

Twickenham & Richmond **Tribune**



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Richmond Council

Editors: Berkley Driscoll, Teresa Read

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TickerTape - News in Brief

South Western Railway

Altered train services due to Hampton Court Flower Show **Tuesday 1 to Sunday 6 July**

Pre-Event

Service Alterations

- 0947 and 1047 London Waterloo to Chessington South services will be diverted after Raynes Park to Hampton Court, calling at Surbiton.
- 1034 and 1134 Chessington South to London Waterloo services will start from Hampton Court, calling at Surbiton, then all stations to London Waterloo.

Additional Services

- London Waterloo to Hampton Court. 1025 and 1155

These services will call at Clapham Junction and Surbiton.

Post-Event

Service Alterations

- 1801 Strawberry Hill to London Waterloo will not run.

Additional Services

- Hampton Court to London Waterloo. 1538, 1608, 1638, 1708 and 1738

These services will call at Surbiton and Clapham Junction.

Saturday 5 July 2025

Service Alterations

- Between 0947 and 1847, xx47 London Waterloo to Chessington South services will be diverted after Raynes Park to Hampton Court, calling at Surbiton
- Between 1034 and 1934, xx34 Chessington South to London Waterloo services will start from Hampton Court, calling at Surbiton, then all stations to London Waterloo

Additional services

Pre-Event:

- London Waterloo to Hampton Court. 1025 and 1155

These services will call at Vauxhall, Clapham Junction, and Surbiton.

Post-Event:

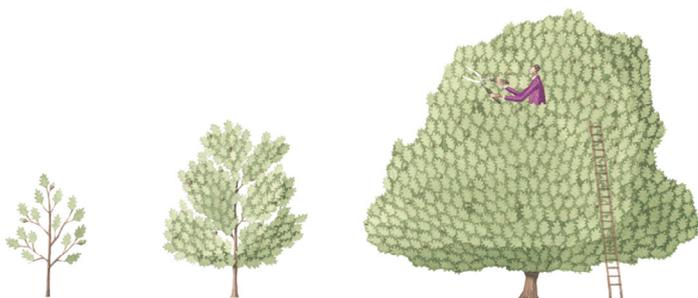
- Hampton Court to London Waterloo. 1609, 1709, 1809 and 1909

These services will call at Surbiton, Clapham Junction and Vauxhall.

Sunday 6 July 2025

Service Amendments

- Between 0921 and 1721, xx21 London Waterloo to Chessington South services will be diverted after Raynes Park to Hampton Court, calling at Surbiton.
- Between 1009 and 1809, xx09 Chessington South to London Waterloo services will start from Hampton Court, calling at Surbiton, then all stations to London Waterloo.
- Between 0927 and 1727, xx27 London Waterloo to Hampton Court services will depart London Waterloo at xx29.



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

Green councillors criticise “abysmal” process on Pensford Field: “It’s a mess”

Richmond Council has confirmed its decision to award the new lease for Pensford Field, a Council-owned green space in Kew formerly managed by local residents’ group Pensford Field Environment Trust (PFET), to the mental health and nature charity Dose of Nature. The controversial decision to terminate PFET’s lease two years early was abruptly taken last September without consultation and caused outrage among PFET’s volunteers and local residents.

At the time, Opposition Green Party councillors demanded an explanation and the Leader of the Council offered an apology for the way the decision had been taken but rejected calls to reinstate the lease. A series of moves by the Liberal Democrat-led administration to justify the decision retrospectively has called into question their own commitment to transparent government and last night’s decision was another of those moves.

In addition, Opposition councillor Richard Bennett had registered properly to speak at last night’s Finance, Policy & Resources Committee meeting (hereafter: FPRC) under the rules of the Constitution. Shockingly, he was denied the opportunity to speak - deregistered - on the spurious grounds that the Committee already includes an Opposition Councillor and the grounds that there were not enough speakers who were in favour of the proposal. His written submission highlighted the fact that the use of the Field by different groups of users raises many questions that need further consideration, and had unfortunately been ignored in the lease and management plan. He criticised the “simplistic” recommendations made by Council officers to the Committee.

Councillor Caroline Wren, who is the lone Opposition member of the Finance Committee, made the sensible proposal that the Council manage the Field for the next year, giving the chance for the dispute between the two charities to be resolved, if possible, or to continue to manage the Field in the long term, protecting its environment and allowing open access to the public and to local schools. She sent the proposal to the Chair before the Committee and was told that the idea was not up for discussion.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Chas Warlow said: “It’s a complete mess and an abysmal process. The Council should have consulted PFET prior to terminating their lease. Local residents have given their time and commitment to maintaining this lovely green space for the benefit of adults and children alike – they deserved better than this shoddy treatment. The Opposition has proposed a very sensible way forward but the Leader and the rest of the Committee vetoed it – this is what happens when you have one-party domination of a council.”

In a dramatic turn of events, PFET instructed its lawyers to start a judicial review of the decision.

Sir,

Solum’s “Regeneration plans”

Many of your readers will be aware of the small and odd shaped patch of land at the foot of London Road bridge, which was signed off as part of Solum’s “Regeneration plans”. Planning permission was granted by Richmond Council in 2021 to build some 46 rabbit hutch flats, 10 of which were to be ‘affordable housing’. Nothing happened for a further three years when there was a flurry of ground works, at great inconvenience to local residents, as there were absolutely NO utilities on or near the site. Sewage / fresh water / utility piping had to be built from scratch and linked to the site.

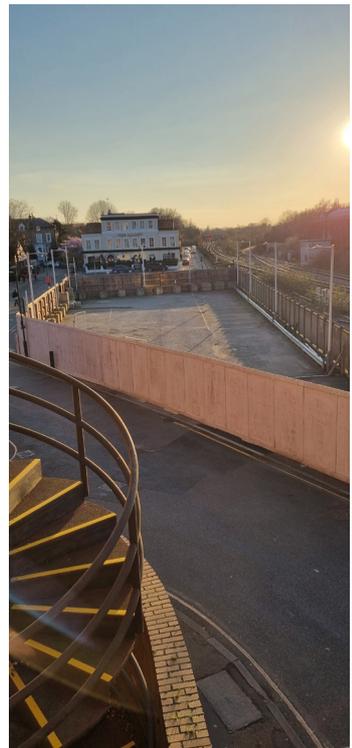
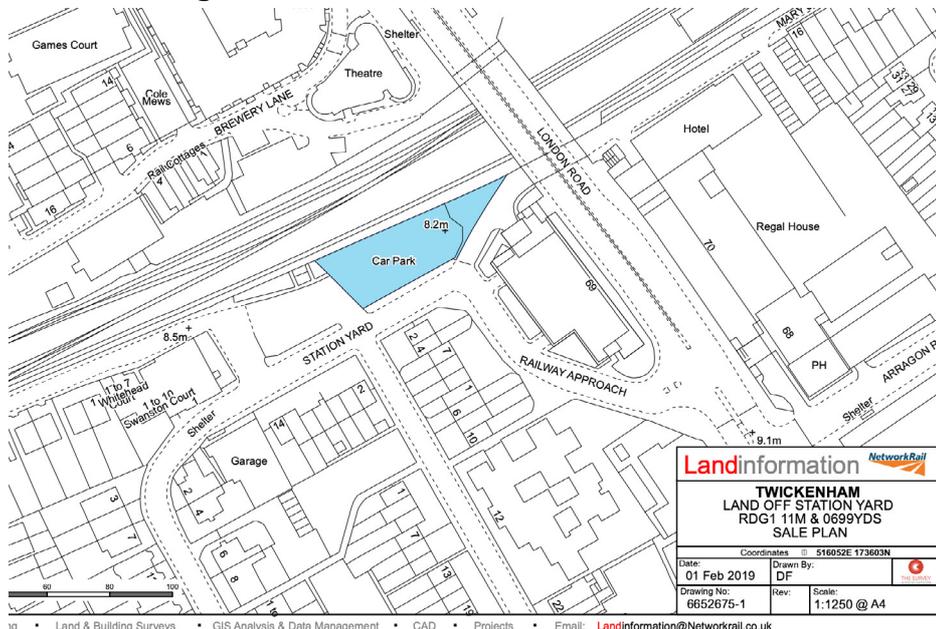
Fast forward to 2025 and the site is cemented over and boarded up.

