

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



Remembrance, Sandys, Twickenham
Photo by Berkley Driscoll

7th November 2025

T&RT

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Epilepsy Action

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TickerTape - News in Brief

Vineyard Community & Richmond Foodbank Christmas Fair

From Vineyard Community & Richmond Foodbank

Vineyard Community & Richmond Foodbank are delighted to announce their Annual Christmas Fair, taking place on Thursday 27 November from 3.30 to 6.30pm at Vineyard Community Centre in Richmond.

This much-loved festive event promises a joyful evening for all ages, featuring seasonal stalls, mulled wine, and a Santa's Grotto. Families can also enjoy a host of children's activities, including face painting, cookie decorating, Christmas colouring and much more.

The Christmas Fair is not only a wonderful way to celebrate the season but also a chance to support local people in need. All proceeds will go towards Vineyard Community & Richmond Foodbank's vital work, offering help in crisis and hope for life to individuals and families across the borough.

Join us for an evening of festive cheer, community spirit, and the true meaning of Christmas.



The Tree Agency

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Richmond's Fragile Culture

Nineteen Buildings on the 2025 Heritage at Risk Register

By Micheal Jones

Historic England's 2025 Register reveals a borough of unrivalled beauty quietly slipping into neglect – its conservation areas under pressure, its politics uneasy with its own inheritance.

The release of Historic England's *Heritage at Risk Register* this week reveals a borough of exceptional beauty beginning to show signs of neglect. Nowhere is this more evident than on Richmond Hill, one of England's most celebrated landscapes, long protected by Act of Parliament, where two of its landmark villas now stand empty and decaying. Their shuttered windows and supported façades tell a quieter story of hesitation, aesthetic unease, and the slow decline of civic pride.

Each autumn, the Register holds up a mirror to the nation's conscience. It lists the buildings, monuments and landscapes whose decline reminds us that beauty does not endure without care. It is not a document of despair but of vigilance, a reminder that what is most admired must also be most actively defended.

In the 2025 edition, Richmond upon Thames occupies a tense position. Nineteen entries across the borough, from the noble but uninhabited villas of Richmond Hill to the First World War boatyards of Hampton, suggest a civic pride increasingly sustained by memory rather than maintenance. Most striking of all is that an entire conservation area, Platt's Eyot, is now officially listed as at risk.

An Island in Decline

Platt's Eyot is a slender island on the Thames, lined with boat sheds and rare workshops built using the Belfast truss system during the Great War. Much of its architectural memory was erased in the 2021 fire that consumed these sheds – a loss conservation surveyors described as “a genuine national loss” – leaving only fragments and survey drawings to testify to a vanished craft tradition. Today, fires, flooding and development pressure cast a shadow over its future.

Decay on Richmond Hill

Elsewhere, the picture is no less disquieting. Doughty House and its once-renowned picture gallery stand silent above Richmond Hill, their windows shuttered, their promise deferred. Wick House, once the country retreat of the court painter Sir Joshua Reynolds, lies empty, its walls propped with iron supports while it awaits salvation from someone willing to pay millions to sort out its subsidence. Consent has been granted for a modern addition in glass and timber, a scheme approved by Richmond Council against Historic England's advice, which warned that its heavily glazed elevation would appear “incongruous.” The advice, as has become all too common in Richmond, was politely ignored.



Across the river, the Loggia at Thames Eyot, once part of the formal gardens of Poulett Lodge, faces a quieter but equally serious decline. Built in the eighteenth century to frame views of the Thames, it is one of the few surviving elements of the villa landscape that once defined Twickenham's riverfront. Now marooned between Art Deco flats and the Twickenham Riverside Development site, its stucco is failing and its stonework is fractured by years of damp. Historic England records its condition as "very bad", warning that without urgent intervention, this fragment of Georgian grace may soon be lost altogether.



An Uneasy Creed

In its planning vocabulary, traditional architecture is too often dismissed as "pastiche" - as though respect for classical form were a confession of Conservatism, and modernism the only style deemed fit for the politically enlightened Liberals.

Councillors are increasingly involved in direct negotiations over major planning projects, often dictating stylistic details to developers and second-guessing professional advice. What starts as civic enthusiasm too often hardens into interference. Projects stall, designs are repeatedly redrawn, and outcomes become compromised; neither genuinely modern nor truly traditional. One gets a sense that a planning system prefers slogans over solid stone.

Meanwhile, at street level, quiet attrition persists unchecked. In Twickenham town centre, many listed buildings have been quietly modified with double glazing and inappropriate plastic signage, due to weak enforcement and an evident lack of inspection. Conservation, once regarded as a matter of care and ethics, has become merely a matter of processing planning applications.

A Culture of Erosion

What is fading in Richmond is not just fabric but also its philosophy. The borough that once exemplified the British blend of nature and architecture, villas nestled among parkland and rivers, terraces set against the sky, now risks only seeing its past as a mere decorative inconvenience.

The emphasis on "sustainability" and "place-making" has created an odd paradox: a council skilled in the language of stewardship but deaf to its true meaning. The Heritage at Risk Register is not a list of shame but a reminder that heritage, like a garden, deteriorates quietly before it visibly fails. Being listed is a notice, not a punishment. Yet Richmond's numerous entries suggest a borough unsure of its identity: a guardian of its heritage or simply a showcase of its image. If this council cannot protect the beauty it inherited, it may one day discover that pride alone cannot preserve what originally made Richmond beautiful.



Photos ©Twickenham & Richmond Tribune

List of Heritage sites at risk in Richmond Borough

Site	Status / Grade	Condition	Trend	Notes
Platt's Eyot Conservation Area, Hampton	Conservation Area	Poor	Deteriorating	Entire island-wide conservation area at risk – a national rarity; multiple ownership, fire and flood damage.
Doughty House, 142 Richmond Hill	Grade II	Very bad	Declining	Landmark villa vacant for decades; slow decay despite agreed restoration plans.
The Gallery at Doughty House, Richmond Hill	Grade II	Poor	Declining	Former picture gallery adjoining Doughty House; structure deteriorating.
Wick House, Richmond Hill	Grade II	Very bad	Declining	Once a nurses' home for the Star & Garter; modern glazed extension approved against Historic England advice.
32 The Green, Richmond	Grade II*	Very bad	Declining	Prominent Georgian townhouse overlooking the Green; no repair solution agreed.
Norfolk House, 8 Montpelier Row, Twickenham	Grade II*	Very bad	Declining	Fine mid-Georgian residence; long-term neglect, fabric deteriorating.
Ivy Hall (Hobart Hall Hotel), 43–47 Petersham Road	Grade II	Very bad	Declining	Vacant riverside building; poor maintenance and water ingress.
Loggia in Grounds of Thames Eyot, Twickenham	Grade II	Very bad	Declining	Eighteenth-century garden structure; soon to be overshadowed by Twickenham Riverside development.
Grotto or Shell House, Thames Eyot, Twickenham	Grade II*	Poor	Declining	Decorative interior suffering moisture damage; shared ownership complicates repair.
Boathouse 2, Platt's Eyot, Hampton	Grade II	Very bad	Stable	Immediate risk of structural failure; no repair scheme agreed.
Boathouse 4, Platt's Eyot, Hampton	Grade II	Very bad	Stable	Similar condition to Boathouse 2; fire-damaged and vulnerable.
Boathouse 5 (easternmost 13 bays), Platt's Eyot, Hampton	Grade II	Very bad	Declining	High vulnerability; fabric loss continuing.
Building No. 14, Platt's Eyot, Hampton	Grade II	Fair	Improving	Repair scheme in progress with new end-use identified.
Hampton Waterworks (Beam & Store Buildings), Upper Sunbury Road	Grade II	Poor	Declining	Industrial waterworks complex; slow decay, no agreed repairs.
Ruston, Upper Sunbury Road, Hampton	Grade II	Poor	Declining	Associated with water regulation infrastructure; fabric weakening.
Church of St Richard, Ham	Grade II	Very bad	Declining	Immediate risk of further deterioration; no repair plan agreed.
Grove Gardens Cemetery Chapel, Richmond	Grade II	Very bad	Improving	Grant-aided works underway; future use identified.
Air Raid Shelter, St Leonard's Court, East Sheen	Grade II	Fair	Stable	1940s civil-defence shelter; structure sound but needs ongoing maintenance.
Boathouse & Deep-Water Dock, Thames Eyot, Twickenham	Grade II	Poor	Declining	Riverside structure with balustrade and gates; erosion and ownership issues.

You can access the full register [HERE](#)

Thames river basin has the worst water quality in the UK

From Chas Warlow, Councillor for South Richmond, Richmond & Twickenham Green Party

The results of the Great UK WaterBlitz, a survey of the health of rivers and streams in the UK carried out by volunteers under the aegis of the charity Earthwatch UK, have just been published – and, for local residents, they make grim reading.

The data suggest that the Thames river basin area has the worst water quality in the UK, with 81% of measurements showing unacceptable levels of nutrient pollution.

Worryingly, every freshwater sample showed pollution from sewage discharges and agricultural run-off. Other chemicals were also detected, including pharmaceuticals, antibiotics, illicit drugs and pesticides. Of the 20 chemicals assessed, 12 of them were present at concentrations that pose risks to aquatic life.

Antibiotics were found at concentrations that risk antimicrobial resistance developing in our freshwaters, while illicit drugs such as ketamine are also prevalent in UK waterways (although the WaterBlitz report points out that they pose limited risk to aquatic life). Nevertheless, the prevalence of these drugs in our rivers and streams is a worrying sign.

As if that wasn't enough, the insecticide imidacloprid, which is used by dog owners to protect their pets against ticks and fleas, is found at high concentrations in some samples across the UK; the drug poses a moderate to high risk for aquatic invertebrates which are vitally important for ecological health. The WaterBlitz report ends with a call to the UK government to implement better regulations on tick and flea pet medications like imidacloprid and especially regarding their blanket preventative use on pets in the UK.

Why does the Thames river basin have such high levels of harmful pollution?

The study concludes that the high proportion of land in the river basin used for agriculture must be playing a big part, plus the fact that more than half of Thames Water's 351 sewage treatment plants are currently operating without sufficient capacity to treat the volumes of sewage they receive – and most of the worst-performing works are found upstream of London.

