

# Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



View from Terrace Gardens, Richmond  
Photo by Berkley Driscoll

4<sup>th</sup> July 2025

T&RT

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RFU

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Brentford Football Club

Editors: Berkley Driscoll, Teresa Read

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# TickerTape - News in Brief

## Refresh your wardrobe for a good cause

From Traid

This summer, join charity retailer Traid's Closet Clear-out Challenge to help keep clothes in use for longer. All you need to do is pick - click - collect: pick your clothes, click to donate, and Traid will collect them for free!

If you are looking to clear out your wardrobe this summer, why not take part in [Traid's Closet Clear-out Challenge](#)?

The initiative aims to collect 250,000 garments to support the people who make our clothes, from garment workers to organic cotton farmers.

Over the past 12 months, residents in our borough donated more than 600 tonnes of textiles to TRAIID - preventing nearly 3,500 tonnes of CO2 emissions compared to incineration.

You're encouraged to sort through the clothes, shoes, and accessories you no longer wear, and [book a free collection slot online](#) or by calling 020 8733 2595. A TRAIID-branded van will collect your donations at the agreed time.

Let's transform fashion for the better, one wardrobe at a time!

Find out more about [Traid's Closet Clear-out Challenge](#).



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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*The Tree Agency*

# Reaffirmation in Richmond

From The Richmond in Europe Association

Thousands of Richmond residents, plus hundreds of overseas guests took part in the recent festivities to celebrate the borough's European partnerships with Fontainebleau & Konstanz. The German Ambassador described the Reaffirmation as the most beautiful event he had seen in his three years here.



A 5 minute film of the highlights has just been released and can be accessed [HERE](#).



The European Youth Orchestra, performed to a packed audience at the Landmark Arts Centre on the Sunday evening to bring the festival to a close. There wasn't a dry eye in the house.



# Pensford Field Judicial Review Threat

By James Knight

In a borough that prides itself on green credentials and community engagement, Richmond Council's decision to remove a long-standing environmental trust from its stewardship of Pensford Field has left residents questioning whether those values still hold. What began as a quiet dispute over a ten-year lease has escalated into a legal battle, with the Council now facing the threat of judicial review and accusations of apparent bias. Even the local Liberal Democrat MP, Sarah Olney, has called the situation a "debacle", an unusually strong intervention that suggests discontent may be growing on the party's own benches about Councillor Roberts' leadership of the council.

## A Community Ousted

At the centre of the row is a modest but ecologically diverse nature reserve off Pensford Avenue in Kew, cared for since the early 1990s by the Pensford Field Environmental Trust (PFET). Its volunteers, some professionally trained in conservation and others long-serving local residents, restored wildflower meadows, maintained ponds, and ran outdoor learning sessions for nearby schools. Their work was recognised by national organisations and carried out without cost to the Council.

That record was not sufficient to save them. In June, the Council approved a plan to lease the field and its studio building to Dose of Nature, a well-regarded mental health charity offering therapeutic sessions in outdoor settings. The charity has expanded rapidly, establishing connections across public health and the voluntary sector. It had previously shown interest in developing its work on the site, a move supported by some within the borough.

## Apparent Bias and Legal Fallout

The process by which the decision was made has come under increasing scrutiny. Council Leader Gareth Roberts, having met privately with Dose of Nature's chair Sir Mark Rowley in 2024, stepped down from the committee before the item was heard. His deputy, Cllr Jim Millard, who had publicly spoken in support of the charity, also withdrew mid-meeting. Their recusals, while procedurally correct, failed to dispel the perception that the matter had been preordained. The tone of voice Councillor Roberts used during the start of this part of the meeting also indicated seething contempt.

In his opening statement, Roberts said: "I'm aware that there's been a certain amount of speculation regarding my own personal involvement and allegations of bias, which I entirely refute." By that point, however, PFET had already issued a pre-action legal letter, asserting that the Council had not only acted unfairly but also failed to follow proper consultation. Their legal challenge cites apparent bias, a principle well established in public law, which considers whether a fair-minded observer could reasonably conclude that the decision-maker was closed-minded.

Supporters of the Trust highlight that the Council's own report never named the organisation, despite its 30-year presence on the site. The document presented the handover to Dose of Nature as a simple lease renewal and did not mention PFET's educational initiatives, biodiversity projects, or other proposals for shared use. Public objections, numbering over 190, were broadly summarised and largely dismissed.

## **Safeguards on Paper, Silence in Practice**

In fairness, the new lease contains some safeguards: there are limits on footfall, provisions for school access, and biodiversity monitoring clauses. And Dose of Nature is by no means an untested or unworthy operator. NHS professionals, support its therapeutic model and its work is widely admired in mental health circles.

But the issue is not whether the charity is capable. It is whether the Council was even-handed in its treatment of two very different bids—one rooted in long-standing community care, the other in a newer health delivery model.

The contrast was clear at the Finance Committee meeting. Trustees from PFET raised concerns about ecological degradation, process failure, and being pushed out of their own field. Council officers responded with calm but generic assurances. Questions from councillors, with a few exceptions, did not probe the matter deeply. In the end, the decision was passed by the Liberal Democrat majority with little visible discomfort.

## **A Worrying Pattern Emerges**

It is not the first time the Council has clashed with a local civic body. That same evening, it accused the Twickenham Riverside Trust of causing delays and increasing costs for its £67 million redevelopment scheme, after the Trust lawfully opposed a compulsory purchase order. Both incidents have left many questioning whether this administration is more focused on clearing obstacles than working with long-standing partners.

And the political risk is increasing. Sarah Olney, Liberal Democrat MP for Richmond Park, which includes Kew, told constituents she was worried about the Council's stance. "It's disappointing that a more collaborative outcome could not be found," she said, adding that the situation had become a "debacle." Coming from an MP of the same party, her words carry weight and highlight tensions that may last beyond the lease.

## **An Accident-Prone Leader?**

Cllr Gareth Roberts' decision to recuse himself from the lease discussion was tactically wise, but it came too late to quell concerns that the outcome had already been influenced behind the scenes. It is the latest in a series of avoidable errors during his tenure, from mishandling community relations to overblown capital schemes. An increasing number of residents and some party colleagues are beginning to see the Council Leader as an accident-prone bed-blocker, a politician who is becoming increasingly out of step with the cautious, collaborative approach that once characterised Richmond's civic life.

## **What Happens Next?**

PFET is considering its next move. The legal process is underway and could result in the lease being quashed. Even if the courts uphold the Council's decision, how it was reached will leave lasting questions. Why was the Trust erased from the narrative? Why were compromise proposals not explored in good faith? And why, in a borough that boasts of its environmental stewardship, was a successful community conservation project dismantled with so little acknowledgement?

These are not academic questions. They go to the heart of how councils should behave and whether Richmond's Liberal Democrat leadership has lost sight of the very values it claims to defend.

# 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  
PROJECT,



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

# Join a polo match for a good cause

From Khalsa Aid

On Sunday 20 July, join Khalsa Aid's Charity Polo Match at Ham Polo Club to support humanitarian relief efforts.

International humanitarian organisation Khalsa Aid has announced a fundraising Polo Match taking place at the historic Ham Polo Club on Sunday 20 July. This elegant family event will raise vital funds to support Khalsa Aid's global missions, providing emergency relief in areas affected by natural disasters, conflict and poverty.

All proceeds from the day will go directly toward Khalsa Aid's ongoing relief efforts in regions such as Panjab, India, the Middle East and many other areas affected by natural and man-made disasters.



Set in the scenic surroundings of Richmond, the Khalsa Aid Charity Polo Match promises a day of thrilling sport and timeless British summer tradition. Guests will enjoy top-tier polo action, gourmet hospitality and an opportunity to engage with Khalsa Aid's impactful work around the world.

The event will feature:

A competitive polo match featuring seasoned players

- A gourmet two-course vegetarian lunch reception
- An exclusive auction and raffle with prizes
- Live music and special guest appearances

[Join Khalsa Aid for an unforgettable experience.](#)



**Celebrate 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**

# Twickenham's High Speed 2?

## Riverside Costs Balloon To £67.2 Million

By James Knight

On the same evening that Richmond Council forced the eviction of a long-standing environmental charity from Kew's Pensford Field, it also announced that the soaring cost of its flagship Twickenham Riverside development has now reached an astonishing £67.2 million. Although the two projects are quite different, they share a common pattern: community organisations are displaced, concerns are disregarded, and decisions are made by an administration increasingly accused of closing ranks around its own agenda.

The Twickenham Riverside redevelopment has taken many years to complete. Promised as a revival of the town centre and the riverfront, it will feature 45 homes, cafés, commercial spaces, and a new public garden. However, rather than uniting the community, the project is now mired in controversy over costs, procedures, and the Council's treatment of its former partners.

At the heart of that dispute is the Twickenham Riverside Trust, which was granted a 125-year lease to manage Diamond Jubilee Gardens in 2011. The Trust was not opposed to the idea of regeneration. However, it did object to the Council's attempt to acquire the site through a compulsory purchase order (CPO), leading to a public inquiry in 2023 that ultimately supported the Council's case.

Since then, relations have further deteriorated. At the 25 June Finance Committee meeting, council officers blamed the Trust's CPO challenge for delays that moved the project into a more costly construction period. However, the Trust's secretary, Celia Holman, informed the committee that it was the Council's handling of the CPO that caused the delays, including flawed notices, poor planning coordination, and a last-minute adjournment requested by the Council itself. Rather than acknowledging these failings, the Council now seems to be blaming those who raised concerns.

