

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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Editors

Berkley Driscoll
Teresa Read



12th May 2023

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

Twickenham Stadium Rugby: ARMY v NAVY, Sat 13th May

K/O 14:00 (Men), 16:45 (Women).

Expected attendance: 50,000.

Full CPZ in operation 11:00-23:00.

Shuttle buses from Richmond & Hounslow East.

Whitton/Rugby/London Rd closures 12:00-14:00 & 15:30-18:00, although due to rail disruption this may be changeable.

National Rail Strike

Due to national rail strike action, the following services will be affected:

District line - Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 May

- No service between Richmond and Gunnersbury before 07:00 and after 23:00 (Saturday)
- First train departing Richmond will be cancelled (Sunday)
- Last services to Gunnersbury will depart Turnham Green from 00:10

London Overground - Saturday 13 May

- No service between Richmond and Kew Gardens before 07:00 and after 23:00

Use alternative services. Check before you travel and visit [Journey Planner](#)

Local charity looking for volunteers

Barnes Common charity have several opportunities available to help with their various projects.

Volunteering with Barnes Common will allow you to learn new skills, meet like-minded people and help deliver community and education engagement projects.

The charity are looking for people to help with their community growing project, wildlife surveys, lifelong learning, and also regular litter picking events. All types of contributions are welcome, however small, one-off or regular. Find out more and apply [HERE](#)

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Covid-19

By Teresa Read

World Health Organization

Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 - 11 May 2023

Data as of 7 May 2023

At the country level, the highest numbers of new 28-day cases were reported from the United States of America (366,173), the Republic of Korea (363,691), Japan (262,145), India (213,014), and France (173,375). The highest numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from the United States of America (4,680), Brazil (1,277), the Russian Federation (955 new), France (944), and India (715).

Variants of Interest

WHO is currently monitoring two variants of interest (VOIs), XBB.1.5 and XBB.1.16, along with six variants under monitoring (VUMs) and their descendent lineages.

The European Region reported over 800,000 new cases in the last 28 days. Six of the 61 countries for which data are available reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with the highest proportional increases observed in Spain (47,078 +132%), Andorra (76 +85%), and Sweden (4,471 +49%).

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from France (173,375), the Russian Federation (163,661), and Italy (88,154).

The number of new 28-day deaths in the Region decreased by 41% as compared to the previous 28-day period, with 6,345 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Russian Federation (955), France (944), and Spain (694).

IN THE NEWS

The New York Times: As Emergency Ends, A Look at U.S Covid's Death Toll

Aljazeera: Three years, 1.1 million deaths: COVID emergency ending in US

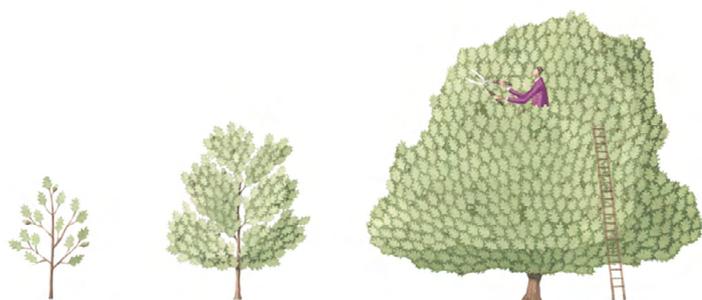
CNBC: U.S Covid public health emergency ends, leaving behind a battered health system

KSHB (Kansas City): 'I'm not quite sure we're ready': Urban, rural health professionals wave caution flag as COVID officially ends

Gov UK: COVID-19: notification to GPs and NHS England to share information, May 2023 "For patients, this means that their data may be shared with these organisations in relation to the response to COVID-19." If no further notice is sent, it will expire on 1 July 2023.

Asia News Network: Experts urge prudence in Indonesia's plan to end Covid-19 emergency status

South China Morning Post: South Korea to lift quarantine mandate for Covid-19, end testing for travellers



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PUBLIC INQUIRY: TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE

Are They Selling Off The Family Silver?

Teresa Read

Currently, there is a Public Inquiry taking place to decide whether a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) initiated by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames on the Diamond Jubilee Gardens, can go ahead. As most people in Twickenham will know, the Council plan to build luxury flats on Twickenham Riverside, overlooking one of the best views of the River Thames. Residents will also probably know that the Council is using legal means to try to take the land, protected by a Charitable Trust, to build not only a block of luxury flats but another pub.

One wonders how this Council can ignore Twickenham's illustrious history when it should be something to celebrate; Twickenham is not just the home of rugby and a venue for bands in the Sixties but the home of a host of famous people.

Grand Neighbours: Richmond House

I became involved in Twickenham Riverside, a long-running saga about the fate of the old pool site, sometime in 2009. At this time very little was generally known about the history of the area and it was not until the work on the Memories of Twickenham Riverside Heritage Lottery project that I discovered the grand neighbours who lived within sight of Strawberry Hill.

Strawberry Hill is known as the home of Horace Walpole, Alexander Pope and Abraham Prado, but just down the river an even grander house stood from 1662, Richmond House on Twickenham Riverside. The home to many of the rich and famous throughout the centuries, the impressive house with an outstanding art collection, was replaced by a more modest building during the early nineteenth century. This amazing history was explored by Sue and Jeremy Hamilton-Miller, in itself a tale of dedication and an enormous amount of primary research. The result is a book full of detailed historical information: Richmond House and its Inhabitants.

The story starts with the Birkheads. Edward, the first inhabitant married Eleanor Myddleton. Members of the Birkhead and Middleton families emigrated to America and Henry Middleton was a signatory of the American Declaration of Independence. At the end of our project in June 2013 Kate Middleton, the Duchess of Cambridge, was very pleased to receive a copy of "Richmond House" with information about family links to Twickenham.

Richmond House also has connections to nearby Strawberry Hill House and it is documented that the descendants of Edward Birkhead, the owner of Richmond House, sold various plots of land to Horace Walpole. Of course, the original property at Strawberry Hill, known as Chopped-Straw Hall, had been bought by the retired coachman of Francis Newport the Earl of Bradford who purchased Richmond House in 1682.



*Weston Park's dining room.
Courtesy of the Trustees of Weston Park Foundation*

A very large art collection belonging to the Newport's was later transported to Weston Park, a small part of which can be seen in the above photograph of Weston Park's dining room.

Throughout the centuries the list of illustrious inhabitants continued with lords, ladies, earls and viscounts, until we come to 1923 and Joseph Theophilus Mears, a founder of the Chelsea Football Club, bought the house. Mears also owned a large fleet of passenger launches on the Thames, cinemas and a coach company.

The rest of the story, as we say, is history. Mears bought the Richmond House site for £10,100 and sold it to the Council for £11,350 a year later. Richmond House was demolished in 1927 and the land along King Street sold to a property developer.

A petition by residents resulted in a public bath house and outdoor swimming pool on the site, opened in 1935 in time for George V's Silver Jubilee. After the pool's sudden and unexpected closure in 1980 proposals for developments have come and gone with local elections in 2010 and 2018 hugely affected by this issue.

In 2011 Berkley Driscoll and I brought back activities to Twickenham Riverside - overlooked by the Richmond House site. Residents will remember the river races, the fairground attractions and the music festivals.

Our legacy is initiating the Heritage Lottery projects recording the history of Twickenham: Memories of Twickenham Riverside, Lidos Alive and

further along the river towards Richmond, the Most Famous Ice Rink in the World.

Other inhabitants of Richmond House include Lord Torrington, Viscount Montague, Sir Anthony Tracy-Keck, Mary Countess of Shelburne, the Countess of Elgin, the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe, Lady Louth, Lady Montague, Field Marshall Sir Edward Blakeney.

THE PUBLIC INQUIRY

Tuesday, this week was the deadline for people to Submit their Statements of Evidence to the Planning Inspectorate. The next stage will be a Rebuttal of Statements, followed by an Outline Inquiry Timetable issued by the Inspector. Time estimates from those wishing to take part are required by 16 May with a final Detailed Inquiry Timetable on 23 May. The Inquiry opens on 6 June and continues until and including 29 June, Tuesday to Thursday each week.





