

Twickenham & Richmond **Tribune**



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TwickerSeal

TwickerSeal and his chums gathered at Radnor Gardens to see in the New Year.



TwickerSeal and everyone at the Tribune wish our readers a Happy New Year.
Here's to 2025!!!

2025



TickerTape - News in Brief

Take control of your health in 2025 with an NHS Health Check

From the NHS

If you're 40 or over, ensure your health and wellbeing is on the right track by booking a quick and free NHS Health Check at a local GP or pharmacy.

NHS Health Checks are a vital and completely free service designed for people aged 40 to 74, to spot early signs of common heart related health problems like heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, dementia and kidney disease.

Even if you feel great now, simply being aged over 40 raises your risk of developing these issues. We're used to waiting until something feels wrong to take action, but many of these serious conditions develop slowly and can often go unnoticed.

By taking 20 minutes to get an NHS Health Check every five years, you can take proactive steps to protect your long term health by detecting risk factors before they turn into something more serious.

The non-invasive appointment will include quick measures of your blood pressure, body mass index and cholesterol levels and a series of lifestyle questions. Following this, you'll get a risk score and have this explained to you by your GP or local pharmacist. If you're at a higher risk, you'll be given tailored lifestyle advice and connected with local services to help lower your risk.

In order to be eligible for an NHS Health Check, you must not have been previously diagnosed with diabetes, kidney disease, heart disease or stroke.

Find out more and book an [NHS Health Check](#).



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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

Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 282

Ham House

By Alan Winter

Well here we are in 2025. Another New Year and a time when many of us are making plans for holidays with trips abroad to see places that we have read about or seen on TV but never previously visited.

We do this to learn about the history of these places and often to visit their excellent gardens as well.

But how many of you realise that by living in the borough of Richmond upon Thames you are surrounded by parks, palaces, stately homes, rivers and gardens that are the envy of the world and attract tens of thousands of visitors from all parts each year. I can imagine that many of you who are surrounded by our local historical treasures have yet to visit at least some of them.

We can start the year by taking a look at Ham House through a few of the many postcards that have been published of it during the last 130 years or so. The first postcard was posted in 1908 and shows the front of the house that faces the river. The second pictures Ham House on a Reward Card that was given to school pupils for regular attendance and good work and the 3rd postcard this week shows the rear of Ham House from around 1929.



Ham House is a 17th-century house set in formal gardens on the bank of the River Thames in Ham. The house is unusual in retaining much of its original 17th-century interior decoration, offering a rare experience of the style of the courts of Charles I and Charles II. The original house was completed in

1610 by Thomas Vavasour, an Elizabethan courtier and Knight Marshal to James I. It was then leased, and later bought, by William Murray, a close friend and supporter of Charles I. The English Civil War saw the house and much of the estate sequestrated, but Murray's wife Catherine regained them on payment of a fine. During the Protectorate his daughter Elizabeth Murray, Countess of Dysart on her father's death in 1655, successfully navigated the prevailing anti-royalist sentiment and retained control of the estate.

SURREY EDUCATION COMMITTEE.



HAM HOUSE.

E.S.A. LONDON. Copyright.

Never Absent, Never Late

Vera Coward

The house achieved its greatest period of prominence following Elizabeth's second marriage—to John Maitland, 1st Duke of Lauderdale, in 1672. The Lauderdale's held important roles at the court of the restored Charles II, the Duke being a member of the Cabal ministry and holder of major positions in Scotland, while the Duchess exercised significant social and political influence. They began an ambitious program of development and embellishment at Ham. The house was almost doubled in size and equipped with private apartments for the Duke and Duchess, as well as princely accommodation suites for visitors. The house was furnished to the highest standards of courtly taste and decorated with "a lavishness which transcended even what was fitting to their exalted rank". The Lauderdale's accumulated notable collections of paintings, tapestries and furniture, and redesigned the gardens and grounds to reflect their status and that of their guests.



After the Duchess's death, the property passed through the line of her descendants. Occasionally, major alterations were made to the house, such as the reconstruction undertaken by Lionel Tollemache, 4th Earl of Dysart, in the 1730s. For the most part, later generations of owners focused on the preservation of the house and its collections. The family did not retain the high position at court held by the Lauderdale's under Charles II, and a strain of

family eccentricity and reserve saw the fifth Earl refuse a request from King George III to visit Ham. On the death of the 9th Earl – the last Earl to live at Ham – in 1935, the house passed to his second cousin, Lyonel; he and his son, Major (Cecil) Lyonel Tollemache, donated it to the National Trust in 1948. During the second half of the 20th century the house and gardens were opened to the public, and were extensively restored and researched. The gardens and pleasure grounds at Ham cover approximately 12 hectares (30 acres). They follow an axial plan, with avenues originally leading east, west and south from the house. The fourth, northern, side of the estate fronts the River Thames. The property has become a popular filming location for cinema and television productions, which make use of its period interiors and gardens.

The house can be reached by public transport and is located in Transport for London travel zone 4; from Richmond station the 65 bus service serves Petersham Road and the 371 bus service serves Sandy Lane. There is a free council car park north-west of the house, next to the Thames. Hammerton's Ferry, to the north-east, links to a playground between Orleans House Gallery and Marble Hill House below Twickenham's central embankment. The house is accessible to pedestrians and cyclists via the Thames Path national trail.

With nearly 300 weekly columns behind me in the Tribune I am beginning to run out of postcards of our local area that I haven't already written about. So, my search for old postcards continues. I am always looking for old postcards and old photograph albums etc. The postcards can also 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)



Turing House School's admissions controversy continues

Turing House School, a free school based in Whitton, is conducting a statutory consultation on its admission policy for the 2026 academic year. Under its controversial admission arrangements, 80 per cent of places are allocated to an admissions nodal point in Somerset Gardens, Teddington and only 20 per cent from the school's Whitton location.

In 2016, the then council leader Lord True, when the Conservatives ran the council, stated the school was being allowed to select their own intake: *"Schools should not be able to cherry-pick their intake. The logic of this policy is that in future we could have gated schools in deprived areas, close to local people, quite the opposite of the aims of the Government's school reforms. The school has ignored our strong view and the impassioned feedback from many local parents. I have urged the Minister to look into this as soon as possible and give hope to those who live in the Heathfield and Whitton area."*

The current Liberal Democrat administration supports the school's catchment policy. The local councillor for Heathfield Ward, Cllr John Coombs, has repeatedly told local parents in Whitton that they should send their children to Twickenham School, which the local education authority has designated for them.

At the planning committee meeting, the school assured the council that it would review the admissions policy annually to ensure that children in Whitton could reasonably access the school. Members of the planning committee also stated that they felt the school would become more of a Whitton School over time. However, since receiving permission, the school has refused to change the admissions policy, saying the Government approved the policy in its founding documents and the governors do not see a reason to change them.

Local critics have pointed out that this has resulted in a minimal Whitton catchment covering only a tiny percentage of the town's geographical area. Since opening, the school has also had a greater impact on Hospital



Photo ©Twickenham & Richmond Tribune

Bridge Road than anticipated. This is partly due to the new crossing TFL requested across the A316 and the cycle lanes still being stuck in the planning stage despite the school moving to Whitton in April 2022.

