

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



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TickerTape - News in Brief

Upcoming Network Rail engineering work at Barnes Bridge

From Network Rail

Network Rail are advising passengers that the line between Kew Bridge and Barnes will be closed between 23 and 31 August while engineers complete essential maintenance works on Barnes Bridge.

During this time, South Western Railway services will not run between Kew Bridge and Barnes.

Replacement bus services

- Saturday 23 to Friday 29 August - Buses replace trains between Barnes and Kew Bridge via Chiswick only. Trains will run to and from Kew Bridge to Feltham
- Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 August 2025 - Buses will replace trains between Barnes and Feltham via Hounslow

Footbridge access

For the safety of the public, the pedestrian footbridge beside the railway bridge will be closed at night whilst engineers are working, from 2 August to 6 September.

Network Rail will restrict access around 10pm until 6am. A signed diversion route will be in place over Chiswick bridge.

More information

To find out more about these works, visit [Barnes to Feltham via Hounslow upgrades](#).



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The Tree Agency

Over 4,000 postcards rejections for Thames Sewage Pump scheme

By Mike Pemberton

Local campaigners from Save Our Lands and River, have collected 4,112 signed postcards over the last week or so opposing the proposed Thames Sewage Pump – Thames Water’s environmentally damaging scheme including pumping treated sewage into the Thames at Teddington that experts say has far better, more sustainable alternatives.

Save Our Lands And River, SOLAR, [STOP Thames Water TDRA - Save Our Lands & River from Thames Water](#) has been talking with local community groups, river recreational clubs, residents groups and environmental groups for over two years about the Thames Water proposals and reasons why the abstraction scheme proposed above Teddington weir is not appropriate for water quality, social, and environmental reasons and why it is very poor value for money.



Ian McNuff with the stack of 4112 objection cards

Ian McNuff a founding member of the campaign and pictured with the stack of cards, said:

“Thames Water ran 50 hours of public consultation, were visited by 700 people, and have no idea what those people thought of the scheme. We spoke with the public for half that time – and over 4,000 cards came back to us saying stop the Thames Sewage Pump because there are better alternatives. Not a single person we spoke to supported the scheme.”

The postcards have come from residents across the community, with many local businesses acting as collection points – including the Flying Cloud Cafe, the Anglers Pub, The Wharf restaurant and Hammerton’s Ferry.

Volunteers have also been stationed at Teddington Lock footbridge all last week and continue this week, giving people the opportunity to register their objections before the public consultation closes on Tuesday 26 August.

Individuals can still submit their objections/comments directly by FREEPOST or by emailing TDRA@ipsos.com

Elleray Community Association seeking new Chair

From Elleray Community Association

Elleray Community Association (ECA) is looking for a new Chair to lead the local charity.

The ideal candidate will have experience either as a trustee or in running committees, managing services, or overseeing aspects of a business. In addition to acting as a spokesperson and figurehead for the charity, the new Chair will play a key role in providing the committee of trustees with the strategic leadership necessary to ensure that ECA achieves its mission. The ability to engage with stakeholders and collaborate effectively with staff and volunteers, as well as with other charities, institutions and the local authority is vital.

ECA's current Chair, Joan Barnett, BEM, will be retiring soon, following the charity's move into its new centre in October. This marks an exciting time for the charity, as its immediate mission is to expand the range of services offered to members of The Elleray Social Club and introduce new classes, courses and activities that appeal to a broad cross-section of the local community.

Although the charity's focus will remain on enhancing the lives of older and vulnerable local residents, ECA is committed to ensuring that the new centre becomes a thriving community asset, one that brings value to all residents.

Those considering the role are invited to contact ECA on 020 8977 0549 or chr@ellerayhall.org to arrange an informal discussion with the current Chair, or to receive full details of the Chair role and person specification.



About Elleray Community Association

Elleray Community Association is the charity that manages the new Elleray Centre located on North Lane in Teddington. The centre will become the new home of The Elleray Social Club, which provides activities, entertainment, outings and healthy home-cooked lunches to help older members of local community stay fit, healthy and entertained.

You can [find out more about the Elleray Centre](#).

Dear Tribune,

Ask the Residents? Not likely!

James Knight's three articles in last week's Tribune were bang on target.

Two were about the growing public concern about Richmond Council's usual policy of imposing their will on residents without proper, open consultation.

Another was about ideological pressure on school children to conform to their political dogma, again without proper, open consultation.

This smacks of Nazi Germany in the 1930s and countries like Russia and China where those not conforming with the 'superior' views of the ruling classes were, and still are, vilified or penalised. Or, even worse, executed.

Don't say it couldn't happen here because what Mr. Knight wrote about is not only a taste of things to come but also a taste of things which HAVE come.

Many politicians appear to have little regard for the people they purport to represent and only seem interested in furthering their own political careers and imposing their petty, ignorant, self-aggrandising beliefs on the rest of us, many of whom are far better qualified and knowledgeable. Even those who begin public service with admirable intentions usually 'Join the Club' either intentionally or under pressure.

As the poet Horace said: *'O imitators, you slavish herd!'*

Such an attitude includes inventing Richmond's pointless title: 'Borough of Sanctuary'. Whoever did so obviously doesn't realise that this whole country is already a sanctuary so we don't need our council inventing grandiose names for what already exists, especially when such policy places its existing residents at a disadvantage.

Because, according to the council website, sanctuary seekers can now get a free Richmond Card giving free swimming and gym sessions that residents have to pay for, plus discounted language lessons in French and Spanish!

If migrants wanted to learn French or Spanish, they could have settled in France or Spain before they came here. How about they learn English instead?

What we REALLY need is a council that properly and openly consults its residents. After all, it's the residents who pay councillors' salaries including the recent increase in their personal allowances which they generously voted themselves.

A borough council's job is to run the services which it is supposed to run, such as the roads, the rubbish, public safety, and caring for its elderly.

Anything more is a slippery slope.

Michael Jay
Hampton.

VJ80 Special

My Uncle Ken - Who Never Saw That Victory

By Sue Weaver

This week, the 80th anniversary of the end of the war with Japan, I thought readers might like this poignant story of one man's short war.

My uncle, Kenneth Baker, was born in Madras in 1913. He loved India and its people and loved growing up there with his two sisters.

But in 1926 the family returned to Hampshire where his education continued at King Edward VI School in Southampton.

A typical schoolboy of the time, he was mad on sports and full of bright hope for the future so, after leaving school, he ventured abroad to join The United Africa Company Limited in West Africa.

He did well there but in 1942 he received his call up to join the war, undergoing his initial training near home in the Hampshire Regiment.

Following in the footsteps of his father, a Major in the Indian Army's Baluch Regiment, and wanting to see again the country and people he loved so much, he naturally volunteered to serve in the Indian Army, 5/10 Baluch Regiment.



January 1942 found him on a troopship to India, from where his cheery letters home spoke of his excitement and the calm moonlit nights on a deep-blue sea. But it wasn't all fun because he also wrote of the terrible conditions on board with everyone seasick, all made worse by the lack of privacy and little rest because of the noise of all the troops constantly exercising on deck with the PT instructors bawling at them! But the food was '*perfectly marvellous*', especially the curries which reminded him of his childhood!

After further training in India, he finally arrived at the Baluch headquarters in Karachi where he wrote in another letter home: '*It's a glorious feeling, going at last and we're going to have a grand time – rather like going to the coast all over again.*'

Ken and his father and grandfather had a great sense of humour and drew many humorous cartoons of life on board ship and life in India. I still have some of them and they never fail to make me smile.

But the jolly fun didn't last long as he was soon sent to Burma to take on the Japanese army.

It is clear from his next letters that he well knew how hard this would be because he sent his personal details to his '*Dear Dad*' along with a message for his fiancée, Joan, just in case.

The war in Europe was ending but he could see that, even after Germany had been beaten, the Japanese would fight on, writing: '*The Jap is a bugger but my heaven these lads of ours are much, much more so with their terrific guts and dash.*'

KCB Letters to his parents (my grandparents), Major H.N. and Mrs Queenie Baker. 1942-45

Hotel Metropole, Leeds 4.1.42

Darling Mum and My Dear Dad

This is to say cheerio for a bit. I'm pushing off and you won't now hear from me for probably a couple of months. As soon as I can I'll cable or something like that so don't wonder what has happened or where I am.

You've got my APO address but as soon as I can I'll let you know something more permanent. I can't obviously at the moment because I really don't know myself.

It's a glorious feeling, going at last and we're going to have a grand time – rather like going out to the coast all over again.

Cheerio and best love to you both. Ken.

My Dear People

Just a line to let you know I'm still in the land of the living, on the whole very much enjoying life. I'm afraid I can't yet give you any news as to where we are or where we're actually heading so it's merely a question of simply hearing from me.

We've been horribly crowded as we would expect, in bloody rough weather. I don't think I've ever seen so many sick people or anything more loathsome as 'down below'.

We're having the most glorious weather just now and it's extraordinary how we can almost smell bazaars and things sometimes. I love these moonlight nights and midday when the sea is that glorious deep blue and there isn't a ripple on the water at all.

It's rather difficult writing at the moment because up on the boat deck there are dozens of troops doing PT and instructors bawling and shouting and the whole deck shaking with each jump. Food by the way is perfectly marvellous and I don't think I've had anything like it for years. You'd both like the curries which I famously insist on having every day of my life. The steward knows me only too well and always bring me a double helping and I've even been known to have another after that!

I'm sorry this has to be so vague but I know you'll understand and later on I'll write more fully and tell you all about it. And by the way, Dad, I've met a Major Tobin (Gurkhas) who knew you in Quetta. Do you remember him – very short and tubby and with a hell of a sense of humour.

Cheerio to you both and best love, Ken

Captain K.C. Baker no 164508
5/10 Baluch Regt.
SEAC 3.11.44

My Dear Dad

Will you do something for me. I know you will think of this as anything but purely a routine matter. In case anything happens to me, such as I have will come to you and I want you to immediately contact Lloyds Bombay, who will know what to do. My kit and stuff, and I have some rather nice things, will be (auctioned?) and that too will be included. Incidentally I've given your address as Thomas Cooks, who will let you know. Joan's address is 49, Broadgate, Lincoln and her full name is Miss J. Powell. I hope you don't think me melodramatic Dad but I think you'll understand.

I'm hoping to save now like hell for after this war because I want to marry Joan and take her out to W.A. with me. By the way, don't forget the V.A.C. Blackfriars for my Provident Fund. That is there too but I don't think it is much just now – about £200.

I'm very fit and enjoying life but I must say longing to see England. I've just had a spell of hay fever but thank God the bloody grass has stopped pollinating!

Cheerio and all love, Ken

His next letter to 'My darling Mum' spoke of his enjoyment at washing with his men at the well in a lovely little Burmese village, saying: *'I've had a bath in my slit trench with a mess tin and a chagul full of water. I feel marvellous once again especially as I've got all my hair off'.*

Further letters told of the actual fighting and of leading his beloved Pathan soldiers in thick jungle which was alive with Japanese snipers tied in the trees. He described a four hour hand-to-hand battle in the jungle as: *'A hell of a party'.*

In a letter home early in January 1945, he mentioned a news film of his unit that had just been made and which was to be shown in all Indian cinemas – he never had the chance to see it for two weeks later he was dead. But thanks to those few words, I have been able to track down this film which is now in the Imperial War Museum in London (<https://film.iwmcollections.org.uk/record/36001>).

30.12.44

My Dear Old Dad (not of course old in the material sense because there is no such thing as age - especially when we see these yellow bastards. ?? Shut up and search them!)

