

WINTER 2018

RICHMOND LOCALS



ST MARGARETS | RICHMOND GREEN | RICHMOND HILL | THE ALBERTS



The Theatre Royal, Richmond Green (1765-1884)

TAKING CENTRE STAGE

From a converted stable on Hill Rise to Frank Matcham's architectural masterpiece on Little Green, Richmond has enjoyed a long and distinguished theatrical heritage

Richmond's theatrical history certainly dates to the late 16th century when touring companies would perform in the Great Hall of Richmond Palace to audiences that included Queen Elizabeth I (the Palace was her preferred winter residence and she died there in 1603). According to some sources, the repertoire included works by Shakespeare – he might also have acted – and Christopher Marlowe.

The first recorded permanent theatre was established on Richmond Hill in 1719 by Will Penkethman, a comic actor/manager with the Union Company of Drury Lane. On 31 May 1718 the *St James's Evening Post* noted: 'We hear, Mr. Penkethman is building

a handsome Theatre at Richmond, for the Diversion of the Nobility and Quality.' Exactly how 'handsome' the premises were is open to debate: Penkethman converted a stable-cum-barn at what is now 62-70 Hill Rise and put on plays – his speciality was broad farce – until his death in 1725.

The first theatre to be located on Richmond Green (it was called the King's Theatre and then, when George III and Queen Charlotte became patrons, the Theatre Royal), stood at the top of Old Palace Lane close to present-day Garrick Close. It was managed by James Dance, who acted under the name 'Mr. Love,' and opened in 1765 with a production of the Comic Opera, *Love in a Village*.

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The *St James Chronicle* reported the event: 'On Saturday, the fifteenth Instant, was opened, by Authority, the New Theatre on Richmond Green... The present Manager, by the assistance of some opulent Friends, has at a very great expence erected a Theatre as commodious and handsome, and, for its size, as magnificent as those of the Metropolis.'

Perhaps the high point for the theatre came in 1831 when the renowned actor Edmund Kean became the lessee. He had long cherished an ambition to manage his own company and building – Kean was particularly attracted by Richmond's salubrious rural surroundings – and his first season began on 18 July 1831 (he died in Richmond on 15 May 1833 and is buried at St Mary Magdalene). During the tenure of John Russell, the last proprietor, attendances dropped and, with fewer actors willing to play in Richmond, the theatre was closed and demolished in 1884.

In 1889 F.C. Mouflet, a prominent local hotelier, decided that Richmond should once again have a purpose-built theatre. He purchased land on Little Green and

commissioned a design from Frank Matcham, the leading architect of the day. The theatre opened on 18 September 1899 with a performance of *As You Like It* and went through several incarnations – the Prince of Wales Theatre and the Richmond Hippodrome – before becoming the Richmond Theatre.

Mouflet spared no expense: the cost of construction was £30,000. On 9 September 1899 The *ERA* national newspaper commented: 'The inhabitants of this popular suburb are evincing great interest in the theatre which Mr F.C. Mouflet is having built on Richmond-green... It is a very handsome structure and the decorations have been chosen with great taste. There are buffets and refreshment bars for every part of the house... everything throughout the house is of the most approved and up-to-date style. The result is one of the best arranged and most artistic and substantial theatres in or out of London.'

**Illustrations reproduced courtesy
of Richmond Local Studies and Archives**

KEEP IT LOCAL!

Welcome to the new issue of Richmond Locals, the quarterly magazine dedicated to meeting the people and showcasing the businesses that do so much to give Richmond and St Margarets its unique character.

In the current economic climate, it's always encouraging to meet young entrepreneurs with the ambition to launch a new business. James McCormack and Victoria Pitcher opened Flawless Physio next to St Margarets station in September and they are already building an excellent reputation for the breadth of their skills – as well as physio, they also offer pilates, acupuncture and bio-mechanical analysis – and thorough, friendly approach to patient care.

