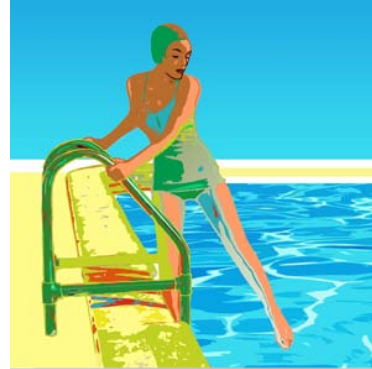


The Twickenham Tribune

Exploring the Lidos of the Borough

Lidos Alive will be investigating the lidos in the borough, not only the ones we know: Teddington, Hampton (Bushy) and Twickenham but those on the rivers such as Richmond Bridge Lido and the popular lido at Mereway which was once the centre for school swimming championships.



The Lidos Alive team would like to hear from those who used the lidos within living memory and those who know the stories of the forgotten lidos on the Twickenham and Richmond sides of the Thames. So far, it seems that Twickenham has had its fair share of lidos but perhaps there is more to uncover on the Richmond side. If not, why were lidos more popular on the Twickenham side?

Those interested in submitting their memories could initially send them to the Lidos Alive team and later some people's memories will be recorded on film.

We do hope to collect as much information as possible and all contributions will be recorded on the website and, if enough are forthcoming, perhaps a book.

Photographs and other memorabilia such as The Swimming Times will also be sought as part of the project. All this will be recorded, along with archival research and other activities.

The backdrop of this project is the current lido revival across the country where lidos are being saved, renovated and restored. Outdoor swimming is becoming very popular once again and we hope to bring together the past with the present.

If you are interested this project please write to contact@lidosalive.com
www.lidosalive.com



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THE LOCAL POSTCARD PAGE

PART 21 – POLICE ORPHANAGE IN TWICKENHAM

By Alan Winter

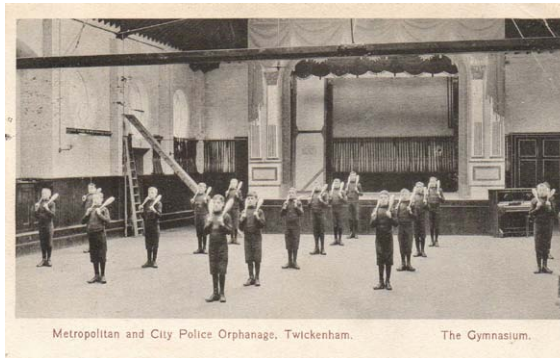
The Metropolitan and City Police Orphanage opened in 1870 on the junction of Amyand Park Road and London Road, Twickenham. Within a few years, larger premises were needed and in 1874 the orphanage moved to Wellesley House in Hampton Road, Twickenham.

Funding was provided entirely from charitable donations and bequests and the school, which from 1882 catered for boys, girls and infants was kitted out with excellent academic and sporting facilities. The children were well looked after and took part in numerous day trips to broaden their horizons. Wealthy patrons supported the orphanage and a new wing was opened by the Prince and Princess of Wales in the same year.



I wonder if the Prince of Wales popped over the road to have a pint in the pub that was named after him. It's still there today and does an exceptionally fine Sunday lunch!

Our first postcard shows the orphanage facing Hampton Road and the second is of the school gymnasium. This card was posted in 1907. It is fascinating to see that the boys appear to be involved in a form of deportment with wooden clubs used as fitness aids. I doubt if that one ever got past the Olympics Committee.



The orphanage closed in July 1937 as a result of new pensions for police widows which allowed orphans to stay at home with their family or relatives. Fortescue House School had followed the orphanage onto its original site in London Road and now took over the site which fronted Hampton Road between Wellesley Road and Stanley Road opposite the Nelson pub which is now the Loch Fyne Fish Restaurant. In 1971 the school closed and the land sold off for an estate of town houses that saw its first owners move in the following year.

Meanwhile the site in London Road saw the original Fortescue House demolished and in 1938 was replaced by the Regal Cinema which itself was replaced by Regal House a year or so after it closed in 1960.

I must draw your attention to an excellent new book "A life Well Led" written by local historian Dr Christopher French. It covers the life of Richard Gardner who was Headmaster of the orphanage school for 25 years. An excellent read and vision of Victorian times. Available for not much more than a fiver from the Borough of Twickenham Local History society. Buy this and other local publications from their website at www.botlhs.co.uk or visit their stall at the fair at Twickenham Green on the late May bank holiday.

If you have any postcards to dispose of, any comments on this subject, or ideas for future articles, please drop me a line at alanwinter192@hotmail.com

TwickerSeal - Dolphin spotted in Thames near Twickers

A dolphin (or more probably a porpoise) was recently spotted in the Thames near Twickenham and Richmond. Twickenham Riverside is an ideal location for 'spotters' seeking to view elusive creatures, including our very own TwickerSeal who caught up with his chum Nessie, another rarely seen creature. Keen spotters are always on the lookout for that particularly rare species, the Twickenham Riverside Ward Councillor. TwickerSeal says "The most common is the Cllr Chappell who is a very active councillor, particularly as a cabinet member and right hand to Cllr Fleming. Then there is the Lesser Spotted Cllr Dias, normally most visible when there is an issue of people parking near his house. At the top of any spotter's list is the mythical Cllr Hill, though any sightings so far are still to be verified."



All views expressed are those of TwickerSeal and not necessarily those of The Twickenham Tribune

Twickers Foodie

The Ivy Café – Richmond's latest opening

By Alison Jee

For shedloads of buzz and atmosphere, and to rub shoulders and with local celebs plus the 'great and the good' of our area, then the Ivy Café is perfect place. If you are looking for a quiet evening meal and chat with friends, this probably isn't the best choice for you, but it is open all day for breakfast, brunch, lunch and afternoon tea as well as dinner.

This new opening – on the site of All Bar One – is the result of a beautifully executed refurbishment and is the quintessence of 'café culture'. The interior is stunning, (inspired by the surroundings in Richmond Park) but with lots of hard surfaces, the associated noise levels can be annoying.



Tables are comfortably spaced though and there is also seating at the bar. Upstairs is a really pretty private dining room – the Isabella Room - which seats up to 24 and perfect for a private celebration.

The a la carte menu has starters from £5.50 to £11.95 and mains from £12.50 for a vegetarian butternut squash roast with grains to £34 for lobster Thermidor. There is a set menu available weekdays till 6.30 p.m. for £16.50 for two courses or £21 for three.

The food is good; simple dishes well executed. A plate of wafer thin smoked salmon with a spoonful of crab and tempura prawns were our starters and both were good. The fillet steak to follow was delicious and very tender and the famous blackened cod baked in banana leaf came with a suitably Asian salad and yuzu mayonnaise. Truffle and Parmesan chips sounded great on the menu but were a slight disappointment; a bucket of chips sprinkled with dollops of crumbly topping – I think just a sprinkling of truffle salt would have been preferable.

But it's the desserts that are the highlight of the meal. The legendary frozen berries (served with a warm white chocolate sauce) and the melting chocolate bombe were pure theatre. The latter was incredibly rich and when I go back I will definitely share (that's if I can find a companion so inclined). We were slightly surprised to be served our coffee before our desserts but maybe that was just a glitch. With wines starting from £5 a glass (£19.50 a bottle), be prepared for a good quality, but limited selection for under £40 a bottle. Prosecco is £34 a bottle and house champagne £55.

