

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

Contents

- TickerTape
- COVID-19
- Letters
- Teddington Choral Society
- Twickers Foodie
- A Life in Twickenham, a town I grew to love
- WIZ Tales: Nigeria - The Benin Bronzes
- What is Easter really about?
- Celebration of Elizabethan galleon

Contributors

- Alison Jee
- The Royal Parks
- Doug Goodman
- Mark Aspen
- Richmond Shakespeare Society
- World InfoZone
- Deep Patel
- Richmond upon Thames College
- Brentford FC
- GB News
- WHO
- LBRuT

Editors

Berkley Driscoll
Teresa Read



7th April 2023



TickerTape - News in Brief

Accessing pharmacy and GP services over Easter weekend

If you need medical support over the bank holiday weekend, your local health services are here to help.

Pharmacy services

While opening hours may vary slightly from normal, many local pharmacies will still be available to support residents with non-urgent medical needs this Easter weekend. For quick and easy health advice, residents are being encouraged to visit their local pharmacist.

Pharmacists are medically trained experts in a variety of areas and can help with lots of common conditions and minor illnesses, such as colds, aches, pains and minor injuries. They can also offer medication advice, free consultations, vaccinations, emergency contraception, incontinence supplies, pregnancy testing and much more.

No appointments are needed, and many local pharmacies have private consultation rooms so people can ask for advice in confidence. Pharmacists also have the right training to identify and advise if someone needs to see a GP, nurse or other healthcare professional. Use the NHS's [Find a Pharmacy tool](#) to find options most local to you.

Arts Richmond announce 2023 Art House festival

Arts Richmond have announced they have been commissioned to coordinate the borough's open studio festival, Art House, for 2023.

They are inviting visual artists, designers and makers living or working in Richmond upon Thames to open their homes, studios or pop-up spaces to the public during two weekends in July.

The deadline to register your venue is Sunday 16 April 2023.

To find out more and how to register, please visit the [Art House Open Studios webpage](#).

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Covid-19

By Teresa Read

IN THE NEWS

LIVEMINT India logs over 6,000 Covid infections in 24 hrs, active cases cross 28,000 mark.

Aljazeera Global health agency scientists say a new Chinese study published this week offered some 'clues' on origins but no answers.

World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said world health body has asked China to cooperate with it in order to help trace the origins of the pandemic.

SKY COVID booster vaccine drive with five million people in England eligible for jab; over-75s and young children who are immunosuppressed able to book.

MedTechAlert Genova Biopharmaceuticals seeks Emergency Use Authorization in India for the First Needle-free mRNA Vaccine Omicron Booster.

World Health Organization

Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 Data as of 2 April 2023

Globally, nearly 3.3 million new cases and over 23,000 deaths were reported in the last 28 days, a decrease of 28% and 30%, respectively, compared to the previous 28 days.

Despite this overall downward trend, it is important to note that 74 countries have reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater during the last 28 days compared to the previous 28-day period. As of 2 April 2023, over 762 million confirmed cases and over 6.8 million deaths have been reported globally.

Current trends in reported COVID-19 cases continue to be underestimates of the true number of global infections and reinfections as shown by prevalence surveys. This is partly due to the reductions in testing and delays in reporting in many countries.

At the country level, the highest numbers of new 28-day cases were reported from the United States of America (626,532), the Russian Federation (313,998), the Republic of Korea (271,162), Japan (202,631), and France (193,359).

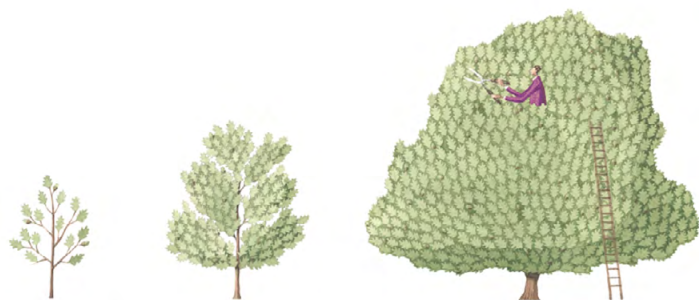
The highest numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from the United States of America (7,458), the United Kingdom (2,678), Japan (1,168), Germany (1,090), and the Russian Federation (1,014).

The European Region

The European Region reported over 1.3 million new cases. Twenty-two 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 France (193,359) Ukraine (66,723) and Bulgaria (3,131).

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Russian Federation (313,998), France (193,359 new cases), and Germany (139,261).

The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the United Kingdom (2,678), Germany (1,090), and the Russian Federation (1,014).



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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Dear Tribune,

Paris Scooter Ban

Paris has decided to ban electric scooters because of the accidents and deaths caused by their misuse.

No doubt their supporters will say that less than 8% of voters turned out and that those were mainly older people (ie the victims and those with common sense). Of course, the people killed in e-scooter crashes weren't able to vote.

Whatever the reason, percentage-wise it's around 15 times more than what was claimed by Richmond Council leader Gareth Roberts for his Council's so-called consultation for Twickenham Riverside from 6 January 2021 until 3 February 2021 in which a mere 0.3% of the population was regarded by him as '*broad public support*' – similar to his claim of the support of '*countless residents*' for those plans in the Liberal Democrat's newsletter of 23.9.2021. That figure of 0.3% is hardly countless especially as it was the Council that counted them.

Only last week I had to take avoiding action yet again to avoid a privately owned scooter illegally in the road and a neighbour had to get out of the way of a group of four adult bike riders at speed on the footway, three of whom came up behind her fast and silently, with a fourth shouting at her to get out of the way, forcing her into the hedge to avoid him. I then encountered three e-scooters INSIDE Sainsbury's with one of them being ridden around the shop. And not for the first time.

All that's quite apart from the London Fire Brigade's reports of two fires every day caused by e-scooters and electric bikes which they say is the biggest emerging threat of fire in London.

Proper enforcement here would go a long way to helping Council plans to improve our high streets because, having been crashed into, intimidated, and threatened by the riders of these machines 16 times, I simply won't walk there to shop. Nor will I drive there because of the appalling state of the roads which, of course, is partly why scooters and bikes ride on the footways.

Does anyone know when the Council will start using the Government's new funding to fix our dangerous potholes or will we get further years of delays while they blame them for every ill we are all suffering?

And what about the huge rise in Council Tax – should not some of that be used?

Or is it all being diverted elsewhere on vanity projects such as the Council's now-derelict rainbow crossings?

Michael Jay
Hampton

TEDDINGTON CHORAL SOCIETY PERFORMS IN KINGSTON

Report by Doug Goodman

All Saints Kingston was filled with music and song from The English Sinfonietta and The Teddington Choral Society last Saturday. Works by Haydn – Missa in Augustiis and by Mozart- Vesperae solemnes de Confessore guaranteed a full-house in the church.

Conducted by Julian Collings with accompanist Phil Culling, soloists were Lisa Swayne, Beth Moxon, Joseph Doody and Gavin Horsley.



The next performance by The Teddington Choral Society will be on Friday July 7th 2023 at 7:30 pm at the Landmark Arts Centre. This will be on a Maritime Theme- entitled 'Songs of the Fleet'.

The 2023 December concert- on Saturday 9 will be held at St Mary's Parish Church Twickenham.