**‘BEST IN SHOW’ WINS
THE KING CHARLES III
CORONATION CUP!**



**TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE’S
DIAMOND JUBILEE GARDENS
CORONATION
DOG SHOW
Sunday May 14th**



SHOW TIME: 2.00-4.00pm



**12 SHOW CATEGORIES,
with REGISTRATION from
12.30pm onwards**



**FEES: £3 for one category,
£1 per additional category**



**TWICKENHAM
RIVERSIDE
TRUST**

**PROTECTING, PRESERVING &
IMPROVING PUBLIC OPEN SPACE
ON TWICKENHAM’S RIVERSIDE**

Army V Navy match update

On Saturday 13 May, Twickenham Stadium is hosting the annual Army v Navy match.

There is planned industrial action on the rail network on the day of the match. SW Rail will be running a significantly reduced service into and out of Twickenham, primarily to serve the match.

To avoid severe disruption to journeys, we are encouraging local residents to avoid using train services from Twickenham Station on Saturday and, where possible, use other modes of public transport.

The RFU has provided additional parking for ticketholders, and match-day parking restrictions will be in effect.

Shuttle buses will also run between the stadium and Houslow and Richmond London Underground and Overground services.

Full information on the fixtures and mitigations in place can be found on the [RFU Home Turf Facebook page](#).

If residents have any problems on the day they are encouraged to text or call the RFU Matchday Hotline on 07894 814180 or email twickenhamcommunity@rfu.com.

Additionally, you can follow live traffic updates on the day on [Twitter @rfuhometurf](#) and on Facebook at RFU Home Turf.

Find out more information about the [industrial action](#).





RICHMOND MAY FAIR IS BACK

Saturday 13 May 2023

10 - 5PM

Richmond Green

Charity Stalls

Dog Show

Craft Fair

Fun Fair

Fabulous Food & Drink

Entertainment | Bands



 **@richmondmayfair**

 **@richmondmayball**

richmondmayfairweekend.org.uk

Richmond Film Society celebrates 60 years of World Cinema

To celebrate 60 years of screenings and around 860 films, the Richmond Film Society (RFS) held a party for its members at The Exchange in Twickenham on Tuesday 9 May 2023.

There was a speech, a birthday cake and, a screening of a film from 1963, the comedy-drama, Billy Liar. Among those present were two founding members, Barrie Wood and Jean Strachan, who were, respectively, the first chairman and first membership secretary of the society.

RFS screened its first ever film on 2 April 1963 at the Richmond Community Centre, on the site now occupied by Waitrose.

Having outgrown the capacity of its former venue, RFS' relocation to The Exchange in Twickenham in January 2018 has proved a resounding success. With a current membership of 325 and a substantial allocation of £5 non-member tickets for each screening, the society's seasons attract an aggregate audience of around 4,500 attendees.

The society's current season concludes on Tuesday 20 June 2023 with the acclaimed British drama, Aftersun, which is being screened as part of the newly created Richmond Arts & Ideas Festival. Season 60 commences on Tuesday 19 September 2023.

To find out more, visit [Richmond Film Society website](https://www.richmondfilmsociety.org.uk).



MORTLAKE & BARNES COMMON POLICE LIAISON GROUP MEETING

8th of June 2023 at 7pm

**St. Mary The Virgin Church
Mortlake High Street
SW14 8JA**



Richmond Council gives extra support to residents affected by ULEZ

Richmond Council will be giving additional support to residents who are considering replacing their cars due to the upcoming ULEZ expansion; offering support to those who want to explore more sustainable forms of alternative transport, such as cargo bikes, e-bikes and car clubs.

Cllr Alexander Ehmann, Chair of Richmond's Transport and Air Quality Committee said: "Addressing air quality is a top priority for Richmond upon Thames and this borough wants to build on the local cross-party consensus that the ULEZ should cover the entirety of Greater London.

"However, the speed at which the Mayor of London has sought to introduce the extension and the lack of financial support afforded to residents remains unacceptable. Richmond Council has called upon the Mayor to improve his offer to residents, but so far he has not heeded this call. That is why we have made the decision to intervene and support residents through our own new 'Good Move' scheme."

Three different offers are available as part of the scheme:

- A three-month free trial with the Pedal My Wheels Try Before You Buy Scheme, plus a discount if a purchase is made
- A £50 pay as you go Oyster Card for use on buses, trains, the tube and overground
- One-year free membership and £50 driving credit for Enterprise car club or Zipcar

"Richmond Council has campaigned hard for our residents over ULEZ, but we also recognise that actions speak louder than words. We don't have the vast coffers of TfL, so we can't offer to address all the defects in the Mayor's London-wide scrappage scheme, but our 'Good Move' scheme offers real support to residents who are willing to consider a step-change in their future vehicle choices."

He added: "Richmond is the only Council in London to have provided ULEZ support direct to their residents. We hope that many residents will embrace the opportunity and make a 'Good Move'."

The scheme is open to residents of Richmond upon Thames only and is in addition to any financial support, schemes or offers from Transport for London. Residents will be able to choose one of the three available options. Funds are limited and are offered on a first come first served basis. To be eligible, applicants must commit to scrapping their non ULEZ compliant vehicle within 12 months. Applicants do not need to be eligible for TfL's scrappage scheme to take advantage of our offers.

Find out more about the [Good Move scheme](#).

Come along to the Rotary Fair Twickenham Green

Come along to the Rotary Fair on bank holiday Monday 29 May for a lovely family day out.

Taking place on Twickenham Green, the day will include 50 charities and local voluntary groups promoting their work and helping to raise funds. There will also be food and soft drinks available to purchase.

The Rotary Fair continues the tradition of the HANDS Charities Fair, which has run every spring bank holiday from 1981 until recently. This year, founder Maureen Payan and the Trustees of HANDS

relinquished their careful management of the fair and handed it over to Rotary to continue and preserve this much-loved traditional event.

The Rotary Club of Twickenham upon Thames and other local Rotary clubs are proud to be the organisers of the Rotary Fair and are looking forward to a successful and happy occasion.

See [more information and how to get involved](#),



Jubilee Meadow receives new planting improvements

Jubilee Meadow in Whitton has received new enhancements to its open space.

With the help of Pfizer Inc's volunteer planting day, 27 new trees and 540 metres of new hedgerows have been planted at the site.

The latest improvements have already received positive feedback from local residents in the Twickenham and Whitton area.

We are committed to enhancing the benefits of our trees across the borough. We completed our most recent tree planting season in March and will soon be publishing a refreshed tree policy.

In the coming weeks, we will begin work within our communities to help keep our young trees healthy and hydrated through summer heat. Keep an eye out for further updates on this important work.



Diamond Jubilee Gardens - Upcoming events

Sunday 14th May: Coronation Dog Show

Show Time 2 – 4pm (Registration 12.30 onwards)

Saturday 10th June, 11am – 3pm: 999 Emergency!

Meet the first responders. Vehicles & Equipment on display

Metropolitan Police – St John Ambulance – RNLI Lifeboats - London Fire Brigade

Sunday 25th June, 2-5pm: Gruffalo Fun Day

Free live shows with illustrator Axel Scheffler

Reading & Drawing & Signing books

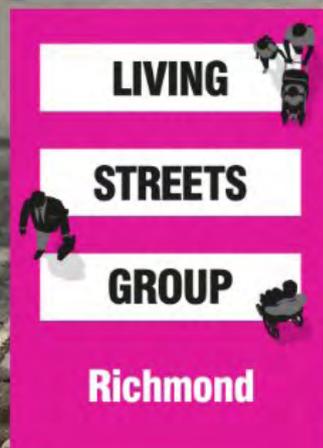


Come along to Richmond Living Streets next meeting!

We'll be discussing campaigns, updating on recent engagements & planning our summer activities!