Green Party councillor Chas Warlow took part in the survey and had this to say: *"I was genuinely shocked when I saw the high levels of pollutants in the samples I took. Unfortunately, my samples were not exceptions – they were matched by all the others on our stretch of the river and throughout the river basin. We must always remember that clean water is a public good. Private corporations owned by overseas investors have no incentive to act in our interest – that means our government needs to get on with renationalising our water companies and clean up our waterways."*

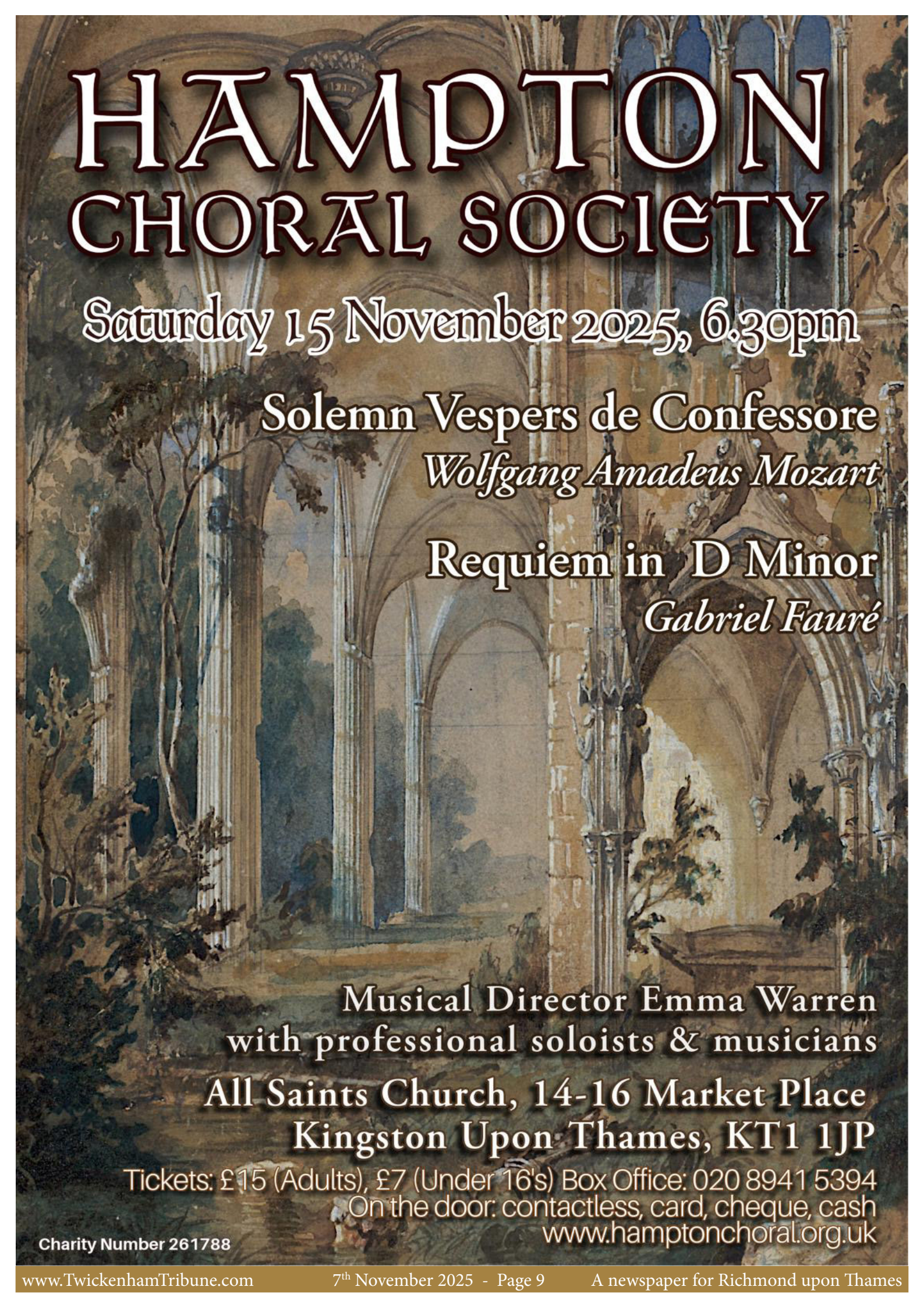
Ian McNuff, a leading figure in the Save Our Lands and River campaign, which is fighting to stop the proposed Thames Water TDRA scheme – a scheme which would involve treated sewage being pumped into the Thames near Teddington Weir, commented: *"These results reflect just how badly we have treated our natural waterbodies. Those who are most responsible, like water companies, must embrace their role as guardians of the environment – we should not have to drag them kicking and screaming to accept their responsibilities while at the same time they shovel unacceptable levels of cash out of their businesses."*

The report is available at <https://earthwatch.org.uk/report/great-uk-waterblitz-autumn-2025-report/#fullreport>

You can also see the results on a map at:

<https://www.freshwaterwatch.org/pages/great-uk-waterblitz-results>





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Reader's photo

This wonderful photo was sent in by Tribune reader Johanna Kitson. The view is towards Richmond Lock and Footbridge.



Cycling Without the Pedals

Proposed new cycle lanes spark debate

By James Knight

Richmond's political class has long spoken the language of environmental virtue; *active travel*, *modal shift* and *Vision Zero* are now their secular liturgy. Yet behind the slogans lies a more straightforward truth: the council remains far better at drafting strategy papers than at delivering physical infrastructure.

Next Monday's Transport and Air Quality Committee meeting will debate the latest submission to Transport for London's Local Implementation Plan. On paper, this is an annual funding routine; in reality, it marks the most extensive reimagining of west Richmond's roads in a generation. Sixth Cross Road in Twickenham, Percy Road in Whitton, and the long artery of Staines Road all appear on the list for "Cycleway standard segregated lanes". Together with Hanworth Road and Hospital Bridge Road, they form a corridor of transformation through the car-dependent western wards, precisely where the 20-mph blanket limit still irritates many voters.

A Borough Debates

When resident Ben Jones posted that *"it looks like all the car parking along Sixth Cross Road will be removed*

so the council can install segregated cycle tracks", it lit a match. *"Another waste of council taxpayers' money,"*

Terence Bray wrote, capturing a weariness that many in Whitton and Heathfield share. Robert Munster replied that the schemes *"simply make the road network run less efficiently and add to congestion and pollution and probably do nothing for safety."* Susan Collett asked, *"Who's going to upkeep the roads when they have driven all the cars off it?"*



Their frustration met swift rebuttal from cycling advocates. Art Gelling, a local landscape architect, called such claims *"anti-cycling disinformation"*. He reminded readers that *"there is no proposal in the agenda"* and argued that the council should consider *"latent demand"* rather than simply counting existing cyclists. To him, better infrastructure would open opportunity, not

close it: *“Schemes like these open up the “option” to use a bike - not least for the 30-35% of households who have no car”.*

The councillor overseeing all this, Alexander Ehmann, stepped in to correct the record, insisting that *“no detailed design exists”* and that talk of parking loss was *“premature, sensationalist and inaccurate”*. His tone was bureaucratic precision; his problem was that no one wanted procedure, they wanted reassurance. To residents, such statements sound like management rather than listening.

The Morality of the Motor Car

Beneath the quarrel lies a deeper clash of moral imagination. For many on the liberal left - the car has become a symbol of excess, a moving monument to carbon and privilege. To drive is to take up more than one's fair share of air, land and atmosphere. The bicycle, by contrast, represents civic virtue; it signals decency, restraint, even moral repair.

Yet to the suburban mainstream, especially in Whitton, Heathfield and Hampton Hill, the car retains a nobler story. It was the democratic leveller of post-war Britain, the instrument that gave working families mobility, aspiration and leisure. It dissolved the boundaries of class and geography. *“If you are a busy mum with family at school to manage, a day is very hard if you have to cycle everywhere,”* wrote Sally Pollard. Her words carry the quiet logic of ordinary life. For many, the car is not indulgence but necessity, not privilege but dignity.

To treat it now as an ethical failing feels, to many, like an unspoken judgment on ordinary life, as though the great post-war levelling of mobility were being quietly undone, and the freedom once shared by millions restored to the hierarchy it had dissolved.

Politics in Motion

That philosophical divide will frame the politics of the 2026 local elections. In the western wards, the memory of the 20 mph blanket speed limit still festers. Each new scheme for cycle segregation or controlled parking will be read not as progress but as punishment. The council's east-west divide is no longer geographical, it is moral. To one half of the borough, car restraint is civic virtue; to the other, it is social condescension.

Councillor Ehmann's committee now finds itself at the centre of that fault line. If it continues to speak the language of consultation while appearing to decide in advance, resentment will harden into rebellion. The Liberal Democrats risk governing through good intentions but losing through their manner of delivery.

The irony is that both sides possess a piece of the truth. The environmentalist sees the cost of excess; the motorist sees the dignity of mobility. The real task of leadership is to reconcile the two. Until that happens, Richmond will remain what it so often is: a borough of plans and pilot schemes, of climate strategies and funding bids, where cyclists debate imaginary cycle lanes and drivers bear the quiet guilt of modern virtue. The challenge is not to pick a side, but to build a borough where both can move freely.

You can read the papers of the next Transport and Air Quality Committee [HERE](#)

Mereway Nature Park in Twickenham

From Crane Valley Partnership

The fabulous new backwater area at Mereway Nature Park in Twickenham is a recent manifestation of CVP's ambitious vision for the Lower Crane that is summarised [HERE](#)

Enhancement works of a similar type have previously been carried out at the Twickenham Rifle and Pistol Club site in the Craneford Fields area, a short distance downstream from Mereway Nature Park.



Remembrance Sunday services taking place across the borough

From Richmond Council

This year's Remembrance Day services are being held throughout the borough on Sunday 9 November 2025.

There will be a service near to you where you can go to pay your respects to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts.

Most events will consist of a parade of armed forces veterans, civic dignitaries and religious officials, a service and two-minute silence at 11am.

Remembrance events

The remembrance events across the borough this year are as follows:

Richmond

Parade starts in Old Deer Park and will process to Whittaker Avenue, where a service will be held at the War Memorial

- Time: Parade begins at 10.15am, service at 10.40am, wreath laying at 11am
- Attended by: The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Clare Vollum

Twickenham

Parade will start at The Embankment and will process to the War Memorial in Radnor Gardens, Cross Deep, Twickenham, TW1 4RB

- Time: Service begins at 11am
- Attended by: The Mayor, Councillor Penny Frost

Hampton

Hampton Methodist Church in Percy Road, Hampton, TW12 2JT

- Time: Parade begins at 12 noon
- Attended by: Councillor Gareth Roberts

East Sheen

Parade begins at Sheen Lane Centre Car Park, East Sheen, SW14 8LP. The service will be held at the East Sheen war Memorial from 11am.

- Time: Assembly at 10.30am
- Attended by: Councillor Julia Cambridge

Barnes

St Mary's Church, Church Road, Barnes, SW13 9HL

- Time: Service starts at 10.55am
- Attended by: Councillor Fiona Sacks

Ham

St Andrew's Church, Church Road, Ham Common, Richmond, TW10 5HG

- Time: Parish Communion at 10am, procession at approximately 10:45am
- Attended by: Councillor Andree Frieze

Petersham

St Peter's Church, Church Lane, off Petersham Road, Richmond, London, TW10 7AB. A wreath-laying ceremony will take place at the Petersham War Memorial at 11am.

