

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

Contents

- TickerTape
- COVID-19
- Rallying round
- Twickenham Riverside planning application
- River Path Walkway Enters final weeks of construction
- Letters
- Email from America
- The Royal Parks charity is looking to recruit thousands to join panel
- Twickers Foodie
- Review
- WIZ Tales: QATAR – Venue of the FIFA World Cup 2022
- Black Friday
- So rats are saving people now ...
- The Chicago Bees story
- Cases of flu rise in London

Contributors

- Simon Fowler
- Guy Leman
- Royal Parks
- Alison Jee
- Mark Aspen
- Bruce Lyons
- Deep Patel
- World InfoZone
- Brentford FC
- RFU
- UK Health Security Agency
- LBRuT

Editors

Berkley Driscoll
Teresa Read



25th November 2022



Twickenham Green's forlorn and undressed Christmas Tree

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

Twickenham Riverside planning application

A planning committee hearing was held on Thursday 24th November at Clarendon Hall, York House. The committee granted the council's planning application in a unanimous vote. Unfortunately the live webcast failed at key points and many residents watching from home were frustrated when important parts of the proceedings could not be viewed. The (partial) webcast can be found [HERE](#)

Rugby at Twickenham Stadium – Saturday 26th November

England v South Africa

Saturday 26th November, KO 17:30.

Attendance 82,000

Full CPZ in operation 10:00-22:00.

Whitton, Rugby & London Roads closed from 15:30-17:30 and 19:00-22:00.

Upcoming strike action

Bus strikes

Strike action will affect bus services operated by Abellio in south and west London on the following days:

- Friday 25 and Saturday 26 November
- Thursday 1, Friday 2, Saturday 3, Friday 9, Saturday 10, Friday 16 and Saturday 17 December.

Visit the [strike page](#) to check if your bus route is affected.

Thames Water hosepipe ban ends

This week Thames Water announced that the hosepipe ban is over for everyone across their region.



skyelectrical

Replacing your halogen recessed lights with LEDs will:

- ✓ SAVE ENERGY
- ✓ SAVE YOU MONEY
- ✓ PROVIDE BETTER LIGHTING

So...

- ✓ CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE HOME ASSESSMENT AND QUOTE

For a timed appointment please call Sky Electrical on 020 8894 1799
22 Fifth Cross Road, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW2 5LF
www.skyelectrical.co.uk

020 8894 1799
info@skyelectrical.co.uk

COVID-19

Teresa Read

World Health Organization

Weekly Epidemiological Update published 23 November 2022

At the regional level, the number of newly reported weekly cases decreased or remained stable across five of the six WHO regions: the Eastern Mediterranean Region (-22%), the European Region (-11%), the African Region (-9%), the Western Pacific Region (-4%) and the Region of the Americas (+3%); while case numbers increased in the South-East Asia Region (+8%). The number of newly reported weekly deaths decreased or remained stable across four regions: the European Region (-26%), the Eastern Mediterranean Region (-20%), the Region of the Americas (-11%) and the Western Pacific Region (+1%); while death numbers increased in the African Region (+124%; 38 vs eight deaths) and the South-East Asia Region (+13%).

At the country level, the highest numbers of new weekly cases were reported from Japan (593 075 new cases; +18%), the Republic of Korea (364 536 new cases; +2%), the United States of America (274 067 new cases; -3%), France (186 446 new cases; +23%) and China (158 813 new cases; -8%). The highest numbers of new weekly deaths were reported from the United States of America (2202 new deaths; -5%), Japan (702 new deaths; +27%), China (476 new deaths; +16%), France (441 new deaths; +9%) and the Russian Federation (430 new deaths; -1%).

European Region

The European Region reported over 724,000 new cases, an 11% decrease as compared to the previous week. Nine (15%) of the 61 countries for which data are available reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with the highest proportional increases observed in Uzbekistan (428 vs 181 new cases; +136%), Andorra (160 vs 76 new cases; +111%) and Kyrgyzstan (19 vs 12 new cases; +58%). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from France (186,446 new cases; 286.7 new cases per 100,000; +23%), Germany (153,843 new cases; 185.0 new cases per 100,000; -24%) and Italy (153,345 new cases; 257.1 new cases per 100 000; -15%).

The number of new weekly deaths in the region decreased by 26% as compared to the previous week, with 2,513 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from France (441 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; +9%), the Russian Federation (430 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -1%) and Italy (379 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; -22%).

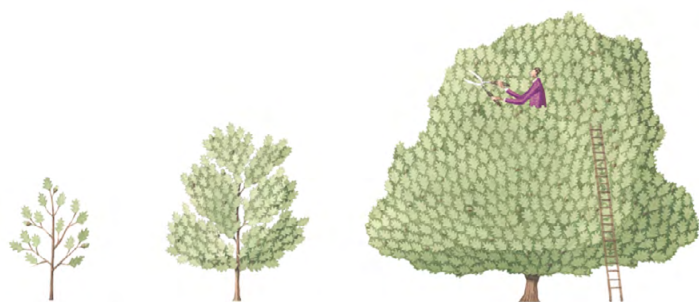
IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Sky News: China expands lockdowns as COVID cases soar to daily record high

Mint: Covid-19 updates: India reports 408 new cases of coronavirus, 5 deaths in 24 hrs

Aljazeera: Latin America faces 'prolonged crisis' following pandemic: UN

Euro News: COVID can cause 'significant' brain abnormalities for up to six months, researchers say



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

Rallying round

By Simon Fowler

The Victorian bank system was notoriously weak. It was easy enough for directors and officers to help themselves to the funds. And what's worse a blind eye might be turned, as nearly happened locally.

Richmond Savings Bank had a thousand or so small depositors: respectable working men and women for the most part.

In 1839, the board of directors appointed Captain Henry Belstead as the Bank's secretary. Belstead had no financial experience, but instead was 'highly connected' and had 'the highest character for probity and gentlemanly conduct'

It was not a wise decision.

The simple truth was that Belstead - with a wife and five young children to support - stole the bank's money.

In November 1842 he was found out. The *Illustrated London News* reported that locally there had been: 'a strong feel of excitement in consequence of the discovery of most extensive embezzlements and several acts of forgery.' Captain Belstead was arrested.

His trial took place at the Old Bailey. Fourteen indictments were read out revealing how much had been stolen. He had embezzled around £1500 (easily worth £2m today). The names of three of his victims were given. John Capon, Fanny Paise and William Wheeler who were all respectable servants. John Capon alone lost £7, perhaps a year's wages.

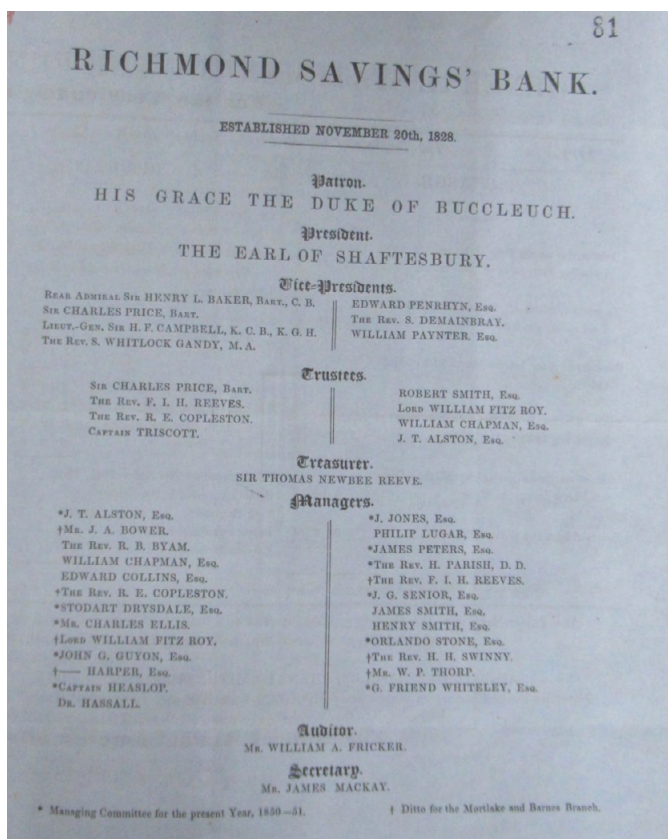
Belstead pleaded not guilty, but changed his plea as the trial proceeded. A stream of witnesses testified to the Captain's military service and his good character. The court was told that the trustees had known: 'the prisoner to be a person with a large family, and were anxious to recommend him to mercy.' A trustee, Robert Smith, blamed the bank's managers for what had happened: 'I consider the burden of having a large family the inducement to his delinquency, which was facilitated by the want of caution on the part of the managers.' He had a point, the press revealed shortcomings which made the crime easy to commit and hard to uncover.

