

# Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



Spring in Twickenham Green  
Photo by Berkley Driscoll

17<sup>th</sup> April 2026

T&RT

# Contents

Editors: Teresa Read, Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape

April update on the Teddington Launch Lock refurbishment project

The Tree Agency

The Local Picture Postcard Page - Spring Is Here! – Go To Kew Gardens!

Crusader Travel

Former Lib Dem Cabinet Member Defects to the Greens

Letters

Testing the waters: River surveying and citizen science taster session

Regal Spice Twickenham

Richmond Greens Stand Full Slate of 54 Candidates in Local Elections on 7th May 2026

Robbery of Gregory & Co. Jewellers in Richmond in January

St George's Parade & Family Fun Day

Twickers Foodie: April Food and Drink News

Gibraltar Sunborn

The Tale of Three Pablo's - A Travellers Story

Are you missing something?

Mark Aspen Review: Dreams and Dreamtime

A Battle of Wills

Alumnus wins Podcast of the Year at national journalism awards

From nonrunner to the TCS London Marathon to support youth work

St Mary Magdalene May Fair

Give your items a second life at this weekend's Twickenham Repair Café

East Sheen's Community Market Returns to The Hare & Hounds Garden this June

The Sheen Art Trail

Be Richmond Champions Local Charities as Dose of Nature Shows Power of Community Support

Twickenham Art Circle

Surrey Hospices come together to back Hospice UK's national campaign for fair funding

Red Roses Team to Play Scotland

Match Preview: Brentford v Fulham

London Fire Brigade urges Londoners to spring clean gardens to help prevent grass fires

Environment Agency

Alan Winter

James Knight

Habitats & Heritage

Richmond & Twickenham Green Party

Metropolitan Police

Love Whitton

Alison Jee

Sunborn Gibraltar

Bruce Lyons

Deep Patel

Hilary Jones and Roderick Garfield

Richmond Shakespeare Society

St Mary's University

National Youth Agency

St Mary Magdalene

Twickenham Repair Café

East Sheen Village

Be Richmond

RFU

Brentford Football Club

London Fire Brigade

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# TickerTape - News in Brief

## April update on the Teddington Launch Lock refurbishment project

From the Environment Agency

Last month, the project successfully dewatered Teddington Launch Lock enabling the Environment Agency (EA) to inspect the structure and plan the necessary refurbishment works.

As part of the dewatering activity, the EA worked with ecologists FiveRivers who carried out electro-fishing to safely remove any fish from the works area. They translocated an estimated 5,000 fish from the lock, across 11 fish species. To safely remove the fish, they were placed into oxygenated holding tanks and then released back in the River Thames at a suitable location.

The project has also completed further inspections and carried out a 3D scan of the dewatered lock chamber. These inspections and scans indicate that the lock chamber and walls require additional strengthening to bear loads during operation. This additional work is essential to avoid potential structural failures and risks to public safety and will unfortunately add time to the construction programme.

The project team are working hard to reduce this delay and are still aiming for the launch lock to be open towards the end of the boating season. Use of the Teddington Barge Lock will continue throughout construction to maintain navigation.

Further updates on the work will be available on the EA's [Thames Area Asset page](#).

If you have any questions about the works, please email the project team on [enquiries\\_thm@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries_thm@environment-agency.gov.uk).



**The Tree Agency**

darryl parkin

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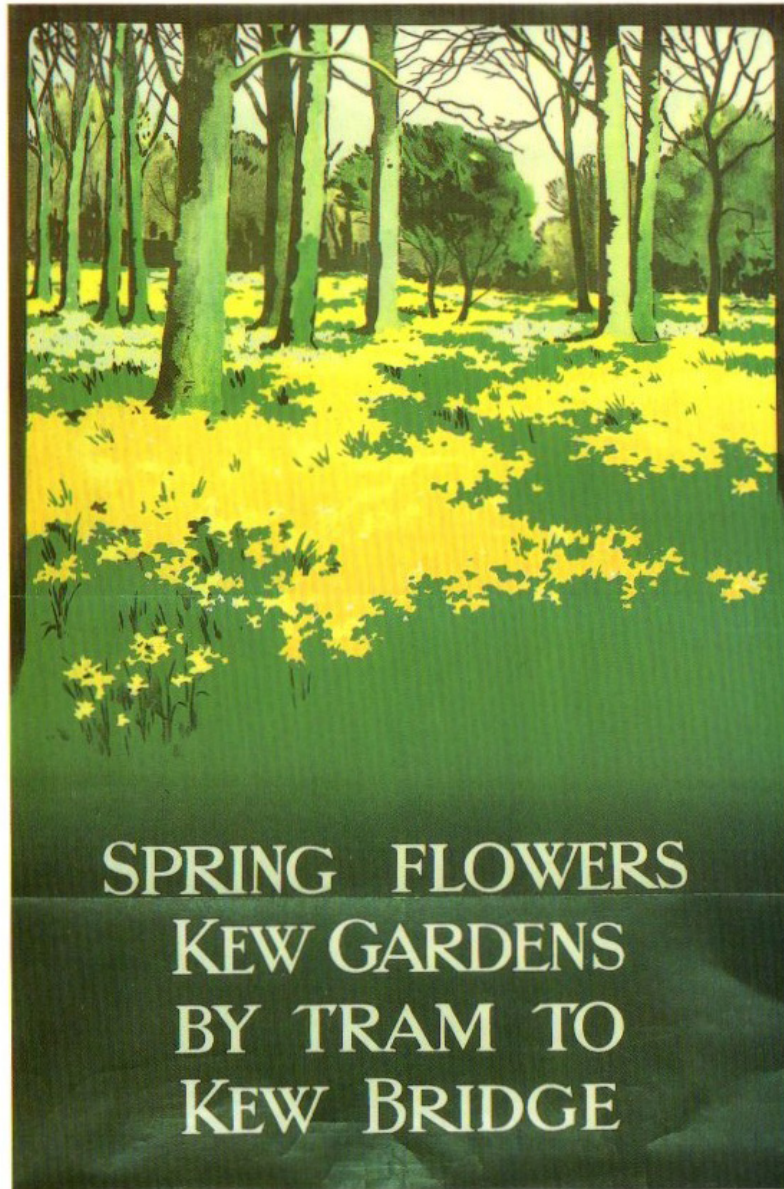
*The Tree Agency*

# The Local Picture Postcard Page - Part 322

## Spring Is Here! – Go To Kew Gardens!

By Alan Winter

We have finally had a few days of sunshine this week and so I thought I would let the London Transport Museum suggest an ideal place in our locality to get out and enjoy the weather in one of the greatest gardens in the world.

