

Welcome to your Almshouse News



The River Edition

Serge's River
Walk No#4

The Thames
Landscape

River Views

River Boats

News

Poetry

Flower Quiz

My Favourite
Song

Crossword



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Credits

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Thought for the Day



Winner of the Easter Quiz Competition

Thank you to everyone that submitted their completed Eggcellent Easter Quiz Competition form for a chance to win the Fortnum & Mason Teas. Picked at random, the winner this week is:

Heather Warman Congratulations!

Answers from last weeks Eggcellent Easter Quiz are on page 26.

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

The Duke of Edinburgh 1921-2021

“It is with deep sorrow that Her Majesty the Queen announces the death of her beloved husband”. Her ‘strength and stay.’

Prince Philip, aged 99, was the longest-serving royal consort in British history. During the eight days of mourning for the Duke of Edinburgh, flags will be flown at half mast, TV presenters will wear black and Parliament will pass no new laws.

No churches or public buildings are allowed to be open because of Covid. Instead, you can send your message of condolence, using this link to fill in the form. A selection of messages will be passed onto members of the Royal Family, and may be held in the Royal Archives for posterity.

<https://www.royal.uk/her-majesty-the-queen>



Photographs have been sourced from www.bbc.co.uk; www.royal.uk/announcement-death-duke-edinburgh and www.independent.co.uk

The Duke of Edinburgh and Polo



Prince Philip holding a beer during the chukas whilst umpiring a polo match at Ham Common, Richmond, 1961.

Royal men have been known to participate in polo matches, going back as far as King George VI. Since then, Prince Philip, Prince Charles, the Duke of Cambridge and Duke of Sussex have all been seen racing across the lawns on horseback. In most cases, they tend to compete for charity.

Since the death of The Duke of Edinburgh, the media has been awash with photos of his rich and varied life. His love for polo very evident and he was truly a stylish man on all occasions, Prince Philip seen here in 1961 at Ham Polo Club, would not look out of place in a trendy area of London today!

Despite the royal and aristocratic participants, it is possible to go and watch the polo at Ham Polo Club for a reasonable 'picnic' price. The next available Polo match with picnic tickets is on Sunday 16 May, 11am - 5pm. Tickets cost just £10 with free parking.



Above: Prince Philip winning the trophy, 1954; Right: Prince Charles, Prince Philip and Queen Elizabeth, 1967; Far right: Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, 1975.

Ham Polo Club, Petersham Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 7AH. No# 65 bus stops outside the club gates. Walking along the river from Richmond takes 25 minutes.

www.hampoloclub.com/tickets



The Thames Landscape

As you all know, we are so blessed to live in area of such beauty and open green spaces. The Thames landscape, shown in the map on page 7, is rich in history and for the last 300 years has been known as the 'Arcadian Thames'. The dictionary meaning of arcadian is 'showing or relating to an image or idea of perfect countryside life'. It may not now be a countryside life - but the Royal history and preservation of Royal parks has created a pastoral haven on the doorstep of our city.

Historically, up to the Tudor period the landscape between Hampton and Kew was largely riverside villages, orchards and market gardens. The building of Richmond and Hampton Court Palaces bought royal and aristocratic families to the area.

During the eighteenth century, this concentration of wealth and power attracted artists, poets, thinkers and landscape designers. Gone were the formal Tudor and Stuart gardens, in favour of a more romantic landscape where nature, art and gardening merged. These new naturalised gardens were imagined as the dawning of the new Arcadian age.

Democratisation rapidly followed during the nineteenth century and our area became the 'playground of

London'. Londoners came to walk, relax and mess about on the river.

The twentieth century endured a rapid growth of suburbia. The 'View from Richmond Hill' was luckily saved from proposed developments.

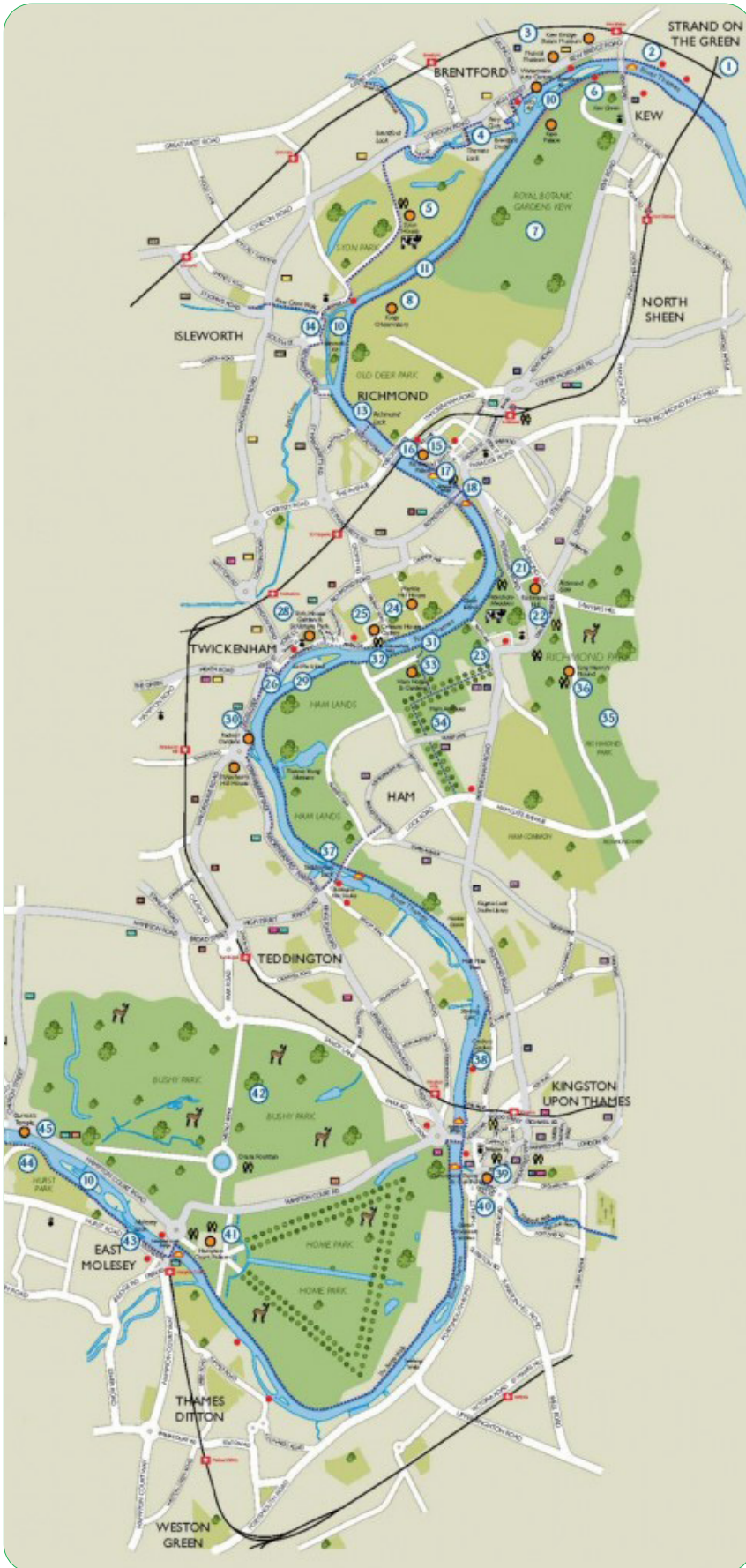
Today this Thames landscape collectively contains more listed buildings, conservation areas, wildlife sites, parks and gardens than any other comparable location in the UK.

