

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



2nd August 2024

Friends of Twickenham Green Fete
Photo by Berkley Driscoll

T&RT

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TickerTape - News in Brief

Thames Water

Essential main sewer works - Twickenham Green

Thames Water will be undertaking work on The Green (leading to Staines Road). Work will commence on Monday 5th August and a three-way traffic light system will be in place for 12 days.

Travellers on Ham Common

On 26th July Richmond Council were made aware that a group of travellers had set up camp on Ham Common.

On 31st July the council announced that proceedings had commenced, and a court summons had been served.

Following the council obtaining a possession order the travellers departed late on Thursday 1st August and the council commenced a clean-up.

Residents have complained about the fly-tipping and damage, including to the Ham & Petersham Cricket Pitch.



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darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 260

By Alan Winter

Christ Church - East Sheen

At the beginning of the 20th Century in what was called "The golden age of postcards," local photographers and postcard publishers quickly realised that postcards of churches sold well in their local areas. Let's also remember that congregations were much larger for services in those days. I suspect that this column will cover most if not all of the churches that appeared on postcards in today's LBRUT area before long.

Christ Church began to be built in 1860 in ragstone, with Ashlar dressings and plain tiled roof. It consists of chancel, nave, aisles, with an attached tower to the south-east, vestries and a new extension to the north-east.

An early work of the architect Arthur Blomfield, the church building, which is in stone, was erected between 1860 and 1864 and extended in 1887

It was built on farmland at the entrance of East Sheen Common. It was originally planned to be opened in April 1863; however, the tower collapsed shortly before completion and had to be rebuilt. The church was finally completed and consecrated nine months later, on 13 January 1864. The building is Grade II listed, as are the wrought iron railings around the building to the south and west.



Mortlake Quiet Gardens are based around the landscaped churchyard and are affiliated to The Quiet Garden Trust

Christ Church is located in East Sheen on Temple Sheen Road and was dedicated in 1863. The Team Vicar is the Revd Jonathan Haynes. Christ Church has services on Sunday at 8am and 10.00am and Evensong at 5pm.

One of three churches in the parish of Mortlake with East Sheen, Christ Church is a Grade II listed Victorian building with a friendly and committed congregation. It has been described as having a "middle of the road" churchmanship, with a mix of Common Worship and Prayer Book services over the course of a week.

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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One Moment for One Crew: RNLI Teddington takes part in special photo moment

From RNLI

On Thursday 1 August, Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) representatives from Teddington participated in a special photo moment – One Moment for One Crew – to create a photographic record of those involved with the lifesaving charity in this, its 200th anniversary year.

The charity, which was founded in 1824, asked its volunteers and staff from around the UK and Ireland to take a photo of themselves, their crew or their team, at as close to 18:24 on 1.8.24 as possible. Whether lifeguards on a beach, lifeboat crew at a station, fundraisers at an event, or volunteers in a museum – all involved with the charity have been encouraged to submit a photo of themselves representing their RNLI role at wherever they may be on this date and time.



Representatives including lifeboat crew, water safety, education, fundraising and support roles took part. The photos have been uploaded to an online portal and will be used to create a montage image.

Teddington RNLI is one of four lifeboat stations on the Thames and is 100% crewed by volunteers.

The RNLI celebrated its 200th anniversary on 4 March this, and this photographic moment is one of a range of events and programmes which the charity has organised to mark its bicentenary.

Anjie Rook, RNLI Associate Director, who is overseeing the RNLI's 200th anniversary programmes, says: *'The RNLI has been*

saving lives at sea for 200 years thanks to its incredible people – the courageous lifeboat crews and lifeguards who put their own lives at risk to save others; the dedicated fundraisers who raise the income to power those rescues; the committed volunteers who give their own time in a range of other roles such as giving out water safety advice or helping to run our retail shops and museums, and the staff who provide vital support to our volunteers.

'We have encouraged anyone who has some form of involvement with the RNLI to participate in this special One Moment for One Crew photographic event, to capture a record of everyone who, at this moment in time, is playing some part in the RNLI's lifesaving work, continuing its legacy and securing its future.

'During our 200th anniversary year we have been remembering our past, celebrating the lifesaving service we provide today, and aiming to inspire future generations of lifesavers and supporters. One Moment for One Crew is very much about celebrating the people of today's RNLI and, we hope, inspiring those future generations who will take the RNLI into its third century of lifesaving.'

Since the RNLI was founded in 1824, its volunteer crews and lifeguards have saved over 146,000 lives – this equates to an average of two lives saved every day for 200 years.

Founded in a London tavern on 4 March 1824 following an appeal from Sir William Hillary, who lived on the Isle of Man and witnessed many shipwrecks, the RNLI has continued saving lives at sea throughout the past two centuries. Today, it operates 238 lifeboat stations around the UK and Ireland, including four on the River Thames, and has seasonal lifeguards on 238 lifeguarded beaches around the UK. It designs and builds its own lifeboats and runs domestic and international water safety programmes.

Photo credit: RNLI/Grace Palmieri



Lifeboats

Council invests £100,000 towards Richmond Station renovations

From Richmond Council

We are proud to announce we have made a £100,000 investment towards the extensive renovation works at Richmond Station. Our contribution is a crucial part of the ongoing efforts to improve the aesthetic and functionality of the station.

Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council said: *“Residents will be aware that we are in the early stages of creating a vision for Richmond Town Centre. While that longer term project is in train, I am really pleased that this work is starting, to improve the overall experience of arriving into Richmond for all residents, visitors and businesses. This project is not just about aesthetics but about ensuring Richmond Station and the surrounding Town Centre remain a hub for good business and cultural heritage and I’m confident that the new station look will boost the appeal and status of Richmond within the borough and beyond.”*



The renovation project at Richmond Station focuses on preserving and restoring key heritage features, including the Art Deco elements of the canopy and façade. Our contribution is part of a larger partnership effort involving Network Rail and Western Railway in collaboration with the Railway Heritage Trust and the Richmond Society.

The project includes a range of improvements such as cleaning and polishing bronze entrance doors, restoring overpainted stone to the façade, renewing flag poles, replacing canopy uplighters, and introducing new bronze finish poster panels to the front elevation. The focus of this work is the restoration of the entrance canopy to its original heritage design, complete with new bronze-finished fascia and glasscrete rooflights.

Mark Goodall, Wessex Route Director for Network Rail, said: *“It’s particularly pleasing to see the culmination of a joint effort by the rail industry and our local partners to improve the look and feel of Richmond station.”*

“The station has a rich heritage and was designed by James Robb Scott, and much of this work is about preserving and enhancing the charm of this fabulous station.”

“It is clear to see the positive impact of collaboration and I hope passengers and the local community in Richmond recognise and appreciate the improvements that have and are continuing to be made.”

We are committed to developing partnerships that improve the borough’s infrastructure and preserve its cultural heritage. The completion of these renovation works will mark a significant milestone in our ongoing mission to make Richmond upon Thames an even more attractive and vibrant place to live, work, and visit.

Olympic Games – then and now

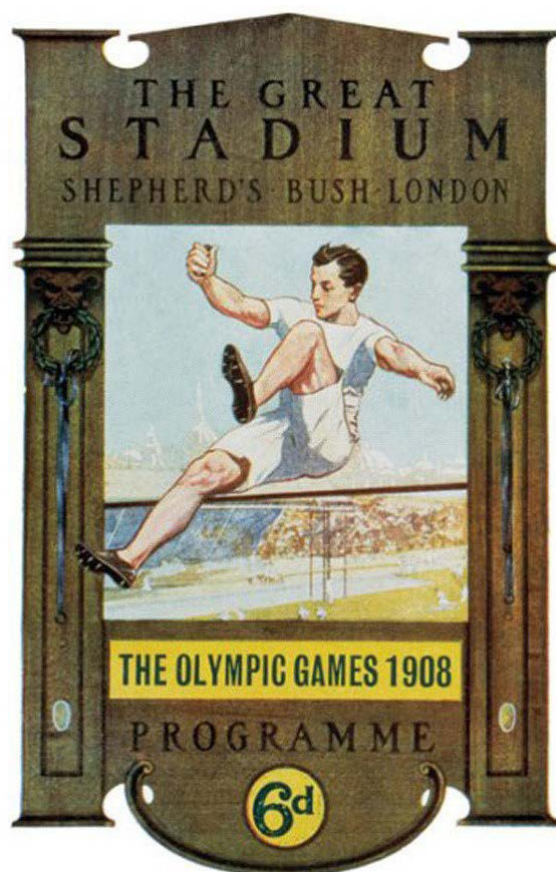
By Jeremy Hamilton-Miller

Now that the Paris Olympics (to give these the full name, The Games of the XXXIII Olympiad) are in full swing, it is amusing to look back at the origin of both the Modern and the original Games, and some events that took place.

