

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



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Editors: Berkley Driscoll, Teresa Read

TickerTape - News in Brief

Twickenham Stadium Rugby

Harlequins Big Summer Kick Off: Sat 10th May

Kick off: 17:30, Attendance: 40,000

Whitton, Rugby & London Roads will close 15:30-17:30 and 19:00-21:30

CPZ is in force 11:00-23:00

South Western Railway

Altered train services due to Rugby at Twickenham Saturday 10 May

London Waterloo – Shepperton

- Between **1141** and **2241**, all **Shepperton to London Waterloo** services are diverted via **Twickenham**.
- Between **1242** and **2342**, all **London Waterloo to Shepperton** services are diverted via **Twickenham**.

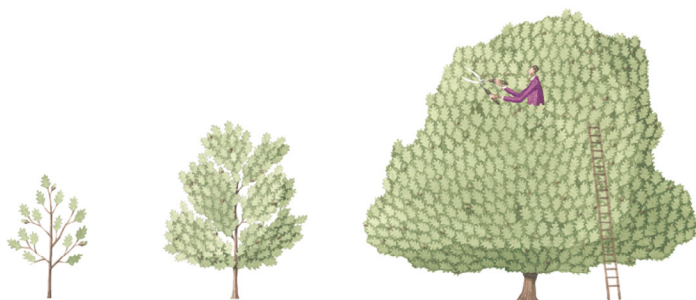
London Waterloo – Reading

- Services will depart **earlier** from **Reading** through most of the day (at **xx:05** and **xx:35**).
- Trains departing **Reading** between **1830** and **2330** will call additionally at **Putney** and **Vauxhall**.
- Services will also run **later** from **Richmond** to **Reading** **before** the match.

Altered train services and buses replace trains in the Hounslow area Sunday 11 May

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

- **London Waterloo to Woking via Staines** services will be **revised**. These services will be diverted between **Barnes and Feltham** and will call additionally at **Richmond and Twickenham**.
- **Buses** will run between **Barnes and Feltham via Hounslow**.
- The afternoon and evening **London Waterloo to Kingston via Hounslow** services will **not** run.
- **Buses** will run between **Barnes and Twickenham via Hounslow (afternoon and evening only)**.



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



The Tree Agency

The Local Picture Postcard Page - Part 300

By Alan Winter

300 Not Out – Not Quite Anyway!

Well, this is my 300th column on local postcards that has been published in the Tribune over the last 8 years or so. I had a shortish break at one point due to illness but have usually found a postcard or a few to write about each week. I haven't counted how many postcards we have shown of the local area, but it must now be in excess of 800. And therein lies my current problem. I have pretty much run out of postcards of the current LBRUT area (London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames).

All 300 columns are available to see on the newspaper's website in its archive section. They cover buildings, streets, individuals, general views, parks, pubs, palaces and gardens in Richmond and Twickenham, Whitton, St Margarets, Kew, Mortlake, Sheen, Barnes, Ham, Petersham, Teddington, Hampton, Hampton Hill, Hampton Wick and Hampton Court.

Unlike postcards, postage stamps, coins and banknotes were all produced by Government arms and there are very clear and concise records of exactly what was produced with exact production figures in many various catalogues and Government records.

Although postcards were up there in the 20th century with stamps and coins as one of the worlds top three collecting hobbies, individual postcard views often remain unknown as they were frequently produced in very small numbers by local photographers and stationers and postcard publishers. Where there were records kept at all they were often destroyed by fire, publishers closing down quickly and some of the larger postcard publishers had their records destroyed in the war through bombings.

I have always felt that the lack of any records of what postcards exist and what doesn't, creates a lot of interest among collectors as we never quite know what might turn up in the next box or pile of old postcards that we look through. This is why I constantly advertise for any type of old postcards that readers may have lying about in a box in the loft or garden shed etc. I need more postcards to write about covering the local area that haven't appeared in the Tribune so far.

My thanks to the Tribune editors Teresa and Berkley for their support over the years. We have decided together that the column will now become an occasional one rather than a weekly one.

I shall still be running two more postcard fairs at Teddington Baptist Church this year. The fair will have stamp and coins for sale as well as tens of thousands of postcards and light refreshments throughout the day. Your diary dates for these fairs are Saturday 14th June and Saturday 11th October. Doors open at 10.00. Hope to see you there!

If you have any old postcards or photograph albums that you would consider parting with, I'd be very interested in arranging to see them. Please contact me on 07875 578398 or by email at: alanwinter192@hotmail.com

I am happy to pay cash for anything like that which I find of interest. So don't throw old postcards etc. in the skip or recycling bins. Show them to me first!



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PETPEOPLE  VETS

VE DAY 1946

By Maurice Parry-Wingfield

I was brought up in Chislehurst, a London suburb in Kent. It was on the return route often taken by enemy bombers after dropping bombs on the London docks. On their way back they would casually drop left-over incendiary bombs on areas such as ours.

Having been put to bed at the usual time for a 6-year-old, I was woken up later to a cacophony of shouting, cheering, singing, all accompanied by the banging of drums and clanking of saucepans.

My mother came in to see if I was awake and told me that the War had just ended in victory. That meant that before long I would see my Daddy for the first time; he had spent practically the whole of the war in a succession of prisoner-of-war camps. It also meant that there would be no more planes flying over the house at night, no more banging of guns and no more searchlight beams scouring the dark sky. The huge barrage balloons (designed to make enemy planes more vulnerable to anti-aircraft fire), for years a looming presence seen from our back garden, would disappear.



My father in uniform at home before crossing the Channel



Best of all I would be seeing for the first time the kind man that my mother had told me such a lot about.

POWs at Lissa in Poland in July 1942. My father is in the back row, second from the left, with glasses

Stag Brewery Development Approved A Planning Journey Ten Years Long

By James Knight

After nearly ten years of delays, redesigns, and high-level political spats, the controversial redevelopment of the former Stag Brewery site in Mortlake has finally secured planning consent. The decision, issued on 2 May by a planning inspector following a public inquiry, marks the end of one chapter—but may yet prove the beginning of another drawn-out wait before a single brick is laid.

The scheme, located on the historic 22-acre riverside site once home to London's oldest brewery, where brewing activity was first recorded in 1487. It will deliver 1,068 homes, a new 1,200-pupil secondary school, shops, a hotel, leisure facilities and improved public access to the Thames. The plans, first submitted nearly a decade ago by Reselton Properties – a subsidiary of Singapore-listed City Developments Limited – have undergone multiple redesigns and survived a protracted planning wrangle between Richmond Council and the Mayor of London.

For local residents and campaigners, the inspector's decision is a moment of reckoning: a resolution to years of stagnation, certainly, but one that raises as many questions as it answers.

A Victory on Paper for Housing Delivery

In planning terms, the development represents a substantial contribution to Richmond's housing supply. The scheme includes more than a thousand new homes – a significant number for a borough where development opportunities are rare and demand remains acute. In a borough where median house prices have long been out of reach for many families, any increase in supply will be welcome.



But critics – not least the Mayor of London – have pointed to the **extraordinarily low level of affordable housing**. Now proposed. Just 7.5 per cent of the homes will be affordable, down from 30 per cent in an earlier version of the scheme. Khan's office called the inspector's decision "deeply disappointing," accusing the developers of failing to reflect the capital's urgent need for genuinely affordable homes.

Reselton, for its part, has maintained that the project remains viable only with reduced obligations, particularly in light of new post-Grenfell fire regulations that forced significant design changes and increased construction costs. In a rare public statement, the developer's UK partner, Dartmouth Capital Advisors, expressed frustration at the process: "Our client bought the site with the benefit of a planning brief from Richmond Council... and yet it has taken 10 years to obtain a planning consent."

A School in Question

One of the more divisive aspects of the scheme is the inclusion of a new secondary school. For some local parents and education campaigners, the school is long overdue – particularly in a borough that has historically struggled with secondary capacity in the east of the borough where many families find they are not allocated any school on National Offer Day.

Yet others question whether the need remains as pressing as it once was. Across London, falling birth rates are already leading to declining school rolls. Critics argue that a new 1,200-pupil school may soon become surplus to requirements, especially given the proximity of existing high-performing schools. There are also concerns about the impact on local roads and the already problematic Sheen Lane level crossing – a bottleneck which will face even greater pressure during school drop-off and pick-up hours.

Riverside Lost Opportunities

The scheme will open up long-inaccessible stretches of the riverfront, replacing industrial buildings and high walls with public walkways, new trees, and landscaped squares. It is, in principle, a welcome transformation of what has become a derelict and neglected part of the borough.