An enquiry to Richmond Council has revealed that the developer experienced higher than expected utility costs which have impacted on the financial viability of the scheme. We could have told them that before they stuck a spade in the ground and saved them a shed load of money!

Apparently the developer, Solum, is now in discussion with the Council to try to get the construction moving again. No doubt the controversial overbearing six floor development will become 7 or even 8 to claw back some money.

What we need in this grossly overparked Town Centre location - and now more than ever since parking has been removed from the Riverside - is somewhere to PARK. Whilst talks are continuing, I urge Solum to open the site up again as a car park - which they could at least make some money from, rather than just leave it boarded up. And even find a better, alternative site to develop where people actually have some space and fresh air, not living like rabbits directly above a main railway line and congested road traffic bridge!

J. Hill
Twickenham



Dear Editors,

Twickenham Riverside cost

The Leader of Richmond Council has just released a press statement saying that this week the Twickenham Riverside redevelopment has been given the green light by the Council’s Finance Committee to proceed with its construction. Cllr Roberts may be cock-a-hoop about this, but strangely he has omitted to tell his council tax payers the amount that this is now going to cost them. What has happened to “transparency”?

Maybe it is because we now in effect have our very own HS2 scenario happening right on our doorstep, both in terms of cost and delay.

In January 2023 the total cost was projected to be **£49.58million**. The price has now increased by a staggering amount to **£67.80million**. But that’s not the end of it. We are told that this coming September Kier, the builder, will issue **the final cost** and then enter into a construction contract. Don’t hold your breath that the **£67.80million** will not have increased by then. What’s the betting that this figure will be hidden away in the Council’s pink papers under the heading “restricted”.

Best wishes,

Sue Hamilton-Miller
Twickenham Council Tax payer

Dear Sir,

Community Toilet Scheme

Over the last few years, during weekend use of Twickenham Green, the Community Toilet Scheme does not seem to have always been fit for purpose.

Last weekend 25,000 rugby fans came to Twickenham, but there were no temporary toilets on Twickenham Green provided by either the Council or the Rugby Football Union. The week before saw 85,000 rugby fans descend on Twickenham, again with no temporary toilets at Twickenham Green.

The Cricket Club on Twickenham Green is a paid member of the Council’s Community Toilet Scheme but when there are matches the front of the club is crowded and appears unapproachable. It also seems that the toilets are only available when the cricket pavilion is in use - so the toilet facilities are only a part-time facility – opening times must be clearly visible throughout the Green.

Councillors should also be aware of the recycling area next to the cricket club. Containers are often overfilled and look unsightly. Likewise, when the Green is very busy the relatively small bins also have rubbish surrounding them.

So, let’s smarten up the area with regular rubbish collection and modern toilet facilities. Surely the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames can afford to invest in some basic environmental improvements in Richmond, the Greener Borough.

Strawberry Hill Resident
(Name and address supplied)



Welcomes you to our...

OPEN DAY



2025

SUNDAY
29TH JUNE
11AM - 3PM

FREE ENTRY

*For all ages & abilities!
Parent and/or guardian must be present at all times for all under 16's participating.*

A volunteer led members club where everyone has a passion for the water! Come along, get involved & most of all have fun!



COME AND TRY DINGHY SAILING & PADDLEBOARDING
MEET THE MEMBERS AND EXPLORE
THE CLUB'S TRAINING, CRUISING,
YACHTING & OUR MEMBERSHIP

Buoyancy aids provided & wear clothes you don't mind getting wet!
Snacks & drinks available for sale.



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



Council Grills E-Bike Operators But Big Questions Remain Unasked

By James Knight

Richmond Council's recent meeting on e-bikes and e-scooters brought together councillors, operators, and officers for a broad discussion about the future of micromobility in the borough. The session was informal, explicitly exploratory, and aimed to inform a formal policy decision later this year. Nonetheless, the conversation revealed both the potential and the challenges of shared transport in modern suburbs.

Councillors were inquisitive and, in many cases, rightly sceptical. Their questions focused heavily on the lived experience of residents, particularly the problems caused by poor parking, hacked bikes, and limited service in certain wards. Lime, the current operator, faced scrutiny over pavement obstruction and the challenges disabled pedestrians face when navigating around dumped bikes. The company's use of artificial intelligence to tackle illegal parking was met with interest, but also with concern about effectiveness.

There was pointed criticism of Lime's handling of unauthorised use. Several councillors described incidents involving underage riders or bikes that were 'hacked' and used without payment. Lime admitted the problem accounted for around 1 to 2 per cent of rides but acknowledged it generated a disproportionate number of complaints. There were also detailed exchanges on equity of access, with councillors questioning why residents in Ham, Heathfield and North Twickenham appeared to have fewer bikes despite higher need.



Importantly, the committee heard from multiple operators, not just Lime. Representatives from Voi, Forest, and Volt were present, offering a broader perspective on service models, pricing structures, and community involvement. Some promoted bundling, low-income discounts, and bay-to-bay systems as fairer alternatives. This competitive element added substance to the meeting and provided councillors with meaningful options beyond the current situation.

The discussion also addressed Richmond's specific pressures, particularly how bikes are utilised during major events like rugby matches at Twickenham Stadium or the Hampton Court Flower Show. Operators said they are proactive, but councillors remain unconvinced that crowding

and parking issues have been fully resolved. So far, so constructive. However, despite detailed operational questioning, some of the most serious issues were quietly left on the table.

Nobody questions who is legally responsible when things go wrong. If a hacked e-bike injures a pedestrian, or a child rides into traffic, who bears the responsibility? The rider, the operator, or the council that approves the scheme? Insurance and liability are not minor issues. They are vital for public trust and risk management, yet the topic receives no attention.

There was also a notable lack of investigation into hard data. Lime claimed significant growth in usage, but councillors did not ask how many of those journeys actually replaced car trips instead of walking or public transport. Nor was there any serious debate about the carbon footprint of the vehicles themselves; how they are built, charged, and maintained. For a scheme often promoted as a green solution, the environmental evidence base remains unclear. Infrastructure costs remained overlooked. Although the meeting discussed the expense of installing new parking bays, estimated at £1,500 each, there were no questions about who should bear this cost. Could central government or Transport for London offer assistance? Should operators be compelled to co-fund the public infrastructure they depend on? Councillors mentioned the costs but did not examine the financial model.

Enforcement was another significant omission. Several councillors mentioned poor behaviour and anti-social use, but no one asked about the legal or regulatory powers Richmond actually has to intervene. If Lime's AI fails to prevent misuse, what tools does the council possess? Are fines issued? Is the police involved? Is a Public Space Protection Order needed, like the one in neighbouring Spelthorne that enables the council to fine those who ride on the pavement? These questions are vital for establishing an effective regulatory framework.

Similarly, while councillors spoke eloquently about the impact of micromobility on disabled pedestrians, they said little about how accessible the bikes are for disabled or elderly riders themselves. No mention was made of adapted vehicles, tricycles, and there was only a brief reference to alternative designs that could be more female-friendly and help expand active travel to a wider population. Equity works both ways; it is not just about avoiding harm but also about enabling participation.