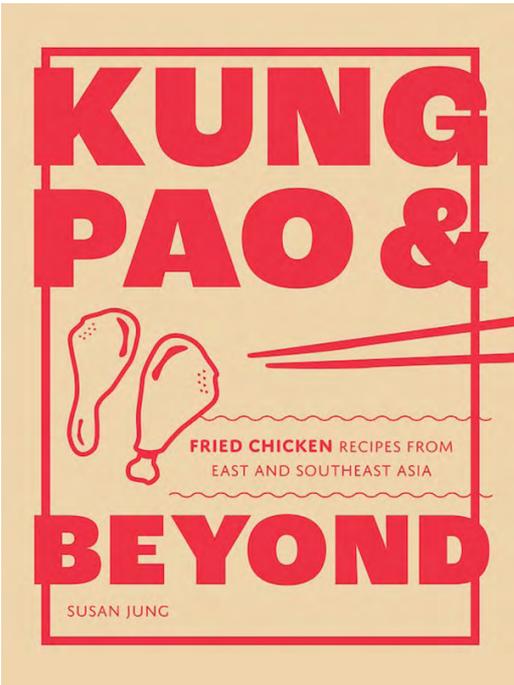
**Mon 15th May
2023**

7:30pm – Twickenham Exchange



KUNG PAO & BEYOND - FRIED CHICKEN HEAVEN!

Almost everyone likes fried chicken, unless, of course, you're vegan or vegetarian! Even if you're trying to be good and lose weight, there are those occasions when a really delicious fried chicken dish just fits the bill perfectly (I know, I've been there too!). I've recently encountered a magnificent homage to fried chicken, written by **Susan Jung**, a food columnist for Vogue Hong Kong. ***Kung Pao & Beyond: Fried Chicken Recipes from East and Southeast Asia*** has just been published by Hardie Grant at £20 for a lovely hardback. Jung was also food and wine editor for the South China Morning Post for almost 25 years and in this time, her readers constantly requested more fried chicken recipes. Her own love of fried chicken knows no bounds - she is obsessed and has travelled the world trying and testing every fried chicken recipe you could wish for. The recipes in this book take this humble fast food to a whole new level, and she's also incorporated amazing accompaniments. An introduction to the plethora of Asian ingredients, cooking equipment and techniques is at the forefront of the book, but fear not, you don't need to stock up too much in order to experiment and enjoy her recipes!



Whether it's Korean Fire Chicken, Vietnamese Butter Wings, or Japanese Karaage, nothing surpasses the unique twists and flavours that cooks in East and Southeast Asia have brought to fried chicken. Here is a really clever and tasty recipe to whet your appetite:

Chicken Poppers with Instant Noodle Coating - serves 4-6 as a snack

"I came up with the idea for this dish after listening to two friends talk about instant noodles - a subject that is dear to my stomach. Peter reminisced about eating instant noodles, sprinkled with the seasoning mix, straight out of the packet, without cooking them first. Carol said that she hadn't ever tasted one of my favourite instant noodles, Nongshim Shin Ramyun. I wondered how instant noodles would work as a coating for fried chicken, and fortunately had a packet of Nongshim Shin Ramyun in my cupboard. (An important tip if you want to buy these: seek out the ones made in South Korea, because they taste so much better than the ones made elsewhere) It was one of the easiest fried chicken dishes I've made, and the noodles fried up spicy and crunchy. You can vary the flavour by using other types of instant noodles, but make sure the seasoning packet is a dry mix, not a paste. Also, just the seasoning powder, not any oil or dehydrated vegetables that may come in the packet. This fried chicken goes very well with soju (Korean distilled alcoholic beverage) or beer."

Ingredients:

450g (1 lb) boneless chicken thighs
Coarse salt crystals, as necessary
2-4 packets of instant noodles, depending on size
About 60g (2 oz) potato, sweet potato, or tapioca flour
2-3 eggs
750ml (3 ¼ cups) cooking oil



Method:

Butterfly the chicken thighs, cut them into 2.5cm (1 in) chunks and put them in a bowl. Weigh the chicken, then multiply the amount by 0.005 - this is the amount of salt you need. Sprinkle the salt over the chicken, mix well, then set aside for at least 10 minutes. Put the noodles with the contents of the dry seasoning pack in a food processor. Process until the noodles are about the size of rice grains. Put the potato, sweet potato or tapioca flour in a shallow dish. Whisk the eggs in another shallow dish and put the instant noodles in a third dish. Dredge the chicken thighs in the flour and shake off the excess, then dip in the egg. Dredge in the instant noodles, pressing firmly so they adhere. Lay the chicken on a cooking rack placed over a tray. Pour the cooking oil into a pan, preferably a medium wok, set over a medium heat. Fry the chicken in two batches at 160°C (320°F). Fry the pieces for 4 minutes, then put them on the rack placed over the tray - there's no need to fry again.

Kung Pao & Beyond by Susan Jung (Quadrille, £20) Photography ©Yuki Sugiura

IT'S FOODIES FESTIVAL TIME AGAIN SOON! AND I'VE GOT A DISCOUNT FOR YOU (27th - 29th May 2023 Bank Holiday Weekend)

Put the dates in your diary - one of my favourite festivals - the Foodies Festival - returns at the end of this month, perfectly timed for the late May bank holiday weekend.



Known as 'Gastro-Glastonbury', the festival takes place at Syon Park. It features cooking demonstrations by top chefs from TV's MasterChef, Great British Bake Off and Great British Menu, plus Michelin-starred chefs. These include: Great British Bake Off 2022 winner, **Syabira Yusoff**, Young MasterChef 2023 champion, **Keziah Dior**, MasterChef: The Professionals champion, **Steven Edwards**, MasterChef champion, **Dhruv Baker**, Great British Bake Off finalist, **Jurgen Krauss**, and many more.

The musical feast has chart-topping Sophie **Ellis-Bextor**, platinum-selling festival favourites **Scouting For Girls**, singer and TV star, **Fleur East**, and Scottish singer-songwriter, **Callum Beattie**.



There's a jam-packed schedule in the Chefs Theatre; Cake & Bake Theatre; the Cookbook Shop; The Kids Cookery School and Masterclasses in the Drinks Theatre. You can browse in the Shopping Village, meet local producers in the Artisan Market and taste exotic and new dishes. And there'll be a fairground, children's activities, and family-friendly areas.



For the fifth year running, the festival supports Musicians Against Homelessness (MAH) raising money for UK-wide homelessness charity Crisis. Day tickets from £3 (child) and £19 (adult) Weekend tickets from £38 (3-day)

DISCOUNT CODE FOR YOU! On sale now at www.foodiesfestival.com but I've a special 30% discount for you! Use code **FOODIES30**

WIZ Tales: Morocco

By Teresa Read



When there is so much negative news around the world it makes a change to hear a good news story. It seems that Morocco has recently had an influx of tourists, almost three million tourists so far this year.

Morocco is one of North Africa's leading countries in terms of top companies. Leading companies include Attijariwafa Bank and Maroc Telecom.

Tourism plays an important part in Morocco's economy, a popular tourist destination with beautiful landscapes, good weather and plenty to see. Following the Covid pandemic Morocco is set to make a large investment in its tourist industry.

The architecture of Morocco is basically Islamic and has been heavily influenced by the traditions of those expelled from Spain in the Middle Ages.

The horseshoe shaped Islamic arches, courtyard gardens at the heart of the houses and elaborate decoration of the outside walls are seen throughout Morocco.

It is possible to see the Atlas Mountains in Morocco from Gibraltar, especially from Europa Point; it is said that Hercules, a hero of Greek legend, decided to pull Africa and Spain apart, using Gibraltar and the Moroccan mountain of Jbel Musa as his handgrips. They are known as The Pillars of Hercules.



