

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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Editors

Berkley Driscoll
Teresa Read



19th August 2022

T&RT

Sunset from Holy Trinity, Twickenham Green
Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

RMT Strike Action Saturday 20th August

Saturday 20 August

A severely reduced service will operate between 0730 and 1830. Large parts of the South Western Railway 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.

Find more info [HERE](#)

TfL services affected by strike action

The majority of TfL's services will continue to run, but some disruption is expected on the following lines and areas:

Saturday 20th August

Reduced service on the London Overground and no Night Overground service

Reduced service on the Elizabeth line

No service on the District line between Wimbledon and Parson's Green, and Richmond and Turnham Green before 08:00 and after 18:00

Sunday 21 August

Disruption from the strikes will continue to affect customers into the morning of Sunday 21 August. Customers on lines affected by strike action are encouraged to avoid making journeys on affected services until after 08:00.

More info [HERE](#)

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COVID-19

Teresa Read

World Health Organization

Weekly Epidemiological Update, published 17 August 2022

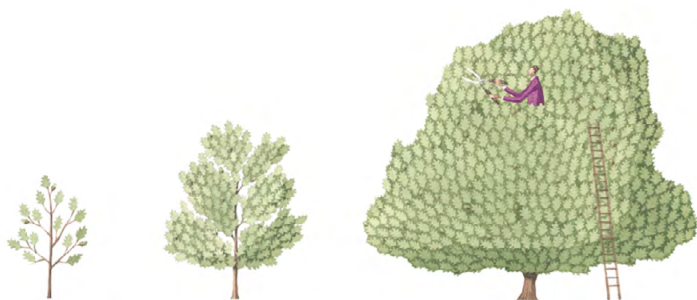
Globally, the number of new weekly cases decreased by 24% during the week of 8 to 14 August 2022, as compared to the previous week, with over 5.4 million new cases reported. The number of new weekly deaths decreased by 6%, as compared to the previous week, with over 15,000 fatalities reported. As of 14 August 2022, 587 million confirmed cases and 6.4 million deaths have been reported globally.

At the regional level, the number of reported new weekly cases decreased across all six regions: the African Region (-38%), the European Region (-38%), the Eastern Mediterranean Region (-30%), the Western Pacific Region (-18%), the Region of the Americas (-17%), and the South-East Asia Region (-11%).

The number of new weekly deaths increased in the Western Pacific (+31%) and the South-East Asia Region (+12%), while it decreased or remained stable in the African Region (-33%), the European Region (-25%), the Eastern Mediterranean Region (-7%), and the Region of the Americas (-4%).

At the country level, the highest numbers of new weekly cases were reported from Japan (1,395,301 new cases; -7%), the Republic of Korea (866,830 new cases; +22%), the United States of America (679,653 new cases; -14%), Germany (271,277 new cases; -25%), and Italy (193,305 new cases; -32%). The highest numbers of new weekly deaths were reported from the United States of America (2,907 new deaths; -4%), Japan (1,647 new deaths; 64%), Brazil (1,495 new deaths; +3%), Italy (920 new deaths; -13%), and Spain (573 new deaths; -12%).

The European Region reported over 1.2 million new cases, a 38% decrease as compared to the previous week. Four (7%) countries in the Region reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with some of the highest proportional increases observed in Gibraltar (96 vs 36 new cases; +167%), and Ukraine (3,893 vs 556 new cases; +40%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Germany (271,277 new cases; 326.2 new cases per 100,000; -25%), Italy (193,305 new cases; 324.1 new cases per 100,000; -32%), and the Russian Federation (169,259



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new cases; 116.0 new cases per 100,000; +53%).

There is now a large diversity within the Omicron VOC, an expected phenomenon that is the result of the accumulation of mutations as part of the virus replication process and/or immune pressure from the host. More than 200 descendent lineages of Omicron have emerged; these variants are being monitored by WHO, depending on the specific genetic constellations of mutations, indications of a rise in prevalence in a specific location or geographic spread, as well as any evidence of phenotypic changes.

COVID IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Reuters: UK first to approve Omicron COVID shot with Moderna nod

The Times of India: Russia's COVID cases cross 30,000 for the first time since mid-March

Reuters: China reports 3,036 new COVID cases for Aug 16

World Health Organization Director General, 17 August 2022: Over the past four weeks, reported deaths globally have increased by 35%. Just in the past week, 15,000 people around the world lost their lives to COVID-19. 15,000 deaths a week is completely unacceptable, when we have all the tools to prevent infections and save lives.

We're all tired of this virus, and tired of the pandemic. But the virus is not tired of us.

Omicron remains the dominant variant, with the BA.5 sub-variant representing more than 90% of sequences shared in the last month. However, the number of sequences shared per week has fallen by 90% since the beginning of this year, and the number of countries sharing sequences has dropped by 75%, making it so much harder to understand how the virus might be changing.

With colder weather approaching in the northern hemisphere and people spending more time indoors, the risks for more intense transmission and hospitalization will only increase in the coming months – not only for COVID-19, but for other diseases including influenza.

But none of us is helpless – please get vaccinated if you are not, and if you need a booster, get one. Wear a mask when you can't distance, and try to avoid crowds, especially indoors.

There is a lot of talk about learning to live with this virus. But we cannot live with 15,000 deaths a week. We cannot live with mounting hospitalizations and deaths. We cannot live with inequitable access to vaccines and other tools.

Learning to live with COVID-19 does not mean we pretend it's not there. It means we use the tools we have to protect ourselves, and protect others.

Wishing for rain

By Simon Fowler

1762 had an exceptionally dry summer, Horace Walpole wrote to his friend the Earl of Strafford on 1 August that: 'We have not a teacup full of rain till today for these six weeks: corn has been reaped that never wet its lips; not a blade of grass, the leaves yellow falling as in the end of October.'

And in a letter to the Revd William Cole who lived in Buckinghamshire, he commented that Strawberry Hill has its 'worst looks' with 'not a blade of grass.' Cole replied: 'We have been daily tantalised with rain, but not a drop has fallen here to any purpose these three months, although by accounts, other places have had very plentiful showers.'



Strawberry Hill in 1770

Credit: London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (Ref LDORL: 00250)

This shortage of rain was widespread. There were reports in the newspapers about droughts in Wiltshire, where the grain harvest had been destroyed by the lack of rain which, it was feared, would lead to very high bread prices in London, which was the destination of most of the grain.

There were other parallels with Britain today, particularly industrial unrest. Walpole grumbled to a friend that work on his house was being delayed: 'My workmen have disappointed me; they have been in the association [trade union] for forcing their masters to raise their wages, and, but two men are yet returned – so when you visit you must excuse litter and shave.'