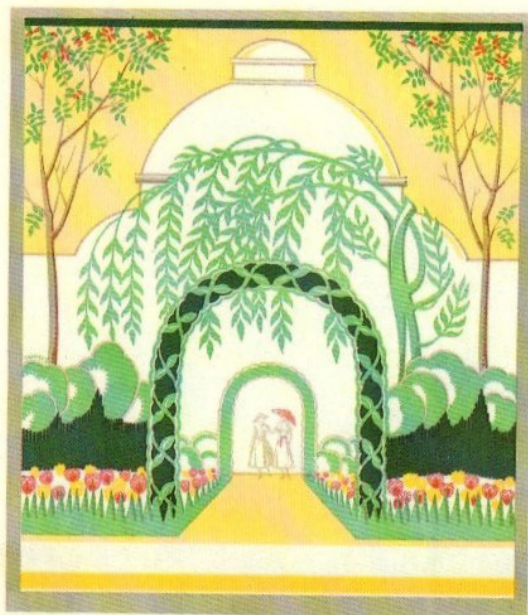


For well over 100 years London Transport has been using poster advertising by different artists on its railway and tube station walls. The London Transport Museum in Covent Garden has reproduced many of these excellent posters as postcards.

We can take a look at four of them spanning 70 years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century advertising Kew Gardens and how to reach it by Tram, District Railway Line, Underground and Tube.

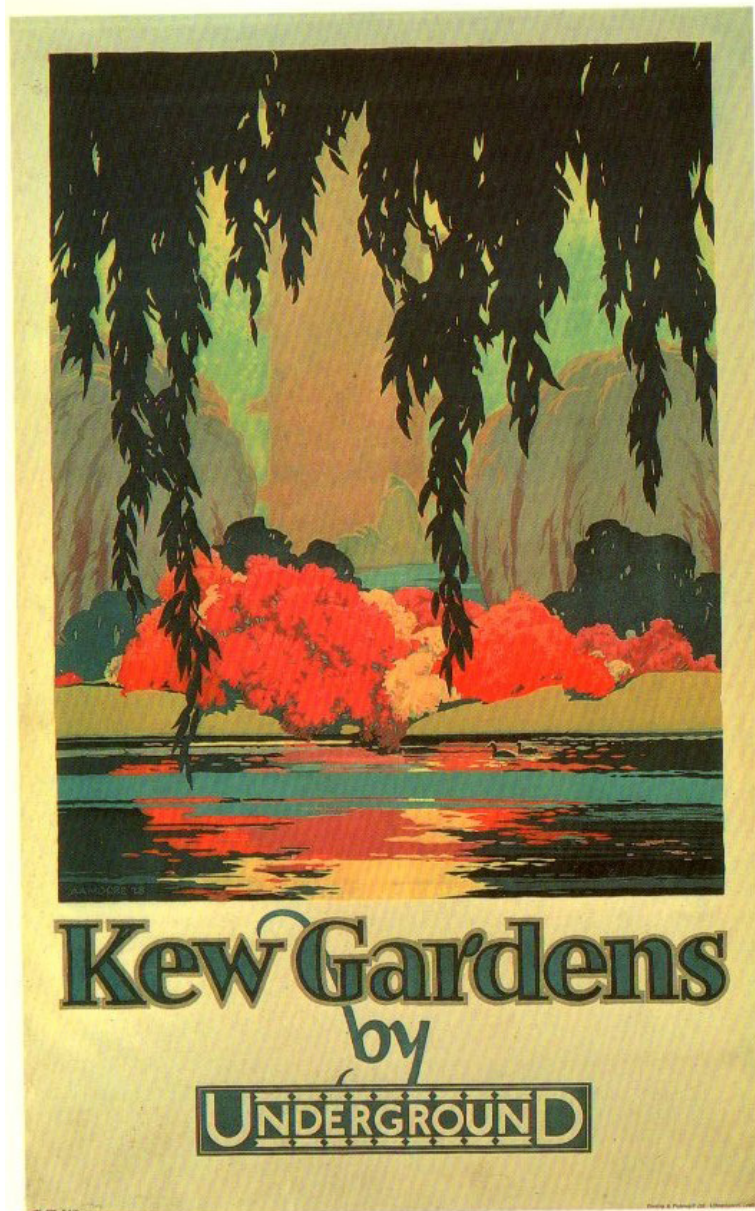
The first poster was titled "Spring Flowers" and was painted by C. Sharland in 1911. It suggested getting to Kew Gardens by tram to Kew Bridge. The tram stop was next to underground public toilets that were on the junction on the Brentford side of the bridge where the Express Tavern is now and the Star and Garter used to be. This junction is nothing like that now although the Express Tavern remains as a focal building.

Our second poster was painted by Miss T. Fawkes and was in use from 1923. It was promoting the way to Kew Gardens by using the District Railway Line.



**KEW  
GARDENS**  
BY DISTRICT RLY  
DIRECT

We stay in the 1920's for the third poster which was painted by A.A. Moore and in use from 1928. This poster was suggesting that folk get to Kew Gardens by the Underground system.



**The new Kew by Tube**

The Princess of Wales Conservatory. Nearest station Kew Gardens



Our final postcard this week shows the Princess of Wales Conservatory. It is headed "The new Kew by tube", Identifies Kew Gardens as the nearest tube station and was reproduced from a 1987 poster painted by the artist Jenny Tuffs.