High Atlas and Anti-Atlas Mountains



The Mausoleum of Mohammed V, a modern Alaouite landmark in Rabat



Boulevard des FAR (Forces Armées Royales), Casablanca



Panoramic view of typical Berber village in the Moroccan part of the High Atlas



Photographs of Morocco: <https://worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=Morocco>

Why do we all talk about the weather?

By Deep Patel

~ Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

Oh it's so warm today isn't it? Brrrrrr it's cold outside... this is how the majority of conversations with my customers start in my convenience store...but what exactly is it about the weather that make us all talk about it so much? Well, there is the argument that the weather in a non-sensitive subject area, something that no one can get offended about, a "safe" bet... do you agree? Then others say that talking about the weather is a great way to start a conversation...

Also, there is the fact that when we stand in front of someone and talk about the weather, we are all experiencing exactly the sensations at exactly the same time...so it's something very rare...there are not many things we can have instantly in common with strangers, but the weather is one of them...



I have been thinking about this a lot, and I have come to a shop-keepers realization...people have a deeply entrenched innate need to be in sync with others around them...they seek validation...some degree of one-ness...to feel in line with each other...to feel a wider sense of belonging...like what they feel is the same as what others feel...similarities...common ground...to iron away their differences and focus on their similarities...to be together as one... sometimes this is a complex and difficult goal... however talking about the weather, something we can ALL relate to, regardless of how rich or poor we are, how young or old we are, whether we are religious or not, whatever our cultural differences are, whatever our racial background... the weather is something that we can experience together with others who happen to be at the exact same location at the exact same time that we are too...to serve a dual purpose of breaking the ice to start a conversation as well as re-establishing and cementing a notion of oneness and social cohesion to reinforce positive human bonds...who would have thought? So the next time you find yourself talking about the weather with someone... remember...you are not only re-establishing social bonds, but also helping to add to a notion of oneness and unity... something we definitely need more of in our world today...

Those who follow my articles will be familiar with my passion for promoting kindness to all creatures, from the smallest to the big...but incase you are a first-time reader, here are my key tips...If we learn to foster an attitude of compassion towards the little life forms...then we will automatically contribute to creating a kinder, more compassionate community...something the world needs today...Here are my tips to follow & share:

Remember...

"We are individuals...seeking to be together as one"

Handy Tips to stop ALL insects in the house without harming them for good karma 😊

Try not to wash or sweep your patios/drives too often to save the tiny little lives we can't even see... Before you wash home grown leafy veg or deadhead/bring indoors flowers, shake them hard outdoors & you will release 100s of little lives that live on them

ANTS, GREEN FLY CATERPILLARS, APHIDS
Sprinkle WHITE VINEGAR, pure peppermint oil or talcum powder where they come (not on them!)

SLUGS/SNAILS:
Buy mini rolls of copper mesh online or from hardware store, cut & make a few mini fences around plants, push in soil to support, move slugs from area before laying mesh.

MICE/RATS/FOXES & squirrels etc
Use live capture humane traps & release away from home. Put white vinegar in empty bottle caps where they come (peppermint oil works too but keep it away from pets). Plug-in electronic deterrents work VERY well but check ones which have good reviews & safe for your pets.

SPIDERS, MOTHS & ALL "PESTS"
Buy electronic plug deterrents (online or at Meet & Deep News) & ALL spiders/ants/mice/flies will keep away without having to kill. Check suitable for your pets. Also mix 50 drops of peppermint oil with a cup of water and spray where moths, spider, mice or any insects come, NOT directly on insects or pets.

Take a Photo & Share!
"Waddle"/lift pots if moving them to save little lives under them from being crushed

WHEN IT RAINS...
Use a leaf to move worms, slugs/snails off streets so they don't get stepped on. Use a phone torch when dark to save. Let flies out of windows don't swat.

SEEN AN INJURED FOX/PIDGION/SQUIRREL etc?
Don't leave it to suffer, please call LONDON WILDLIFE PROTECTION on 07909 795 064 they will help free.
For specific kind pest control tips please email: thedeepatel@gmail.com & Facebook group **KIND WORLD**



The Beekeeper of Aleppo

by Christy Lefteri, adapted by Nesrin Alrefaai and Matthew Spangler
Nottingham Playhouse at Richmond Theatre then on tour until 1st July

“We lost our bees, let us see if we can save our children...”

We are on journey which is full of trauma and discomfort with a humble beekeeper from war-torn Aleppo, and his wife, as they escape the perils of the Syrian civil war. *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* tells their story, the misery of refugee camps, long treks and perilous sea crossings.

The narrative moves swiftly through time and space. Shifting locations are superbly evoked by light and sound, powerful music, and film projection. Particularly harrowing in this respect is the breathtaking depiction of a storm at sea and its effects upon those clinging to hope, and life, in a fragile boat.



The set, depicting shifting sands and integrating parts of the home, beds and chairs, serves not only as a backdrop to visual projections depicting elements of the journey, but also grounds certain scenes.

Alfred Clay gives a striking stunning *tour de force* performance as Nuri the beekeeper, ably supported by Roxy Faridany as his increasingly sightless spouse, Afra. There is a gentle and powerful chemistry between the two that develops throughout. The final moments between them are achingly beautiful.

Joseph Long delivers an absorbing portrayal of Nuri’s Uncle, Mustafa, fellow beekeeper and mentor, whose observations upon the English character bring chuckles from the audience as he expands upon queueing, taking tea with milk and addressing everyone as “Geezer”. Aram Mardourian, in his engaging depiction of Nadim, who shares their accommodation, also injects welcome humour, leavening the darker themes which run through the narrative.

The Beekeeper of Aleppo is not a comfortable watch, and nor should it be, especially in light of recent events which perpetuate the human misery of seeking refuge from war, violence and the destruction of homes and lives. It has an intensely moving quality in its powerful depiction of the ultimate triumph of hope and humanity over pain and suffering.



Read Harry Zimmerman’s review at www.markaspen.com/2023/05/03/beekeeper-aleppo

Photography by Manuel Harlan

The Circle

by W. Somerset Maugham

The Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond until 17th June

“Why can’t one be happy, without making other people unhappy?” Somerset Maugham’s 1921 comedy, which twists romantic fates across two generations of a squabbling family, is given a fast paced, yet effectively intimate treatment in Tom Littler’s first production as Artistic Director of The Orange Tree



Elizabeth is married to Arnold, a stolid, buttoned-up MP obsessed with his career and keeping up appearances. He is the personification of the stiff upper lip. Or is he repressed? At the age of five, his mother, the famed society beauty Lady Catherine “Kitty” Champion-Cheney, ran off with her lover, Lord “Hughie” Porteus, whose relentless march towards the Prime Ministership was derailed by this scandal.



Now they are returning for a weekend visit, coinciding with the unscheduled appearance of Arnold’s father, Clive. Moreover, Arnold’s wife, Elizabeth, is herself contemplating leaving her marriage to start a new life with Teddie Linton, a charming, flirtatious, and captivating Indian businessman.

This production stands or falls by the ensemble playing of the cast, their ability to inject believability into the characters, and convince the audience of the genuineness of the intertwined relationships which power the plot. There is

nothing to worry about here. This production is in multiple pairs of safe hands.

Jane Asher’s Lady Kitty, bedecked in scarlet, all waspishness and chatter, holds forth on a multitude of topics breathlessly and confidently. Her bickering with curmudgeonly Lord Porteus, played with an effortless querulousness by Nicholas Le Provost, is especially enjoyable. Throughout their squabbling, Asher and Le Provost retain an air of affection and tenderness.

Clive Francis’s portrayal of Clive Champion-Cheney, Arnold’s father and third party in the original triumvirate of scandal, is a delight, offering a series of well timed, and lightly barbed, observations.

This clever, nuanced and pacy production can still pack a punch, over a century after it was first performed. One is reminded of the lyrics of the song *Windmills of your Mind*, “... like a circle in a spiral, like a wheel within a wheel”.



