

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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# TickerTape - News in Brief

## SWR Engineering Work

Engineering work will be taking place this weekend, Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th December. The Twickenham area will be affected. For more information, please visit: [www.southwesternrailway.com/engineering](http://www.southwesternrailway.com/engineering)

## Richmond upon Thames is London's happiest place to live

For the fifth year in a row, Richmond upon Thames has been voted the happiest place to live in London.

Richmond upon Thames came third in the vote for happiest place to live in Great Britain, after Hexham (first) and Harrogate (second).

The annual Rightmove study polls 22,000 homeowners across the UK in 194 locations, with a London index and a national list. The survey measures how people feel about 12 factors, including a sense of belonging, cultural scene and green space.

Find out more [HERE](#)

## Richmond Literature Festival

Last month saw over 3,000 people attend the annual Richmond Literature Festival. The four-week programme included 42 literary events in locations across the borough. Emma Cookson, Arts Service Manager, said:

“This year’s Richmond Literature Festival has been the most diverse and interesting festival to date. The wide range of creative workshops and talks meant there was something for everyone to enjoy.

*Printed copies of the Tribune are available from Crusader Travel, Church Street, Twickenham*

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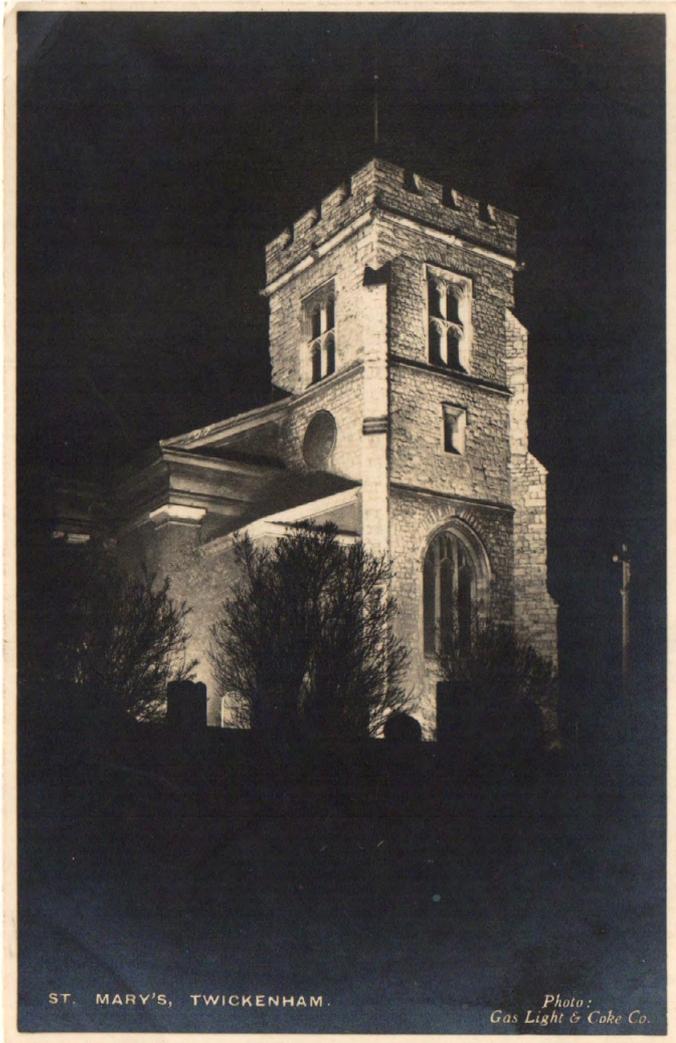
You can hardly be unaware, but it is less than a week until the General Election.

You may have noticed your junk mail pouring through your letterbox at a greater rate than ever as the various parties inundate residents with their 'message', well ... one party more than anyone else, conveniently ignoring their eco-credentials for the moment!

TwickerSeal is going to Sit Back, Tune In and Chill Out until it's all over and normal service can resume in the next edition – he hopes!



When hunting for old picture postcards of the local area, I sometimes discover interesting things written on the message side of the card. Our first postcard today is just such an example and as we are now on the run-in to Christmas it seems an appropriate time to feature it.



It is a postcard of St Mary's church in Twickenham where the photo has been taken at night. Not an uncommon postcard to find. However, this one was overprinted on the reverse by the vicar of the church in the early 1950s.

Alan Frank Bright Rogers was born in West London on September 12 1907. He went from Westminster City School to King's College, London, to prepare for Holy Orders, then spent a year at Leeds University before completing his training at Bishop's College, Cheshunt.

In 1934 as a 27 year old priest he became chaplain in the diocese of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. He remained in Mauritius until 1949 when he was Archdeacon. His next move was to Twickenham.

The Right Reverend Alan Rogers was vicar at St Mary's, Twickenham between 1949 and 1954.

While In Twickenham he had the church postcards overprinted with "Christmas Greetings from Alan and Millicent Rogers" and also showed the times of the services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The postcards were never actually posted as they had been designed for use as handouts and were presumably given out to members of the congregation before Christmas. An early form of local marketing which would probably have been quite effective as it went to a targeted audience.

After leaving Twickenham in 1954 Alan Rogers became Vicar and Rural Dean of Hampstead, where he remained until his call back to Mauritius as Bishop in 1959.

He returned from Mauritius in 1966 and after a period spanning a variety of jobs in the

London area finally retired to Twickenham. His career in the Ministry had spanned 70 years and he had been made a Bishop in three different spheres.

His wife Millicent died in 1984

Alan Rogers continued to work as an honorary curate at St Mary's, the same church where 30 years earlier he had been the vicar, until he was 93. The widely loved bishop and former vicar of Twickenham died aged 96 on October 16th 2003.



A number of bishops led a procession of clergy into a packed St Mary's Church, Twickenham, at the start of a service to celebrate the life of Bishop Alan Rogers. Representatives of the Bishop's abundant interests and concerns swelled the congregation, including the York House Society, the Probus Club of Twickenham and the Freemasons.

Recalling a man of great faith, humanity and humour, the Bishop of London said that "Alan Rogers, embodied the Church of England at its best. Twickenham was very important to him; he considered it a privilege to serve and live in the town."

I am always looking for old postcards and old photograph albums etc. The postcards can be British or Foreign, black and white or coloured and of places or subjects. If you have any that are sitting unwanted in a drawer, in a box in the loft or in the garage or under a bed, please contact me on 07875 578398 or [alanwinter192@hotmail.com](mailto:alanwinter192@hotmail.com) I would like to see them and I pay cash!



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Margaret's station)**

**See our website for further details**

**[www.richmondconcerts.co.uk](http://www.richmondconcerts.co.uk)**



## Theatre

Saturday 7 to 14 December. Richmond Shakespeare Society at the Mary Wallace Theatre, Twickenham, A Christmas Carol.

Ebenezer Scrooge is a cruel and selfish money lender who on Christmas Eve is visited by four ghosts.

Saturday 25 January to Friday 31 January. Teddington Theatre Club, Hampton Hill Theatre: Main Auditorium. Amadeus by Peter Shaffer. Music, power, jealousy and the genius of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

## Music

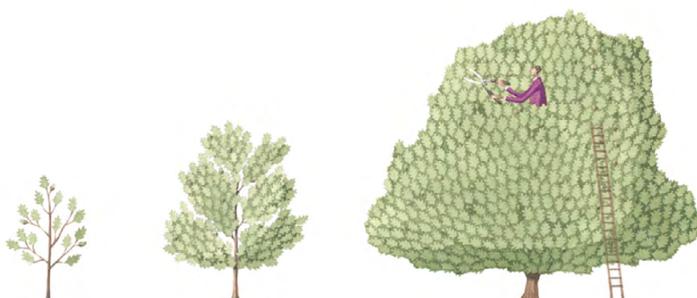
14<sup>th</sup> December, 9:00 pm, The Three Kings, Twickenham. The Midnight River Blues Band.

