

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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Editors

Berkley Driscoll
Teresa Read



17th November 2023

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

Travel

South Western Railway

Altered train services and buses replace trains in the **Barnes** area Sunday 19 November

The lines in the **Barnes** area will be **closed all day** due to maintenance work.

Queenstown Road station will be **closed all day**. Please use other nearby stations.

- **London Waterloo to Reading** services will be **revised** and will be diverted between **Clapham Junction and Twickenham**. These services will call additionally at **Wimbledon, Kingston and Strawberry Hill**.
- **London Waterloo to Windsor** services will be **revised**.
An **hourly** service will be diverted between **Clapham Junction and Twickenham via Kingston** calling at all stations.
An **hourly** service will start from **Richmond** calling at all **stations**.
- **London Waterloo to London Waterloo via Wimbledon and Kingston** services will be **revised** and will run between **Kingston and Richmond only**.
- **Buses** will run between **Clapham Junction and Twickenham via Richmond** calling at all stations **except St Margarets**.
- **London Waterloo to Woking via Staines** services will start from **Kew Bridge**.
- **Buses** will run between **Clapham Junction and Kew Bridge**.
- The afternoon and evening **London Waterloo to Kingston via Hounslow** services will **not** run.



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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The Local Picture Postcard Page Part 223

By Alan Winter

Barnes - The Railway Tavern / Hotel/ Red Rover



Just along the road from Barnes Station was a pub/hotel which was of course a common sight throughout the UK in the early days of railways. It made sense to have a watering hole next to each station. Many still exist today but sadly this one is no longer. Originally named the Railway Tavern we have a postcard from 1905 showing it as the Tavern and it must have been re-named prior to 1929 when our last postcard shows it as the Railway Hotel at the junction of the Upper Richmond Road and Rocks Lane.

Watneys re-named the pub the Red Rover in 1972. It had strange red plastic seating and was supposed to resemble the inside of a bus. Horrible! It finally closed for residential development in 1995. I don't know about you, but I feel strongly that pubs that have often traded for hundreds of years should not have their names changed by so called clever developers and designers who give no thought to place or history. Thankfully we have seen a few of



these regain their original names in the last few years. The Rising Sun and Royal Oak both on Richmond Road in Twickenham are two that spring to mind. That's my rant of the week – sorry!

Today Barnes station is in Travelcard Zone 3. It is seven miles down the line from London Waterloo. The station and all trains serving it are operated by South Western Railway. It is the nearest station for Queen Mary's Hospital; Roehampton Club; Rosslyn Park R.F.C. grounds; and the University of Roehampton.

If you have any old postcards that you would consider parting with, I'd be very interested in arranging to see them. Please contact me on 07875 578398 or by email at alanwinter192@hotmail.com I am happy to pay cash for anything like that which I find of interest. So don't throw old postcards etc. in the skip or recycling bins. Show them to me first!

A date for your diary. It's today!! Saturday November 18th. The West London Postcard Fair takes place at Teddington Baptist Church between. 10.00 and 4.00. Refreshments all day. Some 14 dealers. My tables are by the stage. Come and say hello and bring along any old postcards you may wish to dispose of. Thanks, stay safe and well.

WEST LONDON POSTCARD FAIR

Including STAMPS and POSTAL HISTORY

**TEDDINGTON BAPTIST
CHURCH
CHURCH ROAD, TW11 8PF
SATURDAY 18th
NOVEMBER**

10am – 4pm Admission £2.00

14 DEALERS REFRESHMENTS

EASY BY RAIL – Teddington (on Kingston loop from Waterloo) –
EASY BY BUS – 33, 281, 285, 481, R68 and X26
EASY BY ROAD – From M3/A316

Enquiries: ALAN WINTER
07875 578398 / alanwinter192@hotmail.com



Want to use your creative skills to inspire young minds?

We run after school clubs teaching children Lego, Design, Virtual Reality, Game Design & Robotics.

Sessions pay £35 - £45 ph + travel expenses

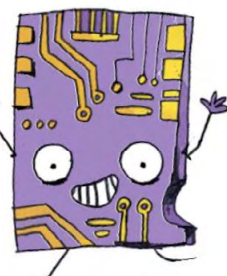
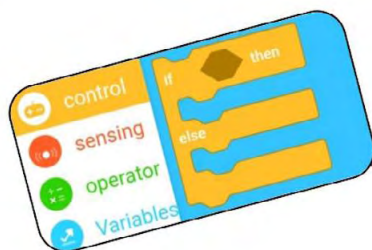
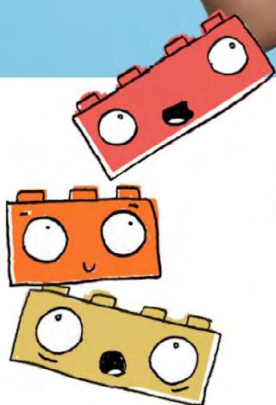
We are a team of designers, parents, actors, artists, musicians and makers and creators with a passion for inspiring children.

We are looking for more people that would like to join our team. No prior experience is needed as we offer training for each of our clubs.

We run sessions at schools across London. Each teacher runs clubs that are located close to where they live.

We only require people to commit to at least 1 after school club a week during term time. Some people also teach everyday!

If this sounds potentially interesting for you or someone you know, then please get in touch using the link below.



To apply, go to
www.buildingimagination.co.uk/team

Join the public meeting on Thames Water's Direct River Abstraction Scheme

Richmond Council is hosting a public meeting to give Richmond upon Thames residents an opportunity to get a full and balanced understanding of the [Teddington Direct River Abstraction \(DRA\) project](#) and its potential impact before responding to the Thames Water consultation.

The Council will host a panel discussion where attendees will get an opportunity to ask questions of Thames Water, Council representatives and local community-interest groups.

Richmond Council has stood unanimously against Thames Water's plan to take water from the River Thames at Teddington Weir and divert it to the Lee Valley Reservoirs, replacing it with treated waste-water from Mogden Sewage Treatment Works.

Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

"Last month all Richmond councillors voiced their serious concerns about these plans and while we will continue to put our representations to Thames Water as the land-owning Council, we also want to make sure residents have all the information they need to have their say in the consultation on these plans. Whether it is to understand the impact on our local parks and our natural habitats, or how exactly the project will tackle future water shortages, there will be knowledgeable experts on hand to answer questions."



The public event at York House in Twickenham will take place on Monday 27 November 2023 at 6.30pm with attendees invited to visit information stalls and meet representatives.

The meeting will begin at 7pm with representations from the panel and then an open Q&A.

The discussion will be chaired by Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council. The panel will include Cllr Julia Neden-Watts, Deputy Leader and Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Services Committee, as well as Council officers and representatives from Thames Water and community interest group Save our Lands and River.

Those wishing to attend are encouraged to be there in person to get the full benefits of the event. A live stream option will be available with online viewers able to submit questions via a digital platform.

Attendance is free, but registration is essential, as in person places are limited. Attendees who have not registered in advance may not be admitted.

Find out more and [register for the meeting](#).

The [Thames Water consultation](#) runs until Monday 11 December 2023.

CrusaderTravel

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crusadertravel.com

Escapology Experts

info@crusadertravel.com



Your friendly local Travel Agency
established in Twickenham since 1966

With over 50 years experience we pride ourselves on being able to offer an unrivalled service with attention to detail. Come and have a chat with us in our cosy office off the Church Street Square, we are open 6 days a week from 11am until 6pm (Closed Sunday)



The future of Twickenham Riverside

Jonathan Hulley, Conservative Parliamentary Candidate, Twickenham

Having read the recent Planning Inspector's decision on the future of the Diamond Jubilee Gardens and Twickenham Riverside, I accept that the Council now has a mandate to proceed.

However, while the Inspector accepts that the project is broadly consistent with the Local Plan, in my judgement the project is unlikely to live up to the repeated promises made by the local Liberal Democrats.

Twickenham has a unique working riverside environment where the town meets the countryside. This scheme will fundamentally alter the character of the area, urbanising it and threatening the livelihoods of those working in the boatyards.

Local businesses have already told me that parking arrangements in Twickenham are inadequate, which has resulted in them losing many long-standing customers. The proposal to remove 82 on-street parking places from the Riverside is only going to exacerbate this problem, piling more pressure on local businesses, residents and those who are elderly and disabled.



The Council trumpets that 24 affordable housing units will be delivered, but that will not even touch the sides of local housing demand. And these units, which have been segregated from the private flats, will only be realistically affordable for those right at the top of the eligibility criteria.

Due to the significant costs of this project (which have risen again since the last estimate) other parts of the Borough may lose out. For example, Nurserylands needs investment. Hampton needs a new fit-for-purpose town centre, and Teddington needs a new youth facility such as a youth club.

As the Inspector observed in his decision, this project still has many detailed outstanding issues to be resolved. It is incumbent on me and my Conservative colleagues to keep a very close eye on what happens next. Rest assured, we will hold the local Liberal Democrats to account at every turn.

Whittaker Avenue Riverside Pop-up Winter Wonderland and Christmas Light Switch On

Enjoy a weekend of **FREE festive family fun** in Richmond on **Saturday, 25th to Sunday, 26th November** with a Winter Wonderland, festive market and the official Christmas Lights Switch On.

Get into the yuletide spirit with the pop-up **Winter Wonderland in Whittaker Avenue** (by Brindisa), complete with Christmas Elves gingerbread decorating workshop, Selfie Sleigh, and North Pole Post box to send that all important list to Santa.

Find the perfect present at the **riverside Christmas Market with more than 50 traders across the weekend**, offering an array of goodies including everything from health and beauty products, jewellery, fashion, and art to an array of mouthwatering food and drinks.

The official Christmas Lights Switch On Ceremony will also be taking place at 4pm on the Saturday at Whittaker Avenue, with the help of the Deputy Mayor and Wendy Mae Brown, also known as, the 'Spirit of Bells' in this year's Richmond Theatre Pantomime, Dick Whittington.

Designed to appeal to the entire family, Be Richmond's 'Be Festive Events' are free and open to all. Mark your calendars and make this holiday season truly special.

Be Richmond is the Business Improvement District (BID) for Richmond town centre. Its purpose is to represent and support Richmond BID levy payers, and to promote Richmond town centre as a great place to live, work and explore.

To find out more go to www.berichmond.london/Christmas



Richmond Council increases highways maintenance by over a third

Richmond Council is investing more than ever to keep its roads and pavements in good condition. Over £5 million has been allocated this year to permanently repair potholes and resurface parts of its road network.

