

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE



Full moon over Holy Trinity Church, Twickenham
Photo by Berkley Driscoll

21st June 2024

T&RT

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German Doner Kebab

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Times Radio

Editors:

Berkley Driscoll

Teresa Read

TickerTape - News in Brief

Rugby at Twickenham Stadium

Saturday 22nd June

WALES v SOUTH AFRICA (KO 1400)

FIJI v BARBARIANS (KO 1715)

Whitton, Rugby & London Roads close 12:00-14:00 & 18:45-20:45.

There is the possibility of a short closure around 15:30.

We will update you on the Residents WhatsApp group and [here](#) if this is necessary. CPZ 11:00-23:00.

Mortlake Stag Brewery redevelopment planning inquiry is now postponed to December

From Mortlake Brewery Community Group

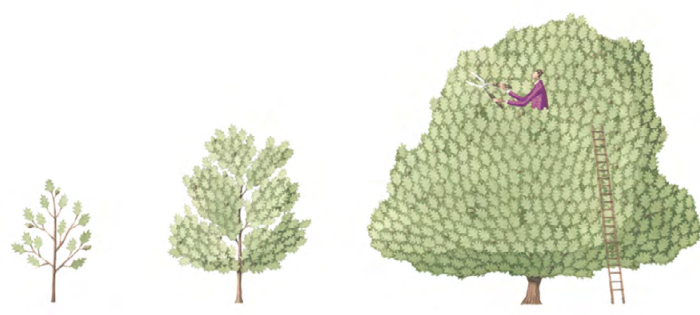
The Planning Inspectorate have announced that the [Planning Inquiry](#) for the Mortlake Stag Brewery (formerly pumping out Budweiser and before this owned by Watney) redevelopment which was due to start on 29th May has now been set to open on Tuesday 5th November and sit for 8 days (Tuesday to Friday) until 15th November. It will then resume for up to 8 days 3-13 December (Tuesday to Friday sitting).

Mr Glen Rollings, the Planning Inspector initially appointed, is now in a position to resume his duties and has taken back the reins from the Interim Inspector, Ms Katie McDonald.

The MBCG [previously instructed Ms Kim Ziya from Landmark Chambers to represent us at the Inquiry](#). The delay means that Kim will have to step back as she will be on maternity leave in November. However, we have instructed one of her colleagues, Nick Grant, to take over her brief.

The Mortlake Brewery Community Group (MBCG) is very grateful to Kim for all she has done preparing the community's case so far. We send her our good wishes for the future.

More info [HERE](#)



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 254

By Alan Winter

Harptree Cottage - Strawberry Hill

This 116 year old postcard recently appeared on eBay and as it showed a Strawberry Hill address on the reverse I decided to try to acquire it. Success! The postcard was written in 1908 to an address in Wokingham with Christmas wishes from Mildred and George Kettlewell who had given their address as Harptree Cottage, Strawberry Hill. And so began some sleuthing assisted by several clever folk on the Twickenham and Teddington History Facebook site.

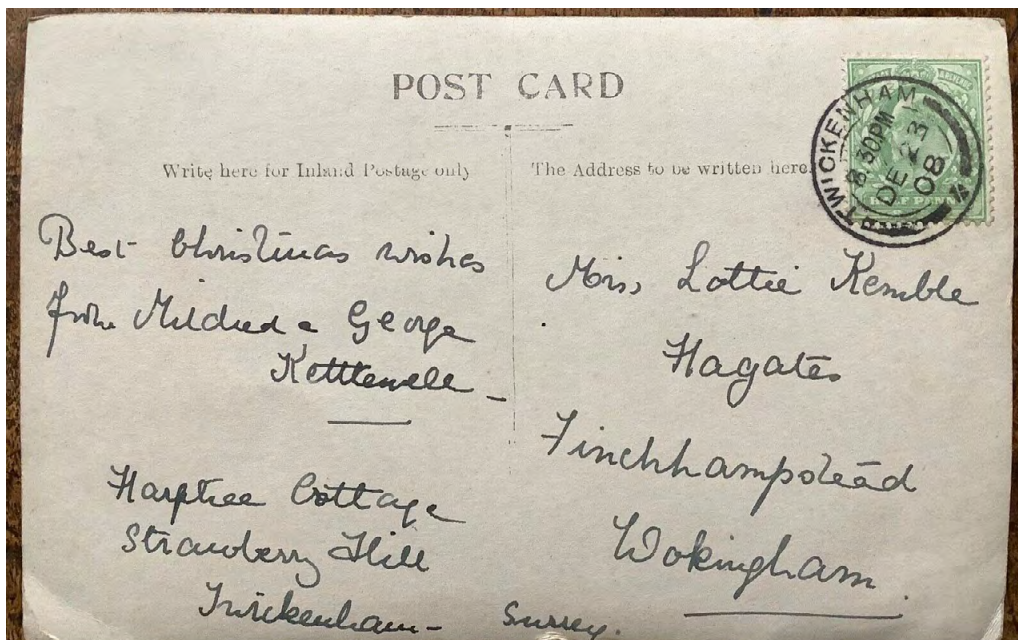
To start with, did the postcard actually show Mildred and George Kettlewell at Harptree cottage in Strawberry Hill?

Richard James went back to the 1911 census and found Harptree Cottage at Waldegrave Road, Strawberry Hill. Mildred and George Kettlewell, both in their thirties were shown as living at the cottage with their two sons Richard and John who were one and two years old in 1911.



A sister, Marion Mildred Kettlewell was born in Strawberry Hill, on 20 February 1914. She joined the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1941. During the Second World War she rose to the rank of commandant and was appointed Director of the Women's Royal Naval Service in 1967. Made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the 1970 New Year Honours, Kettlewell retired later that year and lived until 11th April 2016 when she died aged 102.

Interestingly the census showed George Kettlewell was born in East Harptree in Somerset.



Hence the name of the cottage they were living in probably? Another link between Harptree in East Somerset and Strawberry Hill emerged when it was found that Harptree House had been purchased by the Waldegrave family.

Harptree house in East Somerset was built in 1797 on several fields. The original owner Joshua Scrope put the

house up for sale in 1803 and it was bought by the Waldegrave family. The house was bought for John James Waldegrave, 6th Earl Waldegrave but it was purchased in the name of his mother Elizabeth Laura Dowager Countess of Waldegrave and she lived there for some years. She was the widow of George 4th Earl of Waldegrave and in 1810 she inherited Strawberry Hill House in London from her great uncle Sir Horace Walpole. She died in 1816 and both estates were passed to her son. It was sold again in 1858 when it was bought by a Miss Gurney. In 1879 it was bought by William Wildman Kettlewell who was the father of George Kettlewell who is pictured on our postcard.

We have now found that Harptree Cottage today is a fine private house standing on the foundations of the house that Horace Walpole built and called "My little cottage in the woods" opposite Strawberry Hill House in Waldegrave Road. When Walpole found visitors to his Gothic Castle were becoming irksome and he needed some solitude, he would retreat here until the coast was clear. Our last photo shows the building a year or so ago.

Back to our original family on the postcard and it seems that they were an extremely successful and long-lived family. One of George's brothers, Henry was a fine cricketer. Henry Wildman Kettlewell (20 July 1876 – 28 April 1963) was a British Army officer and an English cricketer. He was a right-handed batsman and right-arm fast bowler who played for Somerset. He was born and died in East Harptree. One of George's sons, Richard Wildman Kettlewell (1910–1994) was a colonial agricultural officer who spent all his colonial career in Nyasaland apart from three years of wartime army service. He became Director of Agriculture in 1951 and Secretary for National Resources then Minister of Lands and Surveys between 1960 and 1962.



Well, I think that we have proved that this is quite a rare Twickenham postcard of a couple who were part of a well-known and wealthy family. If we look at the reverse of the postcard we can also see that the writer Mildred or George Kettlewell seemed to think that Twickenham was in Surrey in 1908!

My thanks to fellow members and friends who are members of the Twickenham and Teddington History Facebook Group who contributed much to the research of this postcard. So, thanks to Richard James, Edmund Nicholls, Stanley Stanley, Laura Wells and Keith Mulberry.

My search for old postcards continues. 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 I would like to see them and I pay cash!

CrusaderTravel

020 8744 0474

crusadertravel.com

Escapology Experts

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Your friendly local Travel Agency
established in Twickenham since 1966

With over 50 years experience we pride ourselves on being able to offer an unrivalled service with attention to detail. Come and have a chat with us in our cosy office off the Church Street Square, we are open 6 days a week from 11am until 6pm (Closed Sunday)



Next week at Richmond Council

Due to the pre-election period, the council is not broadcasting the meetings. After the general election, the recordings will be available on the council's website. You can still attend the meetings in person.

On Monday morning, the **Licensing Sub-Committee** will meet to determine the opposed application for a new premises license for Barnes Green. The meeting will start at 10:30 a.m. and be held virtually. For full details, please follow the link [HERE](#)

On Monday evening, the **Finance, Policy and Resources Committee** will approve the draft night-time strategy for consultation, the cost-of-living update, the local authority productivity plan, end-of-year financial reports (there has been a £4.125 million overspend this year) and additional budget requests. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at York House, Twickenham. For full details, please follow the link [HERE](#)

On Friday afternoon, the **Schools Forum** will meet to discuss the SEND futures plan, school funding and a new pupil referral unit in Hampton Hill. The meeting will start at 1:30 p.m. at York House, Twickenham. For full details, please follow the link [HERE](#)

On Friday evening, the **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education** will meet to discuss religious education in the borough schools. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. at York House, Twickenham. For full details, please follow the link [HERE](#)

Discover refugee support networks within the borough

Refugee Week, taking place between 17 to 23 June, aims to celebrate the contributions, creativity and resilience people seeking sanctuary.

