

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



ST JAMES CHURCH, TWICKENHAM

St James Church was opened by H.E. Cardinal Henry Edward Manning 2nd Archbishop of Westminster on 28th July 1855. The church was dedicated to St James after James de Lacy 'the hero who paid for the building'.

Before the church was built the Catholic tradition was preserved for example through Queen Henrietta Maria and Queen Catherine of Braganza who were local Ancestress. Alexander Pope the Catholic satirist and poet lived in Cross Deep, and the family of Louis Philippe King of the French were local residents.

A James School was founded in 1893 and St Catherine's School in 1914. The two stained-glass windows at the front of the church were designed by King Edmund III of Portugal in memory of King Edward I of England. Parish House from 1886 to 1928.

From 1914 until his death in 1932. He also opened the Parish Hall in Twickenham from 1914 until his death in 1932. The church's restoration in 1927 was funded by King Edward VIII and Queen Alexandra. In September 1927 a memorial was dedicated to the memory of King Manuel and Queen Augusta. In April 2010 a memorial was dedicated to the memory of King Manuel and Queen Augusta.

The church was celebrated by Rt Rev Vincent Nichols, 11th Archbishop of Westminster on 18th July 2010.

The church was dedicated to St James on the occasion of his state visit to Britain in February 2010 in September 2010 on the occasion of his state visit to Britain. Emmanuel Centre and blessed St Joseph's Chapel on 30th June 2013.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST JAMES

Mass Times

Saturday evening open (Vigil for Sunday)

Sunday: 8am, 10.30am, 12.15pm

Weekdays: 8am (Wednesday Eucharistic Service)

Holidays of Obligation: 8am and 7.30pm (on occasions in school)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 9.45am-10.15am

1st Floor: 020 892 0175

Parish Office: 020 892 0175

Parish Hall: 020 892 0175

Website: www.stjameschurch.org.uk

Facebook: St James Church, Twickenham

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TickerTape - News in Brief

Twickenham Stadium

NSPPD Religious Event

Saturday 10th August

This Saturday (10 August) sees the NSPPD Church (New Season Prophetic Prayers and Declarations) host a major event at Twickenham Stadium, and we expect upwards of 70,000 to attend.

This is the first time that the stadium has hosted this event, so it is difficult to give precise times of when attendees will arrive. However it is expected that the main arrival time will be between 8 and 11am on Saturday morning, with an exit time of between 7.30 and 9pm.

There will be the usual event day resources on site. Stewards have been instructed to keep crowds on the pavements as much as possible to avoid any lengthy road closures, however these may need to be implemented for safety reasons.

The R Zone CPZ will be in force from 11am-11pm on Saturday.

You can keep up to date with live traffic information on the Twickenham Stadium WhatsApp Channel: <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaPvPa9EKyZAROUoRq0z>



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

The Treehouse
25 King Edwards Grove
Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9LY
Telephone 020 8274 0107
Mobile 07960 123580
Fax 020 8274 0119
info@thetreeagency.co.uk
www.thetreeagency.co.uk

Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 261

By Alan Winter

Langham Road – Teddington

Having looked at the two postcards showing Langham Road which we feature this week, I thought we could go back in time and look a bit closer at this area of Teddington and see how it has developed in the last 900 years or so.

Langham Road in Teddington was built across the grounds of the Teddington Place Estate in around 1883. The estate was located in the area bounded by Kingston Road, Ferry Road / Teddington High Street and Kingston Lane.

Teddington became a manor at some time well before the Norman Conquest which itself took place in the 11th Century. It belonged to Benedictine monks located in Staines who it is believed were the first to build a chapel dedicated to St Mary on the site where the church stands today.

In 1536 the manor was surrendered to Henry VIII by the Abbot of Westminster in exchange for property in Berkshire, and Teddington became part of the 'honor' of Hampton Court.

Charles Duncombe (one of the richest men of his day, a goldsmith and Lord Mayor of London in 1709) acquired the property in 1683 from Charles Paulet – a house, barn, stables, garden, orchard and two acres of land near St Mary's Church. It became known as Teddington Place. Duncombe employed Grinling Gibbons to carve some of the woodwork, and Verrio to decorate the ceilings – both of whom had been working at Hampton Court.

From around 1744, some reports indicate the popular Irish actress Peg Woffington to be living at Teddington Place, and having some almshouses built nearby – now known as Peg Woffington Cottages. Other accounts record her as living in the cottages. Peg appears to have moved out of Teddington Place by 1755 and was buried in 1760 at St Mary's.

In 1779-1783 Teddington Place was leased to John St Leger Douglas Esq, who was a Member of Parliament and owned sugar plantations on St. Kitts.

The Douglas family continued to occupy Teddington Place after John St Leger's death in 1783. His son William appears to have taken over the tenancy. Teddington Place was still being leased by William Douglas, his wife Harriet and 8 young children.



During 1804-1806 Teddington Place was by now occupied by the Dowager Duchess of Essex. In 1810, the question of ownership of the lands claimed by Anthony Duncombe's daughters was raised again at the Teddington Manor Court. Subsequently the remaining Teddington properties were divided into 6 lots and sold to Thomas Woodrouffe Smith, the lord of the manor, and to William Devon.

In 1819 William Devon died. Teddington Place, along with William's other estates, was inherited by his son Charles.

Charles Devon is documented as living at Teddington Place in 1833 on the birth of his son. His wife and children were living there at the time of the 1851 census,

In 1857 Sir James Langham took the lease on Teddington Place. It appears to have been leased on his behalf by his brother, Herbert Langham who was immediately in dispute with Mr Ritson and Mr Devon over repairs needed to the property.

In the 1871 census, Sir James was recorded as a 'lunatic'. Charles Devon died at his property in Kent in 1869, and Teddington Place was inherited by his eldest son, Henry Charles Devon.

The following year Henry visited Teddington Place and complained about the condition of the house and grounds but stated that he would still like Sir James as a tenant. The dispute over the state of Teddington Place rumbled on into 1872 when a wall collapsed. There was a disagreement over who should pay to repair: Henry or the Langhams.

In 1874, Sir James' furniture and effects were advertised for sale, having been removed from Teddington Place. Teddington Place estate was put up for sale in 6 lots: Teddington Place & grounds, Faversham House & grounds, Church House, 4 cottages opposite Faversham House (Peg Woffington cottages), a parcel of land near Shacklegate Lane and a nursery garden near Fulwell Station. Teddington Place however remained unsold. Teddington Place was re-advertised for sale of lease in 1877 and again in 1878. It was now also being referred to as the Udney Hall Estate.

The National Liberal Land Company appears to have purchased the Udney Hall estate soon afterwards and mortgaged it to the Hon Montague Mostyn and his brother-in-law Roger Ekyen. By 1883 the company had marked out a new road across the estate (Langham Road). The site (excluding the main house) was now referred to as the Teddington Weir estate and freehold building plots were being advertised for sale by auction. It appears that this was not without controversy in the local community though (The Surrey Comet November 18th 1883).



Contracts were awarded by the local authority for the roadworks to make up Langham Road. (Surrey Comet, 19 Jul 1902). Later that year plans for the tramway through Teddington were published, necessitating considerable alterations to the road layout where Langham Road meets Ferry Road / the High Street (Surrey Comet, 25 Oct 1902).

At some point between October 1940 and June 1941 a high explosive bomb fell on Kingston Lane, at the back of Langham Road,

Owing to a falling congregation, St Alban's Church was made redundant in the 1960s and St Mary's once again became the parish church. St Alban's sat neglected and unused for many years. A campaign led by local people eventually succeeded in saving it from demolition in order to build flats on the site, and in 1995 it became the home of a new community art centre – The Landmark Arts Centre – funded by the

sale of land for building flats on the perimeter.

So, a couple of Postcards of some houses in Langham Road have turned into a history column covering a large chunk of Teddington. Hope it wasn't too boring.

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

CrusaderTravel

020 8744 0474

crusadertravel.com

Escapology Experts

info@crusadertravel.com



Your friendly local Travel Agency
established in Twickenham since 1966

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



Twickenham Green at Night

Teresa Read

Not too long ago there was a vigil on Twickenham Green with residents urged to line the path running across the Green between the Hampton Road and Staines Road shining lights from phones and torches. It seems that people wanted to highlight the need for lighting on the Green at night.

