

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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Red Arrows and the Patrouille de France flypast
 (Accompanied by Twickenham Pigeons, over Holy Trinity Church)
 Photo by Berkley Driscoll

19th June 2020

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

Travellers Return To Ham Lands

The council has stated that travellers who arrived on Riverside Drive this evening (Friday 19th) have been issued with a legal warning requesting that they leave the site within 24 hours. Any damage or waste will be repaired/removed after they leave

Hampton Court Palace Gardens Reopen

On Thursday 18th the gardens at Hampton Court Palace opened to the public. For bookings and more information see [HERE](#)

Richmond Parish Lands Charity Gains Planning Permission

RPLC has gained planning permission for 11 one-bed and 1 two-bed flats in a new build alongside the Queen's Road in Richmond. All the units will be tenanted at affordable rents. The development also envisages improved community recreation space.

World Rugby Professional Game Forum Discuss International Calendar

The game's major stakeholders met on Monday 15th June regarding potential adjustments to the global international calendar. The final decision on 2020 will be confirmed by vote of the World Rugby Council on 30 June following consideration and recommendation by the World Rugby Executive Committee.

Council pilots innovative road repair system

A new process for repairing roads using cutting edge thermal technology was trialled on Friday 19th on Northcote Road in St Margaret's. The works are part of a trial using a thermal heating process to reheat and repair the existing asphalt surface. This repair process has many benefits, such as, it is more environmentally friendly, has a reduced carbon footprint, and delivers better value. If successful, the Council intends to use this repair method throughout the borough.

[Visit the News page for more stories](#)

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With the nice warm weather, TwickerSeal and TwickerDuck thought that they would meet up on Twickenham Green.

They took their 4-pint plastic bottles and had them filled up with beer at a nearby pub; there was a long queue, but it was worth the wait to get their gallons of draught beer.

It was quite crowded and not easy to find a clear area where they could comfortably social-distance from the others, but luckily, they found the perfect spot.

The spot was ideal as it had a little tree in case they needed to go to the loo ... much better than queuing up with everyone else to go in the churchyard and residents' gardens!

TwickerDuck asked why the council hadn't put in any portaloos?

Silly, that would be unhygienic!



Borough View

By Graeme Stoten

'Q Riverside'

Still staying in this part of the Borough, the Kew Riverside (QR) development is a fabulous example of prize winning 'Placemaking' riverside landscaping. Formally the site of a large sewage works, the setting of 26 acres has been adopted for housing, intimate communal formal gardens, hard landscaping, cycleways, tree lined avenues and water features. Additionally, the parkland is further enhanced with eye-catching metallic contemporary sculptures from a collection of prominent young artists, and really does bring together a sense of place!



Man Saved from Physical Attack in Strawberry Hill

Residents Face the Onslaught of Public Urination from drinkers on Twickenham Green

By Teresa Read

Last night a local resident walking home from the Twickenham Green area was saved from physical attack from four men by a sudden clap of thunder and heavy downpour of torrential rain. The incident occurred as the Strawberry Hill resident took issue with three brawny youths from Twickenham Green urinating in a line against private property, with a friend standing by. The area was already foul smelling from a day's use by thoughtless visitors to the Green.

Local residents in their living rooms and upstairs flats, alerted by loud shouts from the street, rushed out of their homes to help the concerned resident; a 999 call was made.

For the last year or so Twickenham Green, which has nearby supermarkets, has become a venue for drinkers. As there are no longer any public toilets - sold off by the Council and now Arthur's - the frequent need to urinate by visitors to Twickenham Green has become a chronic problem for local residents.

Private gardens and residents' outside areas, including the gardens and fence of Holy Trinity Church, are seen as a good place to urinate. Women often seek more privacy in the gardens of Trinity Court whereas the men are not bothered by indecent exposure in full view of the balconies of Gifford Lodge and people walking to and from the Hampton Road.



The LBRuT Council Parks Department, local councillors and the Friends of Twickenham Green have been aware of this situation for over a year but they have not arrived at a workable solution. No, the Council will not reinstate toilets on Twickenham Green, so how long before last night's incident becomes more serious - as it would have done if not for the sudden [Divine?] intervention of the thunderstorm?

The local police, the LBRuT Parks patrol, residents' associations and Friends of Twickenham Green are aware of the situation; the police have advised a log of calls to 101 and 999 from numerous residents. Councillors for South Ward (Strawberry Hill) and West Ward (West Twickenham) have been advised.

Cllr Needham-Watts, who has a responsibility for the Environment, has meetings planned on Monday and Tuesday to discuss the situation with officers.

Revd. Tim Garrett, Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, said:

"I quite understand that people need to answer the call of nature - and in happier times, when we were allowed to, the church opens up its toilet facilities for the community to use e.g. for the May Fair. It is particularly sad that they urinate onto the church building It happens all through the day (on days when it's not raining) - just a few feet away from where my 2 girls are trampolining."

Photo © Berkley Driscoll

On the western extremity of our Borough, the Mitre is located beside the River Thames and opposite Hampton Court Palace. Dating back in parts to 1665 and ideally located, this hotel originally served as lodgings for courtiers who could not be accommodated at the palace.



When the second Hampton Court Bridge was completed and opened on 10 April 1865 a toll-house was built on the Middlesex bank which became part of the Mitre Hotel's property.

There doesn't seem to be too much information available about the hotel in its earliest days but one of the main features

is the magnificent wisteria that has been present since the late 19th century at least. It is shown in various stages of growth on all three of this week's postcards and knowing that it is still there today we can see that it spans the last 117 years at least.

The first postcard is from about 1904 and shows the hotel almost hidden beneath the wisteria. Seven years later our second postcard shows some building developments. This was posted in 1911.





We then move to the 1960s to the first coloured postcard and which was available at the hotel's reception desk. This was a common feature of hotels around the world in the 20th century who used a cheap picture postcard for their guests to write their "Wish you were here" comments.

An early marketing ploy.

Closed today of course but with a little more optimism present in this week's news, we can perhaps see a time soon for the Mitre to continue its 350 years trading as a hotel.

I think we can let our postcards talk for themselves this week. If ever a hotel was built in the right place it was the Mitre.

With many of us spending more time at home at present it may be that you are using the time to tidy a few drawers or have a bit of a clear-out. If you trip over any old postcards, old envelopes with stamps on, or photograph albums that you would consider parting with, I'd be very interested in arranging to see them. Please contact me on 07875 578398 or by email at: alanwinter192@hotmail.com I am happy to pay cash for anything like that which I find of interest. So, don't throw old postcards etc. in the skip or recycling bins. Show them to me first! Thanks, stay safe and well.



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

LBRuT Application for a £20 million Grant Towards the Cost of a Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge from Twickenham To Ham

It seems that a Council consultation on “Have Your Say” which closed on 4 January 2019 has just been used to make a £20 million application for a grant towards a pedestrian and cycling bridge between Twickenham and Ham. At the time of writing the full cost of such a project has not been disclosed by the LBRuT Highways Department.

However, residents may be forgiven for not remembering this consultation and may be surprised that a £20 million application has been made towards the cost of a pedestrian/cycle bridge when so much remains to be done in Twickenham; for instance, a request to sort out the confusing cycle lane in King Street, Twickenham was made during the first week following the Council elections - but still nothing has changed.

A Strawberry Hill resident explained that the proposed site for a bridge in Radnor Gardens, Strawberry Hill, leads to a very busy road junction with two schools either side of the road in Cross Deep for pupils of all ages - up to sixth form. Anyone living near a school will know how busy the surrounding area can get at drop-off and pick-up times; here we have two schools!

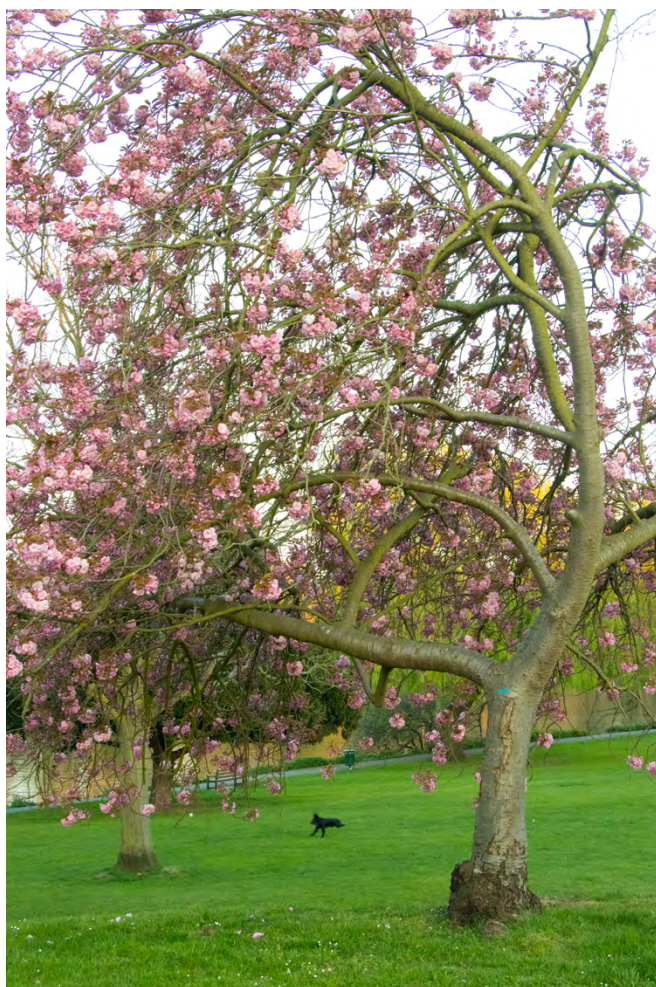
Added to school traffic there is often a build-up of traffic travelling to and from Twickenham High Street along Cross Deep and in the other direction a busy route to Teddington and Kingston.

Although it seems that a number of cyclists are keen on the Strawberry Hill option for a bridge - if it goes ahead - a member of a transport group said *“Radnor is not the best choice, cyclists will be routed through Twickenham when they should be by-passing Twickenham. The Cycle Liaison Group recommended Orleans 20 years ago, and it remains the best choice.”*

Another local resident was surprised at the application for £20 million pounds towards what he considered was a *“vanity project”* at a time when local councils are hard pressed to run basic services.

The result of the January 2019 consultation was as follows: “There were 842 responses. Over half of respondents (51%) indicated that their preferred location would be Bridge 15 - between Orleans Gardens and Ham Street car park. Two fifths (43%) selected Bridge 13 - between Radnor Gardens and Ham Lands.”

