

# Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



George Street, Richmond  
Photo by Berkley Driscoll

18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

T&RT

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South Western Railway

Alan Winter

Alan Winter

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Ferrero

Harlequins Foundation

Ron Brand

Brentford Football Club

The Shard

South Western Railway

cinch

Editors: Teresa Read, Berkley Driscoll

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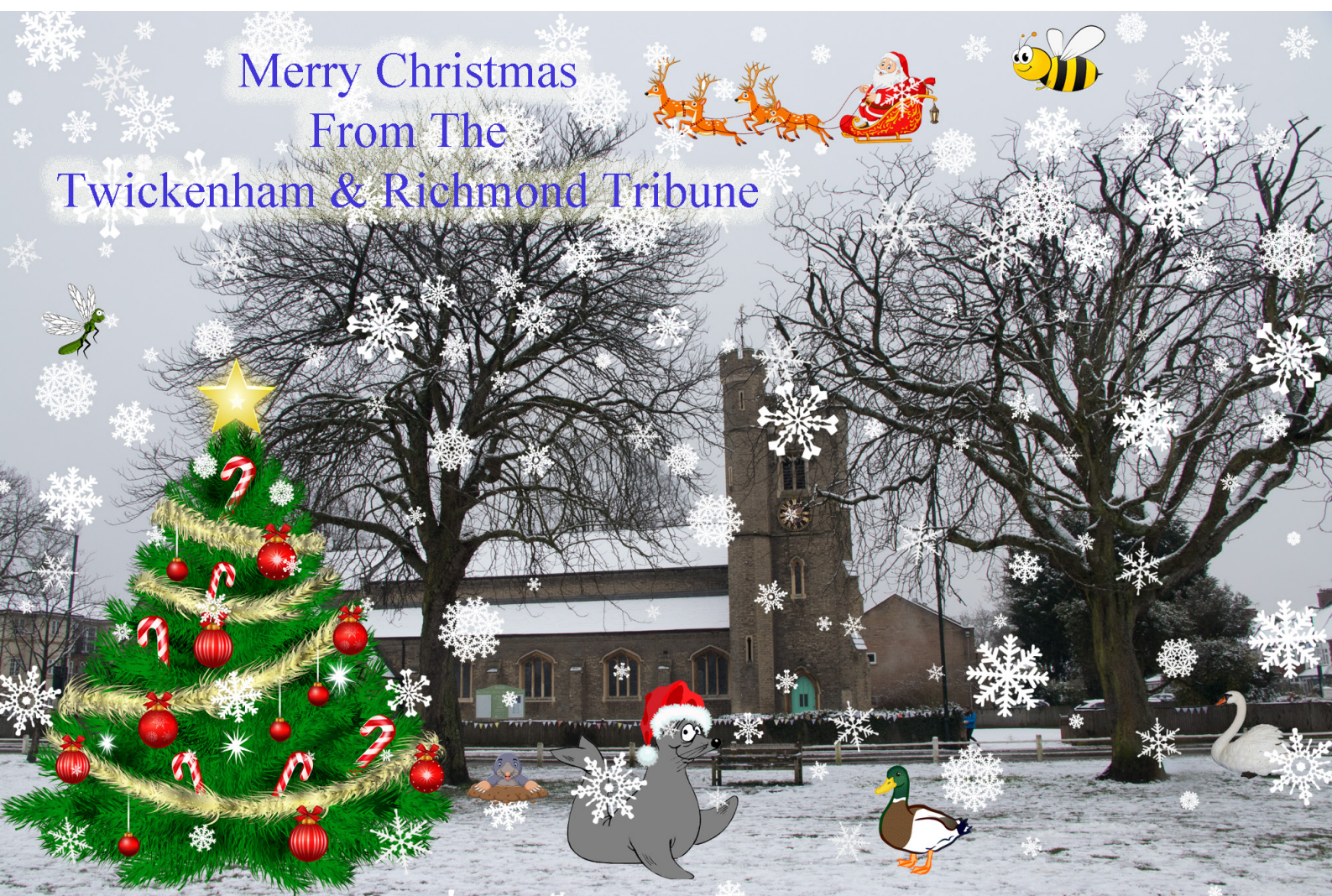
[DONATE](#)

[ADVERTISE](#)



Wishing all our wonderful readers a very

# Merry Christmas





RG.I.PR.....A.AJ.....SS.I.....ST.....SF.I.I.PR.....  
.....200.81<sup>2</sup>.....66.92<sup>3</sup>.....20.99.....161<sup>5</sup>.....76

# TickerTape - News in Brief

## South Western Railway

Altered train services due to Rugby at Twickenham Saturday 20 December

### Harlequins Big Game

Saturday 20 December kick off 1505 and 1800

### Service Amendments

#### London Waterloo to Shepperton

- Between **1011** and **2241**, **Shepperton to London Waterloo** services will be diverted via **Twickenham**.
- Between **1112** and **2342\***, **London Waterloo to Shepperton** services will be diverted via **Twickenham**.

\*Between **1242** and **1612**, services will depart at **xx15/xx45**.

#### London Waterloo to Reading

- Services will depart **earlier** from **Reading** through most of the day (at **xx05** and **xx35**).
- Trains departing **Reading** between **1900** and the **end of service** will call additionally at **Putney and Vauxhall**.
- Services will also run **later** from **Richmond to Reading** before the match.

#### London Waterloo to Windsor

- Services will depart **earlier** from **Windsor** through most of the day (at **xx21** and **xx51**).

*Seasons Greetings from*



**The Tree Agency**

darryl parkin

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*The Tree Agency*



# Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 306

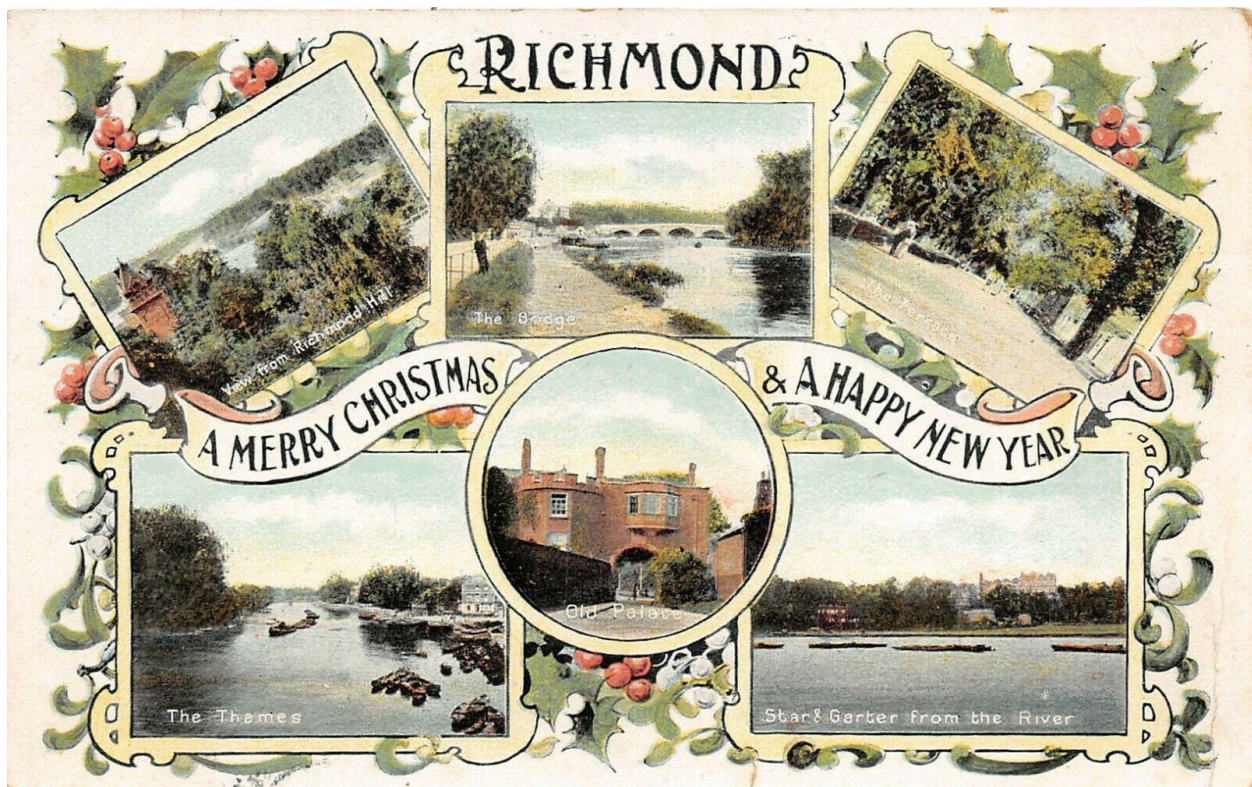
## Christmas Postcards from Our Area

By Alan Winter

Well that came round quickly didn't it! It doesn't seem that long ago that we were basking in sunshine and worrying about possible hosepipe bans.

But, here we are again with the Christmas edition of the Twickenham and Richmond Tribune. It is definitely true that as we get older time seems to go much quicker.

Throughout Britain before the first World War, there was a morning post delivery on Christmas day. You could send postcards on Christmas Eve secure in the knowledge that they would be delivered on Christmas day.