The theme this year is 'Our Home' and is about extending warmth and hospitality beyond our own homes to make our community welcoming to those affected by forced migration.

There are events and support networks available to residents across the borough.

Ivana Kupala celebrations

The [Ukrainian Social Club](#) is celebrating the Ukrainian festival of Ivana Kupala through traditional wreath workshops, live music performances and food and drinks.

Event details:

- **Date:** Sunday 23 June
- **Time:** 2 to 6pm
- **Location:** Crossway, 306 Richmond Road, Twickenham, TW1 2PD
- **Price:** Adults £5, free for children under 12

[Get Ivana Kupala tickets](#)

Find more info [HERE](#)

TACTICAL VOTING?

Richmond Park and Twickenham

GENERAL ELECTION 2024

Polling analysts Best for Britain have produced individual constituency voting advice based on the current MP, local factors, and the latest polling. You can use this information to make sure your vote has an impact.

Richmond Park

Conservatives are polling 31% behind the current MP, so this is a safe seat for progressive politics.

Tactical voting websites say...



VOTE WITH YOUR HEART

Twickenham

Conservatives are polling 44% behind the current MP, so this is a safe seat for progressive politics.

Tactical voting websites say...



VOTE WITH YOUR HEART

“*I used to vote tactically, but after many years of the same MP and knowing that the Conservatives can't win here, I'm going to vote with my principles and send a signal to the other parties. On July 4th, I will be voting for the Green Party.*”

Gareth Jones,
Twickenham



“Tactical voting isn't necessary in every seat, and in Richmond Park and Twickenham, you can vote for the party that represents your values. Best for Britain have not made a tactical voting recommendation here because the incumbent MP is polling at over 15% ahead”

SOURCE: GetVoting.Org on behalf of Best for Britain. Promoted by Rae Vermeulen on behalf of Chantal Kerr-Sheppard (Green Party), c/o 124 Lisbon Ave, Twickenham, TW2 5HN. Promoted by Alexis Hatto on behalf of Chas Warlow (Green Party), c/o 37 Lock Road, Richmond, TW10 7LQ.

ANOTHER! 6 REASONS TO... VOTE GREEN

★ **Halt airport expansion**
Introduce a Frequent Flyer Levy

★ **Rejoin the European Union**
Closer ties with our neighbours

★ **Abolish tuition fees**
Free education for all

★ **150,000 new social homes**
Every single year

★ **£15 minimum wage**
Fair pay, regardless of age

★ **Scrap 2 Child Benefit Cap**
250,000 children out of poverty



*Chas
Warlow*

Richmond Park candidate



*Chantal
Kerr-Sheppard*

Twickenham candidate

Promoted by Rae Vermeulen on behalf of Chantal Kerr-Sheppard (Green Party), c/o 124 Lisbon Ave, Twickenham, TW2 5HN.
Promoted by Alexis Hatto on behalf of Chas Warlow (Green Party), c/o 37 Lock Road, Richmond, TW10 7LQ.

LBRUT - Mind the Cracks

Teresa Read

In Edition 396 of the Tribune photographs were published of the state of disrepair of pavements in the Twickenham Green area, South Ward; apparently these broken and raised pavements were reported to the Council in the past, but accidents have taken place recently.

This week I have spoken to the person at the Council responsible for the abovementioned issue and it seems that damaged pavements and trip hazards can be reported on the Council website. I have also spoken to Cllr Rhi Lee, a councillor for South Twickenham.

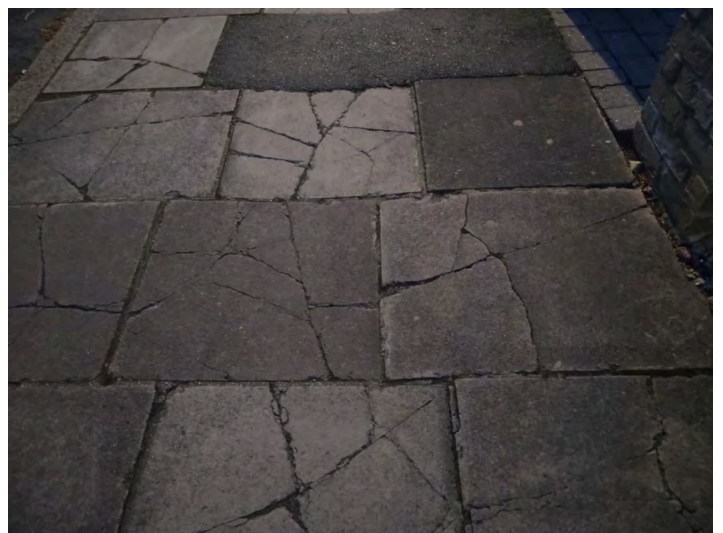
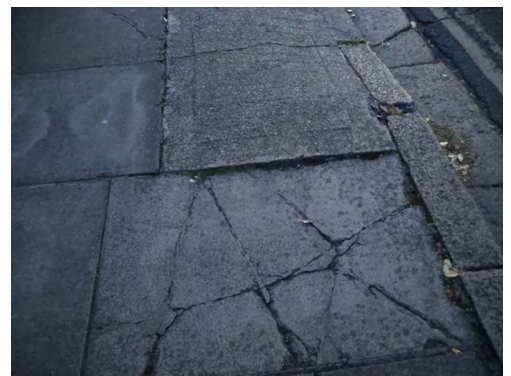
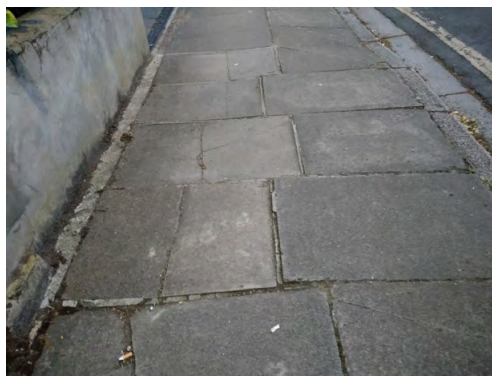
“Trip hazards on pavements are a key concern so please report any defective pavements” LBRUT

Unfortunately, there are broken and possibly dangerous pavements, pointing to the fact that the Council may not allocate adequate finance for on-going repairs.

We are encouraged to participate in Active Travel but the state of some of the pavements does little to encourage this objective (Active Travel means getting about in a way that makes you physically active).

I have taken a few photographs on my walks around Twickenham and Strawberry Hill this week and remember the days around fifteen or so years ago when John Armstrong of the Strawberry Hill Residents’ Association walked the streets regularly with a Council officer pointing out broken pavements and hedges encroaching on the pavements.

Perhaps publishing photographs of our pavements might encourage councillors to take more of an interest in this issue?



Your councillors: <https://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?FN=ALPHA&VW=LIST&PIC=0>

VOTE FOR



Jonathan

HULLEY

The **BEST** choice for **TWICKENHAM**

The Hamptons, Heathfield, St. Margarets,
Strawberry Hill, Teddington & Twickenham

3

Good reasons to **VOTE** for Jonathan **HULLEY**

1. **LOCAL HOMES FIT FOR THE NEXT GENERATION**
Building the right kind of affordable homes in the right places so our children can live here too. And we must bring housing associations to account over poor housing quality. New housing needs to be built on brownfield land, not on green belt.
2. **NO VAT ON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FEES**
Labour's spiteful plan to slap 20% VAT on independent school fees will be harmful to families in this constituency. Inevitably it will mean larger class sizes in state schools as parents can no longer afford those fees.
3. **MORE POLICE ON THE STREETS**
Far too many of us are affected by crime. I am a firm believer in more borough-based policing. Residents should feel safe in their homes and when they go out.

 **Vote Conservative**

Promoted by Hilary Smith on behalf of Jonathan Hulley
both at 90 York Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 8SN.

Dear Tribune,

Who Won the War?

I recently returned from Japan just in time to see the D-Day remembrance services and the patriotism and modesty of the military veterans who gave so much and lost their friends fighting for our freedom.

But I was surprised by one of them who, when asked if it was all worth it, actually said: *'I'm not sure – Britain is now a third world country.'* My surprise was not because he said it but because they broadcast it.

His comment was obviously aimed at the embarrassing deficiencies of this country because I've been to many third world countries in my flying career where I found the people polite and helpful.

Having been taken ill in Tokyo, I attended hospital where I was immediately given numerous tests and the staff could not do enough for me even though I had turned up out of the blue.

When the doctor suggested a CT scan, I asked how long it would take to organise. Expecting the same delays as in the UK, I was amazed when she said: 'We'll do it now'. Ten minutes later, after the scan, I asked the operator how long it would take to send to the doctor. His reply was: 'I've already sent it!' So I went straight back to the doctor. Although I speak Japanese, the report was full of difficult medical terms so I was amazed when she produced an iPad, held it over the report, and everything appeared in English. All in a few minutes. What a difference to this country with its agonising NHS delays of weeks, months or years!

For my return, I asked British Airways at Tokyo airport for a wheelchair from the check-in desk to the aircraft. It was already waiting for me when I checked in. As always, the BA staff and airport staff were incredibly efficient, polite and friendly. Even the long flight was a pleasure.

But at Heathrow I really came back down to earth. There were four Heathrow Airport wheelchairs waiting and I got into one of them only to be told bluntly to *'Get out'* of it and go to another. Halfway to passport control we four in wheelchairs were told to get out and wait 20 minutes while the attendants had a discussion in an incomprehensible language and then told us to get into a buggy. As I did so, my foot got trapped in the badly designed door, causing me to trip, at which the driver became abusive and started shouting at me as if it was my fault.

