

# Twickenham & Richmond **Tribune**



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Editors: Berkley Driscoll, Teresa Read

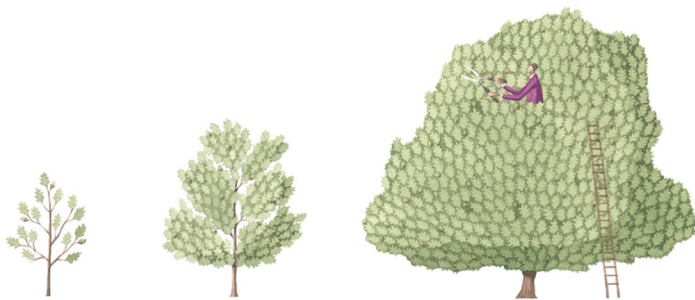


# TickerTape - News in Brief

## British Summertime Starts On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March



TwickerSeal would like to remind everyone to put their clocks forward by one hour this Sunday  
(At 1am)



**The Tree Agency**

darryl parkin

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*The Tree Agency*

2025. Intrigued he had a closer look at the borough and liked what he saw, particularly Twickenham Riverside.

He said “They’ve got this beautiful piece of riverfront land not being used properly and going to waste. I’m going to take it over. It’s going to be great. We’ll have casinos, hotels ... everyone will love it. It will be one of the greatest and most spectacular developments of its kind on Earth. It will be a new Riviera. There will be a big statue. A gold statue. It will be beautiful”

Asked if he intended on making Richmond Borough the USA’s 51st state, he answered “Were going to Make Twickenham Great Again!”



# Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 294

## St Catherines Girls School

By Alan Winter

St Catherine's School is a Catholic private school for girls in Cross Deep, Twickenham. The school is next to the River Thames and about two-thirds of a mile (1.1 km) from both Strawberry Hill and Twickenham railway stations.

Our three postcards this week were all published when the school was located at Popes Villa and are dated from the 1920's (tennis view), the 1930's (Road View) and the last postcard shows the covered playground which is dated from the 1940's.



So, a bit of history about the school. In 1914 the Sisters of

Mercy came to Twickenham at the request of Canon English (Parish Priest of St. James') to open a fee-paying school for the children of "middle-class" parents for whom there was no Catholic School provision. The school was named after St. Catherine of Siena.



It started life in a large house near Twickenham Green, St Catherine's then moved to Orford Lodge (now demolished) and in 1919 to Pope's Villa, on the site of Alexander Pope's original villa with its buildings and grounds on both sides of Cross Deep joined by the underground passage known as Pope's

Grotto. By 1920 there were 100 children in the school of whom about 20 were boarders.

In 1948 an adjacent property named The Lawn was purchased and by March 1949 had been converted and extended. The ground floor was used as School Kitchens and Dining Room and the First Floor for the teaching of Domestic Science (Cookery and Housecraft) and extra classrooms.

In 1954 a pre-fabricated Hall with good stage facilities was built and paid for entirely by the parents. This gave facilities for Drama and Concert work which the school had needed for a long time.



By the late 1960's it was possible to have a full two form entry school as a result of the continuous building programme, the most substantial changes being St. Josephs building in 1959 and the Science block in 1960. A third floor was added to St. Josephs in 1966. St. Catherine's

was the first school locally to build an indoor swimming pool (1969). In 1978 a new Zoology Laboratory was built under the existing Science Block.

In 1991 the Sisters of Mercy moved out of St Catherine's, after 77 years of dedicated service. They sold the 'river side' site and a charitable trust was set up by the parents, who purchased the 'garden' site and appointed the first lay Headmistress in order to ensure that the school would continue to function and thrive.

Former pupils include the radio and Television broadcaster Annie Nightingale (1940-2024) and three well known actresses and performers, Bonnie Langford (b.1964), Patsy Kensit (b.1968) and Olivia Hallinan (b.1986).

So today the school continues to thrive as a Roman Catholic school for girls aged 3-18 with a total enrolment figure of 430.

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

# CrusaderTravel



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# Local Councillor calls on Government to Step in to Repair Teddington Lock Gates

From RNLI and Cllr. Chas Warlow, Councillor for South Richmond

Work by the Environment Agency started over a year ago to repair the main lock at Teddington has been stopped. Additionally, repairs to the unreliable secondary lock are ongoing but there is no permanent fix date in sight.

These faults mean delays for those using the river for business or pleasure, as well as emergency services such as the London Fire Brigade, Metropolitan Police and the RNLI.

Matt Allchurch, Lifeboat Operations Manager at Teddington RNLI stated, 'the issues with the locks at Teddington can mean that we lose vital minutes when reaching those who have got into trouble on the river upstream from Teddington Lock towards Kingston, our busiest area. We are hopeful that the work of the Environment Agency will resolve the current difficulties soon.'



Green Party councillor, Chas Warlow has raised the issue with Leader of Richmond Council Gareth Roberts, who replied that the matter is for the Environment Agency to resolve. He added in his response that 'We will keep trying.'

Chas said, 'River users and the general public need to know that emergency services can respond effectively and efficiently. The situation is surely unacceptable – government ministers need to step in to find a solution to this problem.'

## Twickenham Riverside Police

Twickenham Riverside recently conducted our quarterly PLG meeting alongside our local councillors and residents. A big thank you to everyone that came and took part, as always your input is greatly appreciated.



A colorful poster for ETNA's 40th Anniversary. The text reads: 'COME &amp; JOIN US TO CELEBRATE ETNA's 40th Anniversary Sunday 18th May 12 Noon - 4pm FREE ENTRY'. Below this, it lists 'Events' including Bouncy Castle, Face Painting, Hot Dogs, Turkish Pancakes, Cream Teas, Refreshments, Popcorn, Live Music and Performances, Bake-Off and more! It also provides contact information: 'For more information: 13 Rosslyn Road TW1 2AR www.etnacentre.org'.

Please join us for ETNA's 40th anniversary celebrations, open to all!



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**



# HAMPTON CHORAL SOCIETY

## BRAHMS GERMAN REQUIEM

**Saturday 29 March 2025, 7.30pm**

**Musical Director Emma Warren  
with professional soloists & musicians**

**St James's Church, St James's Road  
Hampton Hill, TW12 1DQ**

**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)**

# Sixty Years of Richmond upon Thames

By James Knight

## A Diamond Jubilee Quietly Marked

The 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2025 marks sixty years since the formation of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames – a borough celebrated for its heritage, natural beauty, and civic engagement, yet often marked by political contradictions, administrative complexity, and deepening inequalities. While Richmond Council has chosen not to formally commemorate the Diamond Jubilee, the milestone offers an important opportunity to reflect on the borough's origins, its evolution, and the challenges that continue to shape life here.



From the banks of the Thames to the suburbs of Whitton and Barnes, the borough today still reflects the tensions of its formation – a union of three distinct communities brought together by legislation, not by popular will. As Richmond turns sixty, it remains one of the most unique – and paradoxical – boroughs in London.

## Origins: A Product of Postwar Reform

Richmond upon Thames was established on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1965, under the London Government Act 1963, as part of a major overhaul of local government in the capital. The new borough combined the former municipal boroughs of Twickenham (Middlesex) and Richmond and Barnes (both in Surrey). These were not merely lines on a map – each had its own civic identity, local institutions, and sense of place. The merger created a borough that, to this day, stretches across both sides of the Thames – the only one in London to do so.

The reform aimed to streamline services and create more efficient governance, but the creation of Richmond upon Thames also generated local unease. Many residents in Twickenham opposed being absorbed into a larger body that bore the name of their neighbouring town. Even now, locals in areas such as Barnes, Whitton, or Ham may still refer to their immediate community, rarely identifying with the borough as a whole.

## A Short-Lived Era of the GLC

The newly created borough sat within the larger framework of the Greater London Council (GLC) – a strategic authority tasked with managing transport, emergency planning, waste disposal, and other citywide services. For boroughs like Richmond, the GLC was both a support and a source of frustration.

In time, Richmond and many of its peers campaigned for greater autonomy, arguing that the GLC stifled local decision-making, was bureaucratic and saw London only through the prism of inner London. These tensions came to a head under Margaret Thatcher's government, which abolished the GLC in 1986. The absence of a citywide authority for more than a decade left boroughs to fend for themselves, often creating fragmented services and a lack of strategic coherence.

The establishment of the Greater London Authority (GLA) in 2000 was meant to restore regional leadership, with a directly elected Mayor and Assembly. However, the balance of power remains fraught, with boroughs like Richmond continuing to press for more control over housing, planning, and local transport. The borough has often been sceptical of citywide mandates, reflecting its strong localist culture.

## A Borough of Contrasts

From the opulence of York House in Twickenham to the village greens of Barnes and the leafy avenues of Teddington, Richmond upon Thames is often described as a borough of beauty and affluence. It boasts vast green spaces – including Richmond Park, Bushy Park, Kew Gardens, and the riverside – and

has largely resisted the high-rise skyline seen elsewhere in London.

But this preservation has come at a cost. Housing activists and planners warn that the borough's resistance to denser development has helped fuel a local housing crisis. While the draft Local Plan does include more mid-rise homes in town centres, the council's slow delivery of affordable and social housing has seen it fail the housing delivery test, which means the Presumption in favour of sustainable development applies. This means planning applications must be approved, even if they go against the local plan; unless the adverse impacts significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits.

### **Governance and Public Life**

Richmond's political control has alternated between the main parties over the decades, often mirroring national politics but just as often driven by hyper-local issues – from bus routes and planning applications to library closures. Local engagement remains relatively strong, with above-average turnout in local elections.

Yet despite its high levels of civic participation, the borough is marked by stark internal disparities. While areas like Richmond and central Twickenham enjoy sustained investment, parts of Heathfield, North Richmond, West Twickenham and Ham struggle with limited services and poorer outcomes in health, education, and income. The closure of Heathfield Library in 2011 still serves as a symbol of these unequal priorities.

### **Transport and the Environment**

While the borough is well-connected in some areas, others face poor bus coverage, unreliable rail services, and bottlenecks. Cycling infrastructure, once a local policy priority, has lagged behind that of other boroughs. Richmond is now seen as one of the slowest to adopt a strategic, protected cycling network – a serious issue in a borough that otherwise prides itself on sustainability.