The Games originally ran between 776 BC and 393 AD, and consisted of what we now call Field and Track events, such as running, jumping, javelin throwing, and wrestling and boxing. Athletes performed naked (no women were allowed to compete, and married women were forbidden to watch), and winners (only) were crowned with wreathes made from olive or laurel leaves. There were also equestrian events, most importantly chariot racing. The latter was a brutal event for horses and drivers and most exciting for spectators (as portrayed graphically in the film *Ben Hur*). The four-year cycle of the Games ended when the christian Emperor Theodosius forbade the practice of “pagan rites”.

In 1896 the first Modern Games were held in Greece. The revival was spear-headed by Baron de Coubertin; his ideal was expressed as “The important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle, the essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well”. The Olympic motto *Citius-Altius-Fortius* (Faster, Higher, Stronger) was given the additional word *Communiter* (Together) in 2021. The Olympic Rings, of blue, yellow, black, green and red, represent the five continents, and is based on a design by the Baron.

For the 1896 Games winners were awarded a silver medal and a laurel wreath, and the runner-up received bronze. At the 1900 Games in Paris, held as part of the World’s Fair (*Exposition Universelle*), ladies were allowed to compete, in tennis, sailing and golf, despite the Baron’s disapproval of their inclusion (“Olympics with women would be incorrect, impractical, uninteresting and unaesthetic”). These Games were regarded just as a side-show for the *Exposition*, and many competitors did not realise it was an Olympic event; most winners received only cups or trophies. It was not until the 1904 Games that gold, silver and bronze were given to first, second and third. Before 1921 pure gold was used; today’s gold medals are silver coated with gold (those awarded in the current Paris Games also contain a small piece of the Eiffel Tower).



Some interesting sports were introduced in the early 20th Century Games: in 1900 there was live pigeon shooting (it was reported that this left rather a mess), angling, motor racing, ballooning, cricket, croquet, pelota, a swimming obstacle race and underwater swimming. None of these was ever repeated.

The 1904 Games in St Louis was a rather lack-lustre affair, as only 12 countries attended; it saw the introduction of tug-of-war and plunge events. These early Games were poorly organised and publicised, and have been described as “chaotic” by sports historians.

The 1908 Games was in London; a curious event was “running-deer shooting”, resembling a fairground game, where shots were aimed at moving targets on pictures of deer. Two memorable events concern the marathon: first, its distance was changed from 25 to 26 miles, so that the start could be at Windsor Castle (to please King Edward VII), then an extra 285 yards was added for the start to be under the windows of the Royal Nursery (to please Princess Mary). The altered distance became the standard for marathons from 1924. Second, the winner of the race was disqualified, as, having collapsed four times on the last lap, he was dramatically assisted across the line by stewards.



For the 1912 Games in Stockholm, electronic timing was used, and the pentathlon and decathlon events were introduced. England won the gold medal for football. The marathon again produced a curiosity: a Japanese runner became disorientated and got lost. He recovered in a local farmhouse, and went straight back to Japan without informing the time keepers; 50 years later he was invited back to finish the race. His time was given as 54 years, 8 months and 6 days.

The 1914 and 1918 Games were of course cancelled due to the outbreak of the Great War. The Modern Olympics have been plagued with geo-political and man-made crises: competitors were reluctant to travel to the 1904 Games due to the on-going Russo-Japanese War; the 1908 event was intended for Rome, but the organisers had to divert funding to Naples, which had been devastated by an eruption of Vesuvius. The second World War caused cancellation of the 1940 and 1944 Games; more recently, the 1972 Munich Games were scarred by the murder of Israeli athletes by the Black September group, 1980 Moscow Games were boycotted by 66 countries and the 2020 Tokyo Games had to be postponed for one year due to the Covid epidemic.

Notwithstanding multiple such problems, the Olympic spirit has survived; long may it live!

London's Royal Parks retain coveted Green Flag Awards

London's Royal Parks have been recognised as some of the best in the country as they retain their Green Flag Awards, the prestigious international award for parks and green spaces.

The Royal Parks charity maintains London's eight Royal parks, along with other important green spaces in the capital.

The Regent's Park, Hyde Park, Richmond Park and Bushy Park have all been re-awarded the Green Flag Award this year, all achieving high scores. The other Royal parks, including Brompton Cemetery, which is also cared for by The Royal Parks, have all retained their status and will be judged again in 2025.

The parks have also all achieved the Green Heritage Site Accreditation, supported by Historic England, for the management and promotion of their historic features.



Every year, the parks are judged, or visited, by a mystery shopper. The judging process includes a review of park management plans, and a site visit to meet the park teams.

Judges meet staff across park, landscape, volunteer, and biodiversity management.

Keep Britain Tidy's Green Flag Award Scheme Manager, Paul Todd, said: *"I would like to congratulate everyone involved at The Royal Parks on achieving a Green Flag Award."*

"The Royal parks are vital green spaces for communities in London to socialise, enjoy nature, for children to play safely and they provide important opportunities for park users to improve their physical and mental health."

"We know that staff and volunteers work tirelessly to ensure that the parks maintain the high standards of the Green Flag Award, everyone involved should feel extremely proud of their achievement."

"It is important that our free to use spaces are maintained to the Green Flag Award standard, making them accessible for all members of the community while ensuring the environment is protected."

Jason Taylor, Hyde Park Manager, said: *"We are proud to be re-awarded the Green Flag Award this year, which recognises the dedication of everyone in our park team, from staff to volunteers, apprentices, and contractors. Their hard work ensures that the park maintains our standards of excellence for our visitors to enjoy."*

Paul Richards, Richmond Park Manager, said: *"We are honoured to receive the Green Flag Award again this year. It is thanks to the hard work of all the staff, apprentices and volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure the park is at its very best, and provide a welcoming green space for the public to use and enjoy."*



Kier Group appointed for the Twickenham Riverside Development

By James Knight

Richmond Council has appointed the construction giant Kier Group to carry out the pre-construction stage one work on the controversial Twickenham Riverside Development.



This will involve further surveys, submission of information to discharge pre-commencement planning conditions, further development of the building designs ready for construction, demolition of the former pool building, removal of trees, and clearance of Dimond Jubilee Gardens. They will also calculate the final price of the contract.

The council website states that the Policy, Finance, and Resource Committee will award the second (construction) part of the contract later this year. However, Cllr James Chard, leader of the Liberal Democrats Councillor Group, said on X (formally Twitter) *"We've appointed @kiergroup to do the construction work to transform Twickenham's riverside"* Possibly a premature announcement?

In a video posted on the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames website, the Leader of the Council, Cllr Gareth Roberts said: *"After years of delay and millions of pounds of additional expense caused by the unnecessary task of having to go through a Compulsory Purchase Order to acquire Dimond Jubilee Gardens, we are now able to start work on Twickenham Riverside."*

View the video [HERE](#)

Find more info on the above [HERE](#)



Please join us to remember **Amelie Delagrang** twenty years on

Join us as we continue to tackle violence against women and girls as a community in Richmond Upon Thames.

**Twickenham Green, Amelie's Bench
at 15:00, Sunday 18th August 2024**



The Mulberry Centre Raises over £700 in Fundraising Bucket Collection Around Twickenham and Richmond on Gallagher Premiership Rugby Final Day

The Mulberry Centre, a local charity dedicated to supporting anyone affected by cancer, is delighted to announce that its recent fundraising bucket collection in the areas surrounding Twickenham on June 8, 2024, successfully raised over £700.

With a mission to provide practical advice, emotional support, and a range of complementary therapies and activities to individuals affected by cancer, The Mulberry Centre has been a beacon of hope and resilience in the community for years. The Centre organised this special fundraising day, which united rugby enthusiasts and supporters of cancer care in a shared spirit of compassion and generosity.

