

Welcome to your Almshouse News

DURING LOCKDOWN 2021

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

TWICKENHAM EDITION

SPOTLIGHT ON
TWICKENHAM

Resident Views

Local Highlights

Serge's Walk

Eel Pie Island

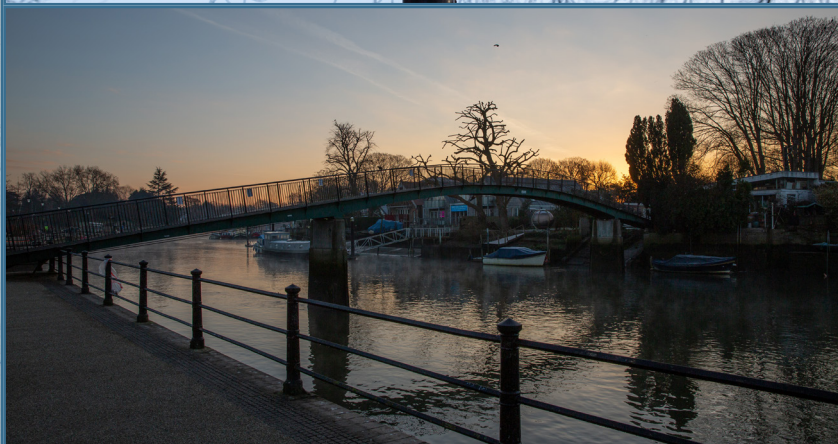
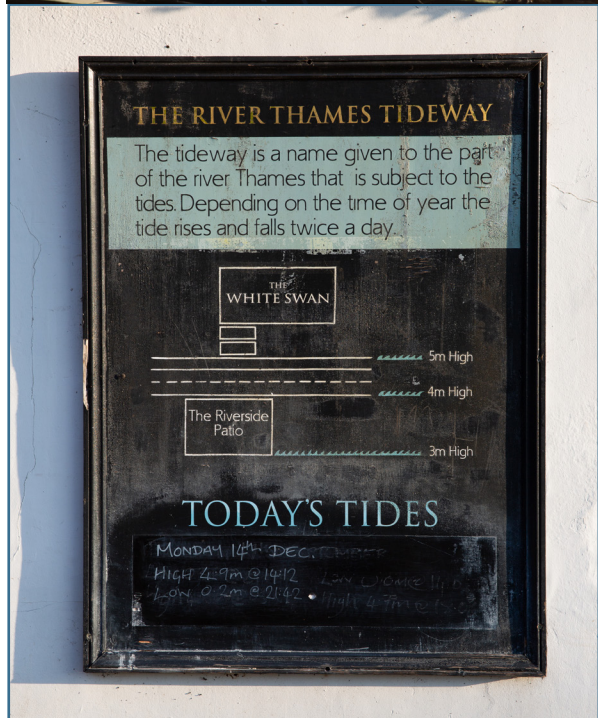
Turner's House

News

Crossword

Poetry

Travel Quiz



Contents

Letter from the Chief Executive 2-3

News 4-6

SPOTLIGHT ON TWICKENHAM

What I Love About Twickenham 7

Helpful Twickenham Organisations 8

History of Eel Pie 9

What Does Twickenham Offer 10-11

Community Life 12

Serge's Twickenham Walk 13-16

Turner's House 17

A Good Place to Call Home 18-19

Twickenham Map Highlights 20-21

Travel Quiz 22-23

Crossword Competition 24-25

Answer Page 26

Poem & Illustration 27

Poetry Corner 28

Letter from the Chief Executive



by Juliet Ames-Lewis

Roadmap out of lockdown for our community

I'm sure you will all have read or heard about the government's roadmap out of lockdown, published on 22 February. Now that we have a clearer sense of the road ahead, we can start also to tentatively plan our own community's roadmap out of lockdown. Staff and I are working on this and we will hope to share with you soon information about what sorts of events and activities we may be able to organise which fit with the government's 4 stages of easing lockdown. The government's dates are, as they have said, the earliest dates on which these stages of easing lockdown will take place, and the government could push them back if their 4 tests (on vaccinations, reducing hospitalisations, infection rates and new variants of covid-19) are not met.

Credits

Editor: Juliet Ames-Lewis

Design & Photography: Chantal Richards

Letter from the Chief Executive - ALMSHOUSE NEWS

From 8 March, it will be permitted by the government for 2 people from different households to meet together for eg a coffee in a park or in a private garden, so with the Spring weather upon us, we hope that you will all start to emerge out of your almshouses and spend time in our lovely gardens with one other person – social distancing still has to be observed.

From 29 March, it will be allowed for groups of up to 6 people to meet outside (still socially distanced) and so we are starting to think about what sorts of small group events and activities we could hold in our communal gardens (weather dependent).

From 12 April, most of us will be rushing to the hairdressers, the shops and to pubs and restaurants which have public gardens.

From 17 May, gatherings of up to 30 people will be allowed outside and up to 6 people will be permitted to gather indoors (still socially distanced), which will, we hope, give us the chance to re-start some of our previous events and activities in small numbers, and to kick off some new groups and clubs. We have had many suggestions through the Residents' Survey. Please let your Scheme Manager know if you have other ideas or if you would like to organise and run a one-off event or a regular group or club.

The final stage of the government's roadmap will happen no earlier than **21 June** and will potentially remove all social contact restrictions and social distancing measures. Indoor and outdoor activities may become unrestricted in numbers which means that we may, we hope, be able to plan some summer parties!

Trustees and I are also considering implications of the roadmap for staff and in particular when staff can return full time to our 3 offices. The government is planning a review on working from home and social distancing which will report in June. For now, the government's rules are that we must continue to work from home where possible and staff will therefore remain on the shift patterns that we currently have in place.

I will also keep you all updated in due course about when we can safely re-open guest rooms. For the time being, laundries will remain free for residents to use, but the charity will start charging for the laundries again at some point.

It finally feels as though we can start to plan and have things to look forward to which is exciting. In the meantime, I hope you are all staying safe and well.



Please Beware: Scam Artists



by Claire Sanecka

It saddens me to share with you that scam artists continue to operate in Richmond

borough. They have upped their tactics and are now using a handheld device in close proximity to clone bank cards. These thieves are able to use such devices to retrieve all the necessary account information from your bank card to make purchases with your money. There is some good news though - this type of scam has been around for some time and there are some tips on how to keep your purse, wallet and money safe.

