

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



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Brentford Football Club

Editors: Berkley Driscoll, Teresa Read

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TickerTape - News in Brief

New programme to help residents to find work

From Connect to Work

If you or someone you know is facing challenges finding or staying in work due to a disability, health condition or other barriers, Connect to Work is here to help.

Our [Work Match scheme](#) is launching a new Connect to Work programme to support more people back into work.

The free programme will provide personalised and tailored support, helping people move into suitable employment. It will also support those already in work but at risk of losing their employment, helping them to retain their jobs.

With a strong focus on helping people into suitable work quickly and supporting them to stay employed, Connect to Work reflects our commitment to inclusive, long-term wellbeing and opportunity for all.

This free career support programme will feature specialist one-to-one support from a dedicated Employment Specialist, including:

- Vocational Profiling and personalised Action Plan
- Access to a wide range of employers
- Job specific CV and cover letter creation
- Mock interviews
- Support in managing travel and commuting needs
- Ongoing in-work support

Connect to Work is a voluntary supported employment programme to help people with disabilities, health conditions and other barriers to get back into employment and stay in work.

It is funded by the government as part of the Get Britain Working strategy, and is managed in central London by Central London Forward. This service will be offered alongside Work Match's existing offer, which matches up local people with Richmond-based jobs.

Find out more about [Connect to Work](#).



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

Mystery School In Twickenham

Report by Doug Goodman

Anyone looking for Goldhawk Academy in Old Peppermill Lane Twickenham will have difficulty finding it. On Wednesday St. Richard Reynolds School in Clifden Road was the location for the filming of a comedy series on 'Schools'. Details of the film are not yet released but it is likely to be shown later this year on Channel 4.



Summer Nature Roadshows

Go wild for nature...

30 July – 21 August, 11am - 3pm

Join us in **your local Royal Park this summer** for FREE drop-in activities perfect for families, nature-lovers and budding environmentalists!

- Solve clues on our detective trail to celebrate summer wildlife.
- Take a closer look at nature specimens at our mini museum.
- Get creative with our wild crafts and have fun with our interactive nature-inspired games!
- Explore and discover habitats through guided games or habitat safaris.

Drop in anytime between 11am – 3pm.

[Register Now](#)



13 August	Bushy Park	Pheasantry Café	Map	Register
14 August	Bushy Park	Pheasantry Café	Map	Register
19 August	Richmond Park	Roehampton Gate Gardens	Map	Register
20 August	Richmond Park	Petersham Gate Playground	Map	Register

Please note:

- Our Nature Roadshow events are free to attend and made possible thanks to the wonderful players of [People's Postcode Lottery](#). We ask that you register your interest above so we have an idea of numbers.
- Times: 11am - 3pm
- Quietest times are usually between 12 noon and 1pm, but this does vary being a public park.
- Activities may vary from event to event but activities are suitable for all ages, including adults
- Activities include a mini museum with nests, insects and replica bird skulls, nature-themed crafts, wildlife quizzes, storytelling and a seasonal trail.
- If you would like to let us know of any access needs or any way we can make your visit more comfortable, please do get in touch.
- For any other questions please contact Help Nature Thrive via email: HelpNatureThrive@royalparks.org.uk
- There may be a photographer taking photos of the event on behalf of The Royal Parks. These photos may be used on social media and shared with our funders. If you do not wish to be in the photos, please tell a member of staff. Please see our [privacy policy](#) for details on how we process photographs.



Sanctuary or Sacrifice?

Richmond's Changing Approach to Leisure Subsidies

By James Knight

A subtle yet telling shift is happening in Richmond. What started as a dispute over subsidised leisure access has turned into a case study in how a political agenda can quietly influence local government, often at the expense of the very residents it is meant to serve.

Earlier this month, the national press highlighted that Richmond Council is offering free health club memberships, worth several hundred pounds annually, to asylum seekers under the banner of “sanctuary.” These cards grant access to swimming pools, gyms, and fitness classes. Supporters view this as a compassionate gesture. Critics, however, argue that while generosity is admirable, parts of this policy are misdirected.

In a borough where older residents are seeing long-standing support diminish, the idea of awarding substantial new benefits to recent arrivals, including some who entered the UK unlawfully, has sparked considerable controversy.

Council Responds – But Leaves Key Facts Out

Faced with growing public criticism, Deputy Leader Councillor Julia Neden-Watts issued a press statement defending the scheme. She stated that government grants funded it, did not affect other users, and that most sanctuary seekers had arrived through legal channels.



What she did not mention is that while promoting free services for newcomers, the Council is quietly phasing out automatic age-based discounts for older residents. According to its policy documents, from January 2025, the cost of swim memberships for those over 60 will increase by 33 per cent. By 2026, all automatic concessions based on age will be abolished unless the person qualifies for means-tested benefits.

This change effectively shifts the financial burden onto older residents, many of whom have contributed to the borough for decades, without open acknowledgement. For those on fixed incomes, especially those just above the benefits line, the loss of affordable access to leisure facilities risks harm to their health and wellbeing.

Symbolism Over Substance

This is not an isolated case. It stems directly from Richmond's decision to adopt “Borough of Sanctuary” status, a political commitment that embeds the principles of a national activist network into local policy and service provision.

Supporters perceive the approach as progressive and inclusive. However, many others see it as overly prescriptive, with priorities shaped more by ideological alignment than by practical

fairness or local needs, resulting in excessive orthodoxy and intolerance toward those who do not fully endorse their agenda. Thus being neither Liberal nor Democratic,

A revealing example of this intolerance for alternative views came when Cllr Gareth Roberts, the Liberal Democrat leader of Richmond Council, launched a public attack on former Conservative parliamentary candidate Sara Gazdari, herself a migrant who fled from war, for expressing her view that while helping migrants was important, free health club memberships “went too far.”

Instead of addressing her concerns, Roberts condemned her comments as “disgusting hypocrisy” and suggested her stance was morally unacceptable—another example of Roberts indulging in cancel culture.

Ironically, one of the stated aims of the City of Sanctuary framework is to value and respect the voices of those with lived experience. Yet here, a migrant mother’s nuanced and personal perspective was not engaged with, but dismissed outright, a contradiction that calls into question whether the approach is genuinely inclusive or merely selectively so.

A Question of Priorities

Even many Liberal Democrat voters will agree that help for those in need should not come at the expense of fairness for all. Yet this is exactly where the Council’s current approach risks losing support. By quietly reducing concessions for older residents, many of whom have contributed to the borough for decades, while introducing generous new benefits for recent arrivals, the Council appears to have misread the mood of the community it serves.

