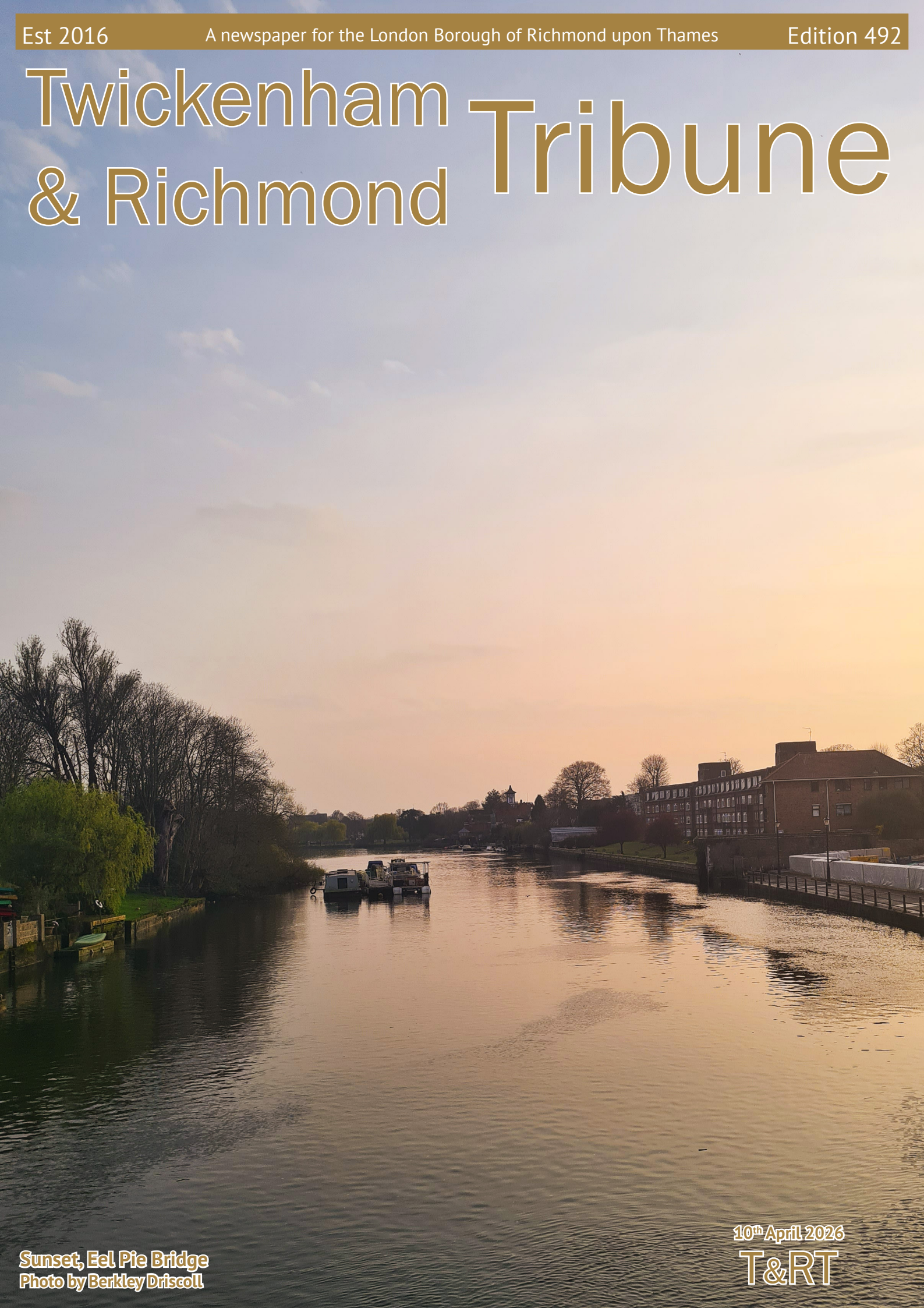


# Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



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St Mary's University

RFU

Brentford Football Club

Care Quality Commission

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# TickerTape - News in Brief

## Rugby at Twickenham Stadium

Red Roses v Ireland

**Sat 11<sup>th</sup> April, Kickoff 14:25.**

Expected attendance 75,000

We expect Whitton, Rugby & London Roads to close 12:25-14:25 and 15:50-18:20.

CPZ will be in operation 11:00-23:00.

Shuttle buses will run from Old Deer Park and Hounslow East tube station.

## South Western Railway

Altered train services due to Rugby at Twickenham Saturday 11 April

### London Waterloo to Shepperton

- Between **0841 and 2011**, **Shepperton to London Waterloo** services will be diverted via **Twickenham**.
- Between **0942 and 2112\***, **London Waterloo to Shepperton** services will be diverted via **Twickenham**.

\*Between **1012 and 1242**, 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 **1500** and the end of service will call additionally at **Putney and Vauxhall**.
- Services will 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**).



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

# The Local Picture Postcard Page - Part 321

## Christ Church – East Sheen

By Alan Winter

A look at two vintage postcards this week. The first postcard (in colour) was posted in 1906 with the second posted twenty years later in 1926, exactly 100 years ago.



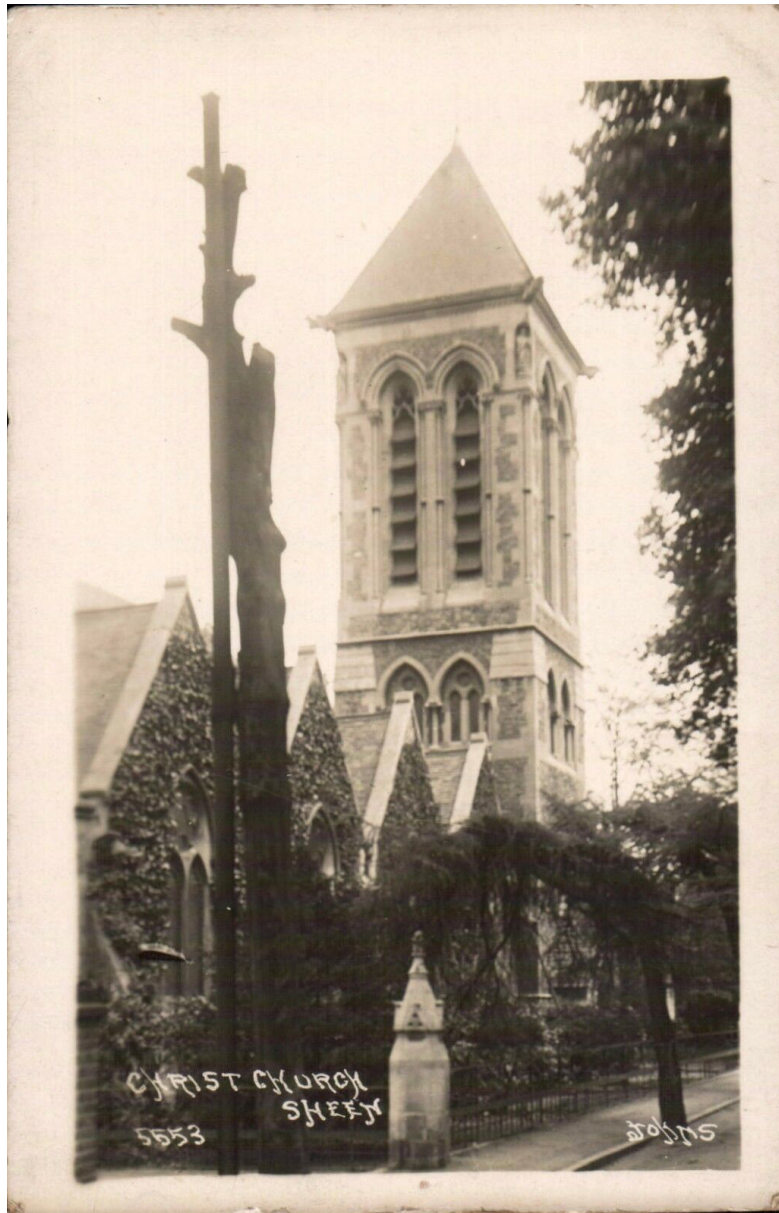
St Mary the Virgin in Mortlake High Street had served as the church for the whole of the extensive Mortlake Parish since 1543. By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with an increasing population and new housing at some distance from the parish church, there was a clear need for a new church at the southern end of the parish. Parishioners who lived in East Sheen took the initiative and in 1860 a call went out for funds and a building committee was formed.

By the end of 1861 the amount raised was sufficient for the committee to instruct their chosen architect, Arthur Blomfield whose work includes numerous churches and the Royal College of Music.

Blomfield was the ninth son of Charles James Blomfield, the Anglican Bishop of London who began a programme of new church construction in the capital. Born in Fulham Palace, Arthur Blomfield was educated at Rugby and Trinity College, Cambridge. He was then articled as an architect to Philip Hardwick, and subsequently obtained a large practice on his own account.

The young Thomas Hardy joined Blomfield's practice as an assistant architect in April 1862.

Hardy worked on Christ Church but ultimately left London, returning to Dorset where he dedicated himself to writing. He remained friends with Blomfield.



By early 1863 the building of the church was well advanced and consecration was planned for 16<sup>th</sup> April. On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March, the tower collapsed, carrying a portion of the roof with it and destroying the main arch at the altar end. The builder reported there had been no clerk of the works appointed and, absence of the architect, the lower walls had been packed with rubble rather than being built of solid masonry. The work of clearing the site and rebuilding progressed quickly and the new church was consecrated on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1864.

