

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

Contents

TickerTape

TwickerSeal

COVID-19

The Boy In The Photograph

Marble Hill Horticultural Marvels

Hammersmith Bridge To Reopen

Diamond Jubilee Gardens

Letters

Spot The Fake (4)

Recycling Woes

Luminaries Strikes Again

Twickenham High Street To Your Door!

Tribune Snippets

Twickers Foodie

Review

Holiday Fantasy Part 2

WIZ Tales - Croatia

Dominic Raab MP To Skydive

Contributors

TwickerSeal

Simon Fowler

Marble Hill House

Mac McInerny

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Falcons Prep Richmond

Shooting Star Children's Hospices

Princess Alice Hospice

NAO

LBRuT

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Teresa Read



16th July 2021

T&RT

London Air Ambulance, Twickenham Green

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

London Air Ambulance lands on Twickenham Green

On Thursday (15th July) a London Air Ambulance helicopter landed on Twickenham Green. This was in response to an e-scooter accident on Heath Road, Twickenham. The road was closed off as a number of ambulances and police cars attended the incident. A 53-year-old man was taken to a major trauma centre in a life-threatening condition.

Free school meal vouchers offered over the summer holidays

Richmond Council will once again be able to help families entitled to free school meals, and those in hardship, with vouchers to cover the summer holidays.

Since October 2020, Richmond Council has continued to fund school holiday food support packages for vulnerable children, meaning that children from the borough's lowest income families don't go hungry over the school break. 3,800 children have received vouchers in the school holidays, and this support will continue throughout the summer.

The Council has received an additional £317,042 in Government funding to support vulnerable families affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

In addition to school holiday vouchers, grants will be awarded to local voluntary organisations to support residents struggling to afford food and other essentials.

Families who require additional assistance, can apply for funding from one of the local partners: [Richmond Aid](#) or [Citizens Advice Richmond](#)

More information regarding free school meals [HERE](#)

The Richmond Society – Annual Awards

The Society's annual awards celebrating conservation and development projects that have made a positive contribution to Richmond are back on 11 November!

Do you know of any projects that deserve to be recognised? Email suggestions to vicechair@richmondsociety.org.uk before 31 July.

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TwickerSeal was basking in the river and heard that a Riverside Councillor does not read the Tribune because it can be critical of the council.

TwickerDuck commented that surely our council should be listening to all residents, especially those who are critical of their policies and projects? Listening to others can bring better outcomes.

TwickerRobin said that a council that did not heed its electorate could soon find its rise turn into a fall.

TwickerSeal pointed out that hubris was a common ailment of councils ... sic transit gloria / glory fades.



COVID-19

Teresa Read

World Health Organization:

“Last week marked the fourth consecutive week of increasing cases of COVID-19 globally, with increases recorded in all but one of WHO’s six regions. And after 10 weeks of declines, deaths are increasing again.

The Delta variant is ripping around the world at a scorching pace, driving a new spike in cases and deaths. Delta is now in more than 104 countries and we expect it to soon be the dominant COVID-19 strain circulating worldwide”

NEWS:

World Health Organization:

COVID-19 deaths in Africa surge more than 40% over previous week

BBC 16 July:

More than 50,000 daily coronavirus cases have been reported in the UK for the first time since mid-January.

The Telegraph 16 July:

Coronavirus latest news: Boris Johnson’s plan to lift Covid restrictions on July 19 is ‘dangerous and unethical’, scientists warn

Sky News 16 July:

UK to decide whether to put France on the Red List

Bangkok Post 16 July:

Malaysia okays commercial sale of Chinese vaccines



Are you missing this?

**IF YOU ARE
OVER 18**

**MAKE SURE YOU
HAVE THE VACCINE**

**and protect yourself
from COVID-19**

HANDS • FACE • SPACE

[nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19)

Total cases to 16 July 2021:

13,123 Richmond upon Thames

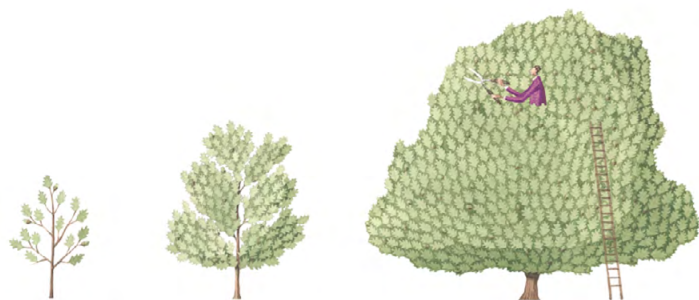
14,161 Kingston upon Thames

27,890 Hounslow

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

Deaths Worldwide 4,067,517

USA	603,170	Romania	34,250
Brazil	537,394	Chile	34,207
India	412,531	Czechia	30,335
Mexico	235,507	Hungary	30,015
Peru	194,752	Canada	26,458
Russian Federation	146,868	Philippines	26,314
The United Kingdom	128,593	Belgium	25,208
Italy	127,840	Pakistan	22,642
Colombia	114,337	Ecuador	21,872
France	110,462	Bulgaria	18,163
Argentina	100,250	Netherlands	17,773
Germany	91,337	Iraq	17,677
Iran	86,391	Bangladesh	17,465
Spain	81,084	Bolivia	17,345
Poland	75,205	Portugal	17,187
Indonesia	71,397	Tunisia	16,845
South Africa	65,972	Egypt	16,418
Ukraine	52,702	Japan	15,014
Turkey	50,415	Sweden	14,643



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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



The Tree Agency

The boy in the photograph

By Simon Fowler

On Saturday 19 July 1902 a toddler was found wandering the towpath alone near Hammersmith Bridge. He was taken to Richmond workhouse, where he was given the name Edward Bridge: Edward after the new king, whose coronation was being celebrated at the time, and Bridge after the place he was found.

Edward's mother, Ida Violet Jefford, was found and prosecuted by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) at Mortlake Police Court. Newspaper reports suggest that for some time Miss Jefford had been under the eye of the Society's Inspector Stewart for mistreating her child. In May she left the child alone overnight, although she claimed that he was staying with relations in Newmarket. Miss Jefford was described in court as being a saleswoman, aged 28, living with the child's father Henry Guy (it was later revealed that the child's name was really Henry Guy Jefford).



Inspector Stewart said that this was not the first time the toddler had been left near Hammersmith Bridge. He told the court that Miss Jefford had told him that on 1 May:

I sat on the grass [on the towpath] where some children were playing till between 7 and 8pm. It was just getting dusk. I walked towards a big tree... and placed my baby at the bottom of the tree and left it. I saw a lady and gentleman walking towards me and I went over Hammersmith Bridge to the Broadway and I returned about an hour after to where I had left my baby. I found the baby had gone. I walked about all night as I had nowhere to go...'

On 20 May, Henry Guy had given Jefford two shillings to 'put the child to nurse.' This seems to be when the couple finally split up. However, she had spent the money on drink and early the next day had again left the toddler on the towpath.

Fortunately, he was found. Dr F H Chapman told the court that the toddler 'was extremely weak and could not use its limbs. It was very emaciated and had not been fed for several hours. The child only weighed 17lb.' In her defence Miss Jefford said that she had spent time trying to find somebody to take care of her baby and spent her money in milk and 'sponge suckers' for him.

Ida Jefford was sentenced to a month in prison with hard labour. The child was taken to a Dr Barnardo's Home, where he disappears from the records. Perhaps he was one of the tens of thousands of children who were sent to Canada to start new lives.

The Oval lawn and Hornbeam Arbors

By Kate Slack

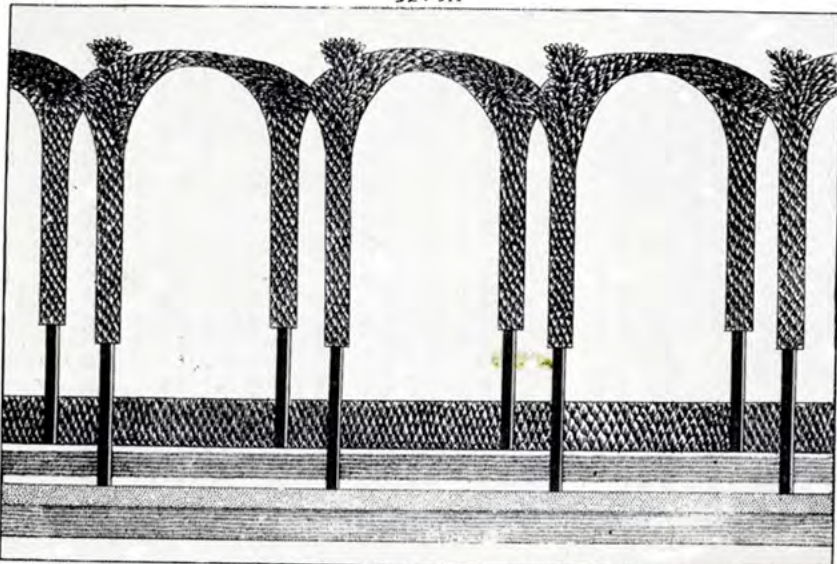
One of the defining features of the landscape restoration at Marble Hill Park is the Oval lawn and the Hornbeam Arbours that frame the lawn. The lawn separates the woodland quarters and the general oval shape has been retained over the centuries however it is being restored to a clean perfectly oval shape as part of the project.