22 December 4 pm at the Landmark Arts Centre, Carols by Candlelight. (21 December "sold out")

18 January 7.30 pm at the Landmark Arts Centre, The Songs of Leonard Cohen (Keith James).

Jazz, rock, and blues music enthusiasts who head to the bars at The Cabbage Patch Pub in London Road are advised to visit Twickfolk, Twickenham Jazz Club and Eel Pie Club websites to check what's on.

***If you are interested in advertising an Arts & Entertainment event write to [advertise@twickenhamtribune.com](mailto:advertise@twickenhamtribune.com) for further information.***



### The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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# The Tree Agency



*Christmas Concert*

# A European Christmas

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# General Election 2019 - Thursday 12th December

It is less than a week until the election. You can find details of your polling station, and other information, [HERE](#).

Below are details of the candidates standing in our borough's two constituencies.

## Twickenham

<b>Isobel Grant</b> Conservative and Unionist Party <a href="http://www.isobelgrant.com">www.isobelgrant.com</a>		
<b>Ranjeev Walia</b> Labour Party <a href="http://www.vote.labour.org.uk/ranjeev-walia">www.vote.labour.org.uk/ranjeev-walia</a>		
<b>Munira Wilson</b> Liberal Democrats <a href="http://www.trlibdems.org.uk/meet_munira_wilson">www.trlibdems.org.uk/meet_munira_wilson</a>		
<b>Stuart John Wells</b> The Brexit Party <a href="http://www.thebrexitparty.org">www.thebrexitparty.org</a>		

## Richmond Park

<b>Zac Goldsmith</b> Conservative and Unionist Party <a href="http://www.zacgoldsmith.com">www.zacgoldsmith.com</a>		
<b>Sandra Keen</b> Labour Party <a href="http://www.vote.labour.org.uk/sandra-keen">www.vote.labour.org.uk/sandra-keen</a>		
<b>Sarah Olney</b> Liberal Democrats <a href="http://www.libdems.org.uk/sarah-olney-ppc">www.libdems.org.uk/sarah-olney-ppc</a>		
<b>Caroline Teresa Shah</b> Independent <a href="http://www.shahscott.com">www.shahscott.com</a>	Independent	
<b>John Usher</b> Independent <a href="http://whocanivotefor.co.uk/person/38061/john-usher">whocanivotefor.co.uk/person/38061/john-usher</a>	Independent	

# Council slams Twickenham park vandals

Richmond Council has slammed mindless vandals who have torched the eco-Christmas tree and play equipment on Diamond Jubilee Gardens.



On Sunday 1 December, a group of vandals attacked the park - setting the Twickenham Riverside Trust's eco-Christmas tree on fire, along with a number of pieces of equipment in the play area. Following this, the play area was hit again on Monday 2 December - when further damage to play equipment was caused.

The Council is working with the Police to identify those responsible. The play equipment will be replaced and the Council has offered to fund a new Christmas Tree for the popular Twickenham park. The play area is temporarily closed whilst the Council cleans up the damage. The Council is also seeking to install CCTV in the area.

Anyone with any information regarding the crime is encouraged to contact the Police on the non-emergency line: 101.

Ishbel Murray, Assistant Director of Environment and Community Services at Richmond Council, said:

*"It is hard to see why anyone would indulge in such mindless acts of vandalism in our parks - particularly destroying a Christmas tree that has been made in support of local children over the years!"*

*"Thankfully incidents of vandalism like this are relatively rare in the borough but it is always very disappointing to see this kind of behaviour in our parks. It is the young children who are most affected in this instance."*

*"I would encourage anyone with information about this incident to contact the police."*



# Long Day's Journey into Night

by **Eugene O'Neill**

Directed by Simon Bartlett

Richmond Shakespeare Society



at the Mary Wallace Theatre

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*"The past is the present, isn't it?  
It's the future too."*

# Questions About Twickenham Riverside - the Council's Preferred Plan

Teresa Read

The present Council is proposing the largest number of residential units in the planning history of the Twickenham Riverside site. Some of these apartments will be “affordable housing” but what is affordable on Twickenham Riverside?

Not only will these lucky residents have one of the most scenic views of the Thames they will also have access to Diamond Jubilee Gardens right outside their front door.

How much will residents pay for Twickenham Riverside “affordable housing” and who will be eligible?

And, of course, there is the Right to Buy - I believe that an officer echoed many thoughts “the Law is the Law”. One person’s affordable housing on Twickenham Riverside will be another’s luxury apartment.

Presumably 54 units will provide the Council with a substantial sum but will Twickenham benefit or will this windfall go into the Council pot?

If Twickenham is to lose out on what could be a community leisure amenities site, a substantial investment needs to be made in Twickenham town.

What a missed opportunity. Housing which could go there and not “here”. And Twickenham town will continue to decline when there could have been a leisure facility for everyone and visitors who would have spent their pounds in Twickenham regenerating our ailing town.

The Council's Preferred Plan

[www.richmond.gov.uk/media/17711/architect\\_one.pdf](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/17711/architect_one.pdf)

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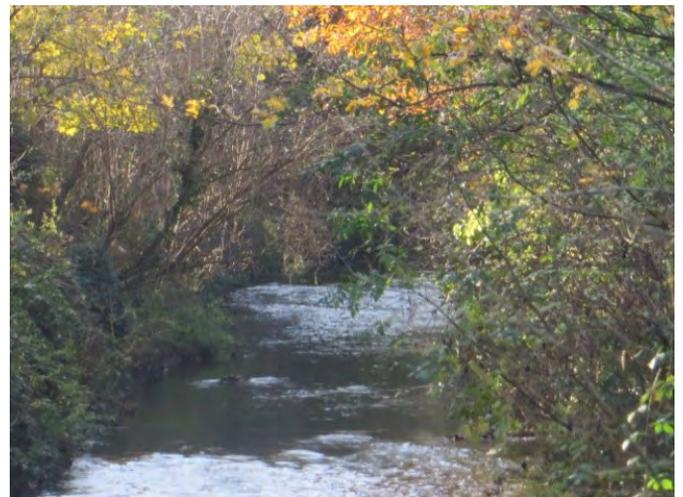




## *Alder by the River Crane*

The leaves are falling and the landscape changing into winter hues. Wrap up warm and walk in our beautiful parks and along the riverside paths and look out for the redwings, blackcaps and migrant robins all visiting from even colder climes to over winter here! Spare a few moments to break the ice on cold mornings for our bird baths/ponds and put out some food for garden visitors like hedgehogs who need to gain weight to hibernate and survive until the spring. Little acts of kindness bring joy.

This Kingfisher has moved from Mill Road to the river bank near the Trafalgar Infant School area and stayed very still for the photo below so you may catch him there if you find any time to slow down, stand and stare. Starlings are also showing off their iridescent colours.



Take a look at this [2010 photo walk](#) if you love snow and Bushy Park; it was amazing and perhaps we are due for another frosty winter.

**Visit our website and Flickr albums for more news and photos and add your sightings too.**

The River Crane Sanctuary website <http://e-voice.org.uk/rcs/>

Dear Editor,

## Porridge and Rice

This is my second letter to the Tribune as the previous one produced such generous donations. My name is Emma Ballinger, a paediatric nurse who in my spare moments volunteers with an education charity called Porridge and Rice based in Whitton.

On behalf of Porridge and Rice I am thanking the readers for helping us to obtain large quantities of new, used or outdated books that individuals, companies or schools wanted to get rid of. We have received a great number and made an even greater number of contacts for further donations. Please continue to donate these books and tell your friends about the cause. We now have another plea that we think you all would respond to.

Just a reminder of the charity, Porridge and Rice; we continue operating in the slums of Nairobi providing children in informal schools with a quality education. Our goal to enable the children to break out of the cycle of poverty and deprivation both for themselves and their communities is progressing well and we support 2000 pupils, teachers and their families. Porridge and Rice (PaR) works in accordance with the WHO Sustainable Development Goals; the PaR Facebook page and the website chronicle our work accompanied by many photographs and testimonials on the volunteer page.

