

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE



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Berkley Driscoll
Teresa Read



Once in a Blue Moon (30-08-23)

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

1st September 2023

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

Friends of Twickenham Green Annual General Meeting

AGM - all members and interested parties welcome, **8pm on the 5th of September 2023**, Cricket Pavilion, Twickenham Green. The cricket club will be manning the bar. Special guest Matt Almond from Parks. Over the years the Friends have worked hard to cultivate a good working relationship with our local Parks Department. The success of this strategy is in large part due to the hard work put in by Parks officers, such as Matt Almond.

It is consequently a pleasure to see that he will attend our AGM this year, and take part in a question and answer session with our members. Here is your chance to raise any questions you have about the Green, the conservation area and the issues we currently face. We very much look forward to seeing you there.

Bushy Park gates

Starting on **Monday 4 September**, and continuing for approximately six weeks, all pedestrian gates in Bushy Park will be locked at 10.30pm Sunday to Thursday while vehicle gates will be locked at 7pm.

All gates will open between 7.30am and 8am each morning, Monday to Friday.

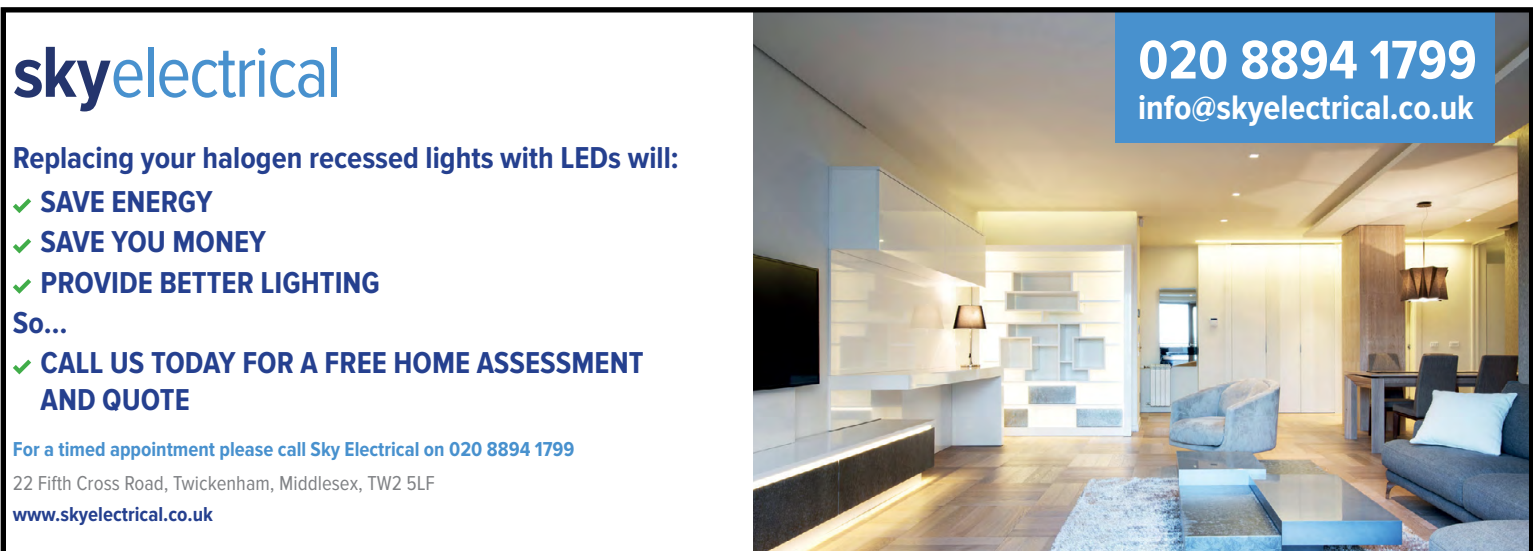
The Friends of Teddington Memorial Hospital

Create a wellbeing garden. We are working to raise £20,000 to improve the garden at Teddington Memorial Hospital. Find more information [HERE](#)

National Cinema Day – Saturday 2nd September

On Saturday 2nd September, hundreds of cinemas across the UK are coming together for National Cinema Day. Participating sites are offering tickets to **all screenings from just £3**.

To find your nearest participating cinema and book tickets, just click [HERE](#).



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Industrial Action – South Western Railway

Saturday 2 September

A **significantly reduced service** will run on a limited number of lines.

Large parts of our network will be closed. Trains will only run between the hours of 0700 and 1900.

Customers should only travel if their journeys are absolutely necessary.

Short-notice cancellations are possible. Customers should check their journeys using journey planners, and check their entire journeys, as other train operators will be affected.

Please note the times of the first and last trains, which will be later and earlier than usual respectively.

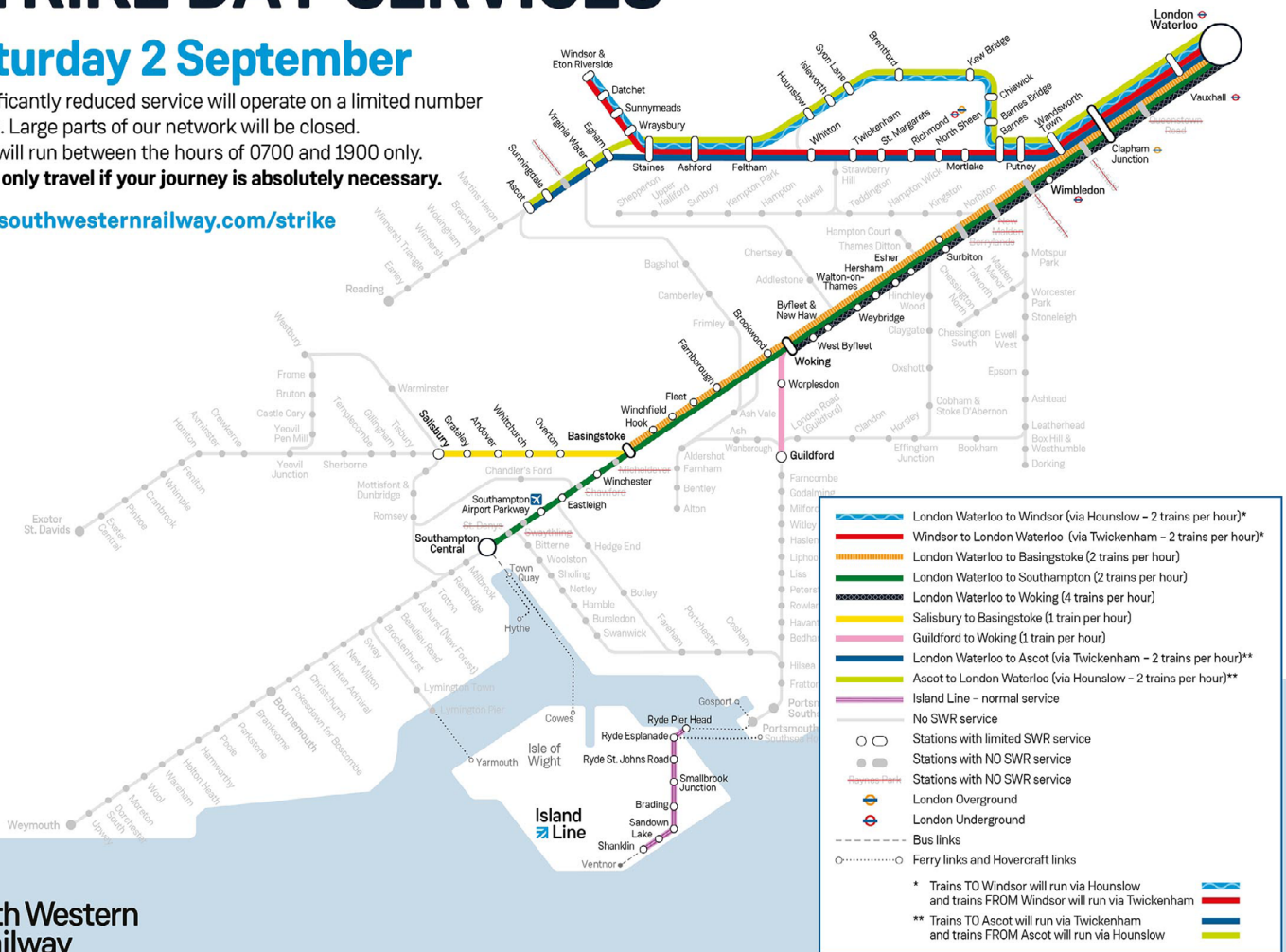
More information [HERE](#)

STRIKE DAY SERVICES

Saturday 2 September

A significantly reduced service will operate on a limited number of lines. Large parts of our network will be closed. Trains will run between the hours of 0700 and 1900 only. **Please only travel if your journey is absolutely necessary.**

www.southwesternrailway.com/strike



South Western Railway

Covid-19

By Teresa Read

World Health Organization

Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 - 1 September 2023

Please note that this is the last edition of the COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiological Update. Moving forward, as WHO transitions its COVID-19 surveillance from an emergency response to long-term COVID-19 disease prevention, control and management, we will be providing updates every four-weeks, with the next edition set to be published on 28 September 2023.

In the last 28-day period, over 1.4 million new COVID-19 cases and over 1,800 deaths were reported to WHO, an increase of 38% and a decrease of 50%, respectively, compared to the previous 28 days. As of 27 August 2023, over 770 million confirmed cases and over 6.9 million deaths have been reported globally.

Currently, reported cases do not accurately represent infection rates due to the reduction in testing and reporting globally.

At the country level, the highest numbers of new cases reported within the 28-day period were from the Republic of Korea (1,296,710), Italy (26,998), the United Kingdom (26,264), Australia (20,628) and Singapore (20,432). The highest numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from the Republic of Korea (596), Italy (192), the Russian Federation (158), Australia (145) and China (135).

