

Secret Richmond

Rock Aristocracy

The Explorers

Richmond's
Secrets

Norman's Quiz

Secret Things to
do in the Borough

Full of Life Fair

New Almshouse
Developments



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Welcome to our New Resident

We offer a warm welcome to our new resident:

Veronica Read

Farewell

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to:

Mona Dunning who has moved into a care home

Robert Kitching who has moved into alternative accommodation

Chapel Schedule: October 2023

Sunday 1st October	10.30am Communion with hymns, <i>President and Preacher: Revd Lesley Perry</i> 5.30pm No evening service
Sunday 8th October	10.30am Communion with hymns. <i>Preacher: Revd Elisabeth Morse</i> Festival of St Francis of Assisi 5.30pm Songs of Praise – The Life and Hymns of St. Francis
Sunday 15th October	10.30am Communion with hymns 5.30pm Café Church
Sunday 22nd October	10.30am Communion with hymns. 5.30pm Evening Prayer
Sunday 29th October	10.30am Service of Healing and Wholeness. (Clocks go back!) 4.30pm Worship & Meditation
All are welcome to join us. For more information email d.thompson@richmondcharities.org.uk	Morning Prayer on Tuesdays at 10am Evening Prayer on Thursdays at 4.30pm

Editorial Committee: Juliet Ames-Lewis, Lorraine Bradley, Debbie Flaherty, Chantal Richards, Derrick Thompson, Gennie Thompson & Mike Townsin.
Magazine Design: Chantal Richards

Competition Winner

Thank you to everyone who sent in entries for the *Spot The Difference* competition in September. Picked at random, our winner this month is:

Heather Warman

Congratulations!

Answers from last month's competition are on page 27

Contribute to our Next Issue

If you would like to contribute an article for the next issue, the deadline is: **Friday 20th October.**

Give the article to your Scheme Manager, or email to c.richards@richmondcharities.org.uk

As a guide on word count, a one page article is ideally 340 words.

SAVE THE DATE

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2023

Date: Thursday 14th December

Time: 12.30pm for 1pm start

Location: Richmond Hill Hotel

Our Residents' Christmas Lunch will be held on Thursday 14th December this year. Please save this date in your diaries if you would like to attend. Invitations with menu choices will be going out to all residents in October.



!!! Stop Press !!! Harvest Delivery

by Derrick Thompson

The giant pumpkin has now been cut into four giant wedges and, along with the rest of the Harvest Goodies, taken along to the Vineyard Foodbank who were absolutely delighted with the amount and the quality of the donations. Thank you and well done to all who contributed!



Front Page

Top: The Wick, Crawdaddy Club at One Kew Road, Bernado O'Higgins house.

Middle: Downe House, Crawdaddy Club, Petersham Lodge.

Bottom: 17 The Green - Virginia Woolf's house. Old Friars, Richmond Green - former home of Sir Richard Attenborough. Maids of Honour Row.



This magazine is recyclable. Please feel free to share your magazine with others.

Letter from Derrick



As we have entered the 'season of mellow fruitfulness', the children have returned to school, young adults have started new jobs or gone to university, and the social activities at the Almshouses have re-started after the August rest. Perhaps now is the time to be brave and become a newcomer to some of the activities you have not tried before, there is certainly plenty to choose from!

As a newcomer to the Borough of Richmond one of the things I am enjoying is discovering all the secret little pedestrian passages and paths that link together different roads; they contain all sorts of secret treasures. So far, I have discovered hidden rows of cottages, burial yards, monuments, and wildlife gardens, lots of secret places on secret paths, and I'm sure there is more for me still to discover!

As an historic borough Richmond is full of hidden secrets, hence the theme of this month's Almshouse News: Secret Richmond. For those of you who have lived here a long time you will already know some of Richmond's Secrets; those of us who have lived here for less time will have more to discover. I hope we will all enjoy exploring this issue and will learn some new things about Richmond that we didn't know before.

Best wishes,

Derrick

Secret Richmond: Part One



by Mike Townsin

I would hazard a guess that few of us Richmond residents, even those who have lived here a lifetime, know that Vancouver Island was named by Captain George Vancouver in 1792, during his exploration of the Pacific region, who now lies buried in the churchyard of St Peters in Petersham. Or that Bernardo O'Higgins, liberator of Chile from Spanish rule, lived in a house opposite Michel's, in The Vineyard.

Here, we reveal other people, places and events in Richmond, past and present, that are little known.



Rock Aristocracy

There is a Georgian house on Richmond Hill called The Wick, once owned by Sir John Mills and, later, by Rolling Stone

Ronnie Wood that, in the '60s and '70s, hosted among others Paul McCartney, David Bowie, Greg Allman, Eric Clapton, Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, who at one point lived in Wick Cottage at the end of the garden. Later Mick bought Downe House, once the home of the playwright Sheridan, just along the road, and in 1996 Pete Townshend of The Who bought The Wick from Ronnie and lived there until last year.

On Sunday 24 February 1963, in a hall at the back of 1 Kew Road, then the Station Hotel, the Rolling Stones played their first gig. They swiftly attracted huge crowds, and the hall was christened The Crawdaddy. On 14 April the Beatles came to see the Stones.



The Wick



Crawdaddy Club



Downe House



Wick Cottage

The hotel's owners, horrified at the fuss, banned the club and forced them to move the Crawdaddy to beneath the grandstand at Richmond Athletic Ground. Later, when the Stones moved on, the residency was taken over by Led Zeppelin, Elton John, Rod Stewart and Eric Clapton... among others.

The Explorers



I've mentioned George Vancouver who, whilst staying at the Star and Garter Hotel, awoke the morning after his arrival and looked out of his bedroom window at the view from Richmond Hill and wrote in his memoir, 'In all my travels I have never clapped eyes on a more beautiful spot than this. Here I would live and here I would die'.