At the Border Farce immigration area we encountered a riot because the automatic glass gates weren't working. The Heathrow staff member there could only speak broken English and just walked away.

So, after a month in Japan where everything works and everyone is polite and helpful, back in this country I was immediately subjected to abuse and inefficiency, all crowned by the driver of my black cab throwing my suitcase in after me and crushing my hand.

My first sight of England was several Lime bikes thrown down across footways, rubbish bins overflowing, litter in the streets and a bone-jarring journey over all the potholes. In Japan, I have never seen a pothole. Even when I was in Fukushima after the 2011 earthquake, all the smashed main roads were repaired within a couple of weeks whereas it took 16 years of complaining to get Richmond Council to repair dangerous potholes in my own road.

Visitors to Japan are always amazed by its cleanliness and the way in which everything works efficiently, all helped by the unfailing good manners of the people.

Not so in this country where almost nothing works properly and aggression and bad manners blight all our lives, yet politicians daily spout election promises they can't keep in childish attempts to outdo each other.

But, unlike the soldiers who saw their friends die fighting for it, the one thing I don't hear any of them talking about is freedom. One only has to walk our streets to see that practically every sign says DON'T do something. That's not freedom.

Welcome to England!

Michael Jay, Hampton

The Royal Parks reminds visitors not to BBQ ahead of warm weekend

Visitors are welcome to bring a picnic, but BBQs and any sort of fire lighting are not permitted.



The ban reduces the risk of accidental fires caused by falling embers and ash, which can spread quickly across dry grass.

This poses a danger to staff and other visitors, as well as damaging the environment and landscape, destroying habitats, and killing wildlife.

Visitors are also reminded to take litter home or place it in bins on the way out of the park for the safety of wildlife, as glass bottles increase the risk of a fire.

During this hot weather, the charity emphasises that it is forbidden to swim in any of the lakes and ponds across the parks, other than the public swimming area in the Serpentine Lido, Hyde Park, during opening times.

This is to ensure that the parks remain safe for everyone using them, by preventing the risk of any accidents, and is also to protect the sensitive natural habitats and wildlife in these areas.

View more information about holding picnics in the Royal Parks:

[Holding Picnics in the Royal Parks](#)



Share your views with local police

On Wednesday 26 June, residents are invited to meet the Hampton and Hampton North Police to share their opinions.

The Metropolitan Police is running the meeting session for residents to learn about the local policing team, hear about updates in the neighbourhood, discuss local crime and disorder concerns.



Event details:

- **Date:** Wednesday 26 June
- **Time:** 7pm
- **Location:** The White House, Tangle Park

Learn about The Great Stink of London

On Friday 28 June, the charity Habitats & Heritage (H&H), are hosting a session for resident looking to learn about the London sewage system.

Stephen Fielding, Heritage Projects Manager at Habitats & Heritage, will talk about the cholera epidemics that swept London and the remarkable feat of engineering to create the London sewage system in response.



Event details:

- **Date:** Friday 28 June
- **Time:** 7 to 9pm
- **Location:** ETNA Community Centre, 13 Rosslyn Road, Twickenham, TW1 2AR
- **Price:** £12 for a standard ticket, £10 for H&H supporter

[Book tickets](#)

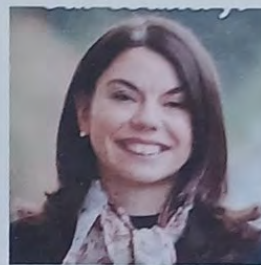
A dessert prepared by local partner Lollapalosa will be served before the talk.

General Election on Thursday 4 July

An opportunity to question your candidates on the Mortlake Brewery development and local and national issues



Laura Coryton
Labour



Sarah Olney
Liberal Democrat



Sara Gezdari
Conservative



Chas Warlow
Green

Tuesday 25 June

7.00–8.30pm

Doors open 6.30pm

St Mary the Virgin
Mortlake High Street
SW14 8JA

Email your questions beforehand
to mortlakers@btinternet.com



Join free session to enhance your DIY skills

The Library of Things is hosting a free event in Twickenham for residents who are keen to learn more about DIY, mending, and upcycling.

At the event, their Thing Technicians will be on hand to help you with your summer projects, whether that be helping you to choose the right tools or sharing their best DIY tips and tricks. The session is part of London Climate Action Week, taking place between 22 to 30 June 2024.

Those who register and come along will receive 25% off their first rental.

Event details:

- **Date:** Thursday 27 June
- **Time:** 2 to 3pm
- **Location:** Patch Twickenham, 42 York Street, Twickenham, TW1 3LJ

[Sign up for the session](#)

The [Library of Things](#) works in partnership with various suppliers to make it more affordable for everyone in the community to access the cleaning, DIY, gardening, cooking, camping and audio equipment you need to do the mending, repair and projects you need around your home.



World Health Organization

COVID-19 Epidemiological Update, Published 17 June 2024

At the regional level, the number of newly reported 28-day cases decreased across four of the six WHO regions: the Eastern Mediterranean Region, the African Region, the European Region, and the Region of the Americas; while case numbers increased in two WHO regions: the Western Pacific Region and the South-East Asia Region.

The number of newly reported 28-day deaths decreased across five regions: the African Region, the Eastern Mediterranean Region, the Region of the Americas, the Western Pacific Region, and the European Region, while death numbers increased in the South-East Asia Region.

At the country level, the highest numbers of new 28-day cases were reported from the Russian Federation (45,662 new cases), Australia (19,638 new cases), New Zealand (13,245 new cases), the United Kingdom (10,540 new cases) and Thailand (7,355 new cases).

The highest numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from the United States of America (1,319 new deaths), Russian Federation (152 new deaths), New Zealand (62 new deaths), Australia (50 new deaths), China (49 new deaths) and Thailand (45 new deaths).

The European Region reported over 68,000 new cases, a 24% decrease as compared to the previous 28-day period.

Thirteen of the 62 countries for which data are available reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with the highest proportional increases observed in Portugal (+378%), Malta (+307%), Iceland (+176%), Luxembourg (+66%), Slovenia (+62%), the United Kingdom (+58%), Ireland (+57%), Estonia (+56%), Sweden (+50%), Switzerland (+49%), Norway (+46%), Belgium (+33%) and Croatia (+33%).

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Russian Federation (45,662), the United Kingdom (10,540) and Greece (2,834).

The number of new 28-day deaths in the Region decreased by 34% as compared to the previous 28-day period, with 266 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Russian Federation (152 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -40%), Sweden (28 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; +75%), and Portugal (26 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +30%).

Variants of Interest and Variants Under Monitoring

WHO is currently tracking several SARS-CoV-2 variants, including:

- Variants of interest (VOIs): EG.5, BA.2.86 and JN.1
- Variants under monitoring (VUMs): JN.1.7, JN.1.18, KP.2 and KP.3

Globally, JN.1 is the most reported VOI (now reported by 132 countries), accounting for 47.1% of sequences in week 21. With **declining rates of testing and sequencing globally**, it is increasingly challenging to estimate the severity impact of emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants.

Twickers Foodie - By Alison Jee

June food and drink news

At long last it's starting to feel like summer! Phew! Here are some great products that I've recently discovered and am happy to recommend:

Mayonnaise is such a staple in our house. It can be used to add flavour and moisture to so many different dishes - not just salads and sandwiches. It's important to know that the mayonnaise you're serving is top quality and not packed with lots of 'nasties', such as seed oils, sugar, fillers and chemical preservatives. Tesco has just launched a range of seed oil (and other nasties) free mayo from **Hunter & Gather**, a company that I've held in high esteem for quite a few years. Produced in small batches right here in the UK, it's real food, with just four simple ingredients: 100% pure avocado oil; British free range egg yolks from RSPCA approved, Red Lion certified farms; apple cider vinegar and Pink Himalyan Salt. Available in Classic, Garlic and also Chipotle & Lime, they are worth seeking out - Tesco supermarkets nationwide £4.00, 175g jar



St. Michel, France's popular cake and biscuit brand, has brought its **Choco Cakes** range to the UK: a selection of **Choco Muffin, Choco Waffle, Choco Donut and Choco Burger** are now available in Tesco and Waitrose stores, and Ocado (rrp £2.00 per box). Made in France using French wheat, cage-free eggs and absolutely no palm oil, the Choco Cakes range contains no artificial preservatives. Available in boxes of six, individually wrapped in foil, makes them perfect to pop into lunch boxes or as a treat at home or on the go. They are rather yummy...



Artisanal honey brand, **Honey Heaven** has added three stunning new varieties to its organic honey range; **Organic Honey infused with Bee Pollen, Propolis and Royal Jelly, Organic Natural Hungarian Acacia Honey with Honeycomb and Organic Wildflower Soft Set Honey**. All three take the finest organic Hungarian honey, but each has its own special twist. All are available from www.honeyheaven.co.uk



Organic Honey infused with Bee Pollen, Propolis and Royal Jelly RRP £18.00 (300g) Organic Natural Hungarian Acacia Honey with Honeycomb RRP £18.00 (500g) Organic Wildflower Soft Set Honey RRP £12.00 (300g). Honey Heaven exclusively sources its honey from a small, artisanal Hungarian beekeeper. The pristine Hungarian countryside is an area of natural beauty, unspoiled by pollution and



pesticides with stunning landscapes, criss-crossed by springs and rivers, untamed Acacia forests and lush wild-flower and lavender meadows which are home to the bees. The organic honey they make is extracted using traditional methods which are sustainable and work in complete harmony with nature.