Environmental stewardship is often cited as one of Richmond's key strengths, and rightly so. But even here, contradictions abound. Local campaigns have had to fight off threats to green spaces – notably on Ham Lands in the early 1980s – and growing air and noise pollution from Heathrow continues to erode quality of life in many parts of the borough.

### **Education, Housing, and Inequality**

Richmond is home to several top-performing schools, making it attractive to families. However, the cost of living has made it increasingly hard for teachers, NHS workers, and even some middle-income earners to live within the borough they serve.

Housing is the most urgent and unresolved issue. Richmond has one of the smallest social housing stocks in London – just 12.5% of homes are owned by housing associations. Following the abolition of the GLC, residents also lost access to citywide housing lists. Today, those seeking a three-bedroom home face waits of five years or more if considered high priority – and no realistic chance if not.

Despite its wealth, Richmond has not been immune to the cost-of-living pressures. Food banks have seen record demand, and local charities report a rise in residents needing support for basic needs – evidence that the borough's image of affluence hides a deeper, more troubling reality for many.

### **Experiments with Devolution**

In the early 1980s, Richmond Council embarked on a series of experiments in localism by establishing Area Consultative Committees – forums designed to devolve decision-making and give residents a greater voice in shaping their neighbourhoods. These were later restructured into “village” groupings, intended to reflect the borough's strong sense of place and identity.

Village action plans and planning guidance were developed with input from local communities, and residents were given opportunities to engage directly with councillors and officers on issues specific to

their area. In Ham, the model went further still, resulting in the adoption of a formal Neighbourhood Plan which remains in effect and carries legal weight in planning decisions.

However, when the Liberal Democrats regained control of the council, the village system was abolished and decision-making was re-centralised at the Town Hall. While framed as a move towards more streamlined governance, the decision has been criticised for creating an uneven playing field – with residents in Ham retaining formal influence through their Neighbourhood Plan, while those in other parts of the borough now have fewer mechanisms to shape the future of their communities.

### **An Uncertain Future for Local Democracy**

As Richmond upon Thames enters its seventh decade, it does so amid renewed debate about the shape of local government in London. Financial pressures have forced many boroughs, including Richmond, to share services with neighbouring councils, raising concerns about transparency and accountability. Rumours persist that the government is considering further consolidation – potentially reducing the number of boroughs across London.

For a borough like Richmond, founded on administrative compromise, such proposals carry significant implications. What would it mean for local democracy if further mergers occurred? Would the voices of areas like Whitton or Ham be heard in even larger boroughs? These are live questions – not just for policymakers, but for residents who want to preserve a say in how their communities are run.

### **The Cost of Preservation**

The story of Richmond upon Thames is one of beauty, civic pride, and political independence – but also of inertia, imbalance, and rising inequality. It remains a borough that many love to live in, but few can afford to move to. While its resistance to overdevelopment has preserved much of its character, it has also created barriers to entry, particularly for younger generations and key workers.

Richmond is now among the London boroughs with the highest council tax rates, adding further pressure to those already struggling with housing and living costs. As the borough marks 60 years, it must confront a central paradox: whether its commitment to protecting the past is undermining its ability to meet the needs of the present – and the future.

## **Iconic Venues In The London Borough Of Richmond Upon Thames**



Richmond Ice Rink Closed 1992  
[https://icerinx.com/project\\_story.html](https://icerinx.com/project_story.html)



*Twickenham Lido 1960s, Image courtesy of Alan Winter*

Twickenham Outside Swimming Pool Closed 1980  
<https://lidosalive.com/twickenham.html>

Dear Editor,

### Avian observations

Walking westwards along the Thames' towpath today, my companion pointed out a white bird in flight, which landed in the side-channel just before the Twickenham road bridge.

It appears to be a Little Egret (*Egretta Garzetta*), a small white heron. The bird became extinct in Britain due to its regular appearance on feast tables in medieval times and, later, the popularity of its white plumes in millinery. However, it made a comeback in the latter part of the last century.

My iPhone informed me that it was a Snowy Egret, which would have been remarkable, as that bird is found mainly in the Americas, with only occasional 'vagrants' seen in Europe. Apple AI clearly isn't yet as clever as it's made out to be.

The Little Egret and the Snowy Egret now co-exist together in Barbados, having flown to the island - not unlike Canadian and British holidaymakers sharing the same beaches on the 'Platinum Coast'!

The first photo shows it wading, its neck 'coiled', ready for action. The second photo was taken just after it had thrust its black beak into and out of the water, holding what might be an unfortunate frog.

It was very special to see such a beautiful bird in close proximity.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Haydn-Williams  
Richmond



# Stop the Danger—Make Our Streets Safe Again!

Submitted by Twickenham Conservative Association

Residents across the constituency are telling us the same thing on the doorstep: they are fed up with the lack of action on illegal e-bikes tearing along our pavements. Time and again, people raise this issue at public meetings, but nothing changes. The council and the police are failing to take responsibility. In the meantime, pedestrians—especially the elderly, children, and those with disabilities—are being put at serious risk.

*We must stand up for our right to walk freely and safely on our streets!*

This scourge is visible in town centres across the borough, where heavy, battery-powered bikes and scooters race along pavements at alarming speeds, narrowly missing pedestrians. Many of these vehicles are unregistered, unregulated, and often illegally modified to exceed speed limits. Yet, enforcement is practically non-existent despite clear laws prohibiting their use on pavements.



We recognise that e-bikes and similar personal transport options are a valuable addition to London’s travel network, offering an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional transport. However, their reputation is being undermined by widespread misuse—particularly by individuals and many food courier companies.

At Police Liaison Group (PLG) meetings, across the constituency, exasperated residents have demanded action, only to be met with buck-passing and bureaucratic inertia. One resident relayed their frustration: “A local councillor initially told me this was a police matter, yet when I brought it to the police at the PLG, they suggested it was for the council to address. In the meantime, nothing has changed, and pedestrians are still being put in danger.”

This dithering by the authorities is simply unacceptable. Richmond Council hides behind feeble excuses, while the police acknowledge the issue but fail to produce a meaningful enforcement strategy. The lack of action is even more concerning when one considers the council’s legal obligations under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Section 17 of the Act clearly states that local authorities must consider crime and disorder in all their activities and introduces a partnership approach of tackling crime alongside the police. This is not just a question of political will—it is a legal duty that Richmond Council is flagrantly ignoring.

A recent report featured in *Cycling Weekly* revealed that police forces across the UK have experienced a surge in illegal e-bike seizures, many of which are linked to criminal activity such as mobile phone snatching. The absence of proper policing locally has created a situation that criminals readily exploit, while law-abiding pedestrians and road users bear the consequences.



With no clear action plan from either Richmond Council or the local police, frustrated residents are left wondering: will it take a serious injury—or worse, a fatality—before the authorities take the matter seriously? The law is unambiguous: cycling on pavements is illegal, and unregulated, high-powered e-bikes present a new serious safety risk.

One individual has been conspicuously absent is Councillor Alexander Ehmann, the Liberal Democrat Chair

of the Transport and Air Quality Committee. Despite widespread and growing concern from residents, Councillor Ehmann has not taken ownership of the issue. He has failed to exert pressure on major courier companies to remove riders who endanger pedestrians, nor has he spearheaded any initiative to tackle the problem. His inaction raises serious questions—not just about his commitment to public safety but also about his priorities.

Councillor Ehmann has long sought to present himself as a champion of environmentally friendly transport—despite achieving little of substance during his tenure. He is often seen orchestrating photo opportunities on cargo bikes and attempting to rebrand government-led initiatives as his own. Yet, when it comes to confronting the reckless misuse of e-bikes that endanger pedestrians, he has chosen silence over leadership. This is not environmental advocacy—it is negligence. This issue will only worsen until Ehmann prioritises public safety over political posturing.

It is time for action. The residents of Richmond deserve better than a council and police force that look the other way. Our streets and pavements must be made safe again, and that begins with real leadership—not empty rhetoric and inertia.



# Friendship Concert

From Richmond in Europe Association

On Sunday 27 April 2025 the Richmond in Europe Association will host an international concert with musicians of the Royal Academy of Music in aid of the charities Home-Start and Richmond Borough MIND, which are supported by the Association's patron, the Mayor of Richmond. The concert recognises Richmond's connections with our twinned towns of Fontainebleau in France and Konstanz in Germany, and forms part of a series of events culminating in a weekend of celebration on 6th-8th June 2025 to reaffirm our enduring friendship embodied in the twinning.

The concert follows on from the very successful 'Togetherness' concert which was staged in April 2024 and will once again take place at St Mary's Church Twickenham. The ensemble of singers, Regina Gössel, Milette Gillow, Clara Orif and Elinor Popham, accompanied by pianist Jack Redman, will perform songs and arias in French, German and English, reflecting the language of the twinned towns, on a theme of friendship and the sense of belonging and connection across cultures that music can provide.

Event details:

- Date: Sunday 27 April 2025
- Time: 5.30 to 7.15pm
- Location: St Mary's Church, Twickenham, TW1 3DT
- Price: £20 for adults, free entry for those aged 18 and under



## Next week at Richmond Council

On Wednesday evening, the **Adult Social Services Committee** will meet to discuss (1) the annual report from the L&Q housing association and (2) the Joint Health and overview and scrutiny committee updates. The meeting commences at 7.00 pm, at York House, Twickenham. For full details, please follow the link [HERE](#)

On Thursday evening, the **Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee** will meet to discuss (1) recycling bins in South Richmond, (2) increasing women & girls participation in sports & physical activity, (3) how to reduce waste sent to incineration, (4) parks event policy. The meeting commences at 7.00 pm, at York House, Twickenham. For full details, please follow the link [HERE](#)

Also, on Thursday morning, the **Licensing Subcommittee** will meet to discuss the opposed application by Harvest Heaven, a new supermarket opening in the former Lloyds Bank building in Twickenham. The meeting commences at 10:30 a.m. and will be held online. 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. Please refer to the guidance [HERE](#) on participating at different types of council meetings.



# Children's Services Hit by NI Funding Rift

James Knight

At this week's Education and Children's Services Committee, Richmond Council faced increasing criticism over its management of kinship care, the future of its joint children's services company was questioned, and its approach to child poverty was put under scrutiny. While councillors expressed their commitment to supporting families and children, many questioned whether the Liberal Democrats are doing enough to translate its warm words into meaningful action.