But there's another less known English seafarer, but famous in Australia, named Henry Lidgbird Ball, also buried at St. Peters. He commanded HMS Supply, one of eleven ships of the First Fleet, which set sail from Portsmouth on May 13 1787 and founded the first European settlement in Australia. Ball's point in Sydney Harbour is named after him.

Sir Richard Burton's mausoleum in Mortlake

A third explorer, and better known in Britain, is Sir Richard Burton (1821- 90). As a boy his family lived at No.2 Maids of Honour Row, and he went to a school located at the corner of Little Green and Duke Street. He became a soldier, explorer, ethnologist, archaeologist, poet, translator and one of the greatest linguists of his time; he penetrated the sacred cities of Mecca and Medina, disguised as a Muslim pilgrim, and was the first European to explore the forbidden city of Harar in Somaliland, which promised death to any infidel. Like Alexander the Great, Caesar and Napoleon, he sought the source of the white Nile.



Marc Bolan's shrine

Bernado O'Higgins house, in the Vineyard

By the roadside on Barnes Common, near Gypsy Lane, concealed behind an iron crash barrier is a shrine to Marc Bolan, singer in the glam rock band T Rex, one of the biggest stars of the 1970s. It is the site where he died when his purple Mini crashed into a steel fence and hit a sycamore tree. At the time of his death he was living at 142 Upper Richmond Road West, East Sheen.

He died in Trieste in 1890, and his formidable wife, Lady Isobel Burton, created a monument for him at St Mary Magdalene Church cemetery Mortlake. He had once said to her, 'I should like us both to lie in a tent, side by side, so she designed an exotic tomb in the shape of a Bedouin tent featuring a combination of Christian and Islamic symbols.

Did You Know? More Richmond secrets...

Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut was endowed by **Elihu Yale**, a **Richmond resident** who, in 1712, moved into a mansion on Richmond Green, where Portland Terrace now stands.

James Thompson, the author of Rule Britannia, lived in Kew Foot Road, and is also buried at St Mary Magdalene.

In Tudor times grand tournaments were held on **Richmond Green**, in which **Henry VIII** participated, and in the Georgian period there were bull-baiting and prize fights.

Shakespeare and his company regularly performed his plays before Elizabeth 1 at **Richmond Palace**.

In 1964 **John Simons**, a tailor, opened The Ivy Shop at at No. 10 Hill Rise. His Mod look, originally aimed at young businessmen, became a style mecca for Crawdaddy musicians and their fans.

For 40 years **Prince Rupert Loewenstein**,



Lodge
in River Lane

was the mastermind behind the **Rolling Stones** finances, and lived at **Petersham**

The classic car showroom building beside Mortlake station, was built as a waiting room for **Queen Victoria and Prince Albert** while on their way to White Lodge in Richmond Park.

The Royal Barge Gloriana, lead ship in the 2012 Thames Diamond Jubilee pageant, was built at Richmond Bridge Boathouses.



The Royal Observatory in Old Deer Park was home to the Meteorological Office in WWII.

On June 5th 1944, **General Eisenhower** based his decision to go ahead with the D-day landings on their prediction the weather would ease.

At The Railway Tavern in Kew Road, a young **Eric Clapton** played here in The Roosters, with Tom McGuinness, later of Manfred Mann.

Frank Matcham, renowned architect of the London Palladium and Coliseum, designed a new theatre on Little Green which opened in 1899, now known as **Richmond Theatre**. It is a scaled down version of the Theatre Royal Drury Lane.

Edmund Kean, the renowned Victorian actor, lived in Richmond. His last performance at The Theatre Royal, Old Palace Lane, was on 12 March 1833.

He died on 15 May and is buried at St Mary Magdalene Richmond. The theatre was demolished in 1884.



Vincent van Gogh

lived in Isleworth in the 1870s; he preached and ran Sunday schools at various churches, including the Wesleyan Methodist Church, in Petersham.

Maids of Honour tarts, baked to a traditional Richmond puff pastry recipe, are said to have been a favourite of **Henry VIII**. They were sold at the original **Maids of Honour restaurant** established in the early eighteenth century in Hill Street.

An apprentice at the shop went on to open his own premises, and later his son Alfred opened the café on Kew Road, where the tarts are still sold.

George II kept a large flock of turkeys in **Richmond Park** for hunting purposes.

In the sixteenth century, water fit for drinking was supplied to **Richmond Palace** by three wells, known as conduits. The white conduit in Richmond Park still exists. **Conduit Wood** takes its name from it.

When Petersham was under the monks of pre-reformation Chertsey Abbey, it was a place of sanctuary, in which no-one could be arrested.

Secret Things To Do In The Borough



by Gennie Thompson

Dropkick Jonny's Secret Speakeasy:

Have you visited our secret Whiskey & Cocktail speakeasy, hidden above the Tap Tavern — expect fantastic cocktails, hidden curiosities and wonderful whiskey. **Open 5pm – 12am Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, located above the TAP Tavern, TW9 1ED**



Faam Art Gallery: A dynamic and vibrant art space, showcasing a diverse range of contemporary artworks across various media, including painting, sculpture, photography, and mixed media. The gallery's mission is to foster a nurturing environment that promotes artistic expression, supports emerging talents, and engages with the local community. Whether you are a seasoned art connoisseur or a curious admirer, Faam Gallery Whitton is sure to captivate and inspire you with its ever-changing exhibitions and thought-provoking works of art. **Open 9.30am – 5.30pm every day except Sunday. It is located at 131 Percy Road, Whitton, TW2 6HT**

Hampton Inspired Hub: Located in a beautifully renovated historic building, Hampton Inspired Hub offers a refreshing and inspiring environment with an extensive range of clubs and bustling activity calendar. They offer a diverse range of events, many of which are free to attend, from cookery, exercises, to bridge/ scrabble and many more. More information available at **Open every day. Located at Inspired Hub, 3 Ashley Rd, Hampton, TW12 2JA**

