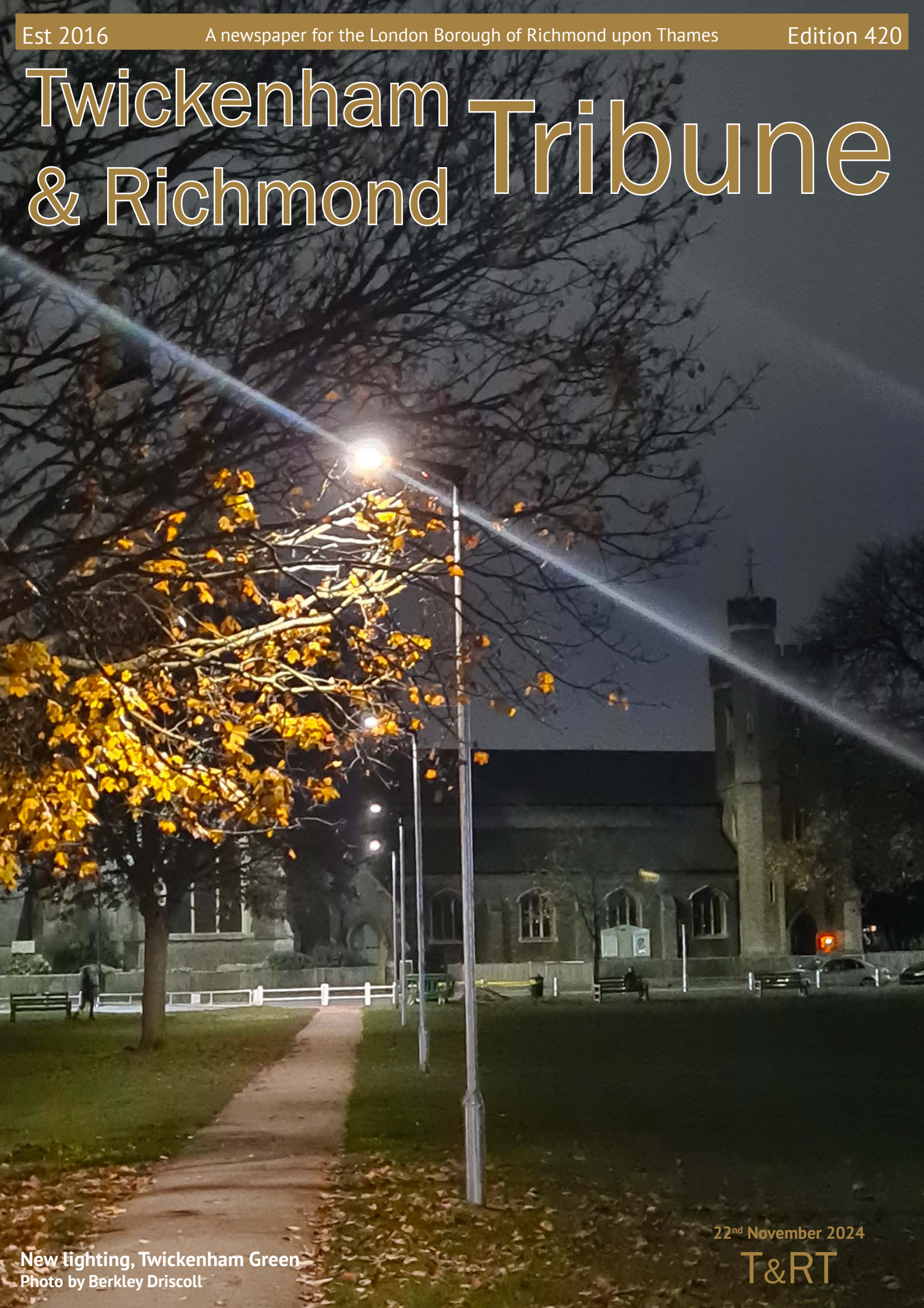


# Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



New lighting, Twickenham Green  
Photo by Berkley Driscoll

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

T&RT

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Editors: Berkley Driscoll, Teresa Read



# TickerTape - News in Brief

## Rugby at Twickenham Stadium

ENGLAND v JAPAN

Sunday 24th November, KO 16:10

Attendance 82,000.

Whitton, Rugby & London Roads will close from around 14:10-16:10 and again from 17:40-20:10.

CPZ will be in force from 11:00-23:00.

Shuttle buses will run from Hounslow East and Richmond.

## Due to Rugby at Twickenham on Sunday 24 November, the following services will be revised

### London Waterloo – Reading

The **xx54** service will depart **earlier** from **Reading** through most of the day (at **xx:52**).

### London Waterloo – Windsor

The **xx32** service will depart **earlier** from **Windsor** through most of the day (at **xx:30**).

- **2032 Windsor & Eton Riverside to Staines** extended to **London Waterloo**, calling at **Ashford, Feltham, Whitton, Twickenham, Richmond, Putney, Clapham Junction and Vauxhall**. Retimed **earlier** to depart at **2030**.
- **2132 Windsor & Eton Riverside to Staines** extended to **London Waterloo**, calling at **Ashford, Feltham, Whitton, Twickenham, Richmond, Putney, Clapham Junction and Vauxhall**. Retimed **earlier** to depart at **2130**.

### London Waterloo – Hampton Court

**Between 1157 and 2057**, the **xx:57 London Waterloo to Hampton Court** services will **not** run.

**Between 1305 and 2205**, the **xx:05 Hampton Court to London Waterloo** services will **not** run.

Additional **2127 London Waterloo to Hampton Court** will run.

Additional **2235 Hampton Court to London Waterloo** will run.

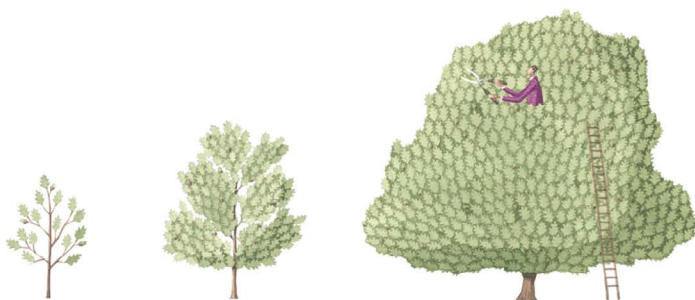
### London Waterloo – Kingston

**Between 1420 and 2220**, the **xx20 London Waterloo to Kingston** services will **not** run.

**Between 1235 and 2235**, the **xx35 Kingston to London Waterloo** services will **not** run.

**2318 London Waterloo to Strawberry Hill** is to be extended to **Twickenham**.

**2335 Kingston to Twickenham** will **not** run.



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

# Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 276

## Francis Francis Angling Club

By Alan Winter

Francis Francis (1822–1886) was a well-known English writer on angling who twenty years after his death had a fishing club named after him in Twickenham that prospered for 117 years until it finally closed last year.

Francis devoted his life to angling – he was angling editor of *The Field*; a passionate supporter and protector of the Thames; helped bring the brown trout to Australasia; landed a foul-hooked 6 pound barbel on a single (horse) hair; and was a writer of novels, sailing and the 1867 classic *A Book on Angling*.

Francis Francis lived in Twickenham from 1855 until his death in 1886, and, “all his best work was done here. With his home and paddock stretching down to the River Crane, which flows into the Thames just below Richmond Half Tide Barrier and Lock, he will always be associated with Twickenham.” He died in his chair on 24 December 1886. He had long lived at Twickenham and was buried in Twickenham Cemetery.



The following quotation appears below his name on his gravestone: *“And angle on, and beg to have A quiet passage to a welcome grave.”*

These are the closing lines to the poem *The Angler’s Wish* by English writer Izaak Walton. A white marble mural monument to Francis was also erected in the North Aisle of Winchester Cathedral by his friends, showing a medallion-portrait and another quotation by Walton.

The Francis Francis angling club was founded in 1906; based in the *Queens Head* (subsequently re-named as the *Barmy Arms*) at Twickenham. From its very beginnings it was a punt fishing club. Outings took place exclusively on the tidal Thames between Richmond and Teddington every Sunday during the coarse fishing season. Originally members hired the punts they fished from but over a period of time, the club built up their own small fleet of 8 punts. Typically these punts were 24 feet long and 4 feet wide.



Our final two postcards today show members of the club at the Barmy Arms with their catches. These photos were taken after the last war and before the 1980's.