Imagine waking up on Christmas Day in Edwardian England. The year could be anywhere between 1901 and the beginning of World War I which began in 1914. The postal service was far superior to its current day counterpart and households in the UK could look forward to several postal deliveries a day including weekends, bank holidays and even Christmas Day!

With no telephones or computers in those days the only method of communication was by post. The letterbox would rattle and quantities of Christmas postcards (Christmas cards came later) would land on the mat. If the postman got up early enough he would get home in time for his own Christmas lunch.

This was the era known as the golden age of postcards as it was the cheapest and quickest form of communication with anyone that you couldn't call to over the garden fence.

Christmas postcards were the forerunners of Christmas cards and the vast majority at this time were printed in Germany where the most efficient and up to date printing works were based.





The postcard examples shown here are postcards from the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and are classic examples of the work of artists and designers at that time.



We start off with a Christmas and New Year Multi View postcard from Richmond showing five of the town's more familiar areas. Teddington is next up with Christmas Greetings and views of the weir and lock. The third Christmas postcard is from Twickenham showing the ferry.

Happy Christmas everyone!





*Merry*  
**CHRISTMAS**

## Festive Greetings & Warm Wishes

Thank you for your support and for being part of our community.

As we look ahead to 2026, we're thankful for the opportunity to stay in touch and hope the coming year brings wonderful moments your way.

May this festive season bring joy, love and happiness to you and your loved ones.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

**With heartfelt appreciation**  
Bruce, Courtney and Iryna



# Let's Rescue The Rifleman Pub!

By Alan Winter with the support of the pub rescue steering group

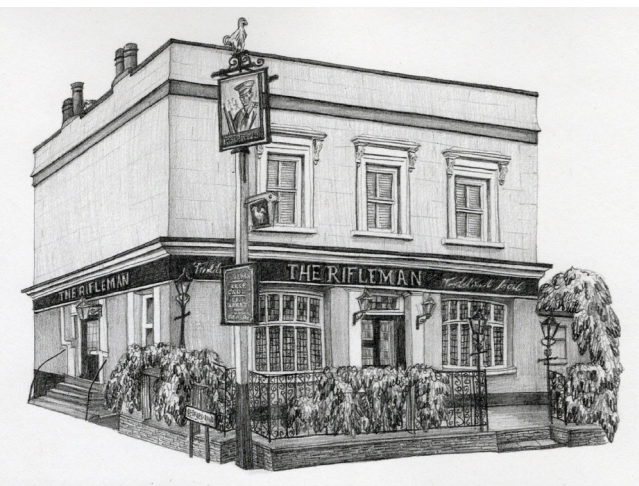
The Rifleman Pub on Fourth Cross Road has been a part of the West Twickenham community since 1851 when the resident of a cottage property on the site was known as a beershop keeper. By 1861 the name had changed to a pub called the Rifle Tavern and by the time of the 1881 census had become The Rifleman.

But, 144 years on, this classic Victorian back street pub has suddenly reached a situation that threatens its very future.

Twickenham Fine Ales, who currently hold the lease, originally stepped in during 2019 in order to keep the Rifleman open. However, the brewery is not in a position to continue managing the pub and the Rifleman is therefore at risk of closure.

A group of regulars are looking to secure the future of the Rifleman. They are exploring a community based approach, not seeking any radical change, but building on community wishes and providing additional

local social benefits. We feel that community has a really important role to play in current life and a local place where people can come together in today's world is a great asset. The Rifleman would potentially provide space for local groups to meet, supporting local charities and other community groups while building on existing events.



The vision is that a broad group of largely local people would own shares in the pub and have a stake in its future.

The first step was to understand the level of local support and so a full house meeting of some 150 plus residents from surrounding roads convened at the pub on Monday evening (15<sup>th</sup> December) to test local support. They gave overwhelming support in that they wished the pub to continue.

So, to understand the wishes of a wider range of residents the rescue project team has established a Facebook group named [Rifleman Rescue Community](#) within which Tribune

readers who have an interest in supporting the Rifleman may fill in a brief 2 minute survey covering all aspects of the project which will assist the Rescue team in the direction of their next steps. There are also photographs from Monday's meeting on the Facebook pages showing the massive attendance and people who arrived but were unable to find space to enter the pub!

Your comments will prove invaluable as the team strives to rescue such a landmark facility for the community.

Facebook – '[Rifleman Rescue Community](#)' or visit the pub and download the survey onto your mobile phone by QR code which is shown on wall posters.

Please help the team to save this pub for the local community! Thank you.







David  
**McGeachie**  
Property



**Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year**  
from **David, Katy, Kerry,  
Roland & Daniela**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our clients, tenants and friends. With stamp duty unchanged and interest rates down, we foresee a busy start to 2026 – the year in which we will celebrate 20 years in business.

Call us now to talk sales or lettings and plans for '26!

*David McGeachie*

*"David has been fantastic during a tortuous process of selling my mother's flat. He showed people around in the evening when they couldn't attend during the day, and kept chasing when everything ground to a halt. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend him and will certainly use his services again once we've all got over the trauma of this sale!"*

*Teresa, St Margarets, 2025*

David McGeachie Property, 191 Richmond Road, St Margarets, TW1 2NJ

020 8891 3676 • info@d-mcg.co.uk • d-mcg.co.uk

Dear Sir,

## Richmond Towpath

The proposal to turn the towpath into a Restricted Byway was the subject of a perceptive letter by James Knight in the recent 475 edition.

One effect would be to legalise the use of bicycles.

This has already been done on Duck's Walk, and it is a disaster.

Duck's Walk is a path between Richmond and Twickenham Bridges. It connects the Warren towpath to Ranelagh Drive on the Middlesex side. At its narrowest it is 3 paving slabs wide, say two metres.

I remember when it was a footpath. No one objected when it became a dual-purpose route. It was used by locals riding sit-up-a and-beg machines. Since then, it has become part of the Thames Path, the London Ring, and the preferred cycle route between Richmond and St. Margarets. Now strangers ride modern bikes much faster. More e-scooters and e-bikes are appearing, and these accelerate much faster than the push bikes. Worst of these are the big black bikes which behave like motor cycles and are used by delivery drivers paid by their number of deliveries and who pay no attention to the pedestrian priority signs.

Cyclists are kept safe because dogs are kept on leads and children are not allowed to play with balls. Pedestrians walk in a straight line and do not make arm gestures otherwise they might be hit by a rider rocketing past from behind with inches to spare.

Some locals shop in St. Margarets or take a long way round to shop in East Twickenham rather than use the short cut. The journey is too nerve racking for them.

My point is: that it was impossible to see the future, but all the changes have been for the worst.

Let us forecast the future for Richmond. Cargo bikes are being promoted by the Council. One photo shows the basket holding 3 children. Imagine being hit by this. Deliveroo drivers taking meals to people picnicking in Ham Lands.

An e-rickshaw/pedicab service between Richmond and Kingston with a stop at Ham House. Imagine them passing each other or overtaking.

E-bikes have a 15mph limiter. There are appeals for this to be raised to the current road limit of 20 mph. Next step surely will be to completely unlimited.

I have stuck to my concerns about the behaviour, increasing the number, and types of cyclists. I expect others will deal with the ecology and other problems that the Council seems determined to create and force upon us.

Robert Monk  
East Twickenham



YOU ARE INVITED TO Lou & Maria's

# CHRISTMAS PARTY

21st

December

2pm-7pm

Teddington  
Constitutional  
Club  
TW11 8TP

Members and Guests  
Welcome.

Raffle, Snacks & Non  
Stop Christmas tunes and  
a Prize for the best  
Christmas Jumper!



Adobe Express



# Make registering to vote your first resolution of 2026

From Richmond Council

As we prepare to welcome the New Year, why not start with a resolution to ensure your voice is heard? The Local Elections will take place in London on Thursday 7 May 2026 - now is the perfect time to make sure you're ready to vote.

The deadline to register to vote is midnight on Monday 20 April. You can [register to vote online](#) at GOV.UK in less than five minutes. You will need to have your National Insurance number to hand.

Don't forget you will now need to provide original voter ID to vote at polling stations on Thursday 7 May.

All voters will need to take an approved form of [photo identification](#) to the polling station to vote, which will take place between 7am and 10pm. If you do not have an accepted form of photo ID, you can apply for a [Voter Authority Certificate](#) until 5pm on Tuesday 28 April.

If you do not wish to show ID at a polling station or are away on polling day, you can apply to [vote by post](#) or [by proxy](#).

The deadline to register to vote by post in these elections is Tuesday 21 April at 5pm. You will need your date of birth, a copy of your signature and your National Insurance number. Postal voters will not be affected by voter ID and will be issued with their postal ballot papers as usual.

The deadline for new applications to vote by proxy in these elections is Tuesday 28 April at 5pm. Voters can now only act as a proxy for two people, regardless of their relationship. Anyone voting on behalf of UK voters who live overseas could act as a proxy for up to four people.

If you have any questions, you can [speak to one of our advisors](#) via web chat Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.



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Seats!

*Regal Spice  
Twickenham*

FOR BOOKINGS, CALL

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# Festive waste and recycling collections - what you need to know

From Richmond Council

While most services will run as usual in Richmond during the festive season, there are a few adjustments over Christmas and New Year to help keep everything running smoothly.