### £67 Million Cost and Rising

The original project budget has now increased by over £16 million even before construction begins. Council officers cited inflation, regulatory changes, and "enabling works" as reasons for the rise. The enabling phase alone has involved fencing the site, removing trees, conducting archaeological surveys, and demolishing buildings on King Street. Major construction is expected to start by the end of the year, with completion due in 2027. However, beneath the official explanations lies a more troubling issue: the way the Council has presented the scheme's value to residents and policymakers.

The Green Book assessment, used to justify the investment, seems at best incomplete. The Council's purchase of the King Street properties, bought for £6.8 million in 2019 and now valued at approximately £8.7 million, is almost entirely excluded from the cost basis. Additionally, the current values of Diamond Jubilee Gardens and the riverside promenade, which were already in public use, are also omitted.

The accounting trick they have used is to assess the value of the site in its pre-construction

phase, with leases terminated and public spaces fenced off, rather than the value of the site if development had not been taking place and spaces in use per the Green Book Guidance. Thus, the Council has manufactured a larger “net benefit”, portraying the scheme as a major uplift when, in fact, a large proportion is simply replacing what is already there at enormous expense. Critics argue this is less economic modelling than political window dressing.

### Twickenham’s HS2?

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the comparison has already been made. Several residents, including former Council insiders, have begun calling the project “Twickenham’s HS2,” a reference to the spiralling costs, long delays, and increasing discontent surrounding the government’s high-speed rail scheme.

That comparison gained new significance when it was revealed that a leading contractor involved in HS2 had been appointed to deliver the Twickenham scheme. While some see this as a sign of professional credibility, others question why a town-centre riverside project now requires a national infrastructure specialist. The appointment has only intensified concerns that the scheme’s scale and ambition have surpassed its budget and purpose.

### A Council With No Reverse Gear

Liberal Democrat councillors, including Council Leader Gareth Roberts, remained bullish. Other members spoke of the economic boost, improved public realm, and long-awaited progress after decades of delay.

But even some supporters now admit that the political capital required to sustain the scheme is draining fast. The Council is locked in financially, contractually, and rhetorically. It has little room to amend the design, revisit the cost base, or re-engage former partners without admitting fault. In the absence of transparency, accountability has become collateral damage.

And all the while, the figures keep rising.

## Ham, Petersham & Richmond Riverside Councillor Surgery

Got an issue with Richmond Council? Come to the ward surgery tomorrow, Sat 5<sup>th</sup> July, between 11am-12pm at Costa on Ham Parade. No need for an appointment. Can’t make it - email me via [cllr.a.frieze@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.a.frieze@richmond.gov.uk).



# London Fire Brigade trains with partners to protect London's wildlife from wildfires

From London Fire Brigade

London Fire Brigade is warning of the devastating impact wildfires could have on London's wildlife and green spaces, as crews took part in a wildfire response training exercise in Richmond Park today (3 July).

Working in partnership with The Royal Parks charity, the Brigade staged a simulated wildfire scenario near sensitive wildlife habitats. The exercise aimed to ensure that firefighters and partners are prepared to protect London's parks and open spaces, residents and biodiversity from the increasing threat of wildfires linked to climate change.

The training exercise simulated a wildfire progressing towards sensitive areas including the skylark nesting field, which has been identified by the Royal Parks as being a priority to protect. Partway through the exercise, the simulated wind direction shifted to mimic real-life unpredictability, causing the fire to accelerate uphill towards The Royal Ballet School. This required incident commanders to rapidly adapt their tactics and reprioritise resources. Wildlife, such as red and fallow deer, that roam freely in the park were also factored into the scenario, highlighting the need to account for natural migration patterns during a wildfire response.



Firefighters trained with wildfire beaters, to beat flames, deprive them of oxygen and cool them, as well as water backpacks, which are self-contained water carriers to help where access to appliances is restricted. One of the Brigade's wildfire responsible vehicles, part of a fleet of four currently being trialled, was also used at the scene.

Crews also practiced drawing water from open sources and planning water supply logistics to sustain operations during a prolonged wildfire. The exercise involved six fire engines, a command unit and a hose layer unit from Richmond, Twickenham, Feltham, Kingston and Wandsworth fire stations. They were joined by colleagues from Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, Royal Parks officers and park wardens and Metropolitan Police officers.

The risk of wildfires in London has already been demonstrated, with two heatwaves, which follow the driest spring in over a century and a very warm start to summer. By the end of June, firefighters across the capital had responded to around 17 wildfires this year as well as countless other grass and outdoor fires.

Richmond Borough Commander Rob Davies, who oversaw the exercise, said: *“As climate change continues to drive hotter, drier summers, the risk of wildfires in London’s grasslands, woodlands and parks is growing rapidly. This exercise is not just about practising our response; it’s about learning how to defend the landscapes and wildlife that make London unique.”*



*“We’re continuing to work closely with landowners and organisations, like The Royal Parks and our neighbouring fire and rescue services, to strengthen wildfire resilience across the capital. This latest training in Richmond Park is a key step in that preparation.”*

This spring has been the driest and sunniest on record, heightening the fire risk across the capital. Richmond Park, with its dry bracken, deadwood and grassland habitats, is particularly vulnerable, especially during extended heatwaves and periods of low rainfall.

Londoners are being reminded that it only takes some sparks to ignite grass, shrubs, or litter and with the dry weather conditions that London has been seeing and will continue to see, any fire can quickly get out of control. Grass and land fires are commonly caused by discarded cigarettes and matches, rubbish left lying around and disposable barbecues.

Paul Richards, Park Manager for Richmond Park, The Royal Parks charity, said: *“To keep visitors and wildlife safe, we do not permit barbecues in any area of any Royal Park. It only takes one falling ember onto dry grass to start a terrible fire, which can spread rapidly, pose a risk to life and devastate the environment, destroying wildlife and historic parkland.”*

*“No-one ever believes it’ll be their actions that cause a fire, but fires can start easily, particularly in the current weather conditions. Please take care of yourselves, others, the parks’ wildlife and the landscapes by enjoying a picnic, not a barbecue, and by taking your litter home if the bins are full.”*

Tony Whitehead, from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) said: *“Most people are very responsible when out and about enjoying nature, but fires can be started by items that many wouldn’t even consider a risk.”*

*“A simple glass bottle can start a fire on a sunny day, while a discarded cigarette-end or disposable barbecue are accidents waiting to happen - and it can take time for vulnerable birds, trees, and other wildlife to recover from what starts as a small spark.”*

*“We are so grateful to London Fire Brigade and others around the UK for all they do to prepare for the worst-case scenario, and we can all help by not using disposable barbecues or lighting fires, taking litter home with us, and reporting any fires immediately to the fire service.”*



# Sowing the seeds of success

South Western Railway marks 35 years of the Hampton Court Garden Festival

South Western Railway (SWR) is marking the 35th anniversary of the Hampton Court Garden Festival as part of its Railway 200 celebrations.

The first festival - the Hampton Court Flower Show - took place from 11-15 July 1990 and was the idea of entrepreneur Adrian Boyd. Working as a consultant for Network SouthEast's marketing team, he saw it as an opportunity to build on the historic Chelsea Flower Show and promote leisure travel.

It cost the princely sum of £100,000 (just under £250,000 today) and was opened by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal. Network SouthEast had their own garden complete with model trains operated by the Gauge 1 Model Railway Association, who provided live steam trains and a 'Networker', Network SouthEast's latest train.

The idea for the event was seen as a gamble, but the festival paid for itself within its first few days thanks to a marketing campaign that brought in customers from far and wide. After three successful editions and hundreds of thousands of visitors, the festival was taken over by the Royal Horticultural Society.

To mark the 35th anniversary, SWR and the Royal Horticultural Society welcomed Network SouthEast's former Managing Director, Chris Green, and former PR Assistant and later Communications Manager, Dennis Lovett, to the 2025 festival.

Chris Green said: *"The Hampton Court Flower Show was the most spectacular event that Network SouthEast ever promoted, and I remember it as our golden age.*

*The number of visitors to the first event was awesome - with an estimated 50,000 travelling by rail each day.*

*The event has become the largest garden show in the UK and would probably have never been launched without Network SouthEast's early support. It has been a roaring success since its opening day in July 1990 - and the rest is history."*



Dennis Lovett said: *"At the time of the festival I was the junior in Network SouthEast's fledgling PR department. On the first day of the festival, my wife and I looked after guests in one of the carriages on our special non-stop train from London Waterloo to Hampton Court, with refreshments being served to celebrities, people from the gardening world, and a lot of transport correspondents. Being a PR man I was too busy to sit down! "Staff at every station from London Waterloo to Hampton Court wore fresh carnations, and everybody made a really big effort to feel part of the event. It really was a big exercise for us, and a bit of a risk. That risk didn't last very long - trains were packed, it was a massive success, and here we are 35 years later and it's still going."*



On top of the 'Tudor Rose' special, where celebrities were wined and dined, a special service of six trains per hour ran between London Waterloo and Hampton Court.

Today, SWR continue to provide additional services for the event, which this year saw the introduction of its new Arterio trains. In a coincidental throwback to 1990, one of those Arterios is named 'The Red Rose'.