But the inspector's report also acknowledged shortcomings. The riverside towpath will be just 6–7 metres wide for much of its length and will be heavily overshadowed by buildings up to nine storeys tall – a fact that will reduce light and change the character of the Thames path. While planning policies encourage “soft-engineered” ecological river edges, none have been included. The inspector noted that this is not a formal requirement, but a missed opportunity nonetheless.

Heritage groups have also raised concerns about the impact on listed buildings along Thames Bank and the wider Mortlake Conservation Area. While the inspector found that the harm was “less than substantial,” it was nevertheless real.

Economic Headwinds Cast a Shadow

Perhaps the most significant concern is not what is in the plans – but whether they will ever be built. While planning permission is now secured, Reselton has yet to line up a housebuilding partner. Work is unlikely to start before 2026, and even the developer concedes that full completion may not be achieved before 2033.

That timeline may now be wildly optimistic. Across London, developers are **pausing or cancelling major schemes**, citing high interest rates, labour shortages, and volatile material costs. Post-Grenfell fire safety rules have forced redesigns across the capital, particularly for high-rise residential blocks – all of which adds time and cost. With many volume housebuilders sitting on their hands, there is a real risk that Mortlake's long-awaited regeneration **may remain a theoretical victory** rather than a practical one.

Conclusion: A Welcome Approval – Years Too Late?

There is no doubt that this approval is a breakthrough of sorts – one that clears a path for new homes, jobs, school places and public spaces on one of Richmond's largest development sites. But it is a victory that feels pyrrhic. A site that could have been delivering housing five years ago remains untouched. Political indecision, planning bureaucracy and a now-frosty relationship between Town Hall and City Hall have left one of London's best-located brownfield sites stalled for a decade.

In the end, the Mortlake Brewery saga has exposed both the strengths and the flaws of the UK planning system: thorough, democratic, and consultative – but also painfully slow, vulnerable to political gamesmanship, and increasingly at the mercy of economic cycles.

The inspector's approval is welcome. But the most important question remains unanswered: will it ever be built?

St Mary's Students' Union Summer Ball Returns — And This Year, Everyone's Invited!

Mark your calendars — the **SMSU Summer Ball** is back on **Friday, 16th May**, and it's set to be **bigger, better, and more exciting than ever!**



From **6pm to 9pm**, enjoy an unforgettable evening packed with:

- A full **funfair experience** (yes, the **BIG WHEEL** is making a comeback!)
- **Live bands** and **DJs**
- **Face painting** and **free candyfloss** (while it lasts!)
- Delicious eats from **crepe and burger vans**

Don't miss the **fireworks finale at 8:55pm**.

And for the first time ever, we're **welcoming the local**

community to join in the daytime fun — so bring your friends, family, and neighbours along for a fantastic day out.

Tickets are on sale now (priced at £20 for daytime activities/public) — grab yours by clicking here (<https://www.stmaryssu.co.uk/events/summer-ball-bc4c>)

Come for the music, stay for the magic — this is one summer celebration you won't want to miss!

Where to find us:

St Mary's Students' Union
St Mary's University
Twickenham TW1 4SX



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Twickenham Riverside Development: tree removed in error

One wonders what would happen to a private individual in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames if they “removed” a tree protected in their own approved planning application. Is this sort of “error” dealt with differently when the planning application is a project of the elected council members of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames?

Apparently there has been a Council investigation into the felling of a tree, T37 on the planning application for Twickenham Riverside. It is said that T37, a hornbeam, was “removed in error” by the council’s contractor. (application 21/2758)



It seems that the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames regrets the felling of the hornbeam, and they will prevent this from happening again; there are no trees left on the site, but the Council will be landscaping the new development and replace the tree with a five-year watering programme. The cost for this will be borne by the contractor. It is a shame the council did not notice this until it was brought to their attention, but officers have been quick to respond and do their best to remedy the situation.

Hornbeam trees can live between 150 and 200 years and can last as long as 350 years so it is unlikely that any of us will be around to see the fully grown tree. Hornbeams grow between 20 and 50 cm a year.

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/planning/protected_trees

Fines for carrying out work without permission

If you deliberately destroy a tree, or damage it in a manner likely to destroy it, you could be fined up to £20,000 if found guilty. The Crown Court will consider any financial gain you may have made from the offence, when deciding the fine, which could be unlimited.

For other offences you could be fined up to £2,500.

You will normally have to plant a replacement tree if the tree was cut down or destroyed.

Dear Tribune,

Letter to the Tribune in response to two letters in the Friday 2nd May edition

It's common for your publication to publish 'ad hominem' attacks on members of Richmond Council.

Last week was little different, with two letters attacking the Council's efforts to consult residents over a long term transport strategy.

A critique was that the Council had already determined its mind (which it has not), while at the same time admonishing the inherent simplicity in diagnosing the issues and solutions. The contradictory nature of these attacks was not lost on me (and I suspect, many other readers).

That said, that was all fairly standard Tribune material, but you also chose to double-down on the criticism, by publishing letters critiqueing the fact a council consultation event was scheduled for Thursday 8th May (VE Day).

The argument apparently being, that to hold an evening meeting seeking ideas from residents on transport improvements for the next 15 years was some how a slight on the day and veterans.

That is totally misplaced notion.

Firstly, let there be no doubt about my own respect and personal reverance for VE Day. That said, the day (Thursday 8th) is a working day (not a Bank Holiday) where many of us will go about our business, employment and activities alongside honouring the memory of sacrifice and victory of good.

I feel sure that most residents understand how to accomodate the demands of grateful reflection on the 8th, while setting aside some modest time to engage in other actions, including the Council's transport event.

Second, the Council's event is an exercise in democracy and free speech. Both are precisely the antithesis of the tyranny that we fought and overcame during WW2. Most people would recognise such an event embodies, rather than degrades the respectful commemoration of this important day.

Third, I found the attacks concerningly personal and laden with xenophobic dog whistle politics. "Victory for Ehmann" invoking my German-origin surname in a willful juxtaposition with the VE commemorations. Shameful.

I say all this as someone who swore the Oath of Allegiance as a member of Her Majesty's British Army (Reserve) for a number of years. As someone who saw first hand the incredible contribution of our Armed Forces, I do not easily take lectures on patriotism or respect for the sacrifices of those made in WW2 - least of all from those unwilling to even put their name to those same attacks.

I remain proud of my many things, including my country, my public service, my heritage and my community. These have sat alongside being an 25+ year active member of the Liberal Democrats and a Councillor for 11 years.

That same Liberal Democrat Council of which I am a part, waived fees so that residents might hold 76 VE Day Street Parties in Richmond upon Thames this year. All while also pulling together an event seeking democratic input into long-term transport planning for this borough.

I stand by my record (and that of my colleagues in Richmond). As Winston Churchill said:" You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life."

Yours,

Cllr Alexander Ehmann, Councillor for St Margarets and North Twickenham & Chair of Richmond Council's Transport and Air Quality Committee

Dear Editors,

Twickenham Riverside

For those of you still wondering about the Twickenham Riverside redevelopment and its progression (or not), you may be interested in the following.

There is an electrical substation on the site, the demolition and reprovision of which has to be done prior to commencement of development. Electrical substations are vital components of the power grid that transform and regulate electricity, ensuring safe and reliable delivery to homes and businesses. I am told that the Council forgot to book the substation company and then found that they are unable to fit us in until June, so work can't start until after that has been done.

Meanwhile, contractors have been in to cut down the trees on the site and have removed a large healthy hornbeam that was supposed to have remained at the back of the site. It was valued at more than £75,000 and would have served to provide much needed shade for the children's playground. I hope that the Council has not paid the contractor for the felling of this tree and its disposal, although the contractor now has to find something to replace it with, at their own cost.

In April the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee were meant to discuss the cost of the contract with the developer Kier. The Council budget in 2024 put the cost of redevelopment of the site at £44,000,000, which presumably also included costs to that date. In July 2024 the Council awarded a contract worth £40,000,000 to Kier Construction with an end date delivery of October 31st, 2026, no longer achievable. The latest figure to be agreed for the updated contract has now been moved to the June meeting of the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee, so even more delays. I hope that, as the costs increase, the Councillors remain fully aware of their Fiduciary Duty in not wasting the money of their Council Tax Payers, and that someone starts to get a grip on things so that no more costly mistakes are made before even the first brick has been laid.

Best wishes,

Sue Hamilton-Miller

Resident of Twickenham



HAMPTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday 21 June 2025, 7.30pm

Songs and Sonnets
George Shearing

Feel the Spirit
John Rutter

Five Mystical Songs
Ralph Vaughan Williams

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

Charity Number 261788

Funds available to support innovative cultural projects in Richmond upon Thames

From Richmond Council

Richmond Council invites not-for-profits and social enterprises to apply for the Challenge and Innovation Fund, which provides up to £3,000 to support projects that help diversify the cultural activity in the borough.