We have now come God knows how many hundreds of miles and I really do know that ? is not marching with an xxxx with shandies in a cool xx at the end xx. It's extraordinary too what you can do on these occasions when the commissioner (?) problems are immense even with mules and jeeps and the air.

The Bin (?) is so hard and rough that 20 miles a day and an action and digging in at night and little food and bugger all sleep occasionally goes on day after day and means nothing. And the jungle is not the English landscape by any means.

You want to follow 14th Army, Dad, because they will be finally finishing this war since I suppose Japan will be in it after "Germany calling" is a thing of the past! And my blokes – God, what blokes with their "Mano nana Hardini" (sorry, can't read) and their terrific guts and dash. The Jap is a bugger but my heaven these lads of ours are much, much more so. Jumwait! (?)

I loved hearing from you again after so long and hope you're all well and fit. It must be much better now at home with lights again and not so much of the buzz bomb and nonsense. Remember me to all the family and ask Sally if she remembers me because I don't suppose she does and I'm always told what a marvellous kid she's growing up into.

We're now having a small break in this eternal business and I've had a bath in my slit trench with a mess tin and chagul full of water. I feel marvellous once again especially as I've got all my hair off.

You'll be glad to hear I keep my hair ruddy short now!!

Cheerio and best love, Ken

3.1.45

My darling Mum

I scribbled a rather sketchy note to HNB yesterday so I'll do the same to you while the going's good.

We are having a rather much needed rest just now of probably a couple of days and a chance of a bath for the first time for some little time. It's extraordinary how things which are always taken for granted before mean so much now, like cigarettes, a shave, a proper bath, a chance to write a letter or read one and above all such things as haircuts! I nearly go mad when my hair is crawling down my neck and yet what can we do?

There is a lovely little Burmese village in my company area and have 4 lovely wells round which the old Pathans are washing and scrubbing their long hair all day long. I've done it with them and it's been bloody good with a hunk of Sunlight and lots of cool water. The weather is marvellous – cool and grand. It really is a first class country at this time of the year.

The Jap planes have strafed us but done no damage and they were soon away when the old Spits turned up.

Cheerio and best love. I'm very fit with all this. Ken

(last letter 10 days before death)

My Dear Dad

Just a very hurried line to let you know that all is OK and that I'm feeling very bucked with life. We have been running the Jap all night recently and had a good set to yesterday. 'A' had been committed earlier and 'C' had been pulled up by LMG bunker positions and couldn't get in. I am now with the beloved Pathans again and I was sent round and we had a hell of a party for almost 4 hours in a thick wood which was literally alive with bloody snipers – tied up to trees and using automatics so that if you avoided a bullet in your skull you merely heard a crack at point blank range and couldn't estimate where it came from as there was no subsequent bolt action. We got them out of it with grenade and sheer guts and these damn fine hawk-nosed blokes of ours, and they didn't all get away by any means.

You probably know where I am by following 14th Army news in the papers and look out for the News Films. My Company was taken by film people yesterday and I am told it will be shown in all Indian cinemas in a fortnight's time. It really was rather good film and I hand it to that ruddy cameraman, who was not after all a soldier.

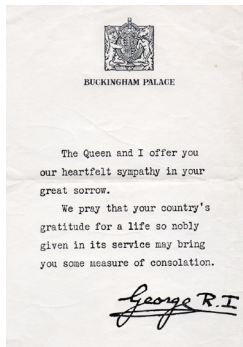
Cheerio for now Dad. Give my love to all and think of the old Baluch knocking hell out of these bastards.

Best love, Ken

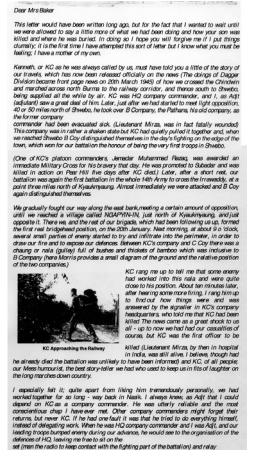
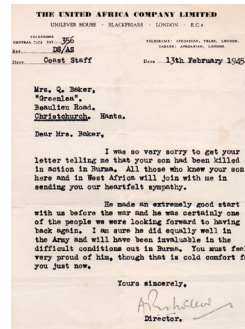
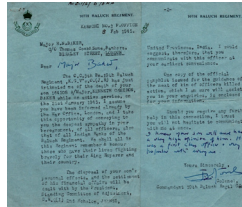
The fighting dragged on in the terrible heat of the jungle where, in spite of the difficulties, he still managed to send a couple more letters. But the next communication his parents received was the dreaded telegram saying: 'Deeply regret to inform you that Captain K C Baker Hampshire Regiment serving with the Indian Army on 21 January 1945 was killed in action in Burma'.

Following this came letters of condolence from the King, his friends, and his colleagues. All were sad but the most poignant were from his company commander Lt. Col. Bob Prince, and his adjutant, Captain C A Morris, whose letter explains the battle in detail and how much Ken loved his men and how loved he was by them. It ends by saying:

'That evening we buried him by the side of the river in the little cemetery which was started that day. We buried him in uniform with his boots on. It was a simple very moving little service, and as we planted his plain wooden cross with his name and rank written on it by me in indelible pencil, the sun was sinking low in the west, turning the bamboo covered banks of the river red gold and reflecting on the smooth water as though it was polished bronze.'



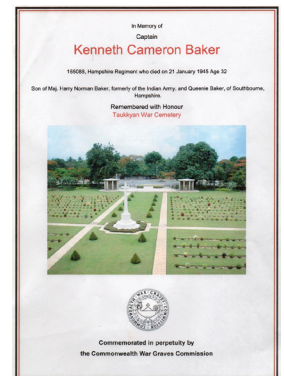
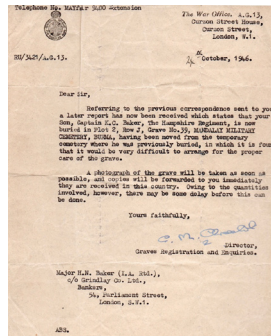
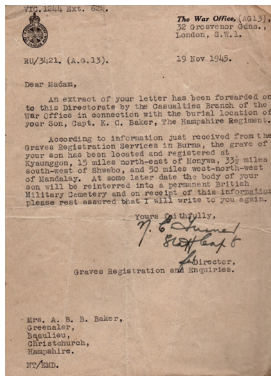
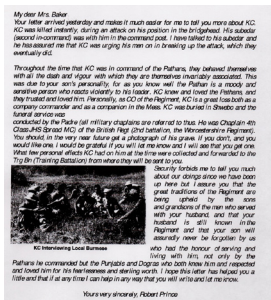
SERVICE
AARER-In Jan. 1945, killed in action, Burma
CAPT. KENNETH CAMERON BAKER, Baluch Regt, aged 31
beloved son of Major H. N. Baker, Rtd. Regt.
reunited and Mrs. Baker, adored brother of Betty an
sister, darling fiancé of Joan Powell. Our love and pic
ture over. Ken, God bless him.



In view of the remote jungle location of the grave, Ken was later transferred to the Mandalay Military Cemetery and now rests in the Tauckyan War Cemetery, carefully tended by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Although I would love to see the grave, the distance involved makes it impossible although a friend did go recently and told me that all the graves are beautifully cared for – and peaceful.
(www.cwgc.org/visit-us/find-cemeteries-memorials/cemetery-details/144301/tauckyan-memorial/)

I recently attended a lecture on the work of the War Graves commission and was deeply impressed by their dedication and care for which I thank them sincerely.

Sadly, I never met my Uncle Ken as I was only three months old when he was killed fighting for my future and the peace he never saw. So I can only know him from his letters home and from the many anecdotes which my mother recounted about their escapades when growing up in India - like the time Ken acquired a paper bag from the sweet shop, filled it with goats' droppings, and persuaded my mum that he'd bought her some special chocolates....



I see Ken through the eyes of my mother and all the original, if faded, letters and photos spanning 1928-45. But my feelings for him never fade and I only hope that future generations of my family will also cherish these wonderful memories of a wonderful man. Curiously, in spite of her brother Ken being killed in Burma, my mother found Japanese art and culture extremely fascinating and our bookcase was filled with such titles such as 'Bushido' as she did her best to understand the Japanese mind of the time. I now have many Japanese friends, some of whom are extremely interested in Ken's story. I am sure that they too have similar stories about their own loved ones.

This is but a small part of the story but, for those who are interested, I have a full account written by the son of Lt Col. Bob Prince, Commander 5th Baluch, who kindly provided many of his father's letters of condolence to my grandparents.

So, as the world staggers stupidly into yet more destruction and hate, let us all do our best to ensure that no more will anyone receive the dreaded words 'Deeply regret to inform you...'

Sue Weaver, the author of this story, is a military daughter. Her father, Major Peter Weaver, was one of the founding members of the Special Air Service in World War II. Her stepfather, Wing Commander Cyril Povey, was a highly decorated Royal Air Force Bomber Command pilot in WW2 who later took part in the Berlin Air Lift, subsequently becoming a flying Instructor at the RAF College, Cranwell, Chief Flying Instructor at RAF Leeming, and later joining the Joint Services Staff in Aden during the Kuwait crisis. A further story by Sue will tell of a ghostly visit to one of her step-father's wartime airfields. You can see a piece about Ken on the VJ Day 80 [website](http://www.twickenhamtribune.com)

Posturing at the Palace Gates

By James Knight

One might expect that the Vice President of the United States paying a quiet visit to Hampton Court Palace would be met with the courteous welcome typical of the English summer season. Instead, J.D. Vance's informal excursion to one of Britain's most celebrated historic sites was met not with measured diplomacy or even polite silence, but with public ridicule from two of the most senior Liberal Democrat figures in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

The palace gates were closed to the public for a few hours to accommodate Mr Vance's family tour, an inconvenience, yes, but hardly a diplomatic incident. And yet, as visitors milled outside awaiting entry, Cllr James Chard, the Liberal Democrat Group Leader on Richmond Council and Vice-Chair of its Transport and Air Quality Committee, took to social media to deploy what he presumably thought was wit.

"Hampton Court Palace prepares for a sightseeing visit from JD Vance. Popping into the court of a mad, misogynist despot potentially feels like a bit of a busman's holiday for the VP, but whatever floats his boat."



An image of Henry VIII accompanied the post; the implication being, presumably, that President Trump is the moral and political heir to one of England's most tyrannical monarchs. There was no attempt at policy critique or legitimate civic complaint. This was pure performance: a sneer, dressed up in the cheap costume of satire.



A second post followed two days later. Sharing a news story about Mr Vance visiting Shadow Justice Secretary Robert Jenrick in the Cotswolds, Chard posted – in a jab clearly aimed at the host:

"Out of interest, what's the worst holiday you've ever had?"

This time, Council Leader Gareth Roberts shared the post; a gesture of political solidarity, perhaps, but also a revealing endorsement. If Chard's tweet was flippant, Roberts' decision to circulate it was damning. It confirmed that this was not simply a case of one councillor losing their sense of proportion: it

was a broader cultural failure, sanctioned at the highest level of the council's leadership.

Small Tweets, Smaller Politics

The role of Group Leader, though often misunderstood outside Town Halls, is not ornamental. Cllr Chard, by virtue of this position, speaks for and manages the internal affairs of the Liberal Democrat caucus on Richmond Council. He is responsible for strategy, messaging, and discipline, a role codified in the Liberal Democrats' standing orders. It is not a ceremonial post, but a crucial link between elected members and party machinery. The notion that someone in this position should use their

public platform to toss out lazy invective about a foreign statesman, during a private visit, no less, speaks volumes.