Cllr Alexander Ehmann, Chair of the Council's Transport and Air Quality Committee, said: "Investing in our roads and pavements is a critical priority for this Council – it's an essential part to making our public highways and footways safe for all to use. Resources for highways maintenance have always been finite, so I am delighted that through good financial management we have been able to prioritise an additional £1.4million for our maintenance budget this year – that is increasing our budget by nearly 40%.

"Our residents want to know that we are managing their Council Tax wisely during a cost-of-living crisis and investing it in improvements to the borough that matter to them.

"We know that while residents will welcome essential repairs, roadworks in the Richmond upon Thames can cause frustrations. Many of these are out of



our control – emergency works and critical infrastructure upgrades for utilities companies including Thames Water and Cadent Gas, as well as work on the Transport for London network that passes through our borough. Council officers work hard to manage the wider network to reduce the impact as much as possible, but I also want to reassure residents that as a Council we continue to lobby other organisations and hold them to account on delivering the work to the standard our residents deserve."

The Council's total budget for highways maintenance is £5.17 million. This overall figure is made up of revenue, capital funding and the external funding.

The Council continues to work with its contractors to explore innovative ways to working, such as expanding the use of thermal repair equipment.

Dear Tribune,

Stand and Deliver! But when?

It is reported that Richmond Council is investing *'more than ever'* to keep its roads and pavements in good condition with over £5 million being allocated this year to permanently repair potholes and resurface parts of its road network.

Cllr Ehmann, Chair of the Council's Transport and Air Quality Committee, is reported as saying: *'Investing in our roads and pavements is a critical priority for this Council – it's an essential part to making our public highways and footways safe for all to use.'*

Really? That implies that they aren't safe now.

After the big snow in 2002, our local road was completely ruined with dangerous potholes and cracks which nearly caused me serious injury. Numerous requests to Richmond Council to repair them were ignored or met with lame excuses.

Finally, after 16 years of being ignored, I brought this up at a public council meeting and Cllr Peter Buckwell and his colleague inspected the road the very next day, saying that the Council's excuses were complete nonsense. Thanks to him, the road was soon repaired. Thus it was Conservative councillors who actually listened and took action.

But with the sad loss of Cllr Geoffrey Samuel, there are now no Conservative councillors so I expect little improvement in Richmond's third world roads apart from more LibDem virtue signalling such as the statements herein. Some African bush roads are better than Richmond's. On my recent bus journey through Twickenham, Richmond and Sheen, the bus and its passengers were almost shaken to pieces by the derelict road surface. How many others daily suffer this torture and damage to their vehicles?

Cllr Ehmann is also quoted as saying: *'I am delighted that through good financial management, we have been able (sic) prioritise an additional £1.4million for our maintenance budget this year – that is increasing our budget by nearly a 40%.'*

Apart from previous (Conservative) central government funding for pothole repair, the Prime Minister recently announced that a further £8.3 billion for repairing them will come from savings made by cancelling HS2. So it's clearly not only Richmond Council's self-aggrandising *'good financial management'* that's producing the money.

The Romans had better roads than we have. But THEY didn't have a policy of reducing the traffic to a standstill by vandalising them with humps.

Is it any wonder that bikes and scooters endanger pedestrians by riding on the footways?

Michael Jay, Hampton

GEOFFREY SAMUEL

From the Twickenham Conservative Association

It is with deep regret and enormous sadness that we announce the death of Councillor Geoffrey Samuel, who passed on 10th November 2023, aged 92.

Geoffrey was first elected as a Councillor on November 14th 1957. After serving many intervening terms, on May 5th 2022 he was re-elected as the only Conservative Councillor on Richmond upon Thames Council. He was still working and messaging colleagues at 6pm on the evening before he passed away; so typical of the man, he was on top of his game right to the very end.

As a former Deputy Leader of the Council, he was successively Cabinet Member for Schools and Cabinet Member for Finance. He took a special interest in Adult Services and Health.



Geoffrey was not only active in politics, but also served the community where he had lived since 1940. For 23 years he was headmaster of The Heathland School in the London Borough of Hounslow, and he was also deputy chairman of the Richmond Bench for many years.

Age was no barrier to Geoffrey; he undertook his contribution to public life with an energy and zeal that would shame those half his age. He was hugely active as a councillor, tirelessly working for his constituents – achieving positive outcomes and solving their problems. To our certain knowledge, he was the oldest working councillor in the UK - and we are sure we will never see another like him.



Geoffrey was a political giant, a fighter, and fiercely tenacious when advocating for his constituents and those in the wider community, throughout a lifetime of public service. As a councillor representing various wards and boroughs during a remarkable 70 year career, he was also a man of wisdom, political acumen and, most of all, absolute integrity. Everyone in Twickenham, regardless of political persuasion, will

recognise the great loss we have all sustained with his passing.

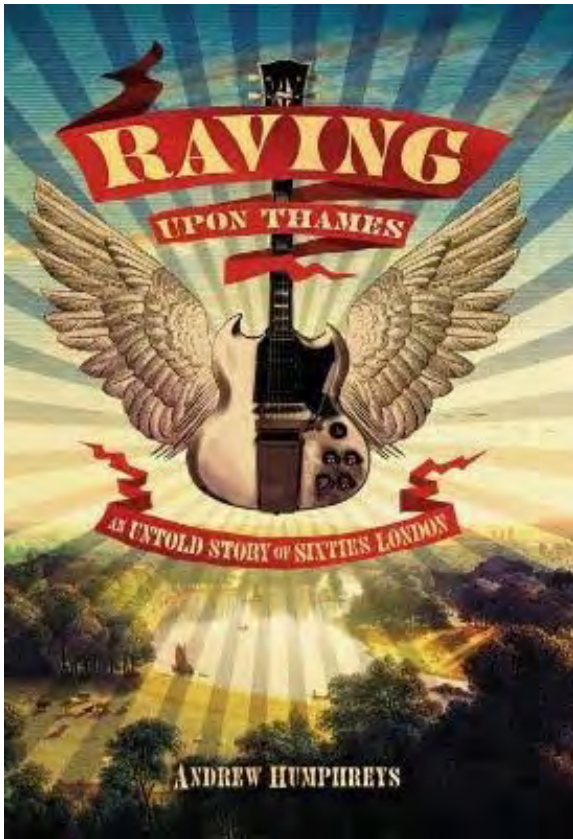
Members of the Twickenham Conservative Association will feel a particular sense of loss, as Geoffrey was the father figure to whom we all looked whenever difficulties, political or otherwise, arose. His guidance, knowledge, strength of character and humanity were second to none.

Twickenham and the surrounding constituencies are a more sad and sorrowful place today. Our thoughts are with his wife, Lona, to whom we extend our very deepest sympathies.

Geoffrey, rest in peace – we will miss you enormously, but we will never forget you.

WHAT A BLAST! RAVING UPON THAMES

By Bruce Lyons



Last Wednesday, we went to the ARTs Richmond “Creative Voices” talk by Andrew Humphreys on his book Raving upon Thames.

People often say your life flashes in front of as you die – the only time I felt like that was when I stupidly dislocated my new hip and had to be stretchered off to Kingston A & E in unbelievable agony. Eventually sedated I got to sleep, and when I woke NO PAIN!! Beautiful white ceiling, magical – thought I was in Heaven till Matron said what do you want to drink!

But last Wednesday again it was if my life flashed in front of me as Andrew Humphreys talked about his book.

We as Eel Pie Island Residents on the site of the Eel Pie Island Hotel since 1975 and we opened our Travel Agency in 1966, bringing with us our Theatrical and Musical clients to our Church Street home.

Sitting in the Exchange listening to Andrew tell the story. Yes, I used to go to the Club on the island, moreover the Pendletons, were clients as were many of the groups. The Troggs sent flowers to Hedda, my wife when Shona, my daughter was born as I had to see `em off at the airport when she was taken to the Maternity Hospital, having been born in our flat above the office and the Troggs felt embarrassed. It was so great to reconnect to the myriad of stories he recalled. It was so long ago before our adventures in the Red Sea, even before Hedda’s Wildlife Adventures with Twicker’s world, Or her trips to the Falklands and her adventures with the First Fleet Re-enactment in `88 – and before the arson, when some people set fire to our office because we sold safaris to South Africa and even before our big Ugandan Fraud in the Idi Amin time. So long ago!!!

In those days we handled most of the London Jazz and R & B scene as well as stars of stage and screen – as they call them. Hedda, bless her, was the debt collector – it wasn’t that the groups didn’t have money – they didn’t worry about money – last on the list, you might say.

I recall Hedda’s parents coming to see the newborn – and I was running the car park at the Richmond Jazz Festival (unpaid of course) and took the in-laws to see – He was chief of Prisons in Israel, he wasn’t impressed!

And Andrew also gave a pocket history of the Eel Pie Island Hotel (now our home) and owner Michale Snapper and his methods to get it back to be a building site as he bought the land originally as prime real estate & was constantly plotting to see how he could get planning to build on it!. Funnily enough even my Mother remembered coming up to Eel Pie before World War 11 for a tea dance. I recall too that I read it had the first flat aluminium roof in London too.

But it was all those anecdotes about the musicians and the managers, Giorgio Gomelsky and the Auberge - For me, and from the applause for many others, it was an evening to remember. Great place to live even now – still a bit eccentric & Bohemian and long may it last. If you haven’t – visit the museum there’s a lot more there than music on the Islands past.

**Stalls, rides, live music
raffle, classic cars
festive food &
beverages**



Hampton Hill

Christmas Parade

**Friday
24th November**



JACK & JILL
FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

**6pm Christmas tree
lights switched on**

6.30pm PARADE

Council commits £7m to put community at the heart of new Ham Close regeneration

Richmond Council is investing nearly £7m to bring much-needed community facilities to Ham, as part of the Ham Close regeneration scheme.

Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said:

“The redevelopment of Ham Close is a landmark scheme for our borough, but it’s not just about creating quality new homes for our residents, it’s also about building a strong, diverse and vibrant community in Ham. At the heart of this must be space that supports social and wellbeing activities, learning, creativity and innovation.

“I am delighted that a brand-new Community Centre and a MakerLabs now have the go-ahead thanks to a final investment from the Council.”

The new Community Centre will replace the existing Ham Youth Centre. It will be managed by Achieving for Children and will offer tuition and an alternative curriculum programme for school students who are struggling with mainstream education during the day and then youth club activities after 3pm. This will include a range of activities for local teenagers including arts, sport, music and ICT.