The fund aims to help deliver [Culture Richmond](#), the borough's 10-year cultural framework, through supporting creative and cultural projects that challenge and innovate the existing cultural landscape.

Councillor John Coombs, Richmond Council's Spokesperson for Arts, said: *"I am pleased to announce the launch of the Challenge and Innovation Fund as part of our ongoing commitment to making Richmond upon Thames a home for creativity. This fund creates opportunities for not-for-profits to innovate, bring fresh perspectives, and make a difference in our community."*

"We welcome projects that engage underrepresented communities, focus on young people, or test new ways of working. If you have a bright idea in mind, I invite you to join us in fostering a sense of belonging for everyone in the borough."



The Challenge and Innovation Fund supports a wide range of projects, from directly creating and delivering creative and cultural activities for and with our local community, to providing longer-term support for organisational change, research and development, and sector support and engagement.

Applicants can apply for up to £3,000 of funding to support their small-scale projects. These initiatives must relate to visual arts, theatre, dance, music, festivals, literature, film, digital projects, public realm

activities, museums, or cultural activities in parks and sports. Innovative ideas that help deliver Culture Richmond and engage the community in the cultural life of Richmond upon Thames are encouraged. Priority will be given to local groups and organisations.

Funding will then be decided upon based on key criteria being met and the merits of each application, and how well they align with local priorities. Projects must be initiated and all funding drawn down before March 2026. At the end of the project, a short evaluation report in the form of a case study will be required, detailing the project's achievements and the lessons learned by the applicant.

Richmond Council is hosting two open online sessions on Thursday 15 and Thursday 22 May for interested organisations to hear about the fund. To attend the sessions, email the Arts Service team at artsinfo@richmond.gov.uk.

The deadline to apply for the Challenge and Innovation Fund is Sunday 6 July 2025. You can [read more guidance on eligibility and how to apply to the scheme](#).

Rift at the Top:

Roberts–Khan Feud Spills into Local Politics

By James Knight

The long-running saga over Mortlake's Stag Brewery site has not only reshaped a prominent corner of the Thames – it has also redrawn political lines across Richmond Borough and beyond.

At the heart of the dispute lies a highly public and personal feud between Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council and now also a London Assembly Member, and the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan. The two clashed repeatedly over the Stag Brewery redevelopment – particularly regarding the level of affordable housing – culminating in Khan's 2021 refusal of the scheme, despite support from his own planning officers.

Roberts has not held back. "Thanks to his interference... if he'd kept out of it, we'd have homes being built by now," he wrote in a widely shared tweet.

Since being elected to the London Assembly in 2024, Roberts regularly faces the Mayor at City Hall. Exchanges between the two are described by insiders as visibly cold and often pointed.

But this feud has not remained confined to City Hall. It is now spilling into local political dynamics, particularly between the Liberal Democrats and Labour Party members across Richmond Borough. For many years, local Labour activists—aware of their limited electoral strength in the borough—were willing to tolerate Liberal Democrat control of Richmond Council, viewing it as a preferable alternative to Conservative rule. However, the handling of the Mortlake Brewery site, and in particular the tone in public comments, has prompted a re-evaluation.

A turning point came in March 2024, when Roberts responded to growing concerns about school admissions with a public accusation: "Following Secondary Admissions Day we have many children as yet totally unplaced in any borough secondary school. The majority in the east of the borough. Yet NIMBYs like Mortlake Labour campaign against, and celebrate any delay, in building a new secondary school in Mortlake."

For many Labour members, this was a line crossed. "To be insulted as NIMBYs for raising concerns about community impact, traffic, and planning process was galling," said one local activist. "We've come to realise the Liberal Democrats don't share our values. They talk the language of localism, and social justice, but govern like mini-Tories." Another member noted: "For years we swallowed our discomfort and supported them where necessary to keep the Tories out. But it's becoming clear they're part of the problem."

As the fallout from the Mortlake saga continues, Labour figures across Richmond Borough are now preparing to contest more council wards actively, determined to provide voters with a distinct alternative in the May 2026 local elections.

Discover local charity and community efforts at The Rotary Fair

From The Rotary Fair

On Monday 26 May, The Rotary Fair will return to Twickenham Green. Come along for a lovely bank holiday family day out!



Following the success of the fair in 2023 and 2024, Rotary is looking to welcome even more visitors and participants this year. Participants will be able to reacquaint themselves with the great charity and voluntary work happening throughout our local area and beyond.

With around 50 charities and local voluntary groups publicising their activities and displaying their wares,

there will be a lot to explore. Enjoy local arts and crafts, information stands and, of course, some great entertainment.

This year, The Rotary Fair will have a more international flavour as it forms part of the reaffirmation events for the town twinning between Richmond, Fontainebleau and Konstanz. A wide range of commemorative events are planned for the Twinning Reaffirmation Weekend from 6 to 8 June. Some activities have already started, with more events continuing throughout the summer. View the [full event programme](#).

Event details:

- **Date:** Monday 26 May 2025
- **Time:** 10am to 4pm
- **Location:** Twickenham Green

Find out more about the [Rotary Fair](#).

Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million like-minded members who meet in over 46,000 clubs in almost all countries of the world. Rotary clubs are where lifelong friendships are made and where all Rotary's service and charitable activities start, in the local area and abroad. There are five Rotary clubs in our borough and you will find details for all of them as you walk through the fair. They are all looking forward to making this year's fair another enjoyable family bank holiday event.

Share your views on neighbourhood planning in Ham and Petersham

From Ham and Petersham Neighbourhood Forum

On Wednesday 14 May 2025, residents are invited to the Ham and Petersham Neighbourhood Forum's annual general meeting.

This designated neighbourhood forum leads the neighbourhood planning process in Ham and Petersham. It aims to consult widely with the local community and produce a neighbourhood plan. Come along to hear about their work and explore how you can take a more active role.

- Date: Wednesday 14 May 2025
- Time: 7.30pm
- Location: St Thomas Aquinas Church

The Ham and Petersham Neighbourhood Plan is a community-produced document that sets out a vision and objectives to help shape the future of the area. Find out more at [Ham and Petersham Neighbourhood Forum](#).

HAM & PETERSHAM
Neighbourhood
Forum



Support local poet's book for a good cause

From A Dozen Free Range Poems

Local author James Haydn is raising funds for the [Mayor's charities](#) with his book 'A Dozen Free Range Poems'. Donate now and receive a copy of these delightful poems!

'A Dozen Free Range Poems' is a collection of 12 poems published by local author James Haydn.



All proceeds will go to the Mayor's charities: [Richmond Borough Mind](#) and [Home-Start RKH](#).

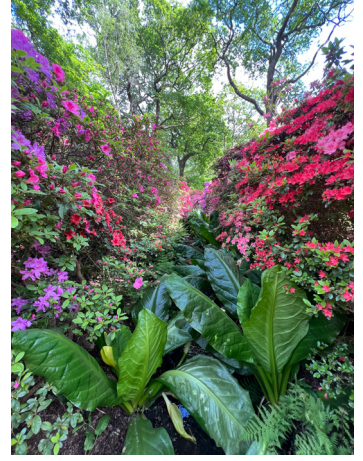
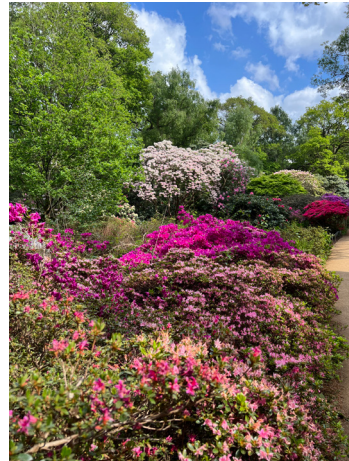
With a minimum donation of £5, plus any extra donation you wish to contribute, you will receive a copy of 'A Dozen Free Range Poems'. Available at The Open Book at 10 King Street, Richmond, TW9 1ND (cash only), or by [making a donation to the Mayor's appeal fund](#).

Find out about the [Mayor's charities](#).

Isabella Plantation: In Full Bloom

By Michael Jones

It began with a simple fence. In 1831, Henry Addington—Viscount Sidmouth, former moderate Tory Prime Minister, and by then Deputy Ranger of Richmond Park—enclosed a damp patch of woodland called Isabella Slade. His aim was practical: to protect the land from grazing deer and manage it as a game reserve. There was no grand vision, but that act of enclosure allowed the soil to settle, trees to grow, and the landscape to develop in peace. What followed, in time, was something quite special.

