

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



Daffodils, Strawberry Hill House
Photo by Berkley Driscoll

27th February 2026

T&RT

TickerTape

The lines in the Staines area will be closed all day Sunday
Kew The Transition

The Tree Agency

The Local Picture Postcard Page - Popes Grotto Hotel – Pre War

Crusader Travel

Save The Rifleman Revue

Cormorants, Magpies and a wish

Barnes Tuesday Local: a warm welcome every Tuesday evening

Live Languages charity coffee morning celebrating Epiphany

Teddington's Ellera Centre Finally Opens Three Years Late and Millions Over Budget

The East Sheen Spring Hunt - Saturday 11 April

Volunteer with Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal at Richmond station

Regal Spice Twickenham

My Meetings with Remarkable Trees

Bushy Park Skylarks

Chestnut Avenue, Bushy Park

Marble Hill House Second-hand Bookshop

The Kitchen by One Guy & O

Richmond's last police counter to close – Council leader slams 'deeply concerning decision'

Local psychologist brings ecstatic dance to Twickenham

Next week at Richmond Council

Twickers Foodie: It's Spring -Time To Spruce Up Your Kitchen

Gibraltar Sunborn

Spring News from Your Travel Desk

Blessed ...or Stressed?

Mark Aspen Review: Fallen Angels

Mark Aspen Review: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Mark Aspen Review: The Secret Garden

Mark Aspen Review: I'm Sorry, Prime Minister

Grand Mass in Eflat Major - Amy Beach

RSS Spring & Summer Spotlight Party and Open Auditions

Fair Access to creative work experience for year 10s this Sunday

St Mary's University Validates New Strategic Sport Leadership MA

London Luminaries

Richmond upon Thames College Selected as UK Host for Amazon's Flagship Girls' Tech Day

What's On: Spring 2026

Red Roses v Ireland to attract record Guinness Women's Six Nations crowd

Burnley v Brentford fc

Match Preview: Burnley v Brentford

Alan Winter

Jonathan Haydn-Williams

Barnes Community Association

Live Languages

Michael Jones

East Sheen Village

Marie Curie

The Richmond Society

The Royal Parks

The Royal Parks

Marble Hill House

The Ellera Centre

Richmond Council

ETNA Community Centre

Alison Jee

Sunborn Gibraltar

Bruce Lyons

Deep Patel

Heather Moulson

Heather Moulson

Polly Davies

Mark Aspen

Hampton Choral Society

Richmond Shakespeare Society

Landmark Arts Centre

St Mary's University

Richmond upon Thames College

Turner's House

RFU

Ron Brand

Brentford Football Club

[CONTACT](#)

[DONATE](#)

[ADVERTISE](#)

TickerTape - News in Brief

South Western Railway

The lines in the **Staines** area will be **closed all day** due to maintenance work.

- **London Waterloo to Reading** services will be **revised**.
An **hourly** service will be diverted between **Clapham Junction and Virginia Water** and will call additionally at **Wimbledon, Weybridge, Addlestone and Chertsey**.
An **hourly** service will start from **Virginia Water**.
- **London Waterloo to Windsor** services will be diverted after **Twickenham** and will terminate at **Hounslow**.
- **London Waterloo to Woking via Staines** services will terminate at **Hounslow**.
- Additional services will run between **London Waterloo and Hounslow via Twickenham**.
- The afternoon and evening **London Waterloo to Kingston via Hounslow** services will run **all day** and will terminate at **Hounslow**.
- **Buses** will run between **Hounslow and Virginia Water via Staines**.
- **Buses** will run between **Hounslow and Windsor via Staines**.
- **Buses** will run between **Hounslow and Woking via Staines**.

Kew The Transition

On Saturday 7 March, take that broken bike out of the garage and bring it to Kew the Transition's Repair & Share – bike service special at St Luke's Church, TW9 2AJ.

Volunteer repairers will help with bike servicing and small household fixes in a warm, community minded setting. It's your chance to reduce waste, learn new skills, and connect with neighbours over practical action and homemade treats.

Find out more about regular ['Repair and Share' events](#) at Kew The Transition.



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

The Treehouse
25 King Edwards Grove
Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9LY
Telephone 020 8274 0107
Mobile 07960 123580
Fax 020 8274 0119
info@thetreeagency.co.uk
www.thetreeagency.co.uk

The Tree Agency

The Local Picture Postcard Page - Part 315

Popes Grotto Hotel – Pre War

By Alan Winter

The Alexander Pope Hotel in Twickenham (formerly Pope's Grotto Pub) is a Young's-owned hotel and pub named after the renowned 18th-century poet, [Alexander Pope](#), who lived nearby. It is also the only pub in the Strawberry Hill area.

Located at 64, Cross Deep, Twickenham, the site is directly associated with the remains of Pope's famous 18th-century decorated underground Grotto, built in the 1720's which still exists as a tunnel beneath the road to connect the house and gardens.

In this week's column we will look at the pub as it stood on Cross Deep during the period when it was built in 1852 until it was destroyed by bombing with a V1 rocket in 1944. You can see from the first postcard that it was originally on the edge of Cross Deep on the opposite side of the road to Radnor House which was also bombed during the second World War.



The three postcards shown all date between 1908 and 1915 when the pub was managed by Joseph Frank Ewington who was the son of a publican brewer also called Joseph.

He was experienced in the business (previously he was at the Pegasus, Green Lanes in North London) and was probably behind the marketing of the Pope's Grotto Hotel evident in the postcard which shows his entrepreneurial side. In 1903, a 'very successful' pigeon shoot was held in the rear of the field at the Pope's Grotto Hotel with a 'fair number' of people being present (Middlesex Independent, 3 January 1903, p.4). In 1903, Twickenham Rugby Football Club held a 'smoking concert' at the Pope's Grotto Hotel (The Sportsman, 18 March 1903, p.4).



Telegrams :
 'Grotto' Hotel,
 Twickenham.
 —
 J. F. Ewington
 from
 Wandsworth.
 —
 Luncheons, Teas,
 and
 Dinners provided.
 —
 Billiard Room, etc.
 —
 Near River.
 Boats of all
 descriptions
 on Hire.
 —
 Good Stabling
 Accommodation.

In 1903, Twickenham Rugby Football Club held a 'smoking concert' at the Pope's Grotto Hotel (The Sportsman, 18 March 1903, p4). In 1905, Twickenham Rugby Club made the Pope's Grotto Hotel their headquarters following their move to the Tower Road ground where they played until the start of World War 1. This was thanks to Joseph Frank Ewington who was obviously a rugby

fan and who would also benefit from teams drinking in his pub after the game (Richmond Herald, 2 September 1905). He also played cricket as a batsman for Twickenham Cricket Club. In 1908, Joseph Frank Ewington was also Chairman of the Ealing & Brentford Licensed Victuallers' Society (Richmond Herald, 6 March 1915). This was the period in Edwardian times which is recognised as the golden age of postcards. They were used for the majority of global correspondence and advertising material in the lead up to the first world war.

All three postcards relate to the period when the pub was on the side of the street before being built further back during the 1950's to the position it is in now.

Following a major refurbishment in 2009, the pub was controversially renamed "The Alexander". After petitions from the [Strawberry Hill Residents' Association](#), it was renamed The Alexander Pope to retain historical significance.



It is now a [stylish Young's & Co pub and hotel](#), featuring 32 boutique bedrooms, a conservatory, and a covered garden.

I would like to acknowledge Andrew Miller, who as chair of the Strawberry Hill Resident's Association is responsible for some of the research that I have used in this column this week. You can read Andrew's work in greater detail by going to the Strawberry Hill Resident's Association web site.

CrusaderTravel

020 8744 0474

crusadertravel.com

Escapology Experts

info@crusadertravel.com



Your friendly local Travel Agency
established in Twickenham since 1966

With over 50 years' experience we pride ourselves on being able to offer an unrivalled service with attention to detail. Come and have a chat with us in our cosy office off Church Street Square, we are open 6 days a week from 11am until 5pm (Closed Sunday)



SAVE THE RIFLEMAN

WITH

THE RIFLEMAN REVUE



MARCH 3RD 2026

The Exchange , 70 London Rd

David
McGeachie
Property



limited tickets available



An evening of music featuring a line up of local musical heroes



Twickenham
& Richmond **Tribune**

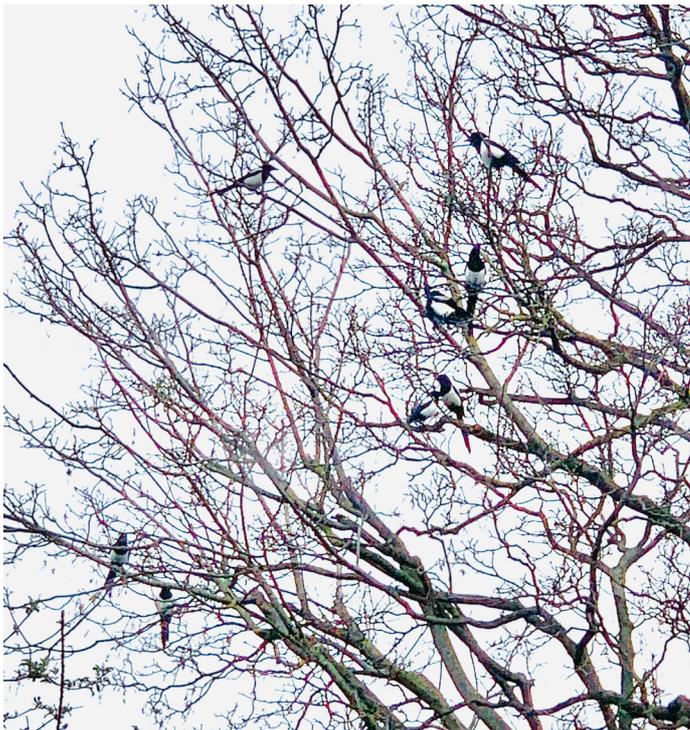
Cormorants, Magpies and a wish

By Jonathan Haydn-Williams

On Tuesday, as I walked along the riverside path, I paused opposite 'Cormorant Island' to take the first two photos. At a rough count, there were 22 birds roosting, a reassuring number, albeit that on some past occasions I have counted over 30.