The Centre will also be considered as a future Family Hub, pending the successful pilot of a Family Hub at the White House in Hampton North.



Cllr Penny Frost, Chair of the Council’s Childrens and Education Services Committee, commented: *“This is an opportunity to bring services into the heart of the community, supporting children, young people and families to learn and build confidence, as well as overcome challenges and be more resilient. Having a strong community offer to complement our excellent local schools will improve outcomes for all children and young people in the area, ensuring this community is a safe and supportive place for them to grow and thrive for many generations to come.”*

The centre will also be available for use by the wider community through a planned programme. There will be the opportunity for residents to hire spaces including the community lounge, kitchen, meeting spaces and sport hall.

The new MakerLabs will provide a purpose-built facility and home for the Richmond MakerLabs (RML), where members of the community come to work on their own projects and seek guidance and knowledge from the group leaders on a range of crafts including woodwork, repairs, and electronics. The council will continue to work with RML to develop their programme, which will include initiatives that encourage sustainable behaviours, such as a repair café and a bicycle workshop.

The two new facilities have already been granted planning permission, following significant public engagement, which is captured in the Ham Close Statement of Community Involvement.

Capital receipts from land parcels sold to the Richmond Housing Partnership for the overall regeneration scheme will generate £4.79m of the funding, with the Council choosing to invest a further £2.1m contribution from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The entire scheme will generate approximately £7m of CIL once complete.



TEDDINGTON SOCIETY EVENTS




(All events open to members and non-members)

GAMES EVENINGS Wednesday 22nd November

Come and join us for a friendly social evening. A huge variety of games – cards, dice, board games, strategy games, dominoes, rummikub, mhing, - the list goes on. Or even bring your own favourites.



NO CHARGE – just enjoy the evening with like-minded players in the Constitution Club, 5 Stanley Road, Teddington, TW11 8TP
From **19.00 to 22.30**. Refreshments available from the bar.

 @TeddingtonSociety
 @teddingtonsociety
 @TeddingtonSoc

More details of all events at
www.teddingtonsociety.org.uk

Registered Charity No.802026



Come along to the Twickenham Beer and Cider Festival

From Thursday 16 November to Saturday 18 November, CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) will be hosting the Twickenham Beer and Cider Festival.

The event will be held at the Winchester Room at the Turk's Head pub, 28 Winchester Road, St. Margaret's, Twickenham, TW1 1LF.

The festival will be open from 12 noon to 10.30pm, with tickets at £10 including entry, beer vouchers and a refundable glass deposit. There will be [food available from the Turk's Head](#).



For more information, please visit the [CAMRA website](#).



SAVE HAM LANDS
AND RIVER

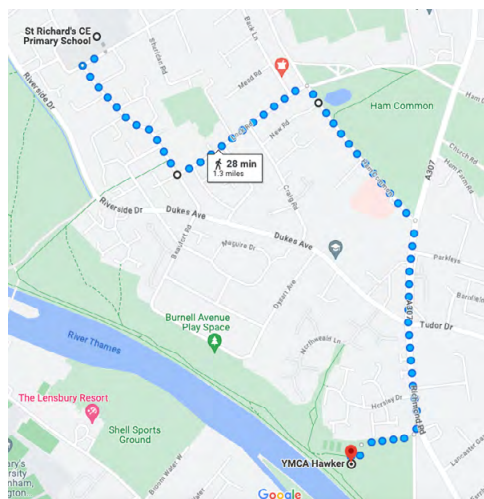
NEIGHBOURHOOD MARCH AGAINST THAMES WATER

Let's show our opposition to Thames Water's TDR* plan by marching to their event at the YMCA Hawker Centre.



MONDAY 20 NOV

START 3:45pm: at St Richard's Church, School Car Park, Ashburnham Road, TW10 7NL
END: YMCA Hawker, KT2 5BH



TO LEARN MORE



***TDR PLAN** – Teddington Direct River Abstraction

WHAT IS THE THAMES WATER TDRA* PLAN?

***TDRA PLAN** – Teddington Direct River Abstraction

THAMES WATER PLANS TO:

- extract clean water from the Thames above Teddington Weir
- pump treated sewage into the Thames above Teddington Weir
- build 4.5 km of tunnel under your neighbourhood
- destroy natural land in St Margaret's (Moormead Park), Ham and Kingston to build 8 shafts, plus discharge and extraction sites

WHY DO WE OPPOSE?

- environmental and ecological impact on the River Thames
- permanent destruction of natural land and precious wildlife enjoyed by the community and visitors
- construction impact on local neighbourhoods and buildings

HOW DO YOU OBJECT?

- We are calling on Thames Water to consider greener, less socially damaging alternatives.
- email TDRA@ipsos.com
- include your name, address and postcode
- cc your local MP (choose from the list):
edward.davey.mp@parliament.uk (Kingston and Surbiton)
munira.wilson.mp@parliament.uk (Twickenham)
ruth.cadbury.mp@parliament.uk (Brentford and Isleworth)
sarah.olney.mp@parliament.uk (Richmond Park)

DEADLINE TO EMAIL : MONDAY 11 DECEMBER

CONTACT US: info@savehamlandsandriver.org.uk

Twickers Foodie – By Alison Jee

COUNTING DOWN TO CHRISTMAS: ADVENT CALENDARS

I can't believe how fast this year has flown by - we seem only to have just put away the decorations from last Christmas! Soon we'll be buying Advent or 'Holiday Countdown' (thank you America) Calendars and there's an amazing range to choose from. Here are some that've caught my eye and look fabulous.

For an excellent and wide range of chocolate calendars, **M&S** has come up trumps again this year with a sensational selection, and all very well priced. Youngsters (and some older folk I know) who are fans of **Colin the Caterpillar**, can indulge at just £6 (from M&S stores or online from Ocado) And if you have a coffee machine that uses pods, you can experiment to your heart's content with the coffee one with a selection of roasted and ground Arabica and Robusta coffee pods including: vanilla, hazelnut, Italian-style, house blend, jump start and decaf.



Hotel Chocolat has surprised me this year with a range of good value and stylish calendars. Starting from just £8.50 there's something for everyone, whether an adult or a child, or if you prefer your chocolate to be dark, white, caramel or vegan. And there's even a double one - for two - that's perfect for couples.

If, like me, you're a fan of chunks of quality, dark chocolate, I'd suggest the **Montezuma's** Dark calendar. It's organic and 74% cocoa solids and has 25 solid chocolates for £12.99. The [website](#) currently has some special offers of other items for Christmas too, including some new mini

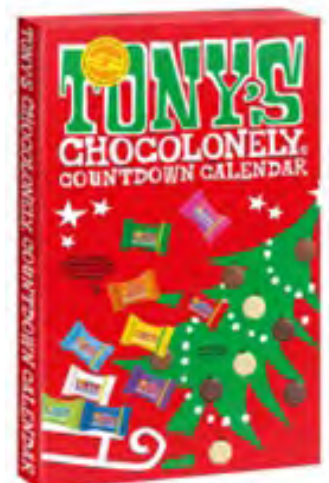
cookies, so worth checking it out.



For the serious, filled chocolate aficionado, look no further than **Chococo's Classic Christmas Countdown calendar**, with contemporary styling, and packed with an assortment of milk, gold, dark and oat milk award-winning chocolates. This year there are new flavours including Bottoms Up! Champagne Gem, We Three Fruits and Panela Panache Truffle. At [£27.50](#) it might seem pricey, but for a chocolate connoisseur, it's really worth it.



Still highly ethical and perfect for adults and children alike, is the **Tony's Choclonely** calendar. Made with Fairtrade cocoa, sourced responsibly according to the company's five sourcing principles, all products are plastic and palm oil free too. Tony's larger than life calendar to countdown to the festive season is filled with "25 tiny Tony's classic flavours over 24 windows - unequally divided like the profits in the chocolate industry. Every door has a tiny mission to help to educate about the bitter truth in chocolate." £12.99 from Waitrose, Sainsbury's, Ocado and independents. And also, of course online, together with all sorts of other goodies [here](#)





I've been impressed with the quality of the **Love Raw** vegan chocolate and the company has a first for this year - its rather natty calendar with, like most of the other chocolate companies in this article, no nasties like palm oil. It's 'm:lk' chocolate and will make a vegan chocoholic very happy for 24 days this December! A very reasonable £6.99 from [Love Raw](#)

And last, but by no means least, of the choccy calendars, is the one from **Lakrids by Bülow**. Not only does it contain the most fabulous chocolate coated liquorice, but there are two treats each day



for sharing with a loved one (or being super indulgent and hogging them yourself!). It's packed with all-time favourite flavours as well as some limited edition ones. Danish deliciousness such as this isn't cheap (£50) but you can share it, and you - or they - are worth it! Available from John Lewis, Selfridges and the Lakrids store in Monmouth Street. Or, of course, online [here](#)

Not everyone likes chocolate, so it's nice to look at some alternatives. If you're a fan of popcorn, then I recommend you check out [Joe & Seph's](#) as the company has not one, but four Advent Calendars this year, including a lower cost **7 Day Countdown to New Year Calendar**, featuring seven unique flavours. The classic one has 19 flavours and there's even a Vegan one (both are for 24 days). **Joe & Seph's** Advent calendars do tend to sell out, as they are very popular, so I'd order soon.



The Craft Gin Club will help you to 'GINgle' all the way to Christmas by toasting every night of December with one of the 25 mini bottles of



gin from the UK and beyond. Each bottle is a double (50 ml) measure, and there are seven new gins exclusive to the club. It costs around [£95](#) but if you compare it to the price of a G&T in a pub, it's good value and a great way to discover new gins.

For the tea lover, there's a fabulous calendar from **Ahmad** - the **24 days of Tea Advent Calendar**:

Featuring 24 foil fresh tea bags, there's a different blend to try each day, from classics such as Darjeeling, Earl Grey, Cardamon, Ceylon and English Tea No.1, to more exotic flavours such as Mango & Lychee Green Tea, Apple Refresh, Cinnamon Haze, Camomile & Lemongrass, Honey & Vanilla, Rooibos & Cinnamon, and Berries & Hibiscus. £13.99 from Amazon or www.uk.ahmadtea.com



And to finish, one's body also needs feeding with nourishment, and there are many different beauty calendars this year. One of the best value ones is from **M&S** and it boasts a veritable treasure trove of 25 beauty products to help beautify you for Christmas. From haircare and makeup to sleep and fragrance, this calendar is filled with everything you need for the party season, alongside indulgent self-care essentials to remedy any festive havoc and help you look your best. You can unwrap the latest launches and beauty favourites worth up to £310 - but you'd better hurry. It's just £40 when you spend £25 on clothing, home and beauty in store (it's now sold out online).