As a result, 'the judge all but apologised in passing sentence', suggesting that if he had been able to, he would have 'passed over' the indictment for forgery - but his 'hands were tied' by the need, as the papers put it, to 'administer some measure of justice, scanty and inadequate as it was.' The sentence was two years imprisonment without hard labour.

After his release Captain Belstead became the convict superintendent on Norfolk Island. He and his family later settled in Tasmania, where he died aged 63 in 1859.

The bank's directors took action to reassure the depositors that their money was safe. Placards were placed around the town stressing that their demands would be 'met with promptness' and that the trustees would 'make good the various sums abstracted.'

They had no choice, but to pay for their mistake.



Prospectus for the Richmond Savings Bank for 1850.
Credit TNA PRO 3-/22/9j pt1 f81

River Path Walkway Enters final weeks of construction

By Guy Leman

The walkway connecting the river path on the northern side of the Thames under Barnes Bridge is now entering into the final weeks of construction with an opening planned for early next calendar year.

The walkway, which was initiated by Hounslow Council who operate north of the river in Chiswick launched the work following meetings in 2016 with local residents. The walkway itself was not the sole focus of such interaction but is part of what has become known locally as the 'Dukes Meadow Masterplan.'

The plan itself includes a variety of aims including the redevelopment of the Chiswick Boathouse, more secure car parking options, investment in sports facilities at the Dukes Meadow site and improvements to the bandstand and promenade area on the banks of the river.

As mentioned, while the plans all come under the jurisdiction of Hounslow Council, there is little doubt that the walkway and other developments will benefit the residents of Barnes also.

The Leader of Hounslow Council, Councillor Shantanu Rajawat, recently told me that:
"Pedestrians and cyclists using the Thames Path in Dukes Meadows usually find themselves facing a long detour that takes them away from the Thames to pass through a narrow tunnel under the railway."

"This bridge will now offer a fantastic uninterrupted route along the jewel in London's crown: the River Thames."

"Along with being a magnificent engineering triumph, the bridge has also been designed to maximise views across the river and provide easy access for wheelchair, mobility scooter and pushchair users."

With the walkway due to open in January 2023 hopefully residents on both sides of the river will soon feel the positive effects of the new infrastructure.



How the walkway will appear when finished according to plans initiated over five years ago

Twickenham Riverside planning application meeting and webcast

Last night, Thursday 24 November 2022, the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (LBRUT) Planning Committee met to make the decision on their own Twickenham Riverside plan - LBRUT is the Applicant, supported by their Agent Savills in the West End.

There were few surprises and with almost a full complement of Liberal Democrat councillors the “Planning Committee” passed their own plan. During the periods when councillors gave a View and Voted the broadcast was replaced by a Black Screen, No Sound and a notice stating “Technical Difficulties”. However, following the meeting there was a video of “The Leader” announcing that the vote had been unanimous in favour of the Council plan.

The one surprise, and perhaps a little disappointing, was that the only other political party represented on the Committee - one councillor from the Green Party - voted with the Liberal Democrats, sadly, neglecting the fate of over 60 trees, shrubs and vegetation (the habitat of wildlife), and the subsequent release of CO2 into the atmosphere .

Some loss of trees could have been avoided but the Hopkins Architects chose the option to eradicate all the trees on the entire site. The two magnificent bean trees either side of the gate and the nearby rare black poplar donated by HM Queen Elizabeth II were given little, if any, consideration, luxury flats (with its own pub), probably above the financial reach of most present residents, are the order of the day -and if there is difficulty selling them, then there is the overseas market.

For those not familiar with the plans, there will also be “affordable” housing on the Water Lane side, the Council-owned disused car park, disingenuously promoted by the Council and the local Liberal Democrats with photographs of this derelict area as THE Twickenham Riverside area to be developed. Of course, the Embankment, recently refurbished and now looking very attractive is also to be bulldozed, the trees cut down with the proposal to replace them by saplings – small trees that will not be up to the job of absorbing CO2 until they are fully grown – and time is running out.

Of course, everyone has their own view of the Twickenham Riverside [saga](#) and politicians and officers will have their own reasons for what they propose.

Perhaps the planning application should have been decided by an independent body; maybe there will be a review? But the Twickenham Riverside Trust, with an initial 125-year lease on the land, is preparing to oppose the Council’s Compulsory Purchase Order; the CPO necessary for the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to put their plans into practice. Further information here:

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-twickenham-riverside-public-gardens>

VIEW THE WEBCAST: https://richmond.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/720029

THE REAL JUNK FOOD PROJECT

TWICKENHAM

FEEDING BELLIES



NOT BINS

COME TO OUR PAY AS YOU FEEL
CAFE FOR HOT LUNCH, SALADS,
SOUP, SMOOTHIES AND COFFEE/TEA

BRING A BAG FOR SURPLUS FOOD TO TAKE HOME!

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY
FROM 11:30AM-1:30PM @ETNA COMMUNITY CENTRE,
13 ROSSLYN ROAD, EAST TWICKENHAM, TW1 2AR.

Dear Editor,

The former Dickens and Jones - House of Fraser Development

Those interested in the future development of the former Dickens and Jones – House of Fraser in George Street, Richmond, and in the consideration and approval of the latest proposals by the Council’s Planning Committee on Wednesday 16th November, may not yet be aware that twelve days before the meeting – on the 4th November – the Planning Department received and validated further applications for Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent for further alterations to part of the site.

Like ‘the alternative scheme for the site’ submitted to the Planning Department in May for pre-application advice to which the applicants specifically referred in their supporting documentation, not a word was said about these changes to the substantive scheme in the planning officers’ written report to ‘Committee - the only indication of their existence being their inclusion in the schedule of applications submitted to the Council over the previous week published in a local newspaper on Friday 18th November. Indeed, significantly, the presenting officer declined to clarify the ‘the alternative scheme for the site’ submitted in May, suggesting that it was not a material consideration.

Such silence about the full scope of the proposals for this important site reinforces the concern of many in the local community about the operation of the planning system in the Borough, and the likelihood of further changes to the approved scheme.

It is disappointing too, that those of us who submitted representations to the Planning Department about the latest proposals but never received any notification of the intention to place them before the ‘Committee meeting scheduled for the 16th November in accordance with normal practice, still await an explanation, let alone an apology.

Richmond deserves very much better service from the Council – not least – in relation to the future development of its historic and commercial heart.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Velluet. Chartered Architect, St Margarets

Dear Editor,

People are complaining about the state of the sandpit and gardens on Diamond Jubilee Gardens. Don’t they realise that over the last eight years the Council has been in charge of their upkeep? Or maybe it has left them like that on purpose? Wonder why? Something to do with their take over bid with a Compulsory Purchase Order? Surely not.

Best,
Local resident. (Name and address supplied)

Dear Tribune,

Choose A Crime!

I have just received yet another pointless Richmond Community Safety Survey asking me to choose the five most important crimes I would like addressed.

Well, I would like them ALL addressed.

The survey tritely states that Richmond is the safest borough in London but, of course, that smacks of complacency because there will always be one borough with the highest crime rate and another with the lowest.

Having the lowest crime rate in London is no comfort to the victim of the serious assault in Richmond and the woman stabbed to death near Sheen.

If Richmond is the safest borough in London, it means that the police have less to do than in other boroughs so why do we never see them on the streets?

Uniformed patrol is the backbone of policing but the last time I saw police uniforms on our streets was two PCSOs buying a sandwich in Sainsbury's.

Maybe they were getting ready for their 'Cuppa with a Copper' session?

I've also lost count of the number of Police Liaison Group meetings I have attended with pitifully small attendances by the public because so many people rightly think them a waste of time as nothing will be done.

That's just one example of the public's loss of confidence in our police not only because of their failings but also because of their lack of real presence in the community.

One crime affecting us all is the danger of e-scooters and bikes on our footways about which Richmond Council does nothing except constantly pass the buck to the police who have actually told me that they will do nothing about it.

I am not anti police but I am anti the crime and bad behaviour which are rife in this country and which I see every time I go out.

Fortunately, some chief constables have got the message and are trying to do something about the poor standards of policing.

I'm sure we would all like to know when we'll see results.

Michael Jay
Hampton.



EEL PIE
ISLAND
ARTISTS
CHRISTMAS

OPEN
STUDIOS
2022

SAT 3 DEC
SUN 4 DEC

11AM-5PM

CARTOONISTS / CERAMICS
FINE ART / JEWELLERY
MOSAICS / PAINTING
PICTURE FRAMING / POTTERY
PRINTMAKING / SCULPTURE



Entry fee voluntary £1 donation to charity per adult

Eel Pie Open Studios offers an opportunity to buy or commission original arts and crafts directly from the artists in the unique surroundings of Eel Pie Island.

Access to the island is via a footbridge from The Embankment, Twickenham. Follow the arrows.

The studios are situated in a working boatyard, so children must be supervised at all times.