- Time: Service starts at 10am
- Attended by: Former Councillor, Sarah Griffiths

East Twickenham

St Stephen's Church, Richmond Road, East Twickenham, TW1 2PD

- Time: Service starts at 9am
- Attended by: Councillor Katie Mansfield

North Twickenham

All Hallows Church, Erncroft Way Twickenham, TW1 1EW

- Time: Service starts at 10am
- Attended by: Cllr Alexander Ehmann

Whitton

Whitton War Memorial, St Philip & James Church, 73 Hounslow Rd, Whitton, TW2 7BY

- Time: Service starts at 10.45am
- Attended by: Councillor Jo Humphreys

Hampton Hill

St James' Church, 46 St James's Rd, Hampton Hill, TW12 1DQ

- Time: Service starts at 9.30am followed by a parade at 10.55am
- Attended by: Councillor Matthew Hull

Hampton Wick

Procession begins at Foresters Arms, 45 High Street, Hampton Wick, London, KT1 4DG

- Time: Parade starts at 10.30am
- Attended by: Councillor Petra Fleming

Teddington

Parade starts and proceeds along the High Street and Broad Street, 10.30am arrive at the Memorial in Hampton Rd, the service will start at 10.50am

- Time: Parade begins at 10:15am
- Attended by: Councillor Phil Gielser



A System That Breaks What It Should Protect

Richmond's SEND Education Crisis

By James Knight

Outside Kingston Guildhall last weekend, the pavement was lined with children's shoes. Rows of trainers and school shoes stood in silent formation, each pair symbolising a child who should be in a classroom but isn't. The demonstration, organised by SEND Sanctuary UK, was directed at Kingston and Richmond Councils, whose joint education service now faces accusations of failing the very children it was meant to protect, campaigners argue. What began as a gesture of protest became, in its quiet solemnity, a poignant portrait of collective loss; the feeling that something beyond mere bureaucracy is broken.

Across the two boroughs, 4,046 pupils in Richmond and Kingston now hold EHCPs, according to Department for Education data, representing an increase of nearly 45% since 2019, nearly doubling since then. However, the availability of suitable placements and specialist staff has hardly improved. Parents report waiting months, sometimes years, for assessments that are supposed to take twenty weeks. In reality, those deadlines are often missed. Many describe a process that prioritises paperwork over the children, where the child effectively disappears into the file.

The human cost of administrative failure

Behind the statistics lie the human consequences. The lack of stable schooling deprives children not only of learning but also of a sense of belonging. Campaigners warn that an increasing number are developing serious mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and self-harm, as isolation deepens and confidence ebbs away. In Richmond and Kingston, cases referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services continue to rise, with parents linking the decline directly to the lack of timely educational support.



For families, the strain is both practical and emotional. One parent in Kingston described her daughter's year out of school as "*a daily erosion of hope.*" Others speak of siblings affected, of jobs lost and savings drained as parents try to fill the gaps left by statutory failure. What should be a caring structure has become a machinery of attrition. Parents no longer discuss partnership with the council, but instead focus on appeals, tribunals, and ombudsman complaints; a weary ritual of proof demanded, delays denied, and rights reclaimed through persistence rather than trust.

A council under growing scrutiny

After seven years of Liberal Democrat administration, Richmond's Education and Children's Services Committee, chaired by Councillor Julia Cambridge and vice-chaired by Councillor Michael Wilson, faces increasing pressure to act. The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman continues to uphold complaints against the council for unlawful delays, poor communication, and repeated breaches of procedures. Such findings have become more frequent than rare, reinforcing the perception that lessons are recognised but never fully learned.

The committee's credibility is now under scrutiny. The borough once prided itself on the inclusivity of its schools; now, it faces allegations of allowing its most vulnerable pupils to suffer. The Ombudsman's language in recent rulings has been notably severe, describing "*systemic delay*" and "*failure to make timely decisions*", a phrase that, in plain terms, means a child waiting without access to schooling, therapy, or support.

Politics and responsibility

What troubles many families most is the widening gap between rhetoric and reality. The Liberal Democrats campaign passionately on special needs provision in authorities they do not control, yet in Richmond and Kingston, where they hold power, their tone is noticeably subdued. Across the border in Surrey, a county where the same party demands accountability from others, the contrast is striking. For parents in Hampton, who see both sides of the boundary, the difference feels uncomfortably clear - outcry elsewhere, evasion here.

The roots of today's crisis go deeper than any single council chamber. The current framework for children with special educational needs was introduced by the Children and Families Act of 2014, which replaced the old "statements" with Education, Health and Care Plans and extended support up to the age of twenty-five. At the time, it was hailed as a modern reform; a step towards integration, parental involvement, and lifelong inclusion.

Importantly, it was conceived under the Coalition Government, in which the Liberal Democrats were full partners. The Quad was the small, influential decision-making body at the heart of the 2010-2015 Coalition Government. It comprised David Cameron and George Osborne for the Conservatives, and Nick Clegg with Danny Alexander for the Liberal Democrats - four men who decided every major policy in private, often with more candour than scrutiny. In practice, nothing of importance progressed without their collective agreement, giving the Liberal Democrats effective parity of influence over the government's legislative agenda despite their smaller parliamentary presence.

The coalition years were also a period of Liberal Democrat self-congratulation, when proximity to Chequers seemed more important than proximity to the classroom. When the same party now condemns the shortcomings of the SEND system, it is not just criticising other parties but its own legislative legacy. The architecture of the current difficulties was, to a large extent, built under its watch - and, like many Liberal Democrat projects, it was generous in promise, silent on cost, careless of consequence for those it was meant to serve.

For families still waiting, these national failures have painfully local consequences - measured not in policy papers, but in lost childhoods.

The quiet moral reckoning

The councils' joint provider, Achieving for Children, claims that increasing demand and inadequate national funding are the main barriers to progress. However, for parents witnessing their children's decline, these explanations seem empty. No funding formula can justify a year of lost education or a child being left without support.

One message from the protest outside Kingston's civic offices still lingers: "*These shoes stand for the cost of a system that breaks what it should protect.*" It is not an accusation so much as a lament; a reminder that systems, like people, reveal their values through whom they fail. For now, that charge remains unanswered. But each empty desk, every anxious child at home, and every pair of shoes left in silent testimony all make the same plea: justice delayed is still justice denied, and compassion postponed is compassion lost.

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Hampton Court Palace participates in 'Heritage Seed Relay' to highlight the crucial importance of seeds

The UK's Heritage Seed Library (HSL), based at charity Garden Organic, is celebrating 50 years of seed conservation this year with a unique 'seed relay' across the UK – and last week the golden parcel of seeds landed at the historic Hampton Court Palace.

Former Blue Peter gardener and head of horticulture at Garden Organic travelled across London by tube, bus and foot to deliver these precious seeds to Martin Einchomb, head gardener at Hampton Court Palace.

Martin chose one of the golden heritage tomato varieties from the golden parcel, and it seems very fitting – with His Majesty King Charles as Garden Organic's patron – that these heirloom seeds find a home at the palace. The gardeners here follow organic principles, using peat-free compost and bio controls as well as reducing unnecessary wastage.



Martin said: *"We're really pleased to be taking part in the Heritage Seed Library seed relay – it's a brilliant idea. We use their seeds within the kitchen gardens here as part of our growing process through the year. It's important to save seeds, and great for the environment and climate change."*

Chris Collins was delighted to deliver these seeds and said: *"We're thrilled our special 50th birthday Heritage Seed Library seeds will be grown in this stunning kitchen garden"*.

A changing climate and decline in insects including pollinators is making our food security more precarious. We need to conserve the widest variety of vegetable seeds as possible to ensure the survival of homegrown food crops. Add to this worldwide food shocks caused by pandemics, wars and disrupted trade routes and the urgent need to save our precious seed becomes a race against time.

The current relay has three parts: stage one is underway now in England and further stages will take place in Scotland and Wales in 2026, with a special celebration in Ireland. The first leg of the Seed Relay started from Bocking, Essex, where the seed of the HSL was first sown, and Garden Organic founder Lawrence D Hills began his groundbreaking organic gardening and conservation work.

During the giant 50th birthday 'pass-the-parcel' event, the precious heritage seeds will travel more than 180 miles to be shared among key individuals, organisations and communities across England, before finishing at Garden Organic.

At each stop-off point, supporting 'seed champions' will take a packet of seed from the golden anniversary parcel to grow (and eventually harvest and save), and pass the rest of the seeds onto the next destination.

The HSL is the only living library of heritage vegetables in the UK, and the only seed library that conserves food by sharing precious heritage seeds with gardeners and communities so they can help preserve them. By sharing and 'growing out' the seeds with community partners across the UK, the seeds become more resilient and better adapted to climate change and local conditions.

Fiona Taylor, CEO of Garden Organic said: *"The Heritage Seed Library conserves seed by sharing it, and this work is a continual relay between places and generations to ensure the survival of heritage vegetables. Passing seed on to be grown by friends, neighbours and future generations is a simple action that gardeners and growers can take to ensure our food crops adapt to climate change. Seed is a precious natural resource, and open pollinated seed continually adapts to the conditions in which it is sown. This means by passing seed on and sowing it in a variety of places, we are allowing it to survive and thrive."*

Photo: Chris Collins passing seed to Martin Einchomb, Hampton Court

Next Week at Richmond Council

Monday, 10th November, the **Transport and Air Quality Committee** will meet to discuss 1) the pedestrian pilot project, 2) review of cargo bikes free, 3) TfL implementation plan funding 2026/27, followed by 4) the quarterly monitoring report. The meeting commences at 7 pm, at York House, Twickenham. For more details, click [HERE](#)

Tuesday, 11th November, there will be a **Special Council Meeting** to make Sir Vincent Cable an Honorary Freeman of the Borough. The meeting commences at 7 pm, at York House, Twickenham. For more details, click [HERE](#)

On Thursday morning, 13th November, the **Licensing Sub-Committee** will decide whether to grant permission for Caprinos, 160 Upper Richmond Road West, to extend their late-night opening hours, despite 39 objections. The meeting will begin at 11:00 am and be held virtually. For more details, click [HERE](#)

Thursday evening, 13th of November, **The Education and Children Services Committee** will meet to discuss 1) school place planning annual update, 2) Childcare sufficiency assessment, free, 3) Achieving for children annual reports, 2024-25, 4) quarter 2 monitoring report. The meeting will commence at 7:00 pm, York House, Twickenham. For more details, click [HERE](#)

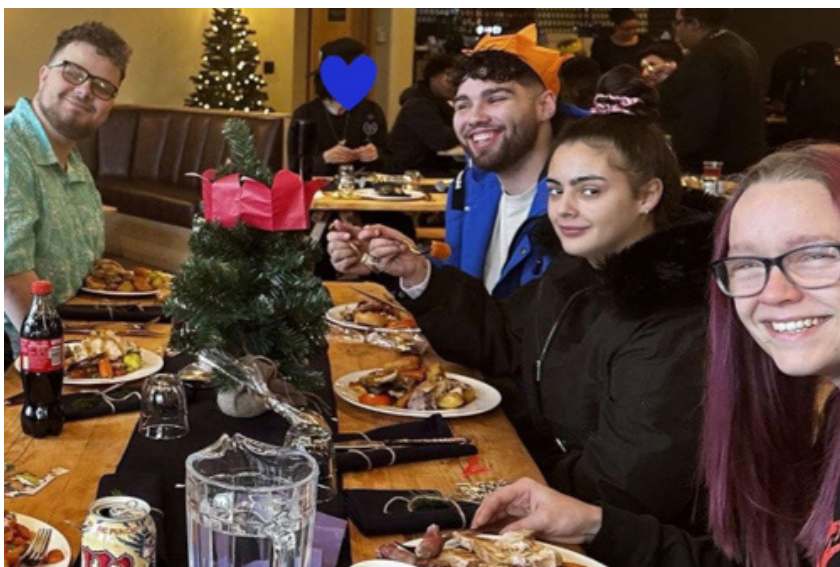
For guidance on how to **participate** at different types of council meetings, such as speaking or asking written or verbal questions, please click [HERE](#)

Help make Christmas Day special for local young care leavers

From Cocoon - Care After Care

For the ninth year, Richmond-based charity and Community Heroes award winners Cocoon - Care After Care are providing a very special event on Christmas Day for local young people who have left the care system and would otherwise be facing Christmas alone.