Liberal Democrat leaders often speak of balance, moderation, and listening to residents. But policies like this suggest the opposite: a top-down agenda driven by national campaigns rather than local priorities, with minimal transparency or debate. For a party that built its brand on community politics, the perception that decisions are being taken without genuine public engagement is a dangerous one – and one that could cost them the trust of their own supporters.

Missed Opportunity to Reinstate an Outside Pool on Twickenham Riverside

Support for the return of the pool on Twickenham Riverside continues

This week’s support from residents is 4,964 (an increase from 4,870 on 1st August 2025)
You can view and sign the petition [HERE](#)

Previous Lido concepts: <https://twickenhamlido.com/video.html>

The Cost of the Current Council Plan

The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames’ present Twickenham Riverside Housing and Pub plan to cost an estimated **£67.2 million** (recent reported borrowing **£16.8 million**)

Sanctuary or Policy Transfer?

How Council Policy Is Being Moved to the Left by Policy Transfer

By James Knight

Richmond has long prided itself on being a welcoming borough from helping Belgian refugees during the First World War to offering homes to families fleeing modern-day conflicts. Yet a recent policy shift, introduced quietly and with little fanfare, is now reshaping local services in ways many residents have yet to notice. For some, it is a bold statement of values; for others, it raises difficult questions about fairness, priorities, and how major decisions are made.

When Richmond Council announced in July 2024 that it had become a Borough of Sanctuary, the news passed with little public discussion. A short press release praised the borough's inclusive values and its commitment to welcoming those seeking refuge. Yet behind the uplifting rhetoric lies a significant change in policy, one adopted without local consultation and with limited scrutiny of its practical consequences.

It is a clear example of what political scientists call "policy transfer": the wholesale adoption of a national campaign's framework in a top-down manner, with little or no awareness among local voters of the changes being made. Such arrangements often cause concern, as they allow external organisations to shape the direction of public bodies without the open debate and public consent that should precede major decisions. This approach risks undermining the borough's tradition of transparent and accountable local governance.

More Than Symbolism

The Borough of Sanctuary designation is not merely ceremonial. It is part of a national initiative led by City of Sanctuary UK, which encourages councils to integrate sanctuary principles into all areas of public life. While based on ideals of compassion and solidarity, the framework sets detailed expectations: changes to official language, dedicated staff training, resource allocation, and the extension of services to individuals who would not usually be eligible for public assistance.

At its heart is a moral appeal: to create a culture of welcome for refugees and asylum seekers. Few would dispute the value of extending kindness to those fleeing persecution. Richmond has a history of offering refuge from those escaping war in Syria to families displaced from Ukraine and Afghanistan.

However, the new strategy goes further than providing help. It embeds a specific ideological framework into council policy: one that influences how services are delivered, prioritised, and funded, and that can give the impression that disagreement equates to a lack of compassion. In an open democratic society, this is problematic, as it risks discouraging legitimate debate, the keystone of Western liberal democracy.

Housing Priorities and Public Unease

One of the clearest examples of this shift is in the housing sector. Richmond Council has pledged to identify 20 private rental properties specifically for sanctuary seekers and to review homelessness services through a "sanctuary lens."

While this may appear compassionate, some residents are concerned about the impact on those already in housing need and whether this is leading to displacement. Several families have reported being placed outside the borough – sometimes as far as Slough or Luton – with journeys of over an hour for children still attending Richmond schools and the loss of local support networks.

The concern is not about helping new arrivals, but about fairness. Long-term residents who have paid into the system for years are being moved out of the area, while newcomers are promised tailored provision. The council has not published clear criteria for how housing needs are prioritised, nor explained how it will reconcile its sanctuary commitments with rising local demand.

As with the leisure policy changes, these housing measures are a direct result of the Borough of Sanctuary strategy Richmond adopted in 2024.

A Step Beyond Legal Obligations

The strategy also commits Richmond to providing support for migrants with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) a legal restriction, in place since 1999, that limits access to welfare for certain categories of migrants. Introduced by a Labour government, NRPF was designed to uphold immigration controls, manage pressure on local services, and make immigration more acceptable to the general public.

By choosing to extend discretionary support to those with NRPF, Richmond is going beyond its statutory obligations and diverging from national immigration policy. Whether viewed as morally commendable or politically questionable, it remains a significant move, one made without open consultation, without a published estimate of how many people may qualify, what the financial implications might be, or what safeguards will prevent misuse.

Language and Cultural Reframing

Another part of the strategy involves changing how the council communicates. Staff are instructed to use prescribed language when discussing sanctuary-related issues, replacing established terms such as *asylum seeker* with *sanctuary seeker*. Supporters say this is intended to reduce stigma and foster empathy. Critics argue that such rebranding can appear politically correct and, in practice, risk undermining the very cause it is meant to advance.

While the goal may be to remove barriers, it also fosters a form of institutional orthodoxy. Deviating from the approved vocabulary can be perceived as exclusionary or offensive, limiting the potential for open and honest debate, reinforcing entrenched perspectives, and making it more difficult to build the consensus necessary for lasting change.

A Quiet Shift in Local Governance

For many residents, the concern is not about offering help to those in need, but about how that help is being delivered – in ways that appear to override existing priorities, bypass public scrutiny, and reshape local governance without open debate. In doing so, the council risks eroding the borough's long-established traditions of transparency, accountability, and democratic decision-making.

Good Intentions, Troubling Consequences

Few would dispute the instinct to help those in need. Yet even the most well-meaning policies must be subject to transparency and democratic oversight, particularly when they involve reallocating resources, embedding new ideological frameworks, and moving away from established national policy.

Richmond Council's Sanctuary Strategy has already shown how a commitment framed as benign can have far-reaching effects, influencing housing, official language, and education, and attracting criticism from the national media.

Some residents who are, in principle, sympathetic to asylum seekers say they feel the council's approach has moved from measured support into uncritical advocacy. In doing so, they believe it risks misjudging the broader public mood, potentially undermining goodwill towards those it seeks to help, and, in more polarised times, even fuelling resentment and division within the community.

As the next article in this series will examine, the strategy's influence is now reaching into the borough's schools.

If Richmond is to remain a borough that reflects the views and needs of its residents, it must return to a principle as old as democracy itself: that policies should be open, accountable, and contestable. Sanctuary, in its truest form, should never rely on silence, sidelining, or stealth.

The Bands

Uncle
Dynamite

The
Terraplanes

Carnaby Army

60's
Allstars

Eel Pie Allstars
+ special guests

plus

**Retro
60s
Fun**

TWICKENHAM 60s day!



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discover
twickenham
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
collaborate, create & thrive



all the
details

From Classrooms to Conformity?