The parish became a team ministry in the 1970's. It remains one parish with three Churches: St Mary's Mortlake, Christ Church and All Saints East Sheen, the latter being built in 1929.

Christ Church stands in Christchurch Road, East Sheen, SW14 7AW and is open daily from 9.00 until dusk. It consists of chancel, nave, aisles, with an attached tower to the south-east, vestries and a new extension to the north-east.

For further information regarding services and other activities, I refer you to the Church website at <https://www.christchurcheastsheen.org.uk>

# CrusaderTravel



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# Richmond Basks in Record April Heat

By Michael Jones

Richmond Riverside and Richmond Green were busy with people making the most of an extraordinary spell of early April sunshine, as residents and visitors headed outdoors to enjoy some of the borough's best loved public spaces. There was a distinctly summery feel by the river and across the Green, with the warm weather drawing out families, friends and walkers after what has often felt like a long and wet winter.

The warmth was not simply a matter of impression. At nearby Kew Gardens, the nearest major weather station, temperatures reached 26.6C, making it the warmest day of the year so far and the hottest temperature recorded in the first half of April since 1946, according to the Met Office.



# Council Elections Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026

The council has posted details of the candidates standing in the forthcoming local elections.

You can find details of candidates standing in the various wards [HERE](#). Scroll down to the heading **Official notices** and you will be able to open a PDF for the individual wards.

## Road works at Sheen Lane: Three more weeks??

From EastSheenMatters

EastSheenMatters reported on Wednesday about the road works at the junction of Sheen Lane and the Upper Richmond Road. Today the hole is much bigger and deeper. It was noted that the signage around the works did not state an end date. It still does not. There are no warnings about the work on the Transport for London website nor on the Richmond Council website.

BUT there were workers from Ferns on the site who were helpful in responding to questions.

So wait for it, they think the work will take **another three weeks**. They are relaying pipes on the pavement.

Why? The workers say they are instructed to move the pavement back about a metre, to enable an increased turning circle (outside James Anderson), so that a bus can turn right from Sheen Lane.

A new bus route turning on that junction? Has ESM missed something?



# Cherry Blossom in Kew Gardens

By James Haydn

The pink blossom was resplendent in the sunshine on 'Cherry Walk' on Tuesday, with a blue sky above and white and red tulips scattered in the grass below.



Elsewhere in Kew Gardens, rectangles of low walling have appeared across the terrain, ready to support or protect 30 sculptures that go on show from 9<sup>th</sup> May in the 'Henry Moore: Monumental Nature' exhibition (until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2027).

An accompanying indoor exhibition of more than 90 of his smaller works will also open, in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery, within Kew Gardens. The Gallery's current wonderful exhibition, 'The Singh Twins: Botanical Tales and Seeds of Empire', ends on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April.

This 'tulip's eye view' of 'Cherry Walk', with the Temperate House in the background, was taken on Tuesday, when the afternoon temperature in Kew Gardens had reached 21C. The following day it hit 26C. However, the bare branches in the top right corner remind one that it is still only early April. Indeed, maximum temperatures for the coming weekend are forecast to be only 12C and 14C.



# When stopping shoplifters becomes the real offence

By James Knight

From a sacked Waitrose worker in south London to a fined resident in Twickenham, two cases now point to the same unsettling conclusion: the system is often harder on those who act than those who offend

The case first reported by the Guardian seemed, at first, like a straightforward employment dispute. Walker Smith, a long-serving Waitrose employee in Clapham Junction, was dismissed after confronting a suspected shoplifter trying to steal Easter eggs. He had been told not to intervene. He intervened anyway. He lost his job.



But what might once have remained an internal disciplinary matter has become much larger. The Telegraph described Smith's actions as "public-spirited" and his dismissal as disproportionate. Political pressure followed. Chris Philp, then a Conservative policing minister before his party lost office, had said in 2023 that the public should use citizen's arrest powers "where it's safe to do so" because "the police can't be everywhere all the time." He later joined calls for Smith to be reinstated. The Conservatives wrote formally to Waitrose, urging the company to think again. Nigel Farage, in his usual uncompromising style, declared: "We are now a country that favours criminals over law enforcers. Britain is broken."

Set aside the rhetoric, and the underlying question remains. What happens when ordinary instincts about right and wrong collide with systems built to avoid risk at all costs?

Waitrose's position is clear enough. Challenging shoplifters is dangerous. Staff safety must come first. Nothing in the store is worth serious injury or worse. The company says its policies are clearly understood and must be strictly followed. In the abstract, that is difficult to quarrel with. In practice, however, the matter is not quite so neat.

## The Twickenham Reality

In Twickenham, this debate is not theoretical. Norman Brennan, a local resident and former British Transport Police officer, says he has spent years intervening in exactly the sort of incidents that modern corporate policy would rather everybody observed from a safe distance.

Speaking on TalkTV, Brennan said he had detained dozens of shoplifters over the past decade, including twenty at Waitrose in Twickenham alone. His account is not of one dramatic encounter, but of repeated episodes, known offenders and, on occasion, outright violence. In one incident, he said, a member of staff was hit in the face with a bottle. In another, he said he acted at the request of a store manager, detaining an aggressive individual until police arrived.

Brennan is not some passing social media pundit. He has spent decades around policing and victims' advocacy. In his autobiography, Twickenham's former MP Sir Vince Cable described him as a "brilliant publicist" who spoke, and to some extent channelled, the instincts of rank-and-file officers. It is a wonderfully backhanded phrase, but also an illuminating one. Brennan has long been a forceful presence in these arguments, and he plainly was not speaking into a vacuum.

That matters because it sharpens the real contradiction at the heart of this story. HR policy exists to protect staff, not to create a system in which the person who challenges wrongdoing ends up treated more harshly than the wrongdoer. That, in a different key, is also what happened to Brennan himself in Twickenham. After helping police pursue a suspected shoplifter, he was the one who ended up being fined by Richmond Council.

### **The Man who Acted was the Man Punished**

That case is worth dwelling on. In 2024, Brennan pursued a suspected shoplifter from a Sainsbury's on Twickenham Green, helped police locate him and recover stolen goods, and during the pursuit briefly drove the wrong way down a one-way street. For that, Richmond Council later issued him a £130 fine.

His appeal was rejected. The council's answer was as cold as it was rigid: he had "no legal authority" to enter the road, whatever the circumstances. The suspected shoplifter, meanwhile, faced no further action after the store declined to press charges.

On one view, the facts are simple. Brennan broke a traffic restriction. Smith broke company policy. End of story. But that is precisely the kind of bloodless administrative logic that is causing public confidence to fray. The problem is not that rules exist. It is that they are increasingly enforced in a manner that seems to bear down hardest on the person trying, however imperfectly, to uphold order.

### **Rules Without Judgement**

Both cases turn on the same point. It is one thing to advise against intervention. It is another to punish it with such severity that the wider message becomes unmistakable: stand back, keep your head down and let somebody else deal with it, even if nobody else does.

In employment terms, Smith breached policy. In traffic law, Brennan breached a restriction. Those facts are not disputed. The deeper issue is whether rules designed to protect the public should be applied so mechanically that the person acting against wrongdoing ends up more exposed to sanction than the person who created the situation in the first place.

This is not an argument for vigilantism, nor for shop workers to throw themselves into danger. It is an argument for proportionality, judgement and common sense. A long-serving employee who acts in good faith against a crime in progress is not the same thing as a rogue member of staff bent on violence. A resident assisting police in the apprehension of a suspected thief

is not the same thing as an ordinary motorist ignoring the signs out of convenience. Systems that refuse to recognise such distinctions soon start to look less like justice and more like bureaucracy with teeth.

### **Problems in the Local Approach**

This is where the local politics comes in. Followers of Richmond Council will recognise the pattern. For years, residents have complained of an administration too ready to recite the rulebook and too reluctant to exercise discretion when the facts plainly call for it. The late Geoffrey Samuel regularly took on cases in which people had incurred repeated fines due to delays in penalty notices arriving in the post, leaving them unaware of the issue, only to meet the same stony response. Different facts, same governing instinct: procedure first, circumstance second.

That instinct is particularly visible in the borough's transport politics. As the councillor responsible for transport policy, Cllr Alexander Ehmann has made himself one of Richmond's most energetic champions of active travel, low-traffic interventions and measures designed to reduce car use. He is not a neutral custodian of transport enforcement. He is an advocate for a particular model of how people ought to move around the borough.

That matters because political outlook shapes administrative culture. Supporters of Cllr Ehmann would say consistent enforcement is essential if such schemes are to mean anything. Critics would say that under his brand of transport politics, the motorist is too often presumed guilty, discretion is treated as weakness, and common sense gives way to ideology. In that reading, Brennan's fine was not merely an unfortunate one-off. It was entirely of a piece with a broader outlook, one in which rules are enforced with particular zeal when the person on the receiving end happens to be behind the wheel.

The same complaint has surfaced around Low Traffic Neighbourhood enforcement, including on Burton Road, where residents have argued that mitigating circumstances count for far less than the council likes to pretend. Once again, the issue is not whether rules exist. It is whether anyone in authority retains the confidence, or perhaps the will, to recognise an exceptional case when it is staring them in the face.

### **The Wider Lesson**

Taken together, these episodes point to something larger than a row about one supermarket worker or one Twickenham resident.

Nationally, retailers understandably complain of rising shoplifting while limiting staff capacity to respond. Locally, residents who step in may discover that the machinery of enforcement turns more readily on them than on the offender. The cumulative effect is corrosive. It leaves the impression, fair or not, that modern Britain has become highly efficient at disciplining the conscientious and curiously hesitant when dealing with the lawless.