The Thames Landscape Strategy was established in 1994 to understand this history and to continue to conserve, enhance and promote the Arcadian landscape for the next 100 years. The patron of this strategy is, of course, Sir David Attenborough, along with HRH The Duke of Gloucester and notably, the late HRH The Duke of Edinburgh was often there to support events and fundraising. Together with volunteers and local community groups, continual work operates to conserve and protect the local Thames landscape.

As a reminder, Pages 6 and 7 highlight all the magnificent places along the Arcadian Thames, that are just on our doorstep. For further information: <http://thames-landscape-strategy.org.uk/>

The Thames Landscape - Forty Highlights!

1. Chiswick House and grounds.
2. Strand on the Green - river walk.
3. Kew Bridge Steam Museum - most important historic site of water supply industry in Britain.
4. Brentford Junction Grand Union Canal - walk past boatmakers and a working lock.
5. Syon House and Flood Meadows.
6. Kew Green - with pubs and restaurants, and cricket in the summer.
7. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
8. The King's Observatory and The Old Deer Park.
9. Riverside wildlife - one of the cleanest metropolitan estuaries in the world.
10. Thames Islands: Isleworth Ait, Corporation Island, Lotts Island and many more.
11. Wet Woodland Along the Kew Towpath.
12. The Thames Path - 184 mile walk.
13. Richmond Lock and Tide.
14. Old Isleworth - riverside pubs and ancient fish traps at lowtide.
15. Richmond Green and the site of Richmond Palace.
16. Asgill House & Cholmondeley Walk.
17. Richmond Riverside.
18. Richmond Bridge, oldest bridge over the Thames in London.
19. Messing about on the river!
20. The Great Trees of London.
21. The Terrace Gardens - classic Victorian park with tea house and grottos.
22. The View from Richmond Hill.
23. Petersham - nursery, meadows and grazing cows.
24. Marble Hill House.
25. Orleans House Gallery & Woodland Garden.
26. Historic Twickenham - backstreets and alleyways, Georgian Terraces and pubs.



27. Riverside Pubs - see page 8.

28. York House Gardens - newly refurbished naked ladies, and a genuine Victorian pissoir!

29. Eel Pie Island.

30. Strawberry Hill House and the Site of Pope's Villa, Radnor Gardens.

31. Ham Towpath.

32. Hammertons Ferry - the last surviving foot ferry on the tidal Thames.

33. Ham House.

34. Ham Avenue - The Bat Super Highway!

35. Richmond Park & Isabella Plantation -best in May when the rhododendrons are in flower.

36. King Henry's Mound - with view to St Paul's Cathedral and Pembroke Lodge - for a cuppa!

37. Teddington Lock.

38. Canbury Gardens.

39. Kingston Marketplace.

40. The King's Stone.

Places to Enjoy a Drink with a View of the River

As England opens up again, here's a reminder of some local favourites along The River Thames. In most cases, you will have to book in advance.

The White Cross - Richmond

The White Cross, Richmond: Riverside (off Water Lane), TW9 1TH
020 8940 6844

Reopening: April 12. For the first few weeks until 17th May, outside only for tables up to 6 from multiple households or 2 households of up to 10.

Bookings online: www.thewhitecrossrichmond.com/

The Barmy Arms - Twickenham

The Barmy Arms: The Embankment, Twickenham TW1 3DU
020 8892 0863

Reopening: April 12. Garden bookings online from Friday 26th March. However, if you don't like to plan in advance then we will be welcoming walk-ins, so do pop in and see us.

www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/middlesex/barmy-arms

London Apprentice - Isleworth



62 Church Street, Isleworth, TW7 6BG
020 856 01915

Book the beer garden from Thursday 15th April. Bookings online: www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/middlesex/london-apprentice/

Stein's Richmond

Stein's Richmond: Richmond Towpath, TW10 6UX
020 374 66240. German restaurant.