## **Kinship Care: Good Intentions, Slow Progress**

The meeting began with an update on the Council's efforts to assist kinship carers—relatives or close family friends who look after children unable to live with their parents. Richmond currently has 18 children in formal kinship care, but many more have informal arrangements that do not receive the same level of support, estimated to be between another 100 – 200 families.

Richmond has joined a national programme called Foundations to enhance support for these carers. However, councillors acknowledged slow progress, and carers still lack reliable access to financial assistance, housing support, or educational services. National regulations now require councils to publish clear local offers for kinship families, and Richmond is under pressure to catch up. Many felt the Government is pursuing a more prescriptive approach whilst not providing the funding to match these new commitments.

## **Children's Services Partnership at Risk of Falling Apart**

The committee also approved the Achieving for Children (AfC) budget, a not-for-profit company that provides children's services in Richmond, Kingston, Windsor and Maidenhead.

Serious concerns were raised about the financial issues stemming from Windsor and Maidenhead Council's refusal to meet their share of the increased national insurance contributions (estimated to be £352,200), with councillors questioning why they were asked to sign off on the budget with such serious issues unresolved. Earlier this year, Windsor & Maidenhead Council was on the brink of bankruptcy and required emergency assistance from the government. Its request to raise council tax by 25% was denied, limiting the increase to 8.99%. Despite this bailout, it's not out of the woods yet, and many fear it could still slide into bankruptcy unless further drastic action is taken to reduce costs.

Richmond councillors voiced concern that Windsor & Maidenhead may not be able to pay its full share by the end of the year, which could create pressure on Richmond and Kingston councils to cover the deficit. While AfC asserts that each council's contribution is separate, shared costs such as staffing and contracts could still result in Richmond taxpayers shouldering the burden.

Even more concerning is the risk that the partnership with Windsor & Maidenhead may fail. If that occurs, Richmond could face significant costs to rebuild children's services independently—a process that would be costly and complex and could disrupt services for the families in the local community.

## **Child Poverty Report: Mind the 14 Year Gap**

Next, councillors reviewed the long-overdue Child Poverty Needs Assessment. Although the

report offers detailed data and insights, it came seven years after the Liberal Democrats took control of the council in 2018, and 14 years after the last child poverty strategy was formulated.

The report indicates that approximately 2,800 children in Richmond (8.5%) live in relative poverty, with higher figures in certain areas of Hampton, Heathfield, Ham, and Mortlake. It also emphasises the challenges faced by children in large families, single-parent households, ethnic minority communities, and those with special needs. Disadvantaged children in Richmond are increasingly falling behind their classmates in school as they grow older, with a performance at GCSE 33% below their peers, with this attainment gap wider than the national average.

### **Council Must Do More Than Talk**

Recent discussions in the council chamber have revealed the Liberal Democrats' stringent stance on council tax relief, adversely affecting the most vulnerable residents in our borough. During the Budget Meeting, the Green Party disclosed that the council has a strict policy of denying all applications for Section 13A council tax relief. They highlighted a case involving a single mother who, despite being eligible, missed the application deadline and faced harsh consequences. As a result of this denial, her benefits were reduced, pushing her further into poverty. While councils have a legal obligation to review such requests fairly, and applicants can appeal to the valuation tribunal, many in the public remain unaware of the available relief and the appeal process.

As Richmond deals with rising expenses, increasing demands, and uncertain partnerships, the Council must begin making decisions that genuinely align with its commitments; otherwise, those in urgent need will keep waiting as empty promises replace tangible action.

## **Local school takes initiative for cleaner streets**

From Trafalgar Schools

Trafalgar Schools Federation has undertaken some proactive steps to address the pressing issue of dog fouling around the school premises.

Trafalgar Schools' students have channelled their creativity into crafting colourful posters designed to raise awareness about responsible pet ownership and the importance of keeping streets clean. These posters are proudly displayed around the school premises and local community areas.

Year 1 infant children have been actively involved in making placards and demonstrating outside the school. Their enthusiasm and dedication serve as a gentle reminder to pet owners about their responsibilities.

Further to past clean-up efforts by the Council, Trafalgar Schools are campaigning for the Council's continued support in reducing dog mess around the school. They have contacted the local MP Munira Wilson to canvass her support for creating a safer environment for children.

As an integral part of our community, Trafalgar Schools are committed to ensuring a clean and safe environment for school children and the wider community. They urge all members of the community to remain vigilant and report any dog fouling issues to the Council. It is believed that raising awareness among our community will help to achieve significant improvements in the local environment.





JOIN THE MAYOR OF RICHMOND,  
 CLLR RICHARD PYNE FOR  
 THE MAYOR'S CHARITY EVENING



# Amitié Freundschaft Friendship



A Musical Celebration of European Friendship  
 Hosted by the Mayor, Cllr Richard Pyne  
 and the Richmond in Europe Association. Featuring:



Jack Redman  
 (Piano)



Regina Gossel  
 (Soprano)



Clara Orif  
 (Soprano)



Milette Gillow  
 (Mezzo Soprano)



Elinor Popham  
 (Soprano)

5.30-7.15pm  
 Sunday 27th April 2025  
 Tickets £20 per adult  
 Under 18s Free

St Mary's Church  
 Church Street  
 Twickenham  
 TW1 3NJ

Light Refreshments  
 sold in the interval

THE MAYOR'S CHARITIES THIS YEAR ARE: HOME START RICHMOND AND RICHMOND MIND

Designed and Produced by Richmond and Wandsworth Design & Print. wdp@wandsworth.gov.uk MP162 A4 (11.24). Illustration © iStock - softulka



Advanced booking is recommended  
 given the success of last year's concert.  
 Tickets £20, available now by booking online:  
[www.richmond.gov.uk/council/councillors/mayor/mayors\\_charities](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/council/councillors/mayor/mayors_charities)



## March Food And Drink News

Spring has sprung and everything's looking brighter! We're great fans of falafels - they are so delicious, and can be eaten cold, or popped into the air fryer and served in a wrap or with a dip for a quick lunch. Our favourite brand is Gosh! **Gosh!** offers a range of nourishing plant-based food, packed with protein, vegetables and no nasties, Its range includes Moroccan Spiced Falafel, Mediterranean Falafel, Beetroot Falafel and Sweet Potato Pakora. Gosh! is available in [Tesco](#), [Sainsbury's](#), [Morrisons](#) and [ASDA](#), RRP from: £2.20



**Herbamare® Herb Sea Salt** is unrefined sea salt, infused with 13 fresh organic herbs and vegetables. It's unique in the way it's traditionally harvested by hand, from unique salt marshes in Aigues-Mortes, an area of France known for its rich agricultural land. Organically grown herbs and vegetables are then steeped with the sea salt for many months to capture the distinctive quality and flavour. Herbamare® Herb Sea Salt combines the following vegetables and herbs: celery leaves, leek, cress (water and garden), onion, chive, parsley, lovage, garlic, basil, marjoram, rosemary, thyme and kelp. It contains 94.9% sea salt and 5.1% herbs and vegetables. Available in herb, low salt or spicy, it's really great and healthy too. From around £3 in health food shops and chemists.

My breakfasts have improved immensely recently with the addition of flaxseeds. Adding **Linwoods organic, cold-milled flaxseeds** to your daily routine is a smart move for your heart, waistline, and even (men please note) your prostate. The fibre in flaxseeds binds to cholesterol in the digestive tract, helping your body flush it out before it causes problems. Lowering cholesterol is one of the best ways to reduce your risk of heart disease, and flaxseeds offer a simple, natural addition to your diet. Flaxseeds are packed with fibre, which can keep you feeling fuller longer, stabilise blood sugar levels and may reduce cravings... a simple way to feel full without overloading on calories. With their unique combination of soluble and insoluble fibre, they may also help prevent constipation, regulate bowel movements, and support a healthy gut microbiome. Quite the superfood! I'm particularly partial to the mix of **Organic Flaxseed, Sunflower, Pumpkin & Chia & Goji Berries** - fabulous with yogurt and fruit. Around £4 a pack from health food shops.



One of Australia's iconic and favourite chocolate biscuits is now available in the UK, exclusively in Waitrose. **Tim Tam Extra Chocolatey** has officially now landed and it's rather special! It's extra chocolatey, with an additional layer of milk chocolate coating. It's crunchy, with a velvety cream filling... and if, like me, you're a fan of that well-known British biscuit that you can 'ppppick up' you'll be on cloud 9! **Tim Tam Extra Chocolatey** is £1.85 for a pack of nine biscuits in **Waitrose**. Original, Chewy Caramel and Dark variants are also available at other supermarkets including Ocado, Sainsbury and Tesco.

Are you partial to ketchup and hot sauce? And are you trying to avoid added sugar? Now you can keep it fresh with [Vadasz's](#) recently launched range of table sauces, made with all natural ingredients. The range includes **Kimchi Ketchup, Hot Pepper Sauce and Hot Jalapeno Sauce**, made by harnessing the natural and health preserving benefits of pickling and fermenting. According to founder Nick Vadasz, "With the average bottle of ketchup containing 78 grams of sugar, it's no surprise that people are looking for healthier, vegetable based fermented sauces." These are lower in sugar than traditional ketchup and contain probiotics, for gut health and immunity. These sauces are great with eggs, in a sandwich, drizzled over fries or in a burger and will add mild heat and a savoury tang to all manner of recipes. £4.50 - £4.75 for 250g, available from the chiller section at selected Waitrose and Sainsbury's stores nationwide.



I know I've written about **Pep & Lekker** crackers before, but I wanted to let you know that these delicious functional snacks are now also available in packs of pocket-size savoury biscuits. Bound with olive oil versus planet-unfriendly palm oil or vegetable oils, this gluten-free treat has no added sugar, (securing its natural sweetness from apple puree and chicory inulin) There are two varieties - Rosemary and Original - and they are also high in fibre and beneficial omega 3's (plus beneficial protein and magnesium.) Available in 110g boxes, containing approximately nine crackers, they are available for around £2.75 from Amazon.