A bird's eye view of the Oval lawn and hornbeam walks framing the view down to the river.

The Hornbeam Arbours frame the lawn and would have allowed Henrietta Howard and her guests to wander through the shade of the arched hornbeams down to the river via the tree avenues. As the ladies of the day were very keen to stay out of the sunlight to protect their skin, the Arbours provided a shady stroll.

XVIII



The hornbeam arbors will provide an open tunnel for visitors to walk through allowing open views through each arch.

Hammersmith Bridge to reopen to pedestrians and cyclists

Hammersmith Bridge will reopen to cyclists, pedestrians and river traffic from this Saturday, 17 July 2021, easing almost a year of anguish for residents and businesses in Barnes and the surrounding area in Richmond upon Thames.

The bridge was closed completely in August 2020, including to river traffic, after Hammersmith and Fulham Council engineers found worsening cracks in the structure after a period of severe heat waves.

Following comprehensive safety investigations, the bridge is now safe to open to pedestrians and cyclists. A temperature control system has also been introduced, which helps prevent cracking in the bridge's cast iron pedestals.



Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

“Obviously I am delighted that the bridge is reopening to foot and cycle traffic. Safety is always the top priority, but residents who live on the south-side of the river, particularly in Barnes have been borne the brunt of this closure. They have been cut off from work, school, vital services and transport links for almost 12 months, and while Richmond Council put measures in place to support them, it has taken its toll.

“I hope that this good news will provide some relief as we can now look forward to Hammersmith and Fulham Council progressing with the full restoration.”

CLlr Stephen Cowan, Leader of Hammersmith and Fulham Council, said:

“I am very pleased to confirm the latest advice from safety engineers is that we can safely reopen Hammersmith Bridge. We have instructed the team to do that. It will open this weekend.

“I know how difficult the last eleven months have been for people, particularly children needing to cross the river to get to school and those who need to attend medical appointments or get to work.”

Diamond Jubilee Gardens ready for summer!

Trustees of the Twickenham Riverside Trust (the leaseholder of Diamond Jubilee Gardens) have been working closely with Richmond Parks Team in recent weeks to ensure the Gardens are looking their best as sunshine and summer approaches.



The Gardens, situated just behind Twickenham's high street, offer a leafy respite from the hustle and bustle of the town centre - and, thanks to the efforts of Richmond Parks Team, are now looking greener than ever!

New planting has been put in place all around the Gardens, with fencing protecting the plants while they become established. Replacements for missing benches are scheduled to be installed both in the Gardens and down on the Riverside Embankment. There's also been fresh paint

and other works carried out to ensure the area is safe for use for people of all ages.

The popular children's sandpit has also been tidied up and the Richmond Parks Team will be putting in a refreshed top layer in the coming weeks.

Cafe Sunshine, which offers training for people with learning disabilities, has been able to reopen (Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm) AND is now taking cashless payments. Cafe Manager Debbie and co-worker Anit are delighted with their new contactless machine - at last!

The café offers a lunch and afternoon tea menu and outdoor seating overlooking the River Thames and the iconic Eel Pie Island, with a grassed picnic area and playground adjacent. Takeaway food and coffee are also available.

Richmond Card members get a coffee and cake for £3.50 by presenting their card to the cashier. You can find out more [here](#).

And last and by no means least, Twickenham's most convenient public toilets (to include both baby changing and disabled facilities) are also now open daily beside the Cafe.

So next time you are shopping on the high street and fancy a break, or looking for somewhere to meet a friend and enjoy the river views, do pop down to the Diamond Jubilee Gardens!



To the Editor,

Twickenham Riverside - height of wharf lane building

The Council has set in motion the possible Compulsory Purchase of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens on Twickenham Riverside – the site of the old swimming pool. And what is the compelling reason it has for doing this? It is in order to put a 5 storey block of private flats + a pub there!

If you want to get some sort of sense of just how big this building is going to be, I suggest you stand under the building on the corner of Heath Road and Cross Deep (opposite Sandys Fish Shop) and look up. High? Well, these private flats, on what is currently our children’s playground and cafe, will be even higher because they will be standing on



a concrete podium that will add the equivalent of another storey when you are looking up from the Embankment. The building will stretch from the middle of the Embankment Road, so extremely near the river, along Wharf Lane right up to the service road behind Iceland, dominating and casting a shadow from lunchtime onwards on the gardens below.

Back in 2010 the LibDems tried it with a mixture of private houses and flats and the residents overwhelmingly said “no thank you” yet here they go again! Did the few people in the Borough who completed the Council’s questionnaire in January know what they were voting for this time? I very much doubt it.

Best wishes,

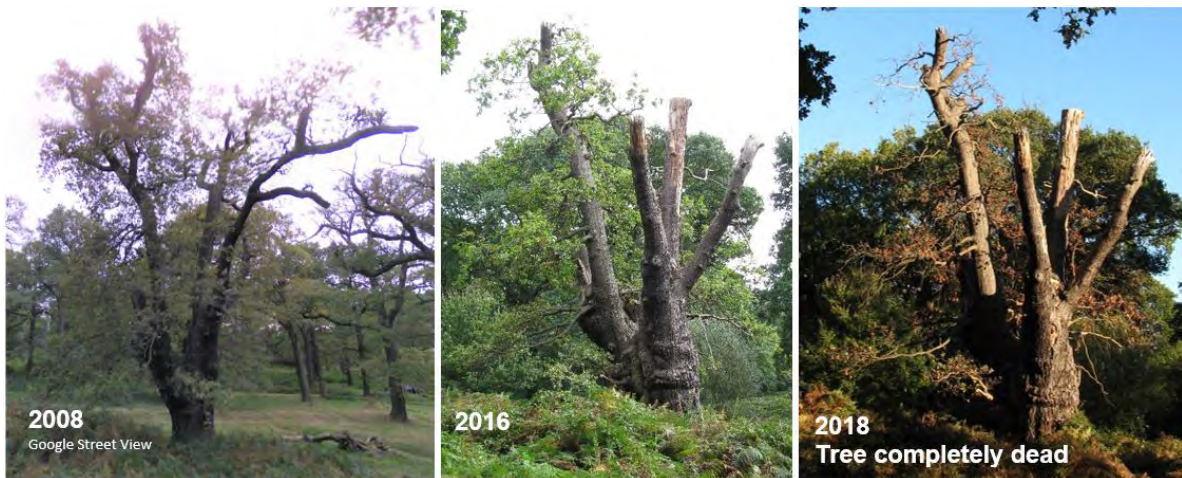
A disillusioned Twickenham Resident
(Name and address supplied)

Dear Editor,

A ruthless pruning regime in Richmond Park

As a local Arboriculturalist with 15 years' experience in the arboricultural industry I have started a petition because I'm concerned about the way trees in Richmond Park are being managed. In my view the way some trees have been managed appears to me to be trial by ordeal.

If we take this Oak tree, Girth 6.10m (20ft) estimated age, 400 years old, Historical context, round the time of Elizabeth 1st. This tree was pruned so hard in 2008 that I feared the work would do this tree serious harm. However, at the time I felt that the Royal Parks must know best. My fears were realised when most of the tree died apart from the one limb. When I was scratching my head over this, the Parks Authorities pruned the tree yet again. This tree is now dead and I have no doubt that the tree died directly as a result of the pruning program.



The Royal Parks employ *independent consultants who draw up the work programs for their ancient trees*. I heard at a professional seminar that the Royal Parks accelerated the works programs for a number of ancient trees. As ancient trees have little vitality, I worry that this could cause serious harm to the trees. In my open letters to the Royal Parks there are pictures of 376 trees where I either have concerns over the way they have been pruned, or the trees have been felled or left as a high stump in the recent past.

In the comment section of my petition there are a number of people who also say that a lot of felling has taken place over the last few years corroborating my concerns.

In the petition the questions include the following.

1. Why did the Royal Parks go against the recommendations of their independent consultants by accelerating the work programs to a number of ancient trees?
2. Were the trees pruned excessively and were there more sympathetic methods of maintaining them?
3. Did the Royal Parks go against best arboricultural practice, as recommended by The Forestry Commission, by felling oak trees that were in decline without monitoring them to see if their health improved?

I'm sure that everyone would agree that it is essential that every care is taken to not only ensure safety but at the same time to preserve our natural heritage. After all Richmond Park is the National Nature Reserve, a site of Special Scientific Interest, and a Special Area of Conservation. The petition with the open letters can be found on the website. Please type in (Petition Pruning Richmond Park,) into a search engine or use the following link <https://open-letter-to-royal-parks.co.uk/>

Yours sincerely

Tom Roser, Arboriculturalist

Dear Tribune,

E-scooter accident in Twickenham, 15 July 2021 19:00 BST.