Check our revised collection dates, plus details on how to recycle your real Christmas tree for free. You can get your tree collected alongside your rubbish and recycling or at one of our convenient drop-off points.

## Collection changes

We will be running a revised collection schedule from Thursday 25 December 2025 to Saturday 3 January 2026.

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Thursday 25 December	Saturday 27 December
Friday 26 December	Sunday 28 December
Monday 29 December	No change
Tuesday 30 December	No change
Wednesday 31 December	No change
Thursday 1 January	Friday 2 January
Friday 2 January	Saturday 3 January

You can [find out more about waste and recycling services over Christmas](#).

## Christmas tree recycling – free and easy

When it's time to say goodbye to your Christmas tree, we offer a simple and free way to recycle it responsibly.

Real Christmas trees will be collected for recycling on your usual garden waste day between 5 to 16 January. [You can check your collection day](#).

We will not collect your tree if it is:

- Plastic or not real
- Still decorated
- In soil, or with excessive soil attached
- In a pot or stand
- Over 6ft - please cut it into smaller pieces

## Drop-off points

Alternatively, you can take your tree to a drop-off point between Friday 26 December 2025 and Saturday 31 January 2026.

Remove any decorations or pots first.

Christmas tree drop-off points:

- Squire's Garden Centre car park, Sixth Cross Road TW2 5PA
- Old Deer car park, TW9 2RA
- Ham Street car park, TW10 7RS
- Nelson Road car park, TW2 7BB
- Hampton Library car park, TW12 2AB
- North Lane car park, TW11 0HJ
- Barn Elms sports centre, SW13 0DG - opposite Barnes Rugby Centre

## Take it to Townmead Road

You could also [book a slot and take your Christmas tree to Townmead Road Recycling Centre](#).

Let's start the New Year with positive habits by reducing waste, reusing where possible, and recycling right here in Richmond.

## More information

You can [find out more about Christmas tree recycling](#).

## Garden waste suspension

While we prioritise Christmas tree collections, all garden waste sack and bin collections will be suspended for two weeks from **Monday 5 to Friday 16 January 2026**.



Gallagher  
**PREM**

**DHL**

GASTORE

**PWR**  
PREMIERSHIP  
WOMEN'S RUGBY



Harlequins

**BIG  
GAME 17**



BRISTOL  
**BEARS**

— F E A T U R I N G —

**G★**  
**GROOVE ARMADA**  
DJ SET

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HEADER**

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**SECURE  
SEATS**

**YOUR  
NOW**

ADULTS FROM  
**£40**  
U18s FROM  
**£25**



# Holy Trinity, Twickenham Green

## Food Bank Donation Point

The Vicarage (1 Vicarage Road) is a food bank donation point. There will be 2 large tubs left outside of the vicarage between 7am and 8pm every day. This is to enable ongoing support for local foodbanks throughout the year.

[Please click here to see an up-to-date list of the items most in need](#)

## Youth Group - This Sunday

Our final youth session of 2025 will be taking place from 4.30-6pm this Sunday. We look forward to welcoming the youth for a festive session, ending the year with fun and friendship. The first youth group of 2026 will be taking place on the second Sunday in January.

# JOY

## CHRISTMAS

*at Holy Trinity*

**WEDNESDAY 24TH DECEMBER (CHRISTMAS EVE)**

**3.30PM - CHILDREN'S NATIVITY**

**11:00PM - MIDNIGHT HOLY COMMUNION**

**THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER (CHRISTMAS DAY)**

**9:00AM - HOLY COMMUNION**

**10:30AM - FAMILY COMMUNION**

## Christmas Drinks Suggestions

There are stacks of special offers at the moment in most supermarkets, but sometimes it's also worth looking at some different drinks for the busy and sociable festive period. Here are some suggestions - with a range of budgets and also some rather splendid treats.

**JP Chenet** is a family owned company and now the leading wine brand - not just in France, but also, apparently, the world. You'll no doubt be familiar with those wonky shaped necks on the bottles, but the company has recently announced that it has a redesigned bottle for the first time since 1984 and it's 30% lighter (410g) and 30% lower CO<sub>2</sub>. An investment in a new production line with a capacity of over 300,000 bottles per day means we'll be seeing a lot more of this wine in future. And that's a good thing as it's excellent value for money and surprisingly good quality for the price point. Widely available in most major supermarkets from around £6.50 a bottle.



**35 South**, the emblematic Chilean wine brand, has recently introduced three new signature wines: Cabernet Sauvignon 2023 (£7.50 rrp) Sauvignon Blanc 2024 (£7.75 rrp), and Merlot 2024 (£7.75 rrp). The name marks a real place; the 35th Parallel South in **Chile's Central Valley**, the Andes to the east, and the Pacific Ocean breathing cool air from the west, producing high quality grapes that make delicious wines. 35 South wines are now available at Sainsbury's and Morrisons across the UK

**SPAR's Tasteheads** range has been crafted to take the guesswork out of finding your favourite bottle on the wine aisle. Labels highlight the grape and flavour, so you can go for the grape you know you enjoy, or be guided by the tasting notes. This new range - which covers a selection of reds, whites and a rosé - has also scooped up prestigious IWSC, IWC and Decanter awards, proving that these affordable wines (£7.99 a bottle) offer impressive quality too.



**Maison Calvet** is one of the oldest wine houses in Bordeaux and has carried its winemaking know-how through the generations for over 200 years. **Calvet Cuvée du Cap Sauvignon Blanc** is a lively white with a generous palate, white peach and lime aromas. The long citrus finish of this wine pairs beautifully with seafood, enhancing the delicate flavours of shellfish and adding a refreshing lift. Great value at £9 a bottle from Waitrose and Ocado.



A rather special white wine to start the meal on Christmas Day is a delicious Chablis and this one from Tesco is a standout wine for the main event. **Tesco Finest Chablis Premier Cru**, a Gold IWC medal winner, brings crisp minerality and citrus brightness to complement classic roast turkey, herby seasonal sides, or a delicious nut roast. Partially oaked, this wine is a more intense, complex style of Chablis that holds its own alongside a Christmas feast. £24 a bottle but let's face it, it's only Christmas Day once a year.







I don't know about you, but I've always thought that **Vouvray** wines were rather on the sweet side. I'm delighted to have been proved wrong on this, and would suggest that you, too, revise any similar misconceptions and try one of the Vouvrays this Christmas. In the heart of the Loire Valley, AOC Vouvray's vineyards benefit from a unique terroir, producing exceptional wines made almost exclusively from the Chenin Blanc grape. Vouvray is capable of expressing a full spectrum – from dry and medium-dry whites to sparkling and luscious sweet wines. Take yourself into a good independent wine shop and seek their advice - Vouvrays generally aren't cheap, but for flavour and versatility you'll be pleasantly surprised.

I'm a great fan of Cava and the **Condesa de Flores Cava Brut** is made from local grapes grown near Barcelona, using the Traditional Method and further aged in cool dark caves situated under the winery to produce an elegant wine with delicate mousse and fresh apple and citrus flavours. It's a great match for seafood and savoury canapes and at just £5.75 a bottle from Tesco is a steal - and an ideal party wine.



I've recently discovered a gin that, in my opinion, is one of the best I've tasted in a very long time. What's more, it's so packed with flavour that it makes the most sensational dry martini. **Papa Salt Coastal Gin** (42.8% ABV) was co-created by actress Margot Robbie, and blends zesty citrus with peppercorn and subtle Australian botanicals. It gives you a citrus hit, a hint of warmth and then a very subtle 'something else'. Is that salt, or is it the oyster shell? Look out for the strikingly different blue bottle for around £39 a bottle in Tesco (£31 Tesco clubcard price) and other supermarkets. And make sure you share it with a fellow gin aficionado.



And it wouldn't be Christmas without a snifter or two of whisky - and you'll need to have some in stock for any 'first footers' at New Year. For nearly two centuries, **Old Pulteney** has been revered for its unmistakable maritime character. The distillery's enduring spirit is a tribute to the rugged Caithness coastline that has inspired generations of craftsmanship. Old Pulteney has a host of accolades to its name, and the rather smooth and delicious 12 Years Old is a great 'dram' for the festive period. It's an elegant Highland malt with a deep amber colour and slightly pink hue. With floral and citrus notes it's bright, and brings a subtle sweetness from the use of sherry casks sprinkled with sea salt notes. It's normally around £40 a bottle, but currently on offer at £27.50 at Waitrose until the New Year.



And for those of us with a non drinker to consider, the leading French 0% wine brand **Moderato** has recently launched a **Chardonnay** variant crafted from 100% Chardonnay grapes grown in the heart of Gascony. **Moderato Cuvée Révolutionnaire - Chardonnay** is a limited-edition white wine that is surprisingly rich and has depth. Using gentle, low-temperature de-alcoholisation, Moderato preserves the wine's natural body and aromatic complexity - resulting in a full-flavoured pour with a hint of French finesse. Expect notes of white peach, citrus and toasted almond, with a smooth, rounded finish. £14.50 a bottle from Wise Bartender. Whatever you imbibe over Christmas and New Year, I hope you enjoy it and are able to spend it with friends and family. **Happy Christmas!**



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# We Are Sailing!! Ships Ahoy

By Bruce Lyons

When I was a boy, or perhaps I should say - when I first started work in the Travel Industry cruising was considered something elderly people did – often people with limited mobility. But, as most of you know, that is far from the truth today. Cruise ships now ply the seas with an immense range of activities for all the family, there are themed cruises, Gardening Cruises, Music Cruises, Bridge Cruises, you name it they're doin' it.