To another friend, Horatio Mann in Florence, he expressed sympathy with their actions: 'the poor fellows whose labour it is, see their masters advance their prices every day, and think it would be reasonable to touch their share. You would be frightened at the dearness of everything. I build out of economy, for unless I do so now, in two years I shall not be able to afford it. I expect that a pint of milk will not be sold under a diamond, and then nobody can keep a cow but my Lord Clive.' Robert Clive then was perhaps the richest man in England having made his fortune in India.

The lawlessness also led to a number of break-ins at local country houses. Thieves entered Hanworth House, while Lord Vere and his family were there. The loot was abandoned in the grounds of the house including a telescope 'which by the weight of the case they had fancied full of money.' Walpole shuddered 'I am mounting cannon on my battlements.'

Inevitably, as soon as Walpole complained to his friends about the drought it started to rain. Writing to Strafford on 10 August he said that: 'It has rained such deluges, that I had some thoughts of turning my gallery into an ark...but it has grown fine at last and the workmen quite my gallery today without hoisting a sail in it.'

Thames Water introduce restrictions on water usage

From Wednesday 24 August, there will be a hosepipe ban (also known as a Temporary Use Ban).

After the driest July on record, and below average rainfall in 10 of the last 12 months, water levels in rivers and reservoirs are much lower than usual.

Thames Water have more teams reducing leakage than ever before, working 24/7 to find and fix more than 1,100 leaks every week. The recent heatwaves mean that demand for water is also at record levels.



Although the ban officially starts on 24 August, the sooner we can all save more water, whether using a hosepipe or not, the better for everyone.

The restrictions apply to all customers Thames Water supply water to even if they don't bill you directly.

Read the full rules and find out more about [water restrictions](#).

Richmond Hearing Voices Friendship Group

The Hearing Voices Friendship Group supports residents who hear voices and those who support them.

The group is free and confidential. All are welcome to come to the group meeting on the last Thursday of each month at Richmond Library Annexe (TW9 1DH) from 11am to 1pm, to offer information, support and understanding.

For further information please contact Wendy Micklewright on wmicklewright@yahoo.co.uk.



View more [details about the group](#).

Careless Actions Can Cause Wildfires

We have all seen in the news the devastation brought to communities by wildfires during the recent hot weather; dry grass can easily become a tinderbox rapidly spreading fire to neighbouring buildings and communities.

Disposable barbecues can be a cause of fire if left unattended, but cigarettes are also a concern.

A grass fire in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (LBRUT) Contact Centre this week has been blamed on a discarded cigarette, possibly by a passer-by, but the area outside the Centre is seen to be used by smokers associated with the Centre as well as visitors from Twickenham Green.

It seems that quick action from a member of staff put out the Contact Centre fire, which was near the Centre's outer perimeter, but it is a lesson to be learned that in hot weather it is relatively easy for a grass fire to start with the careless disposal of cigarettes as well as barbecues.

Achieving for Children, the organization that runs the Contact Centre for LBRUT has been informed as well as local councillors so we hope to see some measures that might prevent a similar, or worse, fire in the future.

South Twickenham ward councillors were asked for a comment, but nothing has been received at the time of publishing.



Kew Horticultural Society Summer Show returns for 2022

The 77th annual Kew Horticultural Society Summer Show takes place on Saturday 27 August.

The Kew Horticultural Society Summer Show is one of the few remaining traditional produce fairs in London.

If you haven't been before, then a treat awaits you! Please come along and enjoy all that this fabulous community event has to offer. Besides the glorious 'exhibit marquee' bursting with vegetables, fruit, flowers, baking and craft, there will be local and horticultural-based stalls, a jazz band, a tea tent, a barbecue and traditional family fun, including a Punch and Judy show.



But don't just come along; join in the fun by entering your produce, flowers, cakes or craft into one of over 100 categories, with specific classes for children, and experience the excitement of participating in this joyful community event.

All entries need to be delivered the evening before the event, between 5 and 8pm, or on the morning of the show between 7.30 and 9.30am. There will be plenty of advice on hand for first-time entrants.

Take a look at the [Kew Horticultural Society website](#) for more information.

Take part in the Mayor's Art Competition

The next art session for the Mayor's Art Competition at Asgill House takes place on Saturday 27 August with a great prize up for grabs.

The winning artwork will receive the Asgill Prize to inspire original painting and drawing, which celebrates Richmond's riverside heritage. The winning artwork will be exhibited in The Mayor's Parlour for the duration of the Mayor's term.

The winning artist and a guest will also be invited to The Mayor's Charity reception at Asgill House held at the end of her term.

The next art session at Asgill House will take place from 11am to 2pm on Saturday 27 August with entry priced at just £10. The competition will end on Wednesday 21 September.

[Find out more and book your tickets](#)



Dear Sir

Tolerance?

From his bully pulpit - in a rival rag - Lib Dem Council Leader Gareth Roberts - delivered a written political sermon recently on the Conservative leadership election.

Viewing both candidates as versions of Donald Trump - like a pontificating pontiff - he preached that: "It's open season on tolerance which has always been a hallmark of (sic) British way of life."

It would be interesting to hear his explanation of the Lib Dem tolerance behind their anti-Brexit mantra "Bollocks to Brexit" after they lost a democratic vote.

And maybe he would like to have a word with fellow Lib Dem Candy Piercy who spoke at an "unconscious bias" training session - at last year's Lib Dem Party Conference - when she revealed that Lib Dems often "characterise Leave voters as stupid, racist, ill-educated, evil characters".

Or perhaps Cllr Roberts is partaking in Orwellian "doublethink" - by holding two opposing opinions at the same time - which some could characterise as hypocrisy.

Yours faithfully
(Name and address supplied, Hampton Wick)

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

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

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

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

No change to waste and recycling services over August bank holiday weekend

Waste and recycling services will operate as scheduled over the August bank holiday.

There will be no change to the schedule for residential waste and recycling on Monday 29 August.

We will continue to collect residential waste and recycling on households' normal days of service even if your collection day is the bank holiday. This also applies to garden waste collections.



[Find your collection day](#)

Residents can [report missed waste and recycling collections](#) online.

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.

WWII bomb disposed of in Bushy Park

This afternoon a WWII munition was safely disposed of in Bushy Park in a controlled explosion.

It is understood that the explosive had been discovered nearby in Hampton Hill and was taken to Bushy Park to be dealt with safely.

Royal Parks Police say that the explosive may have been from WWI rather than WWII.

A video of the controlled explosion can be seen on Twitter [HERE](#)



Cyclist injured avoiding dog in Richmond Park

Now that the deer birthing season has ended dogs are no longer required to be kept on a lead in the parks.

However, police are asking people to keep their pets under control.

Today a cyclist had to take evasive action to avoid hitting a dog running across the road.

The cyclist crashed and is suspected to have a fractured pelvis.



Photos courtesy Royal Parks Police

Vote for Hampton resident shortlisted for national fundraising award

Hampton resident Shelle Luscombe has been announced as a finalist in the Creative Fundraiser category of the 2022 JustGiving Awards.

