# Twickenham Tribune & Richmond Tribune



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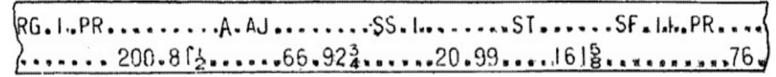
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## TickerTape - News in Brief

## **South Western Railway**

Altered train services and buses replace trains in the Barnes area Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September

The lines in the **Barnes** area will be **closed all weekend** due to maintenance work. **Queenstown Road** station will be **closed all weekend**. Please use other nearby stations. Due to the diverted services, some services via **Wimbledon** will be **revised**.

#### **Saturday**

- London Waterloo to Reading services will be revised and will be diverted between Clapham Junction and Twickenham. These services will call additionally at Kingston and Strawberry Hill.
- London Waterloo to Windsor services will be revised and will be diverted between Clapham Junction and Twickenham. These services will call at all stations between Clapham Junction and Twickenham via Kingston.
- London Waterloo to London Waterloo via Wimbledon and Kingston services will be revised and will run between Kingston and Richmond only.
- Buses will run between Clapham Junction and Twickenham via Richmond. (These buses will not call at St Margarets).
- London Waterloo to Weybridge via Staines services will start from Kew Bridge.
- Buses will run between Clapham Junction and Kew Bridge.

#### Sunday

- London Waterloo to Reading services will be revised and will be diverted between Clapham Junction and Twickenham. These services will call additionally at Wimbledon, Kingston and Strawberry Hill.
- London Waterloo to Windsor services will be revised.
   An hourly service will be diverted between Clapham Junction and Twickenham via Kingston calling at all
  - stations.
    An **hourly** service will start from **Richmond** and will call additionally at **St Margarets.**
- London Waterloo to London Waterloo via Wimbledon and Kingston services will be revised and will run between Kingston and Richmond only.
- Buses will run between Clapham Junction and Twickenham via Richmond. (These buses will not call at St Margarets).
- London Waterloo to Woking via Staines services will be revised and will start from Kew Bridge.
- The afternoon and evening **London Waterloo to Kingston via Hounslow** services will **not** run.
- Buses will run between Clapham Junction and Kew Bridge.



## Support For Ukraine By Doug Goodman

A considerable number of Ukrainians joined local residents last Sunday in Twickenham for a very special event. Music, dance, food and drink and traditional Ukrainian costumes ensured a very colourful time for the fund raising 'Support Ukraine' day. The local Ukrainian committee helped to



organise the celebration of Ukrainian culture.



















## When Councillors Call the Police on the Press

By James Knight

#### A Warning from Munich

When U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance stood at the Munich Security Conference in February, he issued a blunt warning: free speech in Europe is being eroded by governments too ready to brand criticism as "misinformation" and to shut down voices they dislike. Democracies, he argued, cannot thrive if criticism is treated as a crime.

That warning should echo in Richmond borough this week.

#### From Road Markings to Police at a Surgery

The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune recently reported on a row in Whitton that spiralled from a dispute over road markings into a full-scale political spectacle. St George's crosses painted on Powder Mill Lane drew sharp condemnation from Liberal Democrat councillors. Cllr James Chard dismissed those involved as "knuckle draggers". Cllr Wilson, councillor for Heathfield Ward, husband of Munira Wilson MP, and a senior party strategist, went further, challenging residents who defended the act to confront him directly at his surgery in Whitton Library.

The result was predictable: tensions escalated, online hostility surged, and police officers were dispatched to a councillor's surgery. Not to deal with burglary or anti-social behaviour, but to keep order after a political challenge went too far.

#### Recklessness, Not Leadership

The Tribune article described this as recklessness and a failure of leadership. Councillors, after all, should calm situations, not inflame them. Every officer diverted to Whitton Library was one less available to address real crime. It was precisely the sort of scrutiny that local journalism exists to provide.

But there is another consequence. The carefully cultivated public image of Munira Wilson MP, a political brand defined by moderation and accessibility, is jeopardised by association with her husband's combative interventions. His frequent resort to social media confrontation, in which even the mildest grumble invites a forceful challenge, may galvanise party loyalists. Yet such displays, while energising to allies, risk being perceived by undecided voters as symptomatic of arrogance, thereby eroding political capital.

#### When the Police are Tagged in Virginia

Richmond's senior Liberal Democrats did not take the opportunity for reflection. Instead, they attacked the paper. Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, dismissed the article as "uninformed". More surprisingly still, Cllr Piers Allen, chairman of the local party, attempted to call in the police on social media, but mistakenly tagged the Richmond Police Department in Virginia, USA. The irony is profound and instructive. In that jurisdiction, the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states plainly:

"Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press."

American officers would have no truck with such a complaint. Free speech there is a constitutional guarantee, not a favour extended when convenient.

#### **Why This Matters**

When politicians in Britain hint at police action against journalists, they cross into dangerous territory. It is not robust debate, it is intimidation. Local journalism may be uncomfortable for those in office, but it is vital for residents who want transparency and accountability.

And while Richmond's leaders may wish to brush aside the Tribune's reporting, the bigger risk may be political. If the council continues down this path, it is not only the standing of its senior figures that suffers. The reputation of Munira Wilson herself may also be imperilled, her political brand diminished by association.

Vance's warning in Munich was aimed at Europe's leaders. But the lesson lands squarely here at home: a democracy, and a political brand, that cannot tolerate scrutiny is already on the road to losing trust.

## Next week at Richmond Council

On Monday, 15th September, the **Richmond & Wandsworth Joint Staffing Committee** will meet at 6.00 pm in the Terrace Room, York House. The agenda includes 1) the workforce indicators and trends report for the first quarter of the year, and 2) a Part II exempt item on Resident Services. For more details, click <u>HERE</u>.

Also on Monday, 15th September, the **Adult Social Services, Health & Housing Committee** will meet at 7.00 pm in the Salon, York House. The agenda covers 1) homelessness forecasts and the lettings plan for 2025/26, 2) annual presentations from housing associations MTVH and PA Housing, 4) the quarterly monitoring report, 5) update care technology in adult social services, 6) sexual health procurement, 7) suicide prevention strategy, 8) safeguarding adults board reports, and 9) joint health and overview scrutiny committee update.

For more details, click **HERE**.

On Tuesday, 16th September, the **Environment, Sustainability, Culture & Sports Committee** will meet at 7.00 pm in the Salon, York House. Items include 1) adoption of the new Richmond upon Thames Local Plan, 2) flood resilience works at Barnes Green under the community blueScapes programme, 3) Sport, Leisure & Physical Activity Strategy upadate, and 4) the first quarter budget monitoring report. For more details, click <u>HERE</u>.

On Wednesday, 17th September, the **Planning Committee** will meet at 7.00 pm at York House. The committee will consider 1) application 25/0069/VRC relating to 100 Church Road, Teddington, which seeks a variation to remove the restricted working-hours condition. For more details, click HERE.

On Thursday, 18th September, the **Education & Children's Services Committee** will meet at 7.00 pm in the Salon, York House. The agenda includes 1) the Kingston & Richmond Safeguarding Children Partnership annual report for 2024/25, 2) the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection of Children's Services, 3) an update on the SEND Futures Plan and financial model, 4) the Children's Services statutory complaints report for 2024/25, 5) the Corporate Parenting annual report, and 6) the first quarter budget monitoring report.

For more details, click HERE

For guidance on how to **participate** at different types of council meetings, such as speaking or asking written or verbal questions, please click <u>HERE</u>

## The new Elleray Centre in Teddington will be opening soon!

What events or activities would you like to see there?

By Elleray Community Association

Soon, the builders will begin to put the finishing touches to the wonderful new community centre in North Lane, right in the heart of Teddington. By the end of October, it should be up and running – the most exciting piece of social infrastructure that Teddington has seen for

decades!

The Centre will become the new home of Elleray Community Association (ECA), a local charity that runs a social club that is especially popular with older residents living in and around the area. This charity will also be managing the Centre. Among the



The new Elleray Centre is taking shape!



facilities will be a good sized hall that can be divided into two entirely separate rooms, two further rooms on the first floor as well as smaller rooms suitable for therapists or one to one consultations or counselling sessions. There will also be an attractive café area, a lounge and a colourful garden with seating. The entire building is wheelchair accessible, there is a large car park directly opposite and it is within a short walk of buses from Hampton Hill, Twickenham and Kingston.

ECA's vision is to make the new Centre much, much more than just a home for their social club. Thanks to the flexible design and imaginative layout, even when the social club is in full swing, there will still be space available for classes and activities that will appeal to a very broad cross section of the local community.

The charity's Chair, Joan Barnett BEM, explains, "We want to develop the new Elleray Centre into a real community asset with something to offer to just about everyone living in the area. So we are



talking with dozens of local instructors, tutors and activity organisers, encouraging them to bring their classes or groups to the centre."

A number of tutors and instructors have already booked space for their classes but there is room for plenty more as the Centre will be open until 10.00 pm Monday to Saturday and until 4.30 pm on Sundays.

#### What would you like to see at the Centre?

There will certainly be a number of classes for enthusiasts of yoga, pilates and other fitness and well being disciplines. Discussions are also well under way with various organisations and charities including some that provide services and activities for younger people.

But we'd love to hear what would tempt you to leave the comfort of your own home and come down to The Elleray Centre. So please tell us what events or activities you would like to see there.



Maybe you'd enjoy talks and lectures – tell us what subjects would really interest you! Science? Politics? Local history? Maybe you're into comedy nights, arts and crafts or music of some kind. Perhaps something a little more serious and practical – talks on health topics (tell us which ones!), how to write a CV and prepare for a job interview, home security,

women's safety on the streets at night or cooking for one? Perhaps you'd enjoy coming along and taking part in activities with social overtones - whist drives, quiz nights, wine tasting ... the possibilities are endless.

Whatever your hobby, your interest or even your passion, we'd love to hear about it. After all, we want this community centre to appeal to as many local people as possible. And the way to achieve that is to organise the kind of classes, activities and performances that people want to go to. Sadly, we are not mind readers, so you'll have to tell us what they are!

Of course if your passion is rather niche, we may not be able to cater for it, but if we receive similar suggestions from a number of different people, we will certainly see what we can do!

#### Get in touch!

Please go to the new web site – <a href="www.elleraycentre.org">www.elleraycentre.org</a> – and click on the green CONTACT button. That will take you directly to an enquiry form in which you can tell us what it is that you would like to see at the centre. Maybe you'd even like to run an activity there yourself!

Over the next few months you will be hearing about our plans for the opening. But in the meantime do get in touch and tell us what would make it a place that *you'd* enjoy coming to!

North Lane, Teddington TW11 0HJ Telephone: 020 8977 0549

www.ellerycentre.org

enquiries@elleraycentre.org



## TfL launches consultation on Barnes bus services

From TfL

Transport for London (TfL) has launched a public consultation on proposed changes to bus services in Barnes, Mortlake and the surrounding areas.

The consultation, which runs until 22 October, invites residents, commuters and stakeholders to share their views on adjustments to routes 209, 378, and 485, and the proposed withdrawal of route 533.

Route 533 was introduced in 2019 as a temporary measure following the closure of Hammersmith Bridge to vehicles. TfL now proposes to maintain direct bus links between Hammersmith and Castelnau by extending route 209 to cover most of the current 533 route. Additional changes are also proposed for Samuel I



routes 378 and 485 to improve connectivity and service efficiency.

All other bus routes in the Barnes area remained unchanged as part of these proposals.

TfL is hosting three drop-in events where residents can learn more and speak directly with the consultation team:

- Tuesday 30 September, 4 to 7pm at Rose House, Barnes Community Association, 70 Barnes High Street, SW13 9LD
- Tuesday 7 October, 4 to 7pm at St Mary the Virgin Church, Mortlake High Street, SW14 8JA
- Saturday 11 October, 11am to 2pm at Barnes Methodist Church, Station Road, SW13 0NH

Your feedback will help shape the future of local bus services, ensuring they meet the needs of the community.

