

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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Editors

Berkley Driscoll
Teresa Read



30th September 2022



Autumn

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

Richmond Lock and Weir draw-off

The PLA has said that an extended draw-off period is required due to additional repairs to the centre weir.

The draw-off period will commence at approximately 08:30 on Monday 31st October and will complete at approximately 16:30 on Friday 23rd December 2022.

During this period river users are reminded that the river will NOT be maintained at the nominal level of 1.72m above Ordnance Datum Newlyn and it is expected the riverbed will be exposed at low water.

National rail strikes

National rail strikes are taking place on Saturday 1, Wednesday 5 and Saturday 8 October.

Saturday 1 October: A severely reduced service will operate between 0730 and 1830 only.

Sunday 2 October: First services will start much later than usual and be very busy - please avoid them if you can.

SWR drivers will not be involved in the planned ASLEF strike action on Wednesday 5 October

Customers should still check before they travel on this date as their connections with other operators might be affected, or not run at all.

Saturday 8 October and Sunday 9 October: SWR will issue information about the service and hope to be able to run on these dates in due course.

RUN-FEST returns as an October running festival

The GoFundMe Richmond RUN-FEST will return on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 October following its earlier postponement.

This year the race will be celebrating it's 10th anniversary.

Entries are still available in all of the races including the Kids Mile races. Visit the RUN-FEST [website](#) for more information and details of how to apply.

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COVID-19

Teresa Read

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 - 28 September 2022

At the regional level, the number of newly reported weekly cases decreased or remained stable across all six WHO regions: the African Region (-33%), the Western Pacific Region (-19%), the Region of the Americas (-15%), South-East Asia Region (-11%), the Eastern Mediterranean Region (-8%) and the European Region (-1%). The number of new weekly deaths also decreased or remained stable across all six regions: the African Region (-34%), the Eastern Mediterranean Region (-26%), the European Region (-26%), the Western Pacific Region (-16%), the Region of the Americas (-12%) and the South-East Asia Region (-3%).

At the country level, the highest numbers of new weekly cases were reported from Japan (535,502 new cases; -12%), the United States of America (361,599 new cases; -11%), the Russian Federation (353,826 new cases; -5%), China (292,476 new cases; similar to the previous week) and Germany (249,144 new cases; +9%). The highest numbers of new weekly deaths were reported from the United States of America (2,484 new deaths; -11%), the Russian Federation (712 new deaths; similar to the previous week), Japan (659 new deaths; -43%), China (497 new deaths; +38%) and Brazil (450 new deaths; -8%).

European Region

In the European Region, the number of new weekly cases remained stable this week as compared to the previous week, with over 1.2 million new cases reported. Five (8%) countries reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with the highest proportional increases observed in San Marino (102 vs 66 new cases; +55%), Ukraine (36,683 vs 23,864 new cases; +54%) and Austria (47,812 vs 33,909 new cases; +41%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Russian Federation (353,826 new cases; 242.5 new cases per 100,000; -5%), Germany (249,144 new cases; 299.6 new cases per 100,000; +9%) and France (191,463 new cases; 294.4 new cases per 100,000; similar to the previous week).

Over 2,500 new weekly deaths were reported in the Region, a 26% decrease as compared to the previous week. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Russian Federation (712 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; similar to the previous week), Italy (321 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; -13%) and Spain (284 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; -52%)

In the News this Week

Reuters "Blood on your hands" if world steps back on tackling COVID

CNN: Rising Covid-19 cases in the UK may be a warning for the US

The Guardian: Millions urged to get flu and Covid jabs amid fear of winter 'twindemic' in UK

South China Morning Post Coronavirus is still a global issue, the World Health Organization says. If rich nations think the pandemic is over, they should help lower-income countries reach that point too, a senior World Health Organization official said.

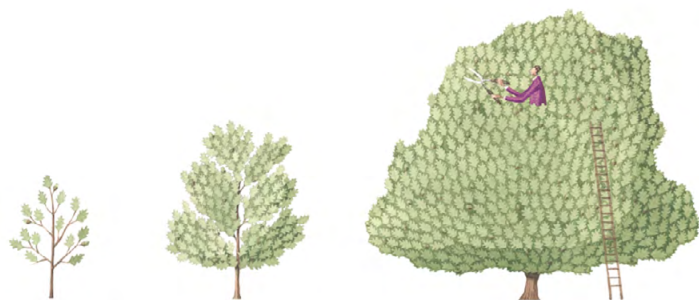
In an interview, WHO senior adviser Bruce Aylward warned that richer nations must not step back from tackling Covid-19 as a global problem now, ahead of future potential waves of infection.

In the last few weeks, WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the end of the pandemic was in sight, and US President Joe Biden said the pandemic was over.

"When I hear them say, 'Well, we're so comfortable here,' it's like, 'Great, now you can really help us get the rest of the world done,'" said Aylward.

Aylward said that the group he coordinates, which focuses on equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines, treatments and tests worldwide, is not yet ready to move out of the emergency phase of tackling the pandemic and that countries need to be ready and have treatments in place for any further waves of infection.

"If you go to sleep right now and this wave hits us in three months ... God - blood on your hands," he said.



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darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

Kew's war memorials

By Simon Fowler

The war memorial in Kew surely can be found close to St Anne's Church on the Green.

In fact the area has three - arguably four- war memorials for the fallen men from the district.

At the end of the First World War there was a nationwide move to commemorate those who had not returned from the trenches. Each community marked the deaths of local men as they saw fit. Committees of local dignitaries debated the best way to mark the fallen. Memorials were the most common suggestions, but there many other imaginative schemes. Most had to be abandoned or curtailed because it was increasingly hard to raise money as economic depression gripped the country.

In Kew, unusually, there was no difficulty in raising the funds. By June 1921 public appeals had raised £1700, of which £350 was earmarked for a memorial on Kew Green.

The designer was a young local sculptor Edgar Allan Howes. Originally it was to have been sited roughly where the cricket pavilion is now, but the Office of Works, on behalf of the Crown who own the Green, objected, which is why it is rather hidden away to the south of the St Anne's church.

It was dedicated by Field Marshal Sir William Robertson on 25 June 1921 in front of a crowd including the mayor, local bigwigs as well as children from King's School and the local Boy Scout troop. The local papers noted that the ceremony was marked 'by brevity and simplicity.'



A few weeks earlier a memorial screen inside St Anne's listing ninety men from Kew who had lost their lives in the war was dedicated by General Sir Frederick Maurice. It was painted by Henry Williams, who lived in The Avenue at no charge to the church.

The remainder of the funds was spent on converting Westerly Ware into a recreation ground, with tennis courts, a playground and other facilities. Before the war the area had been little more than an unkempt field, where children used to play much to the annoyance of their elders. There never seems to have been formal opening. Splendid memorial gates were erected in about 1927 and were restored fairly recently.

There were then two parishes in Kew: St Anne's, for the area between the Green and the station, and St Luke's, which covered the more working-class district towards Richmond. St Luke's was a much poorer parish than St Anne's. Here the funds stretched only to commissioning a solid oak screen and a memorial board listing a hundred local casualties. They were designed by an eminent Scottish architect, Sir Robert Lorimer, and way dedicated in a lowkey ceremony by a former vicar of the parish.

This weekend the National Archives has the final weekend about Kew in the 1920s. Details at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20s-people/local-history-weekends-at-the-national-archives/

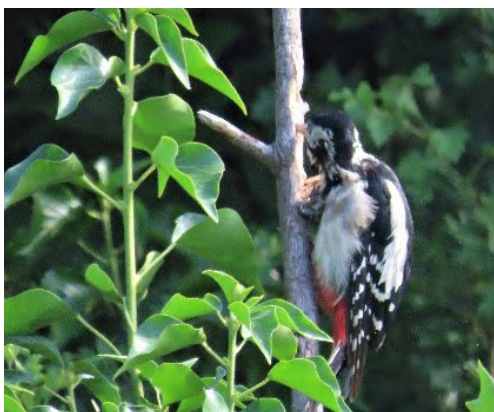


*Equinox
 "May every hurt be healed
 with loving intent, and positivity.
 In my heart
 Hope Springs Eternal
 Our Equinox comes
 at this time of year.
 One deep breath from finding balance and on to better
 days.
 We have all this air to breathe yet,
 anxiously we hold our breath
 unwilling to believe"
 c.SoZaka*

Trusting that October will bring us all some Hope and that we can still breathe our 'Air', for now, unlike so many places in the world struggling with climate change issues destroying their habitats. We have seen frogs in our little sink ponds and spiders galore with mushroom magic sprouting along the River Crane walk and parks. Get out in all weathers and enjoy the blessings of Nature to raise spirits. Ignore the gutter press and media which engenders hate with their vile misinformation. Website: [River Crane Sanctuary](http://RiverCraneSanctuary.com) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/rivercranesanctuary)



FatBirder.com Bo Beolens styles himself as the Grumpy Old Birder and his articles and knowledge have made me laugh, cry and actually learn something. Click on the link above to read his latest article and do look at his website if you love birds in particular. Or take a look at this article on the impact of [releasing non-native game birds](#) for the shooting fraternity.



Hampton North Ward News

Councillor Geoffrey Samuel

I was pleased to attend the two events which the Council set up in the aftermath of the Death of HM Queen Elizabeth. A Borough Civic Service was held in St Mary's Church in Twickenham and attended by a very large number of local people. There was also a large attendance at the proclamation of King Charles III held outside York House. In particular it was good to see that a number of former Mayors attended.