Preventing debit and credit card scanning:

- Buy a card shield or **RFID wallet*** that blocks RFID transmissions.
- Stack your cards together to mitigate some of the scanner's ability to read information.
- Leave your cards at home and only use cash in public places

Contactless card shields are available to purchase from M&S, Argos, Robert Dyas and online from Amazon UK

**RFID – Radio frequency identification*

“Scams jump 66% during lockdown as fraudsters take advantage of nations uncertainty”

(The Independent Aug 2020)

Age UK Richmond Talk in collaboration with NatWest Bank: Keeping you safe from Frauds and Scams.

Age UK Richmond are providing a **FREE** Zoom talk for over 50s which will cover current internet, telephone and text scams, particularly those which have sprung up during the pandemic.

The event is free but advance registration is essential.

Date: 17th March 2021

Time: 2pm via Zoom

To book your place use this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/age-uk-richmond-scams-awareness-talk-tickets-138741005081>

New Member of Staff



by Juliet Ames-Lewis

I am delighted to announce that Roxanne Gent will be joining The Richmond Charities staff

team on 15 March 2021 as our new Health, Safety & Security Officer.

Roxanne has worked for the last 7 years as a painter and decorator as part of the maintenance team at Wandle Housing Association in South London. She has also recently been a builder's assistant, installing kitchens and doing plastering, painting and tiling.

Roxanne attended college and undertook a City & Guilds Basic Construction skills course, an NVQ Diploma in Building Maintenance, Multi-trade Repair and Refurbishments and an Intermediate Level Apprenticeship in Maintenance Operations.

We were looking for someone who has excellent maintenance skills and some experience in the health and safety field who wants to further develop their knowledge. Roxanne will be trained by Mick and she will also attend external health and safety courses in order.

Roxanne has also been involved with a charity called Women in Construction



*Roxanne Gent,
Health,
Safety &
Security
Officer*

which supports women who want to work in the construction field.

Roxanne is very much looking forward to joining the team and we are looking forward to welcoming her.

Winner of the Crossword Competition

Thank you to everyone that submitted their completed crosswords for a chance to win the Fortnum & Mason goodies. Picked at random, the winner this week is:

MARY BRONKS - Congratulations!

Answers from last weeks crossword are on page 26.

This week's crossword competition is on pages 24-25.

Gardening help & advice available in Richmond



by **Gennie Thompson**

Recently, Juliet met with Scheme Managers to discuss the feedback and

action points from the residents' survey in November 2020.

Gardening help for those residents with their own individual patch of garden was a theme raised many times, so I have included some information on different organisations that can be employed to carry out various garden services.

The Richmond Charities offers all residents an annual garden tidy but for more regular requirements the below services should be useful.

AGE UK Richmond

AGE UK Richmond now include gardening services in the remit of their handyperson's scheme.



They charge a subsidised rate of £18 an hour for over 65s and the friendly team can help with all aspects of gardening. For more information:

call: 0208 876 0620

email: handyperson@ageukrichmond.org.uk

SPADE is a service run by Richmond AID.

'Richmond SPADE is our award-winning gardening service which provides basic gardening

maintenance to older people in the borough. A team of talented volunteer gardeners carry out tasks. The team are dedicated to conserving the local environment. Volunteers carry out tasks such as weeding, mowing the lawn, pruning and raking leaves'.

SPADE suggest £25 for 3 hours of gardening work.

For more information:

call: 0208 831 6070

email: j.loveland@richmondaid.org.uk

website: <http://www.richmondaid.org.uk>



Alternatively, if you are interested in volunteering at SPADE they have a range of different roles at present and more are available at the volunteer section of their website: <https://www.richmondaid.org.uk/volunteering-opportunities/>

There are also many highly rated private gardening services available in Richmond, although these may be more expensive. More information is available in check-a-trade leaflets which are delivered quarterly or via the internet.

What I Love About Twickenham



by **Carmela Hinckley**

Whatever we like about the place where we live, it's always a personal view.

I've been resident almost 30 years and what struck me almost immediately was the sense of community. There was so much going on, such as with my local neighbourhood care group where I worked for five years, with its open-door policy and warm welcome. And there were the wider, informal groups that led to street get-togethers in summer, in one case a street cricket match.

These continue still, for in a non-Covid year, there would be the Twickenham Green Charities Fair in Spring and the Moormeads Fayre in summer, with families and friends lounging on the grass enjoying picnics – keeping a weather eye out for the clouds.



Memorial to Mary Beach (d 1725), Alexander Pope's childhood nurse. St Mary's Church, Twickenham

And then there is the river with its ever-changing mood, the trees of Marble Hill including the ancient black walnut; the wild garden of Orleans gallery with a choir of birds early on a spring morning and the slightly dizzy, crazy arty world of Eel Pie island.

Entrance to the wild gardens of Orleans House Gallery



The Black Walnut tree in Marble Hill Park, planted in 1720s

And precious things, such as Alexander Pope's memorial to his much-loved servant and nanny, Mary Beach. Her name and his words make a quiet corner to pause if you cut through St Mary's churchyard, by the wonderful yew trees, and find yourself meeting your neighbours in Church Street for a chat and a drink....much to enjoy and look forward to!



Helpful Twickenham Organisations



by Gennie Thompson

For this week's Twickenham edition of Almshouse News - here are some local organisations that may be of interest.

The Real Junk Food Project Twickenham

This organisation aims to reduce food waste and provide affordable and accessible meals for all those in need.

They collect surplus food from local shops which would otherwise be destined for landfill, and with the help of its volunteers, turns it into delicious, healthy meals to serve the community on a 'pay as you feel' basis. They also offer a stall to pick up surplus food.

Visit The Real Junk Food Project at its Award-Winning Pay-as-you-Feel Surplus Food Community Café and Stall.

Open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:30 – 1:30pm

Address: ETNA Community Centre.
13 Rosslyn Road, Twickenham TW1 2AR (just behind KwikFit in East Twickenham)

website: <https://etnacentre.org/trjfp-cafe/>

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TRJFPTwickenham/>



Together as One Twickenham

A volunteer and user led charity organisation that aims to help any person in the borough who feels socially isolated or lonely, particularly as a result of a mental health issue. The main activity Together as One offer when they are able is a weekly drop in service, which will resume as soon as restrictions allow, usually these are held at the Cricket Pavilion on Twickenham Green.

For more information

website: <https://www.togetherasone.co.uk/> call 0750 482 4657.



HANDS (Help a Neighbour in Distress Scheme) Twickenham and St Margaret's.

Run by volunteers, who 'act as good neighbours, providing voluntary support for those in need in Twickenham, especially older people'. HANDS normal activities include transport, outings, shopping/ shopping bus and help with small household jobs. During lockdown, volunteers are offering support with shopping and collecting prescriptions.

For more information:

website: www.handscaregroup.org.uk
call: 0208 891 3346.