With salads and soft fruit season upon us, the new **Microplane** range of **Y-Peelers** is perfect. A **Straight Blade** (for peeling carrots, apples etc), a **Serrated Blade** (razor sharp for peeling delicate, softer fruit and veg like a tomato or mango) and a **Julienne Blade** (with mini sharp teeth for cutting veg into uniform julienne sticks for stir fries and salads). From £22 at John Lewis

sunborn
GIBRALTAR
YACHT HOTEL RESORT



GIBRALTAR ROCKS PACKAGE

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Bubbly Afternoon Tea for 2 guests on the top deck

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Traveller's Tales 162

Castles And Gardens

Doug Goodman Takes a Short Break in East Sussex



I've stayed in many b&bs in this country – some average and some very good but one stands out from all the others. A short break to visit some of the magnificent gardens and imposing castles on the Sussex/Kent border was arranged last weekend. It had to be within an easy drive of Twickenham and situated in a quiet location. The first task was to find an inn, small hotel or b&b. The one selected, which turned out to be in the perfect spot, was a studio in the grounds of Knelle Dower in Northiam, East Sussex. The studio was well furnished with a kitchen, a fridge stocked with drinks and offered views over the fields from a terrace. Except for the singing of birds and occasional bleat from sheep nearby the silence was deafening. Breakfast was provided in a beautiful manor house dating from 1480 close by. And it was a very substantial breakfast. Without detailed instructions and a map sent by the owners, Bettina and Jonathan, it would have been hard to find the location. A very full welcome pack, emailed in advance, gave suggestions for eating out, excursions and activities.



Studio at Knelle



All Saints Tudeley



Window by Chagall

HISTORIC SITES

First stop was at All Saints Church, Tudeley, not far from Tonbridge. Twelve beautiful windows designed by Marc Chagall adorn the walls of the ancient church. The light through the brilliant colours created a spiritual feeling within. Sissinghurst began life as a Saxon pig farm and soon became a small moated manor house. By the late 16th C the farm had become a Renaissance courtyard house with vaulted gallery and a tower at the centre. Used for many purpose: a prison and a workhouse the building was repaired by the Mann Cornwallis family in the mid 1900's. The famous gardens were started in the 1930's by Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicholson, who set out to create 'rooms' of different colours, scents and styles. The 'White Garden' is stunning in its use of a single colour. Bodiam has been described as one of our most romantic ruined castles. From the outside looking over the moat it appears to be in good condition but inside a little imagination is needed to decide what it looked like on construction in 1385. Built by Sir Edward Dallingridge, who fought in France with Richard 11, the castle was a status-symbol home as well as a defence against the French. Nearby is the preserved steam railway which runs to Tenterden.



Sissinghurst Castle



Sissinghurst. White Garden



Sissinghurst



Bodiam

FOOD AND DRINK

I was saddened to see so many closed and derelict pubs in East Sussex and Kent. However many are still thriving and offer enticing menus. Restaurants are few so a pub or country hotel is the place to dine. For weekends, booking is essential and in the summer week days will also require a reservation. A list of recommended place in our welcome pack was very useful with the owners high lighting their favourites. We chose The White Dog at Ewhurst Green, an easy two mile drive from the Studio. Described as a family- run pub it has a great atmosphere and a nice welcome from the staff. From a comprehensive menu we had a large glass of wine each, a spring salad, Mackerel fillets, the house burger and a delicious apple crumble. The cost with service was £70 and was all-round good value.



Great Dixter



Garden at Great Dixter



Great Dixter

COLOUR

At Great Dixter the plants tower above you as you walk along narrow paths. The skill of planting the many varieties in such colourful beds is a sight to be remembered. The garden centre has a huge range of plants to take home to set up your own mini-Great Dixter. The house dates from the mid-15th C and then remodelled and extended in 1910 by Edward Lutyens, The whole area is of great ecological interest and was the family home of gardener and writer Christopher Lloyd. He devoted his work to the creation of an experimental and constantly changing landscape. Visit in June and July when the flowers are at their most spectacular. Scotney Castle near Lamberhurst was the final place during the two day visit. The view from the hillside to the ruins of the 14th C castle with colourful rhododendrons on the slopes is unique. By the 19th century the building was in a sad state so its owner Edward Hussey 111 deliberately ruined it to create the picturesque view visitors can now enjoy. The big house dates from 1843 and contains artworks, furniture and a library. It was modernised in 1952 by the third generation of the Hussey family. One castle, three gardens with luxurious flower beds, a series of Chagall windows and a very pleasant stay in a studio made the weekend away inspirational as well as restful.



Scotney Castle New House



Original Scotney Castle

Information: Studio at Knelle Dower in Northiam www.knelledower.co.uk Tel: 01797 253163. Sissinghurst: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sissinghurst Bodiam: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bodiam-castle Great Dixter: www.greatdixter.co.uk Scotney Castle: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/scotneycastle White Dog Inn Ewhurst Green: Tel. 01580 830264 www.thewhitedogewhurst.co.uk

Endangered Wild Horse Species Returned to the Wild

Just over a week ago seven Przewalski horses, an endangered wild horse species, were returned to their native habitat in Kazakhstan; this follows similar rewilding of Przewalski horses in China and Mongolia.

The wild horses were named after Nikolai Przewalski, who identified the species in 1879.

Przewalski horses are small and stocky, originally roaming in Europe and Asia; it is said that they diverged from a common ancestor around 500,000 years ago and are the only wild horses left in the world.



Commemorative Coin for Askania-Nova



Vaska, a Przewalski's horse trained to be ridden



Kazakh man on a horse with golden eagle

Information on Kazakhstan: <https://worldinfozone.com/facts.php?country=Kazakhstan>

The days are getting shorter again...

By Deep Patel

~ Life Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

If you were not feeling depressed yet, this article is guaranteed to make you feel it in some way this week, because we've officially passed the longest day of the year in the UK so now the days are getting shorter and the nights are drawing in...(start compiling your Christmas shopping list please...no seriously...start).

The longest day of the year is thought by many to be particularly spiritually significant day... perhaps to chant, to meditate, to reflect and radiate inner positivity?... I traced back to what I was doing at that exact time, and it happens to be that I was hugging the Asda delivery driver who was in my shop at the time... he's a great guy, we always hug each time we meet. Well, it was still spiritual in my eyes as it was an exchange of good energy.



Regardless of what you were doing, the bare fact remains that the longest day of the year in the UK has now passed...so how does that make you feel? Most customers in my shop were pretty damn disappointed when I asked them about it...they said "oh no, summer is coming to an end then?"

Well, I want to say to everyone here, that although it has technically started to become darker earlier now, summer is by no means over...it's only just getting started... I mean some of the hottest days of the year are in July and even August, and I always think summer never really "starts" until the school summer holidays start as that is when I remember summer to be when I was a child...summer days, when people go away, eating ice creams on Twickenham Green, meeting friends by the riverside and generally soaking up the sun... so to the majority of customers coming into my shop this week whom have accused me of being depressing when I told them "the nights are drawing in now"...I would like to say, it isn't about how much of summer has passed that we should be focusing on, it is about how much of summer is still left...equally life isn't about how many things we may have done wrong...rather about how many things we can still do right...and therefore our outlooks in life perhaps should not be about how much we have lost of anything really...but instead of how much we still could gain, the different opportunities that still may come our way and indeed to see what tomorrow may still bring...for as long as we have hope...our days or nights can never really be dark...

Remember...

"Light and dark can never influence us when we start to make our own sunshine..."

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

STOP ANY INSECT KINDLY (GOOD KARMA): Sprinkle pure essential peppermint oil, Olbas oil, fine black pepper or white vinegar around places where you don't want them to come (but NOT directly on them)...they will go without you having to harm them. For ANY specific tip to stop any "pest" or insect KINDLY (for good karma/blessings), email me: InsectLoversUnite@gmail.com or join my Facebook page: "INSECT LOVERS UNITE"

Explore the Amazon Forest with Kew Society

On Friday 28 June, residents are invited to join the 'From Kew to the Amazon' talk to learn about indigenous food sovereignty and reforestation in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

The event will be delivered by Nick Ovenden, founder of local charity [Yakum](#), and will also feature a discussion on his works promoting forest conservation and reforestation, a documentary about his journey to Pëekëëya, and some music recorded from huge Amazonian fruit trees.

Nick and two collaborators, Remi Bumstead and Joey Dean, travelled to Pëekëëya to support the displaced Siekopai peoples recovering some seeds for growing important forest foods in northern Ecuador.



The recovered seeds are now germinated in nurseries, with plans to be planted in Siekopai forest

gardens. It is also a part of a larger reforestation project on Siekopai territory, which was deforested by land grabbers some years back.

Event details:

- **Date:** Friday 28 June
- **Time:** 7pm
- **Location:** The National Archives. TW9 4DU
- **Price:** £3 for members, £6 for non-members

Tickets are available on the door. Find out more about the talk through the [Kew Society website](#).

Kew Society is an influential organisation dedicated to enhancing the beauty and character of Kew with its historic legacy of buildings and green spaces.

To support community-driven initiatives around climate change and sustainability, residents and community groups are encouraged to apply for our [climate action microgrant programme](#) which awards grants every month.

Bluets

by Margaret Perry, adapted from Maggie Nelson

Deutsches Schauspielhaus at the Royal Court Theatre, Chelsea until 29th June

A story about depression and desire, pleasure and pain, and an individual possessed by a lifelong obsession with the colour blue. Presented as live cinema, a hybrid art form between theatre and film, *Bluets* defies convention and weaves a melange of theatricality and cinematic sharpness that is simultaneously immersive and gripping.