The funds collected during the day will directly contribute to The Mulberry Centre's ongoing mission to provide essential services, including counselling, support groups, complementary therapies, and practical advice for those facing the challenges of cancer diagnosis and treatment.



"We are delighted to have had the chance to fundraise in the local area and outside Twickenham Stadium," said Daniel O'Brien, Head of Fundraising and Engagement at The Mulberry Centre. "This event provided an excellent opportunity to secure essential funds for our charity and to highlight the critical importance of cancer support services within our community."



The Mulberry Centre extends its thanks to Twickenham Stadium for their support in facilitating this event and thanks everyone who attended the rugby event on June 8th and contributed to their cause.

For more information about The Mulberry Centre and their work, please visit www.themulberrycentre.co.uk



Consultation launched on renewing the Rosslyn Road PSPO

From Richmond Council

We are inviting residents, local groups, and stakeholders to provide their feedback on a proposal to renew the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) around the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) Clinic on Rosslyn Road, Twickenham, for an additional three years.

Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said: *“We have seen the positive impact the PSPO has had for those who use the clinic, work at the clinic or who live and work in the surrounding area, so we believe that renewing the PSPO is the right thing to do.*

“It is crucial to note that the PSPO does not ban protests or vigils altogether but ensures they do not take place near the clinic to avoid distressing those accessing the clinic’s services.

“We encourage all residents and stakeholders to take part in this consultation to help us make an informed decision that balances the right to protest with the need to protect vulnerable individuals from harassment and intimidation.”

The PSPO, first introduced in 2019, and renewed for a further three years in 2022, aims to address concerns related to protests and vigils outside the clinic. The current PSPO is set to expire on 31 March 2025. The consultation opened on Monday 22 July and will run until Sunday 1 September 2024.

A PSPO under section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 allows us to prohibit specific activities or require certain actions to prevent damaging impacts on the public in a specified area.



Have your say on the proposal by filling out the [online survey](#) or requesting a paper copy of the consultation document.

MET *Park* in the

Monday 05th August 2024
Old Deer Park, Richmond

11AM to 5:00 PM



Police Vehicles

Come along to meet:
*Firearms officers,
Territorial Support
Group,
Police Horses
& Dogs,
RNLI,
London Fire Brigade,
St Johns Ambulance,
Harlequins RFU*
and
Face Painting!



Kew's UNESCO World Heritage Site Status at Risk

Kew Gardens has acknowledged that it could lose its prestigious UNESCO World Heritage Status due to plans to move its world-famous herbarium to Reading. It was awarded this much-coveted status in 2003 due to its outstanding universal value as a historic landscape garden and world-renowned scientific institution.

The December 2023 board minutes (the latest available) state, "It was noted that the assessment of the impact of moving the herbarium collections on Kew Gardens World Heritage Site status was ongoing and would require continued engagement with relevant bodies over an estimated period of 6–18 months."

The Kew Herbarium was founded in 1851 and has grown to become one of the world's major centres, if not 'the' major centre, for identifying and naming plants and evaluating their potential uses. This is an essential step for preventing species from becoming extinct.



This reflects the huge concern about plans to move the herbarium to the Thames Valley Science Park in Shinfield, near Reading.

The park would be adjacent to the planned Natural History Museum collections and Research Centre and the British Museum's Archaeological Research Collection. Affected staff at the institutions have campaigned against the move, raising concerns that it will harm their respective institutions by splitting them into two and degrading them as scientific institutions.

The former director of Kew Gardens, Sir Ghilleen Prance, denounced the plans in a letter to the Daily Telegraph in August 2023. He said the plans were "appalling" and would "seriously damage the greatest botanic garden in the world."

In August 2023, an online petition was started to reconsider the move, describing the herbarium as 'the beating heart' of Kew. Over 18,000 people have now signed the petition, which can be viewed [HERE](#)

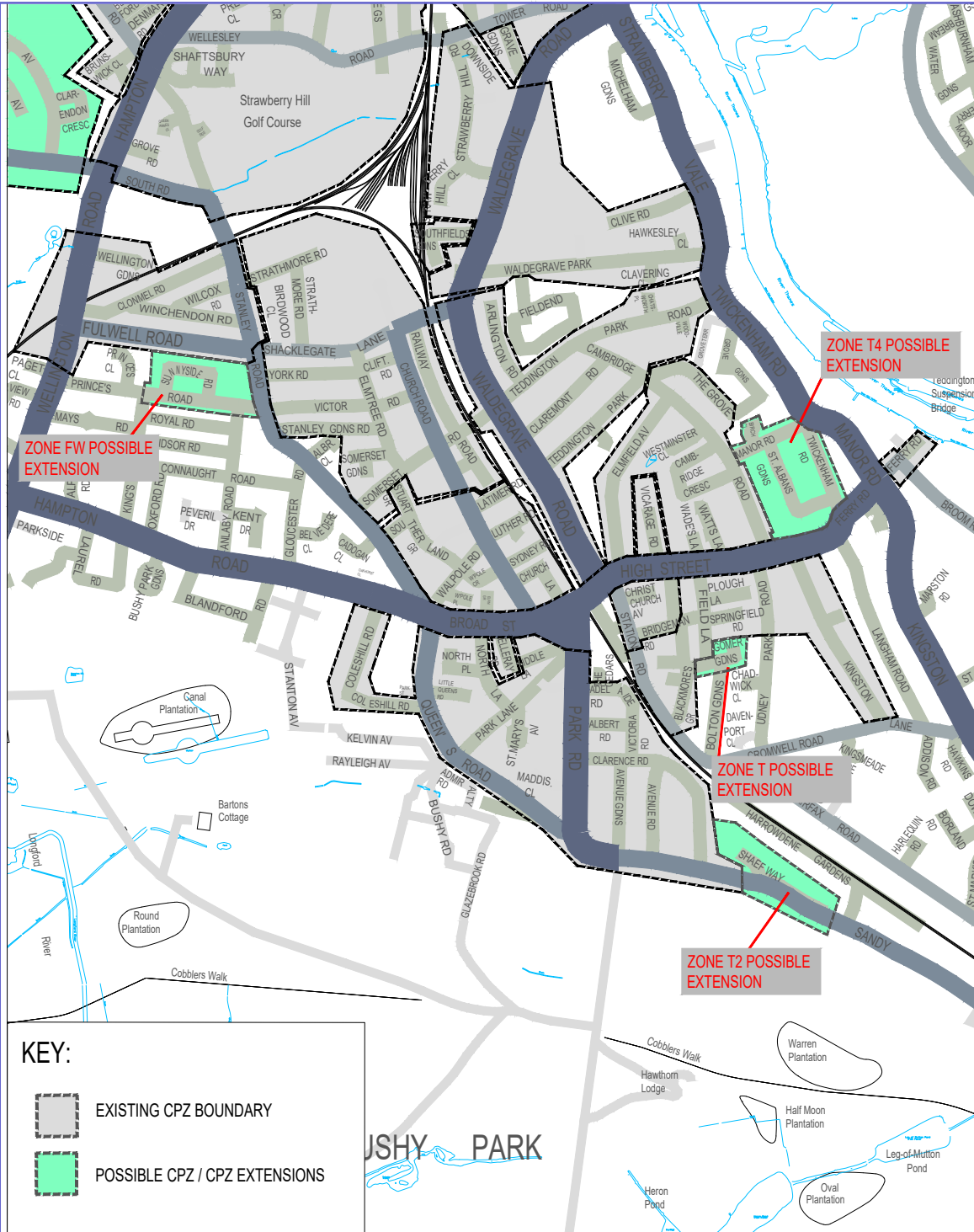
It would certainly be a serious embarrassment for Kew Gardens and the Government if it could no longer claim it was up there with the Great Wall of China or the pyramids.

Sunnyside Road / Princes Road CPZ Consultation

From Richmond Council

Consultation Closes Sunday 18th August 2024

In September 2022, the Council implemented the Fulwell Controlled Parking Zone, following consultation with all affected properties in the area. The zone operates 8.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday.



Following requests from residents of Sunnyside Road (including a petition), the decision has been made to re-consult residents of this road on the option to join Zone FW.

Due to its close proximity, we have included the adjacent section of Princes Road in this consultation, to see if residents of this road also wish to be included in the zone.

View the consultation letter [HERE](#).

View the consultation area [HERE](#).

View the preliminary detailed design [HERE](#).