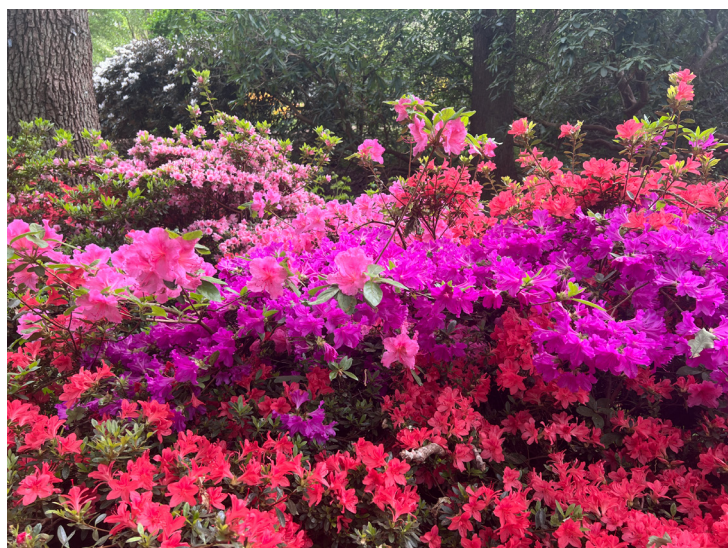
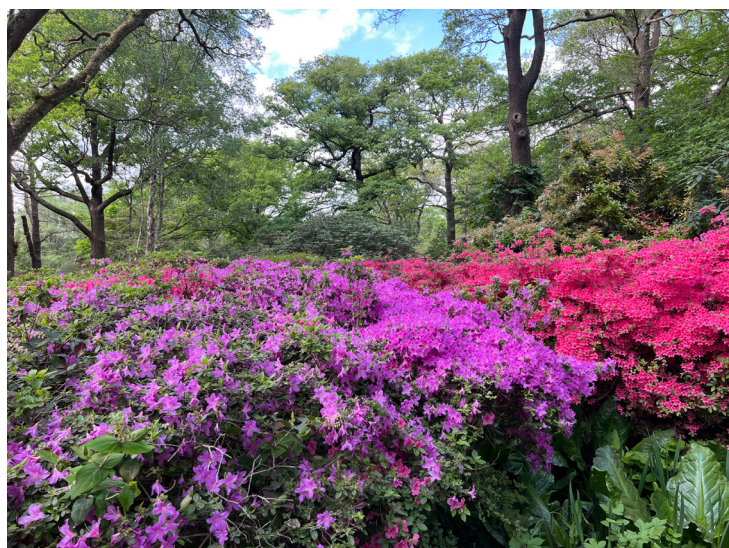


Richmond Park has always held a certain appeal. With its expansive views and proximity to London, it has provided a retreat from the city's pace for generations. The land that would become Isabella Plantation lay quietly in the park's centre for over a century, its natural qualities largely preserved thanks to the early fencing. It was not until after the Second World War that its true potential began to surface.

By the 1950s, Britain was recovering—not only from the physical damage of war but also from years of austerity and upheaval. The post-war investment in public parks was part of a renewed and more successful effort to create a “land fit for heroes,” offering green spaces for health, dignity, and shared national recovery in ways the post-1918 settlement had promised but largely failed to deliver. Isabella Plantation, rich in woodland character, was a perfect candidate for such national renewal.



George Thomson, the Superintendent of Richmond Park at the time, led the transformation. He approached the land with care, shaping it into a garden that honoured its natural features while adding gentle structure. Influenced by Japanese woodland planting, he introduced azaleas, rhododendrons, and camellias, many of which still bloom in dazzling colour each spring. Paths were laid through glades and around ponds, allowing visitors to explore without disturbing the peace.



Today, Isabella Plantation is among the most visited corners of Richmond Park. Its popularity is well earned. In spring, especially, the garden attracts people from across London—drawn by colour, light, and the sense of renewal it offers. Despite the crowds, it remains a place of reflection and natural richness. A walk here is not about solitude, but about connection: to landscape, to season, and to the quiet satisfaction of a space shaped with care and purpose.



And now is the perfect time to visit. The plantation is at its peak, with azaleas and rhododendrons brightening the woodland, and the paths are at their most inviting. For those seeking to escape the hectic pace of city life for something altogether gentler, Isabella Plantation offers a poignant reminder of what public space can be at its best: beautiful, generous, and inclusive for everyone.

Are Our Public Walking Areas Fit for Purpose?

To successfully pursue a pavement injury claim, three conditions must be met: you must have been owed a duty of care, that duty must have been breached, and the breach must have directly caused your injuries. When using public pavements, you are owed a duty of care by those responsible for maintaining them – in our case the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. https://www.richmond.gov.uk/insurance_claims

World Health Organization

Safer walking and cycling crucial for road safety and better health

“Walking and cycling improve health and make cities more sustainable. Every step and every ride help to cut congestion, air pollution and disease,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. “But we must make walking and cycling safe, so more people choose these healthier, greener options.”



Bold action is essential

“It is urgent to make, what should be our most natural means of transport, safer. This is paramount for road safety, but also health, equity, and climate,” said Etienne Krug, Director of the WHO Department for the Social Determinants of Health. “We’re calling on all sectors – transport, health, education and beyond – to make walking and cycling safe and accessible for everyone.”



Tribune reports on dangerous pavements

During various issues, the Tribune has published photographs of broken and dangerous pavements in the Twickenham area. We have also had photographs sent for publication from Richmond. What do residents, who pay a high Council tax, have to do to have dangerous pavement replaced? Perhaps you need to know your local councillor personally as reports by readers seem to be ignored.

When offering grants to various organizations should the Council ask themselves if the money could be more effectively spent on investing in walking infrastructure.

Interesting Garden Items for Sale

Crusader Travel in Twickenham's Church Street is planning to make a change to the garden areas in the square outside the office. More



perennial plants and bulbs are planned.

There is a large community chess board that could introduce an interesting outside diversion and two Victorian urns currently hosting floral displays.



If any of these items are of interest, please contact Crusader Travel for more details

Next week at Richmond Council

On Tuesday evening, the **Annual Council Meeting** will be held, which is the most important meeting of the municipal year. The meeting will, among other things, (1) appoint the new mayor and deputy, (2) appoint the new Mayor's Chaplain, (3) hold the election of the Leader and Deputy Leader(s), (4) make appointments to committees, (5) make appointments to outside bodies, (6) introduce a revised syllabus for religious education in Richmond, (7) make amendments to the Constitution, and (8) agree the members' allowance schemes.

At the time of publication, many key reports remain unavailable to the public, indicating that the council has failed to meet the requirement to publish them five full days before the meeting.

To see the full agenda and committee papers, click [HERE](#)

On Thursday, 15th May, the **Licensing Sub-Committee** will convene to discuss the opposed licence application for Ambrosia, 12a Eton Street. The Metropolitan Police have requested amendments, and the Richmond Society and The Friends of Richmond Green oppose the application. The online meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m.

For details, click [HERE](#)

For guidance on how to participate at different types of council meetings, such as speaking or asking written or verbal questions, please click [HERE](#)

News from Holy Trinity, Twickenham

APCM

A reminder that the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be taking place this Sunday, following the 10.30am service. [Please take some time to click here and read the 2024 Annual Report](#) prior to the meeting. As well as the wonderful services and events that you will already be aware of, there is so much more that goes on behind the scenes at Holy Trinity Twickenham. This is your chance to find out more about the life of the church and all of our wonderful volunteers. [Click here to review the minutes of the 2024 APCM](#).

Gardening Socials

Come and be part of the Holy Trinity gardening gang during their upcoming meets this term. Gardening mornings will be running from 10.30am-12.30pm on the following Saturdays (please bring along gloves and tools if you have them):

Saturday 17 May / Saturday 28 June



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

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Pope Leo XIV elected the first North American Pope

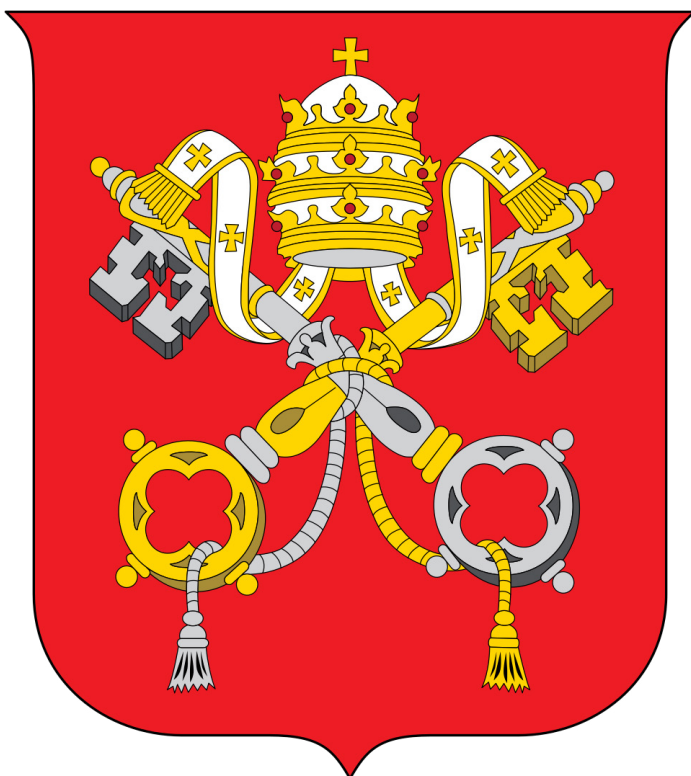
wiz World InfoZone

Pope Francis, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, was the head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the state of Vatican City for twelve years until his death on 21 April 2025.

