and Rio 2016 Olympian Jade Lally has won the Silver medal in the Women's Discus at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.



Jade was joined on the medal table by Endurance Performance Centre (EPC) Associate and World Champion Jake Wightman who won the Bronze Medal in the Men's 1500m.

Competing for Team England, Jade threw 58.42m to secure the Silver Medal, which is her second Commonwealth Games Medal after securing Bronze at Glasgow in 2014. Jade was joined in the Discus by her coach and fellow St Mary's Alumnus Zane Duquemin, who reached the Men's final competing for Jersey in his fourth consecutive Commonwealth Games.

EPC Associate Jake Wightman returned to the track following his recent 1500m victory at the 2022 World Athletics Championships. Competing for Team Scotland, Jake claimed the Bronze in a time of 3:30.53, less than a second behind first place. Jake was joined in the race by St Mary's alumnus Elliot Giles who ran a personal best of 3:33.56 to finish 9th.

Earlier in the Games, Alumna and Rio 2016 Olympian Beth Potter also won a bronze medal in the Women's Sprint Triathlon at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Beth won the Bronze in a close fought race in her third Commonwealth Games, to win Team Scotland's first medal at the Games. Beth led the race through the swim, finishing in third place overall in a time of 56:46.

Speaking of their performances, Endurance Performance Coach Craig Winrow said, "It was brilliant to watch all the athletes have a successful games, especially seeing Jake come back from the World Championships and win another medal"

In total ten St Mary's Alumni, Athletes and Associates were selected to represent their countries at the games:

- Sarah Astin - Women's 5000m (Isle of Man)
- Jade Lally – Women's Discus (England)
- Elliot Giles – Men's 1500m (England)
- Harry Aikines-Aryeetey - Men's 4 x 100m Relay (England)
- Ollie Lockley - Men's Marathon (Isle of Man)
- Zane Duquemin – Discus (Jersey)
- Jake Wightman - 1500m (Scotland)
- Beth Potter – Sprint Triathlon (Scotland)
- Emma Uren Women's Rugby Sevens (England)



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

# Vitality Big Half Marathon

## Last chance to join Team SPEAR!

TWO WEEKS LEFT TO SIGN-UP

**Feeling up for a challenge?**  
**Make your miles count, run for SPEAR!**

Did you know? Over 11,000 people are street homeless in London. There are many reasons why people become homeless so there is no one-size-fits-all solution. As a local charity, we support people experiencing homelessness in South West London to find a place to call home and provide a range of services to improve their health, wellbeing, and skills so that they can begin to look positively towards an independent future.

### Want to help?

Take on the Vitality Big Half Marathon and help us fight homelessness!

We'll support you all the way!

Interested? Contact us at [fundraising@spearlondon.org](mailto:fundraising@spearlondon.org)

This half marathon runs over much of the course as the London Marathon. Starting near Tower Bridge and finishing at Cutty Sark, the 13.1-mile route passes through four London boroughs: Greenwich, Lewisham, Southwark, and Tower Hamlets.

You might even meet Sir Mo Farrah on the starting line!

Register by 26 August - simply fill out the [FORM](#) and return it to [fundraising@spearlondon.org](mailto:fundraising@spearlondon.org)

As part of #TeamSPEAR you'll be raising vital funds for us to support anyone facing or experiencing homelessness work towards a positive future. You will also receive:

- Access to fundraising tools and one-to-one support to help you reach your goal
- Regular check-ins to keep you on track
- An on-hand fundraising team to help you with any questions you may have
- A SPEAR T-shirt

Find more info [HERE](#)

Any questions? Email Bruce or Rebecca at [fundraising@spearlondon.org](mailto:fundraising@spearlondon.org)



# SPEAR

*homelessness to independence*



# London Fire Cadets are recruiting!

If you're aged 14-17 then joining fire cadets is a great way to have fun, make friends, and develop your skills and confidence.

London Fire Cadets are now recruiting for brand new young people to join the 2023 cohort with spaces limited for this unique experience.

Fire Cadets offers young people the opportunity to develop their confidence and personal skills. It's a bit like Scouts or Guides – only you will gain real-world skills, make lots of new friends, learn to work as a team, and have a lot of fun along the way.

The course is free of charge and you will gain an exciting insight into the world of the London Fire Brigade.