Even the consultation process escaped proper scrutiny. Officers noted that over 1,200 responses had been received, yet no summary of the feedback was provided. What concerned residents the most? Were the objections about safety, clutter, pricing, or access? Councillors failed to ask. No effort was made to identify the key themes or test whether public sentiment supported the direction taken. This matters. Councillors are elected to reflect the views of their communities, not simply to approve policy under the guise of progress. When public engagement becomes a box-ticking exercise rather than a genuine test of consent, it risks undermining both legitimacy and trust.

You can watch the webcast [HERE](#)

125th anniversary of Twickenham's first car event

From Robin Hunter

Did you know that Twickenham had a thriving and diverse motor industry for over 25 years until the 1920s? Motor vehicles continued to be made in Twickenham, Teddington and Hampton for many years after.

This forgotten story was revealed last year in Robin Hunter's book that also identifies Twickenham as the true birthplace of the British motor industry. Really, it's true!

To celebrate the 125th anniversary and to get our area back on the motoring road map, a group of veteran car owners are planning to get the oldest surviving Twickenham built cars back home next summer for the celebration. Built in 1900, the 'New Orleans' car was built in large numbers (for the time) just behind King Street in Twickenham. Hardly surprising that few suspected that the 'New Orleans' was actually Made in Twickenham!

Twickenham based *Classic and Sports Car* magazine has set the challenge of getting all five surviving 1900 cars together for the first time ever. Four of the five cars are now confirmed and hopefully all five will be there! The 125th anniversary event will take place at the annual St Margarets Fair at Moor Mead Park on Saturday 5th July from Midday to 6pm.



Twickenham's motor industry included, not only cars, but buses, motorcycles, scooters, commercial vehicles and some very successful racing cars. You can expect to see some of these at the event. St Margarets was home to local motorcycle manufacturing, and to the successful 1930's Emeryson Formula 3 racing car. Examples are expected to be on display alongside, by contrast, British Anzani agricultural vehicles built in Hampton Hill.

Although a vitally important manufacturing industry throughout the 20th century, the motor industry has fallen from political favour in recent years, in favour of more environmentally friendly alternatives. Early bicycles were already in production in Twickenham before the motor car. The 'New Orleans' was initially built at the Orleans bicycle works in King Street, Twickenham.

Twickenham was pioneering the use of electric boats on the River Thames in the 1890s, built in Twickenham. This remarkable and untold story will also be told at the event. At the same boatyard on Eel Pie Island where electric boats were being constructed, Daimler motorboats went into production. As this precedes the first British Daimler car being made in Coventry, Eel Pie Island in Twickenham is the true birthplace of Britain's motor industry.

A date for your diary not to be missed!

The event will bring together for the first time at least four and hopefully all five surviving 1900 New Orleans cars built in Twickenham. Other locally built motor vehicles will be there, representing Twickenham's pioneering and innovative motor industry. The industry lasted for over 25 years and had a renaissance in specialised motor vehicles including a number of successful racing cars in the 1950s, 60s and beyond.

Scrutiny Returns

Government Forces Richmond to Scrap Committee System

By James Knight

The Government has announced that councils operating under the committee system must now revert to the leader and cabinet model. For the Liberal Democrat-run Richmond Council, this represents a forced U-turn on one of their flagship policies. Introduced in 2019, the committee system was proudly presented as a more democratic way of governing. In practice, it has had the opposite effect.

In a statement made in the House of Commons on Tuesday 24th June, local government minister Jim McMahon MP announced plans to simplify local authority governance arrangements and make them more consistent. This will restore executive leadership and mandate a scrutiny committee in Richmond Council. Many in the borough will welcome the return of accountability after six years of a muddled process and blurred responsibilities.

The modern committee system was a commitment in the 2018 Liberal Democrat manifesto. Residents were told it would lead to better decisions, more transparency, and more inclusive debate. However, the reality has been a cumbersome structure where only a small number of major decisions are ever referred to committee. The many other decisions are made behind closed doors by senior officers, in consultation with committee chairs.

These “officer decisions” are not open to scrutiny or public challenge. Councillors cannot call them in. There is no public debate. Despite the fanfare about empowering all members, real power remains with a small number of senior officials and political allies. Key decisions, defined as those costing over £500,000 or affecting two or more wards, are infrequent. Most decisions do not reach this threshold and are made in private.

As the council’s constitution clarifies, executive directors determine what is considered politically sensitive or controversial, following informal discussions with the Head of Paid Service and the committee chair. Consequently, some of the most contentious issues never come to light. For a system supposedly rooted in openness, this has become a masterclass in how to govern by stealth.

The Local Government Association’s 2023 Peer Review of Richmond Council did not mince words. It found that members outside the ruling group felt excluded from shaping policy and that committees operated in a narrow, transactional manner. Even backbench Liberal Democrats told reviewers they felt unable to influence the council’s direction. Meanwhile, officers reported being stretched thin, attending late meetings for committees that lacked real authority or purpose.

Now, the Government is stepping in to end the pretence. By restoring the leader and cabinet model, ministers are reimposing a structure where decisions must be owned and defended by those who make them. Alongside that, councils will once again be required to operate an overview and scrutiny committee. For a borough where scrutiny has been conspicuously absent, this is a welcome and overdue return to democratic standards.

The timing is awkward for council leader Gareth Roberts. Fresh from his election to the London Assembly, Cllr Roberts faces a growing workload at a time when his leadership role in Richmond will demand more, not less. Cabinet government is not for the faint-hearted. It requires clear direction, quick decisions, and visible accountability. Whether he can juggle both roles effectively is now an open question.

The modern committee system was meant to make Richmond more democratic. Instead, it created a confusing web of private decisions, hidden influence, and ineffective oversight. Residents have experienced years of stagnation and indecision. Difficult questions have been avoided. And the people elected to represent their communities have been sidelined.

The restoration of executive leadership and scrutiny is more than just a technical change; it is a reset. A chance to restore responsibility and bring it into the open, ensuring those who govern are answerable to the people who elect them. For Richmond, it marks the end of an experiment that has failed, and for local democracy, it could be the start of something better.

You can read the Government announcement [HERE](#) and the LGA Peer Report into Richmond Council [HERE](#)

Join in a week of free Active Together sports and activities

From Richmond Council

Get ready for an action-packed week of free activities at Hampton Sports and Fitness Centre and Whitton Sports and Fitness Centre.

From Monday 7 to Sunday 13 July 2025, we are offering a variety of fun and engaging sessions that everyone can enjoy. Activities include badminton, tennis, yoga and soft play.

Whether you're looking to try something new or improve your skills, our free activities week has something for everyone. Plus, any adult who attends an activity as part of this promotion, will receive a free 7-Day Pass to use at our centres.



Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to stay active, have fun and make the most of your summer!

To see a full timetable of the activities on offer and to sign up, visit [Active Together](#).

Next week at Richmond Council

On Tuesday morning, the **Licensing Sub-Committee** will meet to consider the opposed licence application by Treviso Vinteca, 92 Kew Road, Richmond. The meeting will start at 10.30 am and will be held online.

For details, click [HERE](#).

On Tuesday evening, the **Audit, Standards and Statutory Accounts Committee** will meet to discuss 1) the annual governance review, 2) the annual review of risk management, and the change management audit review (where auditors have flagged up issues). The meeting will start at 7 pm at York House, Twickenham.

For details, click [HERE](#).