With the charities approach to education being holistic, we include children and basic human-rights, educating teachers to raise content knowledge, literacy, and numeracy skills, and health and hygiene such as the recently installed handwashing stations. We are also looking into sustainability to give the families struggling the most an opportunity to earn extra money on the side. Whilst this is a wonderful idea and will eventually sustain itself, there must be substantial monetary input to help set it up.

Volunteers fund their own trips to the schools in Kenya and raise funds here in the UK as well as pursuing their own work and family lives. Each Sunday there is a group of young volunteers who gather and apply themselves in various aspects of PaR work. We are asking for any craft items that can be donated to the team and made into items that can be sold to raise money. Felt, wool, cotton, fabric cut offs, pipe-cleaners, beads, glitter... there is no limit on what we would take.

For any further information, please contact myself on [ballingerbo@gmail.com](mailto:ballingerbo@gmail.com), take a look at our website [www.porridgeandrice.co.uk](http://www.porridgeandrice.co.uk) or see what we do on our Facebook page.

Best wishes

Emma Ballinger, Vice-chair of Porridge and Rice

## Volunteer in Kenya



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and  
Electives  
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Visit [www.porridgeandrice.co.uk/volunteer\\_index.html](http://www.porridgeandrice.co.uk/volunteer_index.html)

# Never Mind - Never Mind - Never Mind

By TwickWatch

St Margarets railway station opened by the London & South Western Railway in 1876 has largely remained to date, not easily accessible to passengers who are not fit, able-bodied and on foot due to the 32 steps linking the platforms to the booking hall entrance. After 143 years it seems that changes are afoot, under the custodianship of South West Trains and Network Rail, as 2019 approaches its final days.

Recently changes have been made to the booking hall to install automatic ticket barriers which should, not before time, deal with the large amount of fare dodgers in a supposedly affluent area. You would think that along with this, the opportunity would have been taken for the installation of lifts to cater for people with temporary mobility issues, people with permanent disabilities, people with prams and buggies and holiday makers struggling with large suitcases. You would think that the local community would have been given an opportunity to offer feedback.

On 21 February 2018 The Richmond & Twickenham Times reported “St Margaret’s train station could get step-free access”. Councillor Peter Buckwell, cabinet member for highways and street scene, described St Margaret’s as “one of the key local stations in the borough”. He said: “Thousands of people use the station every day to commute into London or beyond. “In today’s society it is unacceptable to have a train station that isn’t open to all.”

He said Network Rail had no budget to cover St Margaret’s, adding: “Therefore, we have agreed to fund a feasibility study to look at the possibility of providing step-free access.”

The Leader of the council and the cabinet member for highways and street scene met with Network Rail and agreed to carry out the study to assess the potential costs of adding step-free access stating “The study will take place later this year” Whatever happened to the feasibility study in 2018?

As for passengers living on Amyand Park Road, many of whom live parallel to the Twickenham bound platform, having to walk the length of the road to enter the station, this will be addressed in the current station upgrade by an access point in Amyand Park Road which will also include disabled access. Or will it?

If passengers wish to go to Twickenham and beyond all should be fine. However if they wish to go London bound they will have to negotiate 32 steps still, to reach the London bound platform or travel to Twickenham and change platforms.

On 2 November 2019 South Western Railway customer relations emailed the writer to say “I understand you’d like to know about works going on at St. Margaret’s station; I will be forwarding your email onto the manager for this station, and I’ll get back to you with information regarding your request as soon as I can”. Needless to say, nothing was ever received. Customer care springs to mind!

(Editor’s note: We welcome our new contributor, *TwickWatch*, who will be writing on topics of interest from across the borough)



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# FREE STAGE MANAGEMENT SEMINARS at the MARY WALLACE THEATRE

As a theatre-goer you will of course appreciate the actors' performances and perhaps think the piece cleverly directed. The stage set, lighting, sound and costumes have all contributed to your enjoyment of the experience. What you will probably not give a thought to is the Stage Management Team behind the performance. What do they do? From the very first rehearsal of the play till the very final performance the Stage Manager and his/her Assistants are totally involved in the preparation and presentation of the play. They run rehearsals, supervising actors, arranging props and costumes, engaging in discussions with the Cast and Director and perform the thousand management details without which no production can reach the stage on that nerve-tingling First Night. During the run of the show Stage Management control the running of the evening from start to finish, controlling lighting, sound, costume and scenery changes and assisting the cast through the entire nerve-wracking proceedings.

Some want to strut their stuff upon the wicked stage, others, more technically minded, hanker to get their hands on the lighting and sound controls. You want to design scenery or costumes? Fine - there is plenty of scope at the Mary Wallace Theatre for you and we welcome newcomers in all departments with open arms. But it's the Stage Manager and his/her Team who can experience the involvement in every aspect of the process of building a show - from a script-reading, through the rehearsal process, to perfection on the stage in front of a rapt audience. An audience who will never be aware that, without you, the show could not have gone on. At well, that's show-business!

The Mary Wallace Theatre - on the Embankment in Twickenham - is holding a series of free introductory sessions during February and March 2020 and would welcome anyone who thinks that this might be a way to become involved in play presentation, in the context of a thriving and successful company in your fully-equipped theatre by the Thames.

If interested please contact Rodney Figaro at -  
[r.figaro111@btinternet.com](mailto:r.figaro111@btinternet.com)



# On the doorstep with Isobel Grant

Isobel Grant, Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Twickenham

In the run-up to the Election, I've been touring the streets and meeting thousands of residents and business people. Rightly, they have been asking me what I and my party will deliver if elected.

I'm really pleased that we are able now to say goodbye to austerity. Some people forget we had no choice after thirteen years of Labour's uncontrolled spending, which left us with a huge national debt and crippling interest payments – squandering the money we should have been able to invest in better public services, and forcing us to make some really difficult decisions.



Ten years of good housekeeping means the debt is now back under control, and interest payments are drastically reduced. We now enter a new era in which we can end the benefits freeze. Among other measures, we'll recruit and retain 50,000 nurses for the NHS, reintroduce nursing bursaries, and upgrade 20 hospitals and build 40 more in the next decade. We'll recruit 20,000 more police (with 1800 in London) to tackle crime. We'll boost industry with a £3bn skills fund. We'll target nett zero carbon emissions by 2050 with a £9.2bn energy efficiency fund over the next parliament. And we'll introduce a fairer, Australian-style points-based immigration system that still enables us to recruit key workers from abroad when necessary.

Locally, LibDem council measures such as the blanket 20mph limit, impending CPZs and the DIY waste tax are being forced through without proper consideration of residents' views and wishes. As your new Conservative MP, I'll campaign to restore local democracy, and hold this council to account for its decisions.

What I hear most from people on the doorstep is their worry about the prospect of Jeremy Corbyn in No. 10 for the next 5 years. They fear his outdated politics would destroy our finances and every pension that relies on them; lead to a return to endless strikes (like the current SWR strike which he supports); and re-create Labour's 1960's brain drain, in which the brightest and best moved abroad - taking their skills, earnings and tax contributions with them.

A vote for any other party will prop up Corbyn's Marxists. The only way to stop this is with a Conservative majority; and that begins here, in Twickenham!



# Exceptionally high tide in Twickenham

By Maurice Parry-Wingfield

I took this photo at 5.30 on Friday evening 29 November in Riverside, the road that runs close to the Thames in Twickenham. The road bisects the two parts of York House Gardens, owned by the Council, and connected by the lovely footbridge you see in the picture.



# Greening Great Britain with RHS funding

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) is calling on communities to give a green makeover to an unloved space in 2020.

Now in its fifth year, the RHS Greening Great Britain funding programme, supported by M&G, is offering hands-on support from an RHS Community Advisor and grants of up to £500 to 50 gardening projects across the country.

Gardening can help strengthen communities and applicants are being asked to show how their project will grow connections by bringing people together.

