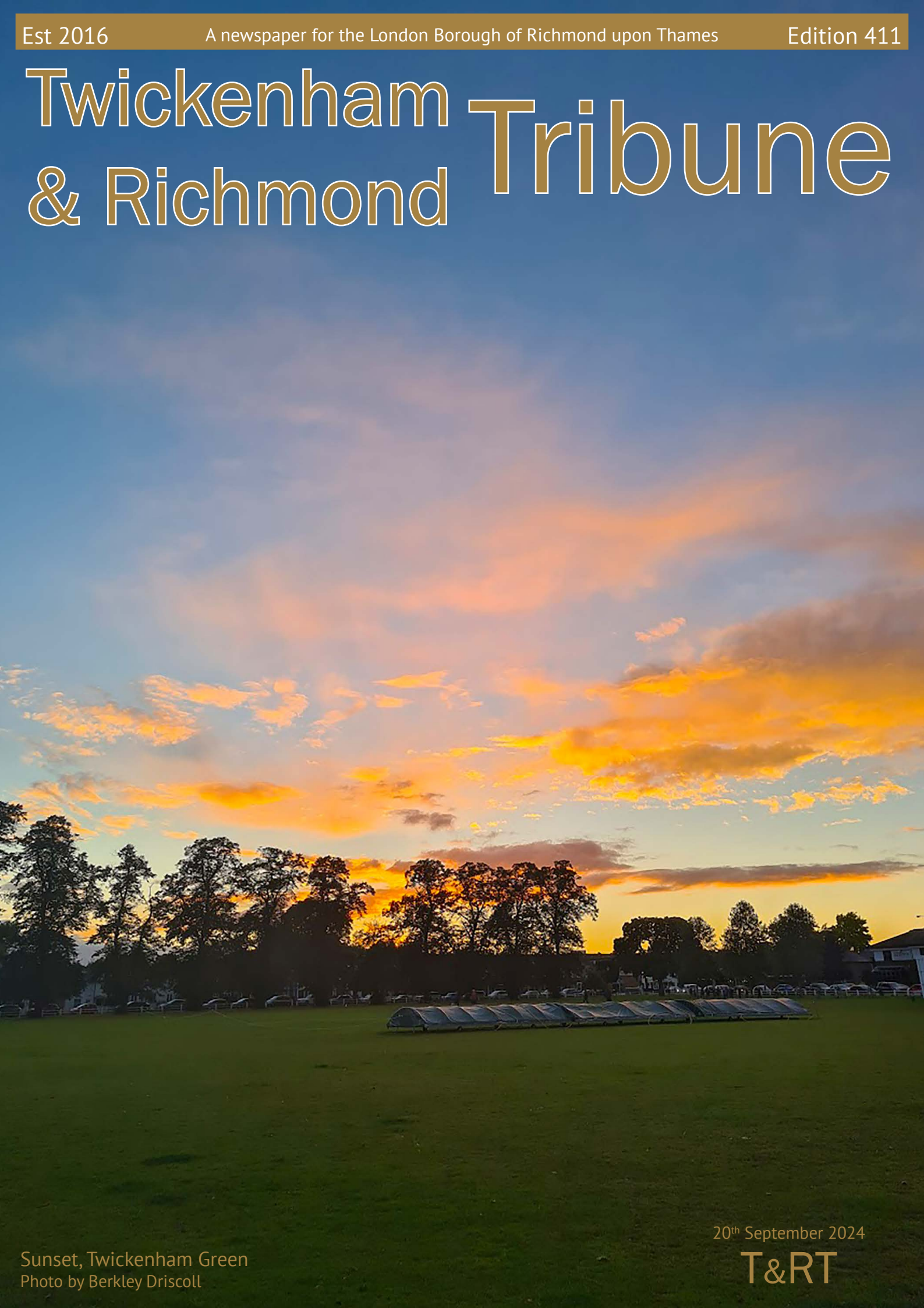


Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



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TickerTape - News in Brief

The Stables Café, Orleans House Gallery closes

On Thursday 19th September The Stables Café closed for good, after five years of operating.

South Western Railway

Altered train services and buses replace trains in the Barnes area **Sunday 22 September**

The lines in the **Barnes** area will be **closed all day** due to maintenance work.

Queenstown Road station will be **closed all day**. Please use other nearby stations.

- **London Waterloo to Reading** services will be **revised** and will be diverted between **Clapham Junction and Twickenham**. These services will call additionally at **Wimbledon, Kingston and Strawberry Hill**.
- **London Waterloo to Windsor** services will be **revised**.
An **hourly** service will be diverted between **Clapham Junction and Twickenham via Kingston** calling at all stations.
An **hourly** service will start from **Barnes** calling at all stations.
- **London Waterloo to London Waterloo via Wimbledon and Kingston** services will be **revised** and will only run between **Kingston and Barnes via Richmond**.
- Additional services will run between **Barnes and Twickenham via Richmond**.
- **London Waterloo to Woking via Staines** services will be **revised** and will start from **Barnes**.
- **Buses** will run between **Clapham Junction and Barnes**.
- The afternoon and evening **London Waterloo to Kingston via Hounslow** services will **not** run.

Additional services will run between **Barnes and Barnes via Hounslow** (early afternoon and evening **only**)



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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info@thetreeagency.co.uk
www.thetreeagency.co.uk

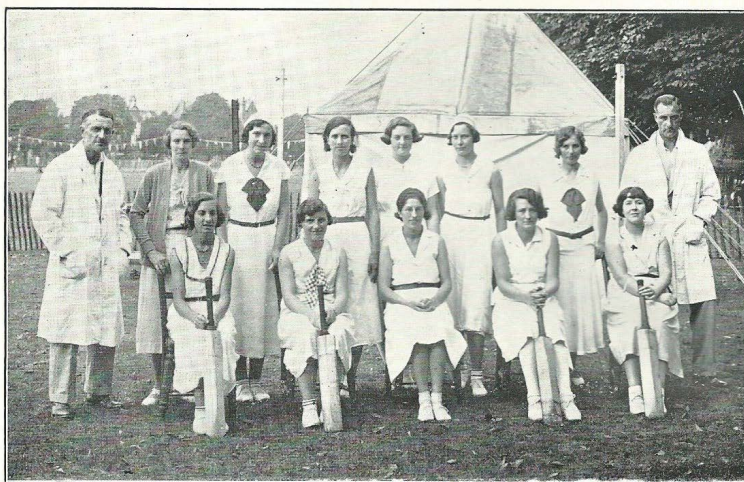
Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 267

By Alan Winter

More Cricket on Twickenham Postcards

Last week I showed postcards covering the history of Twickenham Cricket Club and their home on Twickenham Green. I received several responses from readers who were naming other Twickenham Clubs that they had played for or against in the area and so I thought we could do a Cricket part two column this week where I have other postcards on the subject.

Our first postcard goes back 90 years or so and shows a team photo of the Twickenham Ladies team that played against Miss Marjorie Pollards on 27th July 1933. I can't work out the venue from this excellent postcard but maybe our readers can help me out on that one.



TWICKENHAM LADIES v. MISS MARJORIE POLLARD'S XI., 27th July, 1933.
Tow Row—S. T. Warner (Umpire), Mrs. M. Aitkens, T. M. Stacey, N. Smith, G. M. Luce, L. Young, D. E. Puhl, C. Allen (Umpire).
Front Row—F. B. Stacey, D. M. Hoare, Mrs. Vera Hague (Captain), D. Deighton, C. Davies.

I understand that there is still a Twickenham Ladies Cricket team playing on Twickenham Green on Wednesdays. They are often looking for new players so there is a chance for our lady readers to pick up a bat and ball.

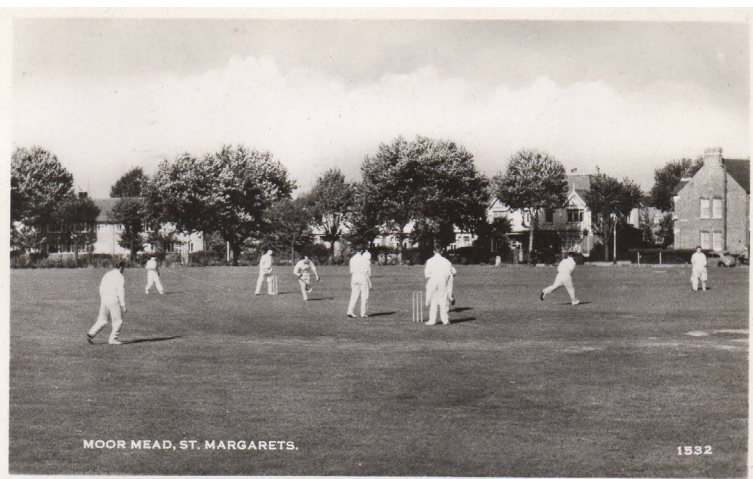
If anyone from the club can give me an update and photo of the current ladies team(s), I will be pleased to feature it in a future column.



It is nice to know that The Green, Marble Hill and Moormead still have their cricket matches every summer. Long may it continue.

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.

The final two postcards show an early match taking place in Marble Hill Park in 1912 and a 1964 view of a cricket match on Moormead. Is that my old mate Wilf Palmer running between the wickets?



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



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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)



The Open Book, 10, King Street, Richmond

Application For Planning Permission, Reference [23/2872/FUL](#)

The Open Book, an independent bookshop in Richmond since 1987, is facing loss of space in connection to proposed access to a self-contained flat on the upper part of the building.

There is also concern that the proposal will affect the surviving, early-to-mid-18th century flight of stairs that serves the second floor.

A separate entrance to the flat above is proposed, narrowing the front of The Open Book, resulting in loss of reasonable access to the Open Book window display.

Thus, it seems that the proposal will have a damaging impact on the viability of The Open Book retail use in relation to the loss of retail floorspace at ground floor level.

The proposed new staircase from ground floor level to first floor level requires a cycle-wheel ramp, the creation of a large bulkhead within the proposed living room and the loss of the lower part of the staircase serving the upper floors.

Public comments have highlighted the difficulty that disabled people and pushchair users will encounter when trying to access the book shop.

Local opposition to the planning application included The Richmond Society and The Friends of Richmond Green.

There were 196 Objections and 3 Comments but no public support for the proposal.

However, despite the absence of public support, LBRUT Council officers recommended to delegate authority to the Head of Development Management to approve the application for conditional Planning Permission.

The Lib Dem and Green members of the planning committee voted unanimously to approve the proposals, despite the overwhelming public objection.



Postcard Column Follow Up

Last Week's Cricket Story

By Alan Winter

We had some interesting feedback from readers following last week's column about cricket matches on Twickenham Green. One of the most interesting was a letter received from Bob Elson who picked up on the fact that one of England's most famous ever cricketers W.G. Grace had played on the Green.

Bob had also found a piece on W.G. Grace and his brother E. M. Grace who had both actually played in Twickenham for the Orleans Club against the Australian national cricket team in a drawn match on 25th and 26th May 1882. The match was played over the two days.

Orleans Cricket Club played in the grounds of Orleans House. These days it is the location where Orleans school sits between Richmond Road and the Orleans Gallery.

So, thanks for that Bob, who also provided a detailed report of the match along with the score sheets for the game.

This is what I like about local history. Find one old postcard and we end up with a 142 year-old story that may otherwise have remained unknown or forgotten.

The Richmond Bookshop, Paradise Road, Richmond

Owner: John Prescott, Bookseller

By Teresa Read

As a student in the Seventies, I used to visit the second-hand bookshop near the old police station in Paradise Road Richmond every Saturday morning.

Moving to Richmond in the mid Seventies I began life as a student - for many years, a life-long student - starting worldinfozone.com in 1997 with my visit to Hong Kong a week before the UK Handover to China.

Despite enjoying my teenage years, I have always been an academic at heart and spent the years since the Hong Kong visit working with individuals and organizations all over the world to produce the World InfoZone website which has received recognition from EU initiated projects.

Thus, having spent so much of my life as a teacher and promoting education on the internet, I am in favour of bookshops, such as the second-hand bookshop, run by the late John Prescott (bookseller), that used to exist near the old police station in the town of Richmond upon Thames.