Over the years, the event has only been made possible due to the incredible generosity and kindness of Richmond residents and businesses!



If you would like to buy a gift for a guest, donate to help cover costs or volunteer to wrap presents please visit the [Cocoon - Care After Care website](#).

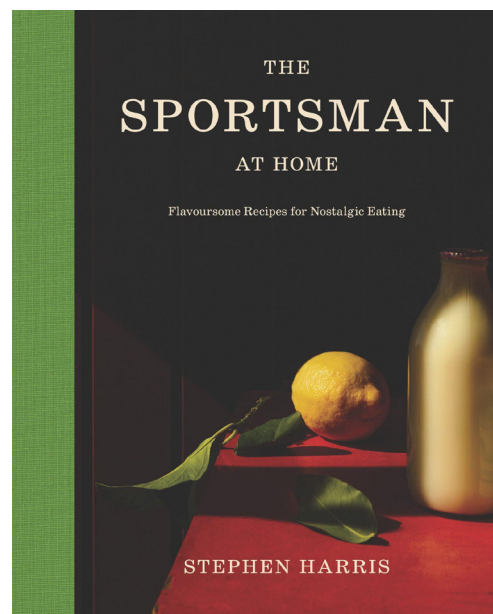
The Sportsman at Home

In 1999 chef Stephen Harris took over a rundown pub on the Kent coast and turned something ordinary into something extraordinary with his pared-back style of cooking, earning (and retaining) a Michelin star for **The Sportsman**, as well as being named the UK's best restaurant multiple times. It's a cult classic both adored by professionals from all over the world, and a truly beloved, unpretentious local.

I was lucky enough to go there with my husband to celebrate a wedding anniversary some years ago. And the memory of it has remained fixed in my memory (and that's in spite of visiting umpteen three-star Michelin restaurants across Europe with the late Michel

Roux when I ran the Roux Scholarship).

I was therefore delighted to be given the opportunity to review Stephen's latest book - published this week. In **The Sportsman at Home**, Harris, a self-taught chef, welcomes us into his kitchen in Whitstable to discover his favourite ingredients and show us how to apply the simple ethos of his iconic restaurant to home cooking. With chapters covering 'Dinner', 'Nostalgia', 'Christmas' and 'An Ode to Cream', Stephen captures the imagination for simple cooking with his love of seasonal, local produce. Including dishes such as Pork Chop with Charred Leeks, Coq au Vin, Cream of Soups and Blackcurrant and Almond Tart, Stephen reintroduces familiar favourites, made simpler, and much better.

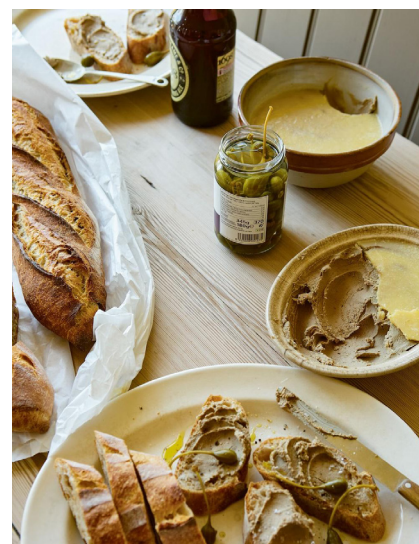


There's stunning location photography of the Kent landscape that serves as Stephen's inspiration, **The Sportsman at Home** is a true celebration of simple food at its very best, from one of the most respected chefs in the UK. **Published by Quadrille, at £30** for a very beautiful hardback, this will make a lovely gift, but no doubt you'll want to keep it for yourself! Here are a couple of recipes to tempt you to order a copy.

Duck Liver Pâté Serves 12

"This pâté was born from a series of thoughts I had about foie gras. Although I love the taste of it, I just can't justify the process of forcefeeding ducks and geese. I thought that one of the reasons it tastes so good is the high fat content, so I decided to replace the fat with butter and reduced booze. When you combine the hot, reduced booze, just-cooked duck livers and cold, diced butter in a food processor, an emulsion forms as the butter melts into the other ingredients. When it has cooled, you are left with a perfect smooth pâté."

- 300 ml (10 fl oz/11/4 cups) brandy
- 300 ml (10 fl oz/11/4 cups) Sauternes
- 300 ml (10 fl oz/11/4 cups) white port
- 450 g (1 lb) duck livers, cleaned and trimmed
- 250 g (9 oz) really good unsalted butter made from cultured cream, cold and diced, plus extra for frying
- salt and freshly ground black pepper



1. Pour the brandy, Sauternes and white port into a saucepan and boil to reduce to about 100 ml (31/2 fl oz/scant 1/2 cup), which will take around 10 minutes. Keep warm.
2. Heat a little butter in a frying pan over a medium heat until foaming, then briefly cook the livers until browned but still pink in the middle. Season well.
3. Transfer the livers to a food processor with the hot reduced booze and start to blend. Add the cold, diced butter and an emulsion should start to form. Blend until smooth.
4. Check the seasoning, as this is important. A pâté will usually contain 1–2 per cent salt, which in this case means 7–14 g (1/4–1/2 oz). Add as much as you like in this range, depending on your taste.
5. Pour the pâté into a bowl. It can be eaten warm with bread or chilled to serve later.

Pear, Walnut and Roquefort Salad Serves 4

“This is an early dish from The Sportsman that old customers and staff still talk about now. It was based on a salad from Cafe Pasqual’s Cookbook (a restaurant in Santa Fe), which I got from my brief time cooking in Mexican restaurant in Canterbury. They used pecan nuts, which I changed to walnuts, and the blue cheese became Roquefort.”

- 50 ml (25 fl oz/3 cups) red wine
- 2 tablespoons caster (superfine) sugar
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 star anise
- 3 cloves
- pinch of chilli (hot pepper) flakes
- 4 Conference or Bosc pears, peeled
- 1 tablespoon neutral oil
- 2 teaspoons coffee liqueur (Tia Maria or Kahlúa)
- 2 teaspoons smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon icing (powdered) sugar
- small handful of walnut halves
- 1 romaine lettuce
- 200 g (7 oz) Roquefort
- salt and freshly ground black pepper



1. First, poach the pears. Put the wine, sugar, cinnamon stick, star anise, cloves and chilli flakes into a saucepan and add the pears. Ensure the pears are totally submerged in the wine by placing a circle of baking parchment on top and then weighing them down with a plate. Poach gently over a low heat for about 30 minutes, or until the pears are soft – check them with a sharp knife.
2. Once cooked, remove the pan from the heat and allow the pears to cool in the poaching liquid, then strain the poaching liquid into a clean saucepan. Boil the poaching liquid to reduce it until it is the consistency of a syrup. This will make about 200 ml (7 fl oz/scant 1 cup) syrup.
3. Next, make the walnuts. Preheat the oven to 180°C fan (400°F). Put the oil, coffee liqueur, paprika and icing sugar into a bowl and mix together. Add the walnuts and toss to coat, then spread the nuts onto a baking sheet and toast in the oven for 30 minutes. Check and stir them regularly so they don’t burn. Remove from the oven and leave to cool.
4. Slice the cooled pears lengthways on a mandoline. Put the large lettuce leaves on each plate, then toss the leaves with a mixture of the pears, walnuts and Roquefort. Drizzle the poaching syrup around the salad, then sprinkle the salad with a pinch of salt and a twist of black pepper.

Extracted from *The Sportsman at Home* by Stephen Harris (Quadrille, £30) Photography by Kim Lightbody

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We Shall Remember

Story and images by Doug Goodman

Nationwide services of Remembrance will take place tomorrow, Sunday November 9th, to commemorate the ending at 11.00 am on 11th November 1918 of World War One and to remember those killed in wartime. In Radnor Gardens, Twickenham, residents, relatives of those who died, members of the armed forces, representatives from many services and council members will gather by the War Memorial for the traditional church service, speeches and a march past.



Alec Reader in 1915



Alec's Home on Wandsworth Common



Troops March Past Alec's Home Near Emanuel School.
(Image from Emanuel School archives)

One local resident will attend the ceremony in memory of his uncle who was killed on The Somme on 15th September 1916. A cross had already been placed in the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey in the space devoted to the members of The Prince of Wales Own Civil Service Rifles. The number of crosses for the regiment diminish each year and are now down to single figures. From about 12,000 men who served in the Prince of Wales Regiment, 1,200 died between 1914 and 1919*. Their memorial can be seen on the terrace of Somerset House at the north end of Waterloo Bridge.



Death in High Wood
on The Somme



Thiepval Memorial With Alec's Name



Westminster Abbey Remembrance Field

The soldier who will be remembered by his nephew and other family members, is Private B.A. Reader from Wandsworth. He lived near the Common in a large house from where his father ran an advertising business. After leaving Emanuel School 'Alec' Reader joined the post office as a clerk and enlisted with his friends in a wave of enthusiasm in The Civil Service Rifles. He was only 17. After training in Richmond Park and at several military camps he arrived in France in early 1916. He saw little action at first: 'digging up most of Northern France' according to his letters home. Following new Government legislation, boys who had enlisted under age were

to be released from the services. Alec decided not to 'desert his mates' and to remain in France, even though his father, who was in The Royal Flying Corps, was ready to take him home. At 06.30 on September 15th 1916 the 47th London Division along with other divisions attacked High Wood in order to drive out the Germans from a heavily defended location on The Somme. In the square kilometre of the wood fierce fighting raged and over 10,000 troops from both sides were killed. 'Alec died instantly shot through the head by a sniper' according to a diary report written by a friend beside him.



Poster of The Missing.(Alec is first on the left second row down.)



100th Anniversary at Thiepval in 2016

Alec was buried where he fell in a marked grave as stated in a letter to his parents from his C.O. Captain G.G. Bates MC. The March 1918 attack by the Germans, in an attempt to capture a major part of Northern France, obliterated thousands of temporary graves. Alec's name appears on the Thiepval Monument along with 73,00 others who have no known grave. Thirty years ago, before the Internet made research easy, Alec's two nephews Doug and Roger used the 74 letters written from the trenches to his parents to trace his movements. Military records were studied, museums visited and battlefields explored - culminating in a commemoration in France. Family members assembled in High Wood on 15th September 2016 exactly 100 years and within 100 meters of the spot where Alec died. Many press articles, seven books and several exhibitions have covered the story of Alec including his name and pictures in lights in Piccadilly Circus in 2018. B.A. Reader will always be remembered.