You can add spontaneity to your slow cooked meals now with a great new range from **M&S**. Forget the planning needed, and that cumbersome slow cooker, and check out the options for a quick and easy, but really delicious slow cooked meal. There are family-sized packs, as well as meals for two, which take just 60 minutes or less (compared to hours of cooking). M&S has travelled the world for this range, one that includes **Middle Eastern Chicken Shawarma, Beef Chilli, Fajita Spiced British Chicken, Carolina BBQ British Pork, Lamb Massaman Shanks, Salt Beef and Teriyaki Beef** to name just a few. They give maximum flavour with minimal effort, and prices start from around £9 for two. And of course M&S also sells all the ideal accompaniments, such as guacamole, salsa, naan and tortillas.



And finally, a range of superb salad dressings, just in time for the better weather. Born out of a desire to be different, **All Dressed Up** is the brainchild of Leith's trained chef, Tess Reed, who wanted to create a brand that not only looked and tasted great, but was good for you too. Using all natural ingredients, and never UHPFs, the dressings are all refined sugar free, gluten free and dairy free. There are four: Everyday House (classic French); Miso & Sesame (zingy Asian style) Tahini & Lime (zesty Middle Eastern) and Spicy Harissa (fiery style to pack a punch). They come in squeeze bottles and will liven up

a whole range of dishes, not just leaves. Available from Ocado, Wholefoods, Bayley & Sage, DELLI and [alldressedupdressings.com](http://alldressedupdressings.com) £5.99 for a 250ml bottle.

## Indian Kitchens: Treasured Family Recipes From Across The Land

Attention all fans of Indian food - this great new book has been published this week. It's a vivid, contemporary portrait of a country through its food and the people who make it. In this joyful new book, **Roopa Gulati** travels through India and celebrates the wonderfully varied food that makes up a nation, making pitstops at the homes of the people who cook it every day. The result is over 100 delicious, fresh and vibrant recipes that you'll want to cook from time and again. From dals to masalas, and quick and easy suppers to feasts for a crowd, the easy-to-follow recipes are bursting with authentic flavours using ingredients found in our local supermarkets. Recipes include aubergine pakoras with onion and tamarind relish; potato and paneer tikki, sweetcorn bhajis; Tandoori sea bass; home-style Punjabi chicken curry; phirni with honey, and pistachio and cardamom biscuits. From the monsoon-washed backwaters of Kerala to the crowded markets of Mumbai, and from remote kitchens in Gujarat to the old French quarter of Pondicherry, this celebration of regional cooking will bring the sights, sounds and flavours of India to your table.



**Roopa Gulati** is all about making the most of Indian spices in your own kitchen. Brought up in Cumbria, she crossed continents and worked as a chef in New Delhi's kitchens, where she cooked in huge hotels, street bazaars, palace kitchens, TV studios and on stoves across India. Now based in London, Roopa continues to create recipes, write about food and share her skills with fans of regional Indian cooking.

***Indian Kitchens: Treasured family recipes from across the land* by Roopa Gulati is out 27<sup>th</sup> March. Recipe photography by Yuki Sugiura (Bloomsbury Publishing, Hardback, £26)**

Here are a couple of recipes to tempt you to buy the book.

### GOAN CHORIZO ROLLS Serves 6

*“Goan food is varied and diverse and many dishes reflect a Portuguese heritage, with adopted recipes being adapted to suit local preferences and homegrown produce. Often made at home, Goan chorizo is fiery and seasoned with Indian spices, which include turmeric, cumin and cinnamon. I've used a ready-made hot chorizo here, which keeps this recipe simple. Make this for a weekend brunch – it can be scaled up for a crowd too.”*

- 4 tbsp sunflower oil
- 2 large onions, thinly sliced
- 450g spicy cooking chorizo, skin removed, broken into 1cm pieces
- 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 2 green chillies, deseeded and finely chopped



- 2 large tomatoes, roughly chopped
- 3 tbsp white wine vinegar 2 tbsp chopped coriander
- 6 soft white burger rolls, split and buttered
- salt and ground black pepper

1. Heat the oil in a frying pan on a medium–low heat and cook the sliced onions with salt to season for 15–20 minutes, stirring often, until browned.
2. Add the chorizo and fry for 5 minutes, until it releases oil and starts to colour. Stir in the garlic, green chillies, tomatoes and vinegar and continue cooking for 2–3 minutes, until the tomatoes begin to soften.
3. Add the coriander, check the seasoning, and generously fill the mixture into the buttered rolls. Serve straight away.

### **PISTACHIO & CARDAMOM BISCUITS makes 18-20**

*“Even today, street hawkers in the old quarter of many cities will carry or push makeshift charcoal ovens fashioned out of tin drums. Biscuits such as nan khatai are baked on the go in these ovens and sold while still warm in paper bags. I’ve added semolina to this dough for crunch and a little gram flour to provide toasty flavour and crumbly texture.”*

- 25g pistachio nuts
- 40g self-raising flour, sifted 25g gram flour, sifted
- 20g fine semolina
- ½ tsp baking powder pinch of sea salt
- 6 green cardamom pods, seeds removed
- 40g icing sugar, sifted
- 100g unsalted butter, softened

#### **FOR THE TOPPING**

- 1 tbsp pistachio nuts, roughly chopped
- 1 tsp granulated sugar

1. Put the pistachio nuts in a food processor with the flour, gram flour, semolina, baking powder and salt and process until the nuts are finely ground.
2. In a mortar, using the pestle, grind the cardamom seeds with 1 teaspoon of the icing sugar to a powder. Leave to one side.
3. Beat the butter, remaining icing sugar and the ground cardamom until creamy, then stir in the dry ingredients, gently bringing everything together with your hands to a soft dough.
4. Using your hands, divide and shape the dough into 3cm-diameter balls and arrange them on baking trays lined with baking paper, leaving room for the biscuits to spread as they bake.
5. Slightly flatten the top of each ball with your fingers and press a few chopped pistachio nuts in the middle, then sprinkle with sugar. Put the trays in the fridge for 20 minutes. Heat the oven to 160°C/140°C fan.
6. Bake the biscuits for 20–25 minutes, until golden, then leave them on the trays for 5 minutes to firm up before transferring them to a cooling rack. Once they are completely cooled, store in an airtight box.



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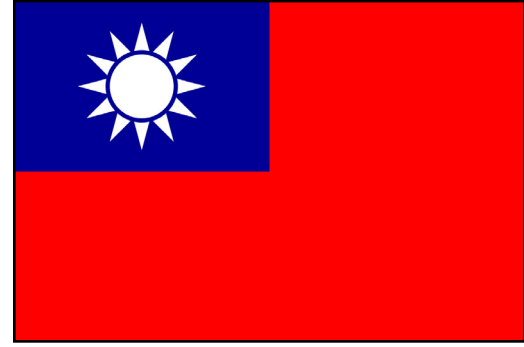


## TAIWAN

Recent tweet on X “Taiwan is a country”

This week Naval News published an article with the headline “Stairway To Taiwan – The Chinese Amphibious Bridging System”

China is building special purpose barges which appear to be made for an amphibious assault.

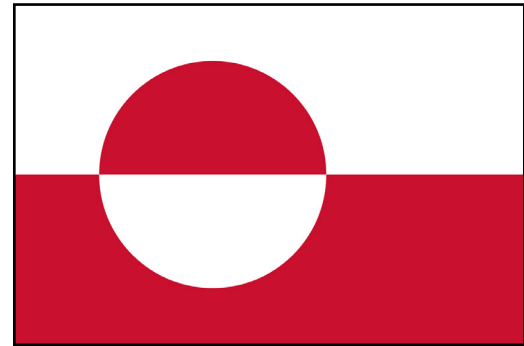


World InfoZone Taiwan <https://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=Taiwan>

## GREENLAND

Newspaper headlines towards the end of 2024 proclaimed: Denmark boosts Greenland defence after Trump repeats desire for US control. The report stated that the Prime Minister of Greenland has said that Greenland is not for sale.

Natural resources include gold, diamonds, iron ore, niobium, tantalite and uranium. In 2021 Greenland banned new oil and gas exploration and exploitation to reduce environmental impact on the fishery industry and the global climate crisis.



World InfoZone Greenland <https://worldinfozone.com/facts.php?country=Greenland>

## CANADA

Following Trump’s ramblings about making Canada the 51<sup>st</sup> state of the USA Canada’s Prime Minister, Mark Carney, called an election.

Canada’s Election Plans Are All About Defending against Trump (The Economist)



World InfoZone Canada <https://worldinfozone.com/facts.php?country=Canada>

## YEMEN

In March 2025 *The Atlantic*, an American publication, revealed that its editor-in-chief had received text messages concerning planned military action against Houthi rebels, confidential information shared by US senior government officials in a group chat. Initially, it was said by some that the issue, known as Signal-gate, was a hoax. Donald Trump was reported in the BBC online as saying that someone in his team “may have screwed up”.



World InfoZone Yemen <https://worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=Yemen>

# A day in the life of a Twickenham Travel Agent (or Life According to Pablo)

By Shona Lyons.

I usually wake up when my nervous little kitten comes up and sits on me and tells me it is time to get up and feed him which is anytime from 5am to 6.30am...I must say I am always happy to watch the dawn from my window, hear the morning chorus and of course am delighted to see Pablo, anytime of day, so up I get to make tea and put his food briefly in the microwave as they say it is a little tastier for him, if it is warmed slightly and so the day begins!



Pablo eats and then goes immediately out to see if he can bring us some mice. He is an excellent mouse serial killer, sorry, I mean, catcher and can bring mouse after mouse upstairs into my little apartment, he really loves to fling them around, but it is quite revolting to watch, so very frustratingly for him, I usually tease them out of his mouth, and then he is off to get another one.

Then I open my computer and check my emails and usually have all kinds of admin to do first thing, catching up and sending out confirmations for bookings made the day before,



maybe checking in people for flights, or doing some research for enquiries. I usually work a few hours and Bruce, will make breakfast, that is his task, and he does it really well, making us a yummy healthy fresh vegetable or fruit salad which we eat together. I



usually try and fit in an hour or so of cleaning, washing clothes etc before we shower and head off to work in order to set out the giant chess in the square and open up by 11am. I do a bit of a detour first to get Bruce's daily paper and if I have a bit more time I might get a few things from Waitrose as well, otherwise I try and pop out a little later on to do our daily shop. I usually clean the office quickly before we open up.

