

Twickenham & Richmond **TRIBUNE**



Contents

- TickerTape
- TwickerSeal
- COVID-19
- Good Food In Richmond
- Marble Hill Marvels
- Letters
- Tribune Snippets
- Twickers Foodie
- Jawbone Brewing
- Traveller's Tales - Benidorm
- WIZ Tales - Panama - The Canal
- Review
- Film Screenings

Contributors

- TwickerSeal
- Simon Fowler
- Marble Hill House
- Mac McInerny
- Alison Jee
- Mark Aspen
- Doug Goodman
- World InfoZone
- St Mary's University
- Richmond Film Society
- RFU
- Greenpeace
- London Councils
- LBRUT

Editors

- Berkley Driscoll
- Teresa Read



18th June 2021



Holy Trinity Church, Twickenham Green

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

Council releases more cash for hard pressed businesses

Richmond Council is today releasing a further £4.4m in Additional Restrictions Grant to local businesses to help meet the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic.

Businesses which have previously received an ARG award will receive a further £5,000 and previous recipients of Restart Grants will receive a 30% top up. This means that over 1,400 local businesses will receive additional money.

Businesses do not need to apply to receive this funding.

Join an online webinar on swifts - The birds you can help

In just 25 years the population of Swifts have declined by 50%. Edward Mayer, the founder of Swift Conservation will join Friends of Barnes Common for an online webinar to explain how you can help. In 2003 Edward Mayer pioneered an approach to preserving the future of the swift through advice, talks and the encouragement of widespread volunteer action. It was such a success that the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds asked him to make it a national service and Swift Conservation was born. Swift Conservation supplies advice and helpful information via its web site.

Edward has given over 300 talks and training sessions to various organisations. Free leaflets and nest box designs are available, as well as recordings of swift calls for attracting the birds to new nest sites. Edward also provides tailored advice on specific projects and on the setting up of local groups to support Swifts. Join Edward for this special webinar (**23rd June 6.30pm**) where you can find out more about Swift populations and how you can help local swift populations. Book your place [HERE](#)

Walk-in clinic for Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines

If you have not yet had your first dose of the vaccine, you can attend a walk-in clinic this week at Essex House Surgery.

The Surgery in Barnes will be holding three evening drop-in sessions with the Pfizer vaccine.

The surgery will be open on the below times, with no appointment needed:

Tuesday 15 June from 7 to 9pm

Wednesday 16 June from 6.30 to 8.30pm

Thursday 17 June from 7 to 9pm

Please note that supply is limited and will be on a first come, first served basis.

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One of the key bits of news is that the council intends on submitting a planning application by the end of this month! We were shown the updated plans, but we were not allowed to have copies to share with you; so much for openness and transparency.

It seems that the large block on Wharf Lane, right on the riverside, is not going to have any 'affordable' housing and will only have market value luxury flats. And it looks like the 18-metre-high monolithic building will be constructed following the much-loved Reading Town Centre School of Architecture. The break in the roofline has been filled in to maintain the industrial warehouse look.

And there are no boat houses, instead there will be moveable storage cages for SUP boards and kayaks. These will probably disappear in the final build, particularly as the council confirmed there is no allocated funding for the proposed pontoon. Anyway, all these activities would get in the way of the riverside roadway, which of course remains. The roadway also restricts the floodable 'event space'.

Another thing the council forgot to mention on Wednesday is that they are proposing to move forward with the Compulsory Purchase Order for the Diamond Jubilee Gardens. This will be put to the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee on Monday 28th June.

You can see details of the meeting and agenda [HERE](#)



COVID-19

Teresa Read

World Health Organization overview 15 June 2021:

In the past week, the number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths continued to decrease, with over 2.6 million new cases and 72,000 new deaths reported globally. While the number of cases reported globally now exceeds 175 million, over the past week, the lowest weekly case incidence since February 2021 was reported. Declines in the number of new weekly cases, compared to the previous week, were reported across all Regions except for the African Region. The number of new deaths reported in the past week decreased across all the regions except for the African and South-East Asia Regions.

News:

BBC: UK Covid infections rise as Delta variant dominates

Independent: Italy imposes quarantine on British travellers

Wales' Minister warns UK is in third Covid wave and 'facing a serious public health situation'

Total cases to 18 June 2021

11,303 Richmond upon Thames

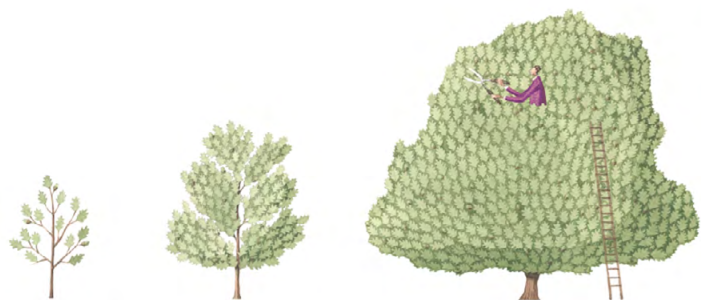
12,874 Kingston upon Thames

25,959 Hounslow

Countries with High Numbers of Deaths Recorded by the World Health Organization

Deaths Worldwide 3,836,828

USA	595,591	Indonesia	53,753
Brazil	493,693	Ukraine	51,507
India	381,903	Turkey	48,950
Mexico	230,624	Romania	32,028
Peru	189,522	Chile	31,140
Russian Federation	127,992	Czechia	30,257
The United Kingdom	127,926	Hungary	29,864
Italy	127,153	Canada	26,001
France	109,688	Belgium	25,110
Colombia	97,560	Philippines	23,276
Germany	90,179	Pakistan	21,874
Argentina	87,261	Ecuador	21,175
Iran	82,619	Bulgaria	17,957
Spain	80,615	Netherlands	17,719
Poland	74,734	Portugal	17,055
South Africa	58,118	Iraq	16,811



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darryl parkin

The Treehouse
 25 King Edwards Grove
 Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9LY
 Telephone 020 8274 0107
 Mobile 07960 123580
 Fax 020 8274 0119
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www.thetreeagency.co.uk



The Tree Agency

Good Food in Richmond

By Simon Fowler

John Lewis recently announced the closure of the Good Food Guide. The Guide had, been published since 1951 listing restaurants across Britain based on recommendations from its readers.

The Guide was the creation of the radical historian and journalist Raymond Postgate, who believed that good food and drink were the rights of all.

During the Second World War eating out was severely restricted. The choice lay between the state sponsored British Restaurants offering plainly cooked but stodgy food and private restaurants, where the cooking might be more imaginative, but the chef restrained by the rule that said no meal could cost more than five shillings. No matter where the diner chose, the meal was likely to be dreadful.

So appalled was Postgate at the state of British food he planned a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Food, which became more the Good Food Club. Its aims were simple, among them, 'to raise the standard of cooking in Britain' and 'to do ourselves all a bit of good by making our holidays, travels and evenings-out in due course more enjoyable'.

The first edition of the Guide, published in 1951, contained details of 600 restaurants across Britain, including a small number of restaurants in the Borough.

In Richmond it recommended the Globe Restaurant at 15 Hill Rose. It was noted for its curries. The reviewer – Raymond Postgate himself – said that the food was 'above average, showing imagination à la carte only' and recommended the wine list.

Across the road at 8 Hill Rise was the Café Continental which was 'inexpensive, cosmopolitan, informal [with] French and English cooking'. Specialities included fricasseed chicken and mushroom pancakes. According to its reviewer RFS Hodgson there was 'No licence but real coffee.' A rarity at a time when instant coffee was the height of sophistication.

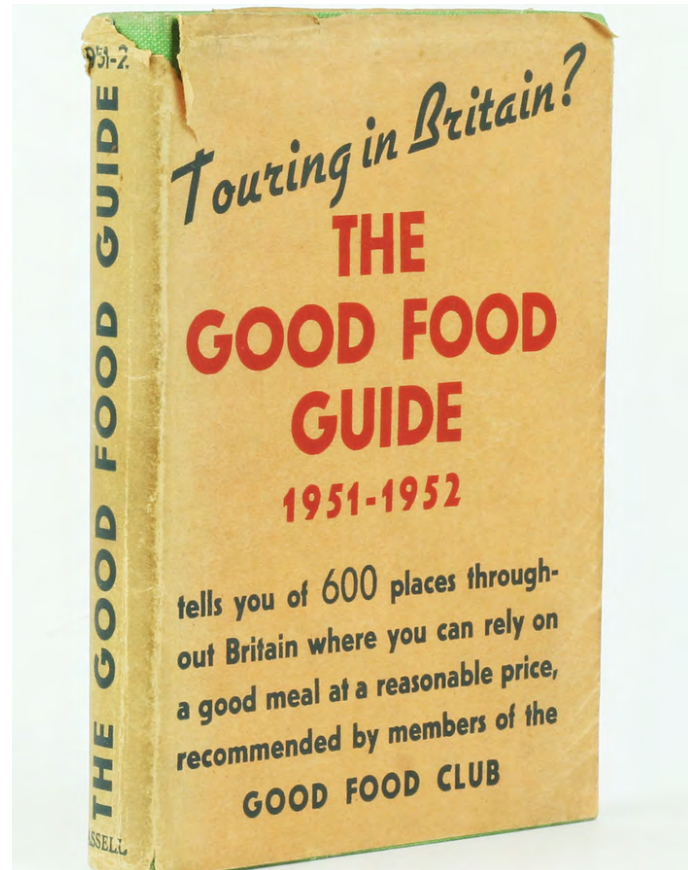
The restaurants have long since closed.