No serious person believes shop staff should be ordered into danger, or that traffic restrictions should simply be ignored. But neither is it credible to pretend that a system commands respect when it treats context as an inconvenience and judgement as an afterthought. The rule may be clear. The official process may be impeccable. But in places like Twickenham, more and more people are beginning to suspect that common sense is the first casualty.

# Ducks Away for Teddington RNLI Lifeboat Week and Open Day

From Teddington RNLI

Teddington RNLI Open Day will take place on Sunday 31st May from 1pm until 5pm, marking the end of Teddington Lifeboat Week, which starts on 24th May.



Look out for local promotions like a Lifeboat Treasure Hunt in Teddington independent shops and special activities in restaurants and pubs.

On the Open Day everyone is invited to visit the lifeboat station to celebrate the week of events and enjoy a day of river-themed fun and activities, including the now-famous, duck race.

1600 ducks raced along the Thames at Teddington in 2025 and over £5,000 was raised for the RNLI. Activities are still being planned, but visitors will be able to:

- Climb aboard a lifeboat and its tractor
- See lifesaving demonstrations by volunteer crew
- Enjoy food and drink from local outlets such as Shambles, The Anglers and The Wharf, as well as RNLI volunteer-made cakes, tea, coffee and cold drinks
- Cheer along the Teddington Duck Race supported by Teddington Together, representatives of Teddington independent businesses who put on Teddington Lights Up each year.
- Meet firefighters and see a fire engine
- Play water safety themed games
- Get gory with a make up artist
- Hear ukulele and wind bands play favourite tunes

Put the date in your diary now for a week of RNLI lifeboat activities and then come and meet the volunteer crew, local traders and our neighbours.

*Photo © RNLI Teddington*



# Join the East Sheen Spring Hunt this Saturday

From East Sheen Village

The East Sheen Spring Hunt is this Saturday (11 April), and now's the time to grab your tickets!

Why not bring your little bunnies along to East Sheen's Spring Hunt for a fun-filled family adventure around East Sheen and continue the Easter fun?

Starting at the Hare & Hounds in the centre of Sheen, children collect a trail map and set off to explore SW14's wonderful independent businesses.

At each stop, they will receive a letter clue and when they have collected them all, they'll uncover a secret phrase and hop back to the Hare & Hounds to claim a prize!

There will be spring-themed surprises, friendly faces, sweet treats, stalls and plenty of community spirit. It's the perfect way to keep the Easter holiday magic going, while discovering just how special our local businesses are.

- **Date:** Saturday 11 April 2026
- **Time:** 10am to 12pm or 1 to 3pm
- **Cost:** £8 per child plus booking fee, adults go free

[Book your tickets](#)

Starts at Hare & Hounds, 214-216 Upper Richmond Road West, East Sheen, SW14 8AH.

Pre-booking is recommended. If tickets are still available on the day, they can be purchased at the Hare & Hounds but this cannot be guaranteed.

This event is organised by the Hare & Hounds and East Sheen Village in collaboration with local businesses.



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# Whitton painting up for auction

A painting set in Whitton has come up for auction in Vienna, Austria.

The watercolour on paper by Rudolf Alt (1812 – 1905) is titled:

*View of the Canal and the Gothic Tower in the Garden of the Duke of Argyll in Whitton, London.*

Auctioneer's estimate EUR 2,000 – 4,000.

You can find details [HERE](#)



# Discover new opportunities at the Richmond Volunteer Fair

From Richmond CVS



Richmond's biggest celebration and showcase of local community action is back, to inspire and ignite your volunteering ambitions.

The Volunteer Fair will once again take place at Richmond and Hillcroft Adult Community College (RHACC) on Wednesday 20 May, from 2 to 6pm.

The hugely popular annual event always promises a vibrant atmosphere, a wide mix of great local causes, and exciting opportunities for individuals to get involved in and make a difference.

Come along to:

- Meet dozens of inspiring charities doing incredible work locally
- Find volunteering roles that suit your skills, passions, and availability
- Get personalised advice, fresh ideas and a warm community welcome

Whether you're curious about volunteering for the first time or looking for a new challenge, you'll get to meet more than 50 local charities and community groups under one roof. Have an informal chat with staff and current volunteers and discover a huge range of roles.

No pressure, no experience needed, just possibilities.

The free event is organised by Richmond CVS, home of the Richmond Volunteer Service, which supports volunteer recruitment and promotes opportunities across the borough of Richmond upon Thames.

There's no charge for your ticket but advance registration is requested.

[Register now](#)



# This week at Holy Trinity Twickenham

From Holy Trinity Twickenham

## WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY

You have seen the news that Holy Trinity has achieved an Eco Church award level of Silver. We are not finished, as we have more plans. Could you spare a couple of hours every three months to join the Eco Church Team? [Please contact Tim Little](#) for more information, or to offer your services. Thank you.

## GARDENING MORNINGS

Come and be part of the Holy Trinity gardening gang this term, as we continue to work on our exciting new planting scheme and preparing the grounds for the Spring. Gardening mornings run from 10.30am-12.30pm (please bring along gloves and tools if you have them) and will be taking place on the following dates:

- Saturday 18th April
- Saturday 9 May

## Trinity Toddlers

Our welcoming stay-and-play group offers a wonderful opportunity for parents, grandparents, and carers to enjoy a coffee and a chat while children explore a variety of toys, crafts, story time, singing and dancing.

- **When:** Mondays (term time - back on 20 April)
- **Time:** 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM
- **Where:** The Green Room (hall)
- **Who:** Babies and pre-schoolers (and their grown-ups!)

## The Green Pop-Up Cafe

Looking for a warm space and a friendly face? Come along to enjoy delicious refreshments and friendly conversation. We occasionally feature live activities, including jazz music and crafts.

- **When:** Thursdays
- **Time:** 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
- **Where:** The Green Room (hall)
- **Who:** Everyone is welcome!

We encourage you to bring a friend or neighbour who might enjoy some company. It's all about connection, community, and a great cup of tea.

## 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](#) for an up-to-date list of the items most in need.



HOLY TRINITY TWICKENHAM

# Is Richmond's Council Playing Fair During the Election Period?

By James Knight

A fortnight ago, on 27th March, this paper drew attention to the noticeable increase in council communications in the run-up to the pre-election period, raising questions about balance, timing and tone. Those questions have not dissipated. If anything, they have sharpened.

Readers of this week's *Richmond & Twickenham Times* were presented with a prominent front-page headline: "*Riverside regeneration project set to begin*",

accompanied by photographs of councillors on site and a confident promise of "major transformation." Inside, the theme continues, with the Riverside described as "almost ready for major transformation," reinforcing a clear narrative of progress and delivery. Alongside it sits a further piece on a school sports facility, framed in similarly positive terms, highlighting a "professional environment" and "high-quality" opportunities.



None of this is improper in itself. Councils exist to deliver services and, reasonably, to inform residents about them. But the cumulative effect, particularly at this point in the electoral cycle, invites a more careful reading. Where, precisely, does information end and promotion begin?

## What the Law Requires

The legal position is clear. Under section 2 of the **Local Government Act 1986**, a local authority shall not publish any material which, in whole or in part, appears to be designed to affect public support for a political party. Authorities are further required to have regard to the **Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity**, which states that communications should be objective, even-handed and issued with care during periods of heightened sensitivity.

That period is not theoretical. It is defined in practice by the publication of the Notice of Election. In Richmond, that notice was issued on 30 March 2026, bringing the council formally into the pre-election period in which particular care is required.

During this period, the Code is explicit. Authorities should not publish publicity on controversial issues or report proposals in such a way that identifies them with individual members or groups of members. The accompanying guidance reinforces that authorities should not produce publicity on politically controversial matters, arrange proactive media involving candidates, or issue photographs which include them.

The operative question is simple: would a reasonable person conclude that public money is being used to influence the election's outcome?

## From Information to Promotion?

It is against that standard that recent coverage must now be judged. The Riverside scheme is not a routine operational update. It is a significant and contested project, involving substantial

public expenditure and a long history of political debate. Presenting it through a sequence of positive headlines, supported by composed imagery and favourable language, sits uneasily with the requirement for particular care.

The issue is not simply tone, but emphasis and omission. As noted in this paper on 27th March, recent communications have consistently highlighted progress and investment, while offering limited context on constraints or performance. On housing, for example, Richmond's delivery against London benchmarks for affordable housing remains comparatively weak, yet that wider picture is largely absent from the narrative presented.

Individually, such choices may be defensible. Collectively, they begin to form a pattern. And it is that pattern, rather than any single article, which gives rise to concern.

### **Where Responsibility Lies**

Responsibility for maintaining that standard rests with the council's senior leadership. Richmond and Wandsworth operate a shared staffing model under a single Chief Executive, Andrew Travers, who is ultimately responsible for ensuring that communications comply with the statutory framework and the Code of Practice.

That responsibility is not merely procedural. The Code requires the exercise of judgement at precisely this moment, when sensitivity is heightened and the risk of perceived partiality is greatest. The purpose is clear: to ensure that public resources are used to inform, not to influence.

The issue, therefore, is not confined to individual press releases. It extends to the system within which they are produced. The Richmond and Wandsworth Better Service Partnership, which delivers the shared communications function, is intended to bring consistency and efficiency. But consistency, if insufficiently checked, can drift into alignment.

When communications are consistently positive, closely reflect administration priorities, and are concentrated within a formally defined pre-election period, it is reasonable to ask whether the internal safeguards intended to preserve neutrality are operating with sufficient rigour. At the very least, the safeguards meant to ensure professional distance are not visibly functioning as they should.