Give your views [HERE](#)

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REVISION	DRAWN BY	DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
	CRW	CRW	CG/MP	MP
	06/24	06/24	06/24	06/24

CLIENT	LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES		
PROJECT	CPZ WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25		
DRAWING TITLE	TEDDINGTON PARKING CONSULTATION		
	POSSIBLE CPZ EXTENSIONS		
ISSUING OFFICE	TWICKENHAM	DRAWING NUMBER	REVISION
TELEPHONE	020 8891 1411	CPZ-CON-TEDD-01	

Help us choose a name for Ham Close's new community centre

From Richmond Council

We need your help to name the brand new community centre being built as part of the Ham Close regeneration.

We and Achieving for Children (AfC) have collaborated with local young people and community groups to create a shortlist and now we are calling on residents to help decide on the final name of the new centre.



The regeneration of Ham Close is a landmark initiative, with nearly £7 million of investment to the community facilities in the area. This new community centre will replace the existing Ham Youth Centre, providing a hub for social activities as well as learning, creativity, and innovation.

The new centre will be managed by AfC and will offer a range of activities, including tuition and extra curriculum programmes for students during the day and youth club activities after 3pm. It will also serve as a potential future Family Hub, pending the results of a pilot programme.

The wider community will also benefit from this new centre, with opportunities to hire spaces such as the community lounge, kitchen, meeting rooms, and sports hall.

The three shortlisted names are:

- The Hive
- Ham Junction
- The Cube

[Cast your vote](#) and help choose the perfect name for this new community resource.

Harry's Victoria

There's quite a buzz when you enter the latest branch of Harry's; you really do feel as if you are joining the 'beautiful people' and stepping back in time to 1950's Italy. The decor is spectacular, with leather banquette seating and the walls adorned with stylish artwork and iconic images highlighting 'la dolce vita'. It's located in



Terminal House in Grosvenor Gardens, one of the big developments just opposite Victoria station and is, apparently, the largest of



the Harry's sites in London to date. It boasts two open air terraces, as well as a large restaurant and raised bar area, and offers all-day dining from breakfast through to dinner.

I started my evening by ordering a Negroni - and I have to say, it was probably the best one I've ever tasted. It was seriously good - and perfectly balanced.



For starters, I chose creamy burrata from Puglia with prosciutto crudo, pistachio and pane fritto, while my husband, who can never resist calamari, chose crispy, polenta-coated squid with garlic aioli. My burrata was deliciously creamy and oozy, and sprinkled with the chopped pistachios (something I'd not considered putting with burrata but it certainly worked). While the pane fritto was very tasty, it did add a lot of richness and oil to the dish, which I felt didn't need it, as the burrata and prosciutto were



the heroes. The calamari was served in a napkin-lined cone, an unusual presentation. It was piping hot and declared beautifully crispy thanks to the polenta coating.

My husband had already announced that he wanted to order the signature lobster ravioli (filled with lobster, D.O.P. San Marzano tomato in a fragrant shellfish emulsion with basil, chives and Amalfi lemon) so I decided to join him with a fishy main, and chose chargrilled tuna steak served with cannellini beans and a warm tomato, Taggiasca olive, Amalfi lemon and basil salsa. For sides we ordered tenderstem broccoli (with parmesan and lemon) and a rocket and parmesan salad.



My tuna dish was delicious - it was attractively presented and the beans were beautifully flavoured with pieces of lemon zest. It was a tasty and light dish, served tepid, perfect for a summer evening. I hardly managed to get a look in with the lobster ravioli - it was declared well filled



with lobster, and the sauce (I managed to swipe a small taste) was nicely tangy. The tenderstem was cooked perfectly, and my salad was very straightforward, but good.

Not that either of us needed anything more, but we had heard a lot about the signature dessert: Harry's Toadstool (White chocolate, fresh raspberries, mascarpone mousse, iced vanilla parfait and pistachio biscotti crunch, served with warm pistachio sauce).

My husband jumped at the chance and then I was persuaded, by our waiter, to join him, and order an Amalfi Sundaes (Lemon sorbet, candied lemon, whipped cream, milk gelato, meringue, lemon sauce and sugared rosemary). Both were stupendous and, needless to say, incredibly rich. I only managed a few delicious mouthfuls of my sundaes, which did taste refreshing (and could have been designed specially for Instagram, it was so beautifully presented). My husband finished it for me, with little persuasion needed.



A seriously Italian - and very good - double espresso (L'Unico Caffè Musetti apparently) was the perfect finale. We took ourselves off to the underground feeling as if we'd had a quick trip to Venice.

Harry's Victoria also offers a great value 'Pre Teatro' menu at £22.50 for two, or £28.50 for three courses. It's available Monday to Friday from 11.30 am. Till 6.30 until the end of August. At the weekend there is a very interesting sounding brunch menu available too.



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No more school...

By Deep Patel

~ Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

As the academic year drew to an end Meet & Deep newsagents (my shop) there were many different emotions echoing around my shop...some of relief of leaving school forever, some of sadness for missing the friends that they have spent the past 10 years with and may now leave behind as many go to different schools to pursue further education...but one thing for sure is that everyone...and I mean EVERYONE, regardless of their age, socio-economic status, occupation, gender or background is affected...Everyone.



This whole week I had conversations with customers from so many different backgrounds about the end of the school year and the beginning of the 6 week long school summer holidays. These conversations have surprisingly been far less with those who have children at schools, but more unexpectedly with young single customers who remark jubilating about how they can now spend an extra half an hour in bed every morning for the next 6 weeks due to their being that much less traffic from the school runs every morning. Conversely to celebrations, there have been some of our more senior-citizen customers gearing themselves up for what they describe to be the most “manic and draining” period of their year when grandchildren will be continually dumped on them for “free child care” for days on end as their own children escape to work leaving the little terrors every demands to be catered for by them...then you get the local resident who live on the busy Hampton road (where my shop is situated) all getting excited about how the massive fall in traffic has made them feel like they are living in a little remote village in the country (I smile on the outside, on the inside thinking to myself enjoy it whilst you can suckers, soon enough we will all be breathing those sooty road fumes in again and complaining of the continuous busses, bikes, cars and kids shouting and screaming on their way to school again)...you may now be reading this thinking, he’s a bit cynical...well that may be...but all this aside, the real truth is that we all love Twickenham, we all love our busy noisy main road and even the dust and shouting kids on their way to school each morning...yes...it may not seem ideal...but it’s a place we call home...and although at times we may moan and complain...It’s our place...and we wouldn’t change it for the world...well maybe for a hammock in the Caribbean...but nothing else...

Remember...

“School days will affect you for all your days...”

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

STOP FOXES, RATS, MICE & SQUIRRELS KINDLY (GOOD KARMA):

Place empty bowls filled with white vinegar around places where you don’t want them to come...they will go without you having to harm them...use humane mouse & rat traps and release them back out in parkland areas. Use electronic plug in deterrents with good reviews around your house to stop them coming (the smell of white vinegar also stops ants kindly).

For ANY specific tip to stop any “pest” or insect KINDLY (for good karma/blessings), email me: thedeepatel@gmail.com or join my Facebook page: INSECTS LOVERS UNITE

Red Speedo

by Lucas Hnath

David Adkin Productions, Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond until 10th August

Ray lives to swim. He is within touching distance of Olympic glory and a life-changing sponsorship deal. But everything changes when performance-enhancing drugs are discovered in the club's refrigerator. As tensions run high, Ray's brother wants them destroyed, his coach wants to call the authorities, his ex-girlfriend doesn't want to know, and Ray wants the drugs back.

Directed by Matthew Dunster, *Red Speedo* is a taut construct of power, political manoeuvring and moral ambiguities, played at the pace of an Olympic sprint. At its heart, the play tackles the unforgiving weight of success in a world where the only crime is getting caught.



Red Speedo opens on the eve of the Olympic trials. A red cover is removed to reveal Ray's pool, the only place where he feels safe and confident. Finn Cole, as Ray, gives his character believable passion, but a hint of immaturity and disingenuousness. Proud of his skill as a swimmer, and aware that this offers him the key to a better life, Ray wrestles with how far he should commit to winning.

Ciaran Owens, as Ray's brother Peter, a lawyer aspiring to a new career as his sports management executive, knows the importance of his brother's talent. Fraser James, as the coach, gives an honest depiction of a dependable supportive professional ... until he gets a hint that all is not what it seems. Newcomer, Parker Lapaine's Lydia is sassy and confident, yet exhibits a vulnerability based upon her harsh experience of malpractice. She would like to walk away from him, yet cannot muster enough ruthlessness.