Find out more about [how to join London Fire Cadets](#).



## Blackwater Valley Wind Quintet head to The Poppy Factory for special centenary concert

Music lovers have the chance to enjoy an eclectic performance from the Blackwater Valley Wind Quintet who will bring their repertoire to the factory in Richmond on Friday 16 September 2022.

Visitors can book tickets for an intimate concert by the quintet at 12.30pm in the visitor centre, followed by a hosted discovery session about The Poppy Factory.

As well as playing and performing together regularly, the members of Blackwater Valley Wind Quintet perform individually and in many other groups and orchestras. They are Barbara Sykes (Flute), Jane Cleaver (Oboe), Andy Norris (Clarinet), Tim Jones (Horn) and Paula Burton (Bassoon).

The Poppy Factory is hosting the performance as part of its centenary celebrations for 2022, alongside a series of hosted discovery sessions for small groups and individual visitors throughout the summer.

All proceeds from the concert will go towards the charity's employment service, helping veterans with health conditions across England and Wales to transform their lives. Tea, coffee and artisan cakes will be available to buy in the café area on the day.

Tickets for the concert, priced at £18, are available through The Poppy Factory website as well as tickets for the discovery sessions that run throughout August and September 2022.

[Book your tickets for Blackwater Valley Wind Quintet](#)



# Coming on Saturday? Five things you need to know

Some practical tip and things to look out for at the Gtech Community Stadium this weekend by [Brentford Football Club](#)

## **The stage is set. The Premier League is back in West London this weekend with Manchester United the visitors to the Gtech Community Stadium.**

If you are joining us for our first competitive home game of the 2022/23 campaign, here is everything you need to know...

### **New season, new Season Ticket cards**

Remember to bring your new Season Ticket cards to ensure you get into the ground without any issues. Also, a reminder not to pass on any tickets to away fans either in person or via secondary marketing sites. This may result in your account being suspended.

### **Be prepared for travel and transport issues**

[There will be significant travel disruption affecting the local transport network on Saturday.](#)

Trains will not be running through Kew Bridge station. There are roadworks in Chiswick and industrial action means that the Overground will not be in operation. We strongly recommend that fans plan ahead and leave much more time than normal to arrive at the Gtech Community Stadium in time.

### **New third kit available in-store**

[Our new third kit was released this week](#) and will be available on Saturday from the Bees Superstore (open 9am to 9pm). Adult shirts (men's and women's) will be priced at £52, while junior shirts will be available for £40.

### **The Premier League turns 30!**

Last year, we became the 50th club to play in the Premier League. This year, the Premier League itself hits a bit milestone. The Premier League is celebrating its 30th anniversary and is marking this by highlighting the iconic stories over the next few weekends that have taken place both on and off the pitch over the last three decades.

### **Big food and drink discounts for those who arrive early**

Supporters who arrive at the stadium early for our match against Manchester United on Saturday will be able to make significant savings on food and drinks. This season in general admission areas, turnstiles will open 90 minutes before kick-off. That means the ground will be open from 4pm for Season Ticket and Match Ticket Holders and 3pm for Premium Seats and The Dugout.

And finally, stay cool this weekend, it is going to be hot particularly if you are in the direct sun in the stadium – sunscreen and hats are advised! You can also bring a clear water bottle, up to 500ml, in with you to help you stay hydrated and there are refill stations available inside.

Enjoy the game!





# RFU launches England Rugby Girls Developing Player Programme

The RFU is launching a new England Rugby Girls' Developing Player Programme (ERDPP) targeting U16s, enabling more girls than ever to have access to pathway training and playing opportunities while playing for clubs and schools nationwide.

The programme, delivered by Constituent Bodies, will support the rapid growth of the women's game and, alongside the boys' ERDPP, will provide the first step in the England Rugby Player Pathway for players up and down the country.

The ERDPP will complement the existing provision of club and school rugby by providing training and playing opportunities focused on core skills and physical development, providing a platform of success for all individuals, no matter their eventual playing position or context.

Don Barrell, Head of Performance Pathways and Programmes said: "This ERDPP will be an integral part of the structure that supports Red Roses of the future and provides a single journey from players in the community through to the top end of the game. I can't wait to see what players and talent we will uncover."