Radnor Gardens November 2024



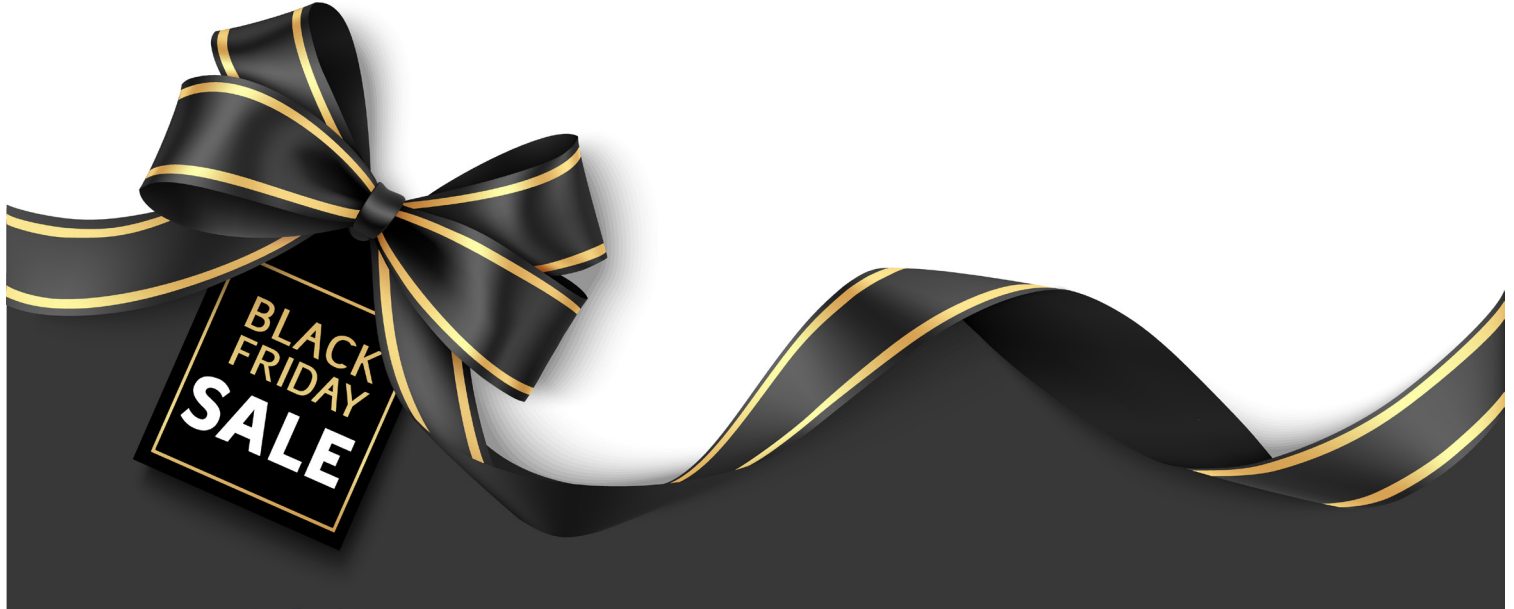
Yesterday at Westminster Abbey, Doug Goodman Remembers his Uncle. (Photo M. Aston)

*Although WW1 ended in 1918 many soldiers remained in France and sadly a large number died from the influenza epidemic in 1919.

Interesting! Black Friday Versus Rachel

By Bruce Lyons

What's New, Black Friday and Cyber Monday come around every year, The media have a heyday every year - busy proving that actually the offers are not really offers - you could actually buy them for the same price - possibly?



But this year there are different Dynamics in play. Black Friday is here and at the end of the month we have Rachel's Budget to look forward to!

Who knows what will happen maybe Airline Taxes will be chosen, maybe income tax - council tax for sure - all in all there will be changes.

So here is some good news: - Companies have realised that their Black Friday and Cyber Monday offers need to have a book by date beyond Budget Day.

So, if you're planning a 2026 holiday now you may well find the current offers extend beyond Budget Day (26 November). Indeed GAdventures have 30% off selected trips if booked by 30th September, HX Expeditions has up to 35% off if booked by 3rd December; Seabourn have \$2,000 cabin credit per cabin on a selection of sailings if booked by 2nd December. There are more, but best to drop by and we will search for the best offer to suit you and defy Rachel!!

On a different tack - Yesterday on TV Celebrity Race Across The World started and I am pretty sure that next week we will see a whole phalanx of journeys to Central America - Hopefully with complimentary offers to entice the curious amongst us.

Celebrity Race Across the World Mexico, Belize & Guatemala

Crusader Travel Ltd
58 Church Street
Twickenham, TW1 3NR
0208 744 0474



Remember remember?

By Deep Patel

~ Life Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

Who remembers the old school rhyme “remember, remember the 5th of November...”? I certainly do and now I have typed it here, I can’t get it out of my head again...but maybe it’s about time we changed that rhyme as this is the first year I noticed as a shopkeeper that it seems the opposite suddenly? People were not remembering it so much this year...people hardly mentioned it...and on the night I just heard a few here and there but not like it used to be in the “good old days”?

One parent came in to enquire if we had any sparklers for sale (I had almost forgotten what they were as it has been so long since we sold them. We didn’t have any as the regulations these days for selling fireworks are very challenging...we have to follow a lot of safety precautions and things like sand buckets and pay for an additional license too, it’s all too much. However, the main reason we don’t keep fireworks is because the demand just isn’t there anymore...people are not “remembering, remembering” the 5th of November like they used to.

I wanted to find out more so I decided to ask my customers about this. The general response I received was “oh, is it the 5th of November today?”. It was like no one cared anymore. I wanted to know more, to know why, so I kept asking my customers.

Some of them pointed out their concern for the environment and the pollution caused by fireworks, whilst others were more concerned about the noise and the impact of this on their pets. Some others were focused on the safety element and increased risks of injury or fires from misuse or faulty fireworks (there are always terrifying stories in the papers about how a firework backfired and exploded on an innocent bystander’s face). Others simply said that it’s “money up in smoke” and they preferred not wasting their hard earned cash for a few seconds of fun (no rude suggestions please).

So I found myself thinking is this it? The end of “remember remember the 5th of November” ... the nostalgia, the excitement and the air thick with the smell of fireworks...I mean no one even mentions Guy Fawkes himself anymore?

The kids in my day used to talk about how we would look forward to throwing a puppet version of him onto a fire and watch him burn for the wrong he did...not anymore...it seems like perhaps the idea of encouraging children to throw a “bad man” onto a pile of burning sticks and cheer about it has become outdated and less appealing, actually reading that back it does sound awful written down, even if the man in question tried to blow everything up... doesn’t sound like something we should be encouraging children to do maybe? Delighting and cheering at the prospect of another human burning alive on a mound of sticks (be they bad).

I think I understand why it’s not like when I was a kid child and we were encouraged by our teachers to do this...maybe it’s for the best...there is enough hatred in the world I guess...I’m not saying it would be best to forgive Guy Fawkes for what he did, but maybe we could subject him to a lifetime of community service instead? Make him realize his mistake and give him

a chance to become “a better man”? I mean, it’s maybe more in line with what we would maybe teach our children is it not? So having spoken with my customers about fireworks and pondered on this for a length of time, I sat down again behind my counter and thought to myself...maybe some things are best left not remembered...



Remember...

“Not all traditional things are good always...”

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP

STOP SILVERFISH WITHOUT HARMING THEM:

Sprinkle cinnamon powder and black pepper around where they come and de-clutter to allow areas of damp to dry out

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

And Then There Were None

by Agatha Christie

YAT at The Hampton Hill Theatre

A small island off the Devon coast, isolated of course, ten guests, each of whom has received an unexpected invitation: this is classic Agatha Christie. The backdrop of French doors opening onto a balustrade and sea view from an authentic thirties living room (with generous cocktail cabinet) set the scene.

It was a rather crowded set with the full cast of ten onstage, but it relentlessly cleared as the plot unravelled. The demise of the faithful staff, the Rogers, played by Nathan Hall and Bonny Ward, left the guests to turn on each other. Then the ten little soldiers on the mantelpiece were chillingly depleted as guests were lost one by one. They all harboured secrets.



Highly engaging portrayals included Bryan Wilson's William Blore, adopting a bogus South African persona before being revealed as a private investigator, and Matthew Down's Anthony Marston, an over-privileged yet enticing character (with a terrific blazer).



Act Three excelled in edginess, it being in a low-lit now sinister room with the few remaining guests' tempers now frayed. With low food supplies and no boat to the mainland due to bad weather, they were marooned and vulnerable.

Sir Lawrence Wargrave was played by Alfie Kennedy, who visibly relaxed into the role. Amin Wad Houta's General MacKenzie was a poignant figure. Cosmo Dearle's Philip Lombard, initially a caddish love interest,

was both charming and monumental, and Hugo Allain brought a vibrant and hysterical presence to the role of Dr Armstrong. Freya Broe convincingly played the reserved and snobbish Emily Brent, an uptight figure who determinedly hid her many misdemeanours.



Co-directors Sarah Dowd and Lizzie Lattimore, created a classy touch, "The Witnesses", who wafted in to fetch the latest deceased to join their ghostly party. Figures stood outside the French windows chillingly gesticulating, a very effective touch. Moody lighting designed by Gary Stevenson, and eerie sound by Meg Hird, supercharged the atmosphere.

Agatha Christie can become very clichéd, but the whole YAT company made this *And Then There Were None* an enthralling, entertaining and highly thoughtful production.

Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2025/11/02/then-none-yat

Photography by Handwritten Photography

Home

by David Storey

Rhinoceros Theatre in the Studio, Hampton Hill Theatre until 8th November

The absorbing 1970 play *Home* poses a confusing conundrum. Where are we? And what's happening? In a garden with a white metal table and chairs, two trilby-hatted gentlemen, elderly and elegant, engage in casual conversation. Seemingly just a couple of old men with time on their hands, idly passing the time with small talk, their memories and dreams. Yet, something is not quite right.



Director Fiona Smith keeps us guessing as the play reveals its secrets. Played with mutual chemistry and captivating credibility by Robin Legard, as the fussy and fastidious Harry, and Nigel Andrews, as the cravat wearing, cane carrying dapper Jack, we start to understand their background. Could this eccentric pair be retired thespians? Alas no, as we learn that Harry swapped a youthful dream of being a dancer to become a heating engineer, while Jack previously worked in food wholesale.



Fiona Smith's direction ensures the dialogue lingers. Crystal clear diction adds enjoyment to the rambling chatter, as do physical reactions and immaculate comic timing. But under the skin of this play there is a lot more going on.

Although dropped clues point to their whereabouts, things become clearer with the entrance of Kathleen and Marjorie, heralding a significant change in pace and mood. The introduction of the lively pair provides an additional dimension, as Kathleen's remark, that "they" took away her lace-up shoes in case she hanged herself, suggests this home might be a mental institution.

Denise Rocard's Kathleen is a sheer delight. Resplendent in a knotted headscarf and frequently-flashed bloomers, she excels as a larger-than-life McGill seaside postcard caricature. Fran Billington's Marjorie is much more sedate and modest. Two enjoyable performances provide much needed balance.