**South Western  
Railway**

# Luxury Flats, Lost Pools and Vanishing Credibility:

## The Liberal Democrats' Riverside Gamble

By James Knight

For a party that once pledged fiscal responsibility and community empowerment, Richmond's Liberal Democrats are now in an uncomfortable position. Their flagship Twickenham Riverside redevelopment is estimated to cost at least £67.2 million, with the Council revealing a net public expense of £37 million: a figure that excludes significant sunk costs and hidden subsidies. At a time when councils across the country are struggling to balance their budgets, this is an astonishing sum. It may also undermine what remains of their credibility, not only among the public but even among their traditional Green allies.

Compare this with neighbouring Kingston. There, the Liberal Democrat-run council faced a similar dilemma: an ageing leisure facility, rising construction costs, and public pressure to deliver value. Their solution? Pull the original plan, rethink it, and come back with a £44.5 million leisure centre. It includes a swimming pool, gym, sports hall, soft play, and café all within a single, coherent building in the centre of town.

Twickenham, by contrast, will spend more and receive less. The plan omits a swimming pool, a leisure centre, and features that could be achieved at a lower cost through modest landscaping and community involvement.

### Redeeming Promises Over Prudence

The Council claims the riverside plan will revitalise the town centre, provide new housing, and enhance the public realm. However, in reality, it is mainly fulfilling campaign promises made during the last local elections; merely checking boxes on glossy pledges rather than exercising serious financial judgment. Under the Local Government Act 2003, councils are legally obliged to ensure their spending is “**affordable, prudent and sustainable**.” Yet, by committing tens of millions to a riverside development, largely financed through borrowing, Richmond risks undermining not only public confidence but also its statutory duties. The pursuit of political legacy at the expense of fiscal restraint is not civic leadership it is vanity governance disguised in architectural renderings.

The £37 million net cost to Richmond Council, as confirmed in recently released papers, does not include the £6.8 million spent in 2019 to acquire King Street commercial properties, now valued at £8.7 million once inflation is taken into account. Nor does it include the value of the existing Diamond Jubilee Gardens or the riverside promenade, both public assets that will be cleared to facilitate the scheme.

While the project promises 21 affordable homes, these are heavily cross-subsidised, mainly from developer contributions to fund off-site social housing from other private developments across the borough. Therefore, despite claims to the contrary, the development does not create new social housing but relocates it from elsewhere in the borough. The Council claims it will recover some funds from housing and commercial sales, but no detailed breakdown has been made public. What is clear is that a scheme presented as a public investment is in fact a highly leveraged property play, with long-term liabilities passed quietly onto future generations.

### Even the Greens Are Uneasy

In private, some of the Council's more left-wing Green members are said to be nervous. They

have been asking whether the scale of borrowing can be justified. The £1.85 million annual cost to the revenue budget is not hypothetical. It is real money that will need to be found every year, in an era of tightening local authority finances and rising service demands.

And then there is the optics. The Council has brought in a main contractor from the HS2 programme, prompting some residents to label the project “Twickenham’s HS2” a reference that is not flattering. High cost, delayed delivery, exaggerated benefit; the parallels are uncomfortably close.

### **Financing Risks**

The Council’s claim that it can finance the £37 million net cost of Twickenham Riverside at an interest rate of just 3% has raised more than a few eyebrows in financial circles. Current Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) rates – the standard, reliable source of local government borrowing sit closer to 5%, making the Council’s projection unusually optimistic.

The most plausible explanation is that Richmond intends to borrow via the UK Municipal Bonds Agency, a scheme that allows councils to issue debt collectively on the capital markets. It offers flexibility, but at a price: if any member authority defaults, the others are legally obliged to cover the debt. In the wake of high-profile collapses in Croydon and Thurrock, that is not a theoretical risk. Richmond has been here before. During the construction of the Civic Centre at York House, the Council entered into a so-called low-interest borrowing scheme that promptly unravelled, leaving residents with years of higher costs. It is difficult to avoid the impression that history, like the borrowing, may be compounding.

Even on the Council’s own figures, the cost of servicing the debt for the Riverside scheme will hit **£1.85 million a year**. This is a significant and ongoing pressure on the borough’s revenue budget. That money will not be spent once, but every year, for decades. In an era where councils across the country are cutting libraries, social care, and road maintenance to stay afloat, it is a striking commitment to a project centred around luxury flats, cafés and decorative paving. Worse, the payment obligation is locked in before a single brick is laid. Should construction costs rise further, as they already have, or sales underperform, the Council will be left covering the shortfall from its core budget. The Riverside may soon be known not just for its aesthetic ambition, but for the quiet erosion of everyday services that paid for it.

### **No Pool, No Plan B**

The political fallout is already showing. Residents are asking why Twickenham, a town of national sporting prestige, still has no public swimming pool, decades after the last one closed. Why was it never included in this plan? Why does a borough that claims to champion well-being and active living have no place to swim?

Kingston gets a pool. Twickenham gets luxury flats, an ornamental treehouse, and a spiralling debt obligation.

The Liberal Democrats may believe the riverside scheme will be their legacy. But if the numbers continue to climb, and the borrowing continues to bite, it may well become their epitaph.

Dear Sir,

### Twickenham outdoor pool

I recently found a book in a local bookshop called "Liquid Assets". It is an interesting book about lidos – outdoor swimming pools. We used to have a lovely outdoor swimming pool on Twickenham Riverside and in the current weather it would have been an asset for residents.

I read that this swimming pool is still under the ground on Twickenham Riverside, but it seems that the Council's idea of a "liquid asset" is to bring yet another pub to Twickenham on the very site of Twickenham outdoor pool. Twickenham is full of pubs, no doubt the result of the crowds that come to Twickenham for the rugby. It seems that luxury flats will be above the pub – how I pity unsuspecting buyers, probably from outside the area, who have no idea of what it will be like on rugby days ..... "Buyer Beware".

To return to the pool there is still much interest in bringing back the Twickenham pool and I have recently come across people's support on the petition site Change.org totalling over 4,820. There are also some comments at this link <https://twickenhamlido.com/comment.html> I found this link, and the one below, in a previous article in the Tribune.

Various concepts for the Twickenham site, incorporating a lido, were put forward to the Council some years ago but this was never on the Council's agenda. Such a shame that the "liquid asset" is not an outdoor pool for the residents of the borough, but another pub, totally unnecessary, and will no doubt be an unpleasant shock for unsuspecting residents of the flats in the block above.

Here are some interesting early concepts online: <https://twickenhamlido.com/video.html>

Interested Twickenham Riverside Resident  
(Name and address supplied)

## Next week at Richmond Council

On Tuesday evening, the **Full Council** will convene. The agenda includes 1) public questions, 2) member questions, 3) reports from council committees, 4) a report on the Richmond Park election count where votes were miscounted, and 5) motions. The meeting will start at 7 pm at York House in Twickenham. For more details, click [HERE](#)

On Thursday, the **Health and Wellbeing Board** will meet to discuss: 1) SEND futures six-monthly update, 2) the children's and young people's plan update, 3) the pharmaceutical needs assessment update, 4) public health board annual report, 5) the age well report, 6) the health watch annual report, 7) the better care fund end-of-year report. The meeting will start at 10 am at York House, Twickenham. For more details, click [HERE](#)

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

## A Cool Piece Of Kitchen Equipment!

I've always fancied the idea of an ice cream machine - one that actually freezes the mix, and doesn't require storing a great big metal bowl in your freezer. Chefs I worked with in the past often had these wonderful pieces of kitchen equipment, but they came at a price - one that really could only be justified by a professional. Until now...

I'm delighted to report that you can now obtain a super easy, really quick and efficient ice cream machine for under £300. When you consider the price of some pieces of kitchen equipment, and look at the quality of this machine, it's a bargain. With the ability to create two litres of ice cream in under 60 minutes and craft the finest homemade yoghurt in just 5-8 hours, the **CASO IceCreamer** makes indulgence effortless. With a powerful 180-watt compressor, there's **no need to pre-freeze the bowl** - just add your ingredients and go! Whether you prefer dairy or plant-based milk, this versatile machine caters to all.



Designed for ease of use, it features a sleek stainless-steel housing, an intuitive LED interface, and a handy ingredient hatch which lets you fold in fresh fruits, crushed cookies, or decadent swirls of caramel during the churning process. It also includes a removable ice cream container, scoop, and measuring cup for

ultimate convenience. When left in the IceCreamer, the practical 60-minute aftercooling function ensures your frozen treats stay perfectly chilled for casual gatherings or impromptu dessert moments with family and friends!

With four Fully-Automatic Programmes to ensure perfect results every time, the CASO IceCreamer also makes your own recipes effortlessly. From regular or soft serve ice cream with a twist of lavender and honey to zesty sorbet, or mixed berry frozen yoghurt, anything is possible.



In fact my very first venture with the machine was a Greek yogurt and stem ginger ice cream. It was a doddle, just a tub of Greek yogurt and some chopped stem ginger (I always use Opies). The result was really delicious - we ate a healthy amount and then I popped the rest into the freezer.

The new CASO IceCreamer is £279.99 from [casodesign.co.uk](http://casodesign.co.uk)

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# Traveller's Tales 172

## Cruising On The Rhone Part Three

Doug Goodman continues cruising northwards



Daily excursions were included in the price of the cruise 'History and Art of the Rhone' so there was always something arranged during the week if you didn't want to relax on the deck of The Lord Byron. From Arles there was a half day trip to the Pont Du Gard Roman aqueduct. At first sight of this huge monument you wonder how this could have been constructed with such precision and without machinery 2,000 years ago. It took 15 years to build the 20 mile long aqueduct from Uzès to Nîmes to provide drinking water to the Roman City. The bridge, which crosses The Gardon River, is 900 feet long, has three tiers with six arches on the lower level, eleven in the middle and 33 on the top where the water flowed. From a local quarry blocks of stone weighing up to five tonnes were moved to the river bank and precisely cut to the required size. Wooden scaffolding was used to support the arches as shown on a model in the museum. No mortar was used. Considering the precision required there had to be sufficient incline in the 20 miles to ensure the water flowed down hill from Uzès to Nîmes. The average descent was 20 inches per mile. To measure that slope for yourself place on a flat surface a one meter long piece of wood and put a playing card under one end. That was the run off needed. The Pont du Gard remained in use for 800 years.