On Tuesday, this week, I was walking along the road opposite the Green, towards the zebra crossing near Arthur's restaurant around 9 pm when a large group of teenage boys ran from the darkness of the Green, into the road, screaming "Who are you looking at" at me. This incident was quite alarming, so I immediately phoned the police 999 number while continuing to walk. I told the gesticulating youths that I was speaking to the police and gave a report to a police officer as I walked towards the crossing and continued the report on reaching the other side.

The group decided to escape by bus, but the bus driver would not open the doors as the boys stood gesticulating in front of the bus, blocking the bus's path, causing problems for oncoming traffic. Eventually the bus driver managed to edge forward and move off. The youths made their way towards Twickenham on a second bus, a 281.

The police officer continued to take details of the incident and said they would monitor the buses.

A few nights later while using the path across Twickenham Green a group of older youths suddenly appeared on the Green obviously engaged in a heated argument. Walking past them felt very intimidating.

So where is the lighting on Twickenham Green? What about CCTV?

The path across Twickenham Green is used to reach bus stops and local shops but it seems that even walking around the Green on the opposite side of the road can bring us into contact with undesirable visitors to the area.

So, following the torchlight vigil, did councillors take the situation seriously?

Statement from your Ham, Petersham and Richmond Riverside Councillors

We would like to thank all the residents and businesses in Ham for their patience over the last two weeks in relation to the illegal encampments by an unusually large group of Travellers on Ham Common, the Hawker Centre and King George's Field.

Camp One - Ham Common

As councillors, we were notified late on Friday 26 July that caravans had arrived on Ham Common. We have been in constant contact with Officers, police and residents since then.

The Council's Parks Patrol Contractor (Parkguard) spent the weekend of 27/28 July at Ham Common, collating the necessary information to assist the Council with its protocol for dealing with unauthorised encampments. On Monday 29 July, the Council's Legal Service went to the High Court in order to commence with the eviction process. The legal process was carried out as swiftly as possible:

- 29 July 2024 – Court Proceedings issued the same day.
- 30 July 2024 – Court Proceedings served on site by bailiffs, Park Guard assisted by police (NB Court Rules require two clear days notice of the Court hearing, but the Council obtained an order for short service).
- 1 Aug 2024 – Court Hearing for Possession Order, where the Council asked the Court to issue a Writ of Possession, which is the authority to evict, immediately after the Court hearing.
- 2 Aug – the eviction took place with the assistance of High Court appointed bailiffs.

This was an incredibly fast turnaround from a legal point of view, as Officers worked all weekend on preparing the case. We appreciate that residents did not feel this was quick enough, but from previous experience, we know that Officers did all they could as speedily as possible. There is specific legislation regarding Travellers, who have a protected ethnic status within the law, and the Council has to follow exactly the protocols which are laid down as a result of this. This was a very large number of Travellers, made up of a number of different groups, which apparently is uncommon.

Camp Two and Three - Hawker Centre and King George's Field

Frustratingly, some of the group from Ham Common then moved to the Hawker Centre, which is under Kingston Council, who had to go through the same legal process. When they were evicted from there, the group made their way to King George's Field. This meant the legal process had to start all over again, as the original order only specified Ham Common. However, this Writ of Possession is valid for six months and covers the vehicles identified at the point of application. If these vehicles trespass onto Ham Common within the six months, the Council can immediately evict them.

This evening, Friday 9 August, the Council served the Writ and Order of Possession to evict this group with the assistance of bailiffs, Park Guard and local police. At the time of writing, we believe they have not set up camp in another part of Ham. We requested extra security for Ham

Riverside Playing Fields, Burnell Avenue Open Space and Riverside Drive Open Space to act as a deterrent to setting up another camp, while also providing residents with reassurance.

Councillor response

As your Councillors, we have been contacted by numerous local people to tell us about anti-social behaviour, illegal activities and damage to the local environment by some members of this group. In addition, we met with residents at our ward surgery on Saturday 3 August and spoke to shop owners on Ham Parade and the landlords of the two local pubs, to hear directly from them about their experiences.

We shared all this information with the police and Council officers to ensure the community's concerns have been heard. We also requested more communication from the Council, as many people felt they had been left in the dark, particularly during the first week when the group was encamped on Ham Common.

We are as upset as you by the damage to the Common, woods, Hawker Centre and King George's Field, and we appreciate that many of you felt unsafe due to the abusive behaviour by some of the group. We are truly sorry that you have been made to feel this way.

Looking ahead

Once we know that these Travellers have not set up another illegal encampment in the ward, we will look to assess what more can be done to protect our green spaces in future. The problem is that it's almost impossible to prevent Travellers from gaining access unless we put fencing and gates around these open spaces. This will be a considerable expense, and will detract from the semi-rural feel of our area.

Putting in posts is an option, but from experience, even if they're concreted in to one metre depth, this won't deter Travellers who have been known to dig them up. They also cut through the strongest locks and gates.

We will have these discussions with Officers, as well as examining if anything more can be done legally to prevent such encampments in future.

Finally, we are sure you will want to join us in thanking Officers for dealing with all the legal requirements so efficiently, and for getting Ham Common and King George's Field cleaned so quickly and thoroughly.

Thank you again for your forbearance.
Councillors Andrée Frieze, Penny Frost and Gareth Richards.



Please join us to remember
Amelie Delagrangre
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**



A Message from Jonathan Hulley

Jonathan Hulley - Conservative parliamentary candidate, Twickenham. General Election 2024

Harold Wilson famously coined the phrase a week is a long time in politics. That is true, considering how much has changed in the five weeks since the July general election.

We see a Labour government hurriedly announcing new energy, trade union, house building and planning policies, making pensioner winter fuel and immigration policy reversals, and preparing the ground for tax rises in the autumn.

In parliament, the Liberal Democrats have responded by urging the new chancellor to tax companies harder, encouraging Rachel Reeves to squeeze them until their metaphorical pips squeak. This is despite warnings from the IFS that there are no painless tax rises on businesses, as they get passed on, by a large part, to consumers. Taxes on banks can quickly turn into a tax on mortgages. Already it is clear that the Lib Dems intend to be an opposition to the left of Labour.

I want to again congratulate Munira Wilson, MP, on her re-election to parliament. I wish her, her family, and her team well, and I genuinely hope that she will continue to represent all the voters of the Twickenham constituency to the best of her ability, including the 43% of voters who didn't support her on 4 July.

It was a pleasure and the privilege of my life to have been the Conservative parliamentary standard bearer in Twickenham, and I want to thank the thousands of Twickenham residents who did vote Conservative last month.

Since my selection as a parliamentary candidate in May 2023, I had sought to make a positive difference through campaigning on local issues I care deeply about: opposing local train station ticket closure proposals, fighting for free public access to Hampton Court Palace Gardens,



working with local residents in opposing the Teddington Direct River Abstraction Plan, fighting to retain the Richmond Card parking concessions, opposing Labour's tax on independent school fees, shining a spotlight on the future of the controversial Twickenham Riverside development, and supporting residents at my monthly Shadow MP surgeries.

Nevertheless, despite our best efforts locally, the general election result delivered a bitter blow to the Conservatives, and if we are again to be a credible force for good, we must commit

ourselves to rebuild and renew, and we must work with energy and determination to reconnect with all of those voters in our communities who thought the Conservatives were not the right choice to lead our country.

And we must reaffirm our commitment to public service, not service to ourselves.

As the US senator Margaret Chase Smith once said, public service must be more than doing the job efficiently and honestly, it must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation. I believe this to be true.

So what next for the country and the Conservatives?

Our country is at a critical fork in the road.

While our economy is showing signs of recovery, our public services are creaking at the edges, and abroad our enemies are re-arming at pace, and are unrelenting in their probing for weakness in our homeland security, including online. We have no choice but to change and modernise, and set our country on the right path, but without being tempted by easy answers and populism.

I passionately believe in government that rewards endeavour and innovation, including in the way we deliver our public services; that works to liberate people from welfare dependency; provides incentives to take risks and create wealth, and has a steadfast determination to keep the public safe at home and abroad, while always ensuring a durable safety net for our fellow citizens who need support.

These are the core conservative principles I believe a renewed, reinvigorated, and united Conservative Party must turn to policy to take to the public when they are ready to want to hear from us again. And I believe, given Labour's record after only five weeks in office, it will be soon.

And provided that the Conservative Party modernises, focuses on rebuilding trust in our communities, and commits itself unreservedly to the principle that public service is about serving all the people, including the ones who are not like you, we can win again across the country, including in Twickenham, where residents will go to the polls again in 2026.

By this time, the Lib Dems will have been in charge of Richmond Council for 8 years, and there will be a mood for change.

