

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



12th July 2024

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Photo by Berkley Driscoll

T&RT

Contents

TickerTape:

The Tree Agency

Local Picture Postcard Column - Looking At Whitton

Alan Winter

Crusader Travel

Four Hundred Editions of the Tribune – A Significant Anniversary

Teresa Read

400 editions of the Tribune

Mark Aspen

Writing competition opened for playwrights

Arts Richmond

Richmond Council failing to provide as much affordable housing as it could

Green Party

Warm Welcome For Donna

Doug Goodman

Local Schools Help Richmond Bloom

Be Richmond

Richmond schoolgirl prepares to take on London 10k

Momentum Children's Charity

Making pavements safe?

Come to free community health fair in Mortlake

Ruils Independent Living

London Fire Brigade launches Water Safety Centre for Excellence at Twickenham Fire Station

London Fire Brigade

Richmond Council continues to oppose Thames Water's Teddington river abstraction proposals

Richmond Council

Richmond is officially a Borough of Sanctuary

Richmond Council

9th July Full Council Meeting

James Knight

Twickers Foodie - Restaurant And Cafe Update

Alison Jee

Twickers Foodie - Sensational Salads

Alison Jee

Sunborn, Gibraltar

Who gives a shoot about the football?

Deep Patel

Mark Aspen Review - Accolade

Eleanor Lewis

Mark Aspen Review - Dressing Gown

Andrew Lawston

Mark Aspen Review - The Unicorn in Captivity

Heather Moulson

CYRANO and the Naked Ladies

Richmond Shakespeare Society

The Nash Sessions

Kew Gardens

Henry VIII's Joust

Hampton Court Palace

Butterflies on the Move: Scientists Call on Public to Help Track Spread of Species

Butterfly Conservation

St Mary's Rated Top Ten for Student Satisfaction

St Mary's University

Team Richmond finish fourth in 2024 London Youth Games

Richmond Council

England Team To Play New Zealand At Eden Park

RFU

U20 Men Name Side for Semi-Final Against Ireland

RFU

New Brentford FC official app launches

Brentford Football Club

Editors:

Berkley Driscoll

Teresa Read

TickerTape - News in Brief

Richmond Peer appointed Minister

Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill CBE has been appointed Minister of State in the Department for Transport in the new Labour Government.

He formerly sat as a crossbencher in the House of Lords but will now take the Labour whip. In April 2024 he decided to resign as patron of the Richmond Society due to potential conflicts of views with his position as chairman of Network Rail.

Enjoy a family day out with our Swim and Stay sessions

On Monday 22 July, the grounds at Pools on the Park will open for our popular Swim and Stay sessions this summer.

For the first time we will be offering two bookable sessions each day to ensure that as many people as possible can make use of the facility.

Sessions will run from 11am to 2pm and 3pm to 6pm. If you want to make a day of it, you can book both sessions.

Bookings can be made up to three days in advance through the [LBRUT Sports App](#), the [online bookings website](#), by calling 020 3772 2999 or in person at the centre.

Find out more about [Swim and Stay at Pools on the Park](#).



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Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 257

By Alan Winter

Looking At Whitton

Whitton was formally part of the ancient parish of Twickenham until 1862 when it became a separate parish, with the church of St Philip and St James opening that year. It was bounded by the River Crane and the Duke of Northumberland's River. The land is between 60 and 70 feet above sea level and is noticeable flat and fertile and was once home to extensive market gardens until the turn of the twentieth century.

Whitton was renowned as a market garden, known for its roses, narcissi, lilies of the valley and for its apple, pear and plum orchards. Indeed, until the 1920s the village was still separated from the surrounding towns by open fields and much of the earlier character of the old village was retained well into the 1940s.

Due to rapid development, the parish was divided again in 1958; the two electoral wards that make up the area still broadly follow these two parish boundaries.



These days Whitton is an area of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

Whitton High Street is one of the best-preserved 1930s high streets in London. Between 1930 and 1939 Whitton was transformed out of all recognition. The opening of the railway station in 1930 and the building of the Chertsey Road led to enormous expansion of the village. Percy Road, running between The Nelson and the railway, became the High Street in 1938.

Our postcards this week each show different parts of the High Street and were published between the late 1940's and the 1960's.

The most common type of housing in the area is 1930s detached and semi-detached housing. Whitton lies on the A316 road, which leads to the M3 motorway, and Whitton railway station is on the line from London Waterloo to Windsor. As a mainly residential area in outer London, many residents commute to Central London.

The principal rail service from Whitton railway station is the Windsor Line into London Waterloo, taking 30 minutes on the 'semi-fast' service operated by South Western Railway. There is also a 'stopping' service that calls at all stations and takes 40 minutes via Richmond.



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!

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Four Hundred Editions of the Tribune – A Significant Anniversary

Teresa Read

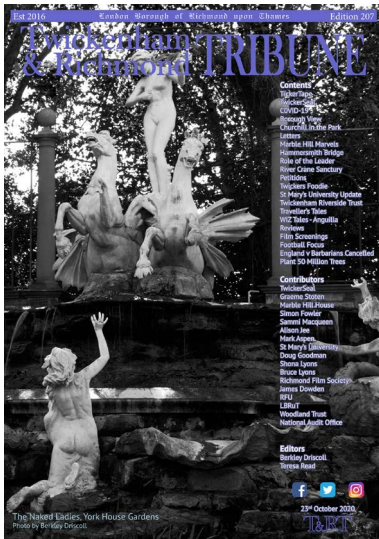
Last Friday, the day of the Election, marked four hundred editions of the Tribune, The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune.

The Tribune is published weekly and was conceived four hundred weeks ago, a time when there was great uncertainty about the viability of local newspapers in the area.

Berkley and I decided on a Tuesday that we would do our best to fill the news gap and provide a newspaper where residents could send their own articles and letters for publication – we produced the first edition on the Friday, just three days later. Over the years we have published the work of many residents and local regular contributors, as well as politicians of all political persuasions and prominent members of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

Although this means that we work from Friday evening into the early hours of Saturday morning we have never missed an edition, no matter whether it is a birthday, family event or anything else. *(All editions can be seen in the [Archive](#)).*

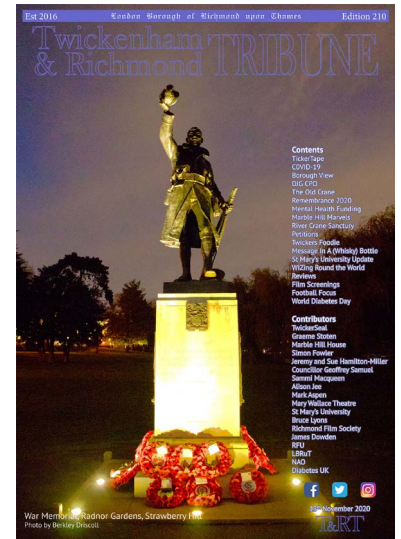
The Tribune is your newspaper so if you have something to say we would like to hear from you.



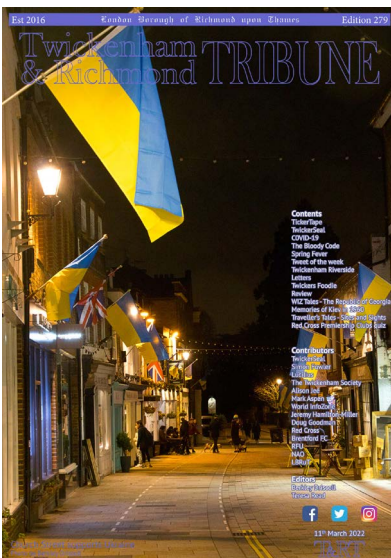
Edition 207 - 23rd October 2020



Edition 164 - 27th December 2019



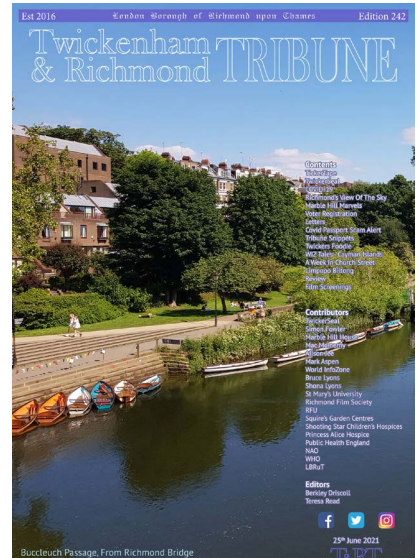
Edition 210 - 13th November 2020



Edition 279 - 11th March 2022



Edition 25 - 28th April 2017



Edition 242 - 25th June 2021

400 editions of the Tribune

By Mark Aspen

I would like to add our best wishes to The Twickenham and Richmond Tribune from Mark Aspen Reviews on the publication last week of Edition 400.

We have contributed every week since Edition 9 and feel very much part of this wonderful endeavour that keeps the tradition of relevant local weekly news alive, at a time when dedicated local newspapers has all but disappeared.