*Tarn Gorge*



*Pont D'Arc*



*Chauvet Caves*

### GORGES AND CAVES

From Viviers a drive westwards took us to The Ardeche Region with wild scenery, deep gorges, rocky cliffs and eagles floating on the hot air currents. The gorges are located at the base of The Massif Central. The much photographed Pont D'Arc, an archway carved out by the river over 100 million years ago, is a popular spot for water sports. The excursion continued to the Chauvet Caves. The 'Grotte Chauvet' was discovered twenty years ago and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The largest replica of a cave ever built has been recreated underground to portray magnificent stone age Paleolithic cave paintings, bears' paw prints and bones. Going back 36,000 years the amazing wall paintings show scenes of hunting, depict woolly rhinoceroses and contain the skulls of ibex and bears. After a second period of human occupation some 27,000 years ago a landslide sealed off the original cave system until the discovery this century. Enormous care has been taken to reproduce everything as it was when first seen. The visit is brilliantly done.

### BACK TO SCHOOL MEMORIES

The stop at the riverside town of Tain L'Hermitage was an opportunity for me to explore a place where I attended lessons at the age of 14 on a school exchange. I stayed with a large family in a grand house and went to school every day. Outside my bedroom window were vast expanses of steep slopes covered in vines. I always remember the name 'Chapoutier' – the name of the wine I was 'allowed' to drink in the local bar. After 60 years the town had changed somewhat but I think I found the bar where I discovered the famous Hermitage wine. That short 'pilgrimage' brought back good and not so good memories.



*Pont Du Gard*



*Museum Pont Du Gard*



*Town on The Rhone*

The Rhone red wine is strong and fruity while the white is light and very refreshing. From Avignon to Beaune the wine is delicious and I was able to find a bottle of Hermitage in the town I enjoyed revisiting.



*Vines for Hermitage Wine*



*Familiar Wine Bar*



*Rich and Fruity*

## ON TO VIENNE

On day five of the cruise we arrived at Vienne from where Julius Caesar began his conquest of Gaul in the 1stC BC. Many magnificent sites remain in Vienne including the Temple of Augustus and Livia, surrounded by crowded bars, and the Roman Theatre which once provided seating for 13,000. A ride on a little tourist train carried visitors to the top of Pipet Hill for a view over the city. Roman remains are easily found in the Archaeological Garden and in The Museum of Fine Arts located in the grounds of the former Abbey of Saint-Andre-le-Bas with beautiful 12thC cloisters. The Cathedral of Saint Maurice is noted for the carvings on its many doors and combines building styles from the 12th to 16thC. Vienne is compact and perfect to visit on foot. Its outdoor bars and restaurants offer the perfect spot for people watching.



*Vienne*



*Vienne Roman Temple*



*Vienne Saint Maurice*

Next time we visit the pretty town Chalon-sur-Soane where photography began and then return south to explore Lyon.

# Georgia – The Country

Teresa Read



Georgians have been demonstrating against their pro-Russian government in their tens of thousands, 4<sup>th</sup> July saw the 219<sup>th</sup> demonstration. The country name is just Georgia or Sakartvelo in the country's language.

St George, the patron saint of Georgia, is depicted on the State Emblem of Georgia slaying a dragon. St George is also the patron saint of England. Georgia, a republic in Southwestern Asia, is bordered by the Black Sea, Russia, Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Tbilisi is the capital city.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century most of present-day Georgia became part of the Russian Empire. Georgia declared independence after the Russian Revolution but in 1922 became part of the USSR together with Armenia and Azerbaijan forming the Transcaucasian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic. Following dissolution of the USSR Georgia became independent.

In April 2024 there was concern that adoption of the “Russian Law”, introduced by the current pro-Russian government, would affect Georgia's relationship with the European Union; Georgia gained EU candidate status in December 2023. The Russian Law states that if organizations receive twenty percent or above of funding from foreign donors they would have to register as *organizations bearing the interests of a foreign power* and they would be monitored by the Justice Ministry, resembling regulations in Russia.

At the time of writing the following tweet appeared on X. “On the US Independence Day, Georgians organized a march: “US – make Georgia Great Again” – to wish a happy Independence Day to Americans and ask for sanctions on the country's ruling party Georgian Dream.” Photographs of the demonstrations in Georgia can be seen on X, formerly Twitter (#GeorgiaProtests).

It is of interest to note that there is also unrest in various European countries such as Belarus, Hungary, Serbia, and Slovakia. In the USA there have been many huge demonstrations against the Trump administration across the whole of the country.

....And in Russia X has reported a succession of high-profile businessmen falling out of open windows.



The photographs I have used were sent to me by a representative of the American Chamber of Commerce working in Georgia. Further photographs can be found throughout the World InfoZone information <https://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=Georgia>

# Costa Rica Travels with my friend, Jody Rubel

By Shona Lyons of Crusader Travel



I met my friend Jody Rubel at Hebrew University in my gap year between completing my A levels and going to Edinburgh University. My group of friends and me, had a pretty wild time at Hebrew U, I have to admit. Not many of us really needed to study, and had, already experienced many years of discipline, & hard schoolwork, so it was the first experience really, that many of us had, had of some freedom and little responsibility and we established some good friendships.

Jody and me, liked to travel a lot, and so when we went back to our countries of origin, America being his and the UK being mine, we would plan to meet up in the long holidays, and do something very adventurous. We both loved the outdoors, walking, swimming etc and just craved to be in nature. My parents being in the travel business, could give me 70% reduction in long haul flights as they were agents for BA at that time, and the airline business and relationship it had with travel agents and tour operators, was quite different to what it is now. I think our office actually

issued flight tickets at that time, hence the good relationship and agent discounts we had.

My mum actually suggested I go to Costa Rica, as she knew me well and knew how much I loved being in wild natural places and she was very right. It was the most incredible experience of my life. I don't know what it is like now, but then, I guess more than 38 years ago, more or less, it was incredibly unspoiled. With the most beautiful dense Cloud and Rain Forests, white beaches, littered with huge tree trunks, that stretched for miles, with a backdrop of dense forests that could only be reached by trekking at least a day, through many kilometres of scrub and alligator infested swamps.

All I took with me in the way of planning was the Central American Handbook, which became our bible. We stayed a few nights in San Jose, ate the best Ceviche, at the market and I remember waking, the first morning, to see cockroaches on a Pomelo I had brought for our breakfast. We didn't spend any money really, as we didn't have any, eating rice and beans in cafes, drinking strong Costa Rican Coffees and planning our adventure.

We were totally ill equipped I guess in many ways, I think when we got there and started getting a few provisions to take with us into the jungle, we brought some wellington boots! some PVC, we thought, would be a good idea to hang over a rope above our hammocks, when the torrential rain struck, we stocked up with porridge, nuts, raisins, dried milk and a Calor gas stove and that was it.

There were 3 of us at the start, and I think one of the first places we went to was the biological station in San Antonio. There really was nothing there, at the time, except for this biological station in the middle of the jungle. I can't remember exactly how we got there, it was so long ago, but I know we took local buses and walked a lot. I remember, us walking into the jungle and hanging up our hammocks on some trees and putting the rope across as we had planned, with the transparent PVC over it, like a kind of hanging tent, and Joe, who tried it first, as the rains started plummeting down, started screaming to us that he was being asphyxiated, and all we could see, was his breath clouding up the PVC. We did think it was funny, and I remember Joe, then, as it was already quite late and dark, finding a loo, in the near by biological station and then running back, screaming again, that he had seen a tarantula. I think Jody and me, we were very young, and probably too innocent and naive and didn't really appreciate the possible danger we might have been in, but we found it all very funny, and I think Joe then decided this adventure really wasn't for him and I remember he somehow going off and getting a plane back to America.

But Jody and me, continued, I think that first night, we 3 found the canteen of the station and slept on the dining tables as the torrential rain kept coming down. In the morning, the canteen staff were angry with the muddy mess we had made, and I don't remember them even, accepting our offer to clean it up, but do I remember they generously gave us breakfast and then we headed off into the unknown. I think after about 20 minutes into our many kilometres hike to the sea, we threw the wellington boots away and carried on, with our trainers, walking through swamps, passing alligators and then finally, finding the sea. We slept in a little hut, huts, that we found all over Costa Rica, in the mountains and the forests and jungles, they were all there, I think for people like us, to get a little shelter. I remember, the first night in this hut, which was totally open, except for a floor and a roof, looking down and seeing the scorpions scuttling around, and in the morning, Jody, emptying one out of his shoe.

I remember, lots of walking, lots of breakfast of porridge to keep us going, beautiful forests, jungles, jungle floors totally littered with tiny red frogs, going to Monteverde and staying in a bit of luxury, a beautiful quaker wooden guest house for a night or two, and then heading into the jungle nearby, seeing lots of beautiful little hummingbirds, and toucans and walking on the paths there, that had been already made for people like us, and finding other little huts to sleep in. It was an amazing trip that I remember to this day. Far from the madding crowd, beautiful, exhilarating and exciting.