Read Harry Zimmerman’s review at www.markaspen.com/2023/05/07/circle

Photography by Ellie Kurttz

Low Level Panic

by Clare McIntyre

The Questors at the Studio, Ealing until 13th May

Low Level Panic, written by Clare McIntyre in the 1980s, is hugely thought-provoking, slaloming rapidly through a trail of dark comedy and serious dramatic themes to explore the pervasive issue of objectification, and the obstacles, invasiveness and fear it creates for women in society today.

Taking place in a communal bathroom, the play is a character-driven piece that delves into the inner lives of three female flatmates, highlighting their fears, anxieties, and frustrations. Lily Baker, Hollie Hurrell, and Mandy MacConnol give standout performances as Mary, Jo, and Celia respectively, each conveying a depth of emotion that resonates with the audience, whilst detailed interaction with props, use of



space, and timing also create room for comic elements. Each of the cast are flawless with their huge amount of dialogue, almost all of it rapid-fire, Manhattan-quick chatter. They are more than able to play off each other to create an engaging dynamic. This sense of normality, relatability and almost calm in their living situation acts as a juxtaposition to the realities of their experiences of the world outside it.

The set design by Cecily Johnson is minimal, but effective, using everyday props such as a towel rack, bubble bath, and magazines to create a communal bathroom setting that seems so mundane and normal that it transcends from fiction to a home in which the audience could be temporarily resident. This is astutely accompanied by Emma Hunt's lighting design, which effectively switches to comparable darkness and colour hues to designate scenes outside the bathroom.

The play's themes are relevant in an age of social media, dating apps, and instant gratification. Though at times an unsettling, raw and personal watch, the Questors Theatre's production of *Low Level Panic* is a driven, strong character piece, exploring the challenges faced by some women.

Read Brent Muirhouse's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/05/08/ll-panic

Photography by Carla Evans

Richmond Carer's Centre - Supporting young carers

Tom Humphreys and Sophie Richardson

Young Carers Support Team Leader and Operations Manager

National Children's Day takes place on Sunday 14 May 2023. This is a day of recognising the importance of having a healthy childhood and how we need to protect the freedoms and rights of children and young people.

Richmond Carers Centre (RCC) is a well-established local charity giving practical help, service, support, advocacy and information to those people caring for others who are dependent upon them because of physical disability, learning difficulty, mental health problems, age or illness in Richmond and who themselves are in need.

RCC currently supports 547 young carers aged 5-18 years old. We are the only local organisation providing a service specifically for young carers. Our charity provides support, advocacy, advice and information to young carers, enabling them to continue their caring roles and reduce their stress. Importantly we give young carers the time and space they need to relax and have a break from their demanding and challenging roles.

Over the last nine months, RCC has provided over 1,000 breaks to young carers in Richmond, including regular peer support, after school groups and an extensive activity programme during the school holidays.

Our service also provides emotional wellbeing support to young carers through our mentoring programme, which has been accessed by 78 young carers since August 2022. The Support Workers provide a safe space for young carers to access advice and guidance around their caring responsibilities, reduce the impact it has on their emotional health, and help build resilience, confidence and self-esteem.

National Children's Day is a day of celebration, through events and activities, highlighting all the great work that take places nationwide to support child and family wellbeing.

Since April 2022, 276 young carers have engaged with Richmond Carer's Centre's support services, and we are extremely proud to be able to provide a bespoke service that meets the needs of young carers in Richmond.

"I feel more confident sharing how I feel, and I'm not worried about how others think of me. I have made lots of new friends, and I have got to know people better. Staff are very kind and have fun activities." – Young carer feedback from our Young Carers Service Impact Report 2022.

Richmond Carer's Centre are one of the chosen charities in the [2023/2024 Richmond Voluntary Fund](#).



St Mary's University

St Mary's Alumnus Wins Chelsea FC Foundation Award

Alumnus of the Chelsea Football Club Foundation Coaching and Development FdSc programme at St Mary's University, Twickenham, Adam Semple has won the annual Osgood Award.



The Osgood Award was set up in 2016 to honour a Chelsea Foundation coach, participant or volunteer who has shown the commitment, dedication, and spirit that the legendary Chelsea striker Peter Osgood was famous for.

Adam was presented with the award at Chelsea FC's home ground Stamford Bridge during a recent fixture against Brighton and Hove Albion FC by Lynn Osgood, wife of the late Peter Osgood, and their son Darren Osgood.

Adam won this year's award for his role as a disability coach at the Chelsea FC Foundation. In this Role, Adam has continuously supported many individuals, all of whom have different challenges, most notably our national Cerebral Palsy team who have represented Chelsea Foundation and Chelsea Football Club at the highest level.

Adam joined the Chelsea Foundation disability department after graduating from St Mary's. Over the last three years he has

significantly helped some of our youngest and most challenging participants.

Speaking of the award, Adam Semple said, "That was a truly surreal moment, especially as a Chelsea fan. Being presented with the Peter Osgood award on the Stamford Bridge pitch is something I will never forget. I think it is vital that Chelsea are delivering these crucial disability programmes such as the Cerebral Palsy and Amputee teams and I'm extremely proud to play my part and be recognised for my work."

Lynn Osgood said, "It's lovely that we are able to present this award in Peter's name and memory, Adam is a genuine person who thoroughly deserves this award and I hope today has given him that extra piece of encouragement."

Inclusion and Disability Senior Officer at Chelsea Foundation Ellie Crabb said, "It was fantastic to see Adam recognised for all of his hard work. He has shown exemplary commitment to our disability programmes, consistently showing a caring and personable approach, whether that be with our National Cerebral Palsy teams or supporting children with autism at matches in the Sensory Room. Adam goes above and beyond to ensure each individual gets the upmost out of every experience.

"I am personally very proud of the journey that Adam has been on, watching him grow over the last few years despite the challenges he has faced and as a previous winner of this special award in 2018, I know how much it means, so it was amazing to see Adam presented with his award on the Stamford Bridge pitch."



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Engineering and Construction Crafts students take part in Race to Net Zero day

In early May, Richmond upon Thames College Engineering and Construction Crafts students took part in a 'Race to Net Zero' day event, hosted in the college's auditorium.

The 'Race to Net Zero' event was led by teachers Anna O'Flaherty and Raj Johal and was inspired by the Race to Net Zero campaign by the United Nations Climate Change convention.

Raj Johal, assistant head of Engineering & Construction Crafts at Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) thought the event would be great for students to learn more about the effects of climate change whilst also engaging with different employers who are embracing climate saving measures into their business practices.

Raj explains, "We decided to host this event because tackling climate change is a vital issue which we all should be more conscious about, but it is something young people are especially concerned about.



"We wanted to give our students the chance to meet people who are working on the environmental issues and providing them with a better understanding of the roles that exist and the different pathways into those positions.

"We are aiming to help broaden students understanding of the Green Carers and empower them to make good career choices in the race to achieve Net Zero."

The event provided plenty of opportunities for students to interact with organisations that cover a broad spectrum of sustainability within different sectors. These included, Rolls Royce, FORCE (Friends of the River Crane) and ARUP who kindly gave their time to educate our students.

Learn more about studying Engineering and Construction Crafts, [here](#).



Schools invited to enter The Golden Hinde's 50th anniversary creative competition and win a tour!

In honour of its 50th anniversary The Golden Hinde museum ship moored in central London is running a fun, creative competition for schools.

This unique opportunity allows participating schools to win an educational tour of the ship for their class.

The original was renowned for its historic privateering circumnavigation of the globe from 1577 to 1580, The Golden Hinde replica has etched its own remarkable journey, successfully completing its own circumnavigation, numerous Atlantic crossings, and an impressive distance of over 100,000 nautical miles.



Now, the ship warmly invites primary school pupils to partake in an endeavour

by designing a special 50th birthday card for The Golden Hinde. A selection of submissions will be exhibited on board the ship for visitors to see. See the entry pack for Primary schools [here](#)

Additionally, secondary schools are encouraged to use their poetic prowess to write captivating poems around the theme of sailing or the sea. See the entry pack for Secondary schools [here](#)

The entries will be evaluated by former crewmate and one-time resident artist, Zillah Richards, alongside ship navigator, Jilly Francis. The judges will be looking for entries that show creativity, originality, and showcase The Golden Hinde's history.