The European Region reported over 104,000 new cases, a 39% increase as compared to the previous 28-day period. Twenty-four 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 Kosovo (+467%), Czechia (+261%) and Romania (+259%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Italy (26,998), the United Kingdom (26,264) and the Russian Federation (12,239).

The number of new 28-day deaths in the Region decreased by 43% as compared to the previous 28-day period, with 682 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Italy (192), the Russian Federation (158) and Ireland (62).

Local Government Association

Commenting on the Government's announcement that the Covid-19 booster will be moved forward due to the new variant BA.2.86, Cllr David Fothergill, Chairman of the

Local Government Association's Community Wellbeing Board said: "It is clear that the success of the vaccination programme has allowed us to live with Covid-19. But the threat of new variants still remains a concern, particularly for those who are more vulnerable in our communities.

"Councils and their directors of public health will be doing all they can to work with NHS partners to support the take up of the booster vaccination rollout.

"As well as this, providers in the domiciliary care and care home sector are also being encouraged to communicate the benefits of the flu vaccine and Covid booster to care home staff, residents and those receiving homecare.

"If you are eligible, please do get vaccinated for flu and Covid-19 to protect yourselves and your families."

Community Pharmacy England

From **11th September 2023** vaccination for care home residents and those who are housebound should start, coordinated by Integrated Care Systems (ICS). NHS England is asking ICS to ensure that all residents are vaccinated before 22nd October 2023.

From **11th September 2023**, COVID-19 vaccinations can also commence for other eligible people via local booking systems, starting with those who are most at risk, including those who are immunosuppressed.

On **18th September 2023**, this will be complemented by the National Booking System (NBS) which will become available to allow eligible people to book a COVID-19 vaccination online (using NHS.uk), via the NHS App or by calling 119.



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darryl parkin

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The Local Picture Postcard Column Part 212

By Alan Winter

Richmond Lock & Bridge

If you look up this lock and bridge almost anywhere on the Internet you will see that it is called Richmond Lock Bridge. It's therefore interesting to see that the postcard publishers we had on the west (Middlesex) side of the Thames during the 20th Century made a point of titling their postcards of the lock as "St Margarets Lock and Bridge".

Whatever it is called, it is a quite remarkable piece of engineering and building so I thought that we should take a look at it in more detail.

The first 3 Postcards of the lock and bridge that we use today have all been photographed from the St Margarets side of the river. I have added the final one from the Richmond side which was posted in 1909 and shows a very full boat navigating the lock. As you can see, this card is titled Richmond Lock. Nice to see the passengers in their Edwardian finery.



So, we have a lock, rising and falling and integrating controlled sluices and pair of pedestrian bridges. It is a Grade II* listed structure and is the furthest downstream of the forty-five Thames locks and the only one owned and operated by the Port of London Authority.



It was formally opened on 19 May 1894 by the then Duke of York (who later became King George V), having cost £61,000 (equivalent to about £8million in 2023). and is north-west of the centre of Richmond. Downstream are

Syon Park and Kew Gardens on opposite banks. It connects the promenade at Richmond with the neighbouring district of St. Margarets on the west bank during the day and is closed at night to pedestrians. – after 19:30 GMT or after 21:30 when BST is in use.

The lock and barrages were installed in 1894 by the Thames Conservancy to maintain a broad navigable depth of water upstream of Richmond. The rising barrage ensures upstream at least 1.72 metres (5 ft 8 in) of water is in the standard navigation channel (away from banks) to the next lock, Teddington, and an annual draw-off (an all-tides lifting of the sluice gates) takes place to enable dredging to keep the advertised 1.72 metres (5 ft 8 in) minimum channel depth.



In 1908 an Act transferred responsibility for all points of the river downstream of a point 350 yards (320 m) below Teddington Lock to the Port of London Authority thereby including this structure.



In 1890, after many years of petitioning, an Act of Parliament was enacted to build the half-lock and weir, the **Richmond Footbridge, Sluice, Lock and Slipway Act 1890**. This is among a small minority of Thames locks not to have been built around an island or islands (aits).

The sluice gates were manually operated by lock keepers, who

lived in housing mostly contained under the pedestrian steps and landing on both banks.

From the date of the bridge's opening until some-time during World War II, pedestrians were charged a toll of one (old) penny, i.e.

$\frac{1}{240}$ of a pound. The toll booths and the remains of the turnstile housings remain. Since two unconnected footbridges exist, four toll booths and turnstiles had to be provided to collect the tolls.

I am always looking for old postcards, so if you have any that are sitting unwanted in a drawer, in a box in the loft or the garage or under a bed, do contact me on 07875 578398 or by email to

alanwinter192@hotmail.com I would like to see them and I pay cash!



Dog walker licences

By Councillor Geoffrey Samuel

Background.

A few years ago the Council introduced licences for any dog-walker who want to walk more than four dogs. A limited number of licences - and I had a constituent who lost his business as he did not get a licence. Although I did not like the scheme I [wrongly] failed to vote against it. For most dog-walkers this is their only source of income. Some are those who otherwise would claim benefits: some those made redundant: some, who, for various reasons, are not capable of an 'ordinary' job.

The Story.

The Council offers a limited number of licences for dog-walkers who want to cater for more than four dogs - and goes to Court to prosecute anyone who breaches this regulation.

Whereas allotment-holders keep their allotments for as long as they want and those on the waiting list wait for a vacancy,

these licences are for two years only. After two years if there are more applicants than licences, all the names are 'put in a hat'. So a dog-walker with an established clientele simply loses his/her business. How is this fair? How can you run a business on this basis?

The answer from the council is unbelievable - and a disgrace. It actually states that dog walkers must make an allowance for that in their business plan! How can a business plan prepare for the loss of the business? It shows that this Council knows nothing and cares nothing about very small businesses.

There is another aspect. Dog owners (I am not one: just cats for me] take great care in entrusting their pet to a dog-walker. The aim this to build establish and maintain in the long run a relationship that will last. What dog owner would entrust their pet to a dog-walker who told them that they might go out of business after two years?

This Council does not understand small businesses - and it does not understand dogs and their owners either!



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Tell us how you would make Richmond town centre better

Richmond Council will be running a public engagement project to explore a new vision for Richmond town centre.

Cllr Katie Mansfield, the Council's Lead Member for this project, has set out why this project is important.

“Richmond town centre has long been held as an iconic destination – people from all over the world want to live here, work here and visit. We have a unique offering that others cannot compete with – history and heritage, stunning green, blue and built spaces, top-class retail, and hospitality, all in close proximity to central London.



“But Richmond, like many other town centres, is seeing the effects of changing public habits like online shopping, home working and evolving modes of transport, as well as changing health, social and safety needs. If we want to avoid Richmond is losing its vibrancy, we need to adapt. We need to look to the future and make sure it's a place that people want to spend time. A place that is convenient, social, safe, inclusive, clean, healthy and fun for everyone. A vibrant place for many years to come.

“To do this, we need to understand what this means to residents, workers, shoppers and visitors, so we are running an engagement project over the next two months to hear these views. The Council is approaching this exercise with no preconceived ideas about what is needed. We of course have our own views on the challenges, but this project is about understanding whether these are the right ones, as well as hearing about the individual experiences, needs and challenges of everyone who spends time here, be that every day or just once.”

This project will be led by We Made That, a team of specialist architects, designers and urban researchers, who will evaluate how the town centre is working for all, using data, working with community organisations and speaking to local people, businesses, workers and visitors about their experiences. After this engagement phase, We Made That will produce a town centre study with their findings and recommendations. The Council will share this report with the public and use it to determine next steps for developing the vision.

Anyone can get involved in this project – whatever your interest in Richmond. The project will be running pop-up events and online webinars, as well as an online survey.

Find out [more about the events and complete the survey](#)



Do you have a brilliant idea for a charitable project?



If you've been thinking about setting up a charitable project or initiative but need some help to think it through, there's an interactive online session for local people coming up on Wednesday 4 October 2023.

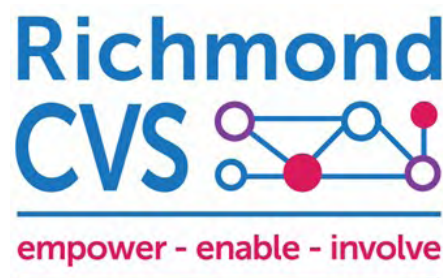
In recent times, there's been a surge in community action and this 'Starting Up: how to become a charity or social enterprise' session has been created for anyone setting up, or thinking of setting up, a local community group, charity or social enterprise in our borough.

An experienced coach and fundraising trainer will lead you through the key information you need to know, including legal structures, leadership risks, raising funds, how to plan your project and your finances.

There's the opportunity for eligible attendees to access one-to-one follow-up support to help develop your ideas, plus it's a great way to informally network and potentially build some peer support from like-minded individuals.

In the words of a previous attendee: "This was a high quality event, the trainer was able to share real world experience."

Find out more and [book your place at the Richmond CVS Training and Events webpage.](#)



A Very Pressing Problem

Last week a reader sent an article to the Tribune from The Economist published on 12 August 2023.

The Title was “Loosing it”; the subject was public toilets. The headline was “British toilets used to be admired. Now they are going down the drain”.

The article ends with the words “Britain is going backwards.”

The lack of toilet provision in this borough, particularly at Richmond Green and Twickenham Green are cases in point. And the council’s provision of ‘public toilets’ on Twickenham Riverside in a pub is disgraceful.

Certainly food for thought.

View The Economist article [HERE](#)



The very popular and successful temporary public toilets at Twickenham Green, which lasted only one summer



International Symbol of Access



A Sanisette, a freestanding, coin-operated pay toilet stall in Paris



Public toilet remnants from Ancient Roman times in Ostia Antica



Vespasienne pissoir in Montréal, Quebec

Raising the Roof at Greenwood Community Centre

Hampton & Hampton Hill Voluntary Care

As we all know, the heart of any community lies in the places where people gather and connect. Our center is exactly that, a hub of support, learning, and friendship. However, time has taken its toll on our roof, and repairing it has become urgent.