Books are still important, despite the internet. Perhaps before too long there will be few bookshops, with people spending their time on social media instead of going to a bookshop and picking up a book, maybe a second-hand book, like those mentioned in Richmond.

There have been many changes since my Saturday morning visits to the Richmond Bookshop and where I occasionally saw browsing local celebrities, such as David Attenborough, Bamber Gascoigne and Desmond Morris. Perhaps there are readers who remember the old bookshop and would like to send their memories to the Tribune.

Harvest Thanksgiving

Report and pictures by Doug Goodman.

Large, colourful floral displays greeted members of the congregation of St. Mary's Church in Twickenham last weekend when the church celebrated Harvest Thanksgiving. The team of flower arrangers decked the chancel, font, porch and every window sill with bright bunches of flowers and piles of fruit to ensure enhanced worship on a special day. Attending the service were members of the 13th Twickenham scouts, cubs and beavers who served coffee and refreshments to the congregation. Anita Capolla from Small Steps spoke about the work of her charity.

Generous donations of food products were provided for distribution to The Vineyard Food Bank.



Lime bikes may be banned in London borough

Teresa Read

It has been reported recently that Brent Council has given a deadline for the improvement of safety measures for Lime bikes. Other London Councils such as Wandsworth are also experiencing problems, such as dockless bikes parked inconsiderately.

There are serious issues for people with sight and mobility limitations caused when bikes are left obstructing the public highway and I am sure that at one time or another we have witnessed issues caused by e-bikes as well as e-scooters - where users are not taking appropriate care for others or abiding by the law.

Except where permitted by local rules, a person must be 18 or older to ride Lime, and have a valid driver's license or ID where required.

Lime Help Centre:

When you are riding, you ride at your own risk. Please note that there may be specific local regulations that you have to comply with. Refer to the Lime app for more details

In addition to local regulations, to ride a scooter or bike, you must follow the below rules:

1. Wear a helmet
2. Check the brakes before riding
3. Abide by all traffic laws
4. Be 18 years of age or older
5. Have a valid driver's license or ID
6. One rider per Lime (no passengers)
7. Do not drink alcohol and ride
8. Use caution and take your time when riding at night
9. Never text/call and ride
10. Be aware of cars, bikes, and pedestrians at all times

LBRUT: LIME BIKES

If you have specific issues relating to a Lime bike, please report it. Each Lime bike has an identifying number on it.

Email: support@li.me Telephone: 0800 808 5223

METROPOLITAN POLICE:

“**E-scooters** are classed as motor vehicles under the [Road Traffic Act 1988](#). Which means the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters including the need to have a licence, insurance, and tax. It's not currently possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces. If you're using a private e-scooter you risk the vehicle being seized under S.165 Road Traffic Act 1988 for no insurance.

If you cause serious harm to another person whilst riding an e-scooter the incident will be investigated in the same way it would if you were riding a motorcycle or driving a car.”



Kettner Concerts in Twickenham



Opera 4 Hands Duo Licchetta-Sequestro (piano duet)

Verdi | Bellini | Rossini

Italian piano virtuosos join forces to present a keyboard extravaganza of operatic highlights from their native Italy



Sumptuous harmonies, heart-wrenching melodies, intrigue, comedy, and high drama exemplify the golden age of Italian opera, and nowhere more so than in the work of these three legends: Verdi, Bellini and Rossini. Now, experience pianistic spectacle squared, as not one but two Italian virtuosos take on these masters at the keyboard, bringing you some of the most loved and celebrated operatic music arranged for piano four-hands in an evening of spirit-rousing sound and prodigious showmanship.



Saturday, 21 September, 6PM

St Mary's Church
Twickenham Church
Street TW1 3NJ



Tickets: £15
(£10 for students and under 18s)
kettnerconcerts.co.uk
Book tickets on Eventbrite.co.uk
or scan the qr code

The Kettner Society is a registered charity no. 1161105
for enquiries: kettnerconcerts@gmail.com

You Could Be a Local Trustee

The Richmond CVS Trustee Recruitment Evening is back this month, and it's the biggest yet!

Over 30 groups will be on hand to introduce you to their work and trustee opportunities in the Atrium and Theatre at Richmond and Hillcroft Adult Community College (RHACC) between 6pm and 8.15pm on Wednesday 25 September.

As part of their work as the go-to support for local voluntary or community organisations, this annual free information and speed matching event is for anyone aged 18+ who is interested in finding out about volunteering and is curious about skilled or strategic roles.

The event is organised by the Richmond Volunteer Service, a team within Richmond CVS, who are here to guide you in learning about local groups that could be looking for just the skills you offer. If you've been looking for a really valuable way to 'give back' with your professional experience, trusteeship could be for you.



You can register now and informally speak to a range of great causes under one roof, as well as gain valuable information about others. Amongst the stallholders will be those working in areas such as advice, arts, care, children, disability, health, education, history, heritage, neighbourhood support – to name just a few. It's a fantastic way to get a flavour of what you could get involved with, as well as gaining an insight into the diverse groups that make our community so special, and maybe enjoy a free glass of wine too!

Whether your interest has just been piqued or you've already been considering some local volunteering, whether you're in work or retired, you could be inspired at this "excellent event" (in the words of a 2023 attendee). If you're in the area, or you'll be passing at the end of your day, register for a place to visit at www.richmondcv.org.uk.



Creative kids can enter artworks and names for new Teddington Clinic

From The Friends of Teddington Memorial Hospital

If you are between 7 and 11 years old and looking for a fun project, you can enter names and artworks for the new clinic at Teddington Memorial Hospital.



The local NHS is planning a new Pain Clinic at the hospital to help people in our community improve their quality of life and wellbeing.

Local children in the age range who live or go to school in Richmond are invited to submit names or A4-sized drawings to celebrate how the Pain Clinic helps people feel better and happier.

Competition details

[Complete the entry form](#), and submit digital photos of your artwork and entry form by email to comms@friends-tmh.co.uk.

Alternatively you can send copies by post to:

Pain Clinic Competition
The League of Friends
Teddington Memorial Hospital
Hampton Road
Teddington
TW11 0JL

The submission deadline is **Sunday 3 November 2024**.

You can find out [more information about the competition](#).



Council Briefing

20th September 2024

By James Knight

Education and Children's Services Committee

The most critical item in last Thursday's meeting (12th September) was the falling role of the borough's primary schools. No school closures are planned; however, depending on how things develop, some closures or federation agreements may be needed in the long term.

The spending on SEND Children (Special Educational Needs and Disabled) schooling is still £2.7 million more than the block grant from the government. It will require a top-up by Richmond Council of £1.2 million from the general fund, with the rest coming from the Government via the Safety Valve Agreement. This is where Richmond has agreed to a package of measures to reduce the long-term cost of educating SEND children by increasing the number of in-borough places and reducing the level of support specified within Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP).

You can read the paper for the meeting by following the link [HERE](#)

Transport and Air Quality Committee

Monday's Transport and Air Quality Committee discussed a report on the result of 20 MPH on traffic speeds in the borough. Officer Nick O'Donnell 'bang on the mark' for what we would expect nationally for 20 MPH schemes. The report only specified average speeds over 24 hours and did not break them down to better indicate speeds when traffic is free-flowing, which was a lost opportunity.

The committee decided to look at physical interventions at sites with average traffic speeds above 24 MPH, and the road with the highest speed was Hospital Bridge Road outside the new Turing House School in Whitton. Cllr Andree Frieze pointed out that officers were using the term 'accidents' rather than the recommended term 'incidents' so as this implies, they were unavoidable. She also asked for accidents to be analysed to see if SUVs are contributing to the severity of accidents. The report showed that Whitton High Street was now the location for the highest number of incidents for two-wheeled vehicles.

Cllr James Chard (Twickenham Riverside) asked if the council could apply pressure to allow for civil enforcement of speed limits (something they had previously tried to do using experimental powers but were blocked by the Government in 2023). Cllr Ehmann replied, "Frankly, I don't believe police do anywhere near enough." He confirmed the council would be "very enthusiastic to take over enforcement powers." Had police enforcement been adequate before, we wouldn't have needed to implement a 20-MPH limit.

The committee then agreed to enhance the gateway measures at school streets: there will now be a band of red tarmac applied at the entrances and some bollards in the form of pencils. However, there was some dissent from Cllr Jonathan Cardy (Fulwell and Hampton Hill), who said he preferred barriers so that no fines would be issued. Unlike Wandsworth, which is part of

the Shared Staffing Agreement, school streets in Richmond have no signs that spell out “School Street” or the text “Pedestrian and Cycle Zone” and rely just on the round no motor vehicle sign and a plate stating the operational times – maybe this is one of the reasons for the thousands of fines that are still being handed out each year.

Cycle parking was next, and the council agreed to build more cycle parking spaces by removing on-street car parking spaces where pavements are narrow or near stations. Cllr Marjory Millum (Barnes) said that many residents are unaware they can request a bike hanger and asked if communications need improvement. Officers explained that bike hangers cost around £3,000 to £5,00 each, limiting how many can be installed each year.

On the final item, the committee work program, Jonathan Cardy asked for the council to reserve the bus stop changes in central Twickenham – so they are all in the centre again. Cllr Ehmann said this had to come after the Richmond Riverside Development and the need to reallocate parking spaces.

You can read the paper for the meeting by following the link [HERE](#)

Adult Social Services Committee

On Tuesday, the committee received a presentation on the proposed merger of Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trust and Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. The merger should be agreed upon by mid-October to create Kingston Richmond NHS Trust.

The committee then looked at the quarterly monitoring report and the £3.1 million overspend on adult social care and temporary accommodation for the homeless. The deputy leader tried to blame the last Conservative Government for this. However, part of the problem was the council’s reliance on private-sector landlords rather than securing its temporary accommodation until a couple of years ago.

Next up was the Social Housing Improvement Plan –the council’s plan to hold independent housing associations that provide social housing in the borough. Richmond is unusual in London for having no council housing after an earlier Liberal Democratic Council carried out a block transfer, which now means it depends on third parties’ goodwill to deliver its policy objectives. Theresa May made several significant reforms in 2017 to enable a ‘rebirth’ in council housing, though the Liberal Democrats in Richmond seem reluctant to use any of them.

Several other reports were presented to the committee to note, including the Tenants Champion Annual Report, Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report, Health Watch Annual Report, and the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees update. Overall, this committee is being presented with reports and given information rather than one in the driving seat making decisions, something that was picked up in the Local Government Peer Challenge Report.

You can read the paper for the meeting by following the link [HERE](#)

WANTED!

Trustees for local charities



Richmond CVS Trustee Recruitment Evening

Wednesday 25 September, 6pm - 8.15pm

RHACC, Parkshot, Richmond, TW9 2RE



scan me

register for your free place at www.richmondcv.org.uk

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Volunteer
Service

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CVS 
empower - enable - involve

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Reg charity no 1075259

supported by
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Parliamentary Briefing

By James Knight

Whitton's Ruth Cadbury elected chair of the influential Transport Committee

The speaker has declared Ruth Cadbury the new chair of the Transport Committee. Since 2010, select committee chairs are chosen by the whole House by secret ballot using the alternative vote system, under which MPs rank candidates in order of preference. In the final round, she beat her opponent, Fabian Hamilton, with 328 votes to his 163.

“It is a great honour to be elected by MPs from across the House of Commons as the new Chair of the Transport Committee.”

“Transport touches every aspect of our lives, from getting to work to seeing our loved ones and ensuring we can buy the goods we need. Furthermore, the local transport challenges vary considerably across the country.”

She continued, “Working cross-party, this Committee will continue to champion the sector and consumers across the country. I can't wait to start working with my new colleagues on holding the Government and service providers to account.”

Munira Wilson's Conference Speech

Munira Wilson made a keynote speech at the Autumn Liberal Democrat Conference in Brighton. We have reproduced the text of her speech at the end of this publication.

Munira praised the new Education Secretary and promised to work with her constructively while slamming the ‘Tories’, whom she accused of leaving a ‘toxic mess.’