Bob Fentiman is on the extreme left of the first one and Eric Dadswell is on the extreme right of the final image. Both well-known local residents. In fact, I was at school with their sons and Eric Dadswell took me to Fulham to watch my first football match at Craven Cottage in the early 60's. (Although I have always been a Brentford supporter as many of you know!). These are the only chaps I have identified so far but feel free to let me know the names of anyone else you

might recognise and their positions in the photos.

Sadly, the club called time on its activities last year in 2023 unless anyone knows differently.

The Borough of Twickenham Local History Society (BOTLHS) issued a booklet on Francis Francis as Paper Number 65 in 1991. This is a detailed and interesting account of Francis Francis's association with Twickenham as well as a summary of his whole life. Probably still available from the BOTLHS website or the Twickenham Museum.



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](mailto:alanwinter192@hotmail.com) I would like to see them and I pay cash!



# CrusaderTravel

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# Christmas Gifts

By Doug Goodman

Christmas decorations, coffee and cake to enjoy, magnificent cakes to buy and a chance to bid in a silent auction are available next Saturday, 30th November at 10.30 at St. Mary's Church Twickenham.

Dried flower table decorations made by the creative church flower team using berries, pine cones and snow-sprayed twigs, will be on sale along with a large variety of home-made cakes. The silent auction has some splendid prizes donated by local restaurants, shops, businesses and church members. ( <https://app.galabid.com/stmaryschurchtwick>)

A children's corner and the refreshments are available from 10.30 to 12.00 on Saturday. All proceeds will go to the continuing church repairs.





# RNLI lifeboat to feature at Teddington Lights Up

If you're coming to Teddington Lights Up on Thursday 28 November, visit your local volunteer Teddington RNLI Lifeboat crew.



Bright orange Class D lifeboat, Alderman Penny Shelton and little blue tractor will be parked alongside the Kings Head, as well as a stall brimming with RNLI Christmas cards and stocking fillers. Children will be welcome to climb aboard, try out a helmet, explore the boat and the tractor and get a taste of the charity's lifesaving work on the river. Stormy Stan will be on hand for selfies and a friendly wave. Normally based opposite The Wharf restaurant on Manor Road, volunteer crew members dressed their special kit will be on hand to answer any questions from 5pm until 7.30pm.

Matt Allchurch, Teddington RNLI lifeboat manager says, *'Our lifeboat is a firm favourite at Teddington Lights Up. It is one of the most important fundraising events for our local lifeboat station each Christmas. Come and say hello – the crew (and Stormy Stan) would love to meet you, family and friends.'*



# Lifeboats

## LETTERS

The Editor

### Twickenham and Richmond Tribune

Last week's Twickenham and Richmond Tribune (Edition 419 p16) has an article about Richmond Council's new surveillance system, designed to keep an eye on us.

The same Edition (p 33) carries a review of a production of George Orwell's 1984 at Richmond Theatre.

Is this a coincidence?

"Little Brother is watching you!" (See p16)

(Name Withheld)

Twickenham

(Name and address supplied)



# Twickenham's oldest car at the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run 2024

By Robin Hunter

Earlier this month the annual event from Hyde Park in London to Madeira Drive on Brighton's seafront took place, as it has almost every year since 1927. The Run is in fact a reenactment of the 'Emancipation Run' that took place in November 1896... to celebrate the repeal of the draconian restrictions placed on driving in Britain by the Locomotives Act. All vehicles taking part must have been built in or before 1905 and over 400 took part again this year.

Only one Twickenham built car took part this year, SX13, a 1900 New Orleans Voiturette. As many as four have participated in the event in recent years. SX13 was built at the Orleans Works in King Street, Twickenham. It is in fact Twickenham's oldest car,



owned by Paul Edwards. Paul's father bought the car as a collection of pieces for £35 in the 1950s. He finally completed the rebuilding project, with Paul's help, in time for the 2000 London to Brighton run. Like her brothers before her, Paul's daughter Imogen drove SX13 this year in her first year of driving. However, she had to drive the car on 'L' plates, as she'd only just turned 17! There was considerable press interest at Hyde Park, as she is almost certainly the youngest woman ever to have taken part, in the event's history.

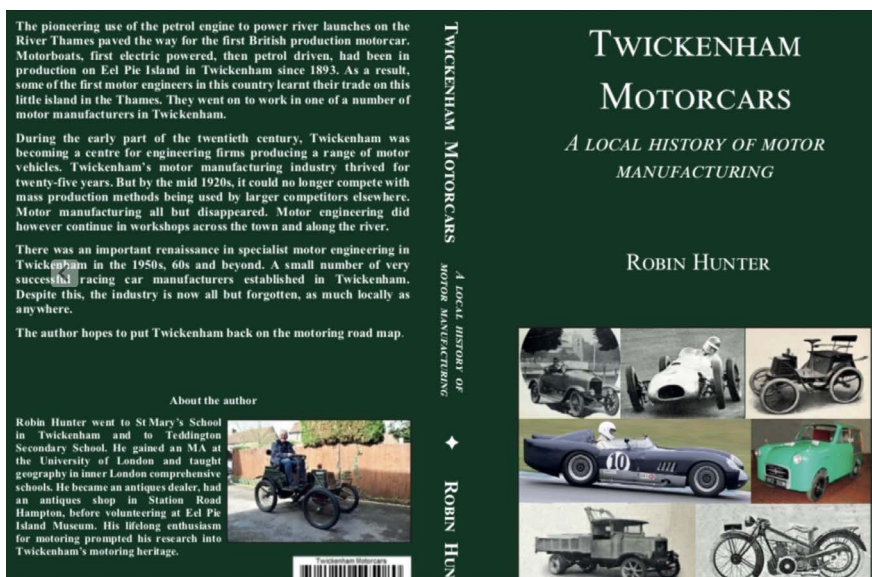
Few people in Twickenham were aware that Twickenham had ever had a motor industry, let

alone a pioneering role at the earliest days of motoring, until the publication of my book earlier this year. 'Twickenham Motorcars: A local history of motor manufacturing', tells the previously untold story of Twickenham's motor industry that lasted for 25 years. Not just cars, but motorcycles, buses, commercial vehicle and later, successful racing cars were manufactured.

An even more surprising revelation, the evidence uncovered that the River Thames in Twickenham can lay claim to be the true birthplace of the British Motor industry. Before cars were freely allowed to use Britain's roads, Daimler motorboats were in production on Eel Pie Island.

An ideal Christmas present for anyone with an interest in local history or motoring history ... 'Twickenham Motorcars: A local history of motor manufacturing' is available from [robin.hunter@sky.com](mailto:robin.hunter@sky.com) signed and dedicated if requested for

£13.50 including postage (or at the cover price of £10.50, by hand).





# Finance, Policy, and Resources Committee

By James Knight

The Finance, Policy, and Resources Committee convened on November 14<sup>th</sup>, unveiling a mix of forward-looking initiatives and persistent governance shortcomings. Chaired by Councillor Baldwin, who stood in for the Council Leader, the meeting painted a picture of a council grappling with modernisation while stumbling over inefficiencies and accountability concerns.

**Change Programme:** The council's flagship initiative, which aims to deliver £4–6 million in annual savings while modernising operations, dominated discussions. Yet, the presentation offered scant evidence of tangible progress. With £1.3 million of the £3 million allocated budget already spent, the programme's lack of defined deliverables and performance metrics drew sharp criticism from Councillor Bennett, who questioned whether public funds were being judiciously used.

Despite its ambition to make the council a “great employer” and embrace digital innovation, the initiative risks being seen as empty rhetoric. Burdened by escalating costs and uneven services, residents may need help to see the promised benefits materialise. Frustrations among committee members over their limited input into the programme underscored deeper concerns about the Shared Staffing Agreement—now rebranded as the *Richmond & Wandsworth Better Service Partnership*.

**CCTV Strategy:** The committee reviewed the council's CCTV strategy for 2024–29, despite claims that all the cameras had correct signage. When checking the cameras, most lacked legally required signage. This lapse undermines the council's commitment to lawful practices and shows how easily officers can mislead councillors. While software upgrades and collaboration with law enforcement are steps forward, such fundamental errors weaken public confidence in the council's capabilities.