MALTA - AN ISLAND CELEBRATION

MALTA

SIMON

BAJADA

Mediterranean recipes from the islands

As a child I was lucky enough to live, for a few years, in Malta. The Maltese Islands still hold my happiest childhood memories, and I've managed to return for a few visits as an adult. If you're also a fan of these honey-coloured islands that are layered - literally - with history, you'll love this recently published cookbook and gloriously photographed (by the author) travelogue: **Malta by Simon Bajada, published by Hardie Grant £26.**

Many empires have influenced the Maltese kitchen over the centuries, leaving an alluring blend of Arab, French, Italian and English flavours and techniques. The resulting cuisine is packed with fruits of the sea, flavourful seasonal produce and recipes passed down through the generations, set against a backdrop of dramatic rocky outcrops and spectacular blue water.

Exploring his own family heritage, Simon Bajada captures Maltese food for the home cook. The recipes are enticing, with the influence of multiple cuisines apparent. There are *Anchovy*

Fritters, *Sea Urchin Spaghetti* and *Swordfish Carpaccio*, all making delicious use of the island's proximity to the beautiful Mediterranean Sea. For something more comforting, there is a traditional *Rabbit Stew*, and *Stuffed Artichokes* packed with garlic and potato. For those with a sweet tooth there is a decadent *Maltese Orange Tart* – flavoured with blood orange – and if you prefer coffee after dinner there is a recipe for *Maltese Coffee Granita and Whipped Ricotta*.

It's a virtual trip to the Mediterranean and will bring some rays of sunshine in these dark wintery days. It will also make a fabulous Christmas present for anyone who's recently visited, or plans to.

This is as much a storybook as it is a cookbook, with the island's history and landscape lending context to Simon's recipes.

Here are a couple of recipes to show you what a lovely cookbook this is... the first recipe reminds me of glorious summer days in Sliema, enjoying this dish at the beach cafe:

SPAGETTI RIZZI (Sea Urchin Spaghetti)

Serves 4; Preparation: 10 minutes; Cooking: 15 minutes.

“When writing about this dish, in my mind I'm exploring craggy rocks beside the Mediterranean, dodging urchins under foot while Malta's sun beams down on me. This dish takes you to the seaside. The flavour of the sea penetrates through the pasta – a dish so simple that for me it typifies Maltese food, especially when served with crusty bread and a green salad. Purists might leave the lemon and mint out of the dish, but I love their freshness (if you prefer, you can substitute parsley for mint). The orange flesh inside sea urchins is actually a reproductive organ, sometimes deceptively called roe. Its flavour is at its sweet and salty best before the urchins are preparing to spawn (different species do this at different times, but for many the best season to eat them is autumn). You can buy sea urchin removed from its spiny shells at good fishmongers.”

- 2 medium-sized ripe tomatoes
- 400 g (14 oz) spaghetti
- salt and pepper
- 1 small onion, finely diced
- 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- grated zest of 1/4 lemon
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon chopped mint
- 150 g (5 1/2 oz) sea urchin flesh



1. Score the tomatoes on their bases and grate with a box grater. Boil the spaghetti in well-salted water until al dente. Scoop out 200 ml (7 fl oz) of the cooking water before draining the pasta.
2. While the pasta is cooking, sauté the onion and garlic in 2 tablespoons of the oil in a frying pan over a low-medium heat.
3. When the onion is soft, add the tomato and some salt and pepper and cook for 2 minutes until the tomato breaks down. Now add the pasta, its water, lemon zest and juice, mint, the remaining oil and the sea urchin. Toss together until the urchin breaks apart and distributes through the pasta. Taste for seasoning and serve.

BAKED EGGPLANT AND ONION WITH BASIL

Serves 4; Preparation: 10 minutes; Cooking: 50 minutes

“Over a selection of Maltese snacks, Gozitan restaurateur Phillip Spiteri described this dish to me. It is such an easy recipe – actually two individual spreads to be served side by side. The eggplant and onion are perfect with roasted meats and fish, or included on a platt Malti. I’m sure once you’ve made this, it will become a staple in your kitchen as it has in mine. The recipe fortifies the Maltese cooking mantra: quality ingredients and simple technique equate to greatness.”

- 2 onions
- 1 large eggplant (aubergine)
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 handfuls basil leaves
- Salt

1. Preheat the oven to 220°C (430°F). Take a short, sharp-tipped knife and stab through the skin of the onions, making 6 small incisions around each one. Roast on a baking tray for 20 minutes.
2. Now make 6 incisions around the eggplant and add to the onions, roasting for another 30 minutes.
3. Allow the vegetables to cool until you are able to handle them, then make a cut lengthways through the skins. Squeeze out the onion flesh into a wide bowl, and the eggplant flesh into another.
4. Divide the oil and basil between the bowls. Season with salt and use the back of a fork to mash the soft flesh with the oil and basil. Scoop the eggplant onto a plate and the onion alongside. This is best served at room temperature, but can also be warmed again if desired.



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A round up of our Travel news

By Shona Lyons



My mum very sadly died this year in May. Although quite unwell these last few years, she had bravely soldiered on and she enjoyed her life to the end. We all loved being together, just our little family of 3 living together in our Island haven on Eel Pie, so her death came as a huge shock & we had not really prepared for it. Physically she is now not here with us, but I think of her all the time & really, she does continue to live with us in spirit and influences everything we do. She had a very strong character and was very much loved. We wanted to have a plaque put on the bench in the square and I had wanted to write in Hebrew "Strong and brave - Hazak ve ematz" to the last, as that was what she always told me to be, and what she had always been and what I guess her dad had always told her to be as a child rescued from the holocaust. But unfortunately, it had to come through the council & never actually materialised but maybe with all this terrible war happening now in the Middle East, maybe that was fortuitous, as it might anyway have been vandalised having the sentence in Hebrew on it.

As far as travel goes, we had a very busy year, with lots of new clients and many older clients rebooking.

A few events remain in our mind the most from all the travel we put together this year. The first being a family safari we organised through Explore. The clients had wanted to use their Avios for their flights and although at the time we had tried to persuade them to book the flights as offered as the package as that is always a lot safer in these eventualities, they decided to use their Avios. But these flights actually on the night were severely delayed and because the luggage hadn't been checked through as the carriers were disparate, the clients missed their connecting flight! We were up until the early hours of the morning tracking their flights and trying to salvage their safari with our other colleagues in the emergency department, which thankfully we managed to do and although they had to stay overnight in Johannesburg, they only missed one game drive and had a great time.

Another trip that I remember well was when we went to Ireland for a short break and just before we went, we had brought flights for some long-standing clients of ours from Dubrovnik to London. They had originally brought the flights back through an online operator, but this operator had cancelled their flights & could not be reached. The clients needed to travel back for work. Sitting in Kinsale Harbour I glanced at my phone on the Monday afternoon and to my horror saw that their flights had been rescheduled to 2 days later, which was highly unusual as reschedules are never usually days later! So, we hiked up the hill as fast as our legs could carry us, which isn't very fast! And settled down at our laptops in our little alms house, to see what was happening, We then got in touch with the client who told us they were stuck in Zurich as there had been a serious glitch with the Air traffic control, so we switched on the TV and saw on the news that all the planes all over the world were grounded. We called our suppliers and checked all the other routes back to the UK but nothing worked really & in the end the clients, as advised by us, were helped by the airline who organised accommodation for them and they were home 2 days later. I think, they found it very reassuring that they were always able to reach us, and we could guide them through their predicament as best we could.

Then just this October with the war breaking out between Israel & the Palestinians, we actually had a tailor-made trip booked for a couple, (booked months before) & they were scheduled to depart mid-October. They discussed with us, a lot before they left. whether to cancel or not, but the foreign office had not issued a declaration not to travel to Jordan so they would not have been able to make a claim on their insurance and get their money back. We could have offered to reschedule the land arrangements, but the flights would have been lost completely as the airlines had not cancelled them and would not refund. So, in the end they decided to go and had a really great time. But we monitored their trip all the time and checked the flights daily and would have brought them home anytime the situation may have got precarious. We were in constant contact with them, and I think they were also very reassured to know we had their backs, and they could have just



called or emailed anytime, and we would have got them home. In the end Easy Jet suddenly cancelled their return flight, but we were able to get them another flight back to Heathrow which I think they preferred anyway, and they chose to have an extra night at a lovely beach resort outside Aqaba in Tala Bay.

So, as well as all kind of holidays happening all year, we managed many other small glitches and triumphs. Right now, are tidying up the office, have finished the Christmas window display and have also finished planting all the bulbs in the square, ready for the Spring. I am sure that is what my mum would have expected of us & was also with us, in our thoughts, all the time we were busy doing it. Let's hope she will have a word with our local squirrel and tell him not to dig them up!

WIZ TALES: ICELAND - Fagradalsfjall volcano

Teresa Read

As I write this the Fagradalsfjall volcano in Iceland is expected to erupt at any time; the volcano came to life in remote Icelandic valleys in March 2021.



The nearby town of Grindavik has been evacuated and thousands of residents are waiting for an eruption that is said may burn for centuries. However, residents have since been allowed - one member per household - to rescue pets and any horses and sheep they own.

The Republic of Iceland is an island in the North Atlantic Ocean in Northern Europe; it is on a geological fault line.

On 14th April 2010 the glacier covered volcano Eyjafjallajokul erupted in its first major eruption since 1821. A cloud of volcanic ash spread across Europe grounding airline flights throughout the continent and causing chaos for travellers and airlines for several months.

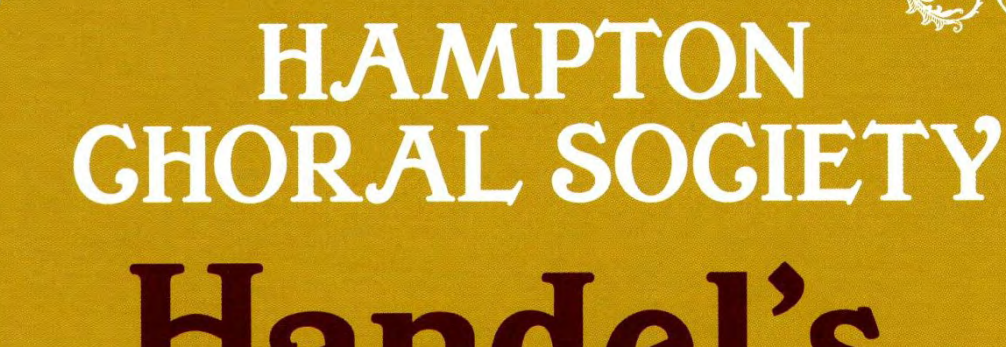


Norsemen landing in Iceland



Map of Iceland

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



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Diwali...is it only for Hindus?