The phone goes pretty much as soon as we open with new enquiries or responses to quotes, we have already sent out. We often have people waiting for us or coming in as soon as we have opened too, either again with new enquiries or wanting to book something we have already offered. No day is ever the



same, which is the lovely thing about owning an independent travel agency. Sometimes we have a few catastrophes to deal with, some natural disasters or technical hitches etc, but I must say, the travel industry has really been through a lot and is quite robust and we do have strategies to deal with most things. We have a lot of repeat clients which is nice as you get to know people, and the familiarity is quite reassuring. We often get all kinds of enquiries from people we don't know and even who live quite far away, and many times we do have to do a lot of research and frustratingly, it leads nowhere, but we do get our fair share of bookings too, so we are always busy, researching new holidays for people, putting together confirmations, getting the accounts in order, ordering brochures, sorting out the brochure room, sitting down with clients to discuss new itineraries, giving brochures to people passing by & if we have a bit of free time, we will do a bit of gardening or water the plants we have grown in our little patio garden in the square.



Sometimes, If the day is really lovely and sunny and it looks like we will have no more clients coming in, we may pack up about 4.30pm / 5pm and get the chess in and go home, as since Covid we have organised ourselves to work remotely, so we go up to my little apartment and can completely open up the balcony doors and work on our computers with a view of the river in the sunshine. We are very lucky to live so close to our office, something I think makes it possible to keep it all going as the work & service we need to offer can be quite intensive but this lifestyle allows us to still have a reasonably healthy work life balance, and enables my dad at 90 to still enjoy working in the travel business, something he really enjoys.

I will make us dinner after we have done a few more hours work, and we watch TV and Pablo will come and have his dinner too, usually after a blissful day of sleeping & watching birds & he will then go out on the prowl as he seems to like this kind of nocturnal existence. After the 10 o'clock news we go to bed and Pablo usually comes in a bit later and sleeps in his room, and then our little family is complete, and we all go to sleep.

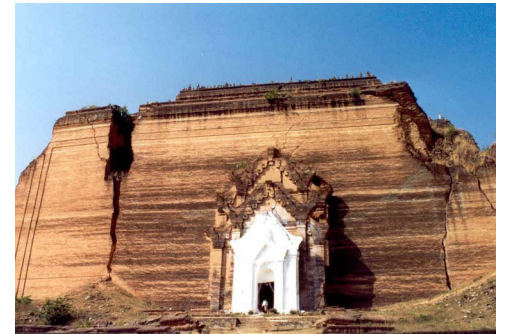
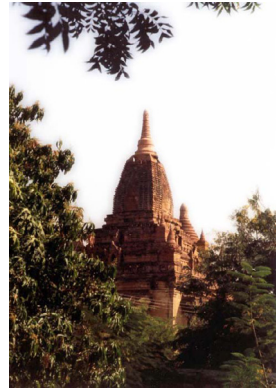


# Myanmar

Teresa Read

Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, felt the shock of an earthquake magnitude 7.7 on 28 March 2025, followed by a second quake of 6.4. The most severe shock was in Mandalay, the name made famous during the Second World War in Kipling's renowned poem "The Road to Mandalay".

Other countries affected by the quake were Bangladesh, India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and China.



Information about Myanmar:

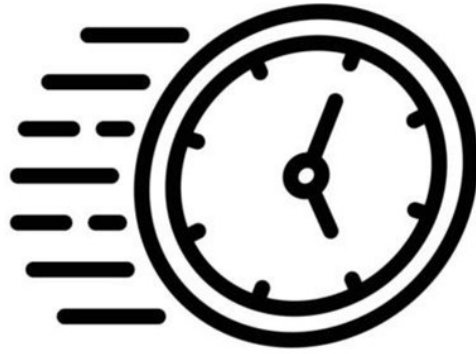
World InfoZone: <https://worldinfozone.com/facts.php?country=Myanmar>

More photographs of Myanmar <https://worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=Myanmar>

# In a rush?

By Deep Patel

~ Life Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~



I have been speaking to customers in my shop this past week about exactly that and found myself also under the influence of this need to rush...I was serving customers faster and talking to them less (some of my customers may say that's a good thing I'm sure) but I was getting to the point whereby I wasn't even asking customers how their day had been or how they were because I was too focused on getting the next task on my list done (ordering stock, writing out invoices, calling suppliers etc)... for those of you whom know me, that's very unlike me...so why was I behaving in this way? Well, what does a good shopkeeper do? He blames his customers...so that is what I am going to do...I think the customers rushing around have rubbed off on me...hence we are all rushing around and most of us perhaps don't even know why and before you know it we end up with the whole of Twickenham filled with hordes of people running around like headless chickens...ok maybe I got a bit carried away at the end there, but you get my point...

I think it's actually because we all want so much more from life these days, gone are the days where we would be satisfied with the simple things in life...a hot meal...a good film and a basic wage...now that we want more, we are continuously striving to achieve more, however there are still the same amount of hours in the day...so what's the solution? Well, the solution is to not dwell on the things we don't have in our lives, but to remind ourselves daily of the things we DO have...and to know that what we have is probably more than what some people have, and sometimes, doing LESS is actually MORE...because you were not made to be a super-human robot, you were born to be a human, and like all humans...you need to rest...chill-out time and just relax from the stresses of the over-complicated modern life that we imprison ourselves in...do this and remember life is not always about more...sometimes it's less that creates the most happiness...

**Remember...**

***“Focus on the simple things and the joy they bring...”***

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP

STOP MICE KINDLY... (GOOD KARMA):

Place empty bowls filled with white vinegar around places where you don't want them to come...they will go without you having to harm them...use humane LIVE CAPTURE mouse & rat traps (available online or at Meet & Deep News) and release them back in our parkland areas. Use electronic plug-in deterrents with good reviews around your house to stop them coming (the smell of white vinegar not only stops rodents and foxes, it also stops ants kindly).

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

[InsectLoversUnite@gmail.com](mailto:InsectLoversUnite@gmail.com) or join my Facebook page: “INSECT LOVERS UNITE”



## Playhouse Creatures

by April De Angelis

OT Productions at the Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond until 12<sup>th</sup> April and on tour until 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Plays about life in the theatre often end up as celebrations, in spite of themselves. Even if they feature the hardship, exploitation, and insecurity that loom so large in an actor's life, the feel-good ending suggests that the sacrifice is somehow worth it. De Angelis, however, provides a brutally disenchanting view of life in the theatre. Set during an ostensibly optimistic time, as actresses first appear on the English stage when theatres reopened after being suppressed by Cromwell. *Playhouse Creatures* examines the experiences of five theatrical women whose hopes of economic security are gradually extinguished.



Mrs Betterton (Anna Chancellor), married to the theatre's owner, is Queen Bee of the dressing room, bagging all the plum parts. But she is getting old and her days in the spotlight are numbered. Doll Common (Doña Croll) is the general factotum who gets all the bad jobs and keeps the theatre running. She remembers when the theatre was a bear-pit run by her father and the bears, similar playhouse creatures, danced and killed one another for entertainment.

Zoe Brough makes an effervescent Nell Gwyn, the orange seller who became the Merry Monarch's mistress, who manipulates her way into the company. She has a steely inner core behind the bubbles, and a ruthless ability to make the most of her opportunities, and rise to the top of this corrupt and fiercely competitive society.



Mrs Farley (a troublingly vulnerable Nicole Sawyer) is an orphaned preacher's daughter, faced with a choice between joining the "immoral" theatre or going on the streets, while the feisty Mrs Marshall (Katherine Kingsley) faces retribution for daring to take on the hecklers.

Overall, it's a gripping but rather downbeat experience, although there are some laughs on the way, such as fun and games when they rehearse Cleopatra's suicide, which requires manipulating a fake poisonous asp onto a heaving bosom. The second half gets progressively bleaker, including an attempted abortion, a harrowing depiction of grim desperation triggered by extreme poverty.

The performers make a superb ensemble in Michael Oakley's effective and unshowy production, while Fotini Dimou's designs make much out of little, in another impressive achievement from the Orange Tree.

Read Patrick Shorrocks' review at [www.markaspen.com/2025/03/22/play-creatures](http://www.markaspen.com/2025/03/22/play-creatures)

Photography by Ellie Kurttz

## Trojan Barbie

by Christine Evans

Questors Productions at the Studio, Ealing, until 29<sup>th</sup> March

“People are nicer on holiday”. The women of Troy lament their fallen city and slaughtered families, while a doll-mender embarks on a cultural tour for singles. As past and present collide, Cassandra, in typically colourful language, says this is nothing unusual ... no one listens to her. History repeats itself, sometimes as tragedy, sometimes as farce, as Emily Hawley’s thoroughly modern Polly is dragged away to be sacrificed by two predatory occupying soldiers, but ends up drinking beer with them in an abandoned zoo.



Richard Gallagher directs the fascinating *Trojan Barbie* at blistering pace, actors constantly changing roles. Costumes, a blend of modern military uniforms, period and contemporary clothing, add to the unsettling mix of eras. Loud sound effects shock as growling tigers, gunfire, or explosions.

In a powerful performance by Nate Clarke, Hecuba laments her latest loss. Alternating between dry quips and a (well) Greek chorus, Hyssop Benson and Isabella Cottrell Kirby, as Esme and Clea, make a great double act. They heckle Hannah Rosamund’s gloriously vampy Helen, whose first entrance, down steep stairs that light up as she descends, is pitched perfectly.

Meanwhile Talthybius (Herman Svartling Stople, in contrast to his GI role), “a vulture-like man”, regularly limps on stage delivering increasingly terrible news to Hecuba and to Lily Baker’s despairing Andromache. Cassandra frequently bursts on to the stage, singing “Marry the Man Today”: Filipa Maia plays her as a wild force of nature, revelling in the cursed prophetess’s outrageous declarations.

Lotte, portrayed as well-meaning and charming by Mia Biagio, finds her cultural tour of the ruins of Troy taking an unexpected turn as she is forced in with the Trojan women. Constantly trying to contact the British Embassy, whilst helping to reconcile Helen with Menelaus, she injects some humour into an ever darkening plot.

The military uniforms and references to the desert draw an unavoidable comparison between the Trojan War and more modern conflicts. Angus Duke, from behind mirrored shades, evokes the Iraq War with a swaggering performance as a monstrous US soldier with a tendency for making Freudian slips.