What makes this episode more than just poor judgment is the platform from which it was broadcast and tacitly endorsed. Both Cllr Chard and Cllr Roberts operate highly partisan personal X accounts (formally known as Twitter) filled with sarcasm, jabs at political opponents, and comments that routinely push the boundaries of respectful discourse. These are not fringe backbenchers letting off steam; they are two of the most senior Liberal Democrat figures in Richmond: the LibDem Group Leader and the Leader of the Council. Their accounts routinely blend personal commentary with their formal roles, making it difficult for residents to distinguish when they are speaking on behalf of themselves or the council.

Bending the Rules to Breaking Point

That ambiguity matters. The Council's own Social Media Protocol for Councillors explicitly warns against sarcasm, disrespectful language, and behaviour likely to bring the authority into disrepute. The Code of Conduct, binding on all elected members, reinforces the need to uphold integrity, treat others with respect, and avoid any action that could erode public confidence in the council's ability to govern impartially. Yet these warnings appear routinely ignored. What's worse is that Richmond Council's official comms actively link to these councillors' personal accounts, as if they are authoritative sources of public information. The line between official and personal has not just been blurred, it has been willingly erased.

This is not just a communication oversight. It is an institutional failure to enforce the standards the Council claims to uphold. If a council officer had posted similar content mocking a visiting dignitary, using inflammatory comparisons, or retweeting partisan jibes, it would almost certainly be a matter for HR, possibly leading to disciplinary action. But elected politicians are treated as untouchable, even as their conduct chips away at the borough's reputation.

Richmond is not alone in this shift. Across the country, local leadership is increasingly being reshaped not by competence or gravitas, but by who can shout loudest online.

Professionals Looking Elsewhere

If one is wondering why Richmond has failed to recruit and retain a permanent chief executive for over a year, and continues to rely on interim leadership, the answer may lie in plain sight. Gareth Roberts' X account is not just repellent to many voters, it is also likely off-putting to senior professionals, particularly those expected to uphold impartiality, integrity, and high standards in public service. His posts, often sarcastic and confrontational, reveal a leadership style that prioritises provocation over professionalism. It signals a culture where serious leadership is lacking, and serious public servants take note. They look elsewhere.



The Loss of Civic Composure

It is no crime for elected officials to criticise foreign leaders. But there is a world of difference between principled objection and performative insult. Mr Vance may be a controversial figure in American politics, but he is also the democratically elected Vice President of the United States, visiting with his family, not on official business. The opportunity for Richmond, home to one of Britain's most important historic sites, was to project composure, hospitality, and cultural confidence. Instead, its political leaders behaved like bored adolescents sniping from the back of a classroom.

As one resident dryly observed on social media:

"Fantastic the Vice President is holidaying in the UK... Welcome JD and thank you for putting our foolish politicians straight."

Others were less charitable, but the divide was clear: while some applauded the mockery, many more questioned why two of the borough's most senior councillors chose to make Richmond look petty and parochial, precisely when it had a chance to look outward and dignified.

Graceless in Power

If Cllrs Chard and Roberts wish to perform for applause, they might consider auditioning for a panel show and leave governance to the grown-ups. What this episode reveals is not just poor taste but poor leadership. These are not backbenchers letting off steam; they are the public face of the borough's ruling party. And yet their conduct suggests not composure or judgment, but a taste for sarcasm over substance and mockery over maturity.

Their partisan jibes, broadcast on personal accounts linked via official council channels, not only fall short of the Council's own code of conduct; they degrade the very office they occupy. The result is a leadership culture that lacks grace, invites ridicule, and squanders respect. Residents see it. Professionals see it. And when the borough finds itself unable to recruit a permanent chief executive, no one should be surprised as they have failed to provide stable, respectful leadership.

Leadership is not about who gets the last laugh, it's about who earns lasting respect. And on that count, Cllrs Chard and Roberts are failing.



Support from over 5,000 to reinstate the outdoor swimming pool on Twickenham Riverside

The petition to reinstate the lido on Twickenham Riverside was restarted on 1st August with 4,870 supporters giving their reasons for an outdoor swimming pool instead of “luxury housing” that few residents would be able to afford. Last week’s number of supporters was 4,964 but at the time of writing support has gone past the 5,000 mark.

Considering opposition to the plan for luxury flats on Twickenham Riverside perhaps the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames should look at the recent reversal of similar plans by Kingston Council - housing was planned on the site of the Kingston Kingfisher leisure centre and swimming pool. There, the council faced a similar dilemma: an ageing leisure facility, rising construction costs, and public pressure to deliver value. Their solution? Pull the original housing 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.



There is also the important financial issue to consider that will affect the Borough’s ratepayers; the cost of the Twickenham development is currently £67+ million with borrowing by the Council - as far as we know - of £16.8 million for mainly luxury housing, and another pub - although Twickenham has countless pubs, but no dedicated public toilets, not even in this proposed development. With regard to the cost it should be remembered that construction has not even started and the contract with Kier has not yet been signed!

It might be argued that Richmond Council’s plans have gone too far to change – Diamond Jubilee Gardens and the trees that graced the riverside have all been destroyed.

Time for those of us who will have to foot the bill to make our voices heard. And we should remember that the land in question was bought in 1924 for the purpose of providing “public walks and pleasure grounds”.

Read comments over from over 5,000 people [HERE](#)

Alternative plans for the site <https://twickenhamlido.com/>

Sign the petition [HERE](#)

Twickenham Outside Pool <https://lidosalive.com/twickenham.html>

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 5,011 (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**)

Come along to charity bike sale in Barnes

From Barnes Charity Bike Sale

If you are looking to buy, sell or donate a bike, then you're invited to come along to the Barnes Charity Bike Sale at St Mary's Church.

If you have a bike to sell or donate you can bring it on the following drop-off days. The team of volunteers will check, repair, and sell the bikes for charity. Since 2006, the Barnes Charity Bike Sale has repaired 1,770 bikes and raised over £100,000 for the charities it supports- a wonderful re-cycling scheme!

Drop-off details:

- **Date:** Saturdays 16, 23 and 30 August
- **Time:** 10am to 12 noon
- **Location:** St Mary's Church, Barnes, SW13 9HL

[Register your interest](#) to drop off your bike.

If you'd like to buy a pre-loved bike, come to the bike sale. You will be able to find a wide variety of bikes at good prices whilst supporting local charities.

Event details:

- **Date:** Saturday 13 September 2025
- **Time:** 9.30am to 12 noon
- **Location:** St Mary's Church, Barnes, SW13 9HL

Find out more about the [Barnes Charity Bike Sale](#).



Richmond Council invites views on new Events in Parks Policy

From Richmond Council

Richmond Council is consulting on a new draft policy for events in the borough's parks, open spaces and commons. The new policy seeks to support a vibrant programme of events while protecting the borough's much-loved green spaces.

Councillor Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports, said: "Our aim is to promote opportunities for people to come together at events in our parks and open spaces, making the most of Richmond's culture and sense of community, while protecting the landscapes we all treasure. Everyone is encouraged to take part in the consultation, to help shape how these events are delivered."

The updated policy will encourage outdoor cinema, pop-up theatre, neighbourhood festivals and community events.

Proposed safeguards include limits on the size and frequency of events in each park, common or open space, and permitted hours of operation. The draft updated policy requires a commitment to reduce waste, protect air quality, promote public and sustainable transport, and secure social value from commercial events, for example local employment opportunities or support for local community projects.

The policy is anticipated to be adopted later this year. Alongside consulting on the policy, the council is also reviewing guidance notes for event organisers to make it more straightforward to deliver smaller events while still ensuring safety, wildlife protection, noise management, and community engagement.



[Read the draft policy](#) and [take part in the consultation](#) by Sunday 5 October 2025.

Gentrification's Candidate?

Why Hampstead Should Look Hard at Katie Mansfield

By James Knight

The Camden Liberal Democrats swiftly moved to select Cllr Katie Mansfield, who currently represents St Margarets and North Twickenham ward in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, as their parliamentary candidate for Hampstead & Highgate. She is, notably, the first Liberal Democrat prospective parliamentary candidate to be chosen anywhere in the country during this Parliament, a strategic move designed to gain the upper hand before competitors have even finished sharpening their pencils.

This is no routine target seat. The incumbent Labour MP, Tulip Siddiq, resigned in January from her position as Economic Secretary to the Treasury, a role ostensibly focused on safeguarding economic integrity and fighting financial crime, following allegations from Bangladesh's Anti-Corruption Commission that she had used political influence to help her family acquire state-owned land in Dhaka. While no British authority has made any finding of wrongdoing, the Dhaka trial has commenced in absentia following the issuance of an arrest warrant. Should Siddiq step aside, Hampstead & Highgate will become a political prize contested on a national stage.



Hampstead Bid Could Trigger Richmond Contest

If Mansfield were to secure Hampstead & Highgate, she would not be compelled to resign her Richmond Council seat, although in practice, councillors whose new constituencies are quite far away almost always do so within months. Such a resignation would trigger a by-election in one of Richmond's most politically active wards, which could be well before the borough-wide elections scheduled for May 2026. Opposition parties are already active, leaflet dropping and knocking on doors, reminding residents that St Margaret's is one of the few shopping areas in the borough to have consistently missed out on improvement works.

Richmond Vision, or Stage-Set?

Mansfield is no stranger to major projects. Until recently, she served as Chair of Transport and remains the Liberal Democrat lead on the redevelopment of Richmond Town Centre, while also chairing her party's national High Streets and Town Centres Working Group. The "Richmond Town Centre Vision" she unveiled last year, for those inclined to interpret the subtext, less like an invitation to debate and more like a predetermined outcome, as though pedestrianisation or strict traffic restrictions on George Street were not matters for discussion but inevitable changes awaiting public approval.

The credibility of the earlier "consultation on consultation" report had already been publicly questioned by Pamela Fleming of the Richmond Society, who challenged both its methodology and its underlying purpose. The Vision itself drew open derision, with Martin Barker of Richmond Council Watch dismissing it as a "word salad", allegedly compiled at the last minute with the assistance of ChatGPT and devoid of substantive analysis. Traders warn that the plan risks gridlock on the A316, while a string of higher-end retailers have shut their doors, citing parking charges of £8.80 for three hours at Old Deer Car Park or £9.80 for the same duration at the Paradise Road multi-storey car park. Festival-going day-trippers, they note, rarely match the spending power of regular shoppers who arrive by car. For her critics, whether they sit to the left or the right, this is gentrification dressed up in the guise of environmental virtue; a politics of press releases and photo opportunities, in which the beneficiaries are developers and design consultancies, and the casualties are the people who actually live and trade there.

Consultants, Costs, and the Developer's Eye

The process has been as much about presentation as policy. The council's reliance on high-profile consultants such as We Made That and Hemingway Design has produced glossy brochures and carefully branded "visions," yet critics point to a lack of rigorous modelling or solid traffic data. Mansfield's own professional background highlights this criticism, as she recently served as marketing director at British Land, the £5 billion developer known for its meticulous façadism and criticised for displacing communities that once gave areas their character.



In heritage terms, British Land has perfected the art of green-washed conservation, retaining just enough of the past to create a photogenic backdrop, while remaking the substance to attract wealthier newcomers. For her opponents, whether concerned about corporate influence, local democracy, tenants' rights, or community preservation, Mansfield's rhetoric of "climate readiness" and "high street revival" fits the pattern; a polished image that masks an agenda which, intentionally or not, pushes out those with modest incomes and cedes control to developers and landlords.