Eel Pie Island Boatyard, Eel Pie Island, Twickenham TW1 3DY

For more information please contact eelpieislandartists@googlemail.com or visit www.eelpieislandartists.co.uk

CASTING CALL for AGATHA CHRISTIE!

The Mary Wallace Theatre is currently casting two roles for our January production of Agatha Christie's THE HOLLOW.

The play is set in a country house where the family are gathered for a serene weekend. Unsurprisingly (well, it is a Christie "whodunnit" after all) a murder is committed, an Inspector investigates and, eventually, the culprit is unmasked.

Meanwhile the Butler, Gudgeon, and house-maid, Doris, seamlessly run the household while providing telling clues to the identity of the murderer.

And it's GUDGEON (efficient and imperturbable butler - middle-aged or older) and DORIS (inexperienced and clumsy house-maid - 20's or younger and with great comic possibilities) who we are looking for. Two key roles with rehearsals beginning soon.

If the idea of joining the cast of THE HOLLOW on the Mary Wallace stage appeals, please contact the Director, Derek Stringer, at derek.stringer@btinternet.com

RICHMOND SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY PRESENTS
THE HOLLOW
by Agatha Christie
Directed by Derek Stringer

Richmond Shakespeare Society
RSS
at the Mary Wallace Theatre

ARTS RICHMOND

QR code

Saturday 21 to Saturday 28 January 2023
THE MARY WALLACE THEATRE, THE EMBANKMENT, TWICKENHAM TW1 3DU
Book online at: www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk

Richmond Shakespeare Society is affiliated to Arts Richmond and this production is entered for the Swan Awards for Drama and Musicals
This amateur production of *The Hollow* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.
www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Email from America

Teresa Read

This week I received an interesting email from one of our readers in Friendswood, Texas, mentioning a book including a mission to save Lipizzaner horses: “At First Light: A True World War II Story of a Hero, His Bravery, and an Amazing Horse”.



The photograph above shows Lipizzaner stallions during a ceremony attended by President George W. Bush and Laura Bush in June 2008 at Brdo Castle, Kranj, Slovenia. The famous Lipizzaner horses originate from Lipica in Slovenia. The stud farm was established in 1580. Strangely enough, an American president and his entourage were at Kew Gardens on one of my visits a number of years ago, and as I have also made visits to Slovenia I found the photograph quite interesting.

I had said to my daughter before we left for Kew “You never know who you will meet”. She had hoped for Joey McIntyre but instead it was the President of the United States of America.

THE BOOK

At First Light: A True World War II Story of a Hero, His Bravery, and an Amazing Horse

Near the end of the war, a courageous young US Army officer, Phil Larimore, is given an almost impossible clandestine mission – to find Hitler’s hidden Lipizzaners so they can be saved.

THE ROYAL PARKS TO ENLIST THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE TO HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF SOME OF LONDON'S MOST ICONIC SPACES

The Royal Parks charity is looking to recruit thousands of people to join a panel to help it make decisions around the way it manages some of London's most iconic spaces.



Membership of the panel will involve around two online surveys a year, with each taking approximately ten to fifteen minutes to complete. As a thank you, participants will be entered into a monthly prize drawn to win a £50 voucher.

The surveys will focus on the parks that the charity cares for namely Bushy Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Greenwich Park, Richmond Park, The Green Park, The Regent's Park and St James's Park. The charity also manages Brompton Cemetery and Victoria Tower Gardens.

Lucy Kellett, Head of Visitor Experience at The Royal Parks says: "We want the public to have an ongoing say on how the parks are run and to find out their views on what should stay the same and what can be improved."



We know people adore these iconic open spaces, and we are proud of our 96% approval rating, but we want to delve deeper into what matters to our visitors. Equally we want to hear from those who don't visit often or who don't feel that the parks are for them and find out the reasons why, so we can do better, and be better."

The charity is working with an independent research company to carry out the research, trueology.

People who sign up to the panel can also opt in to take part in other research, such as short polls, focus groups and interviews to help the charity learn more about what visitors want from the Royal Parks.



To find out more visit: [Join the Royal Parks Panel - The Royal Parks](#)

MAIL ORDER CHRISTMAS GIFTS

With postal strikes, train strikes, 'you name it' strikes, happening - or being threatened this Christmas, I think it makes sound sense to plan well ahead this year. If you were planning to post a gift, it might be a good idea to buy online gifts that will be sent directly to the recipient, ideally along with a personal message from the sender. This avoids those mega queues at the post office too. I'm still a great believer in supporting independent businesses and shopping locally where possible and with this in mind, I've checked out a few of the more interesting sites.



If, like me, you're a fan of Dragon's Den, you might have seen **Russell & Atwell**...they produce the most wonderful fresh chocolates. Of the fresh cream truffle variety, they are seriously good, and you can either buy their glass jars (for refilling when you reorder... trust me, you will reorder!) or just buy the pouches. They suggest taking the chocs out of the fridge for a while before eating, but they are damned good eaten straight from the fridge too! Hazelnut, or salted

caramel truffles, and Seville orange (new this year) all so delicious! Their festive range [here](#) includes free delivery and they'll ship from early December in time for Christmas, and will keep till twelfth night and beyond, if anyone can resist them that long! From just under £20 for a pack of three pouches. They also have gift subscriptions from £50 for a three months of pure indulgence!

There are so many hampers to choose from that we're spoilt for choice! For a really indulgent special gift I'd head straight to **Kings Fine Food**, where you can buy the finest ethically farmed caviar and luxurious fine food & drink from around the world. Hampers start from £115 with this beauty containing: four different 10g packs of caviar, chocolate caviar balls, horn bowl and spoon sets in a dinky wicker picnic basket complete with ice blocks to keep things cool. Further information [here](#)



Less hedonistic perhaps, but equally delicious and welcome, will be a **Tracklements** Festive Goodies Box. The company has curated a selection of festive favourites: caramelised onion marmalade; Christmas spice chutney; spiced honey mustard; cranberry, port & orange sauce and sticky fig relish - perfect for those seasonal feasts, £20.70. Further information and stockist info if you want to build your own hamper [here](#)

It's rather lovely, I think, that we Brits have now fully embraced the Christmas traditions from other countries - like panettone and stollen. Personally I prefer them to our traditional Christmas cake and a panettone makes a lovely gift. Companies like **Seggiano** have a good selection - including vegan, chestnut, chocolate and limoncello, as well as the classic. Mini Vin Santo ones too are great as stocking fillers.



Prices from £16 for a 500g size. More info and the great range of hampers too that Seggiano produces [here](#)



While we are thinking Italian, I'd urge you to have a look at **Orange Moon**. These fabulous artisan products include hand cut Sicilian candied oranges coated with the finest dark/white chocolate, (so moreish!) mouth-watering almond pastries and a selection of delicious Panettoni. Slightly more expensive than some, perhaps, but these sensational [panettoni](#) are a generous 1kg in weight! From £32 they are beautifully gift wrapped already too. Orangemoon.uk

Still looking at unusual gifts for a sweet-toothed recipient? Family owned luxury confectionery brand, **Farhi**, is known for its gourmet nuts, indulgent truffles and stuffed dates is a great choice. Gifts range in price from £7.50 - £100 and include fruit and nut gifts, beautiful filled jars, hand painted bonbonnières and hampers. Sold in Selfridges and Harrods, as well as online, there are Cocoa Dusted Milk Chocolate Caramelised Pecans with a Hint of Gianduja, or delicious chocolate covered Pecans in a gourmet jar. Hand-painted Bonbonnières, filled with a variety of treats including dark chocolate covered coffee beans, chocolate covered almonds & chocolate covered ginger. www.farhi.co.uk



How about this sustainable present with a personalised label? **Elephant Gin** offers attractively packaged, personal gift options. Each of the 500ml gins (classic **London Dry**, warming **Sloe**, full-bodied **Navy Strength**, and aromatic **Orange Cocoa Gin**) are available in an illustrated natural cardboard box (from £34.50) or this unusual linen box, that can be personalised with a special message, handwritten by Elephant Gin's in-house calligrapher (from £36.90). What's more, 15% of bottle profits are donated to elephant conservation projects!

conservation projects!

The Thinking Drinkers Tasting Club is a present that lasts all year. After another sell-out run at the Fringe in Edinburgh, Tom Sandham and Ben McFarland are bringing the live show experience into homes via the members club. Three premium, thought-provoking spirits arrive through subscribers' letterbox monthly, and subscribers also receive a signed copy of *The Thinking Drinkers Almanac - Drinks Book of the Year 2021* *The Sunday Times*. 60ml servings, packaged in premium pouches are enjoyed in an educational, entertaining (but unpretentious) online tasting hosted by the [Thinking Drinkers](#), featuring special guests. £120 for the year



And of course, a bottle of good champagne is always a very acceptable present (especially in our house!). I was introduced to a new champagne recently (and by new I mean the company has only been producing champagne since 2005).