In a nicely observed cameo role, Scott Tilley's Alfred flits on and off. In ill-fitting cardi' and khaki shorts, his focus is collecting garden furniture. He is a touching symbol of the perils of institutionalisation.

As the play progresses the gentle humour slowly spills over into sadness and despair. The definitive moment is the touching conversation between Jack and Kathleen, "say what you like about this place, it's not like home." Although we never discover more about this closed community, we feel the anguish of their entering an institutional graveyard, discarded from a damaged society. Simply superb performances all around.

Read Steve Mackrell's review at www.markaspen.com/2025/11/05/home

Photography courtesy of Rhinoceros Theatre Company

La Fille mal gardée

choreography by Frederick Ashton, music by John Lanchbery after Ferdinand Hérold
The Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden until 9th June 2026

La Fille mal gardée is a complete joy. Its classic choreography is highlighted by the bucolic backdrops designed by Osbert Lancaster, the late prominent Daily Express cartoonist, whose work picks the right note for the perpetual sunny countryside of this comic rural tale.

It astounds and amuses every generation, transfixing even the youngest audience members with comic portrayals of the thwarted love affair between Colas, the handsome farmer's boy, and Lise, the daughter of Widow Simone, who insists she should marry Alain, the rich son of a nearby farmer.



Alain happens to be a comic halfwit, and was superbly danced and acted by Luca Acri. Then there is Widow Simone's the famous clog dance (inspired by Ashton seeing Lancashire clog dancing), amusingly executed by Thomas Whitehead. Nearly stealing the show was Oscar the white Welsh pony, getting his cart caught on the pros' arch while everyone wondered if he was going to add too much to the proceedings. (A junior member of the corps

was on hand with a dustpan in case of accidents.)

It is an uplifting comic masterpiece, but it easy to overlook the difficult choreography is when it is so engaging and effervescently presented. The principals, Marianela Nuñez as Lise, and Vadim Muntagirov as Colas, showcased their talents, assisted by an excellent portrayal of a cockerel (Daichi Ikarashi) and his four hens. The technical virtuosity of Nuñez in the *Adagio pas de deux* is astonishing, being rotated *en pointe* by eight corps, ribbons held above her head. It must be one of the most challenging movements in the repertoire.

There is the famous *Pas de ruban* when the lovers become entangled in red ribbon only to produce a cat's cradle. It is a tribute to the professional skill and experience of Nunez and Muntagirov when it appeared to be getting entangled that they sorted it out without a fluster.

Jonathan Lo, a Jette Parker award recipient, shows the skills in conducting ballet which are so different to that of opera, and he will remain much in demand.



La Fille mal gardée must be one of the best evenings out this season.

Read Michael Rowlands' review at www.markaspen.com/2025/10/20/la-fille-roh

Photography by Alice Pennefather and Alastair Muir

Die Rheinnixen

by Jacques Offenbach, libretto by Charles Nutter and Alfred Von Wolzogen
Gothic Opera at the Battersea Arts Centre

This operatic exhumation is another triumph for this enterprising company. Who knew that Offenbach, responsible for all those naughty French *operas comiques* (think can-can) had written a deadly serious opera in German?

Offenbach in serious mode is really rather good, with some wonderful music, glorious duets, and a splendid concluding ensemble. *Die Rheinnixen*'s big numbers do have a habit of fizzling out, but they make exorbitant vocal demands, which Gothic Opera's cast met with considerable panache. This was music well worth hearing in the impressive performances of talented young singers.



Hannah O'Brien, gloriously fresh sounding as the hapless Armgard, was magnificent in a demanding and exposed part that required flexible coloratura as well as strength and security. Katie Stevenson provided some dark but firm tone as her mother Hedwig. Sam Utley did well in the heavy tenor part of traumatised mercenary Franz. Samuel Lom attained to an almost Verdian grandeur as the villain mercenary who morphs into a repentant father.

Leon Haxby's arrangement reduced the score to a string quartet plus flute, harp, bassoon, and a chorus of eight. Nevertheless, it sounded immensely rich and appealing, and Hannah Von Wiehler conducted with considerable finesse.

An army of marauding mercenaries includes Franz, who is in love with Armgard but has amnesia. Armgard is forced to sing for the troops. She swoons and seems to have died, but she wanders into the forest. There she bumps into her mother, but pretends to be a ghost. All gets even more complicated, and everyone is about to be massacred, when the eponymous Nixies somehow sorts things out. Staging this bizarre plot is challenge for anyone, let alone on a budget.

Director Max Hoehn's made effective use of one of London's most alluring auditoriums, enhanced by Isabella Van Braekel's atmospheric set and Amber Cooper Davies' animations.

Transferring the period from the 1522 Peasants' War along the Rhine to the post First World War Weimar Republic made the pacifist happy ending even more unconvincing. There were a lot of contemporary German posters and placards, but why did the cast suddenly appear with white painted faces? All this is forgivable, for the libretto makes so little of its potential for rich drama, in a production of powerful singing and wonderful music.

Read Patrick Shorrock's review at www.markaspen.com/2025/10/31/rheinnixen

Photography by Craig Fuller



Richmond Shakespeare Society launches regular captioned performances to make theatre more accessible

- First programme of captioned performances in the Society's 90-year history
- *The Ghost Train (Revised)* – Thursday 11 December, 7.45pm
- All future Thursday performances to include captioning

Richmond Shakespeare Society will break new ground this December with its first captioned performance at the Mary Wallace Theatre, giving deaf, hard-of-hearing and English-as-a-second-language audiences the chance to follow every word and enjoy the full experience of live theatre.

While captioned performances are increasingly common in larger venues, this marks a significant step for **community theatre in the borough of Richmond**, led entirely by volunteers.

The captioned performance of *The Ghost Train (Revised)*, a thrilling play by Arnold Ridley adapted by Jocelyn and Nicholas Ridley, takes place on **Thursday 11 December at 7.45pm** at the Mary Wallace Theatre in Twickenham. The show runs from 6–13 December, with a limited number of seats held back for those who will benefit most from the captioned night.

This marks the start of a lasting commitment. From December onwards, **all Thursday performances at the Mary Wallace Theatre will include captioning**, ensuring that every production is accessible to a wider community.



"We're thrilled to be making this step towards opening our doors wider," said Asha Gill, Director and the driving force behind captioning at Richmond Shakespeare Society. *"Theatre connects us through shared experience. Captioning helps ensure that connection is open to everyone."*

During captioned performances, real-time captions are displayed on a screen near the stage, showing dialogue and key sound effects as they happen. This allows audience members who may struggle to hear or catch every word to stay fully immersed in the story's suspense and dark humour.

The Ghost Train (Revised) is a gripping comedy-thriller following a group of strangers stranded at a remote station in the dead of night, where tension, laughter and mystery collide in unexpected ways.

Founded in 1934, Richmond Shakespeare Society is one of the region's most established community theatres. Based at the Mary Wallace Theatre on Twickenham's riverside, the Society stages a diverse programme of plays throughout the year, run entirely by volunteers.

Tickets for the captioned performance are available from **3 November** at richmondshakespeare.org.uk or via boxoffice@rss-mwt.org.uk



Attention Young Writers

By Doug Goodman

Arts Richmond has announced details of its annual writing competition for all local young people.

The competition is open to all young people who live or attend schools or clubs in the Borough of Richmond upon Thames. There are two themes: 'My World' and 'Something Extraordinary'. Children can write a short story of up to 500 words or a poem of up to 25 lines. The entries will be judged in four age groups with prizes for all winning entries. The distinguished author Anthony Horowitz is supporting the competition.



Arts Richmond Young Writers Festival 2025/26



Instagram Twitter Facebook @artsrichmonduk

Deadline
for entries:
Friday 5th
December



Arts Richmond Young Writers Festival is open to all pupils who either live or attend schools or clubs in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. It is their chance to demonstrate writing skills, specifically short stories or poems.

Entries are judged in four age groups with prizes for all winning entries. The shortlisted entrants are invited to a gala awards event at The Exchange Theatre Twickenham on Sunday 15th March 2026 where their work is performed by a group of young drama students.

We also produce and sell a professionally printed anthology of all the 40 shortlisted pieces of work.



Anthony Horowitz writes:

I am very happy to be working with Arts Richmond and their Young Writers' Festival. I live in Richmond and love the area... in fact my recent book is set here. More to the point, I'm always keen to encourage young people to develop their creative skills and if they're living in this area, there's plenty to inspire them. Good luck. And get writing!

Please visit our website for more information and details on how to submit your work:
<https://artsrichmond.org.uk>

Arts Richmond, Room 21, ETNA Community Centre,
13 Rosslyn Road, Twickenham TW1 2AR.
Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 251359.

Business Manager: Marina Malhotra @malhotraofficial

Friday December 5th is the deadline for submissions, and all shortlisted writers will be invited to an awards ceremony at The Exchange Theatre in Twickenham on 15th March.

Competition rules are on <https://artsrichmond.org.uk/>. Entries can be sent to Arts Richmond Young Writers Festival, ETNA Community Centre Room 21, 13 Rosslyn Road, Twickenham TW1 2AR.

Arts Richmond said that this competition gives young people a wonderful chance to demonstrate their writing skills in short stories or poems.



Your drawing could be Richmond's official Christmas card

From Richmond Council

Calling all children aged between 5 and 11 years old to enter our Christmas card competition.

Each year the Mayor and Leader send out Christmas cards to their official mailing list and your child's art could be the design on the card.

If your little one is a budding artist or has a great idea for a fun and festive design, enter the competition by 10am on Monday 17 November 2025.

Entries must be A5-sized original designs from local children who live or go to primary school in Richmond upon Thames.



Previous winning entries by Gabriela Wojnar (left) and Safa Kidwai (right).



Entries can be emailed to mayors.office@richmond.gov.uk or posted to the Mayor's Office.

You can [read all the rules of the competition](#).

The Hairy Hikers

From Siobhan Waters

This year Sam Waters, Tom Pasmore, Will Newman, Jaime Bernaldo de Quiros & Will Craven will be walking from Highfields rugby pitch to **Twickenham for the England vs All Blacks fixture**. The walk is 146 miles long and will be walked across 7 days.

They are all 3rd year students at the University of Nottingham and Samuel is the University of Nottingham Rugby Club President. They are all former or current rugby players and 4 of the 5 are studying either physiotherapy or sports rehabilitation. They are calling their fundraising effort: **The Hairy Hikers: Road to Twicks**.

They are leaving Nottingham around 8am on Saturday 8th and will be stopping in Leicester, Rugby, Northampton, Bletchley, Aylesbury, Hemel Hempstead and West London before arriving at Twickenham for the England v All Blacks fixture on 15th (they don't have tickets unfortunately but will be in a local pub (The Prince Blucher) watching the match and we're encouraging local people to go and support them there after their walk.

We are asking you to make a difference by sponsoring a mile for £10!



Movember is the leading charity changing the face of men's health, and this Movember I'm joining them. Together we can make a difference for men's health – in prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention. Help us stop men dying too young.

We really appreciate everyone's thoughtful donations and messages!