GREEN BICYCLES

A number of residents has contacted me to complain about Green Bicycles. They have suddenly appeared in various places in the Ward and in the Borough as a whole. Whereas they are welcome to many people, all too often they are simply left on the pavement obstructing passage and a particular problem for the elderly, the disabled and those pushing a pram. This is not acceptable and I have raised it with Council officers – they are quite simply a safety hazard.

R70 and 111

I thank all those residents who sent me their experiences of problems. TfL and Abellio (the contractor for the 111) agreed a meeting date to discuss these issues with Nick Rogers, our GLA member, and me. This was then cancelled as it was fixed for a date during Public Mourning. To our annoyance they have now cancelled the agreed alternative date of 29th September and offered a new date in the middle of October.

PARKING IN THE AVENUE

I am pleased to report that, following my representations on behalf of local people, the Council will not proceed with restrictions in that part of The Avenue nearest to the junction with Buckingham Road. The proposals affecting the mini-roundabout will still go ahead. The consequence of any parking restriction is that inevitably the displaced vehicles simply move to a new location – which all too often is not consulted. In every case where restrictions are proposed I shall ask where the displaced vehicles will now park so that those residents may also be consulted. I am in discussions with officers concerning Yellow Line proposal for **Stanborough Close**

RECYCLING CENTRE

Complaints about the debris, mess, fly-tipping etc [frequently accompanied by photos] continue. I am not prepared to accept that nothing can be done: CCTV has been installed in other Recycling Centres in the Borough. The time has come to say to the Council “manage it or move it”

OAK AVENUE PETITION

At the Council meeting on 27th September I submitted a petition of well over 200 local residents asking for a pedestrian crossing in **Oak Avenue**, principally to improve road safety for the many children who cross the road in order to attend school. Many of the signatories are themselves the parents of these children.

DEAN ROAD

Residents have complained about the state of local streets – especially **Dean Road**. The road has no fixed cleaning schedule road and litter is also strewn on the pavement and verges. Although there is a general published cleaning schedule this has never occurred as promised and residents are now understandably frustrated by the lack of action. I have raised this as a matter of urgency and am also responding to similar complaints about other roads

BROAD LANE CROSSING

Consultation has shown that this has majority support. The Council will now proceed. Extensive realignment of the junctions of **Wensleydale Road and Nightingale Road** will be included. A bollard will also be added. As a result the sightlines for vehicles turning out of these roads will be improved. Advance warning signs prior to the bend on **Broad Lane** will alert drivers to the crossings ahead.

THE WHITE HOUSE

We await the consultants' report. I was pleased to attend the re-opening of the Pre-School. At the Council meeting on 27th September I asked for an assurance that the Council would provide the funding to allow The White House to offer the courses, classes and activities available until 2020. I believe that The White House will need Council funding for several years if it is to provide what local people want.

SHORTER ITEMS

- There has been another fire on The David Lloyd Golf Course
- The current **Burtens Road scheme**, to which so many of our residents object, will not be reviewed until next year. The Council will consider all comments from residents who are urged to submit them as soon as possible
- Fly-tipping on the open land behind **Bishops Grove** is the responsibility of RHP and I have referred it to them
- The resident who removed bushes and foliage from part of **Old Farm Road** has now moved and so part of it is being restored.
- The house in **Morland Close** which for many months has been used as a Children's Home with consequent problems for some of the neighbours is now on the market

This Newsletter is written [and circulated from] my personal password-protected computer. I follow up all responses and complaints and will forward such to Council officers and senior members unless I am asked not to do so.

Please contact me on my personal computer gjshn@btinternet.com I am usually able to respond within 36 hours

Eel Pie Island Museum and Silver Sunday Event - THIS Sunday

A Slice of Eel Pie: Boatyards & Bands, Artists & Inventors - a fully illustrated guided walk along Twickenham's historic Embankment overlooking Eel Pie Island

The Eel Pie Island Museum in central Twickenham celebrates all that has made this tiny island in the Thames so famous - from its heritage working boatyards nestling side by side with the Eel Pie's creative community to the significant part the island-based Eelpiland Club played in the 1960s British Blues explosion, helping superstars such as The Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, David Bowie, Rod Stewart and many more kick start their musical careers.

Silver Sunday is part of a wider borough initiative called Full of Life.

Find out more about Silver Sunday [HERE](#)



“A Slice of Eel Pie”

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The FA Cup comes to Hampton and Richmond FC

This Saturday, 1 October 2022, Paulton Rovers FC visit the Rocket Hospitality Beveree stadium in the FA Cup.

Come down, enjoy the atmosphere and get behind your local club this weekend in the FA Cup.

While you are there send the kids to the tuck shop, have a drink and try the best burgers in non-league football.

Kick off is at 3pm and tickets can be bought in advance.

[Get your tickets for the FA Cup](#)



The Royal Parks urges visitors to stay away from rutting deer

Those visiting Richmond and Bushy Parks may notice a change in the behaviour of the deer this autumn, as rutting (mating) season kicks off.

During this time, extra vigilance is being advised by The Royal Parks charity as the male deer are pumped full of testosterone and can weigh over 25 stone.

From now until early November, male deer will roar and clash antlers in a bid to fight off rivals and attract as many females as possible.

During the rut, The Royal Parks is urging people to take responsibility for their own safety by:

- Keeping a minimum distance of 50m. The more distance the better
- Keeping dogs on a lead or walking elsewhere
- Abiding by the British Deer Society's Code of Conduct when photographing deer
- Never getting in between two rutting deer

The mating season also attracts photographers from the length and breadth of the country, and they too are being urged to give deer respect and space and reminded that the 50 metre rule also applies to them.

Volunteer rangers, identifiable by their bright orange jackets, will be issuing safety advice to visitors in both parks, explaining the physical and behavioural changes that the deer are experiencing during the rut and how people can keep themselves and their families safe.

For everything you need to know about the deer rutting season, read [The Royal Park's blog](#).



Celebrate your local libraries this Libraries Week

Richmond upon Thames' Libraries Service have announced a series of exciting events taking place for Libraries Week from 3 to 9 October to celebrate our much-loved libraries.

Libraries Week is an annual showcase of the best that libraries have to offer. This year Richmond upon Thames' Library Service are celebrating with events for all ages.

From performance storytelling to creating comics and digital library workshops there's something for everyone.

Discover our digital library available to residents with our friendly team who will be on hand to show you how easy it is to read newspapers and magazines online and how to access the library's collection of eBooks and eAudiobooks.

There will be a 'How to Make (Awesome) Comics' event on Saturday 8 October at 2pm with Neill Cameron, cartoonist for The Phoenix comic and creator of the award-winning series Mega Robo Bros.

Allow Ben Haggarty to lure you into 'The grateful & the dead' a full-blooded fairytale for grown-ups on Friday 14 October at 7pm at Richmond Library.

Interested in learning more about keeping bees, using bees to monitor local biodiversity, and creating honey products? Then join an introductory workshop by award-winning beekeepers Bushwood Bees.

Explore the [full schedule of events](#) taking place locally for Libraries Week.



Join Ham Youth Orchestra

Ham Youth Centre are offering 10 to 19 year olds an amazing opportunity to learn classical instruments and play with others free of charge.

Students will be able to use a wide range of classical instruments free of charge, under the tutelage of highly qualified music teachers.

They are looking for dedicated and passionate young musicians of all levels of experience. The orchestra aims to improve young people's musical proficiency and enable them to take part in performances in the future.

The Ham Youth Orchestra will run every Wednesday from 3.30 to 5pm at Ham Youth Centre.

For more information about the Ham Youth Orchestra contact Ben Skelton by emailing ben.skelton@achievingforchildren.org.uk or by calling 07903 349719.



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Kew Village Market

If you're looking for fine food and quality crafts, Kew Village Market is the place to be on the first Sunday of the month. On 2 October around 45 independent traders, who all grow or make what they sell, will be setting out their colourful stalls of (often award-winning) produce.

There'll also be live music with the sociable strumming of the Hanwell Ukulele Group followed by the Joe Card Band, and Julia Cambridge, the Mayor of Richmond, will be presenting three local charities with KVM cheques – bringing the total donated to date to over £85,000.

Run by local people for local people in aid of local good causes – that's Kew Village Market.

<https://kewvillagemarket.org/>

The Poppy Factory is looking for visitor hosts to help tell their 100 year story

The Poppy Factory has an important story that should be told to the widest audience. They have created a Visitor Centre to do just that, as it honours their heritage and the veterans of the past as well as ensuring they are here to serve the veterans of today and the future.

Play your part in The Poppy Factory's 100-year history and join their passionate team at the unique heritage site in Richmond upon Thames. Build your historical and military knowledge and make a difference by sharing our story and supporting their modern mission, helping the wounded veterans of today to rebuild their lives.

Based in their new Visitor Centre, the purpose of this role is to host visitor groups of 25 to 50 people. As well as providing a warm welcome.

Hosts help bring to life the fascinating story of The Poppy Factory and ensure a positive and informative experience for all our visitors.

Find out more about [working at The Poppy Factory](#).



Richmond Remembers: 100 Years of The Poppy Factory

Discover 100 years of history as The Poppy Factory celebrates its centenary year
(Tuesday 27th September 2022 – May 2023)

The Museum is FREE to visit, and we are open 11am - 5pm, Tuesday to Friday, 11am - 4pm on Saturdays!

Founded in the aftermath of the First World War as a means to employ disabled ex-servicemen, The Poppy Factory continues to support veterans and produce Remembrance wreaths from its home on Petersham Road today. This exhibition explores The Poppy Factory's fascinating history and displays artefacts which chart the story of this unique local charity.

www.museumofrichmond.com



Richmond Remembers:

100 Years of The Poppy Factory



New date announced for Council's trial community skip scheme

Following its postponement earlier this month, residents will have the opportunity to declutter their homes for free by using one of the Council's new mega skips on **Saturday 1 October**.