A narrator central to the story fixates on the colour blue. Beads, sky, clothing, water, bottle tops, painted walls, precious stones, birds, ink bottles, indeed anything which possesses the slightest hint of blue, becomes an obsession and a leitmotif as she lurches from philosophy and science to art and music in an attempt to make sense of her life whilst finding a way through her pain and grief.



The thoughts and emotions of the unnamed woman are splintered across four video screens, and between three actors speaking into microphones and cameras, supplied with different sets of tabletop props and costumes by a fantastically well-drilled stage management team.

Emma D'Arcy, Kayla Meikle, and Ben Whishaw deliver magnetic performances, their synergy palpable in every glance and poignant line. The way they keep the narrative moving, sharing their lines with split-second precision, being in exactly the right place and time for each other is a *tour de force*.

They are nameless and this story is timeless. What we are watching is not confined to a time, place or person. Sometimes they are reduced on screen to just a hand, a mouth, a side profile or a sideways glance. As these images play across the screens, with references to blue objects, and attempts to seek out the colour where possible, a darker idea seeps into the narrative, as the association of blue with depression takes centre stage. The cold tone of the camerawork, and the fragmented dialogue, effectively conveys the narrator's developing depression and her battle to find a way through her challenges.

There is a curious, dreamlike atmosphere, as though intruding on the thoughts of the narrator in a weird kind of out-of-body experience. *Bluets* is ambitious, absorbing, disconcerting, but always challenging theatre, which will linger long in the memory.

Read Harry Zimmerman's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/06/08/bluets

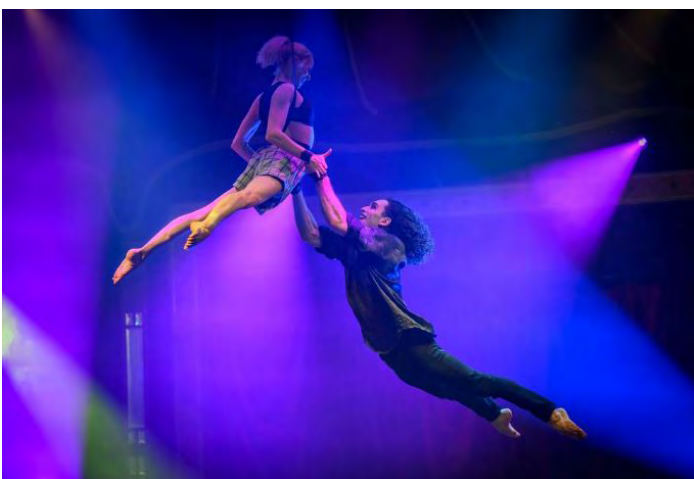
Photography by Camilla Greenwood

Sophie's Surprise 29th

Three Legged Race at the Underbelly Boulevard, Soho until 28th June

Sophie's Surprise 29th is a highly entertaining and skilled circus-cabaret romp. All the performers are elite level talented and at the top of their craft, with credits from the likes of *La Clique*, *The 7 Fingers*, *Cirque du Soleil* to their names. They have come together to put together a fun and accessible close-up show that engages on a variety of different levels.

Framed around the idea of it being a surprise party (with an audience member being chosen as Sophie) the artists, as an assortment of different roles, perform, not just with great aerialist and acrobatic skill, but also with playful interaction. The show incorporates different theatrical elements, pantomime, circus, impro', commedia and more, with over-the-top characters. Audience participation is encouraged and having an enthusiastic and game crowd helps amplify the enjoyment for everyone.



Another spectacle away from the aerialists and acrobatics, comes from Dru Cripps who brings a great comedic musical piece in the second half. Dressed in only a tool belt (literally) he offers a few freestyled musical numbers in which ever style is loudly shouted from the audience. It's a highly amusing bit of comedy and brings the room's party atmosphere together, paving the way for the finale.

Perhaps the only shame is that the show does not lean into its narrative premise as heavily as it might. At times it becomes one piece after another and loses the little character nods, which help to accentuate the performances when they are realised. Two cases where these are best felt are with Cornelius Atkinson's Goth Boy, who has a standout early moment born from the narrative of his character's rejection, and Katharine Arnold's shifting from a geeky persona to a major dominating presence. The narrative backings to both really help to accentuate their performances.

For anyone looking for a fun, awe-inspiring hour and a half long blast then *Sophie's Surprise 29th* is an excellent choice. With all its different elements mixed around its highly accomplished performers, any audience should leave feeling amused, entertained ... and more than slightly breathless.

Read Denis Valentine's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/04/19/sophie-surprise

Photography by Will Wood



National Opera Studio with English National Opera

Cadogan Hall, Chelsea

In a captivating evening of rising stars, the National Opera Studio presented a spellbinding showcase featuring gifted young vocalists performing alongside the ENO Orchestra. It was a true delight to witness these blossoming talents, and also a testament to the world-class musical excellence of the Orchestra.

The National Opera Studio trains young musicians to become the foremost artists of their generation, working closely with six of the leading opera companies in the UK. In addition to a bespoke coaching programme, they work to prepare opera scenes for public performance.

The ENO Orchestra delivered a remarkable performance, positioned behind the singers rather than in the traditional pit area, allowing for an immersive auditory experience. Renowned conductor, Rory Macdonald masterfully transported us through the emotional landscape of each piece



Opening with Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Kira Kaplan and Georgia Mae Ellis exhibited remarkable vocal interplay in the duet *Ah, guarda, sorella*, expressing admiration and devotion. Ellis stood out with her rich, well-projected voice, capable of dramatic dynamic changes and subtle *sotte voce*. Later in Massenet's *Werther*, Ellis delivered another compelling performance, her long lines and breath control making her portrayal of Charlotte's melancholy particularly effective.

In an emotionally charged duet with Felix Gygli, *Qu'ai-je vu?* from Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*, Kaplan delivered the most moving performances of the evening, her textured voice bringing depth to the role of Leïla. Kaplan's heartfelt delivery highlighted her ability to convey complex emotions through her voice.

However, Smelo Mahlangu, as Dr. Dulcamara in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*, and in his other main role in Britten's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, was the star of the whole evening. His super-rich voice, versatility, and effortless projection made his performance riveting and amusing. His will be a name on the big stages of the world. You read it here first!

Director, Emma Jenkins' innovative staging and attention to detail brought a fresh perspective to each opera scene, making the performances both engaging and visually stimulating.

Orchestra and singers working in harmony created a memorable and engaging experience. The innovative staging and exceptional performances made for an evening of opera that was both intimate and impactful.

Read Susan Furnell's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/06/12/nos-eno

Photography courtesy of NOS

Drop the Dead Donkey: The Reawakening!

by Andy Hamilton and Guy Jenkin

Hat Trick and Simon Friend Entertainment at Richmond Theatre until 22nd June

What time lapse?! *Drop the Dead Donkey* has returned in its *Reawakening!* The original cast energetically bounce back onstage, directed by Derek Bond, with all their characteristics firmly in place as if they had never left in 1998.

Jeff Rawle as the gentle George grapples with a new-fangled coffee machine. The laddish Neil Pearson is Dave, a former gambler, who has more to reveal in the gender neutral toilets! The odious Gus, played by the wonderful Robert Duncan, gleefully takes all the credit. Stephen Tompkinson delightfully recreates the attention-seeking Damien, reporting fake news before that term became fashionable. There is a joyful reuniting with Ingrid Lacey's Helen and the captivating Sally Smedley, the egotistical newsreader played to perfection by Victoria Wicks. Their *bête noir*, Susannah Doyle's Joy, now in HR, rules them with an iron rod.



Although at their peak during the Thatcher and Major years, the cast slide into the contemporary world with ease with the newly-formed television company, Truth News. Everything that could go wrong does. This includes the electrocution of the hallowed Trevor McDonald, and allegations against "national treasure", David Attenborough ... and the ratings soar.

There are new members of the team. Kerena Jagpal plays Rita, weather girl cum unpaid intern and Mairead played by the versatile Julia Hills. Both are adapt in merging with a familiar cast and hold their own beautifully.

Peter McKintosh newsroom set is in a contemporary London with building works in the backdrop and a dominating screen that transmits Truth News live. Plus abusive and bemused Twitter feed also appear on the screen. The reunited employees naturally embrace these 21st century gadgets, unknown in their heyday. Effective lighting by Peter Mumford, and atmospheric sound by Ella Wahlstrom, complete the ambience.

A nice tribute to Haydn Gwynn and David Swift onscreen, past cast members who have sadly left us, come as a touching gesture. Fittingly, *Drop the Dead Donkey* has its reawakening.

Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/06/19/drop-donkey-rt

Photography courtesy of Simon Friend

Park Arts Competition

Friends of Bushy & Home Parks is delighted to announce the launch of its first Park Art Competition. Supported by Landmark Arts Centre, it is open to amateur artist from 7yrs+.

Friends of Bushy and Home Parks is delighted to announce the launch of its first Park Art Competition. Supported by Landmark Art Centre, the competition is open to any amateur artist from seven years old and upwards. The aim is to showcase the most “Inspiring Elements” of either Bushy or Home Park that will encourage others to explore and respect the beauty of the Parks.

Key dates for the competition:
10th June – applications open for submissions.
31st July – applications close at 11.59pm (entries must be submitted online by this date)



We welcome entries for 2D pieces of artwork (all media is welcomed except

photography) and no larger than A2. We want artists to capture their favourite scenic view or a detailed study of a plant or animal from either Bushy Park or Home Park. We ask that the artwork has been created this year, either in the studio based on photographs, or during an en plein air visit to one of the parks.