Today, my attention was drawn to the tree in the second two photos by the sound of Magpies 'squabbling'. I counted eight of them, the most I have ever seen together. The traditional nursery rhyme only goes up to seven Magpies, but, according to Wikipedia, in Lancashire seeing eight of them was said to signify a wish.



In the avian context, the appropriate wish to make just now is that the outbreak of virulent bird flu, that has caused the deaths of more than 50 Swans in London Docklands, can be contained and does not spread upriver.

The Rifleman Revue

As we go to press, the Rifleman Revue is set to be a 300-ticket sellout this Tuesday March 3rd at the Exchange Theatre. The show is to benefit the campaign to keep The Rifleman pub open. One of the performers will be David McGeachie, the local estate agent, and he is also sponsoring the event. The Tribune spoke to him.

So, David, how come you are involved in the show?

Chris 'Mandolin Jack' Tulloch puts on music nights at the pub, and he came up with the idea for the Theatre show. The performers will all be those local musicians who regularly perform at the pub, and I am gladly one of them! I have sponsored events here for 23 years now so when Chris involved me, I decided it would be nice to sponsor this show in return. I spoke to Chris and Laurie Jakeman, who is promoting the show and we did a deal and here I am!

What's the reason to be a sponsor.

Well to me, in these deals, everyone wins. I put a chunk of cash in and in return my business gets lots of local publicity, the musicians get a gig, the audience hopefully have a good time – and a very good cause benefits too.

You said you'd been sponsoring events for 23 years – how did that come about.

In 2002 I was in the little front corner bar, the famous triclinium in The White Swan, and was reading Mojo and got talking to Ben Makins, who asked me to get involved in the Radnor Gardens Fair in 2003, which I did and then every year since then I have hosted & sponsored a stage or an event or 2 in Twickenham.

Is it just music events?

No I've sponsored street parties, a women's charity, film contest, a boys' football team... all sorts of things. I was also the very first sponsor of the Eel Pie Island Museum.

What have you been involved with recently?

I was main stage sponsor at Kevin Jones and Eel Pie Records' brilliant High Tide festival in 2021 then since then have had a stage every year within the festival, at the Barmy Arms, which is great fun.

You have a musical alter-ego too.

Yes, I write and record my own songs as David Anstruther (Anstruther being a fishing village where I had holidays as a child) and they are on all platforms and CD too. A lot of my songs are about this local area.

So tell us more about the 'Rifleman Revue'.

It is a very fast-moving show – everyone gets only 1 or 2 songs then they are off and someone else is straight on. We are sharing instruments to speed things up. The first half is acoustic then in the second half, there is a full live house band, again with changing singers. All of us know each other really well and there's a great excitement in the camp. There will be some big famous hits and some original songs too. I think it will be a 'Wish I'd gone to that!' night. I can't wait to see what the other performers will be doing – and Mandolin Jack himself will of course be performing. There is also an after-party at the Cabbage Patch when the show ends at 10pm.

All credit to Chris Tulloch for making the show happen and to Lauri Jakeman from A Taste of Twickenham for promoting the heck out of it and getting all those tickets sold!

Tickets at the Exchange web site, or on door if any left. Doors 7pm, show 8-10.

Join the Rifleman campaign at their Facebook page [HERE](#)

Photo credit Paul Harries



Barnes Tuesday Local: a warm welcome every Tuesday evening

From Barnes Community Association

Residents are invited to come together at Barnes Tuesday Local - a relaxed weekly social evening hosted by Barnes Community Association (BCA).

There's no agenda - just good conversation and a space to connect. Whether you're new to the area, work locally, or have lived in Barnes for years, everyone is welcome.

Barnes Tuesday Local takes place every Tuesday from 6 to 8pm at The Bull's Head, 373 Lonsdale Road.

There's no need to book - simply drop in. On the night, attendees will also have the opportunity to join the Barnes Tuesday Local WhatsApp group to stay in touch and hear about future gatherings.

If you're looking to meet people locally in a relaxed setting, why not come along next Tuesday?



Live Languages charity coffee morning celebrating Epiphany

From Live Languages

Live Languages are saying a huge thank you to all their French students and fellow local Francophiles who joined their recent charity coffee morning celebrating Epiphany (la Fête des Rois).

A total of £230 was raised for ETNA, which also saw the crowning three kings and queens lucky enough to find the fève (fava bean) in their slice of galette. Thank you so much for your generosity and for making it such a friendly and festive morning. Details for the next event will be released soon.

In the meantime, if you'd like to keep your French or Spanish ticking over - or finally give it a go - Live Languages run small, friendly conversation groups (maximum 5-6 people) locally. All levels are welcome, and there's a £10 taster session for anyone curious to try. Spaces are strictly limited, as the small groups mean everyone gets plenty of time to speak and build confidence.



Visit the [Live Languages](https://www.livelanguages.org.uk) website for more information.

Teddington's Troubled Elleray Centre Finally Opens Three Years Late and Millions Over Budget

By Michael Jones

After nearly three years of delay from its originally anticipated 2023 completion, Teddington's new Elleray Centre has finally opened its doors. The Council describes it as "a modern hub for community connection", replacing "the much loved but ageing 100-year-old Elleray Hall" with an "energy-efficient, fully accessible environment." Councillor Nancy Baldwin calls it "so much more than just a new building; it's an investment in community connection for many in our borough." The finished building is attractive, accessible and already valued by its users. For the older residents who depend upon it, the improvement is real.



Yet the story of Elleray is not simply architectural. It is fiscal and political. It is about whether a borough that could see structural funding loss approaching chose to prepare for it, or merely to manage around it.

A Hub Conceived in Austerity

The project began life under the previous Conservative administration as a broader Community Hub intended to consolidate multiple services into a single integrated complex. The objective was not merely aesthetic renewal but structural reform. By co-locating services, the Council would rationalise its estate, reduce duplication and embed economies of scale into its long-term cost base.

That ambition emerged against a stark financial backdrop. The Council's Budget Book records that general Government funding had "reduced significantly" since 2013/14. By 2018/19 the borough received no general Government grant at all and faced the prospect of "negative RSG," (revenue support grant) effectively paying money back to the Treasury. The withdrawal of that policy spared Richmond the loss of £7.7 million annually, but it did not restore funding. It merely halted further deterioration. The hub was therefore conceived as anticipatory reform. It recognised that early estate rationalisation is less painful than retrenchment imposed later.

When the Liberal Democrats took control in 2018, that consolidation was halted and replaced with a narrower re-provision of Elleray Hall's current offer, accompanied by an affordable housing development. The revised scheme was more modest and politically more comfortable, yet it also relinquished the structural savings implicit in consolidation. The borough gained a new building. It set aside deeper cost-base reform.

The redesign was overseen by Cllr Wilson in his capacity as Cabinet Member for Equality, Communities and the Voluntary Sector. As portfolio holder, he carried political responsibility for reshaping the project from a consolidation hub into a narrower re-provision scheme. That strategic choice defined the financial and structural parameters that followed.

Consultation and Managed Consent



The change was presented as responsive to local concerns, yet consultation proved contested. Residents questioned whether rebuilding on the existing site without relocation had ever been genuinely pursued, and a petition opposing aspects of the development gathered more than 1,500 signatures. Public speakers raised concerns about the scale of the scheme, the loss of parking and the inclusion of housing, and some urged councillors to pause and reconsider whether the overall approach represented sound stewardship of public resources.

The Council maintained that engagement was thorough and that inflationary pressures were unavoidable. Even so, many residents perceived that consultation refined rather than reshaped decisions. In civic politics, perception determines legitimacy. Where residents feel that options were constrained from the outset, confidence erodes, even if procedure was formally observed.

Procurement Failures and a Collapsed Contractor

The most serious disruption came through procurement. In September 2022 the Council appointed Cosmur Construction to deliver the scheme. Within months the contractor withdrew. By May 2023 the company had entered into a Company Voluntary Arrangement. Its financial statements show deterioration well before withdrawal. For the year to January 2021 Cosmur recorded a loss before tax. In the subsequent period to July 2022 losses widened sharply while net assets eroded, with directors explicitly citing inflationary pressures and market volatility. The warning signs were present in the accounts; the due diligence was not.

The Council's own committee papers later confirmed that not all checks required under its procurement policy had been completed at the point of contractor appointment. The winning tender had been materially lower than competitors. In public procurement, a low bid can represent efficiency or fragility. In this case, the fragility was exposed within months. The consequence was predictable: delay, retendering and rising cost.

From Cost Neutral to Capital Exposure

Early presentations framed the scheme as broadly self-financing through capital receipts and developer contributions. By June 2023 the estimated total cost had risen to £5.302 million. Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding of £3.12 million was committed, of which more than £2.4 million has since been spent.

CIL is finite. Money allocated to one scheme is unavailable for others. In a council operating

without a general Government grant and increasingly reliant on borrowing, such drift is not marginal. It narrows flexibility across the entire programme. Elleray did not collapse. It drifted from cost-neutral aspiration to levy-dependent reality. That distinction matters because drift is rarely acknowledged until the bill arrives.

The £29 Million Reckoning

The financial horizon that framed the original hub has now crystallised. The Council's most recent Budget report confirms that Fair Funding Review 2.0 will reduce Richmond's core funding allocation by approximately £29 million per year by 2028/29, a reduction equivalent to around 58 per cent of its core funding base.



The 2026/27 budget is balanced only by drawing £15 million from reserves, and those reserves are projected to be nearly exhausted within two years. A £30 million transformation programme has been launched to close the gap. To place that in context, £29 million is not trimming around the edges. £29 million is close to the scale of the Council's entire Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports budget for 2025/25. It represents structural contraction. The difference between anticipation and postponement is now measurable in £29 million a year.