### **A Question of Trust**

None of this requires councils to retreat into silence. The guidance is clear that normal business may continue, and that information may be published. But it is equally clear that publicity should not seek to influence voters, and that particular care is required where issues are politically sensitive.

The distinction between informing and promoting is not always bright, but it is real. It exists to protect the integrity of the democratic process and, more broadly, public trust in how local government operates. The question, then, is not whether any single communication crosses a clear legal threshold. It is whether the overall pattern reflects the standard of care that the law requires at a moment when it matters most.

That is a matter of judgement. But it is also a matter of confidence. And confidence in public institutions depends not only on what is done, but on how it is seen. And when the boundary between information and promotion begins to blur, it is rarely voters who benefit, but those already in control of the message.

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[WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/MARBLE-HILL-FRIENDS](http://WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/MARBLE-HILL-FRIENDS)

## Baccaro - Teddington

When an Italian businessman who already has a highly successful Italian drinks company decides to open a cocktail bar and restaurant, you know it's going to be good. That was certainly the case when we checked out **BACCARO** in Teddington High Street recently. BACCARO (pronounced "BAH-kah-roh") is inspired by Mediterranean aperitivo culture, and brings a distinctly British take on cocktails and cicchetti to Teddington locals and visitors. Inspired



by the Mediterranean tradition of gathering over drinks and small plates, BACCARO offers a great selection of cicchetti, pizza and other Italian specialities in a relaxed ambience. It's the brainchild of **Redin Dokaj**, who also runs The Foresters Arms in Hampton Wick and **Giuseppe Gallo**, founder of award-winning Italian aperitivo brands ITALICUS, Rosalio di Bergamotto and Savoia Vino Aperitivo. Giuseppe himself was dining there the evening I went with my pal Magda. He kindly gave us an introduction (and tasting) to his drinks and the raison d'être of BACCARO.



Redin manages the site day to day, and chatted through the menu with us, telling us about the house specialities.

We started with a cocktail - mine was a Negroni, made even more special as it included Giuseppe's Savoia Rosso Vermouth.

Magda had an Old Cuban, (rum, lime, fresh mint, champagne). Both cocktails were fab and a great start to our meal.



We tried one of the house specialities - Octopus Dog - from the cicchetti menu. Now I'm not a massive fan of octopus, much as I like squid, but this was amazing. Grilled octopus with a deliciously smoky note, served in a small bun with ajoli, packed with paprika and lime juice. The serving gives two rolls - perfect for sharing. We also were tempted by the Mixed Fried Seafood - another cicchetti. Considering I'd had a similar sized portion in a new and very deluxe Italian restaurant in Sloane Square a week or before, this was as good if not better, and a fraction of the price. We had crispy, piping hot pieces of seabass, prawns and calamari, served with a home made tartare sauce.





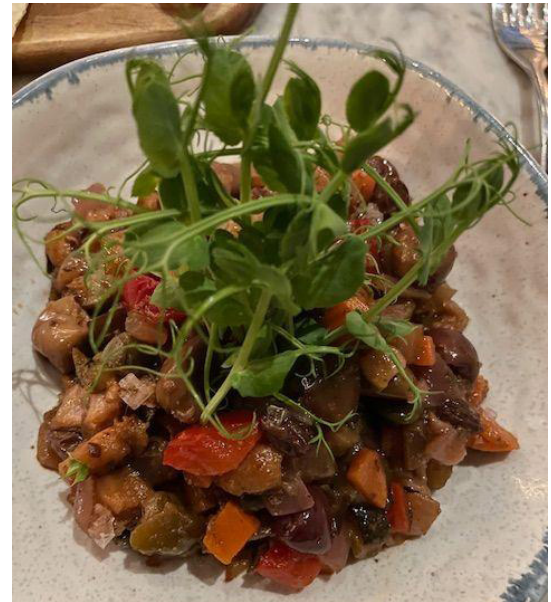
Magda was keen to try the home made lasagne for her main course, and Redin was keen for us to try a couple more of the house specials: the Baccari Charcuterie Board and a side of Caponata.

The lasagne was amazing. Magda was in pasta heaven. She declared almost every mouthful to taste slightly different, with the wealth of ingredients and skill in the kitchen patently obvious.

The charcuterie board: what can I say? It was massive. It would easily satisfy two or more people and was generously laden with a selection of Mortadella, coppa, speck, parmigiano, stracciatella cheese, mixed pickled vegetables, olives, home made jam and nduja bruschetta. It was far too big to photograph, so you'll have to take my word for it.

The caponata was a triumph too - the 'agro dolce' balance was perfect, and it was packed with aubergine, celery, courgettes, onions, raisins, olives and capers. The skill of the chef ensured that each element had retained its texture beautifully.

The nduja bruschetta on the charcuterie selection was the only - very slight - negative of the whole evening. It was very spicy indeed and rather overpowered the palate, thus restricting somewhat the enjoyment of the other elements. The home made focaccia was warm and delicious. A small bowl of pear mustard was an intriguingly different addition, and went beautifully with the cheeses, inspiring me to experiment more with my own home made chutneys.



Needless to say, we were both totally 'pogged' as my mother used to say, with 'eyes bigger than our tums'. Redin kindly offered to pack up a goody bag for us (I assume that the generous portion sizes mean this is a frequent occurrence at BACCARO).

A well composed wine list, with prosecco, three whites, a rose and three reds, plus a good selection of non alcoholic options, is available, but I'd urge you to start with a cocktail. The large pizza oven in the kitchen was busy producing excellent looking pizzas and focaccia, and the typically Italian dessert menu had a wealth of tempting options, no doubt as good as everything else. We will be back again soon to try these.

A brunch menu is available on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, with appropriate brunch cocktails too.

Lucky Teddington.

GIBRALTAR

# sunborn

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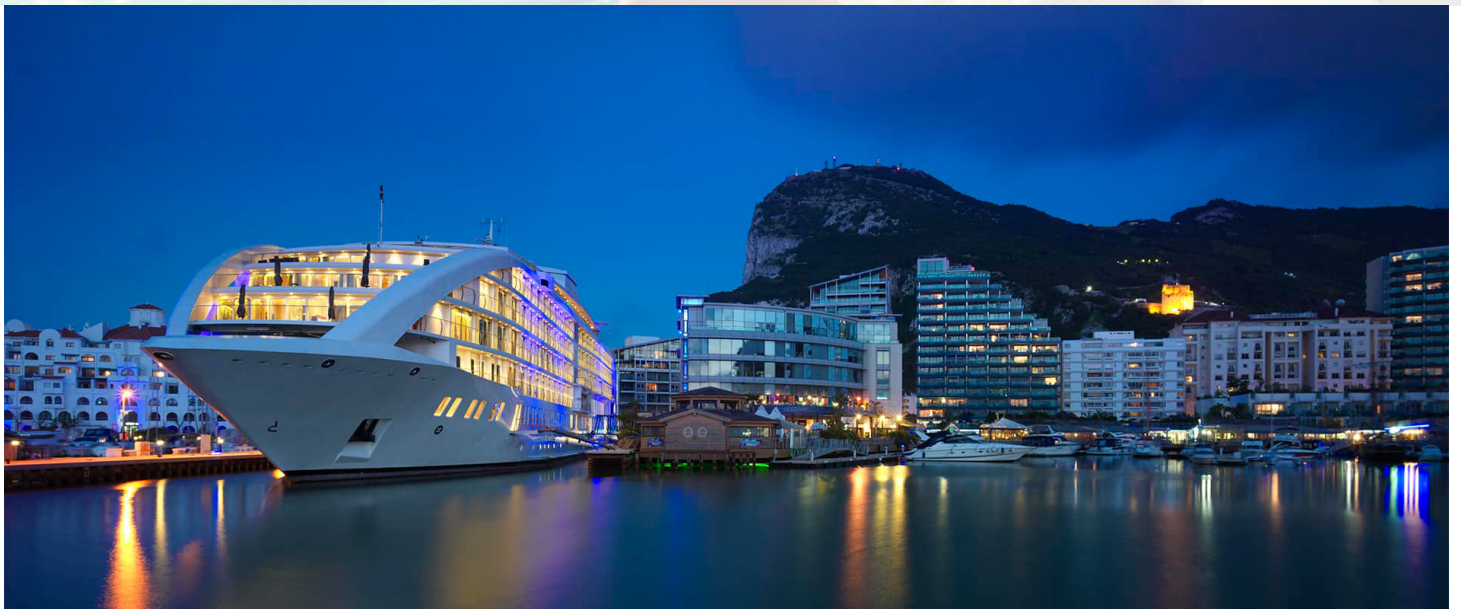
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### EXPERIENCE PACKAGE



# Levantine & Other Escapes for Ordinary folk and Flower Lovers

By Bruce Lyons

Last week I wrote about my plans for our returning Astronauts!! By the time you read this I'll be busy getting them on their way for their well-earned break!!

So, for this week I reached for my Edward Lear's travel in the Levant, a magical book.

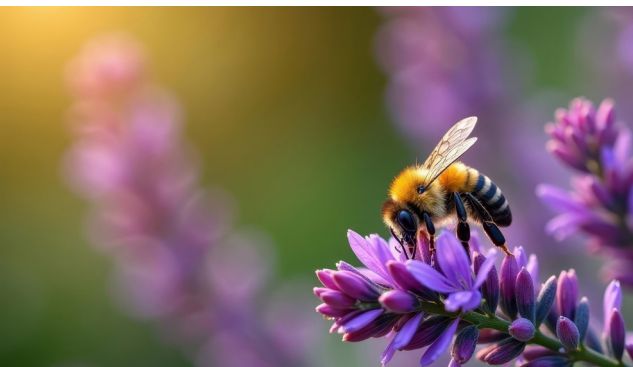
Not that I'm suggesting you follow in his footsteps, but we can learn!!