View LBRuT’s 2019 consultation report [HERE](#) and the WSP 2018 report [HERE](#)



Proposed site for bridge in Radnor Gardens



RFS The Best of our Recent Historic Screenings

Issue 13, 19th June 2020

LANTANA

A new series for those of you who are missing Richmond Film Society's screenings or, indeed, trips to the cinema generally as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Their committee is producing a number of weekly recommendations of films screened during the last 20 years that were extremely well received by their audiences. Should the notes reproduced below entice you to try and catch-up with this recommendation, then you should be able to do so, as it is available on streaming services and for purchase as DVD/Blu-Ray discs from the online retailers as indicated below.

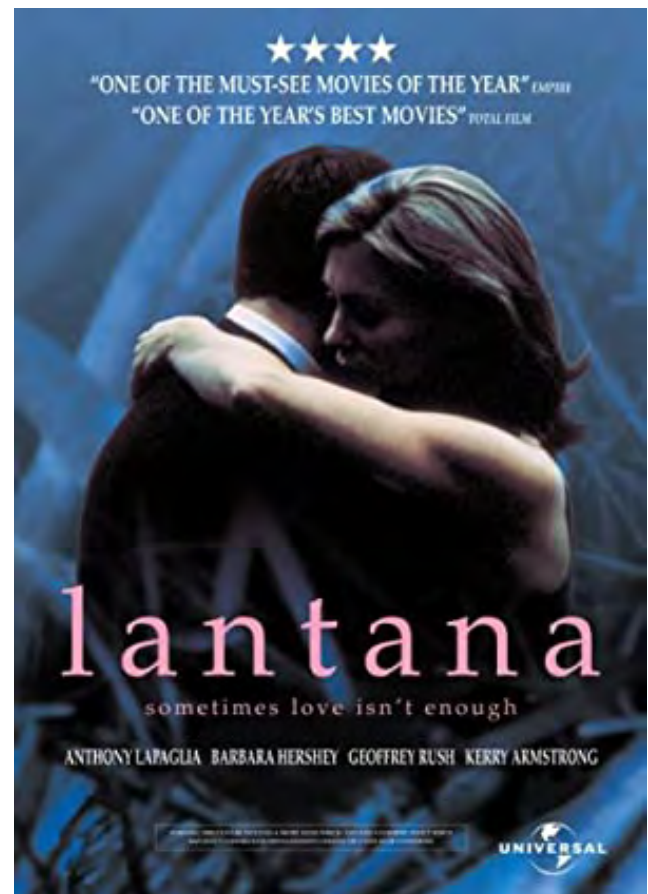
RFS Context: **LANTANA** was 634th film screened by RFS on 3rd March 2009. **Lantana** was the top ranked film of Season 46, it got an approval mark of 94% from those attending. You will notice that the film came out in 2001 yet we screened it 8 years later, this was because the availability to get a license was held back for some reason, so it was on our "watch" list for a while, . You can see from the above it was the top film of the season when we did get hold of it, so endorsing our perseverance in obtaining it to screen. Similarly, **Lantana** should be available to be streamed from Amazon Prime and you should be able to buy the disc from Amazon but for the moment they are unavailable! So take a note of this one for later and keep on checking so you can obtain it when it comes back. Copies are though available on Ebay. Some of you may have watched **David Stratton's Stories of Australian Cinema** on the BBC (broadcast in May and available on iPlayer). In episode three he too raves about **Lantana**.

LANTANA

Country: Australia/Germany, 2001
Director: Ray Lawrence
Screenplay: Andrew Bovell
Language: English
Cinematography: Mandy Walker
Editor: Karl Sodersten
Music: Steve Hadley, Bruce Haymes,
Paul Kelly, Peter Luscombe
& Shane O'Mara
Running Time: 121 min., colour

Leading Players:

Anthony LaPaglia (Detective Leon Zat)
Rachael Blake (Jane 'Janie' O'May)
Kerry Armstrong (Sonja Zat)
Manu Bennett (Steve Valdez)
Melissa Martinez (Lisa)
Owen McKenna (Old man in pajamas)
Nicholas Cooper (Sam Zat)
Marc Dwyer (Dylan Zat)



An earlier film from the same director and with the same detached but intimate perspective as last season's **Jindabyne, Lantana** also takes a death as the central event for its story.

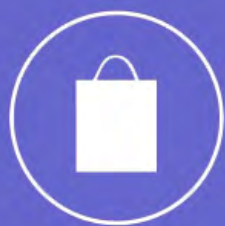
Opening credits running over a tracking shot of a corpse entwined in the shrub from which the film takes its title seem like the beginning to a conventional thriller, but **Lantana** takes a less obvious direction as it delves into the betrayals, suspicion, and boredom that undermine the relationships of four couples whose lives are entangled with the corpse.

Set in a leafy suburb of Sydney the film explores the unknown reasons for, and effects of incorrect expectation on all the characters. It mostly follows the dour cop Leon Zat whose marriage to Sonja has become the victim of his increasing mid-life frustration. This is well illustrated by an unsatisfactory dance lesson (contrast our last film) and two "one-night stands" with Jane O'May. Sonja secretly solicits advice from therapist Dr Valerie Somers whose own marriage to John Knox has disintegrated since the murder of their young daughter two years before.

When Valerie goes missing, Leon is assigned to the case, with initial suspicion falling on a contemptuous John. When Jane reveals new evidence involving her neighbour Nik D'Amato life gets even more complicated for Leon and the full tragedy of all the character's failed assumptions are eventually revealed.

Lantana is based on the play *Speaking In Tongues* by Andrew Bovell, which premiered at Sydney's Griffin Theatre Company. The film received much critical reaction from international film critics who praised it for being very realistic whilst maintaining a metaphorical message. It won seven AFI Awards including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor (LaPaglia), Best Actress (Armstrong), and Best Adapted Screenplay.

Adapted by Jonathan Earthy from a range of reviews



SHOP. EAT. ENJOY.

LOCAL

Twickenham Riverside is going to be car free – have your say on how it can improve traffic

A consultation outlining the Council's proposals on how it will make part of Twickenham Riverside car free has been launched.

Last year, following feedback from residents, the Council ran a Design Competition to find a new architect and concept design for the site, a site that includes the stretch of The Embankment between Wharf Lane and Water Lane which is to be closed to all vehicular traffic to make the most of the riverside setting.

To enable this to happen, a full review of parking provision in the area has been carried out, assessing the demand for parking. Therefore, today the Council has launched a consultation that outlines the plans to remove approximately 82 parking spaces from The Embankment area, which will be balanced through a series of measures which we would like residents and businesses to have their say on.

Although parking spaces will be removed from The Embankment itself, proposals ensure that access and servicing requirements for Eel Pie Island and nearby properties are incorporated into the new scheme, as well as the provision of accessible spaces and electric vehicle charging points.

Cllr Alexander Ehmann, Chair of the Transport and Air Quality Services Committee, said:

“Over the past few years there has been a big community-led campaign to put the public realm to better community use on Twickenham Riverside by removing the parking. We have listened.

We have done a lot of research and studies to understand how the area is currently used. We have used this information to create a series of proposals that maintain access and parking in the nearby area for those who need it – but also looks to the future. A future where residents increasingly choose sustainable transport options, including cycling and walking.”

Have your say on the proposals.

The deadline for feedback is Sunday 12 July 2020.

The proposals are summarised as follows:

1. The change in designation of approximately 93 on-street parking spaces, 62 of which are within 250m of the site with priority given to permit holders (including residents)
2. The creation of approximately 34 new on-street parking spaces within 800m of the site, nine of which are within 400m of the site
3. The introduction of an entitlement to allow Zone D business parking permit holders to park in the Holly Road car park, currently only those who pay the daily charge or those who have a valid Zone D resident parking permit may park in this car park.
4. The implementation of new double yellow lines, many of which will be at junctions, to improve road safety conditions in the area



The servicing and access proposals are summarised as follows:

1. A reconfiguration of the road layout in Water Lane which involves linking the service road between Water Lane and Wharf Lane (along the rear of Nos 3-33 King Street)
2. A two-way working of the southern sections of both Water Lane and Wharf Lane to enable access and egress for all vehicles
3. Provision of servicing areas (that is, for loading/unloading) in the area, including near to the Eel Pie Island footbridge

Have [your say on the proposals](#).

Anti-Social Behaviour in the Twickenham Green/Strawberry Hill Area

A Chronic Situation for Over a Year

It has come to the attention of the Tribune that LBRuT may be looking at ordering Portaloos for Richmond's parks and open spaces. However, it is not sure that Twickenham Green is on the list. The Parks Department has consistently refused to consider reinstating public toilets on Twickenham Green - sold off by the Council some years ago.

It should be made clear that this is not just a COVID problem. This anti-social behaviour has been taking place for over a year and has been brought to the attention of the LBRuT Parks Department as well as the Friends of Twickenham Green. The LBRUT Parks Department has been sent 10 emails about this situation since July 2019.

Considering chronic problems with public urination in the local area around Twickenham Green, and spreading into Strawberry Hill, readers will want to know if the Council will reconsider providing toilets on Twickenham Green, or at least a urinal.

It is understood that once pubs are allowed to open, following the COVID-19 lockdown, people will be encouraged use open spaces as beer gardens. In view of the "New Normal" it is imperative that toilet facilities are available to prevent the unhygienic practice of urinating in the street and in the gardens and outside areas of those living nearby.

As we have seen during the last week, in Twickenham (Green) and Strawberry Hill, drinking large quantities of alcohol can cause problems of anti-social behaviour by those who do not have a toilet nearby.

Local residents can only hope that their elected councillors can persuade the LBRuT Parks Department to install toilets on Twickenham Green. This has been a long-standing request by local residents. Almost a year ago on 9th July 2019 David Allister (Parks) suggested that the issue should be raised with ward councillors *"as at present we have no plans to install toilets on the Green."*

At the time of writing it is understood that at least seven different people have made reports to the police resulting in at twelve complaints of anti-social behaviour, including threats of violence, in connection with public urination in the Twickenham Green/Strawberry Hill area.

Most people would be outraged that these people are not only trespassing on private property and urinating at will but they also urinate on the walls of Holy Trinity, a Grade II listed church. Perhaps that is why the sudden thunderstorm saved a local resident outside the church from being set upon by urinators last week!

A local resident commented *"They don't care - they have no respect."*

Next week the forecast is for hot sunny weather, possibly reaching 30°C; what does the council propose doing to ameliorate the issues now?

