

## School will boost area

I AM writing to congratulate Richmond Council on its brave decision to house a much-needed primary school at the Old Ryde House site in Richmond Road, East Twickenham.

We at East Twickenham Neighbourhood Association Community Centre are very much of the view that one of the best ways to generate community spirit and sense of belonging in an area is by having a school located there. With a new school here in East Twickenham we hope that parents will WALK their children to school, shop in the local shops and frequent the many local coffee shops. We also hope they will take on board our Community Centre and the many services we provide.

At ETNA we understand the importance of community to an area. We have now been in existence for 30 years and have served the community in manifold ways.

Our activities at ETNA range from Pilates to Parties with a resident nursery and activities for residents of all ages.

We look forward to linking up with Deer Park School in the future and helping to generate a real sense of community among families and residents.

**SUE HOWES**  
Chair of ETNA,  
Rosslyn Road

## Thanks to supporters

AS ONE of the campaigners against the plan to put "Deer Park School" at Manor Circus, I want to say how pleased we are that a more appropriate site has been found in East Twickenham, where the school is needed.

Thank you to the 1,000 plus Richmond residents who signed our petition.

Thank you to Andree Frieze, of the Green Party, who helped and encouraged us.

Thank you to those Richmond Councillors who supported us, and Congratulations to the Councillors, and to Richmond Education Department, who worked hard to help to achieve the deal with Lidl.

Thank you to the parents – who simply didn't back the school! We understand that the council got not one message of support for the site from parents, and it seems almost all of the fourteen children at the temporary site have been sent there from Twickenham and St Margaret's, by reluctant families who had

# Keep homes off ATS site

I wonder if other residents are aware of the plans submitted by M2M Assets Ltd and Park Property Development to redevelop the former ATS site at the bottom of Kings Road?

The site, which backs onto a conservation area, is next to the much-needed ambulance substation, and

one of the last remaining open sites in the borough.

The proposal to put four four-storey houses into this space, with residential basements covering the whole site has been opposed by both residents and the council planning committee: and the decision is now with the planning inspectorate

following a recent appeal hearing.

I readily admit my personal interest in the matter, in that the development would permanently obscure the visual outlook from my property and remove significant light.

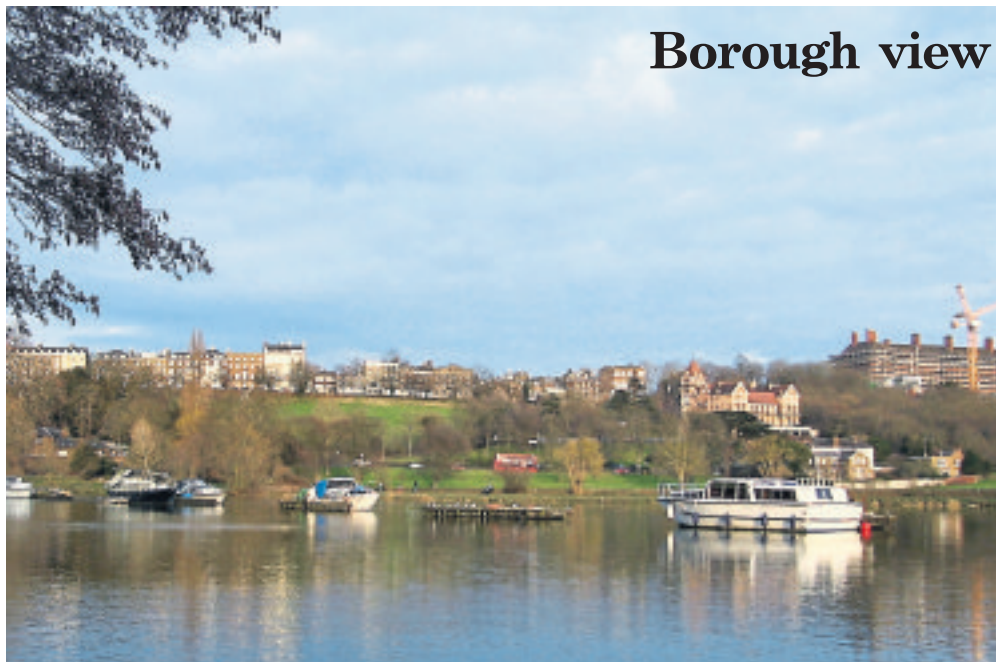
But, as we anxiously await

the inspectorate's decision, I ask why is it when residents and the council are united in opposing a developer's proposal, and the borough has a clear strategic plan to promote small businesses and maintain the character of a conversation area – that the planning process must be so protracted, complicated

and weighted in favour of commercial developers?