HAMPTON INSPIRED HUB
A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

Richmond Vault Beer Cellar and Restaurant: Descend into the historic vaults beneath the town and discover a hidden treasure trove of craft beers, fine wines, and delectable dishes. This underground gem provides a cosy and atmospheric setting for a memorable dining experience. **Open from 12pm daily, located at 5 Hill Street, Richmond.**

Museum of Richmond: This small museum may be tucked away, but it holds a fascinating collection of artifacts and exhibits that tell the story of Richmond's rich history. From ancient relics to more recent history, this museum offers a captivating journey

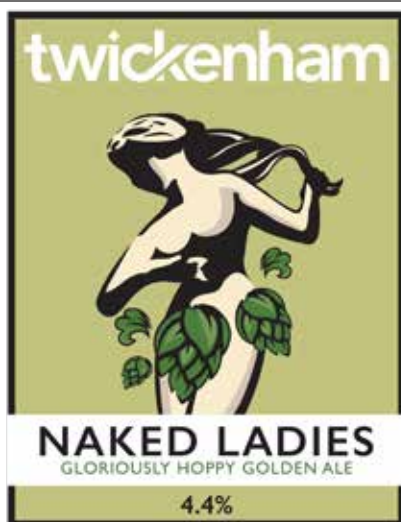


MUSEUM of RICHMOND

through time. In addition to this, they offer a range of exhibitions and events, more info at www.museumofrichmond.com **Open Tuesday – Saturday 11am – 5pm, located on the Second Floor of the Old Town Hall, Whittaker Avenue, Richmond**

Twickenham Fine Ales Brewery:

Beer enthusiasts will appreciate a visit to this microbrewery that's been crafting high-quality ales since 2004. Take a brewery tour, learn about the brewing process, and enjoy a tasting session of their award-winning beers. Also a shop is available online: www.twickenham-fine-ales.co.uk
Located at 18 Mereway Rd, Twickenham TW2 6RG, closes 5pm



Orleans House Gallery: This charming gallery is located in a beautiful 18th-century mansion along the river. It houses a collection of contemporary artworks, including paintings, sculptures, and photography. The gallery also hosts regular exhibitions and workshops.
Orleans Rd, Twickenham TW1 3BL



The Stables Café: a hidden gem hidden nestled within the woodlands of Orleans House gardens, serving delicious foods and great coffee. **Open daily from 10am-5pm with free admission, located at Orleans Rd, Twickenham TW1 3BL**

Incognito Bar, Richmond



By Debbie Flaherty

Incognito Bar
2 Duke Street
Richmond

It is easy not to notice this bar as you walk down Duke Street but once you enter you are in a world of theatrical extravagance, drama and opulence.

There is a weird and wonderful choice of cocktails all served in what they describe as 'a secret drinking den'.

I admit that it is a bit pricey but may be worth popping in for a special occasion or one of those 'why not' moments or what the younger generation call a YOLO moment (you only live once).

You can also take a look at their website as it shows you a sample of their wondrous cocktails but keep it to yourself as it is a SECRET!

For more information, visit:

<https://incognitobars.co.uk/richmond/>



Full Of Life Fair 2023



by Juliet Ames-Lewis

Richmond Council is once again holding a Full of Life Fair at **Twickenham Stadium** for over 55s in the borough. The fair will take place on **Friday 13th October from 10am to 4pm**. There will be over 60 stallholders promoting local services, activities, businesses, groups and organisations.

Those attending the fair will have the opportunity to:

- Try out community activities like mini gardening, table tennis, yoga, gentle mind-body and strengthening exercise routines, dance demos and helpful wellbeing workshops
- Access one-to-one support for how to use everyday technology to live more independently, and learn about how to avoid cyber scams
- Access health and social care advice from local professionals, as well as clinical services like blood pressure checks, diabetes risk assessments, advice from community pharmacists and COVID-19 and flu jabs if eligible
- Learn how to get involved in local community and activity groups

The event will also feature practical clinical services from local health professionals, including blood pressure checks, BMI checks, diabetes risk assessments, advice from community pharmacists, and COVID-19 and flu vaccinations (for those who are eligible).

You need to register in advance for the fair. If you would like a free lunch, again you must pre-book. Tickets for lunch are limited and are on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, visit https://www.richmond.gov.uk/full_of_life

If you don't have access to the internet, please ask your Scheme Manager to register for the fair for you.

FULL OF LIFE FAIR

Arts and Crafts Showcase

Reminder

**29th - 30th
November 2023**

After the success of the Arts and Crafts showcase that was held in the chapel in May, we have booked another one and this time we are encouraging all our arts and crafters to participate and not only display their artwork but also bring any crafts that they have to sell, such as stocking fillers, Christmas cards and gifts. The dates for the showcase and craft sale will be **Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th of November**.

On
This Day:
31.10.1950

In the first trick-or-treat ever, five US children dressed up for Halloween and visited neighbours to request charity donations for UNICEF.

Exercise Session with Chrissie Donovan

We will be running an exercise session with Chrissie Donovan. This is open to all no matter your ability and we would really like to encourage you to come along and give it a try. You can come and take part or just come along and see what it's all about.

The session will be held on Tuesday 3rd October at 6 pm in Hickey's Chapel.



The session will be a Total Body Workout. This will be a low-impact, fun and invigorating class which combines a variety of exercise routines, body conditioning and strength work – much needed for our physical health and well-being.

Come and join the fun ...bring water, and wear comfortable clothing and footwear. A small towel would be good for some final stretches but mainly bring yourselves and get that feel-good factor!

Canasta in the Terrace Room at Wright's

The present players in the canasta group felt that the game is more suited to being a winter game rather than during the summer when everyone has so many other events and activities to attend.