Staff are great – friendly and charming, but service is slightly slow and many online reviews seem to echo this as the main gripe. Perhaps if the wine bottles could be left on the table for guests to top up their glasses themselves it might help?

To summarise, The Ivy Café is a great and very welcome addition to our local restaurant scene – bookings are possible, and there is an allocation for walk ins, but be prepared to book well in advance to be sure of your table.

Doran Vineyards Wines

By Mike Matthews

From the rugby bound streets of Twickenham, to the Paardeberg Mountain of South Africa. This sounds like a dream for most but there is nothing fantastical about this dream. This is a labour of love for Edwin Doran, his business partner, Andre Badenhorst, and winemaker, Martin Lamprecht.

The overall style from Doran Vineyards doesn't come to mind as being South African, there's nothing really 'New World' about them!

When I first tasted Edwin's wines last year the overriding sense was I was drinking French, the Rhône to be exact, and not from the base of a South African mountain. This scenario is something I'm seeing more and more from producers across South Africa. For a while they struggled to find their identity, were they New World or Old World? The answer being very much the latter.

There is quality and subtlety with Doran Vineyard wines.

Pinotage, which has a reputation for being a bit of a "Marmite" grape with consumers, is the varietal that is 100% South African. Here Edwin and his team have produced a style that is softer across the board, it lacks that meaty edge that I believe is what puts most people off. The wine is full of juicy, natural red berry flavours without being over the top. They've sanded down the sides and smoothed this varietal out. £10.99.

Likewise his Shiraz is more in the mould of the classic Rhône style, with a significant reduction in the grapes more famed peppery edge. The wine has been refined, allowing for the fruits natural dark flavours to jump to the foreground, giving you bags of deep, earthy, red fruit. £10.99.

The Romy D is Edwin's Bordeaux! A wonderful blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc, a true Bordeaux blend in every sense. This wine is jam packed with flavour. The nature of a Bordeaux blend, and what makes it a success, is the combination of the grapes used. The Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot interact with different parts of your palate whilst the addition of Cabernet Franc gives those flavours a bit of a push, seasoning if you'd like. What you are left with is a wine that continually changes in taste each time you sip it. £10.99. The guys aren't all about the reds! They have a couple of whites and a Rosé too.

Doran Vineyards 'Arya' is a lighter style white produced using Chenin Blanc, Grenache Blanc and Roussanne, the last two varietals are key grapes used in the production of classic Rhône and southern regional French whites. On the palate, a light spritz with subtle lemon citrus and pear drop flavours. £8.99.

His barrel fermented Chenin Blanc is a bit more of a serious animal. As the name eludes to, the wine has been aged in oak barrels. In this case though, it suits the style. Yes you do taste the oak but it is more of an accompaniment, seasoning again! The use of oak here gives depth a variety to the already noticeable stone fruit, baked apple flavours. £10.99.

Lastly we have the Rosie D Pinotage Rosé. The colour is a slightly deeper shade of pink, but don't let that put you off because the colour of a Rosé doesn't define the taste. Initially there is a quick hit of sweet red fruit but that dissipates fairly quickly to leave a dry, fresh, soft Provence style Rosé with light strawberry notes. £8.49.

For a boutique producer, Edwin Doran doesn't charge boutique prices. As a former businessman in Twickenham, he understands what it is to offer value for money to his customers. Value for money is what you definitely get here!



All prices correct at publication. Subject to change and availability. 10% off any mixed 6 bottles.

Doran Vineyards Wines available from –
Warren Wines, 56 Church St, Twickenham.
0208-744-2541

Offers and Competitions

Win a bottle of bottle of Edwin Doran Pinotage from Warren Wines, 56 Church St, Twickenham



Just email win@TwickenhamTribune.com giving your name and postcode, with "Warren Wines" in the subject line.

The draw will take place at noon on Friday 12th May.

The winner of a bottle of Domaine Berthoumieu Madiran from Warren Wines is: Thomas O'Kill of TWI

Winner of a case (24) of "Bloody Belgian" beer

Singing in the round - the Stomping Nomads sampling the case of Bloody Belgian Beer which was won in the recent Twickenham Tribune competition. The bottle comes with a bit of local history as each beer label features the story of a Belgian refugee who fled to East Twickenham during the First World War.



Monthly Photography Competition

Win an 18 hole round of golf for 4 at Strawberry Hill Golf Club With a glass of wine or beer at the bar afterwards



Email your photo to win@TwickenhamTribune.com (include your name and postcode) All 4 players must play the same round.

Photos of pets or wildlife, or any scenes taken within the local villages, ie Twickenham, St Margaret's, East Twickenham, Strawberry Hill, Teddington, Hampton Wick, Hampton, Hampton Hill and Whitton/Heathfield

This competition is run in conjunction with Strawberry Hill Golf Club www.shgc.net

STRAWBERRY HILL GOLF CLUB



ADULT GOLF ACADEMY

for returning/new/
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- Access to golf course

For further information:

- Club Manager: Jon Wright 020 8894 0165
- Professional: Peter Buchan 07795 973926



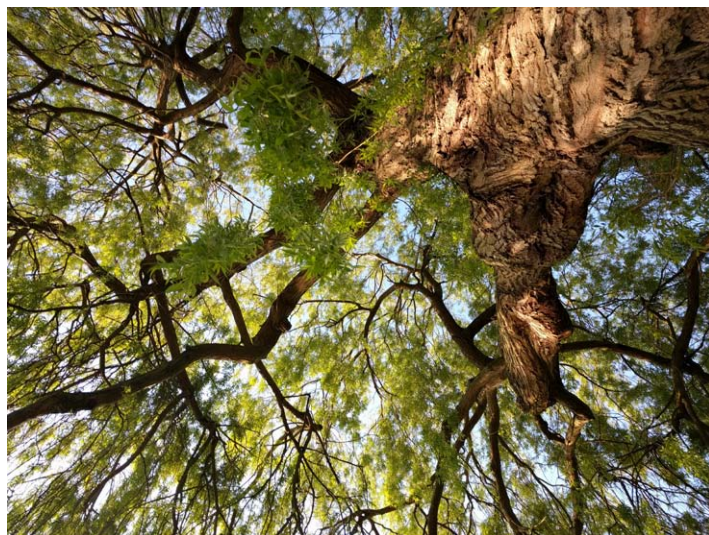
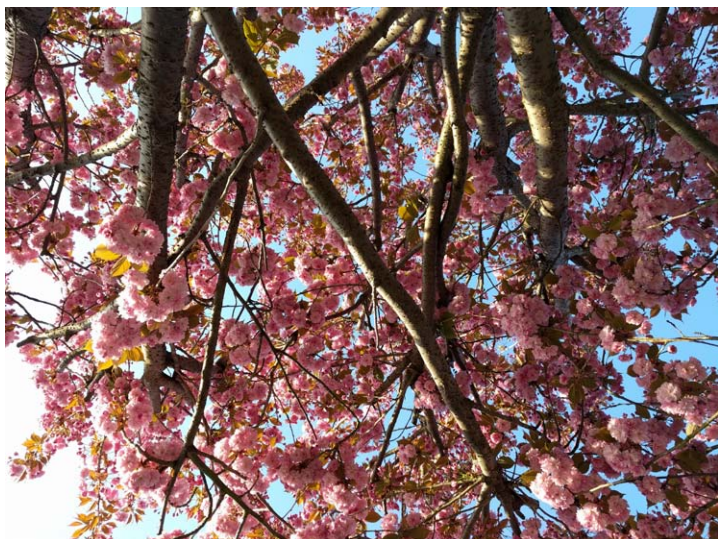
Strawberry Hill Golf Club
Wellesley Road, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham TW2 5SD
Tel: Club Manager 020 8894 0165
Email: secretary@shgc.net
To find out more visit: www.shgc.net