Reopening: April 13 2021.
Bookings online: www.richmond.stein-s.com/

Tide Tables Cafe - Richmond

and Hollyhock Cafe



2 The Arches, Beneath Richmond Bridge, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1TH

The website says: “We are pleased to be able to announce we shall be reopening on 22nd February 2021”

Two sister cafes on the banks of the Thames at Richmond. One café in a converted arch beneath Richmond Bridge. The other café is in the middle of the famous flower gardens at Terrace Gardens.

Opening hours:

Monday-Friday 7:30am, serving from 8am till Dusk.

Saturday & Sunday 7am, serving from 7:30am till Dusk.

www.tidetablescafe.co.uk/hollyhock-cafe/

The White Swan



Riverside, Twickenham, TW1 3DN

Booking required for lunch and dinner. Either call 020 8744 2951 or book online through the OpenTable system: For same day bookings, call to book on from 9am.

There are no bookings for tables in the riverside garden.

Bookings online: www.whiteswantwickenham.co.uk/

The Anglers, Teddington Lock

The Anglers, 3 Broom Road, Teddington TW11 9NR

020 8977 7475

Garden tables will be open from 12 April and can be booked in advance through the website.

www.anglers-teddington.co.uk/

Places to Enjoy a Drink with a View of the River

The Boaters Inn, Kingston



Canbury Gardens, Lower Ham Road,
Kingston upon Thames KT2 5AU
0208 541 4672

Reopening the outside space on
Monday 12th April. Due to limited
availability, book in advance
www.boaterskingston.com/

The Albany, Thames Ditton



The Albany, Queens Road, Thames
Ditton Surrey KT7 0QY
Open for bookings, 11am to 8pm.
www.the-albany.co.uk/

The Wharf, Teddington



The Wharf Restaurant & Bar, 22 Manor
Road, Teddington TW11 8BG
020 8977 6333

How about Afternoon Tea overlooking
Teddington Lock. Prices from £8.50.
Available Monday to Saturday, 1pm –
4.30pm.
wharfteddington.com/afternoon-tea/

The Ice Cream Van, Twickenham Riverside

Always there,
always a
treat!
By Eel Pie
bridge in
Twickenham.



The Mitre, Hampton Court



The Mitre Hotel, Hampton Court Road,
East Molesey, KT8 9BN
020 8979 9988

The newly refurbished hotel will fully
reopen on Monday 17 May. Outdoor
dining on The 1665 terraces will open
from Monday, April 12.

email: [reservations@
mitrehamptoncourt.co.uk](mailto:reservations@mitrehamptoncourt.co.uk)
www.mitrehamptoncourt.com/

The Ice Cream Van, Hampton Court Bridge



The cheapest
option!
Drinks and
ice-creams.
Perfect for a
walk along the
river.

The Roebuck, Richmond Hill



130 Richmond Hill, Richmond, TW10
6RN
02089 482329

The terrace gives you the best view of
the river from Richmond Hill.

Open 11am - 10pm every day.

Takeaway service from 12th April.

Indoor bookings from Monday 17th May.

[www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/
surrey/roebuck/](http://www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/surrey/roebuck/)

The Cafe, Radnor Gardens



The Cafe,
Radnor
Gardens,
Cross Deep,
Twickenham
TW1 4QG

With a very
beautiful view.

The Centipede



Thank you to Heather Warman for sending in these beautiful pieces about The Centipede.

The Centipede's Dilemma by Katherine Craster (1841 - 1874)

The centipede was happy - quite!
Until a toad in fun
Said, "Pray which leg moves after which?"
This raised her doubts to such a pitch,
She fell exhausted in the ditch
Not knowing how to run.

Fred and The Centipede

Fred wanted a talking pet, so he went to the local pet shop on a Saturday afternoon and he asked the shopkeeper what she had.

'Well,' said the woman, "The only speaking creature we've got at the moment is a centipede. Two pounds to you."

The man paid for his centipede and took it home in a small box. By the following morning the new pet had not said a word.

Fred was planning to go to church that Sunday evening, and he thought it would be nice if the centipede went with him.

After breakfast he called out to the centipede, "Centipede, would you like to come to church with me this evening?"

Nothing. Not a word.

He tried again at lunchtime.
Same lack of response.

Finally ten minutes before setting off, Fred had one more try. "Centipede I would really love you to be in church with me this evening. Will you come?"

At last, a small voice piped up from inside the box.

"I heard you the first time Fred. I'm just putting my shoes on...."

Serge's Walk #4 - Richmond Riverside



by Serge
Lourie

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

This fourth SAUNTER starts in the Vineyard in Richmond where The Richmond Charities have three schemes, Bishop Duppa's, Michel's and Queen Elizabeth's. They are an easy walk from the 65 bus stop on Petersham Road or Richmond Bus Station.

This walk takes you down to Richmond Bridge; along the river to Petersham Church and then back past the Star and Garter along the top of Richmond Hill by Terrace Field and Terrace Gardens.

Henry David Thoreau, the author of "Walking" and inventor of SAUNTERING, said that the protection of his



ALMSHOUSE NEWS - Pullout - Serge's Walk #4

“health and spirits” required “sauntering through the woods and over the hills and fields”.

The walk is about two miles and can take 45 minutes or, preferably up to two hours...if you saunter. You cross a lovely field at Petersham Meadow and a good hill and wood up to the Star & Garter. Beware, the walk needs good footwear if it is wet.



Michel's Almshouses

Vineyard with Michel's on your left and past the House where Bernardo O'Higgins, the liberator of Chile, lived and studied. You can tell the house from the big blue plaque.