Munira was visibly enjoying promising to extend the pupil premium to colleges, increase the minimum wage to apprentices, provide skills grants for adults, provide tutoring for 12 million pupils, provide extra funding for SEND pupils, and raise more money for rebuilding the schools. However, how realistic is this against the backdrop of a budget that Labour is warning is “going to be painful”?

In June 2024 the left-leaning IFS issued a reaction to the Liberal Democrat manifesto: “The Liberal Democrats want to top up existing spending plans so that the state remains at around its current size, relative to national income - and hence considerably bigger than it was pre-pandemic. They propose a top-up to day-to-day spending plans to be funded by some big tax increases, on top of those currently in the pipeline. By focusing on taxing banks, energy companies and tech giants, many of these tax rises are intended to look ‘victimless’ - but of course they are not. We are already raising more from taxing companies than at any time in decades. Moreover, there are clear risks that their package of tax measures would not raise the £27 billion a year that they claim.”

Her speech went down well in the conference hall. The drawback is that she promised what no government could deliver in the current circumstances post-COVID and the Ukraine invasion without making deep cuts elsewhere in public expenditure, as the pensioners have found out to their cost.

Liberal Democrat reshuffle

Following the Liberal Democrat conference, Ed Davey carried out a reshuffle. One of the most notable demotions was Richmond Park's MP Sarah Olney. Her high-profile brief as Treasury Spokesperson has been given to the deputy leader, Daisey Cooper MP, and has been given the obscure Cabinet Office brief instead.

Munira Wilson, who represents the Twickenham Constituency and was the Education spokesperson, has had her title upgraded with children and families added to her role. However, with the Liberal Democrat parliamentary party growing to 72 members, she will now have much more competition for a top position. It will be interesting to see how the different strands of thought in the Liberal Democrats will get on with one another and if they continue to criticise the Labour Party from the left.

Passing the Kendle Market Test?

This week, the Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer has been dogged by claims that he has been taking advantage of his position as leader of the Labour Party by accepting freebies totalling over £100,000, including over £40,000 on football season tickets alone. On BBC Question Time this week, former Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron MP was applauded when he said the prime minister should have the "basic wisdom" to turn these gifts down. He said his test was whether explaining it to a constituent in his local market would cause embarrassment.

The most recent register of interests shows that Munira Wilson MP (Twickenham) has bagged the following freebies: FA Cup Final tickets worth £600 in May 2024; Royal Box tickets at Wembley worth £476 in March 2024; a lobbyist paid for her staff office party that cost £709 in December 2023; tickets to the National Theatre worth £192 in December 2003; and in June 2023 further National Theatre tickets worth £200. Is this haul totalling over £2,000 something to blush about when taking a constituent at the metaphorical market?

Richmond Park's member of parliament Sarah Olney's register of interest shows that she accepted tickets to a football match worth £400 and tickets to the Olivier Theatre Awards valued at £1,050. Whitton's MP (Brentford & Isleworth) last took a freebie in 2022 when she received Brentford football club tickets worth £300 in July 2022.

Next week at Richmond Council

On Tuesday, the Schools Forum will meet to school finance, falling rolls in primary schools, the shortage of places in secondary schools, the SEND overspend. The meeting will start at 1.30 pm at York House, Twickenham.

For full details, please follow the link [HERE](#)

How to participate: we encourage all members of the public who live or work in the borough to engage. You can submit questions or speak on an item in the agenda. To ask a question, simply submit your question by 12 noon, two working days in advance. To speak, you must register by noon the working day before the meeting.

For further details on how to participate, please follow the link [HERE](#)

Richmond Council gives thumbs-up to UK's first School Street entry treatment

From Richmond Council

We have approved the roll-out of an eye-catching new School Streets treatment designed to create a safer environment for pupils around schools and to reduce the number of drivers entering the area.

Following a successful trial using colourful 'pencil bollards' and 'dragon's teeth' to signal the start of a School Street, we will roll out these road designs across the 17 School Streets across the borough, improving visibility, compliance and safety.

Councillor Alexander Ehmann, Chair of the Transport and Air Quality Services Committee, said:

"School Streets are there to make the area around our schools safer for vulnerable young road-users. It also makes the space one where all pedestrians are 'top-dog' and we know that this encourages walking and wheeling to school too."

School Streets have been a resounding success, but we hear that some drivers still

miss the statutory signage and inadvertently enter these safe spaces. This Council no more wants those drivers in School Streets than the drivers want the fines for being in these roads. We know from our trial that installation of Richmond's treatments has resulted in fewer drivers entering School Streets and that is the result we were hoping for. Our desire has always been to make these spaces as safe as possible, which means reducing the fines issued in them. That is why the Council has invested time and resource in a design that helps drivers to know the special nature of the street ahead.

Cllr Ehmann added: *"This first-of-its-kind treatment has attracted a lot of interest from other Councils around the country and Richmond hopes that what began in our borough may yet become the template that other councils will follow."*

The enhanced gateway design includes a 5m deep red resin bound surface across the carriageway at each of the School Street entrances. There are also four white triangular 'dragon's teeth' along the kerb edge on the red surface with three pencil bollards on either side.

The treatment has been trialled at St. John the Baptist Primary School in Hampton Wick where there was observed to be higher than average levels of non-compliance. The enhanced gateway treatment has led to a significant reduction in Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) in the area.

Find out more about [School Streets in Richmond upon Thames](#).



Mark your calendar for free Full of Life Fund community events this October

From Richmond Council

In addition to the Full of Life Fair on Friday 27 September at Twickenham Stadium, we are supporting local organisations and groups to host their own community events and activities for our older residents from 1 to 31 October through the Full of Life Fund.

This year's fund programme features over 30 exciting events and activities, ranging from fitness and dance sessions and creative workshops to community gatherings, conversation groups and special celebrations. Don't miss out on the fun and opportunities to connect with your community!

The free events will take place from Tuesday 1 October to Thursday 31 October 2024. Some events are limited capacity and must be RSVP'd to on a first-come, first-served basis.



View the [list of free events and activities](#), as well as details of how to RSVP to organisers.

Richmond Film Society announce their 61st season of world cinema

From Richmond Film Society

From Tuesday 17 September, this local charity will be showcasing a selection of carefully curated movies, offering a balanced mix of genres and origins.

The new season will begin with the French comedy 'The Innocent'.

The programme comprises 20 acclaimed films of international repute from 13 countries across Europe, Africa, Central America, East Asia, the USA and the UK.

- **Date:** Alternate Tuesdays from 17 September 2024 to 24 June 2025
- **Time:** 8pm
- **Location:** The Exchange, 75 London Road, Twickenham, TW1 1BE
- **Price:** £5 for non-members, £3 for full-time students

[Buy your tickets in advance online](#), or from The Exchange's Box Office in person, or by telephone on 020 8240 2399.

Find out more about [Richmond Film Society](#).



Cucina Del Veneto: A Venetian Delight

I adore Venice. It's such a romantic city, and on the two occasions I've visited, we've enjoyed the most amazing food and drink. I'd love to go again soon, but in the meantime, I'm poring over a fabulous new cookbook that is a virtual trip to Venice - the photography is stunning, and the recipes are mouthwatering.

Cucina del Veneto is by Ursula Ferrigno and published by **Ryland, Peters & Small** at £22 for a hardback, packed photos by Clare Winfield. Ursula's a talented cook and prolific food writer, who grew up among the sun-drenched lemon groves and vineyards of Italy's rugged Amalfi Coast. She embodies the Italian and Mediterranean passion for good food made from the freshest natural ingredients. If, like me, you're a fan of either the city of Venice or its cuisine, I'd urge you to discover this book too.



In the meantime, here are a couple of recipes to give you a taste of 'la dolce vita':

RADICCHIO IN SAOR (Serves 4–6)

"I've grown up safe in the knowledge that radicchio is special, not only for my father's business but as a tasty, health-giving vegetable that is extremely versatile and grows well in the fertile soil of the Veneto and other areas. Please try a crostini with this particular topping."

- 40 g raisins
- 8 heads of radicchio treviso
- 2 medium onions
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 75 ml red wine vinegar
- 30 g pine nuts
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method:

Leave the raisins to steep in a little lukewarm water for 20 minutes.

Wash the radicchio, dry well and cut each into 4 pieces lengthways.

Peel and finely slice the onions, cook in a large pan with the olive oil and cook until it is lightly coloured.



Add the vinegar and then the pine nuts. Next, add the radicchio and continue cooking over a medium heat, stirring now and then, for about 12 minutes.

Add the extra virgin olive oil and season well with salt and pepper.

This saor can be served on crostini as cicchetti (you will need to cut the radicchio into smaller pieces to top the crostini) and can also be served as an antipasto.

BAKED FENNEL & CHEESE / FINOCCHIO AL FORMAGGIO (serves 6)

“Making this dish recently for a group of students, everyone was a little alarmed at my method as everything seems to go into the oven very quickly and with very little fuss. The results were so good however, that I converted a few opinions.

“Fontina is a truly celebrated cheese from high in the alpine meadows of Valle d’Aosta – the flavour for me is of honey, fruit and nuts. It is perfect with white truffles, if you ever have the opportunity.”

- 6 fennel bulbs
- 50 g unsalted butter
- 115 g Fontina cheese, freshly grated (blue cheese also works well)
- freshly grated nutmeg
- 50 ml whole milk
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method:

Preheat the oven to 220°C/200°C fan/425°F/Gas 7.

Trim the fennel bulbs, reserving any fronds for later, and discard the tough outer layers.

Cut the bulbs into small wedges and cook in a small amount of boiling salted water until tender. Drain and place in a greased baking dish.

Dot the fennel with a little of the butter, then season with salt and pepper. Cover the fennel with the grated Fontina, sprinkle with a pinch of nutmeg and pour over the milk.

Dot with the remaining butter, then bake in the preheated oven for 10 minutes until crisp and golden. Serve hot with the reserved fennel fronds scattered over the top.

Note: Fennel bulbs are often referred to as either male or female. This relates to the two different natural shapes of the bulbs (male bulbs are elongated; female bulbs are round). There is no real difference in flavour once they are roasted, but I like to use 3 male and 3 female when I make this dish.



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Earthshot Prize Finalists 2024

By Teresa Read

The 15 Finalists for the 2024 Earthshot Prize will be announced at the Earthshot Prize Innovation Summit in New York City on September 24th!

This year, The Earthshot Prize will bring its annual celebration to South Africa for the first time, following events in London in 2021, Boston in 2022 and Singapore in 2023.

“The Earth is at a tipping point. We face a stark choice: either we continue as we are and irreparably damage our planet, or we remember our unique power as humans and our continual ability to lead, innovate and problem-solve.

People can achieve great things. The next ten years present us with one of our greatest tests – a decade of action to repair the Earth.” Prince William Founder and President

THE EARTHSHOT PRIZE

Last year's Tribune article for the Earthshot Prize (Tribune 259)

This week saw the announcement of the winners of the Earthshot Prize. This initiative was of particular interest to me as it reminded me of World InfoZone's work with the Stockholm Challenge and the Junior Global Challenge which encouraged people around the world to put forward innovative information technology projects at the turn of the century. Similar, to the abovementioned Challenges the Earthshot Prize is divided into categories with an overall winner for each group. There were fifteen finalists and each of these will receive support to further their work. The five winners, one for each category, receive £1 million in prize money. Costa Rica, in Central America, won the overall prize in the category Protect and Restore Nature.

In the 1990s there was concern in Costa Rica about the loss of trees and the need to restore ecosystems. The Ministry for Environment in Costa Rica paid citizens to plant and protect trees; joint cooperation between the government and the people of the country.

The Earthshot Prize, a Royal Foundation, was founded by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and will continue to take place annually until 2030.



A puppy on the side of the road?

By Deep Patel

~ Life Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~



Many people work in a job where they know pretty much what they will be facing from one moment to the next...it's reassuring they say, they like the familiarity, the predictability, the security and control of how their day will go and what exactly they will need to do...well if that's the type of job you like...never become a shopkeeper...no one day is the same as the next believe you me...