So, they have decided that the group will close for now and re-open on Tuesday 5th December. If you would like to learn to play Canasta please contact Angela on: 07786963344.

Everyone is welcome.

Quiz Night

THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

6.00PM

IN THE CHAPEL

Teams of up to 8.

You don't have to make up your teams in advance (though you can if you like!) Just turn up and we'll make up the teams as we go!

Drinks and nibbles provided!

ART AND SOUL

Improving mental health through creativity

We're a charity in South-West London providing a range of therapeutic arts workshops and other creative activities for local people, to help improve their mental health.

With growing evidence that workshops like ours can help enhance emotional wellbeing, we welcome everyone, regardless of their artistic ability. All the workshops and events we hold throughout the year are free, thanks to the support of individuals and a range of organisations.

TASTER SESSION COMING SOON... watch out for more information in our next Almshouse News Edition.

On This Day:

26.10.1863

**The Football Association
was formed.**

Save The Date

Sing-Along Concert

9th October, 2.30pm



by **Claire Sanecka**

An hour full of sing-along songs, duets and solo performances followed by refreshments in the

Chapel. Please come and join us for a fun afternoon!



Songs on Wheels

Sing-along concert

Sing or hum along or just enjoy the music

2.30pm

Monday 9th October 2023



www.songsonevents.org

IT Sessions with Age UK

Classes Are Back in the Garden Room!

Age UK are happy to continue the very successful IT sessions where they have helped residents get to grips with technology. We can confirm a further 4 dates so far in which to hold pre-booked timed slots so that each tutor spends 1 hour one to one with the resident.

There is now a fully working Wi-Fi connection in the Garden Room so the internet connection problems we encountered earlier in the year have been fixed.

The sessions are being held on:

- **Wednesday 4th October**
- **Wednesday 18th October**

Time slots are as follows:

10.00am - 11.00am

11.00am - 12.00noon

Please remember to contact your Scheme Manager if you would like to book an appointment.

New DVD Cabinet in Hickey's Laundry Room

We are excited to share that we have a DVD cabinet alongside our wonderful library in Hickey's laundry room for all residents to use. There are some DVDs ready to be borrowed and we welcome donations, is it time for a DVD sort out? Let your Scheme Manager know.

Pop by and have a browse... there just might be something to your liking or perhaps a movie you haven't watched in years! Enjoy.



National Rail – Passenger Assistance

by Michael Hobbs

Recently I had to admit that I needed assistance if I were to travel by rail. So putting my pride to one side I rang **0800 022 3720** and was surprised to be answered by a human. And such a helpful person. He took the details of my intended journeys and even made better suggestions on the trains I could take.

On departure day I made myself known to the staff at Richmond who took my cases to the train and helped me on board. Meanwhile they had contacted the staff at Waterloo.

On arrival at Waterloo there was a buggy outside the carriage door. This took me to the far end of the station and stopped outside the wheelchair assist door where my needs of a priority seat and an accessibility toilet were met. At my destination a helper with a wheelchair was waiting on the platform. In no time at all I was in my taxi. I couldn't have asked for a better service.



On the return journey I hadn't the luxury of booking in advance (recommended). So I just asked for assistance and was taken by wheelchair to my train. Again I was given a priority seat next to the toilet. The system broke down when I reached Waterloo but was soon fixed. Seeing me sitting on a bench a Passenger Assist person asked if I needed assistance and went off to find a wheelchair. He returned and soon got me on to the Richmond train. He couldn't have been more helpful. Standard Tickets – 1st class service.



Residents' Forums

by Juliet Ames-Lewis



Each year we hold forums for residents to attend and share comments and thoughts about their homes, the grounds and the charity in general. The forums are also a chance for residents to hear about the charity's future development plans and about forthcoming improvements to our estates.

This year we are going to make our forums more interactive and based around themes. Staff (Juliet, Derrick and Scheme Managers) and Trustees will also be attending the forums.

The number of residents who attended the forums last year was rather low. We have therefore decided to hold them all at midday and they will be followed by a sandwich lunch in the Chapel – we hope that by providing lunch we will get a good turnout of residents!

The dates and times are as follows (all forums will be held in the Chapel at Hickey's Almshouses):

Thursday 26th October 12noon for Hickey's.

Tuesday 31st October 12noon for Bishop Duppa's, Candler, Michel's, Queen Elizabeth's, Wright's, Juxon's, Christchurch Road.

Tuesday 7th November 12noon for Adelaide Rd, Benn's Walk, Church Estate, Houblon's, Manning Place.

We look forward to seeing you there!

New Almshouse Developments



by Mick Tinson

St Mary's Grove Garages

We are due to start our long-awaited development at the site of the old garages on St Mary's Grove to the rear of Church Estate Almshouses. The build will comprise 5 one-bed level access bungalows, four of which are designed to comply with the 2015 Disability Discrimination Act which ensures they can accommodate assisted mobility living.



This new estate will also be built to strict Passivhaus standards which means they will be constructed to rigorous energy-efficient design and build standards to assist with the UK goal of reaching net zero. Each property will be equipped with a ground-source heat pump which provides efficient heating and cooling solutions so they

maintain an almost constant temperature all year round.

We have appointed Buxton Building Contractors Ltd to build this development with us as they come highly recommended and have a rich history of working on a diverse range of projects, including listed and historic buildings. Their extensive experience covers small-scale repairs and

refurbishments to complete restoration and construction, but more importantly, experience in the complex nature of Passivhaus builds.

Buxtons will shortly be erecting the hoarding and undertaking some minor preparation works. During this time, we

are taking this opportunity to have a ceremony to officially 'break the ground', and have invited Mollie King, the daughter of Steve King, a former Trustee of the charity who sadly died last year, to mark the occasion. Mollie was well known as part of *The Saturdays* pop group. She also starred on *Strictly Come Dancing* and is now a Radio 1 DJ. Buxtons will then start this exciting build in mid-October and it will last for approximately 12-14 months.