ST MARGARETS FAIR

Music, Food and Drink, Beer Tent,
Pimms Stall, Charity and Small
Business Stalls, Fun Fair, Dog
Show, Entertainment and more

**JULY 5,
2025**

MoorMead Park
12:00 - 18:00



MUSIC STAGE



HEADLINE ACT

DAS BRAS

LOCAL BANDS

THE FADES, BILONGO, LEARN TO SWIM,
POSTER

YOUTH BANDS

THE BADGERS, POWERJAM BAND
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SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS AND CHARITIES EVERY YEAR.
WE DONATE THE PROFITS TO WORTHWHILE CAUSES, WITH
DONATIONS BEING DIVIDED BETWEEN LOCAL SCHOOLS AND
CHARITIES.

June Food and Drink News

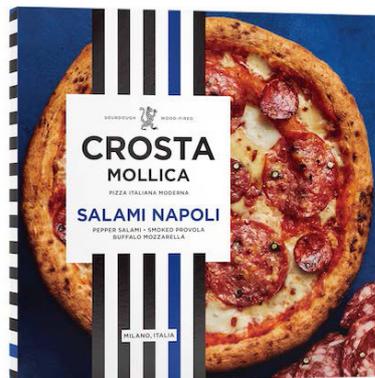
It's certainly been a 'flaming' June and here are some new products that are real scorchers...

It's English Wine Week and I'm very impressed indeed with **Asda's English Sparkling - Asquith Gardens**. This is beautifully dry and comprises the same grapes as champagne: Chardonnay; Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. It's already won quite a few awards and I'm not surprised. And the price - just £17.97- is amazing value too.



Gosh! Street Food has launched **Aloo Tikki and Katsu Bites**. Made from 100% natural ingredients, these bites are packed with veggies, and different flavours from around the world. They're great for upgrading a weekday dinner, serving a tasty treat to friends or just snacking at home. Perfect for sharing, they are bursting with flavour and high in fibre. They can be served warm (five mins or so in the air fryer) or eaten straight from the packet, so they are a nice little extra for a picnic or packed lunch. Gosh!'s new Aloo Tikki and Katsu Bites are now available in Tesco stores nationwide, and Ocado, RRP £2.60.

We're such fans of pulses in our house and I was impressed with this new six-strong range from **Organic Realfoods**. There's a strong Mediterranean flavour that's been sourced from Italian family farms, where they ensure that these fibre packed beans not only hold their shape, but don't become too starchy in texture. Every batch of beans is hand sorted, soaked overnight and pressure cooked before being bathed in Sicilian sea salt. The range comprises Borlotti Beans, Chickpeas, Red Kidney Beans, White Cannellini Beans, Black Turtle Beans and Fine Peas. Under £2.50 for a 370g jar from organicrealfoods.com



When it comes to a supermarket pizza, there's just one brand as far as I'm concerned: **Crosta Mollica**. Known for its popular sourdough pizza range, it's the only UK range with pizzas made in Italy. The dough is slow proved and baked in a traditional wood-fired oven on the lava stones of Mount Etna. And now there is a new **Salami Napoli pizza** available (£5.75 Tesco), with Crosta Mollica's signature slow-proved, leopardised sourdough base, topped with a simple tomato sauce, creamy buffalo mozzarella, smoked Provola cheese and peppery salami. And for those who sometimes like to create their own pizza, there's a new pizza base two pack (£4.95 Waitrose in the frozen food section) for ease, already topped with the brand's signature tomato sauce.

These new treats from **Raise** combine cashews, almonds and pecans, **Coconut & Almond** flavour is sweet, delicately crunchy and light in coconut flavours, while **Raspberry** is sweet and tangy, with a nutty and crispy crunch. They contain protein, fibre and antioxidants and under 5g sugar per pack. Plus, they are suitable for a gluten free or vegan diet. Available from Sainsbury's and Ocado, RRP £1.79 per 35g pack, they augment the existing range of four nut and seed clusters (Dark Chocolate & Sea Salt, Dark Chocolate & Orange, Maple Pecan and Caramel Sea Salt) Raise donates 1% of every sale to Magic Breakfast via Work for Good.





After a devastating fire earlier this year, SW London's much-loved [Valentina Deli](#) is reopening its doors - and doing it in true Italian style for an opening weekend of food, family, and celebration. From **4th to 6th July**, the Deli is hosting a family-friendly celebration packed with traditional pizzas, complimentary deli tastings, gelato, Italian drinks, and live entertainment - from face painting and Punch & Judy to stilt walkers and music. The reopening also lands perfectly alongside 'Independents' Day', making it a brilliant opportunity to spotlight a local, family-run gem making a big comeback. **Valentina Deli**, **284-286 Upper Richmond Road, London, SW14 7JE**. 11am-5pm, Italian ground coffee served from 8am.

Ole & Steen, the fabulous Danish bakery, has just launched its summer rye selection ...and I was lucky enough to taste some this week at its midsummer event. The latest Open Rye sandwich range was created in collaboration with acclaimed Danish chef and cookbook author **Trine Hahnemann**. Each sandwich is hand-crafted and packed with vibrant toppings - from smoked fish and creamy herbs to bright vegetables and Scandi-inspired salads. The new range features Carrot Rye topped with fresh ingredients including smoked salmon, herb and lemon cream cheese, fennel, fresh dill and micro herbs. There's roast beef, horseradish mayonnaise, spinach, pickled red onions, cucumber and micro herbs. As well as green pea, herb and chicken salad, fresh asparagus and micro herbs. To finish the Carrot Rye topped range there's smashed avocado and peas, jammy egg, mixed seeds and pea shoots.



Scott's Richmond has brought live music to its riverside setting with 'Piano Sessions' Upstairs at Scott's, every Tuesday-Thursday evening. A resident pianist and grand piano, paired with seafood, fine wine and signature cocktails and the timeless charm of live music. Piano Sessions at Scott's take place every Tuesday and Thursday from 6pm until 10pm, offering an elegant backdrop for drinks, dining and late-night unwinding.

This summer, **Champagne Piper-Heidsieck** is putting a twist on a quintessentially British tradition by turning leisurely picnics into a paid gig. The paid picnickers programme will see 20 lucky people paid £50 each to enjoy a picnic at its iconic Champagne Rooftop Garden at Coq D'Argent in London. Running across **Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 July**, Piper-Heidsieck's Paid Picnickers scheme will welcome five groups of four for a one-of-a-kind dream picnic experience. For just two hours of 'work', participants will be paid £50 each to sit back, relax and enjoy a picnic with three friends... complimentary champagne and a picnic menu curated by Coq D'Argent. For those unable to take part in the Paid Picnickers activity, rooftop picnics will be available to book at Coq D'Argent from 27th June to 31st August. Priced at £30 per person, the picnics will run Friday 12-2pm and Saturday - Sunday, from 12pm to 4pm. More information is available on the Coq D'Argent website:

<https://www.coqdargent.co.uk/rooftop-picnics/>



sunborn
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Traveller's Tales 171

Cruising On The Rhone Part Two

Doug Goodman Continues A Rhone Cruise.



Three days spent in Villeneuve Lez Avignon, a mediaeval town just across The Rhone from Avignon, before the departure of a week-long cruise, was a very enjoyable prelude to a happy French holiday. Staying with friends in their villa with views eastwards over The Luberon and towards The Alps and within sight of Avignon, was the perfect introduction to the climate, to rediscover Rhone wines, local specialities and to catch up with the friends we have known for 60 years.