Eight Years of Lost Leverage

The criticism is not that a hall was delivered. It is that the 2018 redesign set aside structural consolidation at a moment when financial warning signs were already visible. The Conservative-era hub recognised that the cost base needed reshaping before central reform imposed harsher terms. Eight years have passed without equivalent estate rationalisation or structural consolidation. In local government finance, time is leverage. Early reform allows gradual adjustment. Delayed reform compresses choices and magnifies shock. The borough now faces that shock under less favourable conditions: reserves depleted, borrowing elevated and capital exposure increased.

Twickenham Riverside, advancing at far greater scale, carries similar patterns of expanding cost envelopes and funding revision. In a borough facing a £29 million annual reduction, optimism is expensive and drift is now unaffordable.

A Hall, and a Harder Future

Elleray Hall stands complete and in use. Its community value is real and should not be dismissed. Yet its history reveals a council that deferred structural adjustment at a moment when the direction of travel was already clear, and that underestimated procurement risk in a volatile market. What might have been a programme of anticipatory reform became a sequence of managed responses. The ribbon has been cut. The arithmetic has not.

Fair Funding 2.0 will remove £29 million a year from Richmond's core funding by 2028/29. That is not an efficiency challenge; it is a structural contraction. The cost-base correction that consolidation once sought to anticipate will now be imposed by settlement rather than strategy. It will occur with reserves diminished, borrowing elevated and less room for gradual adjustment. The building is finished. The reckoning will not be.

The East Sheen Spring Hunt - Saturday 11 April

From Hare & Hounds and East Sheen Village

Continue the Easter Fun and bring your little bunnies along to East Sheen's Spring Hunt – a family-friendly activity in the heart of SW14

It's back! East Sheen's popular post-Easter trail around lots of SW14's fabulous independent businesses will take place on Saturday 11 April.

Each participating business will be ready to welcome you and your little ones with treats and a unique clue. Collect all the clues to spell out a secret phrase and claim a prize.

Along the trail, children will also encounter spring-themed sights and activities designed to create a lively and engaging experience for all. The Spring Hunt brings together local people and businesses in a true celebration of community.

Will Pritchard, Manager of the Hare & Hounds, said:

"The Spring Hunt is a highlight of East Sheen's events calendar. It's a lovely way to continue the fun of the Easter holidays, giving children the chance to get out and about while adults discover how diverse, friendly and welcoming our local businesses are. We would love you to come and join us."

How it works:

Starting at the Hare & Hounds, children collect a map which details the places they will visit along the trail. Go to each, say hello and write down the letter clue in the correct place on the map. Once you have all the clues, you'll see what they spell out – then it's time to head back to the Hare & Hounds to collect a prize.

Tickets & Details:

There are two trails, one from 10am-12pm and one from 1pm-3pm. If you're booking with friends, please be sure to all book the same time slot. This event is available by pre-paid ticket only and the price is £8 per child + £0.80 booking fee. Adults go free and all children must be accompanied.

Early booking recommended - tickets available at <https://www.designmynight.com/london/pubs/south-london/the-hare-hounds/the-east-sheen-easter-hunt-1>

The event is suitable for children of all ages, although families should note that the trail involves walking around the area.

Event Details

- **What:** East Sheen Spring Hunt
- **Where:** Hare & Hounds, 214 - 216 Upper Richmond Road West, East Sheen, SW14 8AH
- **When:** Saturday 11 April 2026
- **Times:** 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm (two maps)
- **Tickets:** £8 per child (adults free) – [click here for tickets](#)



Volunteer with Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal at Richmond station

From Marie Curie

Marie Curie is inviting local residents to join their Great Daffodil Appeal collection at Richmond train station on Thursday 19 March, as the charity marks the 40th year of its much loved spring campaign.

Volunteering is very simple - just two hours handing out daffodil pins in exchange for donations. Every pin helps raise vital funds so Marie Curie nurses can continue providing expert end of life care for people in the local community, as well as support through the charity's free national Support Line.



Sophy Alexander, Community Fundraiser for Surrey, said: "By giving just a couple of hours at Richmond station, you'll be helping Marie Curie support more people living with a terminal illness. Marie Curie volunteers are fully supported - and the big yellow hat is included!"

Residents can also get involved by 'Going Yellow' this March - whether that's wearing something yellow, hosting a small bake sale, or running a fun yellow themed activity to raise funds.

To volunteer at Richmond train station on 19 March, or to find other ways to support the Great Daffodil Appeal, visit [Marie Curie's website](https://www.mariecurie.org.uk) or contact Sophy Alexander at sophy.alexander@mariecurie.org.uk or 07591 389 046.

**EVERY
TUESDAY
BANQUET
DINNER**

**STARTER+ MAIN DISH+ SIDE
DISH+ RICE/ BREAD**
King Prawns £3 extra

£12.95 ONLY

**Regal Spice
Twickenham**

Limited
Seats!

FOR BOOKINGS, CALL

020-88939291

My Meetings with Remarkable Trees

From The Richmond Society

Discover remarkable trees from someone who's worked with over 14,000 of them.

Join us on **12th March** for an illustrated talk by Tony Kirkham MBE VMH, former Head of Arboretum, Gardens & Horticultural Services at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Hear how Tony became involved with trees from a young age and went on to spend 43 years working at Kew.



Through stunning slides, see the remarkable trees he's come across over the years. These include some at Kew Gardens, where he and his team managed over 14,000 trees. Others are from plant collecting expeditions all over the world to rebuild Kew's collection after the loss of around 700 trees during the Great Storm of 1987.

Over his distinguished career, Tony has received many awards, including the RHS's Associate of Honour, the Victoria Medal of Honour and the Arboricultural Association Lifetime Achievement Award. He is also the author of several books, including 'Remarkable Trees'.

This event is free for Richmond Society members. Non-members are welcome to join the talk for £7.

Find more information and booking [HERE](#)



Bushy Park Skylarks

From The Royal Parks

Every year, in early spring, a familiar evocative song returns to the grasslands of Bushy Park

We have identified skylark protection zones and have erected signs instructing visitors to always remain on designated paths when entering these areas, and we ask people to keep dogs on short leads March to September.

We urge visitors to stick to the signposted areas. By doing so, you're giving these red listed, threatened birds a fighting chance to raise their young successfully.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Chestnut Avenue, Bushy Park

From The Royal Parks

Please be aware that from Monday, 2nd March, the wooden box planters at either end of the vehicle restricted length of Chestnut Avenue will be replaced with gates.

In a similar way to the boxes, the gates will have a gap between them to allow authorised vehicles.

We're sorry for any inconvenience that these works will cause.



Marble Hill House Second-hand Bookshop

From Marble Hill House

Our Second-hand Bookshop is back this Sunday 1st March. And we have some wonderful new stock. Kids' books, fiction, non-fiction.... we've got the lot!

Join us in the Coach House Cafe Overflow between 11am-3pm.



THE KITCHEN By

One Guy & O

#itswhatwedo

**Public Cafe Now open
at the**

The Ellera Centre

North Lane, Teddington, TW11 0HJ

**Monday - Friday 9am-2pm
serving, Great Coffee, Breakfast,
Daily Lunch menu, Sweet treats**

**Free WiFi, Warm Seating Area,
Dogs welcome**

Richmond's last police counter to close – Council leader slams 'deeply concerning decision'

From Richmond Council

Richmond Council has expressed serious concern over the Metropolitan Police's decision to permanently close the borough's last police front counter at Twickenham Police Station, set to close this Saturday. The move will leave Richmond as one of only five London boroughs without any in-person police counter, raising accessibility and public safety concerns.

Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said: *"This is a deeply concerning decision. Residents are losing the very last place they can go to speak to a police officer face-to-face in this borough. For many, especially vulnerable people and those without easy online access, this is not just inconvenient – it is unsafe."*

In December, Richmond Council launched [legal action](#) against the Met Police and Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime over the closure, citing a lack of consultation, insufficient evidence, and concerns about accessibility. Councillor Roberts said the Council was 'forced to act' after assurances that every borough would retain at least one 24/7 front counter were broken. The Council is now calling for the decision to be suspended pending the judicial review.



"Our concern is simple," Councillor Roberts continued.

"Decisions of this scale must take residents' needs into account. Closing the last front counter before these proceedings are complete undermines public confidence in policing and risks making already vulnerable residents feel cut off from support."

With the Twickenham counter closing, the borough's almost 200,000 residents will need to access police services at alternative stations, including Kingston, Hounslow, Acton, Sutton, and Hammersmith. Online reporting and telephone contact remain available, but the Council stresses these options cannot fully replace local, in-person support.

"Front counters are about more than just numbers or footfall," said Councillor Roberts *"They are about trust, reassurance, and accessibility. Richmond residents deserve a visible, accessible police presence in their community."*

The closure follows a series of Met Police decisions that have reduced local policing visibility in the borough, including the [disbandment of the Royal Parks Police](#) last year. Richmond Council says this latest step compounds the challenge of keeping residents safe and maintaining confidence in policing.

"We are not resisting change – we support modern, effective policing," Councillor Roberts added. *"But change must be lawful, transparent, and considerate of the people it affects. Removing the last front counter without proper consultation fails on every count."*

The Council will continue to monitor the situation closely and provide updates on the judicial review process. Residents are urged to use online services or call 101 for non-emergencies, and to call 999 in an emergency.