How Richmond's Sanctuary Strategy Is Reshaping Local Education

By James Knight

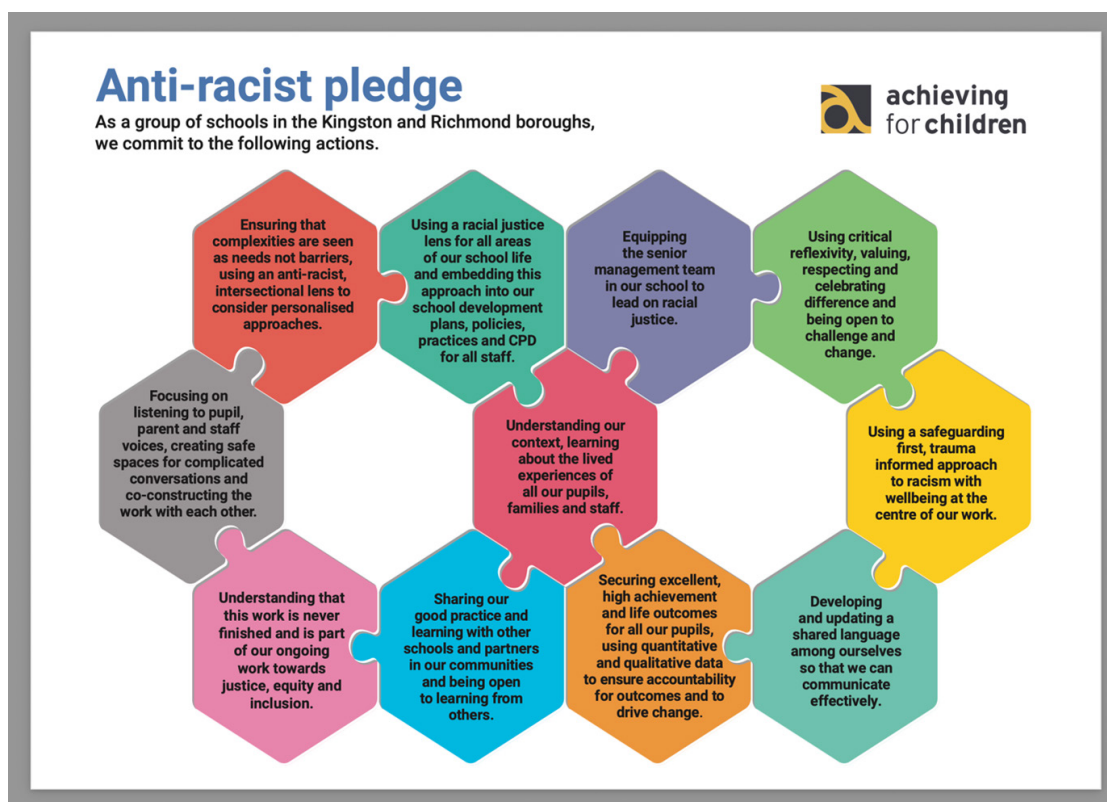
A quiet change is taking place in Richmond's classrooms, one not widely discussed, but already shaping what children are taught and how teachers are expected to work. The shift stems from the Council's decision to adopt the Borough of Sanctuary framework, originally presented to residents as a pledge of kindness towards refugees and asylum seekers.

In practice, this has brought a set of contested national policies into local schools without public consultation. Parents, governors, and even some teachers say they were given little or no chance to discuss the changes and now find that lessons, language, and training are being reshaped by ideas that go well beyond the core aims of inclusion and safety.

Anti-Racist Pledges – And Pressure to Conform

One school to sign up to the borough's anti-racism pledge is Buckingham Primary in Hampton. Developed by Achieving for Children and promoted by Richmond Council, the pledge calls on schools to review their entire curriculum and culture through a "racial justice" lens.

Teachers are encouraged to undertake self-reflection and training in concepts such as intersectionality, white privilege, unconscious bias, and equity-based resourcing. Some see this as a long-overdue step towards inclusion. Others worry about the highly politicised language and the pressure to accept its premises.



The pledge also invites staff to sign a formal commitment to be "actively anti-racist", using terms drawn from academic theory that are rarely explained in plain language. One Richmond teacher described it as a political litmus test that blurred the line between professional standards and personal belief: "It felt like a loyalty oath. Refusing to sign would have marked me out, but agreeing meant endorsing values I don't necessarily share."

It is unclear how many Richmond schools have adopted the pledge. Several headteachers are understood to be resisting, concerned that politicising school culture could affect recruitment and damage cohesion.

Early Lessons in Guilt and Identity

Some parents share these reservations. One mother from a Richmond primary school, who asked not to be named, said her six-year-old daughter had come home wondering whether she should feel bad for what her ancestors had done: “That is not age-appropriate teaching. It is emotional conditioning. My daughter is being taught to carry guilt for things she cannot possibly understand.”

Her story reflects wider unease among parents who feel these concepts are being introduced without transparency. Critics note that the framework draws heavily from activist movements such as Black Lives Matter and from academic theories developed in American universities, including ideas about multi-generational trauma, structural racism, and intersectionality.

These ideas are now appearing even in early-years materials, placing race and historical injustice at the centre of the learning experience. While some see value in these discussions, others question whether such concepts are suited to primary education – and worry they risk prioritising group identity over individual character.

Warnings from Parliament and Academia

Concerns about this approach are not limited to one side of politics. In 2020, then-Equalities Minister Kemi Badenoch warned Parliament that teaching concepts such as white privilege as uncontested fact could breach schools’ legal duty to remain politically impartial. She noted that presenting complex and contested theories as objective truth was both ethically questionable and potentially unlawful.

Criticism has also come from the political left. Dr Terry Eagleton, one of Britain’s most influential literary theorists, has warned that some forms of critical theory risk replacing universal values and coherent moral reasoning with grievance-based narratives and what he calls *epistemic tribalism*, the belief that knowledge and truth are determined by group identity rather than shared reason.

A Curriculum Quietly Rewritten

The language from the anti-racism pledge is already appearing in lessons, staff meetings, and policy documents. Children as young as six are being introduced to concepts many adults would struggle to define, while teachers are being asked to adopt activist principles that extend beyond their core responsibilities.

The adoption of these ideas has taken place with little evidence of scrutiny by councillors or governors, and with no opt-out for families who disagree with the underlying assumptions. Some parents told the *Tribune* they have withdrawn their children from state schools altogether, citing political activism in the classroom as their final tipping point.

From Sanctuary to School Policy

Richmond’s decision to join the Borough of Sanctuary scheme was sold as a compassionate gesture. Yet its influence has reached deep into local education policy, introducing political and ideological content into classrooms without formal debate, democratic sign-off, or a clear route for parents to opt out.

The principle at stake is not whether children should be taught tolerance and respect, few would disagree with that, but whether a single national campaign’s worldview should guide such teaching, adopted wholesale and largely unseen by the public.