I don't remember that we even took a camera, at least I can't find any pictures of that time, apart from the ones I still have in my memories. I did look at the internet, but I can't find pictures even of how it used to look, so unspoiled, and incredibly beautiful. It was just another time.



To be honest, regarding our sea experience and trekking for miles and miles, whether it was San Antonio or Manuel Antonio, it was so long ago. I don't really think it matters at all, it was just an incredibly magical experience that I think everyone should try and have at least once in their lives. It will give you beautiful memories that will last you a lifetime.

# Learning from Loss...

By Deep Patel

~ Life Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~



This week I haven't quite been myself...my customers in the shop have even noticed this...you see two of my oldest cousins, both 52 years old suddenly and unexpectedly died. It has really shaken my week...I mean they were both fit, healthy and full of life. I know it happens; you just never expect it to happen to you. Especially 2 deaths of two separate cousins who were exactly the same age, and both deaths happening in different locations but on the same day...both sudden and both unexpected...so I have felt a little distant at times and even given customers the wrong change once or twice due to thinking about this. Naturally, my mood spurred on various conversations relating to this as I tried to comprehend the double-grief of what had happened.

Slowly through the course of the week, the grief helped me to somehow live better. It was like the pain had become a means of growth and provided me with a way in which to live my life better. It was almost like through understanding how they lost their lives, they taught me how I should live mine better...It was like the pain turned into gratitude...knowing how they lost their lives young made me want to somehow appreciate my life much more, appreciate everything...appreciate the taste on fresh sweet strawberries, appreciate the feeling of a soft pillow under my head at bedtime, appreciate the smell of a rose in my garden, appreciate the feeling of fresh air in my lungs and appreciate the joy of a hug from those I hold close to me...In short...the deaths of my cousins has somehow made my life more fulfilling, and so even after their passing, they blessed me with one final gift...in losing their life they gave me more of a life than I previously had.

So from now onwards, when I think of them, I will not fill my head and heart with the grief of their loss, rather I will fill my life with every joy big or small to really enjoy and appreciate everything this life has to offer, and I will do this in their name, so in doing so I will honor them and their lives for the rest of mine and in that way they will never really "go" anywhere, rather they will live on through me...

## **Remember...**

***"...When we change for those who have passed, they remain alive through us..."***

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK

STOP FLIES KINDLY

Chop up lemons and put them in saucers around the room. Flies hate them! Burn Citronella candles or citronella oil in a diffuser to keep flies away without harming them for good karma! For ANY specific tip to stop any "pest" or insect KINDLY (for good karma/blessings), email me: [InsectLoversUnite@gmail.com](mailto:InsectLoversUnite@gmail.com) or join my Facebook page: **"INSECT LOVERS UNITE"**

## The Elixir of Love

by Gaetano Donizetti, libretto by Felice Romani

Wild Arts at Layer Marney Tower, Essex, then on tour until 16<sup>th</sup> August

Operas come in all shapes and sizes, from the sombre to the tear-jerking. *The Elixir of Love* falls squarely into the fun, knock-about comedy category ... or does it?

All of the main characters are deceiving themselves, or others, by self-delusion or downright subterfuge. The plot of *The Elixir of Love* disentangles the pretence of all of them, bar one, Dr Dulcamara, the purveyor of the titular elixir. The sunlit score and the unsophisticated charm of the libretto says, let's have fun, and director [Guido Martin-Brandis](#) pitches the atmosphere just right. His production immerses us in the characters' lives and we feel for them.



Sophie Lincoln's well-studied candy-stripe seaside costumes tell us it is the mid-1950's. The wealthy Adina has good looks, youth, charm and is unattached. Most besotted of her adoring admirers is Nemorino, socially inept and not the sharpest pencil in the box, but kind, gentle and sincere. Bethan Terry is captivating and attractive in the role of Adina, and her honeyed soprano has a versatility of delivery. [Thomas Elwin](#) portrays Nemorino with warmly-examined empathy, pouring out his heart, doe-eyed, about Adina.

Nemorino's nemesis is the arrogant Belcore, a naval captain whose ship has just docked nearby. Lustrous baritone [Timothy Nelson](#)'s Belcore has the bluster of a braggart who thinks he is God's gift to women.

The itinerant quack, Doctor Dulcamara arrives in a vintage open Rolls Royce, driven to the stage. Dulcamara needs to be played BIG, and Alex Jones in the role is big in all senses. His resonant bass voice has an athletic agility as he reels off the wonders of his tonic, a panacea for everything from dandruff to poverty. On the comedy front, Jones doesn't so much steal the show, its artistic armed robbery.

[Orlando Jopling](#) packs both sentiment and comedy into an arrangement for just eight instruments, including an accordion that joins in the action on stage. He conducts the Wild Arts Ensemble with a joyous vigour, yet not losing the intensity of the more reflective moments.



Oh, and the real reason Nemorino has suddenly become popular with all the young ladies is that they're heard his inherited a fortune. The elixir works for Nemorino, doesn't it?

Read Mark Aspen's review at [www.markaspen.com/2025/06/22/elixir-love-wa](http://www.markaspen.com/2025/06/22/elixir-love-wa)

Photography by Becca Hunt and Bonnie Britain

## Die Fledermaus

by Johann Strauss, libretto by Carl Haffner and Richard Genée  
 The Grange Festival at The Grange, Northington until 5<sup>th</sup> July

*Die Fledermaus* is quite a Viennese whirl. Paul Curran's bold direction really finds the comedy and nuance in this new contemporary English version by John Mortimer, its three acts inspired by different genres and artistic influences, which cleverly let the operetta free.

Eisenstein returns from court, having lost his case, and says he must report to prison. But he is actually going to one of Prince Orlofsky's extravagant masked balls. Rosalinde, his wife, has been visited by Alfred, who has been secretly courting her. In a glorious case of mistaken identity, Frank the prison governor arrives, mistakes Alfred for Eisenstein and drags him off to gaol. Rosalinde is lured by the scheming Dr Falke (the 'Bat' of the title) to the ball to see what her errant husband is up to. All is set for disguise, chicanery, cross-dressing, flirting and champagne-fuelled declarations of love.



Gary McCann's design really shines. Rosalinde's opulent early 20<sup>th</sup> Century villa is mixed with a lovely art deco detail. The debauched ball is a hedonistic all-nighter, attended by grotesquely clad guests. In the gaol the 'morning after' fun continues. One can feel the hungover faces from the night before lurking behind every cell door.

The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Paul Daniel, is top class, and brings out all of Strauss' echoes of other musical styles, snatches of Verdi and Puccini, together with a large dollop of artistic licence.

As Alfred, Trystan Llŷr Griffiths' clear sonorous tenor is outstanding, but all the voices meld the different styles effortlessly. Andrew Hamilton, as Eisenstein, and Sylvia Schwartz, as Rosalinde, provide some delightful singing. The ball is a musical and visual feast of unsurpassed revelry, with an excellent chorus of party-goers, each one clearly defined.

In the gaol, the comedy comes to the fore. In an audacious cameo as Mme Frosch, the prison wardress, Myra Dubois plays her as a pantomime dame, Lily Savage style. Darren Jeffrey as Frank, the prison governor, and Ellie Laugharne's Adele come into their own with athletically choreographed musical comedy, as the caricatures from the night before emerge from the cells to toast the joys of champagne.

In this flawless, fearless production, music, pantomime, comedy, choreography and design come together to create an artistic riot. Perhaps we missed some of the more contemplative moments, but I am not sure there are any really!

Read Claire Alexander's review at [www.markaspen.com/2025/06/22/fledermaus-gf](http://www.markaspen.com/2025/06/22/fledermaus-gf)

Photography by Richard Hubert Smith





## Fidelio

by Ludwig van Beethoven, libretto by Joseph Sonnleithner and Georg Friedrich Treitschke  
Garsington Opera Festival at the Wormsley Estate, Stokenchurch

Complete darkness, rarely experienced, is terrifying. Having once been lost in a dark cave, that overwhelming feeling of freedom on re-emerging into vibrant live countryside is etched in my mind. Hence, with a frisson of horror, I find deep empathy with Floristan, the cruelly incarcerated political prisoner in *Fidelio*.

*Fidelio* is a towering paean to the triumph of freedom over tyranny. It is also a powerful celebration of marital love, which propels Leonore to seek her husband in the deepest dungeon, by disguising herself as a young man, Fidelio, working for the gaoler Rocco. [Sally Matthews](#) is outstanding as Leonore. Her lyric soprano range is wide and accommodates the disguised Fidelio, whom she convincingly acts with a directness of passion.



Director [Jamie Manton](#)'s powerful production of horrific beauty and lyrical intensity has an engaging authenticity. [Gary McCann](#)'s circular design is a Bentham panopticon prison, barred walkways around a watchtower of industrial hardness and subterranean cells, where the prisoners are denied even light.

As the morally compromised Rocco, [Jonathan Lemalu](#)'s modulated bass has a very expressive quality, portraying a man coerced into a pragmatism that betrays his own innate honesty.

Don Pizarro, the flagitious prison governor, is depicted by [Musa Ngqungwana](#) as brutal and devoid of humanity, his resonant bass-baritone underlining Pizarro's arrogated authority.