Surely, given its prominence and location, the site would lend itself to more imaginative and better use, benefitting the community or local businesses??

**MAGGIE LEE**  
by email



Andy Scott's photograph of Richmond Hill. Send your pictures to LettersRTT@london.newsquest.co.uk.

## Borough view

as the referendum approaches and we regain control from the disastrous undemocratic EU. Finally, although the made-up word "Brexit" expresses the tone of the desired action, it is important to remember that "leave" will be the key word on the voting paper.

**DAVID R GRICE**  
Oaklands Road,  
East Sheen

## Order over chaos

I READ the uncompromising Mr Shadbolt's letter in last week's RTT with sadness.

Whatever the result of this vote, which has divided our nation, pitting parents against their children, and which threatens to facilitate its breakup, there can be no celebrating the result.

If the BrexTweets win there will be no dancing in the streets for the millions of British working in the EU whose jobs will be at risk, nor for the like numbers facing similar threats at home. There will be no joy from those who love our United Kingdom and know that an "out" vote will force Scotland to leave us. Nor glee from our police and security services, who know well that their job of protecting us from crime and terrorism will just have become much more difficult.

Whilst Mr Shadbolt, whose entire working life has been sheltered by the stability of the EU's economic framework, can no doubt afford to ignore the consequences of the churning up of our society resulting from Brexit, young people and families cannot.

If, as I hope, the British people vote for order rather than chaos, for imperfect certainty rather than certain imperfection, then likewise there will be no room for factional triumphalism. The poisonous lies that have fed prejudice, xenophobia and intolerance and driven our country to this divisive plebiscite will not be countered otherwise than by patience and reason, by conciliation and unity.

**LAURENCE MANN**  
by email

no other school option.

And thank you to the Richmond and Twickenham Times, who told us about the site, when no-one else was giving out much information!

I can't imagine how the Department for Education ever thought that the tiny London House site, on the dangerous, polluted A316 red route, was a sensible place to put a primary school for 420 children. We can only assume that somebody made a huge blunder. Thank goodness common sense prevailed in time to limit the damage, but an enormous amount of taxpayers' money has been spent buying London House, which has stood empty and deteriorating for over a year now. Those whose businesses were thrown out of the building at short notice will not be comforted to see that the damage done to them, and the jobs lost, were for no good reason at all.

Ryde House is not an ideal site either, but at least it is in the area that needs a school, and has space for a playground.

Meanwhile, what is going to happen to London House?

We are hoping it will be returned to commercial use. Richmond need more work space.

**JANE HARRISON**  
By email

## Restoring England

HAVE you ever looked out upon a large cherry orchard in blossom? It's like a lake of white flower until the wind blows and then it is like seeing the rollers come in on the shoreline.

On the weekend I sat silently with my Alzheimer-hit mother and numb father. They have been married 65 years and brought me up in the heartland of England – the Cotswolds. I remember a wonderful cherry orchard that swept up the hill behind our back garden; blossoming season was a sight to take your breath away, scrumping a schoolboy's art. "The farmers had to cut the trees down, it was a Common Market directive so that the supply of cherries could be

shifted from England to some other orchards in Europe," my father said. He'd been a fruit farm labourer in post-war years. They were paid £200 compensation per tree. It was asset stripping made legal.

It's time to begin the re-forestation of England's orchards and re-build those assets stripped from us by Europe. Just as it takes 20 years to grow those cherry trees back, it will take 20 years to debug England of that EU moth that eats holes into the fabric of our society. Let's get to it. It's time to restore England and turn around that rape of our assets that Europhiles made possible.

**JERRY SHADBOLT**

## Let's vote to leave

I NOTE the two (conflicting) letters in respect of the EU referendum in the Feb 26 RTT, and applaud their publication. Whilst letters concerning our local council

elections and local interest may have a bearing on our surroundings, general letters covering important country-wide topics have historically and occasionally been frowned upon – a policy with which I disagree given the gap between the content and coverage of local and daily newspapers.

In respect of the Brexit letter from Jerry Shadbolt, I totally agree with it, and would comment and add as follows. The very existence of the referendum will create, I believe, a major short-term increase in EU immigration – with potentially an additional net 100,000 immigrants during a five-month period, over and above normal numbers. We have no control over these, irrespective of work status, and they will need 40,000 new dwellings, 50 new schools, 40 new hospitals and 1,000 new doctors just for the abnormal increase. Like it or not, one obvious solution is a moratorium on immigration until the future is clearer, but ironically I suspect EU laws, superseding ours, will prevent this. Without it, however, a catastrophe at our borders is a real possibility