**Townmead Recycling Centre:** The prolonged challenges at Townmead Recycling Centre spotlight the council's weak governance. Following a 2021 fire, the site remains uninsured due to non-compliance with fire safety standards. The planned £800,000 fire suppression system, funded from waste reserves, highlights delayed action that compromised safety and exposed taxpayers to significant financial risk.

**Council Tax Reduction Scheme:** Proposed updates to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme aim to align with Universal Credit's complexities, yet the admission that 355 residents will face increased costs raises significant concerns. While shifting to a banded system may streamline administration, it risks disadvantaging vulnerable households with fluctuating incomes, raising broader ethical questions about whether the LibDems governs for everyone or just the middle classes.

**Treasury Management:** In contrast, the council's treasury management was more positive. A projected £2 million boost in income is attributed to favourable bank rates and delays in council capital projects, meaning more funds were on deposit.

**Conclusion:** The meeting starkly illustrated how committee chairs have assumed roles resembling executive members, whilst bypassing the usual checks and balances of scrutiny for such roles. While some initiatives reflect strategic leadership, others betray systemic inefficiencies and insufficient oversight. Residents deserve more than ambitious declarations—they need a council capable of delivering tangible results while adhering to legal and ethical standards.

To read the committee papers, please click [HERE](#).





# Kettner Concerts Twickenham E.T.A. Hoffmann's The Nutcracker



**Sunday, 8 December 2024, 6.00 pm**

*"Music is the most sublime of all the arts." - E.T.A. Hoffmann*

Concert pianist **Cristian Sandrin** presents a recital celebrating the Prussian satirist, artist and composer E.T.A. Hoffmann, an influential novelist whose famous tales combined reality with fantasy and the macabre. Hoffmann created the fictional character of Johannes Kreisler, a tortured composer whose predicament inspired works by Schumann and Brahms. He also wrote the famous story of The Nutcracker which was later adapted into a ballet by Tchaikovsky. Tonight we shall hear Mikhail Pletnev's dazzling piano transcription of the ballet suite.

### Programme

E.T.A. Hoffmann: Piano Sonata in F minor

J. Brahms: Four Ballades op. 10

R. Schumann: Kreisleriana op. 16

P.I. Tchaikovsky/Pletnev: The Nutcracker Suite



*"A luscious recital"*  
American Record Guide

*"Sandrin expresses the sounds  
with infinite subtlety"*  
Nieuwe Noten Netherlands

*"technically flawless"*  
Klassik Heute

St Mary's Church  
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Twickenham  
TW1 3NJ



Tickets: £15  
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Book tickets on [Eventbrite.co.uk](http://Eventbrite.co.uk)  
or scan the qr code

The Kettner Society is a registered charity no. 1161105  
for enquiries: [kettnerconcerts@gmail.com](mailto:kettnerconcerts@gmail.com)



# Next week at Richmond Council

On Thursday, the **Licensing Sub Committee** will meet to discuss the application by Girasole Food Limited, 154 High Street Teddington. The meeting will be held virtually and commence at 10.30 am.

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

For details on how to participate in Licensing Sub-Committee hearings please follow the link [HERE](#)



## Photograph of the week

By Shona Lyons

St Mary's Church and The Beaver Moon.



## The Mayfair Chippy (Well, Knightsbridge Actually)

I never thought we'd find ourselves travelling all the way up to Knightsbridge for fish and chips, but we did, and it was really fabulous. The **Mayfair Chippy** is an award-winning, quintessentially British restaurant, that's perfected classic fish and chips and a lot of other dishes too. It's just opened a second restaurant, this time in Knightsbridge and we went along to see what all the fuss was about. Reader, this place takes fish and chips to a new level.

Spread across two floors, The Mayfair Chippy Knightsbridge is a larger extension of the flagship Mayfair site, which has become known for its round-the-block queues. The Knightsbridge restaurant is a great pit stop for museum tours or Christmas shopping sprees - as Harrods is but a stone's throw away. It's a luxury fast-casual restaurant with an emphasis on great fish, chips, shellfish & British classic dishes.



The decor is stylish with lots of wood and tiled tables, yet despite the hard surfaces, the tables are well spaced out so noise isn't a problem. There is a Gin Bar, which, I noticed, stocks not just a few, but 15 different gins! Needless to say I couldn't resist a Negroni and my husband enjoyed a zero alcohol beer.

We started with a portion of Coronation Chicken Fritters and another of Battered King Prawns. The fritters were very tasty and served with a mango and onion chutney. There were three of them and, with a side salad, would make a perfect light lunch. The prawns...what can I say? I think the batter at The Mayfair Chippy is the lightest, non greasy, tastiest, fluffiest batter I've ever tasted. There were four fat prawns, piping hot and served with some salad leaves and a classic cocktail sauce.





For mains, my husband opted for classic fried cod with chips, mushy peas, tartar & chip shop curry sauce. (gluten free and alcohol free batter is available). The portion was incredibly generous and our lovely server, Kevin, had suggested we try the loaded chips (with truffle and Berkswell cheese no less), which, although delicious, were in fact, surplus to requirements.

I'd been tempted by the Lobster & Crayfish Roll, which I'd seen being served at a nearby table, so opted for that, plus a portion of Mayfair Slaw. My 'roll' was in fact a giant slice of brioche, split and toasted, packed with lobster, Marie Rose sauce, pickles and garlic mayonnaise, and served with chips.



Again, the batter was amazing and the fish cooked perfectly. The mushy peas were classic style and the tartar sauce homemade. It's served in a paper lined metal basket, which looked impressive, but wasn't that easy to negotiate without having soggy paper that would allow sauces to soak through the basket.

My roll was stupendous, but there was a lot of brioche and a generous portion of piping hot chips, so I felt rather remorseful not being able to manage it all. The slaw was lovely - American style, without any mayonnaise, just a light oil and vinegar dressing.

I enjoyed a glass of English wine: Balfour Leslie's Sparkling rosé, a new one to me and it paired well with my main.

My husband surprised me by having enough room to enjoy a generous portion of Apple & Blackberry Crumble with custard and hazelnuts, which was declared fabulous. I chose a selection of Hackney Gelato, which was the perfect end to a really good meal.

And if you don't eat fish, there are lots of meaty and plant based alternatives.



## November food and drink news

Tempus fugit. Time flies in Latin, as it said on the face of the clock in the hall of my school. Not long now till Christmas...again! Anyway, here are some food and drink products I've discovered recently and can recommend:

**unearthed**<sup>®</sup>, the company that brings us wonderful Mediterranean foods, has a range of olives in larger pots that are ideal for the festive season.

**Chilli Olives** and **Green Olives & Tomatoes** are £5 for a generous 330g tub.

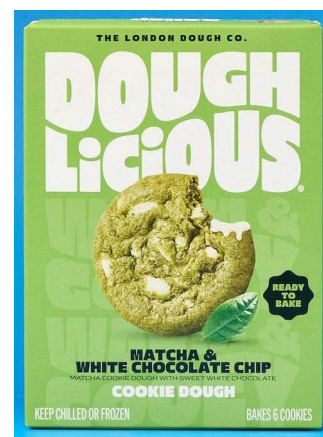
If you love chilli, you'll love these - the olives are marinated in Calabrian chilli and have already become a best-seller, but the resealable bucket is the perfect go-to snack. Earthy and sweet Queen Green olives are one of the largest green olives grown in Spain and are firm and juicy. The young olives have been combined with semi-dried tomatoes and parsley to offer

a sweet and tangy flavour combination. Available in Waitrose, Sainsbury's Tesco, Asda and Ocado.



Tea and crumpets in front of the fire is even better with the new **Bonne Maman Sweet & Crunchy Peanut Spread**. This blend of toasted peanuts has subtle hints of vanilla and cacao butter - and no nasties like palm oil. It's rich and creamy... and incredibly moreish! Available in Waitrose at £2.90 a 230g jar.

I've written before about the lovely **Doughlicious** products and I was pleased to hear that they have two new frozen, ready to bake cookies: Matcha & White Chocolate and Blondie Cookie Dough. Just pop the oven on and let the fresh-baked cookie aroma fill your kitchen! Find in the fridge or freezer aisle of your grocery store - stockists include Tesco, Waitrose, Costco, and Ocado RRP £3.50 for a box of six cookies.