Prisoner's Chorus is a turning point in the opera, when Fidelio convinces Rocco to allow them brief access to daylight. The emerging multitude sing of their joy in a magnificent stirring anthem to liberty, made even more moving by lighting designer, Ben Pickersgill who makes use of the west-facing glass wall of the theatre. On a glorious summer's evening, the low sun streams across the emerging prisoners.

Floristan remains in deepest darkness, shackled and hobbled, a figure of pity, but of hope and courage. The redoubtable tenor [Robert Murray](#) brings emotional realism with an opening cry of anguish at the dark, silent dungeon, but he prays an angel will rescue him.

The monumental music, its gentle contrasts, and the celebration of triumph of good are typically Beethoven. Douglas Boyd conducts The English Concert with alacrity, into every nuance of the music as it heightens the action. The joyous finale, with The Garsington Opera Chorus giving full wellie, is magnificent, while the orchestra dials up Beethoven at his meatiest.



Read Mark Aspen's review at [www.markaspen.com/2025/06/29/fidelio](http://www.markaspen.com/2025/06/29/fidelio)

Photography by Julian Guidera ©

# Sunshine on a Plate

by Elizabeth Blake

Phoenix Arts at the Lantern Theatre, Brighton, then on tour until 16<sup>th</sup> September

Clarice Cliff is now a renowned name in ceramics. Her “Bizarre” designs (the “sunshine on a plate” of this play’s title) speak of decadence, fun and not taking anything too seriously: perfect for the hedonistic between-the-wars era. But Clarice’s background was not decadent, hedonistic or privileged. She was a working class lass from Stoke on Trent who started work on the production line in the potteries at the age of thirteen, as did so many of her school friends and neighbours. Clarice, however was different – very different. She had a wonderful imagination coupled with the drive to succeed, a winning combination by any standards. To climb to the great heights she did within her own lifetime, in an era where women had virtually no voice, was achievement indeed.

In *Sunshine on a Plate*, its writer and performer Elizabeth Blake and director Brenda Longman breathe life into the memory of Clarice and tell her story with respect, but not too much reverence. She’s our heroine but a flawed one, scandalous love affair and all. This, coupled with Blake’s warm delivery makes her both relatable and likeable.



The simple set is effective, giving a good impression of a depression-era workspace that is brightened enormously each time the image of a piece of Cliff’s work is projected. As, no doubt was each household, in this era of austerity, when a Clarice Cliff teapot was brought out of the cupboard. Costumes, too play a significant part in this show, with each tiny addition to a basic work dress taking the audience to a new period of time and level of prosperity.

Elizabeth Blake is an engaging storyteller and has a great connection with the audience; she is totally believable in every character she portrays (and there are lots of them). This, along with Brenda Longman’s clean direction made for such an entertaining hour that it was quite a surprise to find one had learned something at the end of it. No “lecture theatre” experience, this! It’s an hour’s excellent entertainment – equally moving and funny in turns.

Read Eleanor Marsh’s review at [www.markaspen.com/2025/06/30/sunshine-plate](http://www.markaspen.com/2025/06/30/sunshine-plate)

Photography by Charlie Chesapeake

# A Midsummer Night's Dream

JULY 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> in the Fountain Gardens

It's a weaver magically transformed into an ass.

It's a quartet of frustrated young lovers lost in an enchanted forest.

It's a fairy King and Queen quarrelling over a baby boy.

A mischievous sprite dispensing love potions to all and sundry.

It's Williams best-loved comedy.... it's A MIDSUMMER NIGHT's DREAM - and the Richmond Shakespeare Society are performing it in the picturesque Fountain Gardens in Twickenham from July 14<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>.

Come along to the enchanting



setting in front of the "Naked Ladies" fountain, bring the family, a rug and a picnic and we can promise you a wonderful evening of magic and mischief in an idyllic setting. July 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.

Booking now open at [www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk](http://www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk) - concession prices for early booking.

Rehearsal photos by SIMONE BEST.





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For more information visit: [www.teddingtonchoral.co.uk](http://www.teddingtonchoral.co.uk)

TCS REG. CHARITY NO. 299421

# Fit for a king – Henry VIII takes South Western Railway train to Hampton Court Garden Festival

South Western Railway (SWR) customers in London were surprised by an unexpected royal encounter as 'Henry VIII' boarded one of their services to the RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival.



The larger-than-life monarch, known for his six wives, was spotted trading his usual Thames barge for one of SWR's Arterio trains, appropriately named the 'Red Rose', at London Waterloo station.

Around 120,000 people attend the RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival each year and most of them travel to the event sustainably by train. SWR puts on additional services to Hampton Court station for the festival.

Dressed in his recognisable splendour, Henry made the journey to mark 35 years of the flower show, founded in 1990 as a collaboration between Network SouthEast, SWR's predecessor, and Historic Royal Palaces, which manages Hampton Court Palace.

This year, SWR also celebrates [Railway 200](#), the bicentenary of the industry.

During his journey, Henry was spied reading a copy of Booker Prize winning novel *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel, set in his court. Customers also overheard him listening to sixteenth century music such as *Greensleeves* and *Pastime with Good Company*.



At Hampton Court station, Henry waved to hundreds of SWR customers as they arrived on the platforms and treated adults and children alike to selfies. While at Hampton Court Palace, he also received a real red rose to complement his train.

**South Western**  
 **Railway**

# St Mary's University

## St Mary's University Takes Third Place in UK Ekiden Relay Race

St Mary's University, Twickenham, secured an impressive third place in the second UK Ekiden relay race on Friday 20 June, competing against 31 teams from across the UK and Japan, including some of the fastest universities and corporate teams.

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St Mary's [Endurance Performance Centre](#) team took part for the first time in the 70-mile (114km) mixed-gender relay, modelled after Japan's popular sporting event. The race took place along the Thames Path from Windsor to Reading and back, under intense 29°C heat and across challenging terrain - including steep inclines at Harpsden Woods and fields of four-foot grass.

St Mary's team completed the race in 7 hours, 8 minutes and 56 seconds, marking a standout performance amid competitors including the universities of Cambridge, Birmingham, Leeds, Edinburgh and Oxford.

Japanese Ambassador to the UK, Mr Hiroshi Suzuki, was in attendance, highlighting the cultural bridge the event aims to embed Japan's beloved sport in the UK.

### [UK Ekiden](#)

Each team consisted of 10 runners. St Mary's runners and their distances included:

- Leg 1: Grace Ingles - 10.6km
- Leg 2: George Morris - 14.5km
- Leg 3: Felix Vaughan - 14.1km
- Leg 4: Abigail Royden - 12.8km
- Leg 5: Orla Gregory - 5.4km
- Leg 6: Ella Webb - 5.4km
- Leg 7: Luca Hamblen - 12.8km
- Leg 8: Caleb O'Neill - 14.1km
- Leg 9: Josh Hobbs - 14.5km
- Leg 10: Lola Sutton - 10.6km

### [Full race results](#)

St Mary's EPC has developed some of the world's best distance runners and provides a running programme and an environment that is known internationally as one of the best training setups internationally.



Josh Hobbs, captain of the EPC team, said: "As middle-distance runners, it's rare that we get a chance to run as a team so taking part in this year's Ekiden was a great experience. I couldn't be prouder of our Simmies team. Everyone gave it their all, especially in the sunshine and challenging terrain. Placing third against strong competitors shows how much we put into this, how great the EPC is for developing us as athletes, and I hope Ekiden becomes a tradition in the UK that future Simmies can continue to take part in."

Craig Winrow, St Mary's Performance Coach and EPC Co-ordinator, added: "What a week for St Mary's student athletes. Many running PB's at the St Mary's [175 Athletics Meet in partnership with the British Milers Club](#) and then a well-deserved 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the UK Ekiden relay. This show cases the talent we have, not just on the track but also at the longer distances and I look forward to competing at the relays on an annual basis."

Now in its second year, the UK Ekiden is inspired by the long-standing Japanese tradition of distance relay racing, with a growing reputation on the UK sporting calendar. This year's race brought together top-tier athletes and reflected the event's increasing international reach and community spirit.



**St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London**

# Celebrating Diversity at Richmond College: Culture Day 2025

Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) came alive last Thursday, 26th June, with colour, music, and flavour as we celebrated our much-anticipated Culture Day! A joyful and inspiring event that showcased the rich diversity of our college community.

Planned with passion and pride, the event brought together students and staff in a vibrant celebration of global cultures. Commenting on the event, Hannah Talabany, Head of School for Business & Service Industries said:

*"Culture Day is something I care deeply about. It's a unique opportunity for us to honour the many identities that make up our college, through food, music, dance, and meaningful exchange."*



The day featured incredible performances from students, staff, and external artists, with music and dance acts reflecting a variety of traditions and regions. Our talented catering team served up a mouthwatering array of dishes from around the world, giving everyone a chance to explore new flavours.

Visitors also enjoyed interactive cultural stands, many highlighting lesser-known destinations, traditions, and stories, helping to broaden horizons and spark conversations across the campus.

Culture Day 2025 was much more than just an event, as it served as a powerful reminder of the strength and beauty of our diverse community.

Thank you to everyone who made it such a memorable day!

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

## MUSIC LINE UP

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

## CHEF STAGE

Giuseppe Federici  
Francesco Mattana  
John Paul Alberti  
Matteo Manzotti  
Bray Cured



**PASTA**  
EVANGELISTS



# Thames Water works to begin on Upper Sunbury Road – disruption expected from 7 July

From Richmond Council

Residents are advised that Thames Water will be carrying out infrastructure works along Upper Sunbury Road from Monday 7 July, with completion expected by the end of October 2025.