Champagne Frerejean Frères is producing superb cuvées that are sold in many top restaurants and fine wine shops. The champagnes are produced on a small-scale, traditional method, but with contemporary craftsmanship and they are excellent. They produce only Premier and Grand Cru wines with fruit selected from the best parcels. I loved the **Extra Brut Premier Cru**: Available for around £40-45 a bottle from Mr Wheeler and the Whisky Exchange

A FAB TIME AT THE CLOCK HOUSE, RIPLEY

It's bad enough for the boss of any restaurant when the head chef decides to leave, but imagine how stressful it must be if you have a Michelin star to 'protect'? Well, when I'd heard that **The Clock House**, just down the A3 in Ripley, had a new chef, I just had to head down there to see if Luke Spier (ex Gordon Ramsay Group and Simon Rogan's Roganic) had managed to retain the restaurant's star-studded sparkle. Reader, I'm delighted to confirm that he has, in fork-loads!



We started our evening with drinks in the elegant upstairs cocktail bar overlooking the garden while perusing the five course tasting menu. In previous summer visits we've been able to enjoy a preprandial on the terrace overlooking this classic Georgian house's walled garden. Once seated, this amazing meal glided into full swing. Amuse bouches of croustades of smoked trout, trout eggs, horseradish emulsion and pickled fennel were



with Gouda and truffle was declared 'one of the most delicious things ever tasted'.



The braised spelt bread rolls were really unusual and tasty. The Jerusalem artichoke, braised spelt and quail's eggs was augmented by a serving of broth and we wiped every bowl clean with the delicious bread. This meal was certainly showing great promise! Winter squash, whey, fig leaf and pumpkin seed followed: this simple-looking course was a mastery of flavours, textures, earthy notes and a smokey, nutty deliciousness.



We could have chosen to have the wine pairing menu, but opted for a bottle of Gruner Veltliner and then an excellent Malbec - both reasonably priced from an eclectic and well composed wine list that caters for all tastes and budgets.

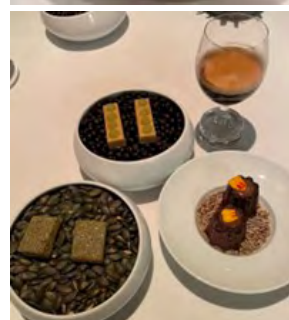
The fish course next was Cornish Brill, celeriac, preserved walnut and pine. Again, the flair of the chef shone through and the vegetable pairing and preparation of the vegetable accompaniments took them to new heights - it was fabulous.



The meat course was next: Dexter beef, hen of the woods mushroom, bone marrow and smoked potato. Luke, the head chef, came to our table to serve and explain the dish. This was quickly devoured and declared another triumph.

The Clock House cheese selection is an added extra, but well worth choosing. We finished the red wine sharing a well curated selection of English cheeses, they were served with the most divine home-made crackers.

The 85% Pump St chocolate, buckwheat and Scotch caramel described on the menu, certainly undersold the dessert...wow! Again, culinary mastery in full flow.



Coffee and fresh peppermint tea rounded off a superb meal, but there was still more excitement to come with the petits fours. We had pumpkin jellies, juniper fudge with apple gel and caramelised chocolate canelés - a stupendous end to an incredible meal.

The Clock House is serious fine dining at its best. It isn't cheap, but it's still excellent value for money for the quality of food and service. Owner Serina Drake certainly has the knack of selecting a good head chef and a top quality front of house team. If you have a celebration to plan, or just want to inject some indulgence into the rather austere winter that we're threatened with, then do take yourself down to Ripley for lunch or dinner. www.theclockhouserestaurant.co.uk

GIBRALTAR

sunborn

5 - STAR YACHT HOTEL

CASINO RESORT



SUPERYACHT GLAMOUR

ON NEW YEAR'S EVE



PACKAGE INCLUDES:

WELCOME AMENITIES | DAILY BREAKFAST BUFFET
1 X INFINITY SPA VOUCHER (£50)
2 X DETOX, 2 X HYDRA EARTH KISS ORGANIC FACE MASKS
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY PACKAGE FOR 2 (LOCATION NEEDS TO BE PRE BOOKED)
BUBBLY BREAKFAST BUFFET 1ST OF JANUARY

Book 30th December to 2nd January, 3 nights £770

For 2 guests in a Super Yacht Superior Room

Book 31st December to 1st January, 1 night £450

For 2 guests in a Super Yacht Superior Room

Terms & Conditions: Offer subject to availability

Package is subject to availability. Cannot be combined with other bookings. Reservations must be made direct via phone or email and cannot be made via third parties. Pre-payment is required and bookings cannot be cancelled or modified

TO BOOK CONTACT: +350 200 16900 | RESERVATIONS@SUNBORNGIBRALTAR.COM



Saul

by George Frideric Handel, libretto by Charles Jennens
Richmond Opera at the Normansfield Theatre, Teddington

The story of Saul, the king of Israel and his relationship with newcomer David, has many layers of emotions, envy, love, madness, anger. Richmond Opera portrays these weighty human issues beautifully in its fully-staged operatic version of Handel's oratorio *Saul* and director Louise Bakker uses the biblical material with great skill.

The striking overture, conducted by musical director Lindsay Bramley, heralds a colourful tableau of Israelites praising the young warrior David for saving them from the tyrant Goliath. However, at his magnificent court, King Saul fails dismally to smother his insecurity about the hero David.



The set is eye-catching, making good use of the limited space, and the coordinated costumes are aesthetically pleasing in blue, terracotta and white. David is unmoved by such splendour, but Saul's son Jonathan, played with conviction by tenor Hugh Benson, swears devotion to David.

Played by alto Amelie Saintonge, David comes into his own, particularly in confrontation with an Amalekite, who deals a fatal blow to Saul. Hazel McCulloch is suitably matched as David's adversary in this memorable scene.

The second half opens to a darker tableau. The Israelites' face upstage, then disperse to reveal Saul, at a very low ebb indeed. Saul's descent into madness is played impressively by baritone Oliver Bowes, as he goes, incognito, to the Witch of Endor, played by vibrant soprano Dawn Rolt, who has a haunting quality to her voice. They summon the spirit of his late mentor, Samuel, played by bass John Rolt, cutting a bold figure with terrific stage presence. His prophecies that the Israelites would be defeated. The following day, the Battle of Gilboa claims Saul and his sons. The iconic *Dead March* in C major is very moving indeed. *Saul* is a production one won't forget.



Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/11/21/saul

Photography by Jonathan Pritchard and David Dearlove



Mrs Warren's Profession

by George Bernard Shaw

Theatre Royal Bath Productions at Richmond Theatre until 26th November, then on tour until 8th April

Shaw in his wittily unsentimental work *Mrs Warren's Profession* revealed the grubby society in which women were bought and sold into work or marriage beneath a veneer of social acceptability. The Lord Chamberlain banned the play a dozen years after the Married Women's Property Act 1882 allowed women the right to their own property. This was a play in which a woman works her way out of poverty via prostitution, educates her daughter and becomes wealthy with an international chain of brothels, with the aid of her aristocratic friends.



Mrs Warren's Profession stars Caroline Quentin and her daughter Rose Quentin as Mrs Warren and her daughter Vivie; and is totally engaging. Director Anthony Banks has moved the action to the '20s and designer David Woodhead has created an ironically twee set with a Wendy-house country villa into which the characters must fit themselves, and a churchyard which can only be entered by some serious bending under the very low lychgate.



The issues driving the action are whether or not Vivie, who does not condemn her mother for the route she took out of poverty, can accept her running a wealth-generating business based on the exploitation of fellow women, and can she accommodate the expectations her mother has of her?

There are two suitors pursuing Vivie. Sir George Crofts (a rogue, sympathetically played by George Crofts) wants a trophy wife. Frank, a younger man (an endearing yet ruthless Peter Losasso) wants a leisured life funded by her mother's wealth

Although the dominant presence on stage, Caroline Quentin is ably matched by her daughter Rose, as Vivie. Mrs Warren is a force of nature but her daughter Vivie is an equally confident, self-possessed woman. Both women have developed similar strength of character. Both performances are razor-sharp and communicate the respective positions of each woman perfectly clearly.



Mrs Warren's Profession is highly entertaining, timely and well worth seeing.

Read Eleanor Lewis' review at www.markaspen.com/2022/11/23/mrs-warren

Photography by Pamela Raith



The Last Laugh

by Richard Harris, adapted from *Warai no Daigaku* by Koki Mitani

Theatre at the Tabard at The Tabard Theatre, Chiswick until 3rd December

A sparky young idealistic writer of comedy crosses swords with a crusty, humourless censor in his bid to gain state approval for his play. This hilarious clash of cultures played out in *The Last Laugh* is an auspicious first in-house production in the relaunch season of the Theatre at the Tabard.



With a laugh wrung from almost every line by the rugged old soldier-turned-censor, played by David Tarkenter, and the fresh-faced writer, Matt Wake, this moving satire explores the battle of freedom of expression versus censorship.



