

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



Contents

TickerTape

Rugby at Twickenham Stadium: *Gallagher Premiership Final*

CEO opportunity with Richmond CVS

The Tree Agency

West London Postcard Fair

Share your views on e-bikes and e-scooters

Munira Wilson backs global fossil fuel tax

Princess Alice Hospice Summer Fete & Dog Show

Letters

Twickenham Celebrates

Richmond's Transport Meeting

Teddington RNLI Welcomes 2,000 Visitors – and 1,600 Ducks

All four main forms of transport ...

Why are Britons paying twice as much for power as Americans?

Teddington Direct River Abstraction (TDRA)

Next week at Richmond Council

Craft exhibition reveals hidden talents in Sunbury-on-Thames

Twickers Foodie: Small Plates & Big Flavours: Modern Indian

Gibraltar Rocks Package

Sicily: Mount Etna

It's the little things...

Mark Aspen Review: Under Milk Wood

Mark Aspen Review: La Traviata

Songs and Sonnets

Love to sing? Come along to free trial session at Whitton Community Centre

Health & Wellbeing Board Reviews £5.4 Million Overspend Without Challenge

Bring your class or group to the Ellera Centre

St Mary's vs Vatican Cricket Match 2025

Politics Students Visit The Supreme Court

Twickenham Yacht Club Open Day

Borthwick names 36-player England training squad ahead of France XV match

Frank leaves Brentford to join Tottenham as head coach

Red Flags & Redistribution

Heathrow Airport strike breaking shame causes passenger assistance dispute escalation

Alan Winter

Richmond Council

James Knight

Princess Alice Hospice

Doug Goodman

James Knight

Teddington RNLI

Jonathan Haydn-Williams

James Knight

Thames Water

Right at Home Twickenham & Richmond

Alison Jee

Sunborn

Teresa Read

Deep Patel

Eleanor Lewis

Mark Aspen

Hampton Choral Society

Whitton Adult Community Singing

James Knight

Ellera Community Association

St Mary's University

Richmond upon Thames College

TYC

RFU

Brentford Football Club

James Knight

Unite,

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TickerTape - News in Brief

Rugby at Twickenham Stadium *Gallagher Premiership Final*

Saturday 14th June

Kick off 15:00.

Expected attendance 82,000

Expect Whitton & Rugby Roads to close 13:00-15:00 and 16:30-19:00.

CEO opportunity with Richmond CVS

From Richmond CVS

Richmond CVS is currently looking for an inspirational leader to build on their excellent reputation and take them into the next phase of its development.

The successful candidate will have a good understanding of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and be a Senior Leader with extensive experience of service delivery, people management, organisation development, finance, income generation and stakeholder engagement.

Anyone with suitable experience and who is interested should [read the full application documents at the Richmond CVS CEO vacancy webpage](#) and apply by Monday 30 June 2025.

Richmond CVS is an independent infrastructure organisation whose role is to “Empower, Enable and Involve” the thriving VCS across the Richmond upon Thames borough in order to deliver the Vision of “strong vibrant communities at the heart of local life”.



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

WEST LONDON POSTCARD FAIR

Including STAMPS, POSTAL HISTORY, COINS and EPHEMERA

**TEDDINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH
CHURCH ROAD, TW11 8PF**

2025 DATES

**SATURDAY 14th JUNE
SATURDAY 11th OCTOBER**

All 10am – 4pm

Admission £2.00

14 DEALERS

REFRESHMENTS

EASY BY RAIL – Teddington (on Kingston loop from Waterloo)

EASY BY BUS – 33, 281, 285, 481, R68 and SL7

EASY BY ROAD – From M3/A316

Enquiries: ALAN WINTER

07875 578398 / alanwinter192@hotmail.com

Share your views on e-bikes and e-scooters

From Richmond Council

We want to hear your views on e-bikes to help inform our future approach to hire schemes in the borough.

E-bikes are a popular means of transport for local journeys offering convenient access to areas not well served by public transport whilst promoting healthy, sustainable travel. However, we know that challenges remain in ensuring good rider behaviour and considerate parking.

This autumn, we will be finalising our approach to e-bikes and e-scooters, including decisions on the number of operators and parking management. To inform this review, a scrutiny session will be held on Tuesday 24 June, where our Transport and Air Quality Services Committee will hear directly from operators.

Councillor Alexander Ehmann, Chair of the Transport and Air Quality Services Committee, said: *"We are committed to making Richmond upon Thames a leader in sustainable transport. E-bikes offer significant benefits, but we need to ensure they are used responsibly."*

"The Council has a strong idea of the benefits and disadvantages associated with e-bike operations, but we are keen to hear fresh views, both positive and negative, particularly from those who have not previously expressed their opinions. Your feedback is crucial in helping us shape a balanced and effective approach."

To share your views, please email e-bikes@richmond.gov.uk before **Friday 20 June**.

[Watch the scrutiny meeting online](#) on Tuesday 24 June from 7pm onwards.



Munira Wilson backs global fossil fuel tax

By James Knight

Twickenham MP Munira Wilson has signed up to the *Make Polluters Pay* campaign, backing calls for a new global tax on fossil fuel companies. Framed as a matter of “climate justice,” the proposal demands a levy on oil, coal and gas producers, with the proceeds funnelled into a UN-administered compensation fund for countries deemed most affected by climate change.

On the surface, the idea may sound reasonable: big polluters should help fund recovery. But the reality of what Ms Wilson has endorsed is far more radical, and far more costly for the people she represents.

The proposed Climate Damages Tax (CDT) would start at \$5 per tonne of CO₂ and rise to an eye-watering \$250 by 2050. These costs won't fall on multinationals. They will be passed directly through the supply chain, into the price of petrol, heating, airfares and electricity. Ordinary British households and small businesses will end up footing the bill.

Let's not pretend our energy bills aren't already overloaded. Around 26% of the average UK electricity bill is made up of green levies, VAT and other imposed costs, more than £140 per year, just to fund renewable subsidies and regulatory schemes. A further 5% is VAT. This new international levy would be added on top, unaccountable, unmeasured, and open-ended.

But the most striking aspect of the policy is not the cost, it's where the money goes. Ms Wilson's pledge commits her to funnelling this new tax revenue into international institutions like the UN's Green Climate Fund, with no meaningful democratic oversight. There are no firm guarantees on delivery, impact, or value for money. At best, the money reaches international aid projects. At worst, it disappears into the hands of regimes or global bureaucracies.

This isn't just about climate, it's a nakedly left-wing attempt at global redistribution. It shifts responsibility from state governments and elected parliaments to a supranational structure, where the taxpayer has no voice and no control. And it does so by extracting more from families who are already being squeezed. In backing *Make Polluters Pay*, she has aligned herself with activist groups like Stamp Out Poverty and 350.org, whose goals extend well beyond decarbonisation. This is not about cutting emissions, it's about moving money from Britain to the global south, without any assurance it will do good or achieve change.

Meanwhile, energy prices in Britain are now so high that many families can no longer afford to heat their homes adequately in winter. Even in relatively affluent areas like Richmond, fuel poverty is rising. Adding yet another layer of international taxation risks deepening this crisis. Ms Wilson must explain why she supports a policy that makes life harder for her own constituents.

The UK is already leading the way: we've halved emissions since 1990, invested billions in renewables and nuclear, and committed to a clear legal net zero pathway. We don't need a new global tax to prove our credentials. What we need is a sensible, practical climate policy that works for Britain and is accountable to British voters.

Twickenham residents care deeply about the environment. But they also care about fairness, affordability and outcomes. They expect their MP to defend local interests, not sign up to ideological schemes with unclear benefits and significant costs.

So the question stands, is this really climate leadership, or just another left-wing tax dressed up in moral language?

Princess Alice Hospice Summer Fete & Dog Show

Live
Music

Fun &
Games

Fine
Foods

Dog
Show

Artisan
Stalls

Sunday 15 June

12:30pm - 4:00pm



Sandown Park Racecourse

Fete is £3 entry (Under 5s FREE)

Dog Show competitors – advance online registration
£5 per category (£7 on the day).

www.pah.org.uk/fete



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Princess Alice
Hospice



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Sir,

Twickenham Riverside Parking

The recent correspondence from a Central Twickenham resident on the riverside regeneration rightly highlights growing unease about the scheme's unintended consequences for neighbouring streets.