History of Eel Pie Island



by Linda Prendergast

Eel Pie Island is an 8.935-acre island in the River Thames at Twickenham

that's only accessible by boat or a footbridge. It's thought the name may have come from the eel pies that were served by the Inn on the island which was a popular stopping point for steamer excursions in the 19th century.

The Eel Pie Island Hotel hosted ballroom dancing during the 1920's and 1930's. In 1956, trumpeter Brian Rutland started jazz sessions at the newly re-opened hotel. Sometime afterward, Arthur Chisnall took over the running of the club and continued to promote various jazz bands and then in the 1960's rock and R&B groups. The hotel was then bought by Brian Rutland and became a major venue for jazz and Blues in the 1960's. In 1967 the hotel was forced to close then briefly re-opened with bands such as The Rolling Stones, The Who, Pink Floyd, Black Sabbath and Genesis to name just a few.

In 1969 the hotel was then occupied by a group of local anarchists and by 1970 Eel Pie Island Commune had become the UK's largest hippie commune. Sadly in 1971 the hotel burned down in a mysterious fire. Then in 1996 the centre of the island was devastated by fire, and a year later the only footbridge

to the island was damaged by a utility's contractor. A new footbridge was opened in 1998.

There's a nature reserve at both ends of the island and it's also home to Twickenham Rowing club. Today there are around 50 homes, two or three working boatyards as well as other small businesses and artists' studios on the island. For brief periods each year, usually in June and December, the studios collectively known as Eel Pie Island Art Studios open their doors to the public, enabling them to enjoy and buy the artists' work.

A Zoom Talk about Eel Pie Island

by Celia Holman, resident and volunteer at the Eel Pie Island Museum in Twickenham.

Celebrating all that has made this little island so famous - from its unique working boatyards to the part the Eel Pie Island Hotel played in the British blues explosion of the 1960s; and how it helped superstars such as the Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton and Rod Stewart kick start their musical careers.

Date: 1st April 2021, 2pm via Zoom
Join talk here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/age-uk-richmond-talk-about-eel-pie-island-tickets-143059226999>

What Does Twickenham Offer Me?



by Angela Greaves

The wish: I had been visiting my son, Greg (youngest of 4 sons) and his family in Staines Road for 5 years, and I wished I could live nearer them as the commute from Wimbledon was an hour and a half there and back and was often packed. I applied to The Richmond Charities on the off chance that I could move there one day as I had seen they had almshouses in Richmond and Twickenham. Imagine my glee when I was offered a flat in their new flagship, Wright's Almshouses on Heath Road!

What does Twickenham offer me? Firstly, the transport system is very good. The newly refurbished rail station with lifts and easy platform access is brilliant, and it's easy for me to visit my other 3 sons and their families in London, Newcastle and Glasgow. A quick bus trip from right outside my block gets me to Staines Road to visit my grandson, Caden who is 5 and my new granddaughter who is expected in London in March, 2021!

A lovely choice of supermarkets within walking distance, i.e., Tesco Express, Marks and Spencer's, Iceland, and Waitrose. Fresh produce from the



Twickenham Farmers Market



The fishmonger, Twickenham Farmers Market



Rainbow crossing in King Street, representing the LGBTQ+ community

Spotlight on Twickenham - ALMSHOUSE NEWS

market, local butcheries, fish merchants, green grocer and a bakery. Banks, post office, dry cleaner, florist, book shops, family GP surgery, pharmacy, health shops, hairdressers, nail bars and loads of independent shops offering lots of services and supplies right on my street. Hotels, clubs, restaurants, cafes and coffee shops, take-aways and wine shops all in safe easy walking distance.

A walk down Church Street meets all my gift shop needs and alfresco lunches and teas. There are charity shops galore to browse in and find bargains.

There are parks and lovely gardens nearby - Twickenham Green, Crane Park, Kneller Gardens, Mereway Nature Park, York House Gardens and many more. The River Thames water front, Eel Pie Island and Jubilee Gardens are great for walking and admiring the views. I have the Twickenham Rugby stadium nearby and my sons can't wait until the South African Springboks visit!

I am very excited about the ongoing design plans for regenerating the Twickenham Riverside which will be decided on very soon. It will offer a wonderful place to enjoy all the community activities planned there.

Twickenham ticks all my boxes!
In summary, I feel very grateful to be a local and look forward to making new friends.



Twickenham Green



Twickenham Riverside Walk



Arial view of the proposed Twickenham riverside developments

For more information on the proposed riverside developments, use this link:
https://www.richmond.gov.uk/twickenham_redevelopment_background

Community Life on Eel Pie Island



by **Chantal Richards & Ian Kroch**

I have visited Eel Pie Island many times to visit some family friends, so I thought it would be interesting to share an insight into life on Eel Pie Island from a *real* resident. It might remind you a little of a community that you live in!

Ian Kroch:

Visitors to our island always tell us how 'special' it is - but they mean that in different ways, of course: A few charming eccentrics really are saying that they'd love to live somewhere like this. But most are telling us, politely but firmly, that we are mad.

Of course it is difficult to live here, but not for the reasons those people imagine:

They wonder how we get our shopping over the bridge (we just carry it. But supermarkets do deliver...). Or how you could possibly get a grand piano over that bridge? (quite slowly...). Or how on earth people got home, that time the bridge was damaged? (Mainly in boats, but some did swim...). And do we have electricity? Mains drainage? Is the post delivered by Owl? ('Yes', 'yes', and, sadly 'no', just an ordinary postman, if an unusually clever one who can find

houses with names like 'Love Shack', 'Ivy Castle' and 'Wild Thyme').

Mostly though, the real problems are different. Island life is like village life: We have a summer fête and a Christmas party, and everyone gossips about everybody else. So everybody knows your joys, your troubles, your strengths, your weaknesses, and all your little peculiarities. It's a big family - and as wonderful as that very often is, sometimes it gets annoying that your neighbour knows when your son has a new girlfriend, or your wife buys new underwear...



Sunrise over Eel Pie Bridge

But then the swans glide overhead as you cross the bridge in the morning, or the owls hoot, or the night sky suddenly has more stars that you've ever seen before. And it crosses your mind that maybe you're not mad. Maybe you've made the right choice. Maybe this really is a rather 'special' place to live, after all...