By Deep Patel



This month the world will celebrate Diwali and in my Newsagents, many customers have been asking me what it's really all about...most people know the famous line "it's the festival of lights" but what does that even mean? Well on Diwali, the Hindu God Lord Rama arrived back home triumphant from his battle with the almighty demon Ravana. As he arrived to his home town, the locals lit oil lamps and placed them outside their front doors to welcome him home to symbolise light overcoming dark, and good overcoming evil...this is why we light oil lamps today and leave them at my shop doorstep at Diwali too.

Diwali has been a significant topic of local interest spurring on many conversations with customers in my shop this month. People will see red "swastikas" drawn at the doors of many Hindu households across Twickenham, I draw them at the door of the shop too and many customers ask me why... the Swastika symbol was used during the war in Germany to mean something quite the opposite of what it actually is. The Swastika is actually a symbol of peace, divine-wealth and prosperity. We draw them at Diwali to welcome God's blessings into our homes.

You don't have to be Hindu to benefit from this festival. Diwali teaches us that there can be no life without struggles, but for those who persevere, with good intent and faith whilst performing acts of kindness without expectation, good karma will come back and things will get better...because no matter how long and dark a night may seem...the sun always rises again each morning...in a nut shell...that is what Diwali is all about...it reminds us that no matter how bad something may look, we can always make it good again somehow...

I will pray for every customer that I see in hope that this Diwali is truly blessed with love, prosperity...and light.

Remember...

"Change the way you THINK and you will change the way you LIVE..."

CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

STOP ANY INSECT KINDLY (GOOD KARMA):

Sprinkle pure essential peppermint oil, Olbas oil, fine black pepper or white vinegar around places where you don't want them to come (but NOT directly on them)...they will go without you having to harm them. For ANY specific tip to stop any "pest" or insect KINDLY (for good karma/blessings), email me: thedeepatel@gmail.com or join my Facebook group: "INSECT LOVERS"

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TUESDAY

11.00 AM - 12.00PM NOBLE GREEN WINES, HAMPTON HILL
FOOD SURPLUS HUB

WEDNESDAY

11.30AM - 1.30 PM ETNA, EAST TWICKENHAM
COMMUNITY CAFE & FOOD SURPLUS HUB

11.30AM - 1.30PM CAMBRIAN COMMUNITY CENTER, RICHMOND
COMMUNITY CAFE

THURSDAY

11.30AM - 1.30PM LINDEN HALL, HAMPTON
TAKEAWAY CAFE & FOOD SURPLUS HUB

FRIDAY

1.30AM - 1.30PM ETNA, EAST TWICKENHAM
COMMUNITY CAFE & FOOD SURPLUS HUB

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Amadeus

by Peter Schaffer

Putney Theatre Company at Putney Arts Theatre until 18th November

Amadeus ostensibly tells the story of Mozart's final years in Vienna, but the play belongs to the resentful Salieri, the sweet-toothed court composer and devout Catholic who, appalled at Mozart's immature and coarse behaviour, vows to destroy him to spite God. Thanks to director Ian Higham, its three enjoyable hours fly by.

Salieri is played by Paul Dineen in a virtuoso performance that sees him move, with a splendid wink, between old age and a youthful thirty-four. Nathan Chatelier's mercurial Mozart provides a brilliant foil to the respectable and authoritative Salieri. Mozart has the potential to be a somewhat irritating character, and Chatelier walks that tightrope carefully, retaining the audience's sympathy even at his most grotesque.



The secret war that [Salieri](#) wages against his rival centres on the favour of Joseph II, Emperor of Austria. Played here with cheerful panache by Govind Hodgson, Joseph remains entertainingly oblivious to the swirling court intrigues. The Venticelli act as a chorus to relate gossip and Joe Bradley and Alberto Lais' effortlessly suave duo entertain even when delivering the most tragic tidings.

Emily McCormick gives an arresting performance as Constanze, Mozart's wife, who becomes aware of Salieri's ill intentions after he disastrously attempts to seduce her. The pragmatic [Constanze](#) is a breath of fresh air every time she makes an entrance, under-cutting the male rivalry that dominates the play.

A talented ensemble fills out the rest of the cast, with Ally Dixon particularly prominent as the musical prodigy Katherina Cavalieri.

The drama plays out against a stark set, designed by Higham, which features two proscenium arches and a wonderfully detailed floor, a piano and a harpsichord, is remarkably versatile thanks to Martin Jessop's colourful lighting. Simon Crump's myriad costumes are a constant delight.

Salieri's mixture of seething jealousy and awestruck admiration is a potent mix that makes for powerful scenes throughout *Amadeus*, which like Mozart's music, has passed the test of time, and surely will thrive for as long its productions maintain PTC's high standards.

Read Andrew Lawston's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/11/15/amadeus-ptc

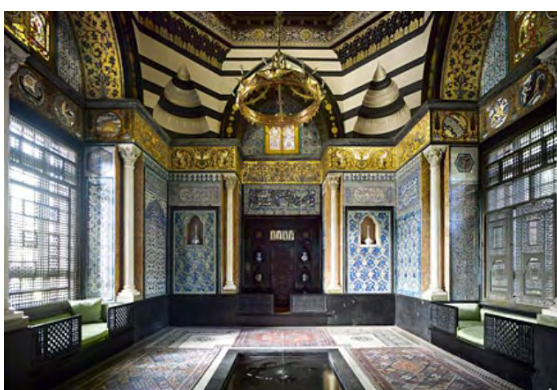
Photography courtesy of PTC



Schubertiade

by Franz Schubert, librettists Wilhelm Müller, Wolfgang von Goethe and others
Rose Opera at Leighton House, Kensington

Pedants might say that this high camp Victorian setting of Leighton House, former studio and residence of the cosmopolitan Lord Leighton, anachronistically isn't a perfect fit for Schubert. But Leighton House is well worth a visit, both for the sensational Arab Hall, with its indoor fountain and glorious blue tiles, and also for the many works by Leighton. His sculptured men (such as *Athlete struggling with a Python*) and objectified women (such as *Flaming June* or the voluptuous nymphs in the *Garden of the Hesperides*) still carry a strong charge.



Holding this recital of Schubert's best-known songs at an (albeit unusual) house gave the evening an intimacy and informality that brought us closer to the original *Schubertiades*: informal gatherings by wealthy patrons in private homes.

This *Schubertiade* began a little tentatively with a score-bound performance of some songs from *Die Schöne Müllerin* from tenor David Menezes. Mezzo Lorna Perry launched her set with *Heidenröslein (Wild Rose)* a song with a deep Freudian undercurrent about a boy plucking a rose that pricked him. She used a real red rose as a prop, which brought the song wonderfully to life.

Tamara Ravenhill thrilled the audience with her two songs in Italian. She has a formidably large and supple voice that made light of the technical challenges of *La Pastorella* and the hysteria of *Vedi, quanto adoro anchora*.

The marvellous *Shepherd on the Rock* has a wonderful additional part for clarinet (Sheena Balmain). Zöe Jackson had no difficulty with the formidable coloratura challenges, which showed her lovely voice off to advantage. It was a shame that the final fast section somehow didn't quite take off, inhibited by an understandable element of caution. But it was still a joy to hear.



Rose Opera's *Schubertiade* made a delightful evening. This talented company - not least their fluently chameleon accompanist Matthew Rickard - have what it takes to produce their full *Tosca* with orchestra, next May.

Read Patrick Shorrock's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/11/11/schubertiade

Photography by Joshua Janesson and Rose Opera

King Lear

by William Shakespeare

Fiery Angel and Kenneth Branagh at Wyndham's Theatre, West End until 9th December

Welcome to the Stone Age. A circle of standing stones, a dilapidated Stonehenge, rings the stage. Above hangs a massive glossy toroid, a 3D screen for changing projections and lighting. It resembles the iris of a titanic eyeball, the pitch-black pupil in its central void an all-seeing organ of a Neolithic atavistic deity.



In Kenneth Branagh's *King Lear*, anachronisms abound.



Doc Martins, steel buckles, paper letters ... in the Stone Age? Everyone is armed with a willow stave. A lot of time is spent by everyone thwacking everyone else with sticks, with scarily vicious bouts. The staves are used in energetically dances, ferocious hakas, in which the stage floor also gets a sound thwacking. Staves, sticks, stomping and smacking, and soundscape, make a lot of noise: it is difficult to hear actors' opening words.

The eponymous role of Lear is, undoubtedly, amongst the greatest in Shakespeare's genius canon of plays. It has been tackled throughout the centuries by the greatest actors, Burbage, Garrick, Keen, Irving, Wolfit, Olivier. Now it is

Sir Kenneth Branagh's turn. Yet Branagh seems to be trying out all of his predecessors' styles, declamatory, realistic, intense.



Branagh, is lauded, awarded and knighted, but the rest of the cast are mainly recent graduates of RADA, but as a contrast of freshness against experience, it works well in showcasing new talent.

This production of *King Lear* has been severely cut, but the bladder-bursting interval-less two hours seem long. This is in spite of the breakneck pace the Branagh pushes the action, which alas does not allow the plot to breathe and develop credibly. Branagh also directs, the schizoid position looking into and out of the picture at the same time. *King Lear*, lacks a coherence. It's a jigsaw with gorgeous pieces, but they don't fit together. The effect is awkward.

Nevertheless, go to see Branagh's masterclass of stylistic acting, to see a wide showcase of emerging creative talent; and go for the sculptural spectacle.

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/11/03/k-lear-branagh

Photography by Johan Persson

Love Letters

by A J Gurney

OHADS at the Coward Studio, Hampton Hill Theatre

A Pulitzer Prize finalist, *Love Letters* centres on two characters, Melissa Gardner and Andrew Makepeace Ladd III who sit side by side at a table and read out aloud the story of their lives through correspondence with each other over a period of some fifty years. We follow their hopes and ambitions, their dreams and disappointments, over a lifetime of (mostly) separate lives. Surely, this should be a radio play?