Story

We have provided hundreds of thousands of hours of support to local people over the years. The support we offer has become a vital lifeline to some, helping to keep them safe and stay living in the community they love.



Providing support direct to the doorstep, running three minibuses and Greenwood Community Centre are core services that we want to continue to offer and we also aim to develop new services in response to local need. The increases in the cost of living are impacting on our charity and we now need a little extra help ourselves to keep doing it all.

Our charity is funded, primarily by grants and small donations and as they say, every little bit helps. We want to share an important chapter in the story of Hampton & Hampton Hill Voluntary Care, an organisation dedicated to serving our cherished local area. Our commitment to supporting the community's well-being has been unwavering, and today, I want to shed light on a significant challenge we face and the vital work we continue to do.

Our Biggest Challenge: Roof Repairs Over £50k.

As we all know, the heart of any community lies in the places where people gather and connect. Our center is exactly that, a hub of support, learning, and friendship. However, time has taken its toll on our roof, and repairing it has become an urgent necessity. The price tag, exceeding £50,000, has been a formidable challenge for us to overcome.

Our Vital Work.

In the face of this challenge, our determination to keep serving our community remains unshaken. For years, Hampton & Hampton Hill Voluntary Care has been a lifeline, providing a range of crucial services, from helping the elderly with daily activities to offering a safe space for youth programs. We've been a pillar of support during life's ups and downs, and now, we turn to you, our community, for assistance.

How You Can Make a Difference.

Your support can make a world of difference! By rallying together, we can ensure that our center remains a vibrant and secure space for generations to come.

Here's how you can contribute:

Donate: Your financial support, no matter the size, can directly impact our efforts. Every pound brings us one step closer to securing our roof and safeguarding our center.

Spread the Word: Share this post with your network! Awareness is key, and your reach can connect us with individuals who are equally passionate about preserving the heart of our community.

Collaborate: If you know of any resources, partnerships, or grants that could aid us in our mission, we'd love to hear from you. Together, we can explore avenues to ensure a brighter future. Our community's strength lies in unity, and together, we can conquer challenges that come our way. Let's show the world the power of Hampton & Hampton Hill's spirit!

Thank you for your unwavering support and belief in the value of community. Let's build a stronger foundation together.

Please visit our [JustGiving page](#) [HERE](#)



E-Scooter & E-Bike consultation

By Councillor Geoffrey Samuel

I have now had an opportunity to look at the so-called consultations on e-scooters and e-bikes.

It is a disgrace. It is designed ONLY for those considering using these vehicles.

No opportunities for their victims to comment. No opportunity for pedestrians to comment. No opportunity for other road users to comment.

A disgrace.



NPL voyage down Thames on “Jubilant”

21 years ago, one of our caesium clocks embarked on a voyage down the Thames to the Royal Observatory Greenwich aboard “Jubilant” - a Golden Jubilee gift to Her Majesty the Queen from the Thames Traditional Rowing Association.

On 9 September, a special event will take place to commemorate this anniversary...



In partnership with Jubilant Trust & Royal Museums Greenwich, we'll be recreating the event to celebrate the Jubilant's 21st birthday, this time with a strontium ion clock.

If you're along the riverside on **9 September**, keep an eye out for the flotilla.



Battle litter along the Thames with '2 Minute Litter Pick' boards

From Richmond Council

In partnership with Habitats & Heritage, we're making it easier for residents and visitors to keep the Thames towpath tidy and reduce plastic entering the river by adding more 2 Minute Litter Pick boards.

The first 2 Minute Litter Pick board is located at Bamber Steps, and has now been joined by four brand new boards placed at strategic points along the River Thames at Orleans House Gallery, Hammerton Ferry and Cambridge Gardens.

While many people are concerned about the damage caused by litter and plastic entering our oceans and want to help, it's often challenging to know where to start. Now, everyone can contribute to making a difference.

All that passers-by need to do is borrow a litter pick and reusable bag from one of the boards and take two minutes to pick up litter, then empty it into the nearest bin and return the equipment to the board.



Inspiring others to join the #2minutelitterpick campaign is key to its success. Taking a picture and sharing it on social media with the hashtag #CleanRichmond will encourage other to do the same.

Orleans House Gallery, custodians of two of the new boards, said: "We'd like to thank Habitats & Heritage for including us in this fabulous initiative. The new boards support us in the delivery of the Ecosystem Plan for the woodland gardens, bringing together members of our community to help care for this special place."

The other two new boards are hosted by Hammerton Ferry, near the Thames Path just out of Orleans Road, and the Magnolia Tree Café at Cambridge Gardens.

To see the location of all five boards, please visit the [2 Minute Litter Pick project page](#).



JOIN THE MAYOR OF RICHMOND,
CLLR SUZETTE NICHOLSON

**TICKETS
£15**

The Mayor's Twickenham Trail Tour and Tea

Join the Mayor of Richmond
for a guided tour of the Twickenham Trail
on Sunday 10th September 2023



Tickets are £15 which includes a Twickenham Souvenir Booklet, guided tour followed by tea at York House, Twickenham.

The trail starts at 1pm, meeting at the 'Restless Kingdom' Sculpture outside Twickenham Station.

Please arrive on time.

The walk will start at 1.15pm. The group will arrive at York House for 2.45pm.

Tea will be served at 3.00pm.

THE MAYOR'S CHARITIES THIS YEAR ARE: SEEN AND AGE UK RICHMOND

Designed and Produced by Richmond and Wandsworth Design and Print. wed@wandsworth.gov.uk MPM7 (05.22)



Advanced booking is essential as spaces are limited.

Tickets £15, available now by booking online:
www.richmond.gov.uk/mayors_charities



AUGUST FOOD AND DRINK NEWS ROUND UP

I can't believe that our summer will soon be over: the new school year is on the horizon and students will be preparing to head to university, many for the first time. But we can still hope for an Indian summer before the autumnal weather starts. In the meantime, here are some really interesting new products that have been brought to my attention this past month.

There's no better way to start the day than with a healthy breakfast. And what could be nicer than delicious combinations of natural ingredients sweetened with pure, mouth-watering honey. **Honey Heaven** sells a range of organic honeys exclusively sourced from small, artisanal Hungarian beekeepers. The pristine Hungarian countryside is an area of unspoilt natural beauty with stunning landscapes, criss-crossed by a network of springs and rivers, untamed Acacia forests and lush wild-flower and lavender meadows. The organic honey they make is extracted using traditional methods which are sustainable and work in complete harmony with nature. The honey has won numerous Great Taste awards, is very delicious and available [here](#). I think one of my favourites is the [Cinnamon Honey](#). And while you're on the website do check out the great recipes [here](#)



I'm already a fan of **Vadasz** products, and the new Hot & Sweet Jalapeño Relish is a great addition to the range. It perks up sandwiches, wraps and salads. It can be added to hummus or mayonnaise to spice it up, and it is a great accompaniment for a BBQ. What's more, it's good for you, as Jalapeños are full of vitamins, minerals, fibre and antioxidants, the capsaicin in jalapeños provides spice, and when eaten regularly, can help boost metabolism. The relish contains sweet pickled jalapeños, green peppers, apple, onion and spices; and joins the Vadasz range in Waitrose which includes: Raw Kimchi, Raw Garlic and Dill Sauerkraut, Fresh Red Onion Pickles and Fresh Garlic & Dill Pickles, Super Beet Kimchi and Pineapple & Turmeric Sauerkraut. **Vadasz Hot and Sweet Jalapeño Relish, 400g (RRP £4.75) is available from the chiller in selected Waitrose stores**



I'm a great fan of Japanese food, but have always been rather hesitant to cook it myself. But now, with the help of **Kikkoman**, it's much easier! In addition to producing the UK's best selling soy sauce, Kikkoman has launched a trio of Japanese seasonings. **Mirin-fu** (a sweet style cooking seasoning that has a rich mellow taste and hint of sweetness), **Toasted Sesame Oil** (100% pure toasted sesame seeds and nowt else, adds nuttiness to dressings, marinade and lots more) and **Seasoning For Sushi Rice** (a special rice vinegar specially developed for making sushi, but adds umami to salads, gravies, dips etc) might sound quite specialist, but in fact they're so versatile you'll use them again and again. In handy 125ml bottles, from Ocado at £1.85



I recall a clever advert many years ago, for Vinho Verde, saying that 'one swallow makes a summer'. It's always been a favourite wine of mine and I love its slight petulance. Portugal's northern coast is famous for both its incredible seafood and these beautifully refreshing white wines from the region of Vinho Verde. Produced from a blend of local grapes, this is an aromatic white wine bursting with lemon sherbet and green. This **Por do Sol Vinho Verde**, is available from Tesco 9% abv, £5.25 giving apple flavours, with a slight spritz.



With the start of a new school year looming, parents need not worry about any *Jiggery Pokery* in packed lunch drinks ingredients, as these drinks are ideal. The school



approved kids' **Fruit Waters** from **Cawston Press** are available in four fruity flavours: **Cloudy Apple, Apple & Mango, Apple & Pear** and **Apple & Summer Berries**. The Fruit Waters contain no added sugar, no sweeteners, no shortcuts, and *No Jiggery Pokery*. The sweetness from each carton comes entirely from pressed fruit, purees and water. The fruit is pressed at maximum ripeness when it's bursting with flavour. All Cawston Press Fruit Waters contain at least 50% fruit juice, which is then simply blended with spring water, and are gluten-free

and vegan friendly. Available from Asda, Morrisons, Ocado, Tesco and Sainsburys for around £2 for a pack of three x 200ml cartons. (with paper straws now too).