Fine Dining options and round the clock entertainment along with a varied programme of excursions tailored to different ages - all are regularly featured.

The most interesting sector, to me, is the small ships and River Cruising. Today there are River Cruise programmes all over Europe from the Duoro to the Elbe; from the Rhone to the Black Sea; from the Spanish Peninsula to Venice & more. Further afield we now have River Cruises in Africa - Egypt (Nile), Chobe on the Zambezi!

Columbia on the Magdalena, India on the Ganges Voyager and finally a variety of new River Boats in the Mekong.



Besides River Cruises there are also Barge Hotels in Brittany and a host of Small & Tall Ships sailing around the world.

So, be your choice on the water albeit large or small, cultural or adventurous; there's a holiday for you.

AND THE BEST NEWS - NEXT WEEK IS PEAKS - that is the week post Xmas when our trade (the Travel Industry) Makes offers you can't refuse – 25 % - 26%, 35 % even 50% off and the like - Solo offers, group discounts, and more.

Many offers are best before 5th January some extend to the end of January, so get on down to Crusader and see what suits you and your family best!!

Once Again Happy Christmas and a Very Merry New Year from The Crusader Team,  
Bruce, Courtney and Iryna

# Do you blame me?

By Deep Patel

~Life through the eyes of a Twickenham shopkeeper~

Being a shopkeeper, I get to see it all...and I really do mean it all, I am sometimes witness to peoples happiest moments as well as their saddest, such as a customer receiving a call telling them they have got that new job that they really wanted or that call telling them that their cat has just sadly been hit by a car. Whatever it is, everything seems to happen when people are in my shop, at the counter just about to pay for their afternoon chocolate fix or that weekend bottle of wine. Either way, whatever it is, I hear it all...

One thing that I find most uncomfortable is when a couple begin to argue at my counter...I am not talking about a few negative words here and there, I mean a full blown argument...right there ..in front of my counter...just before turning their attention to me to pay for their KitKat bar...believe you me, it's not fun...and it happens more often than you would think...what to do? I just gently (and nervously) smile and pretend that I have heard nothing when it is so incredibly obvious that I have...

This past week, I don't know what it is, but I have seen an increase in such arguments between friends, couples, siblings and others when they latter) ...t to pay for their shopping at my shop counter...could it be the darker and earlier evenings or colder weather causing Twickenham folk to be a little but more on edge or a little bit less tolerant of each other, or could it be the new aftershave I have been wearing in the shop (hopefully not the latter)...

One thing that I have noticed is that I find it INCREDIBLY difficult not to get involved or give my opinion (not a good idea let me tell you) but I just can't help it, I am very much a person of justice and righteousness and cannot stand injustice on any account...so I end up talking back and giving my opinion (but silently in my mind of course...I do value my life)...over the period of many years as a shopkeeper in Twickenham, hearing many arguments at my counter, between many different people, I have come to realize that things are not always what they seem...you see the one who shouts the loudest is not always right too. Sometimes, the one who is right knows that they are right but they don't argue back, but not because they are wrong, but rather because they value the relationship that they have with the person that they are having an argument with more than they value "being right"...that is very clear in many of the arguments that I have witnessed between people at my shop counter...other times people don't argue back I've noticed because they are the type of people who just believe "life is too short"...either way, both parties leave my shop hurt, angry and frustrated, I feel that energy lingering in my shop for quite some time after as I find myself thinking, if only people didn't get to that stage where they had to argue so much, and if only they instead chose to ponder for a moment and think things through a bit more instead of just shout at each other...maybe life would be better for everybody...blame is itself something that I notice people are too quick to do, they like to blame the other as it means they have "won" somehow then.

Earlier this week, whilst I was reflecting on the very concept of blame, an elderly lady in my shop asked me what I was thinking about (she must have seen the discomfort on my face). When I explained to her that I was thinking about all the arguments between people that I witness in my shop each week, and how so many blame each other, she explained to me something that I will never forget for the rest of my life...she asked me to violently point at her...(I thought she was losing her mind but politely obliged and did it anyway). Then she told me to "freeze" my pointing hand right there and observe it (at this point I definitely thought that the elderly lady was losing it...yet as a polite shop keeper, I followed her instructions).



She made me wait with my hand pointing at her in that position in silence for a whole minute (I now definitely thought she had lost her mind, but politely obliged still to follow her instructions). She then said “there, do you see it now” and started to smile at me...I was beginning to get freaked out at what she was smiling about...I let out a little nervous laugh and said “oh yes I see” hoping that would be the end of that uncomfortable experience...but she knew I didn’t see what she was getting at and said “you don’t see it do you?” at which point I came clean and told her I had absolutely no clue what she was going on about...she laughed again and said “look at the fingers of your hand as you point at me... which direction are they pointing in”...I told her at her...as this was about blame...it was meaning I was blaming her obviously with my pointing finger at her...She then agreed and said “yes one of your fingers is pointing at me, but who are your other three fingers pointing at?”...then the penny dropped and I got it finally...what she was saying was that people are often so quick to blame others and “point the finger” but in doing so, they forget that whenever they point a finger at someone else, the other three of their fingers are pointing back at them...so the elderly woman in my shop went on to explain to me, that whenever I find myself blaming someone else and “pointing my finger at them” at them during a heated argument, always remember that “it takes two to tango” and that “there is no smoke without fire” and to remind myself that for that one finger I point at them in blame, there are a further 3 pointing back at me...so the moral is, before blaming someone else with that one finger, think and reflect THREE TIMES on how the other three fingers are pointing back at me and on how the situation that I am angry about could also have been my fault too...so this week I want to ask all the lovely folk of Twickenham (and beyond) to remember, before blaming and pointing the finger at someone else, remember that we are all accountable in some way for the situations that we are in, we also play a part in them, and when we point the finger of blame towards someone, our own other three fingers are pointing back at us too, so always consider our part in any given situation three times over before we even consider blaming someone else... and yes...I promise you all... if we together do this, we will all help make the world a better place for everyone...



### **Remember...**

***“When you point one finger at someone, your other three fingers will be pointing back at you...”***

### MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

#### **STOP SQUIRRELS KINDLY (GOOD KARMA):**

Place empty bowls filled with white vinegar around places where you don’t want them to come...they will go without you having to harm them...use humane mouse & rat traps and release them back into our parkland areas. Use electronic plug in deterrent with good reviews around your house to stop them coming (the smell of white vinegar also stops ants kindly).

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

## Peter Pan-to

by company writers

Putney Theatre Company at Putney Arts Theatre, until 21<sup>st</sup> December

There are plenty of jokes about budget, but Megan Good and Ian Wainwright direct *Peter Pan-to* with its huge cast, a small but powerful live band on stage, and colourful costumes galore, all in a small space. Musical director Nicole Pavlou expertly fills the auditorium with huge sound, while the wardrobe team triumphs, from multiple dame costumes to the diverse look for each of the pirate crew and the Lost Boys.



The gist of Barrie's tale becomes an entertaining panto romp. Here the children's mother is a widow, and so David Lemkin commands the stage as Mary Darling in time-honoured pantomime dame fashion. In doing so, Mary incurs the displeasure of the Narrator, Georgia Watson-Blythe, who gives updates on the plot in charming rhyming couplets. Watson-Blythe later has even more fun doubling up as the strangely charismatic Crocodile.



Ella Yasumoto, who has a great singing voice, plays Wendy as bossy yet vulnerable. Alexa Adam portrays John Darling as a spirited lad, and four-year-old Michael is played by Richard Seedhouse, who may be stretching his playing age somewhat. His towering figure and powerful voice, clutching a small teddy bear and wearing brilliant dinosaur pyjamas, make for an inspired character, whom the audience clearly adores.

Emily Robbins is suitably plucky and mercurial as Peter Pan, and forms a great double act with Ainhua Mounier's wonderfully sassy and glittery Tinkerbell. Although Tink's jealousy of Wendy and resentment of the Darling children is foregrounded, her reconciliation with Wendy, as together they rescue the boys from their own nonsense, is a lovely moment

Flying puppets, who are surprisingly charming, take us to Neverland. Here a gang of pirates live in half-hearted fear of their employer, Captain Hook, played with aplomb and panache by Robert Wallis. The pirates are a fun gang, and no-one's sure whether to boo or cheer.

Like the pirates, the Lost Boys each have distinct character, reinforcing the idea that children have been flying to Neverland with Peter Pan for centuries.

Full of wonderfully terrible jokes, some pitched at all levels, *Peter Pan-to* is an ambitious show that provides a wonderful evening's entertainment and a perfect start to the festive season.



Read Andrew Lawston's review at [www.markaspen.com/2025/12/12/peter-pan-to](http://www.markaspen.com/2025/12/12/peter-pan-to)

Photography by Steve Lippitt



## Millie and Snowy's Magical Christmas Tree

by David Kerby-Kendall

Stephen Leslie Productions at the Hampton Hill Theatre until 24<sup>th</sup> December

What a Christmas cracker of a show; fifty joyous minutes to entrance three to eighty-three-year-olds. And it doesn't involve mummies, daddies, grannies or grandpas panic shopping for overpriced gifts or overdosing on mince pies and cinnamon lattes.