Earlier this week, our paper boy rushed back to the shop five minutes into his paper round...I imagined he had wrongly delivered a newspaper or that I had perhaps missed writing one of the houses out in the round (it happens when I haven't slept well sometimes)...but no...neither of these was the reason that he had come back...he rushed in asking my mother "where is Deep, where is Deep, I need him fast"...my mum immediately came into find me watering my plants in the back and said "quick, the paperboy wants you"...I ran out thinking is he feeling unwell? I was wrong again...he was perfectly fine, he just said "Deep, please come quick, I have found a tiny, tiny puppy thrown out on the streets under a big tree" ...I immediately sprinted out and up the road in my flip-flops looking like a raving loon (my brother would argue I always look that way) and the paperboy followed me on his bike...

We got to a house with a huge tree outside and the paper boy shouted "stop, there he is, he is barely breathing" ...I stopped and looked down...what I saw was not a tiny puppy...but a juvenile squirrel! He had fallen out of the huge tree outside that house and on the pavement below...he was cold...not moving much at all...but breathing. Many of you will know that we volunteer for various wildlife charities as an advice point and connect those who need advice for various species the RSPCA or vets may not be able to help with the right organisations that can help...I am talking about mice, squirrels, pigeons, foxes and other un-loved animals! So I called a specialist asking for help and was surprised with what he said...

He said place him in a box with many ventilation holes and get a hot-water bottle under one half of the box (just one half though!) and then he said cover the body in a warm towel or fleece, keeping the face out...I said, forget all that, he is hardly moving, and cold, he needs food no? Must be hungry? What shall give him to eat and drink? He said that initially food and drink was NOT important, it was all about heat...! He said that although heat was important for young squirrels...they can over-heat, so place the hot-water bottle under just one half of the

box, so if he wants to move to the cooler side...he can! Miraculously, after he was in the box and the hot-water bottle was under the box, he started coming “back to life” again...he started to move and his little paws and legs and before I knew it he was up and walking again!! The combination of gentle heat and love had brought him back from the dead (or so it seemed)...I called the specialist back and he said that he would collect him from my shop that afternoon and all I had to do was allow him warmth on one half of the box (using my trusted hot-water bottle) and a cooler area on the other half...he came later and took the little squirrel away to safety!

So although not a puppy...our paperboy and his awareness saved a little life (and they say fourteen year old boy's brains are full of rubbish?)...to reward him for his good deed, my mother said to him he could choose anything from our shop as a treat for him...and he (oddly) chose a bag of monkey nuts...puzzled, I asked him why he chose them instead of an extra-large sized bar of Cadbury Dairy Milk or anything else for that matter...he replied “I saw how that young squirrel looked hungry and weak and felt sorry for him, so I want to take some nuts down to Marble Hill Park and feed the squirrels after school today”...my heart sank and I thought to myself...there are nice teenagers in this world...certainly in Twickenham...and we at Meet & Deep Newsagents were proud to have one as our paperboy.

It's not uncommon for a customer to walk into my shop and see a member of the public handing me a bird or a hedgehog that needs help...since we volunteered to be an advise point for London Wildlife Protection (a charitable organization that look after birds around London) our shop is no longer just a sweet shop, oh no, those days are long gone...we are now a mini animal A&E / sweet shop...what a winning combination right? Pop in to Meet & Deep Newsagents to buy yourself a copy of your favourite newspaper, some custard creams, some of our bakery bread and oh yes...ask about that pigeon you have found with the squinty eye...nowhere else but in Twickenham would this happen...and nowhere else but at Meet & Deep Newsagents... but it happens! We have saved over 100 injured animals from being needlessly put to sleep by vets (not their fault, many simply can't hold wild animals for long to rehabilitate them and so have to euthanize) and many rescues like RSPCA often cannot accommodate birds like pigeons and parakeets and they put them to sleep...my philosophy is “all lives matter”... most of the nice people generally don't think it's good to differentiate between humans from different cultures, backgrounds or ethnicities right? So why do this with birds? A pigeon or a swan...both can feel pain? This past week, this has been the talking topic in my shop... all lives matter...if we believe in being kind...be kind to all...you never know when you may need that kindness back...

Remember...

“Whatever it is...all lives matter..”

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 in our 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: InsectLoversUnite@gmail.com or join my Facebook group: “INSECT LOVERS UNITE”.

Have you seen an injured pigeon, parakeet, corvid or garden bird?

Call: LONDON WILDLIFE PROTECTION

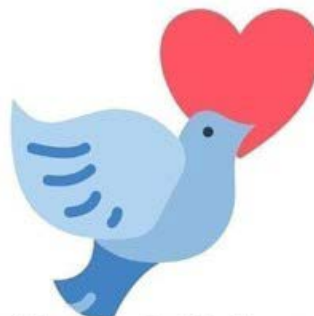
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EMAIL: londonwildlifeProtection@outlook.com

American Buffalo

by David Mamet

Richmond Shakespeare Society at the Mary Wallace Theatre until 21st September

This intriguing, but not wholly satisfactory play, has hurdles to overcome. *American Buffalo* is set in a junk shop. The staging is excellent, a large number of items spread around the set, adding to the claustrophobic atmosphere despite limiting the movement of the actors. Their surroundings weigh heavily upon the three characters, and on their actions. They try to make plans, but they never really happen.



The trio is not a logical one. Donny (Eric Petrossian) is phlegmatic and not over-inspiring, but deep down he is a person with whom we can sympathise. He has a heart, but is capable of some outbursts of temper fed by frustration. Bobby is the novice, out of his depth, naïve, and a somewhat pathetic individual. William Hunter's is a lovely and well thought-out portrayal. Teach (Hugh Cox) is the "big man" who dominates, the know-all. However, a lot of Teach is merely bluster rather than action, which he is overly at pains to explain and justify.



Much time is spent in banter and philosophising and it is only later that we find out exactly what their aim is: to gain possession of the rest of a hoard of coins, since they merely have one valuable nickel. Just as the platitudes begin to irritate, when we are not sure where things are going, it all starts to become clearer and the play livens up considerably.

Their decision is to carry out a midnight raid. They recruit a colleague, Fletcher, whom we never see. Now the action should grab our interest and the pace should quicken. Yet they never really do anything, and are still too busy with questioning each other, justifying each other, reasoning. Teach sums things up, "I don't know why, you don't know why, but we are both better off".

Entertaining and even moving as much of *American Buffalo* is, it leaves a feeling of being inside an exercise of futility. Director, Fiona Smith's production is a strong one, finely paced, and the occasional periods of silence allow us to breathe. The ending is complete collapse: Fletcher is in hospital, the raid has not happened. Teach has assaulted and injured Bobby and they still only have the one nickel. *Satis quod sufficit.*

Read Salieri's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/09/15/am-buffalo

Photography by Richard Morgan

How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found

by Fin Kennedy

The Questors at the Studio, Ealing until 21st September

Opening with vignettes about people who walk away from their lives, never to be seen again, *How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found* deals with the sensitive topic of missing persons (up to 250,000 annually in the UK).

Director Steve Fitzpatrick leans into the Radiohead association, including the track that also shares its title with Kennedy's non-fiction book by the same name. These sounds accompany the breakdown of Charlie, a young advertising executive, and his attempts to begin a new life. The result is an angst-laden drama, firmly rooted in the early noughties. The initial sparse staging is deceptive, as trucked flats spin in and out to reveal wardrobes, offices, and a towering toilet! All is completed by projections and a prodigious props list.



Charlie, played with gusto and jet black humour by Pascal Orzabal, carries his late mother's ashes around with him. He works inhuman hours in advertising and has a cocaine habit, owing a five figure sum to a drug dealer (Matt Cranfield, in one of his colourful "geezer" roles). When his precarious life unravels further after a chaotic New Year's Eve party, he flees London to call on Mike.

James Goodden plays small-time criminal Mike with enormous relish, clearly having more fun than his additional roles such as the wonderfully gloomy Lost Property officer. With entertainingly blunt pragmatism, Mike walks Charlie through how to shed his old life, to become Adam.

Adam doesn't seem to enjoy himself much more than Charlie did, and quickly finds himself falling back. Gradually all the characters whose brief stories were heard at the opening, lost souls like Charlie, appear.

That he meets a bad end is therefore almost inevitable. Charlie even meets his own pathologist at a party (Erin Stavrianos, who makes the most of every moment she is on stage).

With its committed performances, taut direction, hypnotic soundtrack and absurdly heightened characters, *How to Disappear Completely* feels like an adventure in existentialism of which Albert Camus would be proud.

Whether you see shades of *Fight Club* or of *Reginald Perrin* in Orzabal's energetic central performance, *How to Disappear Completely and Never be Found* is a compelling and darkly hilarious play which demands full engagement, but will stay long after the final bow.

Read Andrew Lawston's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/09/14/disappear

Photography by Jane Arnold-Forster

Arts Richmond reveal finalists for the New Plays Festival 2024

From Arts Richmond

On Sunday 13 October, final shortlisted plays will be brought to life in a staged performance at the Orange Tree Theatre, where the winning script will be announced.

Arts Richmond received 54 submissions for its New Plays Festival this year.

After much discussion and deliberation, they have whittled the entries down to four finalists:

- 'Sky Horses' by Patricia Bertram
- 'That's All Folks' by Jacqueline Hazell
- 'The Boot Room' by Rebecca Mayhew
- 'Common Ground' by Dominic Parford

This shortlisted quartet will be performed in front of an audience and a judging panel of professional theatre practitioners.

The judging panel will select the final winning script, and a trophy and prize will be presented to the winning writer at the event.

Don't miss out on original plays by local playwrights, come along and be part of the occasion!

- Date: Sunday 13 October
- Time: 3 to 5pm
- Location: Orange Tree Theatre, 1 Clarence St, Richmond, TW9 2SA
- Price: £10
- [Book your tickets](#)

Find out more about [Arts Richmond](#).



Twickenham and Teddington Performing Arts Stars In New Netflix Film

Fifteen students aged 10 to 15 alongside teachers from [Stagecoach Performing Arts Twickenham](#) and [Stagecoach Performing Arts Teddington](#) produced a scene for the Netflix action film *The Union*, starring Mark Wahlberg and Halle Berry.

The team spent three months at Shepperton Studios, the company behind movies such as *Matilda* and *Cruella*, where they fully choreographed a dance sequence inspired by a dystopian version of *Peter Pan*, set to their recording of the song “I Won’t Grow Up,” written by Mark Charlap and Carolyn Leigh.



A highlight of the experience was recording the track at Abbey Studios, in which student **Ariella aged 12, said:** “It was really an amazing, thrilling experience to work and film for *The Union*. I found the Chaperones there and teachers extremely professional and very friendly which made my experience even more enjoyable.”

“One of my favourite things was recording in Abbey Studios because it was amazing to learn such a well written song and record it in a famous studio. Even though it’s been a while since

The Union has been filmed, involvement in it has made me want to pursue my acting career and want to do more filming. I am very grateful that I got to participate in this experience and hopefully will get more opportunities in the future.”

Student Dylan, aged 12, said: “I enjoyed every moment and it was a fabulous opportunity that has assisted me greatly. I most enjoyed attending the recording studio.”

Filming took place shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic, with strict health and safety protocols in place, including daily testing of the crew. The scene, a visually stunning sequence featuring trampolines, acrobatics, and a custom-built set was filmed at the historic Theatre Royal Windsor. This project marks an exciting milestone for Stagecoach Performing Arts Twickenham and Teddington, showcasing their expertise in performance and choreography on a global stage.

Sarah Chitty, Principal from Stagecoach Twickenham, said: “It was a huge privilege being able to work for three months sourcing acrobats, choreographers, MDs and the cast to create this scene. To be able to offer the opportunity to our very own students was quite special and we were thrilled we made the cut.”

Speaking about her role as Wendy, Hannah T, Stagecoach drama teacher, said: “It was an amazing experience working on a set for the first time with children I actually teach. The team was amazing and we were so looked after, it was such fun. We got to go to a very famous recording studio to record the film soundtrack - Coldplay and Adele have recorded there, unbelievable. This was my favourite part. The whole experience was amazing.”

The Union, directed by Julian Farino, follows an ordinary construction worker who becomes embroiled in the dangerous world of espionage. Filming locations spanned across Europe and the United States, and the film was released on August 16 2024.