In an effort to help residents dispose of items responsibly, Richmond Council will trial the use of community skips at two separate locations in the borough. The Council offers a bulky waste collection service but residents will now have the opportunity to bring their old possessions to the community skip to recycle their items.

The skips will be located at Bloxham Crescent in Hampton and at the corner of Stillingfleet Road and Barnes Avenue in Barnes.

Residents can take up to six items along with them to the mega skip for free, including some electrical equipment and household items like mattresses and sofas.

Council officers will be present on the day to share information about support on offer through the [Community Ambassadors](#) as well as providing recycling tips to residents at the Hampton site.

Mega Skip Day will take place on Saturday 1 October, from 9am to 12pm. The skips will be located at Bloxham Crescent in Hampton and at the corner of Stillingfleet Road and Barnes Avenue in Barnes.

As we expect high demand on the day, we will operate on a first come first served basis. When the skips are full we'll let you know via Twitter, check [@LBRUT](#) before you set off.

We are limiting the number of items you can bring to no more than six items per household so that everyone has a chance to make use of the skips. One bag of rubbish counts as one item, as does one sofa, one mattress etc.

The skips are open to residents of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames only, proof of address may be required.

We can only accept certain items.

We can accept:

- Household waste only: the skips are for household waste only – no business waste.
- Carpet
- Computers and IT equipment
- Furniture - e.g. mattresses, sofas, tables etc...
- Microwaves and small electrical appliances
- Batteries (but no car batteries)
- Bicycles
- Cardboard
- Black bags

We cannot accept:

- Hazardous objects or dangerous materials/chemicals: please do not bring anything hazardous in such as sharp objects, needles, dangerous chemicals, plasterboard, flammable liquids and asbestos.
- Paint
- Concrete
- Garden Waste
- Car batteries
- Cement, rubble or hardcore
- Plasterboard
- Engine oil/cooking oil
- Fridges or other large electrical appliances





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The Community Toilet Scheme – Is It Worth Our Money?

By Teresa Read

As the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (LBRUT) has a joint service agreement with Wandsworth Council it seems that there is an officer responsible for overseeing the Community Toilet Scheme (CTS) for both boroughs.

Readers of the Tribune will know that there have been complaints about this CTS scheme and its failure to keep public urination off the streets. No one has been able to successfully address this problem, not councillors, not officers, and not the Leader of LBRUT who spoke to residents about this issue some years ago via a zoom meeting.

Searching the internet it seems that our partner borough, Wandsworth, has a similar problem.

The Community Toilet Scheme makes a payment to local organisations who sign up to the CTS but are these toilets advertised adequately; are there local permanent signs indicating where a toilet can be accessed and are residents made to feel welcome?

Toilets are needed by all age groups but one organization Age UK has carried out a survey among older people in London calling for more awareness of the need for public toilets and asking for a named person to be responsible for this service. Certainly, knowing who to contact with concerns would be a step forward.

I have contacted councillors, officers and amenity societies for four years and still this public health problem has not been adequately addressed. Is it too much to expect of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames?

LBRUT is a borough proposing a development that plans to demolish two excellent public toilets in Twickenham; they will be replaced with the shared use of a pub toilet, and this includes use by children from a nearby playground.

Will our councillors and officers seriously address this Public Health issue? And will the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames allocate the finance to provide public toilets where they are needed as well as providing easily visible permanent signs indicating paid members of the Community Toilet Scheme.

Note: “The payment is based on the number of days that toilet facilities are available to the public with a minimum payment of £800 and a maximum of £1,000 (plus VAT) per annum.”

Julia.Sherrin@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Public Toilets in London, Age UK - [London Loos](#)

Running for Skylarks

Andrew is taking on the Chicago marathon in aid of Richmond charity Skylarks on the 9th October.

Thank you Andrew for spreading awareness of our small charity to the USA. Show your support and consider giving to his fundraising:

<https://justgiving.com/fundraising/strewthbruce3>



Skylarks provides a supportive and active community. We care for the whole family, providing opportunities to join in, develop and feel empowered. We want to remove the isolation that can be created for families and their children who have a disability or additional needs. We are based in Richmond upon Thames, but have an open door policy. Anyone, from anywhere, is welcome!

The charity was founded as Me too & Co by a group of parent volunteers in 2006 to fill a gap in the local community where there was a lack of support. You can more read about our founder and beginnings [here](#). In April 2019, we rebranded and officially changed our name to Skylarks Charity (or Skylarks for short). Most recently we have been awarded the **Queens Award for Voluntary Service** in recognition for the wonderful team of dedicated volunteers we have supporting our cause.



activate

90km



1.9km



21 km



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Richmond Council allocates £3 million to tackle cost of living crisis

Richmond Council has agreed to create a £3 million Emergency Fund to fund urgent support packages which will help residents and businesses struggling as a result of the cost of living crisis.

The Council has also outlined its response to the cost of living crisis to date and set out clear commitments to do more, working with key partners including the local voluntary sector.

The funding was approved by the Council's Finance, Resource and Policy Committee on Monday 26 September, then ratified by the Full Council on Tuesday 27 September.

Approving the allocation of this funding upfront will allow new activity to happen at pace and for decisions to be made quickly by officers or through urgent decisions.

Council officers have carried out an audit of support already on offer, to identify gaps and determine what else can be done.

The Council will continue to work closely with voluntary sector partners and other

organisations to understand the impact of the crisis on residents and businesses, ensure support across the borough is coordinated and make sure help is easy to access through effective signposting.

The Council has also launched its Cost of Living Hub, to signpost residents to both national and local support.

The Hub includes information about money, bills, food, housing and home improvements, employment, family and childcare, mental health and general advice. It also features a special calculator to help residents work exactly what financial help they may be entitled to.

All residents in Richmond upon Thames will receive a leaflet through their letterbox in the next 10 days, outlining this support.

Find more information at the [Cost of Living Hub](#)



Bellmans to hold first valuation day at Strawberry Hill House on 24th October

Bellmans, the auction house with an auction room in Sussex and offices in South Kensington, will hold a valuation day at Strawberry Hill House for the first time on Monday, 24th October 2022. Strawberry Hill House & Garden is situated in the village of Strawberry Hill, just outside Twickenham, 12 miles west of Central London.

Bellmans will bring several specialists from its jewellery and watches, silver, European and Asian ceramics and pictures department as well as a generalist, who will be based around the house 'roadshow' style and are delighted to look at treasures brought along by visitors. Will something you have found in the attic be worth a lot of money at auction or does that ring that has been passed down in the family have more than sentimental value?

Find out on Monday, 24th October from 11am to 5pm - booking is recommended and the entry fee for a regular ticket is £12.50, donations for the valuations are encouraged and will go towards the Maintenance and Conservation of the House. Visitors are welcome to bring items along and a porter service will be available for bigger pictures, but good photographs of bigger items, like furniture, can also be shown to the specialists for an initial identification.



Credit Matt Chung

It promises to be an exciting day out in one of the most picturesque country houses near London with guides on hand to tell some of the stories of this Gothic mansion, well-known because of its founder, Horace Walpole. Born in 1717, as the third son of Britain's first Prime Minister, Sir Robert Walpole, he became a pivotal figure in 18th Century society, literature, art and architecture. He is best known as the author of the world's first Gothic novel, *The Castle of Otranto*, and for his vast collection of treasures at Strawberry Hill House.

The House's story begins in 1747, when Horace Walpole discovered and purchased 'Chopp'd Straw Hall', one of the last remaining sites available on the banks of the Thames in fashionable Twickenham. He set about transforming what was then a couple of cottages into his vision of a 'little Gothic castle' with pinnacles, battlements and a round tower. Thus Strawberry Hill House was born – the House became a tourist attraction in Walpole's lifetime and beyond. Walpole allowed four visitors a day with the house-keeper conducting the tours, but he also delighted in entertaining foreign dignities and English aristocracy alike.

The popularity of Strawberry Hill House was a key contributing factor in the emergence of Gothic Revival architecture that grew throughout the 18th and 19th Centuries, taking its inspiration from gothic cathedrals around Europe. Largely designed by Walpole's friends, otherwise known as the 'Committee of Taste', which comprised John Chute and Richard Bentley, chimney pieces, doors and ceilings were based on gothic vaulting, medieval tombs and rose windows: 'all Gothicism, gold and looking glass' as the poet Thomas Gray described it.

Walpole died in 1797 and the house went to his cousin's daughter and renowned sculptor Anne Seymour Damer. In 1811 it passed to his great niece Elizabeth Waldegrave and then to her grandson. His brother, George, 7th Earl of Waldegrave, arranged the 'Great Sale' in 1842, where most of Walpole's collection sold over the course of a week. After George's death, his widow, Lady Frances Waldegrave had ambitions to secure the House's future and even expanded it, remaining faithful to Walpole's vision and her parties put Strawberry Hill back on the social map. After Lady Waldegrave's death in 1879 the House was sold to the De Stern family, and then sold again in 1923 to St Mary's University College, which still owns the site.

Why is there still a hosepipe ban?

It's rained, but rivers and reservoirs are still low

We've had a few downpours, so you might be wondering why our hosepipe ban (also known as a Temporary Use Ban) is still in place.

The fact is river and reservoirs are still very low for the time of year and we need to plan now so supplies are safe for when summer comes around again.

As part of this, we're also working hard to fix leaks – we've grown our workforce to over 200 repair teams, helping us repair 19% more leaks this August compared to last year.