This is a great time of year to visit Kew Gardens as it comes alive with flowering trees and flower borders. We are very lucky to have it on our doorstep and I hope many of you get the opportunity to enjoy it.

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# Former Lib Dem Cabinet Member Defects to the Greens

By James Knight



David Trigg's defection from the Liberal Democrats to the Green Party is not an earthquake in Richmond politics. But some departures tell you more than the numbers. This is one of them.

Trigg is no passing protest figure. He won the Twickenham Riverside by-election for the Liberal Democrats in 2005 and later served as Richmond Council's cabinet member for traffic and transport. He is now standing for the Greens in Fulwell and Hampton Hill, presenting himself as a long-standing borough resident, a former governor of Richmond upon Thames College and a founding member of Friends of the River Crane Environment. On the Green Party website, he says councillors "must fight for the concerns of the people they represent" and that his "single most important motivation is to promote the interests and concerns of local people."

That is more than biography. It is a political statement.

In Green Party material announcing his move, Trigg says "It's clear that the Lib Dems' large majority has made them arrogant, self-centred and lacking in transparency." It is a sharp charge, but it carries a different weight coming from a man who once sat on the inside. This is not the complaint of a routine opponent. It is the complaint of a former senior Liberal Democrat figure who appears to believe the party he served has grown too comfortable in office, and too dismissive of legitimate local concern.

## **Shacklegate as the local test**

The importance of Trigg's move lies not only in who he is, but in where he is standing. In Fulwell and Hampton Hill, the Shacklegate allotments row has become more than a dispute about one site. It has become a test of whether the administration still listens with enough care when local feeling runs strongly against it.

What gives that issue real force is that the anger was neither small nor vague. More than 1,600 people signed a petition against the closure of Teddington's only allotments, yet the council proceeded despite that level of opposition. Earlier Tribune reporting recorded the scale of opposition, the seriousness of the campaign, and the fact that residents were not merely protesting but offering alternatives and even compromise.

More awkwardly for the council, this was never simply a choice between action and inaction. A cemeteries scrutiny report delivered in 2018 had already examined both the possible future use of the Teddington allotment land and a grave reclamation scheme, recommending that grave reclamation be implemented when required. Then, in November 2025, Green

Cllr Caroline Wren raised a formal ward concern calling for fuller use of grave reuse and reclamation powers and for greater resident engagement. The minutes also record that some residents believed a promise had been made after a 2018 cabinet decision that the allotments would only be taken back half at a time.

That is where the politics bites. The issue is not whether burial pressure was real. It plainly was. The issue is why the administration chose the course most likely to damage trust, after years in which other approaches had at least been identified but were not visibly carried through.

### **The sound of power**

Council Leader Cllr Gareth Roberts' own language has not helped to dispel that impression. In Meet the Leader, discussing the attraction of council leadership, he said: "I've got power... I can make change. I can make change tomorrow." In the Lib Dem Podcast, reflecting on the party's large majority in Richmond, he said that even if one or two colleagues disagreed, "we've still got the numbers to get things through."

There is a straightforward defence of both remarks. Councils are elected to govern. They are not debating clubs. But politics is judged not only by what power does, but by how power sounds. Long stretches in office can alter the tone of an administration. Confidence hardens into complacency. Authority begins to sound like entitlement. And once that happens, even defensible decisions start to acquire the air of imposition.

That is the political risk now facing Richmond's Liberal Democrats.

### **A pattern that has taken shape**

Shacklegate is the clearest expression of that problem in Trigg's ward, but it has not arisen in isolation. Pensford Field was especially damaging because criticism came not just from opponents but from within Liberal Democrat ranks, with Sarah Olney saying the council's reputation in Kew had been "severely damaged by this debacle". Twickenham Riverside has fed the same mood, with the administration at times sounding impatient with objectors, even though the planning inspector treated those objections seriously before ultimately confirming the order. Even the retreat from promised high street improvements has left a mark, after the 2022 Liberal Democrat manifesto pledged to "introduce a £2m investment fund for our high streets and green spaces."

What matters politically is that Shacklegate has now escaped the confines of committee papers and residents' meetings and entered the wider election campaign. The Greens are already presenting it as evidence of a Liberal Democrat administration that takes unpopular decisions hurriedly and with too little regard for local wishes. Conservative literature is also using the issue as shorthand for the council's failure to live up to its own green rhetoric. When parties with very different politics begin making the same complaint, the administration should at least consider whether the problem is no longer merely partisan.

### **More than a routine switch**

That is why Trigg's defection matters. Not because it changes everything at once, but because it gives voice to a perception that has been spreading across the borough. The ballot box will decide whether the Liberal Democrats keep their hold on Richmond. What is already clear is that Gareth Roberts is accumulating grievances, and no administration can do that indefinitely without paying a price.

# Letters

Dear Tribune,

## Selective Listening and Stupid Stunts!

With elections looming, Lib Dem Leader Sir Ed Davey was recently reported as saying: *'We're proud that we run Kingston, Richmond and Sutton'* and that: *'Lib Dem candidates were local champions who will listen to their communities and get things done.'*

Really?

Well, Richmond Lib Dems didn't listen to 99.7% of the residents when Council Leader Roberts stated that agreement to the Council's Twickenham Riverside development by a mere 0.3% of the population was *'broad public support'*. (Tribune Edition 230, 2 April 2021).

That was even less than support for their Ultra Low Emission Zone survey (19%) or the 20mph speed limit survey (5%).

It is of course true that they get SOME things done, such as:

- Imposing E-bikes on us which are now ridden illegally on every pavement and dumped everywhere.
- Disregarding cyclists constantly riding through red traffic lights with impunity.
- Ruining roads by building dangerous chicanes and road humps.
- Pointlessly wasting our money on now derelict 'Rainbow' crossings.
- Fining a local hero £130 for trying to track a thief so the police could catch him.
- Fining a woman £150 for pouring coffee dregs down a drain rather than take them on a bus and inconvenience other passengers.
- Achieving a 'Red' rating from the Department of Transport for some of the worst roads in London.
- Increasing their own allowances such as Council Leader Gareth Roberts's 52% increase in allowances despite having previously said it was a conflict of interest for councillors to award themselves a pay rise.
- Another thing they got done was ignoring for 16 years my requests to repair a dangerous derelict local road. It was only repaired due to the efforts of a Conservative councillor.
- And let's not forget Ed Davey apologising to campaigner Alan Bates for initially refusing to meet him while serving as postal affairs minister in 2010.
- And Ed Davey performing inane publicity stunts like bungee-jumping and falling in lakes.