[Mark Aspen Reviews](#) publishes critiques of theatre, in all its forms, several times a week, but the précis carried in The Twickenham and Richmond Tribune take that news within our core coverage area to the wider public. No other general readership local paper does that in this area.

The content of the Tribune covers a wide range of well-researched, honest and independent news topics in areas of interest that local people want to know about, while no other publisher does that any more. It is a great accolade to the indefatigable continuing efforts of Teresa Read and Berkley Driscoll, our wonderful editorial team.

Heartiest congratulations to The Twickenham and Richmond Tribune on its four hundredth news edition. We look forward to hundreds more!

Writing competition opened for playwrights

Arts Richmond's New Plays Festival has returned and is open for writers to enter their scripts.

The biennial writing competition welcomes all local writers, regardless of whether they are linked to affiliated drama societies.

Final shortlisted plays will be brought to life in a staged performance at the Orange Tree Theatre on Sunday 13 October where the winner will be announced.

Join the writing competition for a chance to share your story and let your creativity shine.

Entry criteria:

- Be original, unpublished and previously unperformed
- Have a running time of no longer than 20 minutes
- Require no more than four actors (although they can play multiple parts)
- Be suitable to be performed potentially in the round, and working around the existing set in the venue selected for the finalists' performance
- Be capable of being staged with minimal technical requirements, in terms of set, costume, set, sound and lighting effects. The emphasis is very much upon the writing

Entry details:

- **Submission deadline:** Friday 19 July 2024
- **Entry fee:** £10

[Enter the competition](#)



Richmond Council failing to provide as much affordable housing as it could

Over the last two months, Richmond's draft Local Plan, which sets out how Richmond Council will decide on planning applications for new developments in the borough, has been subject to an Examination in Public.

Representatives from the GLA, along with Green Councillor Niki Crookdake, provided evidence showing that the current approach by Richmond Council is delivering significantly less affordable housing than the London average. Following the examination, the Inspector concluded that the Council's preferred Viability Route is unlikely to maximise affordable housing, and recommended the Council offer developers the Fast Track route as well as the Viability Route, aligning it with the London Plan.

The Inspector's conclusion is no surprise to the Green Opposition on Richmond Council. At the Full Council meeting on Tuesday 9 July, the Green councillors brought a motion that would further help ensure more affordable housing is built whenever the Viability Route is followed, on sites like the former Stag Brewery and Barnes Hospital sites in Mortlake and Sheen.

Cllr Niki Crookdake, who brought the motion, said:

"We are asking the council to commit to sign up to the latest best practice guidance when the viability route is followed, to achieve the maximum number of affordable homes from each development. Across London, applying the latest guidance has resulted in, on average, 28 per cent affordable housing, with 32 per cent low-cost housing on developments. Richmond has only achieved 12 per cent completions on average since 2018, with very little low-cost housing. If we had achieved the London average, we would have 200 more affordable homes for residents, significantly reducing the number of residents in temporary accommodation."

The Liberal Democrat administration rejected the Green motion, amending it to vote for one that does not commit the Council to sign up to the latest professional and industry guidance when using the Viability Route to determine how much affordable housing is possible.

The Local Plan Inspector's decision will need to be consulted on and is likely to come to the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee by the end of 2024, before being considered at Full Council in the new year.



Warm Welcome For Donna

Report and pictures by Doug Goodman.

Last Sunday a large congregation at St. Mary's Church Twickenham gave a warm welcome to Donna McDowell, newly appointed assistant priest at the church and chaplain for St. Mary's school.

Introducing Donna to parishioners St. Mary's vicar, Jeff Hopkin Williams, said that he was delighted to welcome Donna to the church community and that he was sure she would be marvellous.



Rev'd Donna McDowell with Rev'd Jeff Hopkin Williams



Rev'd Donna McDowell

Having served for three years at St. Paul's Marylebone and before that at St. Cyprian Clarence Gate, Donna said that she was happy to join a vibrant community in the heart of Twickenham and to getting to know people.

She confirmed that she would soon become a local resident.

To celebrate the occasion drinks and a magnificent buffet were provided by members of the congregation.

Local Schools Help Richmond Bloom

As summer begins, Richmond town centre is looking greener and more vibrant, thanks in part to the efforts of local school children.

Be Richmond (Richmond's Business Improvement District) has taken significant strides to add colour and greenery to the area through the provision of flower planters and hanging baskets.

This year, Be Richmond partnered with local schools and community groups, giving them the opportunity to actively participate in the planting efforts and contribute to the town's beautification.

The Eco Council from Deer Park School enthusiastically embraced the challenge, revitalising the planters on Hill Rise with a stunning array of flowers.



Meanwhile, the North Richmond Scouts group demonstrated exceptional dedication, ensuring the planters outside the Odeon on Red Lion Street were ready for their close-up.

"We wanted to give the children of Richmond an opportunity to learn the importance of planting and sustainability," stated Anna Bromley, Be Richmond Marketing Manager.

"We also provided them with their own wildflower seeds to plant at home, encouraging them to continue their green-fingered activities."

Be Richmond remains committed to improving the town's environment, from greening initiatives to comprehensive street cleaning.



This collaboration with local schools and community groups not only beautifies Richmond but also instils a sense of community pride and environmental stewardship among the younger generation.

Be Richmond is the Business Improvement District for Richmond town centre, dedicated to promoting the local business community, fostering economic growth, and enhancing the overall shopping experience.

Richmond schoolgirl prepares to take on London 10k

Mia Turrent, 14, from Richmond, London, is preparing to take on the Saucony London 10k this Sunday, 14 July, to raise vital funds for Momentum Children's Charity.

Momentum supported Mia's family when one of her younger sisters, Ximena, was diagnosed with cancer two years ago.

Mia is reaching the final stages of her training which has seen her take on lengthy runs in Richmond Park and along the towpath of the River Thames. On top of this she has kept her fitness levels up through her sports clubs at Latymer School in Chiswick.

Setting out with a £300 fundraising target, Mia soon surpassed this, and her sponsorship page currently stands at over £3100. Every penny raised will support Momentum's work in helping families in London, Surrey, and Sussex who have seriously ill children.



Talking about her sister's cancer diagnosis, Mia said: *"When Ximena was diagnosed with cancer, it was a scary time for the whole family. It was a lot for both Antonia (Ximena's twin) and I to take on board as our mum and dad became even busier than usual, and naturally Ximena's health had to take priority. We all spent a lot of time in hospital and no family plans were ever guaranteed."*

Talking about the support Momentum gave her family, Mia said: *"Straight after Ximena's diagnosis, we were referred to Momentum for support – they became a sort of glue and source of positivity in our family. Momentum ensured that we still had stress-free time to simply have fun together. They organised for Santa to visit us when Ximena was too sick to go out, there were treats and games for the long days spent in hospital, and respite time out on their riverboat and at Momentum's beach cabins during the 12 months that Ximena was unable to travel. Having special family time together meant the world to us."*

Mia continued: *"I wanted to do something to say thank you to Momentum and to mark Ximena completing her treatment and that is why I decided to take on the London 10k. I hope that by showing my support and raising valuable funds, the charity will be able to reach out to even more families like ours."*

Momentum Children's Charity supports families across London, Surrey, and Sussex whose children are facing cancer or a life-challenging condition. The charity partners with local hospitals to offer personally tailored support to the entire family through our family support workers, both in hospital and at home.

You can sponsor Mia here: [Mia Turrent is fundraising for Momentum Children's Charity \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/Mia-Turrent)

To find out more about the work of Momentum Children's Charity, please visit www.momentumcharity.org

Making pavements safe?

Information from Council Officers:

“finance is not available to carry out works at all of the roads and footways identified by the system as being in a Poor Condition, so a selective system is adopted.”

“the 2024/25 Highway Maintenance Programme (HMP) was approved by the Transport and Air Quality Services Committee on 9th January.”

It seems that not enough funding is allocated to making pavements safe when we have been asked to undertake modes of Active Travel, e.g., walking. Funding should be a priority when new recommendations are publicised – for example, the funding to make pavements safe, without the Council relying on damaged infrastructure that may cause trips and falls to occur.

The year 2021 is mentioned but the situation with Travel has changed since that time. Perhaps those who have been making decisions use the roads rather than the pavements. How many councillors and officers use cars, bicycles and e-scooters?

Come to free community health fair in Mortlake

On Monday 15 July, residents are invited to join Ruils Independent Living and other local organisations for free lunch, massages and child-friendly activities to explore how to improve family wellbeing.

The event will take place on Monday 15 July from 12 noon to 3pm at the Powerstation Youth Centre in Mortlake.

Residents are invited to take part in a range of activities designed to improve physical and mental health, including free basic health checks, face painting and massage therapy. You also have a chance to win prizes in the raffles.

Attendees will also be able to learn about support for families to improve health and wellbeing, advice for unpaid carers, cost of living guidance, healthy eating and nutrition tips, as well as cancer screening information.