Thursday's serious accident involving an E-scooter near the scooter park in Twickenham's Heath Road has added to concerns about their safety:

www.standard.co.uk/news/london/escooter-crash-twickenham-man-in-hospital-b946053.html

Numerous police and emergency vehicles and an air ambulance were photographed at the scene.

In his letter to the Tribune on 28 May, Mr. Tim Lennon, the London Cycling Campaign borough coordinator for Richmond, said: *'Every car journey replaced by a hire e-scooter journey is likely to make us more safe, not less.'*

Really?

And in his letter to the Tribune on 2 July, he said: *'Any journey made by e-scooter which was previously in a car is likely to be a positive thing.'*

Really?

Maybe he should tell that to the scooter rider who is now in a life-threatening condition in hospital.

He also said the rental scooters would be *'geo-fenced to prevent use in proscribed locations'* such as footways. That must be why three of them were seen at speed on the footway in Duke Street.

Incredibly, he derided my suggestion that we should learn from the E-scooter accident figures recorded by trauma doctors and hospitals in Berlin and the United States.

In fact, we don't need to learn from them now because it's happening here, as predicted by Admiral insurance and worried residents. I have said before that these machines are ideal for trained workers in locations such as airports and factories. Untrained and unprotected riders on our roads are a different matter, a fact confirmed by the basic principles of physics.

And what about the cost in time and money to our overworked emergency services and the NHS?

In our borough there have been already been numerous rental scooter offences of children riding them on public roads, two people on scooters designed for one, scooters at speed on crowded footways, a four-year-old child on one as a passenger, and scooters dumped on pavements for people to fall over – plus similar offences committed on the illegal ones.

The relentless dogma of TfL and Richmond Council in promoting the dubious benefits of all this is incredible. The primary duty of government and its officers is to ensure the safety of its citizens.

So why are we all being forcibly subjected to this danger?

Michael Jay,
Richmond.

Spot The Fake (4)

by Mac McInerney, Heatham Alliance community group
and Neighbourhood Watch



Email received re TV Licence:

Today is your last chance to remain licensed. You won't be covered if you let your licence expire.

As we couldn't take the latest payment from your bank account, this amount will also need to be paid when you set up your new direct debit.

If you prefer to pay the missed amount now, you can sign in online and pay using your debit or credit card.

While you're signed in, please make sure we have your correct bank details
[with internet link to fill out your banking information]

FAKE - One warning sign is that the recipient is told they need to make an urgent payment or they will suffer consequences. If a licence number is shown, check if that is your licence number. TV Licensing also say they only send emails to customers about payments if they have missed one.

STAY SAFE FROM FRAUD

Twickenham Riverside: Motion at Full Council this week

“This Council supports local community groups’ requests for the Leader to listen to their concerns on the revised designs for Twickenham Riverside, condemns forcibly taking the Diamond Jubilee Gardens, given in trust to the people of Twickenham for 125 years, by using Compulsory Purchase powers; calls for further consideration on parking provision and cycling routes; commits to immediate transparency on the full and substantial cost of the scheme to enable residents across the Borough to make an informed judgement of the proposals”

This motion was put forward this week at Full Council to all councillors of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames by Conservative councillors.

The motion did not meet with the support of the Liberal Democrat councillors and Green Party councillors; therefore, it was not adopted.

SUPER SATURDAY

Walk-in COVID-19 vaccination event at
Heathfield Junior School
Saturday 17 July 10am – 6pm



WHERE:

Heathfield Junior School, Cobbett Rd, Heathfield, TW2 6EN

WHO CAN COME:

Open to everyone aged 18+, no appointment needed.

WHICH VACCINE:

Both Pfizer and AstraZeneca will be available, for first or second doses. Please note that second doses will ONLY be given to those who had their first dose eight weeks ago or more.

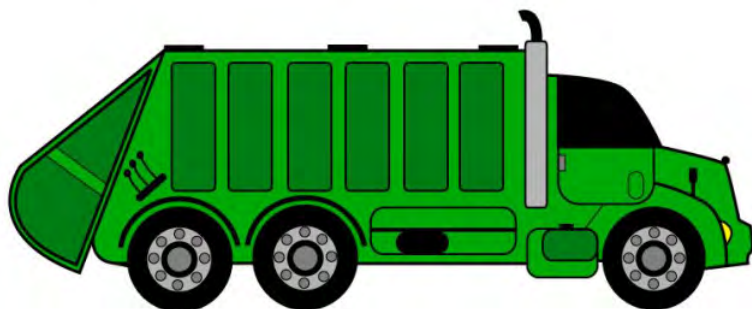
swlondonccg.nhs.uk



Recycling Woes - Forewarned is Forearmed

Teresa Read

If the Townmead fiasco is not enough for those of us with recycling, the absence of normal collections, without warning, is a concern for many residents throughout the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.



Surely recycling is one of the basic tasks of the Council and if there is a reason for it not taking place residents should be informed.

In the age of social media and email press releases it should be easy enough to let many of us know when and why recycling cannot take place and when it will be resumed. Forewarned is forearmed.

Recent Tweets:

@TwickTribune

I just wondered if there was a story building up around @LBRUT and their contractor #sercogroup inability to collect waste recycling. Towers residents have not had a collection in 3 weeks. Repeated complaint get no action. I've now raise this with Richard Prynne.

Can @TwickTribune see if there is a story here? I bet we are not the only residents in Richmond where collections are repeatedly missed. Should we be compensated?

And in Richmond:

16.30 Friday & Houblon Road's missed Tuesday food & general waste remains on the street uncollected. I understand about staff problems @LBRUT but food waste should be prioritised @JuliaNedenWatts

The Council now has a list of roads affected on its website but it DOES NOT include all roads which still have their recycling waiting outside, including missed collections today in Strawberry Hill.

The council website currently (at time of publication) states:

Garden waste and recycling collections - Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 July

Unfortunately teams have been unable to collect garden waste and recycling boxes from some roads in Hampton Hill, Hampton, Teddington, Twickenham and Whitton. [View a full list of roads affected.](#)

Those missed will be collected over the next two working days. Please leave waste out in the usual place.

Refuse & Recycling

By Councillor Pamela Fleming

The start of a new refuse & recycling contract is bound to have teething problems and coinciding with the beginning of the first lockdown when people were at home and creating far more rubbish, particularly cardboard, delays and missed collections were forgivable. Over a year has passed, new vehicles are on the road, but residents are still not getting the service they deserve.

To be fair the Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture & Sports Committee and officers have held meetings with the contractor and there have been improvements. But collections are still being missed and even more frustrating for residents is when they are told it will be picked up within two days, it's not and they hear nothing further. There is no excuse for this.

The last couple of weeks like many organisations the contractor has suffered from staff having to self isolate and roads have been missed. Why haven't residents been told about this and why haven't people who have registered a missed collection been informed when after two days their refuse and recycling has still not been collected? All the contact details are recorded. The new vehicles have the technology installed to communicate information so why isn't it being used to tell residents when they can expect a collection. At the very least when the Council know there are these problems, they should be giving priority to collecting food waste.



It's the same with the closure of Townmead after the fire. We appreciate that ensuring the site is safe for users and staff before reopening is paramount. But again the handling of communications has been poor. There is no reason why 362 residents with bookings after the fire were not told about the closure. The Council had their contact details and not only did people waste time making the trip there were also unnecessary car journeys.

There will always be some people who are unreasonable but most of our residents understand about problems if they are explained. It is disappointing that missed collections are still occurring too frequently but the breakdown in communication is even more frustrating and cannot be justified.

Luminaries strikes again

The London Luminaries is a group of historic organisations who collaboratively work together to share knowledge and ideas about heritage.



London was the epicentre of commerce and wealth, thanks to the River Thames which attracted royalty, aristocrats, artists, writers and wealthy property owners. A legacy of these luminaries is an area exceptionally rich in heritage buildings, gardens and landscapes. Drawing on the success of our Thames and Twickenham Luminaries virtual lecture series, **Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust and English Heritage's Marble Hill**, with other local heritage organisations, have organised a series of twelve free virtual talks over two seasons beginning in October. Acknowledged experts will explore, explain and offer insights about a luminary and their connection to Poets, Princes, Politicians or Painters. There will be talks about the occupants and their relationships with Kew Palace, Garrick's Temple, Pitzhanger Manor and Gallery, Ham House and Garden, Boston Manor, Orleans House, Pope's Grotto, Chiswick House, Marble Hill, Hogarth's House, Strawberry Hill and Turner's House.

Each 20-minute talk will be delivered using Zoom and will begin at 7 p.m. They will be chaired by Professor Judith Hawley of the Department of English, Royal Holloway, University of London. Time will be allowed for questions and answers at the end. The events will end at or before 8 pm. Attendees will be sent a Zoom link by email about an hour before each talk begins.

Tickets are free but we encourage you to make a £5 donation for each talk, if you are able, which will be divided equally between the twelve participating organisations. You can book your place at [TicketSource](https://www.ticketsource.com). You can book a bulk ticket for each set of six talks.

