

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



The end of summer? Twickenham Riverside
Photo by Bérkley Driscoll

27th September 2024

T&RT

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Editors:

Berkley Driscoll

Teresa Read

TickerTape - News in Brief

South Western Railway

Altered train services and buses replace trains in the Ascot area Sunday 29 September

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

- **London Waterloo to Reading** services will terminate at **Staines**.
- **Buses** will run between **Staines and Reading via Ascot**.

Autumn timetable, Sunday 22 September to Saturday 14 December

From Sunday 22 September we will operate our autumn timetable, with minor changes to train times as we enter leaf-fall season.

Find out more about our leaf-fall timetables [here](#).

Check to see if your train times are different by visiting our timetable page [here](#).

Check if you are eligible for Pension Credit to secure Winter Fuel Payment

Residents of pensionable age are urged to check if they are eligible for Pension Credit to access the Winter Fuel Payment, which is worth up to £300 per household.

Pension Credit could be worth on average £3,900 per year for those who are over the state pension age (66+ years), on a low income and would welcome support with heating costs.

It also unlocks additional support including:

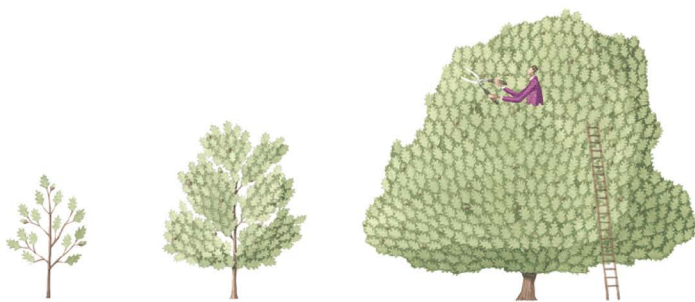
- The Winter Fuel Payment and other help with heating costs
- Help with rent and Council Tax
- Help with the cost of NHS services, such as NHS dental treatment, glasses and transport costs for hospital appointments
- Free TV licence for those over 75

Claims can be backdated by up to 3 months, with the latest date to apply for the Winter Fuel Payment being **21 December 2024**.

Visit the [GOV.UK website](#) or call 0800 99 1234 (Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm) to find out more.

You can also visit the [Richmond Cost of Living Hub](#) for the latest information on what is available nationally and locally as well as details of the borough's network of [Community Spaces](#) and [free support calculator](#).

You can also [sign up](#) to receive cost of living support updates straight to your inbox.



The Tree Agency

The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 268

The Kings Arms At Hampton Court

By Alan Winter

Our first two postcards this week show the Kings Arms Hotel, a historic gem dating back to 1709, situated beside the Lion Gates of Hampton Court Palace and opposite the Bushy Park entrance.

The King's Arms has a long and rich history, it has been in existence as a pub, a hotel or a coaching inn for longer than any other business in the area – since at least 1709 and probably longer. Two widowed sisters, Mary Spurling and Mary Johnson, acquired the only grant of land from the Palace estate in 1648, during the Commonwealth period. In those days, small

scale brewing was typically done by women, and the grant was probably used to set up a business selling beer to staff, gardeners and soldiers.

However, the inscription on the Kings Arms Hotel wall is 1709, marking the date of the first license, and its beginning as a legitimate Inn, rather than just a shop that sold beer. With Queen Anne on the throne the Inn was first named the Queens Arms, but by 1772 it had changed sex to the Kings Arms, with King George the third on the throne.

The Georgian frontage was added in 1753 although the size of the building was reduced in the 1890s when a decline in trade resulted in part of the front being turned into a shop.

it was an inn which also became the village's first post



office. Mine hosts were both innkeepers and postmasters alike, often delivering the mail to the houses themselves. As there were then no letter boxes, people had to take their letters to the pub and post them in mail bags, which were hung up in the bar-rooms; this they could do up to a quarter past six in the evening, but late postings could be accepted up to half past six for an extra one penny each.

It wasn't until 1936 that the Kings Arms left private ownership and was bought by the Friary Brewery of Guildford which later became part of Allied Breweries.



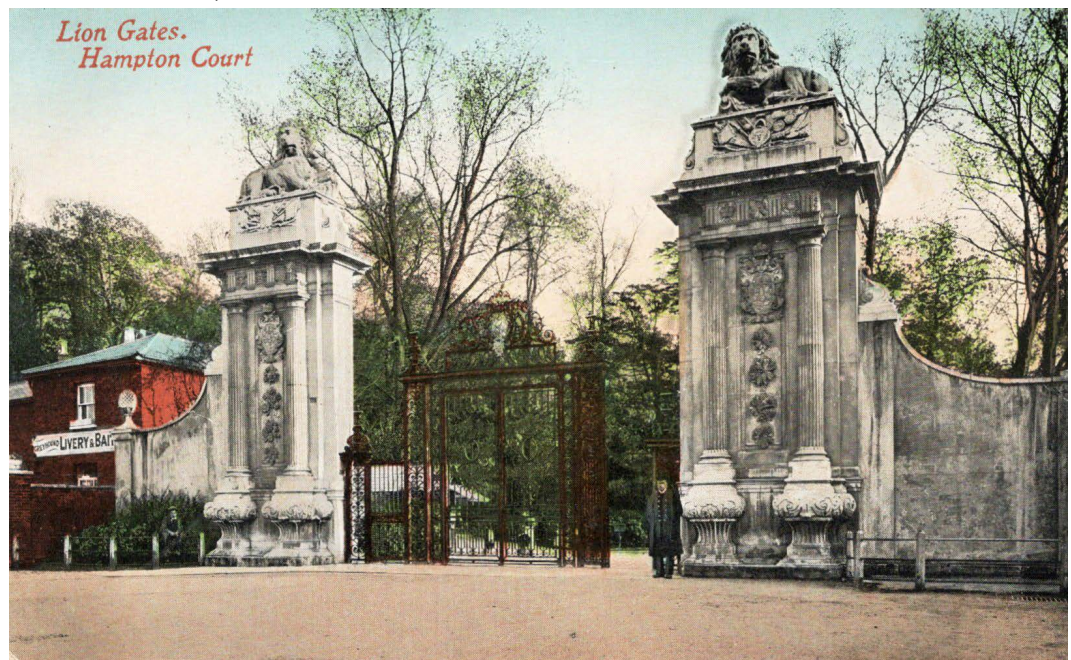
The Kings Arms has had a few famous guests over the years including Tsar Peter the Great (who left without paying his bill!) as well as some European “royalty” who met here in 1814 to discuss post war Europe after the Battle of Trafalgar. Tsar Peter the Great’s visit is commemorated by a plaque on the front of the building which was unveiled in 1998 by the Russian Ambassador to commemorate the tricentenary of the visit.

The three-star, Grade II-listed Kings Arms and Royal Hotel reopened in 2020 following a longish period of closure. Today, it has 14 rooms to hire and a top end restaurant “The Six” which is open 7 days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Our third postcard shows the hotel next to the famous gates and the final postcard shows a close-up of the Lion Gates. All postcards featured in this column today date back to between 1903 to the First World War in 1914

My search for old postcards continues. I am always looking for old postcards and old photograph albums

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



CrusaderTravel

020 8744 0474

crusadertravel.com

Escapology Experts

info@crusadertravel.com



Your friendly local Travel Agency
established in Twickenham since 1966

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



The Royal Parks Provides Five Key Safety Tips for Visitors during the Deer Rut

The Royal Parks charity, which manages London's eight Royal Parks, urges visitors to Bushy Park and Richmond Park to take extra caution during the deer rutting season. Between late September through to early November, male deer will be engaged in dramatic displays of power and aggression, including roaring and clashing antlers as they compete for mates.

But with rutting stags weighing over 25 stone and reaching speeds of up to 30 miles per hour, their behaviour can become highly unpredictable. To help visitors stay safe during this period, the charity has released a new set of five key safety tips for visitors.



Top 5 Safety Tips for Visitors During Deer Rutting Season

1. **Keep Your Distance**

Maintain a minimum distance of 50 meters from deer and up to 100 meters if they are active. Rutting stags can weigh over 25 stone and reach speeds of up to 30 miles per hour, making them dangerous if disturbed. Use binoculars to observe from a safe distance.

2. **Keep Dogs on Leads**

We advise visitors to keep dogs on leads. It is also advised to stick to areas where deer are not present. Dogs not on a lead can approach and provoke deer which could lead to aggressive encounters. Keeping dogs on leads helps everyone stay safe by minimising any stress to the deer.

3. **Avoid Intervening or Crowding**

Never intervene between rutting deer or crowd them. If there is a large number of people present, do not join in and surround the deer as it will make them nervous. Photographers especially – please remember not to get too close for that 'perfect shot' and respect the 50-meter rule.

4. **Watch for Warning Signs**

If a deer approaches or appears threatening, back away slowly and calmly. Avoid running, as this could alarm the deer and prompt it to chase you. Do not shout or wave your arms, as sudden movements may provoke the animal.

5. **Observe and Respect Volunteer Rangers**

Volunteer Rangers are present in Bushy Park and Richmond Park to offer safety advice and explain deer behaviour during the rut. Pay attention to their guidance and follow their instructions to ensure a safe and enjoyable visit.

Paul Richards, Park Manager at Richmond Park, said: *"While the rutting season provides a spectacular natural display, it is crucial that visitors behave in a safe way. Deer can quickly shift from calm to aggressive, so it's essential to keep a safe distance and use binoculars for a closer view. I would like to thank visitors for their cooperation and encourage them to follow our guidelines."*



Phil Edwards, Park Manager at Bushy Park, added: *"We strongly recommend that visitors keep their dogs on leads. This helps create a safer, more enjoyable experience for everyone. Off-lead dogs can approach and provoke deer, which may lead to dangerous situations. For example, stressed deer could cause an uncontrolled stampede. Keeping your dog on a lead helps prevent these risks, protecting both your dog and the park's wildlife."*



Turner's House Museum Announces Two New Appointments

Jennifer Francis Appointed New Museum Director And Lucy Littlewood Chair At Turner's House

The Board of Turner's House Trust are delighted to announce the appointment of Jennifer Francis to be the Museum Director of Turner's House and Lucy Littlewood to be the Chair with immediate effect.