The fair will also share service information from local organisations:

Richmond Mind	Crossroads Care	Youth Services (AfC)
PAPYRUS UK	Richmond Work Match and Ingeous	Children's Centres Services Richmond (AfC)
YoungMinds Charity	Richmond Furniture Scheme	Mortlake Community Association
Healthwatch	Share and Care Charity for SW14 and SW13	Mortlake Safer Neighbourhood Team
Richmond Carers Centre	Parent Carer Champions Network (AfC)	Richmond Council Adult Social Care and Public Health
	Ruils Children's Team	

Find out more about [Mortlake Community Health Fair](#).



London Fire Brigade launches Water Safety Centre for Excellence at Twickenham Fire Station

We are excited to announce the launch of the Water Safety Centre for Excellence at Twickenham Fire Station, led by the London Fire Brigade (LFB).

The centre aims to educate and encourage safe engagement with the River Thames, following the tragic loss of 14-year-old Brian Sasu.

The event welcomed Year 7 pupils from St Mark's School, where Brian was a student. The pupils participated in a water safety education session led by the LFB education team.



During the day, Borough Commander Robert Davies demonstrated the Twickenham Big River Flume tank. Donated by the JBA Trust, the tank showcases how the Thames' currents can quickly become dangerous and provided an opportunity for students to learn about the unseen dangers of the river such as cold water shock. Students toured the fire station and learned how to use the throwline bags installed along the 22.5-mile stretch of the Thames in our borough.

They were also taught about the [Float to Live](#) technique, a five-step process to improve survival chances in an emergency, and were given suggestions for enjoying the water safely, such as swimming in local pools, joining swim groups, or paddle boarding.

Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said, *“Recent tragedies have reminded us just how dangerous the Thames can be. Our partnership with the London Fire Brigade (LFB) and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) has been instrumental. Together, we’ve installed emergency throwline boards across the borough, giving the public access to lifesaving equipment and enabling faster rescues.”*

The day underscored the importance of partnership and collaboration. Councillor Roberts was joined by the Richmond Council Chief Executive, and representatives from the Greater London Authority and RNLI. Working together is essential to ensure community safety and by equipping our partners with the necessary tools and fostering safety education, we are committed to preventing further tragedies and ensuring the wellbeing of our residents.

Read more information about [water safety in the borough](#).

Richmond Council continues to oppose Thames Water's Teddington river abstraction proposals

Despite welcome reductions in the number of shafts required in Thames Water's Teddington Direct River Abstraction (TDRA) project, we remain firm in our opposition to the scheme not least due to water quality concerns and to the continued impacts of what are still a range of significant construction sites on valuable open spaces within the borough.



Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of the Council, said: *“Following the outcry from local residents, councillors and MPs, Thames Water have been forced to change their controversial plans, but as a council we remain hugely concerned about the impact both on the river itself and in Ham.*

“Thames Water need to do far more to convince residents that this scheme represents the best solution to predicted future water shortages. Until

they do that, we will continue to oppose any scheme that we believe could harm the river and our land.”

Thames Water's plan involves taking water from the River Thames at Teddington Weir and diverting it to the Lee Valley Reservoirs, replacing it with waste-water from Mogden Sewage Treatment Works.

Thames Water have made several key changes to their original proposal, including:

- Changing the design of the pipeline that would transfer the treated waste-water from Mogden to the Thames
- Changing the construction method for the pipeline from a pipejacking method to a tunnel boring method
- Changing the way they propose to extract material from the tunnel during construction

The amended proposal involves reducing the number of shafts and construction areas in the borough which would alleviate some but not eradicate all of the disruption to our residents and open spaces if the proposals were to go ahead.

You can find out more about the changes on the [Thames Water website](#).

Richmond is officially a Borough of Sanctuary

From Richmond Council

We are proud to announce that Richmond upon Thames has been awarded Borough of Sanctuary status by City of Sanctuary UK.

The accreditation recognises the work Richmond has done to date, including developing a three-year Richmond Sanctuary Strategy and a commitment made to welcome, support, and empower sanctuary seekers living in the borough.

Spokesperson for Communities, Equalities and the Voluntary Sector, Cllr Nancy Baldwin, said: *“I am proud that we have come together as a borough to support and empower those who seek sanctuary here.”*

“Richmond has a proud history of welcoming refugees into its community, from the arrival of Belgians during World War I, to more recent populations of displaced Afghans, Syrians, Hong Kongers, and Ukrainians. This accreditation is a manifest symbol of the open and generous welcome that the people of Richmond have always provided to those fleeing repression and conflict in their home countries.”



We have expanded the resources we direct towards refugees within a newly formed Refugee Services team, and new Richmond Sanctuary Strategy and a Borough of Sanctuary Fund, to support voluntary and community sector groups to organise projects to help sanctuary seekers integrate into the local community.

The newly appointed Sanctuary Champion, Cllr Fiona Sacks said: *“I am thrilled and humbled to be named Sanctuary Champion. I am determined that in partnership we can work to make sure everyone in our community is able to thrive, no matter where they are from or how long they have lived here.”*

Director of Multicultural Richmond, Ravi Arora, said *“Our work never stops and we continue to break down barriers, reducing disadvantage, increasing awareness of hate crime and bringing people together from all backgrounds, cultures and races.”*

Over 650 Richmond households have welcomed Ukrainians into their homes and provided accommodation. This resulted in over 1,000 Ukrainians arriving in the borough since March 2022. This is the eighth highest population in London, and sixteenth highest nationally.

9th July Full Council Meeting

By James Knight

After prayers, the mayor announced that **Aphra Brandreth**, a former councillor, had been elected to parliament for Chester South and Eddisbury; the mayor was holding a fundraising river cruise for his charity, and the borough had obtained borough of sanctuary status from City Sanctuary UK.

There were only a few public questions this time, with only four. Tim Lennon from Richmond Cycling Campaign pressed for **cars to be banned from using Richmond Town Centre** as he believed it was just being used to avoid using the A316. The Chairman of the Transport Committee, Councillor Alexander Ehmann (St Margarets and North Twickenham), promised transformative change before the next local elections in 2026 and warned he would be taking space from motorists. Martin Baker asked why the council's constitution was changed without members having a vote on the matter. This relates to the expenditure on **replacing the spa facilities at Pools on the Park** with a group exercise studio. The leader of the council Cllr Gareth Roberts (Hampton) said the monitoring officer can make factual changes to ensure it complies with the law. Resolving inconsistencies forms part of this function.

David Marlow, who was a Conservative Councillor of 28 years and a former Mayor of the borough, submitted a question asking when the lead member for finance was first aware the **Twickenham Riverside Development** was going to require a loan of £20 million, costing £900,000 per annum in repayments over 50 years? The mayor then said Mr Marlow was not attending and then made a prolonged 'aahh', with other members joining in before adding, 'I think there is a pattern here, and he will receive a written response.'

Julia Stafford asked why all the **legal services** and access to data had been outsourced to Merton Council. Cllr Roberts replied that it was a shared service and was not outsourced. Ms Stafford, in her supplementary question, said that she believed the legal service was crucial to decision-making and should be based in Richmond and that this was part of the reason affordable housebuilding was so low here. The final public question was from Mr Evans, who asked about **ANPR camera maintenance costs**, which Cllr Ehmann said was commercially sensitive so could not be disclosed.

Moving onto member questions, Councillor Marjory Millum (Barnes) asked what the council were doing to **improve efficiency**. Cllr Robin Brown (Hampton Wick and South Teddington), the lead member for Finance, responded that the shared service with Wandsworth saves the council around £12 million per year, and currently, the annual efficiency plans save between £5 -10 million. Cllr Caroline Wren (Fulwell and Hampton Hill) asked why more Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts or GLA money was not being used to increase the amount of **affordable housing** in new developments. Deputy leader Councillor Jim Millard (Hampton Wick and South Teddington) said he was pleased the GLA now allowed some of the grant money to pay developers to provide more affordable housing. As for Richmond's housing grant money, they will pay developers up to £150,000 to flip private sale houses to registered social landlord-led affordable housing for a one-bedroom flat.

Cllr Katie Mansfield (St Margarets and North Twickenham) requested an update on the **Thames Water direct river abstraction** scheme. Deputy Leader Cllr Julia Neden-Watts (Twickenham Riverside) said that Thames Water had changed the scheme, as a result of feedback, and rather than pipe-jacking a tunnel, they would use a boring machine so they would no longer have to build shafts at Moormead Recreation Ground or Ham Lands. She said the council were still concerned about the effects on river quality. She went on to say that sewage effluent would be used to replace the water, but, as the effluent goes through several processes to make it much cleaner - to the point it is cleaner than the river water it being added to.