The first mention of a vineyard in Richmond was in 1445 when there was a large one south of Richmond Bridge by the river.

Continue down the road past St Elizabeth's Church to Hill Rise where

you turn right. Go down towards Richmond Bridge and turn left into a lovely open space with large trees and stop to admire the bust of Bernardo O'Higgins.

He was sent to England by his father, also Bernardo O'Higgins, an Irishman who had been Spanish Viceroy of Peru, and Bernardo junior went to school in Richmond. He is revered as the founder of Chile and the Chilean ambassador and the embassy staff turn out in force in Richmond for O'Higgins Day, a national holiday in Chile.



Bernardo O'Higgins' bust

Go down to the river and turn left along the busy promenade. This is one of my favourite walks as I always feel as if I am on holiday. Walk along past the many boats and bustle of the river on your right and interesting restaurants, little grassy areas and hotels on your left.

After a couple of hundred metres when the buildings on your left have ended you come upon an intriguing pedestrian subway under the main road.

Serge's Walk #4 - Pullout - ALMSHOUSE NEWS



Subway under main road

views.(Hollyhock Café).

If you want a diversion, it goes into the lovely Terrace Gardens, where there is a splendid small café with great

Onwards now along the river until you reach the gate to Petersham Meadow, where there are often grazing cows. Continue straight across the large field, through a gate and then down a small enclosed path. On the left is a stable and there are often horses in the field. Continue through the gate and you will see Petersham Church on your left. If you feel the need for a coffee and a snack, the excellent Petersham Nursery



Petersham Church

with its café is down the small road to the right.

At this point, I would strongly urge you to have a look round

the graveyard, which is fascinating. Diagonally across the graveyard is the grave of Captain George Vancouver, after whom Vancouver in Canada is named. He lived in Petersham and died in 1798 when he was only 40.



George Vancouver's Grave

Retrace your footsteps a few metres, turn right and walk around the graveyard on a small path that then bends right and comes out at the main road. If you are tired, there is a 65 bus stop nearby.

Cross Petersham Road and head up into Petersham Common, which is below the Star & Garter.

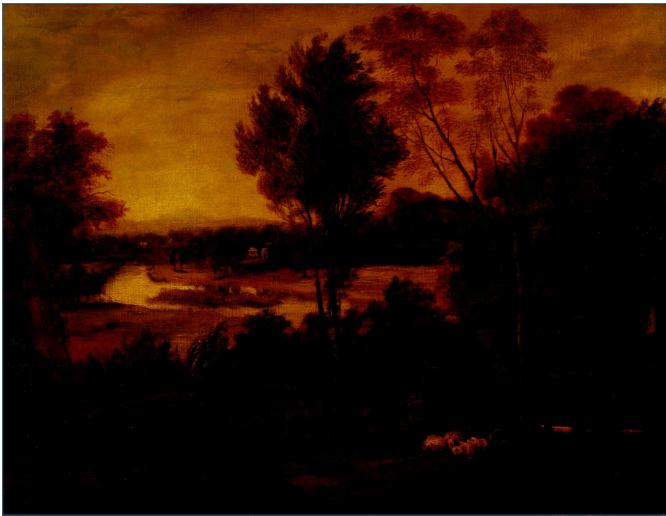
Walk up the path taking the left fork after a few metres and head up the hill until you reach the back of the Star and Garter, formerly a home for retired servicemen but now a block of very luxurious and expensive flats.



Entrance to Petersham Common

ALMSHOUSE NEWS - Pullout - Serge's Walk #4 -

Bear left round the building until you come out at the top of the hill opposite the Richmond Hill Hotel.



View from Richmond Hill by Sir Joshua Reynolds

Turn left and, after crossing Nightingale Lane, you will find yourself on the promenade by Richmond Hill at the top of Terrace Field. From there, you must admire the view that was painted by Turner and Reynolds, who lived at Wick House...and literally thousands of painters.

Interestingly, Richmond in Virginia was so named because the view of the James River is almost identical...although the river flows the other way.

Walk along the promenade occasionally stopping

*Thomson's Aeolian Harp,
by JMW Turner, 1809*



to admire the view and read the interpretation panels. One is a quotation from George Vancouver, who wrote: "In all my travels I never clapt eyes on a more beautiful spot than this! Here would I live and here would I die!"



*The view today from
Richmond Hill*

When the promenade rejoins the road, you reach Ellerker Gardens on the right. Walk up that road and take the second on the left; down Onslow Road and you get back to the Vineyard and the three almshouses.

I hope you agree with Captain Vancouver that this is the most "beautiful spot" in the world. We are lucky to live here!

Haiku - Japanese Poetry



by **Suszie Vignoles**

A Haiku is a Japanese form of poetry consisting of 3 lines, first line has 5 syllables, 2nd line has 7 syllables, 3rd line has 5 syllables - to capture a moment or instant.

Written and illustrated by Suszie Vignoles.

In a wintry sky

The white cranes tossed by wild winds

Fly into the storm



Fallow deer dancing

Run into the morning sun,

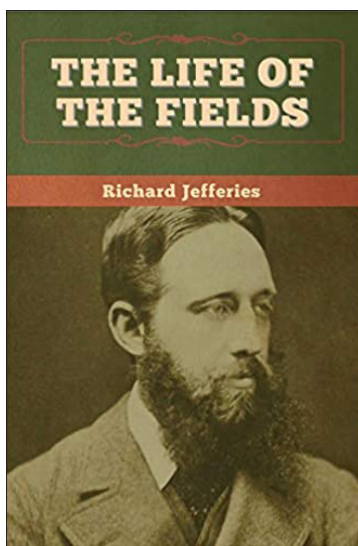
Greeting the springtime

The River from a Boat



by Chantal Richards

By far the best way to enjoy the river is to be on it! It can transport and transform your mind and body whilst you sit and look back at life on the shore. The motion of the water, the reflection of light, the beauty of the banks and wildlife. All the things we have missed in lockdown.