The way forward is to rebuild and professionalise our party from the bottom up, building a party of dedicated local community champions, selflessly committed to public service, and who relish the prospect of winning council seats as a key step of the rebuilding process to come.

For the sake of our democracy, country, and our communities, we dare not fail in this mission.

New almshouses opening this December

From The Richmond Charities

The Richmond Charities' new almshouses in Mitre Mews will be opening this winter for older residents living in the borough.

The brand new development will feature four high quality one bed wheelchair user dwellings and one high quality one bed accessible and adaptable dwelling.

These affordable homes will be suitable for the over 65s in the borough who are in housing and financial need. To apply or for more details, contact The Richmond Charities at info@richmondcharities.org.uk.

The [Richmond Charities](#) provides a vibrant, friendly and caring community where older people are encouraged to live full and active lives within the setting of high quality housing, support, comfort and security.



Council waives fees to encourage Play Streets for family fun

From Richmond Council

Families in Richmond are again being invited to come out and play as part of Car Free Day this September, with a scheme aimed at encouraging children to play outside in their streets.

We are encouraging people to hold a play street on Saturday 21 or Sunday 22 September 2024, by closing their roads to through-traffic for up to four hours. It means children will be able to play outside, have fun with their friends, family and neighbours.



To encourage as many streets as possible to take part, we are waiving the administration costs to the road closures.

The Play Street programme is part of a London-wide campaign by [London Play](#) and Transport for London (TfL). London Play is offering free spacehoppers and other play equipment to streets that apply.

To host a Play Street, residents need to get permission to have their street closed and will need to speak to their neighbours in case there are any objections.

Residents will also be responsible for organising and supervising events, including ensuring someone is present to allow safe access if required for residents' cars and emergency vehicles. Any street can apply, providing their street isn't a main road, bus route or emergency vehicle route.

You can [apply to host a Play Street](#) before this year's **deadline of 30 August**.

Green approach to address Barnes Common flooding

From Community BlueScapes

Community BlueScapes has launched installation of two new reedbeds in Barnes Common to reduce flooding and attract new wildlife to the area.

These new reedbeds will be situated beside an existing reedbed at Maisie's Meadow and will add water storage capacity to the existing flood plain. The installation is planned for this summer and is estimated to take one year for the reedbed to be fully grown.

Reedbeds are a natural solution to flooding. They are excellent natural filters and remove pollutants from our water. They can store water during a flood and slow the movement of water around the Beverley Brook, reducing flood to nearby homes.



Some local species rely on reedbeds for their survival, like dragonflies and damselflies. Our new reedbeds will help birds like Cetti's Warbler expand their breeding grounds and nesting sites. They are also an essential refuge for fish and other wildlife during floods.

You can [find out more about Community BlueScapes](#).

Help protect the water voles at Crane Park

From Richmond Council

Through a two-year-long project, 137 water voles have been successfully reintroduced to Crane Park.

As the water voles adjust to life in the wild at Crane Park, our Parks team politely request that visitors and their dogs keep away from the soft riverbanks at Crane Park Island and the areas immediately upstream and downstream, as this is where water voles feed, mark their territory and dig their burrows.

Supported by funding from the Mayor of London, the Environment Agency and the Crane Valley Partnership via Thames Water, we have collaborated with Zoological Society of London (ZSL), Friends of River Crane Environment (FORCE), Crane Valley Partnership, the Environment Agency, London Wildlife Trust volunteers, the Conservation Volunteers (TCV) and Wild Future. The two-year long operation began with wetland habitat restoration at Crane Park Island and Little Park and culminated in the release of captive-bred water voles along a 1km stretch of river and riparian habitat, facilitated by Derek Gow Consultancy Limited.



It is anticipated that further restoration and enhancement of the River Crane will improve habitat connectivity allowing the reintroduced voles to rapidly colonise adjacent areas and expand their range within the Lower Crane Valley.

You can [find out more about Crane Park](#).

Local climate protest at Ham House

From Hugh Walsh, Extinction Rebellion Richmond

Environmental campaigners were out in force on Saturday, asking visitors to Ham House to petition the National Trust to stop banking with Barclays, Europe's biggest funder of new oil, gas and coal projects.

Campaigners surveyed visitors and passers-by on their views and asked them to sign a petition urging the National Trust to switch to an ethical bank that isn't - as campaigners see it - funding climate breakdown.

The local campaign to 'Bank Better' is part of a national movement encouraging charities to move their funds away from Barclays. Christian Aid and Oxfam are amongst those which have switched banks, along with local parish councils, schools, businesses, health organisations and higher education institutions. Campaigners believe that if the Trust dropped Barclays, it would send a powerful message that ethical investment matters and that time is up for funding fossil fuel expansion.

The world's 60 biggest banks poured over \$5,500,000,000,000 over 7 years into the fossil fuel industry. Barclays is the biggest funder of fossil fuels in Europe, with HSBC, Standard Chartered, NatWest, Lloyds and Santander, all continuing to fund fossil fuels as well.

Pressure groups from across the country have been collaborating to emulate the success of previous bank boycott movements, such as the South African Anti-Apartheid movement.

Local campaigner and National Trust member Judith Russenberger said: "I have enjoyed travelling the breadth and length of the country with this banner, visiting places of immense beauty and diversity. I am encouraged by the approach of the National Trust in addressing the joint crises of climate change and biodiversity loss and applaud the ambition of achieving net zero by 2030. I hope that - like its earlier divestment from fossil fuels - the National Trust will put its banking arrangements in line with its environmental credentials, and drop Barclays."



Share your thoughts on the new Night Time Strategy

From Richmond Council

Following extensive public engagement and collaboration with local partners, we have launched the first draft of the strategy and are eager for resident feedback.

The Night Time Strategy aims to boost the night-time experience in Richmond upon Thames, ensuring our borough remains vibrant, safe and inclusive from 6pm to 6am.

This strategy is the result of co-creation with our community, involving consultations with residents, businesses, night-time economy workers and community groups. Your thoughts so far on safety, accessibility, cultural activities and the needs of night workers have been invaluable.

Over the past few months, we have gathered insights through initiatives like the 'Time to Shine Ideas Map,' which saw over 400 residents take part. We have also conducted workshops with young people and led meetings with businesses and various community groups to capture a wide range of perspectives and priorities.

The draft strategy addresses several key areas, including:

- Improving safety in our town centres
- Supporting the night-time economy
- Expanding cultural and recreational opportunities
- Respecting the need for quiet in the evenings

It aims to cater to all demographics to make sure that Richmond upon Thames is a place where everyone can enjoy their evenings and nights.



We are now seeking your feedback to ensure that this strategy reflects the community's needs. The consultation will run until **Monday 30 September 2024** and we encourage all residents, businesses, local organisations and visitors to take part and share their views.

Join us in this important conversation and help refine the Night Time Strategy to better serve our community. Together, we can create a night-time environment that is welcoming, safe, and full of opportunities.

By building on our borough's rich cultural heritage and vibrant community, we can shape the future of Richmond upon Thames.

[Take part in the strategy](#)

The Sparsholt - A Splendid Day Out

On a nice English summer day (when we are actually lucky enough to have one!), there's nothing better than to take a trip into the English countryside for some fresh air and a spot of lunch. We did that the other day on one of our more recent rare, sunny days a couple of weeks ago, and took ourselves out to Wantage, to check out **The Sparsholt**.



The countryside there is glorious - real 'England My England' stuff. It's a stone's throw from the ancient Ridgeway and the Uffington White Horse and the views are spectacular on the way. Formerly The Star Inn, The Sparsholt is an 18th century former pub that came under the ownership of Westbury Street Holdings in 2022. WSH Restaurants also operates The Clockspire in Somerset, The Boxford in Newbury and The Woodspeen, also in Newbury. The company's newest venture, The Braywood is set to open later this year in Paley Street, near Bray.

In addition to being a restaurant, The Sparsholt also has eight bedrooms in an adjacent converted barn.



The dining room and bar is a mix of old and new - original beams alongside ultra modern furniture and decor. It overlooks the terrace and garden which is great for al fresco dining, weather permitting. The head chef is Luke Sutton, whose sterling CV includes stints at the renowned L'Ortalan in Reading and The Woodspeen, so we were expecting the food to be pretty top-notch: it was.

We were welcomed by Sharon, the assistant manager, who explained that the building dates from 1725, and until recently was called The Star, but the name change coincided with a new menu format. Talking of menus, I was very impressed with the range of products, and there were plenty of appealing vegetarian dishes. There is a special vegan menu too, with two choices for each course.