There was then a question about when an officer would be employed to run an expanded **community toilet scheme**, the answer being that one has recently been appointed. There was then a repeat question by Cllr Niki Crookdake (Mortlake and Barnes Common) about reducing the **charges for personal care**. Cllr Piers Allen (West Twickenham), the chair of the Adult Social Services, Health and Housing Committee, replied that it would have to wait for increased government funding. Cllr Elizabeth Grant (Hampton North) enquired about the application

status **for a new pharmacy** in Hampton North at the vacated Boots branch. Cllr Allen, pointing the finger at NHS England, replied that due to technical issues, it was rejected, and the site is now likely to become a fast-food outlet.

There were several more softball questions on the following topics: **temporary accommodation** costs (the council is spending millions on this rather than the fact it has the second lowest house building rate in London); why the **recycling rate is decreasing** in Richmond (the explanation was that people are wasting less food); what plans are there for a **cargo bike event** (a cargo bike fair will be held in 2025), why there cannot be **more bus lanes** (the council is working on it); a question on urban creep caused by the relaxation on the rules to allow more **driveways** (the council will review the changes next year); how has the £4.5 million **cost of living fund** been spent (mainly on direct grants and various forms of food aid). The last question was about **potholes** (£216,000 had been spent repairing 5.1 square kilometres of potholes).

The next item was **Tennent's Champion Annual Report**, which highlighted a spectrum of underperformance by housing associations in the borough. The Deputy leader of the Council, Cllr Millard, acknowledged a very significant drop in service performance. After a brief discussion, the report was agreed.

The council agreed to several small changes to the constitution and the appointment of Cllr John Coombs to the **Member Governance Working Group**, a committee overseeing complaints and member allowances. However, the council does not publish the details of its meetings. Councillor Tony Paterson (Mortlake and Barnes Common) was given another six-month leave of absence due to ill health.

Moving onto Motions, Cllr Neden-Watts moved the following motion, ***“Following the recent General Election, council thanks all candidates who put themselves forward and congratulates the successful candidates in the Twickenham, Richmond Park and Brentford and Isleworth constituencies and looks forward to working with them to ensure a fair deal for the residents of this borough.”*** Cllr Neden-Watts stated during the debate that “very, very small difference between our parties”, referring to the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party. Councillor Warlow (South Richmond) said the only blot was the number of people voting for Reform UK. He said at the hustings, their policies included anti-wokism, anti-vaccine, and climate-denying. The leader of the Council, Cllr Roberts said that “We should always support and congratulate those who are successful in elections, and those people who do not succeed. It takes a lot for people to put themselves forward.”

Councillor Crookdake has given notice to move the following Motion: ***“Council notes the housing crisis in the borough and the urgent need to increase affordable housing. To ensure delivery of the, rightly, aspirational targets in our Housing Delivery Action Plan, Council will follow the latest viability assessment guidance. Council will confirm this in a new supplementary planning guidance document which will accompany Richmond’s new Local Plan. This will provide developers with certainty about the rigorous approach taken in Richmond whenever the viability route is followed.”*** In the debate, she said that Richmond had only achieved 12% affordable housing on average since 2018 (when the LibDems took over control of the council, compared to 28% across London.) The deputy leader, Cllr Millard, tried to claim the problem was the fault of the Conservatives as they had inherited a low supply pipeline six years ago.

The final motion debated was introduced by Cllr Brown the lead member of finance; ***“Council demands, as a matter of urgency, that the new Government listens to the calls of councils of all political hues across the country to break with the short-sighted, piecemeal practice of the previous Government, that preferred to agree single-year funding settlements, and instead introduce multi-year funding settlements to enable councils such as Richmond to plan for the effective medium- to long-term provision of services to residents.”*** In the debate, Cllr Brown said it had been very hard to set the council’s budget due to a lack of a multi-year deal. Cllr Chard, leader of the LibDem group said “We’re very unusual in this council in having no Conservative or Labour councillors. We all represent parties that were part of the opposition to the last government, and that will be part of the opposition to this one as well.” Cllr Richard Bennett (South Twickenham) then stated that officers disagreed with Government policy.

After the motion was carried, the meeting was closed.

Restaurant And Cafe Update

Again, there seems to be a lot happening in the local restaurant, pub and cafe scene. I wanted first of all to introduce you to a wonderful little cafe in East Sheen, that has recently launched a home delivery service for the most amazing salads.



The **Garden Kitchen Project** is located within **Boutique Cafe on Sheen Lane SW14 8AE**. It was created by local entrepreneur Gosia Butler, owner of the well established cafe, and her partner Marco. Looking for a healthy option, as better diet choice is needed to support the Zoe Health programme, and with nothing readily available, the idea - and the brand - were born. The Garden Kitchen Project provides a superb range of unprocessed, nutritious, organic, healthy salads. The Signature Salads are designed for them by a Michelin-starred chef consultant (Omar Romero) and are vegan until some proteins are added. They each come with a choice of grains, leaves, pickles and seeds, and the price includes a choice of protein. For this you can choose between salmon, chicken, halloumi, goat's cheese, soy egg or avocado.

You can eat in, pick up or have home delivery via the major companies, and there is also the option of pre ordering party platters for 10 people from just £6 per head. I'm told that since the launch in April, one particular customer has ordered on Deliveroo over 40 times! I tried a salmon salad and was very impressed indeed, not just by the quality of the ingredients, but also by the generous portion size. More info is available on the website: the-garden-kitchen-project.co.uk



Danish bakery chain **Ole & Steen** has a new menu. Inspired by the Danish ethos Hygge, (meaning to relax, be cosy and enjoy the good things in life), the summer menu includes: Sundried Tomato & Pesto Danish; a vegan No'duja toastie; a great selection of open sandwiches on their delicious rye bread, including Smoked Salmon Open Rye or Tarragon Chicken Open rye. New breakfast croissants are filled with fresh, tasty ingredients: Prosciutto, Mozzarella & Fig Jam Croissant; Kimchi & Cheddar Croissant - filled with kimchi, Cheddar and spinach. There's something to suit all tastes and diets. The Ole & Steen London stores can be found at Northcote Road, Seven Dials, St James, Haymarket,

Eccleston Place, Belgravia, Victoria Nova, Canary Wharf, Strand, Old Brompton Road, Chiswick, Hampstead, Oxford Westgate, **Richmond**, Leicester Square, Oxford Circus, Wigmore Street, Notting Hill Gate, High Street Kensington, Westfield (Shepherd's Bush), Tottenham Court Road, Greenwich, London Wall, Jubilee Place and **Kingston**.

A new pub is soon to open on Chiswick High Road on the site of The Crown, which closed in March. To be renamed **The Hound**, it is the third JKS pub, joining The Cadogan Arms in Chelsea and The George in Fitzrovia. The food menu sounds great, and they'll be doing Sunday lunches and some interesting sounding cocktails. Watch this space...

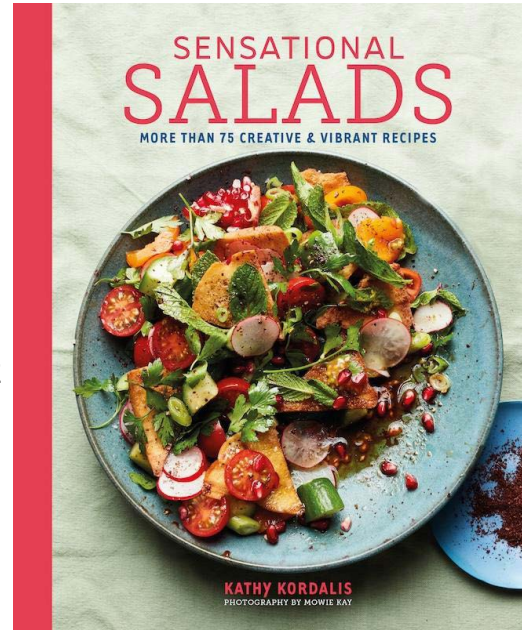


Sensational Salads

Well, it finally looks like we might have some sort of a summer! So it's the perfect time to introduce you to a lovely new cookbook: **Sensational Salads by Kathy Kordalis**. Kathy shows us that there's so much more to salad than just a few salad leaves, tomato and cucumber. She takes them to the next level by experimenting with different flavours and ingredients, taking inspiration from all over the world. Mediterranean olive rich recipes, Asian-inspired noodle salads and Middle-Eastern notes will all encourage you to experiment more.



Raised by Greek parents in Australia, **Kathy Kordalis'** food style draws inspiration from her Australian and Mediterranean heritage. A graduate of Leith's School of Food and Wine, she's a freelance food stylist and writer. In her spare time she's completing a Masters degree in the Anthropology of Food at SOAS and leading Gastronomic Tours in London for Context Travel.



Published by **Ryland, Peters & Small** at **£20**, this lovely hardback has over 75 recipes. There is a section on leaves, taking us through the enormous range of options and hints on making salads more substantial by adding grains, protein and texture, among other suggestions.

To whet your appetite and inspire you, here are a couple of recipes from the book:

GRILLED WATERMELON & FETA SALAD

A beautifully refreshing summer salad that is ideal for serving at a barbecue party alongside grilled meat and vegetables and perfect for scaling up to feed large crowds.