Where to get help in an emergency:

- Call 999 for emergencies
- For non-emergency reporting call 101 or use the [Metropolitan Police online reporting services](#)

Spring Recital Series

Wed & Fri : March 2026



4TH MAR 12:00

DUO PATHOPOEIA | VIOLIN & ORGAN



6TH MAR 19:00

IMOGEN BAKER & FRIENDS | VOICE, TROMBONE AND PIANO
£8/15 TICKETS

11TH MAR 12:00

ALEXIA ELEFHERIADOU | SOLO PIANO

13TH MAR 19:00

REUBEN GOLDMARK | SOLO JAZZ PIANO
£8/15 TICKETS

18TH MAR 12:00

GEORGINA DADSON & ZOE BARNETT | GUITAR DUO

20TH MAR 19:00

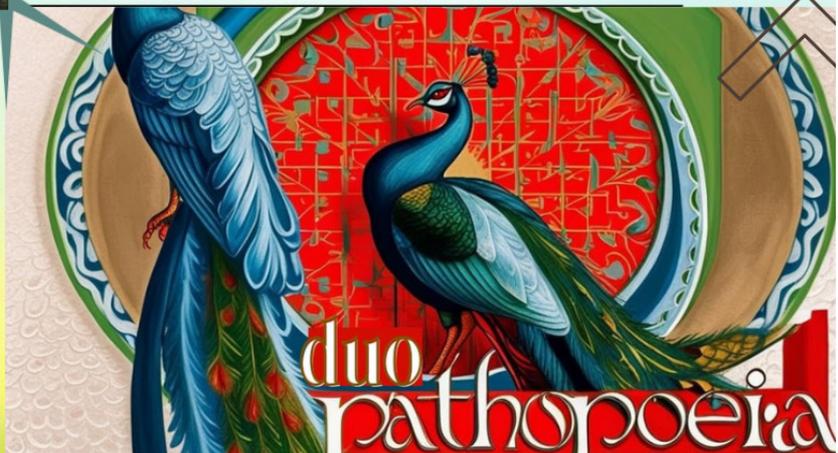
DAVID HEDLEY & FRIENDS | OBOE, FLUTE & PIANO
£8/15 TICKETS

25TH MAR 12:00

WEST LONDON TUBA QUARTET | TUBA QUARTET

27TH MAR 19:00

EVI WANG TRIO | VIOLIN, CLARINET & PIANO
£8/15 TICKETS



ADMISSION FREE ON WEDS : TICKETS ON INSTAGRAM OR ON
DOOR FOR FRIDAYS
DONATIONS WELCOME



Local psychologist brings ecstatic dance to Twickenham

From ETNA Community Centre

Local psychologist Dr Genevieve von Lob is teaming up with DJ Josh Silver to bring ecstatic dance to Twickenham, with an inaugural evening of heart-opening movement, music and connection at ETNA Community Centre on Friday 13 March.

Ecstatic dance is a warm and welcoming practice, which helps us reconnect with the joy of moving in whatever way feels most natural to us – with no experience necessary. As the curated music journey progresses through a succession of atmospheres, tempos and rhythms, participants are invited to dance in whatever way feels good to them.

Dr Genevieve has long been seeking ways to build community in the borough and sees ecstatic dance as a wonderful way to bring people together.

“The great thing about ecstatic dance is that there’s absolutely no pressure to perform, get it right, or move in any particular way,” says Dr Genevieve.

A rising star in the UK’s fast-growing ecstatic dance scene, Josh is the co-founder of Ecstatic Dance Somerset and has played at several events across the UK.



A double graduate of the Dance the Medicine school, Josh is also trained in the Internal Family Systems school of psychotherapy, allowing him to blend conscious movement with psychological insight to welcome all parts of ourselves into the dance.

Dr Genevieve and DJ Josh Silver will be welcoming participants from 6.30pm before offering a gentle introduction to ecstatic dance and an option to drink a cup of cacao. The dance will start at 7.15pm and last an hour and 45 minutes. There will be time to reflect and share at the end before gently transitioning into the weekend.

[Book tickets for ecstatic dance in Twickenham.](#)

Email ecstaticdancetwickenham@gmail.com for more information.

Next week at Richmond Council

On Tuesday, 3rd March, the full council will meet for the **Budget Meeting**, where the council’s budget and council tax are formally set for the coming municipal year. The meeting will commence at 7 pm at York House, Twickenham. Please click [HERE](#) for more details.

For guidance on **participating** in different types of council meetings, such as speaking or asking written or verbal questions, please click [HERE](#).

It's Spring - Time To Spruce Up Your Kitchen

At long last the sun has appeared! And the sunshine spurs us into spring cleaning and planning for summer and warmer days ahead. Here are some new products I've found for you:

It's often very awkward trying to reach those top shelves and ledges to dust. Well, help is at hand from this clever **Microfibre Extendable Duster from OXO**. Now you can banish dust from all corners of the home, as the handle extends up to 54". It's great for reaching light fixtures, bookshelves and tall cupboards without strain. The duster head rotates 270° and locks at multiple angles, making it easy to tackle every hard-to-reach spot. And it's not expensive, just £19 from John Lewis and Amazon.



I've resisted having a washing up bowl for years, as I hate the idea of stagnant water sitting there if it isn't emptied. Well, I've relented and am absolutely delighted with the one from **ReBorn®** - the world's first homeware brand made from local UK waste. Suitable for most sinks, the **ReBorn washing up bowl** has a generous 9 litre capacity. It has large carry handles for easy lifting, and legs to elevate the bowl for clean draining. It has an integrated plug for quick draining, that can also be set to strain water with food particles etc. With a handy pour spout, the water can be easily decanted to

other vessels or used to water plants. All components can be taken apart for easy cleaning. Dedicated to creating planet-friendly homewares, ReBorn is actively challenging the way traditional makers operate. It believes in local production, using recycled materials such as plastic film, resulting in a low carbon footprint and reduced landfill, all while supporting the local economy. This **NEW sage green colour range** from ReBorn is made in Wiltshire UK, from 100% waste plastic. **ReBorn products are recyclable everywhere in the UK, unlike most housewares which are made from mixed materials, resulting in 70 million items ending up in landfill annually here in the UK.** The bowl is available for around £35 and there is a nifty sink tidy to match, with storage for brushes, bottles and cloths for around £20 to complete the look.



Avocados are a staple in our household, whether as part of breakfast, a salad or just as a snack (try filling the middle with soy sauce - it's so good). Life is much easier now though, with the new **Viners® Avocado tool**. Designed to make slicing, de-stoning, and scooping effortless, this multi-functional tool takes the fuss out of avocado prep. Simply slice the avocado in half using the blade on the side. Once open, position the pitting section over the stone, press gently and twist to lift it out easily. Then use the slicer on top to glide through the flesh for perfectly even slices. It's dishwasher safe for easy cleaning, and comes with a hanging hook for space-saving storage. Around £5 from Amazon.





A good grater works wonders. This one from OXO is fabulous. **The OXO Good Grips Box Grater With Removable Zester** has sharp and durable etched surfaces that provide an easy way to grate ingredients. The 4-sided design features a coarse grating blade and a medium grating blade, as well as an angled slicing blade. And the 4th side has a zester blade that can be used on the grater or be detached and used independently over a bowl or a cutting board. A comfortable soft handle provides a secure and slip-free grip while the non-slip foot keeps it firmly in place while grating. There's even a convenient removable clear container with measurement markings that catches food as you grate it - and it stores inside the box grater. From around £35 from Amazon, John Lewis and other stores.

I must tell you about my latest cookware discovery: **GreenPan**, the pioneer world-leading **Thermolon™ PFAS-Free ceramic non-stick cookware**. You might have spotted these gorgeous pans in use on a popular cookery series on TV recently (set in the chef's home). Compared with traditional non-stick, the superior quality coating offers outstanding cooking performance without harmful 'forever chemicals' such as PFAS, delivering outstanding cooking results. The company was developed by two childhood friends, Jan Helskens and Wim De Veirman, in Belgium in 2007. Having discovered that when overheated, traditional non-stick pans release toxic substances into the air, and into your food, they embarked on a mission to create a healthy non-stick alternative. And non-stick they certainly are - they're not cheap, but definitely worth the investment. Around £335 for the set shown from [greenpan.co.uk](https://www.greenpan.co.uk)



And still on the cooking theme, with Mother's Day and Easter roasts and of course barbecues ahead, it's important to make sure your meat is properly cooked. This is where the **MEATER Pro** comes in. It's a smart wireless meat thermometer that helps take guesswork out of cooking. Whether roasting Sunday dinner, grilling summer steaks, or mastering slow-cooked joints, the MEATER Pro makes precision cooking effortless, with cutting-edge technology and intuitive guidance via the companion app. The MEATER Pro combines advanced sensors and wireless connectivity, to help users cook like a pro with minimal effort. It has **Smart Temp™ Multi-sensor Technology** monitoring both internal meat and ambient temperatures, **Bluetooth 5.2 Long-Range Wireless** giving freedom to move around without being tethered to the oven or grill. **High Heat Capability** to withstand cooking environments up to **550 °C**, so suitable for roasting, searing, grilling and more. **Fast Charging & Long Usage** - a short charge powers long cooks, ideal for



roasts and BBQ sessions alike. And it's dishwasher safe, so easy to clean. And the companion app offers alerts and guidance straight to your smartphone. From the official MEATER UK store and select retailers, priced around £129.00 - store-uk.meater.com/products/meater-pro

GIBRALTAR

sunborn

YACHT HOTEL RESORT



OFFERS

STAY 7 PAY 5
ENJOY A 7 NIGHT LUXURY BREAK
FOR THE PRICE OF 5.