No! Firstly, the writing is sharp and witty, as we follow two very different people in Melissa and Andy. The exclusive intellectual world of East Coast USA and prestigious institutions such as Yale, is seen through the eyes of Melissa, rich, flighty and artistic, and Andy, solid, dependable and dutiful. The first half is a fascinating exchange of male-female adolescent fantasises and a world of Chesterfield cigarettes and Parker 51 pens. In the second half we see their adult development and Melissa's fall into alcoholism and divorce and Andy's rise through the Navy, excelling in a law firm, and finally becoming a US Senator.



To bring these letters to life, and to make them believable, requires versatile, engaging and confident actors. Dorothy Duffy lights the stage with her portrait of Melissa, the girl "dancing on the edge of an abyss". We share her adolescent aspirations and we share her subsequent pains. As Andy, Michael Andrew truly captures the "nice guy", aspirational and solid, earnest yet dull. Both actors effectively encapsulate each character's personality with subtleties of emotion and irony.

At the helm, director Harry Medawar, himself [no stranger to quirky plays](#), pulls off the almost impossible feat of making the reading out correspondence sound more like conversation, imposing the tones, inflections and nuances of speech. It looks effortless.

***Love Letters* is a tender, tragic-comic exploration of the shared nostalgia, missed opportunities, and deep closeness of two lifelong and complicated friends. It is beautifully observed, wonderfully acted and slickly directed.** Its ending leaves a lump in the throat.

Read Steve Mackrell's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/11/04/love-letters

Photography courtesy of OHADS

A WEE DRAM FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

The RICHMOND SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY
at the MARY WALLACE THEATRE
the Embankment, TWICKENHAM, TW1 3DU

The cheery clink of many whisky bottles enlivens rehearsals of our comedy for the Festive Season - The All-Female Pallas Players Present WHISKY GALORE by Compton Mackenzie.

Adapted for the stage by Philip Goulding, this well-loved tale mirrors the true-life story of the inhabitants of a remote Scottish island, starved of supplies of "the golden dram" during WW2.

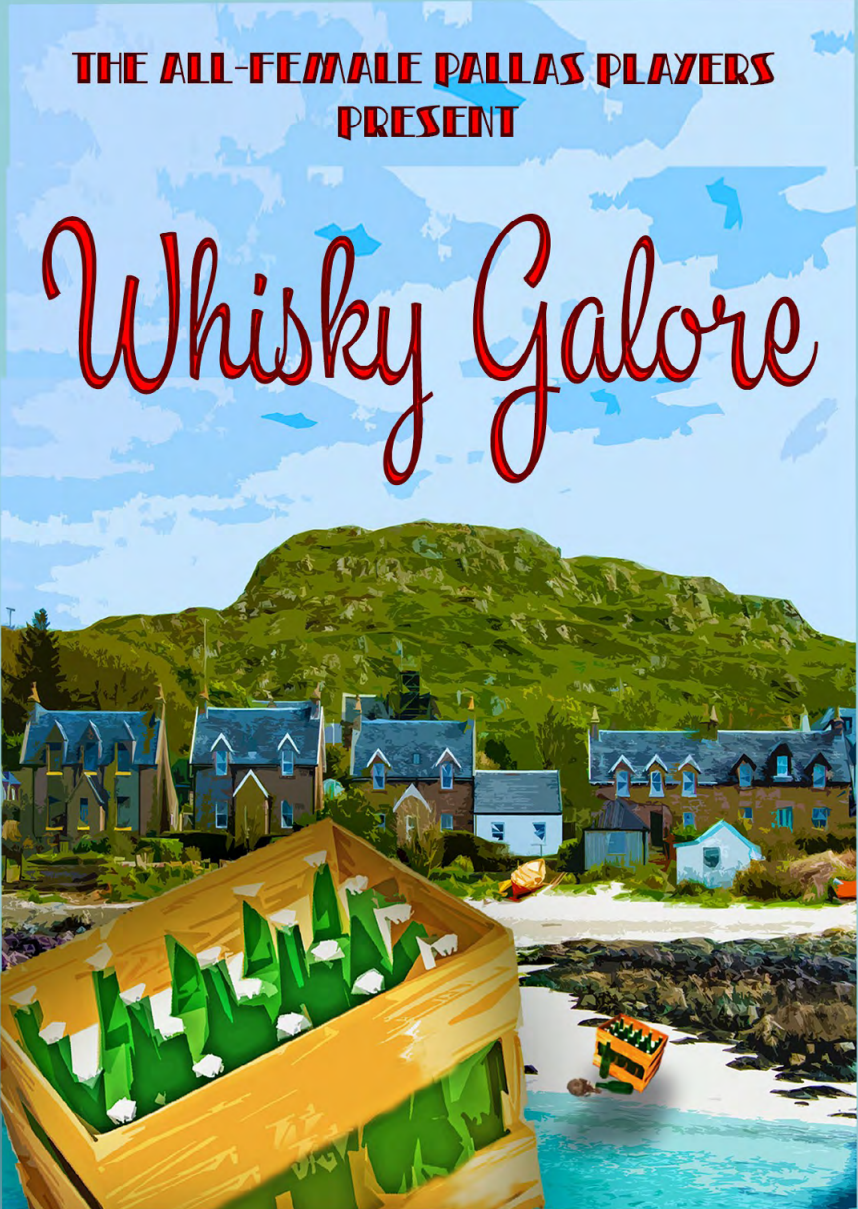
When Providence intervened by grounding a vessel carrying thousands of crates of whisky within sight of the shore, the islanders naturally regarded it as an opportunity too good to miss.

"Liberating" such bonded goods was, of course, illegal and the inhabitants' hilarious attempts to conceal their booty from the police and customs officers provide an evening of matchless comedy.

Rehearsing now, opening on December 9th our "Whisky Galore", like free spirits, is a treat too good to miss.

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Come and play at Orleans House Gallery's new exhibition

From 18 November, Orleans House Gallery will transform into an extraordinary playground, filled with swathes of organza, dozens of multi-coloured objects and an assortment of masks and costumes.



Play Works is a hands-on experience celebrating the endless possibilities of play that has been created by Turner Prize winning art and architecture collective Assemble and Assemble Play.

Come along to the launch weekend, taking place on 18 and 19 November. Play Works is free and suitable for children of all ages. Join in the adventure on Tuesdays to Sundays, from 10am to 5pm.

[Book your tickets](#)

Objects from the Richmond Borough Art Collection will also be on show, curated and reimagined by local school children. There will also be screenings of *The Voice of Children*, an on-going research project exploring play in cities around the world.

The Stables Café will be open, serving delicious drinks and snacks.

If your children still have energy left over, don't forget that they can run around in our gardens or woods.

Find out more information about [Play Works](#).





BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

“We have been made aware of several planned demonstrations due to take place on Saturday 18 November across railway stations in London.

We fully respect the rights of people to protest lawfully but where we believe this could cause serious disruption to the railway services, we must act.

Due to the significant disruption we feel these demonstrations may cause to the rail network and the safety of the public, we have obtained consent to utilise powers under Section 14a of the Public Order Act 1986 which enables police to make an order prohibiting a trespassory assembly. Section 14a orders will be in place for the following stations between the hours of 10am and 11pm:

- Waterloo
- Charing Cross
- Kings Cross
- London Bridge
- Euston
- Liverpool Street
- Marylebone
- Paddington
- Victoria
- St Pancras

To organise or to take part in an assembly during the prohibition commits an offence.”

Assistant Chief Constable, Sean O’Callaghan

Richmond Furniture Scheme puts the freeze on sending appliances to landfill

Richmond Furniture Scheme are now selling refurbished appliances, including fridges, washing machines and cookers.

They have partnered with Wandsworth refurbishment and reuse scheme, Rework, to provide a range of white goods which have all been deep cleaned, refurbished, and exhaustively tested to ensure they meet Environment Agency standards.

The new venture now means the store has a one-stop-shop for furniture and appliances at affordable prices for people who need them. They are also extending reuse remits by saving appliances from the scrap yard.

An estimated 50,000 households in the UK are living without a washing machine or fridge freezer.

Richmond Furniture Scheme's Chief Executive, Simon Westgarth, has seen first hand how hard it can be. He said: "Appliances are essential for most households and have a huge impact on quality of life. I've seen families with



young children who have a broken cooker and no washing machine. How they coped without these items is beyond me.

"It's been an ambition of mine to be able to provide affordable white goods for our local community and Rework has provided us with an opportunity to be able to do this in a cost effective, high quality way."

Prices are kept low, include a 12 month warranty and start from as little as £106 for a standard condition tumble drier. You can [buy online](#) or come along to the Twickenham warehouse.

People can also apply for a grant to spend at Richmond Furniture Scheme. There is also a 25% discount to people on certain benefits, NHS workers, care leavers, carers, and students. For more information, please visit [the scheme's website](#).

Playwriting Workshop Kicks Off National Theatre Competition for Performing Arts Students

Last week, 1st year, Level 2 and 3 Performing Arts students participated in a 2-hour creative workshop with professional playwright, Martin Murphy, which was part of RuTC's involvement in the [New Views](#) playwriting programme run by the [National Theatre](#). This is a yearlong programme for students, where each school or college is paired with a professional playwright who supports them in writing their own original 30-minute play which then get entered into a nationwide competition.

RuTC has participated in the *New Views* programme for the past two years and has previously achieved great success. In 2021 student, Loresa Leka, came runner up in the competition and had her play, [‘Teapot Troubles’](#), performed at a rehearsed reading at the *National Theatre* and then turned into a radio play performed by professional actors. A fantastic achievement for the young writer and actress!



In the initial workshop with Martin, students learned about his work and experience in the performing industry, they then joined in with a variety of exercises and writing practices. They were also able to ask him questions and advice to help aid their playwriting. Martin will be coming back to coach the students 1-1 for the competition, before their plays get sent to a panel of professional playwrights for judging.

Feedback from our students concluded that the workshop went very well, one remarked that, *“It was a very informative experience which enhanced our learning and gave us different channels to think about for our writing. Martin showed us how important details are and broadened our horizons about how to approach our writing task for the New Views competition.”*

Tutor, Jane Swift, who organised the workshop commented,

“Students need to be entrepreneurial, which is why we expose them to different avenues within the industry, not just acting. This competition allows students a voice and to write about anything they want from the world they live in.”

Good luck to all of the students involved!