Shelle is currently completing 50 challenges following her 50th birthday to raise money for vital dementia research.

She'd experienced first-hand the devastating impact of dementia on both of her parents and wanted to do what she could to help prevent others going through what she was going through. She partnered with the UK's leading dementia research charity Alzheimer's Research UK, set up a JustGiving page and began inviting friends to set her a challenge in exchange for a donation.

To date, fundraising has reached almost £7,500 with 39 challenges completed. Shelle is working her way through the remaining 11 and hopes to hit £10k, which is double her original target.

The list has included wild swimming, learning to play guitar, baking, horse riding, a sky dive, stand-up comedy, and paddle boarding.

To donate and to find out more about Shelle's challenges, visit her [JustGiving page](#).

[Vote for Shelle](#) in the 2022 JustGiving Awards.

You can also [read Shelle's blog](#) on her website.



Teddington Tidbits

By 'Teddington Resident'

Tall Teddington Telecoms Masts Planning Application Declined

Teddington residents strongly voiced their views urging the council to deny the proposed installation of a new 15m/49-foot monopole metal tower to support an antenna, associated radio equipment tower to support antenna and ancillary developments.

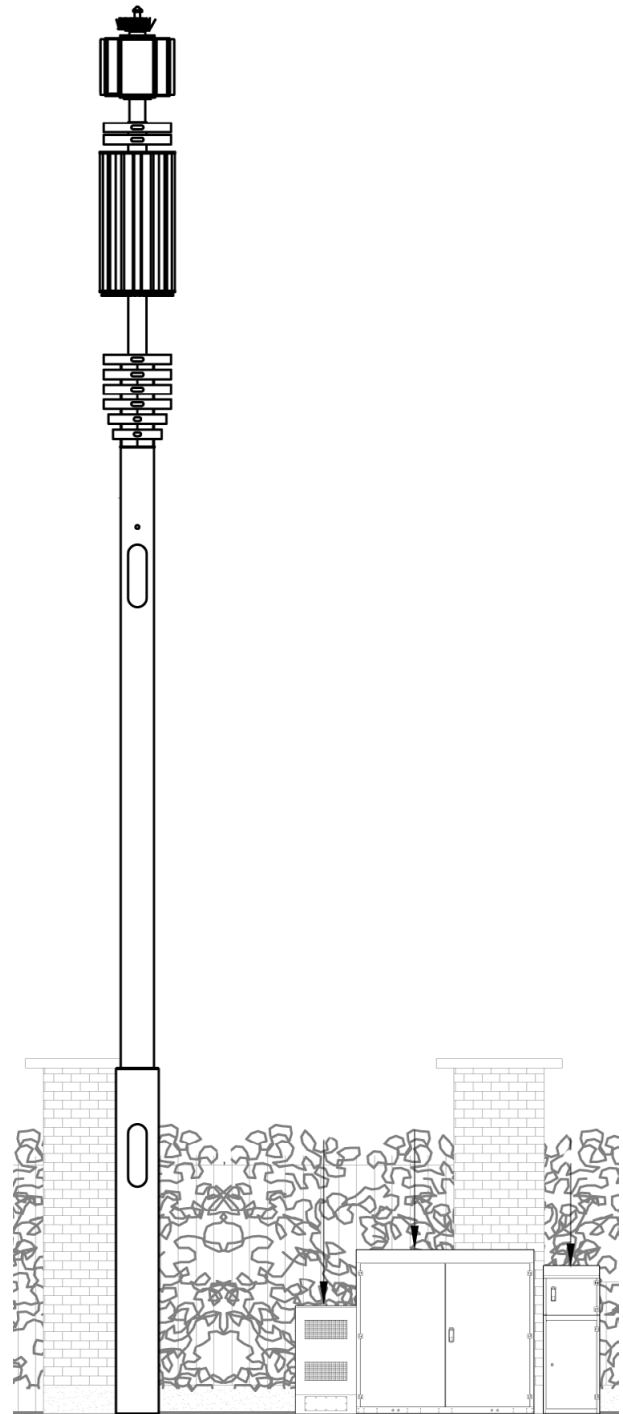
The challenge is finding a suitable location that works for the company and the neighbouring residents. The application was submitted 30 June 2022. The council had 56 days to consider it with "siting and appearance being the only issues on which to render a decision" - and as such the planning application No: [22/2085/TEL](#) was refused on 15 August 2022.

While we all value reliable mobile connections with so many activities only available via mobile phones, a few telecom companies have not done sufficient due diligence when selecting the locations for the equipment. According to the submitted application, the design was completed by a trainee and the proposed site was never visited.

The key reasons given for rejection were the combination of "inappropriate design, excessive height, width, bulk and conspicuous siting and failure to demonstrate the protection of visually important trees" resulting "in a visually prominent, incongruous and overbearing form of development which would cause unacceptable harm to the visual amenities, character and appearance of the local area and the settings of the Grade II Listed North Lodge and nearby Buildings of Townscape Merit 1- 8 Elm Lodge, Victoria House and 95 Queens Road." Additionally, the drawings were incorrect regarding cabinetry and pole elevations.

You can do an advanced search for other actual applications on the planning website for masts using https://www2.richmond.gov.uk/lbrplanning/Planning_Report.aspx The council has recently been reviewing several similar telecom mast applications, such as one on Kingston Road near Hampton Wick.

Teddington is **our** town, so protect it!



RSPB Richmond and Twickenham releases autumn programme of talks

The group is offering a wide range of bi-monthly talks from September to May on birds and other nature-related topics, and has announced a busy programme of events, talks and walks for the autumn months.

The Richmond and Twickenham RSPB group's aim is to actively support the work of the RSPB in the local community and to involve the wider public in the Society's conservation, education, fundraising activities.

The bi-monthly talks resume on Wednesday 7 September with a talk from Keith Betton on Stone Curlews and Peregrines. On Tuesday 13 September, Rob Yarham will give a talk on Birding in West Sussex.



Moving into October, Steve Portugal will deliver a talk on Bird Flight and Cooperative Aerodynamics on Wednesday 5 October, while later in the month Brittany Maxted will discuss Restoring the Osprey.

All events are due to take place in the Hyde Room of York House in Twickenham.

[Explore the full programme of talks](#)

Chatterbooks Reading Groups return in September - register your interest!

Richmond Libraries will be relaunching their popular reading groups for 8 to 10 year olds next month at a number of local libraries.

If your child lives in Richmond upon Thames or attends school in the borough and enjoys reading, register for the next [Chatterbooks Reading Group](#).

Chatterbooks is relaunching after being put on hold during the pandemic. At these reading groups kids and library staff chat about books, play games and do quizzes. It is a great way to discover new authors and make new friends.

The groups meet once a month after school, during term time, for about an hour.

[Register your child's interest in the group](#)



SUMMER ‘LO OR NO’ DOESN’T NEED TO BE ‘SO-SO’!