The Head of Regulatory Services Partnership has issued instructions to organizations selling alcohol which includes the following:

"The Regulatory Services Partnership (RSP) have developed a letter in conjunction with the Borough Command Unit (BCU) with key messages to licensees regarding off-sales. The letter offers support on ensuring businesses are complying with the business restrictions, an offer of advice regarding Covid-19 Secure compliance, requests that businesses providing off-sales act responsibly whilst encouraging their customers to do the same. The letter also includes advice regarding access to customer toilets as there were issues reported to the police regarding public urination."

Furthermore:

It is understood that the following have been approached by the Council to take part in the LBRuT Community Toilet Scheme: Arthur's and the Cricket Pavilion on Twickenham Green. Sainsbury's, opposite Twickenham Green and local pubs: Prince Albert and The Sussex Arms. Signage will be erected on the Green.



Businesses selling takeaway food and drink should open their toilets – says Richmond Council

Pubs and cafés across the borough are being encouraged to open their toilets if they are serving takeaway food and drink, and toilets in parks are to be reopened, in a bid to curb antisocial behaviour.

With good weather bringing more people into our parks and open spaces, and a rise in the number of businesses selling takeaway beverages, there has been an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour including public urination, noise and littering.

The Council has been working in partnership with the local Police to try and minimise the impacts of off-sales and street drinking. This includes working with businesses in hot spot areas to ensure that they are complying with the current business restrictions and acting responsibly when it comes to making sure that their customer toilets are open. Officers have also been investigating any public complaints about businesses and will enforce if necessary.

The Council will also be reopening its toilets in local parks and the facilities at the back of Whitton Library. Users of these toilets are reminded that whilst they are cleaned regularly, they are used at the individual's own risk. Signage regarding hygiene and social distancing will be displayed in all toilets.

Cllr Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee for Richmond Council, said: *"There is NO excuse to urinate in public. We know that many toilets are not available, however we are working hard to make sure that local businesses that are selling food and drink open their customer facilities.*

If you are selling takeaway refreshments – please be a responsible trader and make sure your toilets are available.

We are doing all we can to open our toilets and this weekend the facilities in our parks and Whitton Library will be available. In line with Government guidance however, at this time we aren't going to be installing temporary portaloos. These are costly and require rigorous cleansing. But we will keep this under review.

We are however willing to help businesses open their facilities. And, if they join our Community Toilet Scheme, there is a financial incentive.

Whilst the Council, Police and local businesses are working together to get facilities open again – residents and visitors also need to take responsibility for their actions. Please think about toilets before you go out and plan your outing so that you won't be in the position of needing to go to the toilet where there are none available and risking a fine."

In addition to working with businesses currently open, over the next few weeks, the Council will be holding a series of webinars for those in the wider hospitality industry to remind them of the guidance, legislation and expectations of operating during the pandemic. The first webinar is for Pubs and Restaurants on the 23 June from 2pm to 4pm. For those wanting to attend, email: angela.ivey@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

The Council is also refreshing its Community Toilet Scheme web pages, a scheme that highlights local businesses which enable non-paying customers to access their toilet facilities. For any businesses interested in joining the scheme, particularly to help over the lockdown period – you can apply online here – businesses will receive £350 for three months (until the end of September).

With the weather set to improve over the next few weeks, the message from the Council is clear. Urinating in a public place is not just unhygienic and unsanitary – it is also illegal. If you are out, enjoying our public spaces, and you need the bathroom. Find a toilet. If you cannot - go home or risk a fine.

For more information about the [Community Toilet Scheme](#).



COVID-19

Teresa Read

My updates for this week:

- On Friday 19th June the UK's coronavirus alert level was downgraded from four to three.
- “The World Health Organization (WHO) welcomed the initial clinical trial results from the United Kingdom (UK) that show dexamethasone, a corticosteroid, can be lifesaving for patients who are critically ill with COVID-19. For patients on ventilators, the treatment was shown to reduce mortality by about one third, and for patients requiring only oxygen, mortality was cut by about one fifth, according to preliminary findings shared with WHO.

The benefit was only seen in patients seriously ill with COVID-19, and was not observed in patients with milder disease.” World Health Organization

- “The investigation of a cluster of COVID-19 cases in Beijing associated with a wholesale market continues. As of 18 June, 10AM CEST, Chinese authorities have reported a total of 172 cases since 11 June, including 158 in Beijing, 10 linked cases in Hebei Province, 2 in Liaoning Province, 1 in Sichuan Province and 1 in Zhejiang Province.” World Health Organization
- “The hydroxychloroquine arm of the Solidarity Trial, which seeks to find an effective COVID-19 treatment, is being stopped. The decision is based on evidence from the Solidarity Trial, the UK's Recovery trial and a Cochrane review of other evidence on hydroxychloroquine. Data shows that hydroxychloroquine does not result in the reduction of mortality of hospitalised COVID-19 patients, when compared with standard of care.” World Health Organization
- “Prolonged COVID” is starting to gain greater awareness; a close relative has suffered from this debilitating illness for over three months. “Is it the ongoing initial illness, or is it an inflammatory reaction or is it a post-viral syndrome?”

Local Statistics

The In Your Area website gave the following statistics for COVID-19 on Friday 19 June: 417 confirmed cases in Richmond upon Thames, 531 in Kingston-upon-Thames, 762 in Hounslow. Updates are also available from the BBC on their Coronavirus UK Map.

Number of Deaths from WHO Situation Reports:

At the time of writing the World Health Organization Situation Report for Friday 19 June 2020 gave the following details for countries with high death rates: 117,472 in the USA, 46,510 in Brazil, 42,288 in the UK, 34,514 in Italy, 29,537 in France, 27,136 in Spain, 19,080 in Mexico, 12,573 in India, 9,683 in Belgium, 9,272 in Iran, 8,856 in Germany, 8,254 in Canada, 7,841 in the Russian Federation, 7,257 in Peru, 6,078 in the Netherlands, 5,053 in Sweden, 4,882 in Turkey, 4,645 in China, and a total of 450,686 deaths worldwide.

Not a lot of people know this!

By Sue Hamilton-Miller

To continue the thread of Irish/West Indies/slave trade I thought I would tell you about a very illustrious owner of Richmond House in the 1850s called Field Marshall Sir Edward Blakeney. If you go to the Fusiliers' Museum in the Tower of London you will be faced with his distinguished looking portrait.

Edward was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1778 to William and Sarah Blakeney. He was one of 11 children, five of whom joined the army, following in their father's footsteps. His father, who was Irish, served as a Colonel in the British Army and had been seriously wounded in the Battle of Bunker Hill, during the American War of Independence. He later became an MP for Athenry in the Irish Parliament.



Burney's Academy, Greenwich

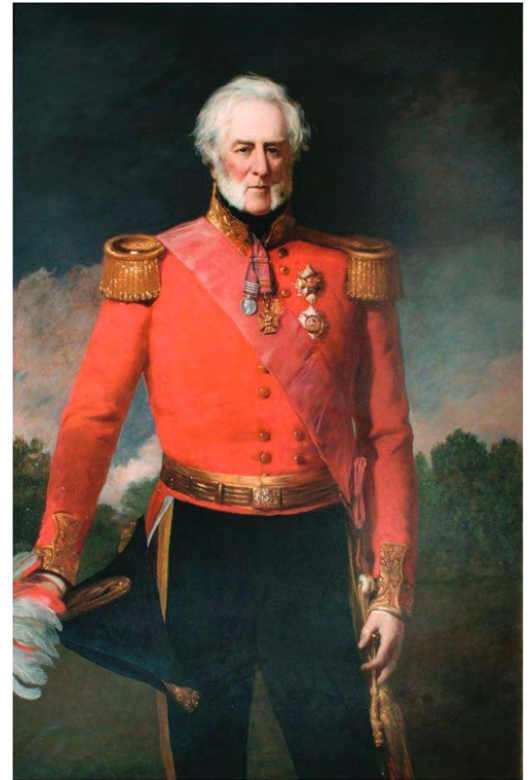
Edward received a classical education first of all at a school in Hammersmith, run by Dr Charles Burney, the brother of the novelist

Fanny Burney. It is believed that he later moved to Burney's Academy, a school newly opened by Burney in Greenwich.

Edward entered the army when he was only 16. When he was 18 he was sent to the West Indies to take Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo from the Dutch. This is where Lambert Blair, who had lived in Richmond House, owned his slave plantations that I talked about in Issue 187. During the conflict apparently Blakeney was captured three times by privateers, when he was badly treated, and on one occasion was kept in irons for nine days. It must have been a miserable time for him. During the time (1793-1801) 89,000 soldiers were sent to the Caribbean and only half of them returned. The long journey by sea, the heat, torrential rain, mosquitos and yellow fever decimated the troops.

In 1804 he joined the 7th Fusiliers and rose up through the ranks until he was promoted to their Colonel in 1832. He was Commander in Chief in Ireland from 1838-1855 at the time of the Irish famine and in 1849 he was heavily involved in organising Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's visit to Dublin.

Twice he was severely wounded in battle. He was wounded in the thigh while fighting under the Duke of Wellington during the Peninsula War. At the siege of Badajoz he was severely injured in his arm. This was one of the bloodiest battles of the Napoleonic Wars when 4,800 allied soldiers were killed or wounded.



*Field Marshal Sir Edward Blakeney
(reproduced by kind permission of
Fusiliers' Museum, Tower of London)*



British infantry attempt to scale the walls of Badajoz

I stumbled across a lovely story about Blakeney when the 7th Fusiliers were stationed over winter in Valenciennes in 1818. Some nuns in a Convent some distance away asked for protection against intruders so soldiers were instructed to go and help them. The writer, Sarah Speedy, reports “when I was a fortnight old my father was ordered to go, and my mother would not be left behind. Not a vehicle of any description could be found, not even a

wheelbarrow, nor a donkey so she had to walk.....When Sir Edward Blakeney saw how unfortunately we were situated he offered to carry me, and he put me into his shako and carried me in it on his horse.”

Unfortunately Sir Edward Blakeney’s impressive military career is too long for this article.

In 1814 he married Mary Gardiner, the daughter of Colonel Gardiner “of the East India Company” and a Twickenham resident. In 1856 Edward was appointed as Governor of Chelsea Hospital, the home of the “Chelsea Pensioners”. In the 1861 census the Blakeney’s were living in Chelsea Hospital with an impressive number of servants – a butler, under butler, footman, coachman, cook/housekeeper, kitchen maid, under kitchen maid, lady’s maid and housemaid. Six of them were born in Ireland so maybe he brought them with him when he left Ireland.