Supporters of the School say it's reasonable that Teddington Parents should have priority and that they needed an alternative to Teddington School, which they feel isn't as good as it once was. They also state that Teddington's parents first set the school up, and Whitton's parents have some access, which they would not benefit from if the school had been built elsewhere. Critics have replied that Teddington's parents have always had access to Twickenham School as an alternative. They state they should have supported both Twickenham and Hampton Academies after the fall-out over the collapse of the Learning School Trust.

The previous Liberal Democrat administration, then led by Cllr Serge Lourie, had handed the schools to the private Swedish company Kunskapsskolan in 2009 despite much local opposition. The Swedish self-directed teaching methods proved unsuccessful, leading to some abysmal academic results. Critics said that the opening of the competitor school, Turing House, was very unhelpful and had seriously undermined them to the point where both Twickenham and Hampton Academies nearly had to close and seriously delayed their recovery by several years. Despite these two schools now being rated good by Ofsted, much ill-feeling still remains in the local community, underlining how controversial the Free School programme can be and how it undermines other schools if there are not enough pupils to go around.

When schools consult on their admissions policies, anyone can object to any part of the policy, not just the proposed changes. The school's Adjudicator settles disagreements and can impose changes as they feel fit.

The consultation runs between Tuesday 10th December 2024 – Tuesday 28th January 2025 and you can see full details by clicking [HERE](#)

Next week at Richmond Council

On Tuesday, the **Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee** with the following items on the agenda: (1) Grove Gardens, Teddington being left unlocked overnight, (2) Art Service review & plans for Orleans House Gallery, (3) a new nature conservation site at Oldfield Road, Hampton, (4) an update on public toilets, (5) update on council service performance that shows fly-tips are being cleared up quicker and library visits have increased above target but recycling rates are still declining, street cleaning is declining in quality, and housebuilding being below target.

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 participate. You can submit questions or speak on an item on the agenda. To ask a question, submit it by noon two working days in advance. To speak, you must register by noon the working day before the meeting.

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

Encounter With Carter

Doug Goodman recalls a memorable occasion on a flight to the USA

The news of the death of Jimmy Carter, former U.S President, brought back the memory of an encounter some years ago. During a flight to Atlanta with my family I noticed a familiar person moving down the aisle giving out small presents. When he approached our seats he offered a little packet to my daughter Emily. She looked at me knowing that she had always been told never to accept anything from strangers. I assured her that it was quite safe to accept a box of peanuts from the former President of America. That small gesture certainly contributed to a very memorable holiday.



Jimmy Carter, 39th President from 1977 to 1981, died last week at the age of 100 and was the longest lived President of America. After only one term in office he was succeeded by Ronald Reagan. For his humanitarian work Carter was awarded The Nobel Peace Prize.

New Year Honours List

From The Royal Parks

Lloyd Grossman, Chair of The Royal Parks, has been awarded a Knighthood in the King's New Year Honours list for services to heritage. Lloyd has been [Chair of The Royal Parks](#) since 2016 and oversaw the organisation's move from government agency to charity in 2017.



The charity cares for [London's eight Royal parks](#) and other open spaces including Brompton Cemetery and Victoria Tower Gardens. Its role is to conserve and enhance these historic and exceptional landscapes whilst welcoming millions of visitors to its free spaces every year.

Commenting on his award, Lloyd Grossman said:

'I am absolutely delighted to receive this award, it is such an honour and a true privilege. I am so proud to have been chair of this fantastic organisation, which has flourished since becoming a charity in 2017. Our 5000 acres of parkland bring such joy to millions of people who visit each year. I am grateful for the commitment and dedication of my fellow trustees and to all the staff, volunteers, partners and supporters who work tirelessly to ensure the parks remain protected for generations to come.'



New coffee pod recycling launched at Townmead Road

From Richmond Council

Residents can now recycle used coffee, tea and hot chocolate pods free of charge at Townmead Road Reuse and Recycling Centre.

The new service has been launched to help make coffee pod recycling as easy as possible in partnership with [Podback](#), a not-for-profit recycling service created and funded by the UK's leading coffee pod systems and over 25 coffee pod brands and national retailers.

Simply collect your used coffee, tea, and hot chocolate pods at home in a reusable bag or container, keeping plastic and aluminium pods separate. When ready, take them to the [Townmead Road Reuse and Recycling Centre](#).

Remember to book a slot prior to going. There's no need to remove coffee grounds. Empty the pods into the designated Podback containers for aluminium or plastic—these are clearly marked. Do not include bags or other packaging.



Plastic and aluminium pods need to be collected separately, as they are recycled at different facilities. All the pods collected by Podback are

recycled in the UK. They are shredded to remove the coffee, then the plastic and aluminium are used to create new products, including packaging, car components and building products. The coffee grounds will be treated by anaerobic digestion to create renewable energy (biogas) and soil improver.

Podback also offers free plastic and aluminium pod recycling via a Yodel drop-off service [www.podback.org/drop-off].

Additionally, residents using Costa Coffee pods can take advantage of [free recycling at select Costa Coffee stores](#).

Find out more about [how to reduce, re-use or recycle](#) various types of waste and unwanted items locally

Recycling in Richmond upon Thames

Christmas tree collection and drop off services

Christmas tree collections will run from Monday 6 to Friday 17 January 2025, on the garden waste collection day for your street. This service is free and you do not require a garden waste contract to have your tree collected and recycled. You can also take your tree to one of the [drop-off points](#) until Friday 24 January 2025. To help keep our streets clean, please [let us know about abandoned trees](#) using our simple form. Learn more about Christmas tree collections [HERE](#)

Recycle your electrical items

Anything with a plug, battery or cable can be reused or recycled. If you got any new gadgets for Christmas, recycle your old small electricals (up to the size of a two-slice toaster) with our [kerbside collections](#) or [community banks](#)!

There are also [plenty of options](#) available to help you recycle or donate larger electrical items. Find out more about your electricals recycling options [HERE](#)

Clothes recycling

The start of a new year is a great time for a clear out. We have partnered with [TRAID](#) to collect unwanted electrical waste, clothes and shoes from your home. You can [book a collection online](#) or by calling 020 8733 2595 and a driver will come and pick up directly from you.

Food waste recycling

We recycle your food waste and turn it into energy and fertiliser. This saves money and helps the environment. We collect food waste from houses, converted houses, and some purpose-built flats in the borough.

You can order a free food waste caddy for your household. Broken caddies can be collected for recycling when we deliver a replacement. You can also pick up a free roll of compostable caddy liners from [a local library](#) or Twickenham Civic Centre reception.

Find out more about our food waste recycling service [HERE](#)

Coffee pod recycling

You can now recycle used coffee, tea and hot chocolate pods free of charge at Townmead Road Reuse and Recycling Centre. Simply collect your used coffee, tea, and hot chocolate pods at home in a reusable bag or container, keeping plastic and aluminium pods separate. When ready, [book a slot at Townmead Road](#).

Find out more about our new coffee pod recycling scheme [HERE](#)

Share unwanted items for free

Richmond Freegle is run by volunteers and enables local residents [to give away unwanted items to others in the community free of charge](#). You can search or browse for free items currently available in your area.

Find out about other ways you can [share and donate](#) unwanted items locally.

Support Richmond Furniture Scheme

The [Richmond Furniture Scheme](#) is a charitable organisation which collects donated furniture and household items in good condition from in and around the borough. The project supplies furniture at low cost to people who could not otherwise afford it.