STAY 7 NIGHTS, PAY 5

EXPERIENCE GIBRALTAR

- SUPERYACHT DELUXE ROOM AND BREAKFAST
BUFFET FOR 2
- DOLPHIN TRIP FOR 2
- DINNER FOR 2
- BOTTLE OF CAVA ON ARRIVAL
- TOTAL £280.00**

TERMS & CONDITIONS: OFFER SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

EXPERIENCE PACKAGE



Spring News from Your Travel Desk

By Bruce Lyons

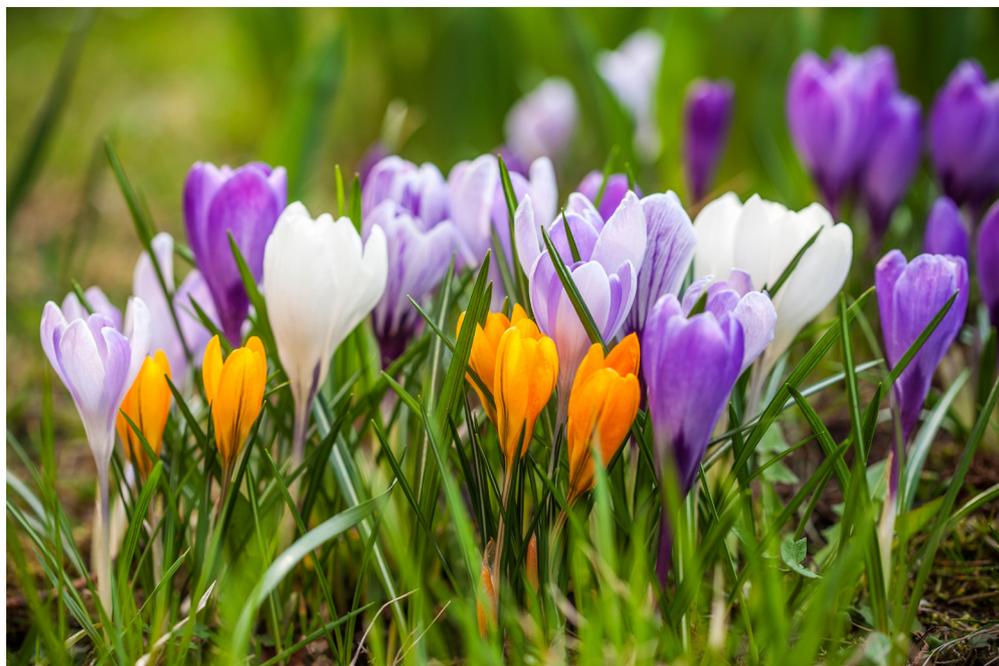
Spring is here, Sunday is March the 1st Hooray!! So, here is a little joy to cheer you Up. Book Today (28th February) by 23.59 and get 50% off your Eurostar tickets.

Fancy a trip to Gay Paree; some Moules in Bruges or Gouda in Gouda - don't delay Book today!!



Today (28th Feb) is also the last day of other OFFERS. Wendy Wu, famous for group tours to Asia, South America and all over the world pretty well now gives you companion fares free or business on the return flight on most of their trips, but they must be booked, you guessed it, by today!

Unworld the deluxe River Cruise Company is Celebrating their 50th Anniversary with a 30% discount but again it is finishing today - am I going to be busy!!!!



Bit kinder? G Adventures have 20% off selected trips and for these you have till Monday (2nd March) to book by. Incredible journeys all over the world, a chance not to miss if you want to spice your travels up a bit.

Finally take a look at Poseidon Expeditions, expeditions trips

are growing in popularity exponentially and Poseidon have 15% off the most trips if you book from next Monday for a limited time and exceptionally, they have 25% off some Svalbard adventures

So, Enjoy Spring and take the plunge

Bruce



Blessed ...or Stressed?

By Deep Patel

~ Life through the eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~



This past week, I've noticed that an increasing number of customers coming into my shop have been...well...you know...just a bit different to usual...you know?...Like...not how I expected...you know? Ok, I'm just going to say to come out and say it...this past week customers coming into my shop have appeared to be increasingly angry, grumpy and pretty much down-right miserable...There I said it (not all my customers, most are actually lovely, so just a few, regardless more than usual have been pretty angry, grumpy and yes, miserable. I wanted to find out more, so I decided to try and delve deeper, like all decent shopkeepers would. My mind starting going at 100mph thinking all sorts...could it be just the endless rain, or perhaps the aftermath of valentines day, or, or, or...is their something being added to our drinking water that could possibly be making people a little cranky perhaps (ok maybe I am taking it a bit too far now I know). So what is it?

Well, after speaking to customers all week about my observation, it seemed that the ones that seemed a little higher on the angry/grumpy scale were always pushed for time and spreading themselves too thin in order to complete the mountain of tasks and activities that they had shoveled upon themselves to the extent that they had literally buried themselves alive with their own hands in things that were seemingly "extremely important" but most of which in reality were simply a lot of crap things that didn't actually matter that much if push came to shove. It was that over-thinking and over-loading oneself with a list so long that it would be physically impossible to complete in the time allotted, leaving people with that feeling of there being "never enough hours in the day".

So how was this all impacting my customers? Upon further discussion with many of my customers this past week, there was a direct and obvious correlation between those whom seemed to feel more angry with the world (or were frequently grumpy) and an internalised belief of deeper self-inadequacy that they seemed to carry within them which had simply come about from overloading themselves, setting themselves too many goals in too little time or trying to live up to the expectation of those around them in order to please them, and getting lost somewhere in the process. Another common factor that came from these customers was the act of placing too much value on things that mattered too little in the bigger picture,

or indeed the lack of the ability to even step back and see the bigger picture in many cases it seemed. So what was the end result of all this? From the conversations that I had with customers regarding this over this past week, together with deeper reflection on this topic that came about whilst I was restocking the soft-drinks fridge this afternoon (a great time to ponder life I find), I realised that the end result of all this was that those customers that fitted the description above were the same ones that were always angry at life, grumpy and carried with them a daily aura of stress in everything they did, from greeting me and saying “hello” to walking up the street in a hurried and unsettled manner.

I decided to take the plunge and approach some of these customers (to help them break free of this) and tell them about my observations together with my reflections that had come out during the time that I was re-stocking the soft-drinks fridge. I told them that in my opinion, they were taking on too many tasks to try and live up to unrealistic goals sometimes in a bid to try and satisfy the expectations of those around them as well placing too much value on too many things that in the bigger picture actually didn't matter too much which ultimately did them no favours aside from causing them unnecessary stress and to become angry/grumpy or miserable beings. Many of my regular customers took this on board and admitted to this being true for them (or at least parts of it), however a few took this feedback rather negatively with one saying “no wonder some people walk past your shop to go to get their paper at Sainsburys with you sitting here behind the counter” (I kid you not, one customer actually said that), but I took it on the chin like any robust shopkeeper would and said to myself “you were only showing them the truth Dee, and sometimes people just don't like to see it” and consoled myself knowing that they would thank me one day (or maybe just end up going to Sainsburys instead?), either way, all in a days work of being a shopkeeper, my responsibility isn't just to sell people sweets, treats and newspapers, but to help them to see the truth that I sometimes see, they say “the truth hurts” but it helps bring peace afterwards. So next time you are feeling the anger or frustration of life building up...remember this article and to take step back, and look at all the things you are already doing right rather than just those things that you are not succeeding with and remind yourself that you are too blessed to be stressed, take a deep breath, smile...and keep going...as I always say, “you'll get there, bit by bit” and “try your best, and God does the rest”...

Have a blessed week ahead lovely Twickenham and Richmond Tribune readers...x

Remember...

“Try your best and God does the rest”...

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

TO STOP FOXES, SQUIRRELS, MICE, RATS & RABBITS...

Place empty bowls filled with white vinegar around where they come and they will stop coming without you having to harm them...you will get blessings in your life or have good karma for choosing a kind way too! This remedy also works to deter virtually any insect without harming them...like it & share it!

For ANY specific tip to stop any “pest” or insect KINDLY (for good karma/blessings), email me: thedeepatel@gmail.com or Facebook “Insect Lovers Unite”

Fallen Angels

by Noël Coward

Teddington Theatre Club at the Hampton Hill Theatre until 28th February

Although part of the Noël Coward canon, *Fallen Angels* comes unexplored for me, so what might unfold? We were welcomed into a splendid London flat, with intriguing alcoves and a tantalising glimpse of another room. Directed in charming detail by Mandy Stenhouse, who has an impressive background with TTC, this production, with its tasteful twenties décor, opens up for us a window into 1925.

A postcard disrupts the married lives of friends Julia and Jane. As a result, we watch their composure unravel as they recall a former French lover ... the same French lover. Their husbands off for the weekend, and the women are thrown into turmoil with anticipated telephone calls and passionate memories. With unwarranted, but profound, advice from Saunders, the maid,



played wryly by Isabelle Crean, and enchanting music from splendid grand piano and vocals, we follow their awkward journey.

The immaculate wardrobe by Mags Wrightson creates costumes that are beautifully thought-out and authentic, and compliment the arresting period-perfect stylish set design of Wesley Henderson Roe. We are there in the roaring twenties.

Cat Lamin's wittiness in playing Jane is a good foil to Penny Weatherall's frantic Julia. Despite once sharing the same lover, their friendship may be solid, but will it remain so? They become united in their turmoil, but a drawn-out supper leads to reflections on their respective marriages. But then, when the drink really takes over, their frustrations turn into insults and Jane storms out into the night.

Next day, their spouses, who have also fallen out the night before, reappear. Willy and Fred, once filled-in on the situation, are righteously jealous. Dominic Lloyd's has the edge with his striking stage presence as Fred, whereas Alex Pearce, as Willy, becomes more comfortable in the role as the play progresses.

We finally meet the mysterious Maurice, played by Stuart McEwan who walks on as the past lover with savoir faire and Gallic charm. This may be a strong turning point of the plot, but performances need to pick up pace: it is very drawn-out in places.

Nevertheless, we are taken to the twenties (as they were for some), all Art Deco, cocktails and Veuve Clicquot; plus more than a sprinkling of Noël's naughtiness.



Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2026/02/25/fallen-angels

Photography by Steve Sitton



Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

by Marc Shaiman, lyrics by Scott Wittman after Roald Dahl
BROS Theatre Company at Richmond Theatre

Welcome to the eclectic world of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Charlie lives in poverty with his overworked mother and elderly grandparents. The young boy has longed for a golden ticket to get to Willy Wonka's fabled factory. This colourful production features Anthony Eckley-Majercak, in the demanding role of Charlie, who remains mature without losing childish charm or good nature.



As Mrs Bucket, Tash Willis' clear singing voice makes the sadness of their situation all the more poignant. The stoical oldies, Grandpa Joe (Nigel Cole) and Grandma Georgina (Deb McDowell), and Grandpa George (Steve Taylor) and Grandma Josephine (Faye Brann) provide encouragement in Charlie's life. Clair Jardella brings humour and pace as the dubious fruit seller Mrs Green, who shows a brusque affection for Charlie.



We vicariously follow Charlie's ambition and once he acquires the hallowed ticket, we are delighted that Grandpa Joe, having found a new lease of life, is to accompany him.

Nick Moorhead is vibrant as the eccentric confectioner Willy Wonka, bringing dark humour to the part. Enigmatic and resplendent in his shiny coat and top hat, he goes from hapless to heartless and back to likeable as he takes us through his intriguing factory, losing the other lucky (or not so?) winners one by one.