*Trojan Barbie* is an intense experience (knowledge of Euripides’ *Trojan Women* helps), which pulls no punches whilst it veers between broad comedy and intense tragedy. By muddling antiquity and modernity, this ambitious piece makes serious points about the fate of women in war-zones, in a challenging but highly rewarding play.



Read Andrew Lawston’s review at [www.markaspen.com/2025/03/22/trojan-barbie](http://www.markaspen.com/2025/03/22/trojan-barbie)

Photography by Paula Robinson



## Take the Last Bow with Me

by Jackie Howting

Edmundians at Nelson School Hall, Whitton

Last Saturday night it was rather cold and dark, as a few audience members erroneously arrived at Cheray Hall, the Edmundians home of the for the last sixty years. It was a mystery to some as to why the latest production was taking place across the road somewhere new ... and why there had been no Christmas panto.

Originating in 1964, the Edmundians had provided frequent performances and events, becoming a crucial part of local culture, providing Whitton's annual sell-out panto, and many other productions. Now they warmly welcomed everyone, and the atmosphere and communal spirit remained as it always had been, as the situation was described in drama and song.



*Take the Last Bow with Me* mixes fact with fiction as it portrays a fictional church drama group faced with increasingly challenging bureaucratic obstacles put in place by a new incumbent, "health and safety" assessments, loss of storage space, and an obligation to clear the premises within a very tight deadline. They are disenfranchised as a parish group and, as such, must pay market rates to use the hall. Then builders descend to demolish the stage. Our fictitious group respond by barricading themselves in the hall ... and the fun starts!

Established Edmundians, Ellen Walker-Dibella, Matt Power, Matt Ludbrook, Becky Halden and Savannah Swyer, formed the delightful cast as the outcast players. Relative newcomers, Sean Carey and Rhian Kiernan, portrayed Scout and Guide leaders who join their cause. Under director Jackie Howting and Matt Nicholas'

musical direction, all were treated to a memorable evening of storytelling, enhanced with song and dance routines, which trace a history of musicals and drama, fiction mirroring fact.

The talented actors effortlessly transform into different characters from *South Pacific*, *The Sound of Music* and *The King and I*, concluding with a rousing but poignant rendition of 'Consider Yourself' from *Oliver*. All these songs are interspersed with various ideas to keep the drama group alive, despite having unceremoniously lost their Thespian home. Ingenious solutions give the group hope for the future.

The performance and the enthusiastic community emphasised the enduring legacy of the Edmundians as a vital community hub, hinting at their potential for revival and future success. As Maria in *The Sound of Music* says "when the Lord closes a door, somewhere He opens a window".

Read Josh Dalton's retrospective at [www.markaspen.com/2025/03/23/last-bow](http://www.markaspen.com/2025/03/23/last-bow)

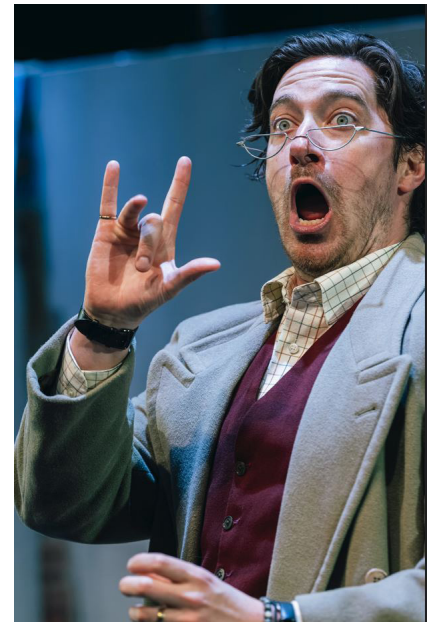
Photography by Becky Halden



# Accidental Death of an Anarchist

by Dario Fo and Franca Ramé, adapted by Tom Basden  
 PTC at the Putney Arts Theatre until 29<sup>th</sup> March

Fo's multilayered play, inspired by the death in custody of a suspect in an Italian bombing case in the 1960s, makes a bold swansong. But for an astute director like Barney Hart Dyke, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* presents the ideal culmination of his tenure as Artistic Co-Director at Putney, a post he has held for three years with his wife Cait. As with any successful farce, here is a lot of laughter and plenty of slick movement, finely balanced. A simple set, with a clever trick to show a change of location, sets the scene.



The plot depends on the acceptance of two contradictions: that the main character, known only as The Maniac, is simultaneously suffering from a mental illness that means he sees the world as a stage where he is the principal actor; and that he is able to subtly manipulate the police officers responsible for the death, slowly trapping them in a web of their own making. This dichotomy injects real craziness into what could otherwise be a dark and disturbing tale of corruption and incompetence.



Tom Everatt's energetic performance as The Maniac undoubtedly achieves this. He is clearly inspired by Fo, who was both a satirist and a comic whose own performances successfully combined political satire, physical comedy and mime. Everatt offers a full hand of all these skills, missing no opportunity to get a laugh in the process. His having the energy to deliver the vast majority of the script, whilst throwing himself with such agility into the knock-about physical comedy which erupts throughout, is amazing.

Tim Iredale and Jacob Smith's excellent characterisation as the self-important Superintendent Curry and the plodding Detective Daisy, as their attempts to cover up their role in the suspect's defenestration slowly unravel, is totally credible. As is David Webb's down to earth Inspector Burton, driven to desperation as his colleagues become mesmerised by the madman he had earlier attempted to arrest. Harry Pavlou's comedy cameo as PC Joseph sets a welcome counterbalance to The Maniac's crazy meander around the truth.



*Accidental Death of an Anarchist* was intended as a vehicle to carry contemporary political messages, and Basden's adaption is thick with topical memes, but nevertheless offers an enjoyable, funny and thought-provoking evening.

Read Polly Davies' review at [www.markaspen.com/2025/03/26/anarchist-ptc](http://www.markaspen.com/2025/03/26/anarchist-ptc)

Photography by Steve Lippett

# Former Twickenham County Schoolgirl Launches Unique Debut Children's Book

From Angele July

Angele July, educated at Twickenham County School, and now living in Teddington, Middlesex has launched her debut novel 'Salty Joe and the Sea Mysteries'.

The captivating book tells the tale of Salty Joe and his eight mini pirates who carry out various challenges related to the Planet. They rescue a number of stricken sea creatures, and help to nurture the coral reef. During the book, we see the pirates learn valuable life lessons, such as kindness and perseverance.

Angele July pursued a successful career in business, including gaining an award for Best Business at Kew Insurance, with partner David Boynette, in the first year of the Richmond Chamber's business awards.

She has recently taken a sabbatical from the world of commerce to pursue her dream of writing an impactful book.

*"In my children's novel, 'Salty Joe and the Sea Mysteries', I have created a book which can be enjoyed by adults and children alike. It is a very useful tool to help parents explain the importance of protecting our planet. I aim to explain the small steps children and parents can take to reduce climate harm, but in a way which is entertaining. There's a whole range of quirky characters to amuse and entertain, such as Barnacle Boris and Squawkybeak the parrot."*

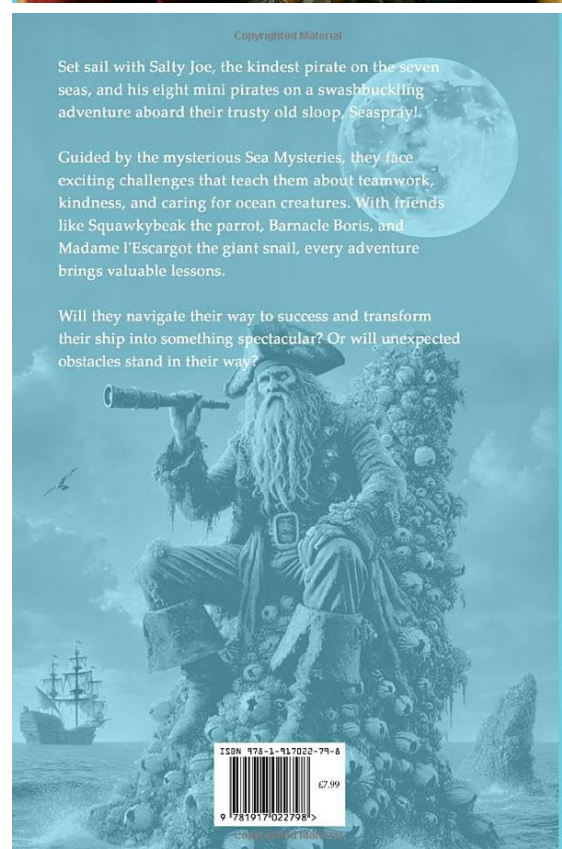
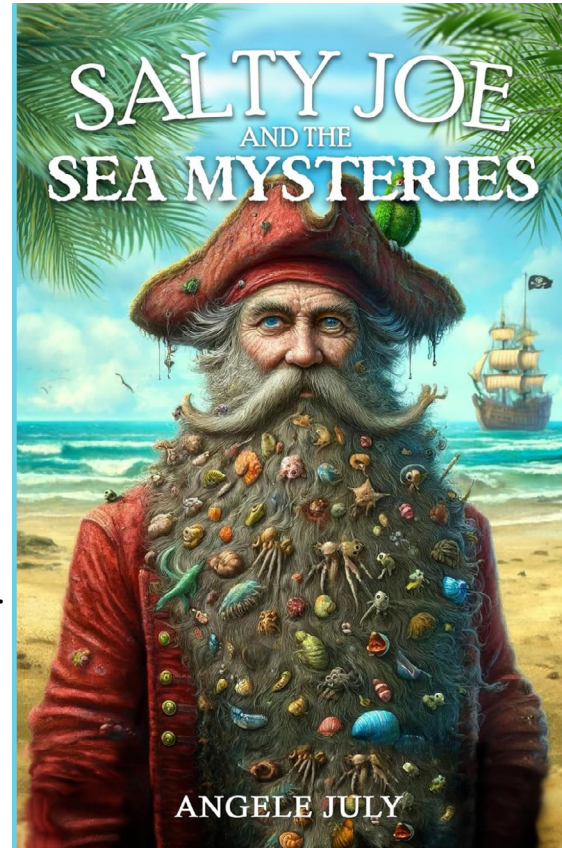
The whimsical story promises to delight all young readers, from the age of seven to fourteen years of age.