Most of us have times when we are avoiding alcohol, whether it’s for a specific time due to health reasons, or just to give that liver a rest. But more and more folk are doing ‘Dry January,’ and then finding out that they feel better, slimmer and generally more alert by avoiding alcohol, so they continue throughout the year. (unfortunately I’m not one of them!)

Companies such as the award-winning [Wise Bartender](#) have sprung up to specialise in alcohol-free drinks. It stocks over 450 products, from alcohol-free beer, wine, cider, spirits and cocktails through to mead, kombucha, sodas and mixers. Tom Ward, its founder, says: “In 2017, as the quality and choice of alcohol-free drinks, particularly beer, started to improve, we launched **Wise Bartender** with a modest range to give people the chance to buy individual bottles or cans to try, rather than having to order a whole case. Alcohol-free has become one of the most exciting and innovative drinks categories with demand continuing to grow. In 2021, our retail sales grew 30% and we now also supply pubs, bars and restaurants, as customers increasingly expect a good range of alcohol-free drinks when they go out.”

In the summer we usually want longer, more refreshing tipples, so here are a few of the alcohol alternatives that I’ve discovered, and I have to say, I’ve been pretty impressed!

Let’s start with **Seedlip**, probably one of the best known distilled, non alcoholic spirits. The company now has three varieties in the range: **Seedlip Garden 108**; **Seedlip Grove 42** and **Seedlip Spice 94**. If you go on the [website](#) you will find a host of great cocktail recipes. A good introduction to Seedlip is the gift box of all three in 20cl bottles at £34.99. Try this, then you can move onto a full size bottle of your favourite. But when out and about, do look for the Seedlip Summer of Colour cocktails as the company has teamed up with a number of bars to promote their colourful cocktails.



A new kid on the block is **Mahala Botanical**. This award-winning, South African, alcohol-free, spirit makes a brilliant cocktail mixed with tonic and a sprig of rosemary or ginger ale and a squeeze of lime. Mahala, meaning “free” in Zulu, is a premium craft spirit, free from alcohol, sugar, colourants and artificial flavours, triple-distilled in custom-made vacuum stills using nine hand-sourced botanicals, many of which are indigenous to South Africa and some which are even foraged from co-founder and Master Distiller Danielle Schoeman’s, own farmland. Its nine ingredients, including honeybush, orange, clove, buchu, Pelargonium citronella and more, offer a splendid premium drink. Available from Wise Bartender at £19.99 for 750ml. Mahala is also gluten and vegan friendly.

If, like me, you’re a gin drinker and want to reduce the alcohol in your favourite tipple, then this clever idea from **Inginious Gin** should float your boat... it’s also lower in calories! A 5ml serve, compared to the standard 50ml double serve of gin, mixed with 150ml of tonic results in the familiar G&T taste experience, but with only 0.2 units of alcohol per serve. Each purchase comes with a special 5ml measuring spoon (but I have to admit that I serve myself double!) Inginious contains carefully chosen botanicals including the classic gin botanical juniper, and a citrus blend of lemongrass, grapefruit and lime to ensure a delicate, but recognisable, gin flavour. Available online at Inginious-Gin.co.uk, RRP £26.00.



I'm very impressed with **Anon Drinks**: the three products in the portfolio of this award-winning new company cover two of my favourite alcoholic drinks, but with no alcohol. **Anon Bittersweet** makes a good alternative to Campari, or Aperol, and if mixed with alcohol free fizz, a brilliant spritz. The palate profile is complex and developed, with hints of orange, citrus and herbs. **Anon Spiced Cane** is a great rum alternative that I've used to great effect in cocktails with cola or ginger beer. But the star of the trio is the recently launched: **Anon English Garden**. It's a non-alco alternative to Pimms, blending natural flavours combining classic summer fruits, cucumber, mint, orange, apple and strawberry. Serve as one would a Pimms or top up with some fizz for an English Garden Spritz. Available at £20 for 70cl or £12 for 20 cl to try them.



And even easier, (and perfect for picnics) is the recently launched Anon English Garden ready-to-drink, in cans, to create an instant cocktail. £10 for 4 x 250ml ready to drink cans of English Garden from anondrinks.com and Wise Bartender too.



Enough of 'spirits', how about wine? Brewed in Birmingham, **Bolle** is a new alternative to sparkling wine, available in both 750ml (£9.99) & 350ml (£3.49), Bolle has found 'a revolutionary way to ferment juices without producing either alcohol or unpalatable sweetness, because a growing appetite for low/no abv should never mean short-changing one's taste buds.' Two varieties are



available: **Bolle Rosa**: delicate salmon pink colour, fine bubbles & notes of berries, blackcurrant, toast & herbs and **Bolle Ora**: again fine bubbles coupled with notes of apple, pear, toast & minerals. Available online from Bolle

For beer, Bavaria based **ERDINGER Weissbrau**, the biggest family-owned wheat beer brewery, has a couple of really delicious alcohol-free options - the regular ERDINGER Alkoholfrei and ERDINGER Alkoholfrei Grapefruit (which is a mix of the former plus grapefruit juice). Alkoholfrei is widely available at around £1.50 for a 500ml bottle from major supermarkets and the Grapefruit mix in Tesco. They're refreshing and are isotonic, and known as the sporty thirst quenchers, as they help to replace lost fluids quickly. They also taste great!

And one doesn't need to pretend to be drinking alcohol when there are so many really delicious soft drinks available. I'm particularly impressed with the **Cawston Press** range. The popular **Cawston Press Sparkling Rhubarb** and **Sparkling Elderflower Lemonade** are now available in 750ml glass bottles so can grace the drinks table at any gathering when something non alcoholic, but rather special, is required. Simply made from real pressed fruit and sparkling water - that's it! As well as tasting pretty damned good, they are great in cocktails too. Around £3.49 a bottle, from selected Waitrose stores, Ocado and by the case of six from Amazon for £20,99



So, in a nutshell, there's plenty of scope - from new arrivals and old favourites. Cheers!

Clue

by Sandy Rustin, adapted from screenplay by Jonathan Lynn
YAT at the Hampton Hill Theatre

Anyone who has spent a rainy weekend playing games, will have a fair idea what to expect from *Clue*. However, this comedy thriller, based on Cluedo, the famous board game, is set in 1950s America. YAT's youthful and energetic cast breathe new vitality into the old favourite, resulting in a highly enjoyable couple of hours of madcap theatre.



Against the traditional backdrop of a dark and stormy night, a diverse group of individuals, each with something to hide, and each with iconic names are due to arrive at Boddy Manor.

The suave butler Wadsworth initially welcomes the visitors to Boddy Manor, but as the suspects and servants arrive, so *Clue* becomes more of an ensemble piece as it develops.

The main cast all relish their witty dialogue, and spark off each other brilliantly during the ensemble dinner scenes, to the extent that it's almost a shame when the murders start, the stakes begin to rise, and the characters split into smaller groups to explore Boddy Manor for clues.