Groups also need to be signed-up to an RHS-affiliated scheme such as Britain in Bloom, It's Your Neighbourhood or the RHS Campaign for School Gardening to apply.

2019 funded projects included:

- The expansion of a community garden in Yorkshire where people are referred from local GP surgeries as part of a social prescribing scheme
- A revamped community garden that supplies fresh produce to a foodbank scheme in Gateshead
- The transformation of a wasteland in Bristol into a vibrant community garden, helping local people to gain skills and confidence

Liz Stewart, RHS Community Outreach Manager, comments: "The RHS Greening Great Britain funding programme has helped 178 community projects to date and complements our wider campaign to get people growing for the benefit of people and the planet. This year, we're keen to support groups who want to connect people through gardening and enjoy all the health and wellbeing benefits that brings."

For full details of eligibility criteria and the UK regions where funding and practical RHS help can be provided please visit

[www.rhs.org.uk/ggbwithcommunities](http://www.rhs.org.uk/ggbwithcommunities)

The deadline for applications is midnight on **Friday 14th February 2020.**



# Local Performing Arts Students from Twickenham Scoop Awards at Stagecoach Performing Arts Annual Charity Gala

- Stagecoach Performing Arts hosted its sixth annual Charity Gala at London's Shaftesbury Theatre on 1st December 2019.
- Talented young Twickenham student, Katie, aged 18, was presented with the headline 'Creative Courage for Life' Award.



Another creative youngster, Elliott, aged 10, dazzled the judges with his impressive vocal talent, winning the Outstanding Singer Aged 7-12 Award.

Proceeds from the Stagecoach Charity Gala went to YoungMinds, the UK's leading charity championing the mental wellbeing of children and young people.

Talented young performers from Twickenham have been celebrated for their commitment to the performing arts, scooping awards at Stagecoach Performing Arts' annual Charity Gala at London's prestigious Shaftesbury Theatre.

Local resident Katie scooped the headline 'Creative Courage for Life' award at this year's Stagecoach extravaganza. The Award goes further than celebrating the talents required to excel at singing, dancing and acting. It recognises how sociable, imaginative and adaptable nominees have become over the course of the year and rewards the student who has demonstrated exceptional resilience and courage.



At this year's extravaganza, 10-year-old Elliot dazzled the judges with his stunning performance, which he submitted for the award. Elliot won thanks to the purity of his singing and power of his voice. Judges also praised the range of vocal techniques used during his performance, and for the pitch and musicality of his exceptional voice.

The flagship event of Stagecoach, the world's leading network of extra-curricular performing arts schools for children, the Charity Gala featured the very best performances from schools, selected from regional and London showcases, alongside performances from special guests.

At this year's extravaganza, the second annual International 'Creative Courage For Life' Awards were presented. With 12 Awards in total, Stagecoach students aged seven to 18 were able to enter from schools across the world, with winners from Germany among the ranks.

The Awards marked the end of an exciting year for Stagecoach. Students from across the network showcased their singing, dancing and acting skills at the iconic West End venue, performing hits by David Bowie, Madonna and Beyoncé.

Proceeds from the Gala will go to Stagecoach's charity partner, YoungMinds, which is leading the fight for a future where all young people are supported and empowered, whatever the challenges.

The International 'Creative Courage For Life' Awards added an extra touch of magic to proceedings, honouring those whose contributions to the Stagecoach curriculum deserve extra special praise. Students and teachers alike were recognised for their outstanding achievements in a variety of categories that cover the three disciplines of singing, dancing and acting.

Sarah Kelly, CEO of Stagecoach Performing Arts, said, "Our annual Charity Gala is always a special event, with students and teachers coming together from all over the global network to celebrate their hard work, we aim to support students in accessing the fundamental life skills which will equip them as adults. We believe the addition of the award ceremony and our partnership with YoungMinds has inspired our students to feel empowered and recognised. YoungMinds mission to make sure all young people have the resilience to overcome life's challenges sits alongside our own aim to instil our students with 'Creative Courage For Life'.

Vanessa Longley, Director of Development at Young Minds, said, "Our partnership with Stagecoach Performing Arts this year has allowed us to engage with a network of children and young people who are exceptionally talented and motivated. This latest effort to raise funds for our services will provide us with some of the additional funds needed to support young people who are struggling with their mental health and we are grateful to Stagecoach for their ongoing commitment to supporting our cause."

Stagecoach is the world's largest network of performing arts schools, with more than 2000 extra-curricular performing arts schools and classes worldwide. Stagecoach aims to make a difference in its students' lives by teaching Creative Courage for Life, with many students going on to be professionals and world-renowned actors, singers and dancers. Early Stages classes are available for children aged four to six and Main Stages classes take place for six to 18-year-olds every weekend.



# Squires Annual Christmas Shopping Evening

On Thursday 5th December Squires Garden Centre held its annual Christmas Shopping Evening. Free mulled wine and mince pies were on offer, as well as free tastings from Silent Pool Gin and Twickenham Fine Ales among others. Shoppers were serenaded with live music from Davey Hardman.



## GLUHWEIN AND ALL THAT...THE TASTE OF CHRISTMAS

We went to Berlin last weekend for a long weekend. It was a city we hadn't visited before, but it is definitely one we will be visiting again. We were very pleasantly surprised at the beautiful architecture, (we stayed in the old East Berlin) and the vast range of fabulous restaurants, delis and bars; they were well priced too!



Luckily (actually, we planned it) the Christmas markets were in full swing. In our four days there we visited three different ones, as well as the most incredible farmers' market. Needless to say we drank a fair amount of gluhwein in the markets – there was the choice of red or white, which we don't often see here in the UK. A good gluhwein is, to me, the very essence of the festive season (oh, and a whisky mac is too, of course!).



There were stacks of stalls everywhere selling Bratwurst and in particular we were told we should try a Currywurst. To be honest I was rather underwhelmed by the latter but glad I tried it. It is pretty easy to do at home – just smother a German sausage with curry ketchup (Stokes makes one or check out Aldi and Lidl) or you could just add curry powder to tomato ketchup and sprinkle more on top.

The food in the delis and markets included lots of different – and really delicious – spreads that are often served with pretzels or rye bread. We tasted a range of different ones: aubergine; pimento; spinach; and curry & mango, as well as herring and beetroot.

For a taste of Germany this Christmas, you could head to the Alpine market in Kingston, or Aldi or Lidl.

But the easiest - and one of the tastiest - alternatives is to book yourself into [Stein's Restaurant in Kingston](#) for a really authentic German festive feast or if you are up in London, visit Stein's Berlin which is in South Kensington.

To put you in the mood for the festive season, here is a recipe for gluhwein (courtesy of BBC Good Food) that will go down a treat in this cold winter weather.

## GLUHWEIN

**PREP:** 5 MINS

**COOK:** 15 MINS

EASY, SERVES 8-10

- 1 orange, halved and sliced
- 1 bottle red wine
- 200g caster sugar
- 5 cloves
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 2 star anise
- 3 slices fresh ginger (peeled)
- 150ml brandy, rum, amaretto or schnapps



## Method

Put the orange slices, wine, sugar, cloves, cinnamon, star anise and ginger in a large pan. Warm gently for 10-15 mins, being careful not to let the mixture boil. Add the alcohol, pour into glasses and serve warm.

Follow Alison on insta: [@theseasonedgastronome](#)

## Long Day's Journey Into Night by Eugene O'Neill January 18th - 25th , 2020

Long Day's Journey into Night is one of the greatest works of American literature by one of its finest dramatists, the Nobel and multiple Pulitzer prize winning Eugene O'Neill. It tells of one family and its self-discovery over the course of a long August day in 1912, when James Tyrone, a hugely successful immigrant Irish actor has retreated with his wife and two sons to their Connecticut seaside home.

O'Neill refused to have this heavily autobiographical play staged or even published in his lifetime, describing it famously as a work "of old sorrow, written in tears and blood... with deep pity and understanding and forgiveness for all four haunted Tyrones". However, the posthumous premiere in 1956 sealed his reputation.

LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT plays at the Mary Wallace Theatre by the Thames in Twickenham from Saturday, January 18th till Saturday, January 25th, 2020 at 7.30pm. The Sunday Jan 19th performance is a 3pm matinee. (No performance on Wednesday 22nd) [www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk](http://www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk)





## Rigoletto

by Giuseppe Verdi, libretto by Francesco Maria Piave

Glyndebourne Opera, New Victoria Theatre, Woking until 30<sup>th</sup> November; tour continues until 7<sup>th</sup> December.

“Cut! Wrap; we’ll reshoot tomorrow.” How wonderful it would be if you could re-run the bits of your life that went wrong like a film-shoot. Regret is one of the themes that runs through *Rigoletto* and this is the inspiration for director Christiane Lutz to interpolate a Charlie Chaplin persona onto Verdi’s court jester in Glyndebourne’s first ever production of *Rigoletto*.



The Duke of Mantua’s court becomes a Hollywood film studio, the Duke a movie mogul, Rigoletto his star of silent screen comedy. Christian Tabakoff’s set design is a stylish representation of a 1920s studio. However the Rigoletto-Chaplin concept creates a new layer of intrigue over Verdi’s plot, which is set in motion by a curse put on Rigoletto and the Duke by Count Monterone after the Count had accused the Duke of seducing his daughter, who had died of shame.

In this production, Monterone’s daughter commits suicide by throwing herself from the topmost fly-levels of the film studio in front of the horrified Rigoletto. The death fall is effected with beautifully balletic poignancy by aerialist, Farrell Cox as if it were a slo-mo film sequence. Rigoletto snatches up the new-born baby and runs off.

However, Lutz’s tweak to the plot is that the baby is Gilda, who is presented conventionally as Rigoletto’s daughter, and whom the Duke also seduces seventeen years later. This has different implications depending on how one interprets the paternity of Gilda. If Rigoletto is the father then this squares with Chaplin’s rapacious reputation with women (under-aged girls preferred). But if Rigoletto has adopted Gilda and the natural father is the Duke, then seventeen years on the Duke is unwittingly committing incest. This audience were left struggling to reconcile this dilemma with the already melodramatic original

... ..

Read Mark Aspen’s review at

[www.markaspen.com/2019/11/28/rigoletto](http://www.markaspen.com/2019/11/28/rigoletto)

Photography © Glyndebourne Productions Ltd. by Richard Hubert Smith



## Meniscus at The Playground

by Ghost and John

Ghost and John et al, at Rambert, South Bank, London until 29<sup>th</sup> November

The Rambert Company's *The Playground* is a series, now celebrating its second anniversary, in which professional artists of any discipline can come and explore, collaborate, create and observe.

For those used to seeing ballet performed in a theatre on a stage while sitting in an auditorium, this is a radical departure. It took place in three dance studios, one of these being dedicated to an exhibition of figurative art. For all the performances audience members could sit on one of the seats or on the floor, or simply stand around the studio. The performances were uplifting, and it was exciting to be so close to the dancers, to hear them



breathing and see their faces clearly as they worked.



At the start of the final performance, *Meniscus* by Ghost and John, the audience were called forward to explain that it was about the dangerous global situation in terms of the environment and politics. Choreographers Ghost and John both hail from Hong Kong, so they know what they are talking about. There were no programmes and, if you wanted to know about the pieces, you photographed details to your phone.

As John was explaining this, the dancers started moving amongst the audience. Each one had a QR code printed on their forearm, and we were invited to scan these with our phones, bringing the idea of proximity to the dancers to a whole new level. The codes showed works of art and texts relevant to the message. Scanning an arm is an intimate experience almost to the point of intrusiveness, and while it might be appropriate to thank them for enabling you to do that, such thanks generally went unacknowledged, since the performers were, after all, in character ... ..



Read Nick Swyft's review at [www.markaspen.com/2019/11/30/meniscus-at-the-playground](http://www.markaspen.com/2019/11/30/meniscus-at-the-playground)

Photography by Dominic Farlam



## Robin Hood and Babes in the Wood

by Alan Frayn

Barnes Community Players, at Kitson Hall, Barnes until 7<sup>th</sup> December

The wine is mulled and the pies are minced, panto season is underway at Kitson Hall in Barnes, where BCP's panto features a fresh-faced and energetic principal cast supported by veteran members.

There is, perhaps, more plot than we might be used to in the opening scene of a pantomime, which

means the fun takes a few moments to get going, but a rousing rendition *Mr Blue Sky* soon sets the tone. The band is marvellous throughout, pulling off some challenging numbers with great gusto and a sound which seems much bigger than just keyboard, sax, bass and drums.

*Robin Hood and Babes in the Wood* opens in Nottingham with Richard the Lionheart, an imposing Mark Hunter, about to leave on a crusade, and entrusting his niece and nephew to the Sheriff of Nottingham's care. Robyn Bloomfield plays the Sheriff with admirable restraint, as an icy and rather aloof villain.

Once Robin Hood gets together with his Merry Men, the laughs begin in earnest. There are many venerable pantomime gags, as well as some newer and funnier material, which is all remarkably clean and family-friendly. Thaisa Smart gives a gung-ho and energetic principal boy performance as Robin, playing against Darcie Hunter's feisty and determined Maid Marion. The Merry

Men's capabilities are soon enhanced by the brewing skills of tipsy Friar Tuck (Jill Turetsky). Steve Hunter's Little John gets a lot of the best jokes, and delivers them with great timing.

Pitted against the Merry Men are the Sheriff's henchpersons Snivel (Alexa Bushell, showcasing her impressive singing voice) and Grovel (Ciaran Parker). Having enormous fun with their villainy, the pair provide some familiar panto routines while making the material seem utterly fresh through their sheer enthusiasm ... ..

Read Andrew Lawston's review at [www.markaspen.com/2019/12/04/rhood-babes](http://www.markaspen.com/2019/12/04/rhood-babes)

Photography by Patrick van de Bergh



# St Mary's University Update

## St Mary's Athletes Selected for European Championships

Six Athletes and Alumni from the Endurance Performance Centre (EPC) at St Mary's University, Twickenham have been selected to compete for their countries at the European Cross Country Championships on Sunday 8th Dec.



Hosted in Lisbon, Portugal, the championships will bring together the leading athletics talent from across Europe to compete in a range of distances and age groups. A total of 602 athletes will represent 40 countries in seven races at the championships.

Danish athlete Anna Møller will be competing in the Women's Under 23 Race. Anna will be hoping to be retain the Gold Medal she won at last year's event in Tilburg,

Netherlands, where she completed the 6.3km course in 20:34. In the Women's U20 event, Izzy Fry will be competing for Team GB and Gintare Juknyte will represent Lithuania.

St Mary's Alumnus Emile Caires will be competing in the Men's U23 race where he will be aiming to improve on his 8th place finish in 2018's event. Gibraltar's Abdullah Ahammad will compete in the Men's U20, whilst Eoin Pierce will compete as part of the Senior Mixed Relay Team for Team Ireland.

Speaking of their Selections, Head of Sport St Mary's Andrew Reid-Smith said, "It's wonderful to see so many students, past and present, competing at the European Champs. Some are experienced international runners and for others, this is the first time they've been selected to compete for their country. To continue to have so many running is a real testament to the hard work that the St Mary's athletes and coaches put in and we wish them every success."



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

# TRAVELLER'S TALES 59

## BRIDPORT

DOUG GOODMAN VISITS HIS FAVOURITE MARKET TOWN



Bridport in West Dorset is my favourite country town and I could easily live there. Compared with house prices in Twickenham property in Bridport is very cheap with everything from Georgian houses to thatched cottages. The town is 135 miles from Twickenham, a 25 minute drive from Dorchester, the county town and within walking distance, at 1.5 miles, of the sea at West Bay. The Devon border and the town of Axminster are about 10 miles away.