Pulling together to protect our supplies

We're doing everything we can to prevent wastage through leaks. The summer drought caused pipes to shift in the ground, doubling the number of leaks.

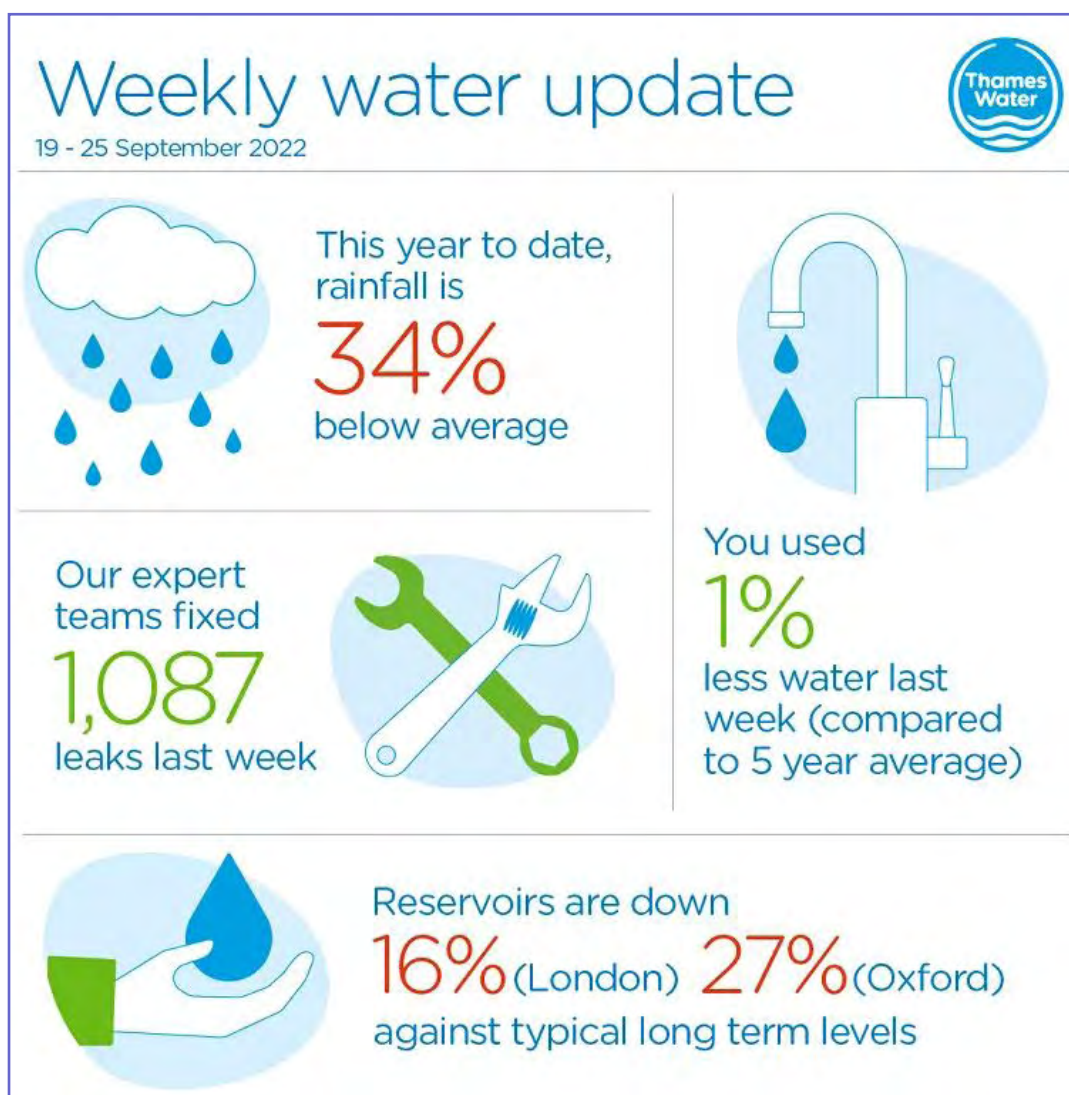
Please [tell us](#) if you see a leak. We know it's frustrating if you report one and it's not fixed quickly, but we're working hard to do so – our [video](#) explains what it takes to carry out the repair.

Thank you so much for all your help so far. Our data shows that since we've had the hosepipe ban, and some rain, demand for water across our area is the lowest it's been for five years.

Water levels at their lowest in 19 years

Despite the ban and the rain, river levels are still well below average, and reservoirs are down by as much as 25% – the lowest level since 2003. We'll need plenty more rain through the autumn and winter to help them recover.

That's why it's so important we save as much water as we can now. We'll continue to focus on finding and fixing leaks, and we'll keep the [hosepipe ban](#) in place for now.



Have your say on Richmond upon Thames' crime and community safety priorities

Local people are being asked to take part in a new consultation that will help determine the borough's priorities for tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

The [Richmond upon Thames Community Safety Partnership](#) (CSP), which includes the police, the Council and other public bodies, is currently drafting its new Community Safety Strategy and wants to ensure that the priorities it identifies accurately reflect the views of local residents and businesses.

Among the priorities likely to feature in the strategy are:

- Ensuring safer neighbourhoods by tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, burglary, motor vehicle crime and violent crime such as robbery and knife crime
- Preventing violence against women and girls
- Preventing offending and reducing reoffending
- Tackling hate crime, extremism and radicalisation
- Keeping children and young people safe

The consultation's findings will help shape the new strategy and set out the actions the partnership will take to improve the safety and quality of life for communities in Richmond upon Thames.



Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

"We work with our partners through the CSP to prevent and reduce the risk and harm of crime and anti-social behaviour in Richmond upon Thames, so that it continues to be a safe place for everyone.

"Richmond upon Thames has had the lowest crime rate in London for the last three years, but there is plenty of work to be done to further reduce these crime rates and to protect the most vulnerable within our communities. The new Community Safety Strategy will set out our priority areas and I want these areas to be aligned with what residents think we need to focus on, so please fill in the survey and share it with your friends and family."

The most recent crime figures show:

- Richmond upon Thames has the lowest crime rate in London for the last 3 years
- The borough has the lowest knife crime rate in London. There were big reductions in knife crime in 2020 which has been maintained during 2021
- Robbery has decreased significantly and is the 3rd lowest in London
- Crimes with children and young people as either a victim or suspect have also decreased
- There has been a -43% reduction in residential burglary over 5 years
- There has been a reduction in vehicle crime from 1382 in 2017 to 1132 in 2021
- Reports of anti-social behaviour to the police are higher than before the Covid-related spike
- There has been a decline in domestic abuse reporting over the past year and this is highly likely to be under-reported
- There has been a -15% decline in racist and religious offences -46 fewer reports
- Homophobic crime increased by 5 reports which is a 28% increase from 2019 to 2021

[Take part in the consultation](#) and read more about local crime trends and community safety issues.

BEANS, PEAS & EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

Most of us are having to watch costs at the moment, (unless you're a banker, with exceptional bonus expectations!) and pulses are a great way of bulking out a recipe as well as providing protein. I've been particularly impressed with a range of products from **Bold Bean Co**, now stocked at Waitrose. These premium jars of heirloom beans are ancient varieties that prioritise flavour over yield, something that's obvious when you taste them.

Founder Amelia Christie-Miller, a private chef, came to realise that beans, with their millions of varieties, and soil rejuvenating properties, were the answer to so many food system issues. The problem? Everyone seemed to hate them. So, in 2021 she founded Bold Bean Co, a brand "on a mission to make you obsessed with beans, by giving you the best of beans". The ingredients are just beans, water and a pinch of salt - no sulphites or other nasties. I've been playing around with them in salads and casseroles and now I've even found a fabulous new cookbook that's inspiring me to add even more beans to our diet on a regular basis.



Beans, Peas & Everything in Between by Vicky Jones was published last month by Ryland Peters & Small. It's a hardback, packed with delicious, nutritious recipes for legumes from around the globe. Vicky, formerly the wine and food editor of House & Garden magazine, has travelled extensively collecting recipes and cooking techniques, as well as absorbing the food culture of different countries - something that's very evident in the book. Over half the recipes are vegetarian, and the rest make creative use of modest amounts of fish, poultry and meat. As well as lovely salads, soups and other recipes, there are even desserts such as Black Bean Brownies. The book also contains information on the history and botany of pulses, advice on buying, storing, soaking and cooking them as well as a summary of their nutritional benefits.



Here are a couple of recipes from the book - the Sorrel and Bean Soup is perfect if you are growing sorrel in the garden as it will be having a last burst of growth before the colder weather. And who

thought you could make a cake with beans!

Sorrel and bean soup (Serves 4)

"Pale green in colour and subtly flavoured, this delicate soup can be rustled up in no time by using canned beans. Sorrel is very easy to grow in the garden, and is becoming increasingly available in supermarkets. Its lemony freshness makes it an invaluable ingredient in the kitchen."

- 30 g butter
- 1 large leek (about 175 g trimmed weight), trimmed and finely chopped
- 2–3 medium shallots, chopped
- 1 medium potato, peeled and cubed

- 1 litre chicken or vegetable stock
- 250 g cooked, soaked dried flageolet beans, or the contents of 1 x 400-g can, drained
- 125 g fresh sorrel leaves, shredded
- 4 tablespoons single cream, plus extra to serve
- salt and ground black pepper

1. Melt the butter in a large saucepan and sweat the leek and shallots together for approximately 10 minutes, being careful not to allow them to brown.
2. Add the cubes of potato and the stock and bring to the boil, then cover the pan and simmer for around 20 minutes. Add half of the cooked beans and reheat.
3. Stir the shredded sorrel leaves into the soup and cook for 1–2 minutes, then purée the mixture using a blender. Return to the saucepan, add the remaining whole beans and heat gently.
4. Stir in the cream, taste and season the soup with salt and black pepper, then reheat very gently and serve with an extra swirl of cream.