Jennifer is a distinguished museum professional who has held senior positions in several of the world's leading museums and galleries, including the Royal Academy of Arts, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Louvre Abu Dhabi and most recently the Museum of London.



Lucy brings a wealth of experience from over ten years as an award-winning television producer and presenter and more recently as a senior strategic leader in the arts and heritage sector at the Serpentine Galleries, British Council and Museum of the Home as well as Director of the St Martin-in-the-Fields Trust.



Lucy Littlewood commented: *"We are thrilled to welcome Jennifer Francis to Turner's House. Her fantastic experience and visionary approach to museum management make her the ideal candidate to lead us into a new era. We are confident that under her direction, Turner's House will continue to grow and engage with an even broader audience."*

Jennifer Francis stated: *"I am honoured to join Turner's House as Museum Director. Turner's House holds a unique place in the art world, I am excited to work with Lucy and the other talented Trustees to build on its success while further enhancing its reputation and reach. I look forward to engaging with the community and visitors to celebrate the legacy of J.M.W. Turner."*

The Director's appointment follows the departure of Dr Matthew Morgan, who is moving away from London after two and a half years successfully running Turner's House.

The Board expresses its gratitude to Matthew for his inspiring and energetic leadership.

A World of Care: Turner and the Environment, the first exhibition dedicated to revealing how J.M.W. Turner captured environmental and social developments, is on view until October 27th, 2024.



TURNER'S HOUSE
TWICKENHAM

Richmond Community Conversation

On Tuesday, the Council held its Community Conversation event, which had a much lower than expected attendance due to another one of Richmond Council's 'banal errors'; they advertised the wrong day, as the 24th was Tuesday, not Wednesday.

Despite the claim that you could "have your voice heard," attendees were instructed to raise only broad policy themes and NOT specific issues, preventing people from having their voices heard or holding the council to account for their actions and omissions.

"This is not the right event to raise any specific local issues, such as local planning applications, your nearest park or library, or issues on your street."

Next week at Richmond Council

On Tuesday, the **full council** will meet, with questions from the public followed by those from members. The council will then be asked to note a series of reports followed by motions on e-bikes, the winter fuel allowance and one on rivers.

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.

To submit a question, please contact Democratic Services by 12 noon on the working day before the day of the Council meeting (usually a Monday).

Questions must be no more than 100 words.

Contact Democratic Services at democratic.services@richmond.gov.uk or by telephone on 020 8891 7183.

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

Council Briefing

Finance Policy Resource Committee - Thursday 19th September

See the article towards the end of this edition



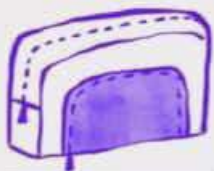
TABLETOP SALE



BOOKS, HOLY ICONS, BRIC-A-BRAC, CLOTHES AND MORE!



**SATURDAY 28TH
SEPTEMBER**



11 AM - 2 PM



**ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL,
ST JOHN'S CHURCH, KEW ROAD**

Funds raised for the restoration of the
Church Textiles



richmondteamministry.org.uk/st-john-the-divine

Dear Tribune,

The Gift of Corruption

Recent news reports in the national media and in last week's Tribune have brought attention to the subject of gifts to those in public office, particularly the prime minister, and some MPs.

Such gifts are obviously acceptable to the recipients but they are, in fact, deplorable.

Some years ago, in my career as a pilot in BOAC and British Airways, the flight deck door opened and the chief steward came in with three small packages. I asked what they were and was told they were gifts of appreciation from one of the Middle Eastern royal party in the first class cabin. I was shocked to hear that gifts of money were usually given to the cabin crew and Rolex watches with the royal face on the dial given to the flight crew!

Without the slightest hesitation, I told him to present my compliments to the royal personage and explain that, although it was very kind of him, I could not possibly accept as I was doing a professional job for which I was paid a professional salary.

He replied that the presenter of the gift would be *'very offended as they are nothing to him'*.

My reply was: *'That means that I am nothing to him – so I am even more offended'* that he should offer me a tip in the same way that he would to a taxi driver or waiter, and that a simple word of thanks was more than enough for my professional skill. I heard no more.

Some years later, when on duty as a special constable, a regular officer with whom I was patrolling suggested that we call into a well-known fast food restaurant saying: *'They give us free coffee'*.

I was astounded that a police officer would compromise his professional standing by accepting even such a small item, so I declined, saying that even an apparently trivial gift could be seen as bribery and that the giver might expect something in return.

My lifelong training in the classical martial arts of Japan have reinforced my belief that ANY such gifts completely compromise one's integrity.

That members of parliament declare their gifts is no excuse. Parliament is our ultimate law-maker, therefore any system by which gifts may be declared is made under the authority of Parliament. It is a basic principle of justice that no man may be a judge in his own case so MPs declaring gifts means that they are condoning their own acceptance of what can be seen as bribes.

They receive a professional salary so there is obviously no need for them to receive so-called 'gifts' such as football tickets, clothes, or indeed, ANYTHING.

In view of the fact that the new government has cancelled winter fuel payments for pensioners, those who have accepted such gifts and spent public money on things such as photographers for their own aggrandisement might like to sell those gifts and donate the money to the many who need winter fuel.

That might go some little way to restoring what little faith we have left in their self-professed integrity.

Michael Jay
Hampton

Dear Editors,

Twickenham Riverside

The Council has issued A Stopping Up Order for parts of Wharf Lane, Water Lane and Twickenham Embankment, to enable the development described in approved Planning Application 21/2758/FUL. The Order is dated 12 September 2024, and signed by a Council Officer with the interesting title of “Interim Director of Place”.

The most important practical consequence of this Order is that vehicular access along The Embankment parallel to the Diamond Jubilee Gardens will, in due course, no longer be possible.

Objections may be made, but only on legal grounds, to the High Court, within 6 weeks of Thursday 12 September.

Details of the Order can be seen at

www.richmond.gov.uk/services/roads_and_transport/public_notices

I am interested, as I am sure many of your readers will be, to know the date at which the Order will come into force. According to the information published, this will be “. the date on which notice that it has been made is first published in accordance with section 252 (10) of the Act...” As I find this totally unintelligible, I sent a message asking for clarification. I have now received a reply, which reads “Any person who wishes to attempt to suspend or quash the made order has until Thursday 24 October 2024 apply to the High Court to do so. If nobody does this by 17.00 on that day the responsibility for maintaining the land that was highway will transfer to the planning applicant and it will cease to be highway maintainable at public expense. Please see the process outlined by the Department for Transport at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a74e28ae5274a3cb2867f57/stopping-up-order-flow-chart.pdf>”

Although this does not directly answer my question, I take it to mean that at any time after 24 October the road can be stopped-up without further ado. This is part of the action to be taken to fulfil part or whole of Condition NS22 (Highways and Transport Matters) of the planning application, which was imposed “to ensure a satisfactory form of development that does not cause severe impacts on the highway network”.

It will be a matter of interest to residents to see how severe the impact will turn out to be.

Jeremy Hamilton-Miller
Twickenham

Dear Tribune,

Another Scam!

This week I received yet another scam email, this time purporting to be from BT saying that my BT email would be disconnected.

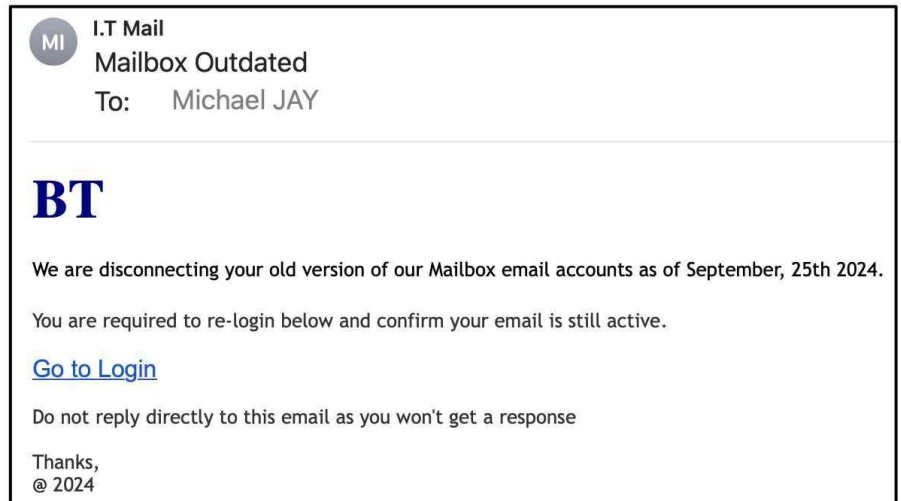
It was obviously suspect so I clicked on the sender only to find a weird address which proved it was not from BT.

I am not deceived by these emails but many people obviously are otherwise they wouldn't be sending them.

No doubt there will be more probably with links to get your winter fuel allowance!

Beware!

Michael Jay
Hampton



Cricket Postcards - Some Humour

Alan Winter

Following on from the postcard columns about cricket in Twickenham in the last two weeks, reader Ken Howe has come up with a brilliant comment from legendary cricketer W.G.Grace while playing in the first charity game on Twickenham Green.

Apparently he was opening the batting for the "Allstars team" when a young Twickenham bowler bowled him out first ball of the match.

Grace replaced the bails on the stumps and prepared to receive the next delivery.

When asked what he was doing by the bowler he replied "Young man, this crowd has turned up to watch me bat. They haven't come to see you bowl!"

Thanks for that one Ken.

Exciting future for Whitton Community Centre

From Richmond Council

We have approved an initial investment of over half a million pounds to develop a project for a new Whitton Community Centre, along with up to 36 affordable homes, as part of our bid to enhance community facilities across the borough and provide much-needed housing.

Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of the Council, said:

“This is a beloved local hub has served the community since 1974 when it was first used as a social club, later becoming a community centre in the 1990s.

The new design will ensure that the centre continues to be a vibrant modern space for local groups while addressing current structural issues and improving energy efficiency.



“Of course, community input to the future of the centre will be critical so we are working with the Whitton Community Association and other local representatives to develop the design and feasibility of the project, with a planning consent target set for early 2026.”

An initial budget of £510,000 was approved by our Finance, Policy and Resources Committee to cover design development, project support costs, and extensive community engagement.