Hodgson also recommended the Mitre at Hampton Court, where he said that 'Food is nicely served and of satisfactory quality; plates warmed; vegetables with some taste left...Pink lights on the tables to impress the girlfriend.' And good value too – bed and breakfast and an evening meal would set you back just a pound.

At the King's Head nearby (which was featured in a recent review in the Tribune) 'one finds a delicious clear soup, lobster in the shell and salad...served with courtesy.' The reviewer EG Valentine also recommended 'an excellent white wine' that might be drunk with it.

Both establishments are still trading, although neither is in the current edition. Of the hundreds of cafes, gastropubs and restaurants which now trade across the borough, only nine are to be found within its pages.

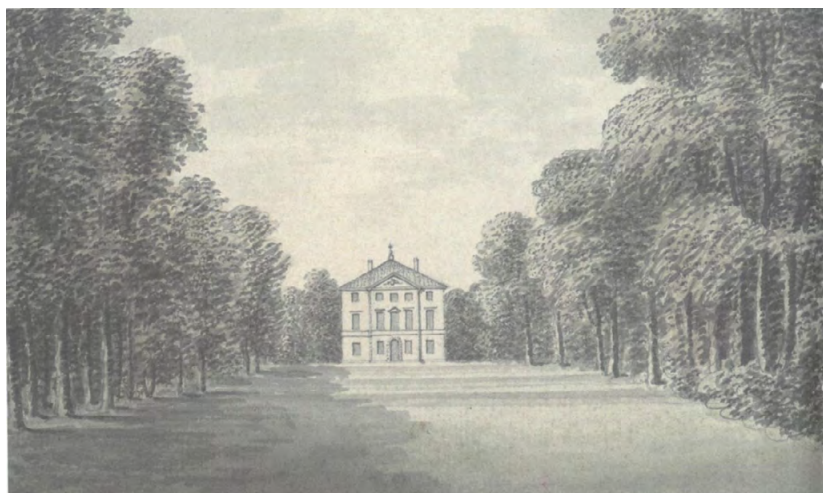
And all charge a lot more than five shillings a meal.



The tree avenues

By Kate Slack

One of the first and probably biggest visual change in the landscape at Marble hill park was the planting of the tree avenues which run from the house down to the river. These avenues would have been a key aspect of the design of the pleasure gardens in Henrietta's time. They frame the view from the river up to the house and when established will make a striking feature to the grounds at Marble Hill.



Print of the tree avenues framing the view of the house from the river



The newly planted avenues of trees

The first avenue of trees we planted are the Indian horse chestnut (*Aesculus indica*), this is a beautiful, elegant tree, very similar to the horse chestnut with pink candelabra flowers which appear about 6 weeks after the Horse chestnut flowers. It originates from the Himalayas, between Kashmir and Western Nepal and was introduced into the UK in the 19th Century. The Indian Chestnut was chosen for the first avenue because there is evidence that it would have originally been Horse chestnuts in Henrietta's pleasure gardens, however due to the prevalence of canker in Horse chestnut trees in the UK this was an attractive alternative.

The view from the house will be spectacular particularly at this time of year framed by these handsome trees bearing their panicles of pink flushed flowers.



Pink flushed panicles of the Indian horse chestnut trees

Delay to easing of restrictions as Covid-19 cases rise - London Councils' statement

- Concern as majority of boroughs have more than 50 cases per 100,000 population
- Push to get all Londoners vaccinated and ensure a safe reopening
- Resources needed to help London businesses struggling to survive

In response to the Prime Minister's announcement that the final step of the roadmap will be delayed until at least the 19th July, **Cllr Georgia Gould, Chair of London Councils said:**

"We are really concerned to see Covid-19 cases rising again across the city - the majority of boroughs now have case rates of more than 50 per 100,000 of the population. We must be vigilant to make sure we keep the freedoms we've all worked so hard to achieve.

"The latest announcement of a delay to the final step in the roadmap will be a disappointment for many, but we need to use this extra time to get everyone vaccinated so we can reopen knowing that our communities are protected from the virus.

"If you are aged 23 and over, please have your vaccine as soon as you can - it is free, safe and easy. There are several ways to get vaccinated - you can book an appointment online, attend large

scale vaccination events or attend a walk-in clinic where you do not need to book. Contact your local borough or NHS for details of what is available near you. If you have questions about the vaccine, speak to your GP or another medical professional.

"We must also continue to remember the basics - wearing a mask in busy and indoor spaces, washing our hands frequently and getting tested regularly.

"Boroughs will dig deep to protect and support all our communities across the capital, drawing strength from the resilience they have shown over the past year. We will also be clear with national Government and others that more resources will be needed to deliver vital local services and support businesses struggling to survive in this final push before restrictions end.

Our asks include:

- Extending the 100 per cent business rates holiday and the business evictions moratorium beyond the end of June.
Confirming a short-term extension to the existing furlough scheme, with employers not having to contribute more to the scheme from next month as previously planned
- Urgent confirmation of the funding allocation and guidance for the additional £1.5bn business rates relief announced in March for supply chains and other in-directly impacted firms.
- An additional targeted one-off grant to directly impacted firms, such as those in the hospitality and culture and creative sectors, and ensuring that boroughs receive their Additional Restrictions Grant top-ups quickly to ensure that they can make uninterrupted discretionary payments to firms.

"The light at the end of the tunnel is in sight. Thank you to all Londoners for the strength and kindness you've shown in looking after one another throughout the pandemic. Although the delay in the complete lifting of restrictions is not the news we wanted, it is especially important we look out for one another in these final weeks."



The Eye Cast a Glance at Twickenham Riverside (26 June 2009 “Twick Question,” Private Eye)

With regard to the Twickenham Riverside development, **Rotten Boroughs** in Private Eye commented on “the London Borough of Richmond’s apparent determination to steamroller through an unpopular development of luxury homes which would destroy a popular children’s playground beside the Thames”.

Twickenham Riverside land designated Public Open Space

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Website: *“Diamond Jubilee Gardens on Twickenham Riverside have been formally protected, following approval by Richmond Council’s Cabinet. The gardens have been designated as public open space and are protected for public use, performances and events. The picturesque spot was established and opened in 2012, and is located on the site of the former Twickenham Lido.”*

BREAKING NEWS

Today, the current LBRUT administration is proposing a **Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)** on the abovementioned land: the Title Absolute is registered with the Mayor and the Burgesses (the residents) of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

Full details and reports for next week’s Finance Committee, including a report on Twickenham Riverside and the use of CPO powers

<https://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=801&MIId=5098&Ver=4>

Petition to Introduce new requirements for cyclists/e-scooters

UK Government and Parliament

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/585474>

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Gibraltar Alive
A scenic view of the Rock

Knock, knock. Who's there?

From Mac McInerny, Heatham Alliance community group and Neighbourhood Watch



One lunchtime a St Margarets resident answered the door to a man who told him he was a builder doing work for a neighbour and had noticed some work that was needed on the roof and chimney next door.

The 'builder' called over to his 'boss', who offered to complete the job for £600. The resident was suspicious and turned the offer down.

On a previous occasion a Twickenham resident returned home to find that scaffolding had been erected outside his home. The 'builder' said that repairs to the roof would cost £4,800. Happily, in this case no money changed hands either.

Steps to safeguard yourself –

1. Have a spyhole or doorbell camera fitted, plus a door chain.
2. Do not open the door to a stranger. Say you will speak to your husband / wife / son / daughter / neighbour and ask the caller to leave a business card.
3. Arrange with a neighbour or trustworthy local shopkeeper to take parcel deliveries for you.

Remember –

If an incident or crime is happening now or

A suspicious stranger is in the locality or

If someone is in danger

- Dial 999.

Otherwise, contact the Police to report the incident that has happened or to seek advice

- Dial 101 or report it online: www.met.police.uk

Residents encouraged to look out for fallen Swifts in the borough's parks and open spaces

Residents are being encouraged to keep their eyes peeled for fallen swift chicks in parks and open spaces across the borough. During the recent cool and wet May, there was an increase in reports of casualties. Swift chicks can often be saved if the right treatment is applied quickly.

The [Swifts Local Network](#) (SLN) have released a document to assist residents or vets who come across or who may receive swifts and similar species of wild bird that have got into difficulty. [Download the printable document.](#)

Swift populations have declined by 50% in the last twenty years. They are one of the species listed in the borough's Biodiversity Action Plan. Swifts arrive in the UK in the last weeks of April and early May in order to breed, before leaving the UK in late July or early August to spend their winter in Africa, south of the Sahara, where they follow the rains and take advantage of rapid changes in insect populations.

A swift can be reliably identified by its scream-like call and its long crescent-shaped wings. The grounded bird may be otherwise healthy but unable to fly due to immaturity, exhaustion, temporary incapacity, or injury.