Conscientiously sourced chocolate is becoming, thankfully, more and more important. **Gnaw Chocolate's** unflinching vision has been never to skimp - either in terms of **taste** (*ingredients, flavours*) or **purpose** (*work with ethical Colombian cacao producers, compostable recyclable packaging using only vegetable inks, produced using clean, solar energy*). Some fabulous new flavours will delight chocolate aficionados: **New York Cheesecake bar (milk chocolate)**, Raspberry **Mojito** (milk), tangy **Seville Orange** (dark & milk) **Popcorn & Peanut** (milk), **Espresso Martini** (milk), **Honeycomb & Caramel** (milk), zingy **Peppermint** (milk & dark) and **Sticky Toffee Pudding** (milk). 80g bars with beautifully designed compostable packs £3.50 from [gnawchocolate.co.uk](http://gnawchocolate.co.uk)

And if you're a hot chocolate fan (or know one), look no further than the **Gnaw Goey Hot Chocolate Spoons**. Each spoon is packed with a rich, soft-centre core for that extra bit of indulgence. Choose between Double Chocolate, Salted Caramel, or Hazelnut & Chocolate. Simply stir into hot milk, then watch the goey centre melt away to give a velvety, chocolatey 'hug in a mug'. There are a number of options for different gift packs (including boozy ones) online from £9.95 a pack of three [here](#)





Two of my favourite brands have collaborated, and the result is really delicious! It's **Joe & Seph's Fresh Chilli Jam Gourmet Popcorn** – air-popped popcorn coated in smooth caramel & **Tracklements Fresh Chilli Jam**. It's a wickedly good combo of Joe & Seph's caramel recipe with an impish kick from Tracklements' Fresh Chilli Jam. It's not a cheap product, but trust me, it's worth it, at £4.00 for 70g pack (4 servings) Available online from [tracklements.co.uk](http://tracklements.co.uk) and [joeandsephs.co.uk](http://joeandsephs.co.uk). If you're planning to do a pre Christmas order, make sure you include a pack - or three - of these.



Another fabulous collaboration is **Great Taste Award** winning **MOMO Kombucha**, with **Natoora**. Just launched, this limited, seasonal, edition - **Green Mandarin Kombucha** uses natural methods. The unfiltered kombucha blends perfectly with **Natoora's Green Mandarin**, using the rare variety of **tardivo di ciaculli mandarin** endemic to small pockets of **Sicily**. This kombucha is so good: sweet, zesty mandarin with vibrant, aromatic freshness from the essential oils in the rind, balancing the tangy, sour notes of raw kombucha. ([www.momo-kombucha.com](http://www.momo-kombucha.com)). £4.50 per 330ml glass bottle, available from **MOMO, Natoora, Gail's Bakery, Selfridges, Planet Organic** and **Whole Foods Market** throughout Autumn/Winter, and the fresh fruits are available from **Natoora**. ([www.natoora.com](http://www.natoora.com)),

It's time to start thinking about stocking up with some fabulous cheese for the festive period and the International Cheese Awards (ICDA) Supreme Champion is a fabulous Blue Stilton from **Long Clawson Dairy**. This Blue Stilton rose to the top, beating over 4000 entries, no less. **Long Clawson Dairy's 1912 Blue Stilton**, named in homage to the year the dairy was founded, is crafted using time-honoured methods and the finest local milk, sourced from 30 farms within a 30m radius of the dairy. Its rich, creamy texture and distinctive blue veining, makes the cheese a favourite among cheese connoisseurs. The judges praised the Blue Stilton for its exceptional balance of flavour, aroma, and texture, highlighting its complex, yet harmonious, profile that stands out in the world of artisanal cheeses. And having tasted it, I'm definitely adding it to our shopping list - it's available at Ocado and Tesco at £3 for 150g.



Known for its bold, intense flavours, **Diablo Wine**, is sponsoring The **Devil Wears Prada** musical. The wine is from the volcanic soils of Chile, and reflects Diablo's unconventional approach to blending varietals to create unique flavour profiles. The wines are perfect for these cold evenings. So you can have an excuse to be a devil and treat yourself to a devilishly good bottle. Available from Tesco, ASDA and Sainsburys from £10.

**Dates for your diary: Hampton Court Palace Festive Fayre (6-8 and 13-15 December)**, where the courtyards and gardens are transformed into a food lover's wonderland, with delicious artisan food and drink and other gifts to buy. Now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, it brings artisan and boutique food and drink businesses plus

independent companies, and plenty of gifting ideas. Hampton Court Palace admission tickets include free entry to the Festive Fayre, while Historic Royal Palaces members can also enjoy free entry. For further information and to purchase tickets visit: [tps://www.hrpfestivals.com](https://www.hrpfestivals.com)





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# The Card Factory

By Bruce Lyons

I guess we all have our Passions; hobbies that give us peace of mind and a sense of calm, what we all need 😊

My hobby is growing things and I'm blessed with a bit of Urban sprawl in the square outside our office at 58 Church Street & at home, I have an indoor and vegetable patio garden, some even with south facing walls! From our office windows, we take great pleasure in looking out at our modest gardening endeavors, whilst we beaver away, researching our enquiries. This year I even got the orders in early and my Christmas presents of paper whites and exotic Amaryllis have been growing quietly and will be ready soon! Shona kindly on her charity shop trips even picked me up some beautiful recycled pots.



Shona on the other hand goes OTT especially in the build up to Xmas. Shona loves making cards; personal cards with messages; New Baby; Exam Results, Athletic Successes you name it, she's on to it!! Any bloody excuse for a celebration, so for Christmas, she starts months ahead and sits quietly in the evenings making her cards, whilst we catch up on the news. She even adds cards to our travel DOCUMENTS from time to time 😊 But at Xmas Shona goes into overload you could be lucky- you might get one. Loads of our neighbors have little boxes of them to send friends, our near family too!



But the best are for the sick and frail, the lonely or with a recent loss. Shona has even made me a Digital Greeting to add to my emails for next year's Great River Race and another for local clients ,Ole King Wencelas eat your heart out.

Most, not the digital ones, come with fridge magnets too!!!

So, if you don't get one, Merry Xmas and a Prosperous New Year





# Don't say the "C" word...

By Deep Patel

~Life Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper~



So it's that time of year again folks. ...you know what I mean don't you...stop pretending like you don't know...you know...we all know...Halloween has been and gone...bonfire night has passed at last...so guys...what's left? Dare I say it...the "C" word (no I don't mean THAT "C" word, this is a reputable and family –friendly publication!) but yes... what they call the "season of goodwill towards all men" (and women and children and animals and insects and all sentient beings) is definitely looming...there is no escaping it now folks...love it...or hate it...Christmas is coming in just over four weeks. If like me you are sitting reading this and thinking "how the hell did that happen, it feels like it was Christmas just a few months ago still", you are not alone...my gosh though, this time it REALLY does feel like it has come around even quicker...(no jokes about getting older please, I have had many of them all week in my shop from my customers)...but seriously... CHRISTMAS... again?... already? You can tell this is taking time to sink in for me can't you? Ok...I think I have come to terms with it just now...especially as I am currently typing this article sitting behind my shop counter whilst serving customers dropping their kids off to school who were talking about their letters to Santa in the conversations that I just overheard in my shop (too late for me I'm afraid, I think I'm probably in the top ten of his naughty list... well someone has to be I guess).

So the question that I have been asking customers in my shop over this past week is how soon is TOO soon to start getting Christmassy? Can it ever be too soon? I've had a whole array of responses to this one believe you me...some have said "Christmas? What a load of commercial rubbish, hardly any of those celebrating it even know what it's really about!" or "A time of over-spending, over-eating, arguing with family and pretending to like the rubbish presents people give us" ...