*Millie and Snowy's Magical Christmas Tree* an ideal jolly mix of music, dance and puppetry, festive fun and fantasy. Audience participation is non-negotiable, so sing, clap and yell out what's on your wish list for Santa to deliver. Lego and Spiderman are favourite. (One budding entrepreneur suggested an aeroplane.)



The England goalie arrives on stage by scooter, boasting a football shirt, tutu and a frizz of pink curls. This Queen Mother of Fairies is named Doris, whose spells go hilariously wrong.

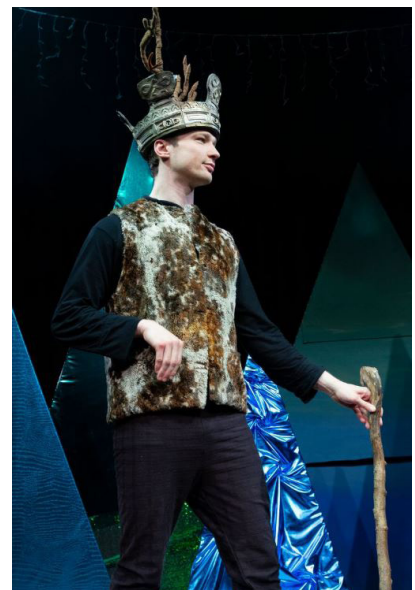
The youngsters voice their vitriol for the baddie (Michael Gillette), evil dog-pound owner, who routinely deprives the inmates of food and exercise. With his bling and camelhair coat, he richly deserves every boo and hiss from the audience.

The description of versatile was one made for Gillette. He slips effortlessly and convincingly between roles: a Shakespearean character, a magnificent prancing stag that's King of the Forest, ... a tree. Can he possibly be the Great Man himself, a very jolly white bearded Father Christmas. There's no doubt he plays Millie's father whose failing ice cream business means no funds for a Christmas tree. Cue one very disappointed Millie (Abi Laura-Mitchel), whose mission now is to find a freebie in the forest ... or earn enough money to buy one.

She offers her dog walking services to the dodgy dog-pound man after falling in love with a fluffy white hound she names Snowy (Georgia MacLennan). The plot thickens as she plans to rescue Snowy who, in the best traditions of seasonal shows, begins to talk thanks to daft Doris, who also mistakenly makes Millie bark.

Who could resist a fluffy white dog that likes nothing better than a tummy tickle? But remember, any dear reader tempted to follow Millie's lead ... a dog is not just for Christmas.

This special show is as heart-warming and welcome as a tot of mulled wine.



Read Gill Martin's review at [www.markaspen.com/2025/12/13/millie-snowy](http://www.markaspen.com/2025/12/13/millie-snowy)

Photography courtesy of Stephen Leslie Productions

## Most Favoured

by David Ireland

19<sup>th</sup> Street and María Inés Olmedo at Soho Theatre, Soho until 24<sup>th</sup> January

*Most Favoured* is a succinct production, with an intriguing seasonal premise.

In a cheap hotel room, with dishevelled bedding and clothing strewn everywhere, we encounter Mary and Michael after a torrid one-night stand. Both characters are ecstatic, but for different reasons. Mary is on a high from having had the best sex of her life. Michael's satisfaction manifests itself in a very different way. His euphoria arises from his rapturous appreciation of a bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken, which he has never experienced before, despite being American.



So, equally orgasmic stuff for both. But their explosions of satisfaction, while simultaneously expressed, are not for the same thing. Herein lies the dichotomy at the heart of this tale. Mary is hiding something that she needs to tell Michael; yet as her admission comes to light, it transpires that Michael has quite a revelation of his own .... a clue lies in the deftly chosen names of the protagonists.



The post-coital collision of different personalities, both with a secret, is conducted in a pressure cooker atmosphere of intimacy, regret, hope and awkward logistics. Their encounter results in a sparky discussion about faith, loneliness, identity and what lies beneath.

A tightly structured three quarters of an hour essentially gives a single plot device, with one major twist. It is utterly dependent for its success upon the believability of the characters and the contrast inherent in their developing relationship.

Here we are in safe hands. Lauren Lyle gives us a mid-30's Glaswegian Mary who is alternately defensive and effusive, sharp but warm, fiercely independent

yet with a streak of vulnerability which manifests itself in her touching remark that during the previous night with Michael, "For the first time in my life I felt love".

Alexander Arnold's Michael is initially so engagingly laid back as to be almost horizontal, contentedly and nonchalantly detached from any sense of ambition, drive or urgency, and garnering laughs with his orgasmic devouring of his KFC. Later, his revelations and actions hint at a steeliness lying beneath his easy-going nature.



*Most Favoured* has its tongue firmly set in its cheek. To use the leitmotif of the play; like Michael's KFC, whilst the audience may not be left overly hungry for more, they will be glad that they experienced it.

Read Harry Zimmerman's review at [www.markaspen.com/2025/12/16/most-favoured](http://www.markaspen.com/2025/12/16/most-favoured)

Photography by Danny Kaan



# The Signalman

by Charles Dickens, dramatised by Jennie-Mae James

Mudlark Creative at Drayton Arms Theatre, South Kensington until 2<sup>nd</sup> January

It's peak season pantomime, but equally popular is the creepy ghost story to while away the long winter nights and inject a frisson of fear into festive gatherings.

*The Signalman*, written in 1866 following a railway crash which Dickens personally experienced, is a short, unsettling tale of a lonely railway signalman haunted by visions of impending disaster. Can a well-meaning walker, who chances upon the lonely signal box, calm the man's fears before he spirals into mental self-destruction? The intensity of this story lies essentially in its ambiguity, that transforms a ghost story into an exploration of the nature of fear, guilt, and isolation.

Around the Clayton Signal Box, in a forgotten railway cutting where isolation and a palpable sense of foreboding hangs thick in the air, perhaps something is watching from the shadows....



Karen Holley's set is exquisitely designed, with a stretch of railway track, crunchy gravel and a dark tunnel entrance marked with a forbidding red stop light. The immersive set transforms into a cosy sitting room with armchair, gramophone and railway clock. The signal box itself is all bells, levers, telephones and fire buckets. Steve Ramondt's soundscape is similarly impressive. Birdsong and wind mingle with passing trains thundering down the track, impressive effects held together by brooding musical outbursts.

Peter Rae gives a thoughtful, nuanced portrayal of The Signalman; a cautious, watchful man bowed down by fear.

Rae skilfully tracks his descent into escalating unease, apprehension and dread. His initial mild, almost endearing, reserve gradually gives way to something far more chilling, an increasingly anxiety-ridden discomposure.

Helen Bang is the steady-handed, sensible ballast in the relationship between the two protagonists. She moves from studied politeness to a genuine interest in the trials and tribulations of her new friend, which acts to drive the plot. However, her stiff upper lip is assiduously maintained throughout, possibly too much so.

There is a lot to admire in this production, but why the interval? This is a production that needs no break. Let it brew and let it stew, so that its shattering ultimate horror is given full exposure.

*The Signalman* goes a long way to capture the icy chill of this quintessentially classic ghost story with a fresh inventiveness that is perfect for a dark, winter's evening.

Read Harry Zimmerman's review at [www.markaspen.com/2025/12/12/signalman](http://www.markaspen.com/2025/12/12/signalman)

Photography by Victoria Lari



# Kettner Concerts in Twickenham



## MILDA DAUNORAITE

### a piano recital

#### THE FORERUNNERS

**Beethoven**

Bagatelles Opus 33

**Schubert**

"Wanderer" Fantasy

**Poulenc**

Improvisations

**Ravel**

Valses Nobles et Sentimentales

**Messian**

Regard de l'Esprit de Joie from Vingt

Regards sur l'Enfant Jésus



## Saturday, 24 January 2026, 6.00 pm

Doors open at 5.30 and the concert will be followed by a complimentary drinks reception

**Milda Daunoraite** is blazing a trail following her acclaimed Wigmore Hall debut recital in 2025, critics praising her scintillating playing, sheer enjoyment and exhilaration of her 'joie de vivre'. The young Lithuanian pianist and final year student at the Royal Academy of Music is presenting a varied and engaging programme for Kettner Concerts in Twickenham.

St Mary's Church  
Twickenham  
Church Street TW1 3NJ



Tickets: £20  
(£10 for students and under 18s)  
[kettnerconcerts.co.uk](http://kettnerconcerts.co.uk)  
Book tickets on [Eventbrite.co.uk](http://Eventbrite.co.uk)  
or scan the qr code



# Shadowscapes

## Heaney, JMW Turner and Quantum

From Orleans House Gallery

Libby Heaney's Shadowscapes invites us to explore the multidimensional connections between JMW Turner, quantum physics and the self. Over the last 100 years, quantum physics has allowed us to see and feel in completely new and surprising ways.