Repair items locally

Repair cafés are run in the borough throughout the year. They are a great opportunity to get broken items fixed by skilled volunteers.

Check out the following cafés:

[Twickenham repair café](#)

[Kew the transition repair and share events](#)

Our [Library of Things in Twickenham](#) is a place where you can borrow useful household items you don't need to use often.

Browse and [make your bookings online](#), and receive 10% off your first borrow using code TWICKENHAMLOT10.



Kickstart your new year by moving more at our leisure centres

From Richmond Council

From 1 January to 7 February 2025, new customers can join our leisure centres and enjoy up to two months at half price. This offer is available at our centres in Shene, Teddington, Richmond, Whitton, and Hampton.

Our memberships provide flexibility, allowing you to choose the access you want to our gyms, pools, and over 200 classes including Pilates, Zumba and indoor cycling. Each membership includes a specially tailored fitness programme and an induction session to help you get started with confidence. Plus, all memberships come with a 10-day money-back guarantee for your peace of mind.

Get in touch or join online to take advantage of this [limited-time offer](#) and start moving more in a way you enjoy.

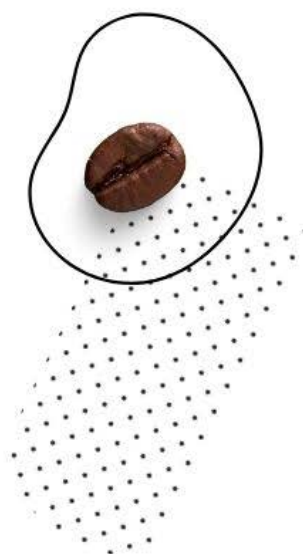


THE GREEN POP UP CAFE

THURSDAYS

10.30-12.00

The Green Room
Holy Trinity Twickenham
Twickenham Green
TW2 5TS



A community space where
everyone is welcome to pop in
for refreshments, friendly chat and activities



HOLY TRINITY TWICKENHAM

Dry January

After the indulgences of the festive season, our thoughts turn to healthier options. I always think it a shame that January has been deemed the ideal month to cut back on booze - it's by far the worst month of the year in my opinion, so the last thing one should do is cut back on one of life's enjoyments! But here are some suggestions for some alcohol alternatives if you're wanting to cut back.

If you just want to cut back, rather than cut out, your gin and tonic, **Cotswolds Dry Gin Essence** is a full strength gin designed to reduce the amount of product, and thus alcohol required in a G&T while retaining the intensity of flavour. It's made using ten times the botanical concentration of their award-winning Cotswolds Dry Gin, which is already ten times more botanically intense than most premium gins. The result is a lighter and deliciously refreshing G&T, with all the taste and 90% less alcohol than the standard 50 ml serve. Between 5 mls to 10 mls of Cotswolds Dry Gin Essence is the recommended amount for one serve (one to two teaspoonfuls). Cotswolds Dry Gin Essence contains 14 calories per 5ml per serve and just 0.23 units of alcohol, making it the perfect option if looking for a low alcohol alternative. RRP: £18.50 for 100ml (20 serves). ABV: 46%. Available from www.cotswoldsdistillery.com [Master of Malt](#) and [Spirits Kiosk](#)



A special occasion still deserves a good glass of fizz. Codorníu is a superb cava and **Codorníu Zero** starts with selected wines (Xarel-lo, Chardonnay), the alcohol is removed by an innovative vacuum distillation system at low temperature, respecting the wine and minimising the loss of its characteristics. With fine bubbles, fresh citrus flavours and a fruity character, it pairs well with any occasion when you need an enjoyable alternative. Also available as a rosé, it's less than 0.5% ABV, suitable for vegans, gluten free and just 78 calories per 250ml glass. It's a good aperitif, or to pair with a light meal, such as fish. from £5.50 a bottle at Ocado, Amazon or Wise Bartender

If you're more of a spirit person, I've got a tip for you: **CleanCo**. Since its inception in 2019 it has spearheaded the no and low market and now has a full suite of alcohol free alternatives to all major full-strength spirits. As it's January, I'd recommend a cocktail or snifter of the whiskey CleanCo, or a non alco margarita with the CleanCo Tequila. Gin, Rum, Rhubarb Gin and Vodka are also available at all leading supermarkets as well as online at www.clean.co, It's also in a new bottle,



still the iconic hexagonal shape, but significantly lighter in weight, helping the environment. Add to this the fact that it's low calorie, has no sugar or artificial sweeteners, uses all natural flavourings and is made here in the UK...it's a no brainer! Around £16 a bottle.



Award-winning alcohol-free French wine brand [Moderato](#) is now available at **Majestic**, as well as online – through Majestic's partnership with leading no and low alcohol movement, **Club Soda**. Moderato has been created with the expertise of French wine making and technological strides in 0.0% ABV wines. Where wine lovers have been let down in the past from unfermented grape juices or only partially de-alcoholised wine, Moderato has a unique process of de-alcoholisation. Starting with a vinted wine, either natural wine aromas or aromas from the original wine are re-introduced after de-alcoholisation. One of Club Soda's best-selling brands, it's already available through some top restaurants as well as no and low retailers. Try the red (**Moderato Cuvee Revolutionnaire Colombard**) or white (**Moderato Revolutionnaire Merlot Tannat**) at Majestic £13.99 per bottle or £11.99 for a mix of any six

Nozeco Still Merlot & Nozeco Still Rosé have recently been launched by the alcohol-free sparkling wine brand. They join Nozeco Classic, Nozeco Sparkling Rosé, Nozeco Sparkling Peach Bellini, Nozeco Buck's Fizz, Nozeco Spritz.

Nozeco Still Merlot has a deep garnet red colour; on the nose intense flavours of red fruits dominated by plum, and on the palate, it's round and velvety, with notes of red berries, strawberries and plums. It pairs well with lighter meats, cheese boards, and desserts. **Nozeco Still Rosé** is pink in colour, with a nose full of red berries and floral notes. It's lively and well-balanced on the palate, with notes of strawberry and berries, and an accompanying floral aroma. It can be enjoyed on its own as an aperitif accompanied by canapés such as cream cheese with prosciutto and strawberry, and camembert with cranberry sauce. Around £4 a bottle from Ocado, Morrisons and Amazon.

Next week I'll be looking at some other alternative drinks for you that aren't pretending to be an alco-free version of the real thing...



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The offer runs from 26th December 2024 until 12th January 2025. – some dates are not included in the offer. – Discounts may vary across months- Offer can't be added to previous bookings. - Bookings must be made direct via www.sunborngibraltar.com. Bookings via OTA's (Online Travel Agents) will not be accepted. - Payment in advance is required on all bookings- Bookings can be modified for free to another date within 2025.

It's okay to tell the truth...

By Deep Patel

~Life through the eyes of a Twickenham shopkeeper~



Well, like it or not...here we are in 2025...this past week it has been that odd period after new year's eve but before the "regular work pattern" or school routine starts...you know what I am talking about...those days when no one even knows what day of the week it is...or whether it's morning or evening, or even what colour underpants they put on that day...it's like the disturbance in our routine causes all sorts of disturbances in our brains rendering the majority of us to be about as productive as the last overcooked Brussels sprout left in the bowl...you all know what I mean...we've all been there right (or is it just me then?)