In Richmond, longstanding traders have been replaced by chain coffee shops and upscale interior stores, while rents have soared beyond the reach of many families. Critics see this as the classic sign of developer-led "renewal": a false façade for postcards, hiding a community hollowed out inside. Should Hampstead & Highgate adopt this model, its much-claimed diversity might diminish to something more limited: a community that looks wealthier in photographs but is poorer in civic life.

Replacing the Carrot with the Stick

Under Mansfield's direction, Richmond's transport policy has decisively shifted from encouraging behaviour to imposing penalties. The long-standing parking discount for residents over seventy-five, once seen as a modest yet meaningful acknowledgement of the challenges faced by older citizens, was abolished. The concession of free parking for zero-emission vehicles, which had promoted early adoption of cleaner transport, was quietly discontinued. Even the small courtesy of an extra thirty minutes added free to a paid ticket, a minor benefit that allowed residents to run errands without extra cost, was removed.

These measures, presented under banners of "active travel" and "climate readiness," have effectively become a form of economic gatekeeping. Those with the means to pay the higher charges maintain their mobility and access to local commerce, while those without find themselves excluded from the town centre. The rhetoric appeals to environmental stewardship, yet for many residents, the reality is reduced accessibility, diminished convenience, and a gradual erosion of community life. Critics see here not progress but a refined form of social sorting, with policies designed, consciously or not, to cater to the already comfortable.



National Policy, Local Consequences

Mansfield's national role as chair of the Liberal Democrats' High Streets and Town Centres Working Group positions her centrally in policy proposals with tangible effects on daily life. One initiative, to "rebalance power" between pubs and supermarkets, echoes Scotland's minimum alcohol pricing

regime. Supporters argue it will strengthen the hospitality sector, while critics warn it could raise supermarket prices, disproportionately impacting households on tighter budgets and favouring the more affluent.

Combined with her transport agenda, the pattern is clear. The heaviest burdens fall on those least able to bear them, while the benefits are most easily enjoyed by those already secure. To her critics, this is not a mere anomaly but a reflection of the Liberal Democrat temperament; a well-meaning rhetoric cloaking policies that primarily serve the prosperous, forcing everyone else to bear the costs.

From Labour Ally to Gentrification's Champion?

Less than a year ago, Mansfield was campaigning in Basingstoke, urging voters to oust the Conservatives and replace them with Labour, criticising “years of Tory rule” for prioritising profit over people. Now, she seeks to unseat one of Labour’s safest London MPs. Admirers see adaptability; opponents see shape-shifting, akin to a political chameleon adjusting its colour to suit the prevailing climate.

For Labour voters in Hampstead & Highgate, the warning might lie in Richmond, where rents have skyrocketed, independent shops have been replaced by boutique chains, and longstanding tenants face eviction or ruinous lease renewals. Conservative voters will recognise a different but equally familiar pattern, a politician who advocates consultation and renewal but ends up delivering disruption and higher costs. In both cases, the common thread is top-down politics of displacement, the gradual replacement of a rooted community with a curated demographic.

Critics argue this is no accidental drift but the natural outcome of her political and professional instincts. Her ties to large consultancies and her British Land background reveal a comfort with top-down planning that marginalises grassroots voices, especially those of renters, social housing residents, and small traders. For those wary of the gentrification already transforming Highgate, be they socialists or suburban independents, Mansfield’s CV appears less like that of a neutral problem-solver and more like that of an architect of change designed to benefit developers, landlords, and the already well off.

What Hampstead & Highgate Should Expect

Many of the electorate in Hampstead & Highgate are well-educated, materially comfortable, and not easily swayed by branding alone. In Westminster, Mansfield will not conduct local consultations, yet the habits she displayed in Richmond will likely follow her, favouring optics over substance, adopting corporate-like regeneration models, and instinctively shielding the comfortable while claiming it’s for everyone’s good.

Voters would be wise to consider whether they are electing a genuine advocate for their community or a brand manager in a politician’s suit: fluent in the language of fairness, skilled at staging the photo opportunity, but with a record that leaves both natural Labour and Conservative supporters wondering whose interests she will truly serve once the cameras are gone.



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Celebrate the season with Kew Horticultural Society

From Kew Horticultural Society

On Saturday 23 August, residents are invited to join the 80th Kew Horticultural Society Summer Show on Kew Green.

The traditional produce fair will feature a glorious exhibit marquee bursting with vegetables, fruit, flowers, baking and crafts. There will also be horticultural-based stalls selling a variety of art, jewellery, plants, perfumes and more.

In addition to live music, Punch and Judy shows will be on stage throughout the day for the little ones. There will also be a food court selling delicious homemade cakes, tea, coffee and traditional lemonade.

Residents are welcome to join in the real fun by entering your homegrown produce, flowers, cakes or crafts into one of over 100 categories, with specific classes for children.



Event details:

- **Date:** Saturday 23 August 2025
- **Time:** 12.30 to 3.45pm
- **Location:** Kew Green, Richmond, TW9 3BH

You can [find out more about Kew Horticultural Society Summer Show](#).

Cocotte Richmond

I've been meaning to check out Cocotte's latest venue in Richmond for some time now, and finally managed a visit the other day. It opened last summer opposite Megan's, so it's another place that's ideal for pre and post cinema meals, lunches or lazy weekend brunches. The interior is smart and fresh, with banquette seating and a central bar. There are now six locations across London and the chain was founded by Romain Bourrillon with an ethos of sourcing top quality ingredients (in particular chicken) from independent family run farms in France, as well as supporting local producers where possible.

I started with an excellent Negroni while my husband enjoyed a Lucky Saint. The restaurant prides itself on its rotisserie chicken, so one of us was obviously destined to choose this as a



main. As my husband dislikes meat served on the bone, it was, of course, my treat. In order to avoid a surfeit of chicken, I chose the crispy pesto halloumi to start, while my husband opted for chicken tenders, and then a cheeseburger.

The portion of tenders was very generous indeed and it was served with the restaurant's special tomato ketchup - called Tomato Bliss - which was delicious, but was, in fact, largely a tangy

beetroot-based one. Served with a side salad, they would make a very good light lunch.

My halloumi was very tasty, served on a base of pesto dressing with whole pine nuts and topped with coils of spring onion and slices of chilli. It wasn't actually crispy, but that wasn't a problem - perhaps they should remove 'crispy' from the description?



One observation on the menu is that the only steak available is a 10oz rib eye (at £36.50). There's no way most people could eat that alone, so I'm assuming they are expecting people to share it. It's served with fries and their special herb sauce.

Of course chicken is their hero ingredient, and it's marinated for 24 hours in Cocotte's secret herb marinade and served with a choice of sauce (chicken jus, herb or Nduja). The portions are very generous and the chicken is incredibly moist and tasty. The sauces are thin, more like a North American gravy sauce but tasty. I asked to try a little of each sauce (being difficult!) and much as I love Nduja, I felt that this one didn't work with the herby flavouring of the chicken. It's worth pointing out that the servers are very happy to pack up any of your food that you can't manage, so that you can enjoy it again at home.

We shared a celeriac slaw that was packed with herbs and very crispy and refreshing - it was an interesting fusion of coleslaw and celeriac remoulade. The classic burger was a generous patty and served with fries.



A glass of chardonnay and another Lucky Saint complemented our mains beautifully.

Needless to say there was only room for one dessert... my husband chose a Mont Blanc (chestnut cream, vanilla ice cream, almonds, chantilly cream), and I managed to snaffle a spoonful. It was superb and incredibly rich, but light.

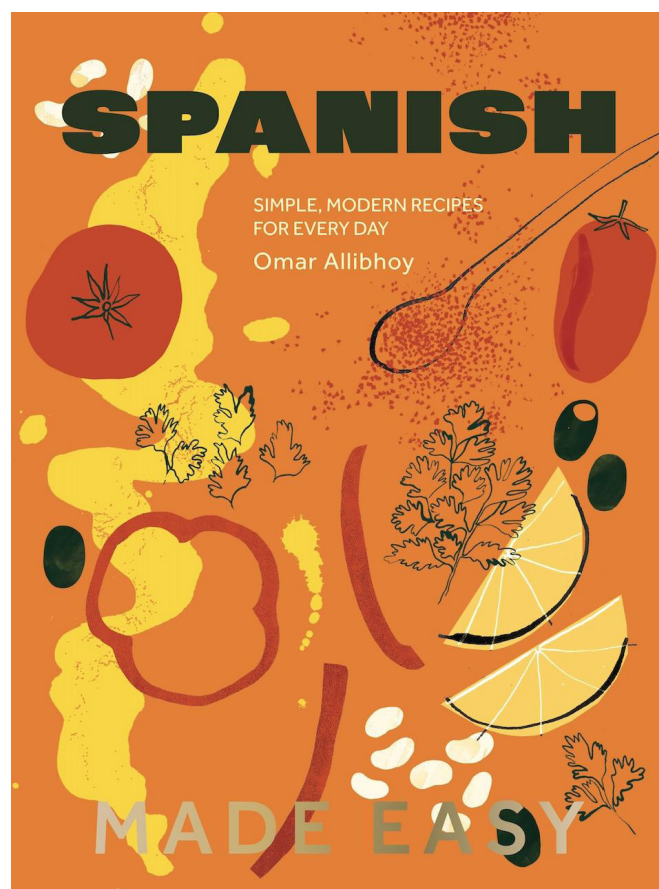
Cocotte has a number of good value set menus from £20 and is also open for brunch at the weekend.

In summary, it's a good value and tasty addition to the local dining scene.

Spanish Made Easy – Omar Allibhoy

If you've recently been lucky enough to visit Spain, or are planning to, this superb newly published book will really whet your appetite for all that delicious Spanish food.

Celebrated Spanish chef Omar Allibhoy returns with his latest cookbook, ***Spanish Made Easy***, a no-fuss guide to bold, vibrant home cooking rooted in the everyday dishes of Spain. Packed with accessible Mediterranean ingredients, including unearthed® found in UK supermarkets, smart shortcuts and the warmth of a Spanish family kitchen, this cookbook is made for people who love cooking but don't want the faff. With so many of us trying to eat a more Mediterranean diet, this is the perfect summer cookbook. This is a colourful hardback, published by Quadrille at £22, with lovely photography by © Martin Poole is packed with simple, modern recipes for everyday cooking. Here are a couple of recipes to show you how tempting they are, and easy:



TOSTA DE HIGOS CON JAMÓN

PAN-FRIED FIGS, SERRANO HAM, CREAM CHEESE AND WALNUTS ON TOAST

“Tapas are much easier to make at home than people think, and these days you can find most Spanish ingredients in your local supermarket so there is no excuse. Figs are at their peak in early autumn; make sure you buy soft and sweet ones.”

Serves 4 as a tapa

- 100g (1/2 cup) cream cheese
- 50g (1/2 cup) walnut halves
- 4 slices rustic bread, toasted
- 8 figs
- extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- a splash of sherry vinegar
- a pinch of rock or sea salt
- 8 thin slices of unearthed® Spanish Serrano Ham 90g

1. Mix the cream cheese with three-quarters of the walnuts, crumbling them between your hands and



- beating them into the cheese with a fork. Spread generously over the bread. Open your figs by cutting a cross at the pointed end and opening them out like a flower with your fingers.
2. Drizzle some olive oil into a pan over a medium heat and add the brown sugar. Add the figs and fry the bases only, without turning them; we only want to cook the bottoms of the figs. Watch that the caramel that forms in the pan doesn't burn.
 3. Add the sherry vinegar and turn off the heat.
 4. Place your hot figs over the toasts and drizzle with the hot vinaigrette from the pan. Top with a good drizzle of extra virgin olive oil, a pinch of salt and the slices of Serrano ham. Sprinkle with the remaining walnuts.