Sir Edward Blakeney died in 1868 in the Chelsea Hospital two years after his wife. The first part of the funeral service was held in the hospital Chapel and a further service was held in the graveyard of Oak Lane Cemetery in Twickenham, where his tomb is worth a visit.

It was said of him by a friend of 57 years, Dr Mahony, “One of the last of a long list of heroes, his strict impartiality and great kindness of heart endeared him to all with whom he was in any way associated : he was beloved by all who knew him, from the youngest officer who sought his advice and the veteran pensioners over whom he ruled, to the many relatives and personal friends who were bound to him by his unchanging cordiality and warmth of affection. His memory is cherished, and his worthy deeds are written in the hearts of all.”

He appears to have owned Richmond House since at least 1853 and, as his had been a childless marriage, he passed the house to their niece Jane Mackintosh (née Gardiner) married to George Gordon Mackintosh, whose brass memorial plate can be seen to the left of the Vestry door in St Mary the Virgin Church, Twickenham. They were the owners of Richmond House for more than 50 years until Jane died in 1922, aged 93.



Example of a shako

Marble Hill Horticultural Marvels

Marble Hill House- Lime trees. (Linden tree)

If you have been walking in Marble Hill Park recently you may have noticed an intoxicating sweet scent drift through the air, which is the Lime trees in full flower at the moment. They are laden with flowers this year because of the hot weather we have been having and they require hot weather in order to flower and set seed.

We have some fantastic old lime trees in Marble Hill park and the blossom attracts bees from far and wide, you may see bees lying under lime trees when they are flower looking 'punch drunk' and it is not known what causes this yet. There is some evidence to show that there is caffeine in the nectar of lime trees and it may affect the bees.



The leaves of the lime tree are heart shaped and the very young leaves are edible, the flowers of lime trees can be used to make a tea which acts as a mild sedative and can be used to treat anxiety and for stomach complaints.

At Marble Hill as part of the project we have planted 8 new large lime trees in the Ice house woodland quarter in 2 rows which will create a lovely avenue of limes leading to the house.

Limes are attractive to lots of wildlife including moths, caterpillars and particularly aphids and if you park your car under a lime tree at this time of year you might regret it as it will be covered in honeydew which is excreted by the Aphids. Honey dew is the sugar which Aphids excrete and is harmless but very sticky!



ENGLISH
HERITAGE



The return of cycling to Richmond Park

We were pleased to welcome cyclists back to Richmond Park from Tuesday 2 June. This was initially on weekdays only, before 10am and after 4pm. From 22 June cycling is permitted to all on weekdays during park opening hours. This follows the temporary cycling suspension that was introduced at the end of March to support the Government's social distancing guidelines, maintain public safety and prevent serious congestion at park gates.

We will undertake a managed re-introduction of cycling back into Richmond Park to provide access for weekday commuters. This will allow us to monitor and measure the impact of the re-introduction and whether any further measures are required.



The details

- Cycling permitted for all cyclists at any time on weekdays
- Weekend cycling currently for keyworkers and under 12s with accompanying family
- The red route is for children under 12 only. Any family accompanying them must be on foot
- The park roads on the eastern side of the park around Priory Lane and Broomfield Hill are temporarily suspended to all adult cyclists at all times, in order to maintain safety and provide a safe area for children and families to enjoy
- Cyclists are permitted to use the shared access Tamsin Trail around the perimeter of the park on weekdays only

Disability access

- Blue badge holders can park in Sheen Gate car park, accessible via Sheen Gate, every day from 7am-7pm
- Please speak to security and show your blue badge to gain access
- Please call 0300 061 2000 if you need assistance



Dear Sir

COVID-19

Having seen the most interesting articles by Teresa Read on social media on 9th June "Was COVID-19 Circulating in the Wuhan Area Earlier Than Reported?" and in Edition 188 of the Twickenham and Richmond Tribune, my attention was struck in particular by what is said during the interview of US secretary Esper by ABC's interviewer. At 4 minutes 50 seconds into that, the latter states, as if he had prior knowledge, that the USA was aware, as early as November 2019, of a new illness - the word "cataclysmic" is used to describe its effect!

Following through, I found the allegation that:

"as far back as late November, U.S. intelligence officials were warning that a contagion was sweeping [through China's Wuhan region](#), changing the patterns of life and business and posing a threat to the population, according to four sources briefed on the secret reporting. The report was the result of analysis of wire and computer intercepts, coupled with satellite images".

Following the links given in the social media online article, it seems that it is more than merely possible that Covid-19 was first circulating in China -- SOUTH China -- some considerable time prior to the "Wuhan wet market" outbreak, hundreds of miles away in central China, perhaps even as early as August 2019.

How satisfied are those in Richmond, Twickenham, and throughout the world that the US did NOT withhold, information vital to the health of our citizens?

Yours,
Nicholas Horne
(Address supplied)

Tribune News on social media

<http://twickenhamtribune.com/NEWS/TRT0188/TRTNews0188-COVID-19-Earlier-Than-Reported.html>

Dear Sir,

Antisocial behaviour

It has been deeply unpleasant these past few weeks seeing and hearing men, women and children, of a range of ages, using both the church grounds and our own garden as a public toilet.

It's now really difficult sitting in our back garden with our children listening to people a few feet away going to the loo and shouting very loudly about it. When you challenge people that both the church and our house are private property we are finding them becoming increasingly belligerent.

We've put signs up - and closed what gates we can - but it doesn't seem to help much.

I quite understand that people need to answer the call of nature - and in happier times, when we were allowed to, the church opens up its toilet facilities for the community to use e.g. for the May Fair.

It is particularly sad that they urinate onto the church building

It happens all through the day (on days when it's not raining) – just a few feet away from where my 2 girls are trampolining

Any help the council can provide would be very much appreciated!!

Revd. Tim Garrett
Vicar of Holy Trinity Church
1 Vicarage Road
Twickenham
TW2 5TS

New pot of funding to support local community projects

A new £180k fund has been launched to help support community led projects in every ward in the borough, helping to rebuild local areas and connect communities after the impact of COVID-19.

As part of the Council's Community Engagement programme, the Local Area Fund is a grant aimed at improving the quality of life and wellbeing of each ward. The £10k pot for each ward is intended to support local initiatives, helping launch new ideas and developing projects to make a positive difference to our borough.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a widespread impact on how we deliver services and support local people. Therefore, the Council particularly welcomes applications that aim to help rebuild our communities; connecting people and finding new ways of supporting others.

Residents are encouraged to contact their Ward Councillor to share their ideas for projects, there will also be an opportunity to do this during the upcoming round of Community Conversation Local Area meetings, which will be announced shortly and will take place virtually online.

Cllr Michael Wilson, Lead Member for Communities, Equalities and the Voluntary Sector said:

"The last few months have shown us that our local communities are strong, diverse and inclusive and we want to help them as best we can.

From speaking to local people, we know that often they want to do more for their community but lack the funds to get going. We want to help.

We want to empower residents as we help our communities recover from the impact of COVID and years of Government cuts. These funds are aimed

at helping those groups, areas or individuals who have struggled to make their voices heard in the

past. These grants are part of a wider engagement plan to help make that a reality."

Bid now for funding to support your local community project

Go to: richmond.gov.uk/local_area_fund

Photos taken before March 2020

Local Area Fund
Community Conversation

Any individual, local group, charity or business can apply for a grant – ensuring that applications are in line with one of the priorities for the Fund and are not-for-profit. Applications need to demonstrate how their project meets one or more of the following priorities:

- Enable local people to develop, agree and deliver their own responses to local issues and build stronger communities
- Make public places more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive
- Support local initiatives that address the causes of climate change and minimise the environmental impact of carbon, waste and pollution to protect the future of our borough and our planet
- Promote the vitality of our town and neighbourhood centres
- Widen participation in sports and physical activity
- Enhance the artistic and cultural offer and protect the borough's heritage
- Improve health and wellbeing
- Improve crime prevention
- Improve community assets and the physical realm

Cllr Wilson, Lead Member for Communities, Equalities and the Voluntary Sector added:

"The Local Area Fund is available to all areas across the borough. It ensures that every ward gets a fair share of funding to help local projects and improve the wellbeing of communities across the borough."

More information or to [apply for the Local Area Fund](#).

Work to start on urgent measures to make Teddington shopping streets safer

A series of rapid temporary measures will be installed on the roads and pavements in Teddington Town Centre to help support social distancing.

As part of the Council's Post Covid Transport Action Plan (PCTAP), the Council has responded to concerns from local residents and businesses regarding sections of narrow and congested footways on Broad Street and Teddington High Street. As a result of these representations, within weeks the Council will put in place temporary measures at key pinch points on these roads.

These measures are the latest in a series of changes in recent months. The Council has already put in place pavement widening in Richmond Town Centre and East Twickenham, one way pedestrian working across Richmond Bridge, announced plans to pedestrianise Church Street, delivered three School Streets for local Primary Schools, laid down social distancing graphics on outside of a number of schools and implemented an urgent upgrade to the cycling lane on Kew Road.

Further changes will be clarified for other priority town centres, improvements to commuter cycling infrastructure and further actions to support schools. The full strategy will be presented to the Transport and Air Quality Committee on the 18th June 2020.

Councillor Alexander Ehmann, Chair of the Transport and Air Quality Committee, for Richmond Council, said:

"We are committed to making our high streets safer and more attractive and accessible for pedestrians and cyclists and to improve the flow of traffic.

As we come out of lock-down, our town centres need to provide comfort and safety for our returning residents.

Teddington is a fantastically well supported shopping area, with a tremendous array of traders and great community spirit. We've had to work at tremendous pace to make these changes and I am grateful to everyone involved.

These initial modifications are aimed to improve the setting and aid social distancing for visitors. I hope very much that these changes contribute to providing more confidence for us all to get out and support these important businesses that sit at the heart of our communities."

These initial modifications are aimed to improve the setting and aid social distancing for visitors. I hope very much that these changes contribute to providing more confidence for us all to get out and support these important businesses that sit at the heart of our communities."



For concerns about pinch points and areas that cannot support social distancing, please email the Rapid Response Team: socialdistancing@richmond.gov.uk

Broad Street

1. Temporary suspension of the 5 pay and display parking bays on the same side of the road as Tesco's, between the pelican crossing and the junction of Stanley Road. This area will be barriered to create additional space for pedestrians.
2. The introduction of a temporary wider footway at the Bus Stop directly outside of the Hogarth PH to create additional space for pedestrians to pass queuing bus passengers. This also requires suspension of 1 pay and display parking bay outside Gosia's Café and Deli.