Strawberry Hill Golf Club Photography Competition

The April winner is:

Max McKellar (15) who took these photos in Radnor Gardens



STRAWBERRY HILL GOLF CLUB

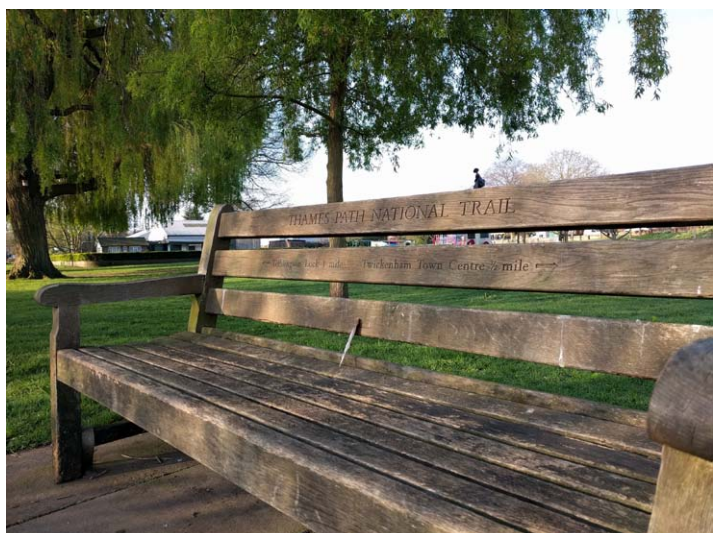
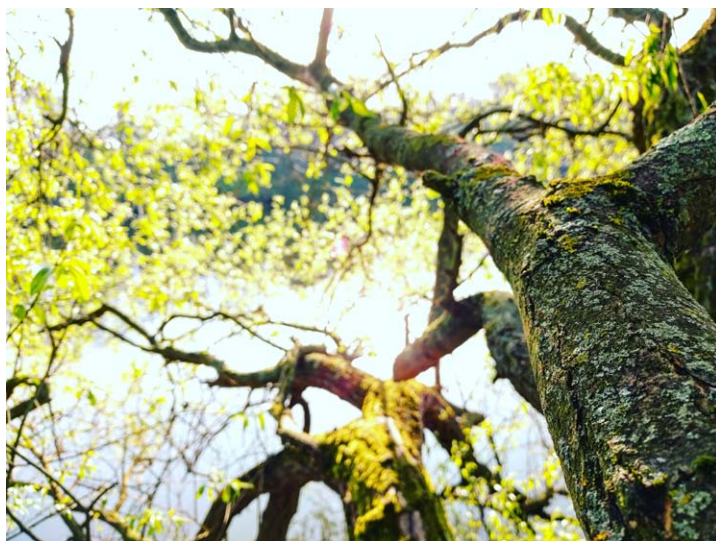
'NINE IS FINE!'

To make the most of the time and money you spend on golf, call our manager Jon Wright on **0208 894 0165**

Strawberry Hill Golf Club
Wellesley Road, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham TW2 5SD
Call our manager Jon Wright on 0208 894 0165
Email: secretary@shgc.net
To find out more visit www.shgc.net



Arts and Entertainment

by Erica White

Next up at Hampton Hill Theatre, following on from this week's Studio production of [THE PILLOWMAN](#), is the Main Auditorium production of [JERUSALEM](#) by Jez Butterworth, the play in which Mark Rylance gave such a barnstorming performance a few years ago in the West End. It runs from Sunday, 14 - Saturday, 20 May, eves at 7.45, Sunday at 6.00pm. Tickets: £10 members, £12 non-members.

Online: ttc-boxoffice.org.uk or tel: 0845 838 7529.

The following week [TOPS MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY](#) presents [BARNUM](#), the Circus Musical, Tuesday, 23 May - Saturday 27 May, at 7.45pm eves: Saturday matinee, 2.30pm. Tickets:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/tops tel 0203 290 1234

email: tickets@topsmusicals.co.uk

The monthly [RICHMOND CONCERT SOCIETY](#) presents a programme of [BRITTEN](#), [SCHUBERT](#), [BERKELEY](#), [MOZART](#) and more at St Mary's Church, Twickenham Riverside on Tuesday 16 May at 7.45pm.

Information: richmondconcerts.co.uk

On Thursday, 11 May at 8.00pm award-winning musical comedian [ADAM KAY](#) presents his take on the songbook of the legendary [TOM LEHRER](#). Musical satire of a high order. Tickets: £16 Concs £14. Pre supper available at £8.50 per person. Booking info: 8977 7558

The [TW12 JAZZ FESTIVAL 2017](#) takes place at various venues, 3 Friday, June - Sunday, 4 June. Further details see this page next week. Info:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TW12jazzfestival email: tw12jazz@mail.com

Full details of Rock, Jazz and Folk at the Cabbage Patch pub were given in last weeks edition of the Twickenham Tribune.

Visit: Twickenhamtribune.com

The prestigious [SPRING ART FAIR](#) at The Landmark Arts Centre is mounted Saturday/Sunday 20/21 May, 10.00am-5.00pm. Admission £4, concs £3. Unders16s & LAC members free. An array of high quality art in various media from artists all over the country will be on display.

[POPE'S GROTTA PRESERVATION](#) are glad to announce the return of [GILES ABBOTT](#), award-winning blind story-teller in his performance of [ALEXANDER POPE: A Search for Perfection](#).

Twickenham's poet and savage satirist brought to life. You can catch this at Strawberry Hill House, Wednesday 17 May at 7.00pm. This will present an opportunity to explore Horace Walpole's gothic fantasy home. Tickets: £8 Or enjoy the [POET AND A PINT](#) at [THE ALEXANDER POPE HOTEL](#), Cross Deep, TW1 4RB on Friday 26 May at 7.00pm.

Tickets, £8 from www.ticketsource.co.uk

Tickets are available for [TWICKENHAM MUSEUM'S ANNUAL JACK ELLIS MEMORIAL LECTURE](#) on Monday 22 May at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Street at 7.30 for 8.00pm.

[DR SIMON THURLEY](#) will speak about his latest book [HOUSES OF POWER: The Places that Shaped the Tudor World](#). Tickets: £6, available from the Museum during opening hours (Tues. & Sats: 11am-3.00pm, Sundays, 2.00-4.00pm or from Ken Howe 8943 1513 or email: howe64@btinternet.com



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The Tree Agency

Peter's flower stall must be given time to find new location in Twickenham

By Vince Cable

The owners of the much valued Peter's flower stall outside Twickenham station should not be driven off Twickenham high street is the clear message that Vince Cable has sent to both Richmond Council and to the developers of Twickenham station.