There are recipe kits, and recipe kits. And I've now found a company that takes you on a fabulous global gastronomic voyage. **Naksha Collections** manufacture in the UK, but the company originated in Dubai, where founders Nisha and Sam were living prior to relocating back to the UK. Their avant-garde food business champions an eclectic portfolio of savoury and sweet meal kits representing authentic cuisines, offering unusual recipes outside the mainstream realms of Indian, Thai and Mexican food. Customer favourites include Jamaican Curried Goat, Lemak Cili Padi (a creamy Malay-style curry from Singapore), Ropa Vieja (Cuba's iconic yet little-known national dish) and milk chocolate blondies made with Lebanese tahini. The range is available at Whole Foods Market, John Lewis, and Harrods. The kits include easy recipe cards and specialist ingredients such as spice blends, herbs, grains, noodles, sauces, and other extras. The fresh items that one needs to complete the dish are easily obtainable as part of a normal weekly shop. The savoury Naksha Recipe Kits serve two or 6-8 the baking range serves six. Prices range from £7.99 to £11.50.



WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG!

By Bruce Lyons (Edited by Shona Lyons)

Before the Pandemic, we as a family- Hedda, Shona and I took short breaks away over the bank holidays. With our beloved Hedda tragically leaving us in May, it's been all Shona and I could do to keep everything working so to speak. Hedda, you see, was our guiding light, our inspiration if you like and now ... she's gone.



So, with the August Bank Holiday looming I wondered if I could at last keep my promise to Hedda – even though she'd have to come along spiritually, if you understand. And, that's what we did – went back to where I was when I was 17yrs old. My Dad, when he was demobbed from the RAF after the War (WW11) didn't have the heart to go back to London work, he was tired, not too well and much in need of Peace & Quiet. So, Monty & Mary went off to Ireland – as unlikely a couple you could find to set up a Market Garden in Eire. Mother a real sophisticated TOWNIE and he a West End Theatrical Agent! He loved it, she – well she loved him so she sort-of loved it.



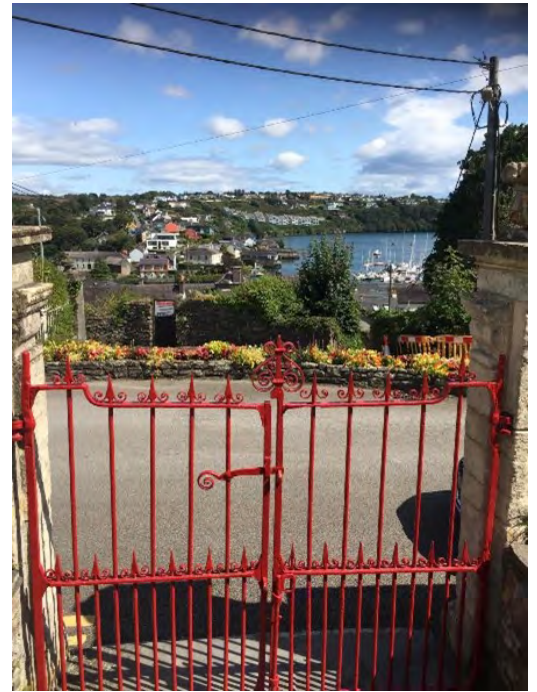
They stayed a short while in Summer Cove, a picture post card village on the edge of Kinsale, pretty colour washed houses beneath Charles Fort (look it up – history abounds) and whilst there busied themselves buying a plot of land and building a house on the Bandon River about 10 km up the river close to Innishannon, opposite a broken-down castle. I joined them (I was a farming student) to work with the market garden. In all these 70 years past wanted to go back and show the family the magical place I was in as a Teen.

So, we, Shona and I, went closed the agency last Friday night – put a message on the answer phone took our Mobiles and Laptops took a cab to Heathrow and caught the last flight to Cork – had a transfer to Kinsale and ended up in our 200-year-old converted Alms House

with its awesome views of the town and harbour below.

Rented a launch and skipper and motored up with Skipper Brian regaling us with history and wildlife stories as we went.

Shona kept on about the River getting too shallow and the boat would be marooned on some sandbank – but we made it! first we saw the broken down castle and then the house opposite- The house was a bit like the forest in sleeping beauty with 70 years of growth around it – and as it was now high tide we didn't see the Sand Bank that they used to catch the Salmon and in those days reward us with Salmon for allowing them to fish there! The river teemed with Wildlife and Birds everywhere Ducks, Cormorants, Hawks a plenty and more, we even saw Seals.



We also explored Kinsale, learnt how Mead is made, took a Harbour Cruise around the 2nd largest natural harbour in the world. Took a guided walk of the old town with a famous local historian.

You'd have thought Kinsale should have been the Capital of Ireland.

Walked my legs off and even found a Fig Tree (my favourite) with ripest sweetest fruit that I could scrump !!well they were going to waste...



So, what could possibly go wrong!

Nothing! the flights, transfers, excursions, the Alms House all worked a treat.

Luckily for us but not for some as we had messages SOS's for help and with the laptops and mobiles sorted those issues out – but as far as we went, we were fine and I'm hoping that Hedda appreciated it too.



Teresa Read

THE AMERICAS

“Congratulations! Your site is very educational and very comprehensive!” Consulate, Costa Rica “wonderfully informative site” - Galapagos Conservation Trust



Whilst researching the countries in the Americas I was in contact with many individuals and organizations pleased to provide additional information for the country sections and photographs for the Galleries. Country tourism boards were always helpful but along the way I met many other organizations and individuals who supported the project.

In Ecuador, the Charles Darwin Foundation founded in 1959 in Galapagos, works closely with the government and is dedicated to the conservation of the Galapagos ecosystems. Charles Darwin brought back many specimens from his voyage on HMS Beagle (1831- 1836). His observations of changes in species on different islands influenced his thoughts on evolution, published in *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* in 1859.

By coincidence, the new Darwin Centre in South Kensington, London, adjoining the Natural History Museum and housing Darwin's specimens, opened while I was researching Ecuador and I was invited as a special guest to visit the inner sanctum of Darwin's specimens.

With many countries in the Americas to cover in the project I was soon corresponding with various organizations in the US such as the Embassy of Chile in Washington DC, as well as individuals throughout the Americas. One very helpful organization that has now sadly closed is the US NBII, the National Biological Information Infrastructure, and consequently the loss of access for everyone to the very comprehensive digital image collections.



Countries in the Americas on the World InfoZone website

North: Bermuda, Canada, Greenland, United States of America. (and Hawaii) Middle: Mexico. Central: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama. South: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile (and Easter Island), Colombia, Ecuador (and Galapagos Islands), Falkland Islands, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela.

World InfoZone Gallery: Ecuador, Galapagos Islands <https://worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=Ecuador>

Visit to the Darwin Centre <https://worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=Galapagos&page=2>

In what job might you be selling a bottle of wine whilst saving the life of a pigeon at the same time...?

By Deep Patel

~ Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

Many people work in a job where they know pretty much what they will be facing from one moment to the next...it's reassuring they say, they like the familiarity, the predictability, the security and control of how their day will go and what exactly they will do. Have you ever heard of a job where you may be advising someone on various items from wine to types of cereals whilst at the same time advising someone else on the best way to catch an injured pigeon that is hiding under the bushes in their back garden? Welcome to my world.

Ahhhh the life of a shop keeper...never a dull moment at Meet & Deep Newsagents I can tell you of that for sure...those of you who have visited my newsagents shop on Hampton Road Twickenham may have witnessed this madness first hand...I am often seen behind the counter serving customers whilst on my mobile phone advising members of the general public on how to pick up a pigeon and at the same time on the landline phone giving advice to another member of the public about what to feed a baby squirrel...you may be now be thinking from the past articles we have read from Deep here, we have always thought that Deep is a little on the crazy side...but this time...has he truly lost the plot altogether? I mean selling Coca-Cola on the one hand whilst advising someone on his mobile phone about how to resuscitate a crow?

Worry not...I haven't just gone mad (my family will tell you that happened many years ago already) but I have been focusing my efforts on using my time whilst I serve customers and work in the shop to simultaneously save London's Wildlife...one pigeon at a time...so who wants to join me? (don't all rush in at once now will you...).

I will be completely honest with you, it's not uncommon for a customer to walk into my shop and see a member of the public handing me a bird or a hedgehog that needs help...since we volunteered to be a drop-off point for London Wildlife Protection (a charitable organization that look after birds around London) our shop is no longer just a sweet shop, oh no, those days are long gone...we are now a mini animal A&E / sweet shop...what a winning combination right?! Pop in to Meet & Deep Newsagents to buy yourself a copy of your favourite newspaper, some custard creams, some of our bakery bread and oh yes...drop off a pigeon with a squinty eye...nowhere else but in Twickenham would this happen...and nowhere else but at Meet & Deep Newsagents... but it happens! We have saved over 100 injured animals from being needlessly put to sleep from vets in other boroughs and many rescues like RSPCA often cannot accommodate birds like pigeons and parakeets and they put them to sleep...my philosophy is "all lives matter" ... most of the nice people generally don't think it's good to differentiate between humans from different cultures, backgrounds or ethnicities right? So why do this with birds? A pigeon or a swan...both can feel pain...so why differentiate in who we help?

This past week, this has been the talking topic in my shop...all lives matter...if we believe in being kind...be kind to all...you never know when you may need it back...

We enter into the final phase of summer, be prepared to see an increase in the number of wasps buzzing around your garden and face if you let them get close enough...but why are there so many more wasps towards the end of summer? This has been a talking point in my shop this past week with customers pondering about all sorts of wasp related issues...from what they eat, to what their purpose is...those who know me will know my passion for promoting compassion and kindness towards all life forms, big...or small...all in the interest of co-existence and of course...good karma...so this week I will answer your most asked wasp questions...Firstly why do people hate wasps but love bees?

Remember...

“Kindness is Kindness & a Life is still a Life”

CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK:

FOR ANY HOME OR GARDEN “PEST”...