High Street

1. Temporary suspension of the 2 pay and display parking bays outside of the post office. This area will be barriered to provide additional space for pedestrians.
2. Temporary removal of 3 cycle stands from outside The Shambles Restaurant and realignment of the remaining 2 to a position parallel to the kerb to create additional space for pedestrians. We will look to install the 3 stands elsewhere within the local area.
3. Temporary removal of 2 bollards from the junction to the M&S car park to reduce conflict with the queue into the store for passing pedestrians.

Children of RNLI lifesavers urge families to stay safe this Father's Day weekend

With Father's Day approaching this Sunday (21 June) the next generation of Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) lifesavers have issued some vital safety messages to help keep families safe this summer.

As RNLI volunteer crew members and lifeguards across the UK and Ireland gear up for what is likely to be a busy summer, some of their little ones have taken a few minutes to deliver some safety advice about visiting the coast and explaining how to call for help in an emergency.

The children of RNLI volunteer lifeboat crew members featured have seen their dads rush off during birthday parties, school concerts and Christmas dinner to answer the call of the pager. They know all too well when they see their dads run out the door when the pager goes off to alert them to an emergency at sea, that they're going to help someone else and try to make sure they can get home safely to their family. They've heard stories of people in trouble on inflatables, cut off by the tide and those who've fallen in to the water when going for a walk or a run. They're asking that everyone takes care this Father's Day so that all families can celebrate the day together safely.



Click image to view video

The video features lifeboat crews' and lifeguards' sons and daughters from all around the UK and Ireland.

The children's message couldn't be simpler:

- Be safe at the beach everybody
- Avoid taking risks at the coast
- Keep an eye on your family
- Don't use inflatables in the sea. Even unicorns!
- If you're in difficulty in the water, Float to Live.
- In an emergency, dial 999 and ask for the Coastguard. They will send the lifesavers. Like my daddy (or my mummy!).

RNLI Poole volunteer, Dave Riley said:

'It's great to see the younger generation getting involved and understanding the risks of visiting the coast. Sadly, around a 150 people still lose their lives around the UK and Irish waters each year and we ask those visiting the coast to bear in mind the risks involved.'



The little lifesavers taking part in the RNLI video

Since lockdown restrictions were eased last month, the RNLI has worked hard to roll out lifeguard patrols on 47 beaches in England, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands.

Now these beaches are operational and new ways of working and equipment have been properly put to the test, the RNLI is accelerating its service roll-out and increasing the number of beaches which will have a lifeguard service. The charity is hoping to have lifeguards on around 170 beaches by early July - 70 per cent of the beaches it would patrol in a normal summer.

RNLI volunteers have maintained an operational lifeboat service through the pandemic across its 238 lifeboat stations across the UK and Ireland.



Lifeboats



Happy Summer Solstice today and Happy Father's Day tomorrow.

And there is a Solar Eclipse

[Butterfly Conservation](#) are offering half price membership as a Father's Day gift if you are still looking for something special for your special dad. The added benefits of this gift are the on-going fun you can have together identifying and observing butterflies plus learning about these fascinating creatures whilst enjoying nature on your walks or outside your window. [Visit Our Website](#)

If birds are your passion visit [the RSPB site](#) which offers so much information and opportunities to learn more about our feathered friends and to meet other nature lovers.

Let me lie in today and chill before we go out and about! Thanks, from Dad (and Mum)



"I was happy when I was a lad. It wasn't all good, but it wasn't half bad. We played with sticks, we played with stones; we built ourselves dens that we called homes. We explored the woods, we climbed the trees, and we played with marbles on our knees. Conkers in season we threaded with string. If your opponent missed, your knuckles would sting.

We built trolleys with old pram wheels.

We were often too busy to go home for our meals."



This poem on **Childhood Memories** by **Paul L Kennedy** evokes feelings of a loss of innocence and highlights what many are saying needs to change to allow our young to thrive. Another of his poems, *Where I lived when I was a kid*, is on the [Pre-fabmuseum website](#) with fascinating historical information. It is worth a look to see how these homes were valued by many and Paul's home, on the Pilgrims Way Estate, was built on Green Belt which afforded children community and space to roam! Ironically, we are now have the dilemma of Houses versus Nature and his childhood estate was returned to Green Belt when 'better' housing was built for families.

LIFE ON THE VEG - THE EASY WAY

In the interests of trying to shed some of that early lockdown weight gain, we've been trying to eat more healthily of late. I've always been a fan of Opie's, the company that produces the best very pickled walnuts and stem ginger – a must for Christmas feasting. I've been trying to make some cupboard space by using up the last of my supplies from last Christmas and these two recipes I've chosen for you are really delicious and very easy. With greengrocers having stayed open during lockdown, and the farmers' market continuing, as well as checking out some home delivery services for you, I seem to have ended up with a rather full veg drawer!

The vegan Buddha Bowl recipe can easily be adapted to include whatever you have that needs using up! For non-vegans, some cooked meat, fish or a hard boiled egg will add protein if you don't have (or like) the tofu, and those packs of ready cooked rice, lentils or quinoa are a great store cupboard standby. The risotto – well, what can I say? I adore butternut squash and it marries so well with a hint of ginger. And with the weather being so upside down at the moment, it's a quick and delicious supper dish.

BUDDHA BOWL

Serves 2

Prep time: 10 minutes

Ingredients

120g cooked brown rice
1 Tin of chickpeas, drained
1tsp Harissa spice
4 Opies Pickled walnuts, sliced
1 Avocado peeled and stoned
1 block of Tofu
2tsp soy sauce
1 medium courgette, peeled into ribbons using a potato peeler
Squeeze of lemon juice
50g Edamame beans
10 cherry tomatoes, halved
Handful of fresh spinach
1 Sweet potato peeled and thinly sliced
2tbsp olive oil
Mustard cress



Dressing

2tbsp tahini
¼ tsp chilli flakes
1-2 tbsp water
1 garlic clove crushed

Method

- Brush the sweet potato with the olive oil and either cook on a griddle pan or under a hot grill.
- In a frying pan dry fry, the chickpeas in the harissa spice, leave until needed.
- For the tofu, marinade in the soy sauce, then cut into cubes and fry in a hot pan with a little olive oil until it crisps up a little.
- For the courgette, toss with a little olive oil and a squeeze of lemon juice.
- For the dressing, quite simply mix the ingredients to form a pourable sauce. You may need to add a little more water.
- So now you can assemble your Buddha bowl. Take a large, low sided bowl or plate.
- Divide the rice on the base of each plate. Then in sections start adding the ingredients, the chickpeas, the tofu, sweet potato, edame beans, spinach, courgette, cherry tomatoes, pickled walnuts and finally the cress. Drizzle over the sauce and enjoy this super healthy bowl of goodness!

SPICED BUTTERNUT SQUASH RISOTTO WITH STEM GINGER

A quick and easy recipe.

Serves 2 Prep time: 15 minutes

Cooking time: 25 minutes

Ingredients:

- 2 red chillies, finely chopped
- 200g butternut squash, chopped
- 1 tbsp freshly grated ginger
- 1 bunch spring onions, cut into rings
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup short grain rice
- 3-4 cups of vegetable stock
- 2 tbsp butter
- Salt & pepper
- 30g Opies Stem Ginger in Syrup, chopped



Method:

- In a saucepan, melt the butter and then add the white part of the spring onions, butternut squash, chopped chillies and ginger. Sauté for about 4 minutes.
- Now add the rice. Mix well until well coated. Then add 1 and a half cups of stock. Mix well and let it cook on a slow simmer. Continue adding the rest of the stock in $\frac{1}{2}$ cups until the rice is cooked but still has a little bite. Add salt and pepper to taste.
- Mix the green parts of the spring onion a few minutes before serving, reserving some for garnish.
- Drizzle with ginger syrup (from the jar) to taste.

Follow Alison on instagram: [@theseasonedgastronome](https://www.instagram.com/theseasonedgastronome)

By Anne Warrington

He sat there amidst
torn sheets of paper
staring at the tyrant's staff broken un-
evenly into pieces.
This solitary island was once more his
disturbed only
 by bird song,
 crickets chirruping in
 tall grasses swaying in the wind
 crystal clear rivulets rippling through lush vegetation
 calm seas whose waves
 gently lapped on golden beaches
Why wasn't he happy?
Why this discontent -
 frustration, resentment,
 feelings of abandonment?
Not even that loathsome creature
 of the air
 deigned to make an appearance.
All that now was in the past
Now was the time to celebrate
 to dance, to feast
Now free from the tyrant,
 and his fickle daughter
he would have the best festival ever.
He clapped his hands as he'd
seen the tyrant do so many times.

Nothing!

He stared at the broken staff,
the torn leaves from books,
 books he'd despised,
hating how easily the tyrant had
violated his island with magic,
 symbols and signs he didn't understand
strings of numbers to
 change the weather
 control the seas
 cause tempests
 command spirits.
The festivals he missed -
 sumptuous feasts, carnival,
 celestial music
Times when his body
 leapt free of its
 deformity.
Again, he stared at the broken staff,
the sheets of paper
torn from the tyrant's library of books

His path became clear



Clapping for the Kids!

Dramacube Productions was due to open, a new production with a cast of a hundred children, when the full impact of coronavirus struck.

The principal of the stage school Steve Leslie shares his reflections.

It was around 8.30pm on Wednesday 18th March when we received the news that Hampton Hill Theatre was to close with immediate effect.

Our four brilliant young casts had all participated in successful Technical and Dress rehearsals for *Annie Jr* that week and we were ready to open the following night but now we faced a scenario we could not have foreseen just a few weeks earlier. For safety reasons the show must *not* go on!



It was painful enough having to leave behind our wonderful set and all those amazing costumes which our creative team had worked so hard on but the hardest part, of course, was breaking the news to the one-hundred young actors who were set to perform that week.

I sat alone that night in an empty auditorium and tried to craft some words of optimism as I composed an email to the parents of our young performers.

Their show was over. There were tears of course as news filtered out to students, but above all else there was understanding and a sense of resilience. We will get this show back on, whatever it takes.

Our students had shown such maturity, throughout the rehearsal period, in dealing with the growing concerns of Covid-19. They continued to work hard, completely unphased by the growing panic surrounding the global pandemic and I'd like to pay tribute to them all for their sense of optimism and spirit which has helped us to keep going. We clapped for carers, but we also clapped for all the amazing children who've dealt with such a challenging situation so well.