At present the longstanding flower stall business is threatened due to the company Solum, who are the developers of Twickenham train station, giving the owner of the flower stall sudden notice only last Wednesday that the stall can no longer operate from its current location from this coming Friday.

Vince Cable, Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for Twickenham, has already intervened on the behalf of the flower stall owner, contacting both Richmond Council and the company Solum.

Vince Cable is urging Solum to give Peter's flower stall greater time to find an alternative location and has suggested to Richmond Council that an alternative location on Twickenham high street is offered to Peter's flower stall, such as the apparent licenced space for a trader next to Waitrose.



Vince Cable said:

“This is a much valued flower stall, which I have personally used many times. It is these type of long standing businesses which make Twickenham such a special place.

“No one should be given just six working days’ notice that their business has to stop trading. That is blatantly unfair for any trader.”

“If Network Rail, Solum and Richmond Council simply show a bit of a common sense a much valued Twickenham business could be saved.”

WHEN STRAWBERRIES ARE NOT ENOUGH

Book by Charley & Simon Williams. Music by Charley Williams.

Musical arrangement and orchestration by Adam Hope.

Review by Heather Morgan.

Last week I went to Hampton Hill Theatre where I attended a performance of a powerful piece of musical theatre, centred around the suffering of the scourge of Anorexia. Not a promising subject for a musical, you might think, but written by Teddington father and daughter, recounting the real life descent of Charley, or Hannah in the musical, into the frightening and life-threatening world of the anorexic, this riveting piece brought with it a strong message of hope.

Produced by 1000 Day Productions and directed by Wesley Henderson Roe, with a young cast augmented by a handful of older actors, this ensemble piece had the audience wiping away tears and on the edge of their seats urging Hannah to recover. In a series of 17 episodic scenes, augmented with haunting lyrics, the audience rode a rollercoaster of emotions, bursting into applause when Hannah finds her way to move forward helped by the return of her devoted childhood sweetheart.

Eating disorders are not fully understood, especially by the layman and it did seem that the protocols followed by the unit to which Hannah was admitted seemed particularly inappropriate, insofar as there was little attempt to understand the 'why' of the disorder, concentrating more on the routine 'how' to treat it. It was not until a sympathetic psychiatrist explores the 'why', that is, the neurological cause of the behaviour that the patient can be set on the road, hopefully, to recovery.

The musical arrangement and orchestration by Adam Hope hauntingly accompanied the music, some of which Charley wrote during treatment, were delivered by Sarah McCarthy. In the central role, she scarcely left the stage and gave a remarkable performance. Her expressive face subtly demonstrated a wide range of emotions. I have singled out this central performance but she was supported by an ensemble of committed actors who played multiple roles. The mood was not all doom and gloom, the scenes between the youngsters had their moments of fun and elation which lightened the mood. It was revelatory to learn of the subterfuges the patients get up to in order to fool their nurses and carers.

This complaint, like other mental health issues, takes an enormous toll on families and friends. Relationships are put under strain as a feeling of helplessness takes over. It has been interesting that, since last week's performance of When Strawberries Are Not Enough, the media have been recording individual tragedies and reporting the rising numbers of both sexes, young and older being recorded. So last week's well-attended production was well timed when awareness of this illness needs to be increased and pressure brought to bear to talk openly about it. Huge congratulations to Charley and her father, Simon, for bringing this subject sharply into focus. This thought-provoking, courageous piece needs other, wider audiences. I do hope some far-sighted impresario takes it up.



25 May till 3 September

Al Fresco in Church Street



Thursday 6 till 11pm

Friday 6 till 11.30pm

Saturday 6 till 11.30pm

Sundays and bank holidays 10.30am until 10pm



www.twickenhamthetown.org.uk

A DOLPHIN IN THE THAMES AT RICHMOND?

This week Andy Jameson tweeted that he saw a dolphin in the Thames at Richmond (later someone suggested that it was a harbour porpoise).

Such sightings are becoming more common in some stretches of the Thames with our own TwickerSeal being caught on camera.

The Twickenham Tribune (not to be confused with the Wikitribune!) first reported TwickerSeal near Richmond Lock on the Twickenham side on 17 February in Edition 15.



The Tidal Thames is home to harbour and grey seals, harbour porpoises and pilot whales.

The London Zoological Society keeps a record of sightings.

www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/uk-europe/thames-marine-mammal-conservation

THE MAYOR'S MATCH

Teddington Bowling Club hosted the Annual Mayor's Match on Sunday 30th April. The four teams that took part, Hampton, Strawberry Hill, Teddington and a Mayor's Team are pictured at the start outside the pavilion..

After a series of tight ends, Hampton proved to be the best team. The Mayor presented commemorative medals to all participants, and at the end of the event, the Club presented a cheque for his Charity of the Year.

Photo by Brian Holder



ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY PRESENTATION

The third public presentation event organized by St Mary's takes place on Saturday 6th May 10:30am – 4:00pm in the Students' Union Hall (please note for this event).

POSTCARDS WANTED

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Please ring Alan to discuss on

07875 578398

SUMMER IS NIGH AND AL FRESCO in CHURCH STREET COMETH

By Bruce Lyons

It's hard to believe as we shiver in this nasty Cold Front That it in just three weeks the Church Street Al Fresco Season will commence, with the restaurants setting out their tables in plain air from the 25th of May until the 3rd of September.

Church Street just now is a frenzy of activity. Clearing away the last traces of our Spring Burst. Planters and Urns and flower beds are currently being planted up for the Summer, Hanging Baskets on their way. Restaurants are getting a lick of paint and the street furniture is getting its annual makeover.

Each year since 2005 (when Al Fresco started) the chefs in our eclectic mix of Eateries have competed for your custom and today there is an international (with a tiny bias in favour of Italy) flavour so here is run down on who does what, where.

Today Church Street boasts three Bangladeshi restaurants all of whom have been here since the 80's, the oldest being the Twickenham Tandoori, try their ever popular Chicken Tawai Jalapesi (Authentic Bangladeshi home style dish cooked with Bangladeshi Pumpkin and fresh herbs and spices) Further down the road there is Delhi Durbar whose signature dish is "Delhi Spring Chicken" marinated in yoghurt with delicate herbs and spices BBQ'd in flaming charcoal and cooked in a sauce of butter, whilst next door we have NAZ Balti and their favourite is a flavour of Nepal "Chicken e Bahar, cooked with pepper and bay leaves (fairly hot!!)

Staying in the East (but close to home) Rosie Chai offers a touch of Lebanese Cuisine focussing on grilled Haloumi Cheese, grilled marinated Aubergine and courgettes – A light and delicious touch of the Lebanon, whilst opposite them we have our only ITALIAN DELI; CORTO a Pandora's Box of Italian Delicacies (do you know that people travel from far and wide to get their favourite ingredients)- they offer a huge choice of Piadina's, a kind of wrap from Emilia Romagna- A Thin flatbread made of flour, strutto (or Olive Oil), salt water served warm with a huge choice of sweet or savoury options. Try CRUDO, the most traditional one; Prosciutto, stracchino, cheese & rocket a snip @ £6.90!!