[Learn more about our Performing Arts courses and how to apply for 2024 here.](#)



Remembrance 2023: Royal Star & Garter veterans attend services at the Cenotaph and at Homes

Services took place in each of the charity's Homes, in Solihull, Surbiton and High Wycombe, while a small number of veterans attended the National Service at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, 12 November.

Royal Star & Garter provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their partners living with disability or dementia, and also has services reaching out into the community.

Remembrance Services were held at the charity's Solihull and Surbiton Homes on Friday, 10 November, while the service in High Wycombe Home took place on Armistice Day, Saturday, 11 November.

Veterans and staff members from the Surbiton and High Wycombe Homes attended the Cenotaph service on Remembrance Sunday, along with Governors and Directors from the charity.

In Solihull, residents laid wreaths, while bugler Peter Tonks played the Last Post and Reveille. Among the guests present was Elaine Butler, President of the Warwickshire & Birmingham County Royal British Legion, and Squadron Leader Dave Kerrison from RAF Cosford. Some residents also attended a service at the War Memorial outside St Alphege's Church.

In Surbiton, guests included Cllr Diane White, the Mayor of Kingston, Royal Air Force Cadets from 1034 (Surbiton & Esher Squadron), and bugler Vic Gilder, an Irish Guards veteran. Kingston Mayor Cllr White said: "It was a privilege to be among such lovely company at this important time." The charity's Partnerships Manager, Halani Foulsham, laid a Royal Star & Garter wreath at a service in Kingston on Sunday. Also attending was Stephen Vause, an Army veteran who suffered severe injuries in Iraq, and is cared for at Royal Star & Garter in Surbiton. On Sunday afternoon, singing duo The D-Day Dollies performed a string of wartime favourites from the 1940s for residents at the Home.

The service at High Wycombe also included a bugler, and a two-minute silence at 11am. Wreaths were laid by residents at the Home.

Among the residents attending the Cenotaph service in London was Bob Sewell, who served in the Army's Catering Corps from 1954-60. He said: "I've watched the Cenotaph service on TV for many years, so it was wonderful to experience it first-hand, with other veterans from Royal Star & Garter and elsewhere. I'll never forget it."

During the build-up to Remembrance, events and activities took place in Royal Star & Garter's Homes. One in High Wycombe was a concert with singer Fiona Harrison. Poppy-making and arts & crafts activities also took place in the Homes.

This year Royal Star & Garter's Remembrance campaign highlighted the benefits its care has on relationships between residents and their relatives.

Royal Star & Garter is welcoming new residents to its Homes. For more information on this, new services including Lunch Club, Telephone Friendship Service and Day Care, or to work for the charity, go to www.starandgarter.org



**Royal Star
& Garter**

Care with courage

Highlights, report and reaction: Liverpool 3 Brentford 0

Mohamed Salah and Diogo Jota on target as Brentford fall to a first defeat in four Premier League matches against Liverpool

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford were beaten 3-0 by Liverpool at Anfield, as Mohamed Salah's brace was added to by a second-half strike from Diogo Jota.

Despite carving out plenty of chances of their own, the Bees were unable to keep out Salah's close-range finish and then a back-post header either side of half-time.

Jota then scoring a curling effort of his own from just outside the penalty area, as the home side picked up all three points

and consigned Brentford to a first defeat in four Premier League matches.



Salah's strike separates the sides at the interval

Thomas Frank made two changes for the trip to Merseyside, switching from the 4-3-3 used in the [3-2 victory over West Ham United](#) last weekend to a 3-5-2.

Ben Mee and Mads Roerslev came into the starting XI, replacing Frank Onyeka and Neal Maupay.

Brentford had one of the first real chances of the game, when Mee overlapped down the left and crossed into the box. The ball was originally missed by Yoane Wissa and then by Christian Nørgaard, before Ethan Pinnock's half-volley went wide after Nathan Collins failed to divert it in.

The Bees pushed on again inside the first 20 minutes, this time down the right, when Kristoffer Ajer received a ball from Bryan Mbeumo on the counter-attack, after the defender had burst into the penalty area. He managed to squirm the ball across the box but Trent Alexander-Arnold intercepted.

However, a moment of hesitation and lack of communication from Alexander-Arnold saw Mbeumo nick it off him inside the area, but the forward's first-time effort went over the bar.

Liverpool then began to get a grip on the game, and they had the ball in the back of the net twice - only for the assistant referee to deny the Reds on both occasions.

First, Tsimikas won the ball, despite appearing to foul Jensen in the process, and Liverpool launched a counter. Dominik Szoboszlai's original shot was deflected to Salah, who poked it on to Darwin Núñez inside the area.

The centre-forward had plenty of time to calmly slot the ball past Flekken, but his celebrations were cut short by the offside flag. VAR checked it and decided the official had made the correct decision.

Then, Alexander-Arnold's corner was headed towards goal by Virgil van Dijk, which forced a superb save from Flekken. He parried the ball off the line and into the air, as Matip followed it up, before Núñez's spectacular overhead kick hit the back of the net.

The assistant, again, flagged him offside, preventing the Uruguayan from getting on the scoresheet for the second time.

Brentford's best chance of the half came when Jensen played a typical pinpoint ball over the top into Mbeumo, who found himself one-on-one with Alisson, with Alexander-Arnold harrying him from behind after frantically chasing back.

Mbeumo tried to delicately lift it over the keeper, but it was kept out and cleared by the recovering defender.

Liverpool made it 1-0 soon after. A slick move by the Reds was started by Dominik Szoboszlai, who played a great ball into Núñez's feet, before the striker laid on a lovely pass to Salah. The winger charged into the box and curled an effort beyond Flekken and into the bottom corner.

Liverpool had two chances to double their lead in first-half stoppage-time. Alexander-Arnold played a sumptuous pass over the top of the defence, which evaded Mee and found Salah. The Egyptian took a first-time shot but it went flying over the bar.

Moments later, Salah released Núñez who, with his blistering pace, seemed destined to be in on goal. But Collins, chasing back, produced a superb all-or-nothing-tackle to rob the forward and stop the attack.

Endo fortunate to avoid red card as Liverpool add two more goals in the second half

The west Londoners started brightly after the interval and won a set-piece from a promising position. Just outside the area, Jensen and Mbeumo stood over it, and the former's effort had to be tipped over by Alisson.

There was a concerning moment for Jensen's midfield partner, Nørgaard, nine minutes into the second half, when a dangerous tackle from Wataru Endo left visible marks on the Dane's knee. VAR checked to see if they should send the Liverpool man off but, perhaps surprisingly, they said no.

And the 11 men of Liverpool made it 2-0 just after the hour mark. Tsimikas crossed from the left and his delivery found Salah, who nodded in his second goal of the contest.

But the Bees kept pushing and all of Nørgaard, Wissa and Mbeumo would have attempts inside the area, but were all either saved or defended by the Reds backline.

Despite some good work from Frank's men, it was 3-0 as the clock ticked into the 74th minute. Diogo Jota, who already had a half-volley blocked, had another bite at the cherry when he won the ball back 35 yards from goal. He dribbled towards the edge of the area and sent a curling effort, similar to Salah's opener, inside the right post.

Brentford had three chances, all from corners, as the game approached its conclusion.

Nørgaard's flick-on was kept off the line by van Dijk, with Neal Maupay lurking; Ethan Pinnock had a header clawed off the line; and Maupay received another flicked header but, this time, mistimed his shot.

Liverpool: Alisson, Tsimikas, van Dijk, Matip, Alexander-Arnold (Quansah 90), Endo, Szoboszlai (McConnell 90+4), Gakpo (Elliott 83), Núñez, Jota (Diaz 83), Salah

Subs not used: Chambers, Scanlon, Doak, Kelleher, Nyoni

Brentford: Flekken, Roerslev (Ghoddos 73), Mee, Pinnock, Collins, Ajer, Jensen (Yarmoliuk 73) Janelt (Onyeka 46), Nørgaard, Mbeumo, Wissa (Maupay 73)

Subs not used: Zanka, Strakosha, Peart-Harris, Baptiste, Olakigbe

Frank: I loved our ambition and mentality despite defeat

Thomas Frank was pleased with large parts of Brentford's performance on Sunday.

But the Bees boss highlighted their execution of the 'big moments' as an area they were lacking on Merseyside.

"Today, in many ways, was a good performance," he said.

"I was pleased with so many things. I loved the approach and the mentality of the team - we went to Anfield with an ambition and a belief that we could get something.

"We were brave, we were aggressive, we pressed high, we created chances - we have never created that many chances here at Anfield.

"We had never given that few away too, of course they had chances, but we still kept them at bay okay here. So, in that way, it was a good performance.

"What lacked was the big moments; we didn't take the big moments today, in our chances and especially in their second and third goal."



Billions of investment for British manufacturing to boost economic growth

Manufacturing stakeholders react to the £4.5 billion in funding announced today for British manufacturing to increase investment in eight sectors across the UK

Kevin Craven, Chief Executive, ADS Group said:

“On behalf of industry, ADS is very pleased to welcome the measures announced by the UK Government to support UK aerospace, re-affirming long-term backing for our world-leading advanced manufacturing sector.

The UK’s aerospace, defence, security, and space sectors are powerhouses of growth, hubs of ground-breaking innovation, and pioneers of the UK’s advanced manufacturing capability.

“Set against a backdrop of increasing global competition, the continued commitment towards aerospace R&D is significant and will provide a boost to continued investment in innovation and advanced manufacturing in the UK. This is a very timely intervention given the growing pace of aerospace recovery, huge aircraft order backlog and industries’ continued commitment to net zero.”

John Harrison, Chairman, Airbus UK and General Counsel, Airbus said:

“Airbus welcomes the funding earmarked for aerospace and advanced manufacturing which offers greater certainty for long-term investment in sustainable aviation and highly skilled jobs here in the UK. This is positive for the UK economy both in terms of R&D investment today, as well as securing future growth”

Mike Hawes, Chief Executive, The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) said:

“Today’s announcement is an unequivocal vote of confidence in the UK’s critical automotive industry. Coming on the back of almost £20 billion committed by the sector in next generation plants and technologies this year alone, it is indicative of the scale of investment such support can leverage and the result of substantial collaboration between Government and the industry.

“This additional Government investment reflects the fact the UK automotive sector has the talent, the innovation and the determination necessary to thrive in the face of fierce global competition. It will deliver benefits not just for the automotive sector but for the whole country in terms of growth, high value jobs and productivity. It also sends a powerful signal that the UK is open for business.”