I always enjoy these April/May dates, Europe's Mediterranean climate is fresh, there's scent in the air and travel can so often be enjoyed before it's so hot, Journeys that in High Summer can be unbearable if by car or train and the countryside is so often showing off with all its beauty & charm and colour.



Of all the locations to choose from in the Mediterranean here is a shortlist;

Crete is, perhaps, lauded most though it's true that many of the wild species are in the White



Mountains, far from the Tourist spots, but the Samaria Gorge is more accessible from a number of holiday areas and noted for its wildflowers.

Other Greek areas attractive to Flower Lovers are The Mani in the Peloponnese, known for wild Tulips and Iris's (what's more self-catering in this area is inexpensive and the Kalamata airport is close by).

Cyprus and the Troodos Mountain area another excellent choice, here you may find Orchids and Cyclamen.

Sicily great in the North West for a mix of Mediterranean and Arabia Flora. Head for Scopello or San Vito lo Capo, there is a wonderful National Coastal Park; Lo Zingaro nestling between the two resorts, excellent inexpensive self-catering as well as regional hotels. The slopes of Mount Etna - the other side of the Island where you could stay in Taormina or below by the sea in Giardino Naxos.



I could go on..... but I will end with Corsica, known for its wild herbs and dear reader I can tell you a secret. Holidays in May are on "offer" and there is a lovely small self-catering complex down by the sea, below the Citadel city of Calvi, dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century and built by the Genoese.

The complex owned and gardened by the owner has a pool and it is a "steal" as they say I think our astronauts would enjoy this place- no Plumbing problems!!! And it won't be as hot as the capsule!!!!

Enjoy, Bruce. <https://www.crusadertravel.com/>



# Everyone left smiling...

By Deep Patel

~ Life Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

I have actually just returned back to the shop after attending the funeral of one of my customers as I sit down to write this article. I always find it a bit of an emotional rollercoaster at funerals, part of me wants to celebrate the life of the person who has passed away whereas another part of me wants to cry for the sadness of losing that person's place in my life. Either way, I always find funerals are something that I do not want to go to, but when I go, I always feel so much better upon returning home. Today I went with sadness in my heart at the prospect of the person leaving this life forever. Never being able to see them again...Even silly little things pass through my mind...things like their favourite chocolate bar that they used to love buying at my shop (and that thought would then bring a smile to my face) quickly followed by the thought of how they will now never ever enjoy the taste of that chocolate bar ever again (this thought would immediately remove the smile I had on my face and fill me with sadness for the remainder of my day every time I pass that chocolate bar on my chocolate shelf in my shop). Silly isn't it? But I'm just being honest, that's how my mind works, I am not alone in this am I? Surely others, including you guys who are reading this right now also think like this no?

As I sat quietly in the crematorium auditorium this afternoon with the sunlight streaming through the tall slim windows as I listened to the tributes of poems and speeches from the close family of the passed away gentleman my mind began to wonder again. I was listening to family talk about how he was a very kind and funny individual who always made time for others and saw the best in others, then a visual tribute/compilation of video clips and photographs from his life was shown on screens around the auditorium. The clips showed him as a very trendy young teenager posing by a car in the 70's and the videos progressed to show his love for "dancing like nobody was watching" and how he was always the life of the party without taking himself too seriously, he was just happy to have a dance and enjoy the simple joys of life. There were other photos and videos with his grandchildren, of him at the airport relating to his career there and also some funny fancy-dress costumes that he wore throughout his life at various events he attended. As the ceremony drew to a close, the bagpipes played beautifully in a way that touched my soul (he was Scottish) followed by "Dancing Queen" by Abba. Everyone was leaving the auditorium in an orderly line to greet and offer their condolences to the family who were waiting outside already. As they left the auditorium, everyone would do a subtle nod towards the coffin at the front. I really wanted to go closer so I did, I went right up to the coffin, got down on my knees and fully bowed down with a prayer to the deceased to thank them for being here and a prayer to God to take care of them on their onwards journey. Then I left.

On my way home I was in the car on the passenger seat with my father driving the car talking to me about something to do with the delivery of stock that was coming tonight to our shop. I was listening but as the sunlight streamed in through the windscreen, my mind started to wonder again. I began thinking about the gentleman whose funeral I had just been to. His face and his smile kept appearing in my mind. I let my thoughts flow naturally into whatever they were meant to be in that moment. Nothing forced, nothing planned, just to let my mind wander

freely for once...it was then I came to realise, in reality the amazing part wasn't about what the person had done throughout their time on earth...the amazing part was what they were STILL able to achieve despite not being here on Earth.

It wasn't about the disputes we had, the differences between us, the bitter words once spoken or the grudges we still held on to 10 years later. It wasn't about how many rooms our houses had, how expensive our cars were or how important we were in our careers. No one person in the auditorium was thinking about that when thinking of the gentleman who had passed away. Everyone had a warming, heartfelt and reassuring smile on their face as they left the crematorium. It was plain to see that the gentleman had not been remembered for any of the forgone material things, no one even cared it seemed. However, everyone left with that smile on their face as even after leaving this Earth, he managed to inspire everyone in that auditorium in some way or another. All with his simple love for life's little joys, dancing how he liked without caring what people thought and at the same time fulfilling himself, dressing up in silly fancy-dress outfits and making people laugh around him thereby giving fulfilment to others, spending time with the people he loved and who loved him and having an infectious love for all things fun and light hearted in life...it was through this attitude that he inspired everyone who went to that funeral today. So my advice is wear the dress, be silly, dare to be you and dance like no one is watching and above all, have fun in life, don't take yourself too seriously as it's this attitude that ensures that when our time comes, we never really leave those we love here on Earth, instead we inspire them every day to be happier and to be the best version of themselves so that they may live a fulfilled life. In this way we can continue serving the happiness of the living after we are dead, thereby transcending death in some ways and still help make the world a better place for everyone through inspiring them.

Thank you Robert White for today. In showing me your life, you enabled and inspired me to live mine. God bless you for every step ahead and bless us so that we may always do you proud whilst we are here on this blue and green planet that we call home.

Until next week, stay blessed to you all...

“Be the change you wish to see in others...”

### **Remember...**

***“...Live your life in such a way that you will inspire others to live their best, even when you are gone and in that way you will always live on through them...”***

### MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP

STOP RATS KINDLY FOR GOOD KARMA:

Simply use humane LIVE CAPTURE mouse & rat traps (available online or at Meet & Deep News) and release them back in our parkland areas. Use electronic plug-in deterrents with good reviews around your house to stop them coming (the smell of white vinegar not only stops rodents and foxes, it also stops ants kindly).

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



## Das Lied von der Erde

by Gustav Mahler, libretto by Hans Bethge

Wild Arts at Sinfonia Smith Square, Westminster

Mahler, writing *Das Lied von der Erde* at a low ebb after completing his massive Eighth, was aware that Beethoven had only managed nine symphonies, and was unbeatable. But, whether it is a symphony or a song cycle is a bit of a non-question after this splendid performance. The sheer quality of this performance and the vividness with which it expresses life's potential for renewal, even when faced with separation and transience, left the audience stunned. There was a reluctance to break the magic, and a palpable silence before the final applause.



It is a daunting piece that makes fearsome demands on the singers. The roll call of distinguished singers who have sung this is daunting, enough to frighten off anyone from singing these parts live. More reason to be grateful to Marta Fontanals-Simmonds and Xavier Hetherington for taking on and triumphantly surmounting a formidable challenge.

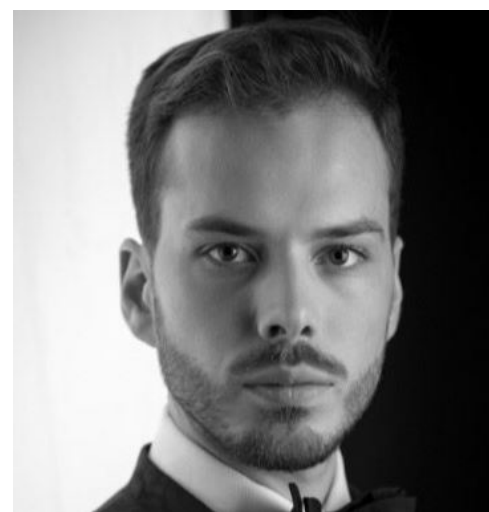


It is underselling Iain Farrington's arrangement to call it a chamber version. Although no piano, it does include a horn, trumpet, and trombone, not to mention a harp and celeste. It sounds weird and magnificent and still makes a huge amount of noise, while bringing a wonderful clarity and freshness to the sound. The Wild Arts Ensemble's seventeen formidable players understand that Mahler needs rawness and edge rather than something plush and well-upholstered.

and never lost its sweetness, despite singing at the top of his range. His well-mannered and tasteful performance was never bland, even if it didn't entirely convey the angst of someone drinking to excess in denial of the imminence of death.

Against this positively torrential orchestra, Xavier Hetherington's cleanly produced tenor had a core of steel

Would Marta Fontanals-Simmonds be too light-voiced to have the edge and heft to cut through the thick orchestral texture? Not so, she achieved a silver-voiced almost Straussian serenity in the *Abschied*, moving and impressive. With the flexibility to convey a broad range of moods and colours with a simple directness, she let the music speak for itself and it never felt that she was imposing too much intensity on it.