The Swift Conservation organisation offers guidance on how to provide 'first aid' to ensure the swift stays healthy before being taken into care. [Read the first aid guidance.](#) Residents can also use the [list of nearby swift carers](#) to make contact with carers if they come across a chick.

Dear Sir,

Re last week's article *The First Flying Bomb*, by Doug Goodman

To those of us who survived the blitz in Twickenham the V1 was almost a worse experience. A low-flying bomb with an engine, its terrifying noise suddenly cut out – and you waited in the hope that it would not fall directly on you !

In the Summer of 1944 I went to Lords – a frequent enjoyable excursion during the war. I was 13, accompanied by a younger friend. A flying bomb appeared . And then – worst of all – the engine cut out. Players and umpires threw themselves on the ground. Where would it fall ? Phew ! Outside the ground. All part of a day's cricket.

No wonder those of us who lived through those times have taken a somewhat robust view of the pandemic.

(Cllr) Geoffrey Samuel
Strawberry Hill

Dear Sir,

Scraping not necessary!

I have never seen anything so unwieldy and unattractive as the touching of elbows - never more so than in the procession of world leaders being greeted at the G7 meeting in Cornwall. Knowing as I do that Japanese etiquette and manners are the most effective show of respect in the world, why, oh why can't we all dispense with elbows (and hand-shaking) in future. The former is clumsy and the latter is unhygienic (also, you still have to get close to the person you're greeting).

What's so difficult about making a short bow? Elegant, polite and clean.

I noticed that as Japanese Prime Minister Mr Suga and his wife approached the Johnsons for the 'family photograph', Boris Johnson seemed to do a half-bow, then changed his mind and they all had to do the elbow thing. Cringeworthy.

What must they all think of us Westerners?

Sue Weaver
East Sheen

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

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

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

Twickenham Riverside from Ham Bank

A Tribune reader has sent in the following photographs of the view to Twickenham Riverside, showing a before and after of the council's proposed development for the riverside. (Last week they provided views from York House Gardens)



Hampton Wick and Heathfield

Two new affordable housing sites announced

Two new housing developments in the Hampton Wick and Heathfield wards will deliver new affordable homes for local residents. The sites will be completed by the Council's housing provider Richmond Housing Partnership (RHP).

The new development completed at Bucklands Road is on a small RHP estate in the Hampton Wick ward. The site is across two former garage sites on the estate. The new development will deliver seven affordable homes, including three three-bedroom houses and four four-bedroom houses.

The second development on Edgar Road in Heathfield is also on a RHP estate that is currently of redundant amenity space. Part of the scheme will be built with modules constructed off-site.

The new site will deliver nine affordable rented homes with five two-bedroom houses and four three-bedroom houses. The scheme started on site earlier this year and is due for completion in 2022/23.

Richmond

Public Consultation opens for Virginia Woolf statue

Virginia Woolf lived in Richmond from 1914 to 1924 and was a renowned pioneer of Modernist Literature and a feminist icon.

Virginia Woolf's time in Richmond was rich and varied, having established the Hogarth Press with her husband Leonard from their dining room at Hogarth House in Paradise Road and living there through the First World War.

A proposed statue of a seated Virginia Woolf is being considered which would be displayed on Richmond Riverside. The statue has been designed by award-winning sculptor Laury Dizengremel. Have your say [HERE](#)

Kew

Kew the Movies at Kew Gardens

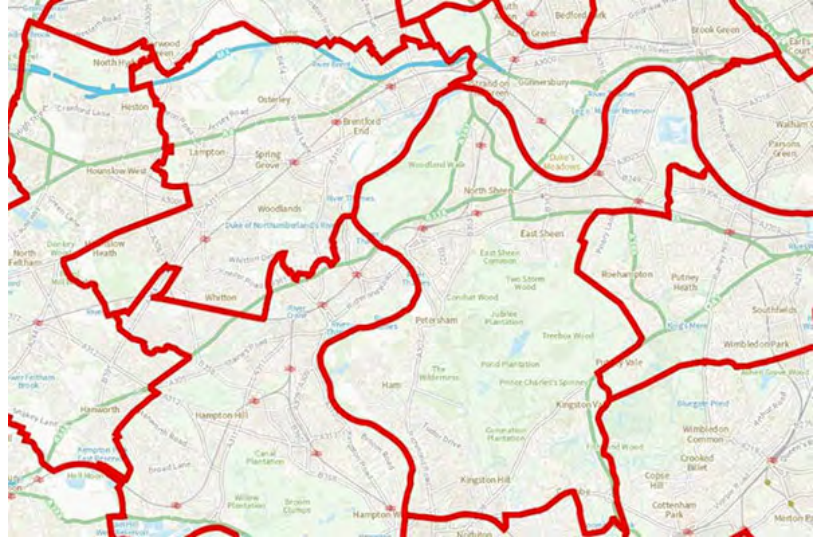
Book your place now in front of the big screen at Kew Garden's outdoor cinema running through the summer. Enjoy a beautiful summer's evening beneath the stars at Kew the Movies.

Bringing a diverse range of new releases such as Anthony Hopkins' Oscar-winning performance in *The Father*, to much loved classics *Dirty Dancing*, *The Greatest Showman* and *Back to the Future*. Kew the Movies has something for everyone and we look forward to welcoming you to the beauty and serenity of Kew as the world moves back to a simpler place. More info and book [HERE](#)

Leader of the Council offers reassurance to Whitton residents on Boundary Commission proposals

The Leader of the Council, Cllr Gareth Roberts, has sought to reassure residents of Whitton ward that Whitton will remain in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames whatever the outcome of the latest consultation on parliamentary constituency sizes currently being conducted by the Boundary Commission for England.

Under proposals published, the residents in the Whitton ward, who currently vote for their MP in the Twickenham constituency, will be moved to the parliamentary constituency of Brentford and Isleworth. This proposal would have no impact on local elections, residents in Whitton would still vote in Richmond Council elections, pay their Council Tax to Richmond and receive local services.



Cllr Gareth Roberts, said:

“I know these proposals are causing concern for many local residents, particularly in Whitton ward, who feel Whitton has a strong tie to Richmond borough. It is important that those residents understand that these proposals would only impact Parliamentary elections. Those who live in the Whitton wards would still live in Richmond upon Thames, and still would receive services from Richmond Council. This is a decision about the Parliamentary Seats, it doesn't affect the size or shape of the Council. It is important for people to have their say, and I urge everyone to go to the BCE website before the deadline.”

The public are now able to provide feedback on the proposed constituencies as part of an eight-week consultation process.

Our other parliamentary constituency, Richmond Park, is unchanged for all residents living in the borough although there are some changes impacting on residents of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames.

The 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies was formally launched in January this year. The Commission is required to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency is more equal; in doing so, the number of constituencies in England will increase from 533 to 543. The Commission is undertaking an independent review of all constituency boundaries in England and will present final recommendations to Parliament by July 2023.

Members of the public are encouraged to visit BCE consultation portal to view maps showing the proposed new boundaries and provide feedback before the consultation closes on 2 August 2021. People can comment on anything from where the proposed new boundary lines are to the names of the constituencies.

There will be a further two rounds of consultation in 2022. Following the conclusion of all three consultation periods, the Commission will look at all the evidence received and form its final recommendations.

View the proposals and have your say on the [online consultation portal](#).

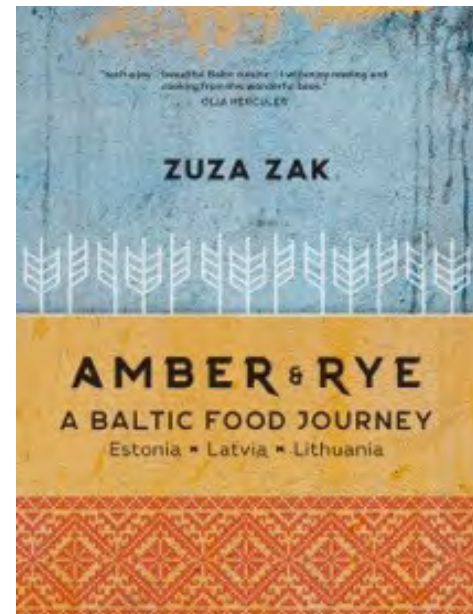
AMBER & RYE – A BALTIC FOOD JOURNEY

I was very honoured to be invited, some years ago, to the wedding of a dear friend in Lithuania. It was a fascinating trip; the people are lovely, and the food was really interesting and tasty. The scenery was amazing and at the roadside there were lots of stalls where locals were selling mushrooms and wild blueberries that they had foraged from the woods. So when I heard about this great new cookbook – **Amber & Rye** – and its span of the Baltic, I knew I was onto a winner!



In the Baltics, two worlds meet: the Baltic Sea joins Eastern Europe and Scandinavia, bringing with it culinary influences and cultural exchange. All three Baltic capitals, Vilnius, Tallinn and Riga, are UNESCO World Heritage Sites, steeped in history and culture.