The Writer must jump through a maze of hoops set by a censor mystified by the very idea of culture, theatre, humour. The Censor, a chisel-featured veteran, had been a soldier since fourteen, too busy fighting wars to ever visit a theatre. 'Have you always worked in the theatre or have you done anything useful?' he asks the Writer in genuine bemusement.

The comedy, smartly directed by Nick Bromley, is played out against a stark set of a battleship grey office, with nothing but utilitarian furniture that echoes a Soviet-style regime. It oozes menace.

The Censor would rather be embroiled in the battle raging outside his sunny window, but a war wound confines him to paper-pushing desk duties, with the stamp of rejection or approval his only weapon. And the Writer, desperate for his comedy to open before his call-up papers send him into the infantry, must make ridiculous amendments that give birth to a very different play. Notwithstanding the dystopian backdrop, the two very different men grow to understand each other and build an unlikely bond.



Despite an undercurrent of pathos and loss, laughter wins out. It's a witty, intelligent play that explores the art of comedy and why it's so important to laugh.

Read Gill Martin's review at www.markaspen.com/2022/11/17/last-laugh

Photography by Andreas Grieger



Haunting Julia

by Alan Ayckbourn

The Questors Theatre at Questors Studio, Ealing until 26th November

Alan Ayckbourn's work typically takes a sideways and acerbic look at various aspects of middle-class suburban life. *Haunting Julia* is a departure from this model.

The topic is the death of a young, gifted musician and composer, Julia Lukin, and the effects of her death on key characters in her life. Ayckbourn open-mindedly explores the various stages of the grieving process and beliefs about death and the afterlife.

Director Maria Gebhardt takes full advantage of the facilities and assets to hand to give the audience "a different kind of scare". Maria's direction keeps the audience focussed and provides a genuine authenticity to the characters and their interactions.



The Studio at Questors recreates a room that has been preserved museum-style for viewing by the public. An ante-room also provides access for the audience and has been rigged as an exhibition of the life and works of Julia Lukin. There's a neat piece of symbolism in play here, too.

The guide to the museum, convincingly played by Kaire Olesk, breezily invites you to look at the photos and manuscripts on the walls before taking your seats. She then melts seamlessly back into the action in mime.

Julia's father, Joe, is roundly represented by Andrew Hill. Joe is an overbearing character, incapable of seeing alternative viewpoints and with little self-awareness. His love for Julia is unquestionable, but his denial of the facts of Julia's passing prompts a form of obsessional behaviour. Andrew's portrayal is admirably authentic.

Appearances of Julia bookend the play and are offered by Ruby Barry who has no trouble in establishing strong image immediately on both entries. Julia is, or was, disturbed by her talent and insecure in herself and Ruby sets that out with no messing.

Nice to see Bat-Bear getting a nod in the programme, too, playing the difficult "always on in the background" part of Emily. An example to all aspiring actors of the power of inner stillness.

The production of an unusual piece of writing by an established author is a "gimme" for any theatre and has been grasped fully by Questors. Cut along if you can.

Read Vince Francis' review at www.markaspen.com/2022/11/19/haunting-julia

Photography by Robert Vass

Dinner with Groucho

by Frank McGuinness

b*spoke theatre company at the Arcola Theatre, Dalston until 10th December

We are about to dine at the edge of existence. Illuminated bubbles hang against a backdrop of sky and ocean. The wall is full of stars. On sand and discarded oyster shells, stands an intimate dinner table and chairs. The beauty of the set, designed by Adam Wiltshire, immediately says we are somewhere otherworldly.



Dinner with Groucho is inspired by the unlikely friendship between poet T.S.Eliot and comedian Groucho Marx, here played by Greg Hicks and Ian Bartholomew respectively. Seminal figures in their fields, they were pen-pals who finally met for dinner in 1964. This play is an imaginary take on what that dinner might have been like, though not in a naturalistic way. Instead we are somewhere in the afterlife, at 'the edge of heaven' eating at a restaurant run by a seemingly quite batty female proprietor played wonderfully by Ingrid Craigie.



The proprietor starts by summoning the two men into being ... literally. Is she God? Is she a medium channelling the two men so that they can relive their dinner forever? Who knows? McGuinness doesn't provide answers, seemingly happy to let our three characters go through eternity together by the sheer strength of their personalities.

Brought to life with a lot of warmth and intellectual depth by Greg Hicks, T.S.Eliot comes across as more human, he performs a magic trick or two, and he leads most of the conversation. Groucho, though played with plenty of charm and playfulness by Ian Bartholomew, comes across as a heightened copy of his comedic roles. The two may be spirits, but only one feels human. Even in death, Groucho is depicted with the trademark grease paint moustache and bushy eyebrows.

Dinner with Groucho is definitely a play worth seeing, but there is a good chance you might leave the theatre at a loss as to what it is ultimately about.

Read Melissa Syversen's review at

www.markaspen.com/2022/11/22/dinner-with-groucho



Photography by Ros Kavanagh

WIZ Tales: QATAR – Venue of the FIFA World Cup 2022

By Teresa Read

The State of Qatar consists of small islands and a small peninsula off the larger Arabian Peninsula; it is bordered by the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia.

Doha is the capital city and a major port. The Arabian Peninsula occupies a strategic position on the trade routes between Africa and India.

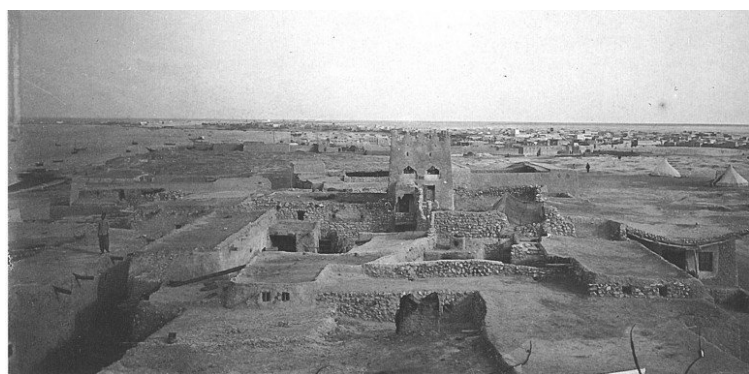
Oil was discovered in Qatar 1939, and in the 1950s and 1960s. A member of OPEC from 1961 Qatar left the organisation on 1 January 2019.



The Arabian Peninsula was under the influence of the Ottoman Empire for four centuries. Various treaties were signed with the British in the nineteenth century and by the early twentieth century Qatar had become a British Protectorate; Britain withdrew from the Gulf in 1971.

Traditional sports such as camel racing, horse racing and boat races (dhows) are well supported, with falconry more popular than ever.

Soccer is a very popular sport in Qatar; the national team has taken part in Olympic Finals and this year's FIFA World Cup.



27–30 January 1904

Doha, 1904



Doha, 2015



Arabian Oryx, the national animal



Arabian oryx heads

Information and photos of Qatar: <https://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=Qatar>

BLACK FRIDAY

By Bruce Lyons



BLACK FRIDAY



Black Friday at Crusader Travel is all about Coffee & Mince Pies festive style, so why not drop in and see what is on offer. Maybe it is a low deposit, or a whopping £900+ reduction on a Sea Dream Yacht Cruise – there is something for everybody but hurry the offers only last a few days.

Perhaps you fancy a canal boat in France, or £300 off a Cherry Blossom tour to Japan – Spring 2023? Cruise Companies have Black Friday offers, as do Adventure Companies like Explore on selected destinations and departures. Some airlines are in the act too! Like El Al if you travel before March. Easy Jet have discounts on Holidays up to £200 and on flights they have early 2023 Departures @ £25 to selected destinations on selected dates.

Looking for a good deal? Come and have a chat in our warm cosy Twickenham office, just off the square at 58 Church Street.

www.crusadertravel.com





**JAPAN UNCOVERED
WITH CHERRY
BLOSSOM**

**SAVE
£300PP**

15 nights from £7,290pp*

Depart 21st March / 22nd March / 29th March / 30th March / 2nd April 2023

Book by 15th December 2022

Price based on 2 adults sharing

Flights available and included from regional airports

This offer was supplied by Wendy Wu Tours

Experience the very best of Japan on this fully inclusive, escorted group tour. This tour includes all the classic sights and key cultural activities which make Japan so unique. Featuring modern cities, historical sights and beautiful landscapes, Japan Uncovered ensures you get the most out of your trip to this fascinating land.

- Fully inclusive
- Witness the spectacular cherry blossom
- Enjoy a Japanese tea ceremony
- See the adorable snow monkeys

Fly UK > Osaka - Nara - Himeji - Hiroshima - Miyajima - Kyoto - Kanazawa - Takayama - Snow Monkeys - Mount Fuji - Mishima - Tokyo > Fly UK



**ELVIS PRESLEY'S
MEMPHIS, NEW ORLEANS
& NASHVILLE**

**BEST OF
SOUTHERN
USA**

7 nights from £1,819pp*

Various departures between March 2023 - December 2024

Book by 4th December 2022

Price based on 2 adults sharing, departing 18th April 2023

Journey through America's musical heartland, from the birthplace of jazz and the cradle of rock 'n' roll to the undisputed capital of country music.