View from Villeneuve



Villeneuve Fort St. Andre



Villeneuve Abbey



Villeneuve Monastery. La Chartreuse

From the hilltop citadel above the ancient city of Villeneuve Lez Avignon, a royal city founded by Philippe Le Bel, you get spectacular views to The Palais Des Papes in Avignon itself and The Rhone Valley. The two places were political rivals during the 14th century between the Popes on the Rhone's east bank and the Provençals on the west bank. The peaceful gardens of the 18th century Abbey Palace Saint-Andre with its art gallery and adjacent Fort Saint-Andre provide a fascinating insight into the town's long history. Below in the town centre you shouldn't miss La Chartreuse, a monastery founded in 1356 by Pope Innocent VI, the fifth of Avignon's Popes. It's one of the largest Carthusian monasteries with a church, monks' cells, three cloisters, a chapel, spacious grounds and murals painted in the 14th century by Matteo Giovannetti. In early May the weather was perfect but after a lot of walking a break for lunch and some local Rose wine at The Aubergine in the Rue de la Republique, was essential. Moving on to Avignon itself you will pass the castle of Philippe Le Bel on the river bank.



Castle of Philippe Le Bel



Avignon city walls



Avignon Palais des Papes

AVIGNON

The number 5 bus runs between the two cities with the stop just outside the city walls close to the cruise boats. Avignon is a place where you can discover Papal history, fine museums and art galleries, markets, local dishes in a huge range of restaurants and of course the wines of The Rhone Valley. A walk on the Pont Saint Benezet ..Aka ..'sur le pont d'Avignon on y danse on y danse', is a top attraction. The UNESCO listed bridge with four of its 22 arches surviving, dates

from the 13th century. The most popular place is the Palais des Papes which dominates the city. This once powerful fortress and Papal Palace was the centre of the Roman Catholic world where nine Popes ruled from 1309. In 1376 the return to Rome of the Papal See was ordered by Pope Gregory 1X upsetting the Avignon Cardinals who elected a rival Pope thus beginning the 'Great Schism' that divided Europe for decades. Within the palace you can visit ceremonial rooms, chapels, cloisters and Papal apartments with beautiful frescoes. The building fell into decay after the Popes' departures and was partly destroyed after the French Revolution. Take lunch in the square after your visit and admire the architecture in the bright sunlight. Close by is an area of shops selling local souvenirs such as lavender, ceramics, brightly coloured soaps and cool clothing. Avignon is a city for walking: its remarkable art galleries and museums such as the Musee Calvet – fine arts, Palais Roure-ethnographical and archaeological history and Musee Angladon are excellent. Angladon is my favourite. It's small and has a wonderful collection of works by Degas, Sisley, Van Gogh, Cezanne, Picasso and period rooms. Two days in Avignon were included in the cruise and then it was time to head south for a brief visit to Arles.



Avignon centre



Avignon The Bridge



Avignon Soap Shop

ARLES

Arles, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a city full of Roman splendour dating back to the 5th century BC. Its amphitheatre, superbly preserved, is over 2,000 years old and was built to hold 26,000 spectators who assembled to watch public games. Inspired by the design of Rome's Colosseum and in use for four centuries, it featured chariot races and gladiatorial battles. Today bull fights are held there. Other Roman sites in Arles include the Forum and the Great Theatre built by Emperor Augustus. Arles is linked to Van Gogh who spent two years here in 1888 just before he died at the age of 34 from self-inflicted gunshot wounds. The light and landscape of Provence provided the inspiration for his great paintings. The hospital where Van Gogh stayed is now the cultural centre 'Espace Van Gogh'. With only a few hours to explore Arles there was time to wander around the old town but the 12th century Cathedral of St.Trophime would have to wait for a future visit.



Avignon Angladon Museum



Arles Roman Amphitheatre



Arles Bar

Next time: visits to the Tarn Gorge, Pont D'Arc, Pont du Gard and the prehistoric caves at Chauvet. Also a return to school days in Tain-L'Hermitage and a tour of Vienne.

Any plans for the second half...?

By Deep Patel

~ Life Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~



Following on from the summer solstice last weekend and the realization by my customers that following this weekend, we will be exactly half way through the year, for some reason the conversations with my customers have become more and more reflective in nature and taken on somewhat more of a spiritual tone... people have been questioning the way they are living life, they want to somehow do things “better”...at least that is the vibe I’m getting from the conversations that I have been having with customers this past week...the interesting thing was, nearly all of my customers that I spoke to felt there was something “holding them back”... but what? This was intriguing me, so much so that I decided I had to find out more in order to try and understand what this was all about so I asked customers in my shop what or who it was that they felt was holding them back? Do you know, none of them had anything or anyone in particular to attribute this feeling of “being held back” too...yet they all felt something or someone was “holding them back” from living their best life...this intrigued me even more...so much so that I decided to leave the refilling of the biscuits aisle in my shop and focus on talking to more of my customers to find out more about this “feeling held back” notion that they felt was stopping them from doing things better this year round, stopping them from progressing...

After hours spent talking to my customers about this during the week that has just passed us, do you know what I found out? It made me stop and think and what came out of these conversations was something that I will also remember for the rest of my life I think...

You see, after asking and asking, digging and digging, do you know what surfaced when I finally got to the bottom of what it really was that was stopping so many of my customers from “doing things better” this year round? It was nothing...it was no one...no one but THEMSELVES...you see, what surfaced was that overtime, all of us seem to be unkind to ourselves...making us feel like “we are not enough” somehow... not enough of a good father, not enough of a good mother, not enough of a good son, not enough of a good daughter, not enough of a good friend, not enough of a

good worker...not enough of a good PERSON. That is exactly what was happening to so many of my customers I found out. They had likely set themselves such high standards (that were probably unachievable in any case) and then upon continually failing to reach them (as they were so unachievable) they had convinced themselves, over time that they were somehow “not enough”. So in actual fact, no one or nothing was “holding them back” from doing things better this year at all, it was them themselves that had created this imaginary jail and imprisoned themselves within it and locked the door on themselves...and that is where the problem lies...

As I always say...“words contain within them pure energy and they cast spells, that is why it’s called spell-ing when we talk about writing words”...So what am I getting at?...Well it’s easy really...change the way you speak about yourself...and you will change your life...(I can’t claim credit for this wisdom, it came from none other than the master himself, Bruce Lee!). The most important thing was that this was exactly what I had found was the main problem with why so many of my customers felt that they wanted to be better, but that “something” was holding them back...it was...but it was nothing other than themselves...and the way they talked about themselves to themselves that had cast this “spell” upon themselves, thereby automatically imprisoning them in their own-made jail and locking the door with their own hands...nothing else...so the solution was simple, and I shared it with all my customers who talked to me about this during the past week...I told them, yes, you may have created this prison around you, and yes you may have locked yourself within it, but yes...don’t forget...you are still the one who holds the key to that lock and need to open it...that key is called realisation...a realisation that you are enough...and as long as you are trying, you are doing enough, you are doing more than all those who are doing nothing at all.... and if you are not trying, then why not start to try and unlock that prison door and start living your best life?...no one else is going to do it for you?... this weekend it is EXACTLY half way through the year...the second half of this year can be your time of finally doing things better? Finally free yourself through being kind to yourself... and remember...it all starts through the words that you speak to yourself...that “self-chatter” ... because words carry within them energy...an energy that casts spells upon us...remember? That is why words are called “SPELL-ings” (from this day onwards, always remember that and make the second half of this year the best ever)...change the way you speak about yourself...and change your entire life for good...today...tomorrow...forever...Happy second half of 2025 to all the readers of The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune...let’s make it a good one shall we?...

Remember...

“Words carry within them an energy...they cast spells upon us...that is why they are called SPELL-ings...so be careful with the words you use when you talk about yourself...”