I contemplated all the different views from customers as I went about the evening refilling the



chocolate display shelves and soft-drinks fridge (when I am completing these tasks, they provide the perfect time for thinking about life, I am not even joking, it's my favourite time to think about life... if you have a big problem or dilemma to think over, come to my shop, start to refill the shelves and the soft drink fridge whilst you think things over and I guarantee you, the clarity will come to you... it's a little-known shopkeepers blessing). Anyway, I digress, back to the topic at hand. Rule number one of being a good shopkeeper is to always remain open minded towards ALL your customer's views (whether you like them initially or not) as always remember, when we talk...we just repeat what we already know...but when we listen to others...we may learn something new...so in the spirit of inclusiveness...I took on all the opinions regarding Christmas and thought hard about the validity of these opinions I was hearing whilst I refilled the soft drinks fridge. Could I say that one was right and the other was wrong? Well...no...technically Christmas had become commercial for so many and so many didn't even understand the reason behind it anymore, so I could understand that view...and yes...families getting together at this time of year did cause arguments (inevitably) and yes many of us pretend that we absolutely love that pair of socks that we have been gifted (for the third year running) or that Christmas pudding is the best we've ever had (even if the one they baked you tasted like sugary cardboard)...But...as I stood staring at the cans of Coke that I had just lined up perfectly symmetrically in my shop fridge, it occurred to me that Christmas didn't have to be perfect by any means like the line of Coke cans that I had just refilled, and so what if we argue, at least we do it together? So what if we give the same gifts each year that people don't even want, at least we think of each other? So what if we pretend to enjoy eating things that we really don't like, at least we care enough to show some appreciation in some way? Thinking like this, it suddenly occurred to me, that much like life in general, none of the trivial aspects really mattered in the end, if Christmas was about being together and with those we love, then who cares what else happens? It's the being together that counts, the rest is just opinions and judgment is it not? Who are we to judge? Life is hard enough as it is, you only have to open any newspaper to see something worrying happening somewhere in the world...so when there is something "good" upon us, that we can all enjoy together regardless of our age or background (like Christmas) then is there any need to over-think or be so critical I wonder, or are we better off embracing and enjoying anything we get an opportunity to as such opportunities in life in the world we live in today are often far and few between?...With that in mind, I stood up off my stool from behind the counter and walked upstairs to the loft and dusted off the good old Christmas tree, took it downstairs and then with a smile on my face, I said "come on Mister Christmas tree, forget the haters... let's make Twickenham that little bit more merrier..."

**Remember...**

***"...Life is too short to be negative...  
smile and the world will smile back at you..."***

Thanks for reading my column, pop into my shop if you are passing Meet & Deep Newsagents on Hampton Road and say hi or email me on [thedeepatel@gmail.com](mailto:thedeepatel@gmail.com)

#### **MY CREATURE KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK:**

#### **STOP BEETLES, MITES, SILVER-FISH WITHOUT KILLING!**

Sprinkle white vinegar, talcum powder, peppermint oil or rosemary powder where they come...Olbas oil does the trick too! They will stop coming without you having to harm them...light citronella candles or burn peppermint oil in aromatherapy tea light diffusers to stop them coming...you will get blessings in your life or have good karma for choosing a kind way too! This remedy also works to deter virtually any insect without harming them...like it & share it! For ANY specific tip to stop any "pest" or insect KINDLY (for good karma/blessings), email me: [thedeepatel@gmail.com](mailto:thedeepatel@gmail.com) or join My Facebook page: "INSECT LOVERS UNITE"



# NSFW

by Lucy Kirkwood

Teddington Theatre Club at Hampton Hill Theatre

The comedy *NSFW* opens in the offices of *Doghouse*, an unsubtly named “lads mag”. Aidan, the magazine’s slimy grimy editor, is keen to keep a sharp focus on the magazine’s core offering - boobs, boobs and more boobs. Ian Kinane, as Aidan, radiates calm while laying down the rules, and possibly more, in the office. Compelling, Kinane is a tiger, gentle and suave but step on his toes and ...

Aidan’s assistant, Charlotte, is played by Chloe Hunkin, a mischievous twinkle in her eyes as her character knowingly does what has to be done to pay the rent, while dealing with “a few tits along the way”. Richard Scott gives a rumbustious performance as trustafarian Rupert, nice-but-dim and filthy rich. Danny Maurice gives a very strong performance as Aidan’s third assistant Sam, the play’s closest thing to a moral compass.



Day-to-day life at *Doghouse* comes off the rails when Rupert discovers that Carrie Bradshaw, the winner of the magazine’s “local lovelies” competition, is only fourteen years old. Aidan vows *someone* has made a mistake and *someone* will have to pay.



But her father has come across Carrie’s picture, and intends to destroy the man who has ruined his daughter. Played powerfully by Graham Schafer, the twitchily repellent Bradshaw confronts Aidan. It’s strong stuff, sharply contrasting with earlier banter. Their journey is full of twists as they reach an outcome that works – more or less – for both of them.

Then, in the second act we discover Charlotte and Sam have gone to work for *Electra*, a women’s magazine for “leaders, thinkers, dreamers, shoppers”, *especially* shoppers. As Miranda, *Electra*’s mordant, flirtatious and self-loathing editor, a sublimely funny Mia Skytte gets humour out of every line. Maurice gives a sympathetic and honest portrayal of Sam’s temptations of nature, while Scott’s necessarily silent contribution to the second act is as memorable as it is startling.

With *OnlyFans*, AI and face-swap technology facilitating fantasies and revenge porn, the world of *Doghouse* seems a long time ago. But if Kirkwood’s play has lost its relevance, it hasn’t lost its bite. This first class production of *NSFW* is a sublimely funny look at what brought us to where we are today. It marks a very strong TTC debut for Matt Dennis its talented young director.

Read Louis Mazzini’s review at [www.markaspen.com/2024/11/07/nsfw](http://www.markaspen.com/2024/11/07/nsfw)

Photography by Peter Messum



## Fast

by Kate Barton and Stephen Bennett

Stephen Leslie Productions, Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate

Back in the early 1900's 'Dr' Linda Hazzard's seminars, newspaper adverts and books perhaps offered society a glimpse of what we now know as celebrity influencers, protein shake peddlers and diet pill pushers.

*Fast* is the true story of a complex and utterly driven woman, whose promotion of her radical fasting cure gripped the press and divided a nation. But this is a complex scenario. Hazzard was vilified as an interfering woman in a man's world, and in the play, she is quick to fight her corner on this front. John Harvey Kellogg, a contemporary of Hazzard also lost patients but was not scrutinized by the press in the same way.



We meet Hazzard giving a seminar. She speaks directly to us, making assumptions about our health issues and offering us alternative suggestions to improve our wellbeing. She is clever, charismatic and captivating. We then meet Dora and Claire, two English sisters who travel to Hazzard's sanatorium to undergo a six-week fasting treatment. All seems perfectly innocent, but as the plot unfolds, their stay at 'Starvation Heights' takes a turn for the worse and we start to see a different side to the 'doctor'.

The period costumes from production designer Junis Olmscheid are hugely impressive, but the set leaves much to the imagination. Maia von Malaisé is convincing as Claire, but despite her rapid decline under Hazzard's care, appears remarkably healthy for someone in her final throws of life. There are really strong performances from Imogen Grey as Dora and Jermaine Dominique as the inquisitive and persistent journalist Horace Cayton, but unarguably this production is lit up by the breath-taking portrayal of Linda Hazzard from the immensely talented Sarah Thom. We are completely taken in, manipulated and at times, made to feel on edge in this fascinating psychological thriller.



The electric battle between Hazzard and Cayton is well worth a night out at the theatre.

Was Hazzard a villain or an inspiration to woman wanting to work in the health sector? That's for you to decide and *Fast* will certainly make you think.

Read Stephen Oxford's review at [www.markaspen.com/2024/11/01/fast](http://www.markaspen.com/2024/11/01/fast)

Photography courtesy of Stephen Leslie Productions



## Maria de Rudenz

by Gaetano Donizetti libretto by Salvatore Cammarano  
Gothic Opera at Battersea Arts Centre

Donizetti's *Maria de Rudenz* has never been performed in the UK before. There are no knock-out arias, or "big" numbers, but this splendid performance proves that the piece is well worth dragging from the vaults of operatic obscurity.

Some plot motifs are similar to Verdi's *Il Trovatore*. The marriage is over before the wedding night; the baritone and tenor are romantic rivals and brothers; the convent is the only alternative to marriage with your beloved. But this dish has a very different flavour. The soprano is as much focussed on revenge as regaining her lover, and her love-hate relationship is with the baritone rather than the tenor.



The plot is gruesome (only the baritone survives to the end), but the emotions that it depicts are all very real: romantic rapture, the pain of rejection, fury, and the desire for vengeance. Maria is stabbed by Corrado, but she survives to reappear and kill his bride, after which she reopens her wounds and dies (Wagner's *Tristan* wasn't the first to kill himself this way.)

Lysanne Van Overbeek's direction is straightforward and serious, but always effective. She has an intuitive understanding of when the focus needs to be on the music. Aided by the venue's Victorian grandeur, Nate Gibson's designs conjure up a Gothic atmosphere with just drapes, flowers, candles, and a portrait of a dominating *pater familias* with daughter, although Maria's Miss Havisham look is not very flattering.