Award winning artist and quantum physicist Libby Heaney collides JMW Turner's 250th birthday with the centenary of quantum physics. Listen and feel Turner's paintings in Heaney's ever evolving digital-quantum sound installation and interact with a shadowy projection. This exhibition brings together amorphous bodies, technology and moments of sublime ecstasy. Taking inspiration from psychotherapist CG Jung, Heaney reinterprets Turner's use of light and dark as psychological metaphors for her own unruly emotions. Personal and deeply self-reflective, through Turner's paintings of imagined forces and bodies, Heaney explores her 'shadow self' – the parts of ourselves we deem unacceptable, and therefore unconsciously suppress.

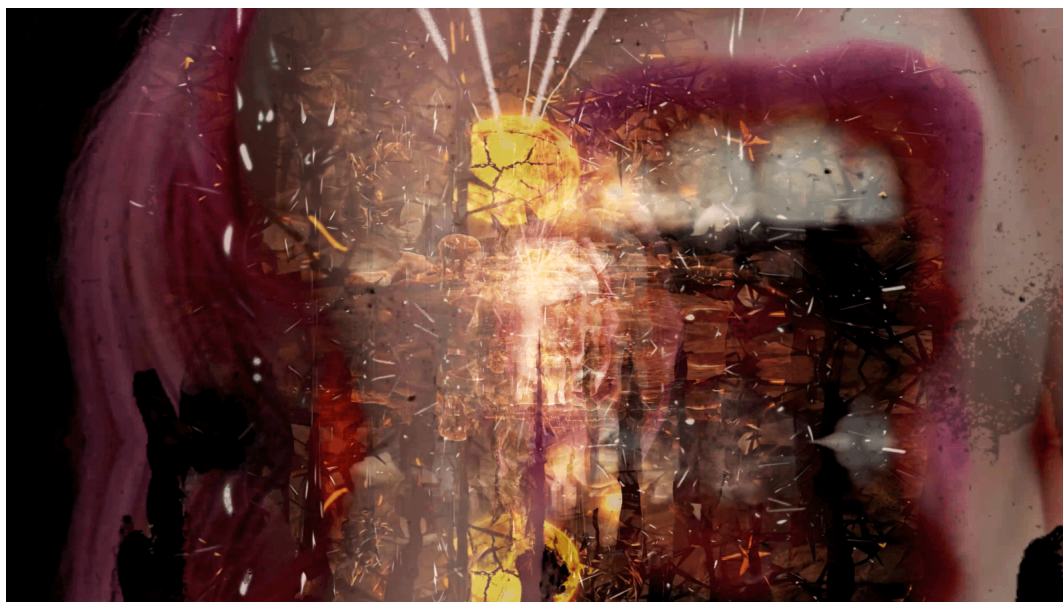


Image by Libby Heaney

*'Accessing our shadow selves is important as when shadows are not in our awareness, we tend to project them onto different groups and nature causing polarisation, domination and division.'* – Libby Heaney

For the first time at Orleans House Gallery, see the JMW Turner paintings that have inspired Heaney's reflections – The Vision of Jacob's Ladder (?) (c.1830), The Hero of a Hundred Fights (1800-10, reworked 1847) and Rocky Bay with Figures (1827-30).

As Heaney weaves together the universes of quantum, JMW Turner and CG Jung, you're invited to reflect on the dark, the light and the quantum.

Wilderness Within is available to experience in its entirety during regular gallery opening hours on the following upcoming dates in December:

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> – Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December

# Tiffin Choir Fills Historic County Hall Kingston with Carols and Christmas Cheer

From London Square

A festive evening of music and heritage was enjoyed at [County Hall Kingston](#) by London Square on Tuesday 16 December, as the acclaimed Tiffin Choir performed a special Christmas concert in the building's magnificent Grand Hall. With all 150 free tickets snapped up within hours of release, the concert was highly anticipated and played to a full and enthusiastic audience.

The former Surrey County Council headquarters on Penrhyn Road provided a striking backdrop for the concert, offering guests a rare opportunity to experience the landmark building as it is carefully restored by London Square to create an exclusive collection of new homes. The grandeur of the hall enhanced the choir's performance, which included highlights from Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols, alongside favourites such as In the Bleak Mid-Winter, Candlelight Carol and O Come, All Ye Faithful, with harp accompaniment by Esther Beyer under the direction of Glen Dempsey.



Founded in 1957, the Tiffin Choir is internationally renowned, with an exceptional performance history spanning the BBC Proms, Royal Opera House and major orchestras, as well as acclaimed blockbuster Hollywood film soundtrack recordings and broadcasts.



**Tom Hall, Regional Sales Manager for London Square** said: *"It was a privilege to welcome the local community into County Hall Kingston for such a special evening with the Tiffin Choir. Events like this bring the building's rich history to life while giving people the chance to experience its future as a unique place to live."*

**Andrew Dean, Director of Engagement at Tiffin School** added: *"Performing in such a beautiful and historic setting was a wonderful experience for our choristers. Sharing this concert with parents, staff and the wider community made the evening particularly special."*

London Square is currently selling a wide variety of new homes in Kingston, including one, two and three bedroom apartments and duplexes at [County Hall Kingston](#) and one, two and three bedroom homes apartments through shared ownership at [Square Roots Kingston](#). The concert brought together members of the school community alongside prospective buyers, celebrating music, architecture and the future of one of Kingston's most important historic buildings.



# St Mary's University

## Alumna Ellie Kildunne Takes Second Place at Sports Personality of the Year Awards

[Sport and Exercise Science](#) graduate from St Mary's University, London Ellie Kildunne was named runner up at the BBC's Sport Personality of the Year awards 2025.

Ellie was the first ever women's rugby player to be nominated for Sports Personality of the Year, and was [voted second place](#) in the prestigious award after golfer Rory McIlroy.



Over the summer Ellie displayed a superb performance at the Women's Rugby World Cup, in which she played a key role in [securing England's victory](#).

During the campaign, Ellie scored five tries including two tries during the semi-final against France and a solo try in the final against Canada.

Earlier this year, England also retained their Six Nations title with Ellie scoring four tries at the tournament.

England's Red Roses were also nominated for the BBC Sports Personality Team of the Year 2025, with alumnae Jess Breach, Rosie Galligan, and Abi Burton part of the winning squad alongside Ellie.

The winners of the BBC awards were voted for by the public during the live show, which took place on Thursday 18 December.

In 2024, Ellie was named [World Rugby Player of](#)

[the Year](#) after another dazzling performance at the Six Nations, as well as competing for Team GB at the Paris 2024 Olympics in the women's rugby sevens.

Head of Sports St Mary's Andrew Reid-Smith said, "*Ellie Kildunne's runner-up finish in the BBC Sports Personality of the Year is a remarkable achievement and recognition of an exceptional year. Ellie is deservedly regarded as the most exciting rugby player in the world, and she is a Rugby World Cup winner, Honorary Doctor of Sport and proud St Mary's alumna who continues to inspire on the global stage. The nomination of the Red Roses for Team of the Year is equally deserved and reflects the impact of a truly outstanding group who are elevating women's sport.*"

Former St Mary's student and athlete Sir Mo Farah was named BBC Sports Personality of the Year in 2017.

St Mary's University has seen great success in elite rugby, with four alumnae playing alongside for the Red Roses at the Women's World Cup this year. Ellie Kildunne, Jess Breach, Rosie Galligan, and Abi Burton were recently invited back to the University to receive [Honorary Doctorates in Sport](#) in recognition of their significant contributions to English Rugby.

Current Physiotherapy student Aoife Wafer reached the quarter-finals in this year's Rugby World Cup with Ireland, having been named Women's Six Nations Player of the Championship for 2025.

At the Paris Olympics, former student and rugby scholar [Aaron Granditier](#) won a Gold medal in the Men's Rugby Sevens with France.



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

# Richmond upon Thames College Hosts GAUCHO Events for the Autumn Rugby Internationals



Throughout November, Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) proudly hosted four events in partnership with GAUCHO restaurants to coincide with the Autumn Rugby Internationals 2025.

The events were held alongside England's home fixtures at the Allianz Stadium, Twickenham: England v Australia on 1 November, England v Fiji on 8 November, England v New Zealand on 15 November, and England v Argentina on 23 November.

## Pre-Match Dining and Special Guest Speakers

Guests enjoyed pre-match dining at the College's on-campus restaurant, The View, before heading to the nearby stadium to watch the matches. RuTC Professional Cookery and Hospitality students worked alongside GAUCHO staff, led by Chef de Partie Dilshan Wijesekara, to prepare and deliver exceptional hospitality



for guests across all four events. A mix of Level 1, 2, and 3 learners rose to the challenge of working in a professional event environment, supported and guided by our expert teaching team: James Unwin, Daniele Giraud, and Ray Wilson-Brooks.

Special guests and speakers at the events included England rugby legend Lawrence Dallaglio and former All Blacks player Zinzan Brooke.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to GAUCHO for their support, expertise, and collaboration in delivering these successful events.



[Interested in getting involved in opportunities like this? Browse our courses and apply now for September 2026 entry.](#)



**Richmond upon  
Thames College**



# Ruth Cadbury MP Gets Moving with Pupils at Twickenham Primary School

From Ferrero

Chase Bridge Primary School in Twickenham welcomed a special guest today as Ruth Cadbury MP for Brentford and Isleworth joined pupils taking part in the Ferrero social responsibility programme, Joy of moving – a unique programme designed to inspire children to develop a passion for movement through play.