## What to expect

### Traffic disruption

A westbound directional Road closure will be in place on Upper Sunbury Road. This will affect the stretch of road from Percy Road junction to opposite Hampton Care Home. There will be diversion routes in place for traffic flowing from East to West. Eastbound traffic will be unaffected.



### Noise and access

Some noise and disruption are expected. Thames Water has committed to minimising inconvenience where possible. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses. Access will be maintained for emergency vehicles.

### Bus diversion routes

- 111 bus route won't be affected
- 216 bus: Buses towards Kingston will not be diverted and should remain on normal line of route
- 216 bus: Buses towards Staines Diversion: from Percy Road at Upper Sunbury Road then left onto Upper Sunbury Road, right onto Lower Sunbury Road, ahead onto Lower Hampton Road and, ahead Lower Hampton Road and then follow the normal line of route. A temporary stop will be sited in Lower Hampton Road near to Harfield Road, around lamp column 17 outside 22 Lower Hampton Road.

The works are part of a £2.1 million safety project to install 180 metres of vehicle barrier along the Hampton Grand Junction Reservoir.

The barriers are being installed to reduce the risk of vehicles or debris entering the reservoir in the event of a road traffic incident.

See [more information about the works](#).

For any queries, please contact Thames Water on 0800 316 9800. Select option one and quote reference number BB 00718190.

# Major upgrades coming for two of Richmond's much-loved leisure centres

From Richmond Council

Richmond's flagship leisure centres are set for major facility upgrades and service improvements – making it easier for residents of all ages to stay active.

Under plans approved by the Council, Pools on the Park and Teddington Pools and Fitness Centre will benefit from major upgrades – including better facilities, expanded programmes, and services designed to meet community needs. The improvements will be delivered through a new 10-year leisure contract with Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL), starting from 1 October 2025.



Other leisure centres – including Hampton, Shene, Teddington Sports Centre, Whitton, and the new Active Hampton Centre – will continue to be managed by the Council.

Councillor Alan Juriansz, Vice Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee, said: *“This is a big moment for our local leisure services – and represents a significant investment in the health and wellbeing of our community. GLL bring expertise and a strong track record of delivering modern, inclusive leisure services. They’ll help us strengthen what’s already valued while raising the bar for quality and access. We’ll continue to oversee operations to ensure the service meets the needs of our diverse community,”*

As part of the new contract, GLL will:

- Upgrade facilities and equipment
- Improve accessibility and inclusivity
- Expand fitness and swim programmes.

Peter Bunday, CEO of GLL said: *“We are delighted to be a long-term partner with the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames to deliver leisure services within the leisure centres and importantly out in the Richmond community. As a charitable social enterprise that focuses on social impact and community wellbeing, our values are aligned with the Council’s ambitious Richmond Moves for a Healthier Borough Strategy. Our investment plans and management experience will be an important factor in helping us to grow the reach and impact of the leisure facilities and wellbeing services across Richmond residents. We are committed to engage and encourage new and existing users to live more active and healthier lifestyles.”*

The move supports the Council’s wider ambitions through its [Leisure Strategy, Richmond Moves for a Healthier Borough \(2024–29\)](#), which sets out a plan to help more people lead active, healthy lives in spaces that bring communities together.

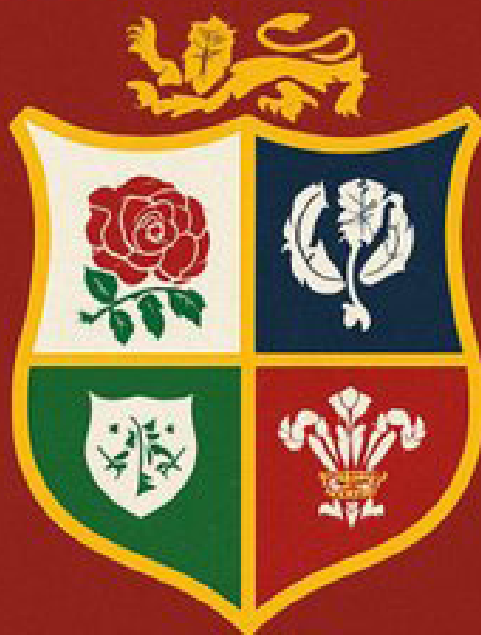
GLL operate leisure services under its ‘Better’ brand.

# **TWICKENHAM RFC**

# **LIONS TEST**

# **MATCHES**

## **LIVE AT THE CLUB**



**BAR OPEN 10:30**

**KICK-OFF 11AM**

**KITCHEN PROMO / PIZZA & PINT £12**

# Sir Keir Starmer backs Red Roses to ‘ignite passion, inspire future stars’ at Rugby World Cup

With tournament just 50 days away - as eye-catching murals unveiled in Bristol and Northampton

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer has backed the Red Roses to help deliver a memorable summer of sport for the country at the Women’s Rugby World Cup.

John Mitchell’s side will begin their campaign against the USA on August 22 at the Stadium of Light in Sunderland, hoping to become champions of the world for a third time.

Speaking after a ‘50 Day to Go until Rugby World Cup 2025’ event hosted by the Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, the Prime Minister said he believes the World Cup will inspire the nation.

He said: *“The rise of women’s sport has been long overdue – and in just 50 days, when the Women’s Rugby World Cup kicks off we have another massive opportunity to supercharge the visibility of some of our most inspiring athletes from right across the Home Nations.”*

*“Major tournaments like this don’t just entertain – they ignite passion, inspire future stars, and put us firmly on the map as a world-class host for global sport. With matches taking place in eight cities across the country, I know that this World Cup will showcase the very best of what England has to offer, on and off the field.”*

*“That is why this government has invested millions of pounds directly into the legacy of this event and I am thrilled to know that this money has been spent on vital areas in the grassroots game like facilities development and encouraging more women and girls to play, coach and volunteer.”*

*“I know the whole country will be behind the brilliant Red Roses when the tournament kicks off in Sunderland on 22 August, and I can’t wait to see the nation cheer them on.”*

The Parliamentary event, which was a joint function hosted by RWC 2025, UK Sport and the RFU, coincided with the unveiling of two murals to celebrate the countdown until the Women’s Rugby World Cup kicks off in England.

Each mural features a current Red Rose with connections to the city and a local rugby-playing girl, aged between 9-12. Each mural is placed in a prominent position within the city and there to act as an inspiration for people who might want to give rugby a go.

The murals, which were created by street design company MurWalls, have been funded through the RFU’s World Cup Legacy Programme, Impact ‘25. Impact ‘25 is delivered by the RFU in partnership with UK Government, Sport England and UK Sport and will see over £14.55m of Government funding committed to the sport in England and the home unions up to the end of March 2026, creating more opportunities for women and girls to get involved in rugby.

In Bristol the mural heroes England prop and Bristol Bears player Sarah Bern, featured

alongside 9-year-old community player Ava-Mai Greenslade who was introduced to rugby through Impact '25 legacy funded activity delivered by the Bristol Bears Foundation.

*"It's an incredible feeling to see a mural of myself alongside Ava-Mai in a city that has become my home," Bern said. I adore Bristol. The young me would never have thought that one day I'd have my face alongside some of the most brilliant street art in the world. What an honour! You've got to see it to believe it and if murals in Bristol and Northampton can help inspire young girls and boys to pick up a rugby ball in such a big year for rugby in this country, then that will mean the world."*

The mural in Northampton stars Red Rose and Loughborough Lightning player Sadia Kabeya alongside nine-year-old player, Emily Richards.



Both girls have participated in programmes funded by Impact '25 and delivered by their local Premiership Women's Rugby club community teams. These activities encourage girls to play rugby through schools. Each of these girls have played rugby this season at school and all also play at a club.

Alex Teasdale, the RFU Women's Game Director, said: *"As we count down to the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025, we're proud to be celebrating the people and places at the heart of our game. These murals are not just a tribute to our incredible Red Roses, but a powerful statement about the future - one that puts young girls and local communities at the centre of our vision. Through the Impact '25 legacy programme, we're working to ensure that this World Cup leaves a lasting legacy not just in stadiums, but in schools, clubs and towns and cities across the country. We hope these murals serve as a daily reminder that rugby is for everyone, and that young girls everywhere can see themselves in the sport."*

The murals also feature a QR code, giving information on how to get involved in rugby and support the Red Roses in their World Cup campaign this summer. It will also tell people more about the community activity the RFU is running to celebrate the momentous opportunity of hosting the World Cup here on English soil.

The World Cup presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to grow awareness, inspire new players, and reshape the investment narrative in women and girls' rugby. The RFU is investing across the entire pathway - from schoolgirls to World Cup contenders - and helping clubs maximise the World Cup to grow the game.

### **Girls' Activity Days**

To celebrate the Women's Rugby World Cup coming to England in 2025, the Rugby Football Union is launching Girls' Activity Days - a fun and welcoming way to introduce girls aged 6–12 to the game of rugby.

Hosted by clubs across the country, these events use the excitement of the World Cup to inspire a new generation of players through creative, confidence-building activities. Expect fun games, arts and crafts, and a taste of what rugby is really about; teamwork, energy and community.

The first 400 clubs to sign up will receive a special activity pack full of goodies to make the day even more memorable, including temporary tattoos, bracelet making kits, origami, badges, colouring kits, and more.

Registrations close on 20 July 2025, and events will run throughout the tournament this summer.