Read more of Steve Leslie's reflections at www.markaspen.com/2020/06/19/clapping-kids

Photography by Bomi Cooper



Flower Power

By Shona Lyons

Bruce is writing about the road to Jericho and I am writing about our little street which is just as exciting I think. The flowers have really enjoyed all this rain and are starting to brighten up the street and soften all the hard edges. There is a long way to go with the floral displays and we are going to put back the flower canopy above Pulcinella as they want to have a lot more colour and everything still has to grow until it will look really good.



Church Street is still quite deserted with just a few shops taking the government's initiative and opening with social distancing, screens and hand hygiene measures. Also I think a lot of people have gone back to work and the street is not so full as it has been with people buying wraps from Rosie Chai and ice creams from Corto, but the cafes and Italian deli still seem to be doing quite well and supplying Twickenham with all their take away specialities.

Next week will see us pedestrianizing the street for this trial 4 months. Hopefully all will be well. We still will have to open the street at midnight and close it again at 10am – hopefully Bruce will still be awake and will accompany me when I put the bollards away?

Let's what this space and see if pedestrianizing the street will bring us all a better environment in which to live, do business and provide a welcoming environment for all the community to enjoy.



St Mary's University Update

ST MARYS' UNIVERSITY ONLINE UNDERGRADUATE INFORMATION SESSION

St Mary's University is hosting an online undergraduate information session on Tuesday, June 23rd from 11am-1pm.

All registered students can speak to course tutors, as well as the St Mary's admissions, accommodation and Student Union teams during the virtual session.



Registration details are available via the link.

<https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/events/2020/06/ug-information-session>

Sports Videos

We recently caught up with St Mary's University Sport Scholars and Endurance Performance Centre (EPC) athletes Izzy Fry and Ellis Cross to talk about their academic and athletic journeys to date.

In the two videos, Izzy and Ellis give us their insight and comment on the coaching

they receive as part of the St Mary's EPC, the University campus facilities and the surrounding areas, including Bushy Park, alongside other factors which help give athletes within the Centre a unique, high-quality experience.

Izzy is studying for a BSc in Sport & Exercise and was a key member of the Great Britain U20 team that won Gold at the 2019 European Cross Country Championships, whilst Ellis has just completed studying for his BSc in Health & Exercise Science, also representing Great Britain at European Championships in the U23 10,000m in 2017.

Ellis Cross

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fEfFs5GIMmE>

Izzy Fry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcSnH5mV-V4>

Children's Stories

Congratulations to Flora Lester, a second year Drama student at St Mary's University, who has been writing a number of Children's stories.

The stories have been featured in a number of 'The Wonderful World of Books' Apple Podcasts in recent weeks.

<https://t.co/SEBim8X1Mn?amp=1>



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

TRAVELLER'S TALES 74

CHINA BEFORE THE TOURISTS



Doug Goodman visits Beijing, Xian and Shanghai

I had already ticked off two of the three destinations on my wish list after I visited Siberia and Mongolia in the late 70s. The third was China, which I hoped to see before mass tourism changed the country for ever: my wish was granted in 1985 when I took a party of travel writers to Beijing, Xian and Shanghai. In 1981 after a visit to Hong Kong, a trip to the Portuguese colony of Macau, infamous for its gambling culture, and a day on mainland China in Guangdong to visit the shrine of Dr. Sun Yat Sen , who served as the first provisional president of the Chinese Republic, I had a great desire to see more of the People's Republic.



Beijing City of Bikes

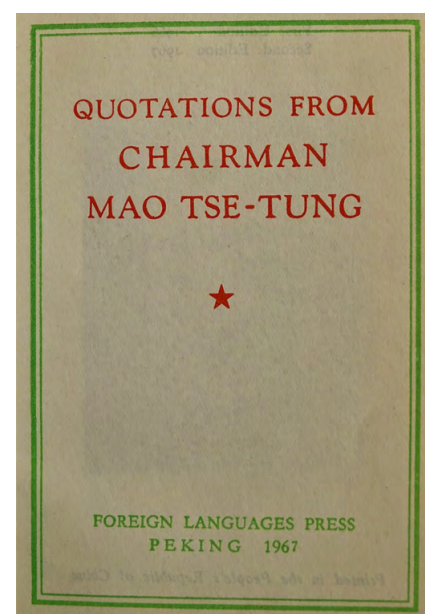
Leading a VIP press group offered certain advantages: top hotels, comfortable travel and fine food in the best restaurants – but more about that later. One of my guests was Tim Radford writing for The Guardian and my thanks go to him for some memorable quotes.

UP THE WALL

Beijing was beginning to realise that Western tourists brought in much needed foreign currency and could be shown the most favourable aspects of the country if carefully controlled. Beijing had 5* hotels and tourist shops but back in 1985 most visitors seemed to be on business: there was little tourist infrastructure. Most striking was the vast number of cyclists; only government vehicles existed so there was little traffic pollution. A significant number of men wore Mao suits and many read Mao's Little Red Book. Military personnel in colourful uniforms



Entrance to the Forbidden City



Little Red Book

were very conspicuous. Flags flew everywhere and open spaces were filled with people dancing or exercising. The people were very curious about Western visitors and although they tried to avoid staring at us many would stop us and ask for a few words to be spoken to them in

English. English was the first foreign language taught and the chance to converse with a non-Chinese was a great opportunity. We were taken to several Friendship Stores, where only western currency or special tourist currency could be used. Finest silk, precious stones, art, food, drink, handicrafts and souvenirs were available at bargain prices. Top spots for us to tour were the Forbidden City and The Great Wall. Some 14 million visitors head for the world's largest imperial palace each year but it seemed as if most of China's 1.4 billion inhabitants were there to see the 8,728 rooms in the 980 buildings. The palace, built in 14 years from 1406, became the political centre for 500 years for The Ming and Qing Dynasties until 1911 when the Qing dynasty was removed. It was home to 24 emperors. Today the historic museum city within a city has 100 resident cats to keep vermin at bay.



How They Once Dressed



Up the Wall



The Great Wall of China

Beijing means northern capital and it's been the first city for 1200 years. In the 7th century BC construction began on a wall to protect the country from the invading hordes from the north. There were in fact lots of walls built at different times to act as protection, border controls for trade and immigration and as a transportation route. Much of the wall was rebuilt and strengthened by the Ming Dynasty from 1368 to 1644 when an estimated 25,000 watch towers were set up along its 5,500 mile route. In places its stone walls are 26 feet high and at the base 19 feet wide. Whether you visit the specially reconstructed section at Badaling or other less popular sites you'll see one of the greatest feats of construction in the world. Vast sections of Beijing once consisted of shacks without running water or power where cooking was over a fire in the yard where cows were often tethered. Chinese beer was excellent while wine and spirits were not. Food was a real delight with soups, rice dishes, Peking duck and meaty stews. The tourist boards, which hosted us in every city, lavished spectacular hospitality on us. Grand banquets were a regular event and it was clear that our hosts enjoyed eating in top restaurants on expenses. As group leader I was placed on the right hand of the host and served first with choice morsels. I've always been happy to sample new dishes but having to appear to enjoy sea slug, eyeballs and other dubious items did test the taste buds. Dinners were formal and constant toasts had to be drunk.



Great Wall Certificate



Wheres My Bike



Pandas Much Loved

TERRACOTTA ARMY

Xian was the next stop after a 750 mile flight on an elderly Soviet jet. The train takes 13 hours and I asked about driving between the cities. Not possible, I was informed as there were no roads suitable and only railway bridges existed across the vast rivers. At that time China was relatively poor without motorways or modern methods of travel. How the place has changed with vast motorway for the huge car-owning public and sleek high-speed trains.

In Xian a giant aircraft hangar of a building housed the Terracotta Army. Many of the warriors and animals are complete while lots had parts missing but the assembled lines of troops extending in rows to the far end looked magnificent. In the words of The Guardian's Tim Radford. "Here and there a hand sticks out of the dust, or an infantry man appears to be holding a comrade drowning in a maelstrom of silt. The whole spectacle would be wonderful under any circumstances. Here, and at this moment, and in this soil, it is even more moving: this panorama of men whose flesh has long returned to the dust of Shaanxi, whose images were formed from the same dust and then drowned in it, and which now makes up a frozen instant in an enormous unfolding vision of the Resurrection of the Dead, in monochrome and that chrome a shadowy yellow". It was a memorable sight and today much more of Xian's past has been discovered in the memorial chamber. Photography was not allowed but in the market traders were anxious to sell you life-like souvenirs. I spent a while bargaining with a rather fierce looking trader to acquire some terracotta figures for the equivalent of 50p. A trip to a silk worm farm to observe the creatures gorging on mulberry leaves and a demonstration of how the silk yarn is spun concluded a brief visit to Xian.



Souvenirs of the Terracotta



Tranquil Lakeside spot



Red Army on the Move

ON TO SHANGHAI

Shanghai, China's second city with its futuristic looking skyline and a population of 24 million, has the world's largest container port and is a global centre for finance and business. Two days gave only a superficial introduction to the sprawling city but time enough to cruise to the southern estuary of the Yangtze, to take lunch at the Seamen's club high above the famous Bund, to shop in the department stores and to watch performing pandas at a circus,

Next time Doug covers his second China visit which included Suzhou, Wuxi, Guilin and a trip on a barge on part of the 1100 mile long Grand Canal.

Seize the Day & Celebrate the British Isles

By Bruce Lyons

Shona says I was writing about the Road to Jericho, but sadly no, though I did go there once and thought it would be a great place to have a B & B, but that was nearly 60 years ago !! No I got to think this week that perhaps Covid-19 will give us an opportunity to rediscover our own Country and Heritage. You may be surprised to know that worldwide The British Isles is one of the most sought after destinations, our History, The Arts and Culture, Beautifully preserved Houses and Castles, the Famous Lake and Peak Districts, Edinburgh and it's Festival, Fishing in the Highlands, The Scilly Islands and much more.



Anywhere you choose to go there is a myriad of attractions nearby, and much of our coastline has wonderful beaches too! Covid-19 and the quarantining issue has focussed our attention on “Staycation” and once the travelling restrictions have lifted you will want to take a break before those little horrors are off back to school AT LAST!!

As we juggle with the complexity and uncertainty of Government rulings and foreign countries Domestic agreements, why not stay HERE!