Orland Jopling's conducting is a labour of love. His co-ordination of his players never went into overdrive, and the cumulative impact was utterly magnificent.

Read Patrick Shorrocks's review at [www.markaspen.com/2026/04/01/lie-d-erde](http://www.markaspen.com/2026/04/01/lie-d-erde)

Photography by Max Parfitt, Syngenta Ferrier and Hubert Harrison

# Anne Boleyn

at the Mary Wallace Theatre - April 18<sup>th</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup>

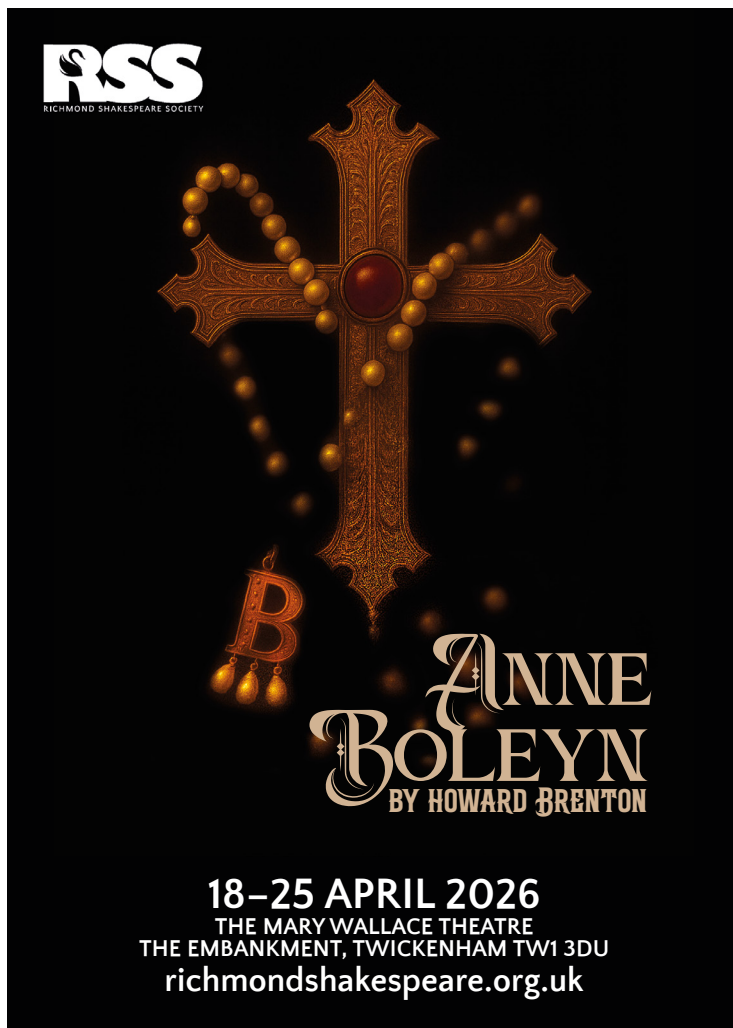
**“! will be a new Queen for a new England”**

Anne, witty, clever and strong-willed has, at last, achieved her goal of marrying Henry. But her dream of becoming a new Protestant Queen for a new Protestant England seems doomed when she subsequently fails to produce the male heir Henry craves. His frustration, fuelled by the festering plots of her enemies, precipitates a swift and terrible fall.

Anne’s legacy - an extraordinary daughter, Elizabeth, and her championing of an English translation of the Bible - survived her brief and tragic life.

ANNE BOLEYN by Howard Brenton - a thrilling and suspenseful Tudor drama - plays at the Mary Wallace Theatre, the Embankment, Twickenham from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of April.

Booking at [www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk](http://www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk)



**RSS**  
RICHMOND SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY

**ANNE BOLEYN**  
BY HOWARD BRENTON

**18-25 APRIL 2026**  
THE MARY WALLACE THEATRE  
THE EMBANKMENT, TWICKENHAM TW1 3DU  
[richmondshakespeare.org.uk](http://richmondshakespeare.org.uk)

RICHMOND SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY PRESENTS

# ANNE BOLEYN

By Howard Brenton  
Directed by David Gray

**I will be a new queen. For a new England.**

Anne Boleyn is witty, intelligent, and strong-willed, throwing her energies into marrying King Henry and dreams of being a new Protestant queen for a new Protestant England. Henry remains desperate for a son and heir that Anne does not produce. Her enemies gather and her fall is rapid and terrible.

But her legacy survives: an extraordinary daughter in Queen Elizabeth, and an English Bible...

**18-25 APRIL 2026**  
7.45pm | 3.00pm MATINEE SUN 19 APRIL  
CAPTIONED PERFORMANCE THUR 23 APRIL

Booking opens Monday 23 March  
Tickets | £16 RSS members & £19 non-members

Guidance | This play contains strong language, sexualised behaviour and themes that may be sensitive for some audiences.



**BOOK TICKETS | [richmondshakespeare.org.uk](http://richmondshakespeare.org.uk)**  
For queries contact: [boxoffice@rss-mwt.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@rss-mwt.org.uk) | 07484 927 662

This amateur production of "Anne Boleyn" is presented by arrangement with Nick Hern Books  
Richmond Shakespeare Society is affiliated to Arts Richmond and this production is entered for the Swan Awards for Drama and Musicals  
Richmond Shakespeare Society is a registered charity No. 276271/1214145 and a member of the Little Theatre Guild



# St George's Day, Whitton

From Love Whitton

Announcing this year's Main Stage acts for St George's Day - Family Fun Day & Parade:

- 👉 Fuel Crisis featuring Knyaz UK
- 👉 London School of Dhol
- 👉 The Allbeats
- 👉 Daniel Tresidder
- 👉 Blond Vinyl
- 👉 Main Stage - opposite The Golden Grill
- 🕒 1pm - 6pm

Sunday  
26th April  
12pm - 6pm  
Whitton High St.



Main Stage

Family Fun  
Day & Parade

Live Music  
Street Market  
Food & Drink



# Art House Open Studios festival returns this May

From Arts Richmond

Arts Richmond is once again coordinating the Art House Open Studios festival for 2026, when the borough's creative community open their studios and homes to members of the public.

The festival gives visitors a chance to engage directly with artists, designers and makers from all corners of the borough.

This year the festival will include the spring bank holiday weekend, taking place over 23, 24 and 25 May, plus the weekend of 30 and 31 May.

The festival showcases the diverse range of work from artists across the borough and is an opportunity to open a dialogue between artists and residents.

Free to access, venues will be open 11am to 5pm daily, and several will offer additional demonstrations and other special events. Full details are available on the [Arts Richmond website](#), and hard-copy brochures with details of all venues will be available from local libraries and arts venues from mid-April.



# Career development support for Richmond residents

From Room for Work

Room for Work are offering two free courses this April in Richmond and Hampton to help residents get back into work. Over-50s have the hardest time returning to work after a redundancy. It can feel like all the cards are stacked against you. If you're struggling to get back into work, and you're a Richmond resident with skills and experience, this is the programme for you.

At Room for Work we understand the barriers you face. We've developed techniques you can use to get re-employed in a role you want, working in congenial circumstances for an organisation you respect.

Participants learn current job search methods with an emphasis on networking, developing social media skills, improving CVs, using AI effectively and practising competency-based interviews. All delivered in a friendly local environment. The Room for Work format includes tailored, one-to-one mentoring provided by the Course Leader with follow-up coaching support.

The 12-lesson programme is for people over 40 with skills and work experience ranging from administrative to managerial and professional roles. Those who are new to the UK job market with good basic English and computer skills are also welcome to join.

There are two free courses starting in April.  
Hampton:

- **Location:** All Saints Church Hall, The Avenue, Hampton, TW12 3RG
- **Dates:** Wednesdays and Thursdays between 22 April and 4 June
- **Time:** 10.30am to 1pm

Richmond town centre:

- **Location:** Duke Street Church, TW9 1DH
- **Dates:** Tuesdays between 21 April and 13 July
- **Time:** 10am to 12.30pm

You can [find out more and register for sessions](#).



# Concert to celebrate 25 years of The Mulberry Centre

From The Mulberry Centre

The Richmond Orchestra will take to the stage for a special celebratory concert marking the 25th anniversary of The Mulberry Centre, honouring a quarter of a century of compassionate support for people affected by cancer.

The anniversary performance will take place at Michael and All Angels Church on Saturday 16 May and promises to be a memorable evening of outstanding live music, bringing the community together in support of the Centre's vital work. For 25 years, The Mulberry Centre has provided free emotional, practical and wellbeing support to individuals and families navigating the impact of cancer. This concert forms part of its wider Celebrate 25 campaign, recognising the people, partnerships and community spirit that have sustained its work over the past two and a half decades.

Audiences can expect a rich and uplifting programme performed by the acclaimed Richmond Orchestra, known for its dynamic performances and commitment to accessible classical music. The event offers a meaningful opportunity not only to enjoy exceptional music, but also to contribute to a cause that continues to make a profound difference locally.



Funds raised through the evening will help ensure The Mulberry Centre can continue offering its award-winning services free of charge to those who need them most.

Head of Fundraising and Engagement, Lydia Plews, for The Mulberry Centre said:  
*“As we mark 25 years of supporting people affected by cancer, we are incredibly grateful to Richmond Orchestra for helping us celebrate this milestone. This concert is about community, reflection and hope for the future, and we look forward to sharing a very special evening together.”*

Tickets are expected to be in high demand, and early booking is encouraged.