I enjoyed a Negroni, while my husband (being the duty driver) enjoyed a refreshing bottle of sparkling water. We were tempted by the *duck leg bon bons with pickled walnut ketchup* from the Snacks menu (everything at £5) and they were delicious. They were piping hot, packed with duck and the ketchup offset the richness perfectly.

To start, I'd chosen *white sourdough crumpet, brown crab rarebit, pickled fennel*. It was beautifully presented and the crumpet was deliciously sour. The pickled fennel was a revelation to me - I've pickled cucumber, onions and lots of other veg, but will definitely be attempting to match their fine slicing and well balanced pickling. With the crab it was a perfect combination, the portion size was just right - not too large, but generous enough.



My husband had chosen the *duck liver parfait, summer cherries and brioche toast*. It, too, was beautifully presented and a very generous portion. Of course, it was very rich, but also incredibly light. I know that sounds like a contradiction, but it was true - and the cherries were the perfect partner.

and he declared it a great success.

Never being able to resist a steak, my better half had already earmarked the *Longhorn Ribeye, Caesar gem wedge, beef fat bearnaise and triple cooked chips*. The meat was cooked medium as requested



Having had a seafood starter, I stayed with fish and chose *roasted monkfish, coco beans, broccoli, basil and sunflower seed sauce*. The broccoli was crispy, just as I like it, and the coco beans were a



new one for me and they were excellent. The sunflower seed sauce was really good - shades of tahini, but with more depth of flavour. It was a delicious main course, and just the right amount.

We didn't have room for anything else, but Sharon persuaded us to try some of the chef's homemade basil ice cream. We had just a soupcon each, but it was delicious, and a perfect end to our meal.

We really enjoyed our visit to The Sparsholt. It was a Wednesday lunchtime but surprisingly quiet, especially as it was one of the rare, decent, days weather-wise so far this summer.

The prices are well balanced, to encourage locals to pop in for a snack or two - from £5 a portion - and the outside terrace is dog friendly.

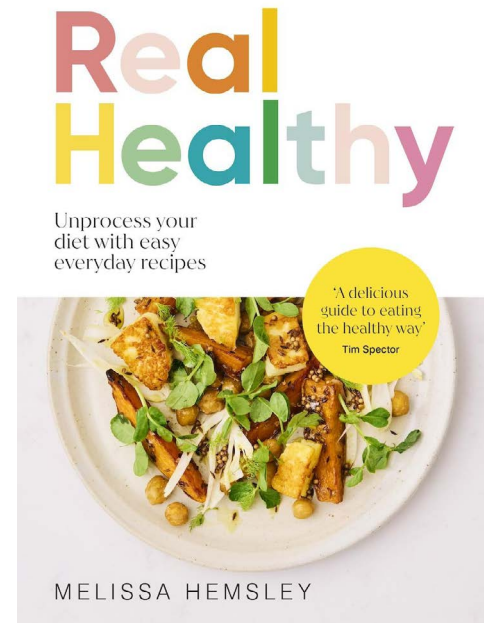
Real Healthy by Melissa Hemsley

I'm already a great fan of Melissa's Hemsley's recipes and was delighted to learn that her latest cookbook is dedicated to helping people navigate the tricky problem of how to cut back on the plethora of ultra-processed foods that has crept into our daily diets. Research has shown that ultra-processed foods (UPFs) have been linked to high blood pressure, heart disease and other serious illnesses, yet the average person in the UK gets a whopping 56% of their calories from UPFs, with an even higher figure for children!



While we know that in our busy daily lives, UPFs can be hard to avoid, **Real Healthy**, recently published (Ebury Press at £26 for a beautifully photographed hardback) provides simple, doable, and delicious recipes from Melissa. She helps you tackle breakfasts, lunches, snacks and even provides '3 ways with' suggestions for batch cooking and using up ingredients to stay on top of your week's shopping and cooking. "Real Healthy is my kind of cooking," says Melissa, "Nourishing, easy, full-flavoured and veg-packed meals for real life."

Here are a couple of Real Healthy recipes to show you what she means:



Cherry almond 'Bakewell' granola (Makes 2 large jars/ Takes 45 minutes)

"The combination of almonds and cherries gives this granola major Bakewell tart vibes! If you're as much of a granola household as we are, you may want to make double, from our experience this goes in a flash!"

- 250g rolled oats
- 125g pumpkin seeds
- 100g whole almonds
- 100ml olive oil
- 80ml maple syrup
- 1 tbsp ground cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp sea salt
- 100g dried sour cherries

Preheat the oven to fan 180°C/gas mark 6. Line a large baking tray with baking parchment.

Weigh all the ingredients, except the sour cherries into a large



mixing bowl. (The sour cherries don't get baked because they would burn in the oven, you'll stir them through the granola later.) Mix well so that all the dry ingredients are evenly coated with the wet ingredients. Spread out on the lined baking tray and bake for 30–40 minutes, stirring every 10 minutes for the first 20 minutes, then every 5 minutes for the second 10–20 minutes. Allow to cool completely on the baking tray, then stir through the sour cherries. Store in airtight containers for up to 3 weeks.

Red lentil and tomato super sauce

Makes 12 portions/Takes 1 hour (only 20 minutes hands-on time)

- 8 *tbsp olive oil*
- 3 *onions, finely chopped*
- 6 *garlic cloves, finely chopped*
- *Pinch of chilli flakes (optional)*
- 3 *tbsp tomato purée*
- 200g *split red lentils, rinsed*
- 3 x 400g *tins of chopped tomatoes* Sea salt and black pepper

“This is a tasty multipurpose tomato sauce with hidden nutritious red lentils. Blend it into a smooth, protein-packed tomato sauce for spaghetti or your favourite pasta, or loosen it up a little by adding veggie stock to turn it into a creamy (but cream-less) soup, lovely with a cheese toastie.”

Heat the olive oil in a large pot and, once warm, add the onions, then season with salt and pepper. Fry for 12–15 minutes over a medium heat until golden and soft. Add the garlic and chilli flakes, then fry for a couple of minutes until fragrant. Add the tomato purée and fry for 2–3 minutes until brick red.

Add the lentils and tinned tomatoes. Fill two of the three empty tomato tins with water and use the water to swill out all the last bits of tomato. Add this water to the pot and season with salt and pepper.

Bring up to the boil, then reduce the heat to a simmer and cook for 30–35 minutes, uncovered, stirring occasionally so that it doesn't stick to the bottom of the pot, until the lentils have completely broken down. Add another half tomato tin of water if you need more liquid.

Using a stick blender or a blender, blitz the sauce until smooth or, if you prefer some texture in your sauce, blitz roughly half and leave the rest chunky. Season to taste.

Extracted from *Real Healthy* by Melissa Hemsley (Ebury Press, £26).

Photography by Lizzie Mayson



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Homeless

Report by Doug Goodman

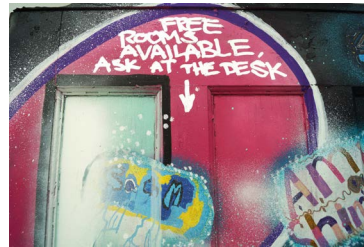
We've all noticed people sleeping rough in Twickenham and others sitting on the pavement holding up a sign asking for help written, sometimes with spelling mistakes, on a piece of cardboard. But do we really notice them, help them or wonder what it's like to be homeless. To try to change our perception of those unfortunate people, who for whatever reason have nowhere to call home; an exhibition has opened at the Saatchi Gallery in Chelsea. Called Homelessness Reframed the art exhibition is hosted in partnership with The Saatchi Gallery and produced in collaboration with Prince William's Homewards Programme and Eleven Eleven Foundation.



Homelessness Reframed is a moving exhibition using the power of art to help us understand what it's like to be homeless and to inspire optimism that it can be ended. In the UK around 300,000 people, nearly half of whom are children are experiencing homelessness. This is portrayed in 'sofa surfing', sleeping rough in the street, living in cars, hostels or in temporary accommodation. The exhibition contains items created by children at a series of workshop across six major Homewards locations around the UK.



In the section 'Invisible Words' a selection of very poignant hand drawn signs gathered from around the world from people experiencing homelessness covers a huge wall. These signs, which our eyes so often avoid in the street, show a range of their holders' emotions from shame and desperation to humour and resilience. In 'Reframed' artists have created works reflecting their own or others' experiences of being homeless. The most significant piece is by David Tovey who transformed a car that he once lived in into a hand-welded sculpture of a house. The third section consists of six painted doors created by children from the six Homewards locations. Each has a commentary describing a case of homelessness.