You can view the proposals and submit your comments.

To contact TfL about these proposals, email <a href="mailto:haveyoursay@tfl.gov.uk">haveyoursay@tfl.gov.uk</a> or call the 020 3054 6037 call back service.

## Centre Stage? More like Stage Left!

Commentary by James Knight

Richmond Council trumpets its new Centre Stage festival as a day of "creativity and community." It may be marketed as fun for the family, but one might wonder whether this is more about the Council's ideological outlook than about Richmond's culture.

#### **Activist Aesthetics Disquised as Family Fun**

The glossy programme is littered with ideological signals you would normally only see at a Guardian-reading dinner party in Islington. Families are invited not just to enjoy theatre, but to join banner making and "protest workshops." Streets are not merely decorated, they are "reclaimed," language lifted straight from activist playbooks.

Even the food carries a message, with communal 'long table' dining promoted as a symbol of togetherness — or, some might say, collectivism.

The ordinary trappings of a festival are repurposed to carry a message: community



life, in the Lib Dem telling, must always be collective, always activist, always eco-political. The Council promises joy and unity, yet everything about the programme hints at a stage-managed sermon: one designed for social media photo-ops, not for Richmond families.

#### The Sustainability Sermon

Layered onto this is a relentless sermon on sustainability. Festivalgoers are steered towards recycled banners, instruments made from waste, and second hand fashion stalls. All of this is trying to outflank the Green Party who they fear will replace them, but has precious little to do with celebrating Richmond's true culture or heritage. What should be an opportunity to showcase the borough's traditions and local identity is instead turned into a lecture on the Council's favourite causes. Even before the first stall is set up, it is clear the tone will be less village fête, more XR-Rebellion political meeting.

#### A Hidden Transport Agenda

More troubling still is the hidden agenda, transport policy by stealth. For one day only, cars will be banned from crossing Richmond Bridge, with drivers forced onto the already overstretched A316. What is being sold as a street party is, in fact, a live test of a giant Low Traffic Neighbourhood, the Council's long-term ambition for Richmond, as confirmed by Cllr Ehmann in various Transport Committee meetings. Only the Liberal Democrats could go further still, drawing on the language and aesthetics of Extinction Rebellion to present a road closure as 'culture' and then rebrand it as a festival. No one has yet walked down George Street in costume, but the real performance has already been written: motorists as villains, councillors as heroes, and residents as unwilling extras.

#### **Businesses Left Out in the Cold**

This sleight of hand comes at a cost to local businesses. Traders on George Street rely on passing traffic and easy access for customers. Yet for a whole day, shoppers will be driven elsewhere. Cafés and shops who already struggle with rising rents and rates will find themselves collateral damage in a political experiment. Small businesses were never asked whether they wanted their busiest shopping street turned into an activist stage, nor whether they could absorb the loss of a day's trade in an already difficult climate. To many, this will feel like the Council putting ideology before livelihoods. For shopkeepers who sometimes lend the Lib Dems a vote, this is a reminder, some might feel, that the Council is more attuned to activist causes than to the concerns of its own high street.

#### A Festival for One Class, Paid by Another

This festival also carries a clear class signal. The recycled art stalls, banner making workshops and "long table dining" may delight the borough's professional middle classes who already share the Council's progressive worldview, but they leave many ordinary residents cold. Tradespeople, shopkeepers and commuters, who rely on easy access across Richmond Bridge, will be the ones inconvenienced by the closures, while ratepayers from all walks of life are expected to foot the bill for a spectacle designed to flatter a very particular and privileged social set.

Traditional working-class culture, pubs, football, local heritage events, are quietly sidelined, replaced instead with a metropolitan brand of protest chic that appeals to the Council's own political tribe. Before a single song has been sung, the class divide is baked into the programme. This is not a unifying Richmond event; it is an agenda that feels imported from Islington, rather than rooted in Richmond's own traditions.

#### Graffiti as "Art"

What will concern many parents is how the festival is deliberately encouraging children to experiment with graffiti, presenting it as creativity rather than vandalism. To many families, that feels like pushing impressionable young people onto the wrong path in life, normalising behaviour that blights neighbourhoods.

It is striking, too, that the same Council has quietly scaled back efforts to clean up graffiti across the borough. Taken together, it reveals a distinctly left-wing mindset: celebrate anti-social behaviour when it suits the cause, but leave residents to live with the consequences.

#### Ignoring Richmond's Real Culture

The contrast could not be starker. Richmond is blessed with deep history and genuine cultural assets, royal connections, the river, its heritage architecture, and a strong tradition of the arts. Instead of championing these, the Council has chosen to subsidise protest aesthetics, multicultural performance collectives and transport trials imposed on unsuspecting residents and businesses. This is not the civic culture that brings communities together around shared history and pride, it is a contrived spectacle that fragments rather than unites. Even before the bunting is strung, it is obvious this is a showpiece designed for the Lib Dems' national brand, not Richmond's local identity.

#### **Politics on the Rates**

Centre Stage is not a festival for Richmond. It is centre stage for the Lib Dems' political project, and it is ratepayers, motorists and small businesses who are being written out of the script. This feels less like community celebration and more like politics presented in costume. And it is residents who are left footing the bill.

The Local Government Publicity Code forbids spending public money on politics. Richmond's Lib Dems are sailing very close to the wind, turning ratepayers' cash into a subsidy for protest culture and road-closure experiments.

The truth is that while residents want value for money, safe roads, respect for the environment and support for local shops, the Liberal Democrats are wasting their time and your money on vanity parades and activist indulgences. They are not representing the majority of Richmond residents; instead, they are importing the indulgent politics of Islington, left-wing Guardianista radicalism disguised as culture. It is no coincidence that the festival's organiser, Cllr Katie Mansfield, is also standing as the Lib Dem candidate for Islington South and Finsbury at the next general election. This is not about Richmond at all; it is about promoting her party's ideological agenda. Richmond deserves better. Back in the Clegg years, the Lib Dems sold themselves as the party of the centre ground. But if closing Richmond Bridge, importing Extinction Rebellion chic and dressing it up as culture is their new idea of centrism, then the centre has drifted a long way left. Voters who wanted balance may now feel they need a new home.

Centre Stage Richmond, 11 am to 7 pm. For full details, click HERE

#### AVANTON:

## MANOR ROAD



Dear Neighbour,

Avanton are working on emerging proposals to update the existing planning permission (19/0510/ FUL: replacement of all existing buildings to deliver new homes, retail, community, and office spaces) at the Homebase site on Manor Road.

We would like to invite you to attend three upcoming consultation events. Two will take place in person and one will be an online webinar. At these sessions we will present the proposed updates and listen to your feedback. Members of the project team including representatives from Avanton and our architects will be available to answer any questions you may have. The in-person sessions will take place:

Holy Trinity Church, Sheen Park, Richmond TW9 1UP

Thursday, 18th September from 06:30pm to 9:00pm The Mitre, 20 St Mary's Grove, Richmond TW9 1UY

Saturday, 20th September from 09:00am to 11:30am



The webinar will take place: Monday, 22nd September from 06:30pm - 7:30pm

Link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_UJxIrdA2TtqQEV-mzMo\_OQ">https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_UJxIrdA2TtqQEV-mzMo\_OQ</a>

If you cannot join us, you will still be able to view the proposals and share your feedback via our project website or by contacting us at.

SCAN HERE FOR ZOOM WEBINAR EVENT LINK



We are committed to working closely with neighbours throughout this process and look forward to hearing your thoughts. Your comments will help shape the proposals before they are submitted to Richmond Council.





manorroad-community.co.uk

The webpage will go live after the final exhibition event



feedback@manorroad-community.co.uk

## Fashion meets flora

Kew's Material World festival champions a greener future for fashion Temperate House, Kew Gardens | 20 September – 2 November 2025

This autumn, leading artists, award-winning designers and expert horticulturists come together at Kew Gardens in London for 'Material World' (20 Sept – 2 Nov). Kew's iconic Temperate House is transformed into a bold and hopeful exploration of plants, fungi and fashion, delving deeper into the stories within our wardrobe through art and design to inspire positive change in the fashion industry.

Fashion is at a turning point. Between 80 and 100 billion new clothing garments are produced globally every year and 87% of the materials and fibres used to make clothing will end up in landfills or incinerators. To create a sustainable fashion system, we need to change our relationship with how we wear clothes, as well as the ways we make them. At the heart of *Material World* is the invitation to reflect: **how do our clothes connect us to nature, and how can they become part of a future that restores rather than depletes?** *Material World* is more than a festival, it is a call to action.









What will visitors see?

A display created with London College of Fashion (UAL) alumni debuts radical new plant- and fungi-based designs curated by the current MA Fashion Curation and Cultural Programming students, proving that sustainability is not just a trend:

- **Silvia Acién** creates regenerative knitwear from pineapple fibres, nettles, and Mediterranean grasses, weaving together rural heritage and future-facing craft. Acién also experiments with natural dyes made from invasive plants and bacterial pigments, reducing chemical and water use. Her work has been shown at London, Paris, Hong Kong and India Fashion Weeks, UNESCO, VOGUE, *The Wall Street Journal, Vanity Fair*, and in partnership with the United Nations.
- **Eirinn Hayhow's** *Healing Puffers and Plant Leather Garments* use **plant-stuffed biomaterial shells** infused with foraged herbs like lavender, chamomile, hawthorn, rosemary and valerian. Her reimagined puffer jackets shimmer with crushed crystals and emit the subtle scent of dried herbs, exploring how fashion can support emotional and environmental well-being.
- **Jessie Von Curry & Vega Hertel** weave Scottish seaweed, sourced using sustainable methods, into textiles including trousers. With over 12,000 known species, seaweeds require no land, fertiliser or freshwater, making them a vital ally in regenerative design.
- **Beth Williams** envisions compostable garments designed to decompose straight back into the earth, challenging the extractive norms of mainstream fashion and imagining textiles that nourish the earth instead of depleting it. These **biodegradable knit textiles** are crafted from compostable, regenerative fibres, including pineapple (*Ananas comosus*), lotus stem (*Nelumbo nucifera*) and Seacell, a seaweed-eucalyptus blend.

**Dr. Jessica Bugg, Dean of the School of Media & Communication, London College of Fashion, says:** "I'm delighted that MA Fashion Curation and Cultural Programming students have been able to contribute their innovative storytelling skills to Kew's first-ever festival devoted to fashion and textiles. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to work across disciplines, in a real world and awe-inspiring context, curating the garments and display for this event. This partnership with Kew has enabled us to connect through our shared priorities of sustainability and wellbeing for people and the planet".

#### Major new creative commissions

Australian-born Nigerian artist, educator and environmentalist, **Nnenna Okore** is a champion for the power of art in engaging people with ecological issues. Suspended 20m high in the heart of the world's largest surviving Victorian glasshouse, **Between Earth and Sky** is crafted from biodegradable materials in the form of vast wing-like forms to create a vibrant and fluid installation, inspiring reflection on ecological responsibility.

**Global Threads** - a newly planted garden created by award-winning designer **Lottie Delamain** - seeks to reestablish an often-lost connection between what we wear and what we grow. For thousands of years, we have worn plants, growing and cultivating them for their pigments and fibres, but fast fashion has severed the links between plants and what we wear. Beds feature plants that create dyes and fibres, bordered by 'waste' textiles from local charity shops to highlight the detrimental impact of fast fashion.

Natural dye specialist Kate Turnbull, textile expert Carry Somers and artist Becca Smith worked alongside Kew's Youth Forum and attendees at Kew's Community Open Week to craft *Threads of the Canopy*. This large-scale textile map of Kew Gardens weaves the stories of Kew's trees - using naturally dyed embroidery threads, tree-based printing inks and hand-carved blocks, each individual piece of stitch-work represents a tree at Kew that provides dye or fibre for textiles.