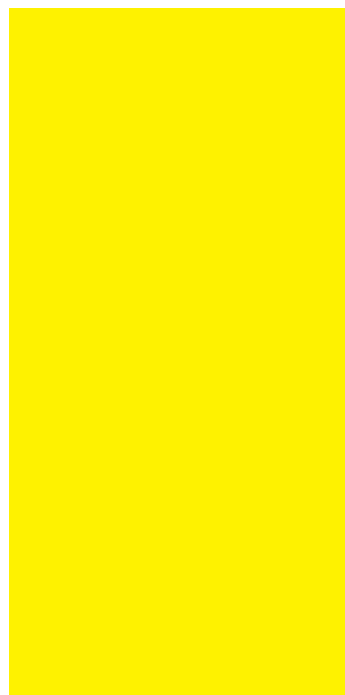
On 8th May 2025 the conclave, the assembly of cardinals, elected Robert Francis Cardinal Prevost the 267th Bishop of Rome. The pope, who was born in the state of Chicago in the USA, has chosen the name of Leo XIV; his first public words were “peace be with all of you”.

During the ceremonial proceedings following the death of Pope Francis the Pontifical Swiss Guard, the official security guards of the Vatican, carried out their ceremonial and protective function; throughout the duration of the conclave the Swiss Guard’s role was to prevent any interruption.

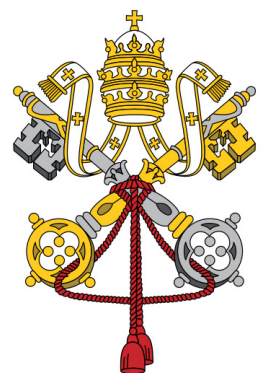
The Swiss Guard wear a Renaissance-style uniform commemorating the last stand the guards made to defend the pope and signifies that they are willing to do so again,



Coat of arms of Vatican City State



Flag of Vatican City State



Are you making the “most of it”...

~ Life Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

By Deep Patel



When it's sunny, I see couples holding hands more, strangers smiling at each other and neighbours who never talk to each other saying good morning to each other as they pass each other on the streets...it's like the sun makes everyone nicer?

I am a great believer in finding true happiness through being a kind human and helping others where we can. During these summer months, I go to the level of advocating kindness towards the smaller creatures in life, such as sprinkling talcum powder or white vinegar around where ants come (but not directly on them) in order to stop them kindly, without harming them in name of good karma, or stopping snails and slugs munching our prized plants by putting bamboo canes into the ground and wrapping pure copper mesh from online stores (or at my shop!) around the bottom to create an 100% effective barrier...but what really makes people happy during these sunshine days? I was discussing this with my customers this past week...

Many of you may answer this question by saying we should go to the beach, or somewhere even more exotic right? But sometimes the pressure of trying to “make the most of it” actually causes a lot of anxiety and results in us not enjoying ourselves at all...sound familiar? I truly think that sometimes less is actually more...during these hot days, I think we could all benefit from taking a step back and trying to find pleasure in the little things in life, like sitting with family or friends, or enjoying the views of normal life on Twickenham green, because I truly believe that later in life, we all eventually will realise that it's those little things in life, like holding hands with a loved one, sharing a lemonade whilst playing cards with an old friend, or even just sitting outside your front door or even indoors with your window open admiring the sky whilst listening to music from your youth, it's these little things in life that we eventually realise were actually the big things...

So next time when it is a sunny day and everyone around you is telling you that you must “make the most of it” ...choose to take a step back instead of forwards...simplify...and enjoy the little things in life...they will one day be the biggest things when you look back...

Remember...

“It's more about the people, and less about the place...”

CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK:

FOR ANY HOME OR GARDEN “PEST” ...

Sprinkle essential peppermint oil 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 it! For more tips, email:

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

It's Come to This

by Meow Meow

Impatient Productions at the Soho Theatre until 24th May

Meow Meow is an incredible force. I had had the pleasure of seeing this enigmatic performer some years ago, and jumped at the chance to see her cabaret show again.

On the dark stage in the small auditorium, there is a stepladder. "The End" is pinned on a background banner.

The star herself wafts on stage clad in stunning taffeta and a basque. The last word in glamour, the iconic Meow Meow goes through some weighty rearranging of a grand piano. She then proceeds to haul on one of the technic crew who unravels a pianist, who goes on to wonderfully enhance the star's incredible singing voice, and her bawdy and witty persona.



Bringing a climax to the middle of the show, we had the pleasure of Meow Meow crowd- surfing, a feat that is anxiety-inducing and excruciating to watch and then, my oh my, I help to carry her across the audience, wary of her six-inch stilettos. Such a clever and unique move.

Bringing the aura of [Marlene Dietrich](#) and the glory Berlin days of cabaret to life, the atmosphere is dark and smoky. With volunteers from the audience, it all becomes intimate. And funny. This is a singer who knows no bounds.

The lovely Meow Meow walked among our aisles, highly risky with the narrow space and her lethal but enticing shoes. Since she was helping herself to many handbags, I kept my Louis Vuitton (only kidding!) under the seat, but she managed to snaffle my coat. A very nice stage manager handed our things back after the show, but I won't be washing that coat again!

However, before leaving the stage, Meow Meow gave a significant speech about war and human nature, that really made us look at ourselves. The trouble was that it was hard to get back to a humorous level again, especially after the crowd surfing climax. Plus some of the musical numbers could be heavy-going, but Meow Meow's natural tragi-comedic flair carried this all off.

I would happily go along and see this dazzling and outrageous star of "kamikaze cabaret" again, and again. It's an amazing experience.

Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2025/05/09/its-come

Photography by Magnus Hastings and Karl Giant

The Rocky Horror Show

by Richard O'Brien

Trafalgar Productions at Richmond Theatre and on tour until 13th June 2026

If you haven't experienced *The Rocky Horror Show*, which has been around a half-century, expect a night where the audience is as wild as the cast. This is no ordinary visit to the theatre, but an entry into an outrageously fun and energetic world, where the audience come prepared with standard interjections to heckle the cast throughout. (Think panto for subversive sex maniacs!)

With her clipped vowels and sharp wit, stand-up Jackie Clune exerts a master class in audience participation and ad-libbing as The Narrator.



Connor Carson and Laurie Chai are excellently cast as Brad and Janet, two recently engaged 1950's squeaky-clean college kids, who are on their way to meet their science teacher, wheelchair bound Dr Scott (Edward Bullingham). They get a flat tyre and are stranded in the middle of nowhere on a dark and stormy night. And the chaos intensifies.



They go for help and find a spooky Gothic mansion, inhabited by Dr Frank'n'Furter and his minions Riff Raff and Magenta (Natahsa Hoerberigs). The imposing haunted house's hallway effortlessly transforms into a futuristic laboratory, combining popular fifties's B-movie horror and sci-fi tropes. Frank emerges as a Dracula character, while Riff Raff parodies Frankenstein's servant Igor. (They are actually aliens from the planet Transsexual in the Galaxy of Transylvania.) Job Greuter is hunched and his twitchy mannerisms embody his creepy character. Adam Strong provides an imposing portrayal of hedonistic Frank, who is intimidating yet hugely humorous, a mad scientist who is at ease striding around in stockings, basque and heels! He has created his ideal sexual playmate in Rocky (Morgan Jackson) and now he provides Brad and Janet with a monumental

sexual awakening, removing their innocence whilst unapologetically discarding another one of his sexual playthings Columbia (Jayme-Lee Zanoncelli).

Under Christopher Luscombe's direction and with Nathan M Wright's choreography, the show whips through all the famous songs and dance numbers which have given this show such unparalleled cult status, including the Halloween floor-filler the *Time Warp*.

Come prepared for an absolutely pleasurable yet anarchic spectacle, and see some truly memorable make up, hair and costumes ... from the faithful fans in the auditorium.