- cooking oil spray, for greasing
- 1 x 10-cm/4-inch x 4-cm/1½ -inch chunk watermelon, skin and seeds removed
- ½ lemon
- ½ bunch fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves
- ½ bunch fresh mint leaves
- 30 g wild rocket
- 300 g mixed tomatoes, quartered
- extra virgin olive oil, to drizzle
- 100 g feta, cut into thick slices
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- ridged stovetop griddle pan



SERVES 4

Grease a ridged stovetop griddle pan with cooking oil spray and place over a high heat. Griddle the watermelon and the lemon half, flesh-side down, for about 2 minutes.

Carefully turn the watermelon on its side and cook for a further 2 minutes. Remove the lemon from the pan and set aside. Repeat the turning and cooking process on the other side of the watermelon so that all sides are charred.

Combine the herbs, rocket and tomatoes in a bowl. Drizzle with a little olive oil and toss to coat. Season with salt. Place the grilled watermelon on a plate, top with the feta slices and the herb salad. Season with salt and pepper and serve the grilled lemon on the side for squeezing over.

BEAN, SMOKED TROUT & NEW POTATO SALAD

This is lovely for a weekend lunch or buffet, alongside a cheeseboard or some lovely fresh bread.

- 500 g new potatoes
- 300 g runner beans, trimmed and sliced diagonally
- 4 spring onions, sliced
- ½ bunch fresh parsley, roughly chopped
- 200 g smoked trout
- 10 g mini herbs, leaves and edible flowers
- DRESSING
- 50 ml extra-virgin olive oil
- juice of ½ lemon
- 2 tbsp crème fraiche
- 2 tsp wholegrain mustard
- 1 tbsp horseradish (optional)

SERVES 4

To make the dressing, mix all the ingredients together in a jar or bowl and shake or mix well. Cook the potatoes in boiling salted water for 10 minutes until just tender, then drain, allow to cool slightly, then slice into rounds.

Cook the beans in a saucepan of boiling salted water for 10 minutes until tender, then plunge into ice water and drain.

Toss the warm potatoes and beans together with half the spring onions and parsley and half the dressing.

Spread out on a platter, then top with the smoked trout. Scatter over the rest of the spring onions, drizzle with the remaining dressing and serve, or leave everyone to help themselves.



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Who gives a shoot about the football?

By Deep Patel

~Life Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper~



Everyone who lives on Hampton road has come into Meet & Deep newsagents at some point in their lives and met my family there in our shop and knows how we are always happy to have a friendly chat, it's what being a shopkeeper is all about, you sell treats and delicious things at the same time as being a friend to anyone who may need one, and the sheer variety of conversations we have I believe is unmatched in any other occupation, however this week nearly every conversation has been dominated by one topic, and one topic alone...FOOTBALL... but what do the folk of Twickenham REALLY think about it? Well I was very interested in what I found out...

There wasn't a single person who didn't have SOMETHING to say about the England Vs Spain Euro final this weekend...I mean not a single one...rarely is there a conversation topic that everyone has something to say something about in my shop, but this week...it happened! So what were people saying? Well, obviously there were the classic chants of "it's coming home, it's coming home, it's coming, football's coming home" and I have heard that so many times this week that if I hear it once more...I swear...!!! Then there was those who were the complete opposite, saying "the sooner England lose and this s**t is over, the better"...so as you can ascertain, conversations were had but it was like a rollercoaster of thoughts, feelings and beliefs about this final...all rolled into one. This is all very well, but something else that I noticed was that suddenly, EVERYONE had become a football genius practically over night?! Don't act like you don't know what I'm talking about...we've all been there...whenever there is a matter like this, be it the King's coronation, Eurovision song contest or the Olympics... suddenly EVERYONE becomes an expert? They know the score, the rules, the player's surnames and even the player's favourite colour and their shoe size, and they talk about these things with full and complete confidence?! I mean what is that all about?!

It took me a while to carefully think and answer the above question...all week in fact...with every customer and every conversation that arose about this topic, I gained a little more clarity in understanding. There were customers in their 90's and others 3 years old, some were British and others from all around the world, some were short and some were tall, some were big whilst others were small, one thing I can promise you is that I have spoken to nearly every "type" of person about this over the past week whilst running my shop and although everyone's views were different in so many different ways, one thing that stood out and that I realised out of all this was that people always want to have something to share with other people...people spend half (or more) of their lives trying to differentiate themselves from other people...trying to project their "individuality", trying to make themselves and their beliefs or values separate to those of the rest of "the crowd"...but what I learnt from the conversations that I have been having with people in my shop over the past week is that at the end of the day, there is nothing we like better than having a shared goal to come together for, something that helps us to transcend the self-limiting barriers of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, orientation and culture...something that allows us to be individuals in our own rights...yet to "come together as one" in the guise of a shared goal, something we can all relate to and support, something grounded and solid in an ever changing and turbulent world...something that we can all cheer together for, something that we can all cry together for, regardless of what that something is, something that adds purpose, meaning and depth to our very being and something that despite our many differences as individuals that we can all feel that we are on the same page for...and if that something happens to be provided to us in the form of the man-made game of football...than who gives a shoot? Football fan or not, as long as it gives us something to chit-chat about to the neighbours, something to connect with together with our work colleagues, something to bring us together as one in a world that is desperately trying to divide and split us through labels and categories made by humans alone... then that can only be a good thing... For we are all different yet somehow long to be one...

Remember...

“One day we will all realise that together as one is all we really wanted to be...”

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

STOP ANY CRAWLING BETTLES, MITES OR ANTS KINDLY FOR GOOD KARMA put drops of pure essential citronella or peppermint oil, talcum powder 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"

Accolade

by Emlyn Williams

Bill Kenwright at Richmond Theatre until 13th July

A 'beam me up Scotty' moment is an unexpected opening for the 1950 play *Accolade*, but it does focus the attention.

Writer Will Trenting lives comfortably in London with his wife Rona. As the wireless rings in the New Year, he tells Rona he has been offered a knighthood. General jubilation and celebrations ensue ... but all is not going to be straightforward.

Trenting has a predilection for orgies, frequently enjoyed, but with the knowledge and consent of Rona, who has been aware of his habits from the day they met. She finds him exciting without sharing that particular passion. It gradually becomes apparent that at a 'party', Trenting had sex with a girl who, unbeknownst to him, despite being dressed in furs and make up, was 14 years old. This information is about to hit the press.



Despite supportive and sophisticated family and friends – Rona is witty, cheerful and realistic – Trenting resorts to partly logical rants about the hypocrisy and intolerance, and part childish have cake and eat it tantrums. Things move along briskly until, on the morning he's due to go to the Palace, Trenting has an encounter with a blackmailer.

Within Julie Godfrey's beautiful, atmospheric set, book-lined walls and leather sofas, an old clock ticks loudly. Occasional subtle strands of music nudge up tension.

Ayden Callaghan struggles to move beyond very angry child in portraying Trenting's reaction to his imminent fate, until the realisation that son Ian would be taking a lot of flak for his father. Louis Holland gives a nicely judged rendition



of a full-o'-beans teenager about to be stopped in his tracks.

The production is blessed with an extremely good supporting cast. Honeysuckle Weeks' Rona is a strong, sophisticated and multifaceted character, a woman way ahead of her time. She draws sympathy without appearing to try. Similarly Jamie Hogarth gives dimension and warmth to the underwritten character Albert, Trenting's assistant. Gavin Fowler and Sarah Twomey, as the perfectly happy lower class 'participants' at the orgies, are entertaining if slightly frightening!

Moody and interesting, *Accolade* raises questions we have not even yet answered.

Read Eleanor Lewis's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/07/10/accolade

Photography by Jack Merriman

Dressing Gown

by Andrew Cartmel

Take Note and Thursday at the Tabard Theatre, Chiswick until 27th July

A sound that everyone dreads in the morning – the doorbell ringing before we’re ready to face the new day. And so it is for Ash, the put-upon young theatre director in *Dressing Gown*. Misunderstandings, innuendo, and a parade of wittily awkward conversations ensue after producer Sheridan “Dan” walks in on him one morning and accuses him of having an affair with the leading lady ... Dan’s girlfriend.

Ash prepares to get dressed. But the front door opens again. And again. And again. Although its inciting incident is nothing more sinister than a misheard conversation, under Jenny Eastop’s direction, this one act farce crackles with energy. Its simple set is littered with scribbled-on pages from *The Bearded Vulture* script.



Jamie Hutchins leads as Ash, an exasperated and fastidious man caught up in colleagues’ melodramas, who wants only to get dressed and get going. Any character who wears a dressing gown throughout smacks of *Hitch-Hiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*, but Hutchins gives an assured performance, delivering witty asides even when being accused of philandering.



Dan leaps to paranoid conclusions on the flimsiest (but funniest) pretexts, yet walks a fine line as Ash’s loyal friend. His pointed non-apology after accusing him of sleeping with his girlfriend is both funny, and a moment of quiet desperation as he silently pleads with Ash to drop the matter.