This redevelopment marks a significant investment in Whitton’s future, ensuring that the community centre remains a cornerstone of local life for years to come.

This investment follows a commitment of £7m into community facilities as part of the Ham Close regeneration scheme.

Work is also underway on the brand new Elleray Hall community centre in Teddington, a scheme which will also provide 16 affordable flats on the old centre’s site.

CONNECTING WITH NATURE ON HAM LANDS & NEARBY GREEN SPACES

FOR WORLD HABITATS DAY

JOIN US FOR OUR EVENTS!



Come to our **FREE TALK**
to discover:

The natural history of
Ham Lands,
Different life on Ham
Lands,
And the link between
wellbeing and nature



Monday 7th October
6:30pm - 7:30pm
St. Richard's Church
Ashburnham Rd,
Richmond, TW10 7NL

Everyone is welcome!

LITTER PICKING in
Ham Lands and
surrounding areas

7th - 12th October

Help clear our beautiful
environment of harmful
litter



Slots are available all
week. Scan the QR code
below to book!



or go to

www.trybooking.com/uk/DWFW

These events are organised by Friends of Ham Lands, Habitats &
Heritage and Richmond Council



Become a volunteer health walk leader with Ramblers Wellbeing Walks

From Richmond Council

Join the friendly team and help lead our weekly program of walks all around the borough!

As a walk leader you will be helping people in your local community to get active and healthy in a friendly and social outdoor setting.

Regular walking is beneficial for both physical and mental wellbeing, with the social elements of group walking providing crucial opportunities for connection.



The role will involve leading group walks, providing support and encouragement to walkers, and fostering a positive and inclusive environment for participants.

Volunteer walk leaders will be provided with help and support to fulfil the role.

You will also benefit from the role by staying active, developing leadership skills, getting to know your local area more and meeting lots of new people!

Volunteer walk leaders should:

- Be able to commit to leading walks on a rota basis, once or twice a month
- Be able to comfortably walk for 60 to 90 minutes
- Possess a love of walking

Ramblers Wellbeing Walks Richmond upon Thames are looking for front leaders, back markers and walk assistants.

All training is provided for the role. If you are interested please email parks@richmond.gov.uk.

Find out more about [Richmond Health walks](#).

September Food And Drink News

I don't know about you, but I do feel rather cheated of our summer this year. It took so long for any sun and warmth to appear and now it seems to have disappeared rather early. Christmas is looming again, and our thoughts are turning to warming foods and autumnal fare. Here are some of my recommendations from my September discoveries.

We're very lucky here in Twickenham to have a farmers' market every week. A fairly recent addition is the **Berry Makers** stand, selling some really superb fresh berries. Harry Hall and his family have been growing berries from their farms in Surrey and Berkshire for over 50 years. Growers of the 'Fabulous Four': Strawberries, Raspberries, Blackberries and Blueberries, they're available at a range of markets and garden centres across the south east, as well as online. And, sensibly, they are also producing jams (produced from misshapen fruit) and honey. Full information on locations and the online range is at berrymakers.co.uk



I was lucky enough to attend a great cookery demonstration recently at **Divertimenti's** store and cookery school in Knightsbridge. There's a series of dems coming up with author **Jo Pratt**, whose dem I attended: **3 Oct:** flexible baking demo; **10 Oct:** simple suppers; **22 Oct:** fish suppers; **30 Oct:** Halloween. There are more scheduled too, with other cooks and chefs; hands-on classes, as well as dems to watch and learn. They're incredibly sociable, and they all involve a meal or generous tastings. Some are over lunchtime and others early evening. The full cookery school schedule is on the website [here](http://divertimenti.com). Gift vouchers are available - a lovely gift idea.

There's tomato ketchup...and then the really good stuff. **Tracklements** has produced a vegan and gluten free **Proper Tomato Ketchup** that's crammed with juicy Mediterranean tomatoes, subtly blended with spices, and it's very good indeed. It really does take ketchup to new heights. Look out for it at fine food delis and farm shops at around £3.60 for a 290g bottle, or add it to your order online at tracklements.co.uk



I'm told luxury yoghurt is now a popular dessert option, as yoghurts tend to have fewer calories than many other desserts, including ice cream. Having tried the new range from **Bonne Maman**, I'm inclined to agree, as it's delicious. Presented in new look, widely recyclable packaging, Bonne Maman fruit yoghurts can be found at Waitrose and Coop stores plus online at Ocado. 450g tubs with rrp of £3.20 are available in five, fruity, indulgent flavours - Rhubarb & Strawberry, Morello Cherry, Violet Fig (my favourite), Raspberry & Blackberry plus Caramelised Apple.

Just in time for when we stop thinking about preparing salads and start hankering after roasts, those slightly whacky, but very clever folk at **Tyrrells** have launched a new flavour of crisp: Roasted Chicken & Sage. They are seriously (or should I say 'tyrrellbly') good, and have just arrived in Waitrose and Sainsbury's at £2.75 for a 150g sharing bag





Another delicious dessert idea, and also healthier than many others, is the range of **Doughlicious Cookie Dough & Gelato Bites**: chewy cookie dough united with creamy gelato, then dusted in cookie crumbs. One of the benefits for me is that they can be kept in the freezer, ready for those moments when you want a sweet treat, or as an after dinner indulgence. Each snack bite (well, actually they're about three or four bites) is portion-controlled, at around 100 kcals. Crispy on the outside, gooey on the inside, these **Great Taste Award winning** balls of deliciousness are gluten free, with vegan options available. Made in London, the company uses renewable electricity, and top quality natural ingredients. They're available in a range of flavours: Chocolate Chip; Chocolate Truffle; Mint Chocolate Chip (my favourite I think) and Cinnamon Churro. Available from Tesco, Waitrose, Morrisons, Costco and Ocado. RRP £5 per pack of six bites are in the ice-cream section.

For those days when the diet goes out of the window (sadly too often for me!) a great treat for those of us with a sweet tooth, has been launched by **unearthed**®... it's a chocolate version of the traditional **Portuguese Pastel de Nata**.

Pastéis de Nata, translating to 'cream pastries', are made using a traditional recipe dating back to the XVIII Century. Crisp puff pastry is filled with a layer of chocolate and free-range egg custard, and topped with chocolate chips. These rich and indulgent little Portuguese tarts can be oven cooked from frozen in just 15 minutes. (and ideal for an air fryer). **Unearthed**® also produces the original version and a blueberry one, available at selected Waitrose stores in packs of six for £4.55 rrp.



If you find yourself in the St Pancras/Kings Cross vicinity soon, pop into the stunning beautiful **Gothic Bar at St Pancras Renaissance Hotel**, where they have partnered with **Camus Cognac** to launch a special cocktail menu inspired by Jules Verne's novels. The list is available till the end of November and features three spectacular cocktails crafted by bar manager Jack Porter, each influenced by one of Verne's classic stories and using a different expression of Camus Cognac. If you're a cocktail fan, you'll be in for a real treat!

I think Pinot Noir is one of my favourite red wines, and while, apparently, I missed National Pinot Noir Day in August, I always think it's more of an autumn or winter wine. I know there are other options in addition to red, but it's the red I really like. Pinot Noir grapes produce deliciously smooth wines, with ripe, silky tannins and red summer fruit. And I've been very impressed by the range and quality of the Pinot Noirs stocked by **Tesco**. From a very decent **Cono Sur Bicicleta Pinot Noir** at just £7 a bottle, or a **Villa Maria Private Bin Pinot Noir** at £13 to two superb **Tesco Finest** ones: **Central Otago** and **Marlborough** at £14 and £10 respectively. And remember to check out special offers if you're a Clubcard member, as they are often quite heavily discounted...I'm stocking up for Christmas soon.



Sober October Suggestions

Next month will be another 'dry' month for many. It's a good opportunity for many of us to cut down on alcohol prior to the festive onslaught on our livers. Here are some new low or no alcohol products that I've discovered over the summer.



A spritz is a popular cocktail, but now there's a great alcohol free version available, courtesy of award-winning, market leader **Nozeco**. It's a lovely bright orange, with fine bubbles and natural orange and grapefruit notes that balance acidity and sweetness. It's reasonably priced too, at £3.50 a bottle from Asda and a selection of online retailers.

Maybe a white wine is more to your taste? If so, check out **Nice** lower ABV (3.4%) **Session Wine** (£10 per 75cl bottle). Beer drinkers are familiar with session lagers and IPAs, and now wine is sessionable too. **Nice Session** wines have been developed to taste like a full-strength wine, not compromising on the taste profile and mouthfeel you'd expect from your favourite wines. Available from NICE direct, Ocado, Amazon and Co-Op



And **Tesco** has a really good range of alcohol free options, including the own-label sparkling at just £3.25, which I've mentioned before. There's also an own label alcohol free Cabernet Sauvignon as well as a Garnacha Rosé. They also stock the Kylie Minogue Alcohol Free Sparkling Rosé at £6 a bottle.



Wild Idol is a vegan, gluten-free and naturally alcohol-free sparkling alternative to wine and champagne, produced using winemaking techniques and top quality grapes. Unlike other non-alcoholic wines which use alcohol extraction, Wild Idol's pure blend has never contained alcohol and has never been fermented. As well as the standard bottles, Wild Idol is available in luxury gift boxes, miniatures and magnums. **Wild Idol Rosé** - offers delicate notes of grapefruit, rhubarb and gooseberry, **Wild Idol White** - features crisp apple notes and a pale straw hue, with delicate bubbles and abundant freshness. It's not cheap (£30 a bottle) but it is excellent, and will also make a lovely, indulgent gift for a non drinker.