The England Rugby Player Pathway prepares players to excel in a future England Team. The programme will be delivered by the Constituent Body (CB) in which the person lives, goes to school or plays rugby. Following graduation from the ERDPP at the end of the player's U16 year alongside their club rugby, some may be asked to attend Centre of Excellence training, whilst others may be asked to attend the CB U18 programme.

The ERDPP also has a focus on raising the standards of coaching to raise the standard of player across the game, coinciding with a new partnership between the RFU and UK Coaching to support coaches working in the pathway. The partnership will provide access to the co-developed RFU/UK Coaching online support platform for 600 identified coaches through the Regional Academy Coach Development Officers, Centres of Excellence leads and Girls' CB ERDPP.

Phil Kearns, Coach Development Manager said: "This programme will give players increased opportunities to develop and coaches opportunities to support individual players to be successful in the pathway. Our partnership with UK Coaching will allow pathway coaches to both develop their coaching practice and ensure an outstanding and enjoyable experience for the young players involved."

Mark Gannon, CEO UK Coaching commented "With an increase in appetite for digital learning we are seeing more coaches taking the initiative to meet their own learning needs. The cobranded dashboard brings expertise from UK Coaching and the RFU into one place for the coaches to access online. The result: a tailored, guided learning experience for RFU pathway coaches which supports them to improve their own practice and the player experience".

From season 2022/23, girls' age bands will move from the current U13, U15, U18 to an U12s age band, and two-year age bands at U14, at U16 and at U18. These developments are aimed at supporting player welfare, with less scope for mismatches in terms of age and physical and mental development. Thanks to the superb efforts of everyone involved in the last 10 years, the number of girls playing rugby is at a point where moving from three age bands to four is a realistic and sustainable proposition. Consequently, these changes create age bandings that provide a structure that encourages girls to play rugby and supports the growth of the age grade girls' game. They also provide equity in the rules of play with the boys' game, allowing the playing development journey to be the same.



# Cost-of-living crisis causes UK staycation boom amongst South East region

With Brits free to enjoy their first summer without Covid-19 travel restrictions, new research has revealed that more than a quarter (26%) of people from the South East are still choosing to travel within the UK to support economic recovery post-pandemic, and 47% are more likely to holiday domestically because of the cost-of-living crisis.

The research highlights how current economic circumstances and the knock-on effects of the pandemic have significantly impacted Brits' travel habits, with 70% of people from the South East saying their travel habits have changed post-Covid. Of those, 28% said the pandemic has made them less likely to go abroad due to uncertainties, travel delays, and extra documentation needed to travel.

The cost-of-living crisis is understandably cited as a major factor in holiday plans this summer, with 47% saying they are more likely to holiday domestically and 14% stating they will not travel at all due to the current economic situation. Given that value for money is the most important factor for half of people in the South East (59%) when planning a holiday, it's clear why more and more Brits are favouring 'Stay-AGAIN-cations' instead of venturing abroad.

The research also reveals that people from the South East are creatures of habit when holidaying in the UK, with 92% visiting the same places time and time again, and only 8% finding new destinations to explore.

Driven by a fear of the unknown and the impact of Covid, the top motives for sticking to the same destinations include comfort and familiarity (60%), visiting friends or family (38%), and wanting to avoid bad surprises when visiting somewhere new (31%).

The research was conducted by CensusWide on behalf of Great Western Railway.

Discussing the findings, Dan Panes, Head of Communications at Great Western Railway, comments: "With summer holidays underway, we wanted to understand how people's travel habits have been affected by the pandemic and the extra cost-of-living.

"We found that the current economic circumstances have significantly impacted Brits' travel habits, with a big proportion choosing to book holidays domestically this year, despite travel restrictions being removed.

We were also surprised to find that so many people return to the same places time and time again, especially when there are so many fantastic destinations across the UK to choose from. Rather than 'wanderlust', people actually 'wanderless'."

The train operator is urging people to be more adventurous when booking trips in the UK and discover all the wonderful places on their doorstep. From a romantic weekend in the Cotswolds to a cultural trip to Bath or a beach break in Devon, the UK has many great places to offer, all reachable by train.

There are also plenty of group and family discounts available to help counter rising costs of living, which can make travel more affordable and accessible.