A free transport service will help provide better access to Richmond Park

The Royal Parks charity is pleased to announce that the minibus service in Richmond Park will return in April 2023. The service last ran in autumn 2022. This year, the service is extending to include East Sheen.

This free service will operate every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 5 April until 29 November 2023, between the hours of 9:25am and 4:20pm.

It will run between all the Richmond Park car parks, Ladderstile Gate, Richmond Gate, Pembroke Lodge, and Isabella Plantation.

The service starts and finishes at the barrier in Danebury Avenue on the Roehampton Estate and goes out to Ham, Ashburnham Road (371 bus stop), Ham Gate Avenue (near to the 65 bus stop), and new for this year, out to Mortlake Station (969 stop) outside the Community Centre.

The minibus is free, with a ramp and steps to aid access. Wheelchair users wishing to use the service should contact jmeays@royalparks.org.uk or volunteering@royalparks.org.uk.

This service is funded by private donations to The Royal Parks charity and allows those who otherwise would not have access to the park the ability to enjoy the natural environment of this National Nature Reserve.

Paul Richards, Park Manager at Richmond Park said: “We are thrilled to be bringing back the minibus to Richmond Park and adding additional services.

“We want the Royal Parks to be open and accessible for everyone and this service is a way we can further ensure that more visitors can visit this exceptional landscape.”



Come canoeing with Hampton Canoe Club

Hampton Canoe Club is a social paddling club based on the Thames opposite The Bell Inn in Hampton. They are welcoming new members with regular sessions to support them on the water.

During the summer months, when weather and river conditions allow, groups of paddlers go out every weekend and Wednesday evenings.

The club wants to introduce new paddlers to the delights of kayaking and canoeing, and ensure that people can paddle safely and competently when and where they like on placid waters.

The Hampton Paddler course is designed to provide the essential skills to become a basic adult paddler and is the required minimum standard for joining the club. Participants will also receive the British Canoeing Paddle Discover qualification.

For more information on the club and how to join the Hampton Paddler course this summer, visit the [Hampton Canoe Club website](#).



Join the Barnes Cycling Club

Barnes Cycling Club are looking for new members to join their road cycling club.

The club, who are affiliated with British Cycling, organise local and regular rides as well as cycling trips all around the UK.

The main club rides take place on Sunday mornings and are around 50 miles, leaving from Richmond Park.

Members of Barnes Cycling Club have taken part in the 100 mile tour of Cambridge and even cycling trips to Portugal and Corfu. The club welcomes new members to join, for club rides and social gatherings.

If you are interested or would like further details, please visit the [club's website](#).





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outdoor clothing

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by an adult

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booking required
online or
by email

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mayor/mayors_charities](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/council/councillors/mayor/mayors_charities)



Spring COVID-19 booster vaccine programme launched for those considered most vulnerable

Starting this week, spring COVID-19 jabs have become available for people aged over 75, those with a weakened immune system and older adult care home residents.

The spring COVID-19 vaccine is now being offered to those considered most at risk, following advice from the Joint Committee of Vaccination and Immunisation.

Vaccination has now started in care homes, with eligible residents being prioritised to start receiving the spring booster jab from local roving NHS teams who are visiting care homes to offer this increased protection.

People aged over 75 and those with a weakened immune system (must be aged over 5 years) can now book to receive their spring COVID-19 vaccine, either by the [National Booking Service](#), the [NHS App](#) or by calling 119.

Appointments are available from the week beginning 17 April.

Those who make an appointment should ensure it takes place at least three months since their last dose of the vaccine.

Anyone who believes they should be eligible for the spring COVID-19 vaccine but has not received an invitation can check on the [NHS website](#). Alternatively, they can self-declare via the National Booking Service and then speak to a clinician on site.

The last spring vaccination appointments will be offered on 30 June.



The Real Junk Food Project Café opens at Cambrian Centre

The new pay-as-you-feel community café aims to combat food waste by taking surplus food from local restaurants, supermarkets, and food suppliers and turning it into nutritious and delicious meals to be distributed back into the local community.

The Real Junk Food Project Café is open every Wednesday from 11.30am to 1.30pm at the Cambrian Centre, Caplan Court, 1 Grove Road, Richmond, TW10 6SN.

They serve teas and coffees, smoothies, pastries, and hot meals, operating a pay-what-you-feel initiative. Guests are encouraged to bring a bag so they can take extra food home.



The café is staffed by local volunteers who help with setting up, cooking, and cleaning.

Sarah Olney MP and South Richmond Ward Councillor Chris Varley were in attendance to support the launch of this valuable new community initiative.

Visit the website to find out more about [The Real Junk Food Project](#).

Know how to contact **your** neighbourhood policing team?

Hampton North
0207 175 9428
@MPSHamptonNorth
HamptonNorth@met.police.uk

South Richmond
0207 175 9463
@MPSSthRichmond
SouthRichmond@met.police.uk

Hampton
0207 175 9427
@MPSHampton
Hampton@met.police.uk

St Margarets & North Twickenham
0207 175 9465
@MPSSthMargarets
StMargarets&NorthTwickenham@met.police.uk

Hampton Wick & South Teddington
0207 175 9430
@MPSHamptonWick
HamptonWick@met.police.uk

South Twickenham
0207 175 9464
@MPSSTwickenham
SouthTwickenham@met.police.uk

Barnes
0207 175 9363
@MPSBarnes
Barnes@met.police.uk

Heathfield
0207 175 9432
@MPSHeathfield
Heathfield@met.police.uk

Teddington
0207 175 9469
@MPSTeddington
Teddington@met.police.uk

East Sheen
0207 175 9382
@MPSEastSheen
EastSheen@met.police.uk

Kew
0207 175 9436
@MPSKew
Kew@met.police.uk

Twickenham Riverside
0207 175 9470
@MPSTwickenham
TwickenhamRiverside@met.police.uk

Fulwell & Hampton Hill
0207 175 9410
@MPSFulwell
Fulwell&HamptonHill@met.police.uk

Mortlake & Barnes Common
0207 175 9453
@MPSMortlake
Mortlake&BarnesCommon@met.police.uk

West Twickenham
0207 175 9473
@MPSWTwickenham
WestTwickenham@met.police.uk

Ham, Petersham & Richmond Riverside
0207 175 9417
@MPSHamPetersham
Ham&Petersham@met.police.uk

North Richmond
0207 175 9462
@MPSNthRichmond
NorthRichmond@met.police.uk

Whitton
0207 175 9474
@MPSWhitton
Whitton@met.police.uk



MPSRichmond
 Richmond Police

Richmond

EASTER FEASTING SUGGESTIONS

At long last the sun has been shining, the garden is springing to life and the house can be filled with cheerful bunches of daffodils! With this weekend being the Easter bank holiday, here are some suggestions for food and wines for a paschal gathering with friends and family that won't break the bank.

For me, Easter Sunday lunch has to be roast lamb. It's a great time for English lamb, but New Zealand can be much better value if you're watching costs. There are lots of offers at the moment in various supermarkets... **Marks and Spencer** has a £20 Easter Meal Deal for four, that includes lamb shoulder and three side dishes. And **Lidl** has English West Country Lamb on offer, while **Tesco** has whole leg joints at half price at the moment for Clubcard holders. There's a great Jamie Oliver recipe [here](#) for anyone who feels nervous about cooking a roast for a crowd.