Chazz Gill, owner of d-lite lighting and electrical products store on Sheen Road, took over an existing operation in 2016. Since then, Chazz has put his own stamp on the operation, re-modelling the showroom and expanding the product range (he also makes excellent coffee!). Elsewhere, we meet Dom and Michael from Sporting Feet – the local experts at fitting sports shoes properly – Jack Davis, Manager of The White Horse in The Alberts and catch up with several generations of the carpet-selling Herdman family from St Margarets.

If you would like to be included in the next issue, do get in touch.

Neil

Neil McKelvie, Editor

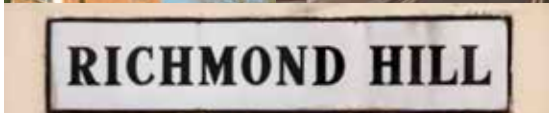
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Dom and Michael

BEST FOOT FORWARD

Whatever your sporting pursuit, it's worth making sure your feet are fit for purpose

'If your footwear doesn't fit – even slightly too narrow or too small or not enough arch support or cushioning – then it will likely cause issues or injuries,' explains Dom Stead. 'That's where we come in: we have the experience and expertise to customise the shoe or boot and ensure that every element is perfect.'

I've just watched Dom, who co-owns Sporting Feet, measuring

the feet of an amateur runner and, much to her surprise, she wasn't the size she had thought. Customers travel to King Street from around West London for a very good reason: there's nothing that Dom and manager Michael Morris don't know about sports shoes and how to fit them.

'First and foremost, we like to scan feet,' Dom continues. 'It's a quick and simple process.

Our digital scanner measures size, width, arch and pressure and that is complemented by gait analysis tests – sometimes we ask customers to run outside. Armed with that information, we can then tailor the fit so that the feet are bio-mechanically balanced and actually function better.

'We apply the same fitting principles for running, football, hockey, tennis, netball, cricket, rugby or fitness training. That means pinpointing the size and width – we have extra-width options – and, if necessary, providing an insole that mirrors the arch type and pressure points. We work with all the top brands and, most importantly, we're independent and never sell someone the wrong shoe.'

Sporting Feet stocks good quality running wear and the Ascent range of children's shoes. 'They are hard-wearing and, because they incorporate sports technology, they're ideal for rushing around,' says Dom. 'Kids love them.' Dom and Michael are also always happy to give basic advice on injury prevention and treatments, have strong links with sports health practitioners and the shop has become an information hub for local classes, teams and clubs.

'Whether you are running or playing a sport, your feet are crucial,' adds Dom. 'It's so important to look after them. Our job is to give honest, practical guidance and provide effective footwear solutions.'

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Nancy and Rachid

A DESIGN FOR LIFE

Gautier brings elegance, functionality and classic French flair to the home

Founded in 1960 by Patrice and Annick Gautier and now a successful global business, the Gautier brand epitomises the very best in French design and manufacturing. One of only two branches in London, the Chiswick High Road store is a superb showcase for Gautier's contemporary, eco-friendly furniture and chic accessories.

Rachid Kader owns the branch. 'I'm actually an architect by profession and

I approached Gautier to become a franchisee simply because I love their products,' he smiles. 'I often use the furniture in my work and clients always share my enthusiasm for its ingenious, problem-solving practicality and impeccable quality.

'Gautier isn't a well-known name in the UK, so I knew that we could offer something very distinctive,' adds Rachid. 'The use of colours and materials is so original,

the craftsmanship is excellent and the furniture provides imaginative solutions when living space is at a premium.'

Gautier also offers a very popular interior design service. Nancy Ghattas, the charming manager of the store, trained in Fine Art and Interior Design and she is the in-house expert. 'Clients often ask for help refreshing or refurbishing a particular room,' she explains. 'They might want to integrate new furniture or replace the wallpaper or flooring. Then, when I show them the sheer range of our materials, colours, fabrics and finishes, they decide to expand the brief to work on the whole property.

'The vast majority of our products – whether sofas, beds, sideboards, wardrobes, TV units or dining tables – are modular. That means they can be easily mixed and matched to suit any room size or layout (except kitchens and bathrooms). When I visit a customer – the initial consultation is free – I like to get to know them and their tastes. We explore different options and I prepare a 3D design that meets the budget. That plan is then adapted and refined until the client is happy with the result.'