Read Thea Diamond's review at www.markaspen.com/2025/04/30/rocky-horror-25

Photography by David Freeman

Three Hens in a Boat

by Camille Ucan

Reading Rep and Watermill Theatre at the Reading Rep Theatre until 17th May, then on tour until 7th June

Loosely inspired by Jerome K. Jerome's 1889 *Three Men in a Boat*, this adaptation is a buoyant, comic, and surprisingly tender exploration of womanhood, family, and the tangled truths we sail past in the name of love.

Three Hens in a Boat swaps the original trio of Victorian gents for a lively, intergenerational group of women: Claudette, her daughter Gloria, and her granddaughter Jay, who set out on a celebratory river cruise to mark their joint henparty. However the waters are far from calm, as the light-hearted weekend afloat on the Thames becomes a bubbling, emotional voyage through long-buried tensions, maternal missteps, and the quiet ache of unspoken truths.



Director Abigail Pickard Price gives a clear sense of purpose and energy, maintaining a brisk pace that never rushes past its emotional beats. The comic timing is sharp and well-judged, and it's the balance between laughter and longing that makes the play so rewarding. Witty and contemporary, laced with self-aware humour and punchy one-liners, it's never afraid to moor itself in more serious waters.

At the heart of this unconventional family is Ellen O'Grady's Claudette, in a performance that radiates warmth, generosity, and impeccable comic timing, capturing the contradictions of Claudette with finesse. Verona Rose is charismatic in the role of Gloria, a driven career woman whose desire to be accepted by her daughter often manifests in misplaced gestures and awkward gifts. Rose is larger than life, yet never cartoonish. Camille Ucan, as Jay, is the hinge of the story. Her performance is relatable and nuanced, capturing the confusion and vulnerability of a woman caught between generations.

The set beautifully conjures the flowing Thames, as, aided by soft lighting transitions, the moving boat and scenic shifts subtly suggest both the physical journey and the emotional one. Contemporary touches keep the story grounded in the now, while still nodding to the spirit of Jerome's original travelogue.

The trio's dynamic is messy, loving, and aching real, as the emotional arc of the piece crescendos in a deliciously ironic yet touching commitment ceremony.



Three Hens in a Boat is a joy, funny and heartfelt, a show that is as reflective as it is entertaining.

Read Sam Martin's review at www.markaspen.com/2025/05/07/3-hens-boat

Photography by Pamela Raith

JOSEPH K AND COST OF LIVING

at the MARY WALLACE THEATRE, the Embankment, Twickenham

"Someone must have made a false accusation against Joseph K for he was arrested one morning without having done anything wrong." Franz Kafka - The Trial

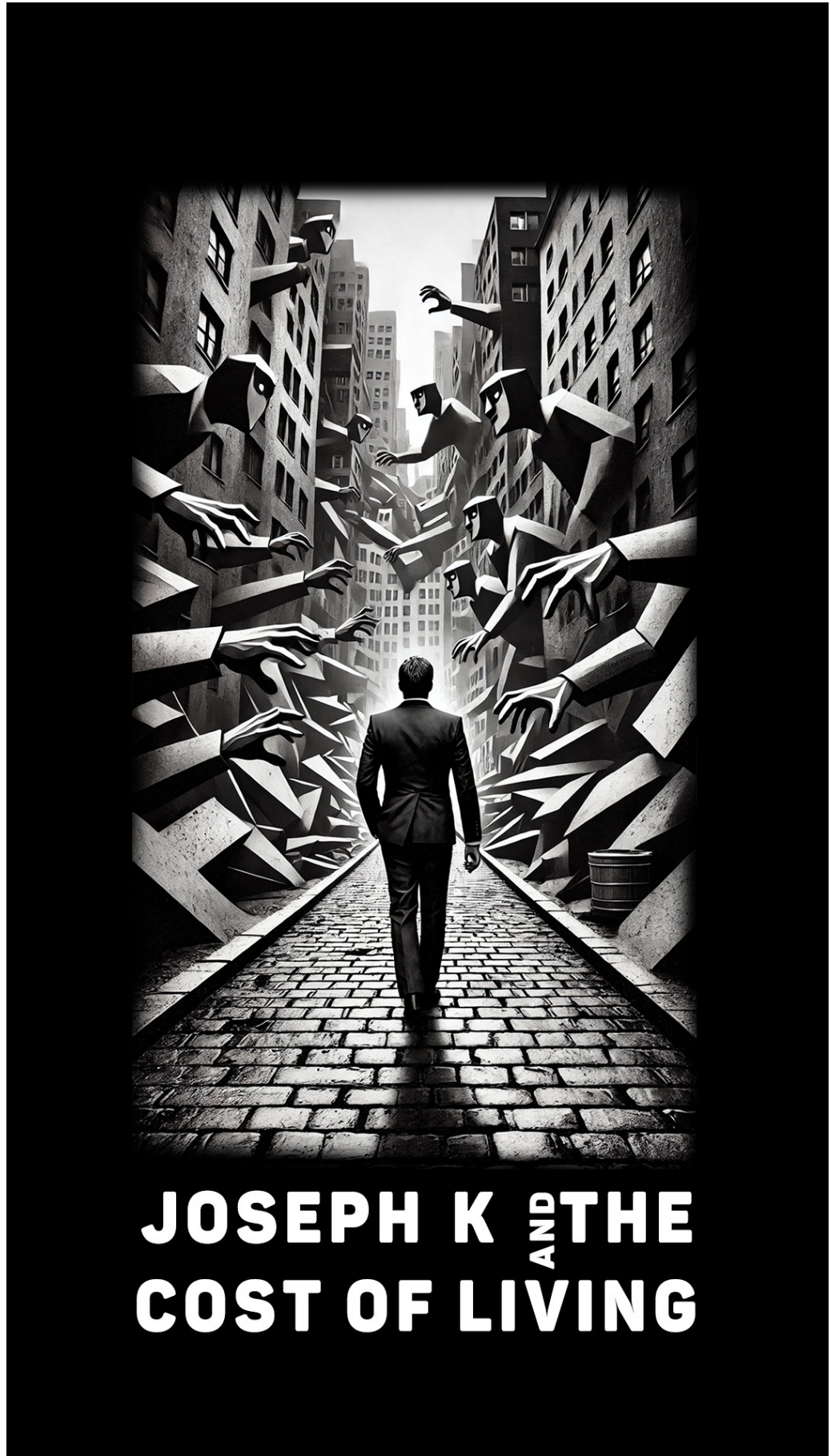
Emily White's adaptation intertwines the torments of discrimination and injustice with the perplexities of modern living and offers a witty and physical take on Kafka's *THE TRIAL*.

The novel, published in 1925, uncannily predicted some of the more unwelcome aspects of existence in the century which was to follow. Join us in celebrating it's centenary.

JOSEPH K AND THE COST OF LIVING plays at Twickenham's MARY WALLACE THEATRE from May 31st - June 7th

Booking at www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk

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





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In Twickenham

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THE REVOLUTION BEGINS

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Cristian Sandrin, piano

as featured on



Join acclaimed pianist Cristian Sandrin for an extraordinary evening showcasing Beethoven's complete Opus 2 Piano Sonatas. Written to challenge the legacy of Mozart and Haydn, these three early piano sonatas mark Beethoven's explosive composition debut and his emerging unique voice within the musical world of Vienna.

Witness the complete cycle performed in the sumptuous acoustics of the St Mary's Church, in the heart of Twickenham - a rare opportunity to hear these sonatas live.

Tickets: £15 General Admissions
£10 Concessions (Under 18s, Students)



Book tickets on [Eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) or
scan the QR code

Saturday
17 May 2025

6.00 pm

St Mary's Church
Twickenham
Church Street
TW1 3NJ

The Kettner Society is a
registered charity (1161105)
Contact: kettnerconcerts@gmail.com

VE Day 80: Veterans from Royal Star & Garter meet The King at Westminster Abbey service

Residents from Royal Star & Garter met and chatted to His Majesty The King when they attended a national service at Westminster Abbey marking the 80th anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day.

Veterans from the charity's Homes in Solihull, Surbiton and High Wycombe were at the service, on VE Day, Thursday, 8 May, which was also attended by senior members of the royal family, prime ministers past and present, and other leading dignitaries.

Royal Star & Garter's Homes also marked the anniversary of VE Day, when Nazi Germany surrendered to Allied Forces in 1945, with music, festivities and VIP visits. There was also a Guinness World Record attempt for largest ever virtual cream tea party.

Royal Star & Garter provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their partners living with disability or dementia, from Homes in Solihull, Surbiton, High Wycombe, and now in Worthing, having recently merged with the



military charity Care for Veterans. The charity also has services reaching into the community, including Day Care, Lunch Club and a free-to-use Telephone Friendship Service.