But you might want to be a tad more adventurous? Here's a delicious, slow roast shoulder of lamb recipe from **Opies**:

Slow Roast Lamb Shoulder with Onions & Peas

Serves 6-8

Preparation time: 30 minutes **Cooking time:** 3 hours + **Allergens:** Fish, sulphites, dairy

- 1.5kg lamb shoulder joint
- 50g anchovies in oil
- 2 flat cloves garlic, sliced
- 2 sprigs rosemary
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1kg new potatoes
- 1 jar Opies Silverskin Onions with Red Wine Vinegar
- 325g broad beans
- 300g peas
- 175ml white wine
- 100g feta cheese
- Fresh mint leaves, chopped

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 170°C / 150°C fan / Gas 3.
2. Place the lamb in a roasting tin and using a knife, pierce the shoulder all over.
3. Drain the anchovies and cut each fillet into three, then stuff a piece inside each hole along with a sliver of garlic and a few leaves of rosemary.



4. Season the lamb generously all over and drizzle with oil, then cover with foil and place in the oven for 2 hours.
5. Meanwhile, halve the new potatoes and silverskin onions.
6. Bring a large pan of salted water to the boil, then Add the potatoes to the lamb tray, turn the oven up to 200°C / 180°C fan / Gas 6 and roast for 30 minutes until starting to brown.
7. Next add the broad beans, peas, white wine and silverskin onions and return to the oven for a further half an hour.
8. Remove from the oven, crumble the feta cheese over, scatter over the mint and serve.

Lots of supermarkets are offering a 25 percent discount at the moment, if you stock up on six or more bottles. Here are a couple that I think are definitely worth considering:



Start your Easter celebrations with a great value bottle of fizz: **Codorniu Brut**. Like champagne, this cava is made according to the 'Traditional Method'. It's a fresh, crisp and elegant sparkling wine, with attractive flavours of citrus and apple and a stream of fine, persistent bubbles. Brilliant value at just £7 a bottle, from Sainsburys.

You'll probably want a nice bottle of red wine to enjoy with your lamb, however you decide to cook it. Do look out for this excellent value **Marqués de los Zancos Rioja Crianza**. It's a fruity, medium bodied Rioja, aged in barrels for 12 months. Inspired by the traditional Riojan Danza de los Zancos (Stilts dance), with swirls of soft vanilla and a subtle flourish of peppery spice, it's very good value at £6.75 a bottle at Tesco.



There's a plethora of 'new' hot cross buns on the market, but I'm afraid that I much prefer the original style. Toasted and buttered, they are so delicious, but I also enjoy them toasted, and then filled with a slice of cheese while still piping hot. Try it!



I also enjoy a slice of Simnel cake on Easter Sunday. Here's a great one in the Tesco Finest range for £12 and it would make a lovely gift if you're a guest over Easter.

However you spend this weekend, and whatever your religious convictions, I hope you'll enjoy celebrating these new beginnings, and the start of spring. Happy Easter!

A Life in Twickenham, a town I grew to love

By Bruce Lyons

Looking back to the 1960s I remember living in my flat in St Peter's Road and Hedda living in Ailsa Road, St Margarets and I worked in Richmond. Looking around for a place to start a business I chanced on Church Street. I used to park here and wait for Hedda whilst she went to the pre-natal clinic in York House. Church Street, I thought, a perfect venue for me, quiet, just off the high street, dilapidated – it could only get better, and it did!! For me, as a travel agent, I could be sure that anyone who came into the office, intended to come, just what we wanted!

We took the shop and the upstairs flat as well in July 1966 and got involved in rejuvenating the street, running the Twickenham Festival, Guerrilla Gardening on Richmond Hill and the crossroads at Cross Deep and King Street and much more.

Over time we have seen changes galore. My kids' swam in the open-air pool every summer. The RFU used to collaborate with the town. We had a Town Centre manager, now a BID. But throughout all these times, through ups & downs, Church Street has prospered. From 2-way traffic to one way, to Pedestrianisation. Al Fresco dining came initially as an occasional event, now it is always.





Our town floral street scene has been a talking point of the borough and in Church Street it is regarded as an integral part of the year's plans.

Nowadays we are less involved with the town but have upped our game in the Church Street Square. I hope you like it. A quiet haven of peace. Enjoy! We put a table and chairs and there is also our giant chess board here.



Our travel agency is here as well, and a warm welcome awaits you.

WIZ Tales: Nigeria – the Benin Bronzes

By Teresa Read



The Federal Republic of Nigeria is in West Africa; it is bordered by Benin, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and the Gulf of Guinea.

Ancient buildings in Nigeria include the Chief Ogiamen's House and the City Wall and Moat in Benin City, and the Emir's Palace and City Wall in Kano. The Gobirau Minaret, in Katsina, is the tallest mud-brick building in Nigeria.

A number of states and kingdoms were formed from the eleventh century onwards. These included the Hausa states, the Yoruba city-states and the Benin kingdom. In 1472 the Portuguese were the first Europeans to reach Nigeria.

In the early nineteenth century an Islamic state was founded in the north between the 1830s and 1886 a civil war took place in the south (Yorubaland).

An increase in British trade on the coast led to the annexation of Lagos by Britain in 1861. Over the next fifty years or so, until the beginning of the First World War, Britain extended the [British] Protectorate of Nigeria.

Art in Nigeria dates back to the early Nok civilization; examples of terracotta and iron artifacts have been excavated by archaeologists. Ancient sculptures were made from bronze and other metals. Benin bronzes are known throughout the world. Ebony and ivory are also traditional materials used for carvings.



The Gobirau Minaret in Katsina, Katsina State, northern Nigeria

Benin Bronzes were created between the sixteenth and nineteenth century by the Edo people in what is now modern-day Nigeria. The New Scientist has revealed that the material used for the Bronzes shared properties with brass rings used in the slave trade; the metal is said to have originated in the Rhineland in Germany.

The slave trade in West Africa flourished between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries. The Portuguese controlled the trade purchasing slaves from African traders.

The Abolition of the Slave Trade Act 1807 prohibited the slave trade within the British Empire.



Nok sculpture, terracotta



Single-figure plaque, mid-sixteenth to seventeenth century, cast copper alloy, Dallas Museum of Art



Benin Bronze in the Staatliches Museum für Völkerkunde München depicting a warrior or noble

More information about Nigeria: <https://worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=Nigeria>

Thank you for the photographs for the WIZ Gallery to Bidi Bala, a colleague from the Stockholm Challenge: <https://worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=Stockholm3>

What is Easter really about?

By Deep Patel

~ Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

We are now approaching what is arguably the most sacred of all periods on the Christian calendar...Easter...we are all too familiar with the great overindulgence of chocolate (primarily in the form of hollow chocolate eggs and delicious soft fruity gooey hot cross buns...but what is Easter really about today? I have been conversing with my customers in my shop about this very topic this past week, and here is what I have found...

Now don't worry, I am not going to make this into a factual article about the historical origins of Easter (that is what we have Google for) neither am I going to focus on heavily religious scriptures (although I have the greatest respect for this aspect), but more on an general underlying significance of what Easter generally means...from a general public view...at least from the views of those who come to my shop (now now, don't be judgmental).