Yes, Lib Dems certainly listen to their communities and get things done.

Michael Jay  
Hampton

# Testing the waters: River surveying and citizen science taster session

From Habitats & Heritage

Join Habitats & Heritage and Thames Landscape Strategy for a practical introduction to river surveying and monitoring along the River Thames. This guided session will combine short walks with hands-on activities to explore river health, local ecology, and environmental history.

Participants will take part in a range of introductory surveying activities, subject to conditions on the day. These may include water quality testing, freshwater invertebrate sampling, citizen science monitoring, and exploring wet woodland habitats.

Core activities will include:

- Water quality testing using Hanna checkers
- Learning about the history of London's sewer system, including outfall sites and their ecological context
- Participation in the nationwide citizen science programme Big River Watch



This event is suitable for adults with an interest in rivers, nature, and environmental monitoring. No prior experience is required.

- **Date:** Sunday 26 April
- **Time:** 1 to 3.30pm
- **Location:** End of Old Deer Park car park - [check exact location via what3words](#)

Please note that the session will involve walking, standing, and bending. Participants are advised to wear wellies or sturdy footwear, as some activities will take place close to the water.

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# Richmond Greens Stand Full Slate of 54 Candidates in Local Elections on 7th May 2026

From Richmond & Twickenham Green Party

For the first time, residents of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames will have the opportunity to vote for three Green candidates in every electoral ward of the borough. The Green Party is currently the Opposition on the Council with five elected councillors and is looking to have many more elected this May. The Green Party of England & Wales has recently seen a massive increase in membership – there are now 225,000 members nationally – and the local party has more than tripled its membership in the last six months.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Chas Warlow said:

*“Firstly, we’re very excited to have so many new members – and it’s equally exciting to see our members putting themselves forward for election. We have wonderful candidates with diversity in backgrounds, age, gender and experience, who will be excellent councillors if elected. I’m so proud of what our five councillors have achieved in the last four years, from pushing for more affordable housing and better protection for tenants to improving air quality standards and calling for more protection for the River Thames. Residents know where they stand with the Green Party – they know we will keep our word.”*

Councillor Warlow, who is standing for election in Ham, Petersham and Richmond Riverside, added:

*“Residents can rest assured that we are standing in every single seat in these elections: due to an administrative error by us, candidates in some of the wards on the Council’s announcement lack the description ‘Green Party’ against their names in those cases where we do not already have ward councillors. However, the ballot paper will show the Green Party emblem beside all 54 of our candidates. Everyone can use their three votes to vote for three Green councillors.”*

Councillor Richard Bennett, who is standing for election for a third consecutive term in South Twickenham, said:

*“Everyone in the borough has the chance to vote Green for the very first time, by voting for the candidates marked with the Green Party emblem. If elected, I will continue to push the Lib Dems to be more ambitious and to take timely action to help residents, rather than endlessly ‘consulting’ them.”*

Candidate for South Twickenham, Gareth Jones, said:

*“The Liberal Democrats claim that they are the only party that opposes Heathrow expansion - this is nonsense! The Greens are the only party that definitively opposes all airport expansion. The LibDems are NIMBYs in disguise.”*

The full list of candidates is available below and via an interactive map of the borough on the Richmond & Twickenham Green Party website at [www.rtgtp.org.uk/candidates](http://www.rtgtp.org.uk/candidates)



# Robbery of Gregory & Co. Jewellers in Richmond in January

From Metropolitan Police

*Detectives from the Met's Flying Squad have arrested and charged a third man following a smash-and-grab robbery at a jewellers in Richmond.*

*Officers arrested Deniz Mehmet, 28 (04.10.97), of Purfleet Road, Aveley, on Wednesday, 8 April.*

*He was charged on Thursday, 9 April and appeared at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on the morning of Friday, 10 April.*



**Detective Chief Inspector Scott Mather, from the Met's Flying Squad, said:**

*"Across the Met we are working hard to tackle retail crime, including robbery and shoplifting, as we know the significant impact these incidents have on shop workers and communities. We have carried out extensive enquiries into this incident over the past few months and have now charged three people."*

*Two men were previously charged with conspiracy to commit robbery in connection with the robbery in Paved Court in Richmond, at around 10:34hrs on Saturday, 31 January.*

*Officers arrested Robert Clarke, 50 (06.08.75) of Lever Lane, Rochford, and Lee Ramsey, 46 (28.05.79) of Hastingwood Road, Harlow, on Tuesday, 31 March.*

*Both men appeared at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, 1 April, and were remanded into custody.*

*They are next due to appear at Kingston Crown Court on Tuesday, 28 April.*



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**

# St George's Parade & Family Fun Day

Sunday 26th April - 12pm to 6pm

Whitton High Street is the home to the annual St George's Parade & Family Fun Day. Organised by Whitton Business Association (Love Whitton) and a small team of local volunteers for over 20 years.

The high street is closed from 12pm to 6pm and is bursting with activity. With food & drink from around the world, independent market traders, local charity stalls and fun fair rides

The Midday Parade opens the event, a parade full of bands, schools, mascots, stilt walkers, sports clubs & associations, followed by classic cars, Harley's & Lambrettas

You will be entertained, with live music & performances across three stages.

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



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## April Food and Drink News

The sun seems to have put his hat on now...phew! With the fickle nature of April weather, here's a mix of new products that will suit all conditions.