The exhibition is extremely thought provoking and if it changes our views on homelessness and its causes and if it makes us more understanding of those who sleep rough, then it has succeeded.

Homelessness Reframed runs until September 20th at The Saatchi Gallery before visiting other UK locations. Details from: homewards@royalfoundation.com

A bar of Twix...

By Deep Patel

~Life through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper~



At Meet and Deep Newsagents (my shop) we are fortunate enough to have customers of all ages coming through our front door and we love it as it adds to the variety of conversations we have and just makes our day more interesting. One thing that we have learnt as shop keepers is that things don't always turn out how they seem...oh no...definitely not...and something that happened this past week reminded me of this.

There is a sweet seven year old boy who lives locally and comes to the shop each morning to get his father a newspaper. He is always smiling and says coming into our shop is the highlight of his day (seeing his happy face is one of the highlights of our day too to be honest) but one morning he was rushing to get home faster...I asked him why and he replied to say it was his mother's birthday and he wanted to get home before she wakes up so that he could be the first person to wish her a happy birthday...my heart melted and I thought to myself we need more of him in this world...as he reached my front door to leave the shop, a mature woman (who also lives locally) happened to open the door from the outside to enter the shop...as she opened the door at the exact same time that the young boy was about to leave...the boy walked out through the door as the woman had opened it (to allow herself to enter) and as he was in a rush to be the first to wish his mother a happy birthday, he saw the door was open and swiftly moved through (partly to get out of the mature ladies way also). As he walked through the door, the mature lady stopped him and shouted at him saying "Have you got no manners? You could have said thank you, you just ran out without even realizing it was me who had opened the door, not you". The little boy looked back and said "I'm sorry for that" and then turned away and began to run home whilst sobbing loudly. Although out of my control, the whole episode was so uncomfortable for me to watch. I know it isn't my place to get involved really, but I felt so uncomfortable that the next day when the mature lady came into the shop, I explained to her why the previous day the little boy was in such a rush to get home before his mother woke up and I told her that after she shouted at him, he ran home crying all the way.

One week later, the little boy came in as usual to get a newspaper for his father but this time things happened rather differently...he came to the counter and paid as usual and then turned around to walk back up the shop aisle towards the exit. At that exact time, the same mature lady walked into the shop and crossed the young boy in the aisle. Neither the mature lady, nor the young boy said anything to each other. As the mature woman crossed the young boy in the

aisle, the young boy stopped, turned around and I saw him pick something up from my shop floor and then he seemed to be patiently waiting towards the exit of our shop door, glancing at me and the mature lady from time to time. I too was curious as to what he was doing there.

The mature lady then turned around and began to head towards the shop exit (near to the young boy was still waiting). As she approached the young boy, he stopped her and called out to her. I wondered what he was going to say to her. He said “good morning, I am sorry but as you walked past me just now you dropped this £20 note”...the mature lady smiled and said apologetically “I am sorry young man, I was in such a rush to get to my granddaughters school assembly that I didn’t even notice that I had dropped the £20 note”. The young boy simply looked at mature lady and smiled as he handed her the £20 note.

He was about to leave and the mature lady stopped him. She called him back to the counter area of the shop. The young boy looked confused (so was I at this point)...the boy came back to the counter and the lady leant down and said “choose any chocolate you like from all of these shelves, I want to buy it for you”. The young boy chose a Twix bar. The boy was about to leave and the lady called him back again and said “get one for your mother too please to wish her a happy birthday from me”...the boy took another Twix bar and left the shop with an even bigger smile on his face than usual.

The mature woman paid for her newspaper and both chocolate bars and turned away from the counter to leave my shop. Just before leaving the shop as she got to the door, she turned and looked back at me and said “what a good kid that boy was, need more like him in this world”...I sat back down on my stool behind the counter and thought to myself I guess it’s true what they say...things don’t always turn out how we imagine in the end...

Remember...

“...even when we feel that all is lost...there is always hope...”

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”

My Plan for Tomorrow

by George Abbott

Spare the Rod Theatre Company at the Golden Goose Theatre, Camberwell

Piers enters. The environment appears to be a teaching room. He switches off the CD player and addresses us, his Jobseekers course attendees. (That's what we've paid for!). We have entered the surreal world of *My Plan for Tomorrow*, director George Abbott's well-written play exploring, and questioning, the value of success and failure.

Piers, played by Alfie Lanham-Brown, struts around, an archetypal whiz kid. Then he discovers a former classmate Thomas sitting among us in the audience. Tension replaces confidence. Cruel banter bounces back and forth with an efficiency only otherwise seen at Wimbledon, swiftly igniting Piers' insecurity.

This encounter disturbingly hints at an ultimate psychological failure, but it paints a clearer picture of his character. When Piers pathetically boasts about a hot date that night, it makes an indelible impression. The impactful lighting, designed by Alexis Childs, and Rob Sear's sound design carries the tension along.



A busier second scene with Chris Capon's Thomas, now a prominent comic artist, has Piers figuratively falling apart, as he learns that his former adversary is to be the guest speaker.



As the star-struck student Rosa, who is attending the course, Rebecca LaFond plays the awkwardness of youth well.

The third scene, perhaps the strongest, between Piers and Ian, who is played by Dominic Daniels, truly excels, as these highly engaging actors have a professional encounter. By then we learn that Piers carries a background of disciplinary warnings and drug abuse, while Ian was a counsellor before his own demons took over.

With the subtext of an apocalypse, there are good solid scenes of human nature and a reflection of success and failure. Yet ... nothing is resolved.

An elegant, unhurried clearing of the entire set leads into a highly unusual curtain call, in which the actors do not appear to take a bow. We applaud a stark empty stage. The impact of this departure works well, and enhances the disturbing conclusion.

Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/08/01/plan-tomorrow

Photography by Rachel Burnham

Suor Angelica

by Giacomo Puccini, libretto by Giovacchino Forzano
West Green House Opera, Theatre on the Lawn, Hartley Wintney

Puccini's tear-jerkingly tragic sopranos, [Cio-Cio San](#), [Mimi](#) and [Liu](#) are etched in the memory. But for Sister Angelica the tears are not shallow sentimentality; they are bare emotion rubbed raw. Director [John Ramster](#)'s semi-staged *Suor Angelica* is the most affecting I've ever seen.

The beautifully lyrical opening of sacred music belies the reality of convent life in 17th Century Siena. Penances for pettiest infringements are set by the Sister Monitor, witheringly portrayed by mezzo Sophie Goldrick, who dismisses excuses with a flick of an eyebrow. Nevertheless, gossip is rife. What is the secret of Angelica, the convent's herbalist physician?

Then an opulent coach, bearing an ivory coat-of-arms, arrives at the convent. Jess Dandy makes an imposing Abbess, and her rich contralto is utterly astounding, as she announces Angelica's aunt, the Princess.

This is a visit that Angelica has anticipated for seven years. [Susan Bickley](#) plays La Zia Principessa with statuesque authority, invoking the spirit of Angelica's dead mother. Bickley dispenses the blistering aria "*nel silenzio*" with measured vehemence, her mezzo resonant with sumptuous maturity.



She intends to disinherit Angelica from her parents' estate, and she must undergo perpetual penance for blemishing their aristocratic name. Angelica's secret is her illegitimate son, taken away at birth.

[Jenny Stafford](#) excels as Suor Angelica. The emotional trauma is palpable. For all her penance she cannot forget her son. The aria *non posso offrire* is executed with such passion and pathos, that the audience is in tears.

Bickley has huge dramatic impact; the Princess's silence seems like an eternity, until she coldly reveals the infant's death. She is crushingly imperative; the deed is signed.

Angelica is left in anguish to grieve her baby son. Stafford's *senza mamma* aria is heart-wrenching. With her beautiful lyrical soprano, Angelica's mourning that the child never knew his mother loved him is piercingly sublime.

Then the decision ... to use her apothecary's skills to join him in heaven. She prepares and swallows the potion. Then follows the devastating realisation that this mortal sin will exclude her from heaven. Her soul is balanced on a knife's edge between eternal bliss and eternal damnation.

Angelica's final vision, the Virgin gently taking the child towards his dying mother, is only "seen" through Puccini's music, which has all the expressive emotional complexity of the libretto. The Orpheus Sinfonia, under conductor Steven Higgins, play with beauty and sympathy.

The visceral emotional tornado of *Suor Angelica*'s is depicted brilliantly, balancing reality with sensitivity. Not for the timorous nor dry-eyed, it packs a powerful punch ... straight to the heart.