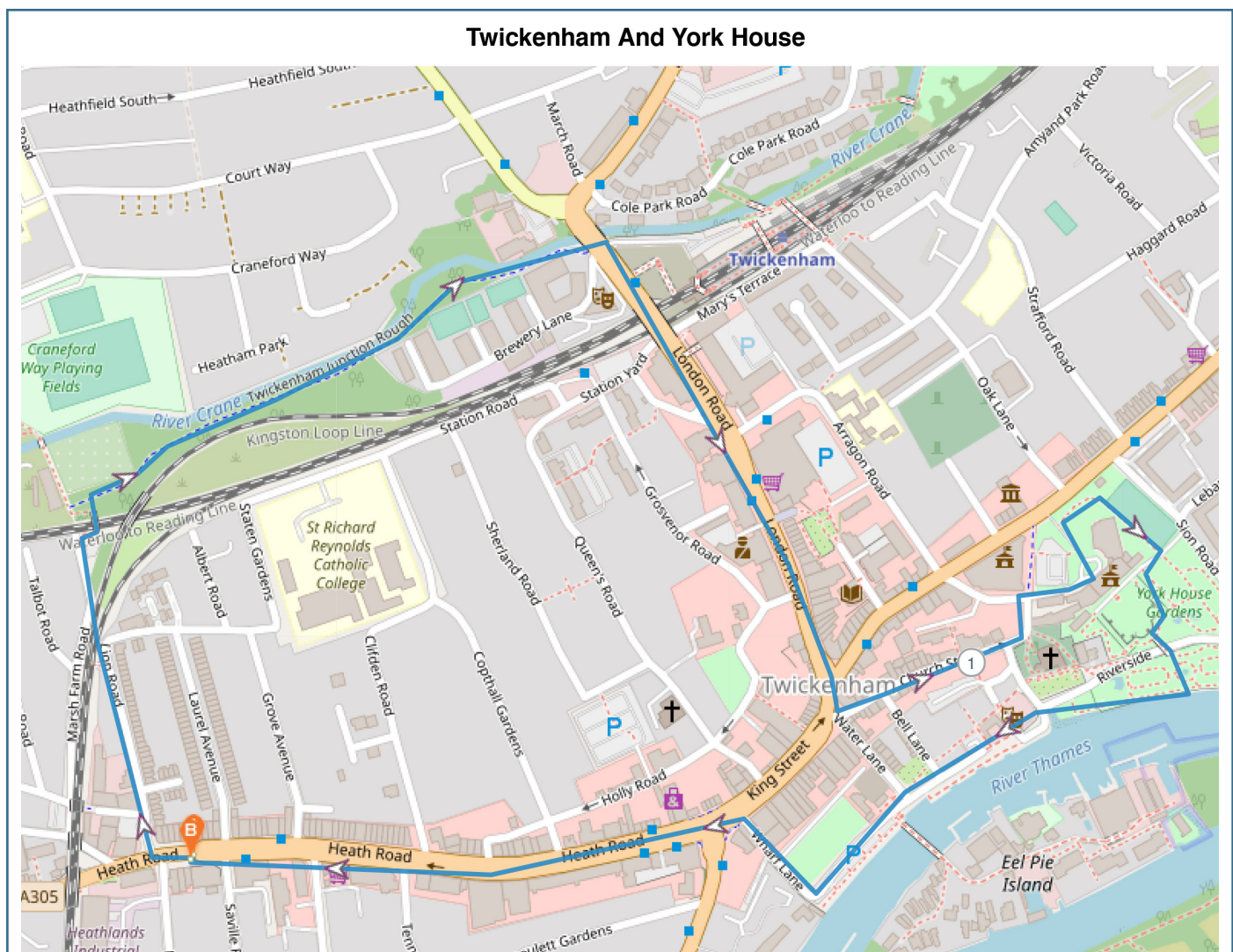
Serge's Walk #3 - Twickenham



Serge Lourie is a Trustee of The Richmond Charities and organises monthly walks of around three hours for the Avenue Club in Kew. He is a former Leader of Richmond Council.

Pages 13-16 are designed as a pull-out - so that you can take the map, directions and photos with you on your walk.

Under lockdown rules it is permitted to leave the house for exercise (eg a walk) once a day, either on your own, or with your household or support bubble or with one other person, in which case you should stay 2m apart.



ALMSHOUSE NEWS - Pullout - Serge's Walk #3

I hope you enjoyed reading about my first two saunters up Richmond Hill and around Richmond town centre starting at Hickey's and Houblon's. This saunter takes you around Twickenham and starts at our newest scheme, Wright's Almshouses, 151 Heath Road, TW1 4DS. The walk is about two miles and can take 45 minutes or, preferably up to two hours...if you saunter. If you live in Richmond, the best way to get to start of the walk is the 33 bus, which stops nearby Wright's.



Wright's Almshouses

Turn left outside the almshouses and take the first right by the small Tesco in a former pub. Walk up Lion Road past Vince Cable's former office at number 2A and then turn left under the railway line from Kingston through a rather dingy tunnel.

Turn right and then go straight ahead and over the Windsor line. Almost immediately turn right and walk along the new path through Twickenham Rough. This is beside the River Crane on the left but you cannot see it initially.



Tunnel under railway

This new little park has only recently been opened. It used to contain railway sidings and evidence of these is still visible on the right.

After a while, the river Crane is seen on the left.



Two sets of buffers

On the far bank is Heatham House built in the eighteenth century, for Stephen Cole, a local brewer. It is now a youth club.

Serge's Walk #3 - Pullout - ALMSHOUSE NEWS



River Crane

You then come out at the centre of great activity at Twickenham station.

Turn right again and walk down London Road toward the town centre (past Waitrose on the left and then the police station on the right) until you reach the traffic lights at the junction with Richmond Road. Do NOT turn left there but almost immediately turn left into Church Street. This is pretty much the historic centre of Twickenham, which was first recorded in 704.

Church Street is named after St Mary's Church and was paved in 1716 with stone taken from the churchyard. This was probably masonry rubble from the collapsed nave for which no other use had been found while rebuilding the church. The total cost was an economical four pounds, seven shilling and sixpence! Church Street used to be the main road to Richmond.

It is now a great place for pubs, restaurants and small shops. Perhaps the most interesting is The Fox on the right at number 39, which can trace its history to 1670, when it was called "The Bell". The step down into the pub has been caused over the years as the street was repaved several times. After lockdown ends, it will again be a great place for a meal and a drink!



The Fox

At the end of Church Street on the right you will see St Mary's Church. Do go inside, if it is open, as it is delightful. It is on the site of an earlier church and retains the 15th-century medieval tower. Among the fine memorials is one commemorating local poet, Alexander Pope.

Turn right out of the church, and on your right you will see York House and its grounds. This is now the council offices. It was built in the 1630s as a private residence until it was acquired by the Council in 1923. The last private owner

ALMSHOUSE NEWS - Pullout - Serge's Walk #3



*St Mary the Virgin,
Twickenham*

was Sir Ratan Tata a major industrialist whose company is still one of the largest in India.

Enter the grounds to your right and admire the building, which is one your right. (Unfortunately behind scaffolding at present).