Author **Zuza Zak** grew up hearing her grandmother's fond and vivid memories of Lithuania, as well as memories of long-ago holidays spent on the Baltic coast. In **Amber & Rye**, Zuza sets off on her own odyssey of amber, uncovering the culinary treasures and 'Baltic gold' that were to be found in a much-awaited exploration of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, rather than the golden resin that washes up on Baltic shores.



She guides us around the Baltic capitals, sharing stories and discovering a dynamic, new style of cooking. Contextualized within the Baltics' rich history and culture, the food is a doorway to a deeper understanding of the region and what makes it tick. Each recipe explores new culinary horizons and is grounded in Baltic tradition, yet inspired by contemporary trends, making them modern, unique and easy to recreate at home. Expect Poppy seed pastries and Pillowy pumpkin buns for breakfast; Baked trout with roasted buckwheat and Muhulamb burgers for a main meal; Crayfish salad and Fried potatoes with kefir and summer vegetables for lunch; and Rye bread and chocolate mousse for dessert. And, there are wonderful fermented recipes, from Beetroot elixir and Fermented red cabbage to Pickled pumpkin and plum butter.

I've selected a couple of recipes from the book – it is a veritable trip to the Baltic and hopefully we will soon be allowed to travel again and discover the region for ourselves!

Amber & Rye: A Baltic Food Journey by Zuza Zak (Murdoch Books, £25). Photography by Ola O. Smit.

Potato latkes with smoked sausage & spinach (Serves 4)

“Potato-hash pancakes – or latkes in Yiddish – are known as a traditional part of Jewish cuisine. It's not surprising, therefore, that they are also commonplace in Lithuanian cooking, since Lithuania (like many Eastern European countries) had a huge Jewish community prior to World War II. For hundreds of years, recipes, ingredients and techniques were shared in a way that makes tracing their origins impossible; luckily, it's also unnecessary. Likewise, I find it unnecessary to peel the potatoes unless they are looking a bit worse for wear. Some may find the kielbasa sausage a surprising addition here, given the Jewish name of this dish, but it's delicious! You can, of course, use kosher sausage instead, if you prefer.”



50 g (1¾ oz) smoked kielbasa style sausage, cubed
200 g (7 oz) spinach leaves
Squeeze of lemon juice
Salt and black pepper

For the latkes

2 medium potatoes
2 French shallots, finely chopped
1 egg, lightly beaten
2 tablespoons plain (all-purpose) flour
Rapeseed oil, for frying
Preheat the oven to 100°C (200°F).

For the latkes, coarsely grate the potatoes into a large bowl. Add the shallots, egg and flour and mix well. Season generously with salt and pepper. Heat a thin film of rapeseed oil in a large frying pan over a medium heat. Once it's hot, add tablespoonsful of the potato mixture to the pan, working in batches and taking care not to overcrowd the pan. Flatten the latkes with your fork and fry for about 2–3 minutes on the first side, until golden, then flip and cook for another 2–3 minutes on the other side. Drain the cooked latkes on paper towel and keep warm in the oven.

Add a little more oil to the frying pan and add the sausage. Fry until it crisps up, then add the spinach. Once the spinach has wilted (this will only take a minute or so), add a squeeze of lemon juice and season with salt and pepper.

Serve the sausage and spinach on top of the latkes.

Summer blueberry soup (Serves 4)

“The taste of childhood for many who grew up in Eastern Europe, berry soups are always served during the hot summer months. Elsewhere, I'm not sure how this sort of soup might be thought of and eaten – for breakfast, as a snack or a dessert. To me, it's still undisputedly a soup, so here we are, at the end of the soups chapter: a dessert soup. If you haven't tried this kind of soup before, then you really must, just as soon as the summer berries are ripe and ready. Different berries are used to make soups and there are many variations, but this blueberry version has become a firm favourite of mine.”

400 g (14 oz) blueberries
1 vanilla bean, split lengthways
3 tablespoons caster (superfine) sugar
1 tablespoon cornflour (corn starch)
Whipped cream, torn mint leaves and edible flowers, such as cornflowers, to serve

Reserve a few of the berries to serve on top of the finished soup, then put the rest into a large saucepan with the vanilla bean, sugar and 1 litre (4 cups) of water. Bring to the boil, then turn down to a simmer and cook for 15 minutes or until the berries are soft.

In a small bowl, mix the cornflour with 100 ml (3½ fl oz) of water until smooth. Add to the pan and stir constantly until the soup thickens. Remove from the heat and allow the soup to cool to room temperature, then chill in the fridge for at least 30 minutes or up to 24 hours.

Ladle the soup into bowls and top with whipped cream, the reserved berries and a whimsical scattering of mint leaves and edible flowers.



Jawbone Brewing

By Berkley Driscoll

The Tribune popped down to Swan Island in Strawberry Hill to visit the riverside brewery we have heard so much about. We were given a warm welcome by founder Ben Hughes, who gave us a quick tour of the independent craft brewery.

Ben explained that Jawbone is a 30 Hectolitre brewery, meaning 3,000 litres per batch. The first beer went out at Christmas, following delays caused by Covid. While the lockdown caused problems, Ben feels that in the long term they are better off for it as they built up such a good local following, which they might not have had otherwise. While 'walk in' trade was expected to be a small revenue stream, it became dominant through word of mouth and social media.

Bone Idle (an easy drinking pale ale at 4.6%) was the first beer in the range, followed by **Longshore Gang** (the flagship IPA a punchy yet smooth ale at 5.7%) and finally **Boatyard Blues** (a raw session IPA at 4.4%); a fourth beer is expected to be added to the range.

One thing you will notice about the cans is the distinctive labelling. It is not a standard print on the can, but a tactile 'fabric' giving a high-quality feel. The graphics are formed by interesting images taken from around the boatyard and the logo an industrial hook. Ben is very keen to connect the brewery to the surroundings, as evidenced by Jawbone's motto - **Born in a boatyard**.

If you haven't already then treat yourself to a trip to Jawbone, where you can buy at the brewery door (Mon-Fri 4-6pm and Sat 12-6pm). You can of course order online or purchase at local outlets such as Strawberry Hill's Premier Wine on Tower Road.

Ben has also created the BeerDock taproom, which will soon be welcoming you to a cold beer on tap!

Photos by Berkley Driscoll



www.jawbonebrewing.com

1 Strawberry Vale, TW1 4RY



Opera Gala 21

Rose Opera at Normansfield Theatre, 12th June

Opera excerpts from George Frederick Handel to William Walton provided a selection of arias, duets and trios to less well-known pieces at Rose Opera's Gala latest gala evening. Indeed, they **rose** to the occasion with aplomb showcasing some of their up-and-coming talents. Benedict Collins Rice conducted with generous assurance, whilst Andrew Robinson's piano accompaniment was superb.



Rose Opera's co-founder Tamara Ravenhill's romantic and voluptuous vocal line opened the programme with the luscious *lo son l'umile ancella*, from Cilèa's rarely performed *Adriana Lecouvreur*. Another uncommon choice for UK opera houses is Korngold's *Die Tote Stadt* and baritone, Ian Helm was in fine voice singing *Pierrot's Tanzlied*. The harmonic and melodic parallels with Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos* was apparent and more so in the virtuosic piano reduction of the orchestral score.

No opera gala would be complete without Handel, Mozart and Verdi providing staple repertoire. Luckily, we had all three and more. The charming Anna Marie McLachlan sang the trouser role *Sta nell'Ircana pietrosa tana* from Handel's *Alcina*, a bright and effervescent performance. Da Capo arias require elaborate decoration - after all this is the moment we're all waiting for; let's have the icing on the cake!



Rossini's *Sois immobile* from *Guillaume Tell* was ably sung by Crispin Lewis, an aria of Verdi proportions. Another French aria was given by one of Rose Opera's Young Artists, Matt Seacombe who delivered an assured *Avant de quitter ces Lieux* from *Gounod's Faust*. A big sing for such a young voice though with the absence of an orchestra.

Da Ponte, Mozart's librettist once said "The portrayal of grand passions is not my strength" which is hard to believe given the exuberance by which Rose Opera performed its Mozart finale.

Read Helen Astrid's review at www.markaspen.com/2021/06/15/op-gala-21

Photography by Francisco Peralta Torrejón and Clive Bada

The Co-Op

by Gabriel Fogarty-Graveson and Felix Grainger

Make it Beautiful Theatre Co, OSO Arts Centre, Barnes until 12th June

“I have of late ... lost all my mirth,” says Hamlet, and then goes on to describe a world under “a foul and pestilent congregation of vapours” before moving into the “what a piece of work is a man ...” bit. Without much contriving you can connect the Prince of Denmark’s musings to our current situation. Make it Beautiful, however, rather than let the grass grow, has devised a clever and witty short play about three actors setting up their own agency to represent themselves in a world where finding work is difficult enough without the small matter of a global pandemic.



Jimmy and Cazza are the two remaining founders of the agency after Jimmy’s recently departed friend Tom was given a part in *Silent Witness* and moved on to what might unkindly be called the real world. Jimmy funds the business while drinking quite a lot. Cazza, never having had anything to rely on but herself, is forming probably quite an unhealthy dependency on Jimmy. Into this mix comes new business partner Charlie, bouncing with hope and positive vibes.