If you would like to read the book, it is available on Amazon Prime. The book has quickly gained a clutch of five star reviews.

Angele is offering three complimentary copies of her debut novel to readers who email the steps they are taking to help the planet.

The first three picked from a hat will receive a copy each.

[Email: angele@simplysecure.co.uk](mailto:angele@simplysecure.co.uk)



# St Mary's University

## St Mary's Student Awarded Sports Journalism Association Academy Award

Sports Journalism master's student at St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) Ervin Ang has won the Sports Journalism Association (SJA) Academy Award 2025.

Sports Journalism master's student at St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) Ervin Ang has won the [Sports Journalism Association](#) (SJA) Academy Award 2025.



The SJA Academy Award in association with [talkSPORT](#) provides an opportunity for those with less than one year of experience in sports journalism, or those who have never worked in the industry full-time, to be recognised at the industry awards.

Ervin impressed the judges with his article entries that were not only strong in impact and well-crafted, but that also demonstrated many qualities that make a great journalist such as creativity, curiosity, resourcefulness, and initiative.

Ervin collected his award at the Sports Journalism Awards which took place at the Westminster Plaza Hotel on March 24th.

Alongside Ervin, fellow [Sports Journalism](#) student Emma Seligman won Highly Commended in the same category.

This is the third year in a row that a St Mary's student has won the SJA Academy Award and been named Highly Commended, with [Laura Howard](#) and Shui Arun taking the top prize, and Adriana Wehrens and Evie Ashton named

runners up in 2024 and 2023 respectively.

Three alumni from the Sports Journalism course at St Mary's were also shortlisted for SJA awards this year.

Speaking on winning the SJA Academy Award Ervin said, *"It's a great honour to be picked as the SJA Academy Award winner, especially as a hopeful Singaporean trying to forge a sports journalism career in the UK."*

*"One of my submissions was a critical commentary, merging sports and politics, on Singapore's authoritarian government following the viral [Valencia fans' protest](#) last October.*

*Moving to the UK has allowed me to fully express my opinions and it means a lot to me that this piece has been recognised by such an esteemed panel.*

*"This win certainly vindicates my choice to leave Singapore and it motivates me to keep working harder towards my goals."*

Emma also commented, *"I am incredibly honoured and proud to be highly commended for the SJA Academy Award. A huge congratulations for Ervin for his thoroughly deserved win. Thanks to Daragh Minogue and all the brilliant lecturers on the Sports Journalism MA at St Mary's for their guidance and support."*

You can find out more about the Sports Journalism master's course at St Mary's University at <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/sports-journalism>



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

# Red Roses Team To Play Wales

Ellie Kildunne will earn her 50th international cap when the Red Roses take on Wales at the Principality Stadium, Cardiff on Saturday (kick-off 4.45pm).



The Harlequins full-back made a try-scoring debut for England against back in 2017, a match which also saw Jess Breach (Saracens) and Abby Dow (Trailfinders Women) cross for a combined total of eight tries.

All three feature in the Red Roses starting XV as head coach John Mitchell makes 13 changes from the team that defeated Italy in the opening round of the Guinness Women's Six Nations.

Gloucester-Hartpury's Tatyana Heard and Megan Jones of Leicester Tigers form a centre partnership with Natasha Hunt (Gloucester-Hartpury) and Zoe Harrison (Saracens) making up the half-back positions.

Bristol Bears duo Lark Atkin-Davies and Sarah Bern come into the front row alongside Gloucester-Hartpury prop Mackenzie Carson, with another Bear, Abbie Ward, lining up with Sale Sharks' Morwenna Talling in the second row.

Captain Zoe Aldcroft (Gloucester-Hartpury) and Exeter Chiefs Number 8 Maddie Feaunati maintain their starting roles and Loughborough Lightning's Sadia Kabeya is promoted to the seven jersey.

Olympian Abi Burton (Trailfinders Women) is set for her maiden Red Roses cap as a replacement.

## Red Roses team to play Wales

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 15 Ellie Kildunne (Harlequins, 49 caps)         | 1 Mackenzie Carson (Gloucester-Hartpury, 21 caps)       |
| 14 Abby Dow (Trailfinders Women, 48 caps)       | 2 Lark Atkin-Davies (Bristol Bears, 62 caps)            |
| 13 Megan Jones (Leicester Tigers, 21 caps)      | 3 Sarah Bern (Bristol Bears, 67 caps)                   |
| 12 Tatyana Heard (Gloucester-Hartpury, 26 caps) | 4 Morwenna Talling (Sale Sharks, 18 caps)               |
| 11 Jess Breach (Saracens, 43 caps)              | 5 Abbie Ward (Bristol Bears, 70 caps)                   |
| 10 Zoe Harrison (Saracens, 54 caps)             | 6 Zoe Aldcroft (Gloucester-Hartpury, 59 caps) - captain |
| 9 Natasha Hunt (Gloucester-Hartpury, 76 caps)   | 7 Sadia Kabeya (Loughborough Lightning, 19 caps)        |
|   | 8 Maddie Feaunati (Exeter Chiefs, 11 caps)              |

## Replacements

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 16 Amy Cokayne (Leicester Tigers, 80 caps)   | 20 Abi Burton (Trailfinders Women, uncapped)        |
| 17 Hannah Botterman (Bristol Bears, 52 caps) | 21 Lucy Packer (Harlequins, 27 caps)                |
| 18 Maud Muir (Gloucester-Hartpury, 36 caps)  | 22 Holly Aitchison (Bristol Bears, 36 caps)         |
| 19 Rosie Galligan (Saracens, 20 caps)        | 23 Helena Rowland (Loughborough Lightning, 35 caps) |

# Things to know if travelling to St James' Park

Written by Brentford Football Club

Some practical tips and things to be aware of if you are attending Brentford's Premier League match against Newcastle United; take advantage of a rescheduled train to get you back to London on the same night

Brentford take on Newcastle United at St James' Park in the Premier League on Wednesday 2 April (7.45pm kick-off). The game will not be broadcast live in the UK.

If you are heading to Newcastle on Wednesday, here's some useful information to know for matchday.

## Getting to St James' Park

St James' Park is located in Newcastle city centre and is easily accessible by public transport or only a short walk from the main train station.

The city centre will be very busy on matchday. Please plan your route to the stadium in advance to avoid delays.

St James' Park  
Strawberry Place  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 4ST

## Transport – Discounted travel with Trainline

Save 20 per cent on your journey to Newcastle with Trainline. We've partnered with [Trainline](#) to give you discounted rail travel on matchday.

Trainline want to make it even easier to travel green. As part of their *I Came By Train* campaign to help fight climate change, you can save 20 per cent on your journey when you book in advance with Trainline. The 20 per cent off code will be valid across 2 and 3 April, giving you flexibility of travel, whether you are looking to stay the night or make the round trip.

After you purchase your match ticket, you will be sent an email with your unique discount code within one to two working days. Each ticket holder will receive an email with their unique discount code. You can redeem your discount code when purchasing your rail ticket. [Terms and conditions apply](#)

## Travelling by train – last train to London postponed for fans

Direct trains running from London King's Cross to Newcastle station leave every 30 minutes on matchday and take approximately three hours.

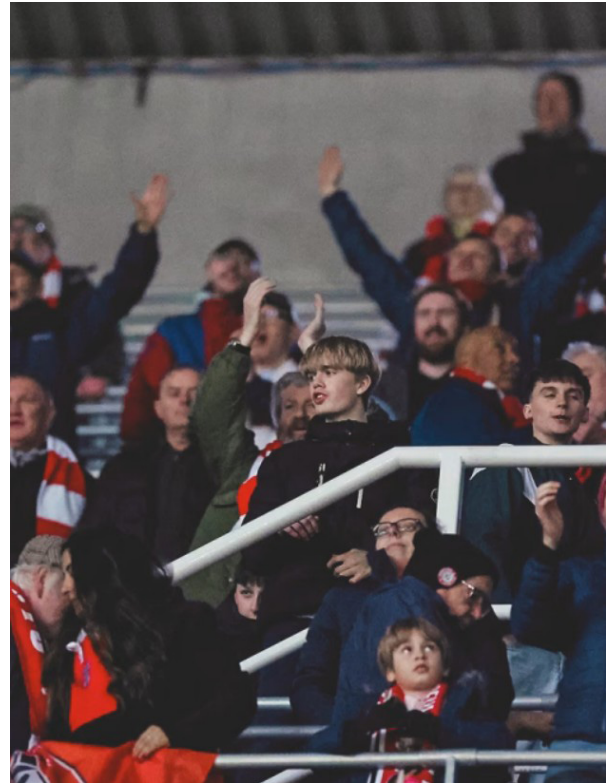
After a request from the club, we've worked with train operating company Lumo to reschedule the last direct train from Newcastle to London King's Cross on matchday to 10.17pm, helping fans get home after the match. Return tickets to London are likely to sell out. We recommend you use [Trainline](#) to book your ticket as soon as possible.

## Local travel to the ground

From Newcastle station, you can walk to St James's Park in 10 minutes by following signs to the ground. You can get a metro service from Newcastle station to St James' Park which will take you within a five-minute walk from the ground. You either use the green or yellow lines towards Newcastle Airport.

## Travelling by car

There are no club-run public car parks on matchdays at St James' Park and roads close to the stadium will be closed two hours before kick-off until 45 minutes after full-time.



There are multi-storey car parks in the city centre that you can book in advance. Newcastle United operate a park and ride system from the Metrocentre shopping centre, close to the A1 motorway.

The X50 bus will go directly to St James' Park, costing £2 for adults and £1 for under-19s. Drop off and return will be at the same location. For directions, timetables and additional information please visit [Go North East](#).

### **Ticketing information**

Any duplicate ticket requests must be sent to Newcastle by the Brentford box office. Please contact [Brentford's box office](#) with any enquiries ahead of matchday.

Duplicate tickets must be collected on matchday from the main ticket office, which is situated in the Shed End (south stand) between the Megastore and Frankie's Sports Bar. Please remember to bring ID. Fans are advised not to travel unless they are in possession of a valid match ticket.