Beyond teaching children of all ages how to sing, dance, and act, Stagecoach nurtures students into confident, well-rounded individuals equipped with the skills and resilience to take on life’s diverse challenges and opportunities.

Principal Sarah Chitty (Stagecoach Twickenham) and her husband Principal Will Chitty (Stagecoach Teddington) believe that the power of creativity and the performing arts can really help children to flourish. Both schools offer a unique opportunity for workshops with West End Stars and even performances in the West End.

For more information about Stagecoach Performing Arts Twickenham, please visit www.stagecoach.co.uk/twickenham and for Stagecoach Performing Arts Teddington, please visit www.stagecoach.co.uk/teddington, or phone 0208 979 5276.



UK Butterfly Emergency Declared

Big Butterfly Count results reveal lowest numbers on record

Wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation has today declared a national 'Butterfly Emergency', with results of this summer's Big Butterfly Count showing a marked and hugely concerning decline in numbers.

Overall, participants spotted just seven butterflies on average per 15-minute Count, a reduction of almost 50% on last year's average of 12, and the lowest in the 14-year history of the Big Butterfly Count.

It was the worst summer in the Count's history for Common Blue, Holly Blue, Green-veined White, Small White, Small Tortoiseshell, Painted Lady and Scotch Argus. And the majority of species (81%) showed declines in the number seen this year compared with 2023.

In total, just over 935,000 butterflies and day-flying moths were recorded across the UK from 12 July - 4 August, down almost 600,000, equivalent to more than a third of 2023's total, and 9,000 Counts were logged as seeing zero butterflies, the highest in the citizen science programme's history.

These figures have alarmed scientists and resulted in the charity declaring a nationwide 'Butterfly Emergency'.

Dr Richard Fox, Head of Science at Butterfly Conservation, said: *"The previous lowest average number of butterflies per Count was nine in 2022, this latest figure is 22% lower than that, which is very disturbing. Not just that, but a third of the species recorded in the Big Butterfly Count have had their worst year on record, and no species had their best. The results are in line with wider evidence that the summer of 2024 has been very poor for butterflies."*

*"Butterflies are a key indicator species; when they are in trouble we know that the wider environment is in trouble too. Nature is sounding the alarm call. We **must** act now if we are to turn the tide on these rapid declines and protect species for future generations."*

Butterfly Conservation is writing an open letter to Steve Reed, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, calling for the Government to act now for nature by declaring a 'Nature Emergency' and banning butterfly-killing neonicotinoid pesticides once and for all, with **no** exceptions, before it's too late.

Dr Fox explains: *"When used on farmland, these chemicals make their way into the wild plants growing at field edges, resulting in adult butterflies and moths drinking contaminated nectar and caterpillars feeding on contaminated plants. Many European countries have already banned these chemicals, it's time for the UK to follow suit and put the natural world first. If we don't act now to address the long-term drivers of butterfly decline, we will face extinction events never before seen in our lifetime."*

More than 85,000 citizen scientists took part in Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count this year, submitting 143,241 Counts. This is equivalent to 35,810 hours, or four years worth of time

spent counting, in gardens, parks, school grounds and the countryside.

Dr Richard Fox concluded: *“If every single person who helped with the Count this summer signs our letter to the Government, we could prevent the very real and pressing threat of species becoming extinct in our lifetime.”*

	BBC 2024: UK	Abundance	Average per count	% change from 2023	14-year trend (bold = statistically significant)
1	Gatekeeper	190,413	1.5	-18	-32%
2	Meadow Brown	177,844	1.4	6	-15%
3	Large White	138,424	1.1	-38	2%
4	Small White	112,814	0.9	-46	-19%
5	Peacock	50,847	0.4	-67	-30%
6	Red Admiral	47,109	0.4	-82	28%
7	Ringlet	44,278	0.3	85	-47%
8	Speckled Wood	30,112	0.2	-2	-38%
9	Comma	24,498	0.2	-52	-20%
10	Green-veined White	18,951	0.1	-24	-65%
11	Six-spot Burnet	18,102	0.1	88	-
12	Marbled White	17,922	0.1	101	-18%
13	Small Copper	13,962	0.1	-30	48%
14	Small Tortoiseshell	12,432	0.1	-74	-59%
15	Common Blue	9,755	0.1	-69	-52%
16	Brimstone	8,622	0.1	-53	-18%
17	Holly Blue	7,090	0.1	-80	36%
18	Painted Lady	4,170	0.03	-66	9%
19	Silver Y	4,101	0.03	-30	-
20	Jersey Tiger	3,496	0.03	-29	-
21	Scotch Argus	499	0.004	-61	-
	Totals	935,441	7	-40	-

To sign Butterfly Conservation’s letter to the Government asking them to declare a ‘Nature Emergency’ and ban butterfly-killing neonicotinoid pesticides visit: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/emergency>

Signing closes on Sunday 13 October 2024.

To find out more about Butterfly Conservation visit: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/>



Butterfly Conservation

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

Ambitious plan to get Richmond upon Thames moving more

From Richmond Council

We have unveiled our plan to make physical activity, leisure and sport a natural and accessible part of daily life in Richmond upon Thames.

The new five-year strategy was launched by Cllr Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Services Committee, at the Hampton Youth Project yesterday, which will be reopened as a new community wellbeing and physical activity hub.

Moving more has fantastic benefits for long-term health, like lowering your risk of developing preventable illnesses such as heart disease and dementia. It can also boost self-esteem, mood, sleep quality and energy.

At the event, residents of all ages took part in a range of taster sessions from rugby and pickleball to low-impact classes and seated Pilates.

Attendees also heard from Harlequins scrumhalf Emma Swords and local gymnast and coach Sophia who shared their stories about how they got into sport.

Richmond upon Thames is one of the most active boroughs in London, and we are lucky to have a wide network of sports clubs, leisure facilities and green spaces.

Priority commitments for the first year of our Richmond Moves Strategy include:

- Introducing our [Fairer Access Scheme](#) to ensure no one is priced out of participating in our leisure services.
- Using the excitement around the Women's Rugby World Cup to focus on women and girls in sport and boost participation and employment
- Enhancing initiatives for older people and unpaid carers
- Creating more active play, sports, and adventure opportunities for children
- Developing an online physical activity offer for those unable to leave home

We will work with local voluntary and community organisations to break down the barriers to activity by raising awareness of the importance of moving more and providing more and better opportunities to do so.

Read the [Richmond Moves for a Healthier Borough Strategy](#)



At least five phones lost per day on South Western Railway network as iPhone 16 hits shelves

South Western Railway (SWR) is reminding customers to keep track of their mobile phones, as new data reveals that at least five phones have been lost on its network every day since the iPhone 15 launched last year.

In total, over 1,750 phones have been logged by SWR's lost property team since 22 September 2023. In the same period, over 600 earphones have also been logged.

However, the true number of lost devices is likely to be significantly higher, as not all lost property is handed in and not all customers report their devices as missing.



Losing a mobile phone, a source of anxiety known as 'nomophobia' (NO MOBILE PHONE PhOBIA), can also be expensive.

The news comes as Apple releases the iPhone 16 tomorrow (Friday 20 September), priced from £799. SWR estimates that the value of phones lost on its network in the past year may well exceed £1 million.

It is estimated that more than 30,000 phones will have been lost since the first iPhone launched in 2007. Lined up end to end, they would stretch over four

kilometres – more than the distance between Vauxhall and Clapham Junction stations in London.

Phones are one of the most frequently lost items on the SWR network, along with clothing, bags, wallets and glasses. Overall, in the period since the release of iPhone 15 on 22 September 2023, SWR has logged almost 22,000 different lost property items.

Jerome Pacatte, Head of Stations and Revenue Protection for South Western Railway, commented:

“Losing a phone or any other personal belonging during a journey can cause stress and anxiety, but our lost property team works incredibly hard to reunite customers with the hundreds of items lost on our network every week.

“While it might feel impossible to get your lost property back, we successfully return many items to their owners, so we strongly encourage customers who have lost something to get in touch with us.

“To end every journey on a positive note, we advise customers to take some time before reaching their destination to double-check they have everything.”

SWR advises customers to take some time before they reach their destination to ensure they have all their belongings, including checking all their pockets as well as on and under their seat.

Out of the over 1,750 phones handed into lost property since last year, just fewer than 1,000 have been successfully returned to their owners, leaving a sizeable minority unclaimed.

Customers who lose their phones or any other personal belongings during their journeys should register them via the SWR [website](#). If the item is handed in, customers will be able to collect it in person for free or pay to have it posted to them.

If customers think they have lost something, noting the time of the train and the carriage number will help the lost property team locate their item.

Lost property from across the network is retained at the SWR lost property office in London Waterloo station for three months, after which it can be donated to charity, sold, recycled or otherwise disposed of.

South Western
 **Railway**

COVID-19 Epidemiological Update - 17 September 2024

World Health Organization

By Teresa Read

At the regional level, the number of newly reported 28-day cases decreased across four of the six WHO regions: the Western Pacific Region (-57%), the South-East Asia Region (-53%), the African Region (-51%) and the Region of the Americas (-23%); while case numbers increased in one WHO region: the European Region (+58%).

The number of newly reported 28-day deaths decreased across three regions: the African Region (-93%), the South-East Asia Region (-62%), and the Western Pacific Region (-17%); while death numbers increased in two WHO regions: the Region of the Americas (+60%) and the European Region (+21%).

At the country level, the highest numbers of new 28-day cases were reported from Italy (62,800), the Russian Federation (37,122), Greece (21,903), Romania (17,405) and Poland (11,599).

The highest numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from the United States of America (3,223), Italy (254), Portugal (175), Greece (162), Sweden (135) and New Zealand (79).

The SARS-CoV-2 weekly percent test positivity from sentinel sites in the European Region during the four-week reporting period changed from 19.6% to 17.6% across 29 countries which reported at least once during the four-week reporting period.

Four countries reported an increase of more than 2.5% in percent test positivity during the four-week reporting period: Ukraine (from 14.3% to 29%), Switzerland (from 16% to 26.7%), Greece (from 30.7% to 35.1%) and Denmark (from 13.9% to 18%).

Twenty-one countries showed elevated SARS-CoV-2 activity (10% or more) in the final week: Azerbaijan (100%), Cyprus (100%), Belgium (80%), Poland (57.1%), Ireland (52.4%), Slovenia (50%), Republic of Moldova (38.5%), Greece (35.1%), Ukraine (29%), Switzerland (26.7%), Kyrgyzstan (25%), Türkiye (24.1%), Spain (22.8%), Serbia (21.4%), Estonia (20%), Georgia (20%), Denmark (18%), Slovakia (16.7%), Germany (14.5%), Norway (14.3%) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (11.4%).

During the reporting period, the weekly average number of specimens tested for SARS-CoV-2 was 1,514. During the 28-day reporting period (22 July to 18 August), the European Region reported over 207,000 new cases, a 58% increase as compared to the previous 28-day period.

Twenty of the 62 countries for which data are available reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with the highest proportional increases observed in Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Türkiye, Czechia, Slovenia, Sweden, Italy, Croatia, Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation, Austria, Norway, and Greece. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Italy, the Russian Federation and Greece.

The number of new 28-day deaths in the Region increased by 21% as compared to the previous 28-day period, with 935 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Italy (254), Portugal (175) and Greece (162).

St Mary's University

St Mary's Opens State-of-the-Art E-Sports Arena

St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) has opened its E-Sports Arena, a state-of-the-art facility designed to fully immerse students and professionals in the world of gaming, training, and research.

St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) has opened its E-Sports Arena, a state-of-the-art facility designed to fully immerse students and professionals in the world of gaming, training, and research.



The E-Sports Arena will be used by students and staff at SMU for events, tournaments, and educational experiences such as e-sports competitions, game development workshops, and high data processing. The arena is also available for external event hire.

Using the latest cutting-edge technology, the E-Sports Arena is equipped with sixty high-performance gaming machines, each paired with professional gaming chairs, desks, headsets, and high-quality gaming peripherals.