Quarantining does not apply within the British Isles, though till now Hotels, B & B's, and Cottages are still not open and freedom of movement has not been lifted. However the UK Hospitality industry has put in place Covid virus booking policies and were you to book and not be allowed to stay or travel then refunds are the order of the day, so you can book with

confidence, and it seems that from mid-July it will be OK to travel within the UK .

We are blessed with an amazing diversity of choice from Camping and Mobile Homes to Luxury Hotels, Fly drives; Small Group Coach Tours, Canal Cruising, Cooking Courses Walking and Cycling Holidays, something for all.

With all the added interest in holidays in the UK it would be best to find your preference before all the restrictions are lifted, as then there will be a lot less to choose from.

Here are a few types of break to consider:

- Row the Thames, as immortalised in J K Jerome's Three Men in a Boat you can camp or stay in Riverside accommodation
- Self-Drive in Ireland, on the Atlantic Way
- Self-Drive in Devon, Cornwall and the Scilly Islands
- Short guided activity breaks 2nt/3 days with guide and walks Peak District and Suffolk Countryside
- Self-Guided walking tours
- Self-Guided Cycling Tours
- Backroad Coach Tours in West Country and Ireland

You should be making enquiries now before it is too late

www.crusadertravel.com

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Botswana

The photographs in this article are from Botswana Tourism; I was particularly interested in the basket work, perhaps the most well-known craft in Botswana.

I was reminded of Oliver from the Botswana Basket Weavers Online, the winner of the business category at the 2004 [Stockholm Challenge](#).

Oliver is an old friend from [Rome's Global Challenge](#), an organization I liaised with for some years.



Botswana: <http://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=Botswana>



BRENTFORD FC

Football returns as Bees travel to Fulham

Football is back – though not quite as we know it. 104 days after they last kicked a ball competitively in a 5-0 home demolition of Sheffield Wednesday 11 Bees players will don the famous white and red stripes and emerge from the tunnel. There will however be no great roar from the crowd, no pre-match pint with your best mates before the game and no standing alongside your fellow supporters on the terrace. In times like these needs must and football will have to be completed behind closed doors for the remainder of the season.



The great AC Milan manager Arrigo Sacchi once said that “football is the most important of the least important things” and for Brentford these final 9 fixtures are crucial. Chasing promotion to the Premier League for the very first time it would crown a remarkable chapter in the club’s history that has seen the west London club rise from League Two to the Championship in little over a decade. These final nine games are quite simply nine cup finals for Brentford. Stories to be written. Heroes to be created...

The Bees’ first game comes up this Saturday and it couldn’t be a game of greater magnitude. Brentford Head Coach Thomas Frank will make the short trip across London with his team to Craven Cottage for a West London derby with a difference.

In preparation Brentford have played two behind closed doors fixtures against Premier League opposition in the form of Arsenal and Watford. Goals from Tariqe Fosu, Halil Dervişoğlu and Shandon Baptiste gave the Bees a 3-2 win over Arsenal at the Emirates before Brentford went down 2-0 against the hornets at Vicarage Road despite an encouraging performance.

Speaking to the Tribune ahead of the game Frank praised the quality of the Fulham side. “I think that for me Fulham are one of the best sides on the ball so we need to be able to close that down, to defend extremely well and that’s everything from the high pressure to the middle block to the low block” Frank commented. Whilst Fulham have dangerous threats such as Championship top scorer Alexander Mitrovic the Bees Head Coach still believes his side can gain a result, “We need to try to take it to them and stuff like that but can we do that? I think that will give us an advantage.”

With the return of football in such unique circumstances various measures have been taken to manage the physical demands on players and teams. One of these is that managers can now make 5 substitutes, up from the standard 3 in one game, although these are only permitted to be made in three intervals.

Frank believes these could tactically influence games. He said, “Yeah it definitely could. I would say tactically that depends on the game of course. Of course, if you need to change something it’s easier to put on three players instead of only two or one if that’s what we have left. So that definitely gives us some tactical flexibility but I think it’s about using that freshness or extra energy in the right moment of the games especially when the loads are increasing

Final with the late finish to the season and the division that Brentford will play in next season still to

be confirmed Frank and his management team will face many challenges with recruitment and player retainment although the Dane has experience in his native country of dealing with a short turn around between seasons. Whilst at former club FC Midtjylland Frank recalled how “In Demark we had that experience. We had very short spells between two league seasons because we started the European qualifiers. So, we had more or less ten days” and he backs his team “just need to deal with it”

Opponent: Fulham (A) Saturday 20th June 12:30 Craven Cottage

Competition: Championship

Opponent record: P37 W18 D10 L9 GF52 GA38 (3rd in the Championship)

Top scorer: Aleksander Mitrovic (23)

Manager: Scott Parker

Previous game: A sole goal from Bryan Mbeumo proved to be the difference as the Bees emerged victorious at Griffin Park in the derby. Neeskens Kebano hit the base of the post early on for the visitors but Brentford were the dominate side in the first half. Mbeumo claimed his fourth goal in as many games on 22 minutes after a mazy run from Said Benrahma. Brentford themselves were then denied by the woodwork twice; first through Ollie Watkins and then Pontus Jansson. In the second half Brentford were the stronger side and unbelievably hit the post for the third time in the game when Marek Rodak in goal for Fulham tipped the ball onto the woodwork from a Mathias Jensen effort but it did not matter in the end as the single goal was enough for all three points.

Interesting fact: Craven Cottage was used as a host venue for several football games at the 1948 London Olympics.

Come on you Bees!

HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH

Hampton cruelly miss out on playoffs after season of renaissance

Hampton & Richmond Borough have missed out on a place in the end of season

National League South playoffs by the barest of margins following a vote by National League clubs to end the season on an 'unweighted' points-per-game basis.

The Beavers has finished in 8th place just one place and less than 0.2 points on the PPG calculation behind Dorking Wanderers in 7th and the final playoff spot.

Hampton's 47 total points from 33 league games accrued 59.818 points when averaged out across a full season whereas Dorking's 50 points from 35 games proved marginally better when the National League administrators got their calculators out. What is so heart breaking for the fans from the Beverees is that Hampton had played two games less than Dorking as well as still having to play them at home.

The season began slowly under manager Gary McCann with 8 defeats in the opening 11 games of the season but the side turned it around and by the time of the season's suspension were heading into the final games full of confidence that they could achieve a playoff place.

Highlights of the season include a 2-1 victory at home against eventual league champions Wealdstone, a last minute winner against Maidstone United away from home that provided some chaotic fan celebrations and a run in the FA Trophy that saw the Beavers travel to former Championship side Yeovil Town.

See you next season Beavers fans!



The Royal Opera House announces Live from Covent Garden, Saturday 27 June

The Royal Opera House is delighted to continue its **#OurHouseToYourHouse** programme of online broadcasts, musical masterclasses and cultural highlights, created for audiences across the globe.

As we look forward to the second in the series of three **Live from Covent Garden** concerts this Saturday, the Royal Opera House is proud to announce the programming for the third concert on **Saturday 27 June at 7.30pm BST**, broadcast live via the ROH website from its world-famous Covent Garden home.

A celebration of especially curated ballet and opera, the *Live from Covent Garden* concerts are the first live performances from the Royal Opera House since the building closed its doors to the public on 17 March. Join us behind the scenes as we open our theatre to a select group of musicians, artists and performers, direct from our house to your house.

The third concert will be hosted by **Katie Derham** and The Royal Opera's Music Director, **Antonio Pappano**, joined by soloists of the **Orchestra of the Royal Opera House**. Singers from the ROH **Jette Parker Young Artists programme**, will present work from **George Frideric Handel, Gaetano Donizetti, Gioachino Rossini, Giuseppe Verdi, George Gershwin** and more. The Jette Parker Young Artists will include [Andrés Presno](#), [Filipe Manu](#), [Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha](#), [Stephanie Wake-Edwards](#), [Patrick Milne](#) and [Edmund Whitehead](#), and Link Artist [Blaise Malaba](#).

First Soloists of The Royal Ballet [Fumi Kaneko](#) and [Reece Clarke](#) will perform the lyrical central *pas de deux* from **Kenneth MacMillan's Concerto**. Created in 1966, *Concerto* is set to **Shostakovich's** Piano Concerto no.2 in F. MacMillan was inspired to choreograph the concerto's slow movement after observing Royal Ballet dancer **Lynn Seymour** warming up at the barre, resulting in a deeply romantic and atmospheric *pas de deux*. This will be the first time that Kaneko and Clarke have performed this duet together. Royal Ballet pianist [Kate Shipway](#) together with soloists of the Orchestra of the Royal Opera will accompany the dancers.

Principal [Matthew Ball](#) and First Soloist [Mayara Magri](#) will perform a *pas de deux* from Royal Ballet Artistic Associate [Christopher Wheeldon's Within the Golden Hour](#). First created for **San Francisco Ballet**, *Within the Golden Hour* has been part of The Royal Ballet's repertory since 2016 and was last performed by the Company as part of the 2018/19 Season. Music Director of The Royal Ballet [Koen Kessels](#) conducts.

The concert on Saturday 27 June will be available to view live and on demand for 14 days via the Royal Opera House website for £4.99 per household.

ROH also presents the next in the Friday Premiere series of free online broadcasts, with **Wayne McGregor's *Wolf Works*** on **Friday 26 June at 7pm BST**. In 2015, *Wolf Works* was Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor's first full length work for **The Royal Ballet**, and received outstanding critical acclaim, going on to win the **Critics' Circle Award** for Best Classical Choreography and the **Olivier Award** for Best New Dance Production.

The triptych of ballets takes inspiration from **Virginia Woolf's** *Mrs Dalloway*, *Orlando* and *The Waves* as well as her letters, essays and diaries. Guest Artist **Alessandra Ferri** returned to The Royal Ballet in 2015 to create the role of Woolf, for which she was awarded the Critics' Circle National Dance Award for Best Female Dancer, as well as an Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance. The ballet also features **Sarah Lamb, Natalia Osipova, Akane Takada, Beatriz Stix-Brunell, Francesca Hayward, Federico Bonelli, Steven McRae, Edward Watson, Gary Avis, Tristan Dyer** and **Paul Kay**. The Orchestra of the Royal Opera House is conducted by Music Director of The Royal Ballet **Koen Kessels**.