A simple and often overlooked remedy lies beneath the Civic Centre. According to the Council's own report from April, the refurbished Civic Campus will operate on a 3:10 desk-to-staff ratio, meaning that only about a third of employees will be working on-site at any given time. This leaves two-thirds of the underground car park, around 44 out of 66 spaces, potentially surplus to requirements.

These spaces are secure, centrally located, and already constructed. With appropriate controls, they could be allocated to nearby residents if they were given a security pass. Such a measure would alleviate the loss of surface parking without transferring the burden onto surrounding residential streets.

It would also enable the Council to entirely eliminate the remaining embankment parking, not only freeing up the riverside for pedestrians and cyclists but also creating a fully landscaped section between Water Lane and Church Lane, thereby better linking King Street to the river. In other words, this presents a rare opportunity to enhance the public realm without merely shifting the problem elsewhere.



G Robertson
Twickenham

Twickenham Celebrates

Report and pictures by Doug Goodman

Twickenham town centre was filled with colour and music last weekend when celebrations were held to mark our Twin Towns – Fontainebleau and Konstanz. On Saturday St. Mary's Church held its summer fair and flower festival.

Great use was made of the space inside the church where books were on sale, games provided for children and refreshments served. The displays of flowers with flags of The UK, France and Germany filled the church with colour. Outside stalls were set up to offer raffles, hot dogs and beer while a band entertained visitors.

On Sunday the church service was attended by our Mayor and a Mayor and deputy Mayor from the twin towns, their representatives. and members of the council. Later a big colourful parade with bands playing and flags flying marched past the guests assembled on the steps of York House.

St Mary's Church Summer Fair and Flower Festival



Celebrating Twickenham's Twin Towns



Richmond's Transport Meeting

By James Knight

Richmond Council's Transport and Air Quality Committee convened on 10th June to consider key decisions regarding traffic, buses, and infrastructure. The meeting was orderly and efficient, with reports being approved promptly. However, beneath the facade of good order, indications emerged that scrutiny is waning, and substantive decisions are being made elsewhere. The committee addressed five main items, each of which was passed with minimal challenge. The public was heard briefly; concerns were acknowledged, yet nothing changed.

Wykeham Scheme: Public Objection Dismissed

The most significant item was the decision to make permanent the Wykeham Estate traffic scheme in Whitton. It was introduced last year to reduce school-run traffic and improve air quality. Officers reported a drop in vehicle numbers and said pollution levels were within legal limits. Consultation, however, told a different story. Only 60 people responded from over 1,450 households. Most concerns came from the Woodlawn Estate nearby, where traffic has worsened and signal timings give drivers only seven seconds of green light at a key junction.

One resident, Philip Turksey, informed the committee that his estate, the Woodlawn Estate, had become a "stockade." He requested timed access or assistance with the lights. His appeal was taken seriously. Officers noted they had raised the signal issue with TfL, who had extended the green light time for Powder Mill Lane by just one second. Councillors expressed their gratitude for his attendance. They then approved the scheme with a minor amendment. The morning restriction will now begin at 8am instead of 7.45am.

The response was measured and polite, providing an elegant way to no to Mr Turksey. The scheme proceeded as planned. The issues raised were duly noted but not acted upon. The consultation yielded a low response, yet no one questioned whether this level of engagement indicated support or mere silence.

Major Projects Still Delayed

The committee also discussed long-term engineering plans. These included safety upgrades on Hampton Court Road, Hospital Bridge Road, a new active travel corridor on Strawberry Vale, and a movement plan for Richmond Town Centre. All of these are still in development or awaiting TfL approval, with no delivery dates provided. Some of the schemes have been in design for over a year. Councillor Butlin asked why feasibility work had not been shared with members. Officers stated that the documents must first be cleared by TfL. The Chair mentioned that the committee would vote once final designs are ready.

Cllr Butlin challenged this, pointing out that decisions were being shaped behind closed doors and that ward members should be allowed to see early-stage plans. The chair quickly shut down his concern. The Chair maintained that due process was being followed and that TfL's role made early sharing inappropriate.

The issue of the committee being kept out of the formative stages remains unresolved. The moment passed without support from other members. The way decisions are developed and presented leaves little room for genuine input. Councillors are being asked to approve plans they have not seen and cannot influence until the end of the process, when it is often too late to have any meaningful input.

Bus Review Reveals Service Gaps

The committee reviewed the state of local bus services. Some routes in Richmond Hill, Fulwell and Barnes have been upgraded with electric vehicles. Reliability has improved on the R70 and 281. Elsewhere, problems remain. Officers admitted that areas like Ham, Heathfield and Strawberry Vale still have limited coverage. There is no direct service linking Twickenham to Kingston through Strawberry Vale. Councillors raised this repeatedly. Officers replied that TfL holds control of routes and that the Council has submitted a funding bid through the Better Bus Partnership. The outcome is not yet known. There was no clear answer on when, or if, services will improve. The Council can raise concerns but not direct outcomes.

Finance: Underspend but Deferred Works

The committee noted the end-of-year budget report. The Council reported a revenue underspend of just over £400,000 and completed £11.4 million in capital works. Officers highlighted progress on electric vehicle charging, air quality projects, and parking enforcement. Less attention was given to the works that did not occur. Several highways schemes were deferred to the next financial year, including markings, crossings, and other street-level changes. No councillor raised any concerns. The delays were accepted without debate.

Performance Figures Paint a Flat Picture

The committee also reviewed performance data relating to transport and environmental targets. Officers reported positive trends in air quality and the expansion of school streets. However, more challenging statistics were largely left unexplored. Cycle route coverage remains at only 9 percent, and no new segregated cycle lanes were completed in the past year. Active travel targets have not changed significantly. Officers cited delays in TfL data and the impact of Covid, and no one contested this.

In comparison to neighbouring boroughs like Hounslow, or even more distant areas such as Waltham Forest, Richmond's progress on transport infrastructure remains limited. Other councils have implemented major schemes, while Richmond is still addressing feasibility studies and awaiting decisions from TfL. Critics have questioned whether the lead member for transport can dedicate sufficient time to the role.

Conclusion: Questions Without Consequences

Residents were permitted to speak. Councillors expressed concerns. Officers provided updates. However, no time was allocated to exploring alternatives or reconsidering outcomes. No decision seemed to change in response to what was discussed in the room. At times, the meeting resembled something closer to how decisions were made behind the Iron Curtain, where outcomes are predetermined and discussion serves merely as a formality. It carried the appearance of democratic oversight, but little of its substance.

Transport for London is responsible for many of the delays and service limits. But that cannot explain why low consultation turnout is treated as a green light, or why feasibility studies remain hidden. Nor can it justify the lack of follow-up on clearly documented service gaps. The Council's transport strategy is full of promise. But for now, it is a process led by officers, shaped by outside agencies and watched over by a committee that rarely pushes back. Residents may want to ask whether that is good enough.

You can see the webcast and the committee papers by clicking [HERE](#)

Teddington RNLI Welcomes 2,000 Visitors – and 1,600 Ducks

Teddington RNLI lifeboat station Open Day on 8 June 2025 saw up to 2,000 visitors and a race for 1,600 RNLI and other assorted ducks.

A true community event, the day brought together Teddington restaurants, cafes, pubs and community groups. The duck race was jointly organised by Teddington RNLI and Teddington Together, a local group representing independent businesses and raised in excess of £4,000 which will be shared between the lifeboat station and the Christmas Lights Up event in November.

Stallholders on the day were Ruba Restaurant, Shambles Restaurant, The Wharf Restaurant, The Anglers Pub, Teddington Together, Teddington Society and Teddington Rotary. RNLI volunteers manned a water safety station, a photo booth, a theatrical makeup stall, souvenirs stall and the ever-popular cakes and biscuits tables in the boat hall. Crew members also undertook demonstrations of the lifeboats in action.