Alongside the gaming machines, the arena features pixel lighting on the ceiling, walls, and stage to create an energetic and visually captivating atmosphere, enhanced by spotlighting for stage performances. The 217-inch LED video wall provides a central display that brings the gaming action to life, perfect for spectators and event broadcasts.

[Computer Science](#) students at St Mary's will

regularly be using the E-Sports Arena for teaching, with the arena equipped with a full audio-visual setup that is ideal for lectures and classes.

Speaking on the opening of the E-Sports Arena Interim Provost and Chief Academic Officer at SMU Prof Sara Spear said, "We're thrilled to open the E-Sports Arena, which will provide our students with some of the most cutting-edge computer science facilities in the country. It was wonderful to see great excitement from students and staff at the arena launch event on Thursday, and I'm looking forward to seeing more students use the space in the coming academic year."

The arena setup is optimised for both individual play and collaborative experiences, making it perfect for:

- E-sports events: Host or participate in the latest competitive gaming tournaments
- Hackathons and game jams: Collaborate on intensive coding and game development projects
- Training and boot camps: Enhance your skills with focused training sessions led by experts
- Master classes and guest speakers: Gain insights from industry leaders and gaming professionals
- Research and development: Utilise our cutting-edge technology to explore new frontiers in gaming and computer science.

Find out more about the E-Sport Arena and its full technical specifications on the [St Mary's website](#).

Watch the E-Sports Arena launch video on [YouTube](#), and find the full gallery of images from the launch event [here](#).



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Richmond upon Thames College Celebrates Success at Student Awards Ceremony

On Thursday 12th September, Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) celebrated the exceptional achievements and successes of nineteen of its students at a Student Awards ceremony, which was held at the college campus in Twickenham.

Over 100 guests attended the event, hosted by RuTC Principal, Gavin Hughes, including the Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Councillor Richard Pyne and MP for Twickenham, Munira Wilson, as well as students, parents, staff and other members of the local community.



RuTC was delighted to welcome special guest speaker, Eddie 'The Eagle' Edwards, Olympic Ski jumper and public figure, who inspired the audience as he spoke about his journey in his chosen career and the power of failure and tenacity.

The award ceremony began with RuTC alumnus, Michael Howell, performing his own composition 'Rise Again'. Michael studied Music at Royal Holloway University after leaving the college in 2018 and has enjoyed great solo success so far in his young career, recently featuring on Channel 4's 'The Piano' and making it to the final concert stage.



Current RuTC Music students also provided entertainment throughout the evening, including, Level 3 Music Performance and Production learner, Luka Brajovic, who entertained guests with his own song, 'Far Behind the Fields'.

Award winners included Level 3 Travel and Tourism student, Imane Djadi, who received triple Distinction* in her recent examinations and will be progressing on to study Air Transport Management at The University of West London. BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma Biomedical Science student, Mohammad Rafi Shaik, also received Distinction grades in his exams and is going on to study at Brunel University in London, to pursue a Biomedical Science degree. Foundation Learning student, Madison Guardo, won the award for her department, being praised for her positive contributions and leadership skills.

The Apprenticeship award was won by Owen Cheung, who has recently completed his Level 3 IT Solutions Technician apprenticeship at IT company, Direct Support.



RuTC Principal, Gavin Hughes, selected A-Level student, Harshita Thakur, as the 'Student of the Year', praising her hard work and involvement in extracurricular activities during her time at RuTC.

Harshita reflected:

"It was a pleasant surprise to be announced as the 'Student of the Year'. It was truly nostalgic to be back in the college after leaving, and it was lovely to have familiar faces congratulate me. The whole evening was a great experience – hearing the

inspiring story of Eddie 'the Eagle' and meeting the Mayor of Richmond upon Thames Borough - Cllr Richard Pyne and the MP of Twickenham- Munira Wilson was very nice, we had some great conversations. The best thing was seeing how proud my family and everyone around me was – which really pushes me to do my best in my future endeavours."

Gavin, commented on the evening:

"It was an amazing Student Awards ceremony, with some outstanding students showcasing the best



of Richmond upon Thames College. And it was a pleasure to have Eddie 'the eagle' Edwards provide an inspiring speech about achieving against all the odds. He was a hugely popular guest and a lovely, warm, friendly and engaging person. I have never seen so many people queue for selfies!"



South Western Railway sets out to recruit more women drivers

South Western Railway (SWR) is committed to closing the gender gap in the rail industry with a new recruitment campaign aimed at increasing the number of women train drivers.

Only 8% of SWR's train drivers are women, in line with the national average. SWR is committed to increasing representation and will shortly be opening applications for vacancies in Farnham, Fratton, Waterloo and Weymouth.

To support the recruitment drive and to encourage women to consider a fulfilling career on the railway, SWR has released a new [video](#), featuring three women drivers - Gemma, Yasel and Sally, who share their experiences, career journeys and personal and professional benefits of the role.

Gemma, who previously worked as a Guard and in the NHS, says that she finds the railway like no other place to work. Opportunities are also available to those without any previous rail experience. Yasel transitioned from a background in quality control and mechanics and says that train driving is a fulfilling career offering the flexibility to make it easier for her to plan family occasions, holidays and childcare.



Sally is one of 11 women train drivers based at Wimbledon depot and came to the railway after a career driving London buses. She was the first person to drive one of SWR's new Arterio trains in service and has recently become a Driver Instructor, training the next generation of drivers.

She says "It's more than just a job, it's a career with lots of different opportunities. I'm now a Driver Instructor, which has been one of the most memorable accomplishments of my career so far".

Fraser Dawson, SWR's Recruitment Business Partner said:

"Our people are our greatest asset, and we're committed to fostering a more diverse and inclusive organisation, where everyone is recognised and represented. We want to encourage applications from all sections of the community. By opening doors to more women, we gain a wider talent pool, fresh perspectives and experience to help shape the industry for the future. Our latest recruitment campaign showcases our inclusive, flexible workplace culture, the benefits and the development opportunities available – no matter where people are in their career journey. If you've ever wondered about working in rail, take the leap and join us on this exciting journey."

No previous rail experience is necessary – SWR's comprehensive training programme equips trainees with the skills, knowledge and practical experience to help them on their training journey. Once accepted for training at SWR's Basingstoke campus, candidates must complete various training milestones including a minimum of 225 hours of driving with a Driving Instructor. In total, trainees will go through 18 months of training before qualifying as drivers.

SWR also partners with industry-wide programs including Routes into Rail, inspiring the next generation of rail professionals, and hosts a Women Drivers Network, providing access to networking opportunities and forums that advocate for the career development of women in the industry.

SWR will shortly be opening applications for their trainee train driver talent pools for Farnham, Fratton, Waterloo and Weymouth depots. These are sought after roles and the application process can close fairly quickly due to the volume of applications received. Potential candidates should register for job alerts on the FirstGroup careers page:

<https://careers.firstgroup.co.uk/brand-swv> to get immediate notification of when these and further talent pools for driver roles at other depots open.

South Western
 **Railway**

The Sunday Times Good University Guide - LSE Is The National Winner

The **London School of Economics and Political science (LSE)** is the number one university in the UK, according to **The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2025**. It's the first time the social sciences powerhouse founded in 1895 has topped the institutional table, beating the University of St Andrews as well as the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge for the first time in the guide's 31-year history.

LSE has also been named **The Times and The Sunday Times' University of the Year 2025** having moved up to first place from fourth last year. Its overall win is due to improved results in graduate prospects, student satisfaction and teaching quality. It comes third nationally for its research, continuation rate and the proportion of students achieving a first or 2:1.

Helen Davies, editor of The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide, said:

"The best universities – whether they were founded in the 15th century or 2005 – are local and

global powerhouses of intellectual thought and creativity, from the arts to science, that can power economic regeneration and lead the way to a better life. But what and where to study – and how to pay for it – has never been tougher. This is where our comprehensive guide can help.

"This year we have tweaked our methodology to keep up with contemporary concerns around climate change and careers and have added in a sustainability metric, teaming up with People & Planet, and boosted the weighting of graduate prospects.

"London is one of the most extraordinary cities in which to study in the world. There are 23 universities to choose from who are leading the way in so many subjects from art to robotics

and everything in between. The higher education sector is facing unprecedented challenges from debates on free speech to financial stability, but it is important to remember the force for good that going to university can be. See how the universities compare subject by subject, a guide on campus life, and what scholarships and bursaries may be on offer online."

Professor Larry Kramer, president and vice chancellor of the London School of Economics and Political Science said:

"This award is a tribute to LSE's outstanding faculty and students, and global community. As someone still relatively new to LSE, I can genuinely say it is a university unlike any other. LSE's combination of world-leading academics and motivated students, dedication to the social sciences, and international focus, while still being firmly rooted in London, makes it a very special place."

A fully searchable website with 70 subject tables, full interactive tables and additional features goes online on The Times and The Sunday Times on Friday September 20:

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk-university-rankings>

More info at [thetimes.com/gooduniversityguide](https://www.thetimes.com/gooduniversityguide)

LONDON RANKINGS 2025

London Ranking	National Ranking	University
1	1	London School of Economics and Political Science
2	6	Imperial College London
3	7	University College London
4	24=	King's College London
5	34	Royal Holloway, University of London
6	39	Queen Mary University of London
7	40=	University of the Arts London
8	49	City, University of London
9	52	St Mary's University, Twickenham
10	57=	University of West London
11	65	SOAS, University of London
12	69	St George's, University of London
13	80	Goldsmiths, University of London
14	97	Kingston University
15	100	London South Bank University
16	102	University of Greenwich
17	107=	Brunel University London
18	117	Middlesex University
19	118	University of Roehampton
20	120	University of Westminster
21	126	University of East London
22	127	London Metropolitan University



THE SUNDAY TIMES

John Mitchell Confirms 30-Player Red Roses Squad for WXV 1

Red Roses head coach John Mitchell has confirmed his 30-player squad to travel to Canada for the 2024 WXV 1 tournament.

A total of 1,145 caps makes up the travelling contingent captained by Marlie Packer. Zoe Aldcroft and Natasha Hunt continue their joint roles as vice-captains.

Elsewhere among the group, uncapped duo Phoebe Murray and Bo Westcombe-Evans are selected for their first senior international tour as are Lilli Ives Champion and Georgia Brock, both of whom earned their first caps in warm-up victories over against France and New Zealand respectively.

England head to North America ready to attack the competition after being crowned champions of WXV 1 last autumn. USA provide the opening round opposition before they go up against the Black Ferns for the second time in three weeks. The Red Roses conclude WXV 1 against hosts Canada.

Mitchell said: *“We have selected a strong group of players who have worked hard and smart for each other during the pre-season Test matches. We will use the learnings to improve our game and attack the WXV tournament in Canada with great energy. We now look forward to focusing on our preparations for the USA match.”*

Red Roses 30-player Squad for WXV 1

Forwards

Zoe Aldcroft (Gloucester-Hartpury, 55 caps)
Lark Atkin-Davies (Bristol Bears, 59 caps)
Sarah Bern (Bristol Bears, 63 caps)
Hannah Botterman (Bristol Bears, 49 caps)
Georgia Brock (Gloucester-Hartpury, 1 cap)
Mackenzie Carson (Gloucester-Hartpury, 17 caps)
Amy Cokayne (Leicester Tigers, 76 caps)
Kelsey Clifford (Saracens, 8 caps)

Maddie Feaunati (Exeter Chiefs, 7 caps)
Rosie Galligan (Saracens, 16 caps)
Lilli Ives Champion (Loughborough Lightning, 1 cap)
Alex Matthews (Gloucester-Hartpury, 69 caps)
Maud Muir (Gloucester-Hartpury, 32 caps)
Marlie Packer (Saracens, 106 caps)
Connie Powell (Harlequins, 19 caps)
Morwenna Talling (Sale Sharks, 15 caps)
Abbie Ward (Bristol Bears, 66 caps)

Backs

Holly Aitchison (Bristol Bears, 32 caps)
Jess Breach (Saracens, 40 caps)
Abby Dow (Trailfinders Women, 47 caps)
Zoe Harrison (Saracens, 51 caps)
Tatyana Heard (Gloucester-Hartpury, 24 caps)
Natasha Hunt (Gloucester-Hartpury, 74 caps)

Ellie Kildunne (Harlequins, 45 caps)
Phoebe Murray (Bristol Bears, uncapped)
Lucy Packer (Harlequins, 23 caps)
Helena Rowland (Loughborough Lightning, 31 caps)
Emily Scarratt (Loughborough Lightning, 113 caps)
Bo Westcombe-Evans (Loughborough Lightning, uncapped)
Ella Wyrwas (Saracens, 6 caps)

Red Roses' WXV 1 Fixtures

Sunday 29 September – USA v Red Roses
BC Place Stadium, Canada, KO 12:30 PDT | 20:30 BST

Sunday 6 October – New Zealand v Red Roses
Langley Event Centre, KO 13:00 PDT | 21:00 BST

Saturday 12 October – Canada v Red Roses
BC Place Stadium, Canada, KO 19:00 PDT | 03:00+1 BST



Match Preview: Tottenham Hotspur v Brentford

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of Brentford's Premier League game against Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday (3pm kick-off GMT)

Written by Brentford Football Club

Having beaten Leyton Orient 3-1 to progress to the fourth round of the Carabao Cup in midweek, Brentford return to Premier League action on Saturday with a short trip across the capital to take on Tottenham Hotspur (3pm kick-off).