Investigation into remediating dangerous cladding on high-rise buildings

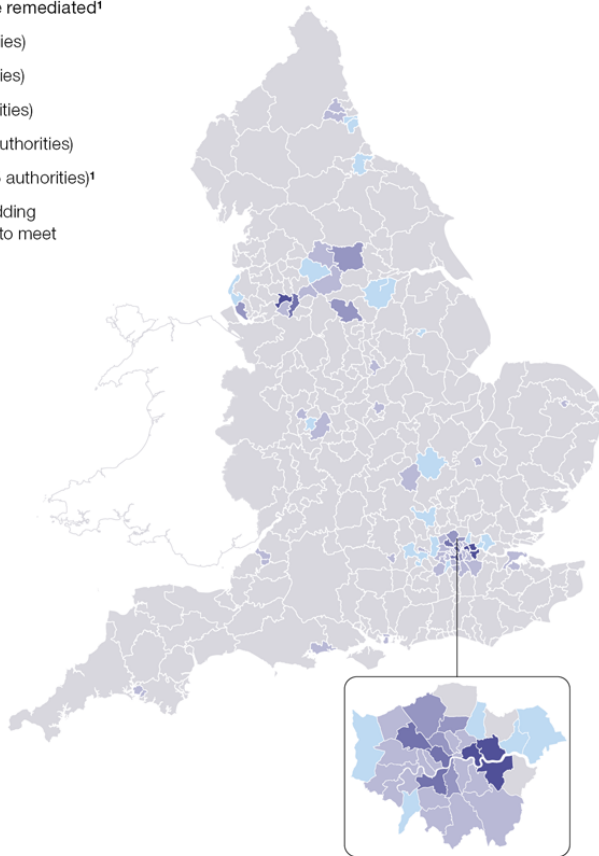
Progress is being made in removing dangerous cladding from high-rise residential buildings following the Grenfell Tower fire. However, the pace of works has been faster in some types of building than others and progress in the private residential sector has been slower than the government expected, according to today's report by the National Audit Office.

Number of buildings yet to be remediated with aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding systems are unlikely to meet Building Regulations, by local authority in England as at April 2020

There are 56 local authorities with buildings 18 metres and over with ACM cladding systems which are unlikely to meet Building Regulations and are yet to be remediated, with at least 15 of these authorities containing more than five buildings each

Number of buildings yet to be remediated*

- 1 to 5 buildings (36 authorities)
- 6 to 10 buildings (7 authorities)
- 11 to 20 buildings (4 authorities)
- More than 20 buildings (4 authorities)
- All buildings remediated (15 authorities)¹
- No buildings with ACM cladding systems which are unlikely to meet Building Regulations¹



In the wake of the Grenfell Tower fire, the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (the Department) established the Building Safety Programme (the Programme). One of the Programme's main objectives is to 'oversee and support the remediation of high-rise residential buildings that have unsafe aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding'. In May 2018 the Department announced £400 million to fund remediation in the social housing sector in England. In May 2019 it announced a further £200 million for the remediation of equivalent buildings in the private housing sector.

By April 2020, 149 of the total 456 buildings which are 18 metres and above and

have unsafe ACM cladding systems had been fully remediated, leaving 307 where remediation was not yet finished, of which work had not yet begun on 167.

The pace of remediation has been fastest in the student accommodation and social housing sectors, but slowest in the private residential sector. By April 2020, 66.7% of student accommodation blocks and 46.8% of social housing buildings had been fully remediated, compared to 13.5% of private sector residential buildings. Progress in the private sector has been slower because those legally responsible for private buildings have been difficult to identify and have required more support than expected. By the end of April 2020, the Department had paid out £1.42 million (0.7%) from the £200 million private sector fund and £133 million (33.3%) from the £400 million social sector fund.

The Department estimates that all buildings within scope of its funding will be remediated by mid-2022, with over 95% completed by the end of 2021. This is later than the expectation set in July 2019 by the then Secretary of State, that "other than in exceptional circumstances, building owners should

complete remediation [...] by June 2020. This does not take account of the impacts of COVID-19: there are early signs that the epidemic has slowed the pace of remediation, with up to 60% of projects that were under way paused by April 2020. The Department had not at the time of this investigation assessed how its timeframe for completing remediation will be affected by the pandemic.

Not all buildings with dangerous ACM cladding fall within scope of the government's existing funding schemes for the social and private housing sectors. This includes high-rise hotels, student accommodation, and build-to-let blocks, as well as buildings below 18 metres. The Department is aware of seven build-to-let properties over 18 metres with unsafe ACM cladding which are not eligible for funding, because the private sector funding scheme is designed to avoid the costs of remediation being passed on to leaseholders. In the case of build-to-let properties, the Department believes that building owners have a clear legal and financial obligation to pay for remediation themselves.

The Department's Independent Expert Advisory Panel has advised that the most dangerous forms of ACM cladding are unsafe on buildings of any height, and that risks are increased in buildings with elderly and vulnerable residents. The Department estimates there to be around 85,000 buildings in England between 11 and 18 metres, but does not know what cladding systems they have, nor whether there are any care homes under 18 metres with unsafe cladding. It will begin collecting data on buildings between 11 and 18 metres in summer 2020.

To access the funding schemes, building owners must demonstrate they have made a reasonable attempt to meet or recover costs without having to charge leaseholders – for example, by paying from their own resources, or through insurance, warranty claims or legal proceedings. The Department expects it could take building owners several years to recover costs in legal proceedings in many cases. By February 2020, the Department had recouped £0.8m from the private sector, and a further £6.4m from the social sector where building owners had successfully reclaimed costs from original contractors.

The Department expects to pay for 94 projects (out of 208) in the private sector, where the developer or building owner has not agreed to fund remediation themselves. The owners of 84 private sector residential buildings have committed to fund remediation, with a further 23 self-funded through warranty claims. Seven buildings have not agreed a funding route. In the social sector, the Department has committed to fund 139 (out of 154) residential buildings.

The Department announced a further £1 billion funding in March 2020 for the remediation of unsafe non-ACM cladding on high-rise buildings in the social and private residential sectors. It has not yet established how many buildings over 18 metres have unsafe non-ACM cladding, but has used a rough initial estimate of around 1,700 such buildings as a working assumption. The Department intends to commit the £1 billion in full by the end of March 2021, but the administration of this new scheme may present significant challenges given how demanding it has been to manage the existing ACM funding schemes, which are just over half the size of the new fund.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said today:

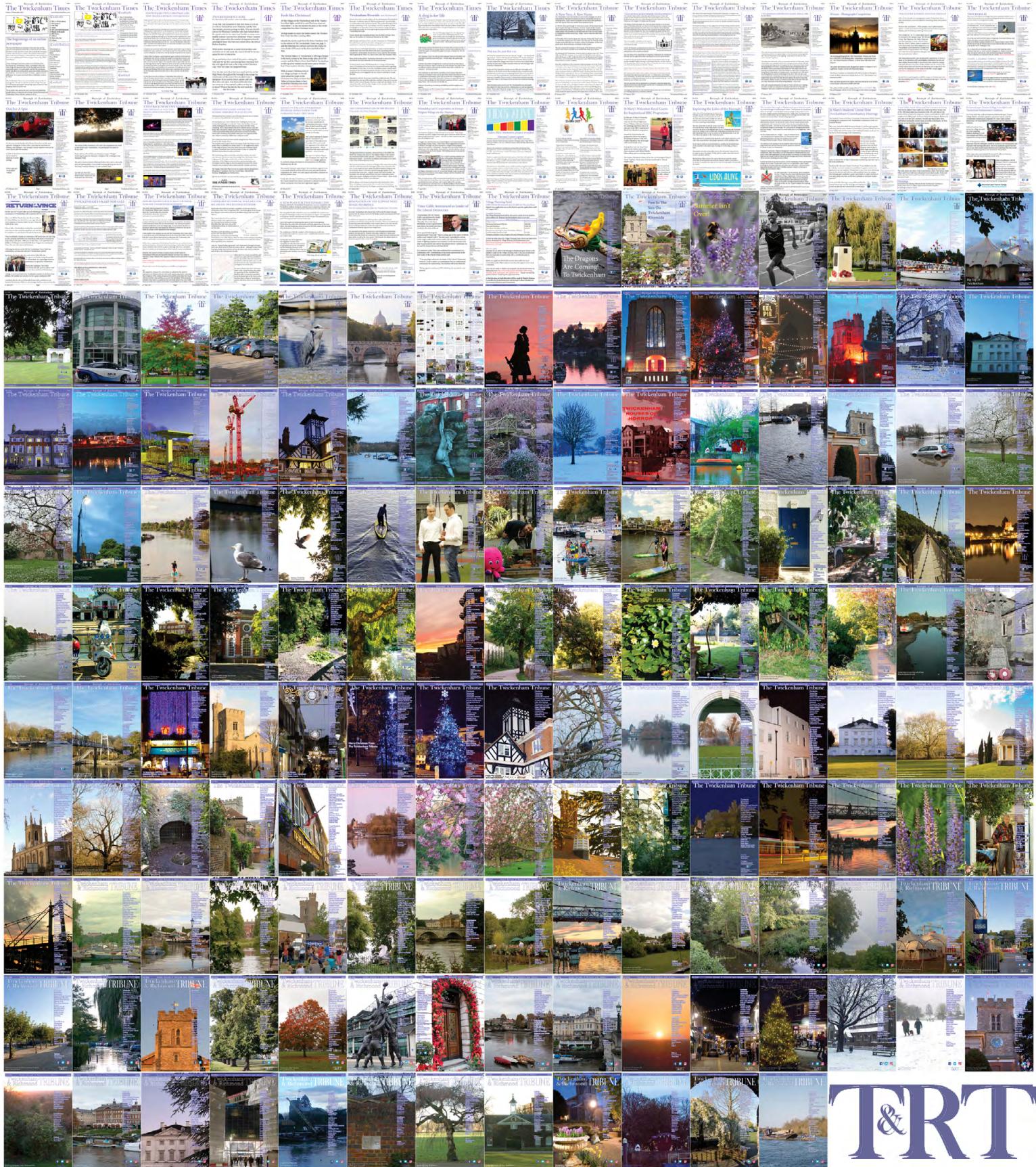
“MHCLG has made progress in overseeing the removal of dangerous cladding from many buildings, particularly in the social housing sector. However, the pace of progress has lagged behind its own expectations, particularly in the private residential sector. It has a long way to go to make all high-rise buildings safe for residents. Going forward, it is important that the Department successfully manages the administrative challenges of funding building owners to carry out remediation work, particularly given its intention to commit a further £1 billion in full by the end of March 2021.”

View the full report [HERE](#)



National Audit Office

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