Participating schools need to submit their entries no later than May 22, 2023. The winners of this competition will be publicly announced on May 31, adding to the excitement surrounding The Golden Hinde's anniversary celebrations. For more details about The Golden Hinde's 50th Anniversary school creative competition, including entry guidelines and information, please visit the official website: [The Golden Hinde - The Golden Hinde Turns 50: How To Get Involved As A School](#).

The Golden Hinde is also running a special 'Circumnavigation challenge' as part of its 50th celebrations to raise key funds to maintain the ship. The ship has completed one circumnavigation, as well as several Atlantic crossings and over 100,00 miles of sailing and is calling on schools and families to undertake their own Circumnavigation Challenge of the world, in their city or town, the local park, or school to raise funds to enable the ship to remain open for future generations of students.

For details of how to take part go to: <https://goldenhinde.enthuse.com/cf/circumnavigation-challenge>

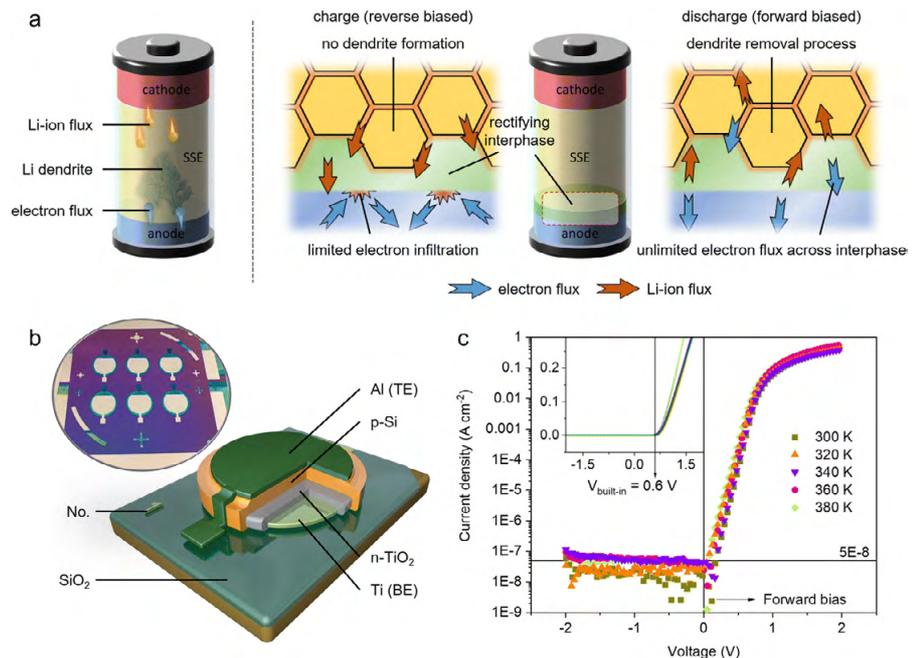
To learn more about The Golden Hinde and its rich maritime heritage, please visit www.goldenhinde.co.uk

Dramatic boost to the lifespan of solid-state batteries

Ultrathin semiconductor film boosts lifespan and addresses safety issues of solid-state batteries

The future of solid-state battery technology just got brighter with a breakthrough study by researchers from the University of Surrey, the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), and University College London. They have developed an ultrathin semiconductor film that can address the safety issues of solid-state electrolytes whilst dramatically increasing the lifespan of solid-state lithium-ion batteries.

The researchers' approach regulates the internal electric flux in the battery, solving the problem of "lithium dendrite growth" that has previously plagued solid-state batteries. (*"lithium dendrite growth": generation of dendritic lithium metal in battery causes short-circuit risks and capacity loss.*) By creating a nanoscale interphase on the surface of the solid-state electrolyte, the team demonstrated an order-of-magnitude improvement in the lifetime of solid-state batteries.



Dr Xuhui Yao, the first author of the paper from NPL and University of Surrey, said, "We present an approach to fundamentally overcome the lithium dendrite growth issue by introducing rectifying interphase without compromising the battery performance. The asymmetric conductance of this rectifying interphase realises slow dendrite generation and rapid elimination, significantly improving battery safety."

The development of energy storage technology is vital to the large-scale utilisation of renewable energy and is one of the keys to realising the UK's Net Zero Strategy.

Dr Yunlong Zhao, the project leader from the University of Surrey and NPL, added, "This novel strategy could provide a possible way to viable solid-state Li metal batteries, and further optimisation is expected to be extended to other battery systems. Our continuous development of next-generation energy storage technology aims to enable people to benefit from the improved environment and reduced risk of climate change."

The full paper "Rectifying Interphase for Preventing Li Dendrite Propagation in Solid-State Electrolytes" published in *Energy & Environmental Science*, [can be accessed here](#).



Match Preview: Brentford v West Ham

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of Brentford's Premier League game against West Ham United

Written by [Brentford Football Club](#)

West Ham United are the visitors on Sunday for the penultimate home game of the 2022/23 Premier League campaign.

Last Sunday's 1-0 win over Manchester United all but secured the Hammers' survival after a tough campaign. However, those league struggles could all be forgotten over the next fortnight, with AZ Alkmaar standing between David Moyes' side and a first European final since 1976.

A single-goal defeat at Liverpool was Brentford's first loss in four, a run which has Thomas Frank's side firmly in the top 10 heading into the final three games of the campaign.

THE OPPOSITION

Hammers hunting European success

Historically a mid-table Premier League club, West Ham United had put the cat among the pigeons in recent years - and it was so refreshing to see.

The Hammers finished sixth in 2020/21 and seventh in 2021/22, underlining the sterling work David Moyes had done in his second spell in charge in east London, and even progressed to the Europa League semi-final last year - the first time they had reached the last four of a European competition since finishing as runners-up in the 1975/76 European Cup Winners' Cup.

Though West Ham were forced to settle for a Europa Conference League place this term, the fact they had strengthened in multiple areas suggested fans were in for another exhilarating ride.



It has certainly been exhilarating - but likely not for the reasons they might have expected.

The Hammers were bottom of the Premier League after three games - of which they lost all three and failed to score - and 15th by the World Cup break in mid-November, by which point they had lost nine of 15 league games.

The last of those came at home to Leicester, where they were booed off by their own fans. Speaking immediately afterwards, Moyes said he understood the frustration, given the heights his team had hit in seasons prior.

But that only really told half of the story. West Ham had only qualified for the play-off round of the Conference League, so were forced to play a two-legged tie against Danish side Viborg, in which they triumphed 6-1 on aggregate, before a full group stage, in which they won all six games, and a Carabao Cup third-round tie against Blackburn Rovers, which they lost 9-10 on penalties, was thrown in for good measure.

Their tally of 24 matches to that point was more than any other side in the division and any speculation about Moyes' future was somewhat misguided.

There was sad news at the beginning of the year, when joint-chair David Gold passed away at the age of 86 after a short illness, while on the pitch, the league form has, for the most part, suffered since the restart, with Moyes' troops unable to record successive victories and on the fringes of the relegation battle as a result.

They have continued in near-perfect fashion in Europe, though, seeing off AEK Larnaca and Gent to secure a two-legged semi-final against AZ Alkmaar. Only two matches against the Eredivisie outfit stand between them and a trip to Prague for the final on 7 June.

What will be interesting to see is how the east Londoners perform on the big stage, given the fact their 1-0 win over Manchester United at London Stadium on 7 May has moved them just that little bit further from the relegation battle that, in truth, they should be nowhere near.

THE GAMEPLAN

With *football.london* journalist Jonty Colman

Jonty Colman of *football.london* discusses West Ham's European adventure, David Moyes' preferred set-up and the players to keep an eye out for on Sunday in [Hot off the Press](#).