- Perfect for Elvis fans
- Best of Southern USA

Fly UK > Montgomery - New Orleans - Memphis - Nashville > Fly UK

Fly from London Heathrow* £1,819pp / Manchester £1,819pp

Single supplement applies

This offer was supplied by Newmarket Holidays



**G ADVENTURES:
ESSENTIAL VIETNAM &
CAMBODIA**

**AMAZING
EXPERIENCES**

16 nights from £2,029pp*

Depart 7th March 2023

Subject to availability

Price based on 2 adults sharing

Fly from London Heathrow* / Manchester / Edinburgh*

This offer was supplied by Gold Medal

This 17-day trip offers a combination of guided excursions and free time to explore beaches, ruins, urban culture, and awe-inspiring landscapes. Cruise the Mekong for a day and overnight on a traditional sailing junk boat in Halong Bay. Witness the heights of Cambodia's past at Angkor Wat, and contemplate its lows by walking the infamous Killing Fields. Experience the very best of Vietnam and Cambodia with this tour.

What's Included?

- Includes 16 nights accommodation
- 15 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners
- Enjoy selected sightseeing experiences
- All transfers included
- Includes up to 25% tour discount

Fly UK > Hanoi - Halong Bay - Hue - Hoi An - Ho Chi Minh City - Phnom Penh - Siem Reap - Bangkok > Fly UK



**BAVARIAN FOREST
WINTER
WONDERLAND**

**'HUSKIES' &
IGLOOS**

6 nights from £779pp*

Depart 16th January 2023 (other 2023/24 departures available)

Subject to availability

Price based on 2 adults sharing

Local coach joining points available

Please note: At Huskyhof Dreisessel, the dogs you may see may be different breeds of Husky and Malamutes.

This offer was supplied by Leger Holidays

Explore Germany's stunning Bavarian Forest on a winter wonderland escorted tour you won't forget. The glistening winter scenery, rolling hills and picturesque villages create the perfect backdrop for a magical winter escape. From your base in the Bavarian Forest National Park, we visit the Joska Crystal Adventure World where you will have the opportunity to learn about the wonderful world of crystal and glass – you can even try your hand at the fine art of glass blowing. And, of course, the pièce de résistance, you have the opportunity to visit the magnificent sled dogs at Driesessel and attend an Igloo workshop where you will learn about igloo building and the traditions of the Igloo village.

What's Included?

- 6 Nights stay in a 3* hotel with breakfast
- 4 evening meals
- Local joining points
- Travel by Leger Silver Service coach
- Secure with £50pp low deposit on 2023/24 departures*

Included excursions:

- Joska Crystal Adventure World
- Neuschonau Treetop Walk
- Bavarian Forest National Park, Passau
- Igloo Workshop
- Huskyhof Dreisessel



**G ADVENTURES:
ESSENTIAL VIETNAM &
CAMBODIA**

**AMAZING
EXPERIENCES**

16 nights from £2,029pp*

Depart 7th March 2023

Subject to availability

Price based on 2 adults sharing

Fly from London Heathrow* / Manchester / Edinburgh*

This offer was supplied by Gold Medal

This 17-day trip offers a combination of guided excursions and free time to explore beaches, ruins, urban culture, and awe-inspiring landscapes. Cruise the Mekong for a day and overnight on a traditional sailing junk boat in Halong Bay. Witness the heights of Cambodia's past at Angkor Wat, and contemplate its lows by walking the infamous Killing Fields. Experience the very best of Vietnam and Cambodia with this tour.

What's Included?

- Includes 16 nights accommodation
- 15 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners
- Enjoy selected sightseeing experiences
- All transfers included
- Includes up to 25% tour discount

Fly UK > Hanoi - Halong Bay - Hue - Hoi An - Ho Chi Minh City - Phnom Penh - Siem Reap - Bangkok > Fly UK



**SPECTACULAR
TOURING BLACK
FRIDAY SALE**

**CHANCE TO
WIN £1,000
TRAVEL CREDIT**

Save up to £500 per couple on selected 2023 holidays

- Save up to £100pp on European holidays
- Save up to £250pp on Long Haul holidays
- Chance to win £1,000 travel credit when you book by 2nd December 2022!

This offer was supplied by Travelsphere

From classic and relaxed touring holidays to rail tours, safaris, and so much more, Travelsphere offer a huge range of guided tours that will suit every need and budget.

What are you waiting for? Discover authentic local experiences that go beyond the guidebook and sample local life, traditions and cuisine in the company of Travelsphere's expert Holiday Directors.

You'll also have plenty of free time to relax and explore on your own.

A variety of incredible tours are at your fingertips.



**INCREDIBLE SOLO
TOURING BLACK
FRIDAY SALE**

**CHANCE TO
WIN £500
TRAVEL CREDIT**

- Save up to £250 per person on selected 2023 holidays
- Chance to win £500 travel credit when you book by 2nd December 2022!

This offer was supplied by Just You

There are so many reasons why people choose to travel independently, and at Just You, they've been crafting solo holidays escorted tours for 20 years.

The great thing about all their singles holidays is that you'll be with like-minded people who share your passion for travel and sense of adventure.

A variety of incredible tours are at your fingertips.

To find out about any of the great offers available - or to enquire about any other holiday requirements contact Crusader Travel today.

020 8744 0474 ~ info@crusadertravel.com

www.crusadertravel.com



Historic pub, The Botanist on the Green Reopens with Exciting New Look

The Botanist on the Green, a cornerstone of local Kew life and steeped in history, recently reopened following an extensive four-week refurbishment, giving the iconic pub an exciting new look.

The pub has been given a facelift while keeping its traditional look and feel inside. Changes include all new soft furnishings and an outdoor dining area, with various different areas available to book for a range of occasions.

They will be launching a variety of events, including bringing back the infamous quiz night and starting live music at the weekends.



Guests can tuck into all the pub favourites, including award-winning pale ale & steak pie, classic fish and chips and prime steak burgers, as well as a delectable range of Sunday roasts to delight discerning guests.

Along with the new food menu, guests will also be greeted with an extensive drinks menu, boasting a wide selection of craft beers, ciders and cocktails.

Speaking about the refurbishment, the general manager at the Botanist on the Green, Anna Davies said: *"I'm really excited to welcome the locals to the pub who may not have visited in a while. The pub is transformed inside and our friendly team are here and ready to provide great food and a special experience for all"*.

Following the extensive refurbishment and significant investment made at the pub, 10 new jobs have been created for the local area, with the team now ready to pour pints and serve delicious food to guests.

For more information about the Botanist on the Green please visit

<https://www.thebotanistkew.co.uk/#>



SO RATS ARE SAVING PEOPLE NOW.....

By Deep Patel

Think RATS are dirty, disgusting creatures that should be eradicated off the face of the earth? ...Maybe it's time to think again... these little furry beauties have always had a bad reputation for living in the sewers and damaging homes, and let us not forget that famous line "rats were the reason for the plague"... BUT did you know the truth? Can you handle the truth?... You may want to sit down before reading the truth...

Historians have speculated that the fleas on rats were responsible for the estimated 25 million plague deaths between 1347 and 1351. However, a new study suggests that rats weren't the main carriers of fleas and lice that spread the plague—it was humans...PEOPLE...you and me! Dirty humans blaming the rats, what are we like?! Always trying to blame something else...!

It's not clear where the belief that rats spread the plague came from in the first place. After all, the researchers write that "there is little historical and archaeological support for such a claim." For example, if rats really were a main cause of the plague, there would be more archaeological evidence of dead rats.

So anyway...the emphasis of this article was on how RATS are now SAVING humans...so here is how...Rats are currently being trained for search and rescue work. Yes you read correctly, they are being used to delve into rubble after earthquakes whilst wearing mini backpacks with microphones on them. They are extremely agile and can get into all spaces and so are ideal for finding humans trapped under rubble after earthquakes. We can even talk to humans trapped under rubble using the microphones carried by the rats.

The rats are trained to respond to various beep sounds that call them back to the base. The ethics of using animals for human service is questionable, but the focus of my point here is firstly rats did NOT cause the plague, and secondly they are helping to save OUR lives...so next time we feel like reaching for the poison or lay cruel traps to kill them off, remember that right now they are helping save human lives whilst risking their own and if it wasn't for them, many more humans would die trapped under earthquake rubble.

As readers may know, I am a great enthusiast of good karma and am asking that we all resort to kinder ways to stop rodents in our homes going forward. Consider live capture traps where you can catch the rodents alive and release them in woodland or parkland areas far from homes.