The cast display an admirable facility to exhibit greed, vulnerability, anger, pathos and humour with a glance, a shrug or a touch on the arm; adroitly using periods of silence. Within the rapid-fire dialogue there is a sense of spontaneity. As the relationships between them become viscerally complex, and they face significant dilemmas and radical lifestyle choices, plots and subplots, threats and bribes, weave a shifting pattern that delivers pulsating high-stakes drama.

A timely production, as it runs in tandem with the Paris Olympics, *Red Speedo* will make us question at what cost are these achievements attained.

Read Harry Zimmerman's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/07/22/red-speedo

Photography by Johan Persson

Falstaff

by Giuseppe Verdi, libretto by Arrigo Boito

West Green House Opera, Theatre on the Lawn, Hartley Wintney

What makes a lovable rogue? If Sir John Falstaff is its epitome, then maybe we should ask Signor Verdi, who, although not speaking English, loved Shakespeare.

What is more English than hearts of oak, and director Richard Studer's oaken set design is centred on Windsor's fabled Herne's Oak. Costumes are picture-book history, men's doublet and hose, ladies' steeplehennin.

Falstaff is an egotist, a man with the self-awareness of a hippopotamus. He's larger-than-life; his huge belly certainly is. He's an old roué, but a big-hearted one. Simon Thorpe catches this nuance, his resonant baritone expressing the life-force in Falstaff, whose pride in being *immenso, enorme* refers equally to his ego as his bulk.



Sir John's plan to boost his fading finances by seducing a pair of wealthy Windsor wives, falls foul of the cunning of the women, and culminates in Falstaff, hiding in a laundry basket, being dumped into the Thames. Thorpe is no doubt relieved that this year's location is on the Lawn, not on the Lake!

Mistress Quickly, the Fords' housekeeper, arrives with a further prospect of a liaison with Alice. Falstaff falls for it again, and [Carolyn Dobbin's](#) warm mezzo is certainly seductive as she accentuates the falling notes of *povera donna*.

[Galina Averina](#) portrays the gleeful guile of Alice Ford, her silky lyrical soprano giving a vivacity to a woman who is not going to be duped. Equally determined is Meg Page, Falstaff's other potential paramour. [Felicity Buckland](#) buzzes as feisty Meg, her attractive mezzo giving the role real bite.

As the Fords' daughter, [Lorena Paz Nieto](#) makes a charming Nanetta, the honeyed effervescent soprano most apparent in her disguise as the Fairy Queen, urging her co-conspirators to fly on the breath of a perfumed breeze. "Sul fil d'un soffio etesio" is exquisite, a moment of magic.

Under conductor [Jonathan Lyness](#), The West Green House Orchestra animate *Falstaff's* melodies and motifs, tunes and textures, and ever-changing rhythms and harmonies; and Verdi's musical japes with panache.

Falstaff's mistreatment in the final scene does seem vicious. Yet, in spite of all, Falstaff is very magnanimous in accepting in the end that he has been had. Shakespeare might have it that "all the world's a stage" but it is pointed out in an impressive rousing finale that "all the world's a joke".

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/07/23/falstaff-wgo

Photography courtesy of West Green House Opera

Under The Greenwood Tree

by Paul Carr, libretto by Euan Tait, after Thomas Hardy
Dorset Opera at the Coade Theatre, Blandford Forum

This year, the Dorset Opera Festival proudly celebrates its fiftieth anniversary. A new opera, *Under The Greenwood Tree* has been especially commissioned for this occasion.

True to Thomas Hardy's uncomplicated story, Fancy Day moves into the village of Mellstock, and is courted by three men: Shiner, the earnest well-to-do farmer and landowner's son; the vicar, who never speaks his love, but just assumes it is God-given; and Dick Dewy, shy, innocent, genuine, who only sees how the other suitors have so much more to offer than him.



What composer Paul Carr, also directing, has done is perfectly capture the simplicity and naivety of the novel. Carr has bravely trusted his instincts and his material, and been true to sense of time and place without any pretention. Rufus Martin's clever characterful set, with its glorious backstage cyclorama of a riverbank, could have come straight out of a Dorset village.

Hardy's novel also recounts how rural life is marked by the ever changing seasons. Mirroring this structure, The Dorset Opera Chorus fills the auditorium with life and energy. Indeed the chorus *are* the representation of the seasons.



The opera seamlessly merged styles together with conductor Jeremy Carnall's lightness of touch. From the first pulsating drumbeat, conjuring up the gentle marching of Dorset rural life, the orchestration was a delight.

Under The Greenwood Tree really came into its own in the second half, where the singing was at its most classical and vibrant. The duet between Dewy and Fancy, and Fancy's aria, as she lamented how to manage all this unsought attention, was truly heartfelt. Jamie Groote brought a gentleness to her performance, well-measured and gaining in intensity as the music demanded. One of the highlights was the trio of the suitors, as each privately lament their lost love. The singing of Felix Kemp (Dewy), Ossian Huskinson (Shiner) and Thomas Humphreys as Vicar Maybold was sublime, well balanced and emotionally honest. Baritone Felix Kemp as Dick Dewy has a brilliant clarity to his voice matched by an understated truthfulness of performance. The five men of the church Quire provided excellent and precise quartets and quintets, as well as playful humour throughout.

Under The Greenwood Tree brings to life the unremarkable day-to-day pleasures of Dorset village life in the late 19th Century. It is spellbinding.

Read Claire Alexander's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/07/24/greenwood-do

Photography by Julian Guidera

An astonishing 30 Swan nominations for RSS!

2023-24 proves a bumper year for RSS with multiple nominations across acting and production categories. Please see our [past productions](#) page for cast and crew lists from the shows as well as some production photos.

Four RSS productions received "Best production" nominations: *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Enron*, *Heroes*, *Private Lives* - congratulations to directors Simon Bartlett, Maxina Cornwell, Matt Dennis and Rick de Kerckhove.

A huge congratulations to everyone involved!



Project to reopen Victorian explorer's tomb is launched

Habitats & Heritage announced its latest heritage project, Burton: Exploring without Boundaries, in the Roman Catholic Church of St Mary Magdalen.



Supported by National Lottery Heritage Fund, the project will restore the unique and stunning Grade II Burton Mausoleum and deliver an educational programme for diverse audiences. It will also improve the setting of the mausoleum, establishing a sustainable, accessible and environmentally friendly model to the conservation of everyday heritage.

The tomb is the final resting place of Sir Richard and Lady Isabel Burton. Habitats

& Heritage will restore the building and explore narratives surrounding Sir Richard Burton, who is most remembered for seeking the source of the River Nile and undertaking the Hajj in disguise.

You can [find out more about Burton Mausoleum](#).



Local charity wins Excellence for Carers Award

Richmond Carers Centre received the Carers Trust standard for best practice in services, advice, and information for unpaid carers, following assessment of its services, leadership, staff, internal processes, and local engagement.

The charity is recognised for its impactful work in making a difference in the lives of unpaid carers. The award not only acknowledges the quality of its service but also represents best practice and sustainability at its work.

Richmond Carers Centre supports carers who live in or care for a loved one in the borough. It provides advice, activities, workshops, and emotional support to over 2,500 unpaid carers annually.

Adult carers and young carers can access further services by calling 020 8867 2380 and registering with the charity.

It is crucial to ensure carers' health and wellbeing remain supported as they provide assistance for their dependents. In Richmond, there is a [wide range of local support available](#).



London Fire Brigade launches #ChargeSafe campaign to prevent battery fires

From London Fire Brigade

Whilst e-bikes and e-scooters offer a great way round the city, if the batteries become damaged or begin to fail they can start large fires within seconds.

Fires involving lithium batteries are the fastest growing fire risk in London. Fires involving e-bikes rose from three in 2020, to 87 in 2022 and 143 in 2023. On average, in 2023 London Fire Brigade attended an e-bike or e-scooter fire once every two days.

E-bike and e-scooter batteries can start incredibly ferocious fires when damaged. Within minutes a battery fire can spread dangerously out of control.