Then there is the Italian MOB! The most recent arrival is Al Solito Posto (formerly Sorrento and before that Raefils). Vincenzo Rea recommends the Sciatelli al Profumo di Mare; homemade long fresh Neapolitan pasta with clams, mussels king prawns, scampi, baby prawns, squid, cherry tomatoes, white wine, garlic and chilli. Our Oldest Italian is Pulcinella whose signature dish is Fegato; Calves Liver with confit of onions, pancetta, creamed potatoes and red wine sauce. Practically opposite is Masaniello, where perhaps you should try Rigatoni Ragu; tube pasta and traditional slow cooked meat, ragout sauce and parmesan - Chef Livio Te should know as he hails from a Neapolitan restaurant family!

Further down still we have, in the Square our own Tapas Restaurant, Pincho. Try the Paella Valenciana; Chicken, chorizo sausage, red and green peppers, peas, mussels and baby prawns – delicious with a local Rioja- you will imagine you're on holiday already!!

And of course our two Iconic Pubs give a warm welcome. At the Eel Pie, their signature dish is our fabulous traditional Golden Glory Beer Battered Fish & Chips and The Fox is a great place to share small dishes over a pint or a glass of wine. They have a deal when you buy three items from their "Nibbles & Grazing" menu which includes 'Chipotle Glazed Chicken Wings', 'Crispy Salt & Pepper Squid', 'Crispy Mac'n'Cheese Balls' as well as other delicious snacks.



TRY TWICKENHAM BID BUSINESSES PRESENT

Try Cycle

Twickenham

FREE FAMILY FUN DAY SUNDAY 7TH MAY 1-5PM

MINI GRAND PRIX CIRCUIT

BMX FLATLANDS

CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOPS

MR PHOEBUS PENNY FARTHING
RIDES FOR ALL AGES

BIKE SMOOTHIES - WHIZZ UP
YOUR VERY OWN AS YOU CYCLE!

FREE FACE PAINTING & GIVEAWAYS

BEER TENT & FOOD STALLS

JOSH THE BALLOON MAN

ACTIVITY DISPLAYS ON STAGE

STILT WALKERS

DECORATE A BISCUIT

RADIO JACKIE

Join us for an afternoon of TryCycle fun at the Embankment and Diamond Jubilee Gardens on Twickenham's Riverside. There are lots of free action-packed activities suitable for all the family, so bring your bikes and scooters along (or borrow one of ours) and earn a TryCycle medal on our Mini Grand Prix!



TRY Twickenham
BID BUSINESSES

www.trytwickenham.com
for more information and updates



Frustrated Ambitions - The Seagull

by Anton Chekhov, adapted by Torben Betts

Richmond Shakespeare Society, at The Mary Wallace Theatre

21st to 30th April

Review by Mary Stoakes



Purists and critics will quibble, as they are wont to do, with the much acclaimed, updated adaptation of *The Seagull* by Torben Betts. In the original version, the play, although designated as a 'comedy' by Chekhov, has a considerable subtext about the meaning of life and through his characters' personalities and interactions demonstrates the dilemmas of being an artist and particularly an artist in love. Despite being a failure on its first performance in 1898 the play was subsequently produced and promoted by Stanislavski, the great Russian theatre director, and has been hailed as 'one of the greatest new developments in world drama' – a pioneer of the new realism which was gradually gaining ground in European theatre.

The production at the Mary Wallace Theatre, directed by Susan Conte, was pacy and funny, although in an attempt to keep the action moving, there was a tendency by some of the younger actors in the first act to rush their lines. There are many ensemble scenes and we were presented with some great groupings especially in the family gatherings and the cast tableau at the final curtain.

The action takes place in the late 19th century on the country estate by a lake in Russia belonging to Peter Sorin, the elderly and ailing brother of a famous actress, Irina. Unfortunately the set gave little impression of the much praised beauty of the site. Sound effects were also virtually non-existent with little hint of the storm and incessant rain, which was alleged to be raging outside, although there were some storm clouds over the lake. Costumes set the piece firmly in the 1890s. The men were stylishly clad but, whilst the majority of the women's clothes were utilitarian and quite suitable, Irina's dresses were lacking in style for such a flamboyant character, even on holiday in the country, and did little to differentiate her status from the rest of the cast.

The Seagull depicts two visits by Irina with her lover Boris Trigorin, a famous playwright, to the estate, where her son, himself a frustrated writer, currently lives with his uncle. Dormant ambitions, passions and anxieties in this small provincial community are awakened by these visitors from a very different world.

Torben Betts' contemporary script emphasises the comedic, even farcical, elements of the convoluted and ultimately tragic relationships of the main protagonists to such an extent that some of the poetry, symbolism and self-reflective moments in the original are lost, as is the exploration of ideas both about theatre and life

See full review at

www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/04/30/the-seagull



Mark Aspen

www.markaspen.wordpress.com

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

Sizzling with Creativity - Young Writer's Festival 2016-17

Arts Richmond at The Orange Tree Theatre, 23rd April

Retrospective by Georgia Renwick

Here in Richmond borough we are very fortunate to have a richly diverse arts culture, and thanks to the annual Young Writer's Festival produced by Arts Richmond, we can be assured the next generation are on their marks to take up the torch.



Arts Richmond's Young Writer's Festival, which has been running for a number of years, is open to any young person who lives in or attends school in Richmond borough. The event has gone from strength to strength. This year there were nearly 400 entries, from which just 16 were selected to be performed by professional actors at this special event, directed by local theatre practitioner Keith Wait. From those sixteen, an overall winner is awarded in each age category and most special of all, just one Arts Richmond Young Laureate and one Junior Laureate are chosen for the year. This year the prizes have been generously donated by well-known children's author Dame Jacqueline Wilson, who was the UK's Children's Laureate from 2005-2007, and continues to be a Patron of Arts Richmond.

The judging panel have chosen an outstanding selection which sizzles with creativity, is rich in variety and is at once entertaining, touching and emotional in its sincerity. The observations and insights that children of even the youngest age category have to share with us are quite profound.

The Young Laureate chosen by the judges for this year is Miranda Barrett, writing in the School Years 11 and Over Category. Her poem *The Wheelchair Kid* which ambiguously depicts a wheelchair-bound nineteen-year-old pitched off a cliff edge, is a projection of her fears, she tells us, for her autistic brothers. It is quietly distressing, rendered with exemplary observation and maturity.



A noticeable proportion of the writing addresses difficult, upsetting themes. War, death, family tragedy and destruction of the environment are all raised. Their prevalence is a strong reminder of the power of writing in helping us to process and understand life's challenges, which these young people have commendably embraced at an early age, with creativity and sensitivity.

Although the celebration was about the children, the actors simply must be commended for the fantastic job they did in their delivery of the material. The three performers worked seamlessly together to bring dynamic movement as well as their strong, compelling voices to the work. The pieces were performed in full, unedited, allowing the children to speak as children, so their voices and personalities really shone through

Read this retrospective in full at: www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/04/25/young-writers-festival-2016-17

Reviews of the individual young writers are at www.artsrichmond.org.uk/reviews



Mark Aspen

www.markaspen.wordpress.com

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

Photography by Christina Bulford

Education funding is turning out to be one of the biggest issues in this election

By Vince Cable



Just days into the General Election campaign Vince Cable, Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for Twickenham, has declared that reductions in school funding is one of the biggest issues being raised across the constituency.

Vince Cable, the long standing former MP for Twickenham, who is seeking to make a return to Parliament said:

“All over the borough I am hearing from concerned parents, school governors and head teachers that our schools will soon be facing a dire situation in terms of their funding. Many of them are looking to reduce staff posts and make other changes which will affect the education of children.