If you're doing some Christmas gift shopping for yourself, friends or family, it's well worth popping over to Chiswick to acquire some true French style.

Gautier

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Martin, Jake and Josh Herdman

IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR

Investing in new carpet or flooring? Whether you know an Axminster from a Saxony, the Herdmans will give excellent personal service

When Martin Herdman says that his carpet business is family owned and operated, he means it. Established in 1987 on Crown Road, St Margarets (the showroom moved from No 24 to No 35 in 2006), it is run by three generations: there's Martin Snr, his brother Stuart and sister Sarah, Martin's sons Jake, Josh, Martin Jnr and Luke and Martin Jnr's sons, Harry and Martin III.

So, the inevitable question: how do they get along? Martin smiles: 'Like any family, we have the odd drama. But we're honest with each other, and that works well. Also, when a customer comes to us – whether for advice in the showroom, to get an estimate or to have a carpet fitted –

they'll always deal with a family member. We never use sub-contractors, everything is done by one of us.'

The Herdmans are an interesting bunch. A carpet fitter by trade, Martin is an ex-professional Rugby League player and also an actor with credits in TV and stage productions. Son Josh has followed in his footsteps by appearing in the Harry Potter films while Jake is a former Royal Marine commando.

What the family shares is a passion for the business and a pride in their professionalism. 'Anything that goes on the floor, whatever the style or budget, we can do it,' explains Martin. 'We supply and fit all carpets and natural flooring,

every type of hard floor, vinyl, linoleum, Karndean, laminate, bamboo, you name it...

'We also provide a shop-at-home service for the elderly, lift and dispose of old flooring and move and replace furniture. We carry out sub-floor work, repair floorboards, sand and varnish, trim doors and we're happy to disconnect and reconnect kitchen equipment.'

Personal service is the watchword for the Herdmans. 'We're members of the Guild of Master Craftsmen and proud of our reputation for being friendly and reliable,' says Martin. 'With us, you can have complete peace of mind that the job will be done properly from start to finish by a family member.'

The Herdman Family Carpet Shop

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d-lite.co.uk



Chazz Gill

LET THERE BE LIGHT

d-lite is Richmond's one-stop shop for lighting and electrical products

When he acquired the d-lite lighting and electrical products business on Sheen Road in June 2016, Chazz Gill was a newcomer to the industry. But, as he confirms, that relative lack of experience has actually stood him in good stead.

‘My background was in acoustics, specifically sound and vibration analysis and monitoring, so there were parallels in terms of understanding electronics,’ says Chazz. ‘However, I knew that I’d have to get up to speed quickly with all the brands, products and technology – which is exactly what I did!’

‘As a result, I’ve found that I can explain technical issues to customers in jargon-free terms. That’s because I’ve had to learn too!’ Add in Chazz’s

friendly personality (the kettle is always on) and it’s clear why he has a growing clientele comprising local people who want bulbs, switches, electrical plates and stylish interior, exterior and garden lights, tradesmen who require basics such as trunking, junction boxes and insulation tape, and interior designers, architects and developers who are working on refurbishment and major re-build projects.

Since he took over Chazz has completely re-modelled the interior of the shop, making it more customer-friendly. ‘We now have a catalogue counter with comfy stools, all the lighting displays are interactive and I have installed a “Light Lab” which showcases LED light sources, demonstrating their varied

qualities, intensities and colour temperatures.

‘I’ve also improved the range and consistency of our goods – for example we now stock more LED tape profiles – and we work with high quality suppliers (including Orluna, Levello, Original BTC and Forbes & Lomax) across all budget brackets. In addition, whenever possible, I always try to price match products.’