What sounds like it might then turn into a succession of failed auditions, miscastings and generally hilarious but predictable ‘antics’, is in fact a great deal more than that, providing a grim view of survival in the competitive world of professional performance. Humour prevails though and the whole thing rattles along briskly, peppered with the necessary lines to keep the laughter coming and the darkness just about at bay.



Cara Steele’s panicky energy as Cazza, together with Felix Grainger’s warmth and optimism as Charlie made a balanced trio with the charismatic, flawed Jimmy (Gabriel Fogarty-Graveson). *The Co-Op* is described as being “a love letter to theatre and film”. Jimmy, clinging to the last scrap of hope as the lights go out, sparked another film reference, the 1987 *Withnail and I*, parting company with the “what a piece of work is a man ...” speech ... which I think is where I came in.

Funny, poignant and sharply observed, *The Co-Op* is cracking clever theatre.

Read Eleanor Lewis’ review at www.markaspen.com/2021/06/14/co-op

Photography by Giacomo Giannelli



The Letter of Last Resort

by David Greig

The PlayGC Theatre Company, Judy Dench Playhouse, Ealing until 19th June

The hour is late. A voice narrates a series of election results; a woman sits at her desk in an ornate office, struggling to write a letter. Discarded drafts circle the waste paper basket, and her shoes have also been cast aside. Theatre has finally returned. The sense of relief and excitement in the auditorium is so palpable that we would probably all happily watch this exasperated letter writer work at her missive in silence for the full fifty minutes of David Greig's play *The Letter of Last Resort*.



Fortunately, she is swiftly interrupted by a man with the smooth bearing and manila envelopes of a Whitehall mandarin, who introduces himself to the Prime Minister as John, from "Arrangements". He has come to ask her to attend to a pressing matter, the writing of the eponymous letter, the handwritten sealed dispatches written by all Prime Ministers on their first day in office, containing instructions for the commanders of Trident submarines in the event of a nuclear attack on the United Kingdom.

The Prime Minister is attempting to write a letter of condolence to the mother of a young soldier killed in action, she reveals. She refuses to use a template, keen to do things differently. John's pressing matter will have to wait. Rebuffed, John says, "I think I'll ... hover."

Robert Gordon Clark gives a wonderfully restrained performance as John, moving little as his voice inflections do all the work, as he politely agrees with the Prime Minister, even as he steers the conversation towards its inevitable conclusion. His performance gives Lisa Day, as the unnamed Prime Minister, a perfect foil to play against as she moves from her initial appearance as an inexperienced but confident leader, into uncertain realms of ethics, and philosophy.



Amid the ethical debate, however, there are lighter moments. When the Prime Minister confesses to having been on anti-nuclear protests with a boyfriend in her youth, John's surprisingly forceful (and pure Civil Service) reaction, "Has he been vetted?"

Read Andrew Lawston's review at www.markaspen.com/2021/06/17/last-resort

Photography by Jane Arnold-Forster

TRAVELLER'S TALES 99

BENIDORM

Doug Goodman visits the top spot for British Holidaymakers

My first visit to Benidorm was nearly 50 years ago during the boom in holidays to the Spanish Costas. The resort was full of Brits frying in the sun, consuming vast amounts of cheap alcohol and enjoying new-found freedom in the heat. High-rise hotels began to proliferate – many financed by British tour operators, while every bar and restaurant catered to the needs of the millions of package tourists seeking their two weeks in the Mediterranean.

It wasn't exactly my first choice as a holiday destination but during 30 years of actively promoting Benidorm as head of PR for Thomson holidays and as a travel PR consultant, I came to respect the resort and its many achievements. In the 70s Benidorm appealed to almost every type of visitor: to young people as with 'Club 18-30' and families with young children who loved the big sandy beaches. With a perfect year-round climate winter breaks became popular with older people and the Spanish Government introduced winter breaks for its northern pensioners from the Basque country. It was noisy and brash and Benidorm's image wasn't helped by lurid tabloid press stories and headlines like 'Bonking in Benidorm', 'Tourists pack into sex show' and a comparison to Blackpool. Benidorm certainly had its share of problems: Legionnaires' disease was found at one hotel, food poisoning outbreaks occurred, fire safety became a major topic after inadequate escape measures were discovered and deaths from balcony falls happened all too often.



Benidorm in the early 1920s



Benidorm 1955



Benidorm's Levante Beach

In the beginning

One hundred years ago Benidorm was a tiny fishing village without running water or main roads. Its incredible transformation into a town that today resembles the skyscrapers of Manhattan, began in the early 1950s when the progressive mayor, Pedro Zaragoza Orts- hailed as the founder of the package tour and of modern Benidorm, decided to transform the place. His plan included clean, safe beaches, parks, gardens, tree-lined boulevards and hotels stretching from the village centre along the coast where only scrub land existed. Traditionally, land was divided amongst sons when the head of the family died with the eldest son receiving the most fertile and cultivated spot inland. The youngest was left with the impoverished land where only almond and olive trees could grow on the beach-side sandy soil. Almost overnight the land by the sea was worth a fortune.



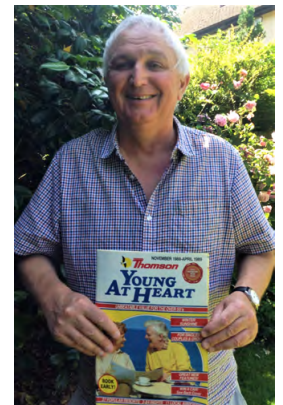
Levante and Poniente Beaches



Familiar Food



Water Park



Local Resident Nick Roberts

Pedro Zaragoza caused outrage from the church and from Franco's puritanical government when he allowed bikinis to be worn. Struggles between the local police and bikini-clad tourists were frequent as the Guardia Civil tried to uphold the law banning bikinis. But the law had to change and soon after Franco's death topless sunbathing on the beach was quite normal. I was in Benidorm a few days after the dictator's passing when suddenly soft –porn magazines appeared on newsstands and a sex club opened - frequented by elderly locals.

By the early 1980s the local Government decided that controls were needed. While it remains the number one destination for Brits, the resort has been transformed, unrecognisable from the early package days. Pleasant shopping areas, pedestrian walkways and traffic-free zones abound. Noise from bars is strictly controlled. Four world-class theme parks, golf courses and five star hotels now attract discerning tourists and rich Madrilenos have holiday homes in Benidorm. Streets are litter-free and daily beach cleaning ensures the three beaches retain their Blue Flag status. Benidorm can be reached from Alicante airport in under an hour on the motorway and has good transport connections. The town is compact and has avoided the 'ribbon development' seen in many part of Spain. With a bicycle or car it's easy to explore the mountains, villages and countryside beyond the resort.



Beach Fitness Class



Spanish Pensioners



Into the Mountains

Attracting the oldies

In the mid- eighties Thomson Holidays launched a programme for the over 55s called 'Young at Heart'. Older people had been regular visitors to Spain in the winter but the company saw a great opportunity to fill aircraft seats and keep hotels open by offering special holidays for couples and groups who had the time to take long-stay breaks in the sun. It was like 'Club 18-30' but for 'oldies' with very different attractions, explained Twickenham resident Nick Roberts who masterminded the brochures. Activities were organised by older reps to keep their clients happy: glamorous granny competitions and cabaret shows were popular while hairdressers, keep fit instructors and dance teachers were employed. Special medical care was available and the company took 'flying vicars' to the resort as chaplains for their guests. The biggest breakthrough came from TV exposure: 'Songs of Praise' with Pam Rhodes was filmed on a Benidorm beach and attracted the biggest-ever audience. Later came the notorious ITV's Benidorm series which generated a huge demand for bookings. The town council was so pleased with the series that it granted the freedom of Benidorm to the director and placed a plaque on the wall of the hotel which starred in the many TV programmes. Based on recognisable stereotypes the series were extremely popular. As Nick maintains, Benidorm knows its market and caters for it superbly. Starting in Benidorm, expanding into the rest of Spain and then many other countries, 'Young at Heart' provided memorable holidays for around 100,000 people during its ten years in operation. The idea behind the programme 'Young at Heart' was to offer holidays in the winter at a price that was below the cost of staying at home. It was aimed at like-minded guests who would appreciate the social mix. Most popular were 28 nights away when the cost was as low as £258 per person full-board including flights. For those with time on their hands in 1988 a 70 night stay over Christmas was priced at £621 per person on full- board at the famous Rio Park Hotel. It's no wonder that pensioners travelled year after year to the same hotel to meet old friends. Many requested the same room and took pictures and mementoes to make their accommodation more homely. Long-lasting friendships were established and a few marriages followed.

In the past decade almost every hotel has been renovated to bring it up to standards demanded by a more discerning and experienced visitor. Around 1.5 million Brits headed to Benidorm each year before travel restrictions came into force. Once everything returns to normal the resort is set to welcome us back.

Interesting reading: 'Let's Go. A History of Package Holidays and Escorted Tours'. By Dave Richardson.