Leading lady Layla, part suspicious girlfriend, part insecure performer, is played with vivacious energy by Rosie Edwards. Even in the middle of a blazing argument with Ash, she sits and beg for compliments on her performance, yet Edwards allows her character’s behaviour to seem plausible. She makes Layla fun.

Jenna, trendy young writer of *The Bearded Vulture*, is furious with actors paraphrasing in rehearsal, raising Ash’s anxiety as she threatens to pull the plug. Jenna’s colourful t-shirt does heavy lifting informing as to her character, but Freya Alderson gives an equably spirited performance.

Cartmel’s dialogue sprinkles character details throughout the play, and if developments towards the end are signposted too clearly, that’s due to a diligent observance of the genre’s demands rather than any fault with a clever, witty, and well-structured script.

Read Andrew Lawston’s review at www.markaspen.com/2024/07/12/dress-gown

Photography by Matt Hunter



The Unicorn in Captivity

by Angelika May

Vertebra Theatre at The Lion and Unicorn Theatre, Kentish Town until 13th July, then on tour until 31st July

With an effective introduction of lit-up objects being brought on stage during a blackout, and surrounding props covered by sheets, the lights go up on F, a fine art student in her final year. We also meet M, an acclaimed artist, his work driven by his mother's death. The couple, on the cusp of a relationship, make the duvet and pillows at centre stage a significant focal point. With the surrounding pinned-up photos, the atmosphere is dark and interesting.

Under the consistent direction of Mayra Stergiou, and using the small performing space to its full potential on a set was designed by Eliza Podesta, the action is enhanced by Jack Hoban's disturbing soundtrack and the sensitive lighting designed by Inigo Townsend. Playing in an aptly named theatre and aiming to raise awareness of epilepsy, *The Unicorn in Captivity* is produced in association with Epilepsy Action and The National Brain Appeal.

F and M are played by Angelika May and Charlie Collinson respectively, and we encounter the twists and turns and misunderstandings that are elements of their relationship. Both parts are played skilfully, with Collinson having the edge. M's ego emerges fully as his art exhibition gets bad reviews, and Collinson is charismatic with just the right element of darkness.

This piece is easy to misconstrue and can be taken for something else entirely, until we see glimpses of F's initial secret. Following mysterious phone calls and confinement to the one room, F becomes frustrated and secretive, before turning the corner that makes the relationship shift. Once everything is revealed to M, his entire character becomes ruthless and unfeeling with tragic consequences for F and a twisted triumph for M.

The full cast has strong actors. Patrick McHugh's neurophysiologist, Nick Morrison Baker's patronising GP by and Jack Tivey's interviewer, portray their roles with great finesse, Tivey being particularly engaging.

A lot is parcelled into seventy-five minutes and although the message on mental health is profound, there is an underlying feeling of being lectured. Nevertheless, *The Unicorn in Captivity* packs a sincere and strong message.

Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/07/11/unicorn-captivity

Photography courtesy of Vertebra Theatre



“CYRANO” and the Naked Ladies

The Richmond Shakespeare Society’s spectacular open-air production of Rostand’s CYRANO de BERGERAC is playing in Twickenham’s Fountain Gardens from July 15th-20th at 7.45 each evening - with a 3pm matinee on the 20th. Cyrano, renowned swordsman, poet, fearless soldier and, alas, possessor of that disproportionately large nose is hopelessly in love with the fair Roxane. Handsome young Christian, though fair of face and figure is a tongue-tied, inarticulate suitor. A pact is made and Christian’s looks backed by Cyrano’s honeyed words prove irresistible - Roxane’s heart is won – and Cyrano’s broken. For a matchless evening of swashbuckling romance, comedy and drama, why not bring a rug and a picnic and join us on the famous “Naked Ladies” lawn.

CYRANO de BERGERAC plays from Monday, July 15th to Saturday 20th at 7.45 - with a 3pm matinee on the 20th.



The Fountain Gardens, Champions Wharf,
Twickenham, TW1 3DT

Booking open now at
www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk



The Nash Sessions

Enjoy a candlelight concert in Kew's historic glasshouse

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The Nash Sessions are a unique opportunity to enjoy sensational music – from jazz to classical – by candlelight in the stunning surroundings of Kew's oldest glasshouse.

Previous guests have said it was '*a very special evening*' and enjoyed the '*ambiance and fabulous acoustics*' as well as the '*quality of the music*' and the setting with '*beautiful lighting*'.

- London Session Quartet - 18 July 2024
- Mela Guitar Quartet - 15 August 2024
- Ronnie Scott's All Stars Festive Session - 25 November 2024
- Asaka Quartet - 25 April 2025



More info [HERE](#)

Henry VIII's Joust

Knights clash, fun reigns

13-14 and 20-21 July 2024

Witness a spectacle of epic proportions as Henry VIII's Joust returns to Hampton Court Palace this July.

For two weekends only, experience jousting at the spectacular home of Henry VIII. Be dazzled by daredevil tricks performed on horseback, then pick your favourite knight and cheer, jeer and follow all the fun of an epic face-off until one knight reigns supreme. Look closely and you may even see the King himself taking part!

Alongside the excitement of the joust, see breathtaking falconry displays and learn about these majestic animals.

Your ticket will also give you access to the spectacular palace, including the famous [maze](#), the [Great Hall](#), and the popular [Magic Garden adventure playground](#). After all that exploring, treat yourself to lunch or a cake in the [Tiltyard Café](#), or visit one of the delicious ringside food and drink stalls.



Don't miss out on an unforgettable day out for all the family. Pre-book your tickets now. [Become a member](#) to visit time and again for free.

More info [HERE](#)

Butterflies on the Move: Scientists Call on Public to Help Track Spread of Species

Leading wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation is today calling on people across the UK to take part in this year's Big Butterfly Count (12 July - 4 August) and help scientists understand how climate change is moving butterflies.

After analysing 50 years of data, researchers have discovered a clear northward spread for many species, including common garden favourites the Peacock, Comma and Holly Blue, the result of climate change creating warmer habitats for them to survive in.

Another species on the move is the Jersey Tiger. Previously found only in south-west England, the striking day-flying moth has in recent years been spotted as far north as central London, gaining its spot in the Big Butterfly Count in 2021.



And at the other end of the scale, species such as the Scotch Argus in Scotland are retreating northwards to stay in the cooler climes this butterfly prefers.

Butterflies are indicators of the health of our natural environment - and with half of Britain's butterfly species already threatened or near threatened with extinction, it's never been more important to understand how these species are responding to the changing climate and to take action to protect them.

To help scientists discover more about the movement and trends of where butterflies are living, the public are being asked to spend 15 minutes in any sunny spot and record the number and type of butterflies they see this summer.

Dr Zoë Randle, Senior Surveys Officer at Butterfly Conservation explains: *"Thirty years ago you wouldn't have seen a Holly Blue in Scotland, now it has expanded where it lives across the UK by 34%, increasingly spreading northward. And the Red Admiral, which was once a migratory species most commonly seen in southern England in the summer and then leaving for Europe in the winter, is now living in the UK all year round, resulting in a three-fold increase in their numbers.*

"We're also seeing other species which have previously suffered severe declines, such as the Comma, recovering, with a huge increase of 94% in where it is found. These highly adaptable species are all able to move into new places as the climate warms, but for habitat specific species, these trends raise serious red flags.

"Species that rely on particular habitats aren't able to move as freely as our garden favourites. This means that if climate change continues, they could become trapped in isolated fragments of remaining habitat, unable to move and with their food plants at risk from adverse weather conditions, facing the very real threat of extinction."

Butterfly Conservation Vice President, Chris Packham, who today launches this year's Big Butterfly

Count, explains: *“Butterflies are on the move, and there’s no doubt that climate breakdown is behind these geographic shifts.*

“We know nature is running out of time, so we need to act now. We need you to get out for the Big Butterfly Count, let us know what you spot and where you spot it. You will be gathering the important data we need to see what the latest impacts are on our butterflies and moths, so that we can take the action needed to protect them.”



Chris Packham is not alone in his support for the Big Butterfly Count, as President of Butterfly Conservation, Sir David Attenborough has shared poignant messages in his support of the Count over the years.

Sir David said: *“The UK is a nation of amateur naturalists, and we have a proud tradition of celebrating and studying our wildlife. Every single person taking part in the Big Butterfly Count helps to build a picture of how butterflies are faring and how we can best conserve them. A few precious moments*

spent watching a stunning Red Admiral or Peacock butterfly feeding amongst the flowers in my garden never fails to bring me great pleasure.”

Other famous faces to have taken part or supported the Big Butterfly Count over the last few years include His Majesty King Charles III, Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte, Butterfly Conservation Vice President Dr Amir Khan, and even Winnie the Pooh!

Butterfly Conservation’s Big Butterfly Count is the largest citizen-science project of its kind and is a positive action everyone can do to help collect important scientific data, as well as enjoy time outdoors, connect with nature and have fun.