The MAIN question I was asked all week here at Meet & Deep Newsagents (by pretty much all of my customers) was "did you have a good new years?" and it's always the same answer "yes, it was lovely, just with family and friends"...and no joke, I say this to everyone too (even when I haven't had a good one), it's just something we all say, but why? I think I have worked it out...it's simply because our desire to conform to societal expectations is higher than our need to be true to ourselves...so we are basically living our lives as "people pleasers" and seeking to be "one of the pack" and thought of as "normal" rather than as different to others...it may sound wrong reading that here right now...but somewhere within what I have typed here there is a little (or a lot) of truth...we are all just copying each other in order to "fit in" as it's comfortable to be "with the crowd" and makes us feel like we have a sense of belonging!

It is somehow somewhat reassuring to know others have had the same experience as us... hence we all say the same line... but listening to all these comments from my customers made me realise something this past week. If people actually shared with others their TRUE feelings and experiences about occasions like this like "I had an awful new years eve arguing with my wife and kids at midnight" or "I spent the night wasting money in an expensive crowded pub where I couldn't even move" then it would be much more reassuring for those hearing it, as let me tell you, you are not alone, there are many others that have had the same experiences...in fact EXACTLY the same (I know as they tell me in my shop)...so by sharing your experience, even

if negative sounding things like “I argued with my wife at the turn of midnight for new year’s eve” are reassuring and beneficial in some way that you may not have even realised...because in giving yourself permission to say and share the truth with others, you also give others that permission to say and share their truths, in turn this helps healing for yourself.

We often come to terms with something that upset or hurt us by sharing the truth about that with others...something negative that happened doesn’t have to be negative, we can make these things into lessons and grow from them, from the pain then comes wisdom and that is far more valuable to our own personal development and growth rather than just saying “yes it was a wonderful new year’s eve thanks”...by sharing our pain with others, we all can realise that we are in fact all the same in the end and all face the same issues in life...and that in itself is healing and reassuring and only through acceptance comes growth and through growth...fulfillment...I witnessed this first hand in my shop over the past week, through sharing supposedly “negative” experiences with each other in my shop, I witnessed my customers indirectly reassuring each other that “it’s ok not to be ok” and it’s ok to not have had the “best time ever” when everyone in the world is having so...and that was actually very beautiful to witness.

So next time someone talks to you about something, remember this article, and don’t be afraid to tell the truth, that things were not perfect for you, remember that in doing this, you may well be giving someone else the reassurance they need to realise that “it’s okay not to be okay” and it’s okay to not have had the best new year’s eve ever, and in the process, I promise you by doing this you will also help your own inner healing and growth without even realising it...in this way, let us all make 2025 more fulfilling for all of us. Happy 2025 dear Twickenham and readers of the Twickenham and Richmond Tribune...x

If any of you happen to be passing by Meet & Deep Newsagents on Hampton Road, TW2 5QB, do pop in and say hello...

Remember...

“...Happiness is not about living perfectly, it is about perfectly living with whatever life brings our way...”

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

Sprinkle talcum powder, essential peppermint oil to stop silverfish or tiny beetles, sprinkle it around where they come (but not directly on them) and they will stop without having to harm or kill them...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 the love...

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

Sleeping Beauty

by Alan McHugh

Crossroads Pantomimes at the New Victoria Theatre, Woking until 5th January

Sleeping Beauty is a star-studded panto extravaganza, with a panto veteran, a 90's pop sensation and a multi-talented magician. The fairy tale of Princess Aurora, cursed by the Sorceress Carabosse and finally rescued by love's first kiss by The Prince, faces some detours. (Will Richardson's Prince is called William – no relative!)

Panto "national treasure", Christopher Biggins kicks things off as The Spirit of Dreams, floating across the sky perched atop a crescent moon, to narrate the wintery prologue from his story book. Maybe not the standard pantomime dame, but in Biggins' hilarious rendition of *If I Were Not upon the Stage*, his progressively ridiculous cross-dressed outfits more than compensate.



Faye Tozer's statuesque striding and haunting cackle paint Carabosse as the villain, but with her likable quality she shouldn't cause too many bad dreams. Indeed, she provides some light relief with Muddles, the Royal Magician when his booty call goes wrong and she feeds him lines from pop songs. It's a shame we don't hear more of Tozer's singing, but she excels in the finale by bursting into one of Steps' well known numbers which the audience can't help but dance along to.

Muddles, along with his loveable puppet pals, Sooty, Sweep and Soo, save the day, and free the King and Queen (James Paterson and Brenda Longman), despite his unrequited love for the Princess (Rhiane Drummond). As Muddles, Richard Caddell excels by providing comedy, magic illusions and puppetry, as well as directing the production! He cheats death chained in a box suspended from the ceiling, introduces Sooty's rendition of *Nessun Dorma*, and allows his mischievous friends

licence to soak the front rows with water pistols, while transporting the old-uns back to childhood with the incantation, "izzy whizzy let's get busy".

The ensemble excels with high kicking acrobatic dance routines. Their beautifully intricate costumes seasonally include *Frozen* sky blue gowns, candy-cane red and white stripes, and Quality Street purple soldiers.

A Christmas medley interlude raises the spirit of the season to add the icing to Woking's wow Christmas cake. *Sleeping Beauty* is one of this year's top local pantos, one that adults and children alike will love.



Read Thea Diamond's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/12/13/sleep-beauty-nvw

Photography by Ian Olsson



Robin Hood

by Jack Counsel

Yvonne Arnaud Productions, at the Yvonne Arnold Theatre, Guildford until 5th January

The opening scene in Sherwood Forest has as much smoke and mystery and dazzling lighting as you would expect from a big panto, as the polished prologue opens this varied and colourful *Robin Hood*, directed by Joanna Read, who does full justice to its witty script.

A weekday matinée brings many school parties of various ages to the packed throng, and for the rest of the audience brings on that usual resentment. Why didn't we have school trips like that? (The youngsters are a lot better behaved than the adults at [Scummy Mummies](#).)



The eponymous Robin Hood is played by Ricky Oakley, whose charisma just spills over ... and he has great a singing voice. The highly engaging Safia Bartley's fiery Marion complements Robin perfectly and is a good foil for the Sheriff of Nottingham, played by Lucy Benjamin. It is refreshing not seeing a moustache-twirling male take this role, and she works hard to make being witty, monumental, delusional, and villainous seem easy. Benjamin carries it off right to her highly unusual and sticky end.

The deceptively hapless Much is slickly played by Matt Pinches, and is a perfect foil to the colourful drag of

Peter Gordon's Nanny Fanny Annie. A messily intensive bakery scene shows their close rapport, with Much taking the falls with boundless energy.

Verity Holt's skilled and detailed choreography is great fun. The costumes, particularly the colourful boots, are beautifully designed by Nancy Surman. The entire cast are intricately dressed, not forgetting the outstanding gold lamé in the curtain call. The set in predominate pink, and lighting designed by John Harris brings it to life. The backdrop of Nottingham, the kitchen and the woods stand out. Sherwood Forest is sinister and mysterious, enhanced by Josh Robins' sound.



The Merry Men include a strong Jacob Kohli as Lil Jon and Tuck as a hopeless cook. The diligent ensemble provide strong support, and vibrant songs arranged by Paul Herbert are by played by musical director Andrew Linham and his band, with great gusto.

If you go down to the Surrey woods today, you're in for a big surprise, but be sure it's Guildford's Sherwood Forest.

Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/12/11/robin-hood-gya

Photography by Craig Fuller

Alan Ayckbourn's Celebration Of Bad Manners

at the Mary Wallace Theatre - January 18th-25th

Fifty years ago Alan Ayckbourn's acclaimed comic trilogy, The Norman Conquests, opened in London's West End to resounding success. Following the events of a weekend in a faded middle-class abode in the South of England, **TABLE MANNERS** (the one set in the dining room), is the best known and possibly the funniest of this prolific author's 91 plays. Join us in an era before mobile phones and disposable contact lenses for an hilarious evening when a highly dysfunctional family are cloistered together over this disastrous weekend.

TABLE MANNERS plays at the Mary Wallace Theatre from **January 18th-25th**

Booking open now at www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk

JANUARY 6th and JANUARY 27th - A READING and OPEN AUDITIONS for the Richmond Shakespeare Society's April 2025 production of **'TIS PITY SHEE'S A WHORE**, John Ford's controversial and brutal Jacobean Revenge Tragedy. All are welcome to join us to read for roles! Further information on the website.

Find the Mary Wallace Theatre on Twickenham's Embankment, close to the Barmy Arms.



The Lido Stores Winter Show

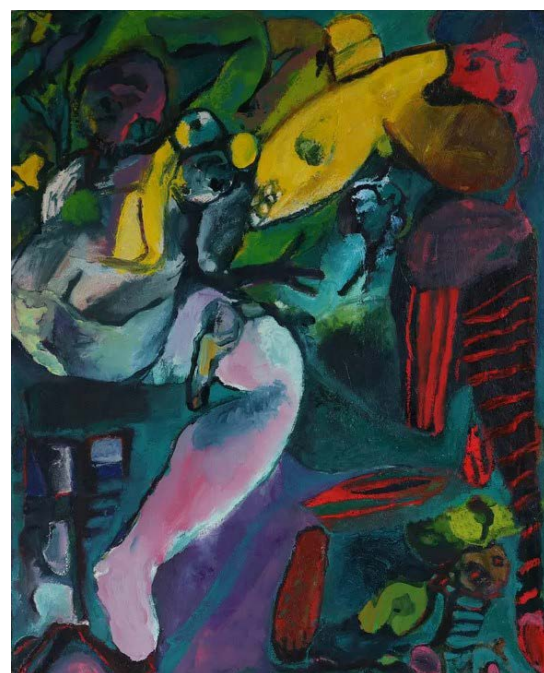
Paintings by Simon Klein, Simon Klein lives and paints in Richmond

Five of Simon's paintings will be on exhibition by the Pastel Society at the 'Benchmark' Exhibition, Mall Galleries in London. The exhibition runs from Wednesday, January 22nd to Wednesday, February 8th, 2025.

A few of Simon's paintings are currently on display at The Lido Stores Winter Show in Margate, at 2 Ethelbert Terrace, Cliftonville (CT9 1RX). The show will run until January 25.

Pastel Society 'Benchmark' Exhibition

As a new member of the Pastel Society I'll be showing 5 oil pastels at the Benchmark exhibition, at the Mall Galleries in London. The exhibition runs from Wednesday, January 22nd to Wednesday, February 8th.



The history of outdoor swimming in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames can be seen at this website: <https://lidosalive.com/other.html>

Image: Parachute ©Simon Klein

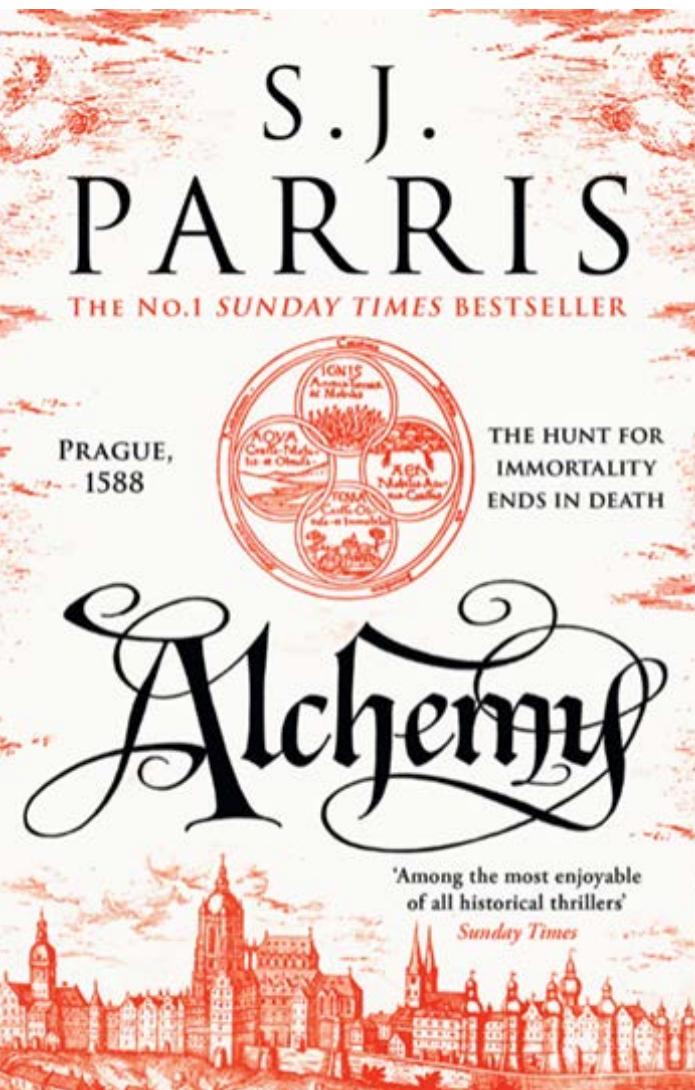
Barnes Literary Society Presents SJ Parris - Alchemy

7.30pm, Tuesday 21st January 2025
St Mary's Barnes, Church Rd, SW13 9HL

No. 1 Sunday Times bestseller SJ Parris is the pseudonym of the author and journalist Stephanie Merritt. It was as a student at Cambridge researching a paper on the period that Stephanie first became fascinated by the rich history of Tudor England and Renaissance Europe. Since then, her interest has grown and led her to create a series of historical thrillers featuring Giordano Bruno, which has now sold over one million copies.



Stephanie has worked as a critic and feature writer for a variety of newspapers and magazines, as well as radio and television. She has also written the contemporary psychological thrillers *While You Sleep* and *Storm* under her own name. She currently writes for the Observer, and she lives in Surrey.



Alchemy, the latest Giordano Bruno thriller is set in the court of the Holy Roman Emperor, Rudolf II. His court is a haven for scientists, astrologers and alchemists and his abiding passion is the elusive hunt for the philosopher's stone and thus immortality. The Catholic Church fears he has pushed too far – into the forbidden realm of heresy – while the greatest powers in Christendom are concerned about the imperial line of succession.

Giordano Bruno is sent to his court by Sir Francis Walsingham, Elizabeth 1's spymaster. His task: to contact the famous English alchemist and mystic John Dee, another of Walsingham's spies. But Bruno's arrival in Prague coincides with the brutal murder of a rival alchemist – and John Dee himself has disappeared...

S J Parris is being interviewed by Victoria Dowd, an ex-criminal law barrister and now an award-winning crime fiction author.