In *How Cotton Became King*, writer and artist Michael McMillan, working with Dubmorphology and flautist Rowland Sutherland, has created a powerful 17-minute audio-visual installation tracing cotton's entanglement with colonialism, capitalism and globalisation. Meanwhile, *What the Fibres Remember*, a multimedia piece by the League of Artisans, amplifies the voices of farmers and craftspeople from Colombia, India and Peru, offering wisdom and sustainable practices rooted in generations of care.

Paul Denton, Director of Creative Programming and Exhibitions at RBG Kew says: "We are thrilled to be launching *Material World*, a festival that explores the transformative potential of plants and fungi in fashion. This celebration of sustainability brings together art, design, and horticulture to engage visitors in rethinking how we approach our wardrobes, highlighting the connection between natural materials and fashion to inspire positive change in how we consume. At RBG Kew, we believe in the power of plants to shape a better future, and *Material World* invites everyone to discover the role they can play in driving a more sustainable fashion industry."

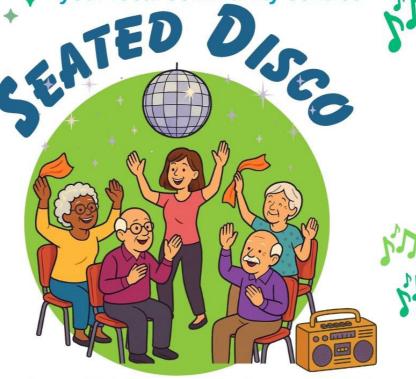
Oliver Gregson, CEO, Wealth Management, Cazenove Capital, says: "Sustainability is one of the defining challenges—and opportunities—of our generation. As stewards of wealth, we carry not just a responsibility, but a real opportunity to help shape a more sustainable and equitable future. We are proud to support Kew Gardens and their leadership in addressing biodiversity loss and pioneering nature-based solutions to the interconnected climate and ecological crises. At Cazenove Capital, we believe our greatest impact comes from using our platform, partnerships, and purpose to help clients shape what they want to achieve in their lives and with their legacies - putting our expertise, capabilities, and collective knowledge at their disposal in a way that works best for them. Not just rooted in wealth, but with positive change."

At the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, we're dedicated to harnessing the power of plants and fungi to end the extinction crisis and secure a future for all life on Earth. With our world-leading research, global partnerships and beloved gardens – home to the world's most diverse collections of plants and fungi – we're using our

trusted voice to shape policy and practice worldwide. As a charity we rely on the critical support of our visitors, not only to sustain the gardens, but to protect global plant and fungal biodiversity for the benefit of our planet and humanity.



A week of dance and music events at your local community centres



**Monday 22 September 2025** 

Time: 12.30 - 13.30

At: Greenwood Community Centre, 1a School Road, Hampton Hill. TW12 1QL

To book your free space email:

admin@laurenhaithdance.com

Catering for all ages and abilities, but mostly directed at those 60+

Set to a high-energy playlist of upbeat pop hits and musical favorites join us as we move and dance the day away. Sharpen your mind, boost your mood and

connect with others.

Sponsored by



Lauren Haith ?

## From Filofaxes to 2040: Strategy Under Scrutiny

Transport and Air Quality Committee Report By James Knight

The September meeting of Richmond's Transport and Air Quality Committee opened with a tableau that was at once anachronistic and faintly comic. Presiding at the head of the chamber sat Cllr Alexander Ehmann, Liberal Democrat chairman and self-styled moderniser, attired in a pin-striped suit that evoked the Square Mile of the 1980s. Before him rested a corpulent Filofax, that once-indispensable analogue accessory of the managerial class. One half-expected him to produce a brick-like mobile telephone and bark instructions about mergers and acquisitions.

#### **Consultation or Performance?**

The strategy under discussion is billed as a long-term, transformational document; a "step-change" in how Richmond residents will move, walk, cycle, and drive over the next two decades. Yet the empirical basis on which this lofty narrative rests is startlingly thin.

Officers reported that a mere 516 residents completed the borough-wide survey. In wards such as South Twickenham, participation barely reached the thirties. Councillor Michael Butlin noted candidly: "These are very small numbers ... it concerns me that we're bidding the whole thing on those small numbers." Even the chairman conceded the exercise was "not a fully representative sample" of the resident base.

Nevertheless, the administration was keen to present this slender consultation as sufficient mandate. The risk is obvious: the public may come to regard these exercises less as genuine democratic engagement and more as elaborate theatre; consultation as performance.

#### The Green provocation

The debate revealed an ideological fissure running through the committee. Cllr Andrée Frieze, leader of the opposition Greens, used the occasion to deliver a full-throated denunciation of the private motor car. "We cannot keep giving public space to bits of metal, hunks of metal that sit outside properties for 95% of their time ... that cause air pollution that kills people, that cause damage to our roads that we then have to pay for out of our council tax," she declared.

Her intervention sought to reframe the strategy, urging that it abandon what she termed its "car-focused framework" in favour of a radical re-prioritisation of walking, cycling and traffic reduction. The rhetorical effect was to drag the discussion leftward, well beyond that favoured by many Liberal Democrat members.

Deputy Chairman Cllr James Chard sought to moderate, warning against setting motorists and cyclists in perpetual conflict. But it was clear that the Green intervention had established the ideological horizon against which subsequent contributions were measured. The council's political centre of gravity is being tugged left by uncompromising allies who frame compromise itself as complicity.

#### E-bikes: contested modernity

The second major item, the future of dockless e-bikes and the e-scooter trial, revealed a similar dissonance between rhetoric and reality.

Officers extolled the sheer volume of usage: Lime bikes alone accounted for over a million journeys last year. Yet they were forced to concede that complaints about obstructive parking, "hacked" bikes, and a lack of transparency from operators remain widespread. Councillor Frieze pressed the point: "Do they provide that data to us? ... we get too many comments along the lines of 'I've reported this bike days ago, it's still there' to know that [Lime's assurances] clearly doesn't always happen."

Despite these acknowledged deficiencies, the committee resolved to consider expanding the fleet to as many as 1,000 bikes. The contradiction was left largely unexamined: a service widely complained of, yet lauded as "transformational," is simultaneously in need of reform and enlargement.



#### **Council is Financially Dependent on Motorists**

Perhaps the evening's most revealing moment came not in the visionary *Photo ©Berkley Driscoll* rhetoric of strategy, but in the prosaic arithmetic of budget monitoring. The committee was told that its modest underspend of £80,000 was due largely to overachievement in parking revenues.

The rhetoric of sustainable transport may dominate the public narrative, but the fiscal substructure tells another story: motorists are the council's most reliable revenue stream. Drivers, far from being eased off the road, have become the dependable cash cow whose contributions underpin the entire transport budget. Indeed, the council's own forecasts predict that more than £15.7 million will be extracted this year from charges. A sum that makes plain just how dependent civic finances remain upon the very mode of travel so often denounced from the committee table.

#### **Conclusion**

Thus the paradox of Richmond's transport politics: a chairman in pinstripes invoking modernity, a Green opposition demanding the abolition of cars, and a council dependent on the very motorists it claims to discourage. For residents, the spectacle may appear less like strategy than theatre; a carefully choreographed performance in which the rhetoric of transformation conceals a financial reality tethered firmly to the kerbside.



## Richmond Council's New Campus Model Gathers Pace

By Michael Jones

The hoardings are now up around Twickenham's Civic Centre, marking the beginning of the next stage in Richmond Council's transformation of its headquarters. The scheme is part of a move to a "campus model" of working, with staff expected to split their time between smaller office bases and homeworking, rather than returning to a single large headquarters.

Council leaders say the changes will modernise working practices, make better use of property, and reduce long-term costs. Hybrid working, first embedded during the pandemic, is now being formalised, with the new offices designed around flexible and collaborative spaces. Yet the shift inevitably raises questions about the visibility of local government. If more staff spend most of their time at home, often living well outside the borough, the close link between council workers and the community they serve could weaken over time.

The wider debate about working patterns has also touched Richmond. Gareth Roberts, the Liberal Democrat leader of the council, used a question at the 2023 Local Government Association conference to challenge ministers' opposition to shorter working weeks. His remarks followed criticism from Michael Gove and other senior Conservatives of South Cambridgeshire District Council's four-day week pilot. Roberts argued that local authorities should be trusted to experiment with new approaches if they benefit staff and residents, a view that won applause from delegates.

Gove, then levelling-up secretary, replied: "The key thing is that I believe very strongly, as indeed does the minister for local government, that when taxpayers are paying for services they need to have people working that full five day week... A five-day working week seems to me to be what we should expect from people in public service who are having their wages paid by those council tax payers as well."

Behind this exchange lies the best value duty, a legal requirement under the Local Government Act 1999 obliging councils to secure "continuous improvement" in the way functions are delivered. In practice, this means weighing efficiency, cost, and service quality to ensure taxpayers' money is well spent. While Richmond has not adopted a four-day week, Roberts's remarks underline a broader tension: the council is investing heavily in reshaping its workplace at the same time as national debate centres on how far flexibility can go without undermining value for money.

The project itself is being delivered in two phases. The first, completed in 2023, saw Achieving for Children (AfC) relocated from York Street to the Civic Centre, allowing the vacated building to become an innovation hub, now operated as Patch. That stage cost around £1.5 million and has already produced savings of more than half a million pounds a year.

The second phase is much larger. Costed at £9.26 million, it covers decarbonising the Civic Centre, refurbishing York House Annex, and creating a voluntary and community sector hub. The programme includes removing the gas boiler, installing LED lighting, and reconfiguring workspaces. A capital receipt of about £1 million is expected from the sale of 91 Queen's Road once services are relocated, leaving a net cost of £8.26 million. Council officers project savings and income of more than £500,000 a year from estate rationalisation, commercial lettings, and reduced running costs. But much of this relies on lettings being secured and assets fetching their expected value, assumptions which, if they falter, could leave the council carrying higher long-term costs than planned.

The works will be phased to minimise disruption, with the Stable Block refurbished first before construction moves into the main Civic Centre next spring. Throughout the project, services such as the customer contact centre will remain accessible.

For now, the hoardings on York Street are a reminder of the scale of change. What began as an efficiency drive has become a broader experiment in how local government works and the question is whether Richmond can deliver both modernity and best value without losing touch with the community it serves.

## Regal Spice returns to Twickenham Green

The popular Indian restaurant & takeaway, which takes pride in providing authentic South Asian cuisine, has returned to Twickenham Green.

Residents will be pleased to see Miah back at the helm serving up mouth-watering Indian cuisine with the finest local ingredients and traditional recipes. Currently bring your own bottle.



STARTERS	
Chicken Hot Wings	
Crab Cakes	
Aloo Tikki Chatt	
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Chicken Tikka	£4.9
Onion Bhajis	
Prawn Puri	£4.9
King Prawn Puri	
Garlic King Prawns	£6.93
Mixed Starters	
Garlic Mushrooms	£4.50
TANDOORI SIZZLE	
Tandoori Halloumi Shashlik	
Mango Paneer Tikka Shashlik	£9.50
Lamb Chops	£10.9
Tandoori Mixed Grill (With chips or salad)	
Tandoori King Prawn	£13.9
Salmon Fish Tikka(With chips or salad)	£10.9
Tandoori Chicken Half (With chips or salad)	£9.50
Chicken Tikka(With chips or salad)	£8.95
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All Biryani served with dall.	
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Lamb Biryani	£11.9
Chicken Tikka Biryani	£11.5
Prawn Biryani	£11.5
King Prawn Biryani	£14.9
Vegetable Biryani	£9.95
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Regal Special Not A	vailable	
Mango Lamb Korma	£9.95	
King Prawn Mango Korma	£12.95	
Beef Satkora	£10.95	
Beef Kala Bhuna	£10.95	
Beef Masala	£10.95	
Chicken Tikka Makhani	£9.95	
VEGETABLE MAIN DISH	ES	
Roast Garlic	£8.95	
With spinach (Regal Special)	10.73	
Vegetable Masala or Korma	CR 05	
Vegetable Danasak		
Served with pilau rice	17.50	
Jackfruit Bhuna (Vegan)	CR 05	
	20.73	
SIDE DISHES		
Khoyfall Bhaji (Green Papaya)	04.50	
Banana Curry (Green Plantain)		
Vegetable Curry		
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Cauliflower Bhaji		
Chana Masala	£4.50	
Meeta Kodu Bhaji		
Aubergine Bhaji	£4.50	
Tarka Dall	£4.50	
Bombay Aloo	£4.50	
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REGAL SPECIALITIES

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halfrezi	· £9.50		£9.80		£9.80		£12.9
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special Fried Rice	· £4.00						
Aushroom Rice							
Keema Peas Rice	\$4.70						

## Twickers Foodie - By Alison Jee

## Love Your Gut

Love Your Gut Week runs from 15-21 September..." What's that?" I think I hear you say. Well, here goes with some information and recipes for you to try:

Our gut microbiome has the power to impact our immunity, heart health, mood, brain health and more. So, it's important to look after it, and one of the easiest and tastiest ways to do so is through the food we eat. This is why the experts at <u>Love Your Gut</u> have created some new easy and delicious recipes to help support a healthy gut microbiome.