Queen's Road



Another of our exciting projects is located at the old sports court on Queen's Road in between the Cambrian Centre and our Almshouse estate, Manning Place.

This 4-storey development will house 11 1-bed and one 2-bed spacious level access almshouses with parking. This estate

also benefits from one of the ground floor properties having the ability to accommodate assisted mobility living.

This development has been a few years in the making, not just from the design side of things, but due to an unexpected lengthy delay due to un-mapped utility services highlighted at the eleventh hour back at the original start date in April 2022. These services have now been relocated, making way for the specialist machinery to start the foundation works and finally get the project underway.

For this development we have appointed London House Companies Ltd who are currently working with us on our Photovoltaic projects at Queen Elizabeth's, Candler, Bishop Duppa's and Benn's Walk.

London House has been constructing and renovating stunning, bespoke residences for discerning clients across South West London for a number of years. Projects have included new build property development, complete

house refurbishments, major extensions and residential house conversions.

You may have already seen the hoarding up around the site which was installed to enable the utility services relocation. However, the work officially started on Monday 18th September and will continue through to February 2025.

Photovoltaic Panels Project



by Juliet Ames-Lewis

As you will know from previous open forums that we have held, the charity has embarked on an ambitious project to install photovoltaic panels on as many of our existing almshouse estates as possible. The project is spanning a number of years. Phase 1 started in May 2023 with installation of panels at Queen Elizabeth's Almshouses and Candler Almshouses. The project at QE is complete and residents there are already starting to benefit from the electricity generated by the panels. The work at Candler will be completed by the end of October.

Phase 2 started in September with installation at Benn's Walk and Bishop Duppa's. Houblon's is also part of Phase 2 and will start later in the autumn. Future phases for other estates are planned for 2024 onwards. The charity is being nominated for awards from the Richmond Society in recognition of the lengths to which we have gone to ensure that the panels are as inconspicuous as possible, especially on our Grade II and Grade II* listed buildings.





Out and About Group Visit to see the Morph Art Trail

Back in 1977 Morph was created by Peter Lord and David Sproxton to feature in the children's programme Take Hart alongside the artist and presenter Tony Hart until 1983.

Between June and August this year over 50 models of Morph were painted by celebrities and placed around London. We set out to see some of them travelling by train to Vauxhall and then on the Uber River Bus to London City Pier near Tower Bridge.



Review of Harvest Supper



by Derrick Thompson

There was a growing sense of excitement around the Chapel last week as each day more goods were left on the doorstep for our Harvest Celebrations, the largest of which was the giant pumpkin that took two people to lift! By Thursday the Harvest Loaf was made and the basic harvest displays had been created, after rolling the giant pumpkin down the aisle, – only to be added to more each day. The finishing touches of beautiful flower displays were added on Saturday night.

Harvest Sunday dawned with heavy showers which soon cleared before people started to gather for our Harvest Celebration. It was great to see a nearly full chapel and hear some hearty singing of harvest hymns as we gave thanks for the abundance of God's creation.

On Sunday evening residents from across the Almshouse community met in the Chapel for the first Harvest Supper held there in living memory. Homemade squash and Bramley apple soup was followed by apple and blackberry crumble or Black Forrest mouse, all made using ingredients grown or picked by residents. More harvest hymns were sung, and conversations enjoyed.

The display will now be packed up and the goods taken to the Vineyard Foodbank where those living locally in food poverty will benefit from them. A collection of £100 was also taken and will be donated to Water Aid.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to such a special Harvest Celebration.



Chaplain's Chat



by Derrick Thompson

In September it has been great to see people coming to Morning Prayer on Tuesdays and Evening Prayer on Thursdays and joining us for Café Church and Songs of Praise on Sunday Evenings. Do come along and join us, and if there is a spiritual or worship activity that you would like to see happening in the Chapel or Green Room do please talk to me about it.



On **Sunday 8th October**, we will be celebrating St. Francis in our Sunday morning communion, and focusing on him at our evening Songs of Praise, where I'm hoping to include some of the art from the recent St. Francis exhibition.

Morning worship will take the form of A Service of Healing and Wholeness on **Sunday 29th October**. During this service there will be the opportunity to receive anointing for healing and wholeness for yourself, or on behalf of a loved one.

Looking ahead to **Sunday 12th November** our Remembrance Sunday Service will be at 10.30am, and our annual Memorial Service, where we give thanks and pray for our loved ones who have died, at 4.00pm. Please put these dates in your diaries.

Don't forget to put your clocks back on Saturday 28th October! After that Sunday evening services will usually be at 4.30pm. Have a blessed October!

Getting To Know You

Danny Snowdon

• What is your favourite song and how does it make you feel? ***Strangers in the Night* by Frank Sinatra / Elvis**

• Who is your favourite artist and why? **Any impressionist**

• If you could be a star in a movie – what movie would it be? ***Forrest Gump***

• What book do you currently have on the go? ***Life of Modigliani***

• What words of wisdom would you pass on to the younger generation?

Do everything you can and take no notice of people who say you can't, you can!