**BARNES
LITERARY
SOCIETY**

Dance for a cause at a silent disco fundraiser

From Landmark Arts Centre

On 15 March, residents are invited to an unforgettable evening of music, fun and community spirit in aid of Teddington Memorial Hospital.

Dance the night away with your choice of two different music channels, each streamed directly to your wireless headphones. Whether you're into classic hits, chart-toppers, or throwback anthems, there's something for everyone. Grab your friends, put on your best dancing shoes, and light up the floor!

Proceeds from the evening will go directly to the [League of Friends of Teddington Memorial Hospital](#), helping to fund essential equipment and services that ensure the best care for our community.

With a licensed bar, glow-in-the-dark accessories, and a chance to mingle with friends, this is more than just a disco—it's a celebration of Teddington coming together to make a difference.

Event details:

Early bird tickets available until 31 January 2025.

- **Date:** Saturday 15 March 2025
- **Time:** 8pm
- **Price:** from £26
- **Location:** Landmark Arts Centre, Teddington, TW11 9NN



[Book tickets](#)

Ham, Petersham & Richmond Riverside surgery

Got an issue - come to our ward surgery on Sat 4th January, between 11am-12pm in Costa on Ham Parade. No appointment necessary.

We try to sit on the big table in the back section.

It's our Councillor surgery tomorrow, 11am-12pm, Costa, Ham Parade. Come and tell us about any issues you have.

Green Party

HAM, PETERSHAM & RICHMOND RIVERSIDE

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Early Years Student Wins Jack Petchey Award for Hard Work

Level 3, Working in the Early Years Sector student, Aliesha Strange, won a Jack Petchey award last month for her hard work and commitment to her course.

She maintained 100% attendance and put 100% effort into her studies to always do her best. She is an inquisitive learner and an inspiration to her classmates.

The Jack Petchey Achievement Award Scheme recognises the positive contributions, efforts, and endeavours of young people aged 11-25 across London and Essex.

These achievements include being a great role model, volunteering, overcoming personal challenges, and supporting others over and above expectations.

Each term exceptional students are nominated by their classmates and teachers to win a Jack Petchey award. The winner receives a £300 grant, which can be used for anything that will benefit the class outside of necessary materials, which are provided by the college.



Aliesha and her class are thrilled with the award and will be deciding on how best to spend the prize money over the next few weeks.

Her tutor, Frankie, said of her success:

“Aliesha’s commitment to helping and supporting others never goes unnoticed. During her time at Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC), she has developed confidence, independence, and reliability.

She is also a helpful and mature student who has overcome barriers and works incredibly hard to produce an excellent standard of work every time. Congratulations on your achievement, Aliesha!”



**Richmond upon
Thames College**

U20 Men Name Squad for Warwick Camp

A 32-player England U20 Men's squad has been named for this weekend's camp hosted at Warwick University. Head coach Mark Mapletoft and assistant coach Andy Titterrell's team convene in the Midlands in preparation for the upcoming friendly against Cambridge RUFC and the 2025 U20 Six Nations campaign.

Josh Bellamy (Harlequins), Jack Bracken (Saracens), Exeter Chiefs' Ben Coen and Kane James and George Timmins (Bath Rugby) are the five previously-capped U20 players involved. With a largely uncapped cohort, 22 of the 32 named players have previously achieved U18 Men's caps under Jonathan Pendlebury and Will Parkin.

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is pleased to confirm that Dave Walder will join the England U20 Men's coaching staff as attack coach ahead of the Six Nations campaign. The former England senior men's international and Newcastle Falcons head coach was most recently involved with Bristol Bears as a senior attack and skills coach.

Mark Mapletoft said: *"This weekend marks our first non-regional meeting of the U20 Men's season and the energy amongst the boys has been very pleasing. With a healthy portion of our EPS in first-team action for their respective clubs, this camp offers a platform for even more players to express their talents in an U20 jersey for the first time. As well as implementing our core pathway principles, we're also tasking the squad with demonstrating ownership both on and off the field and how that relates into our Brotherhood in the U20 Men's team. Alongside these new players, we're also privileged to welcome in Dave Walder to coordinate our attack in the upcoming Six Nations and James Mealing to lead on our strength and conditioning programme for the team. Both are leaders in their respective fields and are very welcome additions to our Brotherhood."*

Tickets to see the reigning U20 Six Nations and world champions are available on general sale via [this link](#).

England U20 Men's squad for Warwick University camp (includes club and U20 Men caps)

Forwards

Aiden Ainsworth-Cave (Northampton Saints, uncapped)	Tubuna Maka (Leicester Tigers, uncapped)
Tom Burrow (Sale Sharks, uncapped)	Ralph McEachran (Sale Sharks, uncapped)
Jos Gilmore (Sale Sharks, uncapped)	Tye Raymont (Sale Sharks, uncapped)
Louie Gulley (Exeter Chiefs, uncapped)	Oli Scola (Northampton Saints, uncapped)
Reggie Hammick (Saracens, uncapped)	Jimmy Staples (Harlequins, uncapped)
Kane James (Exeter Chiefs, 9 caps)	Ollie Streeter (Harlequins, uncapped)
Seb Kelly (Sale Sharks, uncapped)	Ethan Surrey (Bristol Bears, uncapped)
Alfie Longstaff (Sale Sharks, uncapped)	George Timmins (Bath Rugby, 2 caps)
	Sam Williams (Leicester Tigers, uncapped)

Backs

Nic Allison (Exeter Chiefs, uncapped)	Nick Lilley (Exeter Chiefs, uncapped)
Josh Bellamy (Harlequins, 10 caps)	Frank McMillan (Harlequins, uncapped)
Jack Bracken (Saracens, 5 caps)	George Pearson (Leicester Tigers, uncapped)
Ben Coen (Exeter Chiefs, 5 caps)	Campbell Ridl (Exeter Chiefs, uncapped)
Ollie Davies (Sale Sharks, uncapped)	Jez Tuima (Provence, uncapped)
Charlie Griffin (Bath Rugby, uncapped)	Jonny Weimann (Northampton Saints, uncapped)
Dom Hanson (Sale Sharks, uncapped)	Toby Wilson (Sale Sharks, uncapped)
Jack Kinder (Leicester Tigers, uncapped)	

England U20 Men's confirmed 2025 fixtures

- Cambridge Rugby vs. England U20 Men – Saturday 11th January – 14:00 GMT kick-off – Ellgia Fields
- U20 Men's 2025 Six Nations Round 1 – Ireland vs. England – Thursday 30th January – 19:45 GMT kick-off – Virgin Media Park
- U20 Men's 2025 Six Nations Round 2 – England vs. France – Friday 7th February – 20:00 GMT kick-off – The Recreation Ground, Bath
- U20 Men's 2025 Six Nations Round 3 – England vs. Scotland – Friday 21st February – 19:15 GMT kick-off – Kingston Park, Newcastle
- U20 Men's 2025 Six Nations Round 4 – England vs. Italy – Friday 7th March – 19:45 GMT kick-off – The Recreation Ground, Bath
- U20 Men's 2025 Six Nations Round 5 – Wales vs. England – Friday 14th March – 19:30 GMT kick-off – Cardiff Arms Park



Match Preview: Southampton v Brentford

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of Brentford's first away Premier League game of 2025 against Southampton on Saturday (3pm kick-off GMT)

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford face Southampton at St Mary's Stadium on Saturday (3pm kick-off GMT), in the Bees' first away game of 2025.