The Bees have taken six points from their opening four matches, beating Crystal Palace and Southampton, while Spurs are two points worse off and lost 1-0 to rivals Arsenal in their last league outing.

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of the Brentford's third London derby of the season.

Pre-match analysis

Alex Lawes, Playmaker Stats: Set-pieces could prove decisive at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium

Ever since gaining promotion to the Premier League, Brentford have regularly been a thorn in the side of some of the leading clubs in England - and now they face another.

In just their fifth match of the season, the Bees are facing a third member of the 'big six' after narrow margins of defeat away at Liverpool and Manchester City.

In those games, Brentford have been tactically disciplined and adaptable based on the game situation as they seek to return to the form and performances they showed when securing a top-half finish in the 2022/23 campaign.

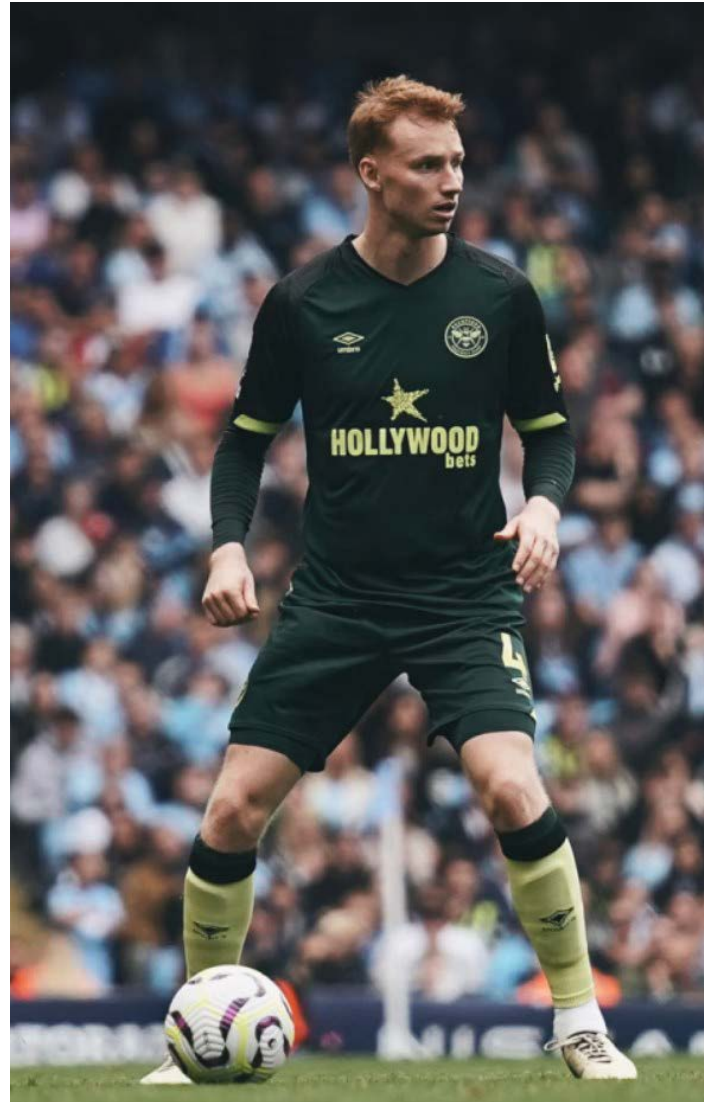
Brentford have also been able to handle being supposed 'favourites' for a game and have played football similar to that which got them up a few years ago - displaying fluency and fluidity in home victories against Crystal Palace and Southampton.

Tottenham, who began the Ange Postecoglou era with a 2-2 draw at Gtech Community Stadium last season, have managed just one win in their opening four matches this term and come into this on the back of losing 1-0 to arch rivals Arsenal at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium last weekend.

Given the visitors' slow start and Brentford's fantastic display last time out at Man City, it would seem plausible that Brentford approach this game differently to the tailored tactical set-ups they took to Anfield and the Etihad.

That said, what has been a theme of the footballing discourse this week in the aftermath of that derby defeat to Arsenal has been Tottenham's inability to defend set-pieces with Gabriel's winner for the Gunners coming from yet another corner.

Last season, Spurs shipped 21 Premier League goals from dead-balls (14 from set-pieces and seven from penalties) and the Bees will no doubt be aware of these statistics.



Although Gabriel's header in last Sunday's north London derby was the first time Spurs have conceded from a set-piece this season, the numbers suggest they may have an Achilles heel in this area - and one of the last teams you would want to face if you are susceptible to dead-balls is Brentford.

Interestingly, however, the Bees would be wise to keep their guard up when it comes to defensive corners, as Tottenham certainly have a knack for winning them.

Cristian Romero has already scored a header from a corner against Everton this term for Postecoglou's team, and Spurs average 11 attacking corners per game in the Premier League in 2024/25 - more than any other side.

Only Man City (10) and Liverpool (6) have scored more top-flight goals from open play than Brentford (5) this term, however, and the Bees will fancy their chances of getting after Spurs in free play.



Brentford showed verve on the break at the Etihad last weekend, but the Bees have yet to have a shot from a counter attack this season and they will be looking to put that right on Saturday.

There are plenty of backstories and sub-plots to consider ahead of the Bees' third London derby of the season - and if Thomas Frank's side can vary their threat from open play and set-pieces they could have some joy.

Scout Report

Dan Long, Sky Sports: Postecoglou remains bullish despite Spurs' slow start

Tottenham fans' greatest fears were realised last summer, when Harry Kane finally departed the club after several seasons of speculation.

With a year remaining on the England captain's contract, Spurs could count themselves fortunate to bank €100m for his sale to Bayern Munich. But how would they cope without him, particularly with a new manager in Ange Postecoglou - a man without prior Premier League experience - in charge? Pretty well, as it turned out.

Heung-min Son took on the mantle as star man with eight goals across the first 10 games of the season, with eight wins during that run putting the club top of the Premier League throughout October.

The 26-point haul meant Postecoglou accrued the most points by a manager in their first 10 games in the competition's history. It was also Tottenham's best start after 10 games in the Premier League era and the second best in their top-flight history after 1960/61, when they took 30 points (when converted to three points for a win) from their first 10 games.

"Let the fans dream," said the Australian after the 2-1 win at Crystal Palace on 27 October. *"It's what being a football fan is all about."*

The patchy periods from November into December and April into May prevented his side challenging for the Champions League spots, but they finished fifth, two points behind Aston Villa and secured a place in the newly revamped Europa League.

Speaking after the victory over Sheffield United on the final day, Postecoglou said: *"I have got some lofty ambitions for the football club and until we reach that point I am not going to be smiling too much."*

The fans were certainly smiling in the summer when the club spent over £130m, the bulk of which went on Archie Gray - one of the country's most promising teenagers - and Dominic Solanke who is the replacement for Kane, albeit a year after his departure. The action from the board backed up the manager's claims.

This season's start has been quite the opposite to last, though. Spurs had 10 points after four games last term, six points more than the four they currently have to their name. The 4-0 win over Everton in their second game gave the impression that wouldn't be the case, but they have been beaten by two of their top-six rivals in the last two.

The 2-1 loss at Newcastle was the third in succession at St James' Park, while a 1-0 north London derby defeat to Arsenal last weekend means they have beaten their arch enemies just once in the last eight meetings. In the last 11 games, Spurs have won just three times.

Despite the underwhelming start, Postecoglou is adamant this season will be a success for his team.

"I'll correct myself: I don't usually win things, I always win things in my second year," was his response to a question during an interview with Sky Sports on pre-season comments where he said he *"usually" wins trophies in his second season.*

"Nothing has changed. I don't say things I don't believe in."

The man in charge has spoken - now it's up to the players to prove him right and coax out that smile he promised.

In the Dugout

Ange Postecoglou

Ange Postecoglou started out in management in his native Australia with South Melbourne, where he had spent his entire playing career.

After two years as assistant, he was handed the head coach role in 1996 and spent another four successful years at the club, before leaving to work with Australia U17s and U20s for the next seven years.

Having failed to guide the U20s to the 2007 World Cup in Canada, he left the national set-up to coach Greek outfit Panachaiki and later Whittlesea Zebras back home.

In 2009, he took over at Brisbane Roar and won the A-League Championship in 2010/11 and 2011/12, before moving on to Melbourne Victory, where he was unable to produce a similar level of success.

Postecoglou's tenure at AAMI Park concluded prematurely, however, as he was appointed head coach of the senior Australia men's team in October 2013.

He oversaw a reasonably encouraging group-stage campaign at the 2014 World Cup and guided the Socceroos to the Asian Cup the following year.

Australia later qualified for the 2018 World Cup, but Postecoglou resigned shortly afterwards to join Yokohama F Marinos of the Japanese J-League. He would go on to guide the club to its first title in 15 years in 2019.

He then went on to have two incredible years at Celtic, with whom he won an unbelievable 83 of his 113 games in charge in Glasgow, on the way to two Scottish Premiership titles, one Scottish Cup and two Scottish League Cups.

The 59-year-old arrived in north London in the summer of 2023, just over two months after Antonio Conte left the club, and has three years remaining on his contract.



Munira Wilson MP - Conference Speech

Below is the text of Munira Wilson's keynote speech on Education as delivered at the Liberal Democrat autumn conference at Brighton.

Good morning, conference. On Monday, the 10th of June, something extraordinary happened. Yes, there was the launch of some Liberal Democrat manifesto, but I'll come back to that.

No, what was extraordinary was that I, Monira Wilson, finally became the cool parent. Why? Because my boss, Ed Davey, asked me to go on a rollercoaster with him. And suddenly, having a politician as a mum sounded way more fun.

At least, that's what I'd hoped. Turns out, when I got home and we watched the news that evening, my 10-year-old daughter declared that I was weird and embarrassing. But I don't care, conference, because I had a whale of a time.

In fact, when all the cameras had gone, Bobby Dean and I went on the biggest, scariest ride we could find. I'm a bit surprised that the press team didn't stop us, because stealth does nought to 80 in 1.8 seconds, and the rain was lashing down so hard that it closed for safety reasons immediately after we got off the ride. So, given that nominations had closed, consider yourselves all lucky that you're not out delivering leaflets in a double by-election right now.

Instead, what happened? Well, Bobby just went and won Carl Shelton and Wallington by almost 8,000 votes. And yes, conference, what a campaign it was. 72, 72 Liberal Democrat MPs tearing down the Blue Wall brick by brick.

But now we have a serious job to do. While the Conservatives are divided and hopelessly adrift, we must be the constructive opposition. Where they took people for granted, we must campaign with care and compassion. When Labour repeats the mistakes of the past, we must hold them to account.

And where the country cries out for change, we must be bold and ambitious. And no more is this needed than in our nurseries, our schools, our colleges and our universities. Because our children have been sidelined for too long.