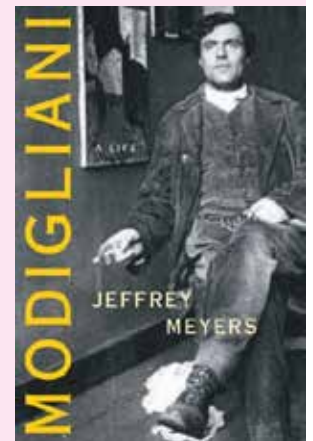
• What makes you laugh? ***Animals, namely my daughter's dog, and Mickey Flanagan***

• Which public figure do you most admire? **I would like to say Boris, but Winston Churchill**

• What is your greatest achievement? **Marrying my wife**

• If you were Prime Minister for the day, what would you do? **Feed the cat**

• If you could travel back in time, where would you go? **1960s when I met my wife**



Introducing Myself



by Angus Douglas

I was just about to take my afternoon nap when the Almshouse News dropped onto my doormat and I knew that the clock was ticking. I had promised to write something for the next edition and the deadline was fast approaching. I had been given a list of questions but it was also suggested that I might like to write about myself in a more open manner. Well, there's a challenge!

Let me introduce myself, my name is Angus or Gus or Angy or Gussie or Mr. Angry depending on who is speaking, I answer to all of them. The last one was used (affectionately, I hope?) during my working life in theatre and TV stage management, the others by family and friends. To my grandchildren, Ollie and Lottie, I am Pops. So, I am Angus Douglas and I would like to stress that I am not Scottish, the family originates in Cumberland.



I have lived in Adelaide Road for just over a year and, recently I have been putting up pictures and bookshelves. Now, in pride of

place above the mantelpiece is my favourite painting, *Barmaid at the Folies-Bergère* by Edouard Manet (bottom left), not the original, of course, that is in the Courtauld Collection in Somerset House, a lovely place to visit especially after the refurbishment: which reminds me that I must visit the rehanging at both Tate Britain and the National Portrait Gallery.

Excuse me a moment while I pop on a bit of music to help the flow of words to the page. My taste is eclectic so it could be anything (how the guests on *Desert Island Discs* manage



to come up with a list of only eight I will never know). The choice for me today is between Gerald Finzi's *Eclogue* and *The Weight* by The Band. It's the Finzi, such a beautiful evocation of the countryside and, though we live in the city, aren't we lucky to have such amazing green spaces on our doorstep. I go for walks in Bushy Park with friends three or four times a week. I have been taking pictures of one particular oak tree through the seasons (see 4 pictures on page 21) and it's rather magnificent. We've also been befriended by a couple of crows, Ron and Reggie (see above), who make a point of coming up to say hello whenever we walk – who might be rewarded with a nut or two!

I have quite a lot of books and I have even read quite a few of them. I like books to look

at and to hold, so, no Kindle for me! Having put up these new shelves I have been able to release books from captivity where they have been hidden behind others. Now I have my Robert Harris, Ian Rankin, Mick Herron, Jo Nesbo and John Le Carre books on display. You'll understand that I'm rather partial to Police/Spy/Thriller genres in print and also on TV (too many good series to mention here).

I love going up to the West End on outings to the theatre. I go to shows two or three times a month and, again, I am open to a wide range of productions. *Guys and Dolls* at The Bridge Theatre and *Cabaret* at the Kit Kat Club have been two recent highlights. Having worked in the theatre I must admit to be a lover of pantomime and I was Stage Manager of a few memorable ones at the Wimbledon Theatre in the late eighties and early nineties. My favourite funny man at that time was Les Dawson and my favourite funny man nowadays is John Finnemore (his various shows can be found on BBC sounds). Both in their different ways very clever comedians.

I also enjoy the cinema, both in movie houses (Curzon or Olympic) or on TV. I loved *Barbie* but yet to see *Oppenheimer*, it's on the to do list. There is rather a good documentary series on BBC iPlayer about RKO pictures particularly the episode on



the flawed genius, Orson Welles, and the making of *Citizen Kane*. He was a complete novice in movie making until he made that film - a flawed genius but wouldn't want to be him! But with all people and all things, I often wonder how these great people of the past would fare in today's technology driven society. I often wish we could return to the pre-internet/pre-mobile phone times when life

was more mysterious and intriguing. I'd also be able to dust off my reference books which have taken a back seat to Google and Wikipedia. Talking of facts and knowledge, I do love a quiz and go twice a week for mental exercise in pubs in St Margarets.

Apart from books, music, theatre, TV, film, quizzes and walking, I listen to a great many podcasts, primarily on history and politics. I particularly like *The Rest is Politics* with Alastair Campbell and Rory Stewart and I just wish there were more people like Rory Stewart in current positions of power, dare I say in No 10. If I were in Downing Street for a day, I would call Rory Stewart and ask him to take over (after first, maybe, reforming the funding of the political parties)

And finally, my greatest achievement is to keep positive in the face of the vicissitudes of life and my advice to the young is that anticipation of the future is often worse than what is revealed when the future arrives.

Life Hacks For October



by Gennie Thompson

• **Embrace Natural Sunlight**

During the day, open curtains and blinds to let in natural sunlight. This not only brightens

up your space but also provides natural warmth, reducing the need for artificial lighting and heating.

• **Efficient Cooking** Cooking generates heat, so take advantage of this by using the oven and stove for meal preparation. Plan your meals to cook multiple dishes at once and avoid opening the oven door unnecessarily, as each time you do, heat escapes.

• **Use Energy-Efficient Lighting** As the days get shorter, you'll rely on artificial lighting more. Switch to energy-efficient LED bulbs where possible, which use significantly less electricity and last longer than traditional incandescent bulbs.

• **Unplug Electronics and Chargers** Many electronics and chargers consume electricity even when they're not in use. Unplug devices or use smart power strips that cut off power to devices when they're not actively being used.

• **Rescue a Salty Soup** When you accidentally drop far too much salt in your soup, throw in a couple of wedges of raw apple or potato. Simmer for 10 minutes and discard the wedges to get the flavour back to normal.

• **Preserve Fallen Leaves as Decor** Collect colourful leaves that have fallen from the trees and press them between the pages of a heavy book. After a few days, the leaves will be flattened and dried, making them perfect for autumn-themed crafts or to use as natural decorations.

National Awareness Days



Collated by Lorraine Bradley

International Podiatry Day. Sunday 8th October.