“Parents at Stanley Primary School have even received a letter from the head teacher asking parents for financial assistance.

“When I was first elected in 1997 education funding was a key issue and it seems unless the Government back down over their disastrous plans for school funding the issue will be the dominant issue for many parents in this General Election.

“It is reported that Theresa May is facing calls from even within her own party to tear up the proposed school funding changes. It is vital that she does. It is simply a disgrace that any school is forced to ask parents to contribute to the core funding of a state school.”

“This funding formula is something I helped to block under the Coalition, but the Conservatives have allowed it back.

“Every school should be able to plan ahead with certainty and ensure they have the resources to provide a quality education for every child.”



MP Tania Mathias Launches Twickenham Yacht Club Dinghies

Twickenham Yacht Club members and Commodore, Stephen Tallis, were delighted to welcome MP Dr Tania Mathias last Sunday to launch the Club's community training sailing dinghies. A grant from Sport England enabled the Club to purchase dinghies 'Woodcock' and 'Winter' which were named after sadly missed members George Woodcock and Horace Winter, who made generous bequests to the Club. After performing the launch ceremony, Dr Mathias donned a buoyancy aid and tried out one of the boats herself, assisted by club member Owen Lewis.



The dinghies will enable the Club, based near the White Swan, to extend its training sailing provision for local people of all ages who wish to try sailing or obtain sailing qualifications. Royal Yacht Association Try Sailing, Level 1 and 2 courses are provided by the Club.

On Saturday 20 May members of the public wishing to try their hand at sailing are welcome to pop along to the clubhouse from 12 noon till 3.30 p.m. RYA Push The Boat Out is an annual Royal Yacht Association initiative encouraging clubs to invite non members to increase participation in the sport. It is an opportunity for members of the public to see the lovely clubhouse and the fantastic opportunities that the Twickenham stretch of the river has to offer for sailing and cruising.



The Club can be contacted at www.twickenhamyc.org and info@twickenhamyc.co.uk

The Club welcomes members of the public interested in watching or crewing at its dinghy park near the White Swan on Sunday mornings at 10am and Summer Wednesday at 7pm. The Clubhouse is open on Sundays from 1230 onwards. Moorings available for those wishing to join as active cruiser members.



Twickenham Yacht Club



TWICKENHAM STATION COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER APPOINTED

In December 2011, Richmond Council's Planning Committee granted planning permission for a proposal by Solum, an external developer, to improve the station.

As part of the original approval, members required the recruitment of a Community Liaison Officer, at the developer's expense. This was to ensure that any construction work caused by the development would result in minimal disruption to those who live in the nearby roads.

Following a number of delays to the start of the development, including a failed legal challenge and the borough playing host to the Rugby World Cup, work is now about to commence in early June.

A new Community Liaison Officer – Rowan Cole from Soundings, has now been recruited to the role, to ensure that residents are engaged and informed about the works. Rowan is a community engagement specialist, who has developed and led stakeholder programmes for a range of challenging projects across London, including in the City of Westminster, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and in Richmond upon Thames.

Tim Cronin, Assistant Director for Planning at Richmond Council, said:

“The Planning Committee agreed in their original decision that a Community Liaison Officer should be recruited to act as a go-between with the Council, local residents and the developers.

“Following a competitive process, we believe that Rowan from Soundings is well placed to mitigate and reassure residents, should there be any issues during the development.



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in Twickenham, on Tuesdays!

vocality

Join our fun, friendly choir, where songs are learnt by listening and repetition.
Everyone's welcome, but male voices are in particular demand!
Free taster session: www.vocality.co.uk or 07985 094322

“One of his main roles will be making sure that residents around the station are informed and aware of the development timeline. He will also be chairing a Stakeholder Group, made up of representatives from each local community group, the Council and the developers.”

Community Liaison Officer – Rowan Cole

www.soundingsoffice.com/about-us

CHESTNUT SUNDAY BUSHY PARK

SUNDAY 14 MAY

12.30pm – 4.30pm

The Parade starts at 12.30 in Chestnut Avenue at the Teddington Gate travelling to the Diana Fountain.

Music and fun fair rides form part of the attraction of this annual event, along with military re-enactments and pony rides.



*Diana Fountain and Chestnut Avenue
Photograph by Jonathan Cardy*

For more details visit the Friends of Bushy Park website.

www.fbhp.org.uk

LYME DISEASE AND DEER HERDS

THE RISK OF LYME DISEASE

On 29 April the Daily Telegraph published an article about the connection between deer herds and Lyme disease.

With a population of 1.5 million deer in the country, thousands of cases of Lyme disease have been reported by the NHS - spread by ticks which feed off deer and other animals.

The disease can be transferred by infected foxes, dogs and cats; walking in long grass also poses a risk of coming into contact with a tick.

Pets can be treated against Lyme disease and ticks should be removed by a veterinary surgeon.

Lyme disease is the cause of a number of very serious illnesses and suspected contact should be reported to a doctor.

The Big Tick Project is lobbying the Government to reinstate the Pet Travel Scheme as a number of pets returning to the UK are infected.

www.bigtickproject.co.uk

www.lymediseaseaction.org.uk

St Mary's University, Twickenham Update

Blood, Sweat and Tears Challenge

Dr Nicola Brown from the School of Sport, Health and Applied Science at St Mary's University, Twickenham, recently ran 70 miles from Portsmouth to London, raising money for the charity DKMS (delete blood cancer), here, she reflects on her experience.



It has been over a week since we completed our Blood, Sweat and Tears Challenge, running 70 miles from Portsmouth to London, and we still can't quite believe it is all over. After months of training and endless planning it feels strange (and we admit, quite nice!) not to wake up and think 'how far have I got to run today?'

Completing the 70 miles was tough but we really enjoyed it and were overwhelmed by the amazing support we had along the way. To have so many friends, family, colleagues (and at times complete strangers) supporting us, running with us, and cheering us on, was incredible and meant such a lot. We have always said we are only as good as those that support us and if we learnt anything from this challenge, it is that we are lucky to have some pretty awesome people in our lives. Oh, and that you don't actually need to pack 18 sports bras, 112 tops and 15 pairs of shorts to run 70 miles!

Our motivation for running was inspired by loved ones who have battled illness, as well as complete strangers who gave us/our loved ones a lifeline when they needed it. Over 6,000 people need to give blood every day to meet the demands of hospitals and patients, and over 2000 people in the UK (and 37,000 people worldwide) are waiting for a life-saving stem cell transplant. Our aim was to raise awareness of this and encourage people to register to give blood and join the stem cell register.

Although we haven't had time to do a full count up yet, we know that well over 150 amazing people did this for us and we cannot thank them enough. Although we didn't set out to raise money (as we thought asking for peoples blood and stem cells was cheeky enough!) so many people asked how they could sponsor us that we finally relented and we are delighted to have also raised £2,235 for the charity DKMS (delete blood cancer). It costs £40 to register each person the stem cell register and every penny of this will go towards this.

If you would like to support the Blood, Sweat and Tears Challenge you can visit www.justgiving.com/bstchallenge



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Twickenham Alive Dragon Boat Races

Twickenham Embankment

Sunday 6th August 2017, 10:00am until 5pm

Once again the popular Dragon Boat races return to Twickenham Riverside this August as part of the Twickenham Alive Riverside Events.