# 'The Year of the Wasp' may cause increased fatalities in the UK

*France has named 2022 'The Year of the Wasp,' after a mild winter and spring created a surge in their numbers. With the UK enjoying an equally warm start to the year, a leading testing expert says more people will be at risk of a reaction to wasp stings this month.*

France has declared 2022 'l'année de la guêpe' ('The Year of the Wasp'). An unusually warm winter and spring means French pest controllers are dealing with a 140% increase in wasp nests. Now, a leading UK testing expert says Brits will learn this month if we are facing our own Year of the Wasp, as worker wasps stop feeding their colonies' larvae and swarm to find a new sugar fix among our picnics and drinks.

An increase in wasp numbers is potentially serious news. As more wasps come into contact with us, more people will be stung. In turn, this increases the chances of some of them suffering severe allergic reactions or even anaphylactic shock.

The leading Covid-19 testing expert, Dr Quinton Fivelman PhD, Chief Scientific Officer at [London Medical Laboratory](#), says: 'France is Britain's nearest Continental neighbour and both countries have enjoyed record temperatures at New Year and the fifth mildest spring on record. That means more queen wasps survived the winter and conditions will have been perfect for establishing their nests this spring.

'For most of us, a wasp sting is painful but not fatal. However, an increasing number of UK adults, around 21.3 million, now suffer from at least one allergy. That could mean they develop a severe allergic reaction to wasp venom, termed "anaphylactic shock". This is a serious, potentially fatal, medical condition that can be discovered through allergy testing.

'Worker wasps spend the early summer hunting insects to feed their growing colonies' larvae. In return for this, the larvae give them a carbohydrate-rich sugary secretion. But by August most of the larvae have pupated, and the worker wasps have to get their sugar fix elsewhere. That's when they become a problem as they swarm to our jam sandwiches and beers.

'Just because a person has been stung once without significant reaction does not mean they will be alright the next time. As with most allergies, the first exposure sensitises our body to a particular allergen, so that the second time we are stung the reaction could be far worse. In fact, people who have a severe allergic reaction to a wasp or bee sting have a 25% to 65% chance of anaphylaxis the next time they are stung.

'The best way to avoid this is to reduce your chances of being stung:

- Don't swat. Swiping at wasps makes them more likely to attack. Stay as still as possible, they usually fly away.
- Cover your drinks, especially sugary colas and beers.
- Avoid bright clothing and perfumes. Wasps respond to bright colours and use scent to communicate. They may react aggressively to perfume.

If you are stung, don't panic. You may want to cleanse the area with soap and water to avoid infection. To reduce the swelling, you can take an anti-inflammatory medicine like ibuprofen. If the sting is itching painfully, apply an antihistamine, corticosteroid or calamine cream on the site of the sting. If you prefer home remedies, try lemons. Unlike bee stings, which are acidic, wasp stings are alkaline. So **don't** use baking soda, that's for bee venom. Instead, use lemon or fresh lemon juice. Cut a lemon in half and press its flesh down on the sting.

There are several signs to look out for that can warn us if a sting is producing a more severe problem such as anaphylactic shock:

- A sudden feeling of weakness (caused by a drop in blood pressure)
- Dizziness
- A sense of fear or dread
- A rapid pulse
- Swelling of the airways and throat, making it difficult to breathe
- Severe asthma
- Itching and swelling away from the site of the sting
- Stomach cramps and/or a feeling of sickness

Fortunately, there is an effective way people can learn in advance if they are likely to develop a severe reaction to a sting. A simple finger-prick allergy test is the fastest, safest and most convenient way to establish if someone may be allergic to stings from bees and wasps, as well as nearly 300 other potentially severe allergies, including dairy, seafood, sunflower seeds and nuts, as well as pet hair, house dust mites and even latex.

The test grades people's reaction to many common and less familiar potential allergens from 0 to 4. A level 4 result indicates high sensitisation has taken place, which could mean a reaction such as an asthma attack or anaphylactic shock may occur if they are exposed to the substance again.

London Medical Laboratory's new Allergy Complete blood test is the UK's most comprehensive allergy test, analysing close to 300 allergens.

People who discover that they are at risk of a severe reaction will need to inform their doctor. They will probably be prescribed a potentially life-saving, pre-loaded adrenaline injection device such as an EpiPen.