Each is full of gut-friendly ingredients and nutrients, like plant-based foods, fibre and fermented foods, as well as prebiotics, antioxidants, vitamins and minerals. And because eating a variety of foods results in more diverse gut bacteria - in turn helping support physical and mental wellbeing - each recipe includes different microbiome-loving 'hero' ingredients.

So, this **Love Your Gut Week** and beyond, why not give your gut microbiome the love it deserves and treat it to some of these tasty dishes?

#### Pea, broad bean and cottage cheese pancakes

These savoury breakfast pancakes pack in plenty of whole food protein thanks to cottage cheese, eggs and three types of legumes - peas, broad beans and chickpeas - in the form of flour. Fresh herbs push up the plant count even more. Delicious served with just a squeeze of lemon and some pea shoots, or accompany with your choice of roasted tomatoes, sliced avocado, poached eggs or smoked fish.

**Gut-friendly hero ingredient:** Vegetables such as **broad beans** help to keep the gut healthy because they contain an abundance of polyphenols, a type of antioxidant. Broad beans are also a particularly good source of flavanols which help keep the balance of microorganisms in the gut healthy, by inhibiting the growth of various pathogens and increasing the populations of beneficial bacteria. (Serves: 4 / Makes 8 pancakes (8 cm in diameter / 1 cm thick / 60 g batter per pancake) Prep time: 10 minutes Cooking time: 15 minutes)

- 150 g cottage cheese
- 1 medium egg
- 50 g gram (chickpea) flour
- ½ tsp baking powder
- 100 g frozen peas, defrosted
- 100 g frozen baby broad beans, defrosted
- 3 spring onions, chopped
- 15 g basil, chopped
- 15 g flat leaf parsley, chopped
- 1 lemon, zest finely grated
- 1 tbsp olive oil

#### To serve:

- 50 g pea shoots
- 1 lemon, cut into wedges (the one that has been zested for the recipe is fine)
- Plus roasted tomatoes, sliced avocado, poached eggs or smoked fish (optional)
- 1. Put the cottage cheese, egg, chickpea flour and baking powder in a blender. Season to taste and blend until smooth, pausing to scrape down the sides if necessary.
- 2. Add the peas, broad beans, spring onions, herbs and lemon and pulse until finely chopped and evenly mixed.



- 3. Heat 1 tbsp olive oil in a large frying pan, then use half of the mixture to make the first four pancakes, spreading each to about 8 cm in diameter with the back of the spoon. Cook over a medium-low heat for 2 minutes or until the pancakes have browned underneath and are starting to set around the edge.
- 4. Flip the pancakes with a palette knife or fish slice and cook the other side until golden brown and springy to the touch.
- 5. Keep the first batch warm while you cook four more pancakes, adding a little more oil if needed, then serve with pea shoots, a squeeze of lemon and any other accompaniments you fancy.

**Cook's tip:** If you're serving fewer people, freeze any leftover cooked pancakes. They can be re-crisped from frozen in an air-fryer ( $180^{\circ}$ C / 8 minutes) or defrosted and warmed in the oven ( $180^{\circ}$ C /  $160^{\circ}$ C fan / gas mark 4 for 10 minutes).

#### Burmese-style chickpea tofu

Chickpea flour is used by many different cultures to produce a polenta-like mixture which can be set in a mould. In Myanmar, it's known as Shan Tofu and is often served sliced as a salad or deep-fried with a dipping sauce. We've paired the tofu with some typical Burmese-style salad ingredients, which happen to be high in both prebiotic soluble fibre to feed your microbiome, and insoluble fibre to aid digestion and help you feel fuller for longer.

Gut-friendly hero ingredients: **Chickpeas** are a significant source of dietary fibre, which acts as a prebiotic by feeding the beneficial bacteria in your gut Turmeric has an anti-inflammatory effect and studies have shown that it can be beneficial for the gut microbiome. (Serves: 4. Prep time: 15 minutes (plus cooling). Cooking time: 10 minutes)

- 100 g chickpea (gram) flour
- ½ tsp mild paprika
- ¼ tsp turmeric

#### For the salad:

- ½ white cabbage, very thinly sliced
- 1 large carrot, peeled into ribbons
- 250 g cherry tomatoes, sliced
- 50 g pickled sushi ginger, drained weight
- 2 tbsp fresh coriander, leaves roughly chopped
- 2 tbsp crispy onions
- 2 tbsp crispy chilli oil, or to taste

#### For the dressing:

- 1 lime, juiced
- 2 tsp caster sugar
- 1 ½ tbsp Thai fish sauce, or use tamari to keep it vegan and gluten-free
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 1. Grease a small loaf tin or baking dish (approx. 10 cm x 20 cm) and set aside. Sieve the flour and spices into a bowl, then stir in 160 ml cold water and season to taste with black pepper to make a batter.
- 2. Heat 375 ml water in a medium saucepan. Once it starts to simmer, whisk in the chickpea batter, then continue to stir over a medium-low heat until it thickens. Continue to simmer for 8 minutes to cook out the flour, stirring often, then scrape the mixture into the prepared tin and leave to cool completely. The tofu can be stored in the fridge for up to 3 days if needed.
- 3. To make the salad, arrange the cabbage, carrot, tomatoes, pickled ginger and coriander on a serving platter. Mix together the dressing ingredients and drizzle over the salad.
- 4. Turn out the set tofu and cut into 5 mm slices. Arrange over the salad and garnish with crispy chilli oil and crispy onions.



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## **Battle of Britain Special**

#### The Rainbow

By Sue Weaver

September 15, 1940, was officially named Battle of Britain Day to commemorate RAF Fighter Command's decisive victory over the German Luftwaffe. That victory saved the world.

But now, 85 years later, what does it mean to you? Most people think of it as the romanticism of The Few, the brave pilots of Fighter Command, their Spitfires and Hurricanes, and all those young men who lost their lives defending our country.

However, partly due to the political hushing up of the Bomber Command campaign by Winston Churchill after the war, it was not until the wonderful memorial to those pilots and crews was unveiled in 2012 that people started thinking of the 55,573 aircrew who never came back. Thankfully, my stepfather did come back, surviving the war to continue his distinguished flying career.

So, as Battle of Britain Day comes around again, I am now recounting my story of a trip down 'memory runway'.

Wing Commander Cyril Povey, OBE, DFC, was born in 1922 and by April 1944, aged only 22, he was flying Halifax Bombers over Germany as a captain of seven crew. I shall call him Cyril.



CCP & Halifax Crew, RAF Leconfield 1944

One day, in the early 1990s, he was contacted by his wartime wireless operator, Archie Elks, who persuaded him, much against his will, to attend a reunion of 640 Squadron (Halifaxes) to be held at their old base of Leconfield in Yorkshire. They stayed locally at the Beverley Arms, which brought back many memories of snatched beers on the rare occasions they were allowed off the airfield.

There followed an emotional day visiting all

those places which had hardly changed in the fifty years since Leconfield was a very busy operational station.

At the reunion, Archie gave him a copy of a unique BBC wire recording of an operational briefing for a night raid on the Krupp steelworks at Essen on the 28/29 November 1944. He was particularly proud of this as his name was mentioned as the leader of one of the waves of bombers leaving Leconfield that night. But so many failed to return the next morning.

He brought the cassette home, gathered the family around, turned off the lights, and we listened...

He became uncharacteristically emotional when describing all those crews who failed to return, many of them Canadians. He was glad he had gone but declared he would never attend another reunion. It was just too much – too many memories.

When Cyril died in 1996, he left me his medals and flying log books which have enabled me to bring you a small part of his story. Every page is a lifetime's adventure which made me want to visit the place which was so important to him and where he had survived so much.

A friend, to whom I had played the recording and who also found the story interesting, organised a private visit to what had been RAF Leconfield but which was now run by the MoD as Normandy Barracks, Defence School of Transport, with 202 Squadron Search & Rescue Sea King helicopters as the only remaining Royal Air Force presence there.

Organising this visit took some doing but, on arrival, we were met by Major Terry Cavender, a most enthusiastic army historian who gave us a truly wonderful tour of the airfield, the control tower, and the church.

Alongside the church was the parachute packing station with its tower for drying the parachutes and where Cyril had watched those girls with eagle eyes in case they made any mistakes.

All that was fascinating, but then came the Nissen hut.

Our guide explained that, after much research, he had only recently discovered that this was the actual hut where the pre-raid briefings were given to the bomber crews. It was still there because it was a listed building which was being converted into the camp cinema. Unknown to me, my friend had sneaked the briefing recording to the cinema projectionist and asked him to play it.

I was sitting in the middle of the otherwise empty briefing room, alone with my thoughts and imagining all those young pilots and crews sitting there, probably shivering with cold and a certain amount of fear, wrapped up in their leather jackets – and smoking – when an eerie voice came over the sound system.

Suddenly, it all came alive – with the ghostly voices of 1944. It was all there – the target, the route, the weather, the flak, the night-fighters – and all the time the nervous coughing and shuffling of seats.

Pilot Officer Povey's aircraft would be in the wave leaving at 05:00 next morning, destination Essen...

We were all transfixed. The actual voices in the actual place and more emotional than I can ever describe.

I had to be prised from my seat for the next surprise.

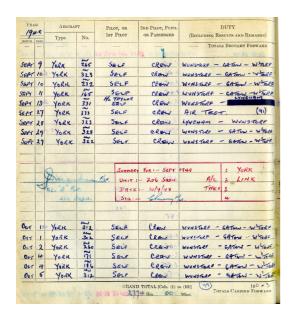
On a grassy mound just near the church was a red telephone box, on the door of which were the remains of a padlock hasp, all painted over and almost invisible. Our guide asked us what we thought it was but we had no idea. His answer shocked us. Just before a raid, the telephone box would be locked. They simply couldn't risk any of the boys calling home to say when and where they were going. The thought of them going out and possibly not coming back without having been able to tell anyone sent a shiver down my spine.

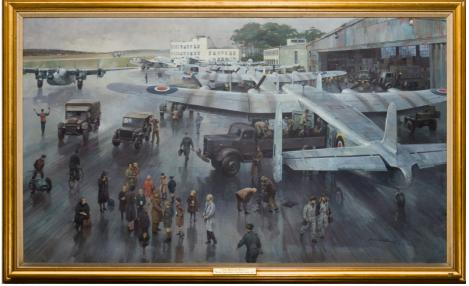


We drove out to the threshold from where Cyril and his friends had taken off so many times and I stood in the rain, alone with my thoughts, on the vast wide concrete – looking up to the skies, imagining waves of bombers thundering off into the night, and thinking of the many brave boys who had not returned -- when suddenly the rain cleared and an incredible rainbow appeared right on the far end of the runway. Unbelievable!

Of course to me, it was a sign.

After the War, in 1948, Cyril was part of the amazing Berlin Airlift. A section of his logbook, just one of many, shows this amazing mercy mission together with a painting by aviation artist, Michael Turner, who consulted Cyril to ensure it was accurate. The original hangs in the RAF Club, Piccadilly.