The ancient market town is a friendly place with an excellent range of independent shops, extensive markets, plenty of restaurants and pubs and two supermarkets. There's an emphasis on arts and culture and a lively social scene. In 2015 Bridport was nominated by The Times as number one in the U.K's top market towns and recognised as one of the happiest places to live.



1651 Charles 2nd was here



England's Oldest Butcher



Community Centre



Street Market

### HISTORIC SPOT

In the reign of King Alfred Bridport was one of the four most important places in Dorset: the Domesday Book recorded 120 dwellings and from the earliest times it was a centre for rope making. King John, in 1211, ordered 'make me as many ropes for ships large and small as you can'. The town has an unusually wide main street as this is where the ropes were dried after being spun in the long narrow alleyways and gardens leading off the main street. The rope making industry continued until the early 20th century and provided rigging for sailing ships, nets for sporting events and even ropes for gallows. Flax was grown in the surrounding fields and flax mills built. A 1926 travel guide tells us that 'cottage women may be seen at their doorsteps braiding'. Many of the important buildings date from the 18th century and the town hall with its clock tower was constructed in 1785.



Trading Centre



Town Centre



Lyme Bay Arts in Symondsburry



The Hat Shop

During the Civil War Parliamentarians and Royalists occupied the town at various times. In 1685 Monmouth's troops attacked Bridport: the Dorset Militia hastily rallied and disbursed the rebels. Twelve of the rebels were executed on the orders of the infamous Judge Jeffreys. When Charles 2nd arrived from nearby Charmouth, during his escape abroad, his entourage stayed at the George Inn in the high street. It's now a charity shop. St. Mary's church in South Street was founded in the 13th century and much of the structure dates from the 15th century. In Thomas Hardy's Wessex stories the town of Port Bredy is based on Bridport. An addition to the town's grand buildings is the recently renovated Literature and Scientific Institute, derelict for years but now a community and study centre.

## OUT AND ABOUT

In 1975 the railway linking Bridport to the main London line was closed but now frequent buses travel to Weymouth and Exeter on the Jurassic Coast service as well as inland to the little villages. Dorset lacks motorways, which is good and bad as one of the only two routes to the West Country from London goes around Bridport but through the neighbouring village of Chideok causing frequent long jams.



Golden Cap

Shoppers are well catered for: Snooks is famous for its hats. In September the town holds a hat festival when everyone wears amazing creations. In August there's a grand carnival, on Saturdays and Wednesdays throughout the year the main streets are taken over by market stalls offering food, plants, clothes, books, jewellery, carvings, brassware and an eclectic assortment of antiques and bric-a-brac. The nearby St. Michael's Trading Estate is full of antique, craft and artisan workshops. Films, music and theatre performances run at the Electric Palace and the local museum and tourist office have a wealth of local history and information. If you like fresh meat the oldest butchers in Eng-

land awaits your custom.

The resort of West Bay is close and a popular seaside spot with hotels and luxury flats. Broadchurch was filmed here. Once a port and ship building centre the resort has a museum, boat trips and spectacular walks along the Jurassic Coast. Plenty of fossils can be found but beware of rock falls and mud slides. To the West is the estate of Symondsburry where you'll find a really good restaurant, gift shops and the new Lyme Bay Arts – a community interest group set up to display the works of local artists. Walk past the church and turn right up Shutes Lane in the direction of the local landmark Colmer's Hill. It's worth climbing this much painted hill on the permissive footpath.



Colmer's Hill

Descend on the far side and you come to Hell's Lane, a muddy track leading to Chideok. Return back to Symondsburry through a very narrow rocky gorge and find the Ilchester Arms for a much needed drink. Another enjoyable walk is around Langdon Wood and to the top of Golden Cap offering spectacular views over Lyme Bay and the highest point in the South. Bridport and the surrounding countryside have great charm and history and attract visitors year round.

# FOOTBALL FOCUS

By James Dowden



## BRENTFORD FC

**Brentford in Seventh heaven**

**Brentford 7 – Luton Town 0**

Brentford recorded their highest victory in over twenty-five years as a Josh Dasilva hat-trick inspired a seven-goal rout of Luton Town, which moved the Bees to within a point of the Championship play-offs.

A devastating first half spell saw the Bees put five past the helpless Hatters defence without reply and a further two second half strikes saw Brentford put Luton to the sword.

The game was barely six minutes old when an under hit back pass via the chest from Luton defender Dans Potts was intercepted by Brentford's Bryan Mbeumo. Mbeumo edged out James Shea in a footrace and squeezed the ball in from close range to give the home side the lead.

A ruthless 4 goals in 19 minutes then sealed the game for Brentford. Firstly, just before the half-hour mark, leading marksman Ollie Watkins produced a poacher's finish from the six-yard box and just four minutes later Watkins turned provider as he played in Dane Mathias Jensen for his maiden Brentford goal since his summer move from Celta Vigo.

Dasilva then produced a moment of magic to further compound Luton's misery. Cutting inside onto his left foot on the edge on the penalty area, he sent the Luton defenders sliding to the ground, before curling a delightfully placed shot into the far corner of the net.

Dasilva wasn't done yet though, and before the half was out, he had claimed his second of the match. Said Benrahma picked up the ball inside the penalty arc before scooping the ball over the Luton left fullback Potts towards Dasilva. With his first touch he brought the ball down, with his second and third he drifted free and with his fourth he clinically dispatched from a narrow angle.

Second half ill-discipline from a dispirited visiting side led to Brentford being awarded two late penalties. For the first penalty Pelly Mdock Mpanzu pushed Watkins to the ground. Benrahma stepped up from 12 yards to send the goalkeeper the wrong way and delight the home fans.

Late on as the clock ticked down it was Benrahma this time who was fouled in the area as he attempted to latch onto a through ball from Mbeumo.

Another penalty and another chance for Brentford to score and Dasilva confidently picked up the ball and placed it on the spot. An emphatic finish to the left and the match ball secured for his hat-trick, it rounded off a stellar afternoon at Griffin Park for Brentford.

Speaking after the match Brentford manager Thomas Frank said it "was definitely one of the afternoons and nights where it was magic, especially in the first half. We were amazing in terms of the performance and the way we created chances."

FT Brentford 7-0 Luton

(Mbeumo 6', Watkins 29', Jensen 33', Dasilva 40' 45+3' 87', Benrahma 71')



Attendance: 11,287

## **DALSGAARD SIGNS CONTRACT EXTENSIONS**

Danish international and Brentford right back Henrik Dalsgaard has signed a contract extension to keep him with the Bees for another until 2021. The defender, signed from Belgian side Zulte Waregem in 2017, has clocked up 94 appearances in the red and white stripes and will play for the side in the maiden campaign at the new Brentford Community Stadium.

Speaking after he put pen to paper Dalsgaard highlighted the club's ambitions plans for subsequent transfer windows and said that he "felt appreciated by the fans and by the club."

## **THE POTTERS SET TO VIST IN THE FA CUP**

Brentford have been drawn at home in the FA Cup third round against fellow Championship side Stoke City in a tie set to be played in the new year on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020 with a 3.01pm kick-off.

The game will kick off at this specific time as part of the Heads-Up campaign alongside all other FA Cup ties to encourage supporters to open up about their mental health.

The sides have already met once this season at Griffin Park back in September with both sides playing out a 0-0 draw.

## **UP NEXT FOR BRENTFORD**

Next up for Brentford at Griffin Park is an away trip to Sheffield Wednesday Luton Town today (Saturday 7/12) with a 3.00pm kick off in Yorkshire. The Owls are just one place and one point behind Brentford in the table and so it looks set to be a close encounter.

The next game at Griffin Park for Brentford comes the following Wednesday (11/12) with a 7.45pm evening kick-off under the lights against freshly relegated Cardiff City who themselves are just two points behind Brentford in an incredibly close Championship table. Tickets were still available as we went to press with adult tickets from £23 and junior tickets from a very reasonable £6.