For anyone concerned about their future reaction to a sting, certain foods or other allergens, London Medical Laboratory's Allergy Complete blood test is highly accurate, quick and simple to carry out, either at home through the post, or at one of the many drop-in clinics that offer this test via phlebotomy across London and nationwide in over 50 selected pharmacies and health stores.

For full details, see: <https://www.londonmedicallaboratory.com/product/allergy-complete>





# Readout of the Prime Minister, Chancellor and Business Secretary's roundtable with the electricity sector

Below is a readout and quotes following the Prime Minister, Chancellor and Business Secretary's roundtable with the electricity sector this morning.

**Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:** *"Countries around the world are feeling the impact of Putin's damaging war in Ukraine. We know that this will be a difficult winter for people across the UK, which is why we are doing everything we can to support them and must continue to do so.*

*"Following our meeting today, we will keep urging the electricity sector to continue working on ways we can ease the cost of living pressures and to invest further and faster in British energy security.*

*"We are continuing to roll out government support over the coming months, including the second £324 instalment of the cost of living payment for vulnerable households, extra help for pensioners and those with disabilities, and the £400 energy bills discount for all households."*

**Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nadhim Zahawi, said:** *"This morning I hosted industry leaders from the electricity sector to discuss what more they can do to work with Government and act in the interest of the country in the face of rising prices caused by Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine.*

*"We have already acted to protect households with £400 off energy bills and direct payments of £1,200 for 8 million of the most vulnerable British families. In the spirit of national unity, they agreed to work with us to do more to help the people who most need it."*

Readout:

- This morning the Prime Minister, Chancellor Nadhim Zahawi and Business and Energy Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng met industry leaders from the electricity sector to discuss what more they can do to help people struggling with rising energy prices.
- The Prime Minister, Chancellor, Business and Energy Secretary stressed the need to act in the interest of the country in the face of rising energy prices caused by Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine and how vital it was that the Western world continued to stand by the Ukrainian people during their battle for survival.
- The Chancellor and energy firms agreed to work closely over the coming weeks to ensure that the public, including vulnerable customers, are supported as unprecedented global events drive higher energy costs.
- Government support worth £37 billion is being provided this year to help people with the rising cost of living, including £1,200 for the most vulnerable households over the course of the year and £400 discounted off everyone's energy bills from October.
- It was noted that the market is not always functioning for consumers, and extraordinarily high bills will ultimately damage energy companies.
- As set out in the Energy Security Strategy, the Government has launched a consultation to drive forward market reforms and ensure the market works better for consumers. Discussion focussed on how Government and industry can collectively drive forward reforms to ensure the market delivers lower prices.
- The Prime Minister, Chancellor and Business and Energy Secretary emphasised the importance of investing in North Sea oil and gas, renewables, biomass and nuclear to strengthen our domestic energy security.
- The Chancellor added the Government continues to evaluate the extraordinary profits seen in certain parts of the electricity generation sector and the appropriate and proportionate steps to take.
- The Prime Minister set out that it will be for the next Prime Minister to make significant fiscal decisions.



HM Treasury

# NHS England's crisis mitigation plan can only succeed if there is political will to tackle the crisis, RCEM says

Responding to NHS England's letter '[Next steps in increasing capacity and operational resilience in urgent and emergency care ahead of winter](#)', Dr Adrian Boyle, Vice President of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine said:

"We are pleased to see NHS England recognise the significant pressure that Urgent and Emergency Care is under and welcome the planning for winter, which we know will bring further severe pressures on a system already in crisis.

"It is right for NHS England to focus on discharge, reducing bed occupancy, increasing capacity (where safely possible) and boosting the directory of services. Achieving flow throughout the hospital, by ensuring the timely discharge of patients, is the single most important factor for reducing dangerously long waiting times for patients.

"Emergency Departments have long been stuck in a performance vacuum as targets shifted away from the four-hour standard and began to move towards the basket of measures in Clinically-led Review of Standards which remains on hold. We are pleased NHS England confirm that 'current standards remain for Emergency Department performance and flow' and so we urge all Trusts and Emergency Departments to renew their focus on working towards the 95% target for four-hour performance. While this will be a serious challenge, it is especially critical given July's performance figures published yesterday showed the lowest ever four-hour performance on record at 57% and the highest number of 12-hour DTA waits reaching nearly 30,000.