Sprinkle talcum powder, essential peppermint oil or white vinegar around where they come (but not directly on them) and they will stop without having to harm or kill them...you will get blessings in your life or have good karma for choosing a kind way too! This remedy also works to deter virtually any insect without harming them...like it & share it!

For more tips, email: thedeepatel@gmail.com or join my Facebook page: “KIND WORLD”. Thank you!

Have you seen an injured pigeon, parakeet, corvid or garden bird?

Call: LONDON WILDLIFE PROTECTION

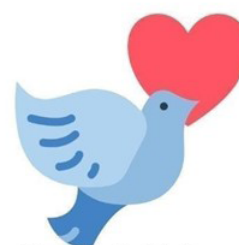
We are a non-profit organisation, our specialists treat even the worst injuries



Please share with your contacts. We can't help squirrels, foxes or larger animals but can refer you to other organisations that can help

**London Wildlife Protection
07909 795 064**

COULD YOU SPARE SOME TIME TO HELP SAVE WILD BIRDS FROM SUFFERING?



Everyday 100s of London's birds are left injured and suffering waiting for help. If you care, please become a volunteer for London Wildlife Protection. You don't need much time or previous experience... just a heart that cares. If this sounds like you or anyone you know, please get in touch and help save us lives today
EMAIL: londonwildlifeprotection@outlook.com

The Portrait of Manon

by Jules Massenet, libretto by Georges Boyer
and

L'Heure Espagnole

by Maurice Ravel, libretto by Franc-Nohain
Opera Alegría at the Arcola Theatre, Grimeborn Festival

Two French rarities provide perfect fare for the discerning opera anorak.

The Portrait of Manon, Massenet's one act sequel to his five-act opera *Manon*, is stuffed with musical reminiscences of its predecessor, a piece full of gorgeous arias and duets that provide wonderful opportunities for the best singers. In *The Portrait of Manon*, the bereaved Des Grieux has been transformed from young tenor to bitter ageing baritone, (Alistair Sutherland) but still obsessed with the dead Manon.

It is a slight piece, easy to under-estimate, but, once you get over the guilt about its instant pleurability, rather better than you might originally think. With piano accompaniment rather than orchestra, it brings to mind Eric Satie and occasionally sounds jazz-like. Lindsay Bramley's witty translation – she also plays the piano – and Benjamin Newhouse-Smith's straightforward production enable it to make a very pleasing impact.

Newhouse-Smith and Bramley have more fun and let their hair down with the Ravel, aided by Christopher Killerby's inventive stylish designs, with a wall of clocks and masks with clock faces. The plot is pure carry-on film.

Concepción (Alicia Gurney), frustrated wife of clockmaker Torquemada (Ian Massa-Harris) enjoys an hour without her husband as he goes to wind up the town clock. She finds herself entertaining two lovers at the same time, and hiding them from each other in grandfather clocks, while developing an increasing rapport with sexy muleteer Ramiro (René Bloice-Sanders) who came to get his watch repaired, but finds himself carrying the clocks – with the men inside – up and down from her bedroom according to her whim. Ravel's pleasingly astringent score provides enough bite to save the piece from predictability.

This double bill makes a thoroughly delightful evening.

Read Patrick Shorrock's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/08/23/p-manon-heure-es

Photography courtesy of Opera Alegría



Slippery When Wet

by Leanne Devlin

At the Barons Court Theatre until 2nd September

Slippery When Wet centres on a young woman's flirtation and desire to date a character known simply as Love. Within the show, the theme looks at the trials and tribulations that the dating world of 2023 can bring. Audience members are treated to watching Devlin's character navigate obstacles of a relationship formed on Instagram and held together by things such as the latest Tik-Tok trends.



Emma Copland directs one-woman show that is written and performed by Leanne Devlin with strong energy and craft.

One can invest in the character and root for her wellbeing. The show is reflective of her mind-set that is focused in one direction and forsakes everything else, including family and career. She is so focused on Love that her name remains unknown until the show's closing moments.



Devlin is a well-suited lead who delivers each scene well, with good humour and charm. The story the show offers an insight into the perils of modern dating. There are plenty of amusing moments (an episode based around a waxing session stands out). However, by the nature of the simple love story the play is telling, there is a feeling, even past the ultimate conclusion of whose bed Love ends up in, that the story is

a tale as old as time.

From a technical standpoint the show deserves special commendation. The sound effects of a new message from Love do well to build in anticipation and become a supporting player to Devlin, whilst clever use of lighting and sound effects effectively change the settings and atmosphere of scenes, whether it be a shopping isle, a club or beneath the sea.

Slippery When Wet manages to capture the feeling of young love; and it does offer an amusing hour of theatre. The show may not tread new ground in its observations, but bounces along entertainingly enough.

Read Denis Valentine's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/08/24/slippy

Photography courtesy of Barons Court Theatre

Turandot

by Giacomo Puccini, libretto by Giuseppe Adami and Renato Simoni
Opera Makers and Ellandar, Arcola Theatre, Grimeborn Festival

Puccini's *Turandot* is extreme opera in every sense. An astonishing score blends orientalist chinoiserie with an Italian lyricism. Twisted out of shape by erotic obsession, it affronts conventional tonality. And the lead roles are even harder to sing than Wagner.

The main characters are both monsters. In response to an act of rape thousands of years ago, Turandot insists, if they fail to answer her riddles, on the slaughter of men who want to marry her. Calaf is so obsessed with winning Turandot's love that he is prepared to endanger the life of his father and his devoted servant by offering himself up for execution if she can find out his name.



Turandot, with its big chorus and vast spectacle, isn't the kind of opera that you expect at the intimate Arcola. Hearing Puccini's amazing score stripped to its bare bones with largely piano accompaniment emphasises, in an utterly fascinating way, just how weird and discordant it is. Musical Directors, Panaretos Kyriatzidis and Thomas Ang thrilled the audience.

Co-directors Becca Marriot and Iskandar Sharuzuddin have refashioned the opera as a monstrous video game (with impressive designs by Erin Guan) where people wear masks that function as headsets to connect them to an alternative reality. This is an interesting take, with Liu as a much more central figure than usual. Heming Li is outstanding and outclasses all the other singers in this role.

The issue of how to handle Puccini's unfinished score is adroitly done. None of the completions quite work, so this one stops where Puccini does. (Probably just as well when there was no interval, and it was excruciatingly hot.) Instead of committing suicide, Liu throws her engagement ring at Calif and walks out.

The production doesn't always distinguish between reality and computerised fantasy. But that is probably what happens if you spend too much time playing video games ... or going to the opera.

Read Patrick Shorrock's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/08/25/turandot-gf

Photography by Ingrid Hu





About Bill

by Bernie Gaughan, music and lyrics by Matthew Strachan
Take Note at the Theatre at the Tabard until 2nd September

We never meet legendary trumpeter Bill Fitzgerald (an image of memorable jazz musicians of the mid-twentieth Century), but his presence pervades throughout *About Bill*, an evocative and poignant musical drama of Bill's life seen through the perspective of the many women in his life, from the schoolgirl crush, to the flawed romance with the recovering addict in his later years.

Most impressive is that Kim Ismay (for whom the piece was written) plays all the women with verve and versatility, managing with aplomb simple but very effective costume changes, from showgirl 1930s to hippy 1970s.



Bill was born on the eve of the Second World War, son of an aging itinerant showgirl. He never knew his father... it's not sure his mother did either. He was given some stability in his early life by his gently fierce but fiercely loyal Auntie Dot, whose engaging narrative provides the thread throughout the production.

Quite apart from the wonderfully and wittily observed mores and context of the time, this narrative takes us though a whistle-stop tour of musical and memorable events as brief soundbite of the years.

Paul Crew accompanies with sensitivity and a real feeling for the different styles, as Bill's life captivatingly mirrors the highs and lows, and changing culture of the times.

Chameleon like, versatile Kim Ismay absolutely inhabits all of these many faceted women with confidence and honesty. Outspoken, but gentle giant, Auntie Dot's bewilderment at her nephew's talent is beautifully portrayed. The loneliness of lovelorn landlady, Gloria, who watched Bill take endless young ladies up to his bedroom all the while secretly wishing it was her is truly moving. The final scene as Sally stands at his grave imagining the life she never knew, was poignant.



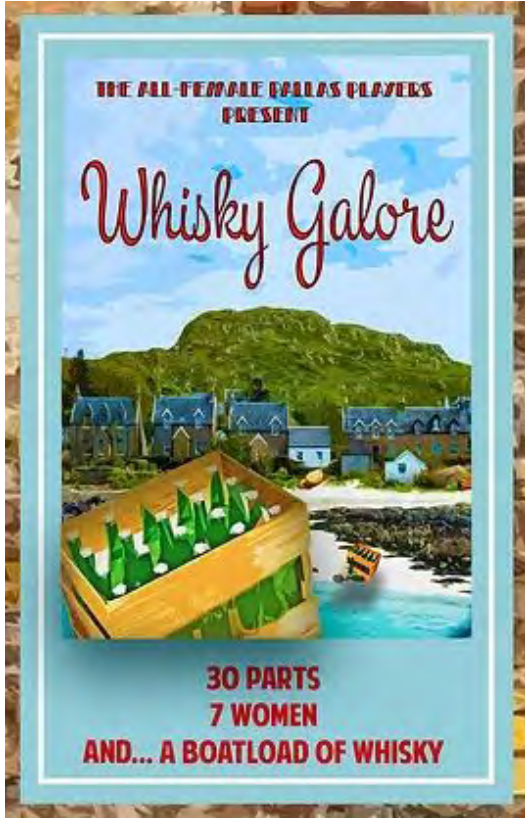
All involved, writer, music and lyricist, and Kim Ismay herself have wide West End success. And the recently reinvented Tabard Theatre is bringing top class theatre to West London. *About Bill* cements all of these reputations.