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/07/28/suor-angelica

Photography by EAW

St Mary's University

St Mary's School of Law Partners with Support Through Court to Provide Free Legal Assistance

The School of Law at St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) is delighted to be partnering with Support Through Court, a national charity that provides free practical and emotional help to people who cannot afford vital legal services or access legal aid.

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The partnership will enable Support Through Court to continue its life-changing work in London, at the Royal Courts of Justice and Central Family Court, with students contributing to the work the charity is doing to support people facing court alone. This will have a significant impact on the local community, growing the capacity of the essential services offered by Support Through Court and helping those navigating the court system without legal representation.

Students from St Mary's will have the opportunity

to gain practical work experience through the partnership, allowing them to provide legal support to those going through the court system. They will do so by supporting people without representation at face-to-face appointments and court hearings, which will help them develop essential skills necessary to work in the legal field.

Emma Taylor, Chief Executive Officer for Support Through Court, said: 'The rising cost of living means that our support is needed more than ever before, whilst also making our services harder to deliver without new partnerships and supporters. We look forward to working with the university to provide practical and emotional support to more people going through court alone as litigants in person. By working in partnership, we can ensure more people have access to justice.'

Charley Dugdale, Subject Lead for Partnerships in the School of Law at SMU said, "We are delighted to launch this new exciting opportunity for our students. St Mary's University's partnership with Support Through Court will provide students with invaluable real-world experience of the court system, enhancing their practical skills and understanding of the judicial process. This collaboration not only supports students' academic journey, but also helps to foster a sense of social responsibility supporting members of the local community through the complexities of the court system."

Support Through Court runs thanks to the support of over 600 volunteers providing practical and emotional support to litigants in person. The organisation is a charity, relying on funding from supporters.

More information about how you can support their work can be found online:

www.supportthroughcourt.org/donate



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Richmond schools encouraged to join funded programme that ‘transformed’ local primary

Primary and nursery schools in Richmond are being given the opportunity to access a fully funded programme that has been praised by a local headteacher for having ‘transformed’ the school.

The *PATHS® Programme for Schools (UK Version)* is delivered by children’s charity Barnardo’s. It stands for **Promoting Alternative THinking Strategies** and focuses on empowering pupils and fostering skills for life.

Since it began in 2008, the *PATHS® Programme* led by Barnardo’s has **supported 117,563 pupils** in the UK, across **almost 500 schools**, and delivered **training to 8643 teachers**. In total, **29 UK regions have benefitted** from the programme, including the London boroughs of Wandsworth, Richmond, Greenwich, Lewisham, Southwark, and Tower Hamlets.

The programme covers skills such as academic engagement, emotional intelligence, and self-esteem, as well as contributing to the PHSE (Personal, Social, Health, and Economic education) curriculum. It centres on a whole-school approach with training and support from a dedicated coach.



Several schools in Richmond have already benefitted from the programme. Angela Abrahams, Headteacher at St Mary’s C of E Primary School, said: “We are in our third year of teaching the *PATHS® Programme* and it has transformed our school.”

Echoed Sian Murphy, Headteacher at St Richards CE Primary School: “The *PATHS® Programme* can be delivered easily, with training and support from the team and coaches, which has been hugely beneficial in our journey. It provides a self-awareness of who we are, how the children are, and it helps with academic outcomes. Overall, it’s a real success for us.”

Caitlin Curry, Barnardo’s *PATHS® Programme* coach for the Richmond area, said: “We’re excited to offer more Richmond schools the opportunity to enrol on the *PATHS® Programme* and bring the existing success seen in hundreds of other schools across the UK to children’s learning and development in the borough.

“We’ve had fantastic feedback from teachers and pupils, as well as parents who continue to be impressed with how the programme enhances their children’s schools”

Added Graeme Markwell, Senior Public Health Lead, Richmond and Wandsworth Councils: “For me, the clear benefit of the *PATHS® Programme* is that it is rooted in evidence. It’s shown to work, it’s a whole school approach. When we want to understand what works, we know that this is a model that does”.

Limited, fully funded places are available for schools in the borough for September. Interested schools and nurseries can visit pathseducation.co.uk for more information or contact paths@barnardos.org.uk



Relatives raise money to thank Royal Star & Garter for mother's 'impeccable' care

More than £1,000 has been raised for Royal Star & Garter, by the daughter of a former resident.

Andrea Harris held an open garden at her home in Hampton, Middlesex, to raise money for Royal Star & Garter in Surbiton, where her mother Brenda Wait lived for four years.

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

Brenda lived on the Surbiton Home's Lister floor, which provides expert dementia care, until her death in 2023.

The £1,100 raised from Andrea's open garden will be spent on new sensory equipment for residents living with dementia.



Andrea and Michael at the dementia care outdoor area at Royal Star & Garter in Surbiton



The Wait's Terrace plaque at Royal Star & Garter



Brenda Wait at Royal Star & Garter

It is the second time Andrea and her husband Michael have opened up their garden to raise money for Royal Star & Garter. Last year, they raised £550, which was spent on the Lister floor's popular outdoor area.

Following their second open garden, held earlier this summer, Andrea and Michael were invited to the Surbiton Home, where they saw a tribute to Brenda, with part of the dementia care outdoor area named Wait's Terrace.

Andrea said: *"My mother received impeccable care and lived a contented life at Royal Star & Garter. She benefitted enormously from the high level of personal attention afforded by gentle, kindly and devoted staff, and we are so grateful for everything they did for her. Nothing we do can thank them enough, but raising this money will help them to continue their amazing work. It will allow other residents to benefit from wonderful care, which in turn gives enormous peace of mind to relatives."*

Helena Maher, Home Manager at Royal Star & Garter in Surbiton, said: *"It was lovely to see Andrea and Michael again and welcome them back to the Home. We're very grateful for their generosity, and the money that they have raised for our dementia care."*

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

Anyone interested in fundraising for the charity can go to <http://starandgarter.org/how-you-can-help/events/>



**Royal Star
& Garter**

Care with courage

Allianz pledges long-term commitment to rugby

One of the world's leading insurers, Allianz, and the Rugby Football Union (RFU) today announce the next step in their partnership, as Allianz extends its support for rugby by making a significant, long-term investment in the game.

The partnership will be transformative, not only to the elite men's and women's teams but also aims to have a positive impact on community clubs around the country. It will see Allianz and the RFU offer significant support to the grassroots game through financial investment that aims to secure future investment into the community game.

As part of this agreement, the home of England Rugby, Twickenham, will become 'Allianz Stadium' from September. The iconic 82,000-seater stadium hosts England internationals, high profile domestic rugby matches, community rugby events and others, as well as staging world-leading concerts in recent years including The Rolling Stones, Rihanna and U2.



The stadium sponsorship is the eighth of its kind for Allianz, which welcomes Twickenham into a family of world-class stadia around the globe. The Allianz Stadium will join celebrated venues such as Allianz Arena in Munich, Allianz Parque in São Paulo and the recently reopened state-of-the-art multi-purpose venue in Sydney.

Allianz has a rich history of supporting rugby. As Official Insurance, Investment and Asset Management Partner of England Rugby, Allianz has supported both the men's and women's national rugby union teams for the past four years, and it will continue to do so under this partnership.

Allianz is also dedicated to helping grow the profile of women's rugby. Having been the Premiership Women's Rugby title partner, and partner of the grassroots programme 'Allianz Inner Warrior' which encouraged young women into rugby.

As part of Allianz's new partnership, they will also increase their investment into the future of rugby through supporting those who participate, watch and cheer the game within the community. Having long been passionate supporters of the game, through this partnership Allianz aims to help the sport reach every corner of the nation, ensuring that everyone has the chance to play the game we all love.

In addition to being a key partner of the RFU's community engagement programme, Allianz will also launch a new Allianz Future Fund that will enable community rugby clubs to apply for funding.

This is the first of many plans the partnership has to ensure players and clubs are uplifted at a local level, ensuring England's extraordinary legacy in the sport continues.

Colm Holmes, CEO of Allianz UK, says: *“We are delighted to partner with the RFU to further invest in grassroots clubs, our national teams, and in the home of England Rugby. We see a strong match between the values and ambitions of Allianz and those of the RFU.”*

“With each of the eight stadia we now support around the world, we seek to create the best experience for fans, players, and local communities. Allianz Stadium is no different. We embrace our responsibility in carrying forward its extraordinary history as a stadium full of inspirational memories, team spirit, inclusion, and heart. We look forward to supporting the RFU in delivering more incredible experiences for rugby fans at Allianz Stadium, as well as further opening this iconic venue to many others.”