"[Moyes] has gone with a back three against Brentford both times this season, in an attempt to match up with their style and, as it is away, he may look to do the same again, though he has largely stuck with a 4-3-3/4-2-3-1 for most games.

"He was forced into a back three against Manchester City last week but, if I was to guess, based on what it has looked like recently, it would be a 4-3-3."

When asked about the Hammers players to keep an eye on, he added: "From an attacking perspective, probably Said Benrahma.

"He scored his sixth league goal against United, albeit it was basically thrown in for him, and he has 10 for the season, with only Michail Antonio and Jarrod Bowen having scored more.

"Antonio is in a great patch of form, too, and he looks to be back to his former self, but depending on the AZ tie, Danny Ings may be given a run-out at Brentford."

TEAM NEWS

Ajer could feature against West Ham

Thomas Frank has said that defender [Kristoffer Ajer will be available for Sunday's game against West Ham](#).

Ajer was on the bench against Liverpool last weekend and has played twice for the B team since his recovery from a calf problem, which included 90 minutes in their [Premier League Cup win against Blackburn Under-21s on Tuesday](#).

Thomas Strakosha (calf) is a doubt while the season is almost certainly over for Pontus Jansson (hamstring), Christian Norgaard (Achilles) and Keane Lewis-Potter (knee).

West Ham United have a fairly clean bill of health after Thursday's Europa Conference League semi-final first-leg win against AZ Alkmaar.

Gianluca Scamacca (knee), Kurt Zouma (ankle) and Vladimir Coufal (hamstring) are set to be the Hammers' only absentees on Sunday.



England coaching team confirmed for Rugby World Cup

Steve Borthwick has confirmed his England coaching team for the Rugby World Cup.

Tom Harrison has been appointed as scrum coach and will join England Rugby from Leicester Tigers on 1 June. Harrison is assistant coach at Leicester Tigers, leading on scrum coaching. He started in their academy programme, before joining the first team coaching staff for the 2020/21 season. He was part of the team that won the Gallagher Premiership in 2021/22.

Tony Roques, England men's sevens head coach, will work with the team as contact and skills coach during the preparation and training camps. Roques represented his country at England Sevens, before moving into coaching. He has worked with USA Rugby and Team GB at the 2021 Olympic Games. Roques also worked with the England squad ahead of the 2019 Rugby World Cup.

It is also confirmed that Richard Wigglesworth will lead the attack coaching and kicking strategy, while Kevin Sinfield will continue his work as defence coach. Wigglesworth will join with England at the end of the Gallagher Premiership season, alongside Aled Walters who will be head of strength and conditioning.

Borthwick said: *"I am very pleased to confirm the England coaching team for the Rugby World Cup. Tom is an excellent coach and will have a real impact in area that will be fundamental to us as a team. Leicester's scrum is renowned across Europe and Tom has played a leading role in that success. I have full confidence in him and I am very happy that he will be joining England. Tony has an extensive background in Sevens and is an experienced, specialist contact and skills coach. Individual skill emphasis will be an important part of our work. Having worked alongside him in the 2019 campaign, I know what a good coach he is and he will really contribute to the team."*

"Richard has a proven track record as a player and a player coach, and you can see what an excellent job he has done as head coach of Leicester Tigers in the past few months. He has played at Rugby World Cups and has coaching experience in 2019, and understands the unique demands of the tournament and the support that players need. He knows a lot of the players very well and will bring different insights to the coaching team. Along with Kevin and Aled, I am pleased with the balance and wide range of experience that the coaching staff will have. As a group, we know each other well and we know the areas we will focus on to continue developing and building this team and be the best prepared team that we can be. We know this World Cup will be highly competitive, but we are genuinely excited by what this group of coaches and players can achieve in France."

Roques will keep oversight of the GB Sevens programme while working with the England men's team.

England's first preparation camps will start in mid-June as they begin work ahead of the 2023 Rugby World Cup in France. They will face Argentina, Japan, Chile and Samoa in Pool D. As part of their preparation, Borthwick's side will take part in four Summer Series fixtures. England will first travel to Cardiff to face Wales on Saturday 5 August in the first of a double-header. Twickenham Stadium will host the return fixture on Saturday 12 August.

England will then play Ireland in Dublin on Saturday 19 August before their final game at Twickenham Stadium against Fiji on Saturday 26 August.

Tickets for England v Wales and England v Fiji are on sale now via www.EnglandRugby.com/Tickets.



Favourite as Tory candidate for London mayor pledges to scrap ULEZ

Samuel Kasumu said a win in London is crucial if the party is to remain in power

THE Conservative frontrunner as candidate for London Mayor has pledged to scrap the controversial expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone.

Samuel Kasumu, a former special adviser to former Prime Minister Boris Johnson, told [GB News](#):
“Sadiq Khan has absolutely no mandate.

“It was not in his manifesto, it’s going to cripple some of the most vulnerable people in our society, what he’s doing is an act of self-harm, completely inappropriate.

“If we are successful in May 2024, that expansion will be reversed.”



In a discussion with Dan Wootton, he continued: “I think that we should ignore the polls and focus on the fact that London is a very unique city and most of the polls are inaccurate when it comes to trying to predict where we end up

“But listen, everybody in the party knows that for us to form a really strong foundation to set us up for the general election, London needs to be one things that we win come May 2024.

“Sadiq spent over half a million pounds on this weird panel focused on how we can re-name roads and pull down statues, when he should be focused on how we can be a lot more safer as a society and how we can bring in more jobs and opportunity to people in the city.”

He added: “I’m very passionate about the monarchy and the Commonwealth. I think that King Charles is a fantastic leader. And I’m not just saying it because he’s king

“I’m saying it because I’ve seen the work he’s done through the Prince’s Trust to transform lives. So he means what he says.”



BRITAIN'S NEWS CHANNEL
www.RichmondTribune.com

Eurovision – Comparing Houses In Eurovision Countries

With Eurovision in full swing, we can feel the excitement in the air. A total of 37 countries are competing to come out on top.

Property expert Thomas Goodman from [MyJobQuote.co.uk](https://www.myjobquote.co.uk) has decided to take a closer look at the housing market in some of these 37 countries to see how homes in several competing countries compare to homes in the UK.

With the current state of the housing market in the UK, it's quite interesting to see how UK homes compare to homes in several European countries. Below, Thomas goes into detail about homes in Belgium, France, Italy, Poland, and Spain.

Belgium

Belgium has a range of inhabitants who own a property outright, own property with a mortgage, rent privately and rent at a subsidised rate for those with lower incomes.

Around 40% of Belgians live in semi-detached houses, which is a staggering amount when compared to the UK, where just 32% of the population live in semi-detached properties.

The most common tenure type in Belgium is property owners with an outstanding mortgage. Private renters account for a relatively small proportion of the Belgian property market. This is quite different to the UK, where one in five households are now renting



France

Renting a house or apartment in France is much more common than buying a property. In Paris, less than one in three inhabitants own their home, with the remainder renting. Buying prices are extremely high in the Paris area, so it's difficult for many residents to own homes in the city. That is why renting is a much more popular option.

The longère is one of the most common types of house in France. This is a rectangular-shaped house made from traditional materials such as slate on granite. Most of these homes are one-storey but may have a converted attic to create a first floor. Around 66% of inhabitants in France live in detached homes, which is considerably different to the UK, where only 23% of inhabitants live in detached homes.



Italy

Italian homes are commonly built from stone, brick, and concrete. Older Italian properties tend to have stone or brick walls, and newer homes are more commonly built with concrete walls. Bathrooms in Italian homes tend to be much smaller than those found in British homes. Quite often, you'll find a three-quarter length bath in an Italian bathroom due to the size of the room. Italian homes tend to have higher ceilings than British homes.



This could have a negative effect on utility bills. However, high ceilings provide an element of classiness and make the rooms feel less cramped.

Italian homes also most commonly have marble floors. This may seem quite grand to British homeowners. However, it's quite normal in Italy as marble flooring helps to regulate the temperature in warmer months.