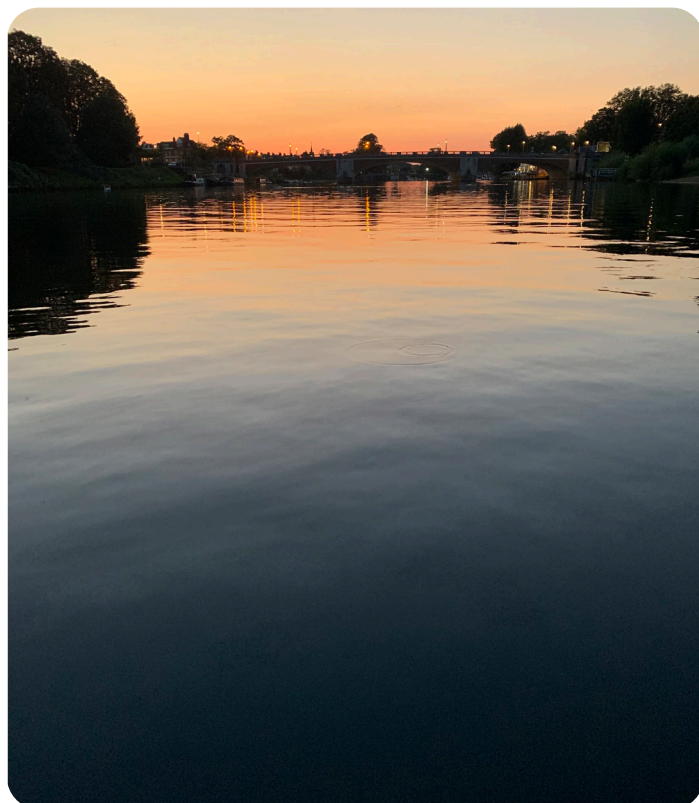
Richard Jefferies (1848-1887) insisted that “the hours when the mind is absorbed by beauty are the only hours when we really live.” Jeffries was a British nature writer who

wrote *The Life of the Fields* (1884)* which is an exquisite eulogy for the way attentiveness to nature’s beauty dissolves the boundary between ourselves and the world.

My mother lives on Thames Ditton island, and on every visit I can spend at least an hour in silence just watching the to and fro of life on the

river. The rowing boats, the gin palaces, the party boats, the school rowing teams, the ducks, the swans, the birds, the sunset, the sunrise, the fishermen, and across the water, the early morning runners, the dog walkers, the lovers on the opposite bench, the backdrop of Hampton Court Palace and Home Park... it’s enough to make you forget about your troubles.

But then we jump into the boat and drift along, picnic on board, the conversation melts while we just watch and stare. Absorbed by the beauty. Bliss.



View from the boat towards Hampton Court Bridge.

**Life of Fields* available from Amazon. Used from £4.15.

The River Boats

Here are the local boats that leave from Richmond.

Turks



Turks offer round trips from Richmond to Kingston. Prices from £8.00 for seniors. Book in advance.

Turk Launches, Town End Pier, 68 High Street, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 1HN

020 8546 2434

www.turks.co.uk

Thames River Boats



Outside seating only until 17 May. Sailings are between Richmond and Hampton Court, or 45 minute round trip sightseeing from Richmond.

Online booking required. Prices from £8.00 for seniors.

020 7930 2062

email: theboats@wpsa.co.uk

www.thamesriverboats.co.uk/thames-boats/latest-sailings.asp

Richmond Bridge Boat Hire

And if you're feeling fit and strong why not take out your own boat. Traditional Thames rowing skiffs can be hired next to Richmond Bridge.

Richmond Bridge, Richmond upon Thames, TW9 1TH

Phone: Mark Barogwanneth, 020 8948 8270



Friendship



by Mike Townsin

Mike Townsin is a Trustee of The Richmond Charities.

Take two minutes to read these sayings and be sure to read all the way to the end. Written by Andy Rooney, a man who had the gift of saying so much with so few words. Rooney, who used to be on CBS's 60 Minutes TV show, has passed away, but his words spoken then are more important now than ever! Enjoy!

I've learned ...
That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned ...
That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

I've learned ...
That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned ...
That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned ...
That money doesn't buy class.

I've learned ...
That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

I've learned ...
That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned ...
That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in any other way.

I've learned ...
That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned ...
That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned ...
That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I've learned ...
That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned ..
That love, not time, heals all wounds.

I've learned ...
That it's those small daily happenings
that make life so spectacular.

I've learned ...
That under everyone's hard shell is
someone who wants to be appreciated
and loved.

I've learned ...
That to ignore the facts does not
change the facts.

I've learned ...
That when you plan to get even with
someone, you are only letting that
person continue to hurt you.

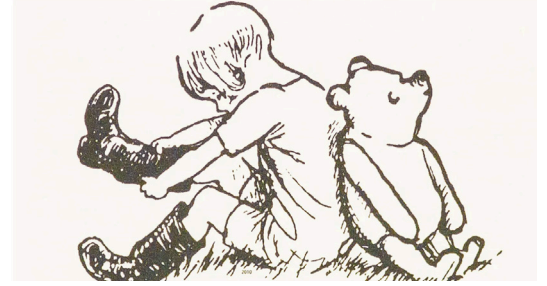
I've learned ...
That the easiest way for me to grow
as a person is to surround myself with
people smarter than I am.