Richard Torbett, Chief Executive, the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) said:

“We’ve long believed that the UK’s has the potential to be a world leader in advanced and sustainable medicines manufacturing. This £520 million will supercharge UK life sciences manufacturing, combatting the increasing international competition to attract major manufacturing investment.

Added to our existing strengths and technical expertise in manufacturing innovation, today's announcement is a major step forward in delivering on our shared ambitions for long term growth."

Dan McGrail, Chief Executive, RenewableUK's said:

"At a time when international competition for investment in clean technology manufacturing is fierce, the Chancellor is right to take a more proactive approach to stimulate green industrial growth. The UK's leadership in areas like offshore wind has given us a strong foundation to build on, with supply chain companies already in place across the country employing thousands of workers.

But with the global market set to skyrocket in the years ahead, we should be looking to capture as much of this multi-billion pound opportunity as we can through a more strategic approach to building the UK's manufacturing base.

"The Chancellor has been clear that the Green Industries Growth Accelerator is for strategic industries, targeted to unlock maximum private investment where the UK can be competitive – and there couldn't be a better fit for that than offshore wind and renewables. With the right support, the likes of which we've seen from Government today, industry estimates that the offshore wind supply chain alone could boost the UK's economy by £92bn by 2040.

The sector is working to develop an Industrial Growth Plan which will set out how we can capture this opportunity to boost our energy security, grow our domestic supply chain and provide affordable power to consumers".

Brian Holliday, managing director at Siemens Digital Industries UK, and co-chair of Made Smarter, said:

"Today's announcement clearly says that UK manufacturing matters. It represents a tremendous investment boost for our makers that will enable the confidence to invest in innovation, productivity and sustainability.

Key sectors benefit but so does the long tail of small and medium firms which is really important to directly address our recent challenges of weak overall productivity and investment.

The business benefits of digitalisation are now clear, while being an enabler for industrial decarbonisation too - the package of measures announced in bolstering Made Smarter, targeted regulatory reform and sector support, along with our world-class Catapults and Universities now makes the UK one of the best countries on the planet to sustainably design, make and export goods."



HM Treasury

NHS expands use of secure COVID-19 research platform to help find new treatments for major killer conditions

The NHS is to expand the use of a research platform behind the roll-out of new Covid-19 treatments to help drive life-saving advances for other major diseases.

With the support of GPs and academic researchers, the NHS is widening the use of the service to allow scientists to securely analyse data in GP systems – without seeing patient-identifiable information – in a plan which could lead to the discovery of new treatments for other major conditions such as cancer, diabetes and asthma.

Access to this data will help researchers understand more about medicines, treatments and patient outcomes, which could support better clinical practice and provide crucial evidence on the most effective prescribing.

During the pandemic, academic researchers used anonymised NHS data to help identify new treatments for Covid-19 and understand how best to keep communities safe. Data analysis also helped the NHS to prioritise care to the most vulnerable people, and to develop vaccines against the virus.

One of the key systems used to deliver these insights was NHS England's OpenSAFELY service, developed in collaboration with the Bennett Institute for Applied Data Science at the University of Oxford.

OpenSAFELY – which has so far enabled over 150 research projects from 22 different organisations – played a crucial role during the pandemic, helping researchers to understand which patients were most at risk from the virus, evaluate the effectiveness of vaccines, monitor which patients were receiving new Covid-19 treatments, and understand changes in patient care during and after the pandemic.

The NHS will now carefully test which types of research the service could support beyond Covid-19, following feedback from academic researchers, patients, and medical professionals.

OpenSAFELY is designed to keep patient data confidential and secure, and the de-identified data does not leave the platform at any stage.

Researchers write the code for their analyses without directly accessing patient data, and their queries are then submitted for automatic analysis against patient records inside a secure setting that no researcher ever needs to access. Only anonymised results are released from the platform, following output checks.

OpenSAFELY will be open to new research applicants as soon as possible in 2024.

The expansion of OpenSAFELY builds on a wider programme already outlined in the government's Data Saves Lives strategy to improve health and care using data, involving several platforms through which data for research is accessed. NHS England will continue to explore a range of solutions to support safe access to data for life-saving research.

The public will have an opportunity to find out more about these programmes and have their say at a series of engagement events starting next year to gather views on digital and data transformation in the NHS.

It will also allow the health and care system to meet its commitments in the Data Strategy to develop products with the involvement of the public.

NHS National Medical Director for Transformation Dr Vin Diwakar said: “The data held by the NHS is globally unique and as we saw during the pandemic, this approach enables researchers to benefit from that valuable resource, whilst keeping the data secure, safe and private.

“Expanding this service will unlock the power of patient data to help drive life-saving treatment breakthroughs to help people with a range of conditions and illnesses.”

Health and Social Care Secretary Victoria Atkins said: “Our NHS is at the forefront of life-saving medical research, and services like this will help drive future breakthroughs that deliver the best outcomes for patients. It played a vital role during the pandemic, helping us to identify which people were most at risk of the virus and determine the effectiveness of vaccines.

“I am determined that we now build on this progress. By using patient data while protecting their privacy, we will be able to support people with a range of conditions including cancer, diabetes and asthma – encouraging innovation and life-saving research.”

Professor Ben Goldacre, Director of the Bennett Institute for Applied Data Science, said: “OpenSAFELY has shown that it’s possible to address privacy concerns, and also deliver research outputs at scale, in collaboration with our diverse community of analyst users across the country. We are excited to be working ever more closely with NHS England on this important service.”

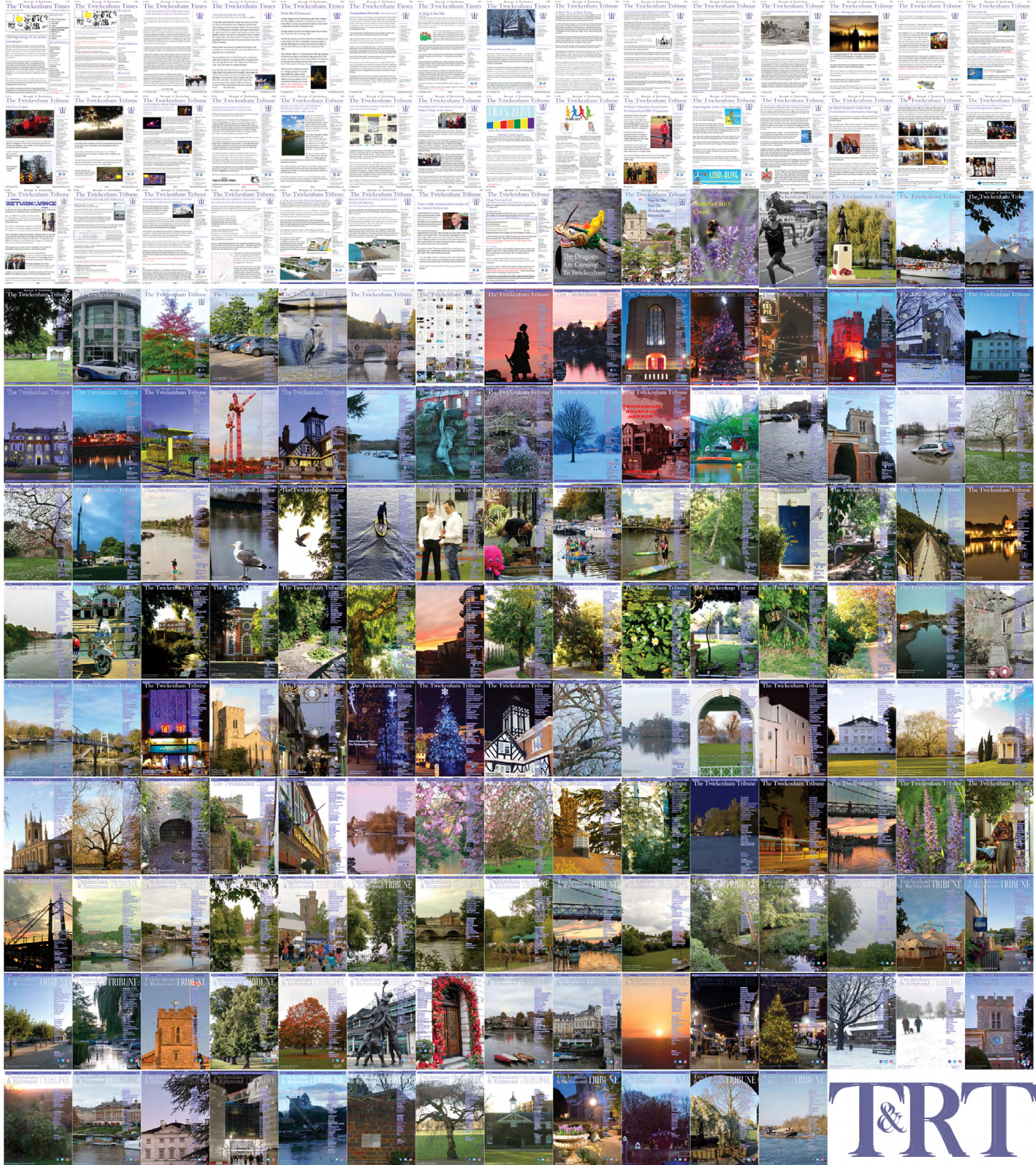
Drs Mark Coley, Paul Atkinson and Imran Khan, co-chairs and vice-chair of the BMA and RCGP’s Joint GP IT Committee, said: “The Committee has witnessed how the OpenSAFELY platform, and the services run by the OpenSAFELY team, have matured to become a valuable component of NHS analysis infrastructure, with associated benefits for patients and the NHS, whilst supporting patient privacy and transparency of research . The Committee therefore supports the use of the OpenSAFELY service to extend to approved research analyses beyond Covid-19.”

Professor Laurie Tomlinson, from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said: “As a clinician who has worked with Electronic Health Record data for many years, it has been frustrating to see that the potential of NHS patient data to improve care and health service delivery has been largely untapped. OpenSAFELY is a transformative approach to patient data, enabling rapid, large-scale research to provide answers to critically important research questions, while protecting patient privacy. I am absolutely delighted that it has become part of the national infrastructure for the secure use of patient records to improve healthcare.”

Seb Bacon, Chief Technical Officer of the Bennett Institute for Applied Data Science, said: “The OpenSAFELY platform is a groundbreaking framework for reproducible, safe, open science. NHS England’s commitment to the software and service will support its continued growth, and expand its relevance for the wider open science community.”



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