Emergency services, London Fire Brigade were present with two fire engines and members of the Water Safety Centre demonstrated the dangers that are specific to the Teddington weir. Local Metropolitan Police officers also visited to meet residents.

The Mayor of Kingston said, *'What a great day! Teddington came out in droves to support their local traders and RNLI Lifeboat Station. The volunteers for this important charity do great life-saving work and I was delighted to share their special day.'*

'The duck race certainly brought our community and traders together and we were pleased to organise it alongside Teddington RNLI. We're already planning for next year!' said, Mel Franke of Teddington Together

Matt Allchurch, Lifeboat Operations Manager added, *'We were blown away by our local community's response. Our Open Day was all about engaging with them and letting them know about all that we do. Our volunteer crew was delighted to welcome them.'*



Ready for the off - all the ducks in a row
©RNLI Teddington



Lifeboats

All four main forms of transport ...

... can be seen in this photo from the Thames 'towpath' this evening: waterborne, rail and road (the two bridges) and air (a Heathrow bound aircraft).

From Jonathan Haydn-Williams



Why are Britons paying twice as much for power as Americans?

By James Knight

With energy bills rising again this summer and standing charges locked in at record highs, many British households are rightly asking: why are we paying so much more than people across the Atlantic?

The numbers are startling. While American households typically pay 13–17 cents per kilowatt hour (roughly 10–13p), the average UK domestic rate is now over 25p per kWh, more than double. And that's before the UK's standing charge, which adds another £220+ per year, even if you use no electricity at all. In the US, most customers don't face any comparable fixed fee.

It's tempting to blame global energy markets, but the difference is not just down to international prices. It's the result of political choices made in Westminster and Whitehall over the past two decades.

The UK has pursued one of the world's most aggressive decarbonisation strategies. It has virtually eliminated coal, restricted new oil and gas development, and leaned heavily on offshore wind and nuclear, both of which are costly upfront. The long-term environmental benefits are real, but the costs have been passed directly to households, often through hidden green levies built into electricity bills.

In contrast, the United States has taken a more pragmatic approach. While federal policy under recent Democratic administrations has encouraged green investment, much of the country still relies on cheap domestic shale gas, and subsidies for renewables are paid via central taxation and not by loading more onto consumer bills.

Another major divergence lies in regulation and market structure. The UK's fully liberalised energy market allows prices to fluctuate with wholesale shocks and hence the recent chaos during the energy supplier crisis. In the US, many states regulate their utilities tightly, smoothing out volatility and shielding customers from the worst price spikes.

Then there's taxation. British consumers pay 5% VAT on their energy bills and a complex web of standing charges and levies to cover infrastructure, subsidies, and supplier bailouts. American households, by and large, don't.

Of course, the US has its own challenges: regional blackouts, underinvestment in grid resilience, and enormous state-by-state variation. But on the whole, the average American can heat, cool, and power their home for far less than a British family—and with far fewer hidden charges.

So what can we learn from the transatlantic divide?

First, transparency matters. The British model obscures the true cost of green policies by burying them in electricity bills. Second, energy security, once dismissed as old-fashioned, is now clearly essential to affordability. And third, fair funding models do exist: when climate policy is paid through general taxation, it's more equitable and less regressive.

There's no question the UK must meet its net zero goals. But if politicians want public support, they must stop pretending it can all be done without financial pain and start having a grown-up debate about who really pays.

Because right now, it's the British consumer who's being left in the cold.

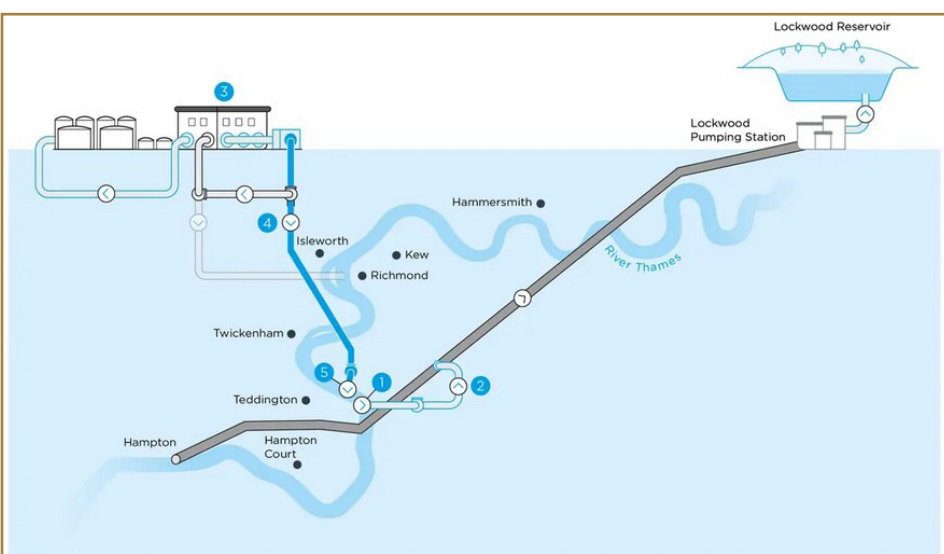
Teddington Direct River Abstraction (TDRA)

From Thames Water

Our upcoming statutory consultation

On 17 June 2025, we'll be launching a statutory consultation on our updated proposals for Teddington Direct River Abstraction (TDRA), a vital drought resilience project for London with key activities – including building tunnels, new structures and shafts – at Mogden Sewage Treatment Works, Ham Playing Fields and near Teddington Weir.

Our statutory consultation will last 10 weeks and the feedback we receive will help us shape our proposals to keep water flowing for the future.



1 A new abstraction from the River Thames, upstream of Teddington Weir. A new intake structure would be built on the bank of the River Thames to take the water from the river.

2 A short connecting pipeline would be built underground to move the abstracted water to an existing tunnel and then onto storage reservoirs in the Lee Valley to be treated to become drinking water.

3 The abstracted water would be replaced with highly treated water from a new water recycling facility, which would be located at Mogden Sewage Treatment Works.

4 A new tunnel would be built to transfer highly treated water, from a new water recycling facility which would be located at Mogden Sewage Treatment Works to the River Thames.

5 A new outfall structure, to discharge the recycled water, would be built on the banks of the River Thames.

When the consultation launches, we'll have a dedicated consultation webpage with everything you need to help you understand our latest proposals and have your say. You'll be able to access this webpage from 17 June 2025.

Our Statement of Community Consultation, which sets out our approach to consulting communities on our proposals can be found in the [Document Library](#). You'll also find copies of the statutory notices that we've published in local newspapers to advertise our upcoming consultation in the Document Library.

During the consultation, we'll be holding eight in-person events and two online information events. You can find out more information, including how to register your interest, on our [events](#) page. You don't have to register to attend but it will help us to manage our numbers.

Consultation materials

As well as accessing all our consultation materials on our website, you'll also be able to read hard copies at deposit locations in the community once the consultation has launched.

Deposit location venues may be subject to change at late notice for reasons out of our control. We'll publicise any changes on the consultation website and via other channels.

Find more information [HERE](#)





THE FINAL

14 JUNE 3PM

ALLIANZ STADIUM TWICKENHAM



Next week at Richmond Council

On Monday, 16th June, the **Licensing Sub-Committee** will convene to decide the street trading licence for an ice cream van outside the Mitre Hotel, Hampton Court. The meeting will begin at 11 am at York House, Twickenham. For details, click [HERE](#).

On Tuesday, the **Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee** will meet to discuss 1) the award of the management contract for the borough's two swimming pools, 2) the update to the climate and nature strategy and action plans 3) park unlocking trails, 4) the council's consultation response to the new London Plan, 5) tree planting strategy, 6) tree supply and maintenance contract award, 7) end of year performance report, 8) budget report. The meeting will begin at 7 pm at York House, Twickenham. For details, click [HERE](#).

On Thursday, 19th June, the **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education** will meet to discuss: 1) the agreed syllabus launch event, 2) an update on faith direct day, 3) developments from the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education, and 4) the curriculum and assessment review. The meeting will begin at 6.30 pm at York House, Twickenham. For details, click [HERE](#).