I've learned ...
That everyone you meet deserves to
be greeted with a smile.

I've learned ...
That no one is perfect until you fall in
love with them.

I've learned ...
That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

I've learned ...
That opportunities are never lost;
someone will take the ones you miss.



I've learned ...
That I wish I could have told my Mom
that I love her one more time before
she passed away.

I've learned ...
That one should keep his words both
soft and tender, because tomorrow he
may have to eat them.

I've learned...
That a smile is an inexpensive way to
improve your looks.

I've learned ...
That when your newly born grandchild
holds your little finger in his little fist,
you're hooked for life.

I've learned ...
That everyone wants to live on top of
the mountain, but all the happiness and
growth occurs while you're climbing it.

I've learned ...
That the less time I have to work with,
the more things I get done.

I've learned ...
That when you're in love, it shows.

Flower Quiz



by Nigel Davis

Can you identify these flowers?

1. Of all the flowers, this one has to be the most vain and conceited.
2. What do departing lovers often say to one another?
3. The eyes have it.
4. A sad sight at a dance.
5. A sugary prince.
6. Hide in plum (anagram)
7. A flower which helps with the washing-up.
8. A prickly sort of white wine.
9. Frog chorus.
10. Do they ring in the cathedral city of Kent?
11. A very proper and correct flower.
12. Worn in button-holes in a Country of drivers.
13. A good partner on a tandem bicycle, according to the song.
14. Sounds like herds of sheep.
15. Keeps a wild animal's paws warm.
16. This flower could start an avalanche.
17. Mythical fire-blowing beast that bites.
18. Hard working queen.
19. This big cat is a snappy dresser.
20. A flower which is a musical instrument.



Answers
on page 26

My Favourite Song - *Dancing Queen* by Abba



by Claire Sanecka

This week's song is from **Richard Yardley: Dancing Queen by Abba**. His favourite radio station is Gold Radio (classic hits from the fifties, sixties, seventies & eighties). Find Gold Radio on DAB Digital Radio and AM 1458 kHz.

What's your favourite song? Fill in slip below and give to your Scheme Manager.

*You can dance, you can jive, having the
time of your life
See that girl, watch that scene, diggin'
the dancing queen*

*You can dance, you can jive, having the
time of your life
See that girl, watch that scene, diggin'
the dancing queen*

*Friday night and the lights are low
Looking out for the place to go
Where they play the right music, getting
in the swing
You come in to look for a king
Anybody could be that guy
Night is young and the music's high
With a bit of rock music, everything is
fine
You're in the mood for a dance
And when you get the chance...*

*You're a teaser, you turn 'em on
Leave them burning and then you're
gone
Looking out for another, anyone will do
You're in the mood for a dance
And when you get the chance...*

*You are the dancing queen, young and
sweet, only seventeen
Dancing queen, feel the beat from the
tambourine*

*You are the dancing queen, young and
sweet, only seventeen
Dancing queen, feel the beat from the
tambourine
You can dance, you can jive, having the
time of your life
See that girl, watch that scene, diggin'
the dancing queen*

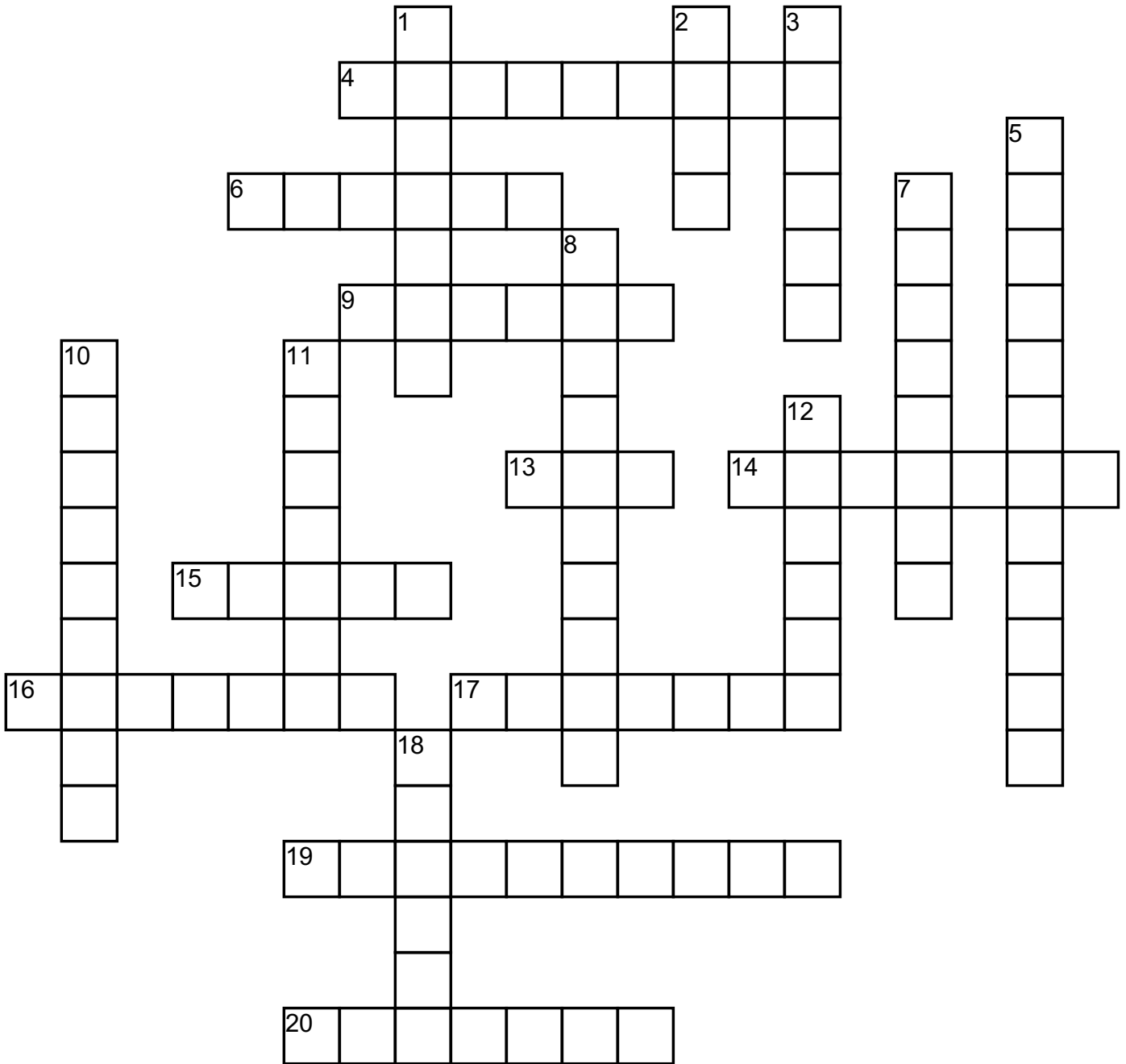
Songwriters: Stig Anderson / Benny Andersson / Bjoern K Ulvaeus