Fundraising page: <https://movember.com/m/14941582?mc=1>

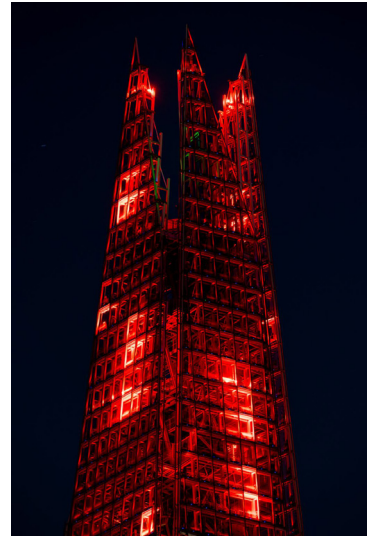


Cascading poppies transform The Shard for remembrance Sunday

From The Shard

This Remembrance Sunday, the UK's tallest building, The Shard, will illuminate the London skyline with a poignant new falling petal display, honouring all those who have served and sacrificed in the Armed Forces of Britain and the Commonwealth.

This Sunday, the top storeys of The Shard's Spire will be lit up in cascading poppy petals down the glass. This is the first time the iconic building has lit up with this display, created to honour all those that have served.



St Mary's University

'Letters of Loss' Remembrance Exhibition Opens at St Mary's University

A new exhibition, *Letters of Loss: The 1920 War Memorial Appeal* is on display at St Mary's University, London, to show how the University's community remembered its fallen following the First World War.

Hosted in the University Chapel throughout November, the month of remembrance, the exhibition explores a collection of correspondence written in early 1920, between bereaved families and St Mary's University - then known as St Mary's Training College - to honour former students who have lost their lives in the Great War.



Ahead of the first post-war reunion that year, the College Secretary wrote to families of fallen alumni for military details and photographs to help create a Memorial Board for the Chapel. The Board was to act as a lasting tribute to those who had served and sacrificed.

Of the letters received, 22 survived and were preserved in the University Archives – around a third of the total number of Simmarians killed in World War I. Each letter revealed the deeply personal ways in which families expressed their grief, faith and pride – words and emotions expressed that still resonate a century later.

The permanent memorials are now displayed in the St Mary's University Chapel, which continue to embody the bond between the institution and

its community, reminding generations of students and staff of the sacrifices made.

The exhibition aims to bring these letters into the light of day, giving a voice to the young men who lost their lives, and to the families who ensured they would not be forgotten.

Key themes explored in the Letters of Loss include:

- Remembrance and Tribute: The creation of a Memorial Board as a spiritual and communal act.
- Grief and Pride: Families' letters reflect sorrow, faith, and pride in their loved ones' service.
- Enduring Legacy: Memorials as lasting symbols of sacrifice and community connection.
- Historical Recovery: Bringing forgotten letters to light after a century.

St Mary's Archivist and Exhibition Curator Mary-Ann McClaran said, *"These letters are not just fragments of history – they are living expressions of love and loss. Each one gives a face and a voice to the names we remember on our memorials. By bringing them into the light of day, we honour both the fallen and the families who carried their memory forward."*

As part of the University's ongoing remembrance commemorations, which have included a Remembrance Service and Rugby Matches with the Royal Artillery, the names of St Mary's students lost in the First and Second World Wars will be read aloud during Mass in St Mary's Chapel this Sunday, 9 November.

Mary-Ann McClaran also curated the St Mary's 175 Exhibition, which looks back over the years the institution was established. The exhibition is open to staff, students and visitors and is on display in the Library for those who want to discover more of St Mary's history and beginnings.



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Richmond charity trustee takes on running event raising over £2000 for epilepsy

Sally Taylor, from London, Richmond, is part of the Board of Trustees for national charity Epilepsy Action and has recently taken part in the Hampton Court Palace 10k to raise funds. Epilepsy Action has celebrated its 75th anniversary, and Sally joined other trustees in taking on personal challenges to raise money for the charity, raising £2,300 herself. Sally was inspired to take on the 10k by the strength, resilience and courage shown by people with epilepsy, having a close family connection to the condition herself.

Originally established as The British Epilepsy Association in 1950, Epilepsy Action has spent the past 75 years working tirelessly to support and advocate for people with epilepsy. For Sally, Epilepsy Action is a cause close to her heart, having a family member with epilepsy and receiving support from the charity in the past.



Sally said: "One of our family members has epilepsy, so I've seen the impact it can have. Taking part in this run feels like a way to turn that personal connection into something positive, raising awareness and funds to help others affected by epilepsy. Epilepsy Action means so much to me and my family. The charity provides support, information and understanding for people living with epilepsy and their loved ones. They help make life with epilepsy less isolating and more manageable while making a real difference in improving care and awareness. Being a trustee has given me a deeper appreciation of just how vital that work is and I'm proud to play even a small part in helping to continue it."

Sally was among many trustees who took part in various fundraising challenges to celebrate the charity's anniversary, with others completing a wing-walk, a skydive and extreme hikes. They've raised £10,000 together in total.

Rebekah Smith, chief executive at Epilepsy Action said:

"We're amazed by all the incredible challenges our trustees have taken on, and couldn't be prouder of their determination to fundraise and mark Epilepsy Action's 75th birthday. Our trustees are an integral part of Epilepsy Action, keeping us on track and pushing us to achieve our 'World Without Limits' strategy. They have so much passion and care for the charity which they've demonstrated through their 75th celebrations challenges. Epilepsy Action has achieved so much over the past 75 years, and the trustees have been a real driving force behind this. The current trustees have recognised the need for change and growth and are doing everything they can to make sure we succeed. I am so grateful for the significant amount of time and effort they put into Epilepsy Action and am so glad of the chance to celebrate their work as part of Trustees Week."

Epilepsy affects around one in every 100 people in the UK and around 80 are diagnosed every day. Epilepsy Action is committed to improving the lives of people with epilepsy, by campaigning for better services and raising awareness of the condition.

The charity provides a national network of support groups, with expert advice available on its freephone helpline 0808 800 5050 and online at www.epilepsy.org.uk.

**EPILEPSY
ACTION**

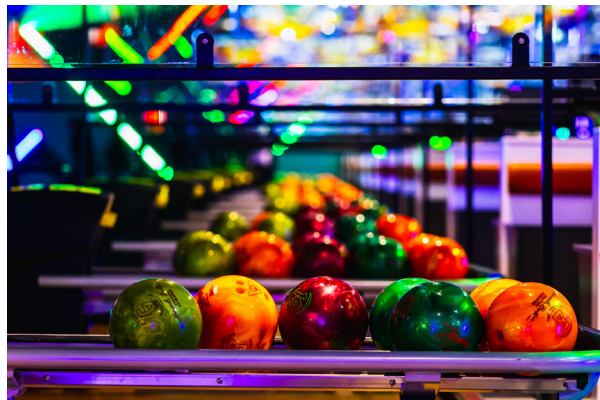
Tenpin Feltham Rolls Out Striking New Look This November

From Tenpin

Tenpin, one of the UK's leading entertainment destinations, is launching its newly improved experience at its Feltham venue on Friday 14th November 2025.

The Feltham Tenpin team is thrilled to welcome visitors to the relaunched site, where they can immerse themselves in a new level of fun, with exciting additions to its already impressive lineup of activities – from all-day adventures to budget-friendly family experiences.

Alongside its 18 bowling lanes, guests can now enjoy two brand-new private karaoke rooms stocked with thousands of songs, perfect for unleashing your inner pop star. They'll also have two state-of-the-art interactive darts areas, a revamped arcade area, and 9 new pool tables for those who love some friendly competition. Sports fans can catch every big game with live TNT and Sky Sports shown throughout the venue.



The bar area has also undergone a full transformation, featuring stylish new furniture, a fresh new look, and an expanded cocktail menu – the ideal spot to relax and refuel after all the excitement.

Families will be excited to discover that the Soft Play area will also have a refreshed look, and will be completed on Friday 12th December, adding yet another reason to visit and enjoy everything the venues transformation has to offer.

Whether you're planning a night out with friends, a fun family day, or an after-work get-together, the newly revamped Tenpin Feltham has something for everyone.

"We're thrilled to showcase these exciting new activities for everyone to enjoy at Tenpin Feltham," says Lauren Seymour Regional Manager at Tenpin Feltham.

"We think visitors will be wowed with what's on offer. Tenpin is all about bringing the best entertainment to Feltham, and we're proud to be introducing so many exciting new features in our refurbished location. We can't wait to welcome everyone to come and immerse themselves in the fun - whether they're hitting the lanes, belting out their favourite tunes, or relaxing with a cocktail."

To celebrate the festive season, guests can also take advantage of Tenpin's Christmas deal – enjoy 2 games of bowling and a meal from just £11*, perfect for festive gatherings with family, friends, or colleagues.

Throw yourself into the fun with Tenpin.

For more information on Tenpin Feltham, to find out about offers available, or to make a booking, please visit: <https://www.tenpin.co.uk/our-locations/feltham/>



Groove Armada Set to Headline Big Game 17

Harlequins are thrilled to announce that globally renowned electronic music duo Groove Armada will headline the pre-match entertainment for Big Game 17 against Bristol Bears at Allianz Stadium on Sunday, 20 December.

The Famous Quarters are set to take over the Home of England Rugby once again this festive period for the 17th edition of Big Game, with two mouthwatering fixtures on display for supporters as Harlequins' men's and women's squads go to battle against Bristol Bears.

Big Game has become a flagship event in the rugby calendar, combining top-tier Gallagher PREM and Premiership Women's Rugby (PWR) action with unforgettable live entertainment. With ticket sales fast approaching 40,000, this year's fixture will be no exception as Groove Armada take to the stage to deliver an electrifying live DJ set that promises to ignite the atmosphere and energise fans ahead of kick-off.



Known for their genre-defining sound, Groove Armada have been at the forefront of the international music scene for over two decades. With multiple Grammy and BRIT Award nominations, the duo has sold more than three million albums worldwide and headlined major festivals including Glastonbury, Coachella and Bestival. Their timeless hits such as "Superstylin'", "I See You Baby" and "At the River" have earned them a loyal global fanbase and established their reputation as one of the most influential electronic acts of their generation.

Over previous years, Big Game has attracted major musical talent, creating a unique fusion of sport and entertainment into an event that can be enjoyed by the whole family. Past headline acts have included Rudimental, Kaiser Chiefs, Craig David, Faithless, Joel Corry, Scouting for Girls and more, cementing the Big Game as one of the UK's most exciting festive sporting events.

Harlequins' Big Game is more than just rugby - it's a spectacle. The pre-match entertainment has become a key part of the matchday experience, building excitement and bringing supporters together long before the opening whistle. Groove Armada's performance will be central to this year's celebrations, setting the tone for an unforgettable day of sport and entertainment in an iconic stadium.