Well, a lot of people today seem to see Easter as just 2 free bank holidays to go out and get drunk, whereas others have said it is a period for much needed family bonding, meeting siblings and relatives up and down the country for lunches and dinners (usually leading to fall outs and arguments by the end of it). Some have said they see Easter as a time to sleep and catch up on much needed rest and have a date with their sofa and TV for a good movie, homemade nachos and chill time (my kind of people!). I have even had some people say they believe Easter is a commercial waste of time designed to make people spend money of overpriced hollow chocolate eggs (well...they obviously haven't been to Meet & Deep Newsagents have they?).

So what exactly is Easter about then? Well, whether you are a Christian or not, this period represents something very special...something that we can all learn from...regardless of our beliefs...

Just like Jesus sacrificed himself for the benefit of humanity, this period can be considered a period for us to remember that sometimes, sacrificing our own joys, our own desires and our own gain in favour of another person's is what life is about. Because, everyone can take, it's easy to receive, but to give up something you want, something that is precious to you, something that makes you happy, just to see someone else smile...that is true beauty, that is true wisdom and that is true love. So next time you get the opportunity in life to either take or give...think of the message of Easter...be like Jesus and give instead...because it is only through giving... that one truly becomes fit to receive...

Those who follow my articles will know what I am about to say about kindness towards little lives (another of my passions)...but just in case you are a first-time reader; I always like to share these little good-karma gems. We are not the only inhabitants of this beautiful planet and there is a kind way for everything...If you have rodent issues, 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. Just 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. Avoid sweeping/washing the garden patio too often to help 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).

As I always say, the true key to our own happiness lies in the happiness of others...be they big or small life forms...until the next time...have a lovely week ahead and look after the smaller life forms and the universe will look after you. For further tips, check out my Facebook page "Kind World". As always...Peace, love and good karma to all xx



Remember...

“In the joy of others... lies our own...”

Celebration of Elizabethan galleon

A Landmark in London

Few ships are as famous as the Golden Hinde that set out from London to explore the globe in 1577 captained by Sir Francis Drake.

A full-size replica of the famous Elizabethan galleon celebrated its 50th anniversary on Wednesday with a day of activities at the ship, docked at St Mary Overie's Dock, next to London Bridge.

The original English galleon is best known for her privateering circumnavigation of the globe between 1577 and 1580; the replica has been a much-loved museum for 50 years.

To mark its anniversary, The Golden Hinde has launched a major fundraising campaign to raise funds to carry out essential maintenance work throughout the anniversary year, including new rigging.

In a statement, Roddy Coleman, Director of The Golden Hinde, reflected on the ship's journey since its launch in 1973. He said, "*Over the past 50 years, The Golden Hinde has braved many oceans, completed a historic circumnavigation, and welcomed millions of visitors across the world. Today, it stands as a remarkable museum and educational resource in the heart of London, allowing people to immerse themselves in the rich maritime history of Elizabethan times, as well as providing a unique venue for events.*" www.goldenhinde.co.uk





Gone Too Far

By Bola Agbaje

National Youth Theatre Rep Company at the Theatre Royal Stratford East

An errand to the corner shop, and a scrambled journey through that day's events on a housing estate in Peckham, don't immediately scream "Entertaining Plot Line with Lots of Comedy", but Agbaje's excellent play *Gone Too Far* works a treat.

Two brothers are dispatched by their irritated mother to fetch milk, but while on this mission they encounter a kaleidoscope of racism, resentment and rage. Issues pop up at every turn, but the local gang leader gives thoughtful lessons in "respecting" each other, while selling drugs to anyone, including the pitifully vulnerable.



Nevertheless, *Gone Too Far* is so much more entertaining than that. The brothers are so authentically played, by Jerome Scott and Dalumuzi Moyo, that you can feel the effect of their backstory on them. The development of their relationship over the course of their big day perhaps represents the eventual coming together of the people that they meet, or it may just represent their coming to terms with each other, but it works either way.



Unavoidable is Armani, a familiar mess of personal insecurities masked by a carapace of princess-with-attitude. Mixed-race Armani allows no discussion at all about her place in the scheme of things, until she's presented with a set of harsh home truths by her friend Paris. Keziah Campbell-Golding has the showier role as Armani, but plays it with bucket-loads of aplomb, and Hannah Zoé Ankras as Paris is a perfect foil to her fragile yet aggressive friend.

Constant movement on the building site set gives London's 'melting pot' identity a presence as a work in progress but with promise of something beautiful to come, with balletic hi-vis and helmets scene changes gracefully choreographed. Everything rattles along apace but never too fast for clarity under Monique Tuoko's seamless direction.

The final scene's visual touch is not so much a love letter to London, as a 'well, we have issues but I'll stick with you' kind of a note. *Gone Too Far* is one of the most engaging, witty and positive works I've seen for some time.

Read Eleanor Lewis' review at www.markaspen.com/2023/03/29/gone-too-far

Photography by Isha Shah



42nd Street

by Harry Warren, lyrics by Al Dubin and Johnny Mercer
HEOS Musical Theatre at the Judi Dench Playhouse, Ealing

Granted *42nd Street* is not and is not intended to be an in-depth historical analysis, but it does reference the Great Depression and the precariousness of economic survival in the theatre; and all good comedy is rooted in truth. The things that make a production most appealing, large cast, lots of chorus involvement, can make the production most challenging. There is also the challenge of understanding the production itself and the historical context. In the main, Michelle Spencer's production rises to those challenges well. The humour in the script is delivered with confidence and gets the laughs, and the routines have requisite flair and pizzazz.



Chris Yoxall is as confident and authoritative as ever, attributes entirely appropriate to his interpretation of acerbic Broadway producer Julian Marsh. Similarly, Alexandra Turner's Dorothy Brock delivers the arrogance of the overly-pampered star, which cracks with the realisation of her true love for her old dance partner Pat Denning, ably played by Jonathan Carter. Emma La-Plain's Peggy Sawyer, the ingénue who wins everybody's hearts, has bundles of sweetness and innocence, plus bundles of talent too.

It's probably fair to say that none of the characters is intended to be much more than a caricature, but the performers do need to establish an initial authenticity. As the heartthrob Billy Lawlor, Lee Ashley is not fully invested in the role and doesn't capture

Lawlor's sparkle. Tyrone Haywood's Andy Lee showed authenticity in the character, but, despite some very slick moves, he is not a long-time tapper.

Under the deft and assured direction of Rob Wicks and an accomplished band provides the atmosphere and drive for the numbers. The male close-harmony quartet in the second act was an added bonus. The non-speaking stand-out is Zoe Scantlebury, a confident and accomplished tapper clearly enjoying the opportunity to give those talents an outing as the French mime costumed pickpocket in the final *42nd Street* number



Read Vince Francis' review at www.markaspen.com/2023/03/30/42nd-st

Photography by Carey Reese



La Bohème

by Giacomo Puccini, libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa

Ellen Kent and the Ukrainian Opera & Ballet Theatre at Richmond Theatre and on tour until 7th May

An Italian opera, set in Paris, and comprising mostly Ukrainian, Moldovan, and Romanian artistes, Puccini's *La Bohème* feels extremely timely. And it becomes even more so considering that the plot is driven by people who can't afford to heat their rooms.