If the first half is heavy on witty dialogue, the second half opens with a bang as the characters explore the house. Colonel Mustard entertains with a series of commando rolls, while Professor Plum turns cartwheels and Mrs White piggybacks on Wadsworth. These more physical scenes highlight the exuberance and energy of the cast.

Directors Sarah Dowd and Elizabeth Lattimore keep the frenetic pace up constantly, and the cast must finish each performance completely exhausted.

Despite the physical comedy aspects, *Clue* is a very wordy play, which requires sharp comic timing from its cast. YAT's actors never fall short, and deliver an extremely entertaining presentation.

Read Andrew Lawston's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/08/11/clue

Photography by Jonathan Constant



Footloose

by Dean Pitchford and Walter Bobbie

Selladoor Worldwide at Wimbledon Theatre until 20th August

Wimbledon becomes Bomont, the town where dancing and rock music are prohibited.

This stage adaptation of the 1984 film has plenty of its own star power, in addition to music by Tom Snow. Mike Nichols conducts, and, in a bold move from director Racky Plews, actors play live in the middle of choreographed musical numbers, adding to a sense of danger and rawness to the production.



The set is a fantastic confection from designer Sara Perks, the forbidding scaffold brightly lit by Chris Davey, and then dressed with bright pink sofas made to look like the back of a Cadillac. School lockers slickly swivel to reveal the gym's showers.



Slipping into the blue denim as Ren McCormack is Joshua Hawkins, in fine form as a rebellious teenager, questioning everything and accepting nothing. He bumps heads with Tom Mussell's aggressive Chuck, who also plays a mean saxophone, but it's a shame that their rivalry isn't fully explored by the script.

West End stalwart Darren Day commands the stage as the smoothly charismatic Rev'd Shaw Moore. As Vi, Moore's wife, Holly Ashton has a lightness of touch which prevents him from appearing too pompous or antagonistic.

Ren's loyal best friend Willard is played by Aston Merrygold, who is best known as from the group JLS and for his subsequent solo career. Understandably his singing voice is excellent, but his acting performance is also full of vibrant energy with a flair for physical comedy.

Oonagh Cox rounds out the main young cast as Rusty. We enjoyed Cox's performance in [Cinderella at Richmond Theatre](#) last year, and now revealing a fantastic singing voice.

Footloose is a feel-good show and its soundtrack is as famous as the film, and the best-remembered songs are joyously present and correct. Some of the source film's grittier moments are smoothed over a little, it does nothing to diminish the exuberant outpouring during the inevitable happy ending. *Footloose* is a high-energy show and a whirl of memorable songs, colourful costumes, and great performances.



Read Andrew Lawston's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/08/17/footloose-wimb

Photography by Mark Senior



Black, el payaso

by Pablo Sorozábal, libretto by Francisco Serrano Anguita

Cervantes Theatre at the Arcola Theatre, then at the Cervantes Theatre, Southwark until 24th September

Review by Patrick Shorrock

Spanish composer Pablo Sorozábal (1897-1988) is barely known in Britain, neither is the distinctive genre, the zarzuela. Yet the Grimeborn Opera Festival curators definitely knew what they were doing in presenting the UK premiere of *Black, el payaso* (Black, the Clown).

Blessedly free of the usual operetta clichés, the piece is pure delight. There is a lot more to [zarzuela](#) than operetta with castanets.



Sorozábal should take a lot of the credit, helped by an interesting plot and libretto, fine performances, and an effective production. Even in a reduction for piano and violin, his quirky score is extremely attractive, music to please an audience in a refreshingly sugar-free kind of way: peppery olive oil rather than Viennese whipped cream.

However, there is an underlying seriousness that conveys the feelings of the characters with conviction without ever losing its lightness of touch.

Two clowns – called Black and White – are performing in a Parisian theatre. Black plays a song on his violin that causes an exiled Princess in the audience to faint. By Act 2 the clowns have returned to their native Orsonia, where White has become First Minister and Black is about to take the throne and marry the Princess. This all probably felt a lot more subversive at the 1942 premiere at the end of the Spanish Civil War and the start of the Franco dictatorship.

Black El Payaso is an unusual piece able to provide delightful entertainment and intertextuality at the same time, with a song as a major plot point and a direct quote from *Pagliacci* about melancholy clowns. The clowns' references to audiences barely able to afford ticket prices seemed particularly topical.

Perhaps this can be the first of more zarzuelas.

Read Patrick Shorrock's review at

www.markaspen.com/2022/08/05/black-payaso



Photography by Elena Molina



Der Ring des Nibelungen

by Richard Wagner, adapted by Jonathan Dove and Graham Vick
Arcola Theatre Productions at the Hackney Empire

What could be more wild, exciting and brave than a pocket-sized version of the most epic saga of the opera world, Wagner's *Ring* cycle? Over two evenings, the Grimeborn Opera Festival scale-down production halves the final two operas of *The Ring Cycle* tetralogy to a mere 4½ hours.

The wonderfully simple and effective set by Bettina John is a labyrinth of platforms, linked by countless stairs and ladders. Top marks for Robert Price's neon lighting that descends from the ceiling, sketching anything from Siegfried's Rhine journey, fire encircling Brünnhilde's rock or Siegfried's funeral pyre, to the ultimate apocalyptic end of the world.



Eighteen musicians (Wagner originally intended 88) of the *Orpheus Sinfonia* orchestra under the secure lead of [Peter Selwyn](#) create a sound as rich and powerful as you could possibly ask for. Dove's orchestration is nothing short of masterful. All characters are beautifully and clearly drawn under the superb direction of Julia Burbac.

As Wotan in *Siegfried*, Paul Carey-Jones' effortless voice has a superb, rich quality with faultless diction. Neal Cooper in the title role of Siegfried delivers soaring stratospheric vocal lines and has looks and stature to match.

In *Götterdämmerung*, Hagen, son of the dwarf who stole the Rheingold and started this whole mess, is portrayed by Simon Wildinger as a dark brooding intellectual. His dream conversation with father Alberich – Freddie Tong, lounging in an armchair, far from being the submissive ugly dwarf – has an air of a dark Freudian psychotherapy session.

Brünnhilde's immolation scene is unedited, giving it the full space to grow and build. Lee Bisset holds the space all by herself, a precise psychological study of Brünnhilde's pain. She is a voluptuous singer with agility and flexibility not only vocally but physically.

This very very impressive production shows that you can scale down without losing any of the drama, epic storytelling and artistry. The visuals are strong, the emotions huge, the sound magical.