Whether done with friends and family, or in a moment of quiet calm and solitude, the Big Butterfly Count is free, fun and takes just 15 minutes. It is open to anyone, of any age, in any part of the UK - towns, cities or the countryside. No green space is too small - a back garden, a small terrace or balcony with some pot plants, a public park, allotment, or country lane are all important spaces to explore, track and report.

Last year more than 135,000 Counts took place up and down the country, with participants spending a combined total of almost four years counting butterflies. The information gathered helps scientists to understand how butterflies and moths are faring, informs conservation projects, government policies and supports other experts with their research and vital work to protect our planet.

Dr Zoë Randle said: *“In total, over 1.5 million butterflies and day-flying moths were recorded in last year’s Count, where the Red Admiral reigned supreme with almost 250,000 sightings. We’re wondering whether someone this year will be the first to spot a new species in their area, and what the results will show for our butterflies and moths across the UK.”*

This year’s Big Butterfly Count runs from Friday 12 July - Sunday 4 August. For more information and to take part simply visit www.bigbutterflycount.org or download the free Big Butterfly Count app

Photo 1: Peacock ©Andrew Cooper, Butterfly Conservation
Photo 2: Jersey Tiger ©Luigi Sebastian, Butterfly Conservation



St Mary's University

St Mary's Rated Top Ten for Student Satisfaction

In new analysis published today by Times Higher Education (THE), St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) has been rated in the top ten nationally for Student Satisfaction.

In new analysis published today by Times Higher Education (THE), St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) has been rated in the top ten nationally for Student Satisfaction.

Chancellor Professor Anthony McClaran said, "I am pleased to see that our brilliant performance in the National Student Survey has been further validated by this new analysis by Times Higher Education. I look forward to celebrating these results with our graduating class of 2024 next week as we honour their academic achievements in Westminster Cathedral.



"I know colleagues across the university are excited for the start of the new academic year in September and continuing to deliver a fantastic experience for our students."

The news follows the recent announcement that SMU has retained its Ofsted Outstanding rating for its third consecutive inspection, cementing the University's place as one of the country's leading teacher training

providers. Into its second decade as an Outstanding rated institution, the report found that at SMU trainee teachers "benefit from first-class levels of support from university staff from the point of application".

SMU also climbed into the top 50 of the Good University Guide in the 2024 edition. The University's position of 45th overall, fourth amongst modern universities, and eighth in London, are its highest ever positions in that league table. The Good University Guide also rated SMU in the top five for Teaching Quality and top ten for Student Experience.

The University also tied first in London in the THE analysis of this year's National Student Survey (NSS). SMU continued its outstanding performance in the 2024 NSS, which was published earlier in the week.

The NSS surveys graduating students on their university experience and found that SMU has improved across all seven of the key themes, ranking in the top five nationally* for Learning Opportunities, Academic Support, and Organisation and Management and top ten for Student Voice. The University also ranked first in London for Academic Support and Organisation and Management, and top five in four other categories.

Speaking of the findings, St Mary's Vice-

*amongst higher education providers with university status (excluding specialist providers)



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Team Richmond finish fourth in 2024 London Youth Games

From Richmond Council

Team Richmond have secured another top four finish competing against other boroughs at the London Youth Games.

Throughout the year, Team Richmond took part in 26 competitions and enjoyed 18 top ten finishes. The team amassed 874 points to secure fourth place in the 2024 games.

The games have seen 250 athletes aged between 10 and 16 from across the borough take part.

The podium performances from Richmond were:

- Kayak Sprint - Gold
- Boys Athletics - Gold
- Boys Judo - Gold
- Girls Judo - Bronze
- Boys Hockey teams - Bronze

Our para-athletes performed exceptionally well, finishing in sixth place in para-swimming and ninth place in Boccia. We also took a para-football team for the first time in years who competed admirably despite the hot weather.



If you are interested in joining Team Richmond for the 2025 season, contact us via email at londonyouthgames@richmond.gov.uk.

England Team To Play New Zealand At Eden Park

England men's head coach Steve Borthwick has named his team to play New Zealand at Eden Park in Auckland on Saturday 13th July for the second and final Test match of the Steinlager Ultra Low Carb Series (kick-off 8.05am BST live on Sky Sports).



There is just one change to the starting XV that was narrowly defeated in Dunedin last weekend with Fin Baxter added to the scrum.

The loosehead prop starts his first game for England having made his debut off the bench at the Forsyth Barr Stadium last Saturday and packs down in the front row with England captain Jamie George at hooker and Will Stuart at tighthead.

At lock, Maro Itoje continues his partnership with George Martin. An unchanged back row sees Sam Underhill at openside flanker, Chandler Cunningham-South on the blindside, and Ben Earl at No.8.

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

Dan Cole will win his 115th cap from the bench to become England's second most capped men's player of all time behind Ben Youngs (127 caps). The tighthead prop takes his place amongst the replacements alongside Bevan Rodd, who comes into the matchday 23, Theo Dan, Alex Coles, Tom Curry, Ben Spencer, Fin Smith and Ollie Sleightholme.

"Eden Park is a stadium packed with history and with memories of great rugby encounters," said Borthwick. "We are delighted to be playing there this Saturday in what I anticipate will be another excellent Test encounter. New Zealand has a formidable record at this venue, but with that comes the pressure of expectation. It will be interesting to see how New Zealand manages that expectation in front of a full house. I'd like to pay special tribute to Dan Cole who will become England's second most capped men's player of all time on the weekend. Dan has shown nothing but dedication and determination throughout his career, and reaching this milestone is a remarkable feat. He is a superb rugby player, a wonderful role model, and we all look forward to sharing a memorable day with him on Saturday."

NEW ZEALAND v ENGLAND

Saturday 13th July 2024

Eden Park, Auckland

Kick-off: 8.05am (BST)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 15. George Furbank (Northampton Saints, 11 caps) | 1. Fin Baxter (Harlequins, 1 cap) |
| 14. Immanuel Feyi-Waboso (Exeter Chiefs, 5 caps) | 2. Jamie George (Saracens, 92 caps) – captain |
| 13. Henry Slade (Exeter Chiefs, 64 caps) – vice-captain | 3. Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 40 caps) |
| 12. Ollie Lawrence (Bath Rugby, 26 caps) | 4. Maro Itoje (Saracens, 83 caps) – vice-captain |
| 11. Tommy Freeman (Northampton Saints, 10 caps) | 5. George Martin (Leicester Tigers, 14 caps) |
| 10. Marcus Smith (Harlequins, 34 caps) | 6. Chandler Cunningham-South (Harlequins, 6 caps) |
| 9. Alex Mitchell (Northampton Saints, 17 caps) | 7. Sam Underhill (Bath Rugby, 37 caps) |
| | 8. Ben Earl (Saracens, 32 caps) – vice-captain |

Replacements:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 16. Theo Dan (Saracens, 13 caps) | 20. Tom Curry (Sale Sharks, 52 caps) |
| 17. Bevan Rodd (Sale Sharks, 6 caps) | 21. Ben Spencer (Bath Rugby, 6 caps) |
| 18. Dan Cole (Leicester Tigers, 114 caps) | 22. Fin Smith (Northampton Saints, 4 caps) |
| 19. Alex Coles (Northampton Saints, 6 caps) | 23. Ollie Sleightholme (Northampton Saints, 1 cap) |

U20 Men Name Side for Semi-Final Against Ireland

England's U20 Men team to face Ireland in the 2024 World Rugby U20 Championship semi-final has been named.



Head coach Mark Mapletoft, leading his side to consecutive semi-final appearances after topping Pool C, will travel to the DHL Stadium this Sunday (14th, 15:30 BST kick-off) for an encounter against their Six Nations opponents. The game will be available to watch live on RugbyPass TV.

Finn Carnduff of Leicester Tigers takes the captaincy role for the ninth time this season, with Afolabi Fasogbon (Gloucester Rugby) slotting into the tighthead role in the only change from the pack that contributed to a 17-12 victory over South Africa on Matchday 3.

Fasogbon's Gloucester clubmate Ioan Jones will start at full-back as the second and final alteration to the starting XV, with Ben Redshaw (Newcastle Falcons) switching to the right wing.

Saracens' James Isaacs scored his fourth try in five U20 caps to secure England's third tournament victory on Tuesday and is re-joined by Cam Miell (Leicester Tigers) on the replacements bench. 2024 Under-20 Six Nations winners Josh Bellamy of Harlequins and Northampton Saint Toby Cousins are also reintegrated as energisers for the U20 Men.

Ireland progressed to the competition's final four after wins against Italy (55-15) and Georgia (22-16), with their final Pool B game against Australia cancelled. The previous two meetings between England and Ireland at U20 Men's level have resulted in high-scoring ties (34-34, 32-32).

Mark Mapletoft said: "We're extremely proud of the performances and consequent results from our pool stage matches. The calibre of opposition was at such a high standard and to raise the performance levels on the last day in such trying conditions showed our unity as a team."