The #ChargeSafe campaign urges people to stay safe and:

- Don't charge your batteries by your front door or any other escape route
- Never charge your batteries when you are asleep
- Only buy your batteries and charger from a reputable seller



Learn more about the [dangers of these batteries.](#)



St Mary's University

St Mary's Alumna Wins Olympic Bronze Medal

Alumna of St Mary's University, Twickenham Beth Potter has won the Bronze Medal in the Women's Triathlon at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Alumna of St Mary's University, Twickenham Beth Potter has won the Bronze Medal in the Women's Triathlon at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Competing in her second Olympics, following running in the women's 10000m at Rio 2016, Beth completed the race in 1:55:10, just 15 seconds behind France's Catherine Beaugrand, competing in front of a home crowd.



Beth, who trained to teach at St Mary's, was a member of the Endurance Performance Centre through Rio 2016. She changed discipline to Triathlon following Rio 2016, becoming World Champion in the 2023 World Triathlon Series. She also made headlines running a time of 14:41 in a 5km road race in 2021, unofficially [beating the world record](#).

Speaking of her performance, Head of Sport St Mary's Andrew Reid-Smith, "Beth was an athlete who trained and studied as part of the

St Mary's Endurance Performance Centre. It's a significant feat to have competed at Olympic level in two different sports, and to become World Champion and an Olympic Medallist is incredible. Beth's courageous performance was amazing, all at St Mary's are very proud of her."

[Speaking ahead of the Rio 2016](#) Olympic Games, Beth said "Being at St Mary's has been really helpful, my coach Mick Woods is based on campus so I can train after works. I have access to the PEC [[Performance Education Centre](#)] and the Strength and Conditioning coaches here...and also my psychologist Stacy Winter is based at St Mary's, and it's been really beneficial."

Beth is the second medallist from St Mary's at Paris 2024, following alumnus and former sport scholar Aaron Grandidier's Gold Medal for France in the Rugby Sevens. St Mary's has seen thirteen alumni, athletes and students compete in Paris 2024 in athletics, triathlon, rugby sevens, and para-cycling events for Great Britain, Jamaica, and France.

St Mary's has a history of success at recent Olympic and Paralympic Games. athletes, alumni, and students from SMU have won a Gold medal at every Games since Beijing 2008. In total the University has seen 51 athletes take part in the last four Olympic and Paralympic Games, with some representing multiple events, winning 17 medals for their nations prior to Paris 2024.



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Wish You Were Here: from Horace Walpole to Ted Lasso

The story of tourism in Richmond

From Horace Walpole to Ted Lasso, visitors have flocked to Richmond to experience its picture postcard beauty and the respite from the busy nearby metropolis of London. Explore this FREE exhibition and discover how Richmond first attracted visitors and still keeps them coming after 300 years.

We are delighted to have worked with Art and Design students at Richmond upon Thames College as part of this exhibition. On display we have over 30 artworks created by UAL Level 2 Award and Diploma in Art and Design students. These artworks comprised their Final Major Project, responding to the theme of Tourism. As part of their research, the students were shown objects from the Museum's collection and discussed related themes from the exhibition with the Museum Team.

Over the summer, we will be sharing the student's work on our social media - hope you enjoy their amazing work! [Museum of Richmond](#)

Wish You Were Here:

FROM HORACE WALPOLE TO TED LASSO



Project with UAL Level 2 Art
and Design students at
Richmond upon Thames College



Ultra marathons challenge: Army Staff Sergeant and friend run for Royal Star & Garter

A soldier is putting his body on the line again to raise money for Royal Star & Garter.

Staff Sergeant Greg Smith will take on three 100km ultra marathons in three months with long-time pal Pete Seabrook, starting in August.

It is the second time the pair, who are from High Wycombe and are known as The Charity Adventurers, have chosen to support Royal Star & Garter.

Royal Star & Garter provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their partners living with disability or dementia, with Homes in Solihull, Surbiton and High Wycombe. The charity has also launched new services reaching out into the community.



In 2020, The Charity Adventurers raised £1,500 for Royal Star & Garter by taking part in an epic 190-mile hike, which stopped off at each of the charity's three Homes. The pair had heard about the Royal Star & Garter through Greg's mother, who is a nurse at the High Wycombe Home.

Their latest challenge kicks off on 3 August with the Stour Valley Path 100km Ultra Run. Greg and Pete aim to complete the course in just 15 hours. They will then take on their second ultra marathon in September, and complete the challenge in October, with the aim of raising £1,000.

The Charity Adventurers is the brainchild of Pete. It raises money for military and civilian charities, and reflects the friends' backgrounds.

Greg, 41, joined the Army 17 years ago and works with Apache helicopters in the Army Air Corps. He is currently based at Army Aviation Centre Middle Wallop, and said: *"We think Royal Star & Garter is an amazing charity which does great work for veterans, which obviously resonates strongly with me."*



He said the pair toyed with the idea of running three 50km ultra marathons, but decided to push themselves further. Greg said: *"Until training for this challenge, the furthest I have ever run before is a half-marathon in 2013, and I've hiked 50 miles over two days with the Army. We considered running 50km but Pete and I both thought we could go further. We're not marathon or ultra-marathon runners, but we really wanted to test ourselves."*

The pair took part in a 50km training run on Saturday 20 July, and Greg added: *"There's a lot of unknowns for us. I'm feeling nervous. We don't have any experience in this so we're going in blind. But we're looking forward to the challenge."*

To sponsor The Charity Adventurers, go to bit.ly/CharityAdventurers24

Royal Star & Garter is welcoming new residents. For more information on this, the new services it provides, or to work at the charity, go to www.starandgarter.org



Royal Star & Garter
Care with courage

Red Roses training camp squad announced

A squad of 40 Red Roses will today (Monday 29 July) link up for the team's first training camp of the 2024/25 season.



John Mitchell's side ended a successful 2023/24 campaign by earning a third consecutive Guinness Women's Six Nations Grand Slam in April, adding to the inaugural WXV 1 title secured in New Zealand six months earlier.

England will spend five weeks as a collective before taking on Six Nations runners-up France and World Champions New Zealand in September.

The squad then head out to Canada for WXV 1 where they will face the hosts, USA and the Black Ferns once again.

Head coach Mitchell said: *"Our first camp of 2024/25 allows us to reset what we stand for and how we will carry ourselves as Red Roses moving forward."*

"Our game is working, and we have an opportunity to dial it up again. There is a massive amount of room to improve individually and evolve our game over the next five weeks."

Sarah Beckett, Grace Clifford, Lizzie Hanlon, Sadia Kabeya, Claudia MacDonald, Connie Powell and Mia Venner will attend the first two days of camp before continuing their rehabilitation back at their clubs.

Megan Jones and Ellie Kildunne, who are currently with the GB Rugby 7s women's squad, will return following the conclusion of the 2024 Paris Summer Olympic Games.

Red Roses Pre-Season Camp Squad

Forwards

Zoe Aldcroft	Poppy Cleall	Rosie Galligan
Lark Atkin-Davies	Kelsey Clifford	Catherine O'Donnell
Maisy Allen	Amy Cokayne	Abbie Ward
Sarah Bern	Liz Crake	Steph Else
Hannah Botterman	Lilli Ives Campion	Maddie Feaunati
Georgia Brock	Laura Keates	Alex Matthews
May Campbell	Maud Muir	Marlie Packer
Mackenzie Carson	Simi Pam	Morwenna Talling

Backs

Natasha Hunt	Tatyana Heard	Katie Buchanan
Lucy Packer	Nancy McGillivray	Abigail Dow
Ella Wyrwas	Phoebe Murray	Emma Sing
Holly Aitchison	Emily Scarratt	Bo Westcombe-Evans
Zoe Harrison	Jessica Breach	Sarah McKenna
		Helena Rowland

Match Preview: Watford v Brentford

Everything you need to know ahead of Brentford's penultimate pre-season friendly against Watford at Vicarage Road on Saturday 3 August (3pm kick-off)

Written by Brentford Football Club

Following eight days and two games in Portugal, Brentford are back on home soil and take on Watford at Vicarage Road on Saturday.

Thomas Frank's side lost 3-1 to Primeira Liga side Estrela da Amadora in a behind-closed-doors friendly on Tuesday, while the Hornets were defeated 3-2 by Wycombe Wanderers.

Captain Pontus Jansson headed home a last-gasp winner as the west Londoners won 2-1 on their last visit to Watford in April 2022 in a game that will live long in the memory.