Read Helen Astrid's review of *Siegfried* at www.markaspen.com/2022/08/09/siegfried and Suzanne Frost's review of *Götterdämmerung* at www.markaspen.com/2022/08/07/gotterdammerung

Photography by Alex Brenner

Tulu and Hotel Paradiso

Circus Abyssinia and Lost in Translation Circus at Underbelly Circus Hub, Edinburgh Fringe until 27th August

Tulu Derartu is the first African woman to win an Olympic gold medal. She went on to win the World Cross-Country Championships twice and the New York Marathon. That level of achievement deserves to be celebrated and *Circus Abyssinia* celebrate her in style!

The opening of the show depicts a track athlete running remarkably quickly around the big top, but it is sleight of hand on a grand scale: there are actually three Tulus, who all come into their own later. In Africa the real Tulu tended cattle as a child and reputedly ran at night-time - dodging the hyenas! This part of the show contains some truly incredible contortions – and the first of many audible gasps from the audience. And there the storyline pretty much ends. Because this show is about the essence of the person; it is not a biography, it is a true demonstration of determination, courage, nerve, discipline, skill and self-belief.



It is a joy to watch. There is dancing, hand balancing, skating, and some truly jaw-dropping acrobatics that were real “stomach in the mouth” frightening.

Tulu is a wonderful hour’s entertainment. One of the best things this year’s Fringe has to offer. I hope that Derartu Tulu has seen it; I hope she is proud to have her name associated with such a fine piece of work.

Hotel Paradiso is a well-known play and film that has its original plot slightly changed for this production. Of the little of the plot that remains hangs the hotel’s future, under threat from the baddies. Obligatory police chases add even more drama to the story and the clever use of proper slapstick is very impressive.

An hour of madcap, fast-moving entertainment uses every circus trick in the book, balancing acts, acrobatics, trapeze and juggling. This is a piece of spectacular circus.

Read Eleanor Marsh’s review of *Tulu* at www.markaspen.com/2022/08/17/tulu and of *Hotel Paradiso* at www.markaspen.com/2022/08/12/hotel-paradiso

Photography by David Rubenn, Rod Penn and Will Wood



WIZ TALES - India and Pakistan

Teresa Read



Snow Leopard

During the last week, seventy-five years on from Partition in August 1947, India and Pakistan celebrated independence.

Information for these countries can be found on my World InfoZone website.

I met representatives from the RISE-PAK project (Relief and Information Systems for Earthquakes Pakistan) in 2006 and the Ekagon project (ICT in rural communities) from India in 2008 - see photographs below - both at the Stockholm Challenge, one of the two major international award programmes for the innovative use of IT.

As well as writing about countries around the world and collaborating with a variety of people, I travelled regularly meeting representatives from a number of countries involved in some of the relatively early internet projects.



Pakistan



India

India, Information and photographs: <https://worldinfozone.com/facts.php?country=India>

Pakistan, Information and photographs <https://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=Pakistan>

Photographs courtesy of RISE-PAK (Pakistan) and Ekagon project (India)

River Cruise - Thames Tidefest 2022

Sunday 4th September

There's nothing quite like stepping onto a beautiful boat and then heading off on a relaxing and fascinating guided cruise, especially on the River Thames. Treat yourself to a wonderful experience.

The Thames Islands Cruise – A Guided return boat trip from Kew Pier towards Hammersmith Bridge and back aboard Thames Discoverer.

Join Peter Finch – chairman of the River Thames Society and an authority on the river, aboard River Thames Boat Project's beautiful 65ft river cruise boat, Thames Discoverer. Peter will point out and illuminate landmarks throughout the trip. The trip lasts approximately 1 hour.



Thames Discoverer will leave Kew Bridge Pier at 10:30am, 11:45pm, 1.00pm, 2:15pm

8 tickets remaining for 10:30 cruise, **all other times sold out**

Amazing low price of just £12 per passenger! (Plus booking fee)

More info and booking [HERE](#)



Celebrate Ukrainian Independence Day at the Civic Centre in Twickenham

Celebrate Ukrainian Independence Day with the Prosperity Restaurant, Social Club and Donations Hub on 27 August.

The Prosperity Ukrainian Social Club and Donations Hub will be holding a charity fair and concert to celebrate the special day and are inviting all residents to come and taste some delicious Ukrainian food and drink.

There will be a craft market to enjoy along with live music and dance performances. Residents, refugees and host families are all welcome at the Civic Centre on 27 August from 1 to 7pm, to support the people of Ukraine.



Miniature train arrives at local railway

A new miniature railway train will be in operation for the Hampton Kempton Waterworks Railway's Weekend of Steam event this weekend.

Thanks to the collaboration between Mizens Railway and Hampton Kempton Waterworks Railway, there will be a miniature railway available for Hampton Kempton Waterworks Railway's Weekend of Steam event on **20 and 21 August**.

The miniature railway will provide visitors with train rides for children and adults.

Hampton Kempton Waterworks Railway is a two-foot narrow gauge railway, with the much larger steam locomotive 'Darent' also set to be in action over the weekend.



[Find out more about the event.](#)



Richmond upon Thames students receive A-Level results

Sixth forms students in Richmond upon Thames received their A-Level results yesterday.

As expected, this year's results show a decrease from the record teacher assessed results of the last two years, at both a local and national level.

Today's provisional results, based on the information currently received from schools, show that 89% of all A-Level entries in borough school sixth forms were awarded A* - C grades, considerably above the national average of 83%. The proportion of entries achieving the top A* - A grades, 45%, also remains well above the national average of 36%.

The pandemic and subsequent lockdowns had a significant disruption on in-person learning for many students in the borough. This year's school leavers were the first to sit A-level exams since the pandemic began. This year's marking scheme returned to the original pre-pandemic scheme rather than using last year's generous marking guidelines which has led to a fall in the overall pass rate this year with many students falling short of their predicted grades. The overall pass rate remains in line with the national average.

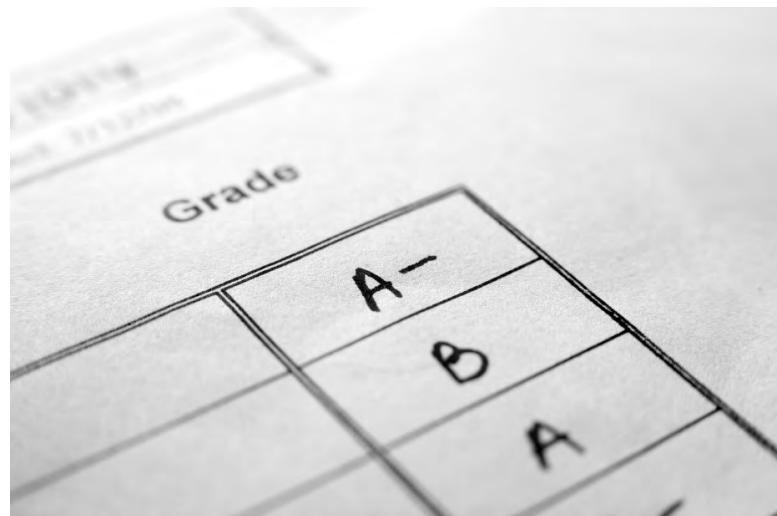
Cllr Penny Frost, Chair of the Education and Children's Services Committee, said:

"I would like to send my congratulations to all the students who have received their A-Level results today on what is a significant day for them. While some students may be disappointed with their results today it is important to know that these exams results are not the end of the road.