Bean torta with walnuts and lemon (Serves 8–10)

“In Hungary and other Central European countries, they make a cake not with wheat flour but with cooked beans and maize meal. No fat is added, but it is moist and light, not at all what you might expect, and keeps quite well for several days. I used canned beans to save time, rather than soaking and cooking dried ones, and found they worked perfectly”.

- 75 g fine maize meal or polenta/cornmeal
- 350 g cooked, soaked dried cannellini or haricot beans, or the contents of 1½ x 400-g cans, drained
- 4 eggs, separated
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 275 g caster/ granulated sugar, or to taste
- grated zest and freshly squeezed juice of 1 lemon
- 85 g walnuts, finely ground

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C (400°F) Gas 6.
2. Grease and flour a 23-cm/9-in. round cake pan.
3. Use a food processor to blend the maize meal or polenta/ cornmeal and the beans into a smooth mixture.
4. Cream the yolks, vanilla extract and 175 g of the sugar together until pale and creamy, then add the mixture to the bean mixture with the grated lemon zest. Blend together thoroughly, then transfer to a large bowl and fold in the ground walnuts.
5. In a clean bowl, whisk the egg whites until stiff, then carefully fold them into the bean mixture, using a metal spoon. Turn the mixture into the greased and floured cake pan, and bake in the oven for about 30–40 minutes, turning the temperature down to 180°C (350°F) Gas 4 after 20 minutes.
6. While the cake is cooking, warm the lemon juice with the remaining sugar to make a glaze. When the cake is light brown on top and nicely risen, take it out of the oven and pour the lemon juice and sugar mixture over the surface, then allow to cool in the pan for about 20 minutes. As it cools, the topping will form a crunchy icing.



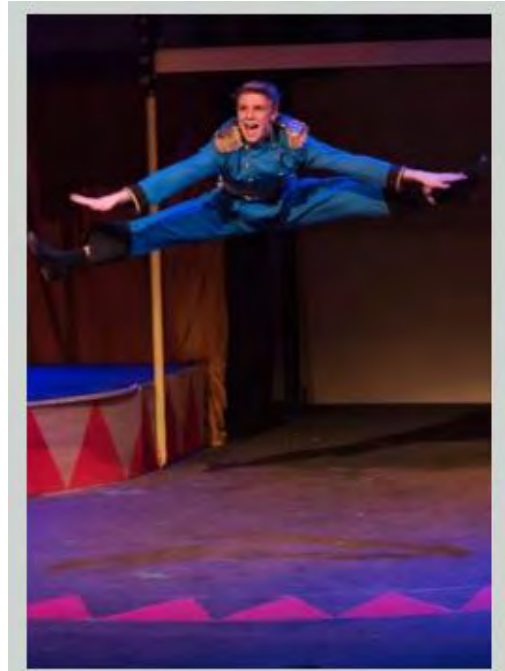


Tonight Belongs to Us

TOPS Musical Theatre Company at Hampton Hill Theatre

TOPS hit the ground running with its musical extravaganza *Tonight Belongs to Us* at the Hampton Hill Theatre. It burst out of the gloom and doom of Covid with a production pulsating with vitality and energy saying, 'look at us, we are back and we're great'. And they were.

The setting was minimal, but effective. The excellent five-piece ensemble with Musical Director, John Davies, was upstage, but as if in an orchestra pit. Imagine you are at a performance and come to the showstopper number for that particular show. This is then followed by a showstopper from another production, followed by yet another showstopper, and yet another. This was TOPS recipe for a splendid musical evening.



Barnum, 2017

The opening *Medley* set the look for what was to follow. A strong blue background enabled the characters, dressed in black and white, to stand out vibrantly. The women wore white skirts of music manuscript and the men in similar waistcoats. (I tried to read the musical annotation but without success.) The costuming throughout was imaginative, colourful and right for the periods portrayed.

I enjoyed the "fun" numbers, like the all-in-green *This is our Story* from *Shrek*, the colourful *Barnum Mash Up* and the happiness of with *Shine Like the Sun*. Another welcome musical moment was provided by *When You Believe* from Sondheim's *The Prince of Egypt*.

A welcome calm moment was provided by Sondheim's *Children Will Listen* and *Anyone Can Whistle*, sensitively and movingly sung.

Choosing which "showstopper" to comment on is difficult because of the equal excellence of the presentation. I enjoyed them all. Perhaps a star throughout the production was the choreography of Lacey Creed and TJ Lloyd. There were six or eight dancers in particular that delighted us with their grace, flexibility and athleticism.



Nine to Five, 2018

Read Patrick Adams' review at

www.markaspen.com/2021/10/15/tonight-belongs

Photography by Ace



The Gretchen Question

by Melly Still and Max Barton

Fuel Theatre at the Master Shipwright's House, Deptford until 2nd October

The Gretchen Question is a wonderful display of theatrical virtuosity in a glorious setting (the Master Shipwright's House, the almost only remaining part of Deptford's royal dockyard, founded by Henry VIII in 1513). Whether it is a viable play or not is more open to question. But it certainly makes for a stimulating and enjoyable evening in the specific site for which it was devised.



Gretchen Questions – named after the heroine of Goethe's *Faust* – are all the thing in Germany. They are questions that go to the heart of the matter but are difficult to answer.



Three somewhat clichéd situations are interwoven. An expedition to the Arctic by the Royal Society returns to 18th Century London with a mysterious potential source of energy to fuel the industrial revolution. In their eagerness to find out how this natural resource can be exploited, the scientists evade, in patriarchal fashion, the awkward questions posed by Gretchen. In the present day, influencer and vacuous narcissist Masie arrives in the Arctic to livestream snowscapes that promote some nebulous malevolent

organisation. Meanwhile, performance poet Lulit is repeatedly drawn to an ice rink, where she recently collapsed, trying to find out what is wrong with her. Is it the result of a mosquito bite? Or is it something more alarming?

Even if the content of the stories may be obvious, their depiction, by some of theatre's finest talents, certainly isn't. They are fleetly told and interestingly developed. Melly Still's direction has a thrilling momentum, as it juggles the multiple storylines and ideas in a way that feels hugely exhilarating. The music by Second Body contributes to the mesmerising effect. Lighting and design makes the most of the magical setting, the trees in the Master Shipwright's garden, the view of the river and the lights of Canary Wharf twinkling in the moonlight.



Read Patrick Shorrocks's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/09/24/gretchen-q

Photography by Helen Murray



The Two Popes

by Anthony McCarten

Royal and Derngate at The Rose Theatre, Kingston then on tour until 29th October

Now for something completely different ... papacy complexity. Problems in the highest echelons of the Catholic Church, discussions on theology and politics, the personal tribulations of cardinals, do not seem at first to provide fruitful material of a stage play. But thanks to the nimble script, and the skills of two highly respected actors, these are the subjects of two hours of enthralling and thoughtful theatre.



In early 2013, Pope Benedict XVI caused consternation among the world's twelve thousand million Roman Catholics by resigning. The period leading up to the Papal Renunciation is the unlikely subject of *The Two Popes*. Popes do not resign,



neither do cardinals. In Buenos Aires, Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio is a third of the world away from Pope Benedict, both literally and certainly figuratively. The extrovert tango-dancing Bergoglio is very different from the intellectual Benedict. However, in one way they are the same: Bergoglio also wants to resign.

When Cardinal Bergoglio and Pope Benedict meet, the differences in temperament between the intellectual conservative pope and the gregarious liberal cardinal become evident. Then *The Two Popes* really comes into its own. When the awkward small-talk has been put aside, the sinews of their respective thinking show through and it becomes a gripping emotional thriller.

Anton Lesser as Pope Benedict XVI and Nicholas Woodeson as Cardinal Bergoglio are thespian colossi, who capture the stage in consummate performances. Lesser, sharp and beady-eyed, has the stoop and percussive gestures of the historic character he portrays, as does Woodeson with a twinkle-eyed vivacity and a distinct Latino-American accent.

Can they embrace each other figuratively or literally? They try, but never quite get there. Nevertheless Benedict does vote for Bergoglio, who becomes Pope Francis. Benedict retires as Pope Emeritus. Two concurrent popes are still a reality to this day. The clear note it ends on is forgiveness. Both popes live in the Vatican ... and Christ said "love thy neighbour as thyself".



Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/09/15/two-popes

Photography by Manuel Harlan

Noughts & Crosses

by Malorie Blackman, adapted by Sabrina Mahfouz

Pilot Theatre at Richmond Theatre until 1st October, then on tour until 1st April 2023

Noughts & Crosses examines the idea that all humans will behave badly if you give them the means and opportunity.

The dark-skinned Crosses hold all the power, which they wield over the light-skinned Noughts. Two central characters: Sephy, a Cross, and Callum, a Nought form a friendship as children and grow up with difficulty within the system that oppresses both of them.



Occasionally, the Crosses dispense a little dose of liberalism to keep the Noughts happy and in the case of this plot, Callum and two others are allowed places at the prestigious school attended only by Crosses, including Sephy. There is a predictable, violent backlash. Callum is bullied relentlessly while he's at school, as is Sephy for standing up for him.



They fall in love as they grow older but are forced apart by their circumstances. Frustrated at every turn, Callum ultimately joins a direct action group, Sephy goes to boarding school. When the two reunite it is far from straightforward.