On finishing the painting, Turner sent a print to Cyril, who wrote back:

"How very kind of you to send me the print of your lovely painting of the Yorks at Gatow. I have wonderful memories of the Airlift and the tremendous feeling of doing good, rather than dropping bombs. I am always surprised that friends and relatives ask me about the war but never mention the Airlift and, of course, the younger ones often do not seem to know about it at all. I suppose it assumes such a large importance in my memory because it was the longest sustained effort I was ever called upon to make in my RAF career, including the war years".

So, on this anniversary, let us remember *all* the wonderful men and women who gave, and still give, their lives for ours.

NB. The superb Bomber Command Memorial is in Green Park, at Hyde Park Corner.

## The Coronation Stone

By Teresa Read



Situated on the River Thames, Kingston is not far from Richmond another London Borough on the Thames.

Kingston's official emblem, three salmon, dates back to the importance of salmon fisheries in Kingston many centuries ago.

The Coronation Stone, now outside the Guildhall, was the seat of Saxon kings during coronation ceremonies. Edward the Elder was crowned in Kingston in 900, Athelstan in 925, Edmund in 940, Edred in 946, Edwy in 955, Edward the Martyr in 975 and Ethelred the Unready in 979.





The Hogsmill River that joins the Thames at Kingston can be seen from the Coronation Stone.

Clattern Bridge, which crosses the Hogsmill River, is one of the oldest bridges in Surrey and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The earliest known reference is in a deed from 1293; the medieval name of "Clateryn-brugge" is thought to be descriptive of the sound of horses crossing the bridge.

The stone arches on the downstream side are the oldest parts of the bridge which until the mid nineteenth century was only eight feet wide.

A stone's throw away from the ancient Clattern Bridge, Kingston's Market House towers above the market stalls. A statue of Queen Anne is perched on the upper storey of the building. Various old houses can be seen around this area of Kingston, some dating back to the fifteenth century. There are a number of contemporary apartments and restaurants where the Hogsmill River meets the Thames.

Kingston High Street is a busy shopping centre and Fenwicks is a modern mall housing many familiar chain stores.

## The show must go on...

By Deep Patel

~ Life Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

Ahhh that time of year again guys...September in Twickenham and conkers are ripe on the trees around the green and...ZIPPOS IS BACK...oh yes...love it or hate it...it's here...well at least for a few days...Twickenham Green looks lit up like a Christmas tree with the giant big top towering over the tall trees and even piercing the sky with its pinnacles as if they were reaching to the heavens (ok maybe I am getting a little carried away here now)...

One of the most asked questions in my shop this past week has been "are you going to the circus?" and my answer is no...as I have already been on the first day...oh yes nothing gets past this shop keeper...I see a bit of glitz and I want to see more...I am not talking about the glitz of the shine of the KitKat wrappers at Meet & Deep Newsagents...no no...I am talking the irresistible allure of the lights and bright colours splashed all around the big top...they called me like a bee to honey...like a dust to a Hoover...like a red cloth to a bull...need I go on? So what is it that makes me want to go? It is the fact that it's a little bit of magic, an innocent pleasure...a bit of fun...a change from watching the news...all of those things and more...so how was my experience at the circus this year and how did it make me feel I hear you ask?

Well, we closed the shop 30 minutes early just to make it on time...once we were there we were shocked...there was hardly anyone there...both sides were practically empty and just a sprinkling of us scattered cautiously across the Grand Stand...I began to feel sorry for the performers...and the organizers...I felt I should try to buy some food or something to support them but I was fasting...so I couldn't...they had flashing light toys but I drew the line there. It was a wet cold weekday night show so obviously many would choose not to come as children have school etc and it was dark and late. That is why it was especially quite there on the night that I went.

The show began and then everyone sat down to watch (all 40 of us in that huge tent)... I was feeling embarrassed for the performers...and actually uncomfortable...I had to clap extra loud just to fill the air...at least I felt that way...my family was shouting and screaming like there was no tomorrow, we just wanted to fill the air! As the show went on, I realised something I had never done so before...it was the fact that despite there being so few people watching, the performers carried on with full enthusiasm, really working hard to please us and it was so admirable, I know it's "their job" but they REALLY meant it, they were just so happy doing what they were doing, it wasn't false, it was genuine and they were loving it...so much so that I found it was getting me and my family going...it was no longer fake or put on behaviour of me over-compensating for the void of lack of people viewing...suddenly it really didn't matter anymore...even if I was the ONLY one watching, it just didn't matter anymore...the enthusiasm and genuine love of the performers who were completely un-bothered by the lack of people in the audience and just too wrapped up in making their acts perfect and the pride they took in every gesture and movement, the enjoyment on their faces showing they loved what they do... all of that was something far more magical than I could even put into words to describe here... it was almost divine in fact. It was at that moment I realised that they clearly had a love for what they do...and a strong belief that whether there were 200 or 2 people in the audience... the show must go on...

As I left the circus that night and took a slow walk home back to my shop which is only down the road there, I contemplated on what I had just seen ... there was live entertainment and some amazing acts from all the corners of the globe...but for me, as good as the acts were, that wasn't what I took away with me that night...it was something far more valuable...it was a lesson...that no matter how hopeless things may seem in life, when everything doesn't go as expected, when the sun is not shining, when things around you are bringing you down...choose to smile...and enrobe yourself in just being you and do what you love and love what you do... because if you are genuinely happy from the inside, then whatever is happening on the outside world can never take that away from you...indeed that night the circus on Twickenham Green taught me to smile at life and then life will smile back at you...something I will remember for the rest of my life...



Above: The big top was empty, but my heart was full...

#### Remember...

"Seek it from within and the outside won't matter anymore..."

#### MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP

STOP MICE KINDLY... (GOOD KARMA):

Place empty bowls filled with white vinegar around places where you don't want them to come...they will go without you having to harm them...use humane LIVE CAPTURE mouse & rat traps (available online or at Meet & Deep News) and release them back in our parkland areas. Use electronic plug in deterrents with good reviews around your house to stop them coming (the smell of white vinegar not only stops rodents and foxes, it also stops ants kindly). For ANY specific tip to stop any "pest" or insect KINDLY (for good karma/blessings), email me: InsectLoversUnite@qmail.com or join my Facebook page: "INSECT LOVERS UNITE"

## HEARTFELT BLOODLESSNESS



## Lucia di Lammermoor

by Gaetano Donizetti, libretto by Salvatore Cammarano Barefoot Opera at the Arcola Theatre until 13<sup>th</sup> September and on tour until 5<sup>th</sup> October

Barefoot really means business by starting, not with Donizetti's prelude, but with Lucia's mother singing a gloomy Scottish ballad about women suffering at the hands of men.

The musical arrangement for saxophone, accordion, double bass and piano works really well at conveying the colour of Donizetti's score. Plus a xylophone is used to convey the sound of a glass harmonica, by scraping a violin bow across the edge, which makes for a wonderfully spooky mad scene. The care taken with this thoroughly thought-out arrangement is admirable

and refreshing.

The impressive singers multitask by playing instruments, and as chorus. Beren Fidan as Lucia has the gift of making the music mean something dramatically and has fluent coloratura, but the Arcola's acoustic doesn't do her any favours. Laurence Panter, also playing Normanno, keeps things nicely on the move. Jack Dolan is a magnificent tenor. As Edgardo, her forbidden lover, he provides an



unmistakable operatic thrill that is doubly impressive in this difficult space and shows real sensitivity. This part really does benefit from all the musical refinement that a tenor can bring to it.

Alastair Sutherland, who also plays accordion, makes a smarmy and ineffectual cleric with a well-used voice. Arturo the murdered bridegroom is much the usual cypher, albeit with an odd costume, but Eamonn Walsh contributes well to the famous sextet. Philip Smith provides a nasty Enrico although he can force his voice. Deidre Arratoon has a nice deep contralto as "Aliso" – although it is not clear why her gender had been changed from Alisa, other than to increase the sense of Lucia's female isolation.

Although the cast acts with impressive conviction, I'm slightly ambivalent about Rosie Kat's production and its contemporary setting. The avoidance of Gothic horror creates problems. It is hard to see this Lucia as having killed anyone, when her white nightdress remains pristine without bloodstains. Whilst this saves on laundry bills and avoids cliché, it does neutralise the horror. The production is stronger at conveying how all the men in Lucia's life apply unreasonable pressure on her, but the production throws up more questions than answers.

Lucia di Lammermoor is a tricky opera to stage and it's really important to congratulate Barefoot on the solid musical foundations that enable it to achieve an impressive impact.

Read Patrick Shorrock's review at <a href="https://www.markaspen.com/2025/09/10/lucia-lammer-bo">www.markaspen.com/2025/09/10/lucia-lammer-bo</a>

Image courtesy of Barefoot Opera

## Richmond Film Society

## New Season Commences on 16 September

Richmond Film Society's 62nd Season of World Cinema opens on 16 September with the Oscar-nominated German drama, *The Teachers' Lounge*. The full programme is as follows:

• 16 Sept The Teachers' Lounge (Germany)

30 Sept My Favourite Cake (Iran)
 14 Oct Small Things Like These (Ireland)

 28 Oct Happyend (Japan)
 4 Nov British Board of Film Classification Presentation

• 11 Nov A Real Pain (USA) - preceded by the AGM

25 Nov All We Imagine as Light (India)

• 9 Dec Four Mothers (Ireland) - followed by the Members' Christmas Party

#### 2026

13 Jan Hard Truths (UK)

 27 Jan Next Sohee (South Korea)
 10 Feb Investigation of a Citizen Beyond Suspicion (Italy)

 24 Feb Green Border (Poland)
 10 Mar The Goldman Case (France)

24 Mar Cottontail (Japan)
7 Apr I'm Still Here (Brazil)
21 Apr Good One (USA)
5 May There is no Evil (Iran)

19 May The Servant (UK)
2 Jun Vermiglio (Italy)
16 Jun Radical (Mexico)
30 Jun Summer film - to be

confirmed.

The programme runs until 30 June 2026 and comprises 20 films of international repute, including features from Europe, the Middle East, East Asia, South Asia, South and Central America, USA and UK.

Links to the IMDb entries for each film are available by clicking on the poster images on



The Teachers Lounge
September 16 2025
Rated 12A



My Favourite Cake September 30 2025 Rated 12A



Small Things Like Th...
October 14 2025
Rated 12A



Happyend October 28 2025 Rated 12A



A Real Pain

November 11 2025

Rated 15 + AGM



All We Imagine As Light

November 25 2025

Rated 15



Four Mothers

December 9 2025

Rated 15 + Party



Hard Truths
January 13 2026



Next Sohee January 27 2026 Rated 18



investigation of a Citi... February 10 2026 Rated R



Green Border February 24 2026 Rated 15



The Goldman Case

March 10 2026

Rated 12A



Cottontail March 24 2026 Rated 12A



I'm Still Here

April 7 2026

Rated 15



Good One April 21 2026 Rated R



There Is No Evil May 5 2026 Rated 15



May 19 2026 Rated 12



Vermiglio June 2 2026 Rated 15



June 16 2026



Summer Film June 30 2026 Rated TBC

the RFS home page - <a href="http://www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk">http://www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk</a>.

Films are screened at 8.00pm sharp, with no trailers or ads, on alternate Tuesdays at The Exchange, 75 London Road, Twickenham, TW1 1BE. On screening nights, the bar is open from 7.00pm and remains open after the film. Drinks can be taken into the auditorium and coffee, tea and snacks are also available.

#### Non-Member Tickets £5

Although seasonal membership is closed, 60 non-member tickets are available for each screening at £5 (full-time students £3) and can be purchased in advance from The Exchange's Box Office - in person, by telephone on 020 8240 2399 or online at <a href="http://exchangetwickenham.co.uk/events/">http://exchangetwickenham.co.uk/events/</a> To ensure that you secure a ticket and avoid disappointment, early pre-booking via The Exchange is strongly recommended.