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

STOP FOXES KINDLY (GOOD KARMA):

Place empty bowls filled with white vinegar around places where you don’t want them to come...they will go without you having to harm them...use humane mouse & rat traps and release them back out in parkland areas. Use electronic plug in deterrents with good reviews around your house to stop them coming (the smell of white vinegar also stops ants kindly). For ANY specific tip to stop any “pest” or insect KINDLY (for good karma/blessings), email me: InsectLoversUnite@gmail.com or join my Facebook page: “INSECT LOVERS UNITE”

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

by Simon Stephens, adapted from the novel by Mark Haddon

Teddington Theatre Club at the Hampton Hill Theatre until 28th June

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time is a play that manages to both disorient and anchor its audience with its story-craft. The work of Pythagoras, amongst many idiosyncrasies in the story, collectively transforms into a theatrical experience that's as bold in its aesthetic as it is sensitive in its storytelling.

Director Nigel Cole refuses to let the audience settle.

The sound design, abrasive yet strangely melodic, draws us into the world as Christopher Boone experiences

it. His journey, through tube stations and emotional landscapes, is punctuated by a Kraftwerkian soundtrack, name-checking "superb coffee", WH Smith and train schedules, creating a commuters' cacophony. The music repels, although a presence in itself, layering discomfort like static over the scenes, yet somehow brings us closer to Christopher's world-view.



William Tillett in this lead role is nothing short of outstanding. Rarely off stage, Tillett carries the show with remarkable energy and emotional clarity, grounding Christopher's genius, fear and wonder, a masterclass in belonging and isolation, balanced between mathematical logic and emotion.

Digital screens shift from satellite images of the infinite universe to the hand-drawn outlines of a Swindon living room, juxtaposing vastness and intimacy. The flickering constellations echo the inner workings of Christopher's mind in unexplored settings, while familiar outlines of his home reflect the restrictions of his world.

A strong supporting cast adds depth and contrast, including Christopher's parents (Chris Dearle and Helen Lowe) portrayed with heartfelt complexity. The scene-stealing appearances of two mammalian stars, the rat (Taz) and the dog (Lexi or Louise) add further charm to the production's grounded realism.

The Curious Incident is a story of family, logic, and finding a place in a world that doesn't always fit. It draws us into Christopher's perspective, such that what once seemed alien becomes familiar, a realisation of full-circle beauty. The final moments are rooted in the earlier referenced trigonometric precision and beyond this have a more empathetic symbolic resonance.



The impact of the final mathematical motif set me on the right angle as I walked, fulfilled as a complete Pythagorean triple, out into the somewhat less curious and incidental setting of the street-lights of suburbia.

Read Brent Muirhouse's review at www.markaspen.com/2025/06/25/curious-dog-ttc

Photography by Sarah J Carter



4.48 Psychosis

by Sarah Kane

Royal Shakespeare Company at the Royal Court Theatre, Chelsea until 5th July, then on tour until 27th July

Twenty-five years ago, Sarah Kane's *4.48 Psychosis* received its first performances after her suicide the previous year. Now that production has been revived in the intimate Jerwood Theatre Upstairs at the Royal Court, with the same cast and director. Kane's work has inevitably become less closely linked to her life and tragic suicide and now seems to be standing on its own feet, having morphed from iconoclastic to classic.



Today the cultural context is different. There is more awareness of mental health issues, and the pain that comes with them. Perhaps this makes this play seem less daring and unusual than it was when it was new. But what remains fresh is the way that this play is not tethered to a realist aesthetic.



The script does not specify a number of performers or give any stage directions. Here it is divided between three performers, Daniel Evans, Jo McInnes, and Madeleine Potter. This avoids the static and exhausting feeling induced by a monologue, and is helpful when some of the script represents the words of other people such as the protagonist's psychiatrist. However, it leaves one with questions about which one of them is playing the protagonist, although this detachment from individual identity is perhaps a further symptom of depression.

It is far more convincing, varied, and coherent with three. Sometimes they seemed to converse; sometimes they all speak together; but more often one speaks alone while the others were slumped in exhausted anguish. The piece comes across more as chanted poetry than a play and even feels like a prolonged Greek Chorus. It does not progress neatly to a crisis and resolution, but seems to lurch from one mood to another, sometimes obsessively returning to the same words and thoughts, as the protagonist remains imprisoned in their distress.



And the strange thing about this play is that there are none of the scenes of violence or bloodletting for which Kane's work is infamous. It is more a stark depiction of the experience of clinical depression: where you do not want to kill yourself, but the compulsion to do so is almost irresistible.

Read Patrick Shorrock's review at www.markaspen.com/2025/06/26/4-48-psychosis

Photography by Marc Brenner



**Teddington
Choral
Society**

Julian Collings, *Musical Director*

Phil Culling, *Piano*
Jon Stainsby, *Baritone*

Earth, wind and choir

A musical celebration of nature's power

Featuring compositions by Haydn,
Mendelssohn, Stanford, Gjeilo, Toch,
Sondheim and more

**Saturday 5th July 2025
at 7:30pm**

Doors open at 6:45pm

Landmark Arts Centre
Ferry Road, Teddington, TW11 9NN

Bookings: £18 (under 16s free)
Online at www.landmarkartscentre.org
Landmark Arts Centre Box Office: 020 8977 7558



For more information visit: www.teddingtonchoral.co.uk

TCS REG. CHARITY NO. 299421

Come along to Strawberry Hill Community Choir's summer concert

From Strawberry Hill Community Choir

On Tuesday 1 July, residents are invited to join Strawberry Hill Community Choir and their Musical Director James Speakman for a delightful evening.

The concert will begin with Mozart's Missa Brevis in D major, the first of his works to appear in print. This short mass was first performed in Salzburg in the summer of 1772. It was one of the first works to combine traditional polyphonic techniques with a more modern musical language.

Fast forward 229 years to John Rutter's Feel the Spirit from 2001, a series of well-loved African-American spirituals with American jazz-inspired styles and the polyphony of the New Orleans combo. It was first performed in New York's Carnegie Hall in 2001.

The evening will also feature guest soprano Ruby Skilbeck, pianist David Terry, and a selection of other musical offerings for a treat-filled evening!

Event details:

- **Date:** Tuesday 1 July 2025
- **Time:** 7.30pm
- **Location:** Clarendon Hall, York House, Twickenham TW1 3AA
- **Price:** £10

[Book tickets for Musical Time-Travel: From Mozart to Jazz](#)

Strawberry Hill Community Choir

Strawberry Hill Community Choir is a vibrant group, growing fast with more than 50 singers across soprano, alto, tenor, and bass (SATB) voices. The choir is non-auditioned and open to everyone, even if you've never sung in a choir before!

Rehearsals take place every Tuesday evening from 7.30 to 9pm in term-time, in the beautiful rooms of York House in Twickenham, TW1 3AA. The cost is £85 per term.



Find out more about the [Strawberry Hill Community Choir](#).

Get ready for
**RICHMOND'S
OWN FESTIVAL!**

MARZAMEMI FESTIVAL

We return for our 2nd year, to offer everyone a slice of Italy this summer. Brimming with live music & DJs, Italian banquets & food stalls, curated design, free adult workshops & shopping tents and plenty of FREE fun for the kids.

**5th - 6th JULY
2025**
Old Deer Park

Pasta Evangelists
Napoli on the Road
Arancino of Sicily
Dolce VyTA
The Oyster Society
Cento Uno
Sicilian Pride
Crazy for Pasta
Etna Coffee
Indegno
Fredo's Frose
Bricco Bacco
Tosi's Gorgonzola Bar

CHEF STAGE

Giuseppe Federici
Francesco Mattana
John Paul Alberti
Matteo Manzotti
Bray Cured

MUSIC LINE UP

Italian Radio Society
Mr Ben
Super K
Emily Rawson
Leo SAX
Gracie
Molto Soul Duo
DJ Fabrizia
Roberta Cutolo

 **PASTA**
EVANGELISTS



St Mary's University

HE Cardinal Vincent Nichols Celebrates Mass for St Mary's University's
175th Anniversary



Archbishop of Westminster and Chancellor of St Mary's University, HE Cardinal Vincent Nichols, celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving for St Mary's University's 175th anniversary on 26th June, during which the University was presented with an Apostolic Blessing from His Holiness Pope Leo XIV.