Chazz is particularly keen on collaborating with other local businesses. ‘If a customer asks for advice with a lighting design concept or needs an excellent all-round electrician or an interior designer with the expertise to match lighting and furnishings, then I can recommend someone I know and trust. It’s all part of providing a comprehensive, service for the community.’

d-lite

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James and Victoria

FEEL GOOD. MOVE WELL. BE BETTER

*Flawless Physio will help you achieve
a happy, healthy, pain-free lifestyle*

‘For us, it’s never a case of “it’s just another knee or shoulder injury,” says James McCormack. ‘We place great emphasis on getting to know our patients and understanding their symptoms and how they affect their lifestyle. That enables us to provide the best tailored care for each individual.’

James is one half of Flawless Physio. In September he and Victoria Pitcher – both highly qualified and experienced physiotherapists – opened

their practice next to St Margaret’s station (the clinic is open seven days a week). They offer a range of targeted treatment solutions that also includes prescription orthotics, running analysis, bike fitting, Pilates and acupuncture.

‘As well as diagnosing and resolving specific injuries, we like to look at a person as a whole,’ explains James. ‘It’s not just about getting better; it’s about being better than before the injury. We can carry out a bio-mechanical

analysis of movement patterns, flexibility and mobility and then make subtle corrections to habitual actions – whether that’s picking up a child, lifting weights or running – and also advise on strengthening programmes.

‘Taken together, this can reduce injury risk, boost sporting performance and make daily life more enjoyable.’ James is also a knee, foot and ankle specialist and, when appropriate, he uses a state-of-the-art digital foot scanner to prescribe high quality, custom orthotics.

A keen cyclist, Victoria is trained in bike fitting, helping riders to minimise strain and position joints for optimum muscle and aerodynamic efficiency, and she teaches one-on-one Pilates classes which, by developing core strength, are perfect for post-natal mums and post-op rehab patients. Victoria also has a long-standing interest in using acupuncture to relieve pain. ‘I’ve found it very effective in cases of acute musculoskeletal pain, chronic pain, headaches and migraines.

‘When someone comes to see us, James and I will combine all our skills to remedy the issue. So, we won’t simply do Pilates in a Pilates class or acupuncture in an acupuncture session. It’s about finding exactly the right blend of treatments for each patient.’

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THE TREASURES OF STRAWBERRY HILL

A unique opportunity to view Horace Walpole's astonishing collection of arts, antiquities and curiosities as visitors to the gothic mansion would have seen them during his lifetime

Horace Walpole (1717–97), the son of the first Prime Minister, Sir Robert Walpole, was a Whig MP, art historian and aesthetic rebel. He also wrote *The Castle of Otranto* (1764), the novel that inspired the supernatural genre and established many plot devices, such as secret passages and doors closing by themselves, which are still so familiar today.

Walpole took up residence at Strawberry Hill House in 1747 and, over the next 50 years, he re-designed and re-built the riverside property, adding its distinctive whitewashed exterior and an array of architectural features, including crenellations, arches, turrets and vaulting. The 'little gothic castle'

became a suitably exotic gallery for his extraordinarily eclectic collection of art, antiquities and curiosities.

After Walpole's death, however, the house and its precious contents (over 4000 items not counting several thousand prints, drawings and coins) were sold at an auction lasting 24 days by his heir, the 7th Earl of Waldegrave, and were scattered around the globe. It's all the more exciting then that, for the first time in over 170 years, many of Walpole's remarkable pieces have now been re-united in a new exhibition – *The Lost Treasures of Strawberry Hill* – at their home on the banks of the Thames.

To read online search: [Keep Things Local](#)

Over the past three years the team of curators at Strawberry Hill has been scouring private collections and public museums worldwide, assiduously tracking down those 'lost treasures' using Walpole's own detailed descriptions and the sales catalogue from the auction. The result is that 50 lenders have agreed to loan their objects, with many being shown for the first time.

The exhibition features around 150 works and they are displayed in their original positions in the rooms at Strawberry Hill – helpfully, in 1784, Walpole published a room-by-room guide for visitors. Among them are portraits by Hans Holbein, Anthony van Dyck, Sir Joshua Reynolds and Sir Peter Lely and a painting by William Hogarth of Sarah Malcolm while she was incarcerated in Newgate prison. She had been convicted of a triple murder and was awaiting hanging.