Turn left towards the ceremonial gate and turn right into the grounds passing on your right, the Leaders' Grove where a rather sad tree was planted to commemorate my five years as Leader of the Council.

Turn right by the tennis courts and keep straight on and through the second entry on the right into the sunken garden (currently being renovated).

Walk over the stone bridge and over the sunken road. Please note that this is quite steep.

Walk straight ahead to the river and turn right along the embankment and admire Eel Pie Island.

*Bridge over
sunken road*



Just before the exit, you will see the "Naughty Ladies" water feature, sadly enveloped in scaffolding.

You then come out by Twickenham beach (reserved for toddlers) Turn left and walk past the rear of the church and then along the delightful river front; take the final right up Water Lane and you reach King Street. Turn left and straight ahead is Heath Road and it is not far back to Wright's.

There are many excellent coffee shops in Twickenham.

You can then catch a 33 or other bus back to Richmond.



*View of river and
Eel Pie Island*

JMW Turner's House in Twickenham

Once lockdown lifts, and if you haven't been already, make a visit to Sandycombe Lodge. It was built in 1813 to the designs of England's great landscape painter, J.M.W. Turner; working here as his own architect to create a quiet retreat for himself, away from the pressures of the London art world. It also provided a home for his father, old William, in retirement from his trade as a barber and wigmaker in Covent Garden. With old William's declining health and changes in his own life, Turner sold the house in 1826.

The Turner's House Trust is an independent registered charity which relies on visitors admission, grants and donations to remain open at all. The website says, 'We aim to celebrate J.M.W. Turner's artistic achievement through encouraging visitors to discover the house he designed and built, and the Thames landscape which inspired him. Through conserving and interpreting Turner's House, we aim to build a deeper engagement with Turner as an artist'.

Sandycombe Lodge

40 Sandycombe Road, Twickenham TW1 2LR

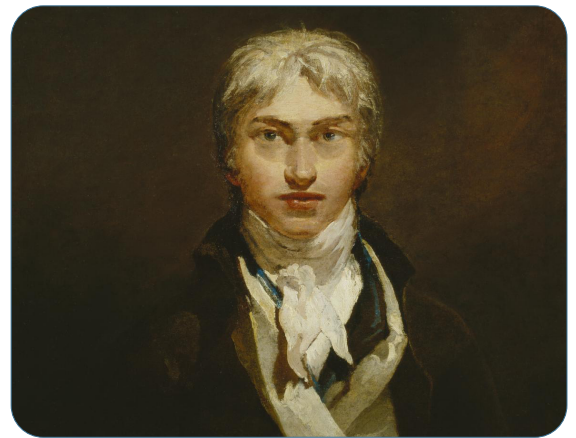
Open: Wednesday-Sunday:

12–3pm Self-guided visits

3–4pm Guided Tours

It is recommended to book your visit in advance.

<https://turnershouse.org>



JMW Turner: Self-Portrait c.1799

Your Turn with Turner

An Art Journaling Course with Rita Piglionica from **Turner's House** delivered in collaboration with Age UK wellbeing services. Participants learn about JMW Turner, local history and art while engaging in weekly activities aimed at enhancing wellbeing and feeding curiosity. Participants receive an art pack (with all the materials required) in advance and can participate in zoom tutorials and telephone conference calls. There are 8 sessions, delivered fortnightly. There is no cost to this course. Start date to be confirmed – likely to start in March or April.'

For more information: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/richmonduponthames/activities-and-events/wellbeing-services-online-classes/#>

Twickenham – a good place to call home!



by Margaret Goddard

Today I went for a walk down to the river.

The seagulls were soaring, gliding, sweeping seawards and then fighting their way back. Occasionally encountering thermals to stream along. One on the river was being borne backwards by the current; it was quiet – they had no strength left for their usual noisy screaming! The sun sparkled on the water, the air was balmy.

Twickenham in one of its many moods.

Another time, another day. Not so quiet! The streets heaving with people, many exotically dressed. Roads closed, diversions in place. 82 thousand bodies homing in on one focal point – the stadium! Pubs, shops and restaurants full and overflowing, good-natured (mostly) bantering between different sides.

Another of Twickenham's moods.

A place of contrasts, a people-watchers paradise. And with many places worth a visit (when restrictions are lifted). Like -

The Mary Wallace Theatre down by the river, a gem of a tiny theatre which is home to the Richmond Shakespeare Society, though their repertoire is wider than its name suggests. As well as their performances in the theatre they also have an outdoor production every summer in York House Grounds – well worth seeing.



The Mary Wallace Theatre

Marble Hill House, a Palladian villa built for Henrietta Howard, mistress of George II, and now administered by English Heritage. In the summer it is the venue for Riverside concerts and is surrounded by openly accessible parkland. Its lawns sweep down to the tow path which gives a pleasant walk to Richmond in one direction and to –

Spotlight on Twickenham - ALMSHOUSE NEWS

Orleans House and Gallery in the other. Set in gentle woodland it has a newly refurbished baroque Octagon room for special events, and free access to its collection.



Orleans House & Gallery

Strawberry Hill House, a gothic castle with towers, turrets and battlements and surrounded by freely accessible gardens built by Horace Walpole.

Turner's House, Sandycombe Lodge, designed and built by the artist J M W Turner as a country retreat and a home for his father.



Turner's House

Church Street – a historic thoroughfare, now pedestrianised, of quirky shops, pubs and restaurants. It is periodically host to continental markets when the street throngs with stalls, mostly from France or Germany.

Twickenham Stadium & statue



490 bus to Richmond



The Museum of Rugby, and Stadium Tours – Need I say more!?

It's easy to access too! Buses to Richmond, Staines, Kingston, Hounslow; trains to Reading, Windsor, Wimbledon and Chiswick.