Easy swap: Try this recipe with melon instead of figs – it will be equally great.

HABAS CON CHORIZO / BEANS WITH CHORIZO

“Broad (fava) beans are widely consumed all over Spain. We love to eat them in many ways: in stews, soups and paellas, or even raw and salted as a snack. The tender seeds within the pod are delicious. The younger they are, the better, but obviously the more expensive, too.”

Serves 4 as a tapa

- 250g (2 cups) shelled broad (fava) beans (if you find baby broad beans, even better)
- 3½ tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- ¼ onion, finely chopped
- 5 garlic cloves, skin on but crushed
- 1 sprig fresh oregano
- 1 [unearthed®](#), Spanish Smoked Cooking Chorizo Sausage (about 90g/3 1/4oz), chopped
- grated zest and juice of ½ lemon
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- bread, to serve

1. Bring a large pan of salted water to the boil. Add the beans, bring back to the boil and then cook for 2 minutes. Drain and rinse with cold running water. Set aside.
2. Heat the olive oil in a frying pan over a medium heat and add the onion, garlic, oregano and chorizo. Sweat for 5 minutes, or until the onion is transparent and soft. Increase the heat to high, add the broad beans and sauté for a couple of minutes.
3. Add 2 tablespoons of water, the lemon zest and juice, season with some salt and pepper and serve with some good bread.



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Traveller's Tales 175

So Much To See In Northern France Part 2

Doug Goodman Continues His Visit To Aisne And Explores Laon



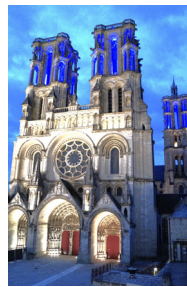
It dominates the landscape and is visible from miles away. You know when you are approaching Laon in the Department of Aisne when you see the towering spires of Notre Dame Cathedral on top of the city's fortified hill. Close up the building is stunning but illuminated at night and viewed from my hotel bedroom window, a few hundred metres away, it was a memorable sight. In the 8th century Laon was the capital of France during the reign of Charlemagne and the buildings on the hill top portray its long history. Over 6 kms of ramparts and a vast network of tunnels deep inside the hill have protected the city from many attacks. Known as 'Montagne Couronnee', (the Crowned Mountain), Laon is a delight to explore on a short break and sufficiently compact to visit most of its 83 historic monuments on foot. And the most important monument of all is the Cathedral.



Laon. Cathedral



City Gateway



Cathedral at Night

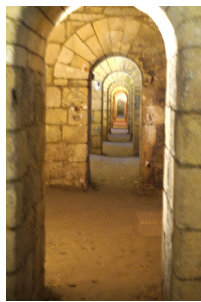


Cathedral Interior

Construction began in 1159 and today it is considered to be one of the finest examples of early Gothic style. I didn't try to climb the 252 steps to the rooftop to see the countryside spread out below or to get a close view of the amazing carvings of animals adorning the towers. But the thoughtful owners of my hotel in the square outside the cathedral had provided a telescope to examine the animals: sixteen oxen as well as a hippo and rhino. The area around the cathedral also contains the former Episcopal Palace and The Hotel Dieu, the first hospital in Laon in the 12th century. The Ardon Gates leads up to the old commandery where you can see the Chapel of the Knights Templar with a similar design to the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Next to it is a museum with a collection of Egyptian artefacts and European paintings. The tunnels beneath the hill have been used for centuries as a place of refuge during sieges and where quarrying provided the material for most of the buildings. A tour through the narrow passages accompanied by a commentary on their history was fascinating. As well as music and concerts there are food and wine festivals and an exhibition and parade of cars. For over 30 years classic cars from all over Europe – up to 700 – assemble in Laon.



Cathedral Tower with Animal Carvings



Underground Fortifications



Knights Templar Chapel



Abbey Ruins

DESTRUCTION

In WW1 the entire region was a battlefield. While the towns, villages and Laon itself suffered enormous damage, there are few scars visible after reconstruction. It is in the countryside where

visitors find vast cemeteries, many monuments and the remains of trenches. On the way to the infamous 'Chemin des Dames', I stopped at the Abbey Vauclair, or rather the ruins of the Cistercian Abbey founded a thousand years ago, it was destroyed in 1789 during the Revolution and then bombarded in 1917. The highlight of my visit, as a military history writer, was the tour of the museum and The Caverne du Dragon. Throughout the conflict of WW1 this area was a frontline position where fierce fighting took place. Below the trenches you can explore some of the 200 quarries which were home to tens of thousands of soldiers, both French and German. You can follow in the footsteps of troops and see the chapel, first aid station, command post and living quarters. The bottles of wine, the remains of a meal and the debris of war, left as they were found, provide a very moving testament to the endurance and bravery of the soldiers. Along an 18 mile trail the importance of this front line is apparent. After a guided tour of the tunnels visit the museum: it has an interesting display of uniforms, weapons and maps, which all help visitors to understand the strategic importance of The 'Chemin des Dames'. There's a good book shop. While most communities were rebuilt in the 1920s and 30s, some were totally destroyed with the surrounding area saturated with explosives and contaminated by gas. They were abandoned for all time. A small crater and a few bits of rubble are all that's left of Craonne. Before WW1 it was a thriving village but rebuilt a short distance from its former location.



Chemin des Dames Route



French Cemetery



Chemin des Dames Trench System



Dragon's Cavern

Laon is just a 40 minute drive from St. Quentin on the A26, the road you would have taken from the port of Calais. The two cities are easily covered in a long weekend with various battle sites nearby. The hotel where I stayed, Le Parvis, was superb. For 100 Euros a night I had a self-catering suite with two big bedrooms, a sitting area, kitchen and dining area and that telescope to admire the cathedral across the square. Sitting outside for dinner with a glass of local wine for 6 Euros follow by a meal 'Gourmande' for 45 Euros was an indulgent treat. The choice was: brioche with smoked salmon, foie gras or smoked salmon; prawns or fresh cod, beef or roast duck; profiteroles or tarte au citron or tiramisu. Yes, I did have a half bottle of Champagne, after all, the vineyards of Champagne and the city of Reims are very close. I hope I will have the opportunity to visit the beautiful region of Aisne with its sites, gastronomy and history in the future. It's so easy to get there.



View from the Fortifications



Village of Craonne Before 1914. (Image from Chemin des Dames Museum)



Nothing Remained of Craonne in 1918

Next time: The American Museum and how the US forces helped in 1918 to bring the war to an end.

Info: Ferry from Dover to Calais: www.DFDS.com Laon Tourist office: www.tourisme-paysdelaon.com Chemin des Dames museum and cavern: www.chemindesdames.fr Aisne tourism: www.jaimelaisne.com .Hotel in Laon, Logis du Parvis: www.logisduparvis.com

In The News

Headlines This Week: Chagos Deal to Cost £35 billion

Teresa Read

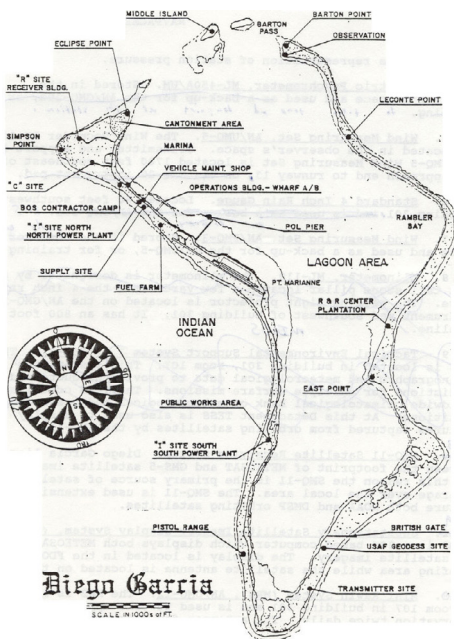


In Edition 447 of the Tribune, I highlighted the UK government's Chagos deal and the historical connections of the Chagos Islands and Diego Garcia, a military base.

During the last week, after the government handed over the Chagos Islands, headlines appeared in the UK media suggesting the lease will cost taxpayers considerably more than expected.

"In October 2024, the British government announced that it would transfer the Chagos Islands to Mauritius subject to finalisation of a treaty; the island of Diego Garcia would be leased back to the UK for at least 99 years. In 2025 Sir Keir Starmer, the UK Prime Minister, agreed a 3.4bn pound deal to hand over sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to [Mauritius](#), although retaining control of a UK-US military base in Diego Garcia.

The use of Diego Garcia as a base was agreed by the UK, the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The agreement included a £40m trust fund to support Chagossians: £165m in each of the first 3 years; years 4 to 13 £120m a year; further payments indexed to Inflation." [Tribune 447](#)



A map of military installations on Diego Garcia in 2002



Diego Garcia



B-2 bomber takeoff, B-52 bombers on tarmac on Diego Garcia



Sunset at Cannon Point

Just catch it...

By Deep Patel

~Life through the eyes of a Twickenham shopkeeper~

The one thing I have heard most this week from practically every customer that walked through my shop door (some have even said it two or three times before they left my shop) “isn’t it hot outside?”...I smile each time as if it’s the first time that I have heard someone say that today and worse still, somehow I then adopt saying it myself and as soon as customers approach my counter, before they have even said anything I say “oh gosh, isn’t it hot today?” and it’s like I am on auto pilot, it just comes out each time and I just say it... so in the end it ends up as a conversation between me and my customers saying to each other almost one after the other “isn’t it hot today”...try doing that all day from 7am to 8pm for thirteen hours...welcome to my world!

The other thing customers have noticed about me this past week is that I have been spending even more time on the phone behind the counter (yes even more than before) but as much as I would like to pretend that I am just so incredibly popular, as if I am getting constant phone calls from my friends, sadly it is not the reality...shopkeepers don’t have friends, everyone knows that...so who keeps calling me and who am I constantly messaging and talking to between serving my customers you may be thinking?

Well it’s around 50-60 strangers around London and beyond who have found an injured animal somewhere and want help in knowing what to do to save it. Most of my regular customers now know that between serving Coca Cola and crisps to them, I am busy saving the lives of 100’s of injured and abandoned animals all around London...you may or may not know, I am a coordinator for London Wildlife Protection and Animals First Rescue Group (as if shop work wasn’t hard enough as it is). The one thing that takes up most of my time is trying to explain to members of the public how to safely catch injured birds or baby squirrels...now I would think it is rather straight forward, but the amount of people who call me each day asking HOW to pick up/capture/contain injured birds and baby squirrels! I thought I could share my best technique here with the lovely readers of the Tribune as you never know when YOU may need them...So here are the main ways I recommend:

1. Get an empty box from a nearby business or shop, make many holes in it for air, block off any gaps in fences and areas where the bird/animal may escape otherwise. Try to lead the bird/animal into a corner and approach the bird/animal with the box and throw it over them (like catching a spider in a cup!) then gently use the flaps under to close the box or up-turn the box against a fence to capture and contain the bird/animal. Keep the box indoors safe away from predators (or in a shed or garage at least).
2. Alternatively, block any gaps where the bird may escape to (under fences to a neighbours garden or under dense undergrowth or bushes) and use a towel or jacket to throw over and envelope the bird/animal and pick up to place into a small ventilated box, close the lid (animals are less stressed if the box is closed as it is then dark in the box and they feel like it is night and simply go to sleep which is actually best for them!).