Other highlights include: a monumental Roman Eagle from the first century AD found in the Baths of Caracalla; fabulous examples of Sèvres pottery; a clock given by Henry VIII to Anne Boleyn as a love token (their initials are engraved on the weights); a red hat that probably belonged – and according to Walpole, it definitely did – to Cardinal Wolsey; a cravat carved by Grinling Gibbons; and the 'magic mirror' (it is an obsidian disc) used by Dr Dee of Mortlake, Queen Elizabeth I's astrologer and alchemist, to conjure up spirits during his 'magic' rituals.

Open until 24 February next year, this exhibition presents a fascinating insight into both Strawberry Hill House in its 18th century splendour and the singular man who created it, the so-called 'prime minister of taste'.



The Gallery



Medici vase made of Florentine fayence



Roman Eagle, 1st Century AD

The Ladies Waldegrave by Sir Joshua Reynolds



Lost Treasures of Strawberry Hill: 20 Oct 2018-24 Feb 2019

Monday-Friday: 12-6pm (until 10pm on Fridays); Saturday and Sunday: 11am -6pm.
Public guided tours at 10am Saturday and Sunday. Private guided tours at 10am, 10.30am and 6pm, Monday to Friday.

Strawberry Hill House and Garden

268 Waldegrave Road,
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THE WHITE HORSE

Richmond

Jorge, Daniela, Jack, Jonny and James

A PROPER NEIGHBOURHOOD LOCAL

The perfect place to pop in for a pint, enjoy a delicious meal or enjoy an evening's entertainment with friends and family

There can't be many pubs which celebrated National Fudge Day. Or National Lobster Day. Or, even more temptingly, National Cherry Turnover Day. One Richmond hostelry where glasses were raised – and complimentary treats enjoyed – was The White Horse in The Alberts.

'Tuesdays are now Celebration Nights,' smiles Manager, Jack Davis. 'Every day seems to have a celebration, however obscure, attached to it, so I thought it would be fun to mark them. On National Rice Day we served mini-*arancini* during the evening, on National Lobster Day it was lobster bisque and on National Fudge Day... well, let's say that went down well with the regulars.'

Having worked for Fuller's for nine years, Jack took the reins at The White Horse in June. He completed the brewery's training scheme and has previously managed The Old Packhorse in Chiswick and The Stonemason's

Arms in Hammersmith. 'I'm delighted to be here. This is a community-driven pub with a family-friendly atmosphere. The bar and kitchen team is excellent, we have all the Fuller's ales and craft beers and the menu features daily specials and hearty Sunday lunches with two and three-course set options.'

On Wednesdays Jack has introduced Steak & Wine nights. 'We serve five premium cuts and the more beef a table orders, the less the cost of their wine,' he explains. 'For example, if a table of four all choose an 8oz sirloin they would save £20.'

The White Horse is also renowned for its popular Open Mic nights (Sundays) and, always a highlight, the weekly Adventure Quiz (Thursdays). Jack himself used to attend the Quiz before he became the Manager. 'There are tasting rounds, speed rounds, walk-around-the-pub rounds and fantastic



prizes. It's always very well-attended, so it's better to book in advance.'

The White Horse's Christmas menu is available and areas of the pub can be reserved for private parties (the maximum seated capacity is 50 people). 'As a neighbourhood pub, we try to cater for everyone,' says Jack. 'Customers will receive superb service and a warm welcome.'

The White Horse

Worple Way, TW10 6DF / 020 8940 2418
whitehorse.richmond@fullers.co.uk
www.whitehorserichmond.co.uk

CAN WE HELP YOU TO PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS?

Keep Things Local is a media business with a unique local focus. We publish five flagship magazines (Fulham Locals, Chelsea Locals, Chiswick Locals, Richmond Locals and Hammersmith Locals) and more launches are planned for Winter and Spring.