RFU CEO, Bill Sweeney, says: *“We’re really pleased to be expanding our partnership with Allianz, enabling further investment into the community and professional game. This is an opportunity to celebrate our stadium’s proud legacy while developing it for the future. This partnership will support us in moving the game in a direction which serves all rugby, from minis to the elites, from club coaches to our national coaches and everything in between.”*

“Over the coming years the RFU and Allianz will work together to enhance visitor experiences and provide fans and local community with the best possible match day and event experiences.”

“As we head towards hosting the Women’s Rugby World Cup in 2025 it is entirely fitting that the first game to be played at the newly named Allianz Stadium will be the Red Roses versus New Zealand on 14 September.”

England men’s player, Anthony Watson says: *“Innovative deals like this are important in moving rugby on. The investment, not only in the professional side but also for the community game, is so important and will hopefully get more people active, playing the sport, enjoying the sport and watching the sport.”*

Marlie Packer, Red Roses’ captain says: *“For me the stadium is massive, it’s HQ, the home and heart of English rugby. My proudest moment at the stadium was walking out in front of 58,000 fans as captain in a Grand Slam decider with my son as a mascot. I’m really excited about the Red Roses next fixture against the Black Ferns at the Allianz Stadium on 14 September. The team is really up for it, and it will be a sensational day.”*

“It’s great that this partnership means more investment in rugby. The support Allianz is giving already is massive and it’s going to be important for the grassroots which ultimately feeds the game.”

2003 Rugby World Cup winner, Will Greenwood, says: *“One of the things I enjoyed most about playing rugby, at any level, was the sense of community. I’m excited to see what this partnership does for rugby both internationally and at a grassroots level, with more eyes on the game I hope it can inspire the next generation of players.”*

Rachael Burford, former Red Rose and 2014 Rugby World Cup winner says: *“It’s brilliant to have Allianz extend their support in rugby: they’ve already contributed so much, particularly in the women’s game. Their commitment to the rugby’s grassroots is so important as our game is fundamentally made up of people who start out at community clubs. These will be the players who ultimately play at the stadium one day, or the club fans and volunteers who pack out the stands. It’s hugely exciting that Allianz Stadium will now be part of a global family.”*



U18 men name team to face Ireland

Head coach Jonathan Pendlebury and assistant coach Will Parkin have named their U18 Men's matchday squad for the opening International Series encounter with Ireland. England face their Irish age-grade counterparts at Stellenberg High School on Monday (12th), kicking-off at 12:30 BST with the fixture being streamed live on SuperSport Schools.

Newcastle Falcons' Patrick Hogg has been confirmed as the tour captain and will lead the side out from blindside flanker next week. The Durham School student, also capable in the second row, has four U18 caps to his name and has achieved seven appearances for Falcons' U18 side in the 2023/24 Premiership Rugby U18 Academy League.

Eight of the starting XV are in line for their first competitive appearances for their country, with potential for 10 more debutants off the replacements bench for Pendlebury's group. Hogg, Jonno Balding (Gloucester Rugby), Tom Dye (Northampton Saints), Fraser Rawlins (Saracens) James Linegar and Connor Treacey (both Bath Rugby) and Harlequins' Elliot Williams and Felix Champain are the previously-capped touring members.

Bath Rugby's Treacey is incorporated into the touring party to replace George Marsh of Leicester Tigers, with the former assuming the number eight jersey for Matchday 1. The former U18 captain has earned 7 U18 caps, lifted the U18 Academy League title with Bath Rugby and was recently announced as part of his club's 2024/25 academy intake alongside capped Men's Pathway players Kepu Tuipulotu, Charlie Griffin and Tyler Offiah.

England continue their touring schedule with fixtures against France (Friday 16th August, 10:30 BST kick-off, Paarl Gimnasium) and South Africa (Tuesday 20th August, 12:30 BST kick-off, Paarl Boys' High School), with Georgia and a South Africa A side incorporated into other 2024 International Series fixtures.

Jonathan Pendlebury said: *"Coming off the back of a productive few camp meetings at the Hazelwood Centre, our approach is beginning to take shape with our young group which has been incredibly pleasing.*

"We're seeking to continue the relentless attitude that has been the cornerstone of our approach to getting better since our first meeting as an U17 squad at Hartpury College last season. It's been a great privilege to see the development of the boys and their willingness to get going has been impressive thus far.

"The players have taken a lot of inspiration from the U20 Men's group and want to make their own mark on a tour. We as a coaching group want to see our principles of Exploration and Speed implemented from minute one on Monday through the following 10 days, and most importantly, we want our boys to return home better rugby players and people as a result of these experiences."

England U18 Men's team to face Ireland

15 Sam Winters (Bath Rugby, Harrow School, uncapped)
14 Noah Caluori (Saracens, Mill Hill School, uncapped)
13 Victor Worsnip (Bristol Bears, Clifton College, uncapped)
12 Felix Champain (Harlequins, Worth School, 2 caps)
11 Julian Nunn (Bath Rugby, Beechen Cliff, uncapped)
10 James Linegar (Bath Rugby, Kingswood School, 4 caps)
9 Asa Stewart-Harris (Saracens, St Albans, uncapped)

1 Tom Dye (Northampton Saints, Ipswich School, 1 cap)
2 Tom Davis (Sale Sharks, St Mary's College, Crosby, uncapped)
3 Ben Beere (Leicester Tigers, Stamford School, uncapped)
4 Elliot Williams (Harlequins, Gordon's School, 3 caps)
5 Jonno Balding (Gloucester Rugby, Radley College, 3 caps)
6 Patrick Hogg (C) (Newcastle Falcons, Durham School, 4 caps)
7 Jack Marshall (Saracens, The Champion School, uncapped)
8 Connor Treacey (Bath Rugby, Beechen Cliff, 7 caps)

Replacements

16 Oscar Thomas (Bath Rugby, Wellington College, uncapped)
17 Elvis Kitenge-Fuki (Newcastle Falcons, Gosforth Academy, uncapped)
18 Diamond Ayiefor (Leicester Tigers, Warwick School, uncapped)
19 Jack Murphy (Saracens, Colfes, uncapped)
20 Ollie Hull (Northampton Saints, Stamford School, uncapped)
21 Matthew Branch-Holland (Saracens, Ravens Wood, uncapped)

22 George Newman (Exeter Chiefs, Truro College, uncapped)
23 Finn Keylock (Saracens, Bishop Wand School, uncapped)
24 Cameron Ward (Bath Rugby, Cranleigh School, uncapped)
25 Fraser Rawlins (Saracens, Haileybury, 2 caps)
26 Ben Morrow (Saracens, Millfield, uncapped)

England U18 Men's 2024 International Series fixtures

- Monday 12th August - England vs. Ireland - 12:30 BST kick-off - Stellenberg High School
- Friday 16th August - England vs. France - 10:30 BST kick-off - Paarl Gimnasium
- Tuesday 20th August - South Africa vs. England - 12:30 BST kick-off - Paarl Boys' High School



Highlights, report and reaction:

Brentford 4 Wolfsburg 4

Brentford and Wolfsburg share eight goals in pulsating pre-season friendly at Gtech Community Stadium; Bryan Mbeumo, Yoane Wissa, Mathias Jensen and Kevin Schade on target for the Bees; Ivan Toney plays 45 minutes on return to action; Thomas Frank: *“We were very exciting going forward”*

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford and Wolfsburg shared eight goals in a pulsating pre-season friendly on Friday evening.

Bryan Mbeumo, Yoane Wissa, Mathias Jensen and Kevin Schade were on target for the Bees at Gtech Community Stadium.

Mads Roerslev, Ethan Pinnock and Vitaly Janelt, absent for [the trip to Vicarage Road last weekend](#), returned to the side for the west Londoners’ final pre-season friendly of the summer. Ivan Toney was among the substitutes.



The first chance fell to the visitors. Jakub Kamiński exchanged passes with Patrick Wimmer on a foray down the left flank and his deep cross was sent acrobatically high and wide by Kevin Paredes.

On 13 minutes, Janelt seized on a loose ball and played a short pass forward for Jensen, who dragged off target from 20 yards.

Brentford were in front five minutes later. Christian Nørgaard brought the ball under his spell with a sublime first touch and released Kristoffer Ajer in an advanced position on the left. The defender’s low cross into the box was slowed by a slight deflection, and Mbeumo peeled away to drill home from eight yards.