For Richmond’s schools to serve every child, policy must be built in the open, subject to scrutiny, and respectful of parental input. Anything less risks replacing education with indoctrination and putting ideology ahead of the real needs of Richmond’s children.

Latest update on Richmond to Kew towpath

From Richmond Council

The Thames Towpath from Richmond Lock to Kew Gardens remains closed for essential repair works following the collapse of a section last year.

Due to challenging access and ground conditions impacting the installation of sheet piling equipment, crucial to reinforcing the riverbank, the reopening of the towpath has unfortunately been delayed.

Works are now set for completion in October 2025.



You can [sign up for free email updates on the towpath works](#).

Click image to view video

Teddington Lock footbridge to remain open throughout Environment Agency works

From Richmond Council

Richmond Council would like to clarify that the Teddington Lock footbridge will remain open and accessible at all times throughout the upcoming planned works by the Environment Agency. There are no planned closures of the footbridge.



The Environment Agency (EA) is carrying out works at Teddington Lock. As part of this, the EA has advised of plans for two temporary towpath closures: one at Ham Street car park, and one on the towpath approach to the lock.

These closures will be short-term, with clearly signposted diversion routes in place.

To support this, Richmond Council has advertised an initial Temporary Traffic Order. A more detailed

Notice of Making will be issued by the EA in due course, providing further information on the works. Advance notices will also be shared on-site and with local residents.

We are currently awaiting confirmed start dates, duration and further detail from the EA. However, we can confirm the Teddington Lock footbridge itself will not be affected by the closures and will remain open throughout.

Oh Moi! What An Experience

We don't often venture up to the West End in the evenings, especially on a Saturday, but the opening of a new restaurant that serves Japanese-inspired dishes and sushi showcasing British producers and seafood from our coastal waters, tempted us to check it out... and boy, or should I say MOI, am I glad we did.

Situated on Wardour Street, **MOI** (pronounced 'MOY') is set across two floors (ground and lower ground) and offers 150 covers, including options for private dining, an Omakase-style Sushi Bar and a Listening Room. The space has been cleverly designed with a tactile fusion of natural reclaimed woods, raw concrete and soft lighting, evoking a contemporary take on Japan's affinity to nature and simplicity. On entering the restaurant, you're warmly greeted in a bar area with informal high-top seating, while to the rear of the room two large format kitchen islands and a hearth-style wood-fired grill are a focal point, showing the chefs at work. A striking spiral staircase crafted from poured concrete leads to the lower ground floor, where the unisex cloakrooms are situated.



The restaurant has lots of front of house staff, and I mean lots, and our charming main server, Erin, took us through the menu and advised on the number of dishes we should start with. The concept is sharing - a sort of Japanese tapas. So while we explored the menu, we ordered a pre prandial ...a Negroni in my case and, as they sadly didn't yet stock any alcohol free beer, my husband had an alcohol-free highball cocktail, which he enjoyed. My negroni was a Shiro Negroni, comprising dry white port, potato shochu, white bitter, yuzu sake and chrysanthemum bitters. While it was an interesting (and enjoyable) drink, I felt it lacked the punch and bitterness of a negroni and was more like a martini - maybe it should be renamed?

The menu is split into five sections: Snacks; Raw; Binchotan; Hornbeam and Birch. We started with Isle Of Mull Scallop Temaki, Tosazu, Smoked Cod's Roe, Chilli, Fried Steamed Buns, Tempura Lobster Claw, Curry Emulsion and Mazara Prawns, Chilli, Black Pepper Kombu Butter.



The raw scallop, while very tasty, was served with sheets of nori seaweed to use as a wrap. It wasn't easy to eat, so I gave up fiddling with it and just enjoyed the scallop. As far as these starters went, the smoked cod's roe was a triumph - one of the highlights of our meal. It was served with buns that were a sort of semi sweet doughnut and it was a brilliant symphony of flavours and textures.

The lobster claw was served cut in two, so perfect for sharing. It tasted amazing, slightly spiced, and the lobster was wrapped in shiso leaf before the thick coating of deliciously crispy batter. The curry emulsion paired beautifully with it and had a gentle heat that built up gradually in the mouth. And the prawns, again a fabulous dish, served with the shell removed but the head still on, the sauce was packed with flavour. I'm one of those people who enjoys sucking the head of a prawn for extra flavour - husband isn't, so I was lucky enough to enjoy a 'double header'.



For our main we chose Longhorn Short Rib, Pickled Daikon and Roscoff Onion. It was almost charred outside and beautifully rare in the middle. It was tender, savoury and very rich, with lots of umami. We accompanied this with Wood Roasted English Leeks, Sesame, Alliums and a portion of Grilled Summer Beans, Citrus. The leeks had been slow cooked over coals and were quite amazingly tasty. The beans were another triumph with an assortment of different beans grilled, and in a delicious ultra citrusy sauce which coated them, and was perfectly balanced. It's worth



noting that the menu offers a great dining experience for vegetarians who can try some really unusual dishes.



The dessert menu intrigued us and I chose to try some Shaved Ice 'Kakigori' with English raspberries, Sansho and Burnt Meringue. Beautifully presented, the Sansho pepper added an interesting citrus note. The kakigori had melted quite a lot by the time it was served (presumably while the meringue was being burnt) but it was still a very unusual and surprisingly light dessert. My husband couldn't resist Chocolate Mousse, Tonka Bean and Jersey Milk Ice cream. The crunchy tonka bean pieces added texture and there were pieces of dark chocolate in the mousse. The ice cream was so creamy... and he declared it 'One of the



best chocolate mousses ever'.

MOI offers a list of low intervention and biodynamic wines from small scale winemakers, with a focus on an extensive and ever-changing selection by the glass, as well as a considered approach to sake and shochu pairings with food. I enjoyed a glass of Genroku Redox, a sake made with an ancient recipe from 1703. It was stunningly good: a mix of whisky on the nose, then flavours of cognac and sherry in the mouth, with marmite/soy sauce umami notes too and incredible length of flavour - and it was spicy too. MOI has a very extensive sake list with prices starting at £7 a glass (and made in Bermondsey, no less!)

Prices aren't cheap at MOI, but if you choose carefully you can dine relatively inexpensively there too. It's really quite an experience, and is the first restaurant from a newly formed group called MAD, helmed by hospitality entrepreneur, Artem Login.

There are plans for another restaurant, a homage to Northern Spanish cooking, to open soon and we'll be 'mad keen' to check this out too.

sunborn
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Who Gives a Fig?