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

Craft exhibition reveals hidden talents in Sunbury-on-Thames

From Right at Home Twickenham & Richmond

Hidden talents have been unveiled at Right at Home Twickenham & Richmond's recent community craft exhibition.

Over 50 pieces of art went on display at the home care providers office in Sunbury-on-Thames which were admired by carers, clients and visiting members of the community.

Caregiver Sally organised the exhibition to showcase the artistic talents of some of the people she visits on a day-to-day basis.

One standout contributor was local resident Pauline who exhibited examples of her exquisite embroidery. Pauline was originally involved in the Sunbury Walled Garden Embroidery Gallery and describes how one of her proudest moments was meeting the Queen at the grand opening 25 years ago.

Right at Home's Marketing and Recruitment Manager, Liz Young says: *"The craft exhibition was such a lovely event. It brought people together and there was a real sense of connection as people talked about the work on show. There are some very creative people in our midst, and I am so pleased we were able to provide an opportunity for them to share their work and inspire others."*

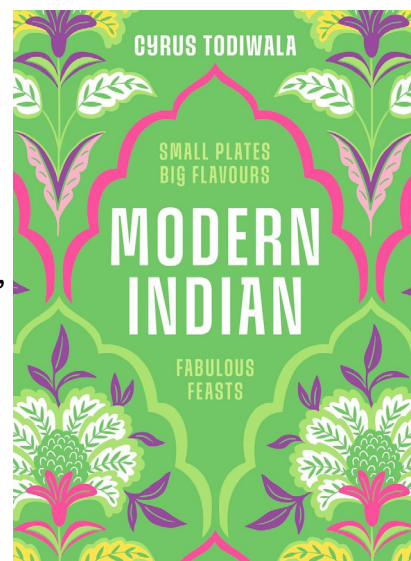
As well as providing quality care, Right at Home is committed to enabling older people to stay active in their communities through its programme of events and social activities which include the Sunflower Café which is for people living with dementia.

For more information about Right at Home, visit www.rightathome.co.uk/twickenham-and-richmond



Small Plates & Big Flavours: Modern Indian

Cyrus Todiwala DL, OBE, is not only one of the UK's most successful Indian restaurateurs, but he's a well known figure on our TV screens. A culinary genius whose name is synonymous with innovative dishes and mouth-watering flavours, Cyrus has transformed the landscape of Indian cooking in the UK and beyond. Add to that he's a charming man, and manages to spare a considerable amount of time, alongside his wife Pervin, raising funds for a number of charities. And he's written some fabulous cookbooks, including the latest one, published just last week: **Modern Indian**. This lovely book showcases inventive and delicious dishes for every occasion. Whether hosting an intimate gathering or a show-stopping celebration, Cyrus's delicious recipes can be effortlessly scaled to suit our needs. These dishes are more than just food. They're a journey through the vibrant and diverse world of Indian flavours, from savoury bites to sweet treats. In *Modern Indian*, Cyrus invites us to reimagine the art of Indian cooking, offering dishes that can be perfectly adapted for small plates or combined for fabulous feasts, each bursting with flavour and ingenuity. It's published by **White Lion Publishing** at **£22** for a lovely hardback. Here are a few recipes from the book including Cyrus's legendary Todiwala Tonic:



SAUSAGE MASALA BAIDA FRY Serves 4

"This was created by Pervin, my wife, for breakfast one Saturday morning. It is awesome – a take on our very famous masala fried eggs. The soft egg yolk creates a lovely texture as it blends with the sausage and bacon."

- 10 smoked streaky bacon rashers, chopped
- 6 Cumberland sausages, chopped
- ½ tsp cumin seeds
- 2 small red onions, finely chopped
- 4 long green chillies, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 3 plum tomatoes, deseeded and chopped
- 2 tbsp finely chopped fresh coriander (cilantro)
- 8 eggs

1. In a large frying pan (skillet) over a low-medium heat, add the chopped bacon. Fry for 10 minutes until the bacon starts to reduce in size and crisp, then scoop it into a bowl and set aside. Retain the fat in the pan.
2. Add the chopped sausages to the pan with the reserved bacon fat and fry for 5–6 minutes until they have also rendered their fat. Scoop out, to the bowl with the bacon, and set aside.
3. Add the cumin seeds to the pan and fry until the cumin changes colour. Add the onion, chilli and garlic and cook for 6 minutes until the onions have softened. Add the chopped tomatoes and cook for 5 minutes, then add the bacon and sausages back to the pan and mix well. Add the chopped coriander and remove from the heat.
4. Using a spatula or wooden spoon, flatten the mixture so that it is evenly spread across the pan. Make 8 indents in the mixture and crack an egg into each one. Cover and place the pan over a medium heat for 2–3 minutes until the eggs have a soft yolk and the whites are just set. Serve hot from the pan.



SPICED CARAMELISED PLUMS Serves 4

Aloo Bukharay Ka Meetha

"This is a straightforward recipe for spiced caramelised plums and, depending on the time of year and the sweetness of the plums, you can adjust the sugar quantity to taste. Serve the plums with cream or ice cream, and/or with pancakes."

- 30g (1oz) salted butter
 - 2–3 star anise
 - 6 tbsp soft brown sugar
 - 15 skin-on almonds, roughly chopped
 - 6 ripe plums, stoned and quartered
 - ½ tsp ground cinnamon
 - 2 pinches of flaked sea salt
1. In a non-stick frying pan (skillet) over a medium heat, melt the butter. Add the star anise and fry for 1–2 minutes until fragrant. Add the sugar and 1 tablespoon of water and gently swirl the pan until the sugar dissolves. Cook for another 3–5 minutes until the mixture turns a golden caramel colour.
 2. Remove from the heat, add the chopped almonds, sliced plums, flesh side down, cinnamon and salt. Return to the heat and cook, stirring occasionally, for another 3–5 minutes until the plums are softened.
 3. Set the plums aside to cool slightly, then serve warm with ice cream or fresh cream. Alternatively, spoon them into tartlet pastry cases and top with a scoop of ice cream.



TODIWALA TONIC Makes 60 servings

Todiwala Khaandanin Toneek

"When I was ill as a child, Mum and Dad used to prepare this drink for me with much hard work. Today, we have blenders that can do the job in a jiffy, but back then that was not the case. I still always have a jar of this tonic at hand and it's become popular with friends if they're feeling under the weather. We take 1 tablespoon three or four times a day, if unwell, avoiding caffeine and no other liquids for 30 minutes thereafter."

- 1kg (2lb 4oz) runny honey (ideally local and organic), warmed
 - 200g (7oz) organic fresh ginger, peeled and finely chopped
 - 100g (3 ½ oz) organic ground turmeric
 - 20g (¾ oz) organic ground cinnamon
1. Place the jar(s) of honey in a large pan of just-boiled water to warm and loosen it.
 2. Add the ginger, turmeric and cinnamon to a blender. Pour over the warm, runny honey and blend until smooth. Scrape down the sides of the blender and blend again.
 3. Pour the tonic into sterilised jars and chill in the fridge for up to 3 months. Bring to room temperature before consuming when you need a restorative – 1 tablespoon three times a day.



sunborn
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Sicily: Mount Etna

Teresa Read

Mount Etna in Sicily, one of the most active volcanoes, is in the news again. On June 10 the threat level was Yellow - an Advisory (Orange is Watch and Red is a Warning).

There was a major eruption in 2001 and further eruptions from October 2002 to March 2003. During this time, I made visits to Sicily and on one occasion asked about the possibility of taking photographs, but the surrounding area was out of bounds.

The fertile volcanic ash from Etna supports Sicily's agricultural economy; vineyards and orchards grow along the lower slopes of the volcano. Other produce includes wheat, barley, corn, peppers, tomatoes, pears, and peaches. Cultivation of almonds date back to Greek and Roman times; Sicily has been occupied by many early traders, migrants and invaders.

There are various myths connected to Sicily involving Greek and Roman gods. Sicily is said to be where Persephone was kidnapped by Hades and taken to the Underworld. The remains of the Temple of Diana, the oldest structure in Sicily, can be seen near Cefalu.

Hephaestus, the god of fire, and the Roman equivalent, Vulcan, were associated with volcanoes in Sicily, including Mount Etna.