Ferrero's [Access the Joy](#) report, commissioned to celebrate the programme's tenth anniversary in the UK and to better understand the state of the nation's activity levels in children, revealed 81% of parents think there should be more opportunities for children to get active through play at school. The Joy of moving programme is based on a unique play-based methodology, that puts children at the centre. It offers an approach that combines fun and playful activities to help children develop physical fitness, motor coordination, cognitive functions and life skills.



Over the past decade, Joy of moving has inspired more than 730,000 children across the UK to get active through the medium of play and has provided over three million hours of in-school activity in schools nationwide. The unbranded in-school programme is delivered nationwide in partnership with the English Football League's charitable arm, EFL in the Community and its network of Football Club charities.

Whilst visiting Chase Bridge Primary School, Ruth Cadbury MP took part in a session led by Brentford FC Community Sports Trust for a first-hand look at how the programme is helping local children to enjoy being active.

Speaking after the visit, Ruth Cadbury MP said: *"It was wonderful to spend time at Chase Bridge Primary School to participate in the Ferrero Joy of moving social responsibility programme alongside the local students. I thought it was an inspiring session – the children obviously enjoyed taking part in the session and the whole Joy of Moving programme. Getting children active and helping them discover the enjoyment of physical activity from an early age is something we must prioritise as a nation. We know these positive habits formed in childhood can carry through to adult life. It's great to see the fantastic work that goes in to delivering this inspiring programme by Ferrero, Brentford FC Community Sports Trust, the pupils, and staff who gave me such a warm welcome."*

Charlie Cayton, Director of Corporate Affairs and Communications at Ferrero UK, commented: *"Supporting the local communities in which we operate is extremely important to us at Ferrero. Brentford FC Community Sports Trust is our 'home club' for Ferrero UK, as it's close to our UK headquarters, so it's truly special to be able to inspire children in this local community to get active through play with our Joy of moving social responsibility programme. Since we started over a decade ago, the Joy of moving programme has inspired over 730,000 children across the UK to move through play. We remain committed to encouraging children to enjoy movement while developing key skills that will support them throughout their lives."*

Debbie Cook, EFL's Director of Community, added: *"Each season, EFL Football Club charities engage around 188,000 adults, young people, and children to be more physically active, through initiatives like the Joy of moving programme."*

*"It's great that our Members of Parliament see programmes like Joy of moving in action and see how our Football Club charities have a unique ability to inspire and empower schoolchildren - helping them build vital life skills through activities that are fun, inclusive, and truly meaningful."*

# Harlequins Foundation launches Big Game 17 Auction to support youth programmes

From Harlequins Foundation

The Big Game 17 Auction is now live, offering rugby fans and supporters the chance to bid on unique experiences, exclusive memorabilia and luxury prizes, all in support of the Harlequins Foundation.



With Big Game 17 taking place at Allianz Stadium on Saturday 20 December 2025, the auction brings an exciting twist to the festive rugby spectacle by giving supporters the opportunity to secure once-in-a-lifetime lots while making a meaningful contribution to young people in the communities the Foundation serves.

*“Every bid helps the Harlequins Foundation empower thousands of underserved young people with*

*the skills and confidence they need to succeed,”* said Andy Carpenter, Head of the Harlequins Foundation. *“This auction is a fun and impactful way for our community to support positive change while accessing experiences they’ll never forget.”*

## Highlights from the Big Game 17 Auction include:

- Money-can’t-buy experiences with Quins players and legends
- Luxury hospitality and travel packages
- Exclusive matchday experiences for rugby and sports fans
- Behind-the-scenes access and memorabilia

The auction is hosted online via Givergy’s easy to use platform, allowing supporters to browse items, place bids and receive notifications all from their device. All proceeds from winning bids directly benefit the Harlequins Foundation’s programmes that support young people in our local communities, helping to develop essential skills and provide opportunities across the region.

## How to participate:

Supporters can view lots and place bids online at:

<https://uk.givergy.com/BigGame17>

The auction closes at 23:00 on 20 December 2025, so fans are encouraged to explore the offerings and place their bids today, whether they’re attending Big Game 17 or joining in from afar.





# Brentford FC after Thomas Frank!

By Ron Brand, Tribune Sports Correspondent

My last report discussed the trauma Brentford FC were experiencing since a close season when the heart was dragged out of the club.

Not only did Brentford lose an international goalkeeper in Raye, their Captain and the two top goal scorers, but most importantly the Head Coach. A Coach who had joined the club in 2016 as Assistant Coach when Brentford, who had never been a Top Tier club had finally reached the 2nd Tier Championship Division.

Frank took over in October 2018 as Head Coach and achieved Promotion to the Premier League in 2021. Brentford 2025 are now an established Premiership team usually finishing in or close to the Top half of the Division. What Now?

Facing Frank's new club Tottenham would be a test?

Whilst Tottenham took the points losing 2-0 at White Hart Lane was no disgrace.

Brentford under the new Coach Keith Andrews have settled well. Formerly Andrews was Set-Piece Coach under Frank and early signs suggest he has stepped up well to the Head Coach position.

At the start of the 2025 Season, I had Brentford as a candidate for relegation. Andrews looks, so far to have overcome that threat?

Following the Spurs result Brentford went on to perform well at Leeds. Jordan Henderson a recent signing scoring to give Brentford a 1-1 draw at Elland Road against a team who had just beaten Chelsea, a possible Title winning candidate?

With the games coming thick and fast Brentford had now to prepare for Man City in the EFL Cup.

Both teams took the opportunity to rest players Brentford making 6 changes. Remaining in the Premiership is obviously and quite rightly Andrews' priority.

2 - 0 at City once again no disgrace in the circumstances. The players did their best holding City for 32 mins before Cherki scored with a stunning drive into the top corner off a headed clearance from a City corner. City doubled their lead in the 72 min to finish the game 2-0.

I thought Donovan looked bright for the Bees when he came on in the 79 minute. I would like to see him given more Playing time?

Andrews must now focus on the priority of staying in the Premiership by continuing doing what he has been doing.

Away at Wolves on the 20th must result in 3 Points for the Bees followed by Bournemouth at the Gtech, not easy, then New Years Day welcoming Mr Frank and team back home? WE WILL SEE?

Have a Great Christmas we at the Tribune send our best wishes to you all!

# Match Preview: Wolves v Brentford

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford face Wolverhampton Wanderers in the Premier League on Saturday afternoon at Molineux (3pm kick-off GMT).

The Bees drew 1-1 against Leeds United in their last league outing, while Wolves fell to a dramatic late defeat at Arsenal.

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

## Pre-match Analysis

Stephen Gillett, *Playmaker Stats*: Narrow defeat at Arsenal suggests Wolves may be turning a corner under Edwards

After their Carabao Cup exit to Manchester City midweek, Brentford's focus must snap back to Premier League matters ahead of Saturday's visit to Molineux to face bottom club Wolves.

This may sting for Wolves fans, but it's probably best to roll off their brutal statistics in 2025/26 at the outset.

Currently 14 points adrift of safety, Wolves have accrued two points from their opening 16 league games this term - the lowest tally in the history of England's top four tiers at this stage of the season.

The Midlands' previous coach Vitor Pereira bit the bullet in early November, and former Luton and Middlesbrough boss Rob Edwards has since presided over five defeats.

The young Welsh coach inherited a side with problems at both ends of the pitch and winless Wolves are currently both the lowest scorers (nine goals scored) in the division and the worst defensive side (35 conceded).

Carabao Cup successes over West Ham and Everton remain Wolves' only wins to date during a torrid season - but their narrow defeat at Arsenal last weekend suggests Wanderers may be turning a corner.

Although they left the Emirates empty-handed after a 2-1 reverse, Wolves showed plenty of defensive nous and resilience in a tight contest.

Trailing to their goalkeeper Sam Johnstone's 70th-minute own goal, the visitors thought they had salvaged a deserved point when Tolu Arokodare glanced home Mateus Mané's cross, only for another own goal from Yerson Mosquera to rob Edwards of a first point in the 94th minute.





They may be the only top-flight club yet to record a clean sheet this season, but Wolves became the first team to deny Arsenal a single shot on target in the first half in 2025/26. Edwards and his side will want to build on such positives.

Wolves' defensive numbers this term suggest they have to shore up in transition. A substantial percentage (26 of 35 goals: 74 per cent) of the goals they have shipped this season have come from open play, while - in contrast - only Brentford, Tottenham (two) and Sunderland (three) have conceded fewer goals from set-pieces this term than Wolves (four).

The tricky part for Wolves is how to tighten up at the back, while taking the handbrake off up front. Still in single digits for goals scored this season in the Premier League, Wanderers have the lowest total xG (13.73) and the league's lowest xG per shot (0.1), and have also recorded the fewest shots (8.6) and shots on target (2.8) per 90.

On the back of Wolves' promising performance in north London, Keith Andrews will recognise a potential banana skin when he sees one - and the Bees head coach will want his side to offer their hosts zero encouragement at the weekend.

Only Leeds (six) and Arsenal (seven) have made fewer mistakes leading to an opponent's shot than Brentford this season and Andrews will want his side to cut out defensive lapses and exploit the nervous tension both on and off the pitch at Molineux.

Brentford have shown a penchant for late goals so far this season - with 10 Premier League strikes from the 76th minute onwards - but an early goal would be very handy against a Wolves side which has lost every game in which it has trailed.