#### **About Richmond Film Society**

Richmond Film Society was formed in 1963 and has since screened around 900 films. Its objective was, and remains, to bring our community the very best in World Cinema. The seasons run from September to June and attract an aggregate audience of just over 5,000. Film notes are available online for each screening and audience scores and feedback are collated.

For further information see <a href="http://www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk">http://www.richmondfilmsoc.org.uk</a>.

#### RICHMOND FILM SOCIETY COMPETITION

Win a pair of tickets for any film of your choice in Richmond Film Society's 62nd Season of World Cinema.

#### **Competition Question**

Brazil's only ever Oscar was for *I'm Still Here*, which won the Best International Feature Award in March 2025 - is that (1) True or (2) False?

Please send your answers to <a href="mailto:info@twickenhamtribune.com">info@twickenhamtribune.com</a>, placing your answer in the email subject line.

Correct answers will be drawn to determine the winning entry after the closing date of 26 September.



## Renters Rights Bill

From David McGeachie

Our sales, lettings and lettings management services are all doing well, with fantastic reviews. Incredibly, as of this month we are now in our 20th year of business – I started it on the kitchen table in my Twickenham flat in August 2006. These days I am of course joined by Kerry, Katy, Roland and Daniela plus support colleagues.

You will have heard of the regulatory changes heading our way as landlords and agents so I wanted to just summarise the main changes and give my view on them.

It is currently expected that these changes will be announced by the government later this month but not be implemented until at last January 2026, perhaps even March or April 2026.

Statute law supersedes contract law so any changes will immediately apply to current tenancy agreements, whatever is written in them.

Please note, these new regs will be accompanied by new powers given to councils to enforce them, with the council incentivised by their being allowed to keep the proceeds. More details in the link at the end of this.

We are happy to talk to clients with non-managed tenancies about taking them over into managed so that we can move the tenancies forward into this new era of tough regulations and compliance – and tough new punishments for getting it wrong. Give me a call on 020 8892 3676 or email <a href="mailto:david@tenant-finder.co.uk">david@tenant-finder.co.uk</a>

Before I start, there have been recent rumours of possible taxation changes for landlords – these are outside this bill and we may find out more in the budget on November 26th.

Onto the Bill: Views expressed are my personal ones about the proposed new regulations as I understand them - please check the actual regs and laws independently before actioning anything.

#### **EVICTION**

Section 21 notices will be abolished. Instead, landlords will need to use specified grounds under Section 8 of the Housing Act to regain possession. There are 25 mandatory grounds i.e., if you go to court for these reasons the judge must award possession, and 11 discretionary grounds. Mandatory reasons include if a landlord wants to sell their property, serious rent arrears, or if they or a close family member wishes to move back in. Discretionary grounds refer to provisions for anti-social behaviour, lower rent arrears and damage to the property.

Our view: we can't remember any landlords ever wanting to evict someone for reasons other than the ones that will still be available, so not much change here really.

#### **RENT ARREARS**

Whilst the process for gaining possession if the tenant falls into rent arrears isn't changing, the amount of arrears that the tenant needs to be in to start possession will increase from 2 to 3 months.

Our view: Not ideal but it is what it is.

#### **END OF FIXED TERM TENANCIES**

Fixed-term tenancies will no longer exist for tenants, meaning tenants can give 2 months' notice at any time after moving in, but landlords cannot issue notice to leave during the first 12 months of a tenancy. Our view – Few of our landlords want short tenancies anyway, but 2 months' notice from tenants from the start is a big change and could be very frustrating if served. Hopefully not many people will go to the trouble of moving in then moving back out again guickly. We are brain-storming how this will work for agency fees.

#### **CHANGES TO RENT REVIEWS**

Landlords can increase rents annually to market levels but must give tenants two months' notice using a Section 13 notice. Tenants will be able to challenge the rent by taking it to a tribunal on the following occasions:

On a new tenancy up to 6 months after the tenancy has started.

When a rent review takes place.

Our view: Can't see many tribunals happening. Most landlords don't increase to full market rate anyway during a tenancy.

#### **ALLOWING PETS**

Landlords can no longer unreasonably refuse requests for tenants to have pets. Landlords can request insurance to cover potential damages caused by pets. Tenants will be required to make a written request for pets, and landlords will have a period of time to accept the request or state their reason for declining. Our view: I've always thought it unkind to ban people from having pets when they may rent for life and therefore never ever have a 'companion animal'. The pet insurance idea is a welcome new regulation in return for the main one.

#### **PEOPLE ON BENEFITS**

The bill will prohibit blanket bans on renting to families with children or those claiming benefits. All prospective tenants must still meet standard referencing criteria to secure a tenancy.

Our view: Sounds fair enough. We can still check credit status etc and can still turn people down, just not for having children or having income through benefits, which we have never done anyway.

#### MEMBERSHIP OF AN OMBUDSMAN SCHEME

Landlords must join an ombudsman scheme, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Our view: More regulation but landlords may avoid it if tenancies managed by agents, we need to see what the rules say.

#### **RENT LEVELS**

The bill bans bidding wars and limits rent in advance payments to one month. Properties must be marketed at a fixed rent, and tenants cannot be asked to bid above the listed price.

Our view: We have never had rent bidding wars anyway; all that will happen is that the listed rents may be higher in the first place.

#### **SECURITY DEPOSIT**

This will remain as is now – 5 weeks rent maximum.

#### **AWAAB'S LAW**

Landlords will now be required to address reported hazards, such as mould, within stricter timeframes: 14 days to investigate and 7 days to fix any issues as well as 24 hours to make emergency repairs.

Our view: Hopefully we and our non-managed clients adhere to this anyway.

#### **DECENT HOMES STANDARD**

No details on this yet but there will be minimum standard set with fines from local authorities of up to £7000 for landlords who do not comply.

#### **EPC CHANGES - NOT IN CURRENT BILL**

We have heard for years about a possible minimum C rating for EPCs for let properties – this is now being talked about as being implemented by 2030. There has to be an election in 2029 at latest so if it has not happened by then and Labour lose, it may not happen.

#### PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR DATABASE

Landlords will have to register on this along with their properties. At the moment this is a state intention, with no details yet.

This is the official government link to their Bill plans: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/.../quide-to-the-renters-rights-bill">https://www.gov.uk/.../quide-to-the-renters-rights-bill</a>

Again, we are happy to take non-managed, current tenancies into our managed list – and the basic fee would only be 5% a month plus VAT.

Call or email me about that or anything else on: 020 8891 3676 david@tenant-finder.co.uk

David McGeachie Property

Property Sales and 'Tenant Finder' lettings

## Move For Momentum – The Local Kids Cancer Charity

A yoga teacher from Molesey, Surrey, is organising a Move for Momentum event with a difference, as she encourages everyone to join a special class this September to raise money for our local charity during childhood cancer awareness month.



Lyndsay Kenwright has been practising yoga for over 25 years and has clocked up thousands of hours of teaching experience, delivering numerous classes in the local community every week.

On Saturday 13 September, Lyndsay is inviting everyone to join her at Molesey Centre for the Community from 12-1:15pm to stretch, relax and feel stronger – all while raising money for Momentum.

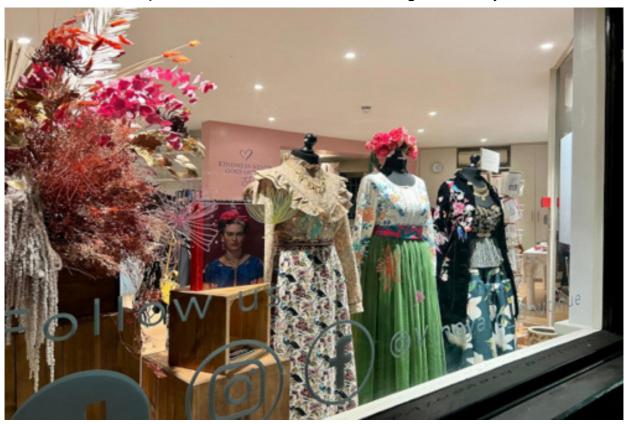
Talking about the event, Lyndsay said: "I found out about Momentum through one of my clients, who works for them. It means a lot to be able to support a local charity during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, hopefully raising a good amount of money so they can help more families in need. This special Move for Momentum class is open to people of all abilities – you don't have to be super-flexible. It will be an inclusive space for people to have some time and space to feel calmer and stronger. We will do some gentle stretching which will be followed by a calming & nurturing relaxation."

To attend the Move for Momentum yoga class, you can book online <a href="here">here</a> by selecting the Hatha/Vinyasa class on Saturday 13 September, or alternatively, you can pay cash on the day. The cost of the class is £15 per person. If you have any questions, you can contact Lyndsay on 07951 353 976 or by emailing <a href="mailto:yoga@lyndsaykenwright.com">yoga@lyndsaykenwright.com</a>

The Move for Momentum challenge is running throughout September and there is still time to organise your own fundraising challenge. Ideas include cycling or walking to school every day in September, bouncing on a trampoline, swimming 1, 5, or 10 miles, or taking on a dancing challenge. People can even think of their own unique idea – anything goes as long as moving is involved!

## Vineyard Boutique shortlisted for the UK's Favourite Charity Shop From Vineyard Community & Richmond Foodbank

Vineyard Boutique is one of the crucial fundraising arms for the Vineyard Community & Richmond Foodbank charity and has been shortlisted among some major names.



The Boutique has made it to the final six shortlisted in the London category, an incredible accolade that recognises the hard work, passion and dedication of the charity shop team.

This shortlist would not have been possible without the dynamic duo Melinda McHugh (Shop Manager) and Hannah Ryland-Brown (Shop Assistant Manager) at the helm, as well as the entire 50 plus volunteer team, all of whom make Vineyard Boutique the wonderful community hub that it is.

The charity supports a wide demographic of local people, including those who are street homeless, vulnerably housed, experiencing food poverty, mental health crisis, abuse, or addiction struggles. Through their numerous services, they seek to connect people with the support they need to transform their lives for the better.

Melinda said "I feel very proud and overwhelmed that Vineyard Boutique, which has only just turned 1, has been shortlisted for this award. I would like to thank all the staff, volunteers, customers and local community for helping to make this happen. We couldn't have done it with you!"

You can vote for Vineyard Boutique before midnight on 2 October.



## St Mary's University

## St Mary's Alumnae Finish Top of Rugby World Cup Group

St Mary's University, London alumnae Ellie Kildunne, Jess Breach, Rosie Galligan and Abi Burton have finished top of their Rugby World Cup group with England.

The Red Roses have won all of their World Cup games so far, finishing top of Pool A with a staggering 191 points difference.

Ellie and the team perform so brilliantly. Ellie has shone just as brightly on the rugby field as she did in her academics, and it's truly inspiring to watch her thrive. I'm so proud to see her achieving the success she so richly deserves."

The team now enter the knock-out stages of the competition, where they will face

Scotland in the Quarter-Finals on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

All four of the former St Mary's students have previously played for their country, with Ellie, Jess and Rosie making their World Cup debuts in 2021 and Abi and Ellie starring in the Olympic

in the Olympic sevens squad at Paris 2024. Abi made her Olympic debut at the Tokyo 2020 Games.

Rosie's lecturer in Sports Management Dr Charles Little said, "Rosie transferred to St Mary's in order to further her rugby career, and we're delighted with her continuing success with the Red Roses. She excelled as a student, and displays the same excellence on the rugby pitch."

Head of Sports St Mary's Andrew Reid-Smith said, "It's brilliant to see England qualifying for the World Cup Quarter-Finals. All at St Mary's are proud of the students and how they are performing as part of this record-breaking team. The knock-out phase brings extra jeopardy, and

we'll be cheering them on as they look to extend their winning streak."



Both Ellie Kildunne and Jess Breach have been key figures in the World Cup campaign so far for England, contributing to multiple tries across their three games, with Jess currently joint second on the top try scorer ranking. Ellie, who is the World Rugby Player of the Year, was player of the match in the opening match of the tournament.

In their first match against the <u>USA</u>, both Ellie and Jess scored two tries each. Jess went on to score a hattrick against <u>Samoa</u> and a further try in England's final group game against <u>Australia</u>, in which she also made her 50<sup>th</sup> appearance for the Red Roses.