Read Claire Alexander's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/08/31/about-bill

Photography by Anthony Sajdler

OPEN AUDITIONS at the MARY WALLACE THEATRE

Monday, September 4th



On Monday evening at 7.45pm we will be auditioning for our December production - **The All-Female Pallas Players Present Whisky Galore**, adapted for the stage by Phillip Goulding.

We will be looking for a cast of seven female actors to play multiple roles in this fast-moving and hilarious tale of a group of Scottish Islanders who 'rescue' a cargo of whisky from a stricken ship.

Auditions are open to all - you don't have to be a member to read for a part! Join us for a warm welcome at the Mary Wallace Theatre on Twickenham's Embankment, close to the Barmy Arms.



For further details please visit us at

<https://www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk/acting>

Teddington Theatre Club – Marble Hill

At Marble Hill on Sunday 3rd September 12:30, some cast members will be acting a taster scene from the play.

This is part of the 'Richmond Live Theatre Festival'.

Come along and see what it's all about this weekend and book your tickets to see the full thing this October!



Turner's House End of Summer Garden Party

Turner loved to invite his friends for food and drink at his country retreat and we would love to see you at our party too!

Come for drinks, food, and stalls and a chance to see Turner's country retreat.
Saturday 2nd September, 12-4pm. £2 donation.

More info on <http://turnershouse.org/whats-on>



TURNER'S HOUSE
TWICKENHAM

Let's celebrate summer together!

Saturday 2nd September, 12-4pm



Turner's House
End of Summer Garden Party

Museum of Richmond recruiting for a Curator

The Museum of Richmond's board of trustees are looking to recruit a full-time Curator and Executive Officer to run the museum and inspire the next phase of its development.

The Museum of Richmond is a small local history museum and independent charity in the heart of Richmond.

It holds a collection of over 5,000 objects and is open to the public for free, five days a week.

It runs a lively programme of temporary exhibitions, school visits, family workshops and community events.

The role will involve promoting and developing the museum and maximising opportunities for community involvement.



Read the [job description and person specification](#) for further information.

The application deadline is midday on Monday 8 October 2023.

Interviews will be held between Monday 16 and Friday 20 October 2023.

It is hoped that the successful candidate would begin in post on Monday 3 December 2023 or close to this date.

For further information please contact the chair of the board of trustees by emailing musrichjobs@gmail.com or phoning the museum on 0208 332 1141.

St Mary's University

SMU Graduate Nikita Kanda to take to the Strictly Dancefloor

Sequins at the ready! One of St Mary's University Twickenham's (SMU) famous graduates, Nikita Kanda, will take to the stage this September, as she joins the cast of Strictly Come Dancing.

nominated for Presenter of the Year at the Asian Media Awards.

In a statement released by the BBC in August this year, Nikita Kanda described her involvement in Strictly as a "dream come true".



Made by BBC Studios Entertainment Productions, the award-winning series will run each weekend as celebrity contestants take to the floor with their professional partners in a bid to win the Glitterball Trophy.

Strictly Come

A radio host and TV presenter, Nikita is best known for being the current host of the BBC Asian Network's Breakfast show, having previously presented the Saturday afternoon show.

Dancing will return to BBC One and BBC iPlayer in September 2023, with celebrity contestants joining Nikita including: Angela Rippon; Annabel Croft and Les Dennis.

She follows in the dance steps of former SMU Media Arts student and BBC Radio 1 DJ Clara Amfo, who starred in 'Strictly' in 2020.

Nikita has also fronted reports on BBC One's 'The One Show', covering topics such as the rise of cashless businesses, and government support for female sport. She was recently



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

England Squad for Rugby World Cup 2023

England men's head coach Steve Borthwick has confirmed his official 33-player squad for the 2023 Rugby World Cup in France.

Jonny May (Gloucester Rugby) and Alex Mitchell (Northampton Saints) are included in the squad replacing Jack van Poortvliet (Leicester Tigers) and Anthony Watson.

England's official 2023 Rugby World Cup squad

Forwards (19)

Ollie Chessum (Leicester Tigers, 11 caps)
Dan Cole (Leicester Tigers, 102 caps)^{***}
Tom Curry (Sale Sharks, 45 caps)*
Theo Dan (Saracens, 3 cap)
Ben Earl (Saracens, 18 caps)
Ellis Genge (Bristol Bears, 52 caps)*
Jamie George (Saracens, 79 caps)^{**}
Maro Itoje (Saracens, 70 caps)*
Courtney Lawes (Northampton Saints, 100 caps)^{***}
Lewis Ludlam (Northampton Saints, 21 caps)*
Joe Marler (Harlequins, 82 caps)^{**}
George Martin (Leicester Tigers, 3 caps)
David Ribbans (Toulon, 8 caps)
Bevan Rodd (Sale Sharks, 3 caps)
Kyle Sinckler (Bristol Bears, 63 caps)*
Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 29 caps)
Billy Vunipola (Saracens, 70 caps)^{**}
Jack Walker (Harlequins, 4 caps)
Jack Willis (Toulouse, 13 caps)



Backs (14)

Henry Arundell (Racing 92, 8 caps)
Danny Care (Harlequins, 90 caps)*
Elliot Daly (Saracens, 59 caps)*
Owen Farrell (Saracens, 107 caps)^{**}
George Ford (Sale Sharks, 85 caps)^{**}
Ollie Lawrence (Bath Rugby, 14 caps)
Max Malins (Bristol Bears, 21 caps)
Joe Marchant (Stade Francais, 19 caps)
Jonny May (Gloucester Rugby, 73 caps)^{**}
Alex Mitchell (Northampton Saints, 6 caps)
Marcus Smith (Harlequins, 24 caps)
Freddie Steward (Leicester Tigers, 26 caps)
Manu Tuilagi (Sale Sharks, 53 caps)^{**}
Ben Youngs (Leicester Tigers, 124 caps)^{***}

*denotes number of Rugby World Cup tournaments played

ENGLAND POOL GAMES

Saturday 9 September, kick off 2000 BST – England v Argentina (Stade Vélodrome, Marseille)
Sunday 17 September, kick off 2000 BST – England v Japan (Stade de Nice, Nice)
Saturday 23 September, kick off 1645 BST – England v Chile (Stade Pierre Mauroy, Lille)
Saturday 7 October, kick off 1645 BST – England v Samoa (Stade Pierre Mauroy, Lille)

England Rugby Group Stage Events



Join us at the Home of England Rugby, alongside like-minded fans at our England group stage events and get behind our national team, as they compete on the world stage.

Whether you're a die-hard rugby fan or simply looking for a fantastic day out, these events are the perfect opportunity to witness the electrifying matches of England's journey.

Be prepared to cheer on your team with fellow supporters as they showcase their skills, determination, and unwavering spirit.

We've prepared a range of exciting activities to keep you entertained throughout the day, including a pool table, classic arcade games, and live music.

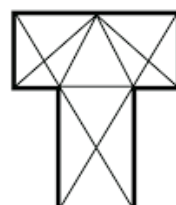
Additionally, don't forget to take a peek at the famous pitch, where countless rugby legends have made history. We will of course have large screens throughout The Clubhouse for you to catch all of the action.

Ticket prices are set at an affordable £10 for adults and juniors under 16 can enjoy the event for free.

For those eager to catch all the matches and make the most of this incredible event, we have a special package deal just for you. Purchase all four packages and get one completely free!

Our kitchen will be open throughout, offering a range of delicious options, plus a fully stocked bar.

Details and booking [HERE](#)



TWICKENHAM
Principal Partner
BRITISH AIRWAYS

Match Preview: Brentford v Bournemouth

Analysis, tactics, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of Brentford's Premier League game against Bournemouth

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford continue their 2023/24 Premier League campaign with a game against Bournemouth on Saturday (3pm kick-off).

Thomas Frank's side have a strong record against the Cherries, winning four of the last six meetings, including a [2-0 victory at Gtech Community Stadium in January](#).

The Bees have taken five points from their opening three fixtures, while Bournemouth – having drawn with West Ham United on the opening day and then lost to Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur – have one point.

Pre-match Analysis

Alex Lawes, Playmaker Stats: Brentford's in-form forwards may profit from Bournemouth's high line

Bournemouth have splashed more than £100 million this season on a raft of new signings, as the impressive Andoni Iraola tries to implement a fast and aggressive style of football that worked wonders at Rayo Vallecano.

Now plying his trade on the south coast of England, Iraola led Rayo to a surprise promotion via the play-offs in Spain in 2021 and then moulded a competitive outfit in La Liga that flirted with European qualification.

In terms of his general style, Iraola can be viewed as an ideologue with a holistic philosophy that he tweaks game by game. In contrast, Brentford head coach Thomas Frank is arguably more flexible and pragmatic - varying the Bees' approach depending on the opponent or game state.

One similarity, however, is a shared focus on efficiency. Rayo's intense style last season saw them complete just 78.8 per cent of their passes, the 14th-lowest rate in Spain's top-flight, but still take 13.6 shots per game - only Real Madrid, Barcelona, Athletic Bilbao and Atletico Madrid shooting more frequently.

Bournemouth may have had a tough start with games against West Ham United, Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur this season, but they are currently 15th for shots taken in the Premier League - 12.7 per game so far - averaging a similar amount to Iraola's Rayo.



Another tactical element of Iraola's style worth noting is his preference for a high line.

Last season, Rayo caught the opposition offside an average of 2.6 occasions per game, with only eventual UEFA Europa League winners Sevilla marshalling a better offside trap.

Leaving space in behind is a high-risk strategy though and - even given the quality of their opposition thus far - there appear to be defensive frailties for Iraola to iron out at Bournemouth: the Cherries conceding more than three more shots per game (19.7) more this season than they did last term (16.5).

One trait that Iraola's Bournemouth appear to share with his Rayo side is a penchant for shooting from distance. The Cherries have taken 21 shots from outside the box this season; the second most in the Premier League. His Rayo team ranked second, only behind Real Madrid, in La Liga last term.