ALMSHOUSE NEWS - Spotlight on Twickenham Map



Kneller Gardens



Harlequins RFC at
The Stoop



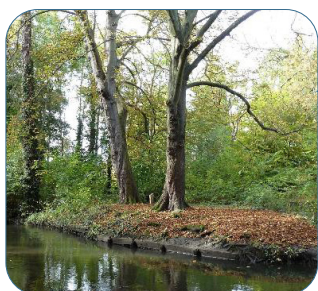
Twickenham Rugby



York House Gardens



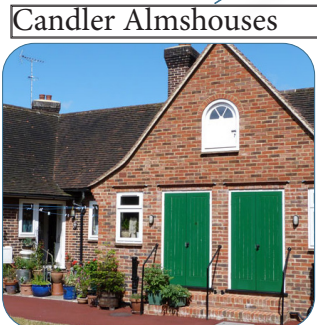
Twickenham Green



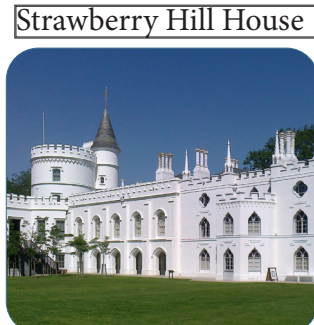
Crane walk



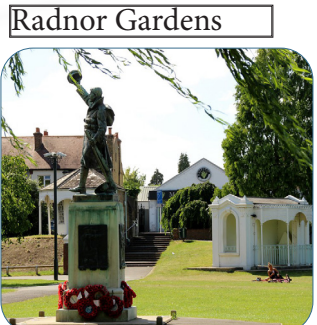
Wright's Almshouses



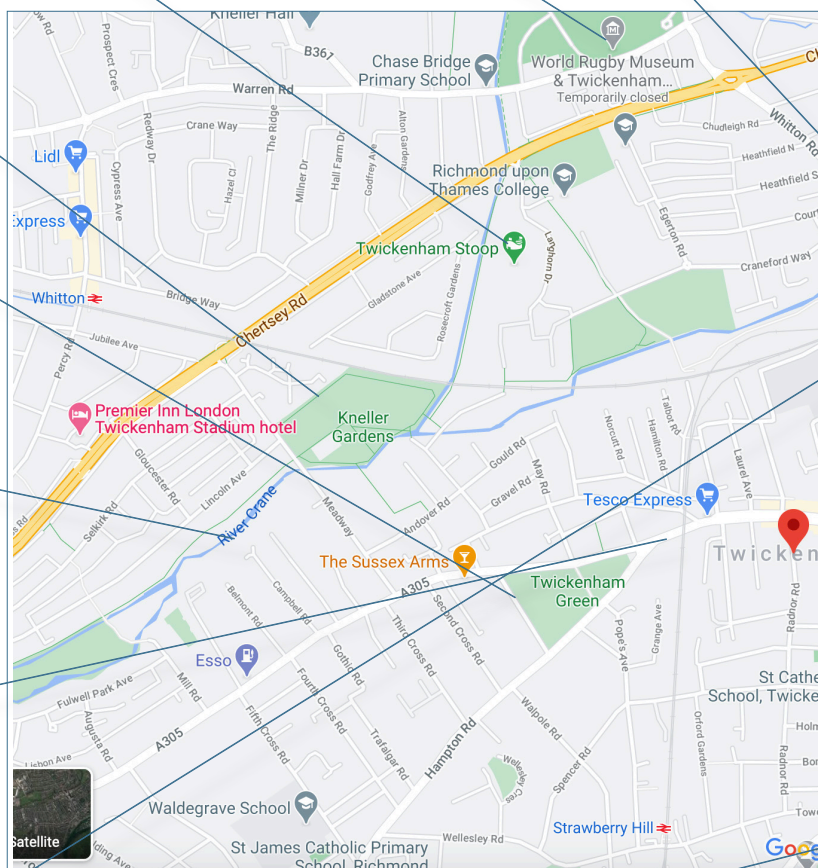
Candler Almshouses



Strawberry Hill House



Radnor Gardens



Spotlight on Twickenham Map - ALMSHOUSE NEWS



York House & gardens



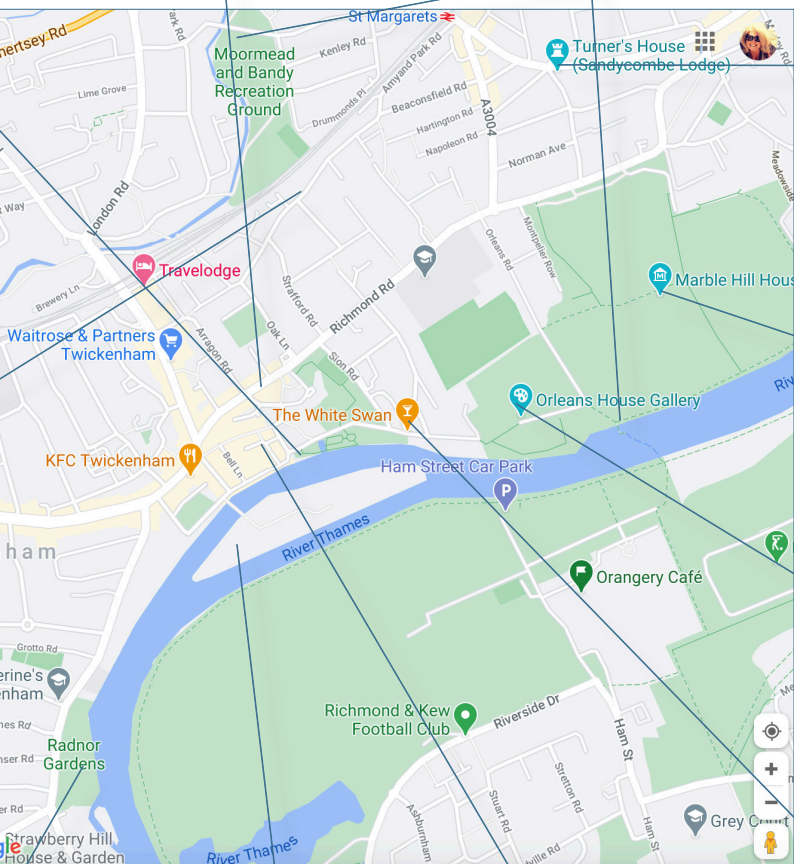
Riverside Walk



ETNA Centre



Moormead Recreation



Turner's House



Marble Hill House



Orleans House Gallery

Eel Pie Island



Mary Wallace Theatre



The White Swan



Travel Quiz



by **Kate O'Brien**

Kate is a Trustee for The Richmond Charities and is also a member of the Welfare Committee.

During lockdown we have been doing a number of zoom family quizzes. We are a very competitive bunch, and the competition has now extended to the writing of the quiz itself. This can be quite a challenge as we range in age from 71 to 10.

One issue we had was that someone, who shall remain nameless, kept winning. So, in the last quiz that I wrote we had a round on Children's Literature (e.g. What did the Very Hungry Caterpillar eat on Tuesday? Who was the station master in The Railway Children? **see below for answers*). As the usual winner has no children ... well, let's just say that the kids and the teachers in the family did very well!

It was followed by a picture round in which you had to identify photos of children's authors job done! Although if you are able to tell the difference between E Nesbitt (The Railway Children) and Frances Hodgson Burnett (The Secret Garden) I take my hat off to you.

This week's quiz had the funniest round so far, so I thought I would share it. The premise is you have to identify a number of worldwide tourist spots ... not from their photos (far too easy!) but by the reviews left on Trip Advisor.