Try electronic high-frequency sound deterrents (check online for ones with good reviews and ones that are safe for your pets if you have any). Put empty jam jar lids filled with white vinegar all around areas where you don't want them to stop them without harming them (they HATE the smell of white vinegar). This also works for foxes, squirrels, mice and rabbits! Using all these ways instead of poison and cruel traps will mean that you are not only sparing an innocent creature from severe suffering, but also earning good karma for yourself...rich or poor, strong or weak...we are all subject to our own karma...so make it good karma...you never know when you may need it back...

Rat/mouse poison actually makes their veins slowly tear over the period of 3-5 days after which they slowly and painfully die from internal bleeding. Often leaving their babies in a far away nest waiting for them to return...the babies then starve to death slowly... I know we don't want them in our homes, but do we have to be so cruel? They are only trying to live like we all are after all and don't purposely set out to annoy us...Like I always say, even picking up a slug off a pavement with a leaf and moving it over a wall counts as a good deed... choosing a kind way to stop ants (like talcum powder around where they come but not on them) counts as a good deed.

Even avoiding sweeping/washing the garden patio too often helps save countless tiny almost invisible little lives that live there (particularly under large pots in the garden, hence I say gently lift the pots if you need to move them rather than dragging them to avoid crushing little lives). Avoid sweeping too close to the edges of the garden borders as that's where lots of little lives live...for every life you save...you will accrue good karma that will unexpectedly help you when you least expect it in your own lives...

So there we have it...the key to our own happiness lies in the happiness of others lives, both big and small...until the next time...have a lovely week and look after the smaller life forms and the universe will look after you.

For further tips, check out my Facebook page "Kind World".

Peace, love and good karma to all.



England team announcement: England v South Africa



Eddie Jones has named the 23-player England team that will take on South Africa this weekend. England will host the Springboks at Twickenham Stadium in their final Autumn Nations Series game on Saturday 26 November (5.30pm KO).

Manu Tuilagi makes his 50th appearance for England at outside centre. Tuilagi made his debut for England against Wales in August 2011. Owen Farrell will again captain the side at inside centre. Marcus Smith is at fly half and Jack van Poortvliet is at scrum half. Tommy Freeman comes in at right wing, Jonny May is at left wing and Freddie Steward is full back.

Jamie George (hooker) and Mako Vunipola join fellow prop Kyle Sinckler in two changes to the starting front row. Maro Itoje and Jonny Hill stay at lock. Alex Coles comes in at flanker with Tom Curry, while Billy Vunipola is No.8.

Last weekend's double-try scorer Will Stuart is named as finisher along with Luke Cowan-Dickie, David Ribbans, Sam Simmonds, Ben Youngs, Henry Slade and vice-captains Ellis Genge and Jack Nowell.

The two sides last faced each other in November 2021, where England won a close match 27-26.

Jones said: *"This is our last game of the autumn and our chance to continue building on the improvements we have made throughout the matches.*

"We have made steady progress from game-to-game, culminating in a pulsating draw against New Zealand.

"Now we have the chance to test ourselves against the might of the world champions.

"We're going out there to light the crowd up. The support at Twickenham was outstanding last week and we want to work hard on the pitch to make sure we have another atmosphere like that again on Saturday."

England v South Africa is live on Amazon Prime Video and talkSPORT.

ENGLAND XV

15. Freddie Steward (Leicester Tigers, 16 caps)
14. Tommy Freeman (Northampton Saints, 2 caps)
13. Manu Tuilagi (Sale Sharks, 49 caps)
12. Owen Farrell (C) (Saracens, 100 caps)
11. Jonny May (Gloucester Rugby, 71 caps)
10. Marcus Smith (Harlequins, 16 caps)
9. Jack van Poortvliet (Leicester Tigers, 6 caps)

1. Mako Vunipola (Saracens, 73 caps)
2. Jamie George (Saracens, 71 caps)
3. Kyle Sinckler (Bristol Bears, 55 caps)
4. Maro Itoje (Saracens, 61 caps)
5. Jonny Hill (Sale Sharks, 18 caps)
6. Alex Coles (Northampton Saints, 2 caps)
7. Tom Curry (Sale Sharks, 44 caps)
8. Billy Vunipola (Saracens, 67 caps)

FINISHERS

16. Luke Cowan-Dickie (Exeter Chiefs, 40 caps)
17. Ellis Genge (Bristol Bears, 42 caps)
18. Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 24 caps)
19. David Ribbans (Northampton Saints, 2 caps)

20. Sam Simmonds (Exeter Chiefs, 17 caps)
21. Ben Youngs (Leicester Tigers, 120 caps)
22. Henry Slade (Exeter Chiefs, 51 caps)
23. Jack Nowell (Exeter Chiefs, 44 caps)

HARRY REDKNAPP: ENGLAND HAVE THE BEST PLAYERS IN QATAR SOCCER LEGEND SAYS HE WOULDN'T SWAP THREE LIONS SQUAD

HARRY REDKNAPP says Gareth Southgate is blessed with the best squad at the World Cup.

The former Spurs and West Ham manager told GB News: "I wouldn't swap our squad with anyone, I really wouldn't."

In an interview with Andrew Pierce, the retired football legend also said he was gutted for Wales following their 2-0 defeat to Iran.

He said: "I was really cheering Wales on, but Iran was much the better team for most of the game and they really looked a very good team today. It just makes England's result look even better against them. Wales were fairly well beaten, and Iran deserved to win."

Ahead of England's crunch game with the USA, Harry said: "England hopefully can secure their spot top of the group tonight by beating the USA and then the Wales game will be sort of almost a dead rubber for England. Gareth can play lots of the squad players. But we've got such a fantastic squad it will be very difficult for Wales. They'll be the underdogs, but you never know.

"But if you look at the strength in depth, we've got in the England squad it's fantastic. We've got some amazing players. I mean, you know, the other night he brings on Phil Foden. He brings on Jack Grealish, he brings on Marcus Rashford and Callum Wilson. I mean they're players that would get in almost any team in the world. So yeah, we've got some amazing players and I thought we looked fantastic in the first game. People might be saying 'it was only Iran'. But look how well they played today. There are no easy games at this World Cup.

"But we really have got a great squad. Right now, I wouldn't swap this England squad with any other team. I really wouldn't.

Harry's optimistic outlook comes days after Sir Geoff Hurst told GB News England could win the World Cup.

Speaking to Nigel Farage, the 1966 hero said: "Can we win it? My honest opinion, I think we have a good chance. Put it this way, it would not be a surprise or astonishment if we win it. We have got a good bunch of young players.

"The last two tournaments have been terrific, semi-final of the World Cup, final of the Euros. I'd be disappointed if we don't get through at least a semi-final. Looking at the draw we've got...I think it's a good draw. The other thing I would make a point on, although it may seem an awkward time to play in the middle of the season, I think the mere fact that players are playing halfway through the season means we may be at our peak. And although it's disruptive to an extent, I think that could be a bonus for us."



BRITAIN'S NEWS CHANNEL

The Chicago Bees story

Shawn Danhouser co-founded the Chicago Bees - and his support for Brentford came thanks to a coincidental turn of events 12 years ago

Written by Brentford Football Club

Most Brentford fans support the Club because they live in West London, their family support them, or they go with their friends.

But Shawn Danhouser's story is slightly different.

The American came over to work in West London for a short period of time 12 years ago, and a strange turn of events led to him becoming a fully-fledged Bees supporter.

Shawn said: "I work in insurance and my company has a syndicate in London. Myself and a co-worker, he was a big Chelsea fan, had tickets to Stamford Bridge in 2010 and we watched Chelsea v Arsenal.

"The game was on a Sunday, we arrived on Friday so, on Saturday, we wanted to see if we could find another match to watch.

"There were only two teams in London playing that Saturday - one was Brentford and the other was Leyton Orient.

"A co-worker of ours knew a big Brentford fan and he said he'd take us to the game if we wanted.

"Thank God I had seen that game because heaven forbid I had become a Leyton Orient fan!

"I knew a tiny bit about Brentford because I had seen them play an FA Cup game that had been televised in the US, I think when Andy Scott was the manager.

"So we went to Griffin Park and I fell in love immediately because that, to me, was what a proper football ground should be.

"It was everything I wanted to experience - the terraces, standing for a game, meat pies. Griffin Park itself was so magical too, with it being older and also the pub on each corner.

"The game was against Gillingham, we were League One at the time, we won 4-0, and three of the goals were in our end, so there was a lot to be excited about.

"Everyone made us feel so welcome and I just felt like I wanted to experience that again and again."

Since then, Shawn visited Griffin Park multiple times, as well as getting the opportunity to attend a few away games, including our 4-1 win at Craven Cottage in 2015.

He made his first trip to the Gtech Community Stadium earlier this season (which would have been sooner if it wasn't for the coronavirus pandemic), where he had a tour of the stadium, before watching Thomas Frank's side beat Brighton 2-0.