As Stephy, Effie Ansah delivers a skilled and endearing performance both as a child growing into a young woman and as an individual struggling to free herself from her oppressive environment. James Arden presents an authentic portrayal of a man victimised by the same environment and forced to compromise the best of himself by resorting to violence.

There are small but unnerving details to be found in this play, which give it a level of quality and sophistication not always present in productions which seek to educate as well as entertain. It's thought-provoking, but in the most unobtrusive way as it picks apart the nature of prejudice and the corrosive effect of power.

Read Eleanor Lewis's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/09/28/noughts-crosses

Photography by Robert Day



TRAVELLER'S TALES 132

RETURN TO FRANCE

Doug Goodman returns to Northern France



DFDS advised us to arrive at Dover 90 minutes before sailing in case of long queues at the border controls. Recalling the huge jams at the end of the summer school holidays we allowed plenty of time. The drive from Twickenham took well under two hours with no lorries stacked on the M20 and just one car ahead of us at the French border post. Booking 'Priority Boarding' means you are first on the ferry and first off and paying extra for use of the lounge with drinks and snacks is well worth the expense. After an absence of four years in France I quickly rediscovered the delights of driving on the auto routes: exceptionally smooth surfaces, litter-free, well-appointed rest places and a complete lack of heavy traffic. When visiting France I like to spend the first and last nights in the Departments of Nord or Pas de Calais – now part of the region of Hauts- de- France. St Omer around 30 miles from Calais on the A26 was the first overnight stop staying with friends. The attractive main square has restaurants and bars spread out on the pavements and its own brewery. The Cathedral has the tomb of St Omer and beautiful carvings. Nearby is the park built below the town's fortified walls.



Tomb of St Omer



St. Omer gardens



Hire a 2CV

The region has plenty of attractions for the visitor who plans to spend a few days in the North. The World War 1 battlefields are close. In Lens you'll find the Louvre, an outpost of the Paris gallery and a museum dedicated to the history of coal mining. The Marais at Audomarois, a vast area of little islands and waterways in former swamp lands, offers a leisurely cruise on an electric boat from where you see wildlife, ancient farmhouses and land devoted to growing cauliflowers. The area has 100 miles of rivers and covers 3,400 hectares. If you fancy driving an iconic 2CV, which even the French delight in seeing, you can hire them from local company Les Belles Echappées in Clairmarais. It's fun driving the original vehicles but quite hard work! The following morning we set off for Etretat in Normandy some 150 miles away. But more on Normandy in future features.

ALONG THE COAST

After a week in a farm house, a visit to Giverny and an overnight in Rouen the end of a great holiday approached as we returned to the Pas de Calais and the Hotel de la Plage in the seaside resort of Audresselles. Situated to the north of Boulogne and a 20 minute drive to Calais along the D940 with magnificent views over the Channel, the resort is well situated for a short break. The beaches here still have the remains of The Atlantic Wall built by the German occupiers during World War 11 in anticipation of an Allied invasion. Some of the concrete blockhouses have been incorporated into beach-side homes. Others, destroyed by the liberating army in 1944, remain in place. Fish restaurants are naturally in abundance along the coast although on Mondays many are closed so it's essential to book. We dined at the Marie Galante, which provided the biggest dishes of shell fish I had ever seen. Looking out from the hotel's bedroom window the White Cliffs of Dover were clearly visible.



le Marais, Marshland



Ambleteuse Vauban Fort



39-45 Museum

FORTIFICATIONS

In nearby Ambleteuse there's a fortress built on rocks to defend a tiny port on the long ago silted up River Stack. Designed by the famous military architect Vauban at the end of the 17th C and strengthened by Napoleon to ward off English invaders, it looks particularly striking at high tide. This is the only sea fort from that era which has been preserved. A major attraction in Ambleteuse is the 39-45 Museum. You can't miss the big building with its Sherman tank and various guns and vehicles parked by the entrance. Opened in 1989 it has the most comprehensive collection of military items of WW11 in France. It's also the only museum presenting every area of conflict world-wide. Every item is original and the collection was the dream of two military specialists Christophe Deschodt and Denis Barbe. On display are scenes ranging from the French Resistance movement to the winter war in Russia and from the defeat of Japan to D-Day landings. There are fascinating display windows of Nazi regalia, uniforms of all the armies involved in the war and a comprehensive film. The dedication of the collectors and the way the displays are set up makes a very informative three hour visit.



39-45 Museum Display



Huge Selection of Wine



Ride the Dragon in Calais

DRAGON'S DEN

Before heading to Calais to see the latest attraction, an essential stop was made at the Carrefour Hypermarket to purchase wine and beer, cheese and a giant Normandy apple tart. Wine and beer is still significantly cheaper in France than in the UK despite the strength of the Euro against the pound sterling. Remember that Duty-Free restrictions apply but I managed to stash 25 litres of strong beer and 20 bottles of wine in my car and remain within the legal limit.

By the harbour entrance a huge 'den' has been built for a fire, smoke and water- spitting colossal mechanical dragon. It was created as part of Calais' plans for bringing more activities to the resort for French as well as foreign visitors. It was a spectacular sight as the beast lumbered along the seafront with a group of up to 50 dragon hunters perched on top. It moves at over 2 miles an hour. Steam pours from vents in its steel body while its eyes, mouth, tongue and fins move. The creature can lie down, stand up and flap its wings. At over 25 meters long and 12 high the dragon is an awesome sight. At the restaurant next to its lair you could enjoy dragon beer, special burgers and buy souvenirs. The charred wall had clearly been set on fire by the dragon's fiery breath and there were worrying claw marks on the table. It was time to flee to the ferry port.

Information: Cruise on Le Marais: www.visite-marais.fr. Hire a 2 CV . www.les-belles-echappees.com. Hotel de la Plage:www.hoteldelaplage-audresselles.com. Restaurant Marie Galante: www.la-marie-galante.business.site. The 39-45 Museum: www.museememoires39-45.fr Dragon rides: compagniedudragon.com. DFDS Ferries: www.dfds.com

WIZ TALES - Guinea Bissau

Teresa Read



The Republic of Guinea-Bissau is in West Africa, bordered by Senegal, Guinea and the North Atlantic Ocean; Bissau is the capital.

Formerly administered by Portugal Guinea-Bissau gained independence in 1974.

Earlier this year the World Food Programme (WFP) stated “Climate change is one of the key drivers of hunger in Guinea-Bissau. WFP is supporting vulnerable communities to adapt to the changing climate and build resilience.” Of course, the war in Ukraine has impacted on food security for Guinea-Bissau as well as many other countries.

Last week Guinea-Bissau’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Suzi Carla Barbosa emphasised that Guinea-Bissau stands against Russia’s war on Ukraine agreeing that the Black Sea grain corridor plays a vital role in ensuring global food security - Ukraine has exported 4.4 million tons of agricultural products since a UN backed grain deal.



Villagio



Bafata



Gabu



Carnival, Bissau

More information about Guinea-Bissau:

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

St Mary's University

St Mary's Climbs 34 Places in Guardian University Guide

St Mary's University, Twickenham has continued its rise in the university league tables, climbing 34 places in the Guardian University Guide published on Saturday 24th Sept.

The University was also rated sixth nationally for teaching satisfaction and in the top 15 for course and feedback satisfaction. The increase of 34 places on the overall ranking puts St Mary's in the top 70 nationally of the higher education institutions rated.



The findings of the Guardian University Guide follow closely behind the Sunday Times Good University Guide, which rated St Mary's in the top ten institutions in London and the top 51 nationally. The Good University Guide also rated St Mary's in the top 5 nationally for teaching quality and top 10 for student experience.

St Mary's has seen a strong performance throughout the year in national sector performance indicators.

The 2021 Research Excellence Framework

(REF) results published in May found that the majority of research submitted by St Mary's was 4* World Leading or 3* Internationally Excellent in its originality, significance, and rigour.

The 2023 Complete University Guide also saw St Mary's climb 24 places on its ranking, with the University also rated 5th for student satisfaction.

Speaking of the results St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran said, "I am delighted to see the results from the Guardian University Guide. St Mary's has now climbed to our highest ever positions in all the major university rankings this year, all of whom rate the University in the top group in the country for course or overall satisfaction. I would like to thank all our outstanding academic and support staff for continuing to deliver the best outcomes for our students."

St Mary's Provost Prof Symeon Dagkas added, "Our strategy Vision 2030 places achieving student success as its one its five core pillars. The results we have achieved in national rankings and indicators throughout the year are a strong endorsement of the work our academic colleagues are doing in this area. I am looking forward to carrying on the important work with colleagues across the university to further develop this in years to come."



**St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London**

Match Preview: Bournemouth

All the build-up to Saturday's meeting with the Cherries

By [Brentford FC](#)

Tomorrow will be our 113th meeting with AFC Bournemouth but the first ever to take place in the top tier of English football.

The Cherries have recovered from a nightmare run in August to move into midtable, just a point behind us, going into the game at the Vitality Stadium.

The opposition

Bournemouth's return to the Premier League following a two-year absence has been up and down to say the least.

They opened their campaign with a fine 2-0 home win against Aston Villa, followed that up by conceding 16 in their next three league matches – a run that saw Scott Parker sacked following their 9-0 defeat to Liverpool – and now go into tomorrow's game three unbeaten under caretaker boss Gary O'Neil.

All that has left the Cherries 12th in the table with eight points from their opening seven games.