There are some excellent zero alcohol beers on the market now and one that you might like to try is appropriately named **Clear Head** from **Bristol Beer Factory**. With big hitting US hops Citra and Mosaic, the beer has punch and creamy smoothness. Sharp citrus, apple and stone fruits shine through, and it finishes with a crisp dryness. £30 for a case of 12 from bristolbeerfactory.co.uk

Alcohol-free pioneer, [Herbarium Drinks](http://herbariumdrinks.com) crafts excellent botanical spirits and following the success of its acclaimed distillation 29 - Spiced Juniper, the company has launched its latest 0.0% spirit: **Herbarium Distillation 8 - Floral Herbs**. This botanical creation has subtle warmth and a citrus finish. It's vegetarian, vegan-friendly, gluten-free, and contains no sugars, sweeteners or calories. It's very refreshing, with a delicate blend of distilled floral herbs, including rosemary, lemongrass, and hints of lavender. Its subtle pink peppery spice and warming citrus finish make it ideal for pairing with tonic. £22 a bottle from herbariumdrinks.com and Master of Malt





Another lovely alternative to a G&T is **CAROUSE** - a **non-alcoholic spirit** founded by wellness entrepreneur Steph Elswood, **CAROUSE** is also a vibrant health-conscious choice for the sober-curious and beyond. With innovative **nootropic** and **adaptogenic** ingredients, CAROUSE's two spirit blends - **UPLIFT** and **DRIFT** - will benefit both mind and body, with no morning-after regrets. Gluten-free, vegan, with no artificial colours or sweeteners, CAROUSE offers an alcohol alternative that focuses on enhancing mood and cognitive function. Even better, unlike other non-alcoholic spirits they can be enjoyed straight over ice, or with a simple mixer such as soda, tonic or lemonade. **UPLIFT** is a mix of zingy citrus fruits and ginger, with a subtle kick of peppercorn and chilli, laced with invigorating guarana, maca and ginkgo biloba. **DRIFT** is a blend of summer fruits, mixed berries, cucumber, and hints of aromatic basil, enhanced with extracts of echinacea and ashwagandha, to promote relaxation. From £22.99 online.

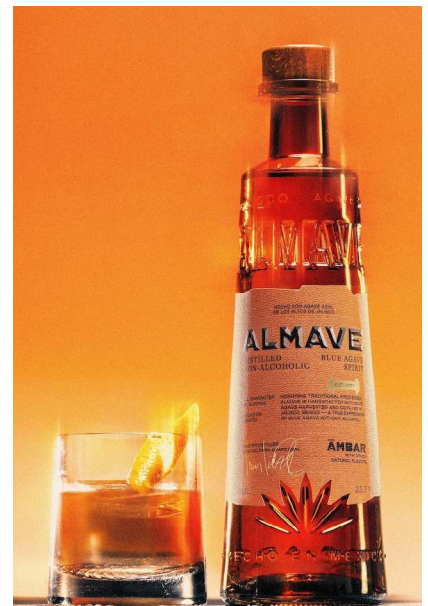
Not sure about ready to drink non-alcoholic cocktails? Then here is the perfect way for you to try them. Leading premium brand **Savyll Beverage Co's** range of ready to drink cocktails are excellent, and as well as being available online from [Savyll Beverage Company](#), are now also available in Sainsbury's. There's a clever **4**-can assortment pack, allowing you to try one of each of its most popular flavours and it includes a Bellini, Mojito, Grapefruit Paloma, and a Ginger Moscow Mule. Simply chill, serve & sip. They're also gluten free, and cost just £8 for a pack of four.



Bemuse sparkling meads are a range of really unusual effervescent honey wines, that are naturally fermented and sparkling, with each having intriguingly different combinations of herbs. **Bemuse Calluna Brut** made with raw heather honey from Scottish moorlands; **Pomona Brut** made with delicate apple blossom honey from English orchards; **Fiora Rose** made from aromatic borage honey from English meadows and **Origo Brut** with spring wildflower honey from English grasslands. They are all very different, very delicious and are available online from [Bemuse](#) at £12 a 750ml bottle or in 250ml cans at £3.10

And finally, for those who love a margarita, try Lewis Hamilton's Alcohol-free agave 'spirit'. **Almave Ambar Distilled Non-Alcoholic Blue Agave Spirit** captures the authentic aromas and flavours of its key ingredient, giving tasting notes of roasted blue agave, sweet caramel and toasted wood. Tequila is Hamilton's drink of choice, and he had been looking for a non-alcoholic drink that kept his mind clear on important days. Finding a sea of imitations, but nothing authentically agave, he teamed up with Mexican craft spirit experts, **Casa**

Lumbre. Combining Hamilton's passion and determination with the expertise of Casa Lumbre's Master Distiller and Founder Ivan Saldana - they've redefined what's possible for Blue Agave. An entirely new distillation process was created by adapting the traditional methods used in Casa Lumbre's Mexican home in Jalisco. By skipping the fermentation process, Almave captures the complexity and delicate flavours of freshly milled agave without producing alcohol. Almave Ambar is £36 (rrp) and it is available from Amazon and House of Malt.



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It took a while! 15 yrs and more! A Special 90th Birthday present perhaps

By Bruce Lyons



Photo by Arnhel de Serra

I have often written in these pages about my passion (Hobby Horse) Incoming Tourism & in the past, at Crusader Travel, we created a group of people interested in incoming tourism, & even had our own website – registered as Destination Richmond. We approached many local attractions – mostly unique to the borough, lobbied LBRUT. Courted the three BIDS, but sadly could not generate much interest and really got the “cold shoulder”. We did make some inroads, for example Lord True & his Arcadian Thames Project blended well with our Twickenham Festival and inspired the popular Church Street Goes Green event, which we ran from 2007 until 2019.

Overtime, as we rowed “ROBYN” our 1912 double skiff leisure boat in the Great River Race (36th year this year!) we were able to sow the idea to the creator Stuart Wolf, that offering accommodation as well would appeal to overseas visitors to enter the race and some 12 years ago we started with some 10 rooms at the Lensbury and walked the guests across the Ham Common to the Thames Young Mariners to catch the shuttles to Millwall Slipway (the start)

Fast forward to 2022: by now we were doing some hundred plus at the Travelodge and Lensbury and also offering coach shuttle tickets from local hotels as well as from the Thames

Young Mariners as well. We also have accommodated and transferred overseas crews from Australia, Bermuda, Sardinia, as well as Irish and many Dutch and a couple of Spanish as well.

Fast forward again and this year we had as many as 50 from the USA – and they also took time to visit England too. The Spanish came for over 10 days and took in Scotland and Wales as well as the South of England – Rowing all the time!

We arranged 800 coach shuttles over 400 people in local hotels as well and yes we became part of a team helping a very English Event become a unique worldwide event and from a borough's perspective, it brings visitors and helps the local economy and has a small footprint on the environment. So, it is all good!

As I have travelled this path I have learnt to understand peoples apprehension on “Over Tourism” and that this kind of business needs to be “managed” but I also understand that these unique attractions need customers too. These houses can't survive without income for their maintenance and it is a fine balance. How drab everything would be without Hampton Court, Ham House, Strawberry Hill, Turners House and more. Why shouldn't we be proud of Kew Gardens or the Rugby which we are famous for and I think we should all address those concerns. I am not suggesting that we should expect 500,000 Chinese to visit Isabelle Plantation but a few more maybe would be good?

So, yes I had a late birthday present in that the GRR is becoming an International event and bringing the kind of low key tourism to this borough that I thought would be possible a long time ago and it was a great pleasure and a joy to be part of it all.



Photo by Carrie Cooke

Why are we so obsessed with it though?

By Deep Patel

~Life through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper~

This week in Twickenham the summer wardrobe has been packed away and winter wardrobe awakened and hands down, the majority of conversations with my customers start with some kind of talk about the weather (unless I am behind the counter myself, in which case the topic of conversation is nearly always “my gosh, did you know that you are the most good-looking shop keeper I have seen in my life” – to which my brother says “you must be in the wrong shop...the opticians is the next bus stop up – still one can dream)...but going back to the weather...what exactly is it about the weather that make us all talk about it so frigging much? Well, there is the argument that the weather in a non-sensitive subject area, something that no one can get offended about, a “safe bet” as it were...rather than starting the conversation with “so how many times have you been to the loo today?” (for reference, I am a very open shop-keeper and happy to answer that or any question should you wish to ask it, just saying...).



When considering the weather, there is however something quite silently reassuring and almost spiritual isn't there...you see, we are all experiencing exactly the same sensations at exactly the same time...so it's something very rare...with such a wonderfully diverse group of customers from such varied backgrounds, there are not many things that we can expect to have instantly in common, but the weather just happens to be one of them...

After much contemplation, I have come to the realization that people have a deeply entrenched almost innate need to be in sync with others around them...to feel reassured...we seek validation...or at least some degree of “one-ness”...to feel in line with each other...to feel a wider sense of belonging...like what we feel is the same as what others around us are feeling...you all know what I mean...similarities...common ground...to iron away their differences and focus on their similarities...to be together as one... sometimes this is a complex and difficult goal... however talking about the weather, something we can ALL relate to, regardless of how rich or poor we are, how young or old we are, whether we are religious or not, whatever our cultural differences are, whatever our racial background...the weather is something that we can experience together with others who happen to be at the exact same location at the exact same time that we are too... to serve a dual purpose of breaking the ice to start a conversation as well as re-establishing and cementing a notion of oneness and social cohesion to reinforce positive human bonds...who would have thought? So the next time you find yourself talking about the weather with someone... remember...you are “doing your bit” towards re-establishing social and community wholehearted “one-ness”, something I think we do very well in Twickenham...but maybe the world can learn from us?...

Remember...

“We may be individuals, but we are seeking to be one...”

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

STOP RATS & MICE KINDLY (GOOD KARMA):

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

For ANY specific tip to stop any “pest” or insect KINDLY (for good karma/blessings), email me:

InsectLoversUnite@gmail.com or join my Facebook page: “INSECT LOVERS UNITE”



Hangmen

by Martin McDonagh

Teddington Theatre Club at the Hampton Hill Theatre until 28th September

Crisp, biting, and wickedly funny, McDonagh's penmanship shines in TTC's revival of his story of executioners, (presumed) murderers, and (presumed) bystanders. An undercurrent of tension and grim hilarity propels the narrative.

David Webb as Harry Wade, Britain's second-most famous hangman and part pub landlord, dominates the stage with a performance that is magnetic. His counterpart, the enigmatic Peter Mooney (a mesmerising Matt Tester, fitting the repeated description of looking 'menancing'), slinks into the scenes like a snake poised to strike. From their first exchange, the wit crackles like the dust on a Haribo Tangfastic; each wordplay, each quip carefully timed, hitting the mark like the loaded noose that Wade is all too familiar with.