News anchors Cherry (Caro Hayes) and Jerry (Callum Taylor) are captivating as they reveal the motley array. We meet the purple suited Christopher Bryan as ambitious Mr Beauregarde and his gum-chewing singing daughter Violet, a spirited Rebecca Nardin. Louse Ellard-Turnbull and Mathew Madeley are hilarious as Mrs Gloop and her son Augustus. Affluent oligarch Mr Salt is lavishly played by Chris Warden and his insufferable offspring Veruca by Anna Gold, who has an incredible voice and ballet skills. The very American Mrs Teavee and her obnoxious son Mike are beautifully done by Emma Playle and Jay Shore.

An energetic ensemble does great justice to Sian Bowles-Bevan's choreography, particularly with the striking and cleverly managed Oompa Loompas, part of Wonka's engaging team of 'factory workers' who really bring the scenes to life.

Musical numbers are smoothly executed by Tom Chippendale and his band, and the direction by Paul Madeley is clever and intricate, creating an uplifting and polished adaption of Roald Dahl's eccentric tale.

Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2026/02/19/charlie-chocolate-bros

Photography courtesy of BROS

The Secret Garden

by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Questors Youth Theatre at the Judi Dench Playhouse, Ealing until 28th February

Could *The Secret Garden* could be successfully adapted for the stage; and with a large cast including three Marys? It can, and extraordinarily well.

Eloise Pringle, Advika Nair and Annabelle Dee convincingly showed the different emotions Mary experienced as she adjusted to the move from a privileged but emotionally bare life in India to the unfamiliar large gloomy house in Yorkshire. Mary is seen in India, where a cholera outbreak devastates her neglectful family and the servants who had looked after her. She is shipped back to a reluctant uncle in remotest Yorkshire. While still in India her loneliness is emphasised by the way a chorus of children taunt her. This chorus is a recurring theme whenever she is at her most vulnerable.



Her uncle, sympathetically played by Sean Keogh-Smith, is still in deep mourning after the death of his beautiful young wife. His grieving household is wondering how to contain the disruption of the arrival of an orphaned niece.

Charlotte Green gave a stellar performance as Mrs Medlock, the harsh, but sympathetic housekeeper. The Yorkshire accents the whole cast throughout were pitch perfect, including those of Billy Adcock, Noa Eloise Archer, and Noah Christi who were suitably broader as gardener, housemaid and village

lad. These three befriended Mary and showed her the beauty of nature around the house, and slowly the allure of the plants and the animals in the garden calmed and softened her. In turn, her friendship with her sad and sickly cousin brought him happiness and joy. Orton White made Colin's recovery seem credible, and there were some lovely cameos by members of the ensemble as porters, servants, a clergyman-valet, doctor, and Martha's mum. Out in the garden puppeteers brought birds and animals to life.

Alex Marker's fast paced direction and inspired sparse set design was all brought convincingly to life. Living pictures told their own stories, and plinths provided a space for ghosts to come and go to remind the living of significant events in the past.

The superbly disciplined young actors were faultless, and they story they told is an overwhelmingly positive one, demonstrating that loneliness and unhappiness can be transformed by embracing nature and friendship.



Read Polly Davies' review at www.markaspen.com/2026/02/27/secret-garden

Photography by Jamie Gould

I'm Sorry, Prime Minister

by Jonathan Lynn

Barn Theatre at the Apollo Theatre, West End until 9th May, then on tour until 18th July

The much-loved TV series is given a shot-in-the-arm by its co-creator, bringing its two protagonists back from retirement, who find themselves in a world even more treacherous than politics, circumnavigating the not-so brave new world of culture wars.

Ex-PM Jim Hacker, now Lord Hacker but relegated to history, has bank-rolled his own Oxford foundation, Hacker College. His marbles are slowly rolling away, his senescence asterisked by his micturition mishaps, and malfunctioning flies.

Hacker employs a carer "care worker", the irritatingly insubordinate Sophie. Against Hacker's non-PC customary life, she is the warning beacon of virtue signalling. However, he has already fallen foul of cancel culture, and he imminently faces ousting from his "lifetime" tenure as Master.



To whom can Hacker turn? Perhaps his former cabinet secretary Sir Humphrey Appleby. Due to some Inheritance Tax scam by his "evil queen" daughter-in-law, he is now penurious. In spite of his tribulations, Sir Humphrey is still the obfuscating sharp-witted master of floccinaucinihilipilification.

Hence, the mighty fallen are catapulted into the alien and hostile world of woke, with its minefields of "inappropriate" language, misgendering, safe spaces and trigger warnings. And the banana skin awaiting them is the presumptuous Sophie.

Griff Rhys Jones' Jim Hacker bumbles and blusters, chaffs and whines. Faltering charm occasional shines through, but the humour rambles rather than runs, in spite of the witty political aperçus. His character wavers between syrupy and splenetic, but Rhys Jones comes across as two-dimensional; there is no emotional journey.

As Sir Humphrey, Clive Francis in contrast has razor sharp delivery and comic timing, pointing up the slippery sesquipedalian former civil-service grandee with the quick-fire repartee and vocal acrobatics. He looks the part too, urbane if faded at the edges, in his bespoke pinstripes and Wykehamist old-school tie.

Sophie "ticks boxes" (Hacker's words), as she is black, lesbian, and impoverished. It emerges that she is a Hacker College graduate, and she has a habit of weaponising literary quotes. Stephanie Levi-John plays Sophie with a gentle touch and a winning smile. Her Sophie seems more deluded rather than vindictive, and her impertinence gradually mellows into an almost maternal affection.

Without the wittily effective comedy, the play would be a glib cross between *King Lear* and *The Odd Couple*. But *I'm Sorry, Prime Minister* is plotless, more of a mood piece than a drama. If you didn't laugh, you would cry.

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2026/02/15/sorry-pm

Photography by Johan Persson

RSS Spring & Summer Spotlight Party and Open Auditions

From 7pm on Saturday, February 28th the Richmond Shakespeare Society will be throwing their **Spring and Summer Spotlight Party** when our forthcoming season of productions will be announced, with the opportunity to meet the directors and to learn more about these and other events planned for the Summer. Join us at the Mary Wallace for an introduction to our theatre and an evening of music and entertainment - all are welcome.

OPEN AUDITIONS - CIPHERS by Dawn King - Monday, March 2nd

Open Auditions for CIPHERS, a thrilling whodunnit set in a world of deceit and espionage, will be held at the Mary Wallace Theatre from 7.45pm on Monday, March 2nd.

Audition for eight characters, varying in age and type, are open to all - ie you do not have to be a member of the Richmond Shakespeare Society to read for a role. The production will play from May 30th-June 6th with rehearsals commencing on April 5th. If you are interested in joining the cast, or would like to work backstage on set, costume, stage management, sound, lighting or any of the many functions that support a production, do please join us at the theatre on Monday evening when you will be heartily welcomed!

For more information see www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk
The Mary Wallace Theatre is on Twickenham's Embankment, close to the Barmy Arms.



Fair Access to creative work experience for year 10s this Sunday

From Landmark Arts Centre

Many students fail to find work experience placements, missing out on opportunities that grow skills, prospects, and ambition. This Sunday, Landmark Arts Centre is doing something about it.

Fair Access is a free drop-in event for year 10 students, open between 1 and 5pm. Staff from the Landmark will be on hand to answer questions about work experience and careers in the arts, joined by colleagues from Orleans House Gallery and the Museum of Richmond.

Students can arrive at any point, ask questions, and leave when they've learned enough.

Harper Ray, Director at Landmark Arts Centre, knows first-hand why access matters: *"Like many young people, I had no family connections to open doors in the industry I wanted. A teacher helped me get relevant work experience and changed the direction of my life. I want to give young people the confidence and connections to build creative careers. That starts with fair access to creative and cultural work experience."*

[Book your place](#), or just turn up.



HAMPTON CHORAL SOCIETY

In association with Arts Richmond, festival of phenomenal female composers, presents:

Grand Mass in Eflat Major Amy Beach

Saturday 21 March 2026, 7.30pm

Musical Director Emma Warren
with professional soloists & musicians

St James's Church, St James's Road,

Hampton Hill, TW12 1DQ



Tickets: £15 (Adults), £7 (Under 16's) Box Office: 020 8941 5394
On the door: contactless, card, cheque, cash www.hamptonchoral.org.uk

Charity Number 261788

St Mary's University

St Mary's University Validates New Strategic Sport Leadership MA

St Mary's University, London has validated the Strategic Sport Leadership MA, which has been launched by the [Institute of Sports Humanities](#) (ISH) in partnership with [the Leaders Development Institute](#) (LDI) at the Ministry of Sport, Saudi Arabia.

Students on the [Strategic Sport Leadership MA](#) programme will join a powerful international network of sports experts and benefit from relationships across sports and sectors of the industry.

LDI's mission is to support the development of individuals and institutions in the sports sector, with a vision to enable excellence in the sports sector. LDI will sponsor 25 candidates for each intake of the new MA programme, underlining its commitment to developing world-class sport leadership capability.

The Strategic Sport Leadership MA is validated by [St Mary's University](#). St Mary's has a strong reputation in sport and exercise

education and a long-standing history of success in elite sport, having produced numerous Olympians and international athletes. The University's expertise ensures that the programme meets the highest academic standards while remaining closely aligned to



The course is suited for professionals to study alongside busy lives and is tailored for leaders navigating the dynamic world of sport. It is designed to provide the intellectual tools, the global vision, the interdisciplinary range and the sports network to drive transformational change, preparing participants to lead in a rapidly evolving global sports landscape.

ISH's mission is to nurture and inspire sport's current and future leaders around the world – smart thinking leading to better decisions and braver leadership.

the needs of the global sports industry.