We are looking for Dragon Boat teams, 16 in a team plus a drummer. No previous experience needed! (If you have team members younger than 14, then please contact us).

Schools, rugby clubs, estate agents, solicitors, pubs, council officers...you can all enter. If you can't put a full team together we can help put you together with another team.

Cost per boat is £225

We are able to keep the price per boat below cost thanks to the continued support of

Tech21

To enter or for more information contact us on info@twickenhamalive.com
And for extra fun there will be the annual 60's music day at the Barmy Arms!



Dragon Boat Races

Sunday 6th August
Twickenham Riverside

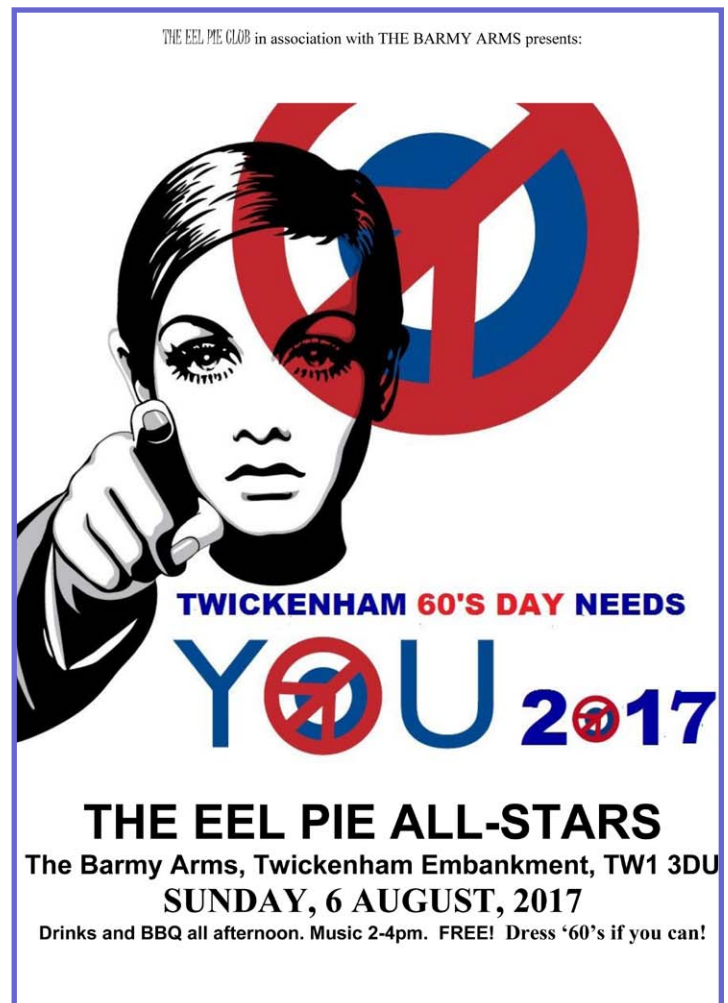
Enter a team of 16 (plus drummer)

Sponsored by Tech21

Food stalls, crafts
water zorbers, climbing wall
live music

www.TwickenhamAlive.com

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THE EEL PIE CLUB in association with THE BARMY ARMS presents:

TWICKENHAM 60'S DAY NEEDS
YOU 2017

THE EEL PIE ALL-STARS

The Barmy Arms, Twickenham Embankment, TW1 3DU
SUNDAY, 6 AUGUST, 2017

Drinks and BBQ all afternoon. Music 2-4pm. FREE! Dress '60's if you can!

The Show Must Go On

Joe Jammer's All-Star Chicago Blues Revue

The Eel Pie Club

at The Cabbage Patch, Twickenham, 20th April

Review by Cliff Tapstand

The Eel Pie Club attracts a large number of musicians with years of experience playing in, or with, world famous bands and artists, but there are few who would match the CV of Chicago born, Joe Jammer, but more of that later. Let's get straight into the gig.



The first thing you notice about a Joe Jammer gig is the personal touch. Before the show gets under way, Joe wanders through the club shaking hands, chatting, and perhaps sampling the occasional Jack Daniels, just to lubricate the vocal chords. The three opening numbers included Little Red Rooster, written by Willie Dixon, which was the only true 'Blues' song ever to reach No. 1 in the charts, when recorded by The Rolling Stones in 1965.

The first set concluded with a song written by Albert Collins, I Ain't Drunk, the next line being, 'I'm only drinking'. Once again, in the break between sets, Joe spent his time wandering through, and chatting with his audience. The second set got underway with Whole Lotta Shakin' a song made famous by Gerry Lee Lewis, for whom Joe had been a session guitarist, (as he had for many other artists, including Mick Jagger, Joe Cocker, and Ringo Starr) and came to a rousing climax with Bobby Womack's All Over Now, another early hit for The Rolling Stones, before the song writing talents of Jagger and Richards were unleashed on the world.



This was a great gig and well received by an enthusiastic audience, but what very few people appreciated was that early the following morning, Joe was going into hospital for throat surgery, and the previous day his cousin had passed away in Chicago. His only acknowledgement of these two concerns was that he took to sitting in a chair for some of the slower numbers in what he likened to 'an ole bluesman sat playing his guitar on the front porch'

For full review see

www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/04/25/joe-jammer

Photography by Pat Stancliffe



Mark Aspen

www.markaspen.wordpress.com

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

TWICKENHAM ALIVE FILM FESTIVAL 2017



Thanks to Try Twickenham for their sponsorship



The first Twickenham Alive Film Festival, was launched in 2012, and the awards ceremony took place in 2013. The original theme “Where We Live” has been widened to allow a more varied entry criteria, although films are limited to a maximum of 10 minutes.

Film of the week

Entries come from all over the borough and this week we are showing:

SWAT

By Henry Bunney

Running time 8' 15”

A short drama Fimed in Richmond Park by students from Hampton Boys School

Film Festival is now open for entries

To submit an entry contact
film@twickenhamalive.com
www.twickenhamfilmfestival.com



Click image to view film

HAVE YOUR SAY

Battling to Block the Blight of Heathrow Expansion

Almost 300 people packed the Teddington Baptist Church hall on Friday evening, April 28, to hear factual data about the negative impact of Heathrow airport expansion on the local region. At this non-political meeting, Twickenham MP Dr Tania Mathias hosted a panel that included Lord Nick True (leader of Richmond Borough Council), Martin Elengorn (Teddington Liberal Democrat councillor) and Teddington Action Group members.