For those unable to attend the match, the club will be streaming the game exclusively on our website. [Click here for more information.](#)

Pre-match Analysis

Richard Cole, Playmaker Stats: Brentford face a far more familiar foe after return from Portugal

Watford are a far more familiar foe than Benfica and Estrela da Amadora with the two sides having played each other in the Championship in 2020/21 and then again in the Premier League in 2021/22 after both earned promotion to the top flight.

As ever with the Hornets, things are very different now compared to those teams from just a few years ago.

Tom Cleverley was named as the club's permanent manager after his short stint at the club – a move that almost certainly made many of us feel old seeing the 34-year-old former midfielder now in the dugout.

Cleverley played in those last four games between the two teams with Brentford enjoying a record of three wins and one draw. In all four of those games which Cleverley played over the space of two seasons, Watford had a different manager. This time, he's the manager.

So far, pre-season results under the former England international have been mixed. The Hornets went down to a 6-1 defeat to Fulham in a behind-closed-doors game with the club not releasing its line-up for that fixture, stating only that Giorgi Chakvetadze returned to the team after his part in Georgia's impressive EURO 2024 campaign.

There have also been wins over Boreham Wood and Hibernian with new arrival Rocco Vata impressing. The 19-year-old Republic of Ireland international joined on a free transfer from Celtic this summer with Watford having to pay a compensation fee.



Vata is clearly a signing for the future as is forward Mamadou Doumbia who at the age of just 18 is already a Mali international.

Another new arrival is tall defender Antonio Tikvić. The German-born Croatian youth international joined on loan from Udinese after the 20-year-old featured just once for the team in Serie A last season.

There are some returning faces at Vicarage Road this summer as well. Moussa Sissoko was at the club for the 2021/22 campaign before moving to Nantes but is now back after two seasons away. Jonathan Bond is the other return with the goalkeeper returning after a stint in the MLS with LA Galaxy.

With new faces and few exits so far (Ismaël Koné has moved to Marseille while Jake Livermore left on a free), pressure will be on Watford to earn their spot in the Premier League again this season.

Cleverley as a manager is still a relative unknown after just nine games in charge of the club (a record of two wins, five draws and two defeats).

However, the new Watford boss certainly speaks a good game. The former Manchester United man still has “a lot of unfinished business from my playing career,” as he begins his managerial career in earnest.

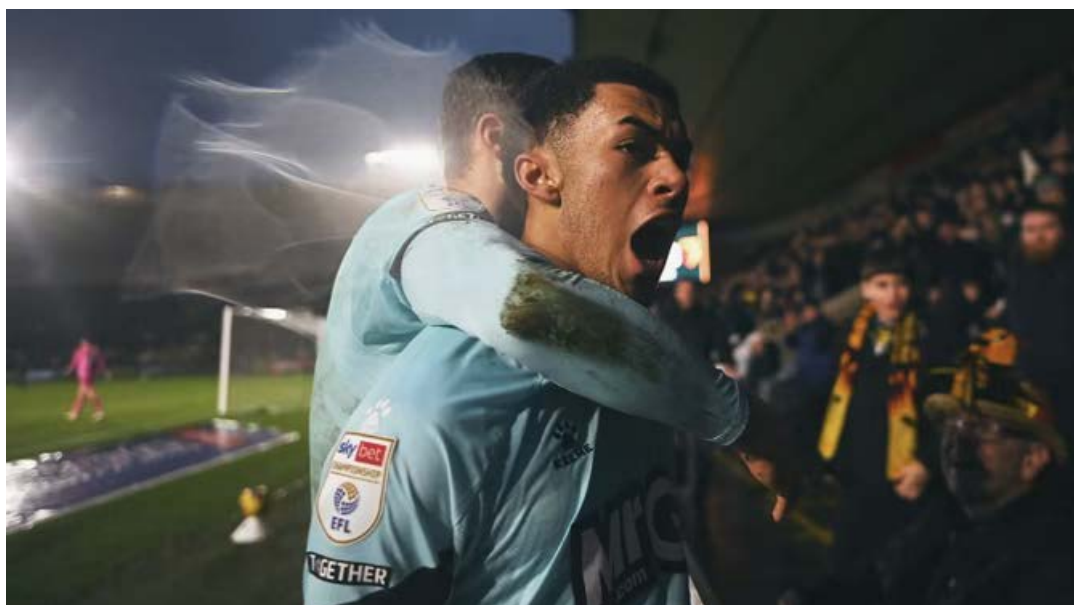
Scout Report

Dan Long, Sky Sports: Watford aiming to get back on track after lowest second-tier finish since 2009/10

Watford were back to square one at the start of last season.

A turbulent first year back in the Championship had followed a one-season return to the Premier League, with Rob Edwards, Slaven Bilić and Chris Wilder swiftly in and out of the door.

Now it was time to put that to one side and try to get back to the top flight.



In Valérien Ismaël, they had appointed a manager who had impressed during time at Barnsley and West Brom, with further knowledge of English football following time spent at Crystal Palace in 1998. He was ready for a crack at the Premier League, too.

History tells us the Watford job comes with a health warning - he was the 17th man to take the job in a decade. The pressure is on from the start at Vicarage Road and eyes are always watching. But the Frenchman was, arguably, hindered from the start.

Stalwart Tom Cleverley had retired at the end of the previous campaign and, just over one month after his appointment, star striker João Pedro was sold to Brighton for a reported £30 million fee.

Their most influential player, Ismaïla Sarr left for Marseille less than two weeks before the start of the

season, too.

There was a brief flirtation with the play-offs around Christmas time, but as soon as it had come, it was gone again.

A run of six defeats in eight between 3 February and 9 March saw the Pozzo family's patience run a little too thin. With play-off hopes all but over, Ismael - who had been handed a contract extension in October 2023 - was sacked.

Cleverley stepped up from his new role working with the club's under-18s to take over on an interim basis and guided the team to 11 points from the final nine games to secure a 15th-place finish - their lowest second-tier finish since 2009/10. In April, he was handed the reins as Ismael's permanent successor.

In the Dugout

Tom Cleverley

Tom Cleverley started out in the youth ranks at Bradford, before joining Manchester United at the age of 11 in 2000.

His professional debut came during a loan at Leicester during the second half of the 2008/09 season, where he helped the Foxes to the League One title.

Over the next two campaigns he progressed up the divisions, first with Watford in the Championship - where he was named the Hornets' Player of the Year - and then with Wigan in the Premier League.

Cleverley broke into the first team under Sir Alex Ferguson in 2011, who saw him as the prime candidate to fill the midfield void left by Paul Scholes.

He went on to make 79 appearances for United, collecting one Premier League winner's medal and twice lifting the Community Shield. During that time, he also became a regular for England and won 13 caps under Roy Hodgson.

Seemingly deemed surplus to requirements when Louis van Gaal took charge, a loan move to Aston Villa followed and, though he came close to joining the club on a permanent basis, he opted to join Everton. He departed only 18 months into the five-year deal he signed in the summer of 2015, though, having made just 32 appearances.

So, almost seven years after his loan at Watford, he returned on loan again in January 2017 and then permanently that summer.

He became part of the furniture at Vicarage Road, making 146 appearances over the next seven seasons. He was part of the teams that finished as FA Cup runners-up in 2018/19 and won automatic promotion in 2020/21.

After announcing his retirement due to injury at the age of 33 in July 2023, Cleverley began to work within the Hornets' academy.

He took over as interim head coach when Valérien Ismaël was dismissed in March, before being handed the job permanently a month later.



Casual staff at the city of London Corporation told to take out loans to pay backdated pension contributions

The corporation's solution to the problem of making up backdated contributions of thousands of pounds is simply unfeasible for members.

The City of London Corporation failed to auto-enrol eligible casual staff into the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), denying workers thousands of pounds in contributions, says GMB.

Following the breach, the Corporation announced in September 2023 that membership to the Local Government Pension Scheme would be offered to eligible casual staff, with the Corporation making up the employer's backdated pension contributions.

The Corporation rejected GMB's demand for payment of the employee's backdated contribution and compensation.

GMB Union represents workers employed by the City of London Corporation including the Barbican, where they work as ushers, gallery invigilators, backstage crew, box office, project assistants and much more.

Without these workers offering their flexibility, the Barbican would not be able to open and host a programme of events.