Twickenham High Street to your door!

Mytown Shops, the e-commerce and eco-friendly home delivery service is bringing their unique online local shopping experience to Twickenham.

Since the global pandemic, it has never been so important to shop local and support independent retailers. TwickTraders, created by the Discover Twickenham BID team has joined forces with the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames and Mytown Shops to offer a one-stop, multi-retailer online platform for Twickenham's local shops and retailers.

Cllr Baker, Lead Member for Business, Economics and Employment London Borough of Richmond upon Thames says: "The Council is delighted to support this initiative aimed at providing Twickenham's local and independent retailers access to a specific borough online shopping platform. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this online sales and delivery service and support our local businesses as they aim to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic."



Dominic Brookman - CEO of MyTown Shops, Kevin Jones - Owner of Eel Pie Records, Cllr Richard Baker - London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames and Amol Apte - MyTown Shops



Sandy - Sandy's Fishmongers and Amol Apte - MyTown Shops

The investment that the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames and Mytown Shops are making in this new partnership will result in a substantial upscaling of the range of products available to local customers. TwickTraders/Mytown Shops is a brand through which Twickenham based retailers can co-promote locally available products as an ethical, Twickenham alternative to larger online retailers.

Kevin Jones, chair of Discover Twickenham BID, is thrilled that the potential of TwickTraders has been recognised. "It's fantastic that the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames decided to support local retailers in this way and we're excited to be working with the brilliant

MyTown Shops team to help create "a better way to shop".

From 15 July 2021, the new TwickTraders/MyTown Shops platform will be launched in Twickenham. It will be free to use for all Twickenham retailers for the first year. Mytown Shops is a successful south west London based online shopping platform offering a same day home delivery service, while their click and collect option helps to drive footfall to independent retailers. Two important and easy ways in which to celebrate, support and shop local.

Dominic Brookman, CEO of Mytown Shops says "we believe that there is a better way to KEEP IT LOCAL and online".

Mytown Shops' fleet of e-cargo bikes and riders will undertake all of the local deliveries. The new Mytown Shops e-cargo bikes include chilled and ambient storage, allowing orders to be delivered fresh to the door, with zero carbon emissions.

To find out more, visit the MyTown Shops website:

www.mytownshops.com



Shivathaas - Buchanan's News and Amol Apte - MyTown Shops

Richmond urged to keep COVID-19 safety measures up after 19 July

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise, Richmond residents are being urged to continue doing everything they can to stop the virus spreading after national restrictions come to an end on Monday (19 July).

Over the past seven days there have been over 570 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Richmond upon Thames, and the borough has a case rate of 289 per 100,000.

Residents are therefore asked to continue to wear face coverings in indoor public spaces, even if not legally required to do so, as well as to get tested, keep their space from others they do not know, stay in well ventilated areas and to get vaccinated.



Richmond Council is also continuing to ask visitors to all its buildings e.g. libraries, sports centres, and the Civic Centre, to continue to wear face coverings, to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering and maintain a safe distance. Council staff will also continue to observe COVID-19 safe measures when you meet them. [See information regarding Council services.](#)

Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

“The Government has been clear that the dangers from coronavirus are far from over, even today Professor Whitty has said we are not out of the woods and hospitalisations could reach scary numbers quite quickly. Therefore, we need to be cautious and take responsibility for our actions after the national restrictions are lifted.

“This is critical as cases continue to increase in Richmond and more people in our community become infected. The Council will be maintaining its current COVID-19-secure measures after 19 July to keep all residents and our staff safe. I know many other employers and venues are also likely to continue to exercise caution in line with the Government guidance and ask people to wear face coverings in busy indoor spaces. I hope everyone will support them and play their part to keep Richmond safe.”

Shannon Katiyo, Director of Public Health for Richmond upon Thames, added:

“COVID-19 will continue to pose a significant risk after the mandatory restrictions are lifted. We cannot afford to ease up now on our combined efforts to fight the virus.

“We are seeing an increase in the percentage of tests returning a positive result in Richmond. We know there will be people who have COVID-19 and passing it on, but don’t know it. Please take a [lateral flow test](#) to check that this isn’t you. Do it routinely twice a week, especially before you meet with other people.

“Make sure to get both doses of the [COVID-19 vaccine](#). There are plenty of appointments and walk-ins available across the borough. If you are vaccinated you are more unlikely to get seriously ill, be admitted to hospital, or to die.”

Strawberry Hill

Concern over telecommunications tower

Residents have expressed concern about a 15-metre-high telecommunications tower, which is proposed to be installed on the pavement next to Radnor Gardens (opposite Bonser Road). Details of the planning application can be found at [21/2296/TEL](#), which is currently open for public comment.

Radnor Gardens Café

The new cafe at Radnor Gardens is very smart and serves very good cake and coffee but it must be quite expensive for families with children, bearing in mind that the cafe overlooks the children's playground.

For example, a light meal for two can easily add up to over £40 which includes a 12.5% service charge of around £4.50 and two cans of soft drinks at £8.

Of course, there is not a service charge if you buy "takeaway" to eat in the park and don't forget to take along your own soft drinks.

Marble Hill

MARBLE HILL LANDSCAPE TOUR 19 Jul 2021

10am until 1pm Marble Hill House Twickenham, TW1 2NL
Suitable For Everyone

Much of Henrietta's historic landscape still remains. To understand a little more come along to our landscape tour to learn more about our grotto, our ice house and many of the other links to our past that still remain.

The event is free but must be booked in advance. This event has been made possible by funding from the National Lottery. Please book [HERE](#).

This is a free event with a suggested donation of £5. Find out more [HERE](#).

Teddington

Landmark Autumn Art Fair 2021

Artists! You still have time to apply for a place at the Landmark Autumn Art Fair this year - deadline has been extended! Find more information [HERE](#)

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

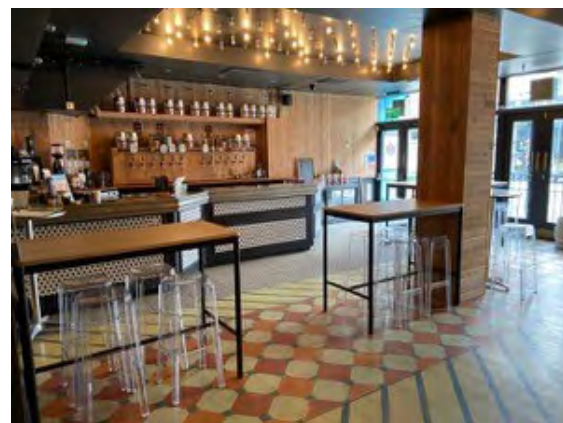
There are some exciting new eating and drinking places opening up in Twickenham (and of course also Richmond, but that's for another time). We've had German Kebabs, Sushi, and now we have Canadian, yes, Canadian! I know quite a bit about Canadian food as we've visited many times over the years and for some years we had our own place in Quebec. Quebec is somewhere where they eat an interesting, and perhaps – to Brits anyway – an unusual dish, called Poutine. What's Poutine I hear you ask? Well, dear reader, it's chips, but with gravy and curd cheese. It's usually served with beer, and at **CTZN Brew**, which opened very recently in York Street, they're brewing their own, as the owners have a microbrewery. Now, I'm not a beer fan at all; my beer drinking's restricted to perhaps a small beer on a really hot day when on holiday overseas. But in the interests of this article, I tasted the range of beers being brewed by brewer Hugh O'Neill who works with Jana Gray... I was really impressed.



Jana, with her partner Jonathan Sumner, is the power behind CTZN Brew. She hails from Toronto, where she worked in the industry and met Jonathan, whose background is about as far from brewing as possible: aerospace! They now have a six-barrel brewery in the Kew Brewery where she and head brewer Hugh are handcrafting beers in the traditional way. 'Slowly nurturing the magic of malt, hops and yeast and always in small batches.'



We tried each of the six key brews and they were all good: but even more surprisingly, I loved the Porter, which had delicate notes of chocolate, coffee and vanilla with a touch of 'roasty' smokiness.



At the moment this brewhouse, tucked away on York Street near the bus stop, is one of Twickenham's best-kept secrets, but not for long, I'm sure. Not only do Jana and Jonathan provide customers with great beer (other drinks are available) but the food offering is pretty damned good too! As well as the aforementioned Poutine, there's a limited (sensibly), but imaginative and well-priced menu. The food operation is run by an organisation called Stretched & Fired, and there's an open kitchen. Smashed Aberdeen Burgers, Pizzas and 'Loaded Fries' (including Poutine) are on offer, and the burger my husband chose – The Brewhouse Burger (£17.50) – was amazing! Double patty, double cheese, double bacon, beer onions, served with all the usual trimmings plus the most delicious home-made burger sauce. It was a double indulgence mega meal. But washed down with the delicious beer, it posed no problem for my husband. Dogs are welcome at CTZN Brew too, so Crystal Poodle enjoyed a few tasty morsels from him before the plate was demolished. I opted for a Slow Fermented Pizza – the 'Fun Guy' option with mushroom, goat cheese, caramelised onion and mozzarella on a tomato base. At £12.50, and paired with a very generous rocket and Parmesan salad, made me very happy indeed.