Shawn explained: "It was funny because, initially, the game was going to be played on a Saturday and then they moved it to the Friday. I had already bought my plane tickets to arrive late morning on Friday - it was going to be a little challenging, but we knew we could make it work.



“And then, maybe like the day before we left, Megan from the club reached out to me and said, ‘We don’t normally do tours of the stadium on the day of a game, but if you can get here by 3pm, we can do a little tour.’

“It was everything I wanted to experience - the terraces, standing for a game, meat pies. Griffin Park itself was so magical too, with it being older and also the pub on each corner.

“The game was against Gillingham, we were League One at the time, we won 4-0, and three of the goals were in our end, so there was a lot to be excited about.

“Everyone made us feel so welcome and I just felt like I wanted to experience that again and again.”

Since then, Shawn visited Griffin Park multiple times, as well as getting the opportunity to attend a few away games, including our 4-1 win at Craven Cottage in 2015.

He made his first trip to the Gtech Community Stadium earlier this season (which would have been sooner if it wasn’t for the coronavirus pandemic), where he had a tour of the stadium, before watching Thomas Frank’s side beat Brighton 2-0.

Shawn explained: “It was funny because, initially, the game was going to be played on a Saturday and then they moved it to the Friday. I had already bought my plane tickets to arrive late morning on Friday - it was going to be a little challenging, but we knew we could make it work.

“And then, maybe like the day before we left, Megan from the club reached out to me and said, ‘We don’t normally do tours of the stadium on the day of a game, but if you can get here by 3pm, we can do a little tour.’

“We literally just threw our bags in our room, hopped on a train and got there with five minutes to spare!

“We got a true behind-the-scenes look at the new stadium. My youngest son has autism, so it was great to see the sensory room. That was fantastic.

“I know that it’s something that’s becoming quite common, but there are a lot of clubs that do not offer that for their fan base.

“I like to take my son to matches with me and he’s generally pretty good, but the sensory rooms are a real comfort to know that, if I needed that space and he needed some calm because it can get quite loud, that’s available. I was super pumped about that.

“I also really liked that, around the concourse, a couple of things were kept from Griffin Park. The turnstiles paid homage to the past, as well as the murals and photos on the wall.”

Shawn has taken his love for Brentford back over to America with him, where he has helped set up the Chicago Bees, which has seen them have numerous watch parties - including one for our recent 2-1 win over Manchester City, despite the early start!

“We had quite a few people there, and the only bad part was the kick-off time - if we had a later game we would have had more fans,” said Shawn.

“There were local ordinances that prevented us from having any alcohol before around the 70-minute mark, so



there was a lot of coffee!

“But I couldn’t argue with the result, 2-1 against Man City, the atmosphere was very good. We want people to bring their friends next time and show them about Brentford.

“I think it’s kind of cool to be a Bees fan. It seems like every American I meet is a Man United fan!

“It’s easy to be a fan of a big team, but it takes a little work to support a mid-table team and I like that.”

When asked about why he is so passionate about the club, he added: “Supporting a team like Brentford, you experience the highs and lows. I wanted more of a traditional experience, and slowly, over time, I just fell more and more in love with the team.

“It was the family values that the club has, every time I came over I felt welcome, I met new people and they were excited to have fans from across the pond over to watch a game.

“I love the ambition of the club too. I love that they have aspiration and they’re doing it in the right way, in a financially stable way.

“I try to go to a game every other year and my friend usually comes along with me. We’ve had such fun watching the rise.

“I feel like I was there when it started - I wasn’t all the way there - but I’ve watched them do extremely well over the 12 years. I love how exciting the trajectory has been and the rise of the club.

“And I don’t think we’re done by any stretch. It may take a generation or two, but I think this is a club that’s going to be playing fairly regularly in Europe, whether that’s the Champions League or the Europa League.



“We’re doing things the right way and we’re sustainable and I love that. I feel like, right now, we’re the best-kept secret, at least in America, a lot of people don’t know who the Bees are, and I get to turn them on to that and hopefully convert a few!”

Shawn’s football fixation didn’t start and doesn’t stop at Brentford, having played football at a young age and, now, he coaches a special needs football team in America - as well as watching the Bees at every opportunity he gets.

“I’ve been a football player my whole life. I played youth football in high school football and I did play a little bit in college as well, but that was kind of about the extent of my ability - I was never going to go professional or anything!

“I’ve been coaching youth soccer for about 20 years, I helped start my own clubs, and I’m currently involved with a special needs soccer team for the last 12 years, which is similar to the Brentford Penguins.

“So it’s safe to say I’m a pretty avid football fan!

“Now that the Bees are in the Premier League, I get to watch every game on TV which is great.”



Cases of flu rise in London – get vaccinated if eligible

- Latest data shows rates of hospitalisations for flu have risen by almost a third (32.7%) in the last week in the capital
- Parents in London urged to make sure their children are vaccinated as rates of flu are highest in children
- [UKHSA indicators have been met in England](#) leading to the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Pharmaceutical Officer authorising antiviral medicines on prescription in primary care settings, in line with pre-pandemic seasons.

People eligible for the free flu vaccine, including 2-3 year olds who have been offered the vaccine in London via their GPs, are being urged to take it up as soon as possible, as latest data published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shows rising cases of flu, severe illness and hospitalisations.

In London, the rate of hospitalisations for flu has increased by almost a third (32.7%) within the past week (week 45 to 46) with the highest rate in those under 5 years.

The latest flu vaccine uptake data shows that rates are comparable to those in 2021/22 for this point in the season.

Encouragingly though, rates in primary school children are exceeding last year's uptake levels for the comparable timeframe with over 21% vaccinated nationally, an increase of over 7% from last year. Rates in the over 65s also remain high with the highest uptake in London's boroughs at 64%.

However, health professionals are particularly concerned about low uptake in two to three-year-olds, with the lowest borough figure in London at just 11.8%.

Uptake in pregnant women is at 11.7% and for people with long-term health conditions who are more vulnerable to serious illness from flu uptake is at 20%.

Dr Yvonne Young, deputy director for health protection, UKHSA London, said:

“Cases of flu are rising in London and rates are currently highest in 5-14 year olds. This will be a concern for many parents and carers of young children and we urge them to take up the offer of vaccination for eligible children as soon as possible, including those in the 2-3 year old age group.

“We are extremely fortunate to have vaccines, which remain our best protection against severe disease and hospitalisation this winter.

As well as young children, most eligible groups have been selected because they are at higher risk

of severe illness, such as those with long-term health conditions, pregnant women and those 50 and over – so if you're eligible, please book your jab without delay. It will help protect yourself, your family and help reduce the burden on our health services.

“It's also vital that we all remain cautious as we head into the festive period when people tend to mix more indoors and the risk of flu and other respiratory viruses like COVID-19 increases.

If you are feeling unwell, stay at home and avoid contact with elderly people or those with underlying health conditions.”

Due to the increase in levels of flu circulating in the community, UKHSA has recommended that it is now appropriate for antiviral medicines to be prescribed in primary care settings.

Those eligible for antivirals if they have flu include patients in clinical at-risk groups as well as any who are at risk of severe illness and complications from flu if not treated.

This includes people in those groups who present with symptoms of flu and those who have been exposed to flu-like illnesses from someone they live with, including residents of care homes.

Around 33 million people are eligible for the flu this year. All primary school children and some secondary school children are being given the option to have it at school.

GP surgeries have also invited children aged two and three years old (age on 31 August) for this nasal spray vaccination at their practices.

If you've missed the school vaccination appointment then there are NHS Community clinics available.

This year it's easier than ever to get your flu vaccination via your GP, a pharmacy and some maternity services for those that are pregnant.

Find out more about the flu vaccine <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>



UK Health
Security
Agency

316 editions of the **Twickenham & Richmond Tribune** online - Lots to read: News, Reviews, History, Sports and On-going Sagas in the Borough of Richmond upon Thames



Half Page

Quarter Page
Landscape

Quarter Page Portrait

Eighth Page

Eighth Page
Landscape

Example advert sizes shown above

Thousands read The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune

If you are reading this you could be advertising your business with
The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune. Community rates are
available

Contact: advertise@TwickenhamTribune.com

View ad details at www.TwickenhamTribune.com/advertise

Contact

contact@TwickenhamTribune.com
letters@TwickenhamTribune.com
advertise@TwickenhamTribune.com



Published by:

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune (in association with World InfoZone Limited)

Registered in England & Wales

Reg No 10549345

The Twickenham Tribune is registered with the ICO under the Data Protection Act, Reg No ZA224725

©Twickenham & Richmond Tribune. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be used or reproduced without the permission of Twickenham & Richmond Tribune. While we take reasonable efforts, this online newspaper cannot be held responsible for the accuracy or reliability of information. The views and opinions in these pages do not necessarily represent those of The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune.

[Terms & Conditions](#)