The play's standout feature is its blending of gleeful farce with the macabre, and the cast's comic timing has every beat, every pause delivered with care, exemplified by the deliberately slow interjections of pub regular Arthur (Jim Trimmer), always a step behind the conversations. Each character keeps the rhythm snappy, the energy vibrant, from Wade's wife Alice (Juanita Al-Dahhan) and 'mopey' daughter Shirley (Charlotte Griffiths), to the tragic police detective (Dominic Lloyd).

Despite the grim subject matter, *Hangmen* is anything but sombre, with its rapid-fire banter, and its dark absurdities of life and death, seen through a uniquely twisted lens. Director Dane Hardie's staging is tight, keeping the pace high without losing the depth of the characters. The tension never truly dissipates, hanging over the pub and the people within it like the ever-present shadow of the death penalty. Fiona Auty's set, a well-crafted replica of a Northern pub, provides the claustrophobic backdrop for the unfolding drama, while Rob Arundel's clever use of lighting accentuates the uneasy balance between light-hearted jokes and dark subject matter.

By the time the final noose tightens and the narrative reaches its bleak conclusion, the audience is left marvelling at this mastery of storytelling. *Hangmen* is an ink-black comic triumph that revels in its contradictions. Funny yet unsettling, mundane yet profound, it left me simultaneously satisfied, but eager for more as I departed into the cold streetlights of suburbia.



Read Brent Muirhouse's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/09/24/hangman

Photography by Sarah J Carter

La Bohème

by Giacomo Puccini, libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa
English National Opera at the London Coliseum until 19th October

From my first experience of shedding tears at a Chicago Lyric Opera production in the 1980s, to being swept away by the grandeur of Zeffirelli's sets at The Met, Puccini's *La Bohème* always creates magic and emotional intensity for me. So expectations have always been high for a Jonathan Miller production. However, I had had some reservations about his 2009 *La Bohème* and its [subsequent revivals](#) after reading of its "hyper-realism".



Miller stripped out cliché and kitsch from Romantic opera, wanting to be more honest about poverty and illness, while remaining sensitive to the eternal themes of love and loss. The opera is set in 1930s Paris, with sets influenced by Cartier-Bresson photographs. Miller consciously injects gallows humour. You couldn't do this to a Zeffirelli production.



Under Clelia Cafiero's baton, the orchestra is as fine as ever. In the lush passages the emotion and impassioned playing is everything you would want. In the fair scenes, the muted trumpets sound just like toy soldiers.

However, in this revival the casting detracts from its potential. While all the leads have lovely voices, technical control and musicality, they lack the chemistry and emotional intensity needed for Puccini's heart-wrenching love story. Joshua Blue's Rodolfo's voice

is warm, with good technical control, and his arias sound beautiful, but the problem is his awkward stage presence. Nadine Benjamin's is able to project both tenderness and strength as Mimi, with tremendous musical technique and phrase control, but never conveys the depths of desperation or intense love necessary for Puccini's doomed love story.

As Marcello, Charles Rice is one of the stars of the production, his resonant baritone able to switch from boisterous humour to emotional intensity. Dingle Yandell's dexterous bass brings gravity and humour to the touchingly selfless Colline. Vuvu Mpofu is a bright soprano whose voice fits the coquettish character of Musetta. She can act; we are left shocked and upset for Marcello, but she could be more coquettish.



The 2009 production was a masterpiece, and while this 2024 revival is worth seeing for Miller's vision, the romantic magic and tear-jerking love story don't fully succeed.

Read Susan Furnell's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/09/27/boheme-eno

Photography by Lloyd Winters



La Traviata

by Giuseppe Verdi, libretto by Francesco Maria Piave

Barefoot Opera at Arcola Theatre, Dalston until 28th September

In revisiting Verdi's evocation of decadent splendour, it is impressive how Barefoot Opera successfully uses a small cast in a limited space to recreate the lavishness of *La Traviata*. Studiously directed by Alfie Chesney and Michael Spenceley, they bring fresh insight to this ambitious opera.

In a monument performance as Violetta, Turkish soprano Beren Fidan captures all the glamour and all the loneliness of the high class escort in a perfect pitched portrayal. But when the young Alfredo, played as genuinely sincere and love-struck by tenor Tylor Lamani, falls in love with Violetta and declares his feelings to her, she begins to realise that she has found love for the first time.

However, Violetta has never revealed the secret of her terminal illness. Violetta's wistful



consideration of the situation dissolves into *Libiamo ne' lieti calici*, "lets drink from the joyful cups". The Brindisi is outstandingly sung by the leads and ensemble, and enables the five musicians of the Barefoot Band to really go to town.

Three months later, the couple are happy living together in the country, but the reformed Violetta is gradually selling off her possessions. Then comes the unexpected arrival of Alfredo's father, a powerful portrayal by

baritone Michael Dewis. Germont père begs Violetta to leave his son for the family honour. She agrees, leaving a trail of turmoil and heartbreak.

Soprano Kezia Robson, as the maid Annina, and mezzo Phoebe Rayner, playing Violetta's friend Flora, excel as entertainer and host. With added highlights by tenor George Seymour, these performers build the social tension as Violetta re-enters the party scene and her former life with the aggressive Baron.

Violetta's final tragic scene of her deathbed is especially moving as she leaves the world in a sad and emotional climax.

This is a youthful take on a favourite Verdi opera. Its ballroom dances, bordering on the bisexual, are beautifully intimate. Mood appropriate lighting is designed by Emma Gasson. Costumes, cleverly designed by Natasha Stolle, are vivid with vibrant colours, accessorised with macabre black, a contrast giving a hue of splendour.

La Traviata is a valuable and fresh addition to the versatile and varied Grimeborn Opera Festival, and a real joy to experience.

Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/09/25/traviata-bfo

Photography by FGO

Monday Evening Events at the Mary Wallace Theatre

On a number of Monday evenings throughout the season the Richmond Shakespeare Society presents various events - auditions, play readings, short lectures and social gatherings - to which all are welcome.

Monday, October 5th will see a talk - "Who Shall Scape Whipping (Criminal Law in Shakespeare's England)". How did the criminal justice system operate in the England of Shakespeare, Johnson and Marlow? How did English criminal justice change in the few short years before Elizabeth I, from trial by ordeal to judgement given by "twelve good men and true"?

Join us at the Mary Wallace Theatre (close to the Barmy Arms on Twickenham's Embankment) at 7.30 on Monday October 5th and learn a little more about Elizabethan England....

...and on Monday, November 4th there will be a play reading of "While the Sun Shines" - a delightful comedy by Terence Rattigan - at 7.30, followed a week later on the 11th by Open Auditions for our March, 2025 production of the play. Again, all are welcome.

For more information about these and further Monday Evenings at the Mary Wallace please visit www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk



Enrich your maternal wellbeing with arts

From The Collective Arts Group

This October, The Collective Arts Group is running a five-week online course for parents-to-be.

The course aims to provide parents-to-be with clear and effective pathways to revived and nourished wellbeing. By combining the power of art therapy and the science of positive psychology, the course will feature a comprehensive and purposeful approach to nurturing your emotional and mental health through pregnancy and beyond.

Whether you're a seasoned artist or have never picked up a paintbrush, take part in this engaging programme, connect with other expecting parents, and get ready for a new life phase!

Self-funded, grant-funded and employer-funded options are available.

- Date: Wednesday 2 to 30 October 2024
- Time: 10.30am to 12pm

[Register now](#)



Bid for a unique piece of art at charity auction

From Habitats & Heritage

Until Saturday 28 September, Habitats & Heritage is running an online Secret Art Auction to raise funds for their local nature and heritage conservation work.

Residents are invited to join the Secret Art Auction and purchase original artworks for a good cause. Over 250 pieces of original A5 artworks donated by amazing and celebrated artists are now available online.

This year's artists include Royal Academicians, renowned artists, award-winning illustrators and photographers, emerging artists, and talented individuals.

All artworks will be signed on the back so the identity of the artists will only be revealed after purchase. All proceeds raised will help support Habitats & Heritage's nature and heritage conservation work.

The Secret Art Auction ends at 10pm on Saturday 28 September. Find out more about the [Secret Art Auction](#) including how to bid.

Our [Climate Action Microgrant programme](#) awards grants every month to support community-driven initiatives around climate change and sustainability.



Council Briefing

Finance Policy Resource Committee - Thursday 19th September

By James Knight

Council makes it harder to obtain ASB reviews / Satisfaction with the council down 12% / £37 million black hole in council finances.

If you want to know what's wrong at Richmond Council, the latest Finance Policy and Resources Committee webcast illustrates the core problem: a complete lack of scrutiny and challenge. Planning on taking on a large amount of debt, knowing it will lead to a vast £37 million budget gap unless serious action is taken. With the Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves warning, she will NOT bail out bankrupt councils.

The first item discussed was the review of the **anti-social behaviour case reviews**, previously known as the Community Trigger. These were introduced after some high-profile tragic cases like Fiona Pilkington and David Askew, who the authorities had failed. There were several minor questions, actual questions relating to the proposed changes. The Council are making it harder to qualify for a case review as they believe people are abusing the system. The timescales are also being extended; the initial acknowledgement will be within five days rather than two, and the review needing to be completed will be twenty-eight days rather than twenty-one. This appears to be a case of putting the council first and the victim last, which will undoubtedly make things worse for victims.

The council has carried out its first **resident survey** since 2019; this showed a marked 12% drop in satisfaction with the council since the last poll, and only 37% thought the condition of roads and pavements was either very good or good, a decline of 10% since 2019. Councillors did not mention the headline drop in satisfaction. Cllr Kuldev Sehra (Whitton Ward) and deputy Mayor said, "When I read the report there was loads I would like to commend." Cllr Caroline Wren (Fulwell and Hampton Hill) requested that the satisfaction levels be split between housing tenure. One felt the councillors ought to have asked searching questions and teased out what they needed to improve.

The next item was the **Annual Corporate Complaints** report, which relates to the 362 formal complaints made against the council and range from staff attitude to service failures, housing issues and education for the disabled. The Government has introduced a new national code with more stringent timescales. However, the committee agreed to ignore these new timelines by reducing the target to meet them from 80% to 70% on time. There was no actual discussion of the complaints or learning that needed to be made.