The Saints will be looking for their second win of the season this weekend with Ivan Jurić now in charge, as they face a Bees side who are still searching for their first victory on the road this term.

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

Pre-match analysis

Richard Cole, Playmaker Stats: Expected Goals numbers will give Southampton hope

Brentford travel to the south coast to take on a struggling Southampton team in what could be a fifth win in a row over the Saints.



The Bees have had a difficult December but now have what could be a brief respite before upcoming games against Manchester City and Liverpool as they take on a team they have had the better of in recent encounters, with four consecutive victories over Saturday's opposition.

The Saints are now under new management with Ivan Jurić taking over from Russell Martin. Looking at the numbers, things do look bleak for Southampton this season and, should the Croatian coach manage to save the club from relegation, it would be a huge achievement.

Thomas Frank's side will travel to St Mary's Stadium knowing they will be facing a team who have lost seven of their nine games at home in the league this season. In those fixtures, Southampton have had just 85 shots (the lowest in the division) and fans have seen their team score just seven times (the joint-fewest goals at home alongside Everton).

Indeed, as Jurić looks to strengthen his defence, there will need to be work done at the top end of the pitch, with no Southampton player scoring more than twice in the top flight this season.

But the Saints should not be written off and the numbers show that, should Brentford take the bottom-placed team lightly, they may be punished.

Southampton may have scored just 12 times this season (the lowest in the league), but their Expected Goals (xG) show that things could have been different. In total, Southampton have an xG of 23.27, which ranks them 16th in the league - not far off 15th place Nottingham Forest (27.84xG), who are enjoying very different fortunes.

If Jurić can get his forwards firing, then they should see a drastic improvement. Cameron Archer is a threat and, considering that only four players are underperforming xG more than the forward (-2.9xG), more goals are likely to flow in the future considering his quality.

On the other end of the spectrum, midfielder Joe Aribo ranks fourth in the Premier League for xG per shot for players who have had at least 10 in total. The Nigerian is averaging 0.23xG per shot (11 efforts in total) which puts him behind only Ollie Watkins, Diogo Jota, Christopher Nkunku and Brentford's Yoane Wissa - the Bees man ranks first with 0.25xG per shot.



Another one to watch is, of course, young Tyler Dibling. Opposition defences are finding it difficult to stop the teenager, who has been fouled 35 times already this year - only seven players have drawn more fouls.

Considering that Brentford have still yet to get their first league win on the road in the 2024/25 season, Southampton may view this as a big opportunity to get back on track, something the Bees will have to be wary of.

Scout report

Dan Long, Sky Sports: Positive mindset required for Saints' survival hopes

Southampton's latest 12-year stint in the Premier League came to an end in May 2023, when they were relegated under Rubén Sellés, and, even in spite of the fact they lost the likes of James Ward-Prowse, Tino Livramento, Roméo Lavia and Nathan Tella as a result, three wins from the first four games in the Championship gave the impression they would not be back in the second tier for long.

Then they lost four in a row and the rug of positivity was ripped from beneath them. *"We want to give the fans a team to be proud of, but at the minute, we're going through a really tough moment,"* said under-fire boss Russell Martin after the 2-1 defeat at Middlesbrough on 23 September 2023.

Things flipped, though, almost in an instant. Over the course of the next five months, Saints went unbeaten in a club-record 25 games in all competitions. Coupled with Leicester's dramatic slip, it was almost enough to make them frontrunners for automatic promotion.

As the eventual top two – the Foxes and Ipswich - got back on track, Martin's side eventually had to settle for the play-offs, but they took it in their stride and, after an impressive semi-final second leg win over West Brom, edged past Leeds at Wembley to regain their top flight spot.

"I feel emotional and overwhelmed by the love and support I've had over the past nine or 10 months especially in the tougher times," said Martin after the play-off win. *"I had to validate the board's decision and justify being handed the chance. I'm so pleased for them because it wasn't an exciting appointment."*

When predictions started to get made during the off-season, Southampton were immediately installed as one of the favourites to go down.

Martin has a distinct style of play, with dominance of the ball at its heart and, in hindsight, their success this season would hinge on whether or not that could be translated against the best teams in the country.

The response was rapid. In the opener against Newcastle, they had 78 per cent possession and lost 1-0. Then, against Nottingham Forest, they had 65 per cent, and lost 1-0. Against Brentford, they had 64 per cent and lost 3-1. It was attractive and gave glimpses of promise, but the results just were not there to justify its use.

Saints had to wait until their 10th league game of the season for a win, which came when Adam Armstrong struck an 85th-minute winner at home to Everton on 2 November. They were only three points from safety at that point - just seven points separated the bottom five – so there was an element of hope in the air.

Martin had sufficient credit in the bank to see him through the next run of five games without a win. After



the November international break, they even came from behind to lead Liverpool, before Mohamed Salah's brilliance eventually shook them off. But it all came to a head on 15 December when Tottenham visited St Mary's.

With 36 seconds on the clock, James Maddison swept in the opener and with less than 15 minutes gone, Son Heung-min and Dejan Kulusevski had added a couple more. It was 5-0 at the break, with further strikes from Pape Sarr and Maddison.

The fans were leaving in their droves and many of those who had stayed started to aim their frustrations at Martin.

Little more than an hour after the final whistle, he was gone after 18 months in the job - and replaced before Christmas by former Croatia international Ivan Jurić. *"I want an aggressive team and I think that fans of Southampton will like that,"* he said after his appointment on an 18-month contract.

His first two games, against West Ham and Crystal Palace, have resulted in another two defeats, meaning Saints are now 10 points from safety with 19 games to play. *"I think we have to be positive and think positive,"* said Jurić after the first loss.

To have any chance of completing the great escape, staying positive has to be at the forefront of everyone's mind for the next five months.

In the Dugout

Ivan Jurić

Ivan Jurić started his professional career at hometown club Hajduk Split in 1993 and played for the Croatian giants for four years, prior to earning a move across Europe to Sevilla, with whom he won promotion out of the Segunda Division during the 1998/99 campaign.

The midfielder spent time on loan at Albacete in 2000, before a brief spell back in Croatia with Sibenik preceded a move to Crotona in Italy. Jurić had, arguably, the most successful personal period of his career at the Calabrian club, playing over 160 times and winning promotion to Serie B in 2003/04. He joined Genoa in 2006 and helped the club back to Serie A in his first season, with his performances eventually earning five senior caps for Croatia in 2009.