It's the little things...

By Deep Patel

~Life Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper~



Anyone who has visited my shop will know that I have a lot of nature related posters everywhere... after the hot and humid weather Twickenham has been having this week, we can see that nature is awakening and it's a good time to reflect on the fact that we are not the only inhabitants of Twickenham (or of this beautiful planet). There are many little lives trying to live just like we all are. I always say those who make the effort to care for these micro life forms are the true heroes of this world as they are putting a little bit of compassion into a world that really needs it.

So this week I was talking to my customers about this (some of you may know I am also a certified entomologist as well as a Twickenham shopkeeper...not just a pretty face you see!). As the sun comes out, so do the "bugs"...my customers were asking me what they could do to live in harmony alongside the "bugs" of Twickenham...I told them the answer was simple...whatever life form you see around you, be it an ant or a snail, or even a squirrel, pigeon or fox, think twice and treat it how perhaps you would like to be treated yourself...

All lives matter, and through following this philosophy, we can help make the world a much more compassionate place for all overflowing with compassion and good-karma because if we choose not to harm the smaller lives, we will not want to harm each other either. Everything begins from little changes...choose to sprinkle white vinegar or rosemary powder where ants (or any insects) come (but not directly on them) to stop all without harming any.

Leave bowls of white vinegar in places where you don't want mice, rats, foxes and squirrels because using poison has awful consequences through making the veins of the rodent slowly rupture over a period of five days to cause internal bleeding and a painful death. The poisoned body may then be eaten by a bird or fox further poisoning the food chain. Try electronic high-frequency sound deterrents (check online for ones with good reviews and ones that are safe for your pets if you have any). Lastly, if you happen to be moving a large plant pot or ornament in the garden, gently lift the pots rather than dragging them to avoid crushing the countless little lives living under them.

As I always say, the true key to our own happiness lies in the happiness of others' lives around us...a life is a life...big or small...Do you want to know a secret?...Look after the little lives that surround you and the universe in turn will look after you...perhaps not straight away...but perhaps when you least expect it...but most need it...?

For further free Good-Karma and creature-kind ways to stop any "pest" email me InsectLoversUnite@gmail.com or join my Facebook group: "INSECT LOVERS UNITE" to really help fill Twickenham with compassion and creature-kindness-centred good-karma this summer...

Remember...

"...How you treat other lives is how the universe will treat yours..."

My Creature-Kindness Tip Of The Week...

If you want bees and wasps to stay away from you...wear the colour red...it's a colour that they cannot see well and therefore they are not attracted towards you!

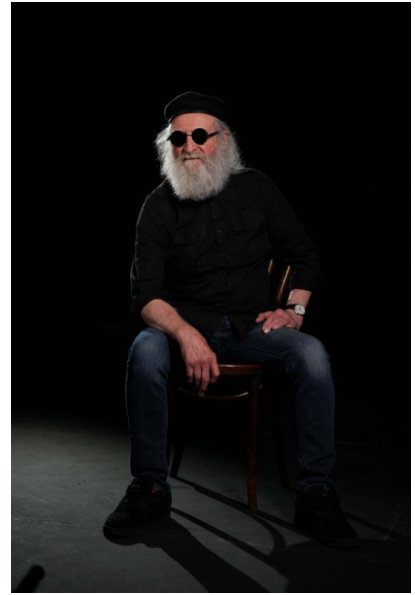
Under Milk Wood

by Dylan Thomas

Questors Productions at the Studio, Ealing, until 14th June

In these times of limitless internet shopping opportunities, locating a draper is still surprisingly difficult, but locating a “draper mad with love” would probably be off the agenda completely, but for this latest production of Dylan Thomas’ 1953 radio drama.

Under Milk Wood is a work to be experienced, rather than watched. Consequently, director Simon Roberts cleverly stages the whole thing in the dark with actors clad in black, seated in silhouette against Andrew Whadcoat’s and Mark White’s subtle and gentle lighting. Nine performers sit, stand, make small gestures and movements, but overall the focus is on the voices. So, wrap yourself in the dark and relax.



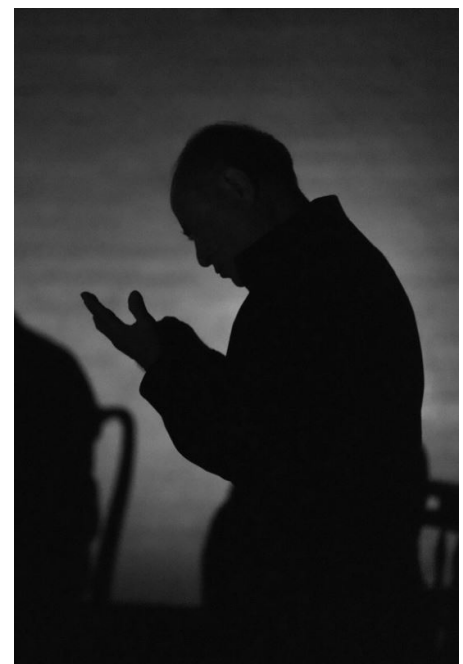
The work is a poem as much as any kind of play, and the richness of the language lives in the memories of those who hear it, “bible black”, “slow, black, sloe black fishing-boat-bobbing sea” and more. The characters emerge naturally from the wealth of description to people the fictional seaside village of Llareggub, and their lives, loves, dreams and regrets are set out for us to follow over the course of a day.

The characters are familiar: Mrs Ogmore Pritchard, Captain Cat, Mr Pugh, all yearning and longing. Llareggub’s villagers are, in the words of the Rev Eli Jenkins “not wholly bad or good who live our lives under Milk Wood”, which could be said for most of us, even if we’re not as lyrically presented.

The ensemble performance works beautifully. Each actor plays several characters, all clearly delineated, and the pace of the interaction between all of the characters is so brisk that there appears to be a village full of individuals.

The enveloping darkness in the studio creates a cosy atmosphere and strips away all distraction from the voices. It evokes the sensation of time-travel back to an era when things were possibly less complicated. Mike Wyer’s tiny sound details carefully enhance pictures forming in the mind.

Under Milk Wood is entirely and absolutely Welsh to the core, and its natural, melodious rhythms demand heavy concentration, but Questors’ performers are skilled and Dylan’s vivid poetry does the hard work. This is a delightful production directed with understanding and intelligence and very well performed indeed in a real team effort!



Read Eleanor Lewis’ review at www.markaspen.com/2025/06/07/under-milk-q

Photography by Kanako Hata

La Traviata

by Giuseppe Verdi, libretto by Francesco Maria Piave

The Grange Festival at The Grange Northington, Alresford until 6th July

Being both heroine and victim, the courtesan Violetta Valéry always excites a vicarious sense of illicit intrigue, but it is with insight and intuition that director Maxine Braham's new production of *La Traviata* probes the psyches of its protagonists in the louche world of mid nineteenth century French high society.

A visual leitmotiv of a small child, clearly Violetta's younger self, is a recurring presence, while her Parisian salon has portraits of her as Biblical figures. Here are windows into Violetta's soul, a secret longing for her lost innocence and a desire for virtuous affirmation. Or is it guilt at that very loss of innocence and virtue?



Verdi invested much of his own emotions into *La Traviata*, one of his most moving musical creations. The plot is inextricably entwined around Violetta, and this production looks from her perspective. Lyric soprano Samantha Clarke excels in the role, and takes the full sweep of the emotional spectrum that Violetta traverses, in naturally affecting acting and multi-faceted *bel canto* singing, from the vivid coloratura of Violetta riding high as society's most sought-after hostess, to the legato lines of the dying Violetta's *addio del passato*.



Nevertheless, Braham also focusses in on the hypocritical shallowness of her companions. They do not come to comfort Violetta after she is openly humiliated. In spite of their assertion that they are dear friends, they ironically sit in an amphitheatrical semi-circle and observe

her thorough opera-glasses, as a specimen. None is present during her last moments.