Speaking on Ellie's performance so far Dr Jade Salim (Head of School - Sport, Exercise and Applied Science) said, "As someone who loves watching rugby, it's been incredible to see

St Mary's

University

London

**Twickenham** 

# Creative Students Show up for Thames River Campaigning Event

In the summer, <u>SOLAR (Save our Lands and River)</u> Campaign group organised a community event at Burnell Avenue Open Space to protest the <u>Teddington Direct River Abstraction (TDRA)</u> infrastructure proposals.

The proposals include a treated sewage outfall facility near Teddington Weir, a new river



abstraction facility upstream, and associated tunnels and pipeline shafts through public parks and nature reserves in Hounslow, Twickenham, and Ham Lands.

A powerful gathering with banners, voices, and a united front took place on a glorious summer's day in June, where members of the local community showed up to convey their support for the campaign, including MP for Twickenham, Munira Wilson.

As part of the event, Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) Art & Design students partnered with the organisers to produce a runway performance showcasing their own made fashion pieces, which were created to address the themes of clean water and sustainability. The crowd showed huge support for the talented students, admiring their work and effort in the project.





Thank you, SOLAR, for hosting the important event, and a massive well done to our designers and models!

Interested in taking part in opportunities like this? There is still time to enrol on some of our creative courses for 2025 - find all the information here.



## Red Roses Team to Play Scotland

Captain Zoe Aldcroft will return to action on Sunday as the Red Roses take on Scotland in the Women's Rugby World Cup quarter-final at Ashton Gate Stadium, Bristol (KO 4pm).



The 28-year-old is back at blindside flanker after missing the second and third pool stage matches due to injury.

She is one of four changes to the team that started the victory over Australia last time out in Brighton.

Fresh from two tries as a replacement versus the Wallaroos, Kelsey Clifford is named at loosehead prop in the only other alteration in the forwards.

Holly Aitchison earns a first start of the tournament at fly-half, outside Natasha Hunt, with Helena Rowland coming in at full-back. Wings Jess Breach and Abby Dow remain in the back three, and centres Tatyana Heard and Megan Jones complete the backline.

Hooker Amy Cokayne and tighthead prop Maud Muir retain their places in the front row while Aldcroft's return sees Morwenna Talling switch to the second row alongside Rosie Galligan. Sadia Kabeya and Alex Matthews continue in the back row.

Head coach John Mitchell said: "The first stage of the tournament is behind us, and now we enter a new stage of the competition that has an end point.

"We are adapting well to different situations, and while we recognise Scotland have improved, we will still believe we can build pressure on them. This is an exciting challenge that we're ready for. We trust our girls to be consistent, take ownership of their roles, embrace the occasion, and earn the right to another week in this competition.

"The enthusiasm surrounding the tournament has been incredible, with support growing across the country. We know Bristol will be no different, and the girls are relishing the opportunity to rise to the occasion."

#### Red Roses team to play Scotland

- 15 Helena Rowland (Loughborough Lightning, 43 caps)
- 14 Abby Dow (Unattached, 56 caps)
- 13 Megan Jones (Trailfinders Women, 30 caps)
- 12 Tatyana Heard (Gloucester-Hartpury, 33 caps)
- 11 Jess Breach (Saracens, 50 caps)
- 10 Holly Aitchison (Sale Sharks, 41 caps)
- 9 Natasha Hunt (Gloucester-Hartpury, 85 caps)

- 1 Kelsey Clifford (Saracens, 18 caps)
- 2 Amy Cokayne (Sale Sharks, 86 caps)
- 3 Maud Muir (Gloucester-Hartpury, 45 caps)
- 4 Morwenna Talling (Sale Sharks, 25 caps)
- 5 Rosie Galligan (Saracens, 28 caps)
  - 6 Zoe Aldcroft (Gloucester-Hartpury, 66 caps) captain
  - 7 Sadia Kabeya (Loughborough Lightning, 25 caps)
  - 8 Alex Matthews (Gloucester-Hartpury, 78 caps)

#### Replacements

- 16 Lark Atkin-Davies (Bristol Bears, 71 caps)
- 17 Mackenzie Carson (Gloucester-Hartpury, 22 caps)
- 18 Sarah Bern (Bristol Bears, 76 caps)
- 19 Abbie Ward (Bristol Bears, 78 caps)

- 20 Maddie Feaunati (Exeter Chiefs, 20 caps)
- 21 Lucy Packer (Harlequins, 36 caps)
- 22 Zoe Harrison (Saracens, 62 caps)
- 23 Emma Sing (Gloucester-Hartpury, 12 caps)

## Women's Rugby World Cup preview: Red Roses v Scotland

England's Red Roses face Scotland in the Women's Rugby World Cup quarter-finals on Sunday 14 September.

Having finished top of pool A thanks to a <u>47-7 win over Australia</u>, the Red Roses will meet a familiar foe in the first knock-out stage.

They take on Guinness Women's Six Nations opponent Scotland at Ashton Gate Stadium, Bristol, with the game kicking off at 16:00 on Sunday 14 September.

John Mitchell's side have played Scotland a total of 34 times, winning 32 of their encounters.

Their run of wins against Scotland extends goes back 25 years, having last lost to them in 1999 in the Women's European Championship.

Most recently the Red Roses beat Scotland 59-7 at Mattioli Woods' Welford Road during the 2025 Guinness Women's Six Nations.

Abby Dow and Claudia Moloney-MacDonald both scored twice, with five further tries coming from the pack.



They go into the game on the back of a 30-game winning streak, and will break their own world record for consecutive wins in international rugby should they advance to the semi-finals.

Their opponents finished runners up in pool B behind Canada, having beaten Wales and Fiji.

Ranked eighth in the world, this is the first time Scotland have qualified for the quarter-finals since 2002.

#### How to watch Red Roses v Scotland

Where Ashton Gate Stadium, Bristol

When Sunday 14 September

Kick-off 16:00 BST

Where to watch BBC One & iPlayer

#### Stats & facts

The Red Roses have won each of their previous three Rugby World Cup quarter-final ties by 14+ point margins and are the only side to have reached the semi-finals in all nine previous editions of the competition.

England maintained the highest gainline success rate of any nation at Rugby World Cup 2025 (75%), while Scotland were the only team to register dominant contact from at least half of their carries during the pool stages (53%).

England's Jess Breach and Scotland's Francesca McGhie are two of five players to have scored a joint-high six tries at Rugby World Cup 2025 they are also two of three players to have made 10+ linebreaks (10 each, Braxton Sorensen-McGee 11).

England are the only team to have made 50+ attacking 22 entries in this year's Rugby World Cup (53) and have also scored the most points per entry of any side (3.9); the Red Roses are also the only team averaging fewer than one point conceded per defensive 22 entry (0.7).

#### Keep your eye on...

Zoe Aldcroft's return. Red Roses captain Aldcroft returns to the side, having missed the last two games through injury. She will be looking to replicate her impact against Scotland during the Six Nations, when she ran in from 40 metres thanks to a fine interception.

Kelsey Clifford starts. Like Aldcroft, Clifford scored a try during the two sides' Six Nations encounter and comes into the starting 15 after scoring twice against Australia as a replacement.

Helena Rowland at full back. The ever-versatile Rowland steps in at full back in place of Ellie Kildunne, having scored a record 27 points from fly half in the pool-stage win over Samoa.

A record winning run. Should the Red Roses advance to the semi-finals, they will beat their own world record for consecutive Test wins in international rugby and extend their run to 31 matches.

#### **Recent results**

2025: Red Roses 59-7 Scotland 2024: Scotland 0-46 Red Roses 2023: Red Roses 58-7 Scotland 2022: Scotland 5-57 Red Roses 2021: Red Roses 52-10 Scotland



## Match Preview: Brentford v Chelsea

Written by Brentford Football Club

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of Brentford's second home game of the Premier League season against Chelsea on Saturday (8pm kick-off BST)

Brentford's first west London derby of the season comes when Chelsea travel to Gtech Community Stadium on Saturday (8pm kickoff BST). The Bees won their only home game of the campaign, beating Aston Villa 1-0, while Enzo Maresca's side are unbeaten in the Premier League this term.

Tickets are still available for the Chelsea game - on sale now to members with 100+ TAPs. Secure your seat here.

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know before kick-off.

#### **Pre-match Analysis**

Stephen Gillett, Playmaker Stats: Palmer's fitness will heavily impact how Chelsea set up at the Gtech

Chelsea have fresh summer signings to blood this Saturday when the second-placed Blues take on Brentford in what promises to be an exciting west London derby.

Alejandro Garnacho is the latest high-profile star to join the reigning world champions and the former Manchester United winger is in

contention for a start against the Bees, although Cole Palmer's fitness will heavily influence Enzo Maresca's lineup and tactics.

Recently sidelined with a groin injury, talisman Palmer has been sensational since joining from Manchester City two seasons ago, registering an incredible 56 goal involvements (37 goals and 19 assists) in the top flight, and the England international remains the star of the show at Stamford Bridge.

Yet <u>Chelsea</u>'s resurgence has not rested solely on their talisman. The impact of two other signings from the 2023/24 campaign has been just as important in shaping Maresca's side.

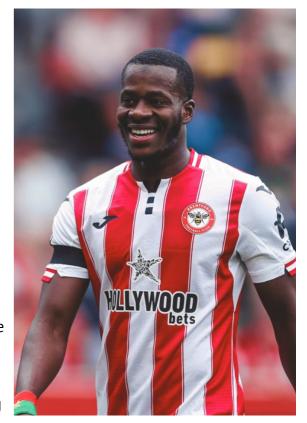
Both Moisés Caicedo and Enzo Fernández took time to settle after mega-money moves from **Brighton** and Benfica. However, the midfield duo excelled as Chelsea finished fourth domestically last term and they were again central as the Blues lifted the newly-formatted Club World Cup in July.

The in-form João Pedro has won plenty of plaudits after his fast start to life at Chelsea, and the Brazilian struck the Blues' opening goal in a 2-0 win over Fulham prior to the international break. However, Caicedo delivered arguably the outstanding moment of Chelsea's victory 15 minutes prior to Pedro's goal.

A flowing move down the Cottagers' right flank saw the ball played into the path of Fulham full-back Timothy Castagne, who looked destined to score from 10 yards out - until Caicedo charged across the penalty area to make a sensational block.

It was a game-changing moment from the Ecuadorian, who also won the ball prior to Chelsea's second goal, and the 23-year-old currently leads the <a href="Premier Leaque">Premier Leaque</a> for tackles and interceptions combined this season.

Fernández made a similarly weighty contribution to that win over Marco Silva's men. The architect of Pedro's



goal, Fernández coolly converted a second-half penalty to secure all three points, and the Argentine (five goals and four assists) has now been Chelsea's most productive player in the Premier League since the turn of the year.

Caicedo and Fernández's fantastic blend of tenacity and poise sets the tone for Chelsea, and the Blues' ability to probe from one side of the pitch to the other sets up an interesting clash in playing styles.

While Chelsea have opted to control games by stringing passes together, <u>Keith Andrews</u>' Bees have exerted control out of possession and played more directly.

The Blues top the Premier League for average possession (61 per cent) and sequences of 10+ passes (50). Early season data also shows they cycle a higher share of passes left (31.7 per cent) and right (29.7 per cent) than any other side; in contrast, Brentford (40.4 per cent) have played a higher share of their passes forward than any team.

In this context, Reiss Nelson's arrival in TW8 gives Brentford added variety in the final third. <u>The Arsenal loanee's ability to stretch play while offering control in possession could bring unpredictability and balance</u>, if he features.

A samba showdown between Brentford striker <u>Igor Thiago</u> and his compatriot Pedro is another highlight, profiled in Saturday's matchday programme. Both players are in fine fettle, and Pedro (two goals, two assists) and Jack Grealish (four assists) are the only Premier League players with more goal involvements than Thiago (two goals, one assist) across all competitions this season.