Name _____

My favourite song: _____



Crossword Competition - The River Thames



Name _____

Address _____

Crossword Clues

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

The Prize: £5 M&S Voucher

How to enter:

- Complete your crossword on page 24
- Fill in your name and address at the bottom of page 24

- Place page 24 in your suggestion box by **FRIDAY 23 April 2021**
 - Completed crosswords will be entered into a prize draw. The winner will be announced in the next issue.
- Good luck!

Across

4. Bridge / park / power station / dogs' home! (9)
6. Joseph _____ (1857 – 1924), Polish-born author of fiction often with a nautical element, including 'Nostromo', 'Heart of Darkness' and 'Lord Jim' (6)
9. Oxfordshire riverside town, site of annual regatta (6)
13. One of the river's islands, sounds like a number (3)
14. River scavenger at low tide (7)
15. Waterside building where ships can load and unload cargo (5)
16. Bridge / borough / palace / walk! (7)
17. Berkshire riverside village, home to painter Stanley Spencer (7)
19. Peninsula including the Millwall and Canary Wharf districts where cats won't go! (4,2,4)
20. Bridge / FC / pensioners / Clinton! (7)

Down

1. The Thames _____, ten steel gates spanning the river from Silvertown to Woolwich (7)
2. The river at Oxford / Egyptian goddess (4)
3. Essex island in the Thames Estuary which suffered serious flooding in 1953 (6)
5. Infamous entrance from the river to the Tower of London (8,4)
7. Bridge / station / battle / sunset! (8)
8. Lock in London Borough of Richmond where the river's tide ends (10)
10. Tea clipper built in 1869 now in dry dock at Greenwich (5,4)
11. HMS _____, WW2 light cruiser moored at Southwark (7)
12. Craven Cottage, river side home of _____ FC(6)
18. Twickenham island / meal (3,3)

Noticeboard

Message from the Editor:

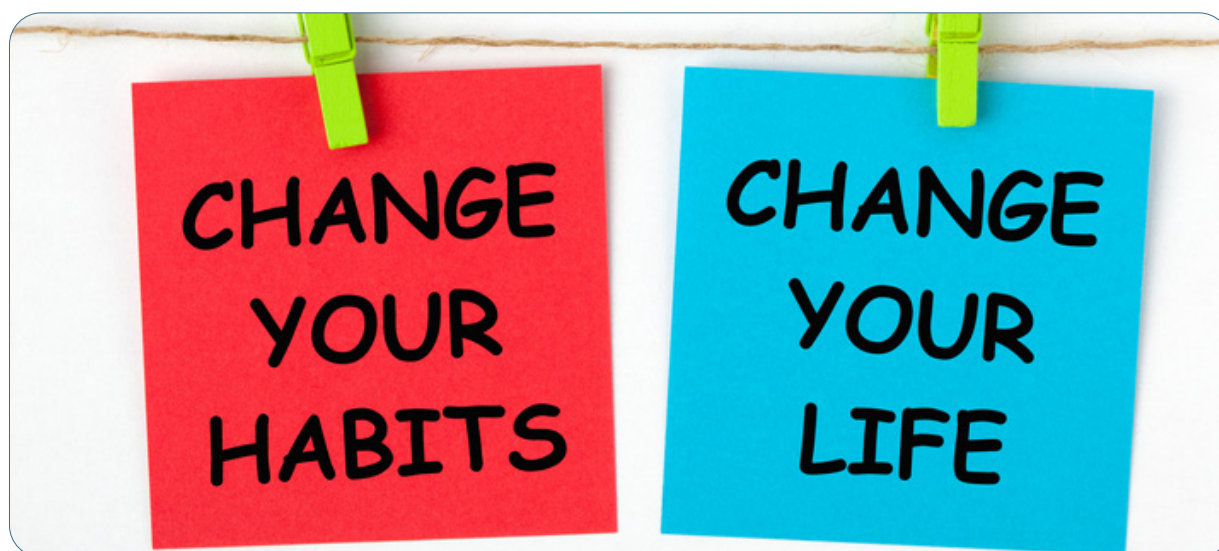
We are looking for residents that have any interesting stories about

Healthy Habits

Do you have new or regular healthy habits that have changed your life for the better (or worse!?)

We would love to hear from you! Please send your stories, comments or thoughts by
Wednesday 21 April 2021.