WIZ TALES - Panama - the Canal

Teresa Read



This week I received my usual informative email from Mike Nicolls at Chestertons in Gibraltar. As well as the interesting figures for the Suez Canal and Gibraltar in this week's email, I was reminded of the importance of the Panama Canal connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

"Ships transport more than 80% of world trade volume and about 70% of trade value. In recent modelling, removing the Suez Canal as a maritime trade passage would reduce world trade by 3.5%; removing the Panama Canal would lead to a decline of 3% whilst the Gibraltar Strait seems to be the most critical passage, as removing it would reduce world trade by close to 7%."

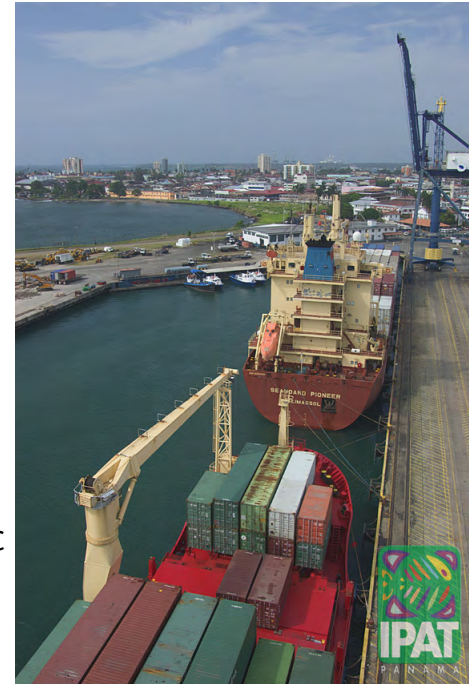
The idea of building a canal on the isthmus to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans dates back to the 1840s; France, Britain and the USA were all interested in a canal linking the oceans.

In 1903 the United States bought the rights to build the Panama Canal and also gained sovereignty of the Panama Canal Zone, the land either side of the Canal.

Until the opening of the Panama Canal, shipping had to sail round Cape Horn to travel to and from the Pacific and the East Coast of America. The dangers of the Horn restrained trade with the Pacific.

In 1977 General Torrijos negotiated a Treaty that led to the handover of the Canal to Panama at the end of 1999. And in April 2006 Panama released details of an eight-year plan to expand the Panama Canal so it could handle modern super tankers and huge container ships.

In June 2016 a Chinese container ship became the first vessel to use the enlarged Panama Canal.



More photographs of Panama: <https://worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=Panama>

With thanks to the Panama Tourism Bureau

St Mary's University

Three hot air balloons of carbon dioxide a day: 'Guardians of Creation' Project Releases Decarbonisation Strategy Guide

Faith groups in the UK, collectively, have a significant property footprint. For the government to meet its legally binding target of reducing carbon emissions by 78% by 2035, the built environment, which is responsible for approximately 40% of UK emissions, will need to decarbonise quickly. This first report from the 'Guardians of Creation' project will help Catholic dioceses begin that journey, providing advice on developing a buildings decarbonisation strategy.



Guardians of Creation

Each Catholic diocese in England and Wales is responsible for hundreds of buildings; churches, halls, schools and presbyteries, in a variety of sizes, conditions and uses. Initial findings estimate that in the Diocese of Salford these buildings (excluding Catholic schools) are responsible for the equivalent of three hot air balloons full of carbon dioxide every day. Data for schools is still being collected, which it is expected will increase this amount several times over.

The report, 'Guidance on Developing Strategy for Decarbonising Catholic Diocesan Building Stocks,' is based on consultations with

diocesan managers and expert participants from industry and academia. It offers guidance on developing a strategy to reduce the operational emissions of diocesan building stock, breaking the task of decarbonisation down into comprehensible, manageable elements.

This is the first report issued as part of the 'Guardians of Creation' project, which is running as a pilot in the Diocese of Salford. The insights from this pilot project are being translated into tools to support other dioceses. During the lifetime of this project, practical guidance will be released on topics such as calculating a carbon footprint and environmental auditing within a diocese, as well as social and theological aspects of sustainability in the Catholic Church.

The Guardians of Creation project has been developed collaboratively with the Diocese of Salford, St Mary's University and the Laudato Si' Research Institute at Campion Hall, University of Oxford.

For any enquiries, please contact decarbonisation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Link to the report: <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/research/areas/theology-and-ethics/guardians-of-creation/resources.aspx>

More information on the Guardians of Creation project: <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/research/areas/theology-and-ethics/guardians-of-creation/about.aspx>



**St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London**



RFS The Best of our Recent Historic Screenings

Issue 65

18th June 2021

A SEPARATION

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: A SEPARATION was the 699th film screened by RFS on 27th November 2012. **A Separation** was the fifth equal ranked film of Season 50 (equal with **Nosferatu**), it got an approval mark of 92% from those attending; from season 50 we have also already featured the top four films, in order: **Monsieur Lazhar**, **The Source**, **Bienvenue Chez Les Ch'tis**, **A Very Long Engagement** and **Nosferatu** as **Issues 1, 19, 33, 39** and **55** respectively. **A Separation** can be streamed from Curzon and Amazon Prime and the discs are available from Amazon and others.

A SEPARATION (Jodaeiye Nader az Simin - The Separation of Nader from Simin)

Country: Iran, 2011
Director: Asghar Farhadi
Screenplay: Asghar Farhadi
Editor: Hayedeh Safiyari
Cinematography: Mahmoud Kalari
Music: Sattar Oraki
Running Time: 123 min., colour
Language: Farsi

Leading Players:

Peyman Moadi (Nader)
Leila Hatami (Simin)
Sareh Bayat (Razieh)
Shahab Hosseini (Hojjat)
Sarina Farhadi (Termeh)
Merila Zarei (Miss Ghahraii)



Hard to summarise, this kaleidoscope of a film is best introduced with the following quotes and the warning that you have to concentrate from the beginning to understand the plot.

“To say the piercing Iranian film **A Separation** is about divorce is a bit like saying **The Wizard of Oz** is about a pair of slippers.”

Chris Vongar, Dallas Morning News

“An emotional, powerful look at two families intertwined by tragedy, and how each pleads their case for innocence and how justice should be theirs. A quiet movie that catches you off guard,

all while possessing the emotional firepower of justice, guilt, pride, family, and pain in one cannon.”

Dan Schultz, Rotten Tomatoes

“Just when it seemed impossible for Iranian filmmakers to express themselves meaningfully outside the bounds of censorship, Asghar Farhadi’s Nader and Simin, **A Separation** comes along to prove the contrary. Apparently simple on a narrative level yet morally, psychologically and socially complex, it succeeds in bringing Iranian society into focus for in a way few other films have done. As in all of the director’s work, the cast is given top consideration and their realistic acting results in unusual depth of characterization. All five main actors stand out sharply in Mahmood Kalari’s intimate cinematography. Though the film lasts two hours, Hayedeh Safiyari’s fast-moving editing keeps the action tensely involving from start to finish.”

Deborah Young, The Hollywood Reporter

“Showing a control of investigative pacing that recalls classic Hitchcock and a feel for ethical nuance that is all his own, Farhadi has hit upon a story that is not only about men and women, children and parents, justice and religion in today’s Iran, but that raises complex and globally relevant questions of responsibility, of the subjectivity and contingency of ‘telling the truth.’”

Lee Marshall, Screen Daily

“Tense and narratively complex, formally dense and morally challenging... The provocative plot casts a revealing light on contemporary Iranian society, taking on issues of gender, class, justice and honour as a secular middle-class family in the midst of upheaval winds up in conflict with an impoverished religious one.”

Alissa Simon, Variety

Jonathan Earthy with thanks to Wikipedia

The Arts Richmond July and August Newsletter is available now

Find out what’s happening across the borough for July and August with the summer Arts Richmond newsletter available now.

The January edition of the Arts Richmond newsletter is now available online. Check out this month’s edition for all the latest arts and cultural information in your local area this January.

The team at Arts Richmond have been working hard to bring you all the art related news in the borough. There’s plenty to keep you busy both out and about in the borough and from home.

[Read the new Arts Richmond newsletter](#)



U20 Six Nations: Dickens names squad to play France

England men's U20 head coach Alan Dickens has named his 26-man squad to face France in the first round of the U20 Six Nations on Saturday (KO 5pm live on BBC iPlayer). Due to COVID-19 regulations teams are permitted to name a squad of 26 players for each fixture in this year's competition, this means that there are now 11 replacements available for use during a match.

Jack van Poortvliet, one of five players in the match day squad returning for a second U20 Six Nations Championship, will captain the side from scrum half. Tight-head prop Luke Green and Number 8 Jack Clement also feature in a second Six Nations for England. 12 players in the starting line-up are making their U20 debut.

Hooker Archie Vanes and loose-head prop Lewis Holsey join the previously-capped Green in the front row. Ewan Richards and Alex Groves are named in partnership in the second row. Freddie Thomas starts at blind-side flanker with Lucas Brooke at openside. Fin Smith will play fly half.

Dan Lancaster (inside) and Jack Bates (outside) pair up in the centres, while the back three sees Orlando Bailey at full back with Arthur Relton and Deago Bailey on the wings. Among the replacements hooker Sam Riley and tight-head prop Harvey Beaton have previous Six Nations experience.