The prime focus of each of these seasonal magazines is to profile and support independent traders and businesses. This is achieved through advertorials which are written, designed and photographed by our experienced in-house team.

In addition to featuring in the magazines, every advertorial is also published on our website (www.keepthingslocal.com) and in our newsletters and social media.

If you want to promote your business, call 07956 391739 or email connect@keepthingslocal.com

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Sophie May

BUILDING EXCELLENCE

Whitehall Construction has the expertise to take any project from design to completion

Sophie and Daniel May recently completed a re-building project on their Twickenham home. When they moved in, she was pregnant – the couple already had two young children – and their key priority was to finish before the birth. Here Sophie recalls the experience of working with Jason Wilkinson of West London company, Whitehall Construction.

‘It was a major undertaking as nothing had been done to the property for 30 years. We wanted a kitchen extension, a side return, a basement utility room and an extra loft bedroom. Since the decor was dated, it also made sense to redecorate the whole house in one go. In the end, no room was left untouched.

Given that Daniel and I were working full-time, micro-managing was out of the question. So, it was essential that we could trust Jason to use his own initiative. That’s where I really appreciated the communications process. He was on our wavelength, always available and very hands-on. The site team was equally accommodating. To start with we lived in the house and they were friendly and caused minimum fuss.

‘Jason also proved particularly helpful with practical design decisions and ensured there were no nasty surprises for us. One potential problem arose with the basement. When we dug down to achieve a good head height, the Structural

Engineer pointed out that underpinning was required. We hadn’t expected that. Jason just got on with it and absorbed the costs. I’m sure other issues arose, but he found solutions without ever making it a problem.

‘The job took six months and, amazingly, it was finished two weeks early and on budget. I can’t recommend Whitehall Construction highly enough.’



Jason Wilkinson

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Nick Ferran

EYES WIDE OPEN

Shoulder and elbow consultant Nick Ferran recommends regional anaesthesia as an option for upper limb surgery

‘Many patients are a little nervous – that’s only natural. However, once I’ve reassured them that they won’t feel pain and explained the benefits of remaining conscious, any anxiety is usually allayed.’

Consultant Shoulder and Elbow Surgeon Nick Ferran practises at HCA Outpatients and Diagnostic Centre in Chiswick. He is passionate about awake surgery. ‘It’s quite common for hips and knees,’ Nick continues. ‘But, with advances in regional anaesthesia, patients requiring most upper limb surgery can now benefit too.’

‘First and foremost, it must be appropriate for the operation

and the patient’s condition. If those criteria are met, the advantages are clear. Staying awake means avoiding the risks of a general anaesthetic – they are rare but significant – as well as common side effects, such as nausea and vomiting. Of course, patients also recover faster and leave hospital much quicker. If needed we can use sedation, so patients who are apprehensive don’t know what’s going on, but still aren’t exposed to a general anaesthetic.’

Born in Trinidad, Nick attended Medical School at the University of the West Indies and is an NHS

Consultant at Northwick Park Hospital. ‘I wanted to be a doctor from a young age. When I was training, my first registrar post was with a shoulder surgeon. I found it to be a fascinating discipline, and it’s one that is evolving.’

All minor procedures, such as injections, are carried out at HCA Chiswick clinic and surgery is done at The Lister Hospital in Chelsea, where Nick works with two specialist anaesthetists. ‘When the evidence suggests conservative management using physiotherapy and injections will achieve results, I always try that route.

‘If surgery is the best option, the patient can, of course, choose to have a general anaesthetic. But most accept my recommendation of regional anaesthesia. In fact, the majority actually enjoy the experience of being able to follow the procedure on screen and ask me questions.’

Nick Ferran’s specialities:

- * Clavicle, elbow, shoulder and wrist fractures and degenerative conditions
- * Tennis Elbow
- * Carpal Tunnel surgery
- * Rotator cuff tears
- Frozen shoulder
- Shoulder arthritis
- Sports injuries
- * Ulna Nerve compression
- * Elbow tendinitis

Nick Ferran @ Shoulder & Elbow London Ltd

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