Brentford will aim to stifle Chelsea and lean into their own strengths this Saturday with a considerable prize at stake: the scalp of the reigning world champions.

#### **Scout Report**

Dan Long, Sky Sports: Chelsea have momentum heading into west London derby

In the lead-up to the previous meeting between Brentford and Chelsea in April, a question was posed: did Chelsea have what it would take to achieve a first top-four finish since 2021/22 and glory in the UEFA Conference League?

Six wins from the last nine - a run where they beat <u>Tottenham</u>, <u>Liverpool</u>, Manchester United and <u>Nottingham</u> <u>Forest</u> - ensured they ticked off the first, though it was not until the final day that that spot was locked in.

Just three days after the curtain came down on the 2024/25 Premier League season, they became the first club in history to win all four major UEFA trophies, with an emphatic 4-1 win over Real Betis in Wrocław, despite trailing 1-0 up to the 65th minute.

It was a perfect way to end the campaign - yet the campaign did not end there.

By virtue of winning the Champions League in 2020/21, Enzo Maresca's side qualified for the newly-expanded Club World Cup in the USA - and their first group fixture, against LAFC, came less than three weeks later on 16 June.

But the momentum carried them through and, despite a surprise 3-1 defeat to Flamengo in the second game, they beat Espérance de Tunis, Benfica, Palmeiras and Fluminense to reach the final, before taking down PSG - who had thumped Real Madrid 4-0 in the semi-finals - in the final at MetLife Stadium.

"No words for the players. They deserve it," Maresca told DAZN afterwards. "Our future is very exciting."

A rest was overdue for Chelsea, particularly with just one month and four days between the final and the Premier League opener at home to <u>Crystal Palace</u>. They even had to find time for a truncated pre-season - but

they took it all in their stride and relatively comprehensive wins over Bayer Leverkusen and AC Milan set them up nicely.

In the meantime, behind the scenes, it was a typically busy summer in terms of transfers. 12 new players joined, including Pedro, Liam Delap and Garnacho, as well as highly-rated 18-year-old Estêvão, who had agreed a move from Palmeiras one year earlier.

16 left, too, with no fewer than four goalkeepers among them, and Noni Madueke, who moved across the capital to Arsenal.

Chelsea's first Premier League game, against Crystal Palace, ended 0-0, even though the Blues created 1.6 xG, before they eased to a 5-1 win at West Ham and beat Fulham 2-0 in a west London derby shrouded in controversy.

One slight concern they have encountered is that Delap was ruled out for six to eight weeks with a hamstring injury at the end of August.

With Christopher Nkunku sold to AC Milan and Nicolas Jackson loaned to Bayern Munich, Pedro was left as the only recognised striker at the club, meaning Marc Guiu had to be recalled from a season-long loan at <a href="Sunderland">Sunderland</a> after just three appearances.

The rigours of competing on multiple fronts may well further take its toll on Chelsea throughout the season, but for now, the momentum is still showing no signs of slowing - which is undoubtedly very welcome after a rocky few years.

#### In the Dugout

Enzo Maresca

Enzo Maresca played in the academies of AC Milan and Cagliari in his native Italy before turning professional in 1998 with... West Brom. After a season-and-a-half at The Hawthorns, the midfielder signed for Juventus. He only played 37 league games for the club in four years, though, and spent time on loan at Bologna and Piacenza.

Maresca - a 15-time Italy Under-21 international - then spent time at Fiorentina, before joining Sevilla in 2005. It was in Spain that he spent the most successful years of his career. Across a four-year period, he won the UEFA Cup twice, the Copa del Rey, the Spanish Super Cup and the UEFA Super Cup.

He went on to play for Olympiacos, Malaga, Sampdoria, Palermo and Hellas Verona, then retired from professional football on his 37th birthday in February 2017 and was appointed assistant at Ascoli four months later.

Less than a year after starting work as Manchester City's Elite Development Squad manager, Maresca was headhunted by Parma in May 2021, but he lasted only 14 games as head coach before being dismissed.

He later returned to City as Pep Guardiola's assistant, but departed again one year later to take up the vacant managerial position at <u>Leicester City</u>.

In June 2024, after leading the Foxes to the Championship title, Maresca was announced as the successor to Mauricio Pochettino on a five-year contract at Chelsea.

In just over a year, he has already managed more games for the club than Graham Potter, Maurizio Sarri, Rafa Benitez, Roberto Di Matteo, André Villas-Boas, Luiz Felipe Scolari and Avram Grant.



## Six-month milestone:

## NHS patients across the country now benefitting from life-saving treatments made from UK donor plasma

From NHS Blood and Transplant

**Twickenham** donors contribute to achievement: Over 2,000 NHS patients across the country now benefitting from life-saving treatments made from UK donor plasma. One of only three plasma donor centres are in Twickenham. This means Twickenham donors have contributed to this huge NHS milestone.

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), NHS England, the Department of Health and Social Care, and hospitals across the country are celebrating a significant milestone, with 2,221 NHS patients now treated with life-saving immunoglobin medicines made from UK-donated plasma since the first patients began receiving treatment in March 2025.

The UK's move to collect and use domestic plasma for the manufacture of vital treatments such as immunoglobulins and albumin significantly strengthens the supply chain of these vital treatments, boosting NHS supply, alongside imported medicines, to ensure patients can get what they need, when they need it.

The UK's plasma collection programme, led by NHS Blood and Transplant, has now enabled 574,402 litres of UK plasma to be transported across Europe to manufacture vital plasma-based medicines, including immunoglobulins and albumin, before bringing them back for use in UK hospitals. This major achievement is a testament to the generosity of UK plasma and blood donors, whose contributions have been pivotal in making these life-saving medicines available to NHS patients.

One of the many patients now receiving UK-derived plasma medicines is Samantha Bloomfield, a 55-year-old patient from Leeds, who has been receiving intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) therapy for over 14 years and switched to the UK medicine in June 2025.

Samantha, who suffers from Common Variable Immunodeficiency (CVID), a condition which severely compromised her immune system, relies on regular IVIG treatments at St James's University Hospital, part of Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, to help strengthen her immune system and protect her from serious infections.

**Samantha says:** "I have been receiving intravenous immunoglobulin infusions for 14 years and as of June 2025 have switched to receiving the medicines made from UK plasma.

"Infusions have been life-changing for me and I rely on them to keep me well. Before I started on them, I was regularly suffering from various infections, and this just doesn't happen

anymore. Before starting IVIG infusions I was constantly sick and needing time off work, but now I can't remember the last time I had a chest infection.



"It is incredible to think that I'm receiving this treatment made from the plasma of UK blood donors. Knowing that we now have this ability in the UK gives peace of mind for the future, not just for me, but for all patients reliant on regular IVIG infusions. I feel extremely grateful to all the donors who make these treatments possible."

Anthony Staincliffe, Assistant Director of Change Delivery and Performance for plasma, at NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "Reaching this six-month milestone is an extraordinary achievement for everyone involved in getting this programme up and running, and demonstrates the real difference UK plasma donations are now making to lots of patients, with Samantha being one of them.

"The increased resilience in the supply of immunoglobulin and albumin across the NHS is a critical step towards reducing reliance on imports from other countries.

"The generosity of donors is literally saving and improving lives right across the country. We urgently need more blood and plasma donors to help save and improve more lives. Even if you don't live near one of our specialist plasma centres, every one of our blood donors also contributes to making these vital medicines, as we recover plasma from each blood donation too."

**James Palmer, National Medical Director for Specialised Services at NHS England, said:** "It's fantastic to see the impact this new programme is already having in its first six months, with NHS staff able to provide life-saving treatments to more than 2,000 people who have now safely started on a medicine made from UK plasma donations.

"We've seen a real step-change that strengthens the medicine supply chain and UK resilience to global disruptions – ensuring patients will always be able to access the treatment they need, when they need it."

Sarah Denman, Clinical Pharmacist and West Yorkshire Sub-Regional Immunoglobulin Assessment Panel Co-ordinator, at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust: "The UK's plasma programme is making a real difference in the lives of patients who rely on immunoglobulin treatment, such as Samantha. For clinicians, it is great to know we have a consistent supply of products that we can provide to our patients.

"We continue to urge more people to come forward and sign up as blood and plasma donors – your support means the world to the patients we treat and support every day, and these treatments just wouldn't be possible without the generosity of those who donate."

**Dr Susan Walsh, CEO of Immunodeficiency UK, said:** "For patients with primary and secondary immunodeficiency, plasma-derived medicines provide a vital lifeline. Having a UK supply means greater security for patients who rely on immunoglobulin to stay well and highlights the generosity of UK donors whose plasma is being transformed into life-saving therapies. Immunodeficiency UK welcomes this progress and thanks every donor whose gift is helping to protect the lives of people living with immunodeficiency."

Every blood and plasma donor makes a vital contribution to making these life-saving medicines.

To find out more, book an appointment or register as either a blood or plasma donor, please visit: <a href="https://www.blood.co.uk">www.blood.co.uk</a>, download the NHS Give Blood app or call 0300 123 23 23.



## Richmond Park named the 5th best place for an autumnal walk

From GO Outdoors

Taking the top spot as the best place for an autumn walk is the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire, with a score of 9.3 out of 10. The forest boasts a TripAdvisor rating of 4.8 out of 5, and it's clear that visitors are drawn to it during the autumn, with 84 reviews mentioning the word 'autumn'. With a range of trails to explore and wildlife like deer to spot, the Forest of Dean offers the perfect backdrop for any autumnal adventure.

Following in second place is Winkworth Arboretum, with a score of 8.51 out of 10. With over three quarters (78.2%) of reviews mentioning 'autumn', it is clear that the Surrey-based arboretum comes to life during this season. Managed by the National Trust, it is home to over 1,000 tree species, with many changing colour in the autumn months. With relatively low rainfall, averaging just 62mm from September to November, visitors can generally expect drier conditions for their autumn strolls.

Rounding out the top three is Derbyshire's Padley Gorge, with a score of 8.35 out of 10. Home to beautiful wooded landscapes, this gorge thrives in autumn, with nearly one in four (23.9%) reviews mentioning 'autumn'. The gorge also has various easy-to-moderate trails, including the Padley Gorge and Burbage Brook walk, making it an accessible destination for walkers of all levels to explore in this season.

Walk	Location	Total reviews	Total 'Autumn' keyword mentions	Total 'Autumn' keyword mentions (%)	Average Sept - Nov precipitation (mm)	TripAdvisor rating /5	Overall score /10
Forest of Dean	Gloucestershire	643	84	13.1%	67	4.8	9.30
Winkworth Arboretum	Surrey	614	480	78.2%	62	4.3	8.51
Padley Gorge	Derbyshire	46	11	23.9%	85	4.8	8.35
Cragside	Northumberland	3,847	279	7.3%	68	4.8	8.03
Richmond Park	London	2,509	167	6.7%	59	4.7	7.71
Sheffield Park & Garden	East Sussex	1,324	882	66.6%	70	4.5	7.55
Westonbirt, The National Arboretum	Gloucestershire	2,831	1,943	68.6%	68	4.2	7.40
Stourhead	Wiltshire	2,845	921	32.4%	71	4.5	7.24
Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal Water Gardens	North Yorkshire	4,330	303	7.0%	65	4.7	7.24
New Forest	Hampshire	1,888	140	7.4%	95	4.8	6.92
Regent's Park	London	6,487	216	3.3%	59	4.7	6.92

Natalie Wolfenden, Author and hiking enthusiast at GO Outdoors comments: "There is still so much to explore when summer comes to an end. The UK's natural beauty comes to life in the autumn months, with the leaves shifting colour and the changing wildlife, I simply love it!

"To fully enjoy your autumn stroll, preparation is key. Layers are essential in the autumn months as they can be added or removed depending on the weather conditions on the day. What's more, rain can come when least expected, so be sure to wear a good pair of walking

<u>shoes</u> as well as packing a <u>waterproof jacket</u> and <u>trousers</u>. This will help you make the most of your walk, no matter what the weather throws at you."

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