The **Treasury Management Annual Report** was then presented with the officers drawing attention to the fact that interest from deposits & investments was £6.8 million, of which half was added to the capital fund to avoid the need for borrowing. Not mentioned in the meeting was that the Public Works Loan Board (PWL) lending rates remained high at 4.43% in January 2024 for a ten-year loan. Currently, the council has £114.41 million of external borrowing. However, the council plans to borrow an additional £78.2 million over the next six years.

The **prudential indicators** are a set of calculations undertaken by the council to set their limits on borrowing and long-term investment, and this shows the limit for external borrowing is £153 million, which means this year they were £24.7 million under the ceiling. However, the 6-year Council's capital program will breach the borrowing limit unless they can deliver the money from claims of efficiency savings (i.e. cuts), land disposals, and grants.

The Twickenham Riverside Scheme will mean tens of millions will need to be borrowed over the next couple of years, and the prudential limits may be breached, which calls into question the wisdom of starting the development now rather than deferring it or staging it. The council could end up bankrupt if construction costs are higher than expected – and it's notable they still have not accounted for construction inflation since January 2023. Bankruptcy would set a chaotic chain of events where many non-statutory services would be ended and things like youth clubs and community centres shut, the remaining public services across the board

cut back, and significant increases in the council tax could be imposed by government commissioners as has happened in Croydon where the council tax was increased by 15 % in one go.

Remember that this year's council budget is not balanced, and the reserves are being drawn down, a situation that cannot continue indefinitely. However, there wasn't a hint of difficulty the council finds itself in at the meeting.

The next item was the **Q1 Monitoring Report** showing an underspend of £433,000 on projected spending; thus, the amount needed to be taken from reserves is now thought to be £1.8 million this year. Housing Services have overspent by £164,000, Adult Social Care by £2.8 million, Adult Care budgets by £2.85 million, etc. If the late Geoffrey Samuel were still around, he would blast them for the lack of discipline and effort shown to stick to the budget. Cllr Robin Brown (Hampton Wick and South Teddington), Finance and Resource Lead Member did a lot of handwringing. There were no questions again from committee members, meaning no scrutiny, no looking out for the long-term interests of residents.

The **Capital Programme and Funding Review then followed**. £7.3 million has been added for purchasing temporary housing, of which £5.53 million is being funded by the government and £2.11 million from developer contributions. Another £511,000 has been added to progress plans to rebuild Whitton Community Centre (which serves the Whitton and West Twickenham areas) to be funded from extra borrowing. The council is redeveloping this centre to build 36 flats above.

It's an interesting diversion to look at how the current administration is refusing requests to include a replacement Heathfield Library in the development. Despite the crystal-clear commitment in their manifesto to do so, "We will explore all avenues to reverse Conservative library cuts in Heathfield Ward and protect an existing network of libraries". The council sold the original Heathfield Library in 2008 when the Liberal Democrats controlled the council, with the replacement library access point in the community centre closed by the Liberal Democrats in 2021 with the promised replacement access point never materialising.

Gareth Roberts hoped the plaque commemorating the opening of **Whitton Community Centre** by Leslie Crowther (of the Price is Right fame) would be retained. Cllr Wren (Fulwell and Hampton Hill) asked if the funding for the new Clarendon SEND School at Petersham still had a shortfall the council were covering and Cllr Nancy Baldwin queried if the money for the pre-development phase work for Whitton Community Centre was borrowed money.

The **Medium-Term Financial Strategy** was next, with Cllr Brown claiming the finances were sound despite the budget not being balanced this year and reserves needing to be used. He said he was committed to carrying on all projects promised in the manifesto. He said a budget gap of £8 million will increase to £37 million by 2028/29. The accompanying report noted that every 1% increase in council tax generates £1.6m of additional income – so that would require council tax to increase by over 23% to meet this gap unless alternative income or savings can be made. Cllr Sehra (Whitton) stated that he felt the finances were being managed "judicially." Cllr Wren asked about the loss of the winter fuel allowance and was told the council has its own scheme where a £170 fuel grant is given to those who qualify, and they may change how it operates due to the national winter fuel allowance being withdrawn for most pensioners. Cllr Baldwin said the council gives out warm home packs – so it's not just cash grants.

At 8.16 p.m., the leader closed the meeting, having dealt with a huge amount of business in just over one hour and a quarter. Overall, there seemed to be a distinct lack of scrutiny, and the real financial position of the council was not being presented to the committee or residents. The Twickenham Riverside Development is still priced at January 2023 construction costs, which gives a misleading picture of the situation. What seems certain is that the current administration is working on the assumption that they will raise the council tax by the maximum amount possible every year as they are determined to maximise expenditure rather than try to keep down taxes for the local population.

For the papers for the meeting please follow this link [HERE](#)

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Earthshot Prize Finalists 2024

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

Fifteen finalists from five categories have been invited to take part in the event:

<p><u>1. BUILD A WASTE FREE WORLD</u></p> <p>France Ferment'Up <i>use of commercial food waste to produce nutritious alternatives</i></p>	<p>Kenya, Uganda Keep IT Cool <i>sustainable refrigeration</i></p> <p>USA Natural Fiber Welding <i>replacing plastic by natural-based materials</i></p>
<p><u>2. CLEAN OUR AIR</u></p> <p>Ghana GAYO, Green Africa Youth Organization <i>waste management</i></p>	<p>India, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia d.light <i>clean and affordable power for rural communities</i></p> <p>Indonesia MYCL <i>leather alternative from palm oil waste</i></p>
<p><u>3. FIX OUR CLIMATE</u></p> <p>Nepal Build up Nepal <i>house building with a low-carbon and cost-effective alternative to clay fired bricks</i></p>	<p>USA Advanced Thermovoltaic Systems <i>transformation of waste heat energy into energy for use in hard to abate industries</i></p> <p>USA Equatic <i>carbon dioxide removal using oceans to lock away CO₂</i></p>
<p><u>4. PROTECT AND RESTORE NATURE</u></p> <p>Kazakhstan Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative <i>saving the Saiga Antelope from extinction</i></p>	<p>Ecuador The Amazon Sacred Headwaters Alliance <i>indigenous nations protecting millions of acres of forests</i></p> <p>UK NatureMetrics <i>obtaining details of a site's biodiversity through traces of DNA in the environment.</i></p>
<p><u>5. REVIVE OUR OCEANS</u></p> <p>Costa Rica, France High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People <i>engaging with governments to protect land and oceans</i></p>	<p>Australia Coast 4C <i>coastal agriculture with conservation through regenerative seaweed farming.</i></p> <p>UK MiAlgae <i>sustainable alternative source of Omega-3</i></p>

The EARTHSHOT PRIZE was founded by HRH Prince William and The Royal Foundation
Information from The Earthshot Prize [website](#)

Information for individual countries can be found at www.worldinfozone.com

Woodland Trust offers £20,000 project funding for young people taking environmental action

The Woodland Trust has opened applications for young people to win part of a £20,000 prize pot for projects tackling climate change.

The hugely popular [youth innovation competition](#), now in its third year, offers young people the chance to launch their environmental projects backed by funding and mentorship from the largest woodland conservation charity in the UK.



Previous winners have included starting up a clothes upcycling workshop, a campaign to protect ancient trees and wildlife photography exhibitions.

Six individuals or small groups (aged between 16-25) will win up to £6,000 project funding each, along with mentorship from leading industry experts to deliver projects which directly fight the climate crisis.

Moiz Siddiqi, a previous winner of the competition which helped him to launch his business Me-eco, said winning the Woodland Trust's prestigious Igniting Innovation competition has been *"genuinely life-changing"*

Project Me-eco is a mindfulness-based seeded paper product, which enables people to write down their worries on seeded paper, plant it and watch it grow alongside their own wellbeing.

Siddiqi added: *"It's that first major step in taking a risk with an idea, and working to bring it to life, except with this risk, you're supported and backed by the Woodland Trust, their youth team and amazing mentors. It allowed Project Me-Eco to develop from a basic concept to a fully-fledged start-up business with the foundation it needed. It helped us in understanding what we needed for our next steps, what worked and what didn't, all in a supported space. Project Me-Eco is a gateway solution to the climate crisis and mental health crisis. It's rebranding mental health and nature to make it truly accessible for all. Using our innovative Me-Eco box to support individuals, communities and organisations to look after themselves, and their environment."*

The top 18 applications will be invited to take part in workshops that will teach them how to professionally pitch their project idea and the finalists will go on to present their environmental innovations to a panel of celebrity judges and experts.

Grace Howourth, head of youth reimaged at the Woodland Trust said: *"We need more young people to become advocates for woods and trees and we are excited to be able to open this opportunity again to help fund important projects which will directly address the climate and nature crisis. You don't have to be from an experienced environmental or conservation background or have academic qualifications to enter, as we are looking for people from all backgrounds and walks of life to enter with a great idea that can impact woods, wildlife and people."*

Applications are now open and will close on Monday, 20 January 2025.

For more information on how to apply, please visit www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or email youth@woodlandtrust.org.uk.



WOODLAND
TRUST

Seriously injured Iraq War veteran enjoys adventure trip thanks to veterans' charities

A soldier left with severe injuries following a mortar attack while serving in Iraq has returned to an outdoor activity centre in the Lake District.

Stephen Vause enjoyed another memorable adventure trip at Calvert Lakes, in Keswick, following the success of his last trip in 2023.

The costs for the five-day trip was met by Help for Heroes. The 37-year-old was accompanied by Healthcare Assistants (HCAs) Valdas and Phil from Royal Star & Garter in Surbiton, where he lives, and his friend Paul, who is a Help for Heroes volunteer.

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

The HCAs and Stephen drove up to Calvert Lakes, which offers adventure breaks and holidays for people with disabilities, on 16 September. During his time there, Stephen enjoyed canoeing and catamaran sailing on the lakes, hiking, cycle rides, games of bocchia and swimming.

Stephen was just 19 when he suffered major brain injuries while serving with 4th Battalion The Rifles, in Basra in 2007. He was on his first tour of duty, and the attack left him living with severe disabilities.



He has been living at Royal Star & Garter since 2017, where he receives 24-hour specialist care.