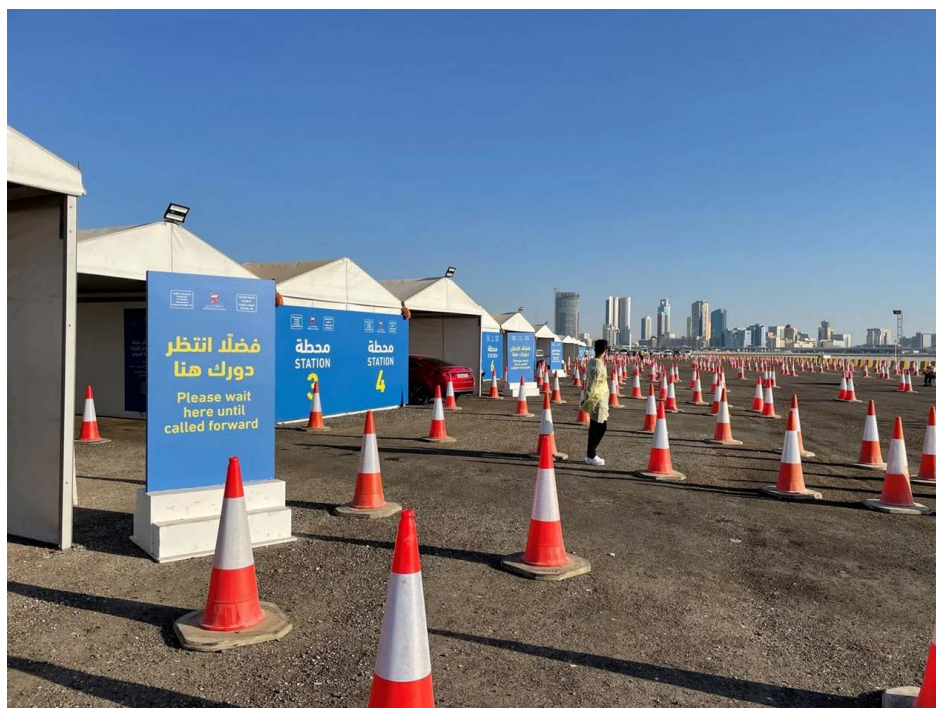
Jurić started treading the path to a management career immediately after retiring in June 2010 and worked at Genoa, Inter Milan and Palermo, before he was handed his first head coach role by Mantova in June 2014. A year later, he re-joined Crotona and, in his second season back at the club, he masterminded promotion to Serie A for the first time ever.

Three separate spells at Genoa over the course of two-and-a-half years came next before two years at Hellas Verona and three years at Torino, the latter of whom he guided to three straight top-10 finishes in Serie A between 2021/22 and 2023/24.

After departing Torino by mutual consent in the summer, Jurić replaced Daniele De Rossi at Roma on 18 September, but he lasted less than two months in the job - having won four of his 12 games in charge - and was dismissed on 10 November, seven weeks before taking on the vacant role at Southampton - the first non-Italian club he has been associated with in almost a quarter-of-a-century.



Milestone: COVID-19 five years ago



Five years ago on 31 December 2019, WHO's Country Office in China picked up a media statement by the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission from their website on cases of 'viral pneumonia' in Wuhan, China. In the weeks, months and years that unfolded after that, COVID-19 came to shape our lives and our world.

At WHO, we went to work immediately as the new year dawned. WHO employees activated emergency systems on 1 January 2020, and informed the world on 4 January. By 9-12 January, WHO had published its first set of comprehensive guidance for countries, and on 13 January, we brought together partners to publish the blueprint of the first SARS-CoV-2 laboratory test.

All along, we convened experts and ministries of health from around the world, gathered and analysed data, and shared what was reported, what we learned and what it meant for people. Read about WHO's actions in this [interactive timeline](#).

As we mark this milestone, let's take a moment to honour the lives changed and lost, recognize those who are suffering from COVID-19 and long COVID, express gratitude to the health workers who sacrificed so much to care for us, and commit to learning from COVID-19 to build a healthier tomorrow.

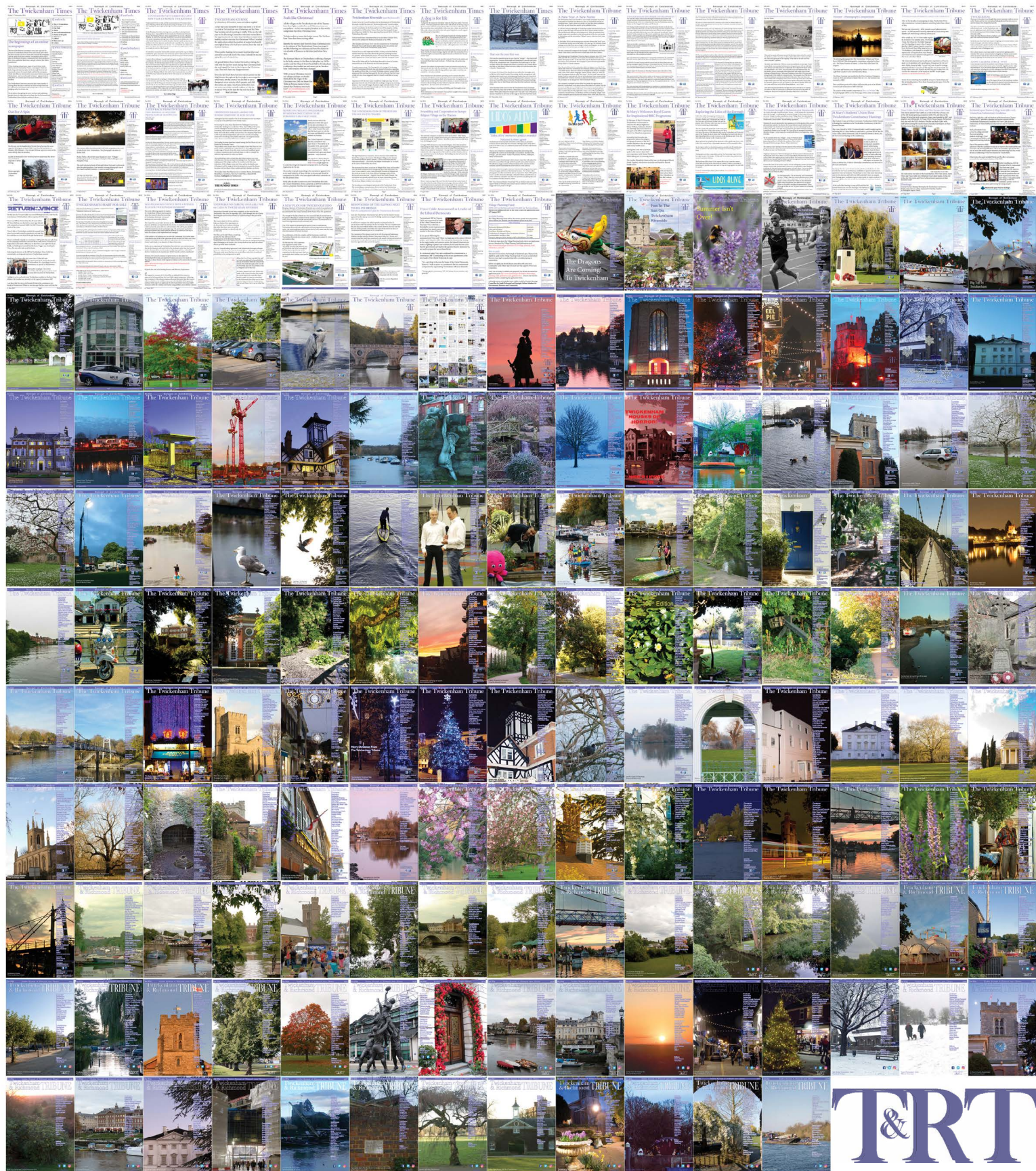
We continue to call on China to share data and access so we can understand the origins of COVID-19. This is a moral and scientific imperative. Without transparency, sharing, and cooperation among countries, the world cannot adequately prevent and prepare for future epidemics and pandemics.

As we pose the question, "Is the world better prepared for the next pandemic than we were for COVID-19?" see WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus's response at a recent press conference:

<https://who.canto.global/b/SHEJL>



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