Lorna McLean's Maria is marvellously incisive in a challenging part and undaunted by having to climb into the vocal stratosphere. Baritone Kieran Rayner as Corrado, the love rat who abandons Maria to marry her cousin Mathilde, has plenty of vocal charm. Davide Basso provides golden tone, lots of heft, and a fine musical intelligence as Enrico, as well as giving a perfect refutation of nominative determinism, as this is a tenor part.

Under conductor Anna Castro Grinstein, Leon Haxby's effective arrangement for four strings, clarinet, and organ no doubt make things easier for these outstandingly fine singers, in their musically strong and involving performance.

The next operatic exhumation is eagerly awaited.

Read Patrick Shorrock's review at [www.markaspen.com/2024/11/02/maria-rudenz](http://www.markaspen.com/2024/11/02/maria-rudenz)

Photography by Craig Fuller





## Abigail's Party

by Mike Leigh

Northern Stage co-production at the Rose Theatre, Kingston

The time-tested *Abigail's Party* is very much a comedy of manners, lampooning the behaviour of the suburban middle-classes through the prism of a cocktail party, where five contrasting and mismatched characters are thrown together.

Of all the grotesque characters, the most surely be the hostess, Beverley. As the evening progresses and many drinks are consumed, the uneasy small talk is replaced by darker conversations, awkward social interactions, and the exposure of frustrations and insecurities. With Beverley's flirtations, the tensions rise and the evening descends into chaos.



The self-centred Beverley is played with a bubbly charm by Laura Rogers, creating a character who is the epitome of the monster suburban housewife. An ex-beauty consultant, this is a woman who is a social climber (but should Beaujolais be in the fridge). She is a woman who dreams of romance, bored rigid with her socially awkward husband, Laurence. Leander Deeny depicts a world-weary man who recognises the finer things in life, such as art and literature, but without understanding them. A character who probably

loves his car more than his wife, this is a well observed performance capturing the frustrations of his marriage to Beverley.

Anna Yates' open set not only shows all the rooms, including the loo, but their car, a green mini of the period. Beverley's fully-fitted kitchen is full of new-fangled gadgets and there are all the trappings of their pretentious lifestyle, white shag carpet like a layer of snow, zebra print suite, Bacardi, and cheese and pineapple on sticks.



Their guests, newbies Angela and Tony, are played by Joe Blakemore and Chaya Gupta, she a chirpy but tactless nurse, he short of conversation, but the target of Beverley's flirtation. The third guest is another neighbour, Susan, played by Amy Rockson. We never see Abigail her daughter, who is holding a noisy party next door.

Beverley may be marooned forever in the 1970's, but director Jack Bradfield brings a renewed sense of energy with a dynamic cast who accurately capture the wit and foibles of the characters. This refreshing revival of *Abigail's Party* is still as funny, still as tragic and still as memorable as ever.

Read Steve Mackrell's review at [www.markaspen.com/2024/11/07/abigail-rtk](http://www.markaspen.com/2024/11/07/abigail-rtk)

Photography by Pamela Raith

# AN UNEXPECTED CHRISTMAS VISITOR

## at the MARY WALLACE THEATRE

A stranger seeking refuge from the fog, a body in a wheelchair and a distraught wife holding a smoking gun - surely the ideal ingredients for another thrilling Agatha Christie whodunnit when THE UNEXPECTED GUEST plays at the Mary Wallace Theatre in Twickenham from December 7<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.



We invite you to join us to attempt to untangle the ensuing web of lies - and to try to spot the killer before The Inspector unmasks him (or her) as the final curtain falls.

Recommended early booking at  
[www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk](http://www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk)

The Mary Wallace Theatre is situated on Twickenham's Embankment, close to the Barmy Arms.





# Come along for an evening of Beethoven's brilliance

On Sunday 24 November, come along to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Beethoven's 9th Symphony with Thames Philharmonia.

Led by the esteemed conductor Byung Yun, this monumental work, renowned for its Ode to Joy, will be the highlight of an evening filled with Beethoven's brilliance.



The programme also features the dramatic Egmont Overture and a selection of captivating opera arias, offering a rich and varied musical experience.

- **Date:** Sunday 24 November, 2024
- **Time:** 7pm (doors open 6.15pm)
- **Location:** Landmark Arts Centre, TW11 9NN
- **Price:** from £17.50


[Book now](#)

[Landmark Arts Centre](#) offers a wide range of arts education activities for children, young people and adults. The local charity presents a stimulating, year-round programme of live events, provides exhibition opportunities for visual artists and designer-makers through art fairs and by hosting group and solo exhibitions, and cares for its Grade II listed building.





# HAMPTON CHORAL SOCIETY A Christmas Fantasy

An illustration of St. Nicholas, a bearded man in a red and yellow robe with a crown, holding a staff and a lantern. He is walking alongside a child in a green hooded cloak carrying a bundle of sticks on their back. The scene is framed by a decorative border with floral and scrollwork patterns.

Wenceslas - Bob Chilcott  
Fantasia on Christmas Carols - Ralph V Williams  
The Feast of Stephen - George W Parris (new  
commission for Hampton Choral Society)  
Carols for audience and choir

Musical Director - Emma Warren with professional soloists

**Saturday 7 December 2024 - 6.30pm**

All Saints Church, Market Place, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 1JP

Tickets: £15 (Adults), £7 (Under 16's)  
Box Office: 020 8941 5394  
on the door: contactless, card, cheque, cash  
[www.hamptonchoral.org.uk](http://www.hamptonchoral.org.uk)

Charity Number 261788



# Walk and talk with your local police officer

On Monday 2 December, the Met Police is hosting a walk and talk session for residents to discuss issues around women's safety.

The walk and talk initiative will involve female officers buddying up with women from their communities to go out on patrol in open spaces so that they can hear first-hand their experiences, concerns and reflections.

The aim of the walkabout is to start a conversation between the public and officers about their safety concerns and what the police can do, working with partners, to address them.

Event details:

- **Date:** Monday 2 December 2024
- **Time:** 6 to 7pm
- **Location:** Meeting at St Margaret's station and walking to Twickenham station, winding through Mooremead Park



[Register for the walk and talk](#)

# Let's decorate the Christmas tree at Diamond Jubilee Gardens

From Richmond Council



On Wednesday 27 November, all are invited to put up baubles on the Christmas tree at Diamond Jubilee Gardens in Twickenham.

Our Parks team is hosting an evening event for residents and visitors to bring their Christmas decorations and place them on the tree, starting at 6pm. Please note, no glass baubles are allowed.

After the decoration, lights will be turned on by the Mayor of Richmond at 7pm. The

evening will continue with a cheerful carol performance by [Step On Stage Academy](#). Free refreshments including mince pies, mulled wine and hot chocolate will be served.

Bring along your family and friends to enjoy the festive cheer!

- **Date:** Wednesday 27 November, 2024
- **Time:** 6pm
- **Location:** Diamond Jubilee Gardens, The Embankment, Twickenham TW1 3DU

# Fiery fundraiser raises £4,500 towards Skylarks' new Hounslow centre

This weekend (Saturday 16 November), [Skylarks Charity](#) held its first-ever Firewalk event in Hounslow, where an incredible group of supporters braved burning coals and embers to raise money for the charity.

Led by certified Firewalk Instructor Chris Jones, the event attracted 21 participants who walked barefoot across the coals. So far, they have collectively raised an impressive £4,500 - well above the original £3,000 target.



As a small, independent charity, events like this are vital in helping Skylarks continue to provide essential support to children and young people with additional needs and disabilities. The funds raised will go towards the charity's mission to refurbish and open a new, accessible and welcoming children's centre in Hounslow, set to open in 2025.

The money will contribute towards refurbishing the new centre which will provide activities, therapies, advice and support services for children and

young people with additional needs. It will also help Skylarks continue to expand its reach and services.

*"We are on a mission to raise the vital funds we need to make our new centre a reality and this is just one of the steps towards that,"* said Deidre Carswell, Head of Fundraising at Skylarks Charity. *"Thank you to this incredible group of people who have been phenomenal - they have walked on glass; they have walked on fire - they have done it for Skylarks and our mission to make life better for more families. This event was a huge success - every single person completed the Firewalk and helped raise crucial funds for our work. We can't thank them enough for their support and bravery. A massive thank you to everyone who supports us - your generosity has made a huge difference to the lives of children and young people!"*

Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, with many already looking forward to future fundraising events. Skylarks currently supports over 6,500 children and young people with additional needs as well as their families, providing a lifeline of services that help them live in and experience a more inclusive community.