After returning from his latest adventure, Stephen said: *"It was so nice to be back in the Lake District. I had a great time, and I'm really grateful to Royal Star & Garter and Help For Heroes for helping make this happen."*

Help for Heroes has also previously worked with Royal Star & Garter to fund a bespoke wheelchair and

specialist gym equipment for Stephen, to support his care at the Surbiton Home.

During a Covid lockdown in 2021, Stephen raised money for Help for Heroes by taking part in a virtual London to Brighton 60-mile bike ride from his Royal Star & Garter room. Supported by staff at the Home, the gruelling challenge took him six weeks to complete on his adapted static bike, and he raised £5,000 for Help for Heroes. His fundraising exploits saw him win the Inspiration category in the Soldiering On Awards.



The Home Manager at Royal Star & Garter in Surbiton, Helena Maher, said: *“Stephen lives with complex healthcare needs and challenges, but we see him demonstrate strength and courage every day at Royal Star & Garter. I’m thrilled he had such a good time and was able to take part in so many fun and exciting activities. This was a well-deserved break, and I was happy to support it by arranging for staff from the Home to accompany him and manage his care. We’ve worked with Help for Heroes before to support Stephen, and we look forward to doing so again.”*



Carol Betteridge OBE, Deputy Services Director at Help for Heroes who heads the VSI Service, said: *“Stephen is one of the Very Seriously Injured (VSI) veterans who will need specialist care and support for the rest of their lives. Working with Royal Star & Garter, we want to enhance Stephen’s life - enabling him to thrive, not just survive and that’s why his residential stay at Calvert Lakes was so important. Stephen is still young man and craves adventure. He got that this week and experienced the benefits of the great outdoors whilst connecting with the other members of the Armed Forces community we support – including his ‘buddy’ Paul, who volunteers with Help for Heroes. The Calvert Lakes trip, his wheelchair accessible vehicle hire, and additional care costs were all funded by Help for Heroes’ VSI programme. Stephen, and all the veterans who attended, had a great time and*

were able to take part in a host of fully accessible activities. I am sure he is already looking forward to his next adventure.”

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

Photos:

- 1: Stephen takes to the lakes during his outdoor activities holiday
- 2: Stephen taking part in the popular Paralympic sport boccia
- 3: (L-r) Royal Star & Garter HCAs Phil and Valdas, with Stephen and pal Paul
- 4: Stephen with (l-r) Royal Star & Garter HCA Valdas, and friend Paul



**Royal Star
& Garter**

Care with courage

StreetW!se receives funding to help improve personal safety amongst young people

From Richmond Council

The Richmond Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) has invested in an ongoing campaign which aims to educate school aged pupils in the borough on how to stay safe against crime.

The StreetW!se campaign was initiated in 2019 by two residents, Barbara Lingle-Elliott and Felicity Barkus, after a number of personal robberies against school aged pupils in the Richmond area. Felicity and Barbara now co-chair a local action group “Mothers Against Muggings (MAM)” which is supported by the Richmond Community Safety Partnership who are working together towards their shared priority of keeping children and young people safe.

Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council said: *“Improving outcomes and keeping people safe is our number one priority. We know that there can be so many barriers that stop young people from speaking so I’m excited to share that following its many successes in local schools, Streetw!se will continue to play a key role as part of the local effort to improve personal safety awareness among our children.”*

So far, the StreetW!se campaign has successfully delivered personal safety assemblies to over 10,000 year 6 and secondary school children in the borough. As part of the assembly campaign, young people are given a StreetW!se travel card holder that contains key information on staying safe and emergency police contact numbers which is funded by the Mayor of London’s Violence Reduction Unit. This work has contributed to a 49% decrease in youth muggings.

To continue this effort and ensure widespread visibility, Mothers against Muggings has created a new poster campaign based on their original StreetW!se messaging around personal safety for all schools. The second phase of this campaign will also continue the sharing of crucial safety messages within the school environment, fostering vigilance among students, teachers and visitors.

Felicity Barkus, Co-Chair of Mothers Against Muggings, said: *“We are proud to be working with our local police, the Council and the wider local community to rollout this initiative. Our StreetW!se posters are bright and bold with some simple messages to keep people safe. We are confident that they will reinforce our key safety messages to young people, so they are more aware of their surroundings and better equipped to know what to do if something happens. We are obviously targeting young people in schools in Richmond – but our personal safety messages equally apply to all adults. We would love for our StreetW!se campaign to spread across London or even nation-wide!”*

Our collaboration with Mothers Against Muggings is rooted in prevention and early intervention, reflecting our commitment to understanding challenges faced by young people today. This partnership is a key part of the work being done locally to create a safe environment in the borough by actively involving residents and local groups in crime awareness and prevention initiatives.

Find out more about the [StreetW!se campaign](#).
[Download the StreetW!se poster](#).



St Mary's University

St Mary's Academic Delivers Talk for Royal Geographical Society Lecture Series

Stuart Oliver, Senior Lecturer in Geography at St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU), has delivered a talk as part of the [Royal Geographical Society's](#) (RGS) "Inspirations" lecture series.

The RGS's "Inspirations" is a series of public lectures delivered by experts on geographical issues of contemporary interest. Stuart, who



teaches the Sustainability module on the [International Business Management](#) degree at SMU, gave his lecture on '[The future coast: managed realignment](#)'.

In his lecture, Stuart explored rising sea levels and the organised abandoning of sections of the coastal shore so that the coast can re-establish "natural" defences, rather than increasingly expensive repairs to sea walls.

Speaking on his lecture, Stuart said, "Climate change means the British coast is increasingly at risk. Nature-based measures like the managed realignment of the coast seem to provide us with an exciting new way to make the shoreline truly sustainable, and it was a great pleasure for me to be given an opportunity to talk about the subject at the Royal Geographical Society."

Stuart has previously written on managed realignment in his 2021 book [Land Abandoned to the Sea](#), as well as in a 2023 article for [The Geographical Journal](#).

[Watch the full lecture for the RGS here.](#)



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

St Mary's University and Chelsea Foundation Extend Partnership

St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) and [Chelsea Foundation](#) have announced a five-year extension to the [Chelsea FC Foundation Coaching and Development degree](#) programme at SMU.

The undergraduate programme, which has been running since 2016, sees SMU students study a variety of modules to help develop an in-depth understanding of the football industry across coaching, performance analysis, and social change.

SMU students also complete work placements as part of the degree, gaining hands-on experience across a variety of activities, including disability football and schools education.

Speaking on this extension Subject Lead for Football and Performance Analysis at St Mary's, Mike Gilham, said, "We are really pleased to continue our relationship with Chelsea Foundation for a five-year period. The role the Foundation and club play in developing students' skills is outstanding and supports our ambitions to deliver a purposeful degree programme with strong employability outcomes."

Sam Gaskin-Kemp, Head of Community and Education at Chelsea Foundation, added, "We are delighted to continue working alongside St Mary's University with



the Chelsea FC Foundation Coaching and Development degree programme. This provides students with a unique opportunity to develop their football and educational skills, alongside extensive learning about the power of football within local communities."

A number of graduates from the programme have gone onto employment by Chelsea FC Foundation, club community organisations, or the wider industry on a full-time basis.

[Find out more about the Chelsea FC Foundation Coaching and Development degree.](#)

Joe El-Abd to join England Men's coaching team

England Rugby have appointed Joe El-Abd as the Senior Men's team defence coach who joins Steve Borthwick's coaching set-up for the forthcoming Autumn Nations Series.

"I'm delighted to bring in someone with Joe's expertise to our coaching programme," said Borthwick. "His knowledge, passion for the game, and proven experience in developing high-performing teams, will be key to the squad's ongoing development.

"Joe embodies the qualities we value in the England Rugby team and am I sure he will add to our environment and quickly deliver continued improvements to our game."

After a playing career which saw him represent Bath Rugby, Bristol, and Toulon, El-Abd moved to Pro D2 outfit Oyonnax in 2012 initially as a player coach before transitioning into full-time coaching two years later, with responsibility for the forwards and defence.

During his time at Oyonnax the side were crowned Pro D2 champions in the 2012/13 season, qualifying for the Champions Cup for the first time in the club's history in 2014/15.

A four-year spell as forwards and defence coach at Castres Olympique followed, where he helped the club secure a Top 14 title in 2018. He then returned to Oyonnax as director of rugby for the 2019/20 season – where he was again responsible for defence – leading them back into the Top 14 as Pro D2 champions in 2023.

"I feel incredibly honoured to join the England coaching team, and I can't wait to get started," said El-Abd.

"I am excited by the direction in which this England team is headed and where they want to go under Steve's leadership. His enthusiasm is infectious, and his vision for this team is clear.

"Defence is a huge part of the game and it's something I'm extremely passionate about. I am excited by the opportunity to keep developing a defence that will help drive England's success.

"I'd like to thank everyone at Oyonnax rugby, especially Dougal Bendjaballah for understanding my deep desire to coach the England national team."

The 44-year-old joins Steve Borthwick's coaching set-up for the forthcoming Autumn Nations Series and 2025 Guinness Six Nations Championship while continuing his role as director of rugby at Oyonnax. He will combine his responsibilities with the Pro D2 club until the conclusion of the 24/25 season, after which he will transition to working exclusively for England Rugby.

England welcome New Zealand at Allianz Stadium, Twickenham on Saturday 2 November (kick-off 3.10pm) for their first match of the 2024 Autumn Nations Series, before taking on Australia, South Africa and Japan.



Match Preview: Brentford v West Ham United

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

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford welcome West Ham United to Gtech Community Stadium on Saturday (3pm kick-off GMT).

The Bees sit 12th after their opening five Premier League fixtures and lost 3-2 to Tottenham Hotspur last time out; the Hammers, under new head coach Julen Lopetegui, are two places and two points worse off than the west Londoners.

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of the game.

Pre-match analysis

Richard Cole, Playmaker Stats: Kudus key to Hammers' attacking output

Brentford have the opportunity to get back to winning ways after two difficult Premier League fixtures as they welcome a West Ham United team that has yet to click under their new manager.

The Hammers are now in their post-David Moyes era, but things haven't been going smoothly for new manager Julen Lopetegui who suffered his third home loss in a row last weekend as his side were beaten 3-0 by Chelsea.