*Come on you Bees!*

# **HAMPTON & RICHMOND BOROUGH**

**Hampton show their mettle against the Iron**

**Braintree Town 0 – Hampton 4**

A second away trip to Essex in a week brought Hampton & Richmond's third consecutive win in a row as the Beavers cruised to a four-goal victory against Braintree Town.

Hampton made a lightening quick start and took the lead inside the opening three minutes through Scotsman Ruaridh Donaldson's first goals for the Beavers. Braintree's keeper Michael Johnson failed to deal with a high ball into the penalty area from Hampton full back Kyron Farrell, as Donaldson snuck in front to delicately head the ball over the stranded keeper and into the net.

Hampton then double their lead through former Barbados international Louis Soares. Tricky feet from Ryan Hill on the edge of the area saw he play the ball into striker Danilo Orsi-Dadomo before a layoff to Donaldson. Donaldson showing brilliant vision found Soares unmarked and in plenty of space at the far-right hand post and he produced a consummate two touched



finished to round off an excellent team goal.

Hampton then almost went three goals ahead inside the opening half hour at Cressing Road. Hill once again proving dangerous, skipped past challenges in the midfield and release goal scorer Soares. This time, in a similar position to the second goal, Soares elected to pick out Orsi-Dadomo who was inches away from finishing as he slid in.

Braintree did muster an attempt through Jack James but his snapshot inside the area at a tight angle rarely looked as it was going to trouble Hampton keeper Dan Lincoln. A penalty ten minutes into the second half secured all three points for Hampton with Orsi-Dadomo being fouled in the area by Iron keeper Johnson, who was having an afternoon to forget.

Hill stepped up for Hampton and Johnson could not atone for his earlier error as Hill sent him the wrong way to score for the Beavers. Braintree rarely threatened and attempts from Dipo Akinyemi and Alfie Cerulli were as close as the home side got in the second half.

As the game entered added time Hampton were awarded a corner which Soares floated into the box. Charlie Wassmer arrived on the end of it to crash in one of his signature headers to score his first goal since resigning for the club and confirm a valuable three points were on their way to TW12.

FT Braintree Town 0-4 Hampton & Richmond  
(Donaldson 3', Soares 17', Hill 60', Wassmer 90')

### **BEAVERS PROGRESS IN THE CHARITY CUP**

A youthful Hampton & Richmond side secured passage to the next round of the Middlesex Charity cup showed great resilience to overcome Rayners Lane in the Middlesex Charity Cup.

Tyrone Lewthwaite scored the opener for Hampton but a red card for an elbow by captain Shaun McAuley meant that the Beavers had to play for over an hour down to ten men.

Rayners Lane, from four divisions below Hampton, scored with a last-minute equaliser to send the match to penalties but a heroic performance from academy goalkeeper Mo Laarbi with two saves secured the win for Hampton to see them through.

### **MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP DRAW**

Hampton have been drawn to play at home against Broadfields United of the Spartan South Midlands Premier Division in the quarter finals of the Middlesex Senior Cup. The tie is to be played in the new year in the week beginning the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Hampton have not won the Cup since 2016/17 with the Cup being the most prestigious Middlesex county competition and a home tie, the Beavers will have great ambitions of progressing

### **UP NEXT FOR HAMPTON**

Up next for Hampton is an away trip to Hertfordshire, to the lovely and leafy Clarence Park for a National League South match against St Albans in a 3.00pm kick off. St Albans are rooted to the foot of the table and Hampton have been climbing the table in recent weeks and currently find themselves in 9<sup>th</sup> place.

League matches involving Hampton and St Albans have seen a whopping 112 goals so far this season at a rate of over 3 per game so a high scoring affair should be in store.

***Come on you Beavers!***

# Dubai Sevens: England men through to Cup quarter-finals

England men sevens progressed to the Emirates Airline Dubai Rugby Sevens Cup quarter-finals after finishing second in Pool D.

Simon Amor's side will now face France in the last eight tomorrow, kick-off 7.14am GMT (live on Sky Sports Arena). They kicked off their opening tournament of the year with a comprehensive 36-7 victory over Spain on Thursday.

Friday's day two saw them make it two wins from two in an entertaining meeting with Kenya. After an assured start, England deservedly took the lead, Ollie Lindsay-Hague scored his second try in as many matches.

They then demonstrated fine game management, holding their seven-point advantage despite seeing Tom Bowen sent to the sin bin for the final two minutes of the first period. Back to seven, the impressive Harry Glover showed exceptional skill to set up Dan Bibby who crossed before Kenya reduced the arrears to set up a tense finale [12-5].

In the final match of day two, Amor's men faced South Africa to decide who went through as group winners.

Lindsay-Hague produced another scintillating performance and opened the scoring before Dan Norton crossed.

Ryan Oosthuizen then put the Springboks on the board despite a valiant defensive effort from Will Muir. And a quick-fire double from Justin Geduld sealed a dramatic 19-14 win for South Africa to cap off a fine contest.

## England Dubai 7s squad

Dan Bibby  
Tom Bowen  
Phil Burgess (C)  
Mike Ellery  
Tom Emery  
Harry Glover

Ben Harris  
Charlton Kerr  
Ollie Lindsay-Hague  
Will Muir  
Dan Norton  
Ethan Waddleton

## Results

### England 36-7 Spain

Tries: Bibby '3, Norton '5, Emery '8, Burgess '10, Lindsay-Hague '14

### South Africa 19-14 England

Tries: Lindsay-Hague '4, Norton '5

### England 12-5 Kenya

Tries: Lindsay Hague '3, Bibby '11



# RFU Annual Report for 2018/19 shows £100.5 Million Investment in Rugby

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) Annual Report and Accounts for 2018/19 is published today. The report highlights rugby investment of £100.5 million. This includes investment in the professional game and community game.

The financial outcome for season 2018/19 saw total group revenues of £213.2m (prior year £172.4m), operating profit of £14.9m (prior year loss of £24.4m) and profit to reserves (after reinvestment in the game) of £3.9m (prior year loss of £30.9m).

The improvement on the previous year was mainly due to stronger sponsorship revenues, more international matches played at Twickenham, a reduction in overall rugby investment and lower overheads. At the end of the year, outstanding bank loans totalled £59.5m (2018: £44.3m).

Said RFU Chairman, Andy Cosslett: “The Union made good progress on a number of fronts despite the financial constraints we placed on ourselves.

“Maintaining the Union’s financial stability requires prudent planning, financial discipline and, when necessary, strong action to be taken on costs. Over the past two years we have felt it necessary to take such action in response to revenues falling short of some ambitious forecasts and a more uncertain outlook. Parts of the game that rely on our financial support and many RFU departments were asked to cut back. While this work has been difficult and presented challenges, investment levels in the game remain high. During the year, the RFU invested £100.5m (2018: £107.7m) in the game, and the financial position of the Union has strengthened.”

CEO Bill Sweeney added: “Twickenham Stadium generate 85% of our revenues to invest in the game at both the performance and community levels. We welcomed 1.2 million people across 22 major events during the year and the East Stand, which opened for the autumn’s Quilter Internationals, brought excellent feedback and added to the stadium’s status as a world-class venue.

“Numbers taking part in rugby union have remained stable, against a general downward trend in team sports over the past 12 months. Building upon an inherently healthy community game, we continue to focus on sustaining and enhancing men’s XV-a-side rugby, while growing women’s and girls’ playing numbers, which have substantially increased.

“We are all proud of what we do to inspire the next generation to participate and enrich their lives through the unique values of rugby, and we are committed to working with key stakeholders in the English game to deliver consistently winning English national teams and a flourishing community game.”