Tenor Nico Darmanin's portrayal of Alfredo is balanced between impetuous petulance and superficial fickleness. The besotted Alfredo is at first concerned about her, and his *io son felice*

is genuinely expressed. Yet, when they are living together near the coast, on her money, he seems oblivious to her feelings. "I live like someone in heaven", he sings with light abandon. Later, hurt by Violetta's sudden separation, he seeks her out back in Paris, where he arranges an invitation to Flora's soirée, where his ill-judged cockiness at his gambling success against the Baron, fires his pique at his beloved Violetta and his bitter rejection of her. His insult of throwing his substantial winnings at her is accentuated in a fly-drop cascade of banknotes, in contrast to that of rose petals, which had earlier immersed Violetta in the fresh feeling of romantic love.



Alfredo's father Giorgio also has a long emotional journey. Dario Solari's Germont senior comes into Violetta's country house like a bulldozer to insist that Violetta must leave Alfredo, in order to protect his engaged daughter. He is a man whose intent is on keeping his family name from any impropriety. Solari's baritone has a richness that suggests authority and he has real stage presence.

The musical elements of *La Traviata* are deeply expressive, and Richard Farnes, conducting the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, takes the

music along every turn in its emotional road. A vigorous chorus brings colour and muscle to the piece. The energy of the piece is upheld by movement and dance: the brindisi, a panorama of convivial busyness, waltzing in the salon, the gypsies and matadors at Flora's party, and the Mardi Gras revellers, incongruent in the hospice-like hush of Violetta's final moments.

La Traviata has a strong message of redemption, and in the final Act there is a sharp focus on sacrifice, in a thoughtful dramatic device. When Germont first meets with Violetta and she acquiesces to his insistence that she and his son should part, there is a moment after her tearful aria *così alla misera*, when Germont inadvertently raises her arms in a gesture of crucifixion. And now, in her dying moments, Violetta washes Alfredo's feet, not as Mary Madalen in Luke's Gospel, washing Christ's feet, but more as Christ on Maundy Thursday washing the disciples' feet.



Grange Festival's *La Traviata* is thought-provoking in its incisive probing exploration of an old favourite. Yet nothing is lost, as music, song and presentation excel in creating an enquiring, enjoyable and enviable work of art.

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2025/06/09/traviata-gf

Photography by Richard Hubert Smith



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Love to sing? Come along to free trial session at Whitton Community Centre

From Whitton Adult Community Singing

This Saturday (14 June), Whitton Adult Community Singing invites adults of any ability level to join them in preparing for their summer open session.

Come along for a free trial session with a friendly group of music lovers! No previous experience or ability to read music is necessary, though if you have sung in a group before, you are equally welcome.

There is time for new singers to join in as the group prepares for a summer open session taking place on 19 July, a community singing event followed by free refreshments for all singers and their guests.

- **Date:** 14 June 2025 (every term-time Saturday)
- **Time:** 11.15am to 12.30pm
- **Location:** Whitton Community Centre, Percy Road, TW2 6JL

[Find out more](#)

[Whitton Adult Community Singing](#) is a singing group for adult music lovers of all cultures and ability levels.



Health & Wellbeing Board Reviews £5.4 Million Overspend Without Challenge

By James Knight

The **Health and Wellbeing Board** meeting held in Richmond this week might well have been mistaken for a press launch rather than a forum for scrutiny. Over the course of nearly two hours, councillors from the Liberal Democrat and Green parties reviewed and endorsed a suite of official reports ranging from adult social care reforms to housing performance, without a single note of dissent.

Each report was “welcomed” or “noted” with a striking degree of unanimity. One glaring issue that went largely unremarked was the borough’s financial position. Richmond is facing a £5.45 million overspend across key adult social care and housing services. These budget pressures are being absorbed by reserves and grant funding, with little discussion about long-term sustainability. Rather than acknowledge the structural drivers behind this overspend, the administration chose to present it as the cost of doing business. There was no indication that the underlying inefficiencies or rising demand pressures are being addressed at their root. Formal votes were rarely needed, as it became clear there would be no serious challenge. Committee members were either Liberal Democrats or Greens, parties that operate under a long-standing electoral pact in this borough. The result is an administration with no real opposition and no external scrutiny.

Adult Social Care Ambitions

The session began with a review of the Transforming Adult Social Care Programme. Cllr Piers Allen described the plan as “ambitious, person-centred and forward-looking.” Yet while councillors welcomed the update, they did not interrogate its underlying assumptions. The programme relies on digital automation and AI-supported welfare calls to reduce frontline pressure. These calls use speech recognition and scripted branching logic to simulate basic check-ins with service users, flagging issues such as missed medication, food insecurity, or safeguarding concerns. While this frees up staff time, it raises questions about whether complex care needs can truly be identified through an algorithm-led phone line. Officers claim it will free up time and deliver £855,000 in efficiencies in 2025/26, it remains unclear how savings will be delivered without impacting vulnerable residents.

Repairs and Reality in Social Housing

Next came the annual report of the Tenants’ Champion. Cllr Paulina Vassileva called the service “a vital link between tenants and decision makers” and praised the Community Ambassadors initiative. However, the report detailed that 63 per cent of all complaints were about repairs, a clear indication that housing associations are consistently failing to meet basic maintenance standards. The report also revealed that Richmond has the highest maladministration rate in London, of 87.2% according to the Housing Ombudsman, reflecting a pattern of unresolved issues and systemic underperformance. No councillor addressed this. Instead, the conversation steered toward co-production and tenant voice, with no mention of the serious service failings the report laid out.

Housing Shortfalls Disguised as Progress

The Affordable Housing Update was another document that drew nods of approval. Despite revealing that only 29 affordable homes were completed in the entire 2024/25 financial year, less than half the target, councillors expressed satisfaction with the report’s projections for future completions. Council officers claimed the borough is improving compared to other parts of London; however, the borough continues to rank as one of the worst performing for affordable housing delivery. The administration leaned heavily on the number of “starts on site,” but housing need is measured in completions, not ambition. Many of these starts should have also commenced many years ago but had been stuck in a planning logjam of their own making.

A Surveillance Strategy Without Scrutiny

Perhaps most concerning was the complete lack of debate over the digital surveillance system being introduced for tenants in temporary accommodation. The associated report was listed on the agenda and noted without comment. This system – involving randomised text messages requesting GPS location and

selfie verification has raised significant privacy concerns in neighbouring Wandsworth, where it is being co-developed. Yet in Richmond's meeting, the ethics, legality and implications for vulnerable residents were simply ignored.

This initiative is politically risky. Liberal Democrat councillors argue that the surveillance scheme will help reduce costs and better allocate scarce housing resources. Officers have emphasised that it will not be used punitively and participation cannot be mandatory. Nevertheless, the approach is controversial, particularly given the party's historic stance on civil liberties. In Richmond's more libertarian-leaning wards, state surveillance tools, even for well-meaning objectives, may sit uneasily with core Liberal Democrat voters. Rolling out what amounts to biometric tracking of the homeless could provoke considerable backlash once more residents become aware of it.

Long-Term Risks in Housing Policy

The committee also "noted" a Joint Declaration on Future Partnership with Richmond Housing Partnership (RHP). This seemingly administrative agreement carries enormous implications. In 2000, the Council transferred its housing stock to RHP, retaining the right to nominate new tenants. That agreement expires in 2030. After that, RHP will be under no obligation to let 100 per cent of re-lets through council nominations. They could set that number at 90 per cent or less. This would severely constrain the Council's ability to house families on the waiting list, but the strategic risk was downplayed throughout the meeting.

Disappearing Targets, Disappearing Ambition

A key performance target on physical activity was even more quietly dropped. As funding for community sports programmes has been scaled back, the council has simply removed this metric from its corporate plan. It appears that targets not met are targets no longer tracked.

Consensus in the Absence of Challenge

One of the most troubling patterns to emerge from the meeting was the lack of challenge. Even when reports detailed missed targets, cost overruns or ongoing resident complaints, councillors preferred to discuss aspirations and pilot projects rather than delivery. Metrics were selectively highlighted to suggest progress, while failings were softened with vague commitments to "continued engagement" and "future learning".