On this day, podiatrists around the world seek to advance the field of podiatry to better serve those with foot and ankle ailments. They do this through education, advocacy, and strategic alliances. Don't neglect your feet as they keep us upright and moving. They can even indicate how healthy we are in other parts of our body.

Back Care Awareness Week. 3rd-7th October. <https://backcare.org.uk/event/2022-back-care-awareness-week>

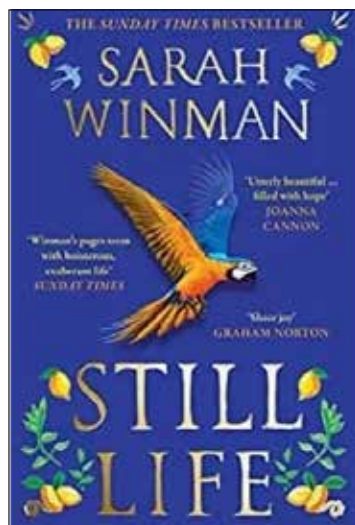
Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It is more important than ever to ensure you get checked if you find any symptoms. So, if you are concerned over any changes or pain, or missed out on the usual routine screening over the past few years, contact your GP for an appointment with the breast screening team. www.breastcanceruk.org.uk

National Poetry Day. Thursday 5th October. The theme this year is Refuge. This is the annual mass celebration on the first Thursday of October that encourages everyone to make, experience and share poetry with family and friends. www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk

National Cholesterol Month. 1st-31st October. This is an entire month devoted to raising awareness and funds for Heart UK. It also raises awareness of the dangers of high cholesterol. <https://heartuk.org.uk/get-involved/national-cholesterol-month>

Review by Kate O'Brien

Still Life by Sarah Winman



This book was one of my favourites from this year, well I had actually listened to the audiobook last year (read really well by the author, who was an actor) while I was making curtains and then it was chosen for my book group this year, so I read it again.

The book opens in Italy at the end of the war when we meet Evelyn Skinner, an art historian, and Ulysses Temper, a British soldier. It is a brief meeting, but one that reverberates throughout their lives, which we follow for decades up to 1979. After the war, Ulysses returns to London and his old friends, including a parrot called Claude (who has a speaking part!). As a result of something he does in the war, Ulysses ends up moving to Florence.

If you have ever been to Florence, this book will make you want to go back; and if you have never been, this book will make you want to go!

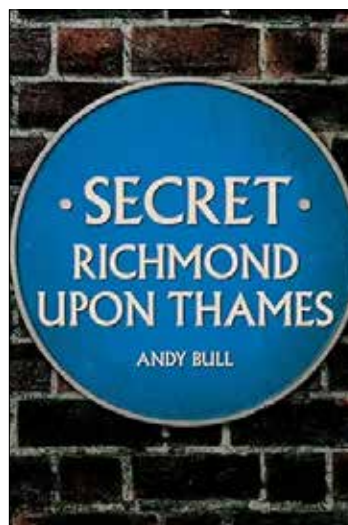
It lightly covers a lot of art, so you may find yourself looking up paintings on the internet whilst reading, as well as Ulysses taking up his father's occupation as a globe-maker, about which I now feel I know quite a lot ...

Almost none of the characters are related by blood, so at heart it is a story about friendship. It is a hugely entertaining book, with laugh out loud moments throughout, as well as passages that move you to tears.

Review by Mike Townsin

Secret Richmond Upon Thames

by Andy Bull



Earlier in the magazine, under Secret Richmond: part 1, I covered some of the contents of this book I thought

readers would find particularly interesting, but if you would like more tales of Richmond's remarkable characters, unusual events and obscure buildings and locations, I recommend acquiring this very readable and colourfully illustrated paperback (c.£10 from Amazon).

We learn that the town grew around the Tudor royal palace, with much of the land used by royalty for hunting. But in the 18th and 19th centuries the area became a fashionable residential location for Londoners escaping the hustle and bustle of the city itself, particularly around Richmond Hill, home to famous explorers, artists and latterly rock 'n' roll royalty.

Quite a nice gift too for all those with an interest in the history of this corner of south-west London.

Natural Remedies



by Debbie Flaherty

Vitamin D

Deficiency of Vitamin D is usually high during the winter months because of our reduced exposure to sunlight.

To increase your vitamin D levels during the winter these are foods that can help:-

- Red meat
- Oily fish such as salmon, sardine, herring and mackerel
- Tuna
- Mushrooms
- Liver
- Cod liver oil
- Egg yolks

Vitamin D supplements are also available at chemists and supermarkets.

And of course if the sun comes out grab it while you can: 20 minutes exposure to the sun makes all the difference.



Wit and Wisdom



Curated by Mike Townsin

- Rosy fingered dawn. *Homer*
- I have lost friends, some by death, others by sheer inability to cross the street. *Virginia Woolf*
- Money doesn't make you happy. I now have \$50 million. I was just as happy when I had \$48 million. *Arnold Schwarzenegger*
- Thinking: the soul talking to itself. *Plato*
- God does not play dice. *Albert Einstein*
- Married life requires shared mystery, even when all the facts are known. *Richard Ford*
- Behind every great man is a woman rolling her eyes. *Jim Carrey*
- While we're talking, time will have meanly run on: pick today's fruits, not relying on the future in the slightest. *Horace*
- Progress everywhere today does seem to come so very heavily disguised as chaos. *Joyce Grenfell, actress*
- People who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do. *Isaac Asimov*
- Marriage is a wonderful invention; but then again so is a bicycle repair kit. *Billy Connolly*
- Accept the things to which fate binds you, and love the people with whom fate brings you together, but do it with all your heart. *Marcus Aurelius*

if you have been
bereaved,
no matter when,
no matter how
space2grieve
can support you



space2grieve

support@space2grieve.org.uk

0751 937 6363

every loss is unique,
every bereavement is different.