If you happen to be out and come across an injured animal, you can still contain the animal safely using the steps above and then knock on the door of a local persona and ask them to hold the bird safe or as a last resort place the closed box with a note on it reading “do not touch, injured animal, wildlife organization are coming to help” and ask a local shop to hold the box safe. If you have to go to find a box, please ask a passerby or a friend to watch the injured animal whilst you go to find the box or the animal be attacked or disappear in the meantime!

So explaining all these things above alone is what I spend most of my day doing... telling people not to be afraid of stressing out the injured animal but to know that yes, a bit of stress may occur placing the bird in a box but the stress of catching the bird to contain it safe in a box will be far better than the stress of the jaws of a fox or the claws of a cat...so you have to almost be cruel to be kind... so whatever you do, if you ever come across an injured animal, contain it by getting a paper bag or cardboard box from a local shop or any business and contain. Don't leave the box outside as a fox or cat will tear it up, keep indoors/garage/shed and make sure not too hot or too cold. Do not give food or water as that can also stress them out initially. The same goes for baby squirrels, wrap in a towel and keep face out for air. place in a small ventilated box and wrap a hot water bottle in a towel and place that under the box but only covering half his body (so he can wriggle off if he overheats). Don't try to syringe water or food into their mouths as they will simply aspirate and die sadly. Instead keep warm and call a wildlife rescue close to you as vets often can't help and have to put to sleep instead. London Wildlife Protection are best for pigeons, you can Google other wildlife rescue centres for other species and be proud that your efforts were the reason something lived today...

Also remember...if you have a cat and it catches an animal/bird, never release it, even if it looks well... cats claws and saliva harbour a type of bacteria that even a tiny scratch under the feathers etc (that you may not even see) will cause the death of the bird hours later if you don't get it antibiotics. So you have to take the bird to your local "wildlife centre"...vets can't usually help and may just euthanise, wildlife centres can help and will save their lives instead.

So there you have it....from moaning about how it's too hot outside to moaning about how half my life is taken up explaining to 100s of people a day how to safely contain an injured animal and coaching them on having the courage to do so...and selling a bit of chocolate, sweets and crisps to the lovely Twickenham folk in-between...it's all in a day's work for this shop keeper and as much as I may moan about it...do you know, I wouldn't change it for the world.

Have a fabulous week lovely Twickenham folk and remember what to do if you ever see and injured animal...every life matters.



Remember...

“...your little effort may save their entire life...”

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

REMEMBER...IF YOU ARE THIRSTY...SO ARE THEY

During these extra hot days, remember to leave a shallow bowl of water out in full easy view (perhaps on the lawn) so that severely dehydrated wildlife from insects to birds to hedgehogs and foxes (and all in-between) can keep living happy...go on... spread a little love, good karma, kindness and compassion in a world that so desperately needs it today...you never know when the karma will bless you back.

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

The Void, a new sci-fi horror is touring to The Exchange Twickenham

From Thunder Road Theatre

Horror theatre company Thunder Road, in association with Watford Palace Theatre, present *The Void*, a new sci-fi play made for the stage. The production visits The Exchange, Twickenham on Thursday 11 and Friday 12 September at 8pm.

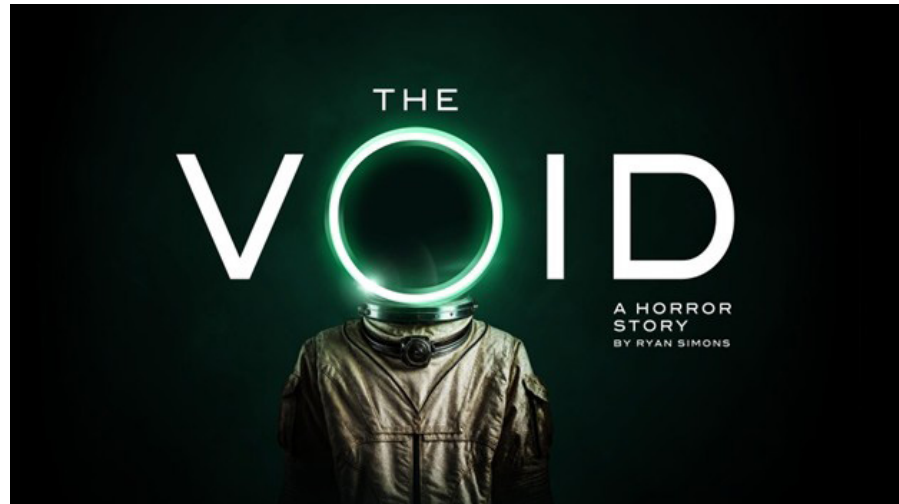
From the multi-award-winning Yorkshire company known for fusing multimedia, storytelling, and illusions, *The Void* promises a truly cinematic theatrical experience. Thunder Road began their journey by reimagining cult novels in 2011, working in association with Harrogate Theatre, and now tour nationally with original genre-bending original shows.

Dare you enter a world infected by fear?

Eight million miles from Earth, a mysterious distress call crackles through the ether and draws Flint, a haunted space ranger, towards the Odyssey – an ageing research vessel in the grip of a nightmare. Boarding the craft, he finds a failing ship, a missing crew, and a deadly force running out of control...

The Void is a chilling sci-fi horror created for the stage – a decaying future of

desperate humans, all-seeing AI, and memories of a distant, dangerous past. Combining powerful illusions, atmospheric projections and a creeping sense of dread, this story asks... what are you afraid of?



Writer and Director Ryan Simons will appear on stage as enigmatic scientist, Blair. His stage credits include: *Firebird* (Lawrence Batley Theatre), *Kes* (Perth Theatre Royal), *Crap Dad* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *The Tale of Teeka* (York Theatre Royal), and *Lord of the Flies* (Pilot Theatre Company).

On the show, Simons said: “*The Void is about fear in its many forms - the fear of the unknown, of being alone, of losing control. We’re using all the tools of theatre and cinema to take audiences on a journey they won’t forget.*”

Alex Moran will play the haunted space ranger, Flint. His credits include *War Horse* (National Theatre), *Quality Street* (Northern Broadsides & New Vic Theatre), *Beauty And The Beast*, *Aladdin* (Georgian Theatre) and *The Invisible Man* (Harrogate Theatre).

On the visit to Twickenham, Moran commented: “*The Exchange is an exceptional space for us to bring this show to life. Right in the heart of one of London’s most vibrant and exciting boroughs. We can’t wait to get started.*”

Renowned stage and screen actor Olwen May, known for her work in *The Bay* (ITV) and *Happy Valley* (BBC), will provide the voice for the mysterious off-stage character, NOVA.


Following *The Void*, Thunder Road will return to The Exchange later this year with their critically acclaimed ghost story set in an abandoned cinema, *Shock Horror* (Wednesday 29 - Thursday 30 October, 8pm).

THERE WILL BE A MARK ASPEN REVIEW OF THE VOID IN DUE COURSE

Showcase Richmond through your lens

From Arts Richmond

Share your unique view of Richmond before 19 September 2025 and have your photographs featured in a public exhibition celebrating local life and creativity!



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



Arts Richmond invites residents of all ages to submit photographs on the theme 'Richmond Life'. Entries will be displayed at The Landmark Arts Centre in Teddington, alongside the Richmond and Twickenham Photographic Society's Annual Exhibition from 27 September to 5 October 2025.

Participants may submit up to three entries and there is a £5 fee per entry. Each entry should be mounted, titled and have the photographer's name clearly displayed on the back of the mount. All submissions must be delivered to the Arts Richmond office by 19 September.

During the Richmond and Twickenham Photographic Society's Annual Exhibition, visitors will have the opportunity to take part

in a 'People's Choice' vote, selecting their favourite photograph from the entries.

Read the full [terms and conditions for the competition](#).



Support street trees in Kew and beyond

From Friends of Street Trees

On Thursday 21 August, residents are invited to hear from Friends of Street Trees and our Trees team about helping to water the young trees near your home - a small act that makes a big difference.

Do you know how you can help keep your neighbourhood green, or make it even greener? Trees suffer during warm weather just like we do, but you can play your part and make a real difference.

Friends of Street Trees are inviting anyone and everyone who cares about street trees to come along, share your views, ask questions, and put forward your ideas on how to protect trees on our borough's streets.

Hear from John Rose, founder of Friends of Street Trees, on what you can do about the tree outside your house, and Paul Maher from our Trees team, on how street trees are managed across the borough.

This free event is your opportunity to learn, connect, and take action to support a greener Kew.

- **Date:** Thursday 21 August 2025
- **Time:** 7.15pm
- **Location:** The Barn Church, Kew

[Register online](#) for your free place.



Street trees provide the shade and cool areas we seek out in the hot weather. They are pockets of nature in the middle of our paved world, helping to keep us healthy – mentally and physically - as we go about our lives. Yet they suffer from the heat just like we do; they need extra care when they are young, just like we do, and you can help!

Watch video [HERE](#)

St Mary's University

St Mary's Appoints Prof Ernest Caldwell as Executive Dean of Faculty

St Mary's University, Twickenham, has appointed Prof Ernest Caldwell as the new Executive Dean of the [Faculty of Arts, Business, Law, Education, and Theology](#) (FABLET).

ideally placed to lead FABLET as a vibrant, inclusive, and future-focused faculty, that prioritises student experience and real-world impact."

As Executive Dean of Faculty FABLET, Prof Caldwell will lead the [School of Business and Law](#), the [School of Education](#), and the [School of Theology and the Arts](#). He will play a pivotal role in driving interdisciplinary collaboration, championing teaching and research excellence, and ensuring the Faculty's programmes remain both academically rigorous and responsive to the needs of students and employers.



Prof Caldwell joins the University with over two decades of senior leadership experience across public, private, and independent higher education institutions in the UK and internationally. His distinguished career includes transformative roles at Regent College London, SOAS, Goldsmiths and Regent, where he has led large-scale strategic developments, advanced curriculum reform and developed innovative domestic and international partnerships.

Speaking of his appointment, Provost and Chief Academic Officer at St Mary's University [Prof Sara Spear](#) said, "We are delighted to welcome Prof Caldwell to St Mary's at such a pivotal moment in the University's growth. His extensive leadership experience and commitment to academic excellence make him

The creation of FABLET marks an exciting new chapter for St Mary's academic areas, bringing together diverse disciplines to foster creativity, critical thinking, and impact. Prof Caldwell's proven track record in regulatory compliance, quality assurance, and strategic growth will be instrumental in delivering the ambitions of the University's Academic Strategy and Vision 2030, including in driving successful and sustainable academic partnerships.

The University warmly welcomes Prof Caldwell to the St Mary's community, and looks forward to working with him as a key member of the academic leadership team.



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

HRUC Students Celebrate Outstanding Results Across A-Level, BTEC, T-Level and UAL Qualifications

Students at Harrow, Richmond, and Uxbridge Colleges (HRUC) are celebrating another exceptional year, with strong results across A-Level, BTEC, T-Level and University of the Arts London (UAL) qualifications – alongside incredible individual success stories. With many students now progressing to higher education, a high number heading to their first-choice university, onto apprenticeships, and into employment.

Dylan McTaggart, Deputy CEO, HRUC and Group Principal said *“As a fast-growing and ambitious college group, we’re proud to achieve these high results, further improving year on year. These outstanding results are a testament to our students’ determination and the dedication of our incredible staff, who go above and beyond to help every learner reach their potential.*

Our students are now progressing to top universities, competitive apprenticeships in fields from engineering to business, and straight into employment – proof that HRUC offers both academic excellence and a wealth of pathways to future success and careers.”