In a council chamber devoid of political opposition, the atmosphere leaned towards self-congratulation. This is not to say that members were insincere; there were genuine efforts to commend officers and acknowledge complex challenges. However, the absence of challenge is not entirely accidental. Richmond upon Thames has no Conservative councillors and is governed solely by Liberal Democrat and Green members. The two parties maintain an electoral pact and rarely stand against each other, creating a political environment where scrutiny comes from within, if at all.

Without structured opposition, governance leads to consensus rather than accountability. When there is no genuine challenge, it is not only democracy that suffers; residents do as well. Unmet housing targets, unchallenged service failures, and overlooked overspends result in tangible consequences for families in need, tenants living in disrepair, and individuals relying on timely care. Without strong scrutiny, promises risk becoming platitudes, leaving those most in need of assistance waiting.

The Illusion of Progress

The public would be forgiven for assuming that all is well in Richmond. Reports are neatly written, officers are articulate, and meetings proceed without confrontation. However, beneath the surface lies a growing disconnect between what is presented and what is delivered. One cannot help but feel that this meeting – for all its formality – failed in its most fundamental democratic function: to challenge, question, and demand better.

In an era where transparency and accountability matter more than ever, Richmond's Health and Wellbeing Board appears content to acknowledge and acquiesce. Without a voice from outside the ruling parties, the borough risks mistaking performance for progress. This is not good governance; it is good theatre.

To watch the webcast or look at the papers for the meeting please click [HERE](#)

Bring your class or group to the Ellera Centre

From Ellera Community Association

Calling all tutors, instructors and hobby group leaders! Register your interest and find out more about the excellent rooms available for hire at the Ellera Centre early this autumn.

This exciting new venue will feature a good-sized hall that can be divided into two entirely separate rooms, two additional large rooms and several smaller spaces, especially suitable for one-on-one therapy and counselling sessions. There will also be a coffee bar, a lounge and a terrace overlooking the attractive garden.

The entire centre will be wheelchair accessible and is conveniently located near local bus routes from Kingston, Richmond, Hampton and Twickenham. A large public car park is situated directly opposite. Room hire rates are very competitive, and special offers are available.

The centre will be run for the benefit of the entire community by a local charity, Ellera Community Association. Chairman Joan Barnett said, *"Our vision is to make this a vibrant community centre, a home to a range of classes, activities, clubs and events that will mean that there is something for just about everyone living in and around Teddington."*

Ellera Community Association is very keen to hear from anyone who needs space to host their activity or event. Contact them at admin@ellerayhall.org or call 020 8977 0549.

Find out more about the [Ellera Centre](#).



St Mary's University

St Mary's vs Vatican Cricket Match 2025

St. Mary's University and the Vatican cricket team (St. Peter's XI) will be playing a T20 match at the ground of Teddington Cricket Club at Bushy Park on Wednesday 2 July 2025. St. Mary's University and the Vatican cricket team (St. Peter's XI) will be playing a T20 match at the ground of Teddington Cricket Club at Bushy Park on Wednesday 2 July 2025.

only international cricket ground in Italy.

Mass

Mass will be held in the University chapel at noon for those who wish to attend and the timings for the day are as follows:

Date: 2nd July 2025

Mass: 12 noon in St. Mary's University Chapel



The match is free and all students, staff and members of the public are very welcome to attend what we hope will be a wonderful day. The match is part of the 175th anniversary celebrations of the founding of St. Mary's University.

Vatican cricket team

The Vatican team has been established to help develop ties between the Catholic Church and countries and regions where the sport is popular including India and the Caribbean and to encourage inter-faith dialogue. The development and spirit of the team very much reflects St. Mary's University's own values of generosity of spirit, excellence, respect and inclusiveness. The Vatican teams operate under the patronage of the Dicastery for Education and Culture and is managed by Fr. Eamonn O'Higgins. Its home ground is the

Cricket match and tea

The match will be held at Teddington Cricket Club, Bushy Park.

Match start: 2.30pm

Tea: 3.45pm

Match end: 5.30pm

There is room on the ground for picnics and admission is free.

This match is part of the Vatican cricket team Light of Faith tour.

It follows a match against St. Mary's (see picture) at the Duke of Norfolk's Ground, Arundel in 2024, which the Vatican team won by five runs.



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Politics Students Visit The Supreme Court

In May, Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) 1st year Politics students visited The UK Supreme Court in Westminster. The visit included a short tour of all courtrooms covering the three floors of the building, accessed by the ornate stairway. During the tour they learnt a brief history of The Supreme Court, its composition, role and main functions and had the opportunity to explore the permanent exhibition, providing great insight into the official workings of the establishment.

As part of the trip, students also had the opportunity to delve into some real-life historical cases and the Supreme Court ruling on each of them, further enhancing their knowledge and understanding of the UK political system.



The tour concluded with a visit to the gallery where students had the chance to look at a copy of Magna Carta (a royal charter of rights agreed to by King John of England at Runnymede, near Windsor, in 1215) as well as a collection of artworks of both new and historical relevance.

It was a super informative and important trip for our learners, bringing aspects of their studies into real-world situations.

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Visiting Times for the Public: Sun 12 - 4pm and Wed & Fri 8-11pm.
More information: www.twickenhamyc.co.uk



Borthwick names 36-player England training squad ahead of France XV match

England men's head coach Steve Borthwick has named a 36-player squad for a four-day training camp.

The squad does not include players selected for The British & Irish Lions, or players from Bath Rugby and Leicester Tigers, who are preparing for the Gallagher Premiership Final.

The camp forms part of preparations for the upcoming match between England XV and France XV at Allianz Stadium, Twickenham on Saturday 21 June. The touring squad for the summer Tests against Argentina and USA will be announced on Monday 23 June.

England XV v France XV [tickets](#)

Forwards

Fin Baxter (Harlequins)
Richard Capstick (Exeter Chiefs)
Arthur Clark (Gloucester Rugby)
Alex Coles (Northampton Saints)
Chandler Cunningham-South (Harlequins)
Ben Curry (Sale Sharks)
Theo Dan (Saracens)
Trevor Davison (Northampton Saints)
Alex Dombrandt (Harlequins)
Afolabi Fasogbon (Gloucester Rugby)
Nick Isiekwe (Saracens)
Manny Iyogun (Northampton Saints)
Jack Kenningham (Harlequins)
George Kloska (Bristol Bears)
Curtis Langdon (Northampton Saints)
Tom Lockett (Northampton Saints)
Gabriel Oghre (Bristol Bears)
Tom Pearson (Northampton Saints)
Bevan Rodd (Sale Sharks)
Tom Willis (Saracens)

Backs

Charlie Atkinson (Gloucester Rugby)
Seb Atkinson (Gloucester Rugby)
Oscar Beard (Harlequins)
Charlie Bracken (Saracens)
Joe Carpenter (Sale Sharks)
Fraser Dingwall (Northampton Saints)
Immanuel Feyi-Waboso (Exeter Chiefs)
George Ford (Sale Sharks)
Rekeiti Ma'asi-White (Sale Sharks)
Cadan Murley (Harlequins)
Luke Northmore (Harlequins)
Will Porter (Harlequins)
Raffi Quirke (Sale Sharks)
Tom Roebuck (Sale Sharks)
Henry Slade (Exeter Chiefs)
Ollie Sleightholme (Northampton Saints)

Rehabilitation: George Furbank (Northampton Saints). Not considered for selection: Joe Batley (Bristol Bears), Ollie Lawrence (Bath Rugby), Alex Lozowski (Saracens), George Martin (Leicester Tigers), Harry Randall (Bristol Bears).



Frank leaves Brentford to join Tottenham as head coach

Written by Brentford Football Club

Thomas Frank has left Brentford to join fellow Premier League side Tottenham Hotspur as their new head coach, after nine years with the Bees; assistant first-team coach Justin Cochrane, head of athletic performance Chris Haslam and first-team analyst Joe Newton are also joining Frank at Tottenham.

Thomas Frank has left Brentford to take up the role of head coach at Tottenham Hotspur.



In his seven years as head coach with the Bees, Frank guided the club back into the top flight of English football, before stabilising the west Londoners in the Premier League, providing some fantastic performances and memorable victories in that time.

Assistant first-team coach Justin Cochrane, head of athletic performance Chris Haslam and first-team

analyst Joe Newton are also joining Frank at Spurs.