Teresa Read



“Some fig trees can convert surprisingly large amounts of carbon dioxide into stone, ensuring that the carbon remains in the soil long after the tree has died. This means that fig trees planted for forestry, or their fruit could offer additional climate benefits through this carbon-sequestration process.” New Scientist

When I saw the above headline, I was reminded of an article we published by a resident in the Tribune [Edition 388](#).

Michael Nancollis wrote about his memories of playing in Radnor Gardens:

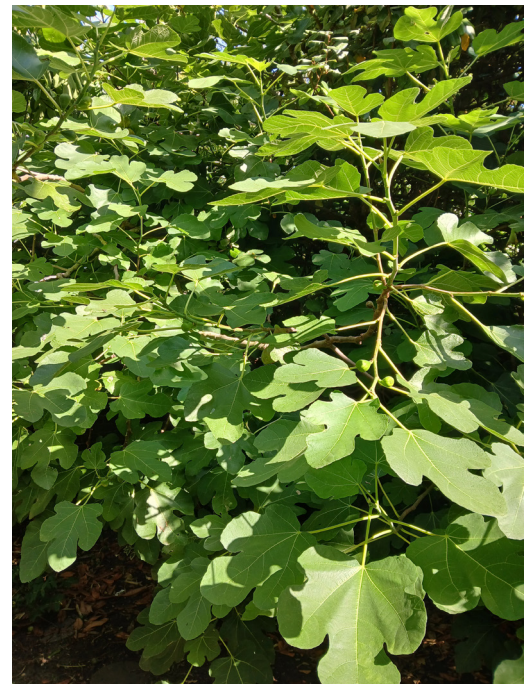
“I never lived in what is now Radnor Gardens, but I did have great fun, plundering and climbing in the bombed buildings that remained until their demolition in the 1950s. I can remember the old Grotto pub had a fig tree in the garden, what I now know to be brown turkey figs. An unusual commodity in those days and I remember spreading the rumour that the figs were poisonous and unfit for consumption. Needless to say I had many delicious mouthfuls of Fig and fruit when bananas were off the menu because of the war. Maybe I should plant a fig there again just in case.”



In the last year or so I have suggested to various organizations connected to the Council that a fig tree should be replaced in Radnor Gardens but with little interest. However, information in the New Scientist should make people think again about the importance of fig trees to our environment.

The New Scientist article says that some trees convert CO₂ into crystal oxalate which then converts to calcium carbonate, the main component of stones such as limestone and chalk, carbon in mineral form can stay in the soil much longer than organic matter. Scientists in Zurich have identified three species of fig tree that can produce this conversion.

Definitely food for thought when eating figs or deciding which trees to plant. Considering how many trees have been axed on Twickenham Riverside the Council should be thinking very seriously about how they can replace the environmental advantages of all the trees that graced our riverside until a short time ago.



Summer Buggin...

By Deep Patel

~ Life through the eyes of a Twickenham shopkeeper ~

Mother Nature has been spoiling us again...particularly over the last day or so, with the sun energizing us as it smothers our faces with its kisses (about the only thing that will kiss me these days) so naturally, this past week my customers must have been talking about the weather, or the exciting selection of cold drinks I sell right? Wrong...this week most of my customers have been talking to be about my passion for love...well bug-love in particular...just before we enter into what could potentially be the last long heat-wave of our summer, the amount of questions that I have been getting from customers regarding kind ways to stop “pests” without harming them has gone up by 100%...people suddenly are looking for ways to have that wasp-free picnic or looking for ways to stop their courgettes being fully devoured by slugs and snails...

If you are lucky enough to be a regular customer in my newsagent shop, you would be extremely familiar with the little creature-kindness leaflet that every single customer leaves with (usually as I tell them it would look good on their fridge door –not to mention fill their homes and lives with good karma). The leaflet I am talking about has very incredibly reached every single corner of the world from my little shop in Twickenham...customers from all around the globe have been known to take one back to their home countries and even photograph and share them on social media to save countless lives from needlessly suffering cruel and painful deaths...I recently learnt that my leaflet has become a bit of a local talking point and something I am directly associated with.

Customers talk to each other saying “was it the guy in Meet & Deep Newsagents with the big beard who always gives everyone a leaflet” when they are referring to me... like it or not...I am that shopkeeper and that is what the locals know me for (if you have been to my shop before, you will know exactly what leaflet I am talking about... well aren't the readers of the Twickenham & Richmond Tribune the lucky ones because for the first time ever, I am posting the now world-famous leaflet I made from Meet & Deep Newsagents to the world with the help of The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune with its international readership (yes there are readers I hear from California to Australia and many countries in-between...to celebrate the imminent heat-wave just starting in Twickenham as I type this and in an attempt to flood the world with good karma and a little more bug-love, here below is a photograph of the leaflet in question...you're welcome! If every person reading this right now saves and emails this article (or at least saves the photograph below of the leaflet) and either forwards it to their social media and emails it to just 3 other people, we can save 1000s more lives from suffering needlessly and you will be one of the heroes making Twickenham (and the world) a more compassionate place, one little life at a time...so what are you waiting for? “Save and share, print and care”...take a print out of it and pin it to your staff notice board at your workplace or your fridge door for quick reference around the year...you'll save lives and of course accrue oodles of

good-karma from every life you save as a result of sharing the leaflet tips (below)... Twickenham...join with me to help make this summer the summer of bug-love for you...for me...and all of the inhabitants of this world no matter how big or small... after all...all lives matter...

Keep & share these kind tips for good karma/blessings

Stop "pests" without harming (good karma)

Try not to wash or sweep your patios/drives too often to save the tiny little lives we can't even see... Before you wash home grown leafy veg or deadhead/bring indoors flowers, shake them hard outdoors to release back 100s of almost invisible little lives that live on them

SLUGS/SNAILS:
Buy mini rolls of copper mesh online or from hardware store, cut & make a few mini fences around plants, push in soil to support, move slugs from area before laying mesh.



MICE/RATS/FOXES & squirrels etc
Use live capture humane traps & release away from home. Put white vinegar in empty bottle caps where they come (peppermint oil works too but keep it away from pets). Plug-in electronic deterrents work VERY well but check ones which have good reviews & safe for your pets)

ANTS, GREEN FLY CATERPILLARS, APHIDS
Sprinkle WHITE VINEGAR, pure peppermint oil or talcum powder where they come (not on them!)

WHEN IT RAINS...
Use a leaf to move worms, slugs/snails off streets so they don't get stepped on. Use a phone torch when dark to save. Let flies out of windows don't swat.



SPIDERS, MOTHS & ALL "PESTS"
Buy electronic plug deterrents (online or at Meet & Deep News) & ALL spiders/ants/mice/flies will keep away without having to kill. Check suitable for your pets. Also mix 50 drops of peppermint oil with a cup of water and spray where moths, spider, mice or any insects come, NOT directly on insects or pets.