The [Orchestra of the Ukrainian Opera and Ballet](#), conducted by Vasyl Vasylenko, plays with passion and energy. Staged against a painted backdrop of the Paris skyline, the set is richly detailed and vibrant. A small dog appears during the scenes in the Latin Quarter, and steals the show, even among stilt walkers, toy-sellers and chorus members indulging in acrobatics by standing on each other's shoulders.



The entire cast is fantastic throughout, but they are led with confident verve by Sorin Lupu as impoverished writer Rodolfo, and Alyona Kistenyova giving a powerful performance as the angelic and doomed Mimi. Olexandr Forkushak's similarly struggling painter Marcello provides a solid foil to Rodolfo's flamboyance, and the juxtaposition of his rocky relationship with Olga Perrier's delightfully vivacious Musetta alongside Rodolfo and Mimi drives much musing on the nature of love and relationships. Valeriu Cojocaru's Colline and Vitalii Cebotari's Schaunard represent philosophy and music so all the arts are covered.

A small dog appears during the scenes in the Latin Quarter, and steals the show, even among stilt walkers, toy-sellers and chorus members indulging in acrobatics by standing on each other's shoulders. It was hard to tell which of doggy's antics were improvised, and which were part of the choreography!

Familiar arias are sung with ferocious energy, but *La Bohème's* ending is a tear-jerker, and it is played with great sensitivity by the whole cast, the curtain falling swiftly over the final tableau. Between Mimi's final moments and a moment of solidarity when the company launches into the Ukrainian national anthem, there's barely a dry eye. *La Bohème's* tour is well worth catching when it returns locally to Woking and Wimbledon in May.

Read Andrew Lawston's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/04/01/la-boheme

Photography courtesy of Ellen Kent Opera



You Bury Me

by Ahlam

Paines Plough at The Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond until 22nd April

“Cairo will push you to your absolute limits and then suddenly ... you’re in love”. But how do you explore your identity and relationships under oppression? How do you love freely, if you can’t live freely? *You Bury Me* explores these issues in a high-energy, high-emotion production that pushes its audience to try and connect with the lives of a group of young friends living in Cairo a few years after the Arab Spring and to understand the harsh realities, decisions and feelings they face.



The actors convey a strong sense of the very recognisable anxieties, pressures and pleasures of adolescence, but with a palpable overlay of the fears of the state. The writing, by Ahlam, an alias for the Winner of 2020 Women’s Prize for Playwriting, often makes us forget this is a militaristic state; this is just relationship stuff, sometimes touching, often funny; but then we are brought back to the harsh reality of their situation. Director Katie Posner and the cast have developed it into a hard-hitting, but ultimately positive view of love in the face of fear.



All six actors gave excellent, layered performances, with underlying feelings creeping through their initial front, and a sense of who they really are firming over the course of the action. But I would particularly mention two: Eleanor Nawal, who superbly conveyed Lina’s discovery and strengthening of her voice and identity; and Tarrick Benham, who brought a broad range of emotional heft to Osman, a journalist totally focused on fighting for the cause, but coming to understand the importance of his personal relationships.

‘You Bury Me’ is an Arabic expression of love and affection, conveying that you don’t want to live without someone. In the production’s heated, vibrant, gritty and sometime scary city of Cairo, this expression seems to mean so much more and take on more significance. It could be taken despairingly, but in the end, the play offers a future of hope.



Read John Davies’ review at www.markaspen.com/2023/03/31/you-bury-me

Photography by Pamela Raith



For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Hue Gets Too Heavy

by Ryan Calais Cameron

The Royal Court at the Apollo Theatre, West End until 7th May

For Black Boys... is a multi-layered show with many different elements to it. Firstly as just a spectacle it is great fun to watch, with many funny moments. It is also delivered by six outstanding performers who excel in several different crafts, whether that be acting, singing or dancing, to deliver something that can be highly humorous but then cuttngly dramatic, relevant and poignant.



Ryan Calais Cameron researched and amalgamated very real stories from the people he spoke to. What is told on stage comes from a very real and lived place. Cameron also directs the play, keeping the audience on its toes, as tonal shifts are aplenty and reflect that, for any one of these boys, there is always a multi-layer of things going on, whether internally or externally.



A too simple summary would be to say that it is a tale of six young black men, exploring and telling their stories of growing-up black. It starts by depicting finding 'new ways to hate myself' at a very young age, being left out of a Kiss Chase playground game. Early memories become core in shaping identity. Is a real man defined by sexual prowess or can you really be a man and admit to being in ill health?

To say the show does not feature a main character but six stars, working as an ensemble to create a fluent and supportive show, is corroborated by the fact the actors were nominated as one for the best supporting actor Olivier award.

Music is woven into the show, keeping the mood and message bouncing. The garish, neon coloured lighting is a subtle reinforcement of the bravado and false nature of the circumstances that the men have to surround themselves in, in order to exist in their world.

For Black Boys... is an entertaining and engaging show with many messages and great observations layered within it, a real triumph.

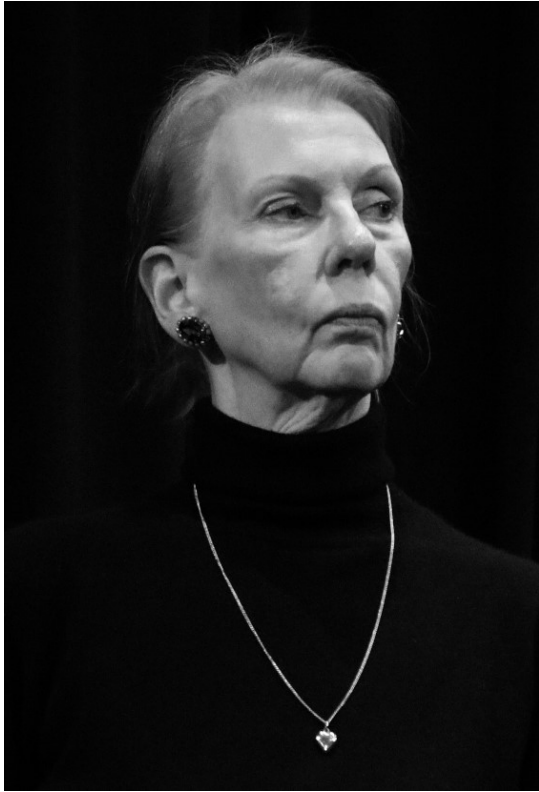


Read Denis Valentine's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/04/02/black-boys

Photography by Ali Wright

“HENRY V” STORMS THE MARY WALLACE THEATRE!

April 22nd – 29th



The irresponsible and dissolute Prince Hal is now King Henry.

He has a country to rule and his courage and leadership is shortly to be tested at the battles of Harfleur and Agincourt.



The Richmond Shakespeare Society is presenting this best-loved of Shakespeare’s history plays from April 22nd - 29th and the familiar lines “Once more unto the breach, dear friends...” will echo around the walls of the Mary Wallace Theatre.

Join us at court and on the battlefield, eavesdrop on Henry’s inept wooing of a French Princess, re-acquaint yourself with some of the most stirring and patriotic speeches in the English language.

And on April 23rd - at our 3pm matinee performance – come along and celebrate Shakespeare’s birthday!



Booking available now at www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk

Find us on Twickenham’s Embankment, between St Mary’s church and the Barmy Arms.