Closing date 31/07/24.

For key dates & how to enter go to:

<https://artsrichmond.org.uk/whats-on>



HAMPTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Maurice Duruflé - Requiem
John Rutter - Requiem

Musical Director - Richard Harker
with professional soloists

Saturday 29 June 2024 - 7.30pm

St James's Church, St James's Road,
Hampton Hill, TW12 1DQ

Tickets: £15 (Adults), £7 (Under 16's)

Box Office: 020 8941 5394

on the door: contactless, card, cheque, cash
www.hamptonchoral.org.uk

St Mary's University

St Mary's Alumnus Leads Physical Performance Coaching for England Men's Euros Team

St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) alumnus Hailu Theodros is leading the physical preparation, performance, and recovery of the England Men's Senior football team during the UEFA European Championship (Euros) 2024.

St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) alumnus Hailu Theodros is leading the physical preparation, performance, and recovery of the England Men's Senior football team during the [UEFA European Championship](#) (Euros) 2024.

In 2023 Hailu joined the [Football Association](#) (FA) as a Physical Performance Coach, working with the England Men's Senior players on their physical performance.

The Euros is taking place in Germany from 14th June to 14th July, and is the primary tournament organised by the Union of European Football Associations ([UEFA](#)).

The England Men's team are looking to bring home the trophy after coming second in the previous Euros in 2021. The team lost to Italy in penalties at the final.



Speaking on Hailu's role in the tournament SMU Associate Professor in the School of Sport Exercise and Applied Sciences Michael Ayres said, "Hailu was an outstanding student during his undergraduate and postgraduate studies at St Mary's. He was able to combine his academic studies with working in the football industry, and he went about his studies in a humble and studious way.

Hailu completed his undergraduate degree in [Sport Rehabilitation](#) at SMU, before returning to the University to do a master's degree in [Strength and Conditioning](#).

Throughout his time at SMU, Hailu worked at the [Chelsea FC Academy](#) across all age groups as the Lead Athletic Development Coach.

"It has been a privilege to observe his progress within the football industry and we're excited to see him play an important role in the England team's pursuit of becoming the European Champions."



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

TEDDINGTON VILLAGE FAIR

Sunday 30th June 12 - 5:30 pm

Udney Hall Gardens, off Langham Rd.



The Village Fair is returning to Teddington again this year. Come and help us celebrate 100 years of Rotary in Teddington and join in all the fun.

- ◆ Music and Dance on our stage and performance area
- ◆ Fun and Games on stalls from all our local community groups
- ◆ Food and drink from local businesses.
- ◆ The finish line for the United Response pram race!

Organised by your local Rotary club together with the Teddington Society, St Mary with St Alban, and the local Scouts and Guides, this year's fair will be one to remember. Updated information is available on our website. Search "Teddington Rotary" or use QR code.

Rotary  **Teddington & the Hamptons**

100 YEARS OF SERVICE, 1924 - 2024

Registered Charity No: 1031422



StMARY with StALBAN
PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON



England Team To Play Japan In Tokyo

England men's head coach Steve Borthwick has named his team to play Japan at the National Stadium in Tokyo on Saturday 22nd June for the Lipovitan D Challenge Cup (kick-off 6.50am BST live on RugbyPassTV).



Jamie George will captain England for the first ever official Test match between the two nations to be played in Japan. The England skipper will be supported by four vice-captains: Maro Itoje, Ben Earl, Henry Slade and Joe Marler.

In the front row, George is named at hooker alongside Bevan Rodd at loosehead prop and Dan Cole at tighthead. At lock, Itoje partners George Martin. The back row sees Chandler Cunningham-South on the blindside flank making his first Test start for England, with Sam Underhill at openside and Earl at No.8.

In the half-back berths, scrum-half Alex Mitchell is paired with Marcus Smith at 10. The midfield sees Ollie Lawrence named at inside centre with Slade at 13.

In the back three, Immanuel Feyi-Waboso starts on the right wing, with Tommy Freeman on the left and George Furbank selected at full-back to round off the starting line-up.

Amongst the replacements, Tom Roebuck will win his first England cap when he joins the action. The Sale Sharks wing takes his place on the substitutes bench alongside Theo Dan, Joe Marler, Will Stuart, Charlie Ewels, Tom Curry, Harry Randall and Fin Smith.

"We're looking forward to the challenge of playing Japan at their National Stadium," said Borthwick. Conditions in Tokyo mean we'll need to be accurate, keep our discipline, and maintain a level of intensity in our performance from the first whistle to the last. We will need to be at our very best against an opponent who will want to play fast."

JAPAN v ENGLAND

Saturday 22nd June 2024

National Stadium, Tokyo - Kick-off: 6.50am (BST)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 15. George Furbank (Northampton Saints, 9 caps) | 1. Bevan Rodd (Sale Sharks, 5 caps) |
| 14. Immanuel Feyi-Waboso (Exeter Chiefs, 3 caps) | 2. Jamie George (Saracens, 90 caps) – captain |
| 13. Henry Slade (Exeter Chiefs, 62 caps) - vice-captain | 3. Dan Cole (Leicester Tigers, 112 caps) |
| 12. Ollie Lawrence (Bath Rugby, 24 caps) | 4. Maro Itoje (Saracens, 81 caps) - vice-captain |
| 11. Tommy Freeman (Northampton Saints, 8 caps) | 5. George Martin (Leicester Tigers, 12 caps) |
| 10. Marcus Smith (Harlequins, 32 caps) | 6. Chandler Cunningham-South (Harlequins, 4 caps) |
| 9. Alex Mitchell (Northampton Saints, 15 caps) | 7. Sam Underhill (Bath Rugby, 35 caps) |
| | 8. Ben Earl (Saracens, 30 caps) - vice-captain |

Replacements:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 16. Theo Dan (Saracens, 12 caps) | 20. Tom Curry (Sale Sharks, 50 caps) |
| 17. Joe Marler (Harlequins, 93 caps) - vice-captain | 21. Harry Randall (Bristol Bears, 6 caps) |
| 18. Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 38 caps) | 22. Fin Smith (Northampton Saints, 2 caps) |
| 19. Charlie Ewels (Bath Rugby, 30 caps) | 23. Tom Roebuck (Sale Sharks, uncapped) |

England's Summer Series:

Japan v England, Saturday 22 June, National Stadium, kick-off 6.50am BST (RugbyPass TV)

New Zealand v England, Saturday 6 July, Forsyth Barr Stadium, kick-off 8.05am BST (Sky Sports)

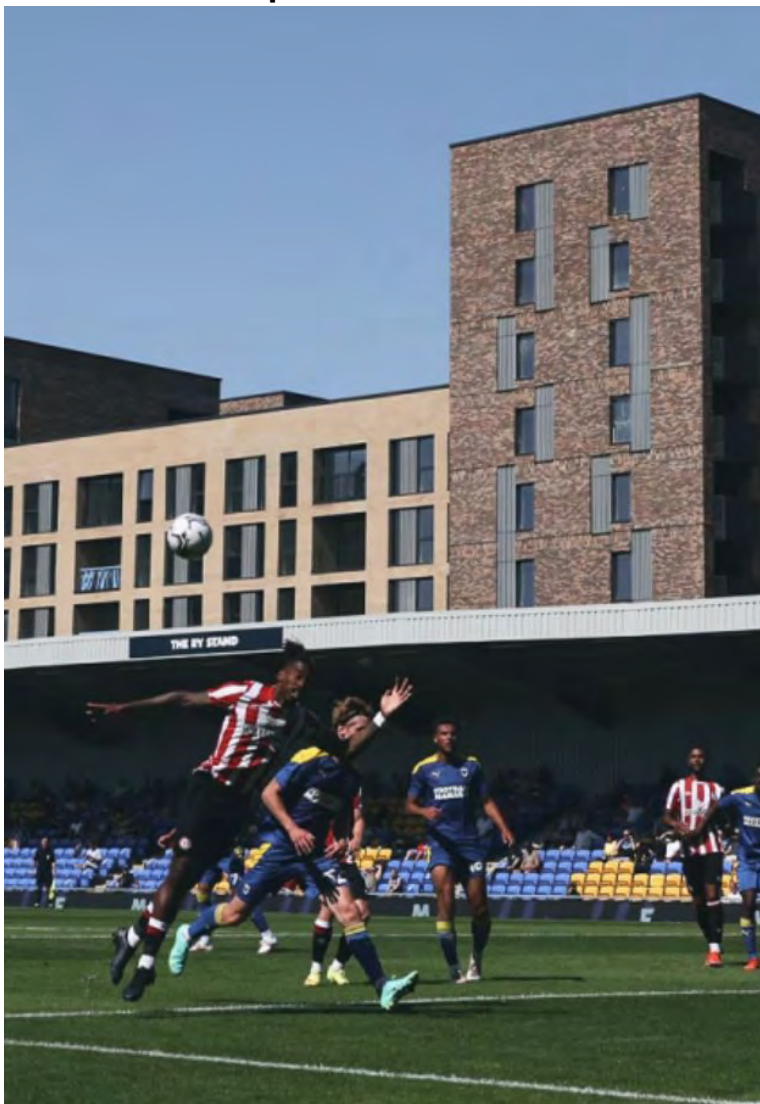
New Zealand v England, Saturday 13 July, Eden Park, kick-off 8.05am BST (Sky Sports)

Pre-season update: AFC Wimbledon, Sutton United and Boreham Wood

Double header confirmed for Saturday 20 July, with Brentford's first team set to face AFC Wimbledon at Plough Lane (1pm), while Brentford B will welcome Sutton United to Wheatsheaf Park (4pm); a Brentford XI will take on Boreham Wood on Tuesday 23 July (7.30pm)

Written by Brentford Football Club

Details of three pre-season fixtures have been confirmed.