Take a Photo & Share!

"Waddle"/lift pots if moving them to save little lives under them from being crushed

FOR INJURED PIGEONS & ALL BIRDS PLEASE PLACE IN A SMALL BOX WITH HOLES AND CONTACT LONDON WILDLIFE PROTECTION: 07909 795 064. FOR FOXES, SQUIRRELS, RATS, MICE etc CONTACT: 075 111 06 060. thedeepatel@gmail.com

Remember...

"Love all lives and life will love you"

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

STOP FOXES KINDLY (GOOD KARMA):

Sprinkle chilli powder around pants you don't want foxes to dig up...it will keep them away without harming them...

For ANY specific tip to stop any "pest" or insect KINDLY (for good karma/blessings), email me: InsectLoversUnite@gmail.com or join my Facebook page: "INSECT LOVERS UNITE"



Don Pasquale

by Gaetano Donizetti, libretto by Giovanni Ruffini

West Green House Opera at the Green Theatre, Hartley Wintney

West Green pulls out quite a surprise for the culmination of its Silver Anniversary Season, and it is a right bonzer, taking *Don Pasquale* down-under. It casts Grant Doyle, a fair dinkum Aussie, in the leading role, and Lydia French's surtitles cause much audience laughter with the translations from Italian to Strine. *Donna* becomes "Sheila", *mala* becomes "crook", all types of greeting become "G-day mate!"

It is a tongue-in-cheek homage to the company's founder, the redoubtable Marylyn Abbott, formerly of the Sydney Opera House, who set up West Green House Opera in 2000 (having already restored its gardens). Fifty productions later along comes *Don Pasquale* in bushwhacker hat.



The colourful set is full of witty references to 1970s Aus, and is complemented by brilliantly researched costumes, Australian national cricket shirts, racy tee-shirts and ultra-flamboyant floral headwear for the blossom possums. Tinnies are ubiquitous. In the front row, we are in the Forster's foamy firing-line!



Don Pasquale, an elderly bachelor, is peed-off with his feckless nephew Ernesto, who is determined to hitch-up with his penniless but pulchritudinous girl-friend, Norina. He decides to teach Ernesto a lesson: he will himself marry and thereby disinherit his nephew. He has already asked his friend Dr Malatesta to find him a bride. BIG BUT, Malatesta has hatched a counter plot. He will arrange a false marriage, ostensibly with his sister "Sophronia", a.k.a. Norina.

Acclaimed baritone James Cleverton makes a suavely subversive Doctor Malatesta, who brilliantly invests the mellifluously sung description of Sophrina with an insincere sincerity,

firing Pasquale with invigorated passion. Grant Doyle's acrobatic bronzen bass voice has Pasquale feeling twenty again, and siring copious children by his new bride. The two are brilliant together, culminating towards the end of the opera in a patter duet, so speedily and faultlessly executed that the audience demanded a reprise.

Soprano Lorena Paz Nieto plays the feisty young Norina with great panache, as pert, and provocative. She has a scheming sparkle and the duet with Malatesta as they rehearse the role of Sophronia is played to full maximum humour.

The dejected Ernesto, believing he has lost his true love Norina, eats his heart out in his self-pitying aria *Povero Ernesto!* Colombian tenor Julian Henao Gonzalez makes an engaging empathetic Ernesto.



Ex-nun Sophronia transmogrifies from shrinking violet to terrifying termagant, as she piles on the pressure for Don Pasquale, until the turning point in the opera ... the slap (which elicited audience gasps. Then Norina's realises the joke has gone too far.



Director Richard Studer laces the action with stacks of visual gags, some quite risqué ... great fun has had with a sausage from the barbie!

The eighteen-strong West Green House Orchestra, under the baton of Jonathan Lyness, plays with melodic grace and charm, but picks up the inherent knock-about nature of the piece. The is adapted score is Lyness's reduced orchestration which has a liveliness and memorable hummability, without losing the vivacity

yet veracity that Donizetti's music has.

Is *Don Pasquale* about a silly old sod getting his comeuppance for being too mean, or about a gullible old man being fleeced by greedy youngsters? Nevertheless, humour arises from discomfort, and this *Don Pasquale* has both. The concluding moral of the story is toasted with a tinnie of Fosters. Don't marry in old age, it only brings you noise and pain with your trouble and strife. Real good onya, West Green!

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2025/07/29/don-pasquale

Photography courtesy of WGHO

The Rocky Horror Show

by Richard O'Brien

Trafalgar Productions at the New Wimbledon Theatre and on tour until 18th July 2026

The streets of Wimbledon bustle with summer excitement. It is the peak of the heat wave, a certain world-famous tennis tournament is underway. To add to the party atmosphere, it's Wimbledon's turn to host *The Rocky Horror Show*.

Its now familiar yet hugely bold and bonkers story starts with recently engaged 1950's squeaky clean college kids. Stacey Monahan does an excellent job as the innocent Janet, paired with the equally naive Brad, played by Connor Carson. On their way to meet their high school science teacher, wheel-chair bound Dr Scott (Edward Bullingham), a flat tyre strands them on a stormy night in the middle of nowhere.



They come across a spooky Gothic mansion, inhabited by Dr Frank'n'Furter and his minions Magenta (Natasha Hoeberrigs) and the suitably hunched Riff Raff (Job Greuter). The set cleverly transforms between the imposing haunted house's hallway and a futuristic laboratory, melding fifties' science fiction and B-movie horror.

The mansion's inhabitants are actually aliens hailing from the planet Transsexual in the Galaxy of Transylvania, and the mad scientist Frank has created his ideal sexual playmate in Rocky (Morgan Jackson) by using parts of his ex lover Eddie's (Edward Bullingham) brain. He shows no limits or awareness of 21st Century issues of consent, in his summary sexual awakening of Brad and Janet while dumping Columbia (Jayme-Lee Zanoncelli) his previous plaything.

1980's heart-throb Jason Donovan, who first starred as Frank twenty-five years ago, receives huge cheers for the iconic opening anthem *Sweet Transvestite*. Engulfed in an oversized black cloak and staggering on heels a tad too unstable for him, Donovan showcases his impressive energy and vocal talents. His idiosyncratic stamp emphasises the eccentric and unhinged side of Frank.

As the narrator, stand-up comedian Nathan Caton brings witty comments, and hilarious risqué retorts to audience interjections (topped by his banter with the BSL interpreter whose creative signing of sexual terminology deserves a shout-out).



Rocky Horror Show's audience is part of the spectacle. The crowd at Wimbledon is no exception, braving temperatures soaring over thirty degrees, coming cosplay prepared, and armed with interjections to heckle the cast. So, put your inhibitions aside, don't dream it, be it!