The programme syllabus includes:
The Making of Modern Sport
Strategy, Decision-Making, and Innovation
Sports Global Governance, Nations & Identity
Sporting Events: Context and Content

To find out more visit: <https://www.sportshumanities.org/strategic-masters-international>

or email: ish@sportshumanities.org





LONDON LUMINARIES

VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES



Join us for our eighth series of online talks from London properties spotlighting the London Luminaries partners. All profits will go the properties we support. To book tickets go to www.londonluminaries.com

02.04.26 7pm

Museum of Richmond presents 'Did Virginia Woolf really hate Richmond?'

07.05.2026 7pm

Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust presents 'Happy Birthday Mr Pope: Restoring the Grotto'

04.06.26 7pm

Fulham Palace presents 'Chapels, charity, controversy and loss'

02.07.26 7pm

Dr Johnson's House presents 'A harmless drudge and his dictionary.'

06.08.26 7pm

Turner's House presents 'Bringing Joseph William Mallord Turner back to Sandycombe'

03.09.2026 7pm

The Friends of Marble Hill present 'Classical Symbolism and allusion in decoration'

01.10.26 7pm

Ham House presents 'Encountering Asia at restoration-era Ham House'

05.11.26 7pm

William Morris Society presents 'Practically Magic: William Morris at Home in Hammersmith'

WWW.LONDONLUMINARIES.COM



Richmond upon Thames College Selected as UK Host for Amazon's Flagship Girls' Tech Day Event

Amazon brought a major STEM event to Richmond upon Thames College last week, welcoming 115 Year 7 and 8 pupils from The Richmond upon Thames School (RTS) for an immersive day of tech-powered learning supported by [Creative Hut](#).



Bridging the Gender Gap in Technology

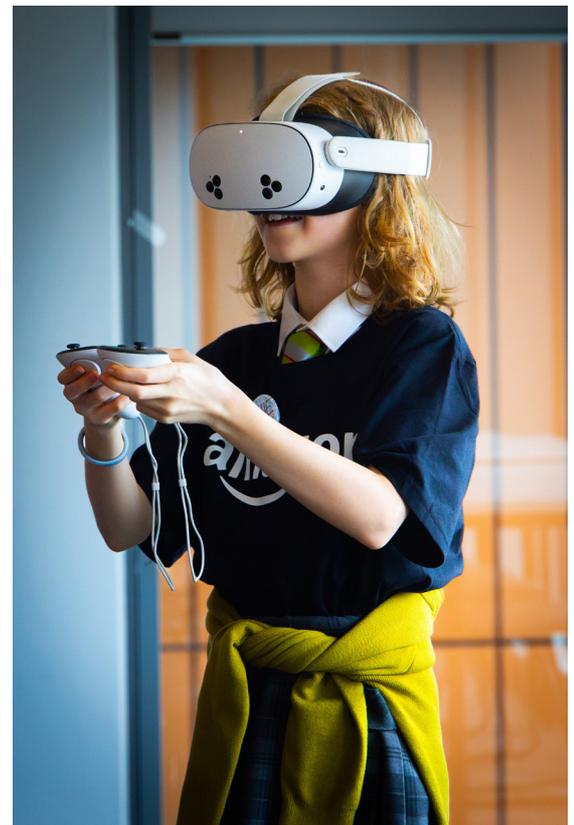
Launched in 2018, Amazon Girls' Tech Day is a global programme designed to help bridge the gender gap in technology by inspiring girls and young women to engage with STEM. The initiative has reached participants in more than 30 countries across Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Asia-Pacific.

Richmond upon Thames College Principal, Gavin Hughes, commented:

"We were delighted to welcome the team from Amazon and The Richmond upon Thames School to the College for the Amazon Girls' Tech Day. It was a wonderful event for the girls with so many exciting activities and inspiring stories from those involved. It is a real pleasure to see the current generation motivating the next generation in the world of technology."

Opening Doors to STEM

This year's event at Richmond upon Thames College follows the success of last year's Amazon Girls' Tech Day hosted at Uxbridge College, solidifying the collaboration between the [West London Institute of Technology \(IoT\)](#), Amazon and Creative Hut. It is thrilling to be continuing the momentum across the HRUC (Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge Colleges) group and beyond, encouraging the next generation of innovators.



Joanne Reynolds, Community Engagement Manager, at Amazon Web Services (AWS), said: *“We’re proud to collaborate with Richmond upon Thames College to host Amazon Girls’ Tech Day here in the UK. At Amazon, our aim is to inspire and empower young women to explore their potential in technology, and events like this are integral to showing them the opportunities that are available and the art of the possible. By investing in STEM education and providing opportunities for hands-on learning, we want to help our future leaders to foster a love for technology and develop the pathways and skills they need to succeed in an ever-evolving world.”*

Throughout the day, RTS students rotated through interactive sessions covering coding, robotics, engineering, design, and immersive technologies, all aimed at building confidence, breaking down stereotypes, and showing girls that a future in tech is within reach.

The event also featured an inspiring panel discussion with a diverse group of Amazon leaders, giving students the chance to hear firsthand about real career journeys in the tech and logistics sectors, offering them a powerful look at the many pathways available in STEM and the vital role women play in shaping the future of technology.



HRUC winner of our [National Innovation Challenge 2025](#), Valentina Vicairon, closed the experience with details of her success and some inspiring words.

Miss R Lang, Year 7 English Teacher at The Richmond upon Thames School, reflected: *“The students had the most brilliant day - they were enthused by every workshop, and you could feel the ambition in the air! It was brilliant to see them understand that their place is anywhere they want it to be - inclusive of in STEM.”*

Simon Davenport, Managing Director for Impact & Legacy at Creative Hut, the delivery partner for Amazon Girls’ Tech Day, commented:

“Amazon Girls’ Tech Day is one of our most transformational learning experiences. No matter where it is hosted, the impact is the same, students leave energised, capable, and excited about where STEM skills can take them. By combining hands-on learning with real conversations with women in the industry, we’re helping girls see that they absolutely have a place in the tech world.”

Applications for HRUC are now open for September 2026. Visit our websites to explore our full range of courses and begin your application today!





TURNER'S HOUSE

WHAT'S ON ; SPRING 2026



INTRODUCTION TO CALLIGRAPHY

Join Kate Ridyard, Petersham Nurseries' own calligrapher for an amazing introduction to calligraphy, copperplate and dip pen. All materials/ refreshments provided

FEB
24

10:00 aM - 12:30 PM
£ 45



STUDIO SESSIONS; EXPLORING TURNER

Focused workshops centred on a single painting by J.M.W.Turner, offering an immersive exploration. Includes a 30-minute illustrated talk on the story behind the painting, followed by a guided, painting class inspired by the piece. Participants will gain practical insight into his expressive style while developing their own creative response. All materials/ refreshments provided.

MAR
30

APR
27

10:30 AM -12:30 PM
£ 20



LIFE DRAWING AT TURNER'S HOUSE

Unleash your creativity! Join us in Turner's sitting room for an evening with a female model. All materials/ refreshments provided.

MAR
5

18:00 PM - 20: 00 PM
£ 28



SIP & PAINT ; WATERCOLOUR FLORALS

welcome in Spring with some florals and fizz at Turner's House. Watercolour techniques and painting with 2 glasses of bubbly in an intimate relaxed evening.

APR
9

18:00 PM - 20: 00 PM
£ 35

Reserve your spot now and join our creative community!

www.turnershouse.org/whats-on/

Turners House, 40 Sandycombe Rd, Twickenham, TW1 2LR

Red Roses v Ireland to attract record Guinness Women's Six Nations crowd

Ticket sales for the Red Roses' Guinness Women's Six Nations opener against Ireland at Allianz Stadium have surpassed a tournament record number.

The World Champions return to the home of England Rugby to play the Irish on Saturday 11 April and more than 60,000 will be in attendance.

The number surpasses the previous record of 58,498 fans who were at Allianz Stadium for the Red Roses' Grand Slam-securing 38-33 victory over France in 2023.

The ever-rising spectator figure means the Red Roses will occupy six of the top 15 women's sport attendances for fixtures in England over the past three years, including five at Allianz Stadium.

RFU Executive Director of Women's Game, Alex Teasdale, said: *"To welcome more than 60,000 passionate supporters to Allianz Stadium for a Women's Six Nations match is a powerful testament to the world-class standard of our Red Roses and to the connection they have built with supporters across the country."*

"Moments like this aren't just milestones, they're statements. They help demonstrate what is possible for women's sport in this country. We remain committed to enhancing rugby experiences for women and girls, as well as men and boys, and to creating a lasting, positive impact through our game."

Red Roses captain, Zoe Stratford, added: *"Running out in front of a record-breaking Six Nations crowd is going to be an incredible feeling."*

"Thinking back to the welcome we received at Allianz Stadium for the World Cup final still gives me goosebumps. Moments like that, and like this, are so important to opening more doors for women and girls across England."

"We can't wait to see so many people embracing the occasion with their friends and family and being part of another historic day for women's rugby."

England Women's other 2026 Six Nations home encounter with Wales at Ashton Gate, Bristol, on Saturday 25 April has also hit a landmark crowd.

With two months to go until the Anglo-Welsh fixture, over 22,000 tickets have been sold – over 75% of the stadium capacity – exceeding the former record, held by Ashton Gate, for a home Six Nations game away from Allianz Stadium.

Tickets for both Red Roses' home matches remain on sale priced from £20 for adults and £5 for juniors. Purchase yours from [englandrugby.com/tickets](https://www.englandrugby.com/tickets) and be part of history!



Burnley v Brentford fc

By Ron Brand

AS I predicted the Brighton fixture was not ever going to be easy. A 2- 0 loss at Home is a disappointment but taken alongside the wins at Aston Villa and Newcastle plus a draw with Arsenal at the Gtech and the FA Cup win at Macclesfield it still amounts to a successful February 26'. Onwards and Upwards?

The BEES move on to face Burnley at Turf Moor.



Burnley have struggled this season and sit 2nd from bottom in the Premier on 19pts. The BEES have better than double those pts on 40 and are 7th in the division. A formality you might think?

But we know better, don't we?

The teams sitting in the European Spots are now 5pts ahead of Brentford on 45pts so with European Football at the Gtech a realistic ambition the Goal now is Wins in every game.