On Saturday 20 July, Brentford's first team will face AFC Wimbledon at Plough Lane (1pm kick-off), while Brentford B will host Sutton United at Wheatsheaf Park later that afternoon (4pm kick-off).

Both games will be open to fans and ticket information will be released in due course.

[Captained by former Bees midfielder Jake Reeves](#), AFC Wimbledon finished 10th in Sky Bet League Two last term, while Sutton will play in the National League next season after their relegation from the fourth tier.

On Tuesday 23 July (7.30pm kick-off), a Brentford XI will travel to Meadow Park to take on Boreham Wood.

The Wood are preparing for the 2024/25 season in the National League South having been relegated from the National League last season.

Ticket information for this fixture will also be released at a later date.

Brentford men's first team confirmed pre-season fixtures

- AFC Wimbledon, Saturday 20 July (1pm kick-off), Plough Lane
- Benfica, Thursday 25 July (8pm kick-off), Estádio da Luz
- Estrela da Amadora, Tuesday 30 July (11am kick-off), behind closed doors
- Watford, Saturday 3 August (3pm kick-off), Vicarage Road
- Wolfsburg, Friday 9 August (7.45pm kick-off), Gtech Community Stadium



Brentford's 2024/25 Premier League fixture list

Brentford Football Club's fixture list for the 2024/25 Premier League season has been released; the Bees start the season by hosting Crystal Palace, live on Sky Sports' Super Sunday, and end the campaign away at Wolverhampton Wanderers

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford Football Club's fixture list for the 2024/25 Premier League season has been released.

The Bees host Crystal Palace on the opening game of the season, which will be shown live on *Sky Sports* on Sunday 18 August, before the west Londoners travel to Wolverhampton Wanderers on the final day of the campaign.

Matches may be subject to movement from Saturday to Sunday due to clubs' participation in the Europa League or Europa Conference League the preceding Thursday.

The full list of fixtures can be found below.

Brentford FC 2024/25 Premier League fixture list

Kick-off times are currently 3pm, unless stated otherwise

August

Sunday 18 **Crystal Palace (H)** | 2pm - Live on *Sky Sports*

Saturday 24 **Liverpool (A)**

Saturday 31 **Southampton (H)**

September

Saturday 14 **Manchester City (A)**

Saturday 21 **Tottenham Hotspur (A)**

Saturday 28 **West Ham United (H)**

October

Saturday 5 **Wolverhampton Wanderers (H)**

Saturday 19 **Manchester United (A)**

Saturday 26 **Ipswich Town (H)**

November

Saturday 2 **Fulham (A)**

Saturday 9 **Bournemouth (H)**

Saturday 23 **Everton (A)**

Saturday 30 **Leicester City (H)**

December

Tuesday 3 **Aston Villa (A)**

Saturday 7 **Newcastle United (H)**

Saturday 14 **Chelsea (A)**



Saturday 21 **Nottingham Forest (H)**
Thursday 26 **Brighton & Hove Albion (A)**
Sunday 29 **Arsenal (H)**

January

Saturday 4 **Southampton (A)**
Tuesday 14 **Manchester City (H)**
Saturday 18 **Liverpool (H)**
Saturday 25 **Crystal Palace (A)**

February

Saturday 1 **Tottenham Hotspur (H)**
Saturday 15 **West Ham United (A)**
Saturday 22 **Leicester City (A)**
Tuesday 25 **Everton (H)**

March

Saturday 8 **Aston Villa (H)**
Saturday 15 **Bournemouth (A)**

April

Wednesday 2 **Newcastle United (A)**
Saturday 5 **Chelsea (H)**
Saturday 12 **Arsenal (A)**
Saturday 19 **Brighton & Hove Albion (H)**
Saturday 26 **Nottingham Forest (A)**

May

Saturday 3 **Manchester United (H)**
Saturday 10 **Ipswich Town (A)**
Sunday 18 **Fulham (H)**
Sunday 25 **Wolverhampton Wanderers (A) | 4pm**

This fixture list is subject to change. Broadcast schedules will be announced when confirmed.

A Brentford membership allows fans who are not season ticket holders to access tickets for home and away games.

[Get ready for the new season and become a member now.](#)



German Doner Kebab Launch Latest Campaign To Transform Perceptions on Kebabs

German Doner Kebab (GDK) are on a powerful mission to transform the nation's perceptions of kebabs as merely a late-night snack or post-pub guilty pleasure - focusing on the high quality of its food offering, and excellence of the GDK experience at all times of the day.

“Doners Worthy of the Daylight” aims to speak to those who wouldn't necessarily consider opting for a doner kebab, showcasing how a German Doner Kebab differs from the norm due to its high quality and fresh ingredients, which can be equally enjoyed throughout the day and beyond.

GDK has created a series of fresh and OOH bright billboard adverts (*see above*), which lead the “Doners Worthy of the Daylight” campaign, depicting high-end models in classic poses, decked in the latest fashions, all holding GDK's delicious doner kebabs.



As one of the fastest growing restaurant groups in the country with over 140 UK sites, GDK is no stranger to game-changing moves, having launched the UK's first ever pink kebab in 2022, followed by the release of their breakfast doner range, and plant-based doner 'meat' product earlier in the year.

GDK's dedication to quality means that the restaurant group uses only premium and lean cuts of meat, fresh locally sourced vegetables, unique signature sauces made daily in each restaurant, and hand-made Turkish-style bread toasted in GDK's signature waffle pattern. The food is prepared fresh to order in open-style kitchens in front of customers to allow them to experience that freshness first-hand and see exactly what goes into producing the famous kebabs.

Dr Thorsk Westphal, GDK Global CMO, comments: “We can't wait for people to see the new campaign for GDK, showing how our range of meals is perfect for any time of day. It's time to recognise the mighty kebab as the go-to hunger smasher, whether it's day or night, just like it's already seen and enjoyed in its home country Germany.”

GDK has become a lifestyle brand deeply entrenched in local music, fashion, and sports. The brand has recently been on a rapid growth trajectory and now has more than 170 restaurants across the UK, continental Europe, and the Middle East, with further growth planned for the USA, Canada, & Saudi Arabia.

**Limited trial offer: The £5 OG Doner Daylight Deal is available until 11th July (from open until 8pm), in all UK locations excluding Baldock. The offer is not available for delivery, and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Please visit the website for more details www.germandonerkebab.com.*



Times Radio reveals political opinion divides across the UK

Times Radio unveils the results of new polling data that reveals the regions in the UK with the highest levels of political knowledge, engagement, and ambition. This comprehensive survey, conducted across the nation, sheds light on regional differences in political awareness and trust in politicians as the country gears up for the 2024 General Election.

The research was commissioned by Times Radio in line with the launch of its Election Bus Tour - which took to the road on Monday 3 June. Broadcasting live from a studio within the giant branded tour bus, Times Radio is travelling across the UK to listen to the voices of local communities and highlight the political issues that matter most to them.

John Pienaar, Times Radio presenter, said;

"This research shows people are interested and aware of what's happening in politics, but feel politicians don't understand what matters to them locally.

We've hit the road with the Times Radio election bus to talk to people up and down the country. And to listen. We'll be discussing the things people think really matter. We'll make sure our listeners feel informed and involved as we get closer to election day."

These insights come from research conducted by YouGov Plc on behalf of Times Radio. Total sample size 4,092 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 31st May - 4th June 2024. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+).

Key Findings:

Aspirations to political leadership:

- The survey explored the public's aspirations to become political leaders, uncovering a significant interest in political roles. Over a third (39%) of all respondents believe they could do a better job than most current politicians.
- Additionally, 10% would consider running for local political office, and 7% would consider becoming an MP.
- Notably, men are around twice as likely as women to aspire to roles such as local councillor (14% vs 7%), and over three times as likely to aim for a position as an MP (10% vs 3%).
- 9% of Londoners would consider becoming an MP compared to 4% from the West Midlands

National politicians understanding local issues

- An overwhelming majority (73%) of people believe that Rishi Sunak and the Conservative Party don't understand local political issues. Over half (57%) expressed the same sentiment about Keir Starmer and the Labour Party.
- Regional differences were significant. In the North East, 86% distrusted Rishi Sunak and the Conservatives' grasp of local issues, the highest in the country, while regions such as the East Midlands had amongst the lowest distrust at 69%.
- Scotland had amongst the most distrust in Keir Starmer and Labour, with 65% of respondents believing the party doesn't understand local politics. Regions such as Yorkshire and the Humber had amongst the lowest percentage of people who felt this way, with 52%.

Informed on politics

- The majority of respondents (61%) felt well-informed about national politics, compared to 39% that said they felt informed about local issues. Additionally, 43% of UK adults reported often discussing politics with family and friends.
- Among regions, Londoners were amongst those who felt the most well-informed on national politics (67%), followed by residents of Yorkshire and the Humber (62%). The South West, East of England, Scotland, and Wales each reported 61% feeling well-informed, while the West Midlands and South East reported 60%. The North West followed with 59%, and the North East with 55% and the East Midlands had amongst the lowest percentage of residents feeling well-informed at 53%.