For full report click [HERE](#)



## FRANCO MANCA BUILDS ON 40,000 CHRISTMAS PIZZA PLEDGE WITH YEAR-ROUND SOURDOUGH DONATION FOR THOSE MOST IN NEED

### The Richmond Branch is involved and will be donating pizzas to those going hungry!

- Franco Manca has announced a new, year-round, initiative to turn surplus dough into delicious, fresh sourdough bread to donate to local charities and soup kitchens.
- The Neapolitan pizza pioneer will also continue its pledge to donate up to 40,000 pizzas to the homeless during the month of December, a tradition upheld over the past few years.
- Additionally, staff have opted to work on Christmas day at selected pizzerias across the UK, to make hot sourdough pizzas for those going without warmth or comfort on the 25<sup>th</sup> itself.
- Charities, foodbanks and shelters are encouraged to contact Franco Manca to arrange a collection via [francomanca.co.uk/donations](https://francomanca.co.uk/donations)

Sourdough pizza pioneer, [Franco Manca](https://francomanca.co.uk), has pledged to turn surplus dough into delicious fresh sourdough bread for those most in need this festive season and beyond. The initiative which will launch on the 9<sup>th</sup> December and continue throughout 2020 aims to help those going without food or shelter, with loaves being distributed to local soup kitchens, charities and shelters across the UK.

The project supports Franco Manca's plans to reduce food waste across each of its UK-based sites, a focus for the New Year. The business already employ a number of waste-reducing initiatives across its UK-based pizzerias including making fresh dough on site daily, advertising extra toppings across blackboards to diminish ingredient waste, offering customers a chance to take home leftovers, asking diners to not leave their crusts (cornicione) and regularly donating to food banks.

In addition to this, Franco Manca has vowed to donate 40,000 free pizzas to those that require them most during the month of December. To help achieve this, pizzeria staff have selflessly opted to work on Christmas day itself, providing a free collection service for anyone who's unable to enjoy a festive dinner in comfort. Franco Manca has run both initiatives previously, just last year pledging to donate 20,000 pizzas to those most in need. To assist them in this year's ambition, they are now calling upon relevant charities, shelters, food banks and members of the public to reach out and arrange an order of fresh bread or cooked pizzas to aid those requiring extra sustenance and support.

Operations Director at Franco Manca, **Javed Akhtar**, said:

*"At Franco Manca, we always try back to our local communities. This year, we're truly happy to announce that we are doubling our 2018 pledge by offering 40,000 pizzas to those who face a tough time over the festive period. We are so proud to extend this support around our pizzerias with the launch of a new and exciting year-round initiative delivering freshly baked pizzas made from our sourdough to charities and soup kitchens. Not only do we hope this will help those most in need for months to come, it will also support our aim to limit our food waste across the business, something we think should be a focus for all likeminded, conscious restaurants across the UK"*

Franco Manca has introduced a number of other charitable initiatives this year, to provide hot food to those most in need. Just recently the sourdough pioneers pledged to donate 31,000 pizzas to those living locally to a number of their new regional pizzerias, including **Birmingham, Exeter, Leeds, Manchester** and **Edinburgh**. The 40,000 free pizzas will be available for collection from all pizzeria nationwide, with the Christmas day offering available at selected pizzerias across the UK in London at the **Tottenham Court Road & Bristol** sites\*.

Franco Manca's 200-year-old sourdough starter has been the cornerstone of the Neapolitan-inspired pizzeria since its inception in 2008, with fresh pizza dough being made on site each day by its pizzaioli.

Collections can be organised via the on-site donations page, [francomanca.co.uk/donations](https://francomanca.co.uk/donations).

**FRANCO  
MANCA**  
SOURDOUGH PIZZA

# Richmond Film Society's 57th Season of World Cinema continues at The Exchange, Twickenham

10th December, 8.00pm

## 'Wajib' (Palestine)

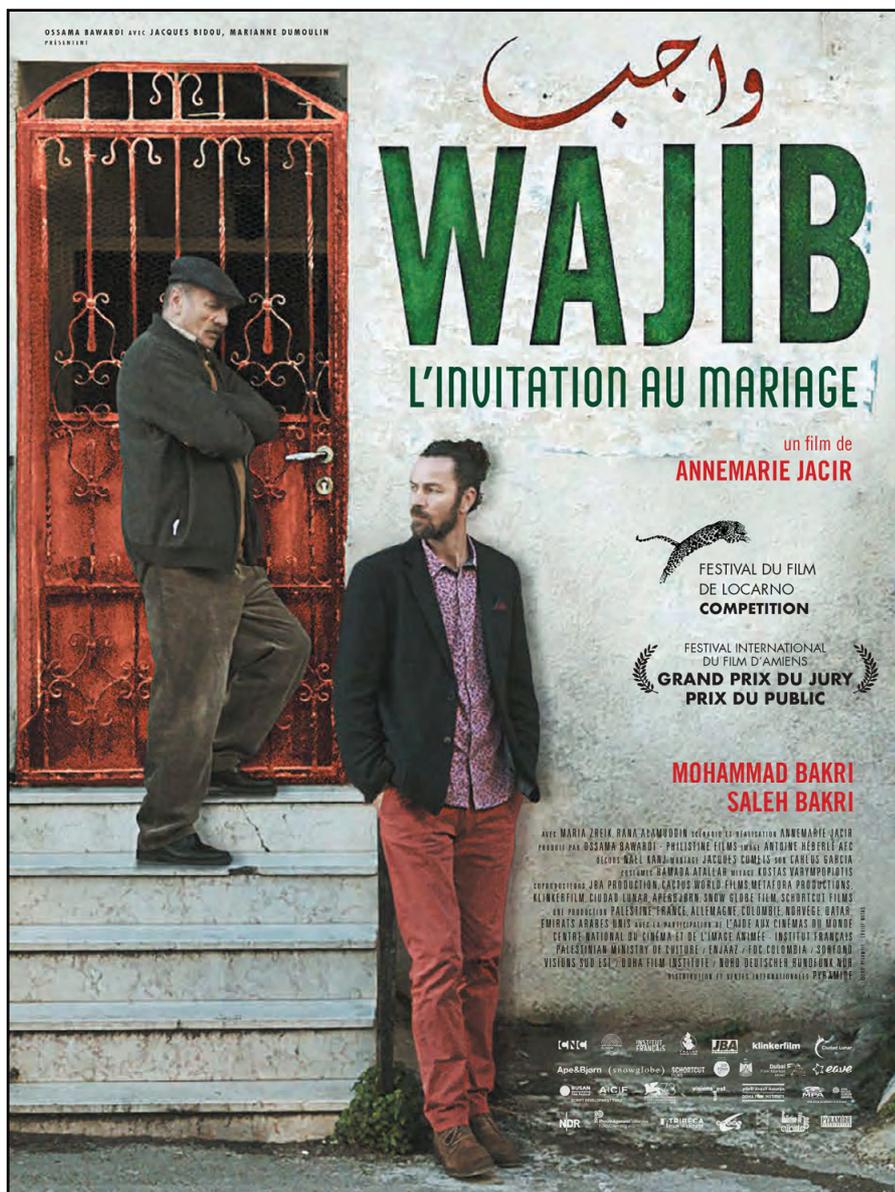
In Palestine's Christian community, an expatriate son accompanies his father in delivering his sister's wedding invitations in the lead-up to Christmas in Nazareth. Gentle but thought provoking insights into generational differences, including the Palestine/Israel relationship and a son coping with a father's desire to find him 'a nice local girl'.

[www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk](http://www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk)

Non-member tickets are £5 (full-time students £3) and can be purchased in advance from The Exchange's Box Office (subject to a cap of 60) - in person, by telephone on 020 8240 2399 or online at [www.exchangetwickenham.co.uk/events/](http://www.exchangetwickenham.co.uk/events/). A further

50 or so tickets will be available to purchase on the door on the night of screenings (cash only) on a 'first-come-first-served' basis.

Films are shown at 8.00pm sharp on alternate Tuesdays (no trailers and no ads) and are screened at The Exchange, 75 London Road, Twickenham, TW1 1BE. On screening nights, the Bar is open from 7.00pm and remains open after the film. Drinks can be taken into the auditorium and coffee, tea and snacks are also available. Film notes are provided for each screening and audience feedback is obtained via response slips.



Half Page

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Quarter Page Portrait

Eighth Page

Eighth Page  
Landscape

Example advert sizes shown above

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