If you're feeling saucy, I thoroughly recommend the **Potts** range. In recyclable cans, the sauces, stocks and gravies are made with the kind of ingredients you will recognise. No nasties. No shortcuts. There are Italian, Mexican and Indian sauces and really useful cans of stock. A fabulous and tasty store cupboard staple, they are stocked mainly by butchers and farm shops and sensibly priced. They're also available online from [pottspartnership.co.uk](http://pottspartnership.co.uk) where you can buy a range of assorted bundles to try out.



There's bacon, and there's proper bacon. I was delighted to find that British meat brand **The Jolly Hog** has launched 'Proper Posh' Extra Thick Cut Bacon. This is a noticeably extra thick cut, giving each rasher a fuller, meatier bite (plus the addition of black treacle, making it like 'Suffolk cured' black bacon). Also, it doesn't ooze all that white goo that

so many other brands produce when frying. 'Proper Posh' Extra Thick Cut Back Bacon is in Sainsbury's Tesco and Ocado now and look out for 'Proper Posh' Extra Thick Cut Streaky Bacon in Waitrose and Ocado soon RRP £4.00.

In the hope that we will soon be enjoying 'salad days' I must tell you about **TOSS** dressings. These squeeze bottles are flavour-led and made using 100% clean, recognisable ingredients and vegan, gluten-free, and refined sugar-free. There are some delicious new distinctive flavours alongside reworked classics: Green Goddess; Miso Magic; Sweet Tahini Chick; Viva La Vinaigrette; and King Caesar. Beyond salads, TOSS is designed to be used every day - to dip, dunk, marinate, wrap, and spread. Only launched earlier this year, they are already available from Holland & Barrett at £6.50 a bottle or online at [toss-world.com](http://toss-world.com)





**Steenbergs** has spent over 20 years blending organic teas and was voted the number one choice for ethical consumers by *The Ethical Consumer Society*. Its loose leaf teas are now dressed in new packaging that feels every bit as thoughtful as what's inside: illustrated designs inspired by British wildlife, hedgerows, moorlands and meadows. This matches the brand's ethos – sustainability, purity and a deep connection to nature – while celebrating one of life's simplest pleasures: a really good brew. With plenty for herbal tea fans alongside classics like Organic English Breakfast and Earl Grey, every blend is created and hand-blended in rural North Yorkshire. The range is available online

at [steenbergs.co.uk](http://steenbergs.co.uk) and from selected health food shops, farm shops, organic retailers, food halls and delis.

Looking ahead to BBQ weather, Kikkoman, makers of the UK's number one soy sauce, has launched **Teriyaki BBQ Sauce in Korean Style**. Embark on a flavour-filled journey with this fusion of two hugely popular flavours -Teriyaki and Korean - in one umami-rich barbecue sauce. Made with fine quality ingredients, it's based on Kikkoman Naturally Brewed Soy Sauce, ginger, garlic and sesame oil, plus apples for that sweet and tangy Korean-style taste. Also, it's additive-free and vegan-friendly too. Available from Ocado at £3.35 for 250ml and Amazon



Another great new product following food trends is **Hilltop Tracklements Fresh Chilli Jam Hot Honey**. Two top brands have come together - pure, authentic honey and Fresh Chilli Jam from the UK's multi-award-winning best-seller - with a chilli-and-honey combo that delivers a tasty fusion of heat, fruity undertones, and subtle savoury depth. It's a great finishing touch for cheeses, meats, pizza, burgers and sandwiches. **Hilltop Tracklements Fresh Chilli Jam Hot Honey**, RRP £4.25 for 340g, is available from [www.tracklements.co.uk](http://www.tracklements.co.uk) and [www.lovehilltop.com](http://www.lovehilltop.com).



I've written before about Doughlicious and I'm pleased to tell you about its latest Ready to Bake Cookie Dough flavour: **Cookies & Cream** (RRP from £3.20 per box of six cookies), available from

**Sainsbury's**. There's dark cocoa and black cocoa for that iconic deep, almost black colour and rich chocolate flavour, then creamy white chocolate pieces for the ultimate cookies and cream experience. Crispy on the outside, gooey on the inside, these **gluten free certified** cookies are made with **100% British oats** and other natural ingredients to deliver a great snack in minutes – no mixing bowls, no washing up – just take from the freezer and pop in the oven or air fryer and go!



With lots of talk about fibre-maxing, JARR **Kombucha** fits neatly into this new era. Naturally fermented and crafted in small batches, it delivers a really refreshing, delicious, crisp, tangy kick in flavours including Original, Ginger Lemon, Peach Yuzu, and Passion Fruit. Rich in fibre and containing 3g per serving, JARR is a tasty and convenient way to boost your daily

intake. It's also a source of the antioxidant vitamin C, which contributes to a normal energy-yielding metabolism, helps reduce fatigue and supports the normal functioning of the immune system. **JARR** is stocked in select retailers nationwide and available to buy online via [Amazon](#).



Not surprisingly, **Tesco** is IWC's Supermarket of the Year 2025, and it has some exciting new launches alongside award-winning wines, including this lovely **Nepenthe Adelaide Hills Grüner Veltliner** that showcases the pinnacle of Adelaide Hills, South Australia, quality. This wine opens with aromas of dried pineapple, lemon, and delicate florals. Bright citrus and tropical fruit flavours are elegantly balanced by a fine texture and a long, graceful finish. Perfect for spring dining, it is a perfect accompaniment to seasonal dishes such as asparagus risotto or a fresh pea and mint salad. 12.5% ABV it's £16 a bottle.