One GMB member said:

"We had a general meeting of casual staff in April when a rep from the Corporation was present together with Barbican management. They all promised to arrange a way to make the complaint process easy and straightforward so that everyone could send their official complaints about the pension situation.

"We were also told there would be a pension-focused meeting in May. Neither of these ever happened. When we asked about it they seemed to think it was redundant as we had now been offered a 'solution' by the Corporation. This is of course a solution I think none of us are remotely happy or agree with.

"There is absolutely no regard for us and what this all means for our lives and well-being. They've been speaking as if they are fighting for the best outcome for us, but I feel like we are yet again a problem they want to get rid of as soon as possible."

Anna Lee, GMB London Region Organiser said:

"Our members affected face a deficit in their pensions because of an error by the Corporation.

"It is an unfeasible expectation for most of our members to pay the backdated contributions. We do not feel that our demands for compensation and full backdating of contributions are unrealistic but would serve as an apology for causing the problem in the first place.

"It's laughable that the Corporation has suggested our members take loans to make up their backdated contributions.

"The Corporation employs over 4,000 staff and seems to be operating a two-tier workforce, with casual staff regarded as second-class workers."



Summer Olympic clean sweeps

Team GB ranks second in the world

New data has revealed the countries with the most clean sweeps at the Olympics, with **Great Britain taking an impressive second place**.

Sports betting experts at [TheLines.com](https://www.thelines.com) analysed medalists from every Summer Olympics since 1896. A “clean sweep” is where all three medals in an event are won by athletes or teams of the same country.

The number of clean sweeps for each country were then totaled up to reveal the final ranking – and the **United States** ranks first, boasting a massive 158 clean sweeps.

The **US** consistently tops the charts with the number of medals won. Before the current Olympics, the US held 2,975 medals, the highest of any nation, with 1,179 of those being gold, also the highest of any other nation.

Great Britain places second, with 21 Summer Olympic clean sweeps. Not only is Great Britain part of just five nations to have always been represented at the Olympics, but Team GB is also the only team to have won at least one gold medal at every game.

All of the nation’s clean sweep successes come from earlier games, particularly the 1908 Olympics in London. Standout sports include boxing, shooting and tennis.

The Soviet Union ranks a close third, with **20** clean sweeps. Although the Soviet Union disbanded in 1991, with its 15 former republics now competing separately, the nation holds the second highest number of Olympic medals after the US at 1,204.

France is fourth, with a total of **18** clean sweeps in summer games since 1896. Host of the current Olympic games, France has won a total of 910 medals since 2022 - 272 of which were gold. Sailing and fencing are the nation’s best events.

Sweden places fifth, achieving **12** clean sweeps in Summer Olympics. The 1912 Stockholm Olympics proved the most successful in terms of clean sweeps; half of them were won here in a variety of events such as diving, shooting and athletics.

East Germany, also known as The German Democratic Republic, is sixth, with **eight** clean sweeps. Most medals won by East German athletes still stand today, and seven out of eight clean sweeps were for swimming - six of which were won in 1980.

Finland ranks seventh, with **six** Summer Olympic clean sweeps. The nation’s strongest event is athletics, with five clean sweeps in this discipline. In 1920, Finland claimed not only the first three places for the Javelin, but the first four.

China and **Japan** draw for eighth, with **five** clean sweeps each. **China’s** clean sweep history dominates table tennis, where the country won all medals for both the men and women’s singles in the 2008 Beijing Olympics as well as the women’s singles in 1988.

Four out of five clean sweeps for **Japan** were won in artistic gymnastics, particularly in the 1972 Munich Olympics. All medals in the horizontal bar, parallel bars and the individual all-round events were won by Japanese gymnasts.

In ninth is **Germany**, with a total of **four** Summer Olympic clean sweeps. Prior to World War II and after 1992, Germany competed as a unified nation.

Half of their clean sweeps were won in swimming.

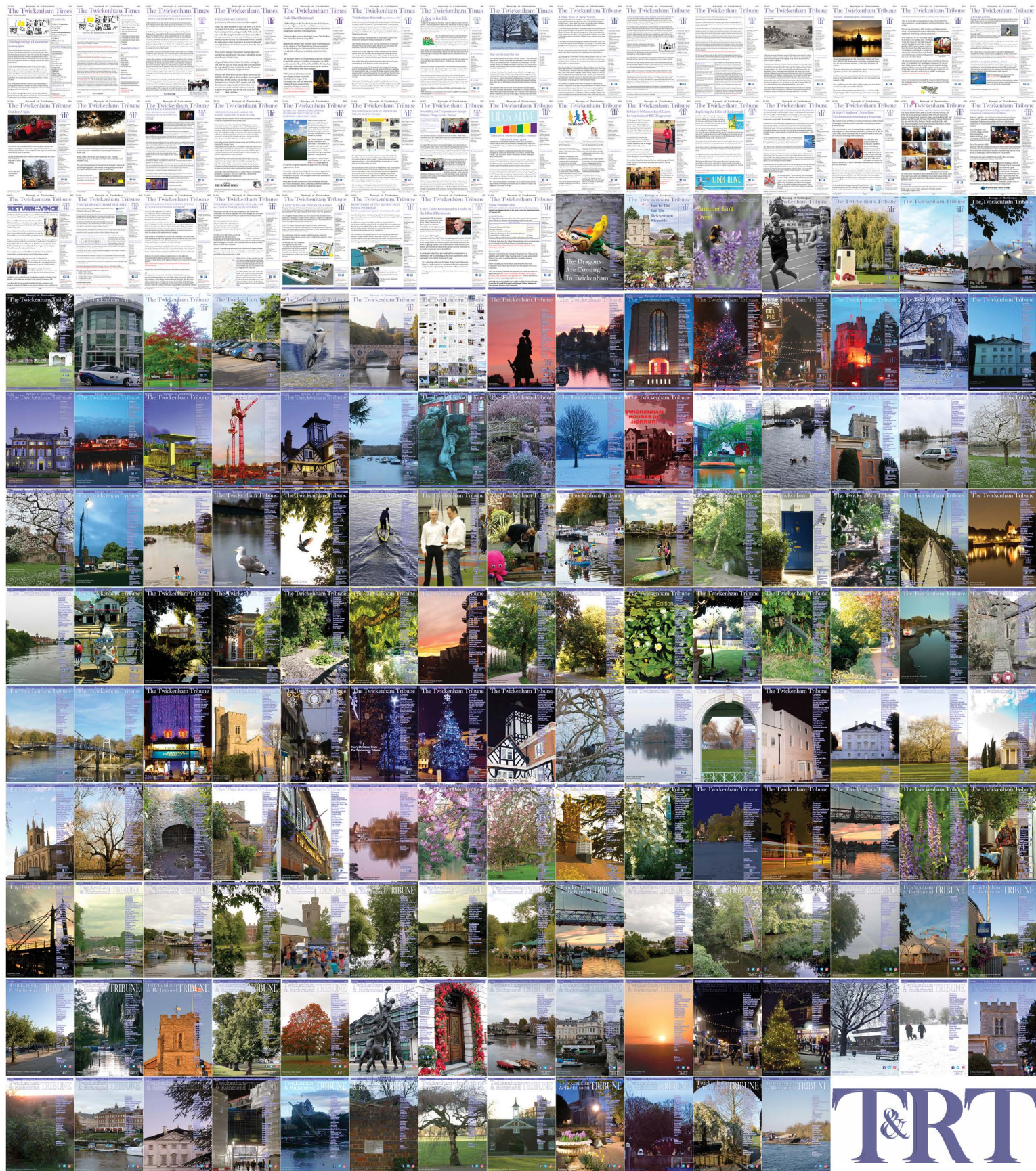
Italy and **Jamaica** tie for tenth, both achieving **three** clean sweeps in previous Summer Olympics.

All of **Italy’s** clean sweeps have been in fencing, with the most recent occurring at the London 2012 Olympics for the women’s foil individual.

Similarly, **Jamaica’s** clean sweeps were all won in the athletics, most recently in the women’s 100 meters at the 2020 Tokyo Games.

	Country	Number of Clean Sweeps
1	United States	158
2	Great Britain	21
3	Soviet Union	20
4	France	18
5	Sweden	12
6	East Germany	8
7	Finland	6
8	China Japan	5
9	Germany	4
10	Italy Jamaica	3

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