"Many students will have experienced significant disruption to learning as a result of the pandemic. If you did not receive the grades

you had hoped for it is important to know that there are many other roads that you can take to get you to your desired destination.

"I would like to wish all students the best of luck in the next step of their development, whether they are going onto university, employment, an apprenticeship or further training – I hope you achieve your dreams!"



If your grades were not what you expected, Achieving for Children's 14-25 team can provide support during this difficult time. For support and advice call the Summer Support helpline to talk to a qualified careers adviser to discuss your options. The line is open from 12 to 4pm from 18 to 31 August 2022. Alternatively, please email: 14-25@achievingforchildren.org.uk.

Waiting for exam results can be a stressful time for students. To support the mental health of young people in Richmond upon Thames young people can access [Kooth](#) - a free, safe and anonymous place for young people to find online support and counselling.

Travelling to Craven Cottage? Five things you need to know

Some practical tips and things to be aware of if you are heading to Craven Cottage this weekend

By [Brentford FC](#)

The first West London derby of the 2022/23 campaign is this weekend.

If you are heading down to Craven Cottage on Saturday, here is everything you need to know to ensure you are ready for your visit.

Getting to Craven Cottage

Craven Cottage is accessible via all major transport links, however, there are several restrictions in place this weekend (see below). It is anticipated that the roads in and around Fulham will be severely congested due to travel disruption. Parking around Craven Cottage is extremely limited, and access to the surrounding streets on a matchday is restricted by a Traffic Management Order.

Craven Cottage, Stevenage Road, London SW6 6HH

Be prepared for travel and transport issues

There will be some travel disruption affecting the local transport network on Saturday. Several bus routes across West London plan will be impacted by a bus drivers' strike on Saturday 20 August.

South Western Railway are also impacted by strike action and will have a severely reduced service operating between 5:30pm and 6:30pm only.

In addition to nationwide strikes on the railway, there will also be no service on the District line between Wimbledon and Parsons Green before 8am and after 6pm.

The transport network is expected to be a lot busier than usual given the reduced services in place, and we strongly recommend fans to plan ahead and check your route before you travel to arrive at Craven Cottage in time.

Ticketing information

Please ensure you have your ticket with you before you travel to the stadium. Fans are advised not to travel unless they are in possession of a valid match ticket. No ticket upgrades will be available on the day of the fixture.

For fans who need to collect tickets at Craven Cottage, please head to the Box Office on Stevenage Road. The ticket collections booth will open two hours before kick-off.

Matchday timings

Craven Cottage's turnstiles will open at 1:30pm. The players will head onto the pitch for their pre-match warm-up at 2:15pm, so make sure you are in your seats by then to give the Bees your support ahead of kick-off at 3pm.

Away pubs

There are a number of fan friendly away pubs near Craven Cottage. King's Arms (425 New Kings Road, SW6 4RN), Eight Bells (89 Fulham High Street, SW6 3JS), The Rocket (Putney Wharf Tower, SW15 2JQ), and The Crabtree (Rainville Road, W6 9HA) are all looking forward to welcoming Bees fans.

Have a safe trip and enjoy the first West London derby of the Premier League season!



Red Roses savour upbeat atmosphere at open training

Simon Middleton's preparations for New Zealand are in full swing and England's Senior Women treated more than a thousand buoyant England fans to an inside look at his side's work ahead of the showpiece event this November.

Supporters were in full voice as the players were put through their paces in intense heat and after training grabbed their chance for selfies and signatures with the squad.

The atmosphere helped spur the players and coaches on who savoured the opportunity to show off their skills on the Twickenham turf.

"It was such a fantastic occasion today and a great opportunity to run a session like this in front of the fans," said England head coach Simon Middleton. "What a great turnout and from a training point of view it was something we probably needed.



"It was a real challenge for us today and I thought in terms of the heat and the atmosphere it was tough. We learned that we have plenty of work to do but that's the beauty of sessions like this; you get tested because the environment is very different. You need a few bumps in the road because if you don't then you're not going to learn; we'll learn a lot more from that today than we would a few sessions."

After record-breaking crowds in the TikTok Women's Six Nations, Poppy Cleall believes the squad can build on that momentum and hopes to see more and more people watching the Red Roses in the near future.

"It was great to get to Twickenham and train," said Cleall. "We haven't trained here before in front of the crowd, it was really cool, they really spur us on. It's great to have all them behind us, out in New Zealand they're going to be behind us so it's great to see them and it's been great to give back something with some signatures and meeting them all.

"For the fans to come down and support us at all the games, they've taken time out of their day, paid money, come out and supported us to the point of losing their voices so for us, it means a lot to us. We love having them, we hope the crowds keep getting bigger and bigger and that we're here even longer next time signing more autographs."



Squire's garden centres announce charities of the year

Squire's Garden Centres has announced their 'Charities of the Year' for 2022-2023. The charities include Dyscover, Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care, League of Friends Crawley Hospital, Challengers, Voices of Hope and Royal Surrey Charity and many others.

Team members at each of Squire's sixteen garden centres chose the local charity that they wanted to support for the coming year, through fundraising efforts as well as helping raise awareness of their chosen charity.

Sarah Squire, Chairman of Squire's Garden Centres comments; "We believe it is so important to work with and be part of the local communities in which we are located. In support of this, every year each of our garden centres choose to support a local charity which means something to the centre team. Over the course of the coming year, our centres will help raise awareness of their chosen charity and importantly, help raise much needed funds for them. We are extremely grateful to our customers and colleagues for their support and generosity in helping these brilliant local causes and even more so during challenging times."

Alice Owen, Director of Business at Dyscover, comments: "We are delighted to have been chosen once again this year as Squire's Cobham's Charity of the Year. Based in Leatherhead, Dyscover provides long-term support and opportunities to people with aphasia and their families. Aphasia is a neurological condition which affects a person's ability to find words, construct sentences, and to understand language, both spoken and written. We offer structured, therapeutic group sessions, led by Speech and Language Therapists, for around 80 adults with aphasia each week, in person at Leatherhead and Kingston, and online, using Zoom. As we receive no government funding, support from organisations like Squire's allows us to continue to offer these services. We are looking forward to working with Sam and his team again this year."

Helen Watson, Chief Executive at Rentstart comments; "Rentstart is delighted to be chosen as Squire's Shepperton's Charity of the Year. Squire's support will help us to continue with our invaluable work in the local community, assisting those who are homeless or vulnerably housed. This partnership is a fantastic opportunity to raise awareness of our important cause, as well as raise much needed funds, and we are really excited to work with Squire's over the next year!"