## Scout Report

Dan Long, *Sky Sports*: Wolves still searching for first win

Wolves have flirted with relegation from the Premier League several times over the last few years.

In 2022/23, they were in the bottom three for almost all of the first half of the season before Julen Lopetegui replaced Bruno Lage and steered them to 13th, yet only seven points clear of safety.

Things improved under Gary O'Neil in 2023/24, but started disastrously in 2024/25, with 11 defeats from the first 16. Vitor Pereira successfully completed a firefighting job when O'Neil was sacked.

At one point, it was more than just firefighting, though. Between 15 March and 26 April, Wolves won six games in a row, including against Tottenham and Manchester United. It was the first time they had won six top-flight matches in a row since September to October 1970. Survival was sealed with five games to play and all was well at Molineux.

Unfortunately, it was a false dawn - and it is hard to find any way to dress up the predicament Wolves find themselves in currently.

The sales of both Matheus Cunha to Manchester United and Rayan Ait-Nouri to Manchester City will have been a huge blow, but again it was a familiar story at the start of this campaign.

Following two points from the first 10 Premier League games, Pereira was sacked on 2 November, just 45 days after signing a new three-year contract.

*“Unfortunately, the start to this season has been a disappointment and, despite our strong desire to give the head coach time and matches to find an improvement, we have reached a point where we must make a change,”* said executive chairman Jeff Shi.

Rob Edwards - who played for Wolves from 2004 to 2008 and had a short spell as interim boss in 2016 - was tempted away from Middlesbrough and signed a three-year deal to return. *“It has always been my dream to come back,”* the former Wales international said.

It has been a baptism of fire so far. In his first four games, Wolves lost to Crystal Palace, Aston Villa, Nottingham Forest and Manchester United.

They are still the only team in the top five divisions of English football without a win to their name, and no team has ever survived in the Premier League with two points or less at this stage of the season.

### **In the Dugout**

Rob Edwards

Rob Edwards had a 14-year career as a professional footballer that started with Aston Villa in 1999 and ended with Barnsley in 2013.

Largely owing to injuries, the centre-back played less than 250 games in club football, but did appear in each of the top four divisions in English football, as well as earning 15 senior international caps for Wales.

In October 2013, Edwards confirmed his retirement aged just 30, but returned to Wolves, where he first managed the club's under-18s.

He later became first-team coach, then had a two-game spell as interim head coach following the sacking of Walter Zenga.

His first managerial job was at hometown club Telford in 2017/18, which preceded a third return to Molineux to take charge of the U23 side.

After he embarked on role in the England youth set-up, Edwards was appointed Forest Green head coach. In his first season, he led Rovers to the 2021/22 League Two title, but jumped ship for Watford just over a fortnight later.

He was afforded just 11 games there before he was sacked, but two months later, he took over at Luton and guided the Hatters to the Premier League for the first time in their history in May 2023.

Luton were relegated in 2023/24 and were on the way to a second when Edwards was relieved of his duties in January.

But after just six months out of work, Middlesbrough provided him with a return to the Championship and they were third in the table after his final game on 4 November, a 1-1 draw with Leicester.

Edwards signed a three-year deal to return to Wolves on 12 November.





# The Shard Unveils UK's Tallest Ever Christmas Stocking

From The Shard

Forget the fireplace by the chimney - this Christmas Eve, Santa's got an even grander landmark to visit as The Shard unveils the UK's tallest ever stocking, transforming its iconic Spire into a record-breaking beacon of festive magic.

From sunset on December 24<sup>th</sup>, the top 20 storeys of the building will transform its glass walls into a striking red Christmas stocking, shining brightly until midnight and delivering a truly memorable festive experience for Londoners and visitors alike.

Visible for over 40 miles, the illumination will be brought to life by 575 energy efficient LED lights, lighting up the London skyline and creating a moment of celebration this Christmas Eve from every corner of the city.

The new installation serves as a highlight to The Shard's broader series of festive light sequences this year. First unveiled in November, the unique display - brought to life by the exceptional hidden talent discovered within The Shard's own team - will now illuminate the skyline through to 5 January following widespread feedback from the public. This extended run marks the building's longest-ever continuous Christmas light display and aims to brighten the long, dark mornings and evenings for Londoners as they navigate the start of the New Year.

**Daniel Fulbrook, Head of Marketing**

**of REM, asset manager of The Shard, commented,** *"As a beacon on the London skyline, we are always exploring new ways to inspire and unite the city through unique and memorable experiences. The Christmas stocking truly captures that spirit and is a fantastic culmination to this year's display featuring the extraordinary talent within our own Shard team. Adding this record-breaking feature transforms this Christmas Eve into an unforgettable moment of shared festive magic across the capital."*



# South Western Railway boosts commuter capacity as 30th Arterio train enters service

South Western Railway (SWR) today announced a major milestone in the Arterio fleet rollout programme, with the 30th Arterio diagram entering service. The 30 Arterios are now operating over 390 daily services, transforming journeys for tens of thousands of customers. The new fleet is now serving all 96 stations on SWR's suburban network including Ascot, Barnes, Earlsfield, Feltham, Guilford, Hampton Court, Hounslow, Kingston, Putney, Reading, Richmond, Surbiton, Twickenham, Wimbledon and Woking.



Each 10-car Arterio can carry over 50% more customers than the eight-car Class 455 trains they replace, significantly increasing capacity and comfort for customers. The £1 billion investment into the new fleet also improves customer experience, with features including Wi-Fi, charging points at every seat, real time information, accessible toilets and air conditioning.

SWR has more than quadrupled the number of Arterios in service since its transfer into public

ownership in May 2025, delivering a 12% increase in weekday suburban capacity into London Waterloo between 7am and 10am. Capacity has increased even further on some suburban routes, including Chessington (21%), Kingston (20%), Aldershot via Staines (24%), Reading (17%) and Shepperton (23%).

This uplift in capacity is making commuting better for the 135,000 customers who come through Waterloo each weekday, with recent industry customer surveys\* showing that customer satisfaction with space on board Arterios is significantly higher (86%) than for the Class 455s they are replacing (77%).

SWR plans to introduce two more Arterios into service before Christmas and, as part of the Great British Railways brand launch on 9 December, revealed it is aiming to have three quarters of its planned Arterio schedules introduced by the end of Summer 2026.

While customers love the new blue Arterio trains, the enthusiasm for the red trains they are replacing was demonstrated recently by a special charity Class 455 Farewell tour selling out in 15 seconds. With demand so high, a second farewell train has also sold out, as more than 900 rail enthusiasts will come together on 21 December to mark the retirement of the fleet that has carried millions of customers across South West London, Berkshire and Surrey for the last 42 years.

Lawrence Bowman, Managing Director, South Western Railway and Network Rail Wessex said: *"This is a major milestone for customers on our suburban railway, who are now more and more likely to catch an Arterio for their morning commute. The new trains provide a step-change in capacity, reliability and comfort for the tens of thousands of customers who travel through Waterloo every day, and their positive feedback is fantastic to see."*

*"Our publicly owned railway is on track to bring even more Arterios into service over the coming months, taking us ever closer to our goal of transforming every journey across our suburban network."*

Lord Hendy, Rail Minister, said: *"The introduction of the 30th Arterio train is a clear example of the kind of improvement publicly owned rail operators can deliver to put passengers first."*

*"The increased capacity and better on-board facilities will make journeys more comfortable, encouraging more people to choose rail."*

*"Through nationalisation and the establishment of Great British Railways, we're putting railways back into the service of passengers. Our reforms will drive up standards and improve accountability to make journeys easier and better value for money, so we can deliver economic growth, jobs and homes."*

**South Western  
Railway**



# Estimated £40m Increase in Congestion Charge Earnings for TfL in 2026

From cinch

Drivers in London could be hit with an extra £40 million in Congestion Charge fees when the daily charge increases from £15 to £18 from 2 January 2026, according to new research from cinch, the UK's leading online used car retailer.



A Freedom of Information (FOI) request was submitted to Transport for London (TfL), which revealed that £202.8 million was generated in Congestion Charge payments between April 2024 and March 2025. Based on these volumes, cinch analysis suggests the price increase could push total TfL revenue to more than £243 million in 2026.

Ben Welham, motoring expert at [cinch](#), commented,

*“The £3 daily increase means a commuting driver will pay £4,500 per year in Congestion Charge fees if they drive into the capital five days a week, a hike of £750.”*

*“Our analysis, based on 250 working days per year, highlights the heavy financial impact the increase will have on individual drivers and businesses.”*

## Congestion Charge Has Tripled Since 2003

Since its introduction at £5 per day in 2003, the Congestion Charge cost has increased by 200% to its current £15 level.

The 20% increase coming in January 2026 is due to be followed by annual increases in the charge from 2027 onwards, in line with other TfL fares on trains, buses and the London Underground.

## Incentivising EV Adoption

Electric vehicle drivers are liable for the Congestion Charge for the first time from 2 January 2026. However, they can take advantage of a 25-50% discount by setting up Auto Pay.

Welham explained: *“EV drivers will be hit with the charge for the first time, but car drivers will get 25% off and van drivers will get 50% off the daily £18 fee by setting up Auto Pay. Petrol and diesel HGV drivers can also benefit from a 50% saving by using Auto Pay.”*

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