If Bournemouth are to have a successful season, the second half of their trip to the City Ground at the start of the month might prove to be the turning point. Finding themselves 2-0 down at the break, having not scored in their previous four league games, Bournemouth rallied to net three times in 36 minutes to take all three points.

Bournemouth have conceded the second-most goals and given up the second-most shots in the Premier League but much of that damage has been done away from home.

At the Vitality Stadium they've kept two clean sheets in three; the only goals they've conceded coming in their 3-0 August defeat to Arsenal.

They have, on the flip side, only scored twice at home all campaign, both coming on the opening day against Villa.

Last season's top scorer Dominic Solanke opened his account in that win over Forest while Philip Billing has scored in his last two outings.

The gameplan

Tom Crocker of the *Bournemouth Echo* said: "Over the summer, Scott Parker tried to completely change the way the team had played in achieving promotion, moving to a more defence-first, back-three/five approach. He did not really have the players available to make it work straightaway, as was shown by the results in pre-season.

"Since O'Neil has come in, it has been much more like the set-up from last season, in the most part - a 4-3-3, aided by the return to fitness of Dominic Solanke up front. I'd expect the line-up to be very similar, if not the same, as the one that faced Newcastle"



Wear the Rose: An England Rugby Dream – one of a kind documentary covering England Rugby women’s team hits ITV

- A two-part documentary on England Rugby women’s team – known as the Red Roses – will be shown on Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th October on ITV
- Wear the Rose: An England Rugby Dream will showcase behind the scenes footage and interviews with players
- Documentary was co-funded by RFU and O2
- Watch a trailer for the documentary [here](#)

The England Rugby women’s team, known as the Red Roses, will feature in a two-part behind the scenes documentary to be aired 3rd and 4th October on ITV and catch-up on the ITV Hub.

An embedded camera crew have followed the Red Roses as they prepare to take on the world in New Zealand.

The documentary will show viewers the hard work and dedication it takes to wear the rose and represent the team at the highest level. With exclusive and never before seen footage, viewers will experience the highs and lows of selection and life off the pitch with the world’s number one ranked team.

The Red Roses currently have the longest winning streak (25) of any international rugby union team – men or women – after beating Wales in Bristol earlier in September.

In April of this year, the Red Roses smashed domestic attendance records for women’s rugby during their victorious TikTok Women’s Six Nations campaign, with 15,836 fans watching the 69-0 victory over Ireland.

“We’re really proud to share our story in what is a huge year for women’s rugby,” said Red Roses captain Sarah Hunter. *“These documentaries are so important in today’s world and give real insight for fans and potential fans of the future. It’s been great to work with the crew so far and we also can’t wait to see the final piece once complete. “While this documentary focuses on the team’s journey to New Zealand, we hope it inspires people to support us and for youngsters and people of all ages to get involved in the game.”*

England Rugby Marketing Director Ewan Turney said: *“This documentary will bring fans closer to the action than ever before and showcase the untold story of one of the world’s most successful sports teams leading into a major tournament. But it also focuses in on the characters and their individual stories that make up the team.”*

Gareth Griffiths, Director of Partnerships and Sponsorships at Virgin Media O2, said: *“As proud partners of England Rugby for 27 years, we are so pleased to produce this unique Red Roses documentary that gives fans exclusive access to the players and personalities behind the team’s success as they prepare for New Zealand.*

“This has been 18 months in the making and builds on our hugely successful England Rugby content platform O2 Inside Line, which will provide further insight from inside the Red Roses’ training camp throughout the autumn.”

The documentary was funded by the RFU and O2, and developed and produced by TCO London with Series Producer Richard Cooke, and Executive Producers Andrea Kurland, Sarah O’Kane and Phil Young.

Executive Producers Andrea Kurland and Sarah O’Kane said: *“The Red Roses are pioneers both on and off the field - and what they’re striving to achieve this year may well create a landmark moment in rugby history”. At TCO, we’re inspired by people who create seismic change by simply doing what they love. It’s been a privilege to document this pivotal time and bring their story to a brand new audience who will no doubt walk away with a newfound respect for the game.”*



Red Roses 2023 TikTok Women's Six Nations home venues confirmed with Twickenham to host France clash

The venues for England Women's 2023 TikTok Women's Six Nations home fixtures have been confirmed culminating in a final round match against France at Twickenham Stadium.

Next year's Championship will again be played in its own six-week window from 25 March to 29 April.

Simon Middleton's side take on Scotland at Kingston Park, the home of Newcastle Falcons (Saturday 25 March, kick-off 4.45pm) before hosting Italy at Franklin's Gardens, Northampton (Sunday 2 April, kick-off 3pm).

In rounds three and four, the team travel to Wales (Saturday 15 April, kick-off 2.15pm) and Ireland (Saturday 22 April, kick-off 2.15pm) before hosting France at Twickenham (Saturday 29 April, kick-off 1pm) which will be the first standalone England Women's fixture at the TW2 venue.

Tickets for all three 2023 England home fixtures are on sale [here](#) with all five matches broadcast on BBC Two. An early bird rate starting at £15 for adults and £5 for children is available for a limited time only for the England v France fixture at Twickenham.



Head coach **Middleton** said: "These are three fantastic rugby venues.

"To have a standalone Red Roses fixture at Twickenham Stadium is exciting and a real marker of where the game is at. We know there are some big targets to sell-out the stadium at the 2025 World Cup and it's great we have the opportunity to draw a big crowd two years out. Games against France are always great occasions and contests and I expect this one to be no different.

"It'll be fantastic to take a game to the North East. The people of Newcastle and the wider region love their sport, are madly passionate and always get behind events in their area and hopefully this will be the same.

"Franklin's Gardens did a brilliant job hosting our 2021 autumn international against New Zealand and we are incredibly excited to return to a real hotbed of rugby."



England squad announcement: October mini-camp

Eddie Jones has named a 36-player England squad who will meet for a three-day training camp this weekend.



England will begin preparations for their four home Autumn Nations Series fixtures in November during the camp. The squad will meet in Richmond on Sunday 2 October and train at Twickenham Stadium.

There are first call-ups for Northampton Saints' Alex Coles and Saracens' Hugh Tizard, with both players previously appearing for England U20s. Manu Tuilagi and Sam Simmonds are back in the squad following injury and there are returns for Ben Youngs, Alex Mitchell, Tom Pearson and David Ribbans.

England will play Argentina in the first of their four matches at Twickenham Stadium on Sunday 6 November (2.15pm KO). They will then host Japan on Saturday 12 November (3.15pm KO), followed by New Zealand on Saturday 19 November (5.30pm KO). Their final match is against South Africa on Saturday 26 November (5.30pm KO).

In the summer, England secured a 2-1 series win over the Wallabies in Australia, for only the second time.

Eddie Jones said: *"With a year to go to the Rugby World Cup, this is a big opportunity for players to come in and impress. We want them to show real energy and enthusiasm and that they want to be a part of this massive year. It doesn't mean that those who have been left out won't be considered for the Autumn Nations Series matches. We'll be looking at club games, form and fitness and the door is left open for those players. We finished the Australia tour well. It was a fantastic experience, particularly for the younger players. We now have to start again, but we'll build on what we've done there and continue that momentum."*

Limited tickets are available for the Argentina and Japan fixtures via EnglandRugby.com/Tickets.

FORWARDS

Ollie Chessum (Leicester Tigers, 5 caps)
Alex Coles (Northampton Saints, uncapped)
Luke Cowan-Dickie (Exeter Chiefs, 37 caps)
Tom Curry (Sale Sharks, 41 caps)
Ellis Genge (Bristol Bears, 39 caps)
Jamie George (Saracens, 69 caps)
Joe Heyes (Leicester Tigers, 5 caps)
Jonny Hill (Sale Sharks, 15 caps)
Lewis Ludlam (Northampton Saints, 14 caps)
Tom Pearson (London Irish, uncapped)

David Ribbans (Northampton Saints, uncapped)
Bevan Rodd (Sale Sharks, 2 caps)
Patrick Schickerling (Exeter Chiefs, uncapped)
Sam Simmonds (Exeter Chiefs, 14 caps)
Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 23 caps)
Hugh Tizard (Saracens, uncapped)
Billy Vunipola (Saracens, 64 caps)
Mako Vunipola (Saracens, 70 caps)
Jack Walker (Harlequins, uncapped)
Jack Willis (Wasps, 4 caps)

BACKS

Henry Arundell (London Irish, 3 caps)
Joe Cokanasiga (Bath Rugby, 12 caps)
Fraser Dingwall (Northampton Saints, uncapped)
Owen Farrell (Saracens, 97 caps)
Tommy Freeman (Northampton Saints, 2 caps)
George Furbank (Northampton Saints, 6 caps)
Will Joseph (London Irish, 1 cap)
Jonny May (Gloucester Rugby, 69 caps)

Alex Mitchell (Northampton Saints, 1 cap)
Jack Nowell (Exeter Chiefs, 42 caps)
Guy Porter (Leicester Tigers, 2 caps)
Marcus Smith (Harlequins, 13 caps)
Freddie Steward (Leicester Tigers, 13 caps)
Manu Tuilagi (Sale Sharks, 46 caps)
Jack van Poortvliet (Leicester Tigers, 3 caps)
Ben Youngs (Leicester Tigers, 117 caps)

Unavailable for selection due to injury: Alfie Barbeary, Nic Dolly, Alex Dombrandt, Charlie Ewels, George Ford, Sam Jeffries, Maro Itoje, Nick Isiekwe, Courtney Lawes, Sam Underhill, Anthony Watson

Treasury's response to the Bank of England's statement on financial stability

Below is the Treasury's response to the Bank of England's statement on financial stability

A HM Treasury Spokesperson said:

"The Bank of England, in line with its financial stability objective, carefully monitors financial markets and any potential risk to the flow of credit to the real economy, and subsequent effects on UK households and businesses.