There are nine players in the expanded 11-man bench who could be in line to win their first England U20 cap: prop Phil Brantingham, second rows Arthur Clark and Emeka Ilione, back row Nahum Merigan, fly half Tommy Mathews as well as centres Louis Hillman-Cooper and Tom Litchfield.

With Sale Sharks' pair Raffi Quirke and Tom Roebuck yet to join up with the squad, Tom Carr-Smith (scrum half) and Phil Cokanasiga (wing) have been brought in as cover and are both named among the replacements.

Dickens said: "We've had a really good training week and the attitude and commitment from the lads has been outstanding. On Tuesday we were able to have a joint session with Eddie Jones and the senior team. It was fantastic to be able to incorporate that into our preparation for the Six Nations, but also for players to experience what it's like at the next level. France are a quality side and will be a challenge. We need to be ready for what will no doubt be a physical encounter. This week the focus has been on us and what we can control. That said, we will need to have the ability to tactically adapt within the game situation. I also want the players to go out there and enjoy the experience. For many of them it's their first Six Nations and that will be a very special moment that I want them to remember on Saturday night. We're looking forward to getting out on pitch at Cardiff Arms Park now, putting in an 80-minute performance and kicking off our Six Nations campaign."

England U20 starting XV

15 Orlando Bailey (Bath Rugby)
14 Deago Bailey (Bristol Rugby)
13 Jack Bates (Bristol Rugby)
12 Dan Lancaster (Leeds Tykes)
11 Arthur Relton (Exeter Chiefs)
10 Fin Smith (Worcester Warriors)
9 Jack van Poortvliet (Leicester Tigers)*

1 Lewis Holsey (Worcester Warriors)
2 Archie Vanes (Leicester Tigers)
3 Luke Green (London Irish)*
4 Ewan Richards (Bath Rugby)
5 Alex Groves (Bristol Bears)
6 Freddie Thomas (Gloucester Rugby)
7 Lucas Brooke (London Irish)
8 Jack Clement (Gloucester Rugby)*

Replacements

16 Sam Riley (Harlequins)*
17 Phil Brantingham (Newcastle Falcons)
18 Harvey Beaton (Saracens)*
19 Arthur Clark (Gloucester Rugby)
20 Emeka Ilione (Leicester Tigers)

21 Nahum Merigan (Bath Rugby)
22 Tom Carr-Smith (Bath Rugby)
23 Tommy Mathews (unattached)
24 Phil Cokanasiga (London Irish)
25 Louis Hillman-Cooper (Gloucester Rugby)
26 Tom Litchfield (Northampton Saints)

England men's U20 Six Nations Fixtures (all at Cardiff Arms Park and LIVE on BBC iPlayer)

Saturday 19 June: England v France, KO 5pm
Friday 25 June: England v Scotland, KO 2pm
Thursday 1 July: Ireland v England, KO 8pm
Wednesday 7 July: Wales v England, KO 8pm
Tuesday 13 July: England v Italy, KO 2pm



Team GB rugby sevens squads confirmed for Tokyo Olympic Games

The British Olympic Association (BOA) has confirmed the selection of 24 rugby sevens players who will represent Team GB at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Abbie Brown and Megan Jones will co-captain the women's squad which features a number of players who have experience playing on the World Rugby Sevens Series and have played international rugby for a number of years.

2014 World Cup winner Natasha Hunt is set for her second Games along with Brown and Jasmine Joyce.

Meanwhile, Tom Mitchell will lead the men's squad which includes four players who competed in Rio, including all-time World Rugby Sevens Series leading try scorer Dan Norton.

They are joined by a Scottish quartet including the Scotland sevens captain from 2019/20 Robbie Fergusson.

The men's competition will take place from 26-28 July, with the women's tournament following on 29-31 July with the gold medal match happening on 'Super Saturday'. All the action will take place at the Tokyo Stadium.

Made possible by an innovative commercial partnership with The National Lottery, the wider squads have been operating as GB7s based at Loughborough University since March and competed at the International Rugby 7s tournament at St. George's Park and HPC International 7s in Ireland.

This weekend they travel to LA to take part in 'Quest for Gold Sevens', their final preparation event ahead of the Games.

Commenting on selection, Team GB Chef de Mission for the Tokyo Olympic Games, Mark England, said: "Rugby sevens made its memorable debut at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games with both men's and women's teams inspiring fans across the globe with the fast pace and excitement that this sport has to offer. The men's team coming home with a silver medal was a superb achievement.

"There is a huge amount of experience across both of these squads, not only from Rio 2016 but from many years of competitive rugby sevens which will stand these athletes in great stead heading into Tokyo. We'd like to congratulate everyone on their selection and look forward to seeing sevens in action at the Tokyo Stadium this summer."

Women's head coach Scott Forrest said: "Selection was very tough. We've had 22 players involved in the programme since we started in March who have created a very competitive environment. Every one of those players has been so important. And it's not just about the

successful 13 players who have been selected today. If we are successful in Tokyo, it's going to be down to the whole squad, the whole 22 not just those who are going out to perform at the Olympic Games.

"I've seen massive improvements in the team and what we've managed to do since March. We're now excited to see what we can do in 41 days' time from now.

"For the 13 that are selected, when you look at the squad on paper it's very exciting. This squad for me has the potential to go and win a gold medal. We have 41 days to go until the first game and understand that there are improvements we need to make over that period until we get to our first game. We've definitely got the potential and that for me as a coach is really exciting."

Men's head coach Tony Roques said: "We're massively grateful to the National Lottery for us to be on this journey together.

"We've become a very tight-knit group and everyone has contributed.

"It was really tough to deliver the news to a lot of people I've known for a long time.

"Ultimately, I feel I've done what was right for us to be successful at the Olympic Games.

"I'd like to congratulate those selected. They've worked extremely hard over the last few months and deserve this opportunity.

"We're all very much looking forward to continuing our preparation and then heading to Tokyo."

Team GB

Holly Aitchison
Abbie Brown
Abi Burton
Deborah Fleming
Natasha Hunt
Megan Jones
Jasmine Joyce
Alex Matthews
Celia Quansah
Helena Rowland
Hannah Smith
Emma Uren

Dan Bibby
Alec Coombes
Alex Davis
Robbie Fergusson
Harry Glover
Ben Harris
Ollie Lindsay-Hague
Ross McCann
Max McFarland
Tom Mitchell
Dan Norton
Ethan Waddleton

Women's reserve: Lisa Thomson

Men's reserve: Tom Bowen



RFU announces law change to implement reduced tackle height consistently across all age grade rugby

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) will introduce a law change to the tackle height in age grade rugby in England for the 2021/22 season.

The existing rules for those playing full contact rugby at Under 9 to Under 14 levels has an imagined line between the armpits as the maximum height of a legal tackle.

Under the law change, approved by the RFU Council, this rule now extends to Under 15 to Under 18 levels bringing the tackle height down from shoulder level to the armpit for those age groups.

This means all players who are permitted to tackle in full contact age grade rugby (those participating at Under 7 and Under 8 level play non-contact rugby) will do so at the same height.

The RFU takes player welfare very seriously and it is at the heart of the training delivered to coaches, referees and medics at all levels of the game. The rules in operation ensure maximum possible safety for children, allowing players the time to learn rugby basics before contact is gradually introduced.

While the age grade and professional game cannot be realistically compared, the aim of the law change is to further reduce any community game high risk tackle events by taking two heads out of the same “air space”.

There are a number of programmes, courses and resources to support schools, clubs and participants at all levels of the game including the Rugby Safe programme, Don't be a HEADCASE concussion guidance and the Activate injury prevention programme.

Rugby has a role to play in keeping people active, healthy and engaged. It also has other non-physical positive benefits for all ages, including increasing confidence, self-esteem, self-discipline and building character. There are also other rugby options including tag, touch and adapted versions of the contact game such as X-rugby for those players wanting to play variations from the full contact version of the game.

RFU Head of Game Development John Lawn said: *“This is an exciting and important piece of work. We started planning for this back in 2019 and it builds on everything done in the age grade game over the last decade putting in place a building block approach to full contact rugby.*

“We want to make the game as safe as possible, but without losing the physical element that’s popular with players and this law change supports that.

“As a result of the fallow 2020-2021 season due to Covid-19 all age grade players, except for next season’s Under 17 and Under 18 age grades, will only have experienced tackling below the line of the armpit. A continuation of the laws they were previously familiar with will support their

reintegration back into the game.

“Maintaining a single tackle height also supports the integration of players in the dual or triple age bands in the girls’ game.”

In addition, the RFU will be implementing and evaluating a waist height tackle law variation and restricting late dipping/leading into contact with the head by the ball carrier in approximately 1,200 games in the Under 16 to Under 18 age grades during 2021/22.

Again, the aim is to evaluate the impact of law change on tackler and ball carrier behaviour has on reducing the occurrence of the highest risk tackle events (head-on-head contact) by taking two heads out of the same air space; to reduce the risk for the tackling player when faced with a ball carrier who is bent at the waist and create opportunities for more offloads/passes.

While coach and match official development already focuses heavily on safe coaching and refereeing of the tackle, we will be placing even greater emphasis on this area in the lead up to and during the 2021-2022 season.