The University welcomed in its Grade II listed chapel a number of bishops, including Chair of the Board of Governors, Rt Rev Richard Moth, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton; and Rt Rev Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, Ukrainian Eparch, Bishop of Great Britain.

St Mary's University also welcomed a number of ecumenical guests, including HE Archbishop Nikitas Loulias, Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain, and Archdeacon

George Tsourous, from the Greek Orthodox Church. Over 25 priests concelebrated Mass with the Cardinal.

Other honoured guests at Mass included Mayor of Richmond Cllr Penny Frost, Leader of Richmond Council, Cllr Gareth Roberts, and Munira Wilson, MP for Twickenham, alongside students, staff, alumni, members of the Catholic community, former staff members, partners, local politicians, and friends of the University. The attendees were invited to join a festal lunch afterwards to celebrate the Anniversary.

The Mass was also the setting for the debut performance of a new anthem composed by one of the world's most eminent composers, Sir James MacMillan. The piece, *Monstra te*

Esse Matrem (Show yourself to be a Mother), is a setting of St Mary's motto, which in turn is an extract from the eighth century Marian Hymn *Ave Maris Stella* (Hail, Star of the Sea).

Speaking of the Mass, St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Professor Anthony McClaran said, "The Mass was a very special celebration for the University as we give thanks for the impact St Mary's has had through its 175 years of inspiring excellence.

"St Mary's is amongst the oldest higher education providers in the country, having been founded in 1850, making our 175 years a particularly significant achievement. The Mass also honours the centenary of our move to Strawberry Hill from Hammersmith in 1925, with the campus being formally opened by HE Cardinal Bourne on 23rd June 1927.

"We would like to thank all who have supported the University's mission throughout our history as we look ahead to the future and exciting initiatives such as the new St Mary's University School of Medicine and the Centenary Building development."

The music in the Mass was provided through the generous sponsorship of the Catholic Association of Performing Arts, and the choir was directed by Edward Tambling, with the fanfare directed by Jonathan Spencer. Mark Underwood played the newly restored Chapel organ.

Founded in 1850 to train teachers for Catholic schools, St Mary's University achieved full university status in 2014. Today, St Mary's is also one of the top-rated modern universities nationally and has ambitious plans to ensure it continues to make a positive impact locally, nationally and globally.

The University is also home to Mater Ecclesiae College, a pontifical institute awarding ecclesiastical degrees under the

authority of the Holy See.

But, most particularly, in the tradition of Catholic universities, and aligned to Saint John Henry Newman's vision, we have always, and will continue, to put our students at the heart of everything we do. Our academic programmes seek to develop the whole person and empower our community to have a positive impact on the world.

Allied to this, the University is deeply conscious of its social responsibilities and is responding to the challenges and opportunities that the 21st Century presents. St Mary's undertakes research and makes important contributions to public debate and policy in diverse fields spanning modern slavery and human trafficking, pedagogy, theology, Catholic social thought, and health sciences - even developing equipment for astronauts to use on the International Space Station.

A key development for the University is the launch of the School of Medicine, which will begin training doctors in 2026. Graduates from this new school will be equipped to be compassionate contributors to the global medical community.

At its heart, St Mary's remains a university committed to delivering outstanding outcomes for its students and is rated in the top 10 nationally for teaching quality for the 2025 Sunday Times Good University Guide.



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London



Celebrating Twickenham's first motor car and our pioneering motoring history



The "New Orleans" Voiturette

**With an historic reunion of New Orleans and other
Twickenham cars and motor vehicles.**

**5th July , 12-6pm
St Margarets Fair
Moor Mead Park, TW1 1JS**

Acting Students Present Final Major Project

[Level 2 and 3 and Extended Diploma Acting](#) students performed their final major project at the beginning of June, to busy audiences in our college auditorium.

The production chosen was '13' by English playwright, Mike Bartlett.



Although written in 2011, many of the themes covered are still very relevant to the present day, reflecting on a number of issues we are currently discussing as a wider society.

The play revolves around a mysterious figure who reappears after being presumed dead, preaching an anti-war message. Meanwhile, twelve Londoners share a disturbing nightmare involving monsters and an explosion.

The piece explores political realities and delves into themes of belief, responsibility, and the influence of the past on the future, all within a dark, magical setting.

Director, Emily Tobias, commented:

"The cast were all fantastic and really came together as an ensemble to produce very professional performances. Real standout performances were Keziah Standing as Ruth (the Prime Minister), O'Shai Linton as John, Riley Alldridge as Stephen and Che Nimrod as Rob. They were truly a tour de force!"



Che's monologue as the ex-soldier suffering from PTSD brought tears to many of the audience's eyes, including my uncle David Yelland, who is a seasoned actor with over fifty years' experience. As a team we are incredibly proud of all of our actors this year!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the members of staff who have generously given their time, expertise and creativity to our project. It has been a truly collaborative experience, and we are all very grateful for their input!"

Interested in taking part in opportunities like this? Find our range of different courses and how to apply [here](#).



**Richmond upon
Thames College**

MET IN THE PARK

6TH AUGUST
OLD DEER PARK,
RICHMOND



COME ALONG AND MEET TSG,
POLICE HORSES AND DOGS, RNLI,
LONDON FIRE BRIGADE AND MANY MORE!

Borthwick announces 36-player squad for Argentina and USA Tour

Steve Borthwick has named a 36-player squad for the upcoming Tour to Argentina and the USA, which includes a two-Test series against Los Pumas, followed by a Test match against the Eagles in Washington, D.C.

England senior men will open the Tour in Buenos Aires on Saturday 5 July (kick-off 2040 BST), before travelling to San Juan for the second Test on Saturday 12 July (kick-off 2040 BST). The Tour will conclude with a Test against the USA in Washington, D.C., on Saturday 19 July (kick-off 2200 BST).

Ten uncapped players have been included in the touring party: Charlie Atkinson (Gloucester Rugby), Seb Atkinson (Gloucester Rugby), Oscar Beard (Harlequins), Joe Carpenter (Sale Sharks), Arthur Clark (Gloucester Rugby), Emmanuel Iyogun (Northampton Saints), Will Muir (Bath Rugby), Luke Northmore (Harlequins), Max Ojomoh (Bath Rugby), and Guy Pepper (Bath Rugby).

The squad, which has a combined total of 561 caps, will be co-captained by Jamie George and George Ford, and is made up of 20 forwards and 16 backs. The team will train at the Honda England Rugby Performance Centre at Pennyhill Park on Tuesday 24 June before flying to Buenos Aires later that day to continue preparations for the opening Test.

“The three-Test series is a huge challenge and a valuable opportunity for the continued development of this squad,” said Borthwick. *“For some of the younger players, this will be their first experience of touring overseas with England. Travelling together helps strengthen team bonds and offers a valuable chance for new players to integrate into our environment. It’s an exciting test for us, and we’re looking forward to seeing how we continue to evolve as a team.”*

The Test matches against Argentina will be broadcast live on Sky Sports, with the Test against the USA available to stream on RugbyPass TV.