[Book tickets](#)



# Help bring a gothic masterpiece home to Strawberry Hill

From Strawberry Hill House and Garden

Strawberry Hill House and Garden has launched an appeal to raise funds to acquire South East View of Strawberry Hill House by Johann Heinrich Müntz (c.1755–58), a rare contemporary painting that captures Horace Walpole's Gothic villa at the very moment the Gothic Revival was being born.

Commissioned by Walpole himself, the painting offers an extraordinary glimpse of Strawberry Hill before its dramatic transformation of 1759, when the Gallery and Round Tower were added to create the iconic silhouette we recognise today. It is one of only two known oil paintings of the house by Müntz, whose companion view is now held at the Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University.

More than a record, the painting reveals Strawberry Hill in the process of invention. At the time it was made, the Swiss artist Johann Heinrich Müntz was living and working at the house as Walpole's artist in residence, contributing directly to its evolving architectural vision. What he depicts is not a finished monument, but a creative experiment taking shape, house and garden emerging together as a new kind of Gothic design.



The painting is currently on short-term loan and will be on display in the Red Bedchamber at Strawberry Hill House from 30 March 2026, where it can be viewed free with general admission.

Painted for Walpole and long kept at his London residence on Berkeley Street, this view of Strawberry Hill has never hung in the house it was created to record. Acquiring it now would bring the painting home for the first time, reuniting a formative moment in Strawberry Hill's history with the place that inspired it.

Two generous supporters have pledged to match donations to the appeal pound-for-pound, meaning every contribution will go twice as far until the £85,000 target is reached.

# Shambles Restaurant & Winebar Scoops Top Honours at The Italian Awards 2026

From Shambles restaurant

*Teddington's beloved Italian destination wins **Best Wine List** and earns Highly Commended nods for **Best Pasta** and **Best Restaurant London***

Shambles restaurant & winebar, Teddington's neighbourhood Italian gem, has announced a standout triple recognition at the prestigious Italian Awards 2026 held at the Marriott Grosvenor, Mayfair - taking home the coveted **Best Wine List** award, alongside **Highly Commended** distinctions for both **Best Pasta** and **Best Restaurant London**.



The Italian Awards celebrate the very best of Italian dining culture across the UK, recognising excellence in food, drink, and hospitality. For Shambles to land across three categories in a single year marks a significant milestone for the independent restaurant, which has built a loyal following in South West London for its commitment to authentic Italian craft and exceptional hospitality.

The Best Wine List win reflects a carefully curated selection that champions artisan Italian producers alongside standout bottles from across the peninsula - Shambles has a carefully curated selection of wines devoted to discovery - championing artisan Italian producers and standout bottles from across the peninsula, with an exceptional **40 wines available by the glass**, that's chosen with the same passion and precision that defines everything on the menu.

Co-owner siblings Margherita and chef **Massimo Langella** - who honed his craft under the legendary **Giorgio Locatelli** at both **Zafferano** in Knightsbridge and **Locanda Locatelli** in Mayfair - said: *"These awards mean everything to us. We're a small, independent restaurant doing things the way they should be done - with heart, with knowledge and with serious attention to what ends up on the plate and in the glass of our guests. To be recognised at this level, in this city, up against some brilliant competition, is genuinely humbling and that couldn't have been achieved without the commitment of our long-standing team."*

The Highly Commended recognition for Best Pasta speaks to the kitchen's dedication to the fundamentals - handmade, ingredient-led and executed with the classical rigour Massimo refined under one of the UK's most celebrated Italian chefs. The Best Restaurant London commendation places Shambles firmly in the conversation amongst the capital's top Italian dining destinations.

Shambles Restaurant & Winebar is located at 83 High Street, Teddington, TW11 8HG. Reservations can be made at [www.shamblesbar-restaurant.co.uk](http://www.shamblesbar-restaurant.co.uk)



# David Garrick:

His Life, His Times and His Temple



Sunday 26th April 2026

5:15pm

Garrick's Temple

Tickets: £10.78 card / online

or £10 cash on the door

To book visit  
[garrickstemple.org.uk/events](http://garrickstemple.org.uk/events)

An illustrated one hour talk by Ellis Jones about the life of David Garrick and his Temple in Hampton. Ellis Jones is an actor, director, writer and acting coach, with an extensive career in theatre, television and education, including 16 years as a resident director at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA). He is currently on the Management Committee of Garrick's Temple.

Booking QR



# St Mary's University

## St Mary's Students Go Behind the Scenes with Red Roses Ahead of Six Nations

Students from St Mary's University interviewed members of the England Women's Rugby team during an exclusive visit to Allianz Stadium, Twickenham.

Led by Sports Journalism course leader [Dr Daragh Minogue](#), the group met Red Roses players Emma Sing, Helena Rowland and Connie Powell, gaining first-hand insight into elite rugby, international competition, and the rapid growth of the women's game.



The visit, hosted by Allianz in partnership with the Rugby Football Union (RFU), brought together students from the [BSc Marketing programme](#), [MA Sports Journalism](#) and [MSc Sports Management](#). The experience forms part of St Mary's ongoing commitment to providing industry-facing opportunities that prepare students for careers at the highest level of sport.

MA Sports Journalism student, Abhishek Mavummootil, shared his thoughts on the study trip: *"It was exciting and rewarding to understand first hand what it takes to become World Cup winners. As a sports journalist, you can't wish for anything better, even more so personally as I'm from India where rugby isn't as popular as in the UK. It was also a unique way to understand women's sport at both elite and grassroots levels and I'm grateful for it."*

During the session, the England internationals reflected on their World Cup experiences and looked ahead to the upcoming Women's Six Nations. They spoke about the excitement surrounding their opening fixture against Ireland this week, which has already generated record-breaking ticket sales - further evidence of the extraordinary surge in popularity of women's rugby across England.

The players revealed that the training camp for the Women's Six Nations has involved developing a more expansive game, integrating new players into the squad, while maintaining the fierce competition for places.

For the students, the opportunity to conduct professional-level interviews with international athletes was invaluable. Their work will be published on [Sports Gazette](#) showcasing both their

journalistic skills and St Mary's strong links with the sports industry.

This experience highlights St Mary's University's close relationship with the RFU and its continued role in supporting the development of future sports professionals. With access to elite environments and leading figures in the game, students benefit from real-world learning that bridges the gap between classroom theory and industry practice.

As women's rugby continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, opportunities like this ensure St Mary's students are perfectly positioned to be part of the sport's exciting future.

Photo credit: Adam Richards



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

# Red Roses Team to Play Ireland

The Red Roses return to action for the first time as World Champions as Ireland provide the opposition for the Guinness Women's Six Nations opener at Allianz Stadium.

A tournament record crowd of over 75,000 will be in attendance as John Mitchell's side begin a new cycle under Megan Jones' captaincy.

The outside centre will be supported by vice captains Amy Cokayne and Alex Matthews, both of whom start at hooker and Number 8 respectively.

The duo, alongside openside flanker Sadia Kabeya and lock Morwenna Talling, are the only members of the starting forwards who began the World Cup final back in September.

Lock Lilli Ives Champion and flanker Maddie Feaunati are selected with props Kelsey Clifford and Sarah Bern taking their place in the front row.

Captain Jones is partnered by Helena Rowland in the midfield while Ellie Kildunne, Jess Breach and Claudia Moloney-MacDonald make up the back three. Scrum-half Lucy Packer and fly-half Holly Aitchison form the half-back pairing.

Among the replacements, England Under-21 international Haineala Lutui is in line for her Red Roses debut. The Loughborough Lightning forward has impressed in the PWR this season, making a league-high 337 metres from 226 carries.

*"It's fantastic opportunity to be returning to Allianz Stadium in front of our fans for the first time since the 2025 Rugby World Cup final," Mitchell said. "We've all felt the lasting impact of 2025, and that's reflected in the incredible ticket sales for Saturday's match. The players relish, and absolutely deserve, the opportunity to perform in front of record crowds, but they also understand the responsibility that comes with that stage. We know success in this competition is never given; it has to be earned every time. We've prepared well as a group, and the players are ready to express themselves fully. We cannot wait to get started."*

## Red Roses team to play Ireland

15 Ellie Kildunne (Harlequins, 57 caps)  
14 Jess Breach (Saracens, 53 caps)  
13 Megan Jones (Trailfinders Women, 33 caps) – captain  
12 Helena Rowland (Loughborough Lightning, 46 caps)  
11 Claudia Moloney-MacDonald (Exeter Chiefs, 36 caps)  
10 Holly Aitchison (Sale Sharks, 44 caps)  
9 Lucy Packer (Harlequins, 38 caps)

1 Kelsey Clifford (Saracens, 21 caps)  
2 Amy Cokayne (Sale Sharks, 89 caps)  
3 Sarah Bern (Bristol Bears, 79 caps)  
4 Morwenna Talling (Sale Sharks, 28 caps)  
5 Lilli Ives Champion (Loughborough Lightning, 5 caps)  
6 Maddie Feaunati (Exeter Chiefs, 23 caps)  
7 Sadia Kabeya (Loughborough Lightning, 28 caps)  
8 Alex Matthews (Gloucester-Hartpury, 81 caps)

## Replacements

16 Connie Powell (Harlequins, 19 caps)  
17 Mackenzie Carson (Gloucester-Hartpury, 23 caps)  
18 Maud Muir (Gloucester-Hartpury, 48 caps)  
19 Haineala Lutui (Loughborough Lightning, uncapped)

20 Abi Burton (Trailfinders Women, 4 caps)  
21 Natasha Hunt (Gloucester-Hartpury, 88 caps)  
22 Zoe Harrison (Saracens, 65 caps)  
23 Emma Sing (Gloucester-Hartpury, 13 caps)



# Match Preview: Brentford v Everton

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford return to Premier League action on Saturday afternoon when Everton visit Gtech Community Stadium (3pm kick-off BST).