To allow us to evaluate the impact, these games will be compared to the same number (1,200) played under standard laws with the same age grades. The evaluation will take place across three different environments:

- Rugby playing schools and colleges
- Club boys
- Club girls

We have received a positive response from Constituent Body competition organisers, England Rugby Football Schools Union, HMC Schools, England Colleges RFU, Association of Colleges Sport, Rugby Football Referees Union and Referee Societies who will be key to the smooth implementation of this important evaluation project.

As well as video capture and game analysis, injury surveillance will be collected alongside feedback from players, coaches and referees.

RFU Medical Services Director Dr Simon Kemp added: *“It’s an evidence-based, game-led approach. This is about head impact and concussion prevention. We know that the most effective control measures are law changes and coaching behaviour. What we’re doing here is taking five or six years of data analysis to develop and implement a law change supported by coach input that we anticipate will have a positive effect on injury risk.”*

“Interim outcomes from the evaluation of a waist height tackle law variation in French community rugby show that a tackle at waist height or below together with the prohibition of the ball carrier bending into contact are having a positive impact on reducing the number of serious head impacts, are viewed positively by players, coaches and referees and from the video examples provided appeared to show a change in the shape of the game, with fewer rucks and more offloads.

“We are very excited to be evaluating a waist height tackle law variation of our own next season to see what we can learn from the data and player and coach feedback.”



Swarm of 300 drones descends on Cornwall demanding G7 world leaders 'ACT NOW' to protect the planet

Greenpeace Kingston & Richmond calls on G7 leaders to Act Now

The UK's largest swarm of drones, used to create breathtaking 3D moving images of iconic animals, is seen descending on Cornwall in a groundbreaking new Greenpeace film, demanding that the world leaders gathered at the G7 'ACT NOW' to tackle the climate and nature crisis.

Watch the film here: - <https://youtu.be/QJA15-WZnxl>

Photo and video collections: <https://media.greenpeace.org/collection/27MDHUCNPWT>

The spectacular drone displays used artificial intelligence software to choreograph the drones movement to form 3D animals and words, interlaced with projections. It was created for Greenpeace by Celestial - the drone display company behind Scotland's Hogmanay 2021 New Year's drone show [1].

A total of 300 illuminated drones were used to create the displays - twice as many as were used for the Hogmanay performances, making it one of the largest drone shows ever produced in the UK. The drone formations were up to 250ft (76m) in height and 400ft (122m) in length. The film's music was created by producer and Emmy-nominated composer Hannah Peel, who has scored music for film, theatre and television, including Game of Thrones. She worked with the Ulster Orchestra to create the music for the film.



The two minute film starts with a projected image of a turtle swimming across a dark cliff face of Mullion Cove in Cornwall, while a child narrates, "Once upon a time, world leaders gathered in Cornwall to decide our future". It then moves on to show projections of other animals, including a jaguar, tuna and bee, which morph, one by one, into 'animal spirits' created by hundreds of illuminated drones, moving across the sky.

Children narrate the film with powerful messages of hope, such as, "I hope it's not too late, I hope the grown-ups in charge wake up" and "I hope they defend the forests for the animals and people living there", while an increasing number of drone animals race independently across the sky towards Cornwall.

The film reaches a crescendo as the drone animals gather en masse above a cliff in Cornwall, where the G7 is being held, as one child says, "I want our leaders to do their jobs and fight for the planet". In the final sequence of the drone display, as the last child narrating the film says, "hope comes from action, not words", the drone animals morph once again into the words 'ACT NOW'.

The film ends with footage from a protest staged by Greenpeace activists at RAF Mildenhall as US President Joe Biden arrived in the UK on Wednesday [2]. As the President was coming in to land on Air Force One, activists unfurled a banner also carrying the 'ACT NOW' message.

Clement from Wimbledon, said:

"This film is a beautiful amalgamation of art, activism and cutting-edge technology but its message is simple. World leaders must act now if we are to tackle the climate and nature crisis. The G7 cannot be another target setting exercise resulting only in wasted time, political chest-thumping and more empty promises that might as well be written in the sand of Carbis Bay Beach. We need bold commitments but they must also be urgently delivered. World leaders have the power to tackle the mounting but interconnected crises we face, but only if they act now."

Greenpeace is using the film and action taken ahead of the G7 to call on the leaders of seven of the largest economies and the EU to raise their ambitions for tackling these crises and take meaningful action in order to halt the devastation that they're causing.

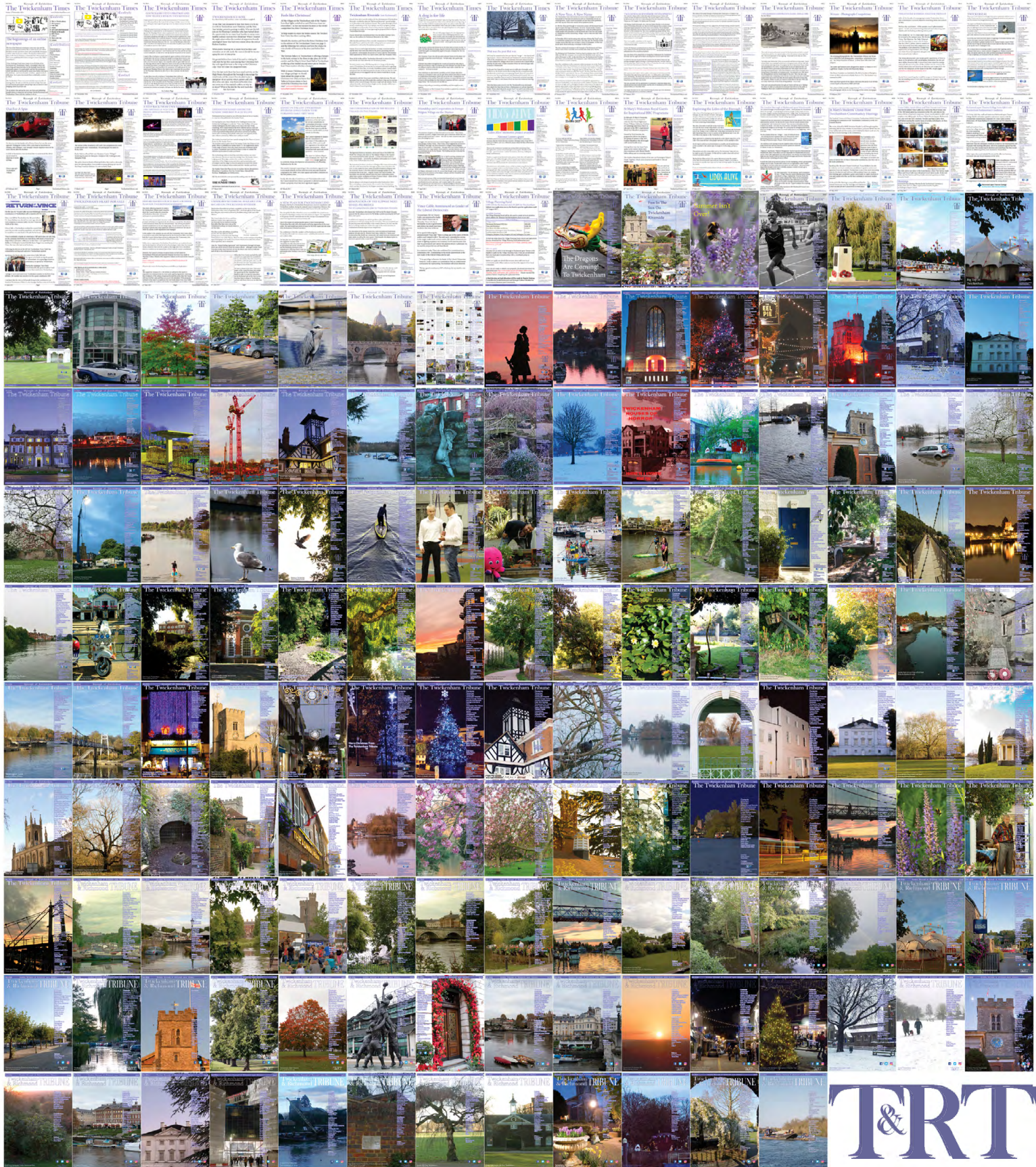
Greenpeace volunteers in South West London and across the UK are calling for the G7 nations to spearhead a green global recovery from the pandemic to limit global temperature rises to 1.5° in order to avoid the most devastating impacts of the climate crisis. This includes an immediate ban on all new fossil fuel projects and a strategy for ending fossil fuel use altogether, with proper support for workers and communities to transition to jobs in green industries, like renewables and energy efficiency. The recovery must also create new green jobs, tackle inequality and ensure the Covid vaccine is distributed fairly.

Leaders must make good on, and increase, the promised \$100bn per year in climate finance to countries hardest hit by the climate crisis, as well as cancel all debt for the Global South and honour international aid commitments.

Lastly, Greenpeace is demanding that all leaders commit to strongly protecting at least 30% of land and sea by 2030, respecting the rights of indigenous people and local communities who depend on them, with legally binding targets in domestic and international law to begin to significantly reverse the decline of nature by 2030. This should start now with immediate action to halt deforestation.

GREENPEACE

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