England’s 36-player training squad

Forwards:

Fin Baxter (Harlequins, 11 caps)	Joe Heyes (Leicester Tigers, 12 caps)
Arthur Clark (Gloucester Rugby, uncapped)	Ted Hill (Bath Rugby, 4 caps)
Alex Coles (Northampton Saints, 7 caps)	Nick Isiekwe (Saracens, 15 caps)
Chandler Cunningham-South (Harlequins, 15 caps)	Emmanuel Iyogun (Northampton Saints, uncapped)
Ben Curry (Sale Sharks, 11 caps)	Curtis Langdon (Northampton Saints, 2 caps)
Theo Dan (Saracens, 17 caps)	Asher Opoku-Fordjour (Sale Sharks, 1 cap)
Trevor Davison (Northampton Saints, 2 caps)	Guy Pepper (Bath Rugby, uncapped)
Alex Dombrandt (Harlequins, 20 caps)	Bevan Rodd (Sale Sharks, 7 caps)
Charlie Ewels (Bath Rugby, 31 caps)	Sam Underhill (Bath Rugby, 40 caps)
Jamie George (Saracens, 101 caps) – co-captain	Tom Willis (Saracens, 6 caps)

Backs:

Charlie Atkinson (Gloucester Rugby, uncapped)	Luke Northmore (Harlequins, uncapped)
Seb Atkinson (Gloucester Rugby, uncapped)	Max Ojomoh (Bath Rugby, uncapped)
Oscar Beard (Harlequins, uncapped)	Harry Randall (Bristol Bears, 13 caps)
Joe Carpenter (Sale Sharks, uncapped)	Tom Roebuck (Sale Sharks, 4 caps)
Immanuel Feyi-Waboso (Exeter Chiefs, 8 caps)	Henry Slade (Exeter Chiefs, 72 caps)
George Ford (Sale Sharks, 99 caps) – co-captain	Ben Spencer (Bath Rugby, 8 caps)
Will Muir (Bath Rugby, uncapped)	Freddie Steward (Leicester Tigers, 36 caps)
Cadan Murley (Harlequins, 1 cap)	Jack van Poortvliet (Leicester Tigers, 18 caps)

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

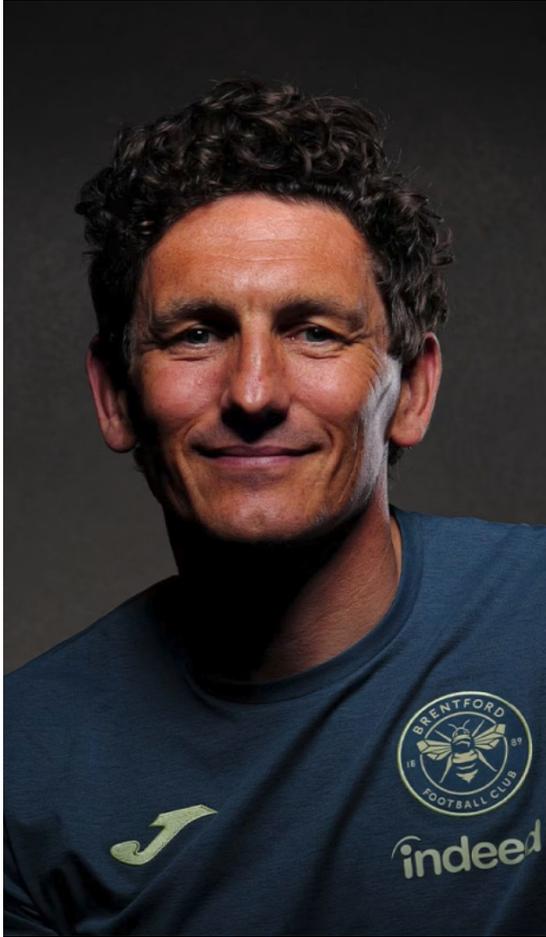


Brentford appoint Keith Andrews as head coach

Written by Brentford Football Club

Keith Andrews appointed Brentford head coach; the 44-year-old has been part of the Bees' first-team coaching staff since July 2024; director of football Phil Giles: *"Keith is a very good fit. He is clear in what he wants, he's detailed, and the players and staff like and respect him"*

Brentford are delighted to announce the appointment of Keith Andrews as head coach.



Andrews takes on the role having been part of the Bees' first-team coaching staff since July 2024.

"Keith is a very good fit," said director of football Phil Giles. *"He gets on with everyone, he's very open and he's a learner. Keith is clear in what he wants, he's detailed, and the players and staff like and respect him."*

"He understands the players in the building and the way we've played and trained under Thomas Frank. Keith will bring his own evolution but isn't starting from scratch, so hopefully we can make some quick progress. He's a very good coach and has clear ideas about how he wants the team to improve. We were looking for somebody not just to maintain what we've been doing but actually try and get better."

Assistant first-team coach Justin Cochrane, head of athletic performance Chris Haslam and first-team analyst Joe Newton [joined Frank at Tottenham Hotspur.](#)

On these vacancies, Giles added: *"There's been a lot of work going into what the team around Keith looks like. How do we take what we had last year and get better? That process is ongoing."*

"We have to look at the blend of skills and experience. It's an exciting project to have these roles open together. We'll build it over time and learn about strengths and weaknesses. We'll build it step by step and get the right balance."

[Andrews](#) joined Brentford as set-piece coach in July 2024, departing Sheffield United where he had been part of the coaching set-up under Chris Wilder.

Prior to that, the 44-year-old was assistant manager to Stephen Kenny during the Dubliner's three-year spell as Republic of Ireland boss (2020-2023) and served as MK Dons' assistant manager for the 2015/16 Championship campaign.

A midfielder, Andrews represented the likes of Wolverhampton Wanderers, Hull City, MK Dons and Blackburn Rovers during a 16-year playing career which began in 1999.

Andrews earned 35 caps for Republic of Ireland and featured at UEFA Euro 2012.



Major £30m healthcare and education boost for Richmond upon Thames welcomed by Council

From Richmond Council

Richmond's Barnes Hospital is set to become a hub for high-quality mental health and education services, thanks to a major £30 million investment, with construction officially launched today at a ground breaking ceremony attended by patients, carers, NHS staff, and councillors.

Richmond Council has welcomed the milestone, which marks the start of a significant redevelopment led by South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust, in partnership with LocatED, the Department for Education's property delivery body.

Speaking at the event, Councillor Piers Allen, Chair of Richmond's Adult Social Services, Health and Housing Committee, said the development will make a real and lasting difference to the borough. *"This investment will improve facilities that help provide better care and support for some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Having modern, fit-for-purpose spaces makes a real difference to the quality of care that can be delivered."*

Councillor Julia Cambridge, Chair of Richmond's Education and Children's Services, added: *"The new school is an important development that will offer tailored educational support for children with social and emotional needs. It will provide a nurturing environment where these children can grow, learn, and achieve their full potential."*

The project will help meet growing demand for local mental health care and special educational needs provision across the borough.



Part of the Trust's ambitious Better Environments Programme, the redevelopment will bring outpatient mental health services back to Barnes from 2027 and deliver a new specialist school, operated by The Beckmead Trust, offering 90 places for children with social, emotional, and mental health needs.

Vanessa Ford, Chief Executive of South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust, said: *"Today marks the next step in our journey to deliver modern, community-facing mental healthcare for the people of Richmond. We want to create inclusive new spaces to deliver better environments and better care for our patients, now and in the future. Our Better Environments Programme is driving important changes across our estate, and we are excited to see construction begin here at Barnes as we strive to create environments that improve patient experience, reduce mental health stigma, and bring care closer to home."*

The Barnes redevelopment sits alongside other major projects in the borough's mental health estate, including the Richmond Royal Wellbeing Centre, opening this summer on the site of the former Richmond Royal Hospital, and a planned £110 million redevelopment of Tolworth Hospital by 2028.

Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said: *"We welcome this investment as it will help strengthen mental health services in the borough and make vital support more accessible to those who need it. Early access to care can change lives, and this is a positive step in that direction."*

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