It has always been our liberal mission to put them, children, the very future of our country, at the heart of our policymaking. Not just when we were in government, but every day in town halls up and down the country. For my message is this, our nation is bursting with ambition.

People young and old who work and study hard, who have hopes and dreams for themselves, their families and their communities. And Liberal Democrats, we can provide the vision, the positive policies to help them get there. Now, during the campaign, we all met families like this on the doorstep.

Parents who drive hour-long round trips to take their children to a sports match or a music rehearsal, or take on second jobs to put food on the table for their families. All hope that their children might have opportunities that they never had. They know that education is the best investment we can make in our children's potential and our country's future growth.

Education turbocharges talent. It cultivates creativity and it creates conscientious citizens. And they looked to the Conservatives to make that investment.

But what did they get? Teacher training targets missed for eight of the last nine years. Nurseries ordered to expand rapidly with no proper plan to fund it. A decade's work closing the attainment gap wiped out by a lack of investment in COVID catch-up.

One in five people aged eight to 25 with a probable mental health disorder. Opportunities for our young people to live, work and study in Europe snatched away from them. This is the Tories' toxic legacy that the new government must now clean up.

But one legacy haunts me most of all. I will never forget last summer, getting a call out of the blue from the Schools Minister. He would tell me that thousands of children would miss their first day back at school because their buildings were full of crumbling concrete and were not safe to open.

Through years of neglect, the Conservatives had failed the most basic of its duties in government, to keep our children safe. Well, by the end, the Conservatives were negligent, unfit to govern. And boy, did the public know it.

Now, you know the nine education secretaries we had in just eight years? Do you know what happened to them? Well, there was Nadhim Zahawi, who stood down in Stratford-on-Avon. Who's the new MP there? It's Manuela Perteghella of the Liberal Democrats. Then there was Michelle Donnellan, Secretary of State for 48 hours.

Her constituency got split in two. Anyone know who won both of them? The Liberal Democrats. Thank you.

And, of course, who can forget Gillian Keegan? She told us she was the only one sat on her arse doing nothing. Well, we decided to get off ours and win her seat as well. Yes, conference, for a decade, ambitious Conservative ministers used the Department for Education only as a step on the greasy pole.

Well, it turns out, too much grease and you all slip right back down that pole again. So it now falls to Bridget Philipson and Labour to clean up the toxic mess. And she will achieve far more than her predecessors by simply staying in the job.

Our nurseries, schools, colleges and universities will benefit hugely from stability and continuity. So Liberal Democrats will work constructively with the government to fix the foundations. Already, we have seen small, positive steps, protecting BTECs, reforming Ofsted inspections and ending the Tories' pointless, phony war against our universities so that the government will once again champion them as powerhouses of learning and research, economic growth and soft power.

But the clean-up requires far more than just tinkering. Too much damage has been done. Take our early years sector.

The expansion of free childcare hours has cross-party support, but the Conservatives did nothing to prepare the ground for what was to come. There was no discussion with providers, a hopelessly unrealistic timetable and no proper funding plan. The result, chaos.

Conference, for our early years sector to succeed, childcare must be flexible, affordable and fair. We need to attract and retain more staff, boost the early years pupil premium and expand the entitlement for disadvantaged children so that those who benefit most from early help will not lose out. And crucially, we must review the funding rates so that our nurseries and preschools can meet the actual costs of delivering high-quality early years education.

And where do I start with special educational needs? A system where tens of thousands of parents must fight the council in the courts to get the support that is their child's legal right. When parents win almost 98 times out of 100, you know the system is broken. A system where the only reason why dozens of councils aren't bankrupt is because they can keep SEND support off the balance sheet.

Liberal Democrats have plenty of positive proposals to bring to the table. Ideas such as a new national funding body so that the most severely disabled children can have their support paid for centrally, freeing up our councils to help others in need. On early years, SEND and more, we will be a constructive opposition to Labour.

Yet in other parts of our education system, we must call them out for the mistakes they have and they will make. No one can doubt the scale of the mess they inherited, but in trying to look too tough, they too risk showing a lack of care and compassion, values that drew millions of voters to the Liberal Democrat cause. Take child poverty.

There's a constituent of mine who told me that she stopped buying her medication so that her daughter at college could afford some lunch. I've heard stories of pupils pretending to eat out of empty lunchboxes to hide from their friends that there's no food at home. That cannot be right in modern Britain.

Scrapping the two-child benefit would lift 300,000 children out of poverty. Its impact would be immediate and cost-effective, but Keir Starmer said no and he suspended any Labour MP who defied him. A free school meal for every child in poverty would give 900,000 more pupils a full stomach each lunchtime.

That means better progress, better behaviour and concentration, better health outcomes, but Labour have stayed silent. Meanwhile, our teachers feel at times like the fourth emergency service, filling in for under-resourced public services across the country. Poverty and mental ill health are driving staggering numbers of children to miss lessons.

And because roughly half of mental health conditions begin before the age of 14, Liberal Democrats will keep making the case for a dedicated, qualified mental health professional in every school, primary and secondary. You know, I remember the mother of a seven-year-old who came to my surgery. Her daughter had been waiting 16 months for a mental health assessment and she was told she may have to wait a further year still.

She is a little girl who should be enjoying playdates, parties and playgrounds. Instead, her mother told me she isn't really living, just existing. This is the scale of the crisis we face and I fear Labour haven't grasped it.

They urgently need to expand their own mental health plans to include primary schools as well. Now, the government cannot ignore these injustices by locking itself in a doom spiral, saying that things must get worse before they get better. Because investing in our young people, in their future, is what drags us out of the mess we are in.

Education fights against poverty, ignorance and conformity. It grows our economy and it improves our health outcomes, generating returns for generations to come. Liberal Democrats, we choose to invest in education so that our nation is equipped to tackle the challenges of our age.

Families up and down the country simply can't afford to wait. But there's a second mistake Labour is also making. Too often, they get in the way of ambition that people have for themselves, their families and for their communities.

Parents will move heaven and earth to give their children a good start in life. They will do all they can to give them the opportunities they never had. But Labour's stance on private schools is just a divisive distraction, particularly for those families of children with SEND who try time and time again to find a state school for their child, but they just couldn't thrive and they just couldn't make it work.

So, conference, to keep hold of voters' trust, you must deliver the change that matches the ambition people have. You have to listen to their hopes, their dreams for their children. And you've got to say, we want that too, and here's how we're going to help.

It's why Liberal Democrats introduced the pupil premium, giving schools the freedom and the funding to boost the attainment of children from low-income backgrounds. It's why we're now campaigning to extend it to colleges too. It's why we push for closer ties with Europe to broaden our young people's horizons by rejoining Erasmus and signing a youth mobility scheme.

And it's why we raised the apprenticeship minimum wage and roll out lifelong skills grants, opening up opportunities for learners of all ages to train and upskill. And it's why, conference, yesterday, you called for a tutoring guarantee in all state schools and colleges. 12 weeks of small group teaching for nearly two million young people in subjects such as English, maths or science, rocket boosting not only their performance, but their confidence and their school attendance too.

Because we are not prepared to let unfulfilled potential be something that only a privileged few can afford to unlock. Conference, this is the politics of ambition, empowering our educators so that they can unleash our children's potential to flourish. Listen to what Dylan, a college student, had to say about the tutoring he received.

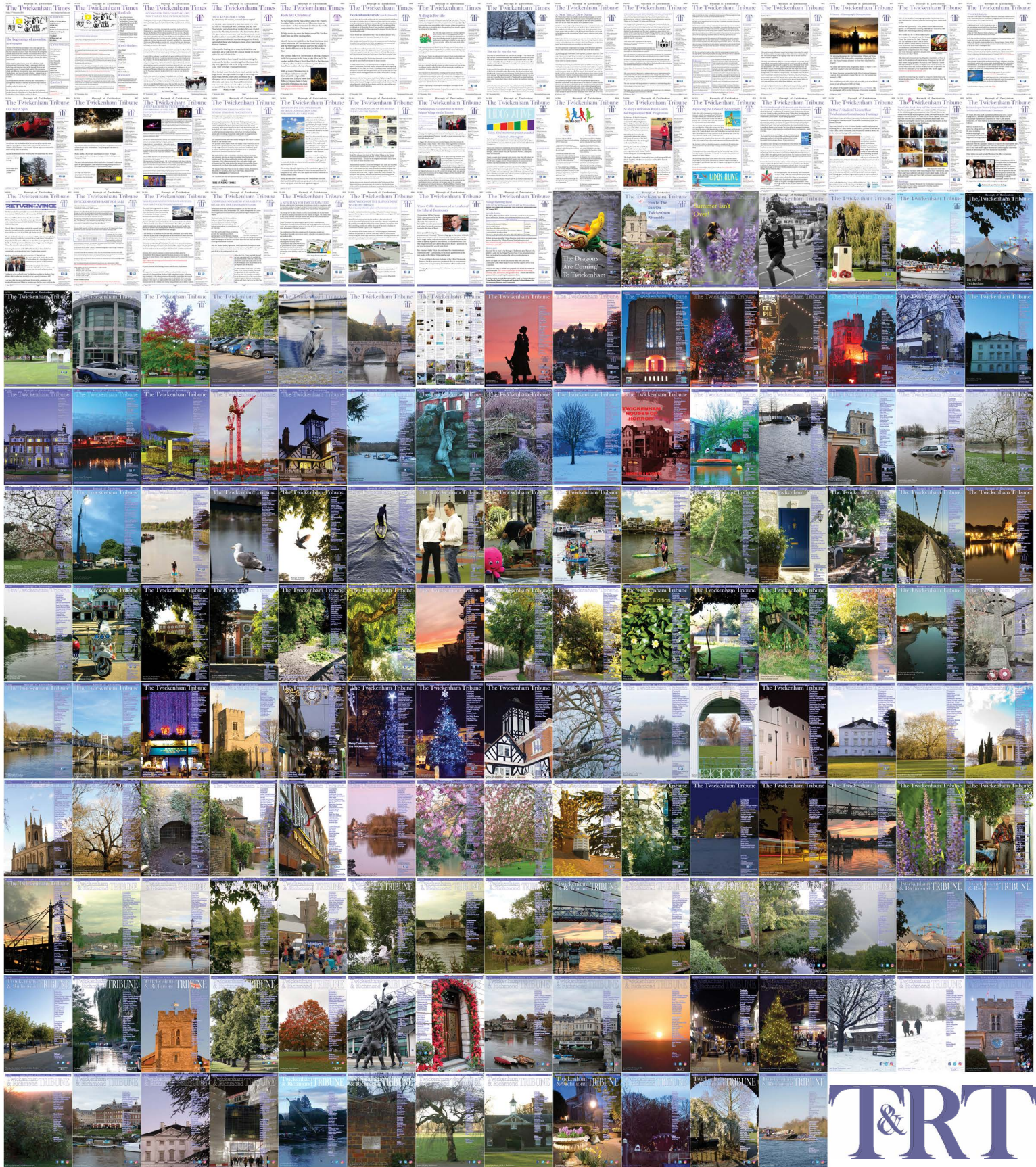
I dreaded maths, he said, because I didn't enjoy it, but my tutoring sessions were amazing and they really helped boost my confidence in maths. When I found out I passed my maths GCSE, I literally was flabbergasted. Liberal Democrats, I want two million more Dylans in this country because the hope and excitement he had of fresh opportunities to progress his studies and pursue his dreams, well, that is just priceless.

And this is my goal in this parliament and beyond, to see a generation of young people free to pursue their dreams. Where their classrooms are crumbling and their nurseries are full, we will hold the government's feet to the fire. Where the Conservatives lack care and compassion, we will offer hope.

Where Labour lack ambition, we will show parents and pupils that we share their hopes and dreams. Fighting to fix the early years and the high-needs postcode lottery, campaigning tirelessly for free school meals and a counsellor in every school, making the case to turbo-charge tutoring and broadening our children's horizons. Ambition and optimism, care and compassion, hope and opportunity.

That is the Liberal Democrat mission. That is our job. Let's get to work.

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Published by:

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune (in association with World InfoZone Limited)

Registered in England & Wales

Reg No 10549345

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