A-Level and T-Level Success

Highlights include:

1. A-Level students achieving excellent pass rates across our group of Colleges, with an outstanding 98% (75% A*- C) at Uxbridge College
2. High grades included 105 A*/A/B grades at Richmond upon Thames College and 126 at Uxbridge College
3. Excellent progression opportunities for students to top universities, including University of York, University of Nottingham, University of Southampton, University of Glasgow, and University of Warwick
4. T-Levels continued their strong performance with an outstanding 100% pass rate across Science, Digital and Construction subjects.



Creative Arts Achievements

UAL Extended Diploma students delivered exceptional results: Harrow 98% (100% in Creative Media), Richmond 99%, and Uxbridge 100% (including Media Production and Performing Arts). Overseen by the UAL Awarding Body these are a range of creative qualifications designed to support students' progression from entry-level to higher education or employment in creative industries.

BTEC Excellence

Vocational students excelled, with 71 Distinction*/Distinction grades at Harrow College, 90 at Richmond upon Thames College, and an impressive 250 at Uxbridge College – covering subjects such as Computing, Sport, Media, IT, Engineering and Business.

Look out for more student success stories on our websites and across our social media channels.

Your future starts here? [Click here for our enrolment dates and times!](#)



Ultimate guide to Red Roses' Women's Rugby World Cup campaign

Learn about the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025, including detailed insights on England Rugby's Red Roses.

As the 2025 Women's Rugby World Cup kicks off, here is the complete guide for everything you need to know about the tournament, including where to watch and who to look out for.



Women's Rugby World Cup details

Where is the Rugby World Cup being held?

The Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 is being played around England, with eight different host venues.

Games will take place across the country, including Sunderland, York, Brighton & Hove, Salford, Exeter, Bristol, Northampton and London.

Sunderland's Stadium of Light will host the opening game of the tournament, while Allianz Stadium, the Home of England Rugby, is the venue for the bronze final and final.

Where can I watch the Red Roses?

England's Red Roses are playing in Sunderland, Northampton, Brighton & Hove and potentially Exeter, Bristol and London.

If you can't make it to a game, their fixtures will be shown live on either BBC One, BBC Two or BBC iPlayer.

When is the tournament taking place?

The tournament will start when England's Red Roses play the USA in Sunderland on Friday 22 August and will end on Saturday 27 September with the final.

Over the course of six weeks, there will be games on each weekend, with the occasional Friday night fixture.

How does the Women's Rugby World Cup work?

The Rugby World Cup is made up of 16 teams, split into four pools of four. In each pool, every team plays each other once before the top two sides qualify for the quarter-finals.

During the pool stage, teams will be awarded four points for a win, two points for a draw and zero points for a loss. However, teams will also be awarded a bonus point if they score four tries or more, and/or if they lose by seven points or less.

The quarter-finals, semi-finals and final are knock-out matches, meaning the winner advances to the next round or, in the case of the final, lifts the trophy.

The Red Roses

Who are England Rugby's Red Roses?

The Red Roses are the England Senior Women's rugby team and are currently the no.1 rugby team in the world.

They compete in the Guinness Women's Six Nations, a tournament comprising the six top-ranked rugby teams in Europe, and have won the competition a staggering 15 times since 2002, when Italy joined.

In fact, the last time anyone but the Red Roses won the Six Nations was 2018, when France claimed the title. Additionally, since 2022 the Red Roses have won four successive Grand Slams, meaning they won every game of the tournament.

Who coaches the Red Roses?

[John Mitchell](#) is the head coach of the Red Roses and boasts an impressive CV, having coached the likes of the All Blacks, USA men and England men as a defence coach.

Mitchell is joined in his coaching staff by England's most-capped player and 2014 Rugby World Cup winner, [Sarah Hunter](#), as defence coach.

Former Wasps and Saracens player [Lou Meadows](#) is the team's attack coach, while former Leicester Tigers and England lock [Louis Deacon](#) is in charge of the forwards.

Who is the captain of the Red Roses?

Zoe Aldcroft is the captain of the Red Roses, having taken on the role in 2025 and led the team to the Six Nations title.

Aldcroft plays for Gloucester-Hartpury, the reigning Premiership Women's Rugby (PWR) champions, where she is co-captain alongside Red Roses teammate Natasha Hunt.

She is supported by Megan Jones and Marlie Packer, who are vice-captains for the Red Roses.

Women's Rugby World Cup history

Who are the current women's rugby world champions?

New Zealand's Black Ferns are the reigning world champions, having defeated the Red Roses in the final of the 2021 Rugby World Cup (played in 2022 due to covid).

Have the Red Roses ever won the World Cup?

England's Red Roses have won the Women's Rugby World Cup on two occasions, in 1994 and 2014. They defeated the USA 38-23 in the [final in 1994](#), before [beating Canada 21-9 in the 2014 final](#).

The Red Roses have also reached the final on eight occasions in total, only failing to do so in 1998 when they reached the semi-final.

Which teams have won the Women's Rugby World Cup?

Only England, New Zealand and the USA have won the Rugby World Cup since it began in 1991.

Canada have come closest to winning without doing so when they reached the final in 2014, while France have finished third on six occasions. Australia are the only other side to break into the top three, beating France to bronze in 2010.



Gtech 'powers up' to raise £100k for cancer charities after MD's diagnosis

A British home appliance firm is aiming to raise £100,000 for cancer charities after its managing director was diagnosed with the life-threatening disease.

Worcester-based Gtech has announced its ambitious fundraising target with proceeds split between Worcestershire Breast Unit Haven and Cancer Research UK.

The firm – which also hopes to boost awareness of rising cancer diagnosis – is planning a series of fundraisers, including a Bollywood-themed ball at the Gtech Community Stadium – home to Brentford Football Club, and one more locally in Worcester.

The campaign was launched after MD Jothie Walford (pictured, right), was diagnosed with Stage 2 breast cancer in February.

Jothie, 50 and a mum of two, said: *"When I got the diagnosis I couldn't believe it – I was in total shock; with no family history I never thought it would happen to me. My first thought went to my children – I didn't want them to grow up without a mum."*

"The day of my diagnosis was the worst day of my life. I have since found out that 150 people a day, every day, are also being diagnosed with breast cancer – they are having their worst day ever – and rates are increasing – why is that?"

"This made me want to raise money for both Cancer Research UK – to fund scientific research into finding out why rates are increasing, and helping cure it – and also for Worcestershire Breast Unit Haven which does so much to help those already impacted by breast cancer."

Jothie, who is still undergoing treatment, has so far felt well enough to continue to work, inspiring Gtech's new 'Powers Through Everything' campaign. However, she is keen to recognise that 'powering through everything' can mean different things to different people.

She added: *"Work has been very supportive and given me the freedom to work when I want to. The staff at Gtech, my family and friends have been very supportive, and I am grateful for that."*

To coincide with the fundraising campaign, Gtech is supporting Jothie's campaign by launching an exclusive, limited-edition Pink AirRam 3 – with profits from its sales going towards the £100k target.

The company is also offering anyone who can add £1000 to the fundraising sum a free Gtech product.

Leading Consultant Breast Surgeon for Worcestershire Mr Steven Thrush said: *"From the point of diagnosis through surgery and treatment, the team at the Worcestershire Breast Unit is committed to going above and beyond to care for our patients, as is our Worcestershire Breast Unit Haven charity that supports those patients over and above what the NHS can pay for."*

"It is therefore very special when patients decide to give something back and support us. We are delighted to be working with Gtech in this way."



Match Preview:

Nottingham Forest v Brentford

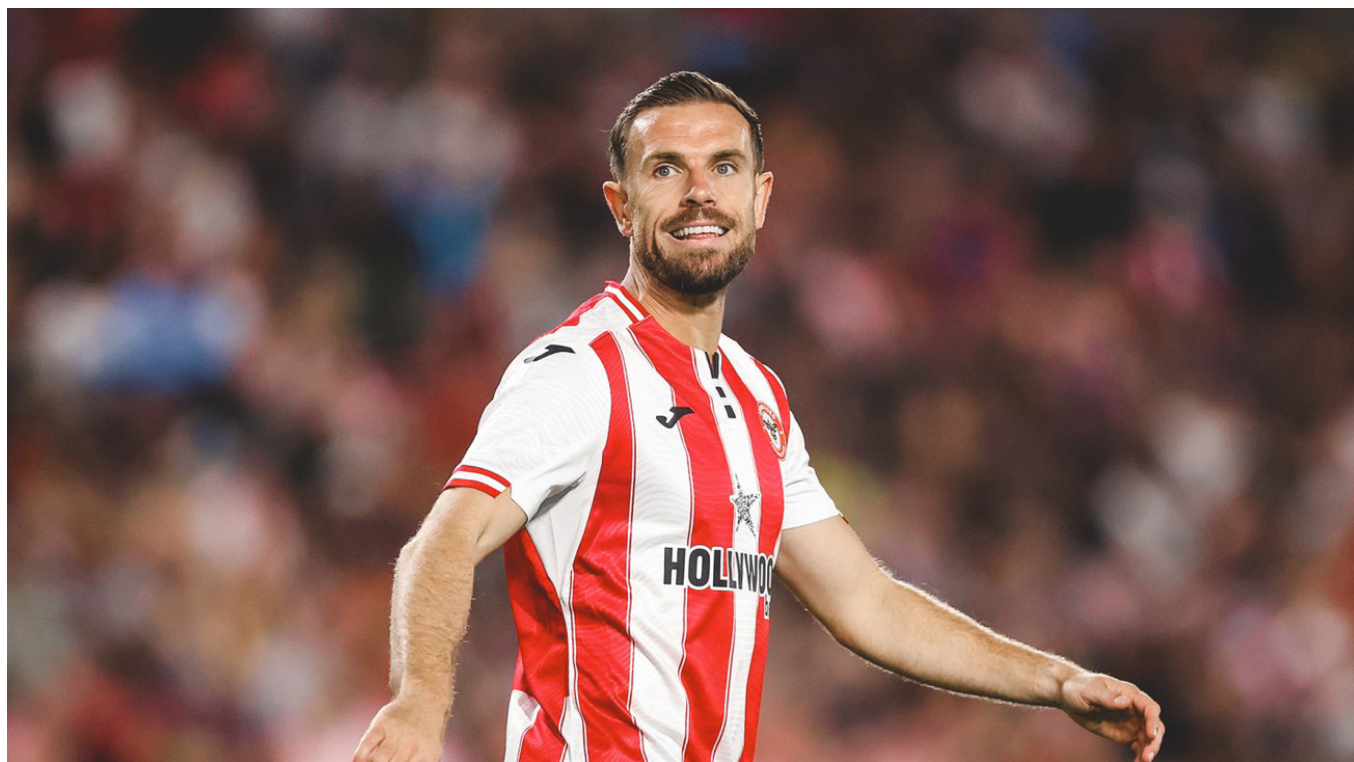
Written by Brentford Football Club

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of Brentford's first game of the Premier League season against Nottingham Forest at the City Ground on Sunday (2pm kick-off BST), which will be broadcast live on Sky Sports

The wait is over! Brentford return to Premier League action against Nottingham Forest at the City Ground on Sunday (2pm kick-off BST).

The Bees were victorious on their last visit to Nottingham - Kevin Schade and Yoane Wissa on target in a 2-0 win.

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know before Keith Andrews' first competitive game in charge, which will be broadcast live on *Sky Sports*.