Handling the pressure sets the Outstanding from 'the also runs'.

Keith Andrews the Head Coach has already proved himself capable of delivering miracles and must be a candidate for Coach of the Year in his first year in charge?

Keeping the Squad free from injuries will play an important part now and of course luck plays an important part in that. The better funded clubs have two players for every position. The clubs on tight budgets are unable to enjoy that luxury. Brentford are in the second group in that respect.

Based on the way they have played this season I expect The BEES to handle themselves well at Burnley.

Match Preview: Burnley v Brentford

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford take on Burnley at Turf Moor in the Premier League on Saturday (3pm kick-off GMT).

The Bees are looking to bounce back from a 2-0 defeat to Brighton and Hove Albion last time out, while Scott Parker's side drew 1-1 with Chelsea.

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*: Brentford should have opportunities to dictate the tempo at Turf Moor

Burnley striker Zian Flemming's late equaliser at Chelsea last weekend typified the spirit of Scott Parker's Clarets - who can move within five points of Premier League safety on Saturday if they beat Brentford.

Currently 19th in the top flight, a 3-2 comeback win over Crystal Palace and a dramatic point at Stamford Bridge have revived Burnley's bid to beat the drop.

Former Chelsea midfielder Parker believes the morale-boosting draw on his old stomping ground can catalyse a "Great Escape", stating afterwards that "we're right in this and we'll still keep fighting."

Combative midfielders in their day, Parker and Keith Andrews shared the spoils on three of the four occasions they clashed as Premier League players, and neither will expect any quarter to be given at Turf Moor this Saturday.

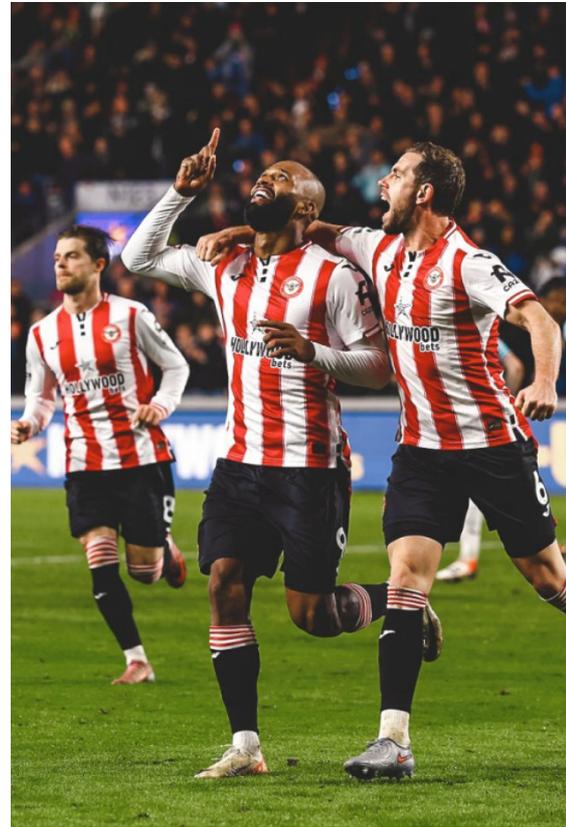
However, the underlying data favours the clinical Bees. Automatically promoted from the Championship, Burnley racked up 100 points and conceded just 16 goals last season in the second tier - Parker and his side boasting, statistically, the best defence in Europe.

But the Premier League is a different animal and Burnley have struggled to replicate that defensive excellence at the higher level. The Clarets have shipped the most goals (52) in the division and currently concede more shots per 90 (16.5) than any other team in the top flight.

Parker has spoken about the "deadly" finishing at Premier League level, and Brentford epitomise that cut-throat ruthlessness. Spearheaded by 17-goal striker [Igor Thiago](#), the Bees have the best shot conversion rate in the division (14.81 per cent), the highest xG per shot (0.17) and put a league-high 38 per cent of their efforts on target.

Individually, Thiago (54 per cent) and his attacking sidekick [Kevin Schade](#) (49 per cent) both rank among the Premier League's top 20 players for shot accuracy.

Under Andrews, Brentford are evolving into a compact and competitive unit capable of launching



devastating raids forward on the break. Interestingly, though, the Bees have controlled more possession away from home - and they can expect that trend to continue in Lancashire.

The Londoners average 48 per cent of the ball on their travels in 2025/26, compared to 46 per cent at Gtech Community Stadium, and they should have opportunities to dictate the tempo against a Burnley side with an average possession share of just 41 per cent.

With 11 games of the season remaining, Parker's Clarets are searching for a clinical edge of their own in attack - particularly at home.

Although Burnley rank ninth in the Premier League for away goals this season with 17, it has been a different story at Turf Moor, where they have scored a league-low 12.

It's a cliché, but if you don't shoot, you don't score - and Burnley currently attempt fewer shots (9.1) and register fewer efforts on target (three) per game than any team in the Premier League. What's more, the quality of the chances they create ranks among the lowest in the division.

Such statistics offer useful clues as to how Saturday's clash might unfold. The data may favour Brentford - but with Burnley fighting for their lives and the Bees chasing a record Premier League finish, Turf Moor promises to test more than just the numbers.

Scout Report

Dan Long, *Sky Sports*: Four points from two games boost Burnley's survival hopes

Burnley returned to the Premier League last August knowing they were going to be in for another fight to stay in the division.

There was no unrealistic optimism, particularly as their last two seasons in the top flight ended in relegation - but the Clarets knew they had to at least better the record of 24 points achieved under Vincent Kompany in 2023/24, when they went down with a game to spare.

Three wins and a draw from the first nine did spark belief it might be possible.

But after suffering a 3-2 defeat at West Ham on 8 November, in a game Burnley took the lead in, head coach Scott Parker warned: "We've got to improve because, otherwise, it'll be a long season for us."

The results they needed did not follow. The defeat to Arsenal a week earlier had started a run of seven losses in a row. They scored six goals across those games, only four of which were from open play. One of those came at the Gtech, after which Parker admitted his hurt at seeing his side take "knockout punches". After losing to Fulham, he conceded Burnley were "fighting for our lives".

That miserable run ended with a 1-1 draw at Bournemouth just before Christmas and a 0-0 draw at home to Everton just after, yet they endured another seven without a win after that.

The 2-0 loss to West Ham at Turf Moor on 7 February led to some sections of the fanbase calling for Parker's head. "It's not helpful," he said afterwards. That left Burnley in 19th, 11 points from safety with 13 games left to play.

In the last two games, however, they have beaten Crystal Palace and drawn at Chelsea, picking up as many points as they had in the eight games prior. The gap has been narrowed to eight points with 11 games remaining.

Parker's pride was abundantly clear after the Palace win, in which his side came from 2-0 down to win 3-2. "I cannot describe to you, last weekend, we were at home, and the adversity, the stress, the clear frustration on everyone," he said. "That performance tonight, I'm sorry, there aren't many teams that could do that."

Whether Burnley can complete 'The Great Escape' is up for debate. The gap is still sizeable - though, crucially, not yet insurmountable. If they can replicate the fight and determination they showed in the last two, they might at least give themselves a chance.

In the Dugout

Scott Parker

As a player, Scott Parker was a product of the Charlton youth set-up, where he started at nine and made his senior debut at the age of 16 in August 1997.

The midfielder stayed until he was 23 in January 2004, when he joined Chelsea for a reported fee of £10 million.

By then, he was a senior England international, having been handed his debut by Sven-Göran Eriksson in a 3-2 loss to Denmark in November 2003. However, he made just 28 appearances across two seasons with the Blues and was sold to Newcastle in the summer of 2005.

After two seasons at St James' Park, Parker returned to the capital to sign for West Ham United. His time there was thoroughly positive, so much so that he was named Hammer of the Year in the last three of his four seasons in east London - and no player in history has won that accolade three times in succession.

West Ham were relegated in 2011 and early on in 2011/12, he returned to the Premier League to join Tottenham Hotspur.

Another two years followed there before, in August 2013, he signed a three-year deal at Fulham, though he stayed for four seasons in the end and retired from playing at 36 in June 2017.

Parker then spent time coaching back at Spurs, before returning to Fulham and working under Slaviša Jokanović and Claudio Ranieri.

He took over in his own right in February 2019 and stayed in the job for more than two years, taking the Whites to the Premier League in 2020. He left after they were relegated in 2021 to take over at Bournemouth, who he also took up in 2021/22.

Parker left his job with the Cherries in August 2022, shortly after a Premier League record-equalling 9-0 defeat to Liverpool, but was back working four months later, this time at Club Brugge in Belgium. His time there, however, was ill-fated and he was sacked after a little over two months - and just 12 games - in charge in March 2023.

He replaced Vincent Kompany at Burnley in July 2024 and, again in his first season, secured a third promotion from the Championship to the Premier League. Parker, 45, is under contract at Turf Moor until 2027.



Donate

A small donation will help to keep the Tribune online

CLICK [HERE](#) for a one-off donation

or

CLICK [HERE](#) for a monthly donation

The Tribune is published weekly by members of our community who stepped up at the time when some local newspapers closed or changed style and content. Local community journalists and contributors living in our Borough play an important role in producing the Tribune but like any newspaper the Tribune has essential fixed costs.

Supporting the Tribune with a small donation will help you to keep local news and views alive; support is very much appreciated.

We would like to say "Thank You" to all those who support the Twickenham & Richmond Tribune; your support is very much appreciated.

Thousands read The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune

If you are reading this you could be advertising your business with The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune. Community rates are available

Contact: advertise@TwickenhamTribune.com

View ad details at www.TwickenhamTribune.com/advertise

Contact

contact@TwickenhamTribune.com
letters@TwickenhamTribune.com
advertise@TwickenhamTribune.com



Published by:

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

Registered in England & Wales

Reg No 10549345

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

©Twickenham & Richmond Tribune. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be used or reproduced without the permission of Twickenham & Richmond Tribune. While we take reasonable efforts, this online newspaper cannot be held responsible for the accuracy or reliability of information. The views and opinions in these pages do not necessarily represent those of The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune.

[Terms & Conditions](#)