This tendency contrasts sharply with Brentford, who average the fewest shots from outside the box in the top flight in 2023/24 and want to get as close to goal as possible to maximise their chances.

One shared characteristic between the Cherries and the Bees this Saturday could be their willingness to be direct - but even in this respect there are likely to be differences in approach.

Last season, Rayo had the third most inaccurate long balls in La Liga and so far this season, Bournemouth have had the fourth most in the Premier League. Brentford, on the other hand, rank only behind Man City for accurate long balls this season, with an average of eight more accurate long passes per game than their upcoming opponents.

Scout Report

O'Neil exit sparks summer of change at Vitality Stadium

When Bournemouth slipped to the bottom of the Premier League table at the start of March – following a game against Arsenal where they had taken a 2-0 lead, only to lose 3-2 – a return to the Championship after just one season back in the top flight looked a very real possibility.

They had only won four of their 24 league games prior to that point and were six months into Gary O'Neil's reign, which had started when Scott Parker left the club days after the 9-0 defeat at Liverpool, which equalled the Premier League record for the biggest winning margin.

“The boys will be devastated, as am I, for the next few hours or maybe slightly longer,” O'Neil said, speaking after the aforementioned loss at the Emirates. “But Liverpool come next week and we'll be ready.”

He was true to his word. Philip Billing put the Cherries in front after half an hour the following Saturday at the Vitality and, after a rare penalty miss from Mohamed Salah midway through the second half, they held on for a 1-0 win few saw coming, particularly as Liverpool had not conceded in almost 500 minutes at the time.

Bournemouth were by no means perfect in the last two months of the campaign, but they picked up four crucial wins in the next seven games – against Fulham, Leicester City, Tottenham Hotspur and Southampton – which meant that, by the time of a 4-1 win over Leeds United on 30 April, the poor form of the teams below them meant they could just about afford to finish with four straight defeats.

“Not many fans outside of Bournemouth would have given us a prayer this year,” O’Neil remarked after the Leeds win. “To have as many questions asked of them as they have, to have been written off and to get to 39 points with four games to play is an incredible effort.”

After managing to keep the club in the division for another year, it seemed as though O’Neil would be the man to steer them this term as they put the lessons they had learned along the way into practice. But the new ownership at the club had other ideas and, on 19 June, he was dismissed and replaced by Andoni Iraola.

There was understandable shock, which chair Bill Foley said he understood during an interview with talkSPORT: “It really wasn’t so much about Gary not doing what he was asked to do, it was more about the opportunity to give our football club a different identity through the coach we made contact with some time ago and then initiated contact very recently.”

The former Spain international came in on a two-year deal and despite in his first interview alluding to the fact one of the reasons he had joined the club was because of the players they had on the books, he has been presented with £110 million worth of new players, including Tyler Adams from Leeds, Alex Scott from Bristol City and Patrick Kluivert’s son Justin from Roma.

His side haven’t got going just yet, with two defeats and one draw from their first three Premier League games, which has done little to dissuade bookmakers from pricing them as fourth favourites for relegation behind Everton, Sheffield United and Luton Town.

With a lot of new faces, the window remaining open and a manager with limited experience in the English game, perhaps they have been guided by the element of the unknown. But Bournemouth have been written off countless times before and they will relish the chance to set the record straight once again.

In the Dugout

Andoni Iraola

A right-back by trade during his playing days, Andoni Iraola came through the ranks at Athletic Bilbao and made his debut during the 2003/04 La Liga season, following two years in the Segunda Division with Bilbao’s B team and year with CD Basconia – effectively the club’s C team – before that.

Over the 10 seasons that followed his debut year, Iraola, astonishingly, missed just 26 league games, during which time he was part of the squad that finished as runners-up in the Copa del Rey twice, once in the Europa League and once in the Spanish Super Cup. Between 2008 and 2011, he earned seven senior caps for Spain, too.

He featured considerably less during 2014/15 - his final season at San Mames – but captained Lehoiak in his final game for the club, in a third Copa del Rey final defeat, this time against Barcelona.

Iraola then signed for New York City of the MLS, where he spent 17 months, before retiring in November 2016.

Just over 18 months later, he was handed his first managerial role with AEK Larnaca, but lasted only until January 2019 after winning 12 of his 29 matches in charge of the Cypriot First Division club.

That summer, he joined CD Mirandes where, in his only season at the club, he masterminded a run to the semi-final of the Copa del Rey for only the second time in club history.

In August 2020, he took over at Rayo Vallecano, whom he led to promotion from the Segunda Division in his first season in charge.

Los Franjirrojos finished 12th in their first season back in La Liga and 11th last term, which led to an approach from Leeds United in February, which was rebuffed by the club's board.

However, he left at the end of the campaign, when his contract expired.

The Gameplan

With Tom Crocker, chief sports writer for *Bournemouth Echo*

Bournemouth Echo's Tom Crocker explains how the Cherries are likely to set up at Gtech Community Stadium:

“It has been a tough start, both in terms of results and the fixture schedule.

“Of the eight fixtures Bournemouth were handed to start this year, they lost all of those corresponding fixtures last season, so it was always going to be difficult, coupled with the fact a number of key players have been out injured.

“There have been encouraging signs along the way though, notably the front-foot approach. But I think everyone accepted the first month or so might be tricky results wise.

“Despite still having plenty of players missing, including likely starters Tavernier, Scott and Adams, I expect Iraola to stick with the 4-4-1-1 he has been using all season.

“There are not too many options to change the line-up from recent weeks, other than in the attacking midfield areas.”

[Read the full interview with Tom Crocker here.](#)

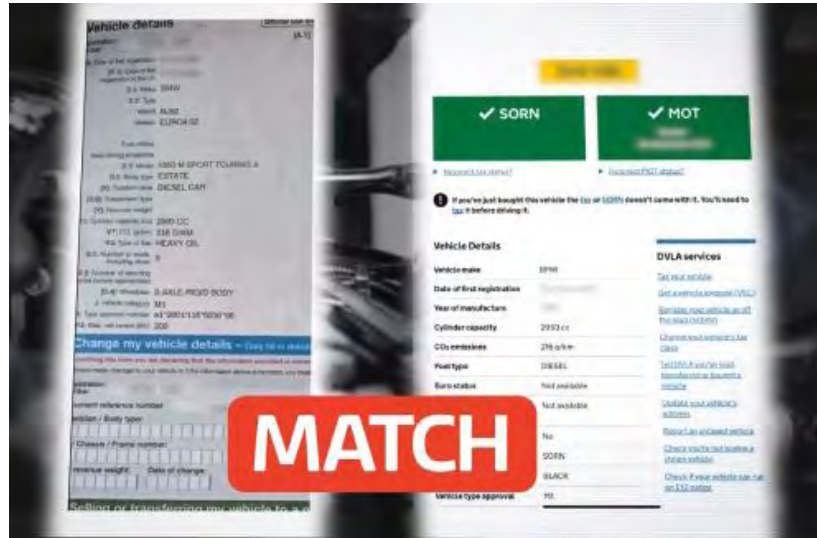


Fraudster's brazen scam to trick London's ULEZ cameras

An investigation by ITV News London has uncovered a brazen scam to trick London's ULEZ cameras and avoid paying the £12.50 charge. The fraudster, who falsely claimed to work for Transport for London, said he could ensure polluting vehicles followed the rules to be compliant.

Using WhatsApp, the man who referred to himself as 'Christopher T' and said he altered ULEZ records for pre-Euro 6 cars which typically have high levels of harmful emissions. The scammer charged £700 and all he asked for is payment and the vehicle log book.

ITV News tested if the fraudulent scheme worked and obtained car registration details apparently provided to the seller by people he claimed were customers. We cross-referenced the details with the records on government data bases which confirmed the information matched.



Details of the scam cross-referenced by ITV London
Credit: ITV News London

Both cars are BMWs and both run on pre-2015 diesel engines which means neither are ULEZ compliant. But when you run the number plates through TfL's ULEZ checker it says they are.

"It certainly should not be coming up as ULEZ compliant, (the website says) this vehicle meets the ULEZ emissions standards – there's something very wrong there," said motoring expert Steve Fowler.

A spokesperson for Transport for London said: *"We are proactive in identifying criminals attempting to commit fraud against TfL and are aware of a small number of criminals attempting to produce fraudulent counterfeit vehicle documents to support fraudulent ULEZ exemption applications."*

"We are working with the police to make sure the criminals face the consequences of their actions and are working closely with vehicle manufacturers to prevent fraudulent applications being successful."

"Drivers should not use the services advertised by these fraudsters as they will also be committing a criminal offence as well as wasting their money as their exemption will not stand. We have already removed many exemptions where we have identified or suspected them to be fraudulent."

The man behind the scheme hides behind a series of social media accounts and always stays anonymous. ITV News London revealed details of the investigation to the fraudster and asked him to respond to our findings.

'Christopher T' called back and hung up and appeared to have no interest in responding to serious allegations of fraud that we found him to be committing. He then blocked us on WhatsApp and deleted his messages.

There are similar accounts still out there but those unwilling to pay the ULEZ charge could find themselves being drawn into this illegal activity as a way of saving money.



Sadiq Khan is planning to bring in pay-per-mile charges for cars in 2030, minister claims

Transport Secretary Mark Harper said London ULEZ expansion is to pave the way for road pricing scheme

Mark Harper told [GB News](#): “So in my view, in many other people’s views, it’s not about air quality. It’s about raising money from some of the poorest motorists and hard-pressed Londoners.

“But it’s also about putting an infrastructure in place for his future plans, which are on his own website for his Project 2030 scheme to develop more sophisticated, as he puts it, road user charging. So a pay-per-mile system, which will make driving the preserve of the better off. I don’t want to see that happen.

“That’s what this is really about, which is why I think it’s so unpopular.”