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GAIL'S TAKES TWICKENHAM BY STORM

I have to confess that when I heard that **Gail's** was opening in Twickenham's Church Street, my heart sank. I was worried that the lovely independent cafés there would suffer, and after all the shenanigans of the last year and the impact on independent businesses, that was the last thing they needed! But I'm delighted to report that I was completely wrong. Gail's is a great addition to Twickenham's premier street and, if anything, the whole place seems busier than ever now!

The Gail's offering in Twickenham isn't as extensive as some of Gail's other 74 branches, but it still offers a good selection of good Viennoiserie, loaves of freshly baked bread (the sourdough is very good), biscuits and cakes. If you're wanting a hot breakfast or lunch, there are some interesting options available, but you'll need to ask for a menu, as the full range isn't very obvious.

The place seems to be continually busy (I've learnt to avoid 11 a.m. as that seems to be the time everyone meets there!). One small niggle is the strange pottery mugs the coffee is served in – they are bowls. But I've learned to ask for my flat white in a latte cup now, so I'm sorted!



TO MARKET TO MARKET...a new trader's market for Teddington is due to open this Saturday, 17 July, at The Anglers pub car park on Broom Road. Going forward, it will take place every second Saturday of the month from 9 till 12. There will be flowers, sushi, fruit and veg, nut butters and all sorts of other stalls, including The Green Butcher and the RNLI.



If you're nearer to Isleworth and can't get to the **Twickenham Farmers' Market** in Holly Road car park (which of course is every Saturday morning) there is also a monthly market in **Isleworth** where, among other things, you can buy wonderful

baked goods from Brenda Daly's micro bakery. It's held at Shrewsbury Walk, Old Isleworth, and runs from 10-2, but is also on the second Saturday of the month. And there is **Duck Pond Market** in Heron Square, Richmond every Saturday and Sunday (10.30 – 4). In **Kew** there is a market on the first Sunday of the month (10-2) and there's a farmers' market in **Barnes** every Saturday (8.30 – 2) at Essex House Surgery.

We're pretty well placed for markets really. If you fancy a trip further afield, do go down the A3 to **Ripley**, where there is a fabulous, very extensive, farmers' market on the second Saturday of every month. Parking is free and there is a massive field with umpteen stalls around the edge, it's a veritable food festival! And if you really want to spoil yourself, and make a day of it, book a table for lunch at **The Clock House**, Ripley's fabulous, Michelin-starred restaurant on the High Street.





Prima le Parole

Opera Live At Home, On-line

Have you ever watched a bee zipping from bloom to bloom collecting nectar as he buzzes about his business totally engaged? Our busy bee at *Opera Live At Home* seventh on-line production was Tama Matheson, who was introduced by the tireless Helen Astrid the programme's presenter, as a prolific opera director who has worked at the Sydney Opera House and Covent Garden. For his *Prima le Parole*, he was clearly his *alter ego*, a versatile drama director and



actor, who is Artistic Director of the Brisbane Shakespeare Festival. Here, he was fully engaged as an unfazed consummate actor. As an actor, he was too trammelled by his script, for when he allowed himself off the leash, both his knowledge and his wit leapt out.



Watched by his "tutorial spirits" Beethoven, Mozart, ever present over his right shoulder as hirsute terracotta busts, Matheson took us on a whistle-stop tour of a selection of operas and their literary sources, to address the age-old question, which came first, the libretto or the music. Admitting that the chicken-and-egg conundrum is complex, he took nine examples of operas that are drawn from a stage play, including Verdi's [Falstaff](#), Alfano's [Cyrano de Bergerac](#), and Mozart's [Le Nozze di Figaro](#).

Matheson allowed one answer to come from "Wolfie" Mozart as seen by [Peter Shaffer in his play Amadeus](#). He clearly enjoyed performing Mozart's petulant yet passionate polemic about opera, in which Wolfie describes opera as more real than any play, because opera is how God sees the world.

However, Matheson rather let out a spoiler on his own views in the very title of his talk.

Prima le Parole was an informative drama presentation by an exceptional actor and opera lover, but we didn't get much opera. His energy was palpable, but like that bee picking nectar, he hovered for a moment in each bloom, but we never got back to the hive and missed the pot of honey.



Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2021/07/10/prima-parole-rev

Photography by Clive Barda and Graeme Braidwood



Preview *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Australian Shakespeare Company at Kew Gardens from 29th July

Drama critic Thomas Forsythe talks to Peter Amesbury, Production Manager of the ASC, about its open-air production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* coming soon to Kew Gardens



TF: It's exciting to hear that The Royal Botanic Gardens will once again be welcoming Theatre on Kew, the touring company of the Australian Shakespeare Company. Kew Gardens couldn't be a better setting for such a magical play as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, after all, Oberon "knows a bank where the wild thyme blows, where oxlips and the nodding violet grows". I strongly suspect that we could find these in Kew Gardens. Is this an opportunity to catch the botanical interest of the theatre-goer?

PA: Absolutely! Staged sets are wonderful, but there is something magical about providing a sensorial experience that one can't find in the theatre. The scent of the garden, the sounds of summer and real forestry? Who wouldn't want to see the story unfold in the most authentic location?

TF: Theatre On Kew is powered by the Australian Shakespeare Company. Can we expect some down-under inspirations for Shakespeare's feuding fairies, eloping lovers and hapless artisan actors?

PA: Aussies are experts in not taking things too seriously and I think this mentality shines through in Glenn's artistic touch of contemporary references. Glenn really leans into some of the cheeky and quite risqué moments of the text that others not realise were even there! I think that's why the Australian Shakespeare's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* has remained a favourite with Australian audiences after all this time. It really is quite a hilarious production that allows access points even for those who don't understand Shakespearean verse.

TF: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* runs for over a month from 28th July, but you mentioned that it is part of a series of magical outdoor theatrical performances. What else can we expect this season, and indeed what are your plans into 2022?

PA: The Australian Shakespeare Company is also presenting Kenneth Grahame's classic story of life on the riverbank, *The Wind in the Willows* at Kew Gardens from 24th July to 30th August. Set against the magical backdrop of Kew Gardens' lake, the show is packed with much-loved colourful characters, music, song and laughter. Dressing up is always encouraged. These two shows will also be a taster for what comes next year.

TF: Open-air theatre always means picnic time. What would the company suggest for the picnic? (We promise to avoid anything made from love-in-idleness flowers.)

PA: Well, the Greeks loooved their wine... and picnics are very welcome – perhaps a Greek themed picnic? Some of my favourite picnic foods are dolmades and olives!

Read the full interview at www.markaspen.com/2021/07/16/mnd-kew-prev



***A Midsummer Night's Dream* runs most evenings from 28th July to 29th August at The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and *The Wind in the Willows* from 24th July – 30th August on Wednesdays to Sundays and Bank Holiday Monday.**

Full details for both shows are available on-line at www.theatreonkew.co.uk and [tickets are already on sale.](#)

The Children

by Lucy Kirkwood

The Questors, at the Judy Dench Playhouse, Ealing until 17th July

Things that go bang in the night, can lead to sleepless worries, particularly if they involve high voltages! Twenty-four hours before I was due to go to the first night of a play about a leak **from** a nuclear power station, flash floods and torrential rain caused leaks **into** a whole load of high-voltage substations. I spent the entire night pumping the water out.

Hence, with heavy eyelids, I set out to Questors to see *The Children*, full of concern about falling into a deep (and noisy) slumber. However, I needn't have worried. Credit to director Roger Beaumont for his interpretation of this beautifully written play, lacing a very dark and thought-provoking theme with great humour and well timed comedy to make such effective wide-awake theatre.



This 'post-apocalyptic' play opens with the unexpected, and not all-together welcome, arrival of Rose at the remote cottage of ex-colleagues Hazel and Robin. We learn that the characters are recently retired nuclear physicists, who formerly worked together in a local power station, where a recent incident has led to a radioactive leak.

In her character, Louise Templeton plays the carefree Rose, who seems to show a certain contempt for Robin and Hazel's happy marriage. However, we soon realise the reason for her feeling this way and, through Louise's skilful portrayal, begin to see the vulnerability and fragility of her character. She is juxtaposed superbly by Hazel, Robin's yoga-loving wife, played impeccably by Pamela Major. Living on a diet of salad and yoga, Hazel is determined that she and Roger will live long and happy retirements, distancing themselves from both the power station and from any fall-out... nuclear or otherwise. Also excelling in his role is Simon Taylor, playing Hazel's closet-despondent husband, Robin, who, in an attempt to maintain his facade of normality, crosses the exclusion line on a daily basis to 'tend to' his smallholding. We see three distinct characters in Robin; the happy-go-lucky husband; a man steeped in self-loathing; and the man torn between love for his family and his duty to face up to the consequences of their shared past failings. Taylor's strong acting takes on Robin's emotional journey and I found myself liking and respecting him for making his ultimate decision.