Space2grieve is a local charity, here to support anyone in the Richmond Borough who has lost someone, no matter when, or how.

Our expert volunteers & administrators are here to make space for you to talk in a series of free one-to-one sessions, either in person, on the phone, or online.

We support adults, children, young people, families & older people. You don't need a referral.

Supported by Hampton Fund, Richmond Parish Lands Charity & The Bob Willis Fund.

www.space2grieve.org.uk



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Norman's Quiz

See how many you can get without using Google!

1. What was the name of the novel published in 1962 by Muriel Spark about an Edinburgh schoolteacher?

2. What is the national airline of Germany?

3. The Corriedale is a breed of which farmyard animal?

4. Which game show was introduced each week as "*And now from Norwich it's the quiz of the week*"?

5. Which word can come after dream, steam and life to form other words?

6. In which Dickens novel would you find the character Mr Micawber?

7. In which stadium do the Scottish Rugby Union National team play their home matches?

8. Tina Turner sang the theme tune to which James Bond movie?

9. Who was the Mayor of New York during the 9/11 attacks?

10. What did east Pakistan become in 1971?

11. In 1955 who was hanged for the murder of David Blakely?

12. The word 'allergy' can be re-arranged to form which other 3 x 7 letter words?

13. In which U.S. city was the TV sitcom *Frasier* set?



14. In which English county is Blenheim Palace?

15. Dame Mary Rosa Alleyne Hemmings has published more than 75 books. By which name is she better known?

Your chance to win a £10 M&S Voucher! Submit this page with your written answers. Give this whole page to your Scheme Manager, or place in the suggestion box **before Friday 20th October 2023.**

Name: _____

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Answers in next month's issue.

Handy Websites for You

This month, Lorraine Bradley shares her handy websites.

Unique Gifts

- www.florysonline.co.uk

They do lovely solar wall plaques in lots of different designs for the garden or allotment. Very reasonable prices and good customer service.

- www.fivestardays.com

This is good for booking vouchers for special occasions such as birthday treats. Lots of different ideas such as spa days for two, afternoon teas, cinemas, theatres etc. The vouchers are usually valid for one year so plenty of time to book a suitable date for two people to enjoy.

ANSWERS: Spot The Difference - Summer Party

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Missing lemon | 6. Orange flower front left |
| 2. Lettering on yellow card | 7. Post by Roxanne's arm |
| 3. White teeth on left totem pole | 8. Cups in the box |
| 4. Gerry's keys on jeans | 9. White label on blue bin |
| 5. Left eye on right totem pole | 10. One red spot from top face on right totem pole |

Miscellany Curated by Mike Townsin



- Nonophobia: fear of being out of mobile phone contact.
- A baby oyster is called a spat.
- There are two words which rhyme with purple: curple, a strap passing under a horse's tail, and hirple, to walk along dragging one leg behind the other.
- Chess, Ludo and Snakes and Ladders were all invented in ancient India. Snakes and Ladders was called Moksha Patam – 'the path to liberation'.
- Bricklehampton is the longest place name in the UK with no repeated letters.
- Monty Python's *The Life of Brian* was marketed in Sweden as 'The film that's so funny it was banned in Norway'.
- Vatican City is the only place in the world where cash machines offer instructions in Latin.
- The Japanese for 'handbag' is handubagu.
- Thomas Edison's last breath is held in a vial at the Henry Ford museum in Detroit.
- Autotelic adj. Worth doing for its own sake.
- St Vitus is the patron saint of oversleeping.
- Hovis was originally called 'Smith's Patent Germ Bread'.

**On This Day:
3rd October 1888
Wearing ALL BLACK,
the New Zealand rugby
team performed the haka
for the first time before
an international match.**

**On This Day:
4th October 1883
The Orient Express
made its
first journey from
Paris to Istanbul.**



by Nigel Davis

Failure can be a depressing word.

But perhaps it shouldn't be. Even if we fail — and, let's face it, we all of us do in some ways and at some stages in our lives — at least it means that we have tried, have endeavoured, have aspired. Maybe we should not always judge what we do simply by the end result.

The starting point of this poem by Frank Gilbert is taken from the ancient Greek myth of Icarus. The father of Icarus was a famous inventor who designed wings, fixed to the body by wax, to enable humans to fly (remember that this was thousands of years before Concorde and Boeing 737s).

However, the impetuous and over-confident Icarus ignored the express warnings of his father — “don't fly too close to the sun” — and flew too close to the sun. The wax melted and Icarus fell into the sea and was drowned. But from that starting-point the poet swiftly moves into recounting the experience of a 'failed' marriage.

These lines are written with such emotional intensity and depth that surely they are based on the poet's own experience? They at any rate echo lines written by another, very different, poet: “Need we say it was not love, just because it perished?”.

A very, very moving and thought-provoking poem, well worth reading several times. And I do like the thought that if a thing is worth doing it is worth doing badly!

Failing and Flying

by Jack Gilbert

Everyone forgets that Icarus also flew.

It's the same when love comes to an end, or the marriage fails and people say they knew it was a mistake, that everybody said it would never work. That she was old enough to know better. But anything worth doing is worth doing badly.

Like being there by that summer ocean on the other side of the island while love was fading out of her, the stars burning so extravagantly those nights that anyone could tell you they would never last.

Every morning she was asleep in my bed like a visitation, the gentleness in her like antelope standing in the dawn mist.

Each afternoon I watched her coming back through the hot stony field after swimming, the sea light behind her and the huge sky on the other side of that. Listened to her

while we ate lunch. How can they say the marriage failed? Like the people who come back from Provence (when it was Provence) and said it was pretty but the food was greasy.

I believe Icarus was not failing as he fell, but just coming to the end of his triumph.