Brentford director of football Phil Giles said: *“It has been a pleasure working alongside Thomas. From the moment he replaced Dean Smith, he understood what we were trying to build and his wisdom, coaching ability and emotional intelligence have helped transform the club.*

“There have been so many special moments with Thomas and nobody will ever forget the day at Wembley for the play-off final or that emotional first Premier League game against Arsenal. But it’s not just what you see on the pitch. He forged a special connection with our fans, helped develop and improve players, and was instrumental in implementing the culture that has seen Brentford go from strength to strength.

“However, just as when a player leaves, it provides an opportunity for someone else to come in and make their own impact. We will never forget Thomas, but now it is time to thank him and take the next steps in our journey with a new leader who we believe can be just as successful and influential.”

Frank first joined Brentford in December 2016 as assistant head coach. He replaced Dean Smith as head coach in 2018, before guiding the Bees to promotion from the Sky Bet Championship in 2021.

Only the second man to lead the club in the top tier, Frank has the record for the most wins in his first 200 games in charge (90). He is also in third place for total wins as manager in club history (132) - only Malky MacDonald (163) and Harry Curtis (306) have surpassed that mark.

Everyone connected with Brentford would like to thank Thomas for the incredible impact he has had on the club’s history.

The club will be making no further comment until a successor has been appointed.



Red Flags & Redistribution

By James Knight

A large-scale protest swept through central London last Saturday, drawing thousands to the streets in opposition to public spending restraint and in anticipation of the upcoming Spending Review. Organised by **The People's Assembly** and supported by major trade unions and grassroots campaigners, the demonstration titled “*No to Austerity 2.0*” sought to pressure the Labour government ahead of Chancellor Rachel Reeves’s statement to the House of Commons on Wednesday, 11 June.

A Fractured Labour Movement

Among the speakers were veteran Labour MPs Diane Abbott and Jeremy Corbyn, both of whom criticised the government’s decision to retain the two-child benefit cap and pressed for greater taxation of wealth. The march was a visible expression of dissatisfaction from parts of the Labour movement who believe Sir Keir Starmer has moved too far from the party’s traditional redistributive commitments.

Labour insists difficult choices are needed to stabilise the public finances after years of economic turbulence. Party sources emphasise the importance of credibility with financial markets and international investors. With debt servicing costs high and economic growth modest, both Starmer and Reeves argue that sustainable public investment must be underpinned by fiscal discipline.

Redistribution in Richmond’s Backyard

For many attending the march, austerity is more than a financial strategy; it is a social and political failure. Protesters called for a transformation in the way public money is raised and spent, with renewed emphasis on taxing accumulated private wealth. That message carries direct implications for areas like Richmond upon Thames. With average house prices in Twickenham now exceeding £900,000, among the highest outside central London, communities such as St Margarets, Barnes, and Hampton represent precisely the demographics some campaigners believe should be subject to higher capital gains, wealth, or inheritance taxes.

But others argue that this framing risks alienating a vital part of the electorate. Many in these areas may be asset-rich but income-constrained, and proposals for steep taxation can feel punitive. One Twickenham resident told the *Tribune*, “*We are not oligarchs. We are teachers, small business owners and retired professionals who’ve worked hard and planned carefully.*”

A Demonstration of Revolutionary Intent

The protest itself was energetic and provocative. Chants of “revolution” rang out as demonstrators made their way from Broadcasting House to Downing Street, accompanied by banners reading “*Welfare not Warfare*” and “*Tax the Rich.*” Palestinian flags and anti-militarist slogans also featured heavily, reflecting the coalition’s opposition not only to domestic cuts but also to increases in defence spending.

For some observers, this breadth of focus risks diluting the message. “The demands span from foreign policy to tax reform to energy nationalisation,” said one senior Labour aide. “It becomes

difficult to tell what is being proposed beyond a general desire for change.”

Green Alliance and the Liberal Democrat Dilemma

The Green Party has a visible presence and maintains an ongoing election alliance with the Liberal Democrats in this borough. While the Liberal Democrat leadership has not endorsed The People’s Assembly directly, the party has criticised Labour from the left. Figures such as Munira Wilson, MP for Twickenham, have called for the abolition of the two-child cap, while others in her party accuse Reeves of “timidity” on tax reform.

Yet Liberal Democrat strategists also recognise the political challenge. Their voter base in southwest London is socially liberal but often fiscally cautious, with little enthusiasm for radical taxation or anti-Western rhetoric. This tension is growing more acute as the party positions itself as Labour’s most likely coalition partner after the next general election. Though they may speak the language of redistribution, the Liberal Democrats are keenly aware that their electoral prospects in affluent suburbs depend on reassuring middle-class voters that it’s always “someone else” that will be paying more.

Labour’s High-Stakes Spending Review

The Spending Review on Wednesday is expected to outline Labour’s fiscal priorities in more detail. Government officials have hinted that additional funds may be allocated to areas such as school repair, local authority support and NHS digitisation. However, major structural reforms, including wealth taxes or substantial benefit increases, are not anticipated.

Economic commentators say this caution is not unwarranted. “The fiscal headroom is tight, and markets will be watching closely,” said an economist from a leading think tank. “Labour’s challenge is to deliver progressive outcomes within a tight financial envelope. That’s never easy.”

Middle-Class Anxiety in Affluent Boroughs

In constituencies like Twickenham, the stakes are particularly acute. Support for Labour or the Liberal Democrats is often conditional on competent stewardship. While there is sympathy for targeted redistribution, the idea of turning affluent suburbs into the front line of class war could see voters desert them.

A Test of Labour’s Discipline and Direction

What happens next will depend on how Labour balances its commitment to economic prudence with growing demands for social investment. The cries on the street are growing louder, but so too are the expectations of stability and moderation from voters and markets alike. Labour must now prove that fiscal caution and social justice can co-exist. If it fails, it risks ceding ground not just to protestors, but to political rivals.

Heathrow Airport strike breaking shame causes passenger assistance dispute escalation

Around 800 Heathrow workers assisting passengers with restricted mobility will intensify their pay strikes next week, Unite, the UK's leading union, said today. The escalation is a result of an unprecedented attempt by Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL) bosses to strike break.

HAL has drafted more than 500 workers, which Unite believes will be from a third-party contractor, to partly cover services at terminals three and five. Wilson James has been barred from operations in these areas during the strike action. Terminals two and four will not be covered by the drafted staff. There will be widespread disruption to services throughout the airport.



Unite also has concerns that the labour brought into break the strikes will not have the skills, knowledge or training to undertake a safe and efficient service. Questions have also been raised about proper vetting and if the Civil Aviation Authority is aware of Heathrow's plans.

Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said: "Heathrow Airport is behaving disgracefully - its attempt at union busting

will fail miserably. Drafting in hundreds of untrained workers and barring Wilson James from operations is costly, ineffective and unsustainable. Instead of union-busting, it would make far more sense for Heathrow to tell Wilson James to put forward an acceptable offer. Heathrow's actions are set to prolong strikes into the summer holidays."

Around 500 workers began strike action in April with the number of staff taking industrial action swelling since then to approximately 800 due to the anger over the lack of fair pay.

The workers are angry that they are paid 10 per cent less than colleagues at Gatwick doing the same job. A second round of strikes took place in May, with five days of fresh industrial action beginning on Monday (16 June) and lasting until Friday (20 June).

Wilson James' refusal to table a reasonable offer has already caused significant disruption to thousands of passengers with restricted mobility, with instances of people missing flights and not being provided with wheelchairs and other assistance.

Between 4,000 and 6,000 passengers with restricted mobility pass through Heathrow every day. Wilson James' reported gross profits of £35.4 million for the year ending July 2024, with the company's gross turnover increasing by 17.7 per cent from the previous year. Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL), meanwhile, made nearly a billion pounds in pre-tax profits during 2024.

Unite regional officer Martin West said: "Our members take pride in their job and are striking as a last resort. Despite Heathrow's attempts to strike break, passengers will still face disruption, which is entirely the fault of Wilson James for refusing to pay its workers fairly. Strike action will intensify throughout July and August if a reasonable offer is not tabled by Wilson James."



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