Read Thea Diamond's review at www.markaspen.com/2025/07/03/rocky-horror-nwt

Photography by Daniel Boud and David Freeman



Richmond Life around the borough, as seen through your lens...

An Arts Richmond Photographic Exhibition

open to everyone.

We invite you to submit your photos on this theme, to be shown at The Landmark Arts Centre in Teddington, alongside the Richmond and Twickenham Photographic Society's Annual Exhibition,

27 September – 5 October 2025

Visitors to the exhibition will be invited to vote for their favourite photograph in this section, and a prize will be awarded.



Full details on
www.artsrichmond.org.uk
Deadline for entries is
Friday 19 September 2025

www.artsrichmond.org.uk



LANDMARK
ARTS CENTRE

St Mary's University

St Mary's Athletes See Success at UK Championships and World University Games

Six current and former athletes of the [Endurance Performance Centre \(EPC\)](#) at St Mary's University, London have competed at the [UK Championships 2025](#), with five of them making the podium in their respective races.



The UK Championships are an annual national event in outdoor track and field for athletes in the UK, and serve as a qualifying event for the World Athletics Championships. They were held in Birmingham from the 2nd-4th August.

In the Men's 1500m race, EPC alumnus Elliot Giles finished in second place with a time of 3:47.20 while Sam Charig (EPC student) finished just behind him in third place with a time of 3:47.42. Elliot competed in the Men's 800m at the Paris Olympics last year, having also raced in Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020.

In the Women's 1500m race, alumna Reeve Walcott-Nolan placed third with a time of 4:16.39. Reeve made her Olympic debut at the Paris Games in the 1500m event last summer.

Current EPC [England Athletics Talent Hub](#) athlete Rory Leonard made third place in the Men's 5000m with a time of 13:54.50, while EPC alumnus Henry McLuckie came in 8th with a time of 14:07.44.

The Men's 3000m Steeplechase saw current EPC and EA Talent Hub athlete Zak Seddon place second with a time of 8:40.69.

This success for St Mary's at the UK Championships comes after current students Sam Charig and Joshua Hobbs represented Great Britain at the [2025 FISU World University Games](#). Sam (an EPC athlete) earned a bronze medal in the Men's 1500m with a time of 3:46.62, while sports scholar Joshua finished 17th out of 50 runners in the half marathon. Alongside clocking a personal best of 01:06:09, Joshua was also the first-placed British runner in the event.

The FISU World University Games were held earlier this summer in Germany, and saw around 8,500 student-athletes and officials from more than 150 countries compete. It was one of the largest multi-sport events held so far this year.

Speaking on these results, EPC Coordinator and Performance Coach at St Mary's Craig Winrow said: *"It has been an excellent couple of weeks for EPC athletes competing at the highest level. Hopefully some of the athletes will be selected for the World Championships in the next few weeks."*

The Endurance Performance Centre (EPC) is an internationally renowned running programme at St Mary's University, with one of the best training setups in the world. The EPC and its coaches provide an endurance performance environment that supports, challenges, and develops elite runners.



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Pizza Peddlers Raise Over £17,000 for Teenage Cancer Trust After Completing Epic 1,000-Mile Ride

The Pizza Peddlers have done it! After eight gruelling days, three Domino's colleagues - Jason Hunt, Josh Wilson and Peter Blockley - have cycled from John O' Groats to Land's End, conquering nearly 1,000 miles (1,500km) and a staggering 46,000 feet of climbing, all in support of Teenage Cancer Trust.

The challenge, which saw the team don Domino's iconic garlic & herb dip outfits and haul a pot of The Big Dip the length of Britain, pushed the trio to their physical and mental limits. With some days stretching beyond 200km and 8,000 feet of elevation, the ride was a true test of endurance, camaraderie and determination - especially as all three were novice cyclists before taking on this adventure.

The Pizza Peddlers' journey was more than just a physical feat. Every mile pedalled was powered by the support of Domino's colleagues, Teenage Cancer Trust and communities across the UK, all united by a shared goal - to raise vital funds for young people facing cancer.



The team's efforts have raised over £17,000, helping to ensure that Teenage Cancer Trust can continue providing specialist nurses, youth workers and unique hospital units for teenagers and young adults with cancer.

Sam Hughes-Smith, Corporate Partnership Manager at Teenage Cancer Trust said: *"Support from incredible fundraisers like the Pizza Peddlers team means that Teenage Cancer Trust nurses, youth workers, and hospital units will be able to be there for more teenagers and young adults with cancer when they're needed most."*

The money the team has raised will be truly life-changing for so many young people with cancer. Domino's have supported Teenage Cancer Trust for 10 years and raised an incredible £8.5m. Their continued dedication and support means the world to us."

Peter Blockley, one of the Pizza Peddlers riders and Senior Franchise Operations Partner at Domino's, added: *"Taking part in this challenge has been an unforgettable experience. The support from our colleagues, friends and the wider Domino's community has kept us going through every tough moment. Knowing that our efforts will make a real difference to young people with cancer is the best reward we could ask for. We've laughed, we've struggled and we've seen some of the most beautiful - and brutal - parts of Britain from our saddles. I'm so proud of what we've achieved together."*

The Pizza Peddlers' ride marks a decade of partnership between Domino's and Teenage Cancer Trust, with Domino's raising more than £8.5 million for the charity since 2015.



Share your thoughts on reintroducing white storks

From Citizen Zoo

Citizen Zoo and the University of Brighton invite residents to take part in a short survey about white storks in London.

Throughout history, white storks have symbolised hope, regrowth and new life in European folklore and mythology with their yearly spring return from overwintering in Africa, heralded across the continent. While native to these isles, storks have been absent from the UK for centuries. Despite this, the species persists in the popular imagination, from Aesop's fables to Dumbo, and remains widely recognised and admired.



Citizen Zoo and the University of Brighton are exploring public awareness, knowledge, and attitudes towards the white stork, as well as recent efforts to assess its potential to live and breed within Greater London. Your input will help inform future decisions around white stork initiatives in the region, aiming to deliver mutual benefits for both people and nature. [Share your thoughts in the survey.](#)

If you spot white storks in London, don't forget to submit your sighting via the [White Stork Recording Form](#). If you know of any sites in London that could be suitable for their reintroduction, contact digby@citizenzoo.org.

The London White Stork Project

Since 2016, the White Stork Project in Sussex has demonstrated the possibility of establishing breeding white storks in the UK. Following the growing success of this project, Citizen Zoo are committing to their vision to one day return breeding storks to the capital, through the launch of the [London White Stork Project](#).



Preview: Red Roses v France Rugby World Cup warm-up

The Red Roses play France in Mont-de-Marsan on Saturday 9 August for their final Women's Rugby World Cup warm-up fixture.