Please talk to your scheme manager or email:
c.richards@richmondcharities.org.uk



Answers to last week's Eggcellent Easter Quiz Competition - April One 2021 1a. Cross. 1b. Lambs. 1c. God. 2a. Bugs Bunny. 2b. Thumper. 2c. Peter Rabbit. 2d. The White Rabbit. 3. Fifth Avenue. 4. The Belfast Agreement. 5. Palm Sunday. 6. Judy Garland and Fred Astaire. 7. Peter Carl Fabergé. 8. United Kingdom. 9. Eggs. 10. Chile. 11. Shrove Tuesday. 12. Passover. 13. a. lunar. 14. I am the walrus 15. Resurrection. 16. Mopsy. 17. 80 million. 18. false. 19. Aztec. 20. Watership Down. 21. *Jesus Christ Superstar*. 22. b. James II.

Page 26. The Flower Quiz:
Answers 1. Narcissus. 2. Forget-me-not. 3. Iris. 4. Wallflower. 5. Sweet William. 6. Delphinium. 7. Marigold. 8. Hollyhock. 9. Crocus. 10. Canterbury Bells. 11. Primrose. 12. Carnation. 13. Daisy. 14. Phlox. 15. Foxglove. 16. Snowdrop. 17. Snapdragon. 18. Busy Lizzie. 19. Dandelion. 20. Viola.

Wordsearch: The River Thames

B O L H I R K X Q K T A O B R E V I R D O D Q B
 D T R Q W Q O X D H O K A X R E M Y D J I H A M
 L K X N O N R N E T B T W E B L M E Y T U Z C L
 X T A O B E F I L A F K A O B O Z C R Q N V R N
 E C U Q U O V Q L P Z X O F M P W A A A M T O J
 V S P P C M S Z X S A U R Q H D J R T G J E Y N
 M D X Q T F H B G E G V K I W A K T U U K M A C
 X J Z O S J I R N M U B X H E T T A B R W B L Y
 P G A U C W A O X A C R A Y V W Z O I I V A D Y
 F G S Z I Z V L V H G V G S I D H B R S W N O C
 O L F A O H X X M T J D V Q I T O G T A W K C Q
 M X E S E P A D L T W N Z J F N K W T L P M K U
 E M R C O C N Y N O B A R R I E R E A M R E S A
 P S W I A U N W Y G Q Y S K F M R V A E S N Z M
 S X T L A T T A G E R M U J Q G R E M H O T E B
 M F H U D R K N D Y E Z U Q A N R O A E X C J C
 H X S N A T G A D Y H L G T B T Q R M F W M V Z
 W I H P J R Z E K M G B E F S C B E U V I M T S
 M M I M O Z Y N E M Y K M N G O Y P X T L O L K
 V G Q U U K F H U Y Y S W S U O R B L V W A D W
 L V G R Y J R R U A M O C R T I Q E W P N I A E
 S E A Y H V S V V R D W Q O V L K J A A L I W U
 K V K L D D Y E L L A V S E M A H T C F O P A B
 O Y H S F S E G M D C V R A Q I H N W E A N Q Y

watergate downstream royaldocks upriver eyot towpath

tadpole thamespath harbour weir basin tributary

barrier thamesvalley riverboat estuary canal

regatta embankment boatrace lifeboat

Poetry Corner by Nigel Davis



Even if Robert Burns famously addressed a poem, one of his best, to a louse, not many poets choose to write about bugs and insects. But to the English nature poet John Clare (1793-1860), just because they were part of the natural world, they were a fit subject of poetry.

Clare was an intensely sensitive man. He was an agricultural labourer from Northamptonshire, with limited education, and whose last thirty years were spent in what was then called unfeelingly a lunatic asylum. To him, anything in nature was the inspiration for his poetry. Many poets, for example, have written poetry about birds and birdsong. But Clare also wrote many poems about birds nests and birds eggs. Can you imagine Keats or Shelley doing that?

This poem is not a great poem. It does not want or try to be. It is pure and typical Clare. He lovingly identifies with the insect; and then lovingly identifies with its imagined feelings. The word “green” may seem over-used, for instance. But maybe, for a clock-a-clay, the colour green rather predominates in its world? And there is a gentle humour in the clock-a-clay clinging on grimly to its cowslip stem, when what would be a gust of wind to us mortals but is a gale to it blows. And the lovely touch in switching the verb in the last line to “watching”, away from the verb “waiting” as used in the first verse, hints at the timelessness of its role. Here I always am, the clock-a-clay seems to say: watching and waiting, waiting and watching.

Clock-a-clay is – or, rather, was – a rural dialect word. Other names this

insect used to have were, among others, May-bug, Lady-cow, and for some reason, in Sussex, Bishop Barnabee. Its delightful name in French is coccinelle. Can you work out what a clock-a-clay is? (Answer below.)

Clock-a-Clay by John Clare

In the cowslip pips I lie,
Hidden from the buzzing fly,
While green grass beneath me lies,
Pearled with dew like fishes’ eyes,
Here I lie, a clock-a-clay,
Waiting for the time of day.

While grassy forest quakes surprise,
And the wild wind sobs and sighs,
My gold home rocks as like to fall,
On its pillar green and tall;
When the pattering rain drives by
Clock-a-clay keeps warm and dry.

Day by day and night by night,
All the week I hide from sight;
In the cowslip pips I lie,
In rain and dew still warm and dry;
Day and night, and night and day,
Red, black-spotted clock-a-clay.

My home shakes in wind and showers,
Pale green pillar topped with flowers,
Bending at the wild wind’s breath,
Till I touch the grass beneath;
Here I live, lone clock-a-clay,
Watching for the time of day.

*A clock-a-clay is a ladybird.