Tom Enser, Corporate Partnerships Fundraiser at Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care, comments: "We are delighted that Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care has been chose for a second year by Squire's Badshot Lea as their Charity of the Year. We would like to thank Squire's for their support over the past 12 months. We have worked well with the Squire's Badshot Lea team over the last year, and we welcome the opportunity to extend this partnership over the coming year and working together on some great fundraising initiatives."

The charity chosen for Twickenham is:

REACT – giving depth to short lives.

Assists terminally ill children with financial support, educational equipment, homecare equipment, respite assistance and end of life assistance.



Would you grass on your neighbour if they ignored the hose pipe ban?

Shockingly (or not) 32.11% of Scots said they would have no issue grassing on their neighbours for breaking the hose pipe ban, with 67.89% fearing that snitches might get stitches.

In second place at 29.61% are those living in South West, who would make sure their neighbours got a hefty fine for breaking the law, whilst 70.39% saying they wouldn't grass up on them.

Wales comes third with 19.64% of people saying they would snitch on their neighbours whilst 80.36% would perhaps close their eyes and hope some of the water falls on their gardens too.

At the other end of the scale, London has the most people who would close their eyes to their neighbours breaking the hose pipe ban – 94.08%, followed by Yorkshire & the Humber and Northern Ireland with 92.44% and 90.24%, respectively, of people who would let their neighbours keep their gardens alive.

Region	Percentages	
	No	Yes
Scotland	67.89%	32.11%
South West	70.39%	29.61%
Wales	80.36%	19.64%
North West	81.40%	18.60%
South East	82.77%	17.23%
East of England	83.53%	16.47%
East Midlands	87.42%	12.58%
West Midlands	88.82%	11.18%
North East & Cumbria	89.40%	10.60%
Northern Ireland	90.24%	9.76%
Yorkshire & the Humber	92.44%	7.56%
London	94.08%	5.92%

<https://www.clearitwaste.co.uk/>

LGA responds to additional bus funding

Commenting on the Government's announcement of an additional £130 million of funding for bus operators to act as an extension of emergency support since the pandemic, Cllr David Renard, Transport spokesperson for the Local Government Association said:

“Buses play a vital role across the country – enabling people to shop, visit friends and family, get to work and access vital services, and for many people are a lifeline as they face the current cost of living crisis. The announcement of an extension to emergency funding will help keep critical local buses on the road in the short term and stop bus services in some areas slipping back into decline.

“However, if the Government wants to protect and grow bus travel, instead of emergency funding it should deliver on the commitments made in the National Bus Strategy. These include providing the £3 billion over three years for Bus Service Improvement Plans which

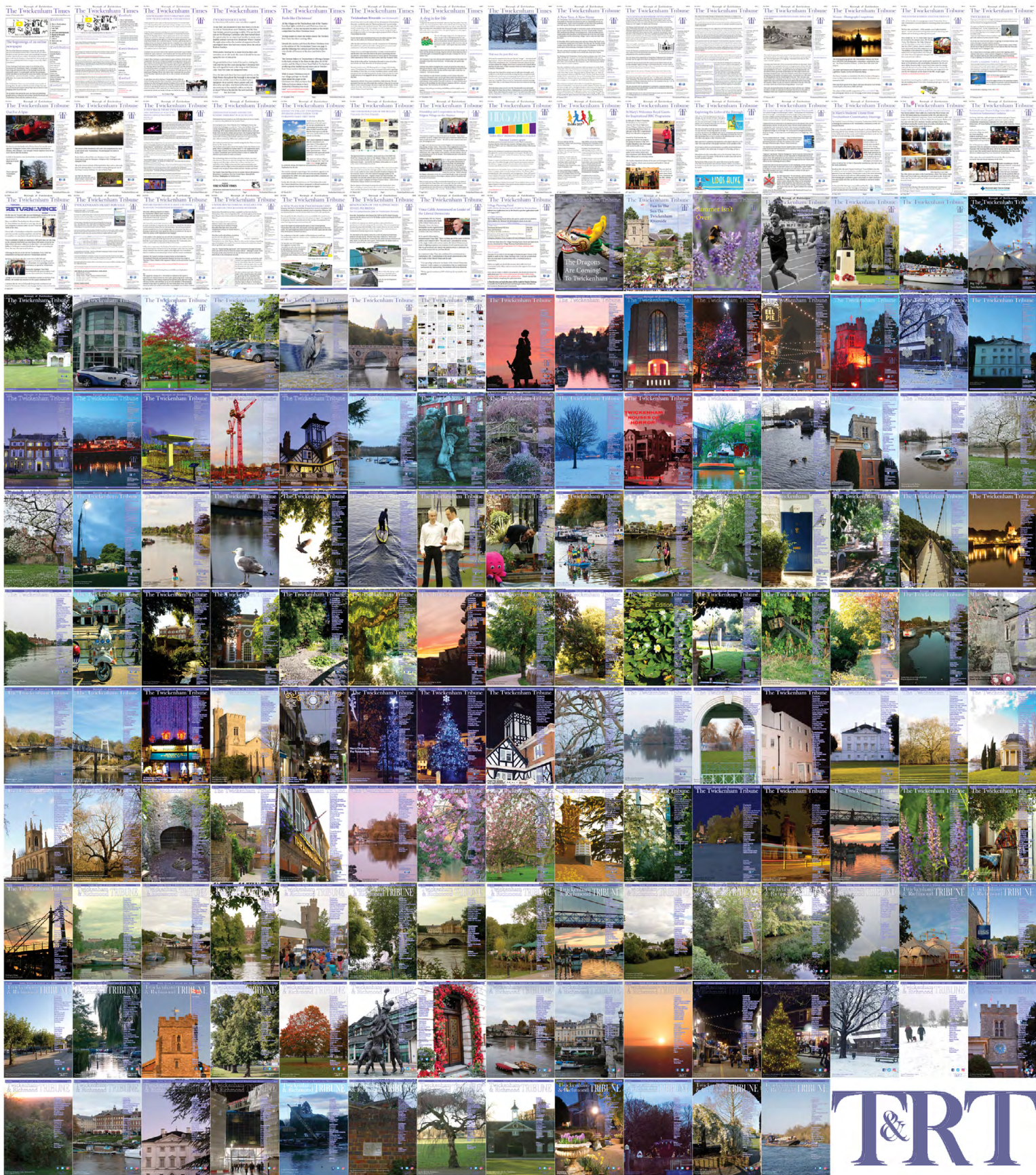


have been produced by every local transport authority and local bus operators. So far, the Government has only delivered £1.1 billion of this, with more than half of council bids yet to receive funding.

“To avoid recurring funding emergencies and achieve the enormous social, economic, health and environmental benefits of a regular, reliable and affordable bus service in every part of the country the Government should give local authorities the long term and sufficient funds to deliver on their Bus Service Improvement Plans.”



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