For more information about the charity or to donate, please visit Skylarks Charity website: [www.skylarks.charity](http://www.skylarks.charity)





# St Mary's University

## St Mary's University and Circle Health Group Sign Partnership Agreement

The School of Medicine at St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with award-winning healthcare provider Circle Health Group.

The School of Medicine at St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with award-winning healthcare provider Circle Health Group.



The agreement will see Circle provide placements to students from the University's new School of Medicine. The placements provided under the MOU will:

- Offer students hands-on clinical experience aligned with the learning outcomes of their medical curriculum
- Develop students' clinical reasoning, patient management, and professional skills
- Foster students' understanding of the NHS's structure, patient pathways, and healthcare delivery

Circle Health Group is Britain's largest network of independent hospitals, working with the NHS and insurance providers to deliver innovative patient focused healthcare.

The School of Medicine at St Mary's, which

will welcome its first cohort in September 2026, will train students to be complete doctors, integrating medical expertise, compassionate care, and ethical practice. Students will be taught the latest medical curriculum in bespoke new facilities, utilising the latest medical technology.

A key advantage of the programme at St Mary's School of Medicine is the diverse range of clinical experience students will get from their first year. They will gain experience in contemporary settings including hospices, refugee medicine, international healthcare, and the independent health sector, as well as NHS Hospitals and GP Clinics.

Speaking of the partnership, Interim Founding Dean of the St Mary's School of Medicine Prof Mike Bewick said, *"One of the core benefits for students studying medicine at St Mary's is the diverse range of placements available. I am delighted we will be partnering with Circle Health Group to deliver this, and I am sure our students will greatly benefit from their placements with them."*

Group Medical Director at Circle Health Group Dr Peter James said, *"Partnering with St Mary's University is an incredible opportunity to support the next generation of medical students as they begin their training. Speaking as a doctor myself, I know first-hand how important those early years are for building a solid foundation to a successful career. We look forward to working closely with our colleagues at the School of Medicine and the university more broadly."*



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

# England Team To Play Japan



England men's head coach Steve Borthwick has named his team to play Japan at Allianz Stadium, Twickenham on Sunday 24 November (kick-off 4.10pm, live on TNT Sports).

Jamie George will lead an England team featuring two changes to the starting XV that was defeated by South Africa last weekend, with George Furbank and Tom Curry brought into the lineup. George will be supported by vice-captains Maro Itoje, Ben Earl, and Ellis Genge.

In the front row, George starts at hooker, with Genge at loosehead prop and Will Stuart at tighthead. In the second row, Itoje is paired with George Martin. The back row sees Curry on the blindside, Sam Underhill at openside, and Earl at No. 8.

In the half-back positions, scrum-half Jack van Poortvliet partners Marcus Smith at 10 while the midfield sees Henry Slade named at inside centre alongside Ollie Lawrence at 13.

In the back three, Tommy Freeman continues on the right wing, Ollie Sleightholme on the left and Furbank returns at full-back to round off the starting XV.

20-year-old prop Asher Opoku-Fordjour is set to earn his first England senior cap from the bench during Sunday's match. He joins Luke Cowan-Dickie, Fin Baxter, Nick Isiekwe, Chandler Cunningham-South, Harry Randall, Fin Smith, and Tom Roebuck amongst the replacements.

*"We anticipate a tough challenge from a team that thrives on playing fast and with tempo,"* said Borthwick.

*"Japan are a dangerous team so it's important that we execute our game plan and maintain focus throughout the full 80 minutes."*

ENGLAND v JAPAN: Sunday 24 November 2024  
Allianz Stadium, Twickenham: Kick-off: 4.10pm (GMT)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 15. George Furbank (Northampton Saints, 13 caps)    | 1. Ellis Genge (Bristol Bears, 65 caps) – vice-captain |
| 14. Tommy Freeman (Northampton Saints, 14 caps)     | 2. Jamie George (Saracens, 96 caps) – captain          |
| 13. Ollie Lawrence (Bath Rugby, 30 caps)            | 3. Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 44 caps)                   |
| 12. Henry Slade (Exeter Chiefs, 68 caps)            | 4. Maro Itoje (Saracens, 87 caps) – vice-captain       |
| 11. Ollie Sleightholme (Northampton Saints, 4 caps) | 5. George Martin (Leicester Tigers, 18 caps)           |
| 10. Marcus Smith (Harlequins, 38 caps)              | 6. Tom Curry (Sale Sharks, 55 caps)                    |
| 9. Jack van Poortvliet (Leicester Tigers, 15 caps)  | 7. Sam Underhill (Bath Rugby, 39 caps)                 |
|   | 8. Ben Earl (Saracens, 36 caps) – vice-captain         |

## Replacements:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 16. Luke Cowan-Dickie (Sale Sharks, 43 caps)     | 20. Chandler Cunningham-South (Harlequins, 10 caps) |
| 17. Fin Baxter (Harlequins, 5 caps)              | 21. Harry Randall (Bristol Bears, 10 caps)          |
| 18. Asher Opoku-Fordjour (Sale Sharks, uncapped) | 22. Fin Smith (Northampton Saints, 5 caps)          |
| 19. Nick Isiekwe (Saracens, 14 caps)             | 23. Tom Roebuck (Sale Sharks, 2 caps)               |



# Match Preview: Everton v Brentford

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

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford travel to Everton on Saturday (3pm kick-off GMT), as the Bees make their final Premier League visit to Goodison Park.

Thomas Frank's side are looking to pick up their first points away from home this term, while Sean Dyche's Toffees are keen to give Goodison a good send-off, as they play their final season at the iconic ground.

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

Predict how Saturday's game will go and climb *The Predictor* leaderboard. [Play now!](#)

## PRE-MATCH ANALYSIS

Stephen Gillett, Playmaker Stats: Set-pieces could prove decisive on Saturday



The Premier League returns this weekend after yet another international break and Brentford will have to maximise their strengths if they wish to beat Sean Dyche's Everton.

The Bees are 0-3 in their last three meetings against the Toffees and

Saturday's clash at Goodison Park is an intriguing one, as the two sides wield similar weapons.

For starters, both clubs are two of the Premier League's most skilled direct football practitioners and the battle for aerial supremacy on Saturday will be fierce.

To illustrate this point, the Bees (18) rank first in the Premier League for aerial duels won per game this season, just ahead of Everton (15.7), while the Toffees have pinged 293 accurate long balls - more than any team in the top flight - Brentford close behind them with 273.

It's important to note that both teams use their goalkeepers as literal launchpads for many of their attacks, with Jordan Pickford and Mark Flekken currently joint-top of the Premier League for long balls completed (119), and the two stoppers also topped this stat in the top flight last term.

The Bees will have prepared for Everton's tactic of spraying long balls to forward Dominic Calvert-Lewin, and the rangy target man's threat is underlined by the fact he has won more headers (47) than any player in the top tier this season.

Brentford are perhaps uniquely suited to handling 'DCL', however, given that Nathan Collins (third), Ethan Pinnock (fifth) and Sepp van den Berg (eighth) all rank in the top 10 in the Premier League for successful aerial duels in 2024/25.

Well-drilled by Thomas Frank and Sean Dyche respectively, Brentford (16 bookings) and Everton (17) currently lead the Premier League's fair play table and both sides' strict disciplinary code is highlighted by a shared reluctance to concede free-kicks.

Everton (39 per cent) may have the lowest average possession share in the Premier League this season, but only four sides in the league have given away fewer fouls than the Toffees (123) this season - but one of them is Brentford, who top this stat having only conceded a miserly 6.9 free-kicks per game on average.

Those free-kick stats hint at an acute appreciation of how important dead-balls can be and set-pieces could prove decisive on Saturday.

Brentford have rightly been lauded for their set-piece expertise in recent times (and their prowess from kick-offs this season has been readily apparent!), but Everton's dead-balls stats last season were staggering.

The second-most potent team in the top flight from free-kicks, throw-ins and corners last term, the Toffees converted 19 goals from set-pieces second only to Arsenal (20).