The short presentations were followed by 1.5 hours of lively Q&A on the topics. Conclusions shared were:

- Heathrow is already highly disruptive, its flight paths overflying the most densely populated residential region in the UK. In the entire EU, a staggering 29% of people adversely impacted by aviation noise live under Heathrow's flight paths.
- And yet a 3rd runway will mean a 54% increase in flights that will halve periods of "respite" for residents (when areas are not overflowed).
- Who will foot the bills for expansion? TfL claims infrastructure costs will be at least £15 billion, the government claims £5 billion, but Heathrow has committed to contribute only £1 billion.
- A 3rd runway will increase "hub" traffic (transfer passengers) and profits for Heathrow's 92% foreign shareholders, but what will be the economic benefit to the UK? Even the government believes the net benefit (after infrastructure, compensation & mitigation costs) to be no more than £6 billion over 60 years. Put another way, each UK citizen will benefit by £1.86 per year – less than the cost of a cup of tea!
- The Airports Commission, which recommended a 3rd runway, was chaired by Sir Howard Davies, who on the date of his appointment was employed by GIC Private Ltd - one of Heathrow's principal owners and cheerleaders for Heathrow expansion.
- Evidence for expansion is flawed. Questions raised by the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee, doubting the economic benefit, remain unanswered. Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee has issued a damning report on the health and environmental impacts and will put more pressure on the overloaded NHS.
- Heathrow currently fails to meet environmental emissions targets. Additional pollution concentrated at Heathrow, with a 3rd runway, will need to be offset against other industries and in other regions.
- Residents have not been properly consulted and Heathrow has significantly underestimated the current noise footprint – and ignores the increase of 270,000 more flights per year! New areas will be overflowed for the first time, yet the government's consultation maps failed to indicate where.
- The Key Findings of the Health Assessment in the National Policy Statement include findings that people most affected by the negative effects of expansion of Heathrow will be least likely to benefit, inequality between children and people in low income housing on the one hand and higher income families on the other will increase and air quality for children and people living in areas with poor health status will deteriorate.
- Air quality around Heathrow already fails to meet the current required standards as shown by the current breach by the Government of the High Court Order recently made against it. If the air quality is to deteriorate further, it is difficult to see how expansion can be lawful.

For details, you can watch the meeting on: www.youtube.com/watch?v=rn51p35vPKg

The Department of Transport (DfT) official consultation on National Policy Statement (NPS) closes on 25 May 2017. Data shared at the meeting can be used for feedback. To ensure that your voice is heard you can:

1. email your response to RunwayConsultation@dft.gsi.gov.uk or
2. download the response form from www.gov.uk/government/consultations/heathrow-expansion-draft-airports-national-policy-statement

For more information, please email info@teddingtonactiongroup.com



**TEDDINGTON
ACTION GROUP**

Utterly Mesmerising - The Pillowman

By Martin McDonagh

Teddington Theatre Club at The Coward Room, Hampton Hill

Theatre until 6th May

Review by Thomas Forsythe

Are you sitting comfortably? Then I will begin

... .. but I guarantee that you will not be sitting comfortably for very long.

If you like your humour to be black, then *The Pillowman* is the vantage-point of black humour. And the humour is the foil to as gruesome a tale as ever entered the Brothers Grimm's corpus.

Then come out from behind the sofa, peep between your fingers, and I'll start again.

Once upon a time, there was a director called Kelly Wood, who specialised in plays that intertwine horror and humour. *The Pillowman* is a play that is highly disturbing, full of uneasy humour and at the same time deeply touching. It unnervingly lurches from explicit violence to tender lyricism. It is also cleverly written, as stories sit within stories and the plot can be interpreted in several ways. Wood has therefore a challenging piece to move from page to stage, and the challenge was undoubtedly well met.



Playwright McDonagh never makes the time nor the place setting of *The Pillowman* clear, but it is set within a totalitarian police state. We are in the subterranean interrogation cells of the police headquarters. The outstanding skills of inventive set designer, Trine Taraldsvik, have created a menacing and claustrophobic vision. The walls are brutal concrete blocks, rendered in trompe d'œil; the floors pierced with drains and grilles; the furniture steel.

Even as the audience foregathers, there, sitting on a chair, is Katurian, a prisoner, with a black bag over his head. At the start, a policeman enters and tells the prisoner to remove the bag, as it simply looks silly. At once the prevailing tone of the play is struck: a building and dissipation of horror to humour and of humour to horror. In this play, there all the time hovers a feeling that what you see is not what you get: the question of what is real and what is a story is left ambiguous.



However, it is in the recounting of the interpolated fairy-stories that McDonagh's style widens into a broad lyricism, a poetic form that has a strange mesmerising beauty in spite of its horrific subject matter. And here the TTC's production is astounding. Tom Shore as Katurian is a consummate story-teller and has the audience transfixed. Set this against the totally engaging portrayal of Katurian, which has the audience gripped with every direction of his feelings, fear, defiance, pain, exasperation, then it was a tour-de-force. Katurian has multiple dilemmas, but the ultimate one is: does he save himself, his beloved brother or his life's work, his stories?

Read the full review at

www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/05/01/pillowman

Photographs are by Jonathan Constant



Mark Aspen

www.markaspen.wordpress.com

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

Squandered Twists: She Wears Scented Rose

Written and directed by Yasir Senna

Razorsharp Productions

Theatro Technis, London until 6th May

Review by Melissa Syversen



A man runs in. He is bleeding from the stomach. As he calls for an ambulance he collapses on the street. Luckily, he survives. As he heals from his ordeal, Mark tells his family and the detective on his case he was stabbed in an attempted carjacking. However, things are not as simple as they seem.

I'll just dive right into it. Yasir Senna has written a successful play in that the plot works well. It follows the pattern and style of a movie thriller with some good twists and turns and enough red herrings to keep you guessing. Looking back on it, I understand a lot of what Senna was trying to do. Character behaviour I questioned at the time makes more sense now. It's like when you watch crime show for the second time, and you pick up on all the hints you missed the first time round.

The dialogue though could do with a trim. One could easily get ten minutes off by tightening the exposition, the direction and the set changes. Scenes drag due to repetitive dialogue and moments are milked for too long. It kills of the tension. The line between tense and funny is very fine and *She Wears Scented Rose* falters on that line a little too often. The characters aren't the deepest or most well rounded, but they get the job done. Played to an L-shaped audience, the set designed by Wendy Parry is simple and effective. She makes good use of key props and set pieces to create a variety of locations. Lighting by Leo Bacica is pretty straightforward, but the scene between David and his daughter Sadie bathed in blue really stood out as a beautiful image.

But this brings me to my biggest issue of the evening. Maestro, some ranting music if you please.

The revelation of Sadie as the lover and stabber was excellent. I had barely given her a second thought after her initial appearance. My money was on the wife. During the revelation scene, it becomes clear that Mark is in fact a manipulative and dangerous sexual predator. The revelation of his true nature could have been such a great double twist: he might have been the one stabbed but he is actually the villain! This might well have been what Senna was going for, but it is squandered. How is it squandered you ask? Sadie. She is the victim here, but for some reason she is portrayed as nothing more than the paper-thin trope of a deranged woman mad with jealousy ala *Fatal Attraction* with a dash of *Poison Ivy*. She begs, threatens, and rubs up against Mark wearing a school uniform and pigtails

Read full review at

www.markaspen.wordpress.com/2017/04/25/scented-rose



Mark Aspen

www.markaspen.wordpress.com

Expressing the art of the theatre critic

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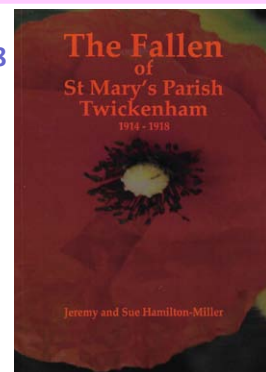
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The book costs £8 plus £1 p+p and is available from the Local History Society's website at www.botlhs.co.uk. – click on 'Publications'. It can also be read and purchased at Twickenham Museum and Richmond Local Studies Library.



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