"Our bond as a group has only strengthened and we've often found a way through the challenges thrown at us - it fills myself and the staff with immense pride and we know that is required again come this Sunday."

"We've had fantastic Tests against Ireland over the last twelve months with nothing to separate the teams on the last two occasions. We know that will have to change this time around, but I have every confidence our boys will fight for the player next to them and reassert that Brotherhood in the toughest moments."

England U20 Men's team to face Ireland (includes current club, community club and U20 caps)

15 Ioan Jones (Gloucester Rugby, Minchinhampton RFC, 7 caps)
14 Ben Redshaw (Newcastle Falcons, West Park Leeds RFC, 7 caps)
13 Ben Waghorn (Harlequins, Chipstead Rugby Club, 9 caps)
12 Sean Kerr (Harlequins, Sutton and Epsom Rugby Club, 6 caps)
11 Alex Wills (Sale Sharks, Droitwich Rugby Club, 10 caps)
10 Ben Coen (Exeter Chiefs, Teignmouth RFC, 3 caps)
9 Ollie Allan (Leicester Tigers, Hungerford RFC, 3 caps)

1 Asher Opoku-Fordjour (Sale Sharks, Broadstreet RFC, 17 caps)
2 Craig Wright (Northampton Saints, Braintree Rugby Club, 8 caps)
3 Afolabi Fasogbon (Gloucester Rugby, Bishop Wand School, 14 caps)
4 Joe Bailey (Exeter Chiefs, Newton Abbot RFC, 7 caps)
5 Junior Kpoku (Racing 92, Saracens Amateurs, 7 caps)
6 Finn Carnduff (c) (Leicester Tigers, Market Harborough RFC, 18 caps)
7 Henry Pollock (Northampton Saints, Buckingham Rugby Club, 8 caps)
8 Nathan Michelow (Saracens, Brentwood Rugby, 12 caps)

Replacements

16 James Isaacs (Saracens, Hemel Hempstead Camelot RFC, 5 caps)
17 Cameron Miell (Leicester Tigers, Paul Roos, 2 caps)
18 James Halliwell (Bristol Bears, Thornbury RFC, 10 caps)
19 Olamide Sodeke (Saracens, Blackheath Rugby Club, 7 caps)

20 Kane James (Exeter Chiefs, St Peters RFC, 7 caps)
21 Lucas Friday (Harlequins, Bromley RFC, 3 caps)
22 Josh Bellamy (Harlequins, Rosslyn Park, 6 caps)
23 Toby Cousins (Northampton Saints, Bugbrooke RFC, 7 caps)

England U20 Men's 2024 World Rugby U20 Championship fixtures and results

- Matchday 1 (29 June) - England 41-20 Argentina – Athlone Stadium - (13:00 BST kick-off)
- Matchday 2 (4 July) - England 48-11 Fiji – Athlone Stadium - (15:30 BST kick-off)
- Matchday 3 (9 July) - South Africa 12-17 England – Athlone Stadium - (18:00 BST kick-off)
- Matchday 4 (14 July, semi-final) - England vs. Ireland – DHL Stadium – (15:30 BST kick-off)
- Matchday 5 (final and ranking matches, Friday 19 July)

New Brentford FC official app launches

The new Brentford FC official app is now available for fans to download from iOS and Android stores!

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford FC has launched a new and improved mobile app for fans.

The app allows you to stay connected with the club all year round on mobile devices with the latest news, live match updates and on-demand video.

[The new app is available to download on iOS or Android now.](#)

Features available in our new app include:

- Latest Brentford FC news, videos and club updates
- Match Centre: Keep up to date with Brentford match live scores, detailed stats, and live text commentary
- Premier League tables: Stay up to date with live games across the Premier League throughout the gameweek
- Improved fixture schedule: view monthly or match by match
- Live activities: For iOS users, keep up with live match updates directly on your lock screen
- Badges: You'll be rewarded digital badges for hitting milestones and getting achievements in the app (available from 16 July onwards)
- View an interactive Gtech Community Stadium map showcasing all points of interest
- Exclusive augmented reality experiences for Bees Overseas members. Experience an interactive view being in the west stand for the matchday build-up
- International supporters' club map: Explore the world map to find where overseas Bees are located. Join or create your own international supporters' club
- Bees Superstore: an improved shop experience allowing you to seamlessly navigate shop categories. Stay up to date with the latest drops and offers through the app
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How to log on to the app

Supporters who already have the Brentford FC official app will need to update the app to access our new and improved app.

This will be done automatically if you have automatic updates switched on, on your device. If not, to get the new version update the app via the App Store or Google Play Store.

If you do not have the original app, please download the free Brentford FC official app from the App Store or Google Play Store on your device. The app offers a single sign-on experience, so you can login to the app using the details of your Brentford FC account.

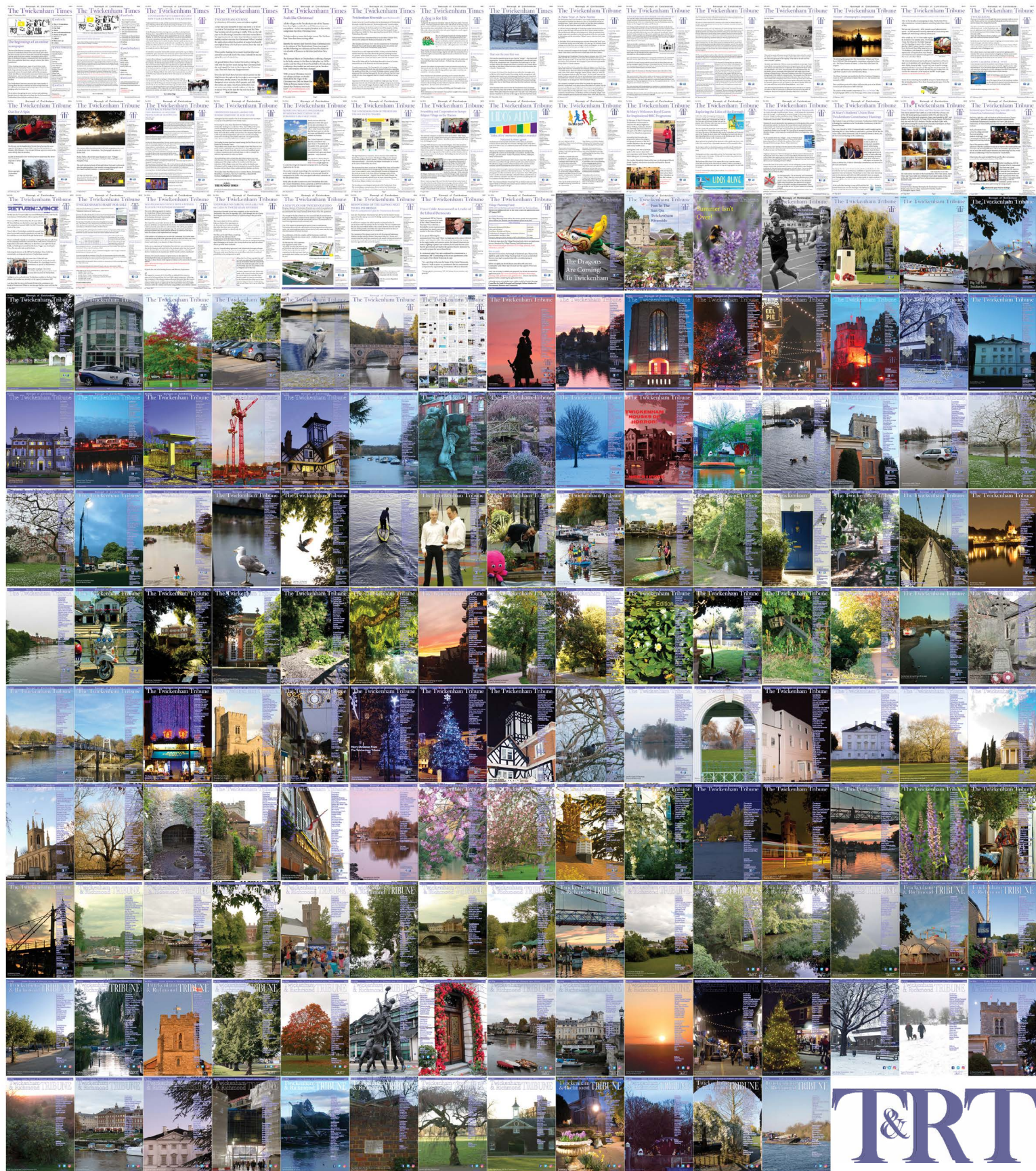
To get the best in-app experience we encourage you to log into your single sign-on account and complete the surveys and information in your profile, as well as enabling push notifications and location services. This will ensure you receive content and notifications tailored to you.

We are continuing to add developments to the new app and we will have new features coming in the future. If you have any feedback or experience any issues with the app, please use our app feedback form to let us know, which is accessible from the main menu in the app.

[Download or update the Brentford FC official app](#)



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