Comic Con arrives at Richmond!

On 28 March, Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) held its very own Comic Con.



The day started with a presentation by prop designer Andrew Ainsworth, the original creator of the stormtrooper suit, designed at his own business, Shepperton Design Studios for the first Star Wars film, Episode IV - A New Hope.

The event was filled with fun and activities including face painting, a photo booth and a green screen accompanied with a stormtrooper, for those wanting to re-enact their favourite Star Wars scene.

The college's Dungeons and Dragons' club (D&D) were heavily involved in the event. The club offered to give those interested in D&D a chance to learn more about the game and showed those interested how to make maps for the game as well as letting students paint figurines and various customizable objects.

During the day two cosplay runway shows took place in the College's auditorium where students had the opportunity to strut their stuff down the catwalk showing off their amazing costumes to fellow students and staff.

The two winners of the cosplay runway, Shannon Mclaughlin who studies Art and Design Level 3 and Oliver Bermejo who studies a Life Skills course, both won a ticket to the upcoming MCM Comic Con London event. Oliver came dressed as Mr Incredible and Shannon came as Nezuko Kamado from manga series Demon Slayer.



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BARNES SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Crime Update - April 2023

For the past four weeks, where has it happened?

Burglary X7

- Business/commercial, 3/3/23-4/3/23, 19:30-08:30 hours, Medivet Barnes Pet Shop, Church Road, London, SW13.
- Residential Burglary, 4/3/23, 13:45-13:50 hours, Glebe Road, SW13.
- Business/commercial, 6/3/23-7/3/23, 19:00-09:45 hours, Nails Armour, Barnes High Street, SW13.
- Residential Burglary, 16/3/23, 15:00-16:00 hours, Glenthams Road, SW13.
- Residential Burglary, 20/3/23-21/3/23, 18:00-18:15 hours, Barnes high Street, SW13.
- Residential Burglary, 21/3/23, 21:21 hours, Trinity Church Road, SW13.
- Residential Burglary, 24/3/23, 03:15-03:20 hours, Brasenose Drive, London, SW13.

Vehicle Crime X14

- Theft from Motor Vehicle, 7/3/23, 19:50-21:15 hours, Lonsdale Road, SW13.
- Theft from Motor Vehicle, 12/3/23, 15:00-15:30 hours, Rocks Lane, SW13.
- Theft from Motor vehicle, 10/3/23, 19:45-23:30 hours, Kitson Road, SW13.
- Theft from Motor Vehicle, 8/3/23, 09:00 hours, Byfield Gardens, SW13.
- Theft from Motor Vehicle, 21/3/23-22/3/23, 22:00-08:30 hours, Riverview Gardens, SW13.
- Theft from Motor Vehicle, 22/3/23, 17:45-23:00 hours, Station Road, SW13.
- Theft from Motor Vehicle, 18/3/23, 18:40-20:30 hours, Ferry Lane.
- Theft of Motor Vehicle, 17/3/23, 20:50-21:10 hours, Walnut Tree Close, SW13.
- Theft of Motor Vehicle, 19/3/23, 03:11-03:19 hours, Westmoreland Road, SW13.
- Theft of Motor Vehicle, 19/3/23, 06:01-06:02 hours, Berkeley Road, SW13.
- Theft of Motor Vehicle, 19/3/23-20/3/23, 21:00-06:00 hours, Elm Grove Road, SW13.
- Theft of Motor Vehicle, 20/3/23, 01:00 hours, Madrid Road, SW13.
- Theft of Motor Vehicle, 22/3/23, 01:19 hours, St Anns Road, SW13.
- Theft of Motor Vehicle, 26/3/23-27/3/23. 15:00-06:30 hours, Suffolk Road, SW13.

Criminal Damage X3

- Under £500, 6/3/23-7/3/23, 00:01-08:50 hours, Barnes High Street, SW13.
- Under £500, 24/3/23, 21:49 hours, Castelnau, SW13.
- Vehicle under £500, 16/3/23, 18:00-19:00 hours, Church Road SW13.

Robbery X3

- 13/3/23, 01:55 hours, Washington Road, SW13.
- 17/3/23, 03:00 hours, Boileau Road, SW13.
- 17/3/23, 01:00-01:10 hours, Merthyr Terrace, SW13.

Violent Offences X5

- Common Assault, 5/3/23, 17:00 hours, Elm Grove Road, SW13.
- Common Assault, 8/3/23, 15:35 hours, Trinity Church Road, SW13.

- Actual Bodily Harm, 13/3/23, 14:00-14:05 hours, Lonsdale Road, SW13.
- Common Assault, 11/23, 13:00 hours, Barnes High Street, SW13.
- Common Assault, 23/3/23-24/3/23, 15:00-10:00 hours, Washington Road, SW13.
- Common Assault, 28/3/23, 13:35 hours, Lonsdale Road, SW13.
- Actual Bodily Harm, 26/3/23, 14:00-14:50 hours, Walnut Tree Close, SW13.

Drugs X0

(While possession of drugs recorded is low for this month this doesn't necessarily reflect the real number).

- Drug Importation, 22/3/23, 00:15 hours, Church Road, SW13.

Crime Prevention

Introducing Street Safe

Street Safe is a pilot service for anyone to anonymously tell us about public places where you have felt or feel unsafe, because of environmental issues, e.g. street lighting, abandoned buildings or vandalism and/or because of some behaviours, e.g. being followed or verbally abused.

(<https://www.police.uk/streetsafe>)

Please note: 'StreetSafe' is not for reporting crime or incidents.

If something has happened to you or someone you know (including in public spaces online) you can call us on 101 or find out what online report services are available following this web address <https://www.police.uk/pu/contact-the-police/report-a-crime-incident/>

Turnaround Plan

The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Mark Rowley, has officially launched his Turnaround Plan, which details how the Met will achieve its mission of More Trust, Less Crime and High Standards. The Plan also looks at refreshed values for its people, and sets out nine priority areas that require specific attention.

The Met has been listening to communities, partners and its staff, officers and volunteers, to create the Plan, but this is the start of the process. The Plan that has been published is a draft that will be shared with partners and communities to get their feedback, particularly on those changes related to the Met's approach to neighbourhood policing, community engagement and diversity and inclusion. This feedback (from the survey) will then be used to shape the final version of the Plan that will be published in April 2023.

<https://www.met.police.uk/notices/met/the-turnaround-plan-more-trust-less-crime-and-high-standards/>

Officers covering Barnes

PS Kate Whitaker

PC Darren Meakins

PCSO Matthew Morbey

Barnes@met.police.uk / 07721500502



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Match Preview: Brentford v Newcastle

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of Brentford's Premier League game against Newcastle United

Written by Brentford Football Club

After back-to-back away games, Brentford return to TW8 this weekend, welcoming in-form Newcastle United to the Gtech Community Stadium on Easter Saturday.

Any thoughts that Eddie Howe's Magpies might fade in the race for Champions League qualification have been firmly put to bed with four successive Premier League victories lifting them to third in the table heading into the final 10 matches. Brentford's 1-0 defeat at Manchester United on Wednesday night means they sit in ninth, seven points off the top four.