Residents from the three Homes attended the Westminster Abbey service. After it finished, members of the royal family, including Royal Star & Garter's Patron HRH The Princess Royal, spent time speaking to guests at the Abbey. Residents and staff from all three Homes shook hands and chatted to King Charles III, Queen Camilla, Prince William and Catherine, Princess of Wales.

Other Royal Star & Garter residents present at Westminster Abbey included Solihull resident Bill Wheeler, who was 17 on VE Day and serving in the RAF, and Ken Pusey, who was in the Army from 1944-1947.

Ken, who was also interviewed by the BBC as part of the broadcaster's coverage of the service, later said: "I never dreamt I'd attend a service like this at Westminster Abbey. It was absolutely beautiful and a privilege to be part of. It was wonderful."

Bill added: "To be part of such a special day in such a beautiful setting was something I will never forget. It was an honour to be at Westminster Abbey for the service."

In the Homes, residents enjoyed street parties reminiscent of those that took place on VE Day 80 years ago, with live music, visits from cadets and delicious food.

In Solihull, Dr Neil Shastri-Hurst, Solihull West and Shirley MP, joined veterans on VE Day afternoon, and participated in a World Record attempt to be part of the largest cream tea party. He said: "It's always a pleasure to come and visit residents and staff at Royal Star & Garter. Today had a particular poignancy being on the 80th anniversary of VE Day. It was wonderful to join in the celebrations over a splendid cream tea and a sing-along with residents."



Kingston & Surbiton MP Sir Ed Davey was among the guests at Surbiton. The Home had vintage band D-Day Dollies providing live nostalgic entertainment. It also had a projector and big screen showing celebrations and footage from VE Day in 1945. The special day started with WWII Wren Connie raising the Union flag, at the front of the Home.

Sir Ed, also the Liberal Democrat leader, later said: "I feel very honoured to be able to celebrate VE Day with my veteran constituents here at Royal Star & Garter. I received a warm welcome as ever and appreciated being able to spend time with the residents on this historic day, especially meeting Amy, a WAAF veteran, who remembers VE Day clearly."

The High Wycombe Home was visited by High Wycombe Mayor Nathan Thomas, and Mimi Harker OBE, the Chair of Buckinghamshire Council and the Armed Forces Champion for the county. Squadron Leader Paul Armstrong from RAF High Wycombe was also at the Home to join in festivities. Residents enjoyed a barbecue and drinks for lunch, before a VE Day party, which included singer Emily Yarrow providing the entertainment.

The world record attempt was arranged by caterers Signature Dining. While not yet confirmed, early indications suggest a new record has been set.

Royal Star & Garter is welcoming new residents into its Homes. For more information on this, its new services or to work for the charity, go to www.starandgarter.org

Love at first sight: Resident recalls meeting husband on VE Day

A resident at Royal Star & Garter has recalled meeting her husband exactly 80 years ago, on VE Day.

Rita Harvey said it was love at first sight when she met Ken on the train as she travelled home to Twickenham from VE Day celebrations in London on 8 May, 1945.

The couple married in East Molesey in 1951, and lived happily together until Ken's death in 1993.

The 97-year-old now lives at Royal Star & Garter in Surbiton. The Home provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their partners living with disability or dementia, as well as services reaching out into the community.



Rita, who is living with dementia, shared her story as the nation celebrates the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, and the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany.

She met Ken, who was serving in the Army, on a train leaving Waterloo station after she and a friend had spent the day in London celebrating. Ken offered her his seat on the busy train,

and on the journey they exchanged addresses to write to each other.

Rita said: "I wanted to go up to London to join in the VE Day celebrations, but I wanted some company so I asked a very good friend if she wanted to join me. I wanted to see what was happening in London."

She continued: "We were drinking champagne and dancing in central London, and we had a wonderful day. Later we went to back to Waterloo to get the train home, and the carriages were packed. Then, this lovely young man offered me his seat. That lovely young man was Ken, and it was love at first sight. We hit it off and he asked if we could exchange addresses and stay in touch. It was the start of a wonderful relationship and we were devoted to each other."

Royal Star & Garter is celebrating VE Day at each of its Homes, in Solihull, Surbiton, High Wycombe, and now in Worthing, having recently merged with the military charity Care for Veterans.

Residents will also be attending a service of thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey on VE Day.

Royal Star & Garter in Surbiton is welcoming new residents. For more information on this, the other services it offers to the veterans' community, or to work at the Home, go to

www.starandgarter.org/surbiton



**Royal Star
& Garter**

Care with courage

Get involved in Mental Health Awareness Week

This Mental Health Awareness Week (12-18 May 2025), Mental Health Foundation is calling on people, groups, and organisations across the UK to celebrate the communities that support good mental health and wellbeing.

Mental Health Awareness Week takes place from 12 – 18 May and this year the campaign is highlighting the vital role that positive communities play in supporting mental health and wellbeing.

Alexa Knight, Director at Mental Health Foundation, said: “Community is an essential protective factor for our mental health. It gives us a sense of belonging and purpose, and it provides support when we need it most. This Mental Health Awareness Week, we want to celebrate the diverse and vibrant communities that contribute to our wellbeing and encourage people and organisations to get involved and share their own positive experiences of community. Share your stories, photographs and videos on social media #ThisIsMyCommunity #MentalHealthAwareness Week and don't forget to tag Mental Health Foundation.”

Community supports good mental health, not only by tackling social isolation, but also by giving us a sense of belonging, safety, purpose and support. People who are more socially connected to family, friends, or their community are happier, physically healthier, and live longer. They typically have lower stress levels and fewer mental health problems than people who are less well connected.

We can find community in different places and can belong to more than one. It is based on a common experience that binds you together which may be the neighbourhood you live in, your workplace or school, your faith, a hobby group, a sports team, a campaigning organisation, volunteering, living with a long-term health condition, being a parent, or even a love of Taylor Swift. A healthy community is one where you feel that you will be supported, and you will support others. It will make you feel good about yourself.

The benefits of community are not only limited to what we receive but also what we give to our communities. Evidence shows that being kind serves as an antidote to isolation and also helps us feel that we belong. It helps reduce stress, brings a fresh perspective, deepens friendships, and can even improve feelings of confidence and optimism.

Run by Mental Health Foundation, Mental Health Awareness Week is an annual campaign to encourage people to find out more about how to nurture and protect good mental health and what actions they can take. This year that will includes guidance about how to engage with your community to boost mental health and wellbeing.

The Mental Health Foundation has been running Mental Health Awareness Week for more than 20 years. The campaign helps to normalise conversations about mental health as it's important that people, particularly those at risk of poor mental health, know what they can do and where to get help.

The campaign is about more than awareness; it's about giving people the expert information they need and encouraging positive action to support good mental health. This is especially important given that mental health is the greatest health concern among adults living in the UK - ahead of both cancer and obesity according to Ipsos research published in September 2024 ([Ipsos, 2024](#)).

To find out more about this year's Mental Health Awareness Week visit www.mentalhealth.org.uk.mhaw



Match Preview: Ipswich Town v Brentford

Written by Brentford Football Club

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of Brentford's Premier League game against Ipswich Town at Portman Road on Saturday (3pm kick-off BST)

Brentford are seeking a fourth-successive Premier League victory when they face Ipswich Town at Portman Road on Saturday (3pm kick-off BST).

The west Londoners travel to Suffolk buoyed by wins over Brighton, Nottingham Forest and Manchester United while Kieran McKenna's Tractor Boys came back from 2-0 down to pick up a point against Everton at Goodison Park last time out.

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

Pre-match Analysis

Richard Cole, Playmaker Stats: Brentford must deal with Delap



Although all the promoted teams have gone straight back down, Kieran McKenna's Ipswich Town have been the best performing attacking side of the three.

The Tractor Boys have scored 35 goals, just one fewer than Everton and more than Leicester City (29) and Southampton (25).

While Ipswich have nothing to play for but pride, every remaining game for them is a free hit and an opportunity for players to put themselves in the shop window should they wish to stay in the Premier League next season.

One man who has reportedly attracted significant interest is Liam Delap. The former Manchester City youth product has 12 goals for his club in the league this season, a tally that only 11 players – all of whom are playing for a team outside of the drop zone – have beaten.

Four of Delap's goals have come from Ipswich counter attacks, with only one player in the league scoring more goals on the break – Premier League winner Mohamed Salah with seven.

Indeed, Delap was one of the scorers for Ipswich in the epic 4-3 win for Brentford back in October at the Gtech, a game in which Yoane Wissa and Bryan Mbeumo both bagged braces.

Another threat that Brentford will have to be wary of is Julio Enciso, on loan from Brighton. Since the last international break, the Paraguayan has two goals and two assists in six games for his side, including a goal against Everton in the 2-2 draw last time out.