Please also observe and respect the family friendly seating. Anyone who holds a ticket in this area is reminded that they should be seated for the duration of the match.

### **Accessibility**

Accessible matchday parking for Blue Badge holders is very limited and are first come, first served. Please contact [car.parking@nufc.co.uk](mailto:car.parking@nufc.co.uk) to request a space.

16 wheelchair bays are available. The entrance to this is via the lift next to turnstile 94. Supporters wanting to use wheelchair storage, or are attending with oxygen or other essential medication equipment must notify Newcastle United ahead of the match at [disabilitysupport@nufc.co.uk](mailto:disabilitysupport@nufc.co.uk).

The ground has accessible toilets close to the viewing area. Speak to any of the Newcastle United stewards if you need support.

### **Your matchday at St James' Park**

There are no designated away pubs in the vicinity of St James' Park. There are many options for food and drink in Newcastle city centre. A popular choice for away fans is the [Head of Steam](#). Some venues may restrict entry for away supporters, particularly if you are wearing club colours. Shearer's Bar, located in the Gallowgate Stand (south stand), is open to home and away supporters before the match for food and drink.

The away section is located in the Leazes End (north stand), accessible by turnstiles 89-94, open 90-minutes before kick-off. Fans will be searched on entry. Bags larger than A4 size are not permitted for entry and there is no bag storage at the ground.

There are 140 steps and 14 landings on the way up to the away section of the ground. If you would like to use a lift instead, speak to a steward.

### **A longer stay**

Newcastle is renowned as one of the UK's best nightlife cities. The city centre has hundreds of bars to choose from, and dozens of nightclubs. Please note that for many of these clubs, Wednesday night is 'student night', and venues having the right to turn away anyone without a student ID card.

There are many budget hotel options for those wanting to stay overnight. Premier Inn, Travelodge and many independent hoteliers have sites in the city centre.

Have a safe trip and enjoy the match!



# Public land unlocked for the next generation of home owners

Thousands of new homes will be unlocked on surplus public defence land to speed up the delivery of housing for hard-working people and families, thanks to a new taskforce to remove the blockers, build homes and turbocharge economic growth. Alongside a pioneering new Network Rail property company, which will see a further 40,000 homes built, supporting delivery of building 1.5m homes, as set out in the Plan for Change.

This goes hand in hand with the government's planning reforms, which are forecasted to add around £6.2bn the UK's economy, according to yesterday's OBR forecast. This will bring jobs, opportunity and growth to regions across the country – enabling people to see the Plan for Change in action.

Unused land will be identified, developed and released by a cross-government collaboration, which will focus on getting it back into productive use as quickly as possible by removing barriers that have prevented houses coming forward at pace on vacant public land for too long.

This ambitious new partnership approach will explore new delivery models, establish collaborative agreements between the Ministry of Defence, Homes England, Network Rail and other government bodies, bring in the private sector – ultimately getting spades in the ground sooner to deliver homes faster, making the dream of homeownership a reality for many.

It will also see a new property company created between Network Rail property and London & Continental Railways, which will attract public and private investment to develop brownfield sites. It will become operational later this year and will have the potential to deliver 40,000 new homes over the next ten years. Today the Chancellor Rachel Reeves is confirming the first four sites that will be developed in Newcastle, Cambridge, Manchester, and Nottingham.

**Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves said:** *“For too long, surplus government-owned sites have gone underused, but they are a huge untapped resource that could create opportunities for the next generation of homeowners.”*

*“In contrast to the failed approach of the past, we are making the best use of public land to build the homes that families and our Armed Forces need, improving opportunities for homeownership and creating jobs across the country.”*

*“The OBR has confirmed our planning reforms will result in housebuilding being at its highest in over 40 years – that won't just bring jobs and economic growth – but also will give families the homes that they deserve, delivering on our Plan for Change.”*

**Deputy Prime Minister and Housing Secretary, Angela Rayner said:** *“So many working people and families are locked out of the dream of a secure home and this is a direct consequence of the housing crisis we've inherited.”*

*“That's why we're unlocking public land today for much-needed new housing to help end the housing crisis, deliver 1.5 million homes, and unleash growth as part of our Plan for Change.”*

## Defence land

Today the Chancellor is confirming the first of these sites to be unblocked through this ambitious new approach and begin delivering homes in this Parliament. This includes a site in Ripon, which will be transferred from the Ministry of Defence to Homes England to allow construction at Deverell Barracks to start within 12 months to expedite the delivery of 1,300 homes.

A new partnership between the the Ministry of Defence and Homes England will also aim to unlock a further 1,300 homes by partially releasing land at Chetwynd Barracks, Chilwell and deliver thousands of new homes at Wyton airfield in Cambridgeshire in the coming years. This move is just the start, the Defence Secretary has identified the long-term opportunity to build over 100,000 homes on surplus defence land, improving opportunities for homeownership and creating jobs across the country.

Part of this effort includes a commitment to building and modernising family homes for the Armed Forces and Veterans. The disastrous 1996 privatisation of Armed Forces family housing was reversed in January this year, an established expert and independent Review Team will drive a once in a generation plan to modernise homes for 50,000 Armed Forces families, with a new Defence Housing Strategy to be launched later this Summer.

The innovative partnership between the Ministry of Defence and Homes England will be the blueprint for a new “trailblazer” approach to accelerate the release of public land.

**Defence Secretary John Healey said:** *“This work will unlock thousands of new homes on surplus defence land, including in North Yorkshire, Nottingham and Cambridgeshire – developments promised for years by the last government, but never delivered. This heralds a new, trailblazer approach to the use of public land which will not be a fire sale of public assets, but a truly cross-government effort to remove blockers, deliver homes and boost growth in support of our Plan for Change. This taskforce is a bold first step, as we make the most of an historic opportunity to build over 100,000 homes on surplus defence land in the coming years, delivering on our commitments to British families and our Armed Forces.”*

## Rail estate land

As part of the new property company, significant sites that are in the pipeline for development, include:

- Newcastle Forth Yards: a 100-acre regeneration opportunity which could deliver 5,000 new homes
- Manchester Mayfield: opportunity for 1,500 new homes
- Cambridge: a mixed-use development with 425 homes
- Nottingham: 200 new homes following 348 successfully delivered homes at The Barnum, Nottingham

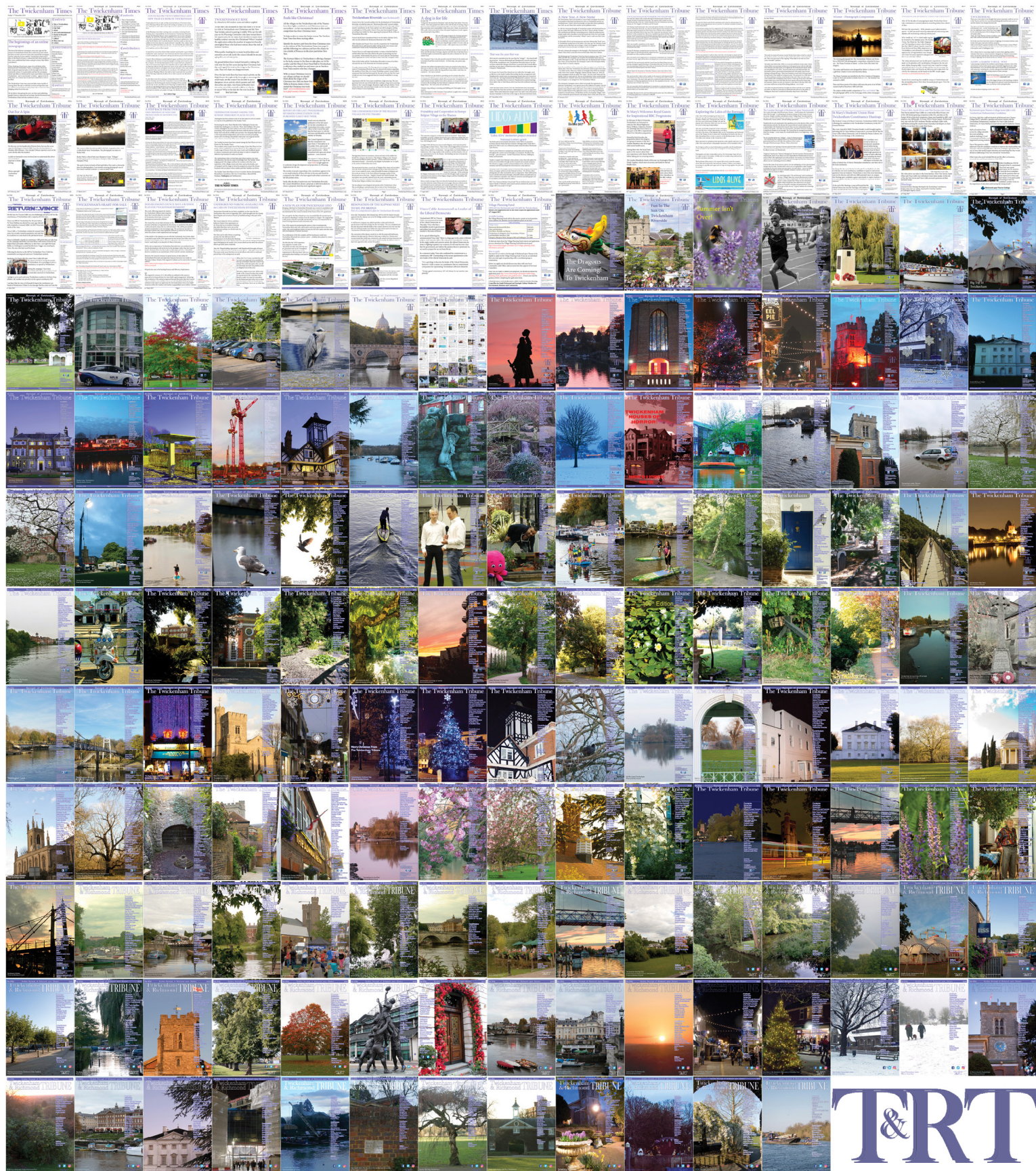
Today’s announcements follow the introduction of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill to Parliament which will see significant measures introduced to speed up planning decisions to boost housebuilding and builds on work the government has already carried out to get Britain building including overhauling the National Planning Policy Framework.



HM Treasury



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