The Opposition

Magpies flying high after four straight wins

Newcastle United hovered precariously above the Premier League drop zone in 2020/21 and carried on in the same uninspiring manner for the first half of 2021/22, albeit this time spending the best part of the first four months below the dotted line.

Midway through this period, though, the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia completed a takeover – which had been 18 months in the making – that effectively made the club the richest in world football.

Steve Bruce was relieved of his duties as manager, Eddie Howe took over and the Magpies set about storming their way away from trouble, eventually finishing in 11th.

There was no scattergun approach in the transfer window in January 2022 and this sensible system has continued, with £60 million spent on Nick Pope, Sven Botman and Matt Targett by the time the campaign started – a relatively modest figure given the Magpies' riches.

Howe confirmed the club were looking to sign attacking players, too, but there was no panic and towards the end of August, they shattered their club record to sign Alexander Isak from Real Sociedad for £63m.

Three games after signing, the Swede was ruled out until the new year. And while that was a blow, they actually started to gain momentum very quickly afterwards. Having drawn five of their first seven, Newcastle won seven of the next eight before the World Cup break, scoring 21 goals and conceding only four.

Miguel Almiron's unprecedented purple patch, which comprised of seven goals in as many games throughout October and the start of November, was arguably the highlight.

By the time of the World Cup break, Newcastle were not only in contention for Champions League qualification, but firmly in the title hunt, too.

They kept their spending relatively low key in January, shelling out a modest £48.3m, with Anthony Gordon, Garang Kuol and Harrison Ashby arriving from Everton, Central Coast Mariners and West Ham United respectively.

Since the restart, the Magpies have not quite hit the same heady heights, but Howe's men remain prime contenders for European qualification, having lost just twice in the Premier League since 31 August, and reached their first final since May 1999 with a stellar run in the Carabao Cup.

Though they were eventually pipped to the trophy by Erik ten Hag's Manchester United, it was some achievement, nonetheless, and an indication of the upward trajectory the club now finds itself on.

They approach 10 crucial matches that will define their season, but there is no doubting Newcastle – all but guaranteed their first top-half finish since 2017/18 and highest since 2011/12 - are only looking upwards.

The Gameplan

With *The Athletic's* Chris Waugh

Chris Waugh, Newcastle United correspondent for *The Athletic*, discusses the Magpies' Champions League charge, Eddie Howe's preferred set-up and the players that Brentford must nullify on Saturday afternoon in [Hot off the Press](#).

“Howe almost exclusively starts with a 4-3-3 formation and I very much expect that to be the case again.

“Isak will likely be the central striker, then, due to injury problems in attack, I think you'll see Joelinton as the left-sided forward and possibly Jacob Murphy on the right, then a midfield three of Bruno Guimaraes, Joe Willock and Sean Longstaff.

“This formation is very dependent on Guimaraes and Kieran Trippier pulling the strings down the right side.

“Newcastle are very right-side dominant in terms of attack because they have, arguably, the best person from crossing situations in the Premier League at their disposal in Trippier.”

Team News

Janelt could return having recovered from knee injury

Vitaly Janelt is in contention for Brentford's Premier League game against Newcastle United having recovered from a knee injury.

The midfielder was withdrawn during the Bees' [2-0 win over Southampton in March](#) and has missed the last three games against Leicester City, Brighton and Hove Albion and Manchester United.

[Speaking during his pre-match press conference](#), head coach Thomas Frank confirmed that Janelt could feature against the Magpies.

Kristoffer Ajer (calf), Frank Onyeka and Keane Lewis-Potter (knee) remain sidelined. Newcastle are staying in London, having won 5-1 at West Ham United on Wednesday night.

Howe admitted there are some aches from that game but doesn't feel United had picked up any fresh injuries.

With Joe Willock returning to the squad for the game at London Stadium, Emil Kraft (knee), Ryan Fraser (disciplinary) and Miguel Almiron (thigh) are the only players on the Magpies' longer-term absentee list.



Government looking for more barges to house migrants, says minister

Transport minister Richard Holden said he wants to see so-called 'floatels' in ports around the country

THE Government plans to house migrants on barges in ports all over the country, according to transport minister Richard Holden.

Commenting on a deal to house 500 migrants on a barge off the Dorset coast, he told [GB News](#): "What we need to do is try and tackle the asylum backlog as quickly as we can and this is I think, the first step in that direction.

"I hope we see more of these across the country and also the use of some of those military bases, as well.

"I think what we want to do is tackle that backlog, stop people crossing the Channel, stop providing some of those pull factors.

"I'm really glad that this is one of the Prime Minister's top five priorities is tackling the small boats, stopping the boats, and I think this is a really important step in that direction."

In a discussion with Ellie Costello and Martin Daubney, he said: "This is just the start of a process. So I've spoken to the immigration minister about this before, we're looking at doing these in other ports right across the country as well.

"Anybody calling it inhumane needs to actually look at what's happened in Scotland over the last few years where the Scottish Government have been housing some of their Ukrainian refugees in some of these boats while they await processing in Scotland as well.

"So I think that's total nonsense. What I want to see though, is the asylum backlog reduced, I want to see people out of hotels, and I want to see the situation dealt with."

He added: "That's exactly what my constituents want and that's what the Government's doing, because we're going to deliver on that promise to stop the boats.

"One of the key things to do that is to stop the pull factors here to the UK. I don't want to see local communities right across the country having people put into the hotel accommodation locally and to see as many of these self-contained votes or barges or these military bases as possible, so that local services can be maintained for local people."



WHO Director-General's opening remarks at media briefing

WHO 75th Anniversary

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening,

I would like to welcome all of our Geneva-based members of the press and I'm glad we are meeting today in person.

Once upon a time, the nations of the world had a vision.

After years of war, they realised that it was better to work with each other than fight with each other.

They realised that a healthier world was a safer world.

Their vision was clear, but bold: the highest possible standard of health, for all people.

To achieve that vision, they agreed to set up a new organization.

They debated and agreed what this organization would be and do in a document called the Constitution of the World Health Organization.

Tomorrow marks the 75th anniversary of the day that Constitution came into force.

It was, and is, a landmark document.

The WHO Constitution was the first document in history to formally recognize health as a human right.

Since then, the world has made significant progress towards realizing that vision.

Life expectancy globally, for both sexes, has increased from 46 to 73 years, with the biggest gains in the poorest countries.

Smallpox has been eradicated, and polio is on the brink;

These are actually two of the important highlights during the 75 years of existence of the Organization.

Forty-two countries have eliminated malaria;

The epidemics of HIV and TB have been pushed back;

47 countries have eliminated at least one neglected tropical disease;

In the past 20 years alone, smoking has fallen by a third, maternal mortality has fallen by a third and child mortality has halved;

Just in the past five years, new vaccines for Ebola and malaria have been developed and licensed;

And for the past 3 years, WHO has coordinated the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic – the most severe health crisis in a century.

We can't claim sole credit for these achievements, but we have played a leading role in all of them. Partnering with many partners, especially our Member States.

And although we have many achievements of which to be proud, we still face many challenges – some old, some new.

Around the world, people still face vast disparities in access to health services, between and within countries and communities.

Since 2000, access to essential services has increased significantly, but at least half the world's population still lacks access to one or more services like family planning, basic sanitation, or access to a health worker.

Often this is because of where people live, their gender, their age or who they are – people living in poverty, refugees and migrants, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and other marginalized groups.