The Bees and David Moyes' side go into the game with an almost identical record, with just goal difference separating them going into the final seven games of the season.

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

## Pre-match Analysis

Stephen Gillett, *Playmaker Stats*: Aerial battle key in Toffees clash

Brentford return to action after the international break with a six-pointer against one of the Premier League's best away sides.

David Moyes' Everton are level on points with the seventh-placed Bees - albeit with an inferior goal difference - and have designs of their own on a European spot.

The Toffees traded Goodison Park for the impressive Hill Dickinson Stadium at the start of the campaign, but more than half of their points have been won on the road - their away form underpinned by a rock-solid defence.

With 11 shutouts to their name in 2025/26, only Arsenal (15) have kept more clean sheets than Everton, who have conceded just 16 goals on their travels all season.

The Merseysiders have the lowest average possession share in the top flight away from home (39%) - a statistic that underlines how organised and resilient Moyes' side are without the ball.

Brentford head coach Keith Andrews will no doubt have used the lull in Premier League action to analyse the Toffees' potential vulnerabilities - particularly how the Bees can exploit them - and quick attacking transitions may offer their clearest route through.

No team in the division has conceded more goals via fast breaks than Everton (6) this season, while Brentford have scored a league-high nine goals from counter attacks.

Seven of the Bees' goals on the break have been scored on home soil at Gtech Community Stadium... but their two strikes from counters outside TW8 came in January's fantastic [4-2 win at the Hill Dickinson Stadium](#).

Both were scored by [Igor Thiago](#), whose meteoric rise this season went stratospheric during the international break.



Thiago has plundered 19 Premier League goals this season, three of them in the reverse fixture, and it took him just 41 minutes to open his account for Brazil.

After a short cameo in a 2-1 defeat to France, Thiago came off the bench to coolly slot home a penalty in a 3-1 win over Croatia.

Having boosted his claims for a spot in Carlo Ancelotti's 2026 World Cup squad, Thiago's focus will return to club football - and what could prove a decisive aerial battle.

Everton (22.1 aerials won per 90) and Brentford (20.2) are the two most aerially dominant sides in the Premier League this season, and both excel in the air at either end of the pitch.

Everton centre-back James Tarkowski and his Brentford counterpart [Sepp van den Berg](#) rank second and third respectively in the Premier League for aerials won this term, while Thierno Barry (4th) and Thiago (9th) also feature in the division's top 10.

With seven games remaining, the race for a European spot is finely poised - and how both sides handle that aerial battle could go a long way to shaping the outcome on Saturday.

## Scout Report

Dan Long, *Sky Sports*: Moyes has transformed Everton's fortunes

At times last season, there were fears Everton could move into their sparkling new home - the Hill Dickinson Stadium - as a Championship club. For the fourth season in succession, they were looking over their shoulders, the threat of relegation haunting them at every turn.

But since David Moyes' return to Merseyside, there have been absolutely no such worries. It is as though they have disappeared into thin air.

The Scot lost just three of the 19 Premier League games he oversaw after replacing Sean Dyche in January 2025, putting the Toffees 23 points clear of the drop zone. He was backed for this season accordingly, while Jack Grealish also joined on loan from Man City and racked up four assists across his first three appearances.

After a steady start, Everton climbed as high as seventh after a 3-0 home win over Nottingham Forest on 6 December. They went onto win only two of the next nine, yet stayed right in the top-half mix after four draws in that run, two of them secured after they had fallen behind.

On 7 February, they again came from behind - this time they beat Fulham 2-1. Speaking afterwards, Moyes said: *"I don't want to come in here and say we're trying to avoid relegation. I don't want to do that because Everton have had too much bad news and bad publicity, so I'd rather come in here and say we're having a go at Europe. You might laugh at me in a few weeks' time and say how stupid I was, but I'd rather be positive."*

More than two months on, no one is laughing at Moyes. Everton have won three and lost three and now sit eighth in the Premier League. It took Arsenal 89 minutes to score their first in a 2-0 win on 4 March. Fierce rivals Liverpool are now only three points ahead in fifth with seven games to play.

Opta Analyst predicts that is where the Toffees will finish - 0.45 points behind Brentford - but whether or not an eighth-place finish will be enough to qualify for Europe is yet to be decided. Going into the international break, Sky Bet priced them at 11/2 to finish in the top six, 18/1 to finish in the top five and 50/1 to finish in the top four.

What is certain is that Everton need only three points to better last season's haul of 48 points, which would also represent the highest amount they have picked up since 2020/21 (59). You have to go back to 2018/19 for the last time they finished as high as eighth and 2017/18 for the last time they reached Europe.

Overall, the view has changed for Everton; they are not looking over their shoulders anymore. Judging by their trajectory since last January, the ambitions may grow even loftier next term.

## **In the Dugout**

David Moyes

Like the majority of his managerial colleagues in the Premier League, David Moyes had a long and successful playing career before turning his hand to coaching.

He started at Celtic as a professional in 1980 - where he won the Scottish Premiership in 1981/82 - and went on to play for Cambridge United, Bristol City, Shrewsbury, Dunfermline Athletic, Hamilton and Preston. He was part of the North End squad that won the Third Division in 1995/96 and he retired at the age of 35, having played his last game in February 1998.

By this point, he had been appointed Preston manager, a role for which he was well-equipped, having started taking his coaches badges in his early 20s. Just over four years later, in March 2002, he was approached by Everton and soon swapped Division Two for the Premiership.

During his nine-year spell on Merseyside, Moyes brought a 16-year-old Wayne Rooney into the first team and into the eyes of the world and, from 2006/07 and 2012/13, steered the Toffees to seven straight top-eight finishes, as well as reaching the 2008/09 FA Cup final, which they lost 2-1 to Chelsea.

In the summer of 2013, he was given the unenviable task of replacing Sir Alex Ferguson at Manchester United, but lasted less than 12 months of the six-year deal he signed and was dismissed in April 2014.

A year in La Liga with Real Sociedad followed, where he won only 12 of his 42 games in charge, before he returned to England with Sunderland. It was just eight victories from 43 matches there, with his spell ending in the Black Cats' relegation after a decade in the top flight.

Moyes was handed a six-month deal to take over at West Ham in November 2017 and tasked with securing survival after the sacking of Slaven Bilić, which he did. However, his contract was not extended in the summer and he departed London Stadium after 31 games and a 29 per cent win ratio.

The Scot returned to east London in December 2019 and was in charge of the Hammers until the end of the 2023/24 season, when his contract was not renewed. He oversaw the historic Europa Conference League win in 2022/23 and left with the highest win percentage of the club's permanent managers, with 44.59 across 231 games in his second spell.

Moyes came back to management after a short spell away from the game, returning to Everton on a two-and-a-half-year contract on 11 January 2025. The 62-year-old has managed 746 Premier League games, which puts him behind only Ferguson (810) and Arsène Wenger (828).



# CQC welcomes improvements at Richmond clinic

From the Care Quality Commission

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has raised the rating for Bodyvie Medi-Clinic from inadequate to good and lifted it from special measures following an inspection in February.

Bodyvie Medi-Clinic is an independent health service providing private doctor services, with a focus on women's health. It is run by Bodyvie Limited. They also offer some non-surgical cosmetic procedures, but these aren't regulated by CQC, so weren't looked at as part of this inspection.

At its last inspection, inspectors rated the clinic inadequate due to concerns for people's safety and shortfalls in the management of the service. CQC also placed conditions on its registration, restricting them from providing some types of care. This inspection found the clinic had made sufficient improvements in all areas and CQC has lifted the conditions on their registration.

CQC has raised the clinic from inadequate to good for safe, effective, and well-led. It has raised it from requires improvement to good for caring and responsive.

## **Andy Ford, CQC deputy director of primary care and community services in London, said:**

*"When we inspected Bodyvie Medi-Clinic, we were very pleased to find leaders had made major improvements and people were now receiving safe, person-centred care.*

*"They recruited staff safely and supported them with the right training and oversight. In turn, we saw staff were skilled, kind, and respectful when providing care. They involved people in planning their care, listened to their needs and preferences, and minimised any risks.*

*"Importantly, we found that people felt comfortable raising concerns, and that leaders were actively searching for new improvements to make. When people made complaints or things had gone wrong, leaders had investigated thoroughly and learned from these incidents to make people's care better going forward. Supportive, knowledgeable, and transparent management empowers staff to offer better care, and that's what we found here.*

*"Everyone at Bodyvie should be proud of the hard work they put in for the people using their services. We'll continue to monitor the clinic to ensure these improvements are embedded and sustained."*

## **Inspectors also found:**

- Staff respected people's privacy and dignity during care.
- Staff gave people information in formats they could understand, and explained procedures clearly so people could give informed consent.
- Staff could adjust people's care to suit their needs, such as by offering longer appointments or appointments at quieter times in the day.
- Staff kept the facilities and equipment clean and well-maintained.
- The clinic managed people's medications safely and staff involved people when reviewing their prescriptions.
- The clinic worked well with other health services, ensuring people's care was as seamless as possible.

The report will be published on CQC's [website](#) in the coming days.



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