West Ham fans showed their discontent after the game and it's clear that Lopetegui has plenty to work on early in the campaign.

So far this season, the Hammers have accumulated a low total xG of 6.66 – ranking them 17th of the 20 Premier League teams.

Goals are a problem for West Ham so far with only three teams (Crystal Palace, Ipswich Town and Southampton) scoring fewer times than the Hammers (4).

Yet, Lopetegui's side have had a total of 68 shots (only six sides have had more) meaning that they are struggling to create clear-cut chances.

Indeed, of those 68 attempts, only 18 of them were potentially goal-bound ranking them the fourth lowest in the league for shots on target.

Going briefly back to the xG metric, it means that West Ham are averaging just 0.1xG per shot – ranking them bottom in the rankings alongside newly promoted Ipswich Town.

However, we can't dismiss West Ham as an attacking force. Mohammed Kudus has been bright for the Irons while other new signings are yet to get going although they may do soon.

Kudus has more successful take-ons (21) than any other player in the top five UEFA leagues so far this season while also being joint-third for progressive carries (28) and 10th for progressive passes received (41) in the Premier League.



From all five of West Ham's Premier League games so far this season, the Hammers have won one, drawn one, and lost three meaning all of their points have come on the road.

However, this weekend they'll be facing one of only two teams to have won 100 per cent of their home games this season with Brentford and Newcastle United both on two wins from two games.

On top of that, in three Premier League games between the Bees and the Irons at Gtech Community Stadium, Brentford have come out on top in all three – most recently a 3-2 win back in November in which Nathan Collins scored the winner.

Frank will be hoping his side can make it four out of four against West Ham in the league this weekend.

Scout Report

Dan Long, Sky Sports: Lopetegui calls for patience after challenging start to the season

Despite the sale of prized asset Declan Rice to Arsenal for a British record fee last summer, West Ham United - fresh off the back their Europa Conference League triumph in Prague - were flying in the first weeks of last season, with three wins and a draw from the first four catapulting them into the top four.

They lost five of the next seven and dropped into the bottom half - but then they won six of the eight that followed and climbed right back into the top six.

Next, they started the calendar year without a win in their first six league games, with the second-to-last in that run a 6-0 defeat to Arsenal, which was their joint heaviest in the Premier League. Talk about playing with your emotions.

As had been the case in years gone by, European football provided a very welcome distraction. At the same time all of this was going on, the Hammers won their Europa League group with a near-perfect record of five wins from six games.

They reached the quarter-final in the end, with their exit at the hands of Bayer Leverkusen, softened by the fact Xabi Alonso's side were simply unstoppable in 2023/24.

Their sole aim from there onwards was qualifying for Europe once again, but just two wins in the last 11 games was not enough to get them there. They finished ninth, 11 points behind sixth-place Chelsea, who took the Conference League play-off round berth.

There had been talk of David Moyes waiting until the end of the season to decide whether to sign a new contract at the club, but he ultimately departed when his contract expired after more than 260 games in charge across two separate spells. He left with the highest win percentage of any of the club's permanent managers (44.59 per cent).

In installing Julen Lopetegui as Moyes' successor, the Hammers had brought in a manager who had unfinished business in the Premier League after a 27-game spell at Wolves was ended by mutual consent, reportedly after disagreements between the board and the Spaniard.

"My ambition as a coach is always to be better and better, to achieve more and bigger aims and to encourage and improve the players, the team, and to compete because football is about this - to compete," Lopetegui said after his appointment.

The transfer dealings that followed suggested there was a clear intention to trouble the traditional top-six clubs, too. A total of £132.5 million was spent - the fifth highest amount in the Premier League this summer - to bring in Luis Guilherme, Max Kilman, Crysencio Summerville, Niclas Füllkrug and Aaron Wan-Bissaka, with Guido Rodríguez and Wes Foderingham joining on free transfers.

There was tangible excitement in east London - but expectations are far from being lived up to at the moment. The Hammers picked up nine points from their first five last term, but have only four so far, which is the same amount they picked up in 2022/23, when they flirted with relegation for much of the campaign before finishing 14th.

Most concerningly, they have lost all three league games at the London Stadium. The most recent of those came last weekend, when Chelsea took advantage of some poor defending to win 3-0, which brought boos from the home crowd.

"They have the right to complain," said Lopetegui. "We know this. That's why we are the only solution to change this. We have to do better, all of us, but first of all, me. We have to improve but it's the start of the season. We have a lot of time to do this."

He is right: time is very much on West Ham's side. The board will not make a knee-jerk decision on his future, either - the pressure Moyes withstood at times illustrates that. But this club has become accustomed to European football over the last three seasons and this time around there is none.

Lopetegui will be laser-focused on ensuring this is nothing more than a one-off.

In the Dugout

Julen Lopetegui

A goalkeeper during his playing days, Julen Lopetegui started his youth career at Real Sociedad before joining Real Madrid Castilla - the La Liga giants' B team - as a 19-year-old in 1985.

He eventually went on to play one game for Real's first team under John Toshack at the end of their 1989/90 title-winning season. He then moved on to now-defunct CD Logrones in the summer of 1991, playing over 100 league games as they maintained their La Liga status, which spanned from 1987/88 to 1994/95.

He travelled as part of the Spain squad to the 1994 World Cup in the USA, shortly after his one and only cap. A three-year, five-league game spell with Barcelona followed, before a successful end to his playing career, achieving promotion to La Liga with Rayo Vallecano.

He retired in 2002 and moved into coaching. His first two jobs, with Vallecano and Real Madrid B, weren't spectacular but it was with Spain's youth teams he began to have success. He won European Championships at under-19 and under-21 level, before taking charge of Porto in 2014.

He took the Portuguese side to the quarter-final of the Champions League in his first season, but a poor start to the following campaign saw him relieved of his duties in January 2016.

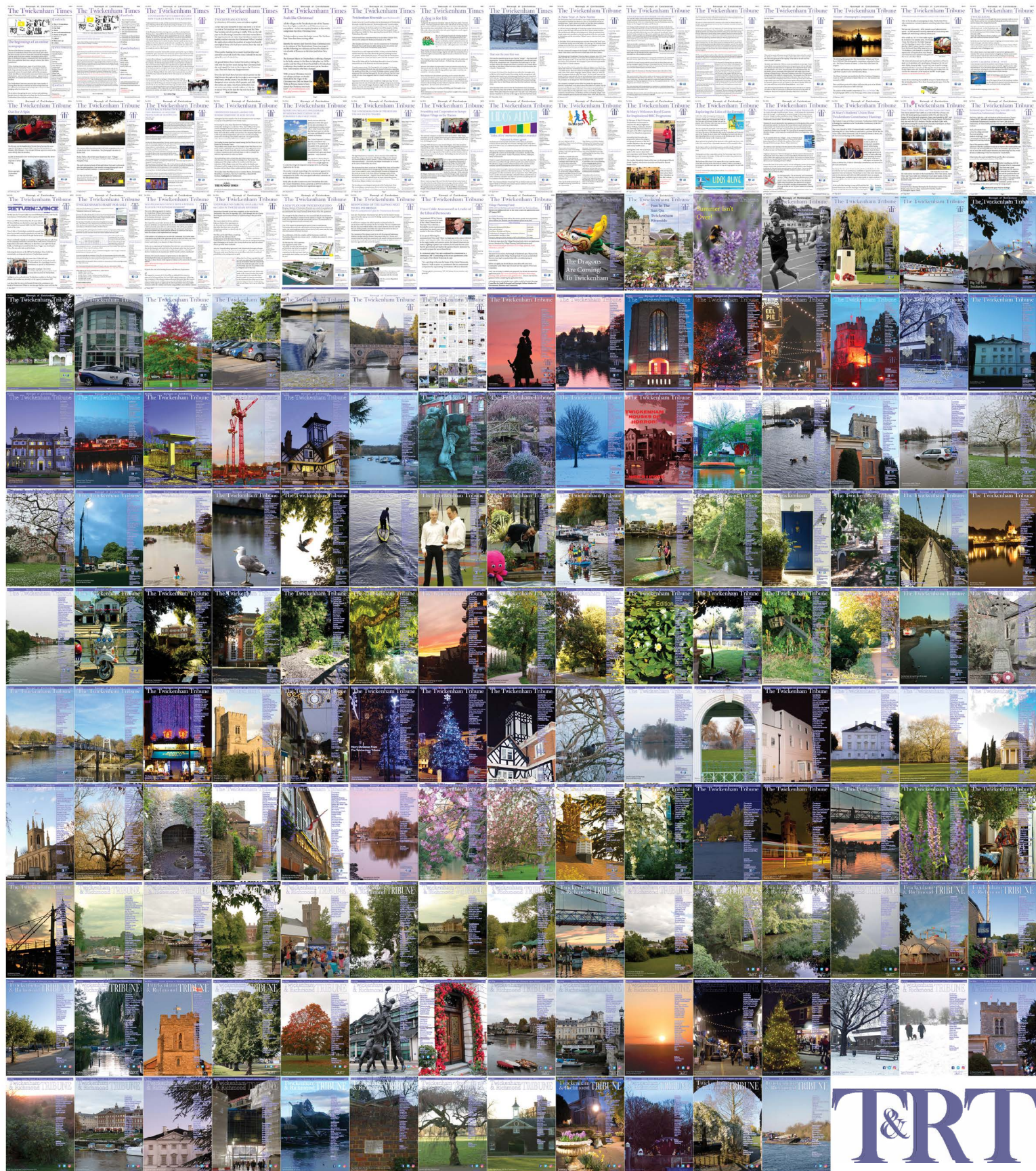
His next role came with Spain. He led them to the World Cup finals in Russia in 2018, winning nine of his 10 qualifiers, but was sacked on the eve of the tournament after it was announced he would be taking up the Real Madrid job. That stint as Real Madrid manager lasted just 14 matches, of which he won six, and culminated in a 5-1 El Clásico defeat.

Then came a much more successful three-year spell with Sevilla, which included winning the Europa League in 2019/20 and two successive fourth-place finishes.

He was sacked in October 2022 and joined Wolves the following month, but stayed in the post only until August 2023, when he left by mutual consent. On 23 May, he signed a two-year deal to replace David Moyes as West Ham manager.



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