At the back, Dara O'Shea ranks highly in defensive stats this season. The Republic of Ireland international has made 59 blocks (ranking him sixth), won 103 aerial duels (fifth), and made 204 clearances in total (fourth).

Ipswich haven't been helped by long-term injuries to key squad members this year and also due to picking up too many suspensions. Another important player, Leif Davis, is still out after his straight red card for a challenge on Bukayo Saka in the defeat to Arsenal last month.

In fact, Ipswich have the player who has committed the joint-most fouls in the league (the aforementioned Delap, 67 fouls) and are the team that has conceded six penalties (fourth highest), picked up the third highest number of yellow cards (89), and along with Arsenal, have the most sendings off (five).

One of those red cards also came against Brentford when Harry Clarke, now on loan at Sheffield United, received a second yellow card in the 69th minute.

Meanwhile, Brentford's forward line will know that pressure on the Ipswich defence is likely to be rewarded against a team that have made 36 errors leading to opposition shots in the league.

The Bees have been in great goalscoring form recently and they will face a team that has shipped 76 in total this season. The London club have bagged 10 goals in their last three games (all wins) and Thomas Frank will hope there is more to come from his side this weekend.

Scout Report

Dan Long, *Sky Sports*: Positivity remains at Portman Road despite Ipswich's immediate return to the Championship

Ipswich were relegated back to the Championship after a 3-0 defeat to Newcastle on 26 April. Their return to the Premier League for the first time since 2001/02 was a brief one, ended with four games to spare. They came up with Leicester and Southampton and will return with them in 2025/26.

The fact, for the second season running, the three promoted teams have gone on to become the three relegated has naturally sparked the debate about the gulf in class between the top flight and the second tier. But, arguably, Ipswich were never expected to be in this position yet anyway.

15 largely fruitless seasons in the Championship came to an end in 2019, and they were floundering in League One until Kieran McKenna took over in December 2021.

In McKenna's first full season, Ipswich finished second, as they did in the Championship last term, securing automatic promotion with a six-point cushion between themselves and Leeds. With the majority of the same squad still on board, the momentum just built and built and built and helped realise the dream of a Premier League return. When they got there, despite spending in excess of £100 million to bolster the squad to attempt consolidation, it remained.

In nine of their 19 games in the first half of the season, they took the lead, with this unknown entity often surprising opponents. They closed the year - and that run - with a brilliant 2-0 win at home to Chelsea. In the other eight, however, they only managed to hold on to win twice and draw another two.

Since then, the Tractor Boys have been on something of a downward spiral, in terms of results. Injuries haven't helped: Chiedozie Ogbene has been out since November, Wes Burns and Sammie Szmodics

since February.

There have been some highlights: holding Aston Villa to a 1-1 draw with 10 men in February; giving Manchester United a scare at Old Trafford 11 days later; beating Bournemouth in April; and racing into a 2-0 lead against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. Moments the fans have longed for for decades.

The form of Liam Delap has been scintillating, too. The England Under-21 international has scored 12 goals in his first full season in the division and proved to be more than a handful for centre-backs up and down the country.

[As Stuart Watson, chief football writer for the East Anglian Daily Times and Ipswich Star told us](#), much of the club's recruitment was done with an eye on the possibility of returning to the Championship straightaway.

And, overall, it doesn't seem as though there is half as much negativity surrounding Ipswich's relegation compared to that of Leicester and Southampton.

That is seemingly the mood within the camp too, with McKenna looking at the positives when he spoke after their drop was confirmed.

"We're in a much better position than the club has been over previous years," he said. "The journey has been a fantastic one that sets us up well. The club is in a really strong position. There's still a fantastic togetherness there. It's a step back now but that's often the way in terms of taking steps forward."

All those of an Ipswich persuasion will be willing that sentiment to come true – and for the wait for a return to be far shorter than 22 years this time around.

In the Dugout

Kieran McKenna

London-born Kieran McKenna was raised in County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland, but returned to the English capital in 2002, when he joined Tottenham as a 16-year-old. A midfielder by trade, he played for Northern Ireland at U19 and U21 level, but a persistent hip injury sadly prevented him from ever making a senior appearance - at either club or international level - and led to his premature retirement aged 22 in 2009.

Having studied for his A-Levels while at Spurs, McKenna applied to study sport and exercise science at Loughborough University and graduated in 2012. Shortly afterwards, he returned to Tottenham as head of academy performance analysis, before later taking charge of the club's U18s.

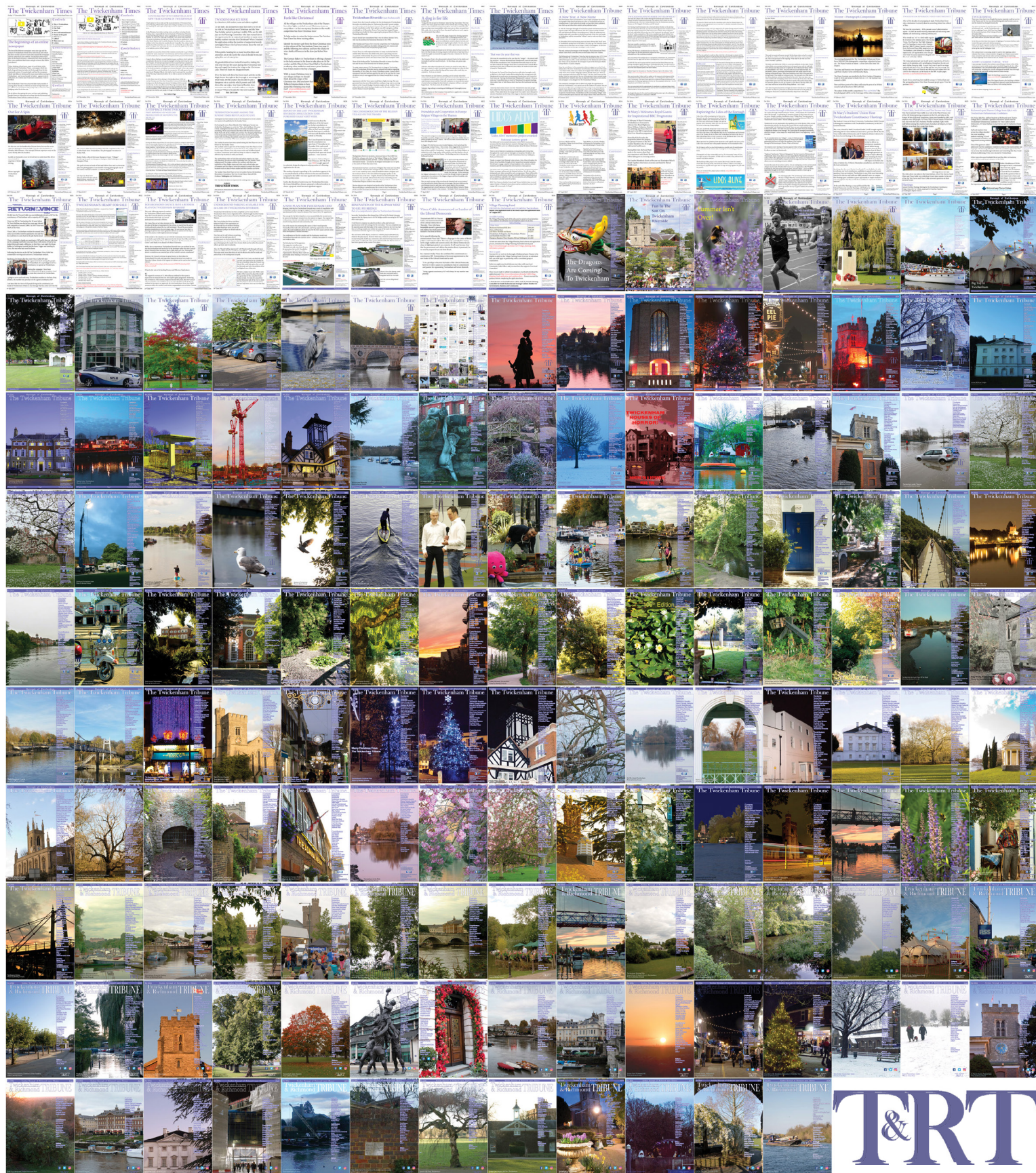
In the summer of 2016, he joined Manchester United in the same capacity and, in the 2017/18 campaign, won the Premier League Northern Division title, before being picked – alongside Michael Carrick – to work as assistant to José Mourinho in the first team.

After the Portuguese left Old Trafford, McKenna worked under Ole Gunnar Solskjær and Ralf Rangnick.

McKenna was just 35 when he was appointed Ipswich boss in December 2021 and, almost four years and two promotions later, is on the way to becoming only the eighth manager in the club's history to reach 200 games in charge.



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