"We must exit the performance vacuum and continue working towards improving performance thereby improving patient care. However, we stand by our position that the 12-hour data measured from decision to admit to admission is highly misleading and we continue to urge NHS England to regularly publish the 12-hour data measured from time of arrival. As a matter of transparency and honesty, it is crucial to see this data ahead of winter so we can begin to see the crisis in its full scale and tackle it fully.

"We are pleased to see a renewed focus on opening more beds, but NHS England do not go far enough. From our own research, we know that we need at least 13,000 beds across the UK to drive meaningful change and to operate at safe levels. We understand NHS England are constrained by the lack of staff and recognise how difficult achieving 7,000 beds alone will be. Similarly, virtual wards could only be effective with adequate staffing numbers to monitor them. Given how thinly existing staff are spread in their own Emergency Departments and with NHS England's ambition to open 7,000 extra beds – that also need to be staffed – virtual wards are wishful thinking.

"NHS 111 can also be an effective service but only with greater clinical input, recruiting non-clinical staff to answer calls will not improve the service or help. We also argue that the focus should not be on demand management but on discharge from and flow through the hospital.

"We recognise the constraints that NHS England operate under, this is by no means a recovery plan; it is a crisis mitigation plan. We welcome the measures that NHS England propose, but argue they do not go far enough. Nonetheless, neither what NHS England propose nor what we argue they should propose are possible by any stretch without the political will from the government, the leadership candidates and the Department for Health and Social Care.

"Ultimately, this government have so far failed to deliver the fully funded long-term workforce plan they pledged to deliver, and they have failed to meaningfully tackle the crisis in social care - these are the constraints that NHS England operate under which fall upon our hard working and dedicated NHS health workers who are now expected to do more with less in the worst crisis the NHS has ever faced. Without the political will to address the staffing crisis by recruiting more staff and retaining existing staff, and tackle the social care crisis by bolstering the social care workforce – this winter the Urgent and Emergency Care system will once again be on its knees on the verge of collapse."



Royal College of  
Emergency Medicine



# Monkeypox: experts give virus variants new names

A group of global experts convened by WHO has agreed on new names for monkeypox virus variants, as part of ongoing efforts to align the names of the monkeypox disease, virus and variants—or clades—with current best practices. The experts agreed to name the clades using Roman numerals.

The monkeypox virus was named upon first discovery in 1958, before current best practices in naming diseases and viruses were adopted. Similarly for the name of the disease it causes. Major variants were identified by the geographic regions where they were known to circulate.

Current best practise is that newly-identified viruses, related disease, and virus variants should be given names with the aim to avoid causing offense to any cultural, social, national, regional, professional, or ethnic groups, and minimize any negative impact on trade, travel, tourism or animal welfare.

**Disease:** Assigning new names to existing diseases is the responsibility of WHO under the International Classification of Diseases and the WHO Family of International Health Related Classifications (WHO-FIC). WHO is holding an open consultation for a new disease name for monkeypox. Anyone wishing to propose new names can do so [here](#) (see ICD-11, Add proposals).

**Virus:** The naming of virus species is the responsibility of the International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV), which has a process underway for the name of the monkeypox virus.

**Variants/clades:** The naming of variants for existing pathogens is normally the result of debate amongst scientists. In order to expedite agreement in the context of the current outbreak, WHO convened an *ad hoc* meeting on 8 August to enable virologists and public health experts to reach consensus on new terminology.

Experts in pox virology, evolutionary biology and representatives of research institutes from across the globe reviewed the phylogeny and nomenclature of known and new monkeypox virus variants or clades. They discussed the characteristics and evolution of monkeypox virus variants, their apparent phylogenetic and clinical differences, and potential consequences for public health and future virological and evolutionary research.

The group reached consensus on new nomenclature for the virus clades that is in line with best practices. They agreed on how the virus clades should be recorded and classified on genome sequence repository sites.

Consensus was reached to now refer to the former Congo Basin (Central African) clade as Clade one (I) and the former West African clade as Clade two (II). Additionally, it was agreed that the Clade II consists of two subclades.