Read David Stephens' review at www.markaspen.com/2021/07/15/children

Photography by Robert Vass

TRAVELLER'S TALES 101

HOLIDAY FANTASY PART 2



Doug Goodman continues his time travel to Europe and North America

Two weeks ago I toured the Far-East, Russia, Africa and Israel using the very convenient time travel app designed by computer specialist Steve from Twickenham's A to Z Computers. Little did I know that when I said the app didn't need to be as sophisticated as H.G. Wells' Time Machine, Steve had been a member of the H.G. Wells society at Imperial College so was already familiar with time travel. Steve does stress that my app is still in the experimental stage and although Star Trek pioneered a similar 'beaming' device, final production is some years away.



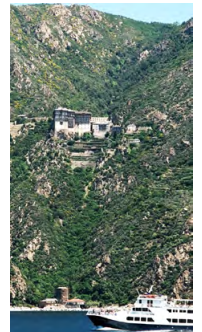
Istanbul bound



Istanbul



The Acropolis



Greece. Mt. Athos

This trip I'll visit Europe and North America without having to fly as the time travel app can whisk me away with ease. I enjoyed a train journey from London to Istanbul to commemorate the centenary of the Orient Express some 30 years ago with steam engines pulling the train through France, Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey. To avoid repeating that five day trip to Turkey I returned to Hungary to savour the moment when we left the carriages to admire our two huge smoking beasts. Istanbul, with its busy traffic on the Bosphorus, crowded markets and minarets dominating the skyline and return on Concorde, made it one of my most memorable trips. Westwards to Athens for a meal of kebabs, Greek salad and melon. Sitting in the Plaka with the Acropolis close by and a bottle of Retsina or Mythos beer is heaven. And talking of Heaven I came close when I visited the Monastic Republic of Mt. Athos on three occasions when in Halkidiki, Northern Greece. Simonas Petras, poised on a mountain side high above the sea and dating from the ninth century was my monastery home for a total of eight days. Usually only Greek Orthodox males are permitted to visit the peninsula, which has twenty monasteries and many small communities inhabited by 2,200 monks. It was a privilege to be allowed to enter The Holy Mountain where I was amazed to learn that women and female animals are banned.



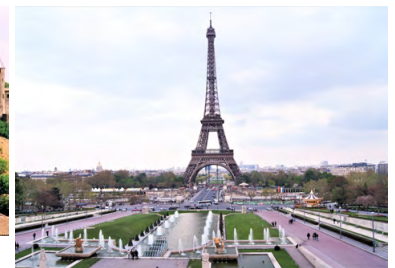
Romanian Monastery



View from Hotel



Carcassonne



Paris

A trip north across Bulgaria, took me over The Carpathians to the northern part of Romania. Here, close to the border with Ukraine, are the world-famous painted monasteries. We were based in Suceava and visited six of the beautiful churches before spending a night in the fortified monastery of Dragomirna. We were two guests amongst 72 nuns. The food was the worst I had ever eaten and the bed the most uncomfortable I have ever slept in. But the beauty of the place, the peace and

spirituality which I felt, made up for physical discomfort. To Venice next at a delightful family-run hotel overlooking the water bus station and a short walk from The Doge's Palace. Henry James the American author had stayed there. A birthday treat of ice-creams in Piazza San Marco, a Vivaldi concert and drinks at Harry's Bar ensured a very happy week.



Champagne



Mallorca Hotel Bonsol



Madeira Funchal Market



Marrakech

On to Paris to see The Eiffel Tower, a quick and much needed glass of champagne in Reims and then south for a view of the magnificent fortified town of Carcassonne where Robin Hood had been filmed. I now headed over the Mediterranean to Mallorca for a short stay in Illetas just outside Palma at another of my top favourite hotels – the family-run Bonsol. Off to Marrakech for dinner in the main square, Djemaa el Fna, where hundreds of stalls prepare delicious snacks while entertainment is provided by dancers, snake charmers, teeth pullers and all kinds of music. Before embarking on a long trip across the Atlantic I decided to stop in Madeira to take the terrifying sledge ride down cobbled streets from the top of Funchal to the very colourful fruit and flower market. I bought some custard apples and birds of paradise flowers to take to friends in Alabama.



Alabama. Huntsville Space museum



Yosemite



Vancouver Sea Plane Flight



Back to The Thames

Steve's time travel app saved so much time crossing to Huntsville in Alabama and avoided so many tiresome formalities. Space museum and the space training camp were on my list of places to revisit and there was time to look at the old town of Twickenham. A short hop to the West Coast and I was in Yosemite hoping to see bears and watch climbers on El Capitano rock face. Canada was the last port of call on my North America tour. Arriving in Vancouver I decided to take a real flight just to give my app a chance to recharge. A journey from Vancouver to Cortez Island in Vancouver Sound had once taken a whole day with a 90 minute ferry crossing to Nanaimo on Vancouver Island, a drive of 180 miles to Campbell River and then two short ferry crossing to our friends' cabin overlooking the sea. The float plane I chartered took only 58 minutes and taxied in alongside our waiting car at Cortez. Photographing seals playing, collecting oysters and watching the constantly changing light to the east over the Rocky Mountains with a glass of local wine provided a fitting end to my time travel. I had hoped to cross to Vancouver Island's Pacific Coast at Tofino. Here, on an earlier visit, we stayed at the Wickaninnish Inn, another favourite hotel. It's the only hotel I've visited that provides waterproof clothing to enable visitors to go storm watching. It's also the only spot where you can sit in your bath and see sea otters playing in the surf below your room. But time had almost run out on my app so I set the dial for a pub on The Thames near Hampton Court.

WIZ TALES - Croatia

Teresa Read



Croatia, now on the green travel list, was a very popular tourist destination in the years before lockdown. However, my interest in Croatia began when it was part of Yugoslavia and Tito was the head of state; I think my last visit was during the Falklands War and the sinking of the Belgrano was watched on tv in a hotel on the island of Hvar. Much later, I worked with a school on the island of Korcula (which I had previously visited) in the World InfoZone schools project.

Croatia has a very beautiful coastline which I have travelled by hydrofoil and ferry and along rugged coastal roads. In summer you do not seem to need to sunbathe to get a good tan; just being in such a sunny country is enough. And, of course, there is so much to see, the islands, and historic monuments dating back centuries.

The town of Stari Grad on Hvar dates back to the Greek colony of Pharos (385 BC). Other islands, such as Rab and Krk, have been inhabited since early times and have examples of Roman and medieval buildings. The islands of Hvar and Korcula were both Venetian naval strongholds and at different times housed the Venetian Arsenal.

Hvar, a well-preserved medieval city, has a particularly fine sixteenth century Renaissance cathedral, the Cathedral of St Stephen, which stands to one side of the town's main square.

Hvar is said to be the sunniest place in Europe and is warmer than the rest of Croatia.

On the mainland, the ruins of the palace of the Roman Emperor Diocletian (a UNESCO World Heritage site) can be seen in Split. Further down the coast stands the historic town of Dubrovnik, another World Heritage site.



More about Croatia:

<https://worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=Croatia>

Dobar Dan from Croatia – schools project:

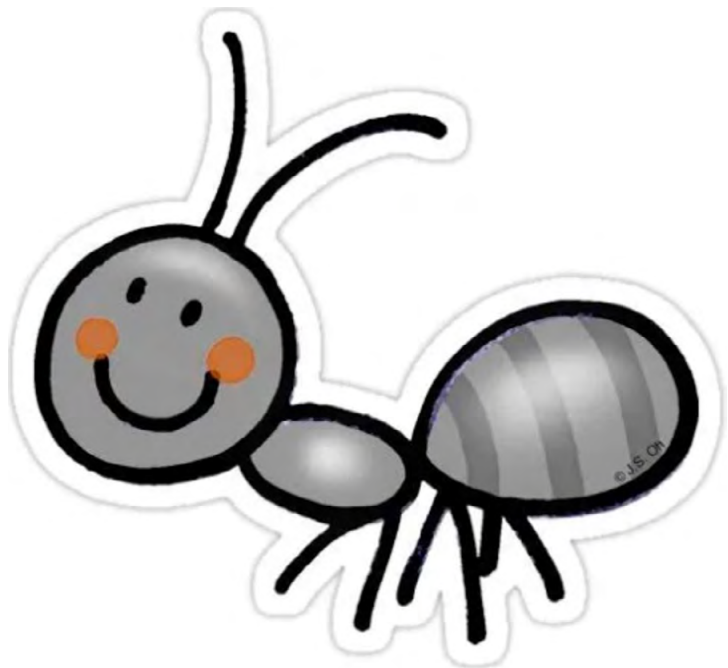
<https://worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=PartnersCroatia>

SPARE A THOUGHT FOR THE FLYING ANTS...