Another fab wine is the **Grão Vasco Dão Vinho Tinto** from the Dão region of Portugal. This rich and inviting red opens with vibrant fruit flavours that instantly deliver. Smooth and approachable, it has fresh berry and plum notes, finishing clean, and it's ideal for sharing with friends or pairing with simple home-cooked meals. 13% ABV is £8.75 a bottle (currently £7.75 for clubcard holders)



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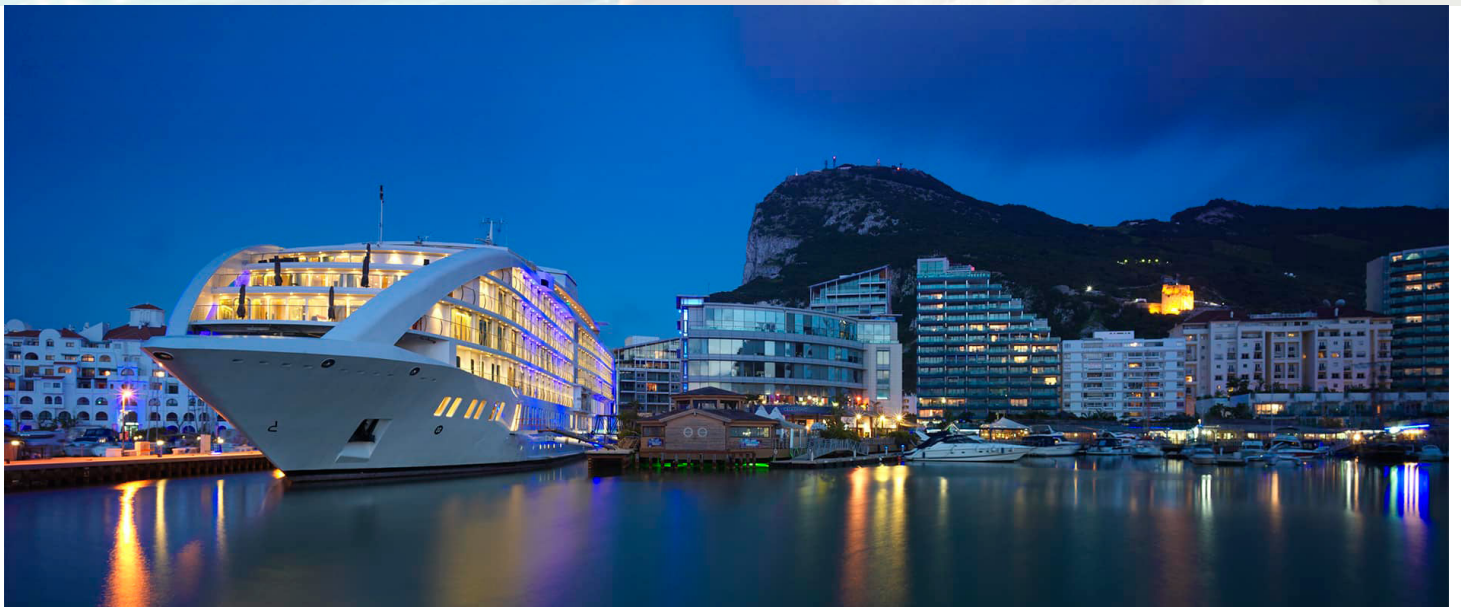
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### EXPERIENCE PACKAGE



# The Tale of Three Pablo's - A Travellers Story

By Bruce Lyons

This week we heard (and it's on Netflix tonight) about Pablo, The Silver Back Gorilla at the centre of David Attenborough's and Dian Fossey's remarkable work in the Ugandan forests.

Started in 1967, when the Gorilla population was down to 250 and leading up to today when their numbers are in the 600s. Over time there have been many documentaries on the Ugandan Gorillas and the conservation work associated with it, and these days, under disciplined protocols you can actually visit their forests and observe their behaviour close up in the wild, some hard work involved and quite a bit of travelling - a rare experience. But a wonderful story of a species coming back from being an endangered species to an amazing success story.



Our next wildlife "success" story is credited to the Cocaine Baron Pablo Escobar who unwittingly, perhaps, re-introduced Hippos to Colombia, South America. When, in 1993, the



Colombian Government raided his Cocaine Ranch and took him prisoner and shot him, the Ranch and his Wildlife Farm became neglected. His wildlife roamed free and the 4 Hippos eventually escaped the Estate and took up residence in the Magdalena River; with no predators they flourished and over time their numbers grew to now 250. The government expects their numbers, if uncontrolled, will grow

to over 500 by 2030 - so they plan to cull the numbers, though environmentalist Ben Goldsmith believes it would be better to introduce new blood from Africa - who knows?!. Today there is a new River Cruise programme on the Magdalena, and the Hippos may become a treasured experience. River Cruising is becoming a worldwide experience (about which I will write a bit in one of the next issues of the Tribune) and cruises can be found now on every continent. I do wonder what Pablo Escobar would think of the Hippos - his legacy?

The Third Pablo - Here he is a "rescue" from Battersea who now roams free on the Eel Pie Island Jungle, much to the disgust of the resident rodent population. Viewings can be arranged on request!!!



Crusader Travel Ltd  
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# Are you missing something?

By Deep Patel

~ Life Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

Have you ever had that feeling that life is being unfair to you? Like things are never really that good for you...or that you keep trying and trying really hard, but things keep going wrong still regardless? We've all been there. I spoke to my customers in my shop about this during this past week and everyone was familiar with this feeling, not one person said they didn't ever feel this way.

It was sad to think that all my customers had felt this way at some point, but also somewhat reassuring that we were all the same if you know what I mean? United in pleasure or pain, it's still united and that's what matters, that feeling of togetherness. I spent more time talking to my customers about this topic as there was more I wanted to find out. What made so many of us feel that we were "the unlucky ones"? What made so many of us feel that life was so unfair with us? Why did so many of us feel that everyone else's lives were somewhat better, easier and more fulfilled than our own lives were? Was it something in the water? If so, I think we better all write emails to Thames Water immediately asking them what the heck they think they are playing at? However, I don't think the water we drink is to blame for this feeling at all, it was something else...

Well, there are the usual things that don't help, social-media posts creating a false sense of how everyone else is happy all of the time without realising that people only post to social media the 2% of their lives that are "happy". However, this wasn't it, from the conversations that I had with my customers this past week regarding this, I kept thinking there was something missing, an absence of a kind, making us all feel this way, but what?