However, while the Gunners scored 22 per cent of their total goal tally from such situations, 48 per cent of all Everton's strikes in the 2023/24 campaign stemmed from set-pieces and Brentford will need to be at their best to thwart a Toffees' side who have already scored four of their 10 goals this term after the ball has gone dead.

Despite the clubs' common traits, Brentford fans will hope the Bees' evolution under Frank has added a few strings to their bow.

Second only to Spurs in the Premier League goal charts, Brentford have scored 16 of their 22 league goals from open play this term (only Man City have more from 'live' situations) and with Bryan Mbeumo and Yoane Wissa in red-hot form, the Bees currently possess impressive attacking potency.

This ability to cause problems from free play should stand the Bees in good stead, as should their capacity to carve out high quality chances - the Bees' 0.16 xG per shot the best average in the entire division at the moment.

## **SCOUT REPORT**

Dan Long, Sky Sports: Lack of goals the sticking point for Dyche's Toffees

Everton's troubles and persistent flirtation with the very real possibility of relegation from the Premier League continued last season.

They survived by four points in 2022, two points in 2023, and found themselves fighting it out in the bottom three on three separate occasions in 2023/24. This time around, though, it was largely down to the points deduction they were handed in November 2023 for breaching the Premier League's profit and sustainability rules.

Initially punished with a 10-point deduction - the biggest in the league's history - it was reduced to six on appeal, though a further breach saw them hit with another two-point deduction in April. Naturally, it was the overarching story of their season; survival was the sole ambition.

The second deduction in particular seemed to light a fire deep within, as the Toffees won five and drew two of their last nine games to finish with a very healthy 14-point cushion between themselves and the bottom three.

*"We've had many knocks this season and I'm pleased the way the team and the staff have seen through the*



*challenges and delivered,”* said manager Sean Dyche after the final day defeat to Arsenal.

And the fixture computer seemed to have been kind to Everton when all the dates were released in June - however, they've not really taken advantage of that.

They were rock bottom of the table for the first month after defeats to Brighton, Tottenham, Bournemouth and Aston Villa. In the latter two, they led 2-0 before being beaten 3-2 on both occasions. Two weeks in a row, they were left shellshocked, which meant they lost their opening four league games for the first time in 66 years.

Taking 10 points from the seven games that have followed has helped them to 16th going into Saturday's game at Goodison Park but, with just one win at home and one win away, slipping back into the bottom three soon is not beyond the realms of possibility.

Ipswich and Southampton have recently picked up their first league wins of the season and will be desperate not to suffer immediate relegation back to the Championship. Crystal Palace and Wolves will not be happy with their respective current situations, either.

To look at it from a binary perspective, it is not necessarily a case of leaking too many goals, as only three teams in the bottom half have conceded fewer than their tally of 17 - scoring them has been much more of a struggle. Everton have netted just 10 so far, which is the joint third-lowest tally in the entirety of the top four divisions, after Crystal Palace (8) and Southampton (7).

## **IN THE DUGOUT**

Sean Dyche

After a 17-year playing career ended at Northampton in 2007, Sean Dyche immediately stepped into the world of coaching by working as an under-18s coach at former club Watford, who he had played for between 2002 and 2005.

Two years later, Malky Mackay - who, incidentally, joined the Hornets as a player the summer Dyche left - was appointed manager, with Dyche promoted to become his assistant.

Over the next two seasons, the pair guided Watford to 16th and 14th-place finishes in the Championship and, in the summer of 2011, Mackay left to take over at Cardiff, which led to Dyche stepping up to take on the role on a permanent basis in his place.

He led the club to 11th in 2011/12 - their highest finish in four seasons - but the Pozzo family took over and, in a statement, said they “recognised Sean’s impeccable conduct, representing the Hornets with honour and dignity at all time,” before they quickly ousted him in favour of Gianfranco Zola.

Dyche was only out of work for a matter of months, though. Eddie Howe left Burnley to return to Bournemouth in October 2012 and he was installed as Howe’s successor on a two-and-a-half-year contract.

However, he ended up remaining at Turf Moor for seven years more than his initial contract length, guiding the Claretts to promotion to the Premier League as runners-up in 2013/14 and as Championship winners in 2015/16. His side finished seventh in 2017/18, which saw them qualify for European football for the first time in over half a century.

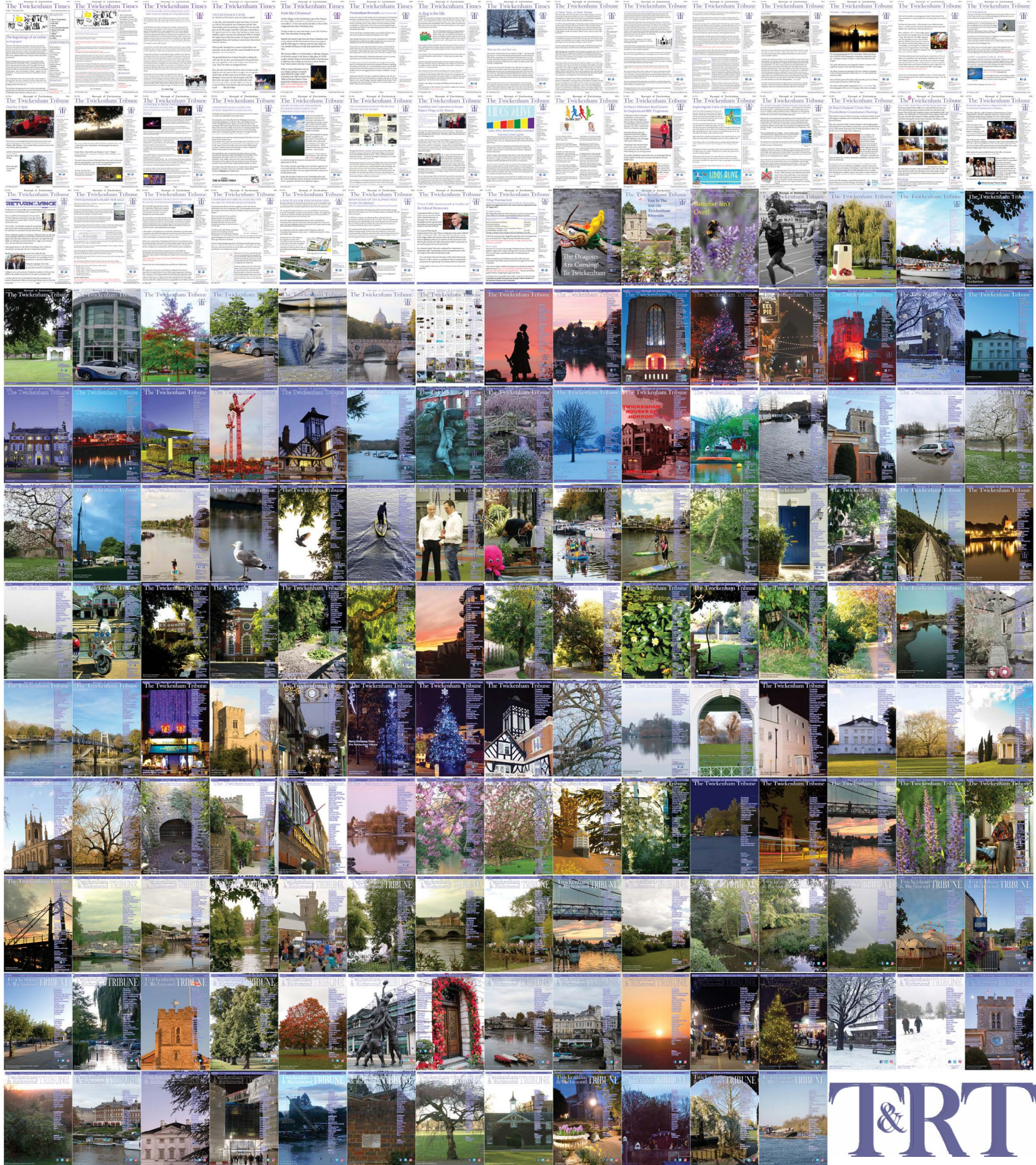
In April 2022, with the threat of relegation increasing, Dyche was sacked by Burnley - who dropped into the Championship after a defeat to Newcastle United on the final day - and, in January 2023, he was appointed manager of Everton on a two-and-a-half-year contract.

The 53-year-old is the Toffees has stayed in the job for longer than his six permanent predecessors and is the longest-serving manager since Roberto Martínez, who left Goodison Park back in May 2016.





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