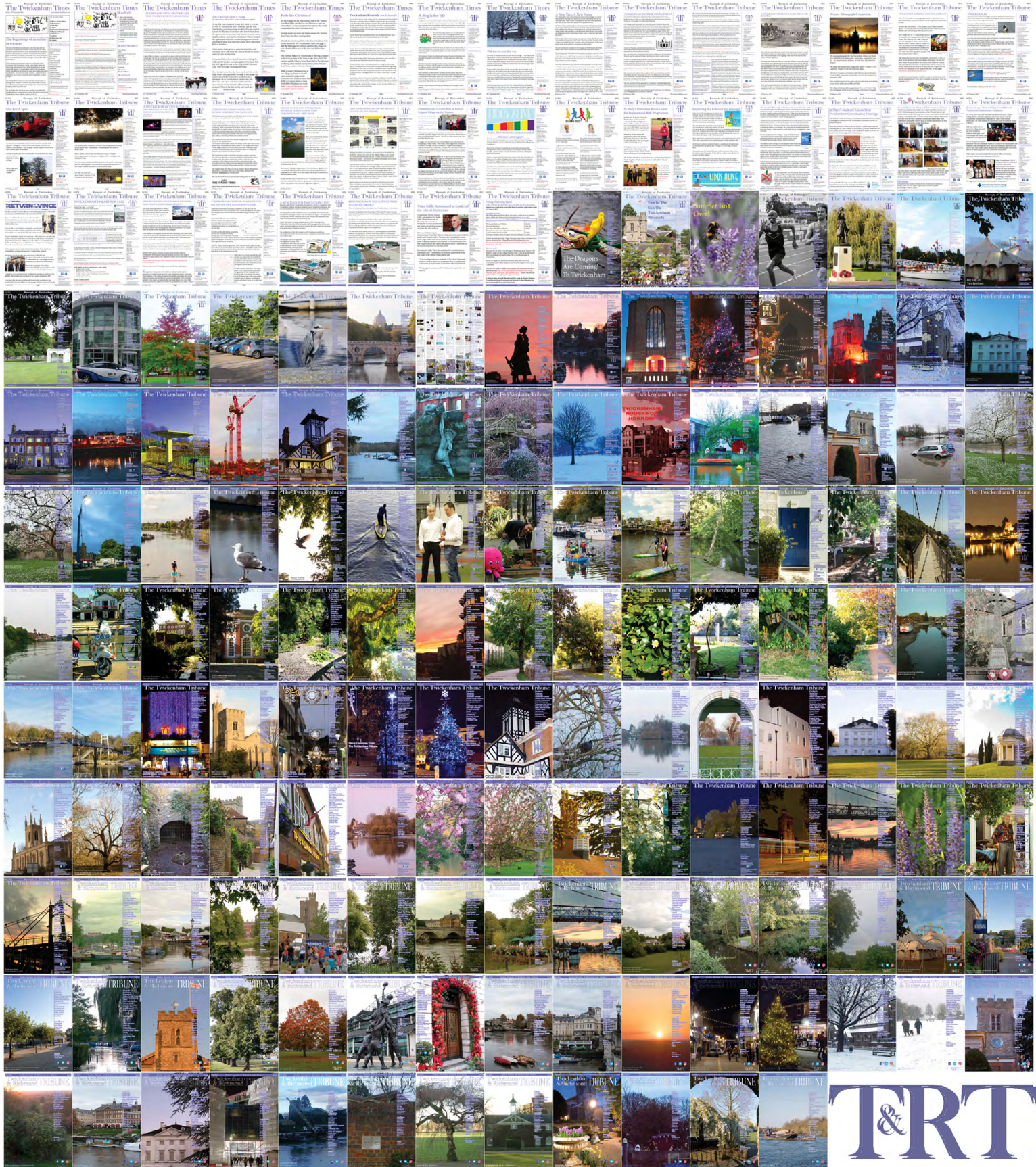
The proper naming structure will be represented by a Roman numeral for the clade and a lower-case alphanumeric character for the subclades. Thus, the new naming convention comprises Clade I, Clade IIa and Clade IIb, with the latter referring primarily to the group of variants largely circulating in the 2022 global outbreak. The naming of lineages will be as proposed by scientists as the outbreak evolves. Experts will be reconvened as needed.

The new names for the clades should go into effect immediately while work continues on the disease and virus names.





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**Published by:**

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune (in association with World InfoZone Limited)

Registered in England & Wales

Reg No 10549345

The Twickenham Tribune is registered with the ICO under the Data Protection Act, Reg No ZA224725

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