By Deep Patel

Each July a spectacular phenomenon known commonly as “Flying Ant Day” occurs throughout the UK and Ireland. The spectacle sees huge masses of large flying ants appear suddenly right across our towns and cities. The Met Office has very recently reported that a swarm flying ants is heading towards London very soon. It has been large enough to show up on their radars and could emerge at any point during the next few days. The heavy rainfall Twickenham experienced at the start of this week, together with the extreme and sudden blast of heat we will experience this weekend will form the perfect conditions to trigger the flying ants to emerge. Environmental experts warn that we need to leave them alone and simply stay indoors during this period. It is known as “Flying Ant Day” but the phenomenon usually lasts for 2-3 days.

Deep Patel from Meet & Deep Newsagents is an environmental enthusiast and good-karma and creature kindness expert and has been asking people to spare a thought for the flying ants during this time, especially this year in particular for a very unique reason. To understand this, he explains “ants are part of nature and they are not trying to upset us intentionally, they are just trying to live on this planet like the rest of us are and are capable of feeling suffering, just like us to”. He goes on to explain, if we are kind to the smaller creatures in life, life will be kind back to us to, we will get back good karma, and we never know when we may need it. He is appealing to people to stay in their homes if they can (this time for good karma reasons as well to avoid stepping on them). He believes for each one we can save we can accrue some good karma to.



For those who do not want them to enter their homes, Deep advises they keep doors and windows shut or on the latch where possible as well as avoid leaving open food containers and litter around as these things can attract them. To stop ants generally, Deep says please do not use poison or ant powder, just sprinkle plenty of very fine black pepper powder, talcum powder or cinnamon powder around where they come (but NOT directly on the ants) as well as empty saucers with cloths on them that have been soaked in white vinegar in areas near windows and doors. Deep says “these methods will repel the ants without harming them and you will have good karma for choosing to be kind”. He goes on to explain the reason why it is even more important to be kind towards these ants this year than ever before is because this year their day of freedom coincides with ours, where the government is lifting restrictions for us all in the UK. Deep says “perhaps if we spare a thought for them and are kind to them, things will go well for us and we will have good karma for our new start as a nation”. He also explains that these ants can seem annoying, but they are ecologically essential, their nesting behaviour provides excellent aeration for our soil and they are an important part of the ecological balance of nature. Deep always encourages people to show kindness towards all smaller creatures and assures us, if we are kind towards them, good karma will come back. To find out more of his tips you can join his Facebook group “KINDNESS GUY”.

St Mary's University

St Mary's Amongst Top Nationally for Overall Satisfaction

St Mary's University, Twickenham has continued its excellent student satisfaction ratings in this year's National Student Survey (NSS), ranking amongst the top universities nationally.

The annual survey, which asks final year students to rate their university experience in a range of areas, found that students at the University have rated St Mary's third in London for overall student satisfaction amongst higher education institutions with university status. St Mary's continued to outperform the sector this year, ranking 18th nationally for overall satisfaction, 6.3% ahead of the sector average.



St Mary's also ranked second in London amongst higher education institutions with university status for learning opportunities and learning community. The University outperformed the sector average in the six other key categories:

- Teaching on my course
- Academic support
- Student voice
- Assessment and feedback
- Learning resources
- Organisation and management

"I would like to thank all of our staff for the amazing way they have supported our students throughout their time at the university and our students for the resilience that shown over this extraordinary year"
St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran

The brilliant results also continued at subject

level, with 14 of the 18 subjects offered at St Mary's outperforming the sector average. The highest performing course was the University's Ofsted Outstanding foundation education programme, which recorded 100% overall satisfaction.

Creative Writing meanwhile achieved a rating of 90% (+15% on sector average). This was followed closely by undergraduate Teacher Training (+10%), Marketing (+17%), and Health Sciences (+16%) achieving 89% overall satisfaction.

Speaking of the results, St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran said, *"I am delighted that our students have rated us so highly in this year's NSS. This has been a particularly challenging year for our students, with the rapidly changing global and national situation surrounding Covid-19. I would like to thank all of our staff for the amazing way they have supported our students throughout their time at the university and our students for the resilience that shown over this extraordinary year."*

"We've got lots planned for the year ahead to make it the best year for the Simmie community. SMSU"
Student Life President Ahmed El Hana

St Mary's Students' Union (SMSU) also performed well in rankings, with students rating it second in London. SMSU had a strong year of campaigning at the University, with their successful period poverty campaign ensuring funding for free period products across the University, amongst others. Their brilliant 'Simmies at Home' campaign and 'Student Reconnect Week' also helped keep students entertained during the lockdowns and the return to campus in May.

SMSU Student Life President Ahmed El Hana said, *"It's amazing we've been rated the second best SU in London! I'd like to thank all of the SU team for their work over the past year supporting students, including this year's Officer Team. We've got lots planned for the year ahead to make it the best year for the Simmie community."*



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Richmond lad achieves Academic Scholarship to prestigious Hampton School

Falcons Prep Richmond are thrilled to congratulate Year 8 Leaver, Thomas Wray Miller, on being awarded a 13+ Academic Scholarship to Hampton School for September 2021 - an incredible achievement!

Thomas of Richmond, joined Falcons Prep in Year 4, excelling in his time at the local Richmond boys' school, as demonstrated by recent awarding of the Shower Science prize (as pictured), in addition to securing one of a small handful of Scholarships each year to prestigious South West London school, Hampton.

Thomas commented:
"It was a really hard slog for most of Year 8 and some of the exams were tough, but my teachers helped me a lot and the interview with the Hampton teacher was actually quite fun. I was very excited and happy when Miss Buchanan told me I'd won the scholarship and that I could tell all my friends!"



Thomas collecting the Shower Science Cup for Outstanding Progress and Learning in Science at Falcons Prep Richmond end of year Prize Giving Ceremony.

Mr Edward Miller, Thomas's father commented:

"We are both very proud of Thomas and his achievement of being awarded a scholarship by Hampton. He has worked very hard for this for much of the year. The teachers at Falcons Prep have all been very supportive, from providing extension work and additional revision materials all the way through to running mock interviews for him. Thank you all so much."

Miss Olivia Buchanan, Falcons Prep Headmistress commented:

'I am always so immensely proud of my boys and the schools that they go on to, but perhaps more so this year due to the various trials and tribulations that they have had to endure during their final CE year. To progress, to keep going and continue their learning online is admirable. To do so in such a way as to achieve an Academic Scholarship at Hampton School is astonishing and I and the Falcons Prep community are incredibly proud of, and impressed by, Thomas' achievement.'



Dominic Raab MP to skydive for leading local charity Shooting Star Children's Hospices

In October, Dominic Raab MP will be jumping out of an airplane from 15,000 feet to raise money for Shooting Star Children's Hospices.

The charity provides vital care and support, free of charge, for babies, children and young people who may have been born with life-limiting progressive conditions, have cancer, or have undiagnosed conditions with complex symptoms. In all, the charity supports 700 families throughout Surrey (including in Elmbridge) and 15 London boroughs.



Shooting Star Children's Hospices has faced a challenging time during the pandemic, affecting their ability to fundraise and the way they could provide their vital services. They had to make the difficult decision to temporarily close one of their purpose-built hospices (Shooting Star House) in Hampton.

Dominic is aiming to raise at least £20,000 for the charity.

Esher and Walton MP Dominic Raab said:

"Shooting Star Children's Hospices is an inspirational local charity, supporting families across the area – including in Elmbridge – at the most difficult of times imaginable.

"I've been touched by the devotion of their staff and volunteers and have seen how valuable the facilities at their hospices are. Like any parent, I can't begin to imagine what families relying on Shooting Star have to go through, but I know how valued the support and care they provide is.

"The charity has shown great resilience through the pandemic, but it's been a hard time. I want to do something to help and am looking forward to raising as much as possible. Whatever your reasons for wanting me to jump out of a plane, I would greatly appreciate any support you may be able to give."

Karen Sugarman MBE, Executive Vice-President at Shooting Star Children's Hospices, said:
"Over the past few years, Dominic has taken the time to support our work at Shooting Star Children's Hospices and it was evident when he visited our West London hospice – Shooting Star House, that Dominic had great empathy for our work. To mark my 35th year in palliative and cancer care and as my local MP, I challenged Dominic to undertake a skydive to raise vital funds for the charity and without hesitation, he agreed to that challenge. After enduring such a difficult time during the pandemic with the loss of many key fundraising events, which we are so reliant on, we cannot be more grateful to Dominic for his support and great enthusiasm to help us."

Dominic's Just Giving page is available [here](#).



Princess Alice Hospice supporter takes on 7 day challenge

Princess Alice Hospice supporter, Mikolaj Zieleznik, has just completed his three part challenge, starting and ending in Chamonix, France, in a bid to raise £20,000 for the Esher based Hospice.

The challenge started with a run: 90km distance, 6km elevation in the Chamonix Ultra Marathon – through snow and sunshine. Mikolaj completed this run in 19 hours 36 minutes beating his 20 hours target! He had a well-deserved day off before setting off on a drive to Italy to climb the 4,000m Grand Paradiso peak. This is Italy's highest independent peak and a very difficult event after running 90km!