The Bees doubled their lead moments after the restart, and it was a goal made by Janelt’s aggression and determination. The German robbed compatriot Maximilian Arnold on the edge of the box and found Wissa in space with a short pass. The forward opened the angle with a sharp first touch and fired low beyond Kamil Grabara.

Wolfsburg pulled a goal back on 34 minutes. Kevin Behrens was first to meet Arnold’s deep cross from the left but didn’t connect cleanly with his diving header and Wimmer reacted fastest to poke over the line from inside the six-yard box.

Wissa then headed wide at the front post having been found by Jensen with a devilish in-swinging delivery.

Ralph Hasenhüttl's side levelled four minutes before the break. Kamiński looped a free-kick into the box and Maxence Lacroix ghosted in at the back post to volley past Mark Flekken.

Having advanced to the edge of the area, Wimmer sent the ball skimming just wide of Flekken's right post.

Toney replaced Wissa at the interval and had his first attempt on goal six minutes into the half.

A smart free-kick routine involving Mbeumo and Jensen saw the ball worked to the England international inside the box, but he was denied by an outstretched Grabara with the assistant's flag raised for a marginal offside.

Seconds later, at the other end, Yannik Gerhardt sent the ball dipping just over the crossbar having been found on the edge of the area by Lovro Majer.

Grabara's reflexes were on full display again just after the hour mark as he launched himself to his left to push away Toney's audacious effort from all of 30 yards.

The Bees re-took the lead on 65 minutes. After a spell of pressure, Mbeumo pounced on Sebastiaan Bornauw's poor clearance and saw his first-time shot bounce back off the base of the post. The ball rolled perfectly into the path of Jensen, who lifted into the roof of the net with a composed, side-footed finish.



10 minutes later, Majer played a one-two with Wimmer and crossed low into the box from the byline. Behrens was denied by Flekken from close range and Nørgaard read the danger to block Kaminski's attempt on the follow up.

Wolfsburg weren't to be denied a third goal in TW8. Kaminski's cross was headed away by Nørgaard and when Wimmer scuffed his volley, the ball sat up perfectly for Arnold to arrow into the bottom corner from inside the D.

On 81 minutes, some smart play from Toney allowed substitute Mikkel Damsgaard's pass to roll through for Schade, and the German raced clear of the visitors' backline and beat the on-rushing keeper with a smart finish.

Nathan Collins made two brave blocks to deny Behrens, but there was to be one last twist in the tale.

Five minutes before the full-time whistle, Kamiński's in-swinging corner was flicked on by Bornauw at the front post and Wimmer stabbed home from close range.

Flekken then tipped Wimmer's curling effort over the crossbar in the final action of a frantic friendly.

Brentford: Flekken; Roerslev (Trevitt 79), Collins, Pinnock (Ji-soo 79), Ajer; Nørgaard (Onyeka 79), Janelt (Yarmoliuk 79), Jensen (Damsgaard); Mbeumo, Schade (Peart-Harris 83), Wissa (Toney HT)

Subs not used: Eyestone, Cox, McManus, Konak

Wolfsburg: Grabara, Bornauw, Lacroix, Zesiger, Kamiński, Behrens (Wind 85), Majer (Fischer 85), Arnold, Gerhardt, Wimmer, Paredes

Subs not used: Pervan, Cozza, Tomás, Jenz, Svanberg, Bröger, Amoako, Braun, Benedict

Attendance: 10,633

Frank: We can sort out defensive 'red flags' before PL opener

Thomas Frank was pleased that the Bees' "red flags" were highlighted in Friday's friendly against Wolfsburg, so they can work on them ahead of the Crystal Palace fixture on Sunday.

Reflecting on the eight-goal thriller, Frank stated: *"We are doing everything we can to make the fans happy!"*

"We were very positive going forward, very exciting going forward - that's a big plus."

"Obviously we can also see what we need to work on for the next nine days before we face Crystal Palace: defensive set-pieces, that is clear, it's normally we're normally very good at."

"But it's nice that the red flag came today and we've got the opportunity to sort it out before Sunday."

On the return of Ivan Toney, he added: "It was very good to have him back, very good. I thought he looked sharp, seeing as he was out for three weeks. He looked good."

Mbeumo: Confidence is high ahead of Palace visit

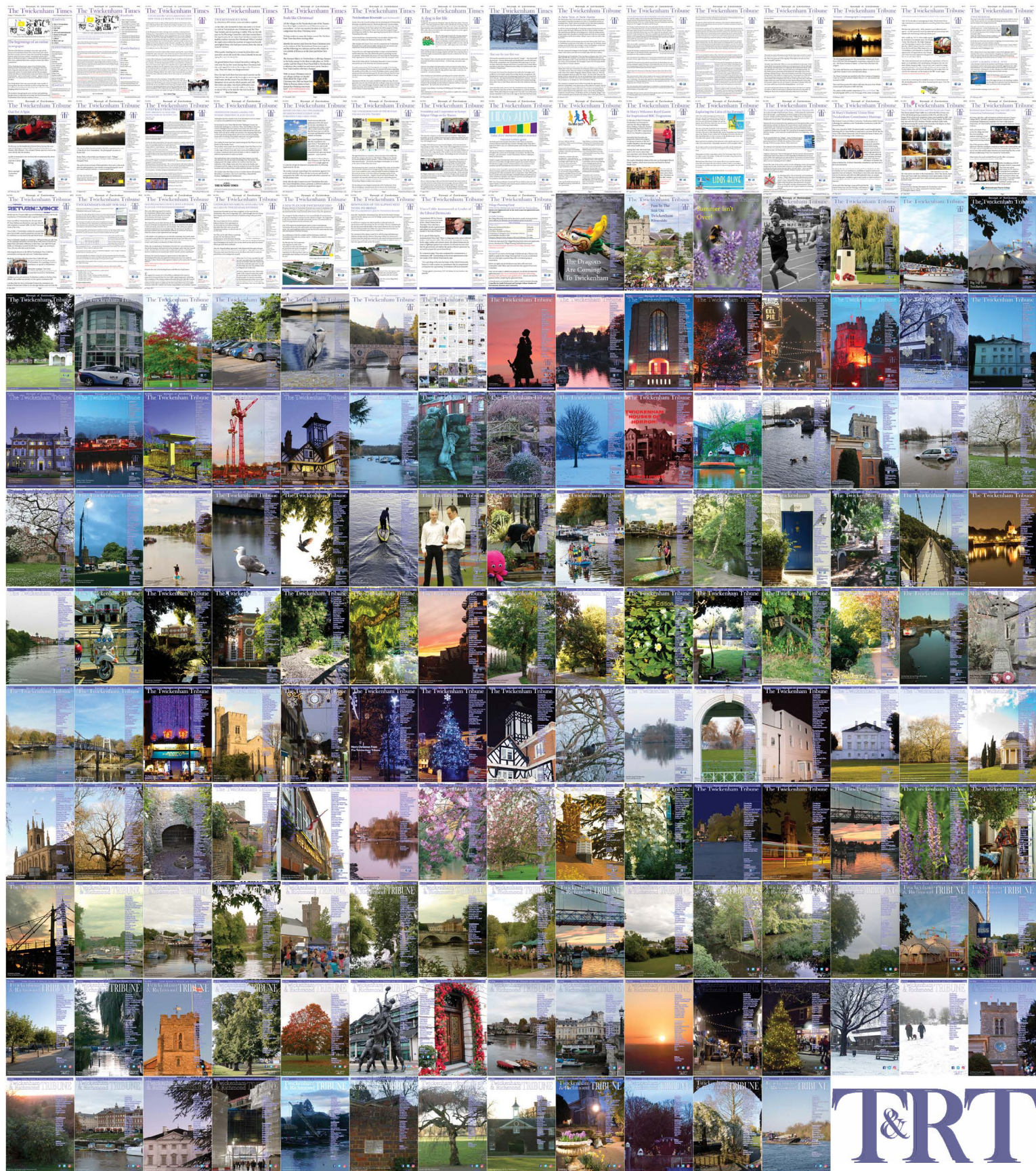
Forward Bryan Mbeumo was impressed by Brentford's offensive play during the 4-4 draw with Wolfsburg.

"We scored four goals and created very good chances," he said. *"We need to focus on the defensive side, especially the set-pieces, before next week."*

Asked about his third goal of pre-season, Mbeumo responded: *"It's really important to get the confidence going and for a forward it's always nice to score. I felt good today. I have big aims; I'm putting demands on myself."*



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