John Mitchell's side face Les Bleues after beating Spain in a [dominant 97-7 win](#) at Mattioli Woods Welford Road.

They last played France in 2025 Guinness Women's Six Nations decider, which saw England claim a Grand Slam with a nail-biting [43-42 win](#) at Allianz Stadium.

The Red Roses' game against France will be shown on BBC iPlayer and on the [England Rugby YouTube channel](#).

How to watch Red Roses v France

Where	Stade André et Guy Boniface, Mont-de-Marsan
When	Saturday 9 August
Kick-off	20:10 BST
How to watch	England Rugby YouTube and BBC iPlayer

Red Roses v France form & history

England have won 15 games in a row against France, with their last loss coming in 2019 at Stade des Alpes, Grenoble, during the Six Nations.

The most recent encounter between the two sides saw England race into a 31-7 lead before France mounted a comeback in the closing stages of the match.

Emma Sing and Abby Dow both scored twice in the fixture, with Lark Atkin-Davies, Claudia Moloney-MacDonald and Zoe Aldcroft also crossing.

Keep your eye on

Ellie Kildunne's return. Having missed the last two Red Roses fixtures, including the Grand Slam decider, Kildunne makes her return to the pitch.

England's back three. Kildunne, Dow and Jess Breach are a clinical try-scoring trio and have a combined tally of 135 tries from 151 appearances.

A high-scoring fixture. Across the last five encounters between the two sides, an average of 59.2 points have been scored per game.

Recent results

2025: England 43-42 France
2024: England 38-19 France
2024: France 21-42 England
2023: England 38-33 France
2022: France 7-13 England



Brentford to host All Blacks XV v Barbarians fixture

Written by Brentford Football Club

The All Blacks XV will face the Barbarians at Gtech Community Stadium on Saturday 1 November, with the sides facing each other for just the second time; tickets go on sale this Thursday.

Gtech Community Stadium will host the All Blacks XV against the Barbarians on Saturday 1 November (kick-off 1.15pm). Adult tickets priced from £35 and under 16s at £17.50 will be available to season ticket holders, premium seat holders and members at 10am on Thursday 7 August via our [ticketing platform](#).

With the invitational side's illustrious history, Barbarians will bring together rugby players from across the globe once again in the week leading up to the fixture in November, to form a squad to take on the All Blacks XV. The side recorded wins in London against Fiji last year and World XV in 2023.



The All Blacks XV, the second national rugby union team of New Zealand, are a key part of the nation's high-performance rugby pathway, a team designed to develop and showcase the next tier of test-ready talent. Both sides will face each other for just the second time, with their first meeting taking place in 2022 at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium when the Barbarians picked up the win.

Brentford commercial director, Fran Jones said: "We're delighted to be hosting the Barbarians and the All Blacks XV at Gtech Community Stadium for the very first time. It's a privilege to welcome two iconic sides to Brentford. This fixture promises to be an exciting occasion, showcasing big names alongside rising talent in the sport. We look forward to opening our doors to rugby fans and giving them a day to remember."

John Spencer, president of the Barbarians, commented: "The Barbarians and the All Blacks are two of the most iconic names in rugby, and it is great to see them come together for another huge occasion this autumn in London. Fixtures between the Barbarians and New Zealand sides stretch back more than 70 years and include the game's 'greatest try' by Gareth Edwards in 1973. We know this November's game will be another entertaining encounter. It will be an honour for the players who are invited to join and represent our club to take on and test themselves against one of the best sides in the world. The chance to see the Barbarians in their famous black and white hoops taking on the All Blacks XV in the capital isn't to be missed, and we know supporters will be as excited as we are for this game."

Chris Lendrum, New Zealand Rugby's general manager, professional rugby and performance, added: "There's history between the Barbarians and the All Blacks XV, so we know this will be a competitive and exciting match for the fans and for the players. The All Blacks XV are a critical development pathway for New Zealand Rugby. Growing our next tier of talent is crucial as we look towards a busy international calendar in 2026 and 2027. It's important for this team to face a variety of high-quality opponents each year to continue progressing, and the Barbarians are no exception."



Brentford extends partnership with Asahi UK and London Pride

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford is pleased to announce that it has extended its partnership with Asahi UK, owner of the Fuller's beer and brewing business, until 2030; Gtech Community Stadium will continue to serve Asahi and London Pride on matchdays and at commercial events



Asahi UK's lead products Asahi, London Pride and Meantime will remain on the club's menu.

Brentford will also begin to serve Fuller's award-winning Black Cab Stout from the start of the 2025/26 season.

Brentford and Fuller's through the years

While Asahi UK signed an agreement to become a founder partner of Gtech Community Stadium

when Brentford's new home opened in 2020, the club has had a long-standing association with Fuller's that goes back more than a century.

Brentford FC was founded in 1889 at the Oxford & Cambridge Hotel. The site at Kew Bridge is now home to One Over the Ait, a popular pre-match spot for fans owned by Fuller, Smith & Turner. For many years after the club's formation, Fuller's pubs The Griffin, The Globe and The Plough were all used by Brentford players as a matchday changing room.

With Brentford improving on the pitch and attracting more fans to watch the Bees, a new ground was needed. The club's historic Griffin Park, home of the Bees from 1904 to 2020, was built on an apple orchard used by Fuller's Brewery and leased to the club by owners Fuller, Smith and Turner.

The club in turn chose Griffin Park as the ground's name as a nod to Fuller's Griffin Brewery in Chiswick, which is still in service to this day and where fan-favourite London Pride is brewed. The Princess Royal pub located nearby was bought from Fuller's and renovated to create the official club shop at Griffin Park.

The relationship came full circle last season when the club opened the [Brentford FC Orchard](#) and planted 14 apple and pear trees in March 2025. Situated in Syon, near to Griffin Park, the orchard was created as part of the club's commitment to nurturing biodiversity in our community and part funded by Asahi Group.

Fran Jones, commercial director, said: *"This is likely the longest-running partnership in football and demonstrates just how deep our roots run in the community. We're delighted to be able to continue telling this story and serving these great products to our fans and visitors for several more years."*

Rob Hobart, marketing director at Asahi UK&I, added: *"The relationship between Brentford FC and the Fuller's Griffin Brewery is truly historic, going back over many generations right back to the original naming of Griffin Park, and deeply rooted in the local community. We are delighted to be continuing this long-standing partnership, and look forward to what will hopefully be another successful season for the Bees."*



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Published by:

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune (in association with World InfoZone Limited)

Registered in England & Wales

Reg No 10549345

The Twickenham Tribune is registered with the ICO under the Data Protection Act, Reg No ZA224725

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