Meanwhile, since 2000, the number of people who experience financial hardship from out-of-pocket health spending has increased by a third, to almost two billion.

Noncommunicable diseases now account for more than 70 percent of all deaths globally. Rates of diabetes and obesity have increased dramatically, driven by unhealthy diets and physical inactivity.

Progress against malaria and TB has stalled;

Antimicrobial resistance threatens to unwind a century of medical progress;

Air pollution and climate change are jeopardizing the very habitability of our planet;

And as COVID-19 has exposed so brutally, there remain serious gaps in the world's defences against epidemics and pandemics.

For all these reasons and more, the world needs WHO now more than ever.

Two meetings in Geneva this week highlight the challenges we face, and the work we are doing with our Member States to address them.

The first is a meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, which is discussing the “zero draft” of the pandemic accord.

Like the WHO Constitution itself, the accord is a generational commitment to face shared threats with a shared response.

No nation can protect itself against future epidemics and pandemics without the engagement and cooperation of all nations.

Over the next year, countries will continue to negotiate the accord in preparation for the World Health Assembly in 2024, where it will be presented for adoption.

The second meeting being held this week is the Fifth Global Forum on Human Resources for Health.

Health workers are the backbone of every health system. Put simply, there is no health without health and care workers.

And yet many countries face severe shortages of health and care workers, and many of those they have, migrate to other countries for better pay and conditions.

WHO estimates that on current trends, the world will face a shortage of 10 million health and care workers by 2030 – with the most acute shortages in the poorest countries.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded the world of the immense value of health and care workers.

And yet an estimated 50% of health and care workers experienced burnout during the pandemic.

Even before COVID-19, many health and care workers worked in unsafe conditions, with low pay and inadequate training.

And although women account for almost 7 in 10 health workers globally, they hold less than 1 in 4 senior jobs in the health sector. Many female health workers also face gender-based violence in the workplace.

As the world rebuilds from the pandemic, we are calling on all countries to protect and invest in their health and care workforce, with safe working conditions, decent pay, protection of labour rights, and protection from violence and discrimination.

Alongside the Global Forum on Human Resources for Health, WHO also today launched a new campaign to improve emergency care training for nurses and midwives.

Nurses and midwives play a key role in emergency situations.

When emergency care is delivered well, the chance of surviving an injury or life-threatening illness increases dramatically, while the risk of a long-term disability is significantly reduced.

To provide high-quality emergency care, nurses and midwives require high-quality education and training.

Our new campaign is called 25x25x25: our goal is to support 25 countries to train 25 percent of their nurses and midwives in WHO’s Basic Emergency Care course by the end of 2025.

Finally, this year marks the fourth edition of the WHO Health for All Film Festival.

This year, nearly 800 film makers from 106 countries submitted short films in six categories, on themes including the health impacts of the climate crisis, COVID-19, mental health, malaria, disability and more.

Ninety films have been chosen for the shortlist, for review by a jury of international artists and development leaders. The winners will be announced in June 2023.

The shortlisted films are available on WHO’s YouTube channel in six playlists, one for each of the competition categories.

We encourage everyone to watch the films, make comments and share those they like most on social media.

Film is a powerful way to tell stories about health.

WHO’s own story began 75 years ago, and it is still being written.

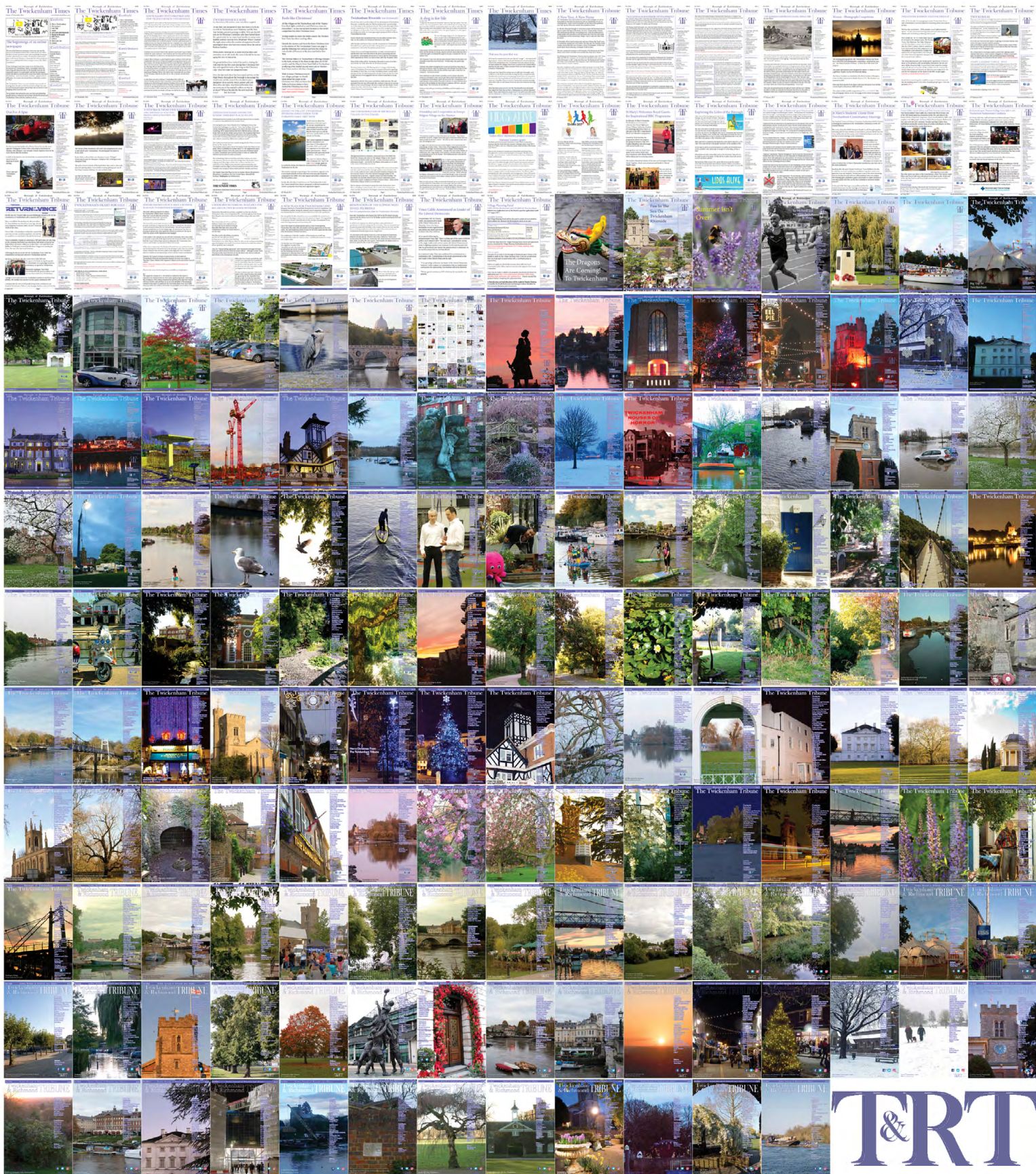
The challenges we face today are very different to those in 1948, but our vision remains unchanged: the highest possible standard of health, for all people.

Fadéla, back to you.



**World Health
Organization**

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