For those of you not familiar with Trip Advisor, it is an online review site where you can leave your opinion on hotels, restaurants etc. but also for the locations themselves. It can be very useful or, as we are about to see, very weird!

Question 1

"OVERRATED!!! They tried to copy the one in Las Vegas and I can only describe it in one word... UNDERWHELMING!!!! The one in Vegas has drinks and wayyy better crepes, plus it's walking distance from a Hard Rock. WILL NOT BE GOING BACK."

"Disappointing, crammed in like sardines, with a nasty little cafe as a reward. The view is ok – if you like views."

Question 2

"The building looks the best from the outside! Not worth paying the entrance... the inside isn't worth the money"

“Shoddily maintained and poorly organized — do not see!!! Apparently **** has not yet discovered building maintenance. ***** was very rundown and did not have any refreshment stands or cleaning crew of any kind. “

Question 3

“It’s just a statue and a person sneezed on my burger. Worst. Trip. Ever.”

“Didn’t even get off the boat”

Question 4

“It’s a pretty awful ... concrete building. It’s really nothing special at all. Save yourself the effort. The further away you are the less awful it looks.”

“Silly damned egg carton. Damned waste of money from its inception. Too far from the city proper and more often than not, the shows are elitist rubbish. “

Question 5

“A national embarrassment. I left angry that a definitive part of my national culture was so debased in a sordid money-making operation. “

“If this is our most visited site outside of London then we must do better. English Heritage run the site, but it needs someone like Branson to present this site to the world.”

Question 6

“I’ve been to a number of so-called landmarks in my time – but what the hell was this? Just an overblown sandy ditch. Really don’t get the fascination. Took two hours to get there – should’ve stayed in my hotel and watched a DVD instead...”

Question 7

“The world’s most highly overrated ... hahahahaha ... wonder of the world! Just a concrete pillar. I spent a total of 5 minutes here.”

“The view is ok... [but] when you get to the top there is literally nowhere to go but back down again.”

Question 8

“It Just Looks Silly: Imagine a magician with just one trick. Or a TV with only one channel Shows you what PR can accomplish. “

“Looks like it was put up by Disney 6 weeks ago...clean, clinical and smaller than you think!”

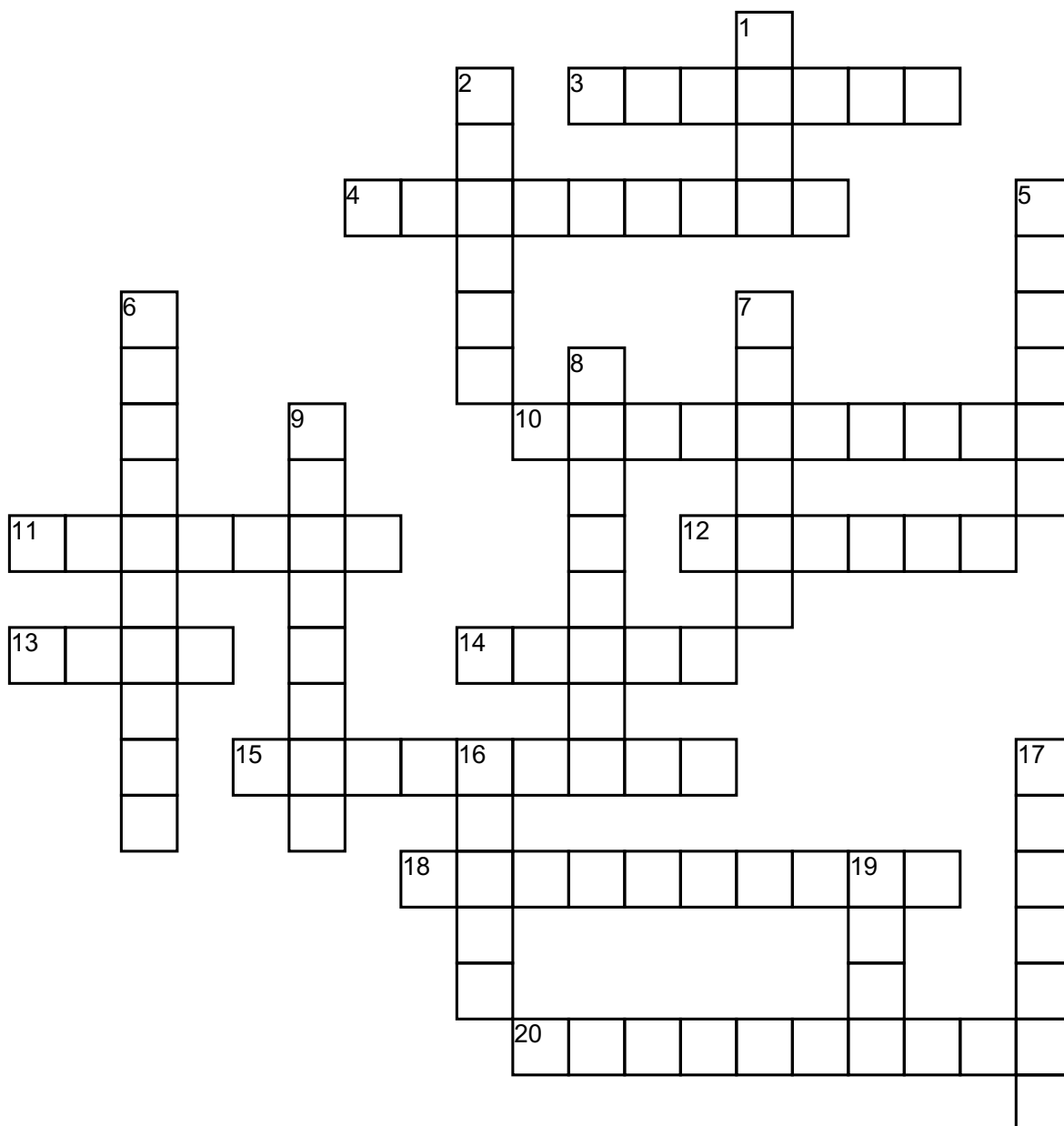
** On Tuesday he ate 2 Pears.*

** Mr Perks was the name of the station master (memorably played in the film by Bernard Cribbins)*

Answers on page 26.

Crossword Competition March One 2021

Twickenham



Name _____

Address _____

Crossword Competition March One 2021

For this issue, the competition will be the crossword below.