In a discussion with Christopher Hope, he continued: “His own impact assessment that he commissioned through Transport for London says it’s going to have a minor to negligible effect on air quality. So it’s not about improving air quality. And therefore if you look at what else it could be about, it’s clearly about raising money and putting in place the infrastructure for a future of pay-per-mile road charge.”

Asked if the Conservatives would ban ULEZ schemes if they win the next election, Mr Harper said: “In other parts of the country, if mayors want to do these sorts of schemes, they’ve got to have the permission of the local councils, which is a useful check and balance in the system.

“That isn’t currently the position in London and one of the things that’s happening in a piece of legislation that’s going through, the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill...which would mean in the future schemes like this would have to be supported by local councils or they wouldn’t be able to run in those councils’ areas.

“Now, I think that’s a good step. You can’t make it retrospective, it’s going forward. But I think it’d be useful protection against this plan to have more road user charging in London, which Sadiq Khan plans to do in the future.”

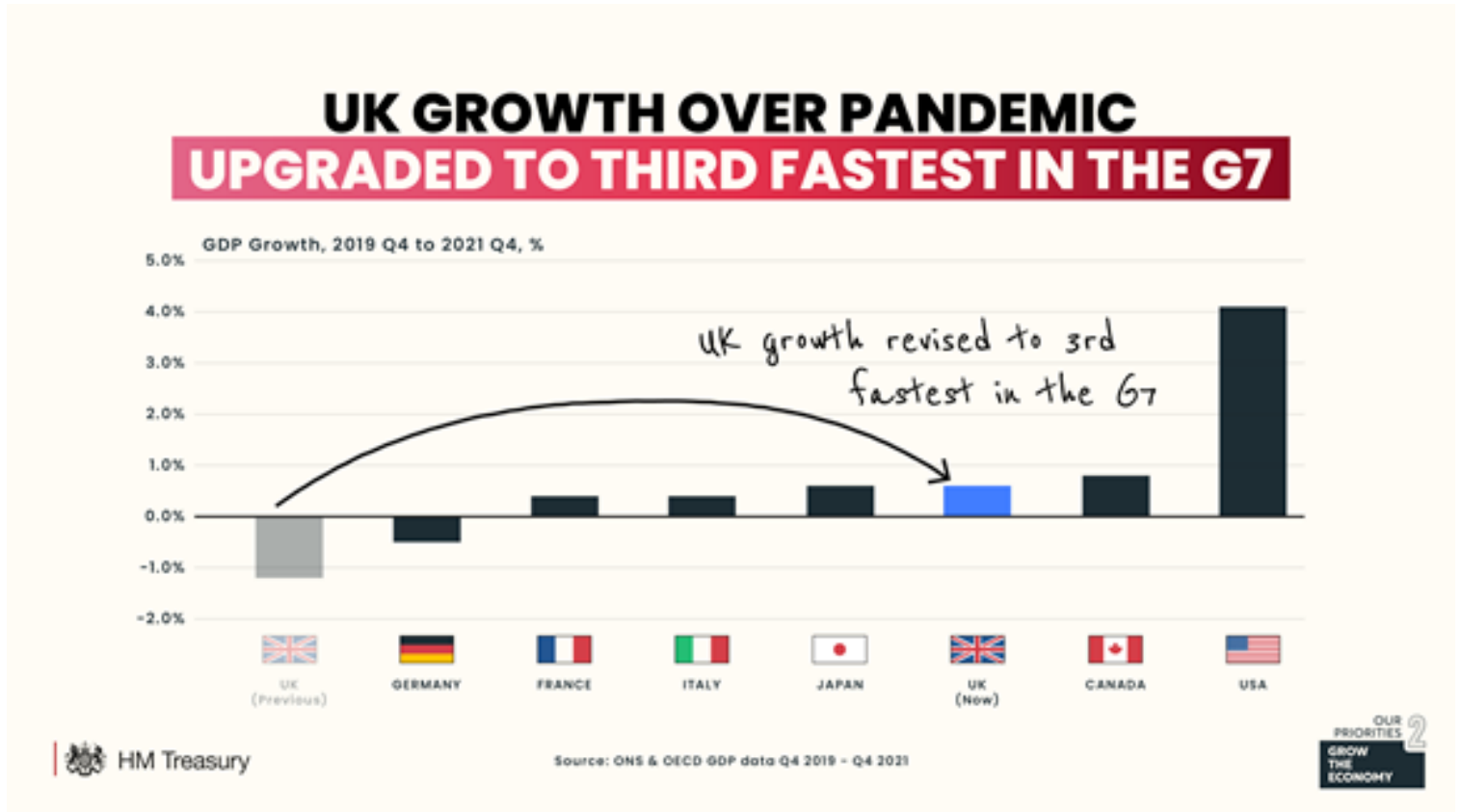
On reports that the national air traffic control system may have been caused by a French airline, he said: “I don’t know where that story has come from, we’re looking into the root cause of it...”

“We haven’t had a significant outage like this for the best part of a decade. Usually the system functions very well and that it is actually one of the best air traffic systems in Europe, it’s very reliable, and usually performs very well.

“The most important thing yesterday was despite the disruption, and I accept that that’s been incredibly disruptive for people, and I joined with NATS in apologising to people that have been impacted by it.”

ONS upgrades UK's GDP growth up to 2021 showing a stronger recovery

At 09:30 this morning the ONS published an update to the UK's GDP growth figures up to 2021 which shows the UK's economy was 0.6% larger than pre-pandemic levels by Q4 2021 and had the third fastest recovery in the G7 at that point, behind only the US and Canada.



The article is available here:

[Impact of Blue Book 2023 changes on gross domestic product - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/impact-of-blue-book-2023-changes-on-gross-domestic-product)

Please see the Chancellor's reaction below.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt said:

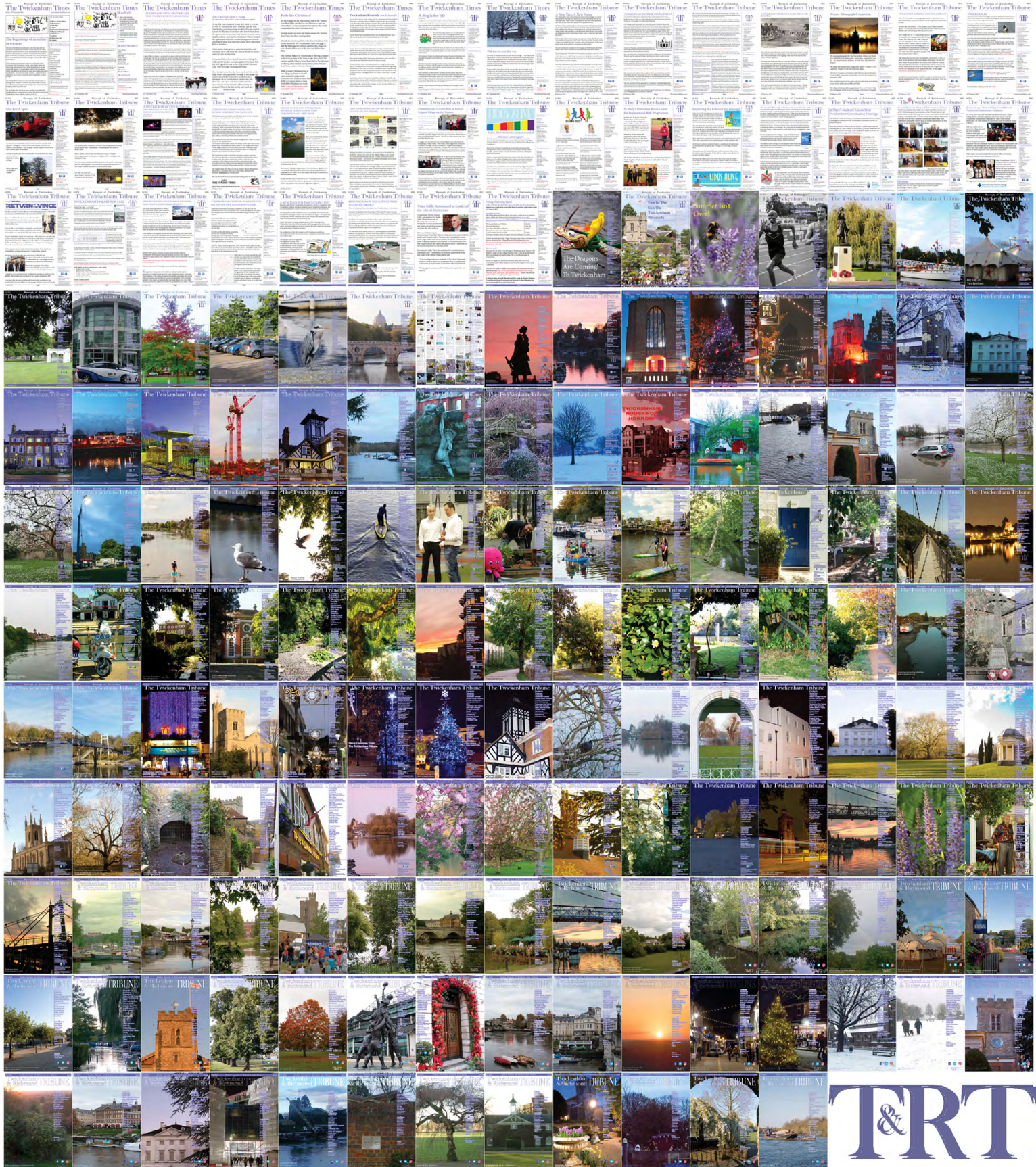
“The fact that the UK recovered from the pandemic much faster than thought shows that once again those determined to talk down the British economy have been proved wrong.

“There are many battles still to win, most of all against inflation so we can ease cost of living pressures on families. But if we stick to the plan we can look forward to healthy growth which according to the IMF will be faster than Germany, France, and Italy in the long term.”



HM Treasury

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