I did what I always do when I need to think on deeper and more complex aspects of life and the human mind and started to restock my cold-drink fridges (it's what I do when I need to "think"). As I was loading in cans of Coca-Cola, it suddenly occurred to me. It wasn't the absence of something in our lives that was making us feel like life was being "unfair" to us...it was not recognizing the presence of something that was already there...basically, it was that something was "missing" in our lives, it was that something that was already there was just not being recognized by us. That "something" was gratitude. You see, as I was refilling those Coca-Cola cans, it occurred to me that I could look at my shop fridge in despair at how many cans were missing from the display and how it didn't look "perfectly full" OR I could look at the fridge with gratitude at how many cans were still in the fridge, nice and cold and ready to quench one of my customer's thirst...do you see it now? There was nothing missing, just me not recognising the joy of what was already there...gratitude. Who'd have thought a can of coke could teach someone so much? Good old Coca-Cola...The next time you are thinking "why me" or "life is so bad to me", pause and count your blessings and know that no matter how "bad" things may be in your life, there will always be someone worse off (and there will always be someone wishing they had what you have...)

Until next week...stay blessed all!

**Remember...**

***...He always complained about the holes in his shoes...until he met a man who had no feet...***

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK:

If you are finding silverfish insects in your home, consider eliminating sources of moisture and clutter...they love dark damp conditions...also sprinkle fine pepper powder in gaps where they come and they will soon cease to plague you!

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"



## Dreams and Dreamtime

compiled by Anne Warrington

Poetry Performance at Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare, Hampton

On a near-spring evening by the Thames, the classical pavilion, Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare offers a beautiful venue, even in twilight drizzle. Here, *Dreams and Dreamtime*, a curated collection of poetry, prose and music explored the half-way state between consciousness and sleep, that permeates all our slumbers or reveries.

The limited space of the Temple embraced quite an intimate affair, which the audience shared with two musicians, three actors, a pair of narrators and eight poets.

Fleet of fingers and warm of smile, Ian Lee-Dolphin was an engaging presence with his acoustic guitar, linking the pieces and as accompanist to the gentle-voiced Annie Morris. Her mellow singing of *Beautiful Dreamer* was a thing of beauty, and lullaby *Dream Angus* mesmerising.



Locally acclaimed Shakespearean actor, Francis Abbott, parenthesised the evening with The Bard, with a post transformation Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* recalling his dream as he wakes from sleep, through to Prospero's valedictory speech from *The Tempest*, in which "our little life is rounded with a sleep", imbuing it with pathos and just a little resignation.

Established actress Sue Bell excelled with her reading of Steve Harman's new poem, *If Only*, which has an almost Dickensian feel. She gave an authenticity to the cockney voice of a hungry street urchin. Chillingly relishing the baddy, in John Webster's *The White Devil*, thorough the device of a dream, her Vittoria broaches the idea with her lover, Brachiano, to kill off their respective spouses.



The versatile acting of Keith Wait included comedy and tragedy. Edward Lear's nonsense poem, *The Table and the Chair* was a quirky froth of fun fantasy. In contrast, Thomas Campbell's *The Soldier's Dream*, written in a battle during the Napoleonic Wars, was acted with intense pathos, with very affecting immersion in its reality.

Where actors concentrate on feeling, poets do on words. James Brockbank's presentation of his wonderful poem *But I Can Dream*, which tells of the thoughts of a person in a locked-in state. His delivery was piercingly impregnated with insight and incisiveness. Dennis Tomlinson offers the epitome of a poet, simultaneously wild and gentle, but totally introverted into his words, which have intellectual bite. In Heather Cook's works there is a contained sense of nostalgia and she reads them with a repressed passion that nicely illuminates them. Her *A Fondness For Facts* speaks of "shopping lists to dreams". Clearly dreaming is a fertile subject in the creative imagination of such talented poets.

The cement for these memorably presented pieces was the narrators, Heather Montford and Graham Harmes, whose wry interjections provided context and structure.



*Dreams and Dreamtime* was a very distinctive event, its atmosphere sublime and the craftsmanship exemplary. Thanks go to its inspired compiler and director Anne Warrington and the culmination her diligent research.

Perchance to dream, we may soon get another such treat.



Read reviews by Hilary Jones and Roderick Garfield at [www.markaspen.com/2026/03/30/dreams-dreamtime](http://www.markaspen.com/2026/03/30/dreams-dreamtime), and at [www.markaspen.com/2026/04/04/dreamtime-rg](http://www.markaspen.com/2026/04/04/dreamtime-rg)