Laurie Dalrymple, CEO, Harlequins, said: *"We're thrilled to announce Groove Armada as the headline entertainment act for Big Game 17. Their iconic sound and timeless tracks are guaranteed to create an incredible atmosphere inside Allianz Stadium, building the energy and noise as we head towards kick-off. With ticket sales set to pass 40,000 imminently, the stage is set for another unforgettable day of top-class rugby and entertainment in our second home. Groove Armada's performance will set the perfect tone for what promises to be a fantastic occasion for our Club."*

Groove Armada added: *"We're excited to perform in one of the world's most iconic stadiums as part of Harlequins Big Game this December! Get in early as we'll be setting the mood for what promises to be an unforgettable experience."*

Big Game 17 general tickets are on sale now, priced from £40 for Adults and £25 for Under 18s. Secure your seats today at quins.co.uk/big-game and be part of an unforgettable day of rugby and entertainment.



Match Preview: Brentford v Newcastle United

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford face Newcastle United at Gtech Community Stadium in the Premier League on Sunday afternoon (2pm kick-off GMT).

Keith Andrews' side have lost just one home game this season, while the Magpies head into this clash having won none of their league away matches this term.

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of the fixture.

Pre-match Analysis

Stephen Gillett, *Playmaker Stats*: Woltemade the man to watch on Sunday

There has been plenty of talk about Alexander Isak's protracted transfer to Liverpool, and its butterfly effect on the Premier League champions, but far less about its impact on Newcastle.

If you were to pop-quiz every Premier League manager on which challenge they'd prefer - a) integrating Isak into their starting XI or b) replacing him - you'd hear a chorus of "no brainer." Yet the scale of the task facing Eddie Howe and Newcastle this season has been largely underplayed.

Brentford head coach Keith Andrews will sympathise, but only to an extent, given that Yoane Wissa's summer move to the Magpies was part of the transfer chain set in motion by Isak's record-breaking £125 million switch.

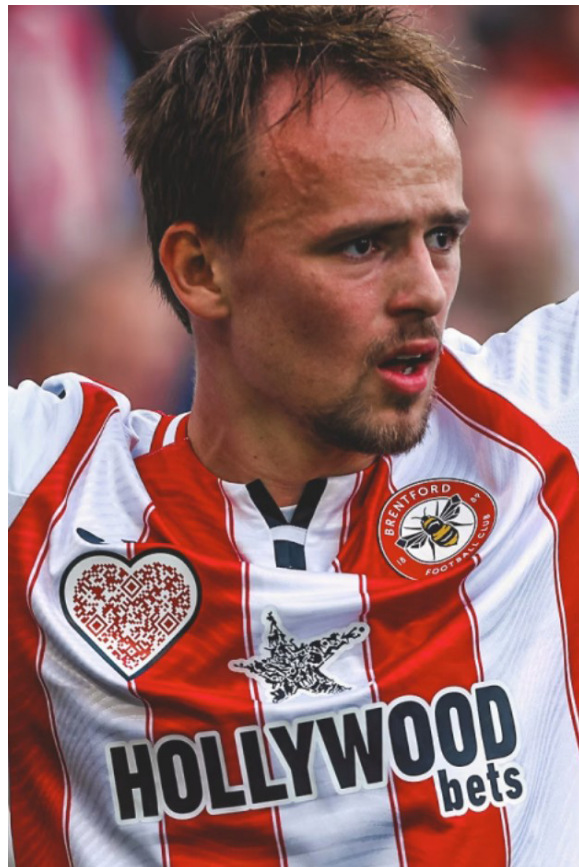
Despite losing the DR Congo international as well as Bryan Mbeumo, the Bees' new-look front three of Igor Thiago, Dango Ouattara and Kevin Schade has started the 2025/26 campaign in promising fashion, scoring 10 goals between them.

The trio have shown a blend of pace, power and unpredictability, and the early evidence suggests Brentford still possess a cutting edge after last season's record Premier League goal haul.

With Wissa out injured, young German striker Nick Woltemade has carried the goalscoring burden for a Newcastle attack seeking to fill an Isak-shaped void and forge a fresh identity.

The former Stuttgart striker's adaptation to the Premier League has been swift, a light touch and steady temperament already evident. Woltemade has hit five goals across all competitions for the Magpies - and his shot conversion rate of 30.77 per cent is second only to Brighton's Danny Welbeck (42.86 per cent) among top-flight forwards.

Toon winger Jacob Murphy and talisman Bruno Guimarães have also chipped in with goals, but Howe is still waiting for his attack to click - Newcastle's shot conversion rate of 7.2 per cent highlights a collective room for improvement.



They may be in transition at the top end of the pitch, but Howe's men remain characteristically resilient without the ball. Newcastle are the only side yet to concede a Premier League goal in the opening 30 minutes this season, and have kept five clean sheets in their first 10 league games. Only Arsenal (7.5), Manchester City (9.4) and Chelsea (10.1) have faced fewer shots per game than the Magpies (10.2).

From a Brentford perspective, perhaps the most disappointing aspect of their 2-0 defeat to Crystal Palace last weekend was the manner of the two goals they conceded. Jean-Philippe Mateta's header stemmed from an indirect free-kick, while Nathan Collins' own goal gave the Bees a taste of their own medicine from throw-ins.

Statistically, Brentford remain the Premier League's best side at defending set-pieces over the past two seasons, but Andrews and his players will want to move on from a performance which, as the Irishman admitted afterwards, "didn't hit the heights."

With Newcastle still smarting from a 3-1 defeat at West Ham in their last Premier League outing, both managers will urge their sides to switch on, at both ends of the pitch, to avoid another off day.

Scout Report

Dan Long, *Sky Sports*: Stark contrast between Newcastle's league and cup form

While missing out on a second-successive Champions League campaign will have been disappointing for Newcastle, they absolutely made the most of the less congested fixture schedule last season.

For starters, there was a six-game winning streak in the Premier League between December 2024 and January 2025, and another five-game run between March and April. Those two spells alone contributed hugely to the club winning 20 Premier League matches in a single campaign for the first time since 2002/03 and for only the sixth time overall.

Despite losing their final two games, Eddie Howe's side finished fifth, which secured a third-straight top-seven finish for the first time since 2001/02 to 2003/04 - but, more importantly, a return to the Champions League, owing to a far superior goal difference to Aston Villa, who finished level on points in sixth. "*The achievement is huge,*" said Howe on the final day of the season.

That was on top of winning the Carabao Cup by way of a 2-1 victory against Liverpool at Wembley earlier in March, with that triumph ending Newcastle's 70-year wait for a major domestic trophy.

On the pitch this season, in cup competitions, Newcastle have thrived so far this season. They are through to a fifth Carabao Cup quarter-final in six seasons - with Fulham standing between them and a third semi-final in four - and they beat both Union SG and Benfica in the Champions League without conceding a goal.

But there is a stark contrast between their form in tournament football and their form in the Premier League. The Magpies are 13th going into this weekend's trip to west London and they have scored just 10 goals, with only Aston Villa and Leeds (both nine), and Nottingham Forest and Wolves (both seven) having hit fewer.

Meanwhile, their last away win came on 7 April at Leicester. They have played eight times on the road since then and picked up only four points. Last Sunday, they were beaten 3-1 by struggling West Ham, with Howe commenting his side were "*unrecognisable in some aspects of our game.*"

[As Chris Waugh touched on in *Hot off the Press*](#), Newcastle want to become serial winners - but to achieve the long-term goal, they must be able to successfully balance competing on multiple fronts, and that means striving for an uptick in their Premier League form, starting immediately.

In the Dugout

Eddie Howe



Before turning his hand to management for the first time, Eddie Howe had a 13-year playing career as a defender, with all but two of his 312 senior appearances having been made in a Bournemouth shirt. He was, however, forced to retire prematurely at the age of just 29 at the end of the 2006/07 season.

By this time, he was already managing the Cherries'

reserve team, which he continued to do until September 2008, when manager Kevin Bond was sacked, concluding his time at the club, too.

Before long, he had been re-hired as a youth coach and, in January 2009, was appointed first-team manager after a short spell as caretaker, following Jimmy Quinn's sacking.

The odds were stacked against Howe; Bournemouth were second bottom of League Two on New Year's Day - having been handed a 17-point deduction at the start of the year. Yet, he managed to guide his team to 12 wins from the final 21 games, which saw them miraculously survive by nine points.

Howe's side were promoted to League One the following year but, in January 2011, he left the south coast for Burnley, where he stayed until October 2012, before returning to Bournemouth to take over from Paul Groves. He, essentially, picked up where he left off, securing promotion to the Championship in April 2013 and to the Premier League for the first time two years later.

Bournemouth were relegated from the Premier League, after five consecutive seasons, in 2020, leading to Howe's departure from Vitality Stadium by mutual consent.

After a 15-month break, he took over from Steve Bruce at Newcastle in November 2021, with the 3-3 draw against Brentford his first official game in charge, though he had to watch the game from a hotel room after contracting Covid-19.

Howe is currently the fourth-longest serving manager in the Premier League, after Pep Guardiola, Mikel Arteta and Marco Silva, and one of only 15 in the top four divisions to have held his post for three years or more.

He is also the seventh-longest serving Newcastle manager in history and less than 70 games away from overtaking both Sir Bobby Robson and Kevin Keegan.



Farewell, 455s!

South Western Railway to stage 'farewell tour' for iconic red commuter trains

South Western Railway (SWR) is staging a farewell tour for its Class 455 trains on Sunday 21 December.

SWR's fleet of red trains, which transport customers from the likes of Guildford, Twickenham and Windsor to London Waterloo, will be retired by the end of the year. SWR's new fleet of Arterio trains is being rolled out and will soon operate all its suburban network services.

In recognition of their role in the lives of millions of customers, their popularity with rail enthusiasts, and to mark the end of an era on the British railway network, SWR and the Branch Line Society will run a special charter service.



The 'Class 455 Farewell' tour will include some familiar places on the suburban network, such as Epsom and Kingston, along with a few special routes and locations, such as the District Line's branch between East Putney and Wimbledon, plus Haslemere on the Portsmouth Direct Line.

Just 400 tickets will go on sale, at a cost of £45.50 each, from the Branch Line Society's [website](#) at **11am on Monday 10 November**. The profits will go to three charities, [The Alex Wardle Foundation](#), [Macmillan](#), and [The Railway Children](#).

Neil Drury, South Western Railway's Engineering and Infrastructure Director, said: *"While customers are getting used to the many benefits of our new fleet of Arterio trains, we know there are a lot of enthusiasts out there who will be sad to see our classic red trains go. The farewell tour will be a fitting tribute to these trains, which have been a staple of our railway and worked incredibly hard for more than four decades. Best of all, the proceeds will go to three specially selected charities. We look forward to welcoming ticket holders on board on Sunday 21 December."*

A familiar sight for millions of commuters in South West London, Berkshire and Surrey, 70 Class 455 trains were built for what is now the SWR network by British Rail Engineering Limited, between 1982 and 1985. They entered service on SWR's suburban routes on Monday 28 March 1983.

90 Arterio trains will replace the Class 455 fleet and are currently operating more than 300 services per day, with more joining in the coming weeks and months to transform journeys on SWR's suburban network.

The brand new, 10-car trains will serve 98 stations in and around South West London, and each will carry over 50% more customers than the Class 455s, significantly increasing capacity for customers.

The £1 billion fleet will also improve customer comfort, providing modern features including Wi-Fi, charging points at every seat, real time information, accessible toilets and air conditioning.

Photo © South Western Railway

**South Western
Railway**

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