Pre-match Analysis

Stephen Gillett, *Playmaker Stats*: Brentford must find a way to penetrate one of the Premier League's meanest backlines

Nuno Espírito Santo's Nottingham Forest host Brentford in Gameweek One of the 2025/26 Premier League this Sunday - and the Bees must crack the code to unlock one of the top flight's meanest defences.

One of six players to play every minute last term, along with Brentford's newly named captain Nathan Collins, Forest goalkeeper Matz Sels kept an impressive 13 Premier League clean sheets last season as the upwardly mobile Midlandsers launched an unlikely challenge for a Champions League spot.

They may have narrowly missed out on a top four finish, but Forest enjoyed an outstanding season and a quick look at their regimen this summer shows that Espírito Santo's side have lost none of their defensive resilience - as a whopping five of their seven warm-up games have finished goal-less!

Forest's no-frills defensive approach underpinned their push for Europe, and [Brentford head coach Keith Andrews](#) - on his Premier League debut as a manager - faces the challenge of finding a way to move the ball into dangerous areas at the City Ground.

Excluding goal kicks, the aforementioned Sels launched a higher percentage of his passes (74 per cent) and threw the ball out on fewer occasions (2.18 per 90) than any keeper in the top tier last term, which contributed to Forest (40.7 per cent) having the third lowest average possession share in the Premier League.

No-nonsense centre-backs Murillo and Nikola Milenković were also excellent last term and Forest's safety-first approach in their own box saw them average an almighty 32.1 clearances per game in 2024/25.

The Bees have looked to develop a more possession-based style to their game over recent seasons and there should be opportunities for the west Londoners to dictate the rhythm and tempo on Sunday.



Last season, no team won more top flight games by a single goal than Forest (12), and the margins are likely to be tight on Sunday - especially given the hosts' pre-season shutouts and the fact Brentford have conceded fewer Premier League away goals (just six!) than any team in 2025.

With fine margins in mind, set-pieces could play a vital role - and both sides posted incredible stats in this respect last season.

In Nikola Milenković, Forest boasted the joint most prolific defender in the Premier League last season and the Serbian's five set-piece strikes, and all-round threat from dead-ball situations, established him as a potent weapon in the armoury of a Forest side who scored more goals (17) from free-kicks, corner-kicks and throw-ins than any other team in the division.

Brentford were hot on Forest's heels from offensive set-pieces, however - bagging 13 goals themselves in this regard - while the Bees conceded just two goals from defensive set-pieces to outshine every other team in the Premier League when it came to negating opponents outside of open play.

To circle back to Forest's preparation games this summer, it is worth noting that The Garibaldis have hit the net just once in seven outings - Chris Wood's consolation in a 3-1 reverse against Fulham the only cause for celebration among Forest fans this pre-season.

The New Zealand international notched an impressive 20 Premier League goals last term, a milestone reached by only four other players (Salah, Isak, Haaland and Mbeumo).

Further, the imposing Kiwi scored the most headers (eight), averaged almost exactly a goal every four shots and scored 34 per cent of Forest's Premier League goals to underline his importance as the focal point of his team's attack.

Shorn of Anthony Elanga and Bryan Mbeumo respectively this Sunday, Forest and Brentford need to find fresh creativity in attack, while keeping it tight at the back, and how to play with risk - at the right times - may be uppermost in Bees head coach Andrews' mind ahead of his Premier League bow.

Scout Report

Dan Long, *Sky Sports*: Positivity aplenty as Forest prepare for historic campaign

Nottingham Forest only took five points from the final five games of 2024/25, which meant a top four Premier League finish that looked nailed on for so long just evaded them at the very end.



There was a gap of just four points to Chelsea and, agonisingly, only one to fifth-placed Newcastle United, who took the final Champions League spot, which meant Nuno Espirito Santo's side had to settle for a place in the Conference League.

Regardless, after an overall magical season, the Tricky Trees - two-time European Cup winners - had secured European football for the first

time since 1995/96, when they reached the UEFA Cup quarter-final under Frank Clark.

But the story did not end there.

Crystal Palace's FA Cup win earned them a Europa League place, but former shareholder and Lyon owner John Textor missed the deadline to place his shares into a blind trust - and thus circumvent penalties relating to multi-club ownership, with the Ligue 1 club having already qualified for the same tournament.

Owing to their league position (sixth) bettering that of Palace (12th), Lyon took precedence over the Eagles, who appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Forest owner Evangelos Marinakis - who also owns Olympiakos - sorted his shareholding before the deadline.

On Monday 11 August, CAS rejected the appeal, which means Palace have been demoted to the Conference League and Forest will play in the Europa League next season instead. The south London club are reportedly considering their next legal options.

In the meantime, Marinakis was said to be holding off on the pursuit of several summer transfers until the outcome of the case was revealed - and now the purse strings are set to be well and truly loosened.

The signings of Brazilian pair Igor Jesus and Jair Cunha, and Switzerland forward Dan Ndoye, had reportedly set the club back just shy of £55 million and, at the time of writing, a move for James McAtee from Man City is edging closer, while interest in Omari Hutchinson remains.

Monaco's Soungoutou Magassa and Liverpool's Kostas Tsimikas have also been linked in recent days, but tying down Morgan Gibbs-White to a new three-year contract, after reported interest from Tottenham Hotspur, will likely prove just as important as any new additions, such is his influence.

It is worth noting that adding another competition to an already busy schedule can sometimes have an adverse impact on clubs, hence why there are currently similar prices for Forest to finish in the top six (8/1) and get relegated back to the Championship (17/2). That is a conversation for a few months' time, though.

With the ink dry on the CAS ruling, there is positivity aplenty as Forest begin their fourth straight season in the Premier League - their longest streak to date - and prepare for those long-awaited Thursday nights under the lights in Europe.

In the Dugout

Nuno Espírito Santo

Once signed by José Mourinho during his time at Porto, Nuno Espírito Santo had a long career as a goalkeeper - though often played second fiddle - primarily spent in Portugal and Spain, with time in Russia at Dynamo Moscow during 2005 and 2006.

Nuno retired in 2010, after his second spell at Porto, but quickly went on to become a goalkeeper coach at Malaga, then Panathinaikos, working with his former manager Jesualdo Ferreira each time.

He returned to Portugal to take on his first managerial role with Rio Ave in the summer of 2012 and remained at the club for two years.

He was then hired by Valencia, whom he guided to a fourth-place finish in La Liga in 2014/15, though he resigned less than four months into the following campaign after three defeats in their first five Champions League group matches, as well as five wins from the first 13 league matches, which left them languishing in ninth when he departed.

Porto decided to take a chance on their former player in 2016/17, yet he only saw out half of his two-year deal as the club opted to replace him the following summer after he failed to deliver silverware, despite losing only six of his 49 games in charge.

The 51-year-old is perhaps best known for the four years he spent at Wolverhampton Wanderers. He joined the club at the end of a chaotic 2016/17 campaign - during which they had three permanent managers - and led them to promotion out of the Championship at the first time of asking.

In 2019/20, Wolves recorded their joint-highest Premier League finish (seventh), their highest points tally (59), as well as reaching the quarter-final of the Europa League.

Having left Molineux by mutual consent in June 2021, Nuno went to Tottenham Hotspur and started well with three straight Premier League wins. But he lasted only four months in the job, having followed up those victories with five defeats across the next seven.

He then spent 16 months in Saudi Arabia, guiding Al Ittihad to the Saudi Pro League title and Saudi Super Cup, and returned to England to take the job at Forest just before Christmas 2023, having been sacked little over a month earlier.

On 21 June, Nuno signed a contract running until the summer of 2028.



Care Safe customer story

From Care Safe

Mr. Ahmed Ashtari, Care Safe customer testimonial

Ahmed lives in Putney, South West London where he has been for 40 years. Over the past two years he has been making regular visits to St George's Hospital in Tooting. Aged 64, his left leg, from ankle to knee, has been in a cast for 18 months and he's currently unable to walk. He's been using Care Safe to take him to the hospital and back after other similar services asked for cash only which he did not feel comfortable with. His GP, who Ahmed rates as excellent, recommended he try Care Safe and he's very happy with the service. He considers it very professional and thorough as they collect him from his home and lock his wheelchair down in the ambulance and then wheel him into hospital to his appointment and then collect him and take him home following the appointment. He is pleased that he can just call up and pay for the services on his debit card as he has no online access. He says all the staff at Care Safe are very polite and address him as 'Mr. Ashtari' which he appreciates.



Mr. Ashtari nearly had to have his leg amputated but thankfully, following operations and with post-op treatment underway, he is now learning to walk again with the help of a physio. He says that Care Safe is very good as they get him comfortably and safely to his appointments. He says: 'I'm happy to have them and would certainly recommend them to those in a similar position.'

Samit Biswas, founder & CEO of Care Safe comments:

"When I was younger, I watched close family members struggle to get to appointments safely and on time. We felt alone, confused, and unsure where to turn. That stayed with me. I founded Care Safe to be the service I wish we'd had – responsive, reassuring, and human. Mr. Ashtari's story is a reminder of why we do what we do. Behind every call is a family in need of peace of mind, and I'm proud that our team delivers that. It's not just about transport – it's about trust, dignity and care at a time when people feel most vulnerable."

About Care Safe

Since it started trading in August 2023, Care Safe has embarked on a mission to revolutionise healthcare delivery through artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) technology, providing vulnerable people across the UK with a comprehensive range of direct-to-doorstep healthcare services, such as transportation, blood tests and personal care. This personalised

approach makes affordable and immediate healthcare services more accessible for vulnerable communities and individuals who will not need to wait for ambulances or vital tests. This enhances patient care for those that need added support whilst alleviating the pressure on NHS waiting lists and unnecessary A&E visits, providing advantages across the healthcare ecosystem.

Established in London, Care Safe provides UK-wide access to comprehensive round-the-clock, healthcare solutions and services for corporate, insurance, or self-paying clients.



Specialising in non-emergency patient transport and private ambulance services, Care Safe offers 24-hour bed-to-bed transportation services, for individuals with disabilities and elderly people, to hospitals, clinics and laboratories. Services include home visits by qualified healthcare professionals for medical assessments, continuous patient health status monitoring treatment, ongoing care management, a medicine reminder system, fall prevention technology, patient monitoring services with geo-fencing capabilities and automated vitals collection.

With the skill gaps in the UK's health and social care industry, urgently needing to be addressed to meet the growing needs of vulnerable populations, Care Safe also provides a 12-month hands-on CPD/NVQ accredited training programme for care workers, healthcare professionals and auxiliary nurses so they are equipped to handle the challenges of caring for older people and people with disabilities. Care Safe also provides medical tourism to assist travellers from other parts of the world coming to the UK.

Samit Kumar Biswas, CEO & Founder at Care Safe, comments; *"We are building patented digital safeguarding technology along with the services to deliver world-class health and social care services that make a tangible difference in people's lives. Unlike other companies in our space, we just not building the technology, but actively using technology to bring healthcare directly to the doorstep, having already supported over 5,000 people across the UK through our transport and care services. As we continue to grow, we strive to make home-based healthcare the norm, ensuring that quality care is a right, not a privilege."*

By implementing digital safeguarding measures using facial recognition technology and AI-powered algorithms, Care Safe facilitates early intervention and personalised care for vulnerable adults. This improves health outcomes, enhances safety and independence, providing cost-effective healthcare and personalised care management. By monitoring and analysing behavioural patterns in real time, Care Safe can proactively identify and mitigate potential risks, ensuring the safety and well-being of vulnerable individuals.



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