"Global financial markets have seen significant volatility in recent days. The Bank has identified a risk from recent dysfunction in gilt markets, so the Bank will temporarily carry out purchases of long-dated UK government bonds from today (28 September) in order to restore orderly market conditions. These purchases will be strictly time limited, and completed in the next two weeks. To enable the Bank to conduct this financial stability intervention, this operation has been fully indemnified by HM Treasury.

"The Chancellor is committed to the Bank of England's independence. The Government will continue to work closely with the Bank in support of its financial stability and inflation objectives."



HM Treasury

LGA responds to COVID-19 and flu winter booster vaccination campaign

Commenting on the announcement of a winter vaccination campaign for both COVID-19 and flu, Cllr David Fothergill, Chairman of the Local Government Association's Community Wellbeing said:

"This winter there are two essential vaccines needed to protect yourself and those around you; the flu vaccine and the COVID-19 booster vaccine.

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

"As we approach winter, providers in the domiciliary care and care home sector are also being encouraged to communicate the benefits of the flu vaccine and covid booster to care home staff, residents and those receiving homecare.

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



Eligible people in London urged to take up 'vital' flu and COVID-19 vaccines ahead of winter season

UKHSA warns of lower levels of natural immunity to flu this year and increased COVID-19 circulation

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is urging everyone [eligible](#) for a free flu vaccine and a COVID-19 booster to take up the offer as soon as possible ahead of what could be a difficult winter with respiratory viruses circulating widely.

International surveillance shows that H3N2 - a subtype of influenza type A - is currently the most-commonly detected flu virus worldwide. H3N2 has recently caused waves of infection in southern hemisphere countries such as Australia, which has also experienced flu circulating earlier than usual in their winter season.

This H3N2 strain circulated in the UK last winter but was held largely in check by COVID-19 restrictions when people mixed a lot less and worked from home. This helped to protect people from catching flu but has also led to lower levels of natural immunity to this strain building up within the population.

There was record uptake of the flu jab in people aged 65 and over in 2021/22 (82%), though there was lower uptake among people in clinical risk groups and pregnant women and these groups are particularly encouraged to come forward this year.

All primary school children and some secondary school children are eligible for the flu nasal spray this year, which is usually given at school. GP surgeries are also inviting children aged two and three years old (age on 31 August) for this nasal spray vaccination at their practices. Most young children will not have encountered flu yet. This means they will not have built up any natural immunity to this virus, so it is particularly important for them to take up the flu vaccine this year.

In addition to the predicted flu wave, we have early indications that COVID-19 rates are beginning to rise ahead of winter, increasing the threat to people's health.

[Study results](#) from early in the pandemic show individuals who catch both flu and COVID at the same time, known as co-infection, are around twice as likely to suffer death compared to those who only have COVID-19.

For all those who are eligible, taking up both the COVID-19 booster and the flu jab is an essential form of protection against the most severe respiratory viruses in circulation this winter.

As well as taking up the vaccines, everyone is encouraged to help stop the spread of respiratory viruses this winter by practising good hand hygiene, wearing masks in crowded or enclosed public spaces and covering your nose and mouth when you cough and sneeze.

Dr Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Advisor at UKHSA, said:

“Flu and COVID-19 are unpredictable but there are strong indications we could be facing the threat of widely circulating flu, lower levels of natural immunity due to less exposure over the last three winters and an increase in COVID-19 circulating with lots of variants that can evade the immune response. This combination poses a serious risk to our health, particularly those in high-risk groups.

“The H3N2 flu strain can cause particularly severe illness. If you are elderly or vulnerable because of other conditions you are at greater risk, so getting the flu jab is a sensible, potentially life-saving thing to do.

“We are extremely fortunate to have vaccines against these two diseases. Most eligible groups have been selected because they are at higher risk of severe illness. Younger children are unlikely to have built up any natural immunity to flu and therefore it is particularly important they take the nasal spray vaccine this year. So, if you are offered a jab, please come forward to protect yourself and help reduce the burden on our health services.”

Dr Yvonne Young, UKHSA London Deputy Director for Health Protection, added:

“We want to keep Londoners healthy and the city on its feet this winter but both flu and COVID-19 can cause serious illness and hospitalisation and will be circulating together. This along with lower levels of natural immunity will mean that it’s particularly vital to get vaccinated, especially if you’re in a higher risk group.

“Undoubtedly the best protection we have is to get vaccinated. The jabs are there to protect you and the rest of your family from a potentially very serious illness this winter and so I urge all eligible Londoners to come forward and have their vaccines when offered.

“We must also remember that living with COVID-19 means doing what we can to reduce the spread of the virus. Try to meet in well-ventilated spaces, wear facemasks in crowded areas, wash your hands regularly and stay away from others where possible if you have symptoms of a respiratory illness.”

You can find more advice and guidance on the Government website at:

www.gov.uk/guidance/living-safely-with-respiratory-infections-including-covid-19.

Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr Thomas Waite said:

“Vaccines have saved many lives over the years for both flu and more recently Covid. But we must not be complacent - infections will rise once again this winter, so it’s really important people get both their Covid and flu vaccines if eligible.

“Vaccines are the best way to protect yourself from serious illness and will help reduce pressure on the healthcare system.”

NHS director for vaccinations and screening Steve Russell said:

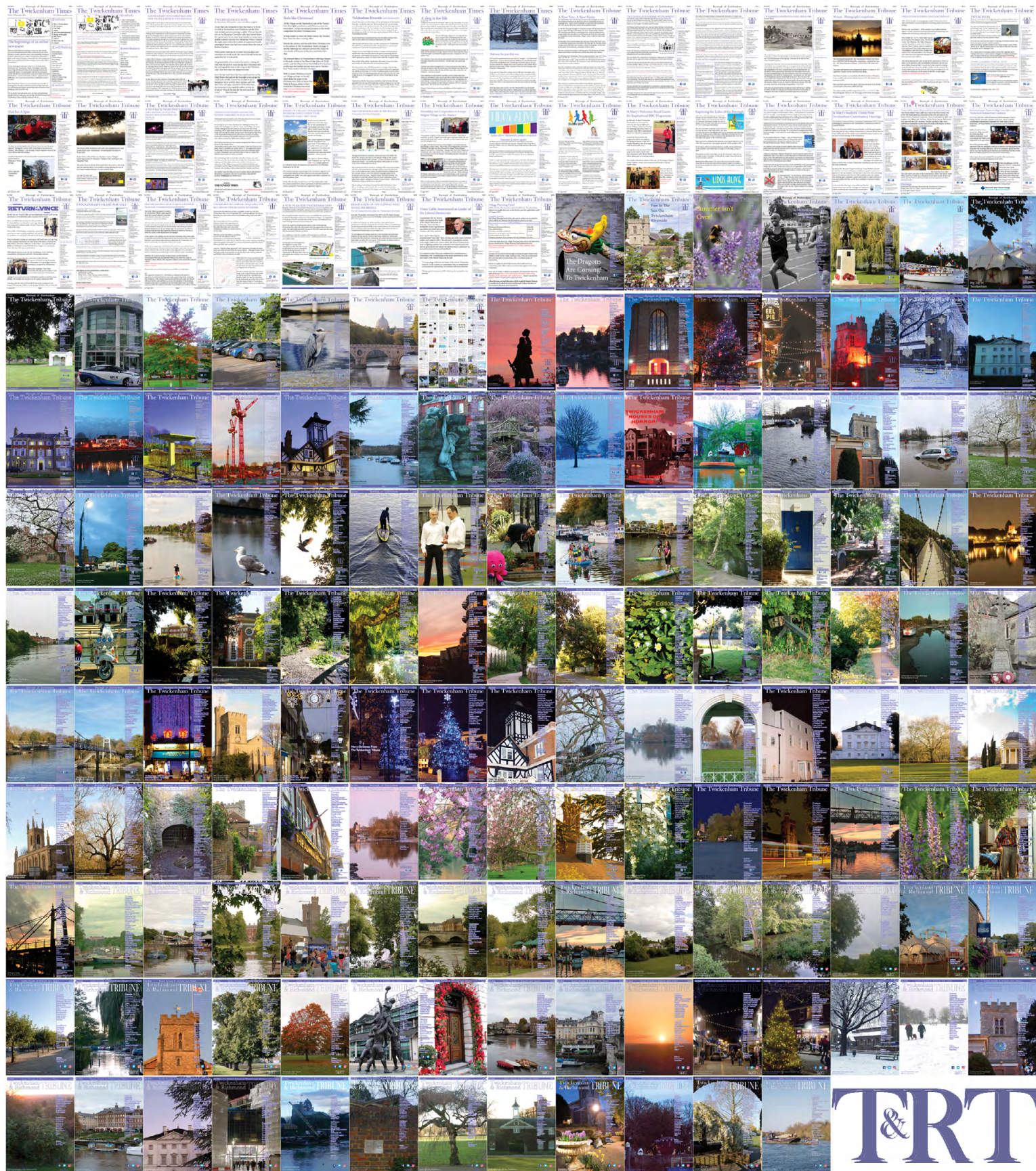
“This winter could be the first time we see the effects of the so called ‘twindemic’ with both Covid and flu in full circulation, so it is vital that those most susceptible to serious illness from these viruses come forward for vaccines in order to protect themselves and those around them.

“If you have been offered a flu vaccination or Covid booster you should book in as soon as possible and with more vaccination centres than ever before this year, they are quick, convenient and will provide vital protection this winter.”



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