Biggest challenges facing politicians

- The survey highlights the increasing pressures faced by politicians today. The top challenge identified is the responsibility of making decisions that impact many people's lives (47%), followed by being on the receiving end of abuse (35%) and the necessity of making difficult ethical decisions (28%).
- Some respondents (17%), however, lacked sympathy, asserting that there are no real challenges for politicians. These findings underscore the complexities and demands of political leadership in the current climate, as well as the disconnect with local communities.

London:

- Londoners emerge as amongst the most politically aware and engaged in the UK. Nearly three-quarters of respondents in London (67%) feel well-informed about national politics. Additionally, Londoners are amongst the most comfortable discussing politics with friends and family, with nearly half (49%) indicating they frequently engage in such discussions.
- The majority of Londoners (71%) felt Rishi Sunak and the Conservatives don't understand their local political issues. Over (53%) felt the same about Keir Starmer and Labour.
- London emerged, with 9% of respondents aspiring to become MP, the highest in the country. Additionally, 11% would consider running for local political office, and 41% believe they could do a better job than most current politicians.

Scotland:

- In Scotland, respondents demonstrate robust political engagement, with 61% feeling well-informed about UK issues and 44% about Scottish political issues respectively.
- Nearly half (43%) often discuss politics with friends and family and 42% believe they could do a better job than most current politicians. However, when asked if they would consider running for national office, only 6% said yes.
- Out of all the regions, Scotland had amongst the least trust that Keir Starmer and Labour understand local political issues, with only 18% of respondents believing they understand their issues. However, even fewer Scots (10%) felt Rishi Sunak and the Conservative Party understood Scottish political issues.

East Midlands

- The East Midlands had amongst the lowest percentage of people who feel well-informed about national politics (53%) and are amongst the least likely to engage in political discussions with friends and family, with just over a third (37%) saying they often do.
- Additionally, respondents in the East Midlands express a strong lack of trust in both Labour (53%) and Conservative party leaders' (69%) understanding of local issues.
- Nearly a third of respondents (32%) believe they could do a better job than most current politicians.

West Midlands

- People in the West Midlands feel well-informed on both national (60%) and local politics (38%). Additional people in the West Midlands are likely to often engage in political topics during personal conversations (44%).
- West Midlands also expressed they believe both Labour (58%) and Conservative party leaders' (73%) do not understand local issues.
- Nearly half of the respondents (42%) believe they could do a better job than most current politicians. However, when asked if they would ever consider running for national office, an astounding 90% of respondents in the West Midlands said no.

Yorkshire and the Humber

- Respondents in the Yorkshire and Humber region show a higher level of trust in Keir and the Labour Party's understanding of local issues (25%) versus Rishi and the Conservative Party, which stands at 9%.
- The majority of respondents from Yorkshire and the Humber (62%) feel well informed about national politics and 42% saying they regularly discuss politics with family and friends.
- Over a third (36%) believe they could do a better job than most current politicians. However, when asked if they would ever consider running for national office, 87% of respondents said no.

North East:

- The North East had amongst the lowest percentage of residents in the UK that felt well-informed about national politics at 55%.
- This region also shows a low appetite for discussing politics with friends and family, with 58% rarely

engaging in political personal discussions.

- Additionally, respondents in the North East expressed amongst the greatest lack of trust in both Labour (63%) and Conservative party leaders' (86%) understanding of local issues. This may explain why the region shows interest in running for local (11%) and national (7%) office.

North West:

- In the North West over half of respondents (59%) said they felt well informed about national politics. This region also shows only 41% saying they engage in political discussions with friends and family.
- Additionally, nearly a third of respondents (28%) in the North West believe that Keir and the Labour Party understand local political issues, an improvement on how they feel about Rishi and the Conservative Party's understanding (13%).

South East:

- The South East is among the regions with the least confidence in Keir Starmer and the Labour Party's understanding of local issues, with only 19% of respondents agreeing they understand these issues.
- However, that is still more trust than shown in Rishi and the Conservatives, with just over a tenth of respondents from the South East (12%) feeling that the party understands their local issues well. More locally, over a quarter of respondents in the South East have faith in their local representatives (29%).
- The majority of respondents from the South East (60%) said they felt well-informed about national politics and 43% say they regularly discuss politics with friends and family.
- Among locals there's a strong sense they could do a better job than current politicians. A significant proportion (37%) of those in the South East believe they would be better MPs than the current politicians.

South West:

- The South West is among the regions with the least confidence in Keir Starmer and the Labour Party's understanding of local issues, with only 19% of respondents agreeing they understand these issues. However, that is still more trust than shown in Rishi and the Conservatives, with only 14% of respondents from the South West feeling that the party understands their local issues well.
- More locally, a third of respondents in the South West have faith in their local representatives (33%).
- Among locals there's a strong sense they could do a better job than current politicians. A significant proportion (40%) of those in the South West believe they would be better MPs than the current politicians.

East of England:

- In the East of England, a significant number of respondents (41%) believe they could personally do a better job than most current politicians. This region also shows amongst the greatest ambition to run for local office (13%), with 8% also considering running for national office.
- The majority of residents from the East of England (61%) said they felt well-informed about national politics and 41% often discuss politics with friends and family.
- Additionally, only a fifth of the people in the East of England believe that Keir and the Labour Party (20%) understand local political issues well, double of those that feel the same about Rishi and the Conservative Party (10%).

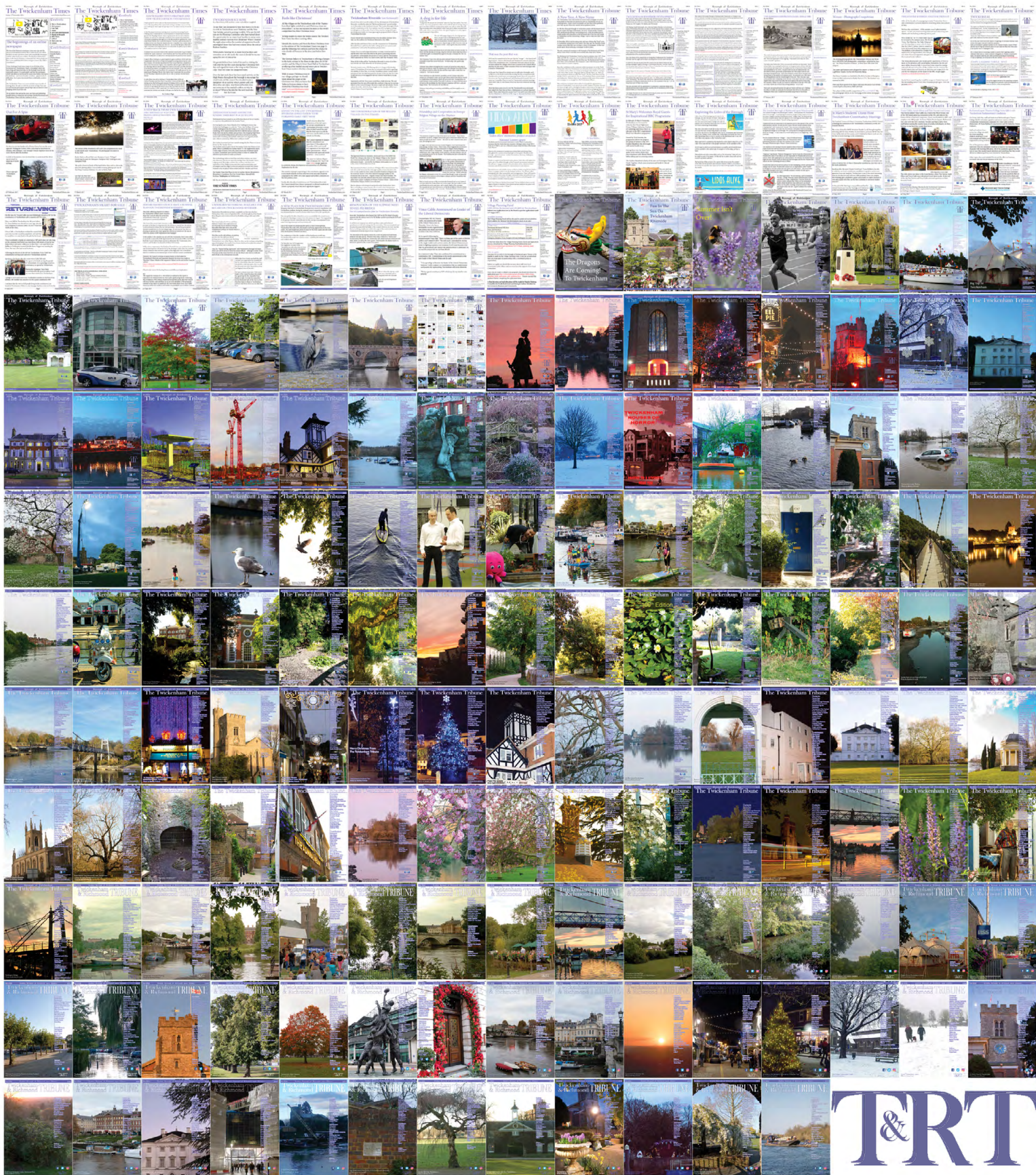
Wales

- In Wales, a significant 38% of respondents believe they could personally do a better job than most current politicians. This sentiment reflects a high level of political discontent and a desire for change.
- When it comes to understanding Welsh political issues, respondents in Wales have double the confidence in Keir Starmer and the Labour Party (24%) over Rishi Sunak and the Conservative Party (12%).
- The majority of Welsh people feel well-informed about UK politics (61%) and over a third (39%) feel well-informed about Welsh politics. 40% of Welsh people said they often discuss political issues with friends and family.

For more information on the survey findings in your area and further details on Times Radio's Election Bus Tour please reach out to timesradio@mww.com

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