### **Yarn Art**

In a bold and colourful show of support, Red Roses stars Abby Dow and Tatyana Heard are calling on the public to get creative for the Women's Rugby World Cup with a nationwide Yarn Art project.

Clubs and communities are invited to knit, crochet or craft rugby-themed decorations - think rugby ball bunting, rose patterns, colourful scarves or handmade banners - to show their support for the Red Roses and bring a sense of unity and celebration to streets and clubhouses across the country.

These artworks will form part of a nationwide Yarn Art installation launching in early August, bringing colour and creativity to the Summer of Women's Rugby.

### **RugbyFest**

Once the final whistle blows at the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025, the celebrations are far from over. Between 3–6 October, the Rugby Football Union will host RugbyFest - a weekend of nationwide community events to mark the tournament's legacy.

Fans, families and rugby lovers of all ages are invited to head down to their local club and take part in open days packed with food, music, fun activities and of course, some rugby.

There'll also be a chance for clubs to win special prizes, access partner giveaways and even get a surprise visit from a Red Rose at select events!

*Photo: Kieran McManus/JMP - 03/07/2025 - RUGBY - Millennium Square, Bristol, England - Red Roses unveil mural dedicated to Women's Rugby*



# Brentford sign Antoni Milambo from Feyenoord

Written by Brentford Football Club

Antoni Milambo joins Brentford on a long-term contract; the 20-year-old made 42 appearances for Eredivisie club Feyenoord last season, scoring seven goals and assisting eight; technical director Lee Dykes: "Antoni is a skilful, forward-thinking midfield player, capable of scoring all types of goals"

The 20-year-old midfielder has put pen to paper on a five-year contract with a club option of an additional year.

Milambo arrives in west London following a highly impressive 2024/25 campaign.

The Dutchman made 42 appearances for Feyenoord in all competitions, scoring seven goals and assisting eight. This included nine matches and four goal involvements (3G, 1A) in the UEFA Champions League.

A Netherlands Under-21 international, Milambo represented his nation on three occasions at the UEFA European Under-21 Championship in Slovakia this summer.

Milambo was in from the start as Michael Reiziger's side lost 2-1 to eventual winners England in the semi-final.



*"We are all very excited by the arrival of Antoni Milambo,"* said technical director Lee Dykes.

*"The recruitment department have followed Antoni for a few years now and have closely monitored his development at Feyenoord into the first team."*

*"We believe that Antoni has all the attributes needed to be a very good Premier League player and feel he has the potential to develop his game to a high level here in England."*

*"Antoni is a skilful, forward-thinking midfield player capable of scoring all types of goals as proven through his youth development phase, in the Eredivisie and in the Champions League."*

*"I would like to place on record our appreciation to the senior management team at Feyenoord for their assistance with our interest in Antoni and their professionalism throughout the transfer process."*

Head coach Keith Andrews added: *"Antoni has played a lot of football in the last 12 months and really shot to prominence."*

*"He's had experience in the Eredivisie, Champions League and most recently the Under-21 Euros with the Netherlands."*

*"I love the way that Antoni takes the ball and drives; he has the ability to go past players and he's a goal threat. He will complement the midfielders we have in the building."*

*"Now it's just a case of getting him used to the intensity and rhythm of the Premier League and our own intensity levels. I am looking forward to working with him."*

Milambo made his professional debut for Feyenoord in a 3-0 UEFA Europa Conference League victory over Luzern in August 2021. At 16 years and 131 days, he became the club's youngest-ever player, taking the record from Georginio Wijnaldum.

He made his Eredivisie debut in April 2023, coming on as a substitute in a 3-1 win over Sparta Rotterdam. Milambo went on to play two more league games that season as Feyenoord earned their 16th title.

Milambo's involvement increased during the 2023/24 campaign. He made 13 senior appearances and was on the bench as Feyenoord won the KNVB Cup by beating NEC 1-0 in the final in April 2024.

The following August, Milambo scored in a 4-4 draw with PSV in the Johan Cruyff Shield, before Feyenoord won the trophy on penalties.

In October, the midfielder was named Player of the Match after scoring twice in Feyenoord's 3-1 away win over Benfica in the Champions League.

Milambo departs Feyenoord having registered 17 goals involvements (8G, 9A) in 60 senior appearances. He is Brentford's third first-team signing of the summer following the arrival of goalkeeper [Caoimhin Kelleher](#) from Liverpool and the permanent transfer of full-back [Michael Kayode](#) from Fiorentina.



# 100 years in red and white

## Brentford launches 2025/26 home kit

By Brentford Football Club

Brentford FC's new 2025/26 home kit, marking 100 years of the club's iconic red and white stripes is available now online and from 9am tomorrow in-store with the replica shirt price frozen at £65 for adults and reduced for juniors at £45. Our first-ever player authentic shirt will retail at £95. The first 100 junior shirts are available at Bees Superstore tomorrow for £19.25

Brentford has unveiled the club's home kit for the 2025/26 season in partnership with new official kit partner Joma Sport S.A.

The 2025/26 home kit proudly celebrates 100 years of Brentford's players in red and white.

In a club first, our men's first team will wear a specially produced shirt for enhanced performance on the pitch known as our 'authentic shirt'. Bees fans will have the choice of purchasing an authentic shirt worn by their favourite players, as well as a replica shirt.



### A red and white lineage

Celebrating a century of Brentford in red and white, the new home shirt provides a modern but nostalgic take on the club's iconic stripes. The classic collar, inspired by our original 1925 kit lace design connects this season's shirt with our rich heritage. Our special '100' centenary logo also features on the back of the shirt. Inside the collar, a commemorative 'red & white 1925 & 2025' printed detail offers a nod to our legacy.

Our first authentic kit will provide our men's team with innovative sportswear helping elevate performance on the pitch. The kit is created with a jacquard weave. Intricate designs are woven directly into the fabric rather than being printed or embroidered. This technique and the micro-mesh ventilation panels keep the kit lightweight and breathable, so our players' bodies stay dry even during peak performance. The shirt has flat seams to enhance comfort for players.

While our replicas have red and stripes across the back, the authentic kit features a red block to show player names and numbers clearly, in line with new Premier League regulations.

This year's shorts and socks include unique styling details as part of marking 100 years of red and white. Shorts feature a red stripe on the left and white stripe on the right, while socks are embroidered with '1925' in reference to our original kit.

Reflecting our commitment to sustainability, both the authentic and replica kits are made from 100 per cent recycled polyester, which helps reduce our environmental impact. Using recycled polyester prevents materials from being sent to landfills and requires less energy than conventional polyester.

The men's first team shirt features our principal partner, Hollywoodbets on the front, and Cazoo as our sleeve partner. Brentford Women, Brentford B team and junior shirts see Cazoo as our front-of-shirt partner and PensionBee on the sleeve.



### Keeping football affordable

Fans can purchase both authentic and replica kits [online](#) now and in the Bees Superstore from 9am tomorrow.

In line with our continued commitment to making football more affordable, the club has frozen the price of the adult 2025/26 replica shirts at £65. Junior shirts will be available at a reduced price of £45, down from last season.

To celebrate the centenary year, the first 100 junior replica shirts sold in the Bees Superstore tomorrow will be priced at just £19.25 (limited to two per transaction\*). Initially, infant kits (ages six to 24 months) and junior mini kits (ages three to six) will only be available in-store (from tomorrow). These kits will be released online soon, and we will inform fans when they are available to purchase.

Marking 100 years of red and white, and with our Hollywoodbets partnership ending after 2025/26 in line with the Premier League's voluntary ban on front-of-shirt gambling sponsors, this season's kit will follow a one-year cycle. Next season, our intention is to return to a two-year cycle to keep our kits affordable and sustainable, subject to our partnership agreements.

### **Side by side, since 1925**

From unforgettable goals to our legendary players, to our unwavering support from fans and historic wins, the home kit launches with a campaign [film](#) tracing moments in Brentford's history over the last 100 years.

The film features Igor Thiago, Nathan Collins, Keane Lewis-Potter, Gustavo Nunes and Kevin Schade from our men's first team and Brentford Women players, including Ashley Cheatley and Regan Graver. Legends such as Allan Cockram, Marcus Gayle, Amy Crook and Karleigh Osborne and some of our fans all make an appearance.

Fran Jones, Brentford's commercial director said: *"We're very proud to launch a centenary home kit that recognises Brentford's history of wearing red and white stripes. This is our first shirt with our new kit partner Joma and includes our first-ever player authentic shirt, giving our fans more choice than ever before."*

Steve Watts, Brentford's marketing services director added: *"This season we chose to mark 100 years of both our trademark stripes and our incredible supporters remaining side-by-side, through the more challenging times, to the Premier League and an exciting future."*

*"A commitment to affordable football remains at the heart of Brentford's values. We hope frozen adult prices and reduced junior prices enable as many of our fans as possible to enjoy wearing this shirt which marks a new era for the club."*

Marina López, CEO of Joma Sport, stated: *"We are very proud to present the first kit that Joma has developed for Brentford at such a special moment as the centenary of the red and white shirt. Furthermore, we do so by bringing our added value: cutting-edge technology, exceptional quality, and a strong commitment to sustainability."*

[Our centenary home kit can be purchased online now or in the Bees Superstore from 9am tomorrow.](#)

[\\*Find out more about our Bees Superstore junior shirt offer.](#)



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Supporting the Tribune with a small donation will help you to keep local news and views alive; support is very much appreciated.

*We would like to say "Thank You" to all those who support the Twickenham & Richmond Tribune; your support is very much appreciated.*

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