Over 50% of Italians live in apartments. This is quite different to the UK, where only around 22% of the population live in flats or apartments.

Poland

Some houses in Poland are made from brick, but a large majority are made from wood. Around one-third of Poles live in residential blocks of flats.

The housing market in Poland is quite different to the UK. Only around 20% of the residents in Poland live in rented homes. The remainder live in properties that they own.

Polish homes tend to be built for efficiency rather than style. Winter weather in Poland can become very cold, so homes are often built to remain warm during the colder months and to help residents save on their energy bills.



Spain

Most Spanish homes have flat roofs. This is a distinctive feature of Spanish buildings and differs greatly from UK homes. UK homes require sloped roofs for safety due to the amount of rain that we get here.

In Spanish apartment buildings, the higher the floor, the more expensive the property will cost. Top-floor apartment properties tend to be very expensive because they usually have a terrace with beautiful views outside the window.

Spanish houses are traditionally made from adobe, known as mudbrick. They also commonly feature wooden exposed beam roof supports that often extend, creating an outside veranda. The exterior of the homes are usually covered in stucco cladding. Spanish homes look very different from UK homes in their appearance. Carpets are not very common in Spanish homes due to the high temperatures. Most of the time, Spanish homes will have cement or tiled flooring.

Around 65% of Spaniards live in apartments. This is quite different to the UK, where only around 22% of the population live in flats or apartments.



Comparing Property Prices

When comparing house prices in these five countries, we can see some considerable differences. The table below shows the average price per square metre in the capital city centre for each country as well as the average cost to purchase a flat.

Country	Price per square metre	Cost of a flat	How this compares to the global average
France	£5,781	£342,000	106%
United Kingdom	£4,018	£256,000	53%
Italy	£3190	£189,000	13%
Belgium	£2905	£172,000	3%
Spain	£2558	£151,000	-10%
Poland	£2554	£151,000	-10%

Investigation into Supported Housing

Gaps in data and regulation are - in some areas - allowing increasing numbers of landlords to profit by providing costly, sub-standard housing with little or no support, supervision or care, according to a new National Audit Office report.

Supported housing is accommodation provided alongside support, supervision or care to help people with specific needs to live as independently as possible in the community. This includes, for example, those who are elderly; living with disabilities; or have experienced homelessness or substance misuse.

There are three categories of supported housing; short-term (e.g. hostels); specialised (e.g. long-term housing for people needing a high level of care), and sheltered housing (e.g. long-term housing for older people with minimal or extra care needs).

Current gaps in regulation means some supported housing providers are receiving less scrutiny. And there is no direct regulation of the quality of support offered.

One local authority reported to the Committee for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities that in the 345 supported housing units it inspected between April 2019 and January 2022, it found 323 hazards classed as a serious and immediate risk to a person's health and safety. A lack of national, central government data on exempt accommodation makes it difficult to assess the scale of the problem.

DLUHC is aware of the limits of available data and has commissioned research to provide an up-to-date understanding of the supported housing sector. In 2022, DLUHC also allocated £20 million over three years to 26 local authorities to help them improve the quality and value for money of supported housing, together with enhancing local authorities' knowledge of local supply and demand.

Responsibilities for supported housing are spread across central government. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) is responsible for the supply and quality of supported housing.

In addition, DLUHC sets housing policy and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is responsible for Housing Benefit policy, while the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) develops policies that aim to give more people the choice to live independently and healthily in their own homes for longer. DLUHC, with DWP and DHSC, created the Support Housing Programme Board to help coordinate work across the departments.

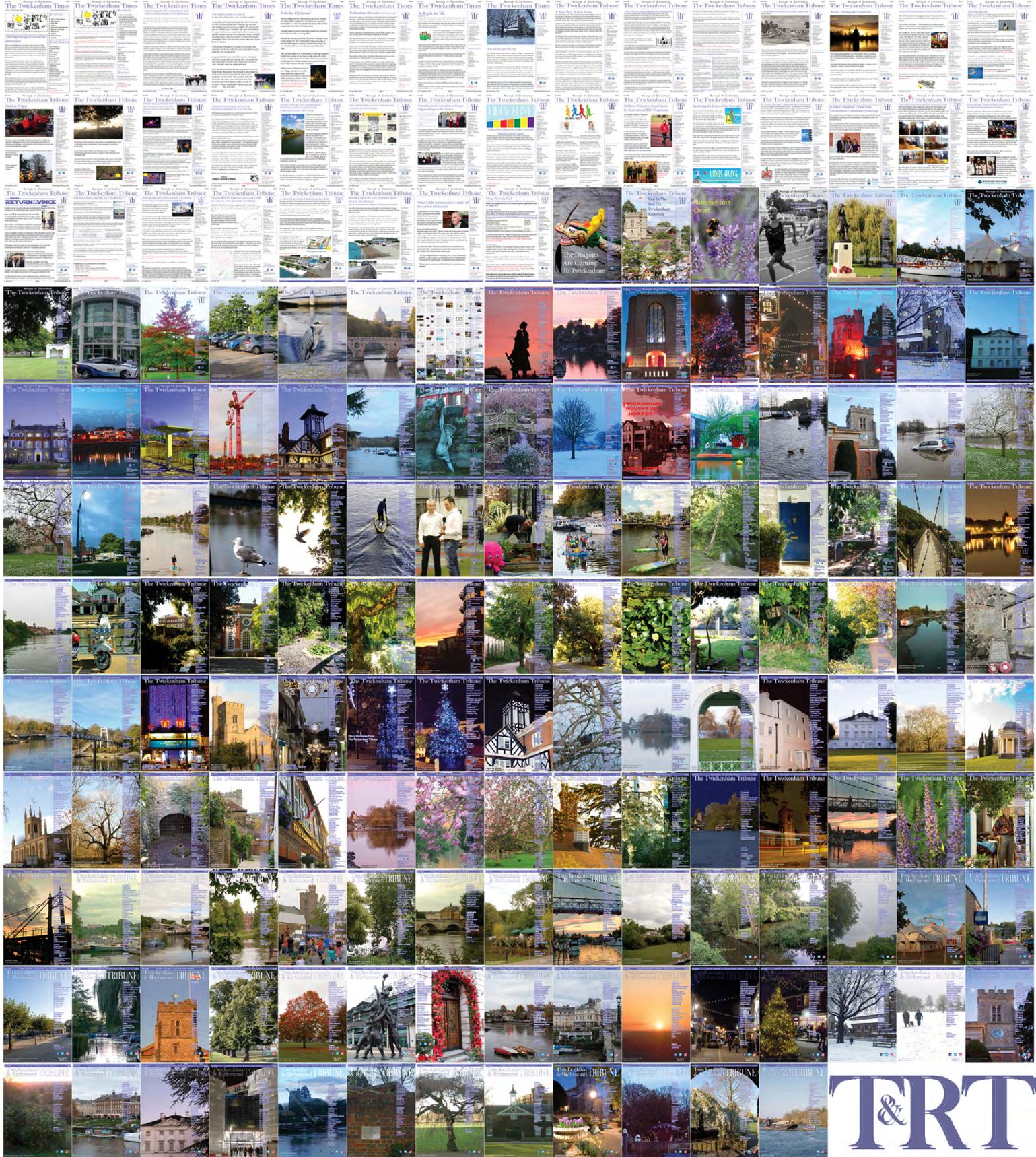
A new private members' Bill aimed at improving supported housing is due to come into force by this summer with government backing. The Bill, introduced by Bob Blackman MP, will develop national standards, require local authorities to review supported housing in their areas, and enable them to create licensing schemes for exempt accommodation. DLUHC has yet to establish how it will support local authorities to implement these new duties, although it has committed to a full consultation.

Gareth Davies, head of the NAO, said: "Better data and regulation can be driving forces behind much-needed improvements in supported housing. Assisting local authorities to ably scrutinise landlords can help raise housing standards for some of the most vulnerable people in our society, who deserve far better."

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



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