The Prize: £5 M&S Voucher

How to enter:

- Complete your crossword on page 18
- Fill in your name and address at the bottom of page 18

Across

3. The oldest Roman Catholic university in the country (2,5)

4. Name of car park, where the Farmers Market is held (5,4)

10. JMW Turner's Lodge

11. Name of trumpeter who started jazz sessions on Eel Pie Island

12. Current MP for Twickenham

13. The Real Junk Food Project is run at which community centre?

14. Home to Harlequins

15. Once a Montpelier Row resident, and guitarist for The Who

18. Period mansion currently being refurbished (6,4)

20. Twickenham is famous for being the home of which sport? (5,5)

-Place page 24 in your suggestion box by **FRIDAY 12 March 2021**

-Completed crosswords will be entered into a prize draw. The winner will be announced in the next issue. Good luck!

Down

1. Indian industrialist who owned York House

2. Oldest tree in Marble Hill park

5. Water Works, north of Twickenham

6. The Fox pub is at which number on Church Street?

7. Inventor of clockwork radio and lifetime resident on Eel Pie Island

8. The supermarket opposite the police station

9. Once a Montpelier Row resident, author and famous poet

16. A house on Eel Pie Island, called 'Love ?'

17. Art gallery near the river

19. On which road was Vince Cable's former office

Sketch Club: JMW Turner homework!

Apologies if you are missing Sketch Club this week.

The pages have been filled this week with the Twickenham Spotlight. But in keeping with the Twickenham theme, there are some fascinating videos to watch from The Tate Gallery. They explore The Tate's Turner exhibition and guide you through his techniques of lines, colours and tones.

Follow the link here:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/how-to/how-paint-turner>

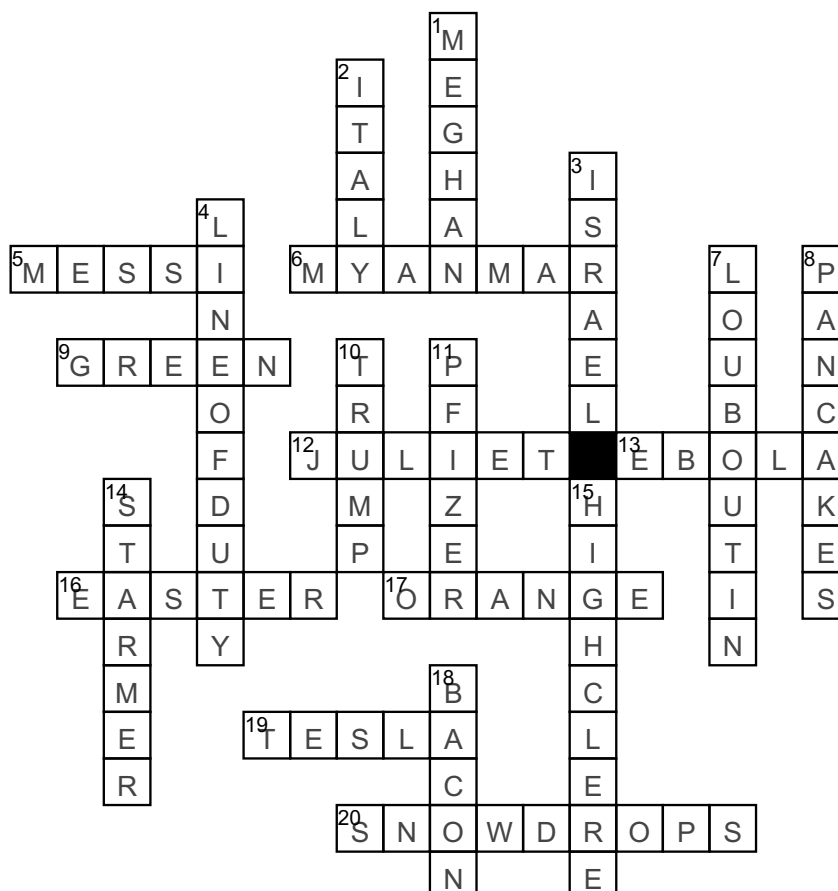
Please do continue to send in your artwork and Sketch Club exercises for all to view.

You can now email them direct to Chantal Richards

email: c.richards@richmondcharities.org.uk

Answers to last week's crossword- February TWO 2021

Many apologies for the omission of clue 11 down. Well done to those who guessed it anyway!!



Page 22-23. Travel Quiz by Kate O'Brien. Answers:

1. Eiffel Tower
2. The Colosseum
3. The Statue of Liberty
4. Sydney Opera House
5. Stonehenge
6. Grand Canyon
7. Christ the Redeemer (Rio de Janeiro)
8. The Leaning Tower of Pisa

Poem & Illustration by Suszie Vignoles



Listening to a Stag Rutting in Richmond Park

Lifting his mighty head
Heavy with antlers
The stag roars into the misty morning air
Pungent with autumn scents
of earth, mushrooms and damp leaves
His strident voice, urgent and
powerful summons to vibrant life
the does gathered about him,
to start a new cycle of birth and beginnings
Echoing across the park
His triumphant call
Nostalgic and evocative of autumn days
A paeon to the precious and
most wondrous gift of life.



Poetry Corner by Nigel Davis



In one of the Sherlock Holmes stories – I forget which – Holmes ticks off his bumbling sidekick Dr Watson for seeing without observing. Let's think about that.

For those of you who read Poetry Corner (thank you!) you may have worked out by now that I am rather fond of good poetry either written for children or written from the perspective of a child. One reason is that children tend both to see and to observe. They do not have the unthinking assumptions we adults have acquired ("Mummy, why is snow white?" "Daddy, why don't we eat grass like cows do?").

A few issues back, I included a child's bedtime poem from R. L. Stevenson's Victorian anthology "A Child's Garden of Verses" about a Lamplighter, and which a number of you have kindly said you enjoyed. So let's have

another poem from that anthology.

To go out in midsummer and view the midnight sky is a wonderful thing. Or is it? Do we adults actually observe and wonder? "How many times must a man look up, before he can see the sky?" as Bob Dylan wrote in his

sublime song "Blowin' in the Wind." But a child notices and wonders at such things (who else but a child could refer to "thousands of millions" of stars?). To me, Stevenson gets it absolutely right. What a lovely poem!

Escape at Bedtime by R.L. Stevenson

The lights from the parlour and kitchen shone out
Through the blinds and windows and bars;
And high overhead all moving about
There were thousands of millions of stars
There ne'er were such thousands of leaves on a tree
Nor of people in Church or the Park,
As the crowds of the stars that looked down upon me,
And that glittered and winked in the dark.

The Dog, and the Plough, and the Hunter, and all,
And the star of the Sailor and Mars,
These shown in the sky, and the pail by the wall
Would be half full of water and stars.
They saw me at last, and they chased me with cries,
And they soon had me packed into bed;
But the glory kept shining and bright in my eyes,
And the stars going round in my head.