After finishing on day 5 he then drove back to Chamonix for a rest day, in readiness for Challenge 3 on day 6/7 climbing Western Europe's highest peak: 4,800m Mont Blanc. The mountain stands between the regions of Aosta Valley, Italy, and Savoie and Haute-Savoie, France.

However, the weather had other plans for Mikolaj and he was unable to complete this section of his challenge due to the severity of it. Not to be deterred he drove back to Italy, where he was met by some equally awful weather, but still was able to climb Piramide Vincent (4,215m) on Friday morning, having sat out the storm at Refuge di mantova (3,500m) before flying back to the UK on Friday afternoon in time for his daughter's birthday.

Mikolaj's decision to attempt this three part challenge came when he learned how badly the local charity had been affected by the COVID pandemic with almost all events being cancelled during 2020. It costs £10.1m to run the Hospice for a year with 76% of the income coming from local supporters like Mikolaj.

Training for the events started in January before Mikolaj was sure how or when the lockdown was going to ease, but he knew he would be doing something big to support his local Hospice.

He said, "Local charities have suffered enormously over the past year and I felt the need to do something big to try and help. What the Hospice does in supporting those at the end of life and the help they give families and friends is priceless."

If you'd like to take on a less daunting challenge you can visit the hospice website at <https://www.pah.org.uk/how-you-can-help/events/find-an-event/>

You can also check out the latest images of Mikolaj on his travels on his Just Giving page here –

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Mikolaj-Zieleznik1>



Local government and net zero in England

Today's report from the National Audit Office (NAO) finds that central government has not provided local authorities with clarity about their roles in achieving net zero by 2050, and its approach to funding their net zero work is piecemeal.

In June 2019, the government passed legislation committing to achieve net zero by 2050. Local authorities provide a range of services that have an impact on government's commitment to achieve 'net zero' greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, such as transport planning, social housing and recycling and waste services. Central government can direct local authorities to act on its priorities through statutory requirements, or incentivise them to act voluntarily.

Central government has not yet developed with local authorities any overall expectations about their roles in achieving the national net zero target. Local authorities have started a range of climate work, some as a result of government schemes. The NAO finds that 91% of local authorities have adopted at least one commitment to decarbonise their activities, or their local area. More than a third (38%) of single and upper tier authorities⁴ have committed to decarbonise their local area by or before 2030.



However, central government is yet to decide whether local authorities' roles in meeting the national net zero target should have statutory basis. Without a clear sense of responsibilities and priorities, there is a risk that local authority action on net zero is not as co-ordinated, targeted, or widespread as it might need to be.

Central government has not yet set out to local authorities how it will work with them to clarify net zero responsibilities. It has committed to outline responsibilities at national, regional and local level in its overall net zero strategy - publishing before the UN climate conference in November 2021. Departments have carried out some engagement with local authorities to factor in their perspectives on this overall strategy, and the supporting sector decarbonisation strategies. The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for example, is running a series of workshops on the resources and powers local authorities will need for net zero. However, the NAO is not convinced that overall engagement has been sufficiently strategic or co-ordinated to ensure that the role of local authorities in meeting the national net zero target is clearly defined.

Local authorities told the NAO that they find it hard to engage with central government on net zero, and that there is a lack of coordination between departments on their specific net

zero requirements. In March 2020, in an informal stocktake, MHCLG found approximately 45 policy areas across government that are likely to impact local action on climate change, and recognised that this posed a significant risk of inconsistent goals and messages. In April 2020 MHCLG set up a new cross-department local government policy group to discuss local government action on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Neither MHCLG nor HM Treasury has assessed the totality of the funding available to local authorities for net zero, or whether the balance of different types of funds is likely to be effective. Local authorities can use core funding from MHCLG, they can bid for grant funding, or they can access wider funding targeted at more general outcomes such as social or economic growth. From late summer 2021, the UK Infrastructure Bank will also be able to lend up to £4 billion to local authorities to help them achieve the net zero target and support economic growth. Grant funding for local authorities' net zero activities increased from £74 million in 2019-20, to £1.2 billion in 2020-21, but remains fragmented. NAO analysis of 21 grants available to local authorities for net-zero work shows that local authorities have received very different amounts from these funds: 17 local authority areas received £20 million or more each, while 37 received less than £2 million each. Per person, 14 local authority areas received £50 or more, while 67 received less than £12.50.

Local authorities have varying levels of capacity to engage with net zero. In a 2020 survey from the Local Government Association, 79 out of 90 respondents thought a lack of workforce capacity was a moderate or significant barrier to tackling climate change. In 2013 and 2017, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy set up dedicated organisations to support local authorities on energy decarbonisation, the Department for Transport is now setting up a similar body on active travel. In November 2020, a ministerial-led Green Jobs Taskforce was set up to develop a green jobs and skills action plan to support the development of government's strategies for net zero, and a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The NAO recommends that central government carries out an analysis of the net zero funding available to local authorities to inform the next Comprehensive Spending Review, considering the cost pressures they face.

Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO said:

“There are serious weaknesses in government's approach to working with local authorities on net zero, stemming from a lack of clarity over roles and responsibilities and piecemeal funding. This hampers local authorities' ability to plan effectively for the long term, build skills and capacity, and prioritise effort.

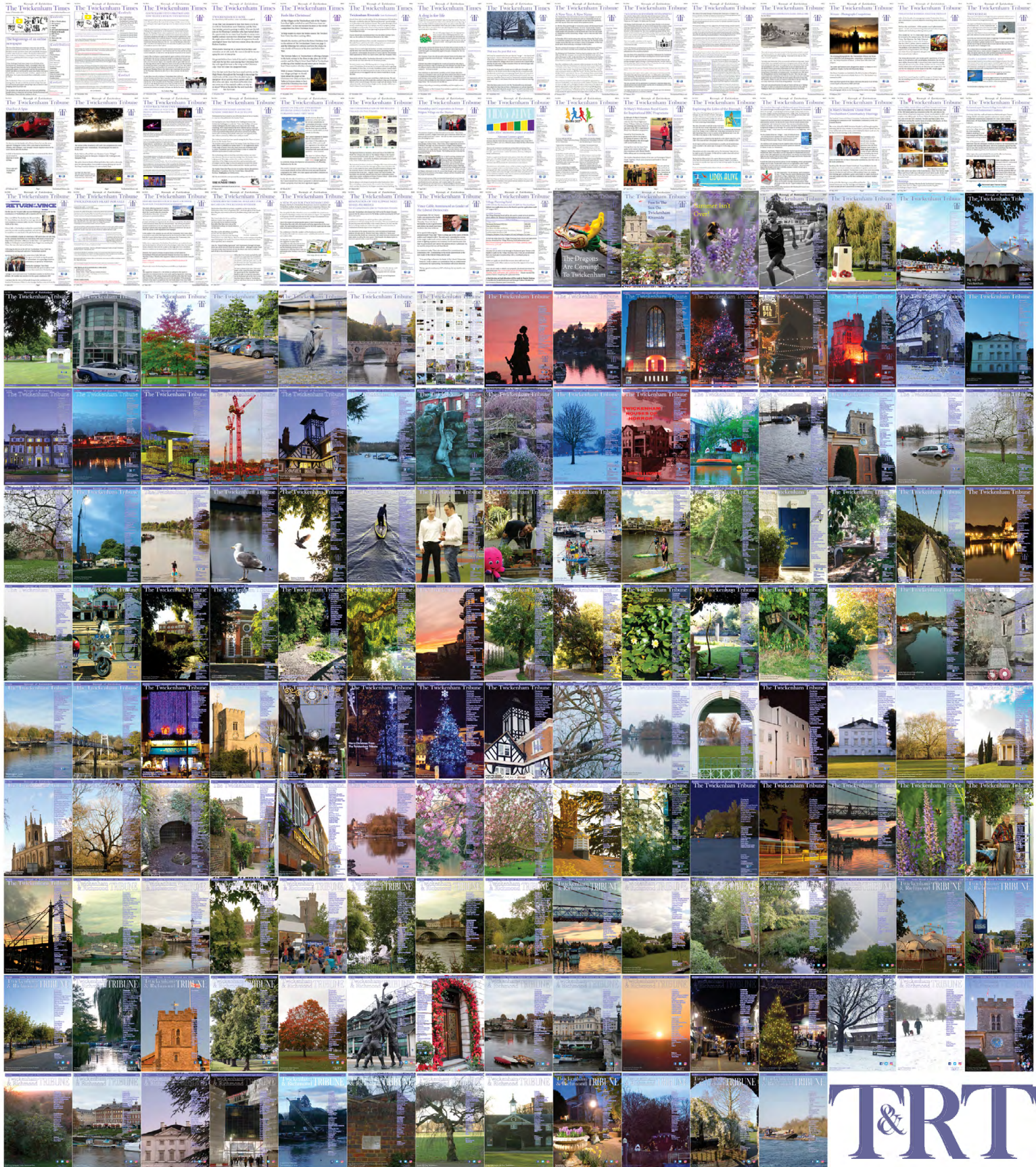
“Government's efforts to improve its approach to local action on net zero have been understandably slowed by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there is now great urgency to make progress.”

View the full report [HERE](#)



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