Photography by Heather Moulson

# A Battle of Wills:

## Shakespeare and the Fight for New Place, Stratford

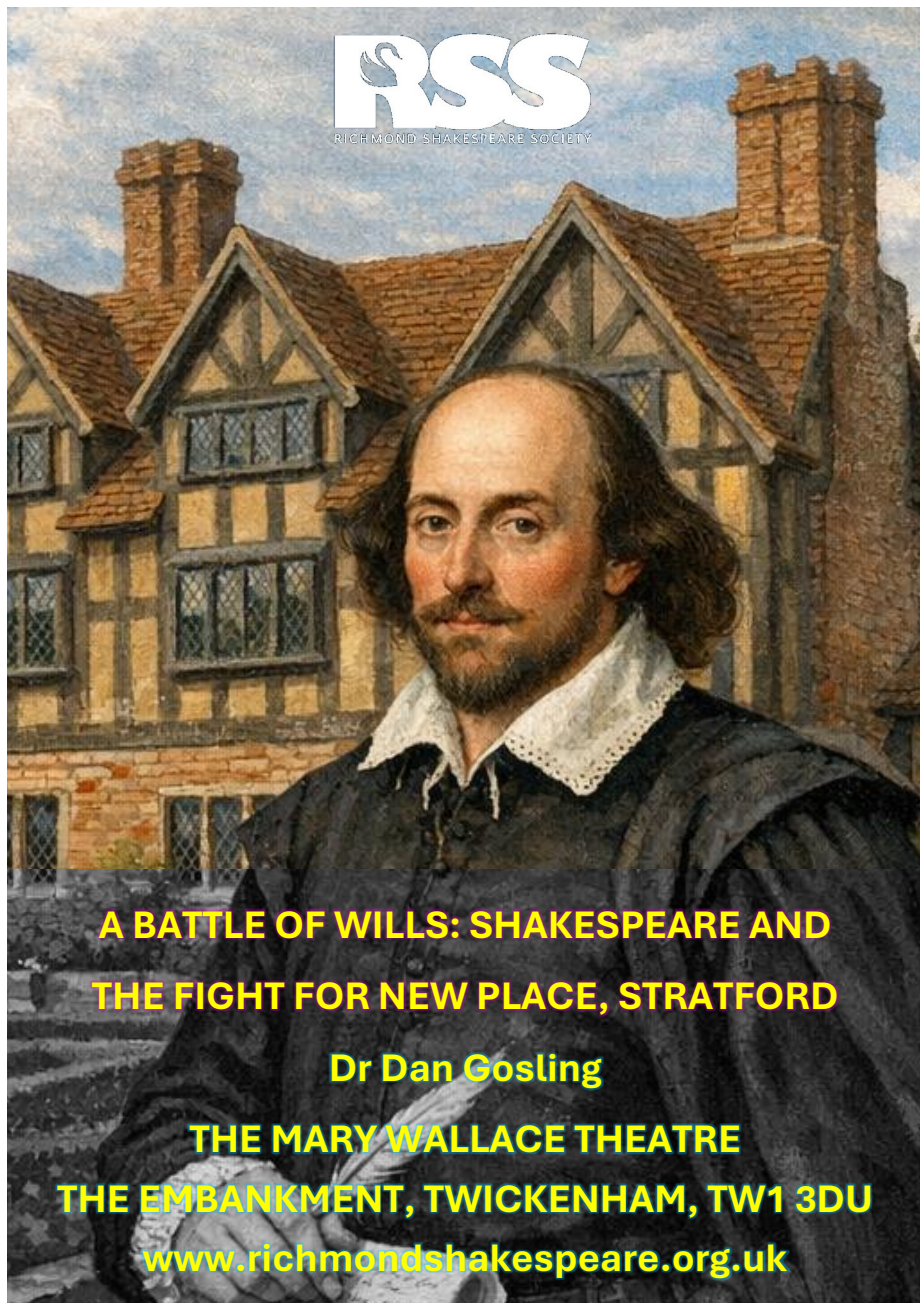
27<sup>th</sup> April at 7.45 at the Mary Wallace Theatre

Monday, April 27th brings the renowned academic and historian Dr Daniel Gosling to the Mary Wallace Theatre to reveal how a previously undiscovered will dating from 1642 revealed a dispute over ownership of Shakespeare's home following his death in 1616. The ensuing dispute in the Court of Chancery was between Edward Nash, who had been promised the property, and Elizabeth Nash and her mother Susanna, the rightful owners.

In this fascinating talk Dr Gosling examines the dispute referring to many original records held at The National Archives.

Tickets £7 - Booking at – [www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk](http://www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk)

Find the Mary Wallace Theatre on Twickenham's Embankment, close to the Barmy Arms.



# St Mary's University

## Alumnus wins Podcast of the Year at national journalism awards

Alex Charlton, a future graduate of St Mary's University, has been recognised at the prestigious [NCTJ Awards for Excellence](#), winning Podcast of the Year in the student category.

examining the current state of sport in primary schools. Drawing on his previous experience as a teacher, the episode explores key issues around childhood health and access to sport.



Alex said: *"To have won a national journalism award is a true honour, and I'm delighted that such an important story resonated with the judges. It was my ultimate goal to win an award when I studied at St Mary's, and I can't thank the teaching staff enough for helping me develop my skills to the point that I could*

The Podcast Journalism Award celebrates the best student-produced podcast, which looks at work that gets to the heart of an issue and is both engaging and well produced.

This year's awards were highly competitive, attracting more than 550 entries. The shortlist highlighted emerging talent from across the UK, showcasing individuals with promising journalism careers ahead of them, as well as excellence in media training.

The awards are organised annually by the [National Council for the Training of Journalists](#) (NCTJ), which aims to recognise and reward the achievements of the next generation of journalists.

Alex, who completed his [MA in Sports Journalism](#) in 2025 and will graduate this summer, received the accolade for his podcast

*create such a unique podcast."*

[Dr Daragh Minogue](#), Associate Professor in Sports Journalism at St Mary's University, said: *"Alex's podcast on the current state of sport in primary schools is a timely investigation that showcases a range of journalism and his previous experience as a teacher. Anyone interested in childhood health and wellbeing should listen."*

Following his success, Alex is continuing to build his career in the industry. He is currently freelancing for [DAZN](#) and has been offered work with [Sportsbeat](#) to contribute to coverage of the upcoming FIFA World Cup.

His [award-winning podcast is available to listen](#) to online.



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

# From nonrunner to the TCS London Marathon to support youth work

From the National Youth Agency

Craig de Vos, 44, from **Twickenham**, is one of ten people running for the National Youth Agency (NYA) at the TCS London Marathon on Sunday 26 April, raising funds to develop training in online safety and digital wellbeing for youth workers and young people. Craig, who works in the youth sector, is taking on his first ever marathon despite having virtually no running history, motivated to support the youth work profession and the young people it serves.



The NYA's latest Census snapshot report shows that there has been an increasing demand for youth workers to support young people at risk of online harm. The charity recently launched a Digital Youth Work Resource and is now looking at ways to improve youth workers skills and competencies in the fast-changing digital landscape.

Prior to joining the NYA, to work on the Local Youth Transformation programme (LYTP), Craig spent over a decade leading services for young people, particularly those affected by substance misuse and gambling harms

and has seen the transformative effect youth workers can have on young people's lives. His fundraising will support the NYA's work to champion youth work nationally and strengthen the youth workforce.

A recent redundancy led him to a role at the NYA, which ultimately opened the door to this marathon opportunity. *"Without that, I wouldn't have this wonderful opportunity to run the TCS London Marathon,"* he reflects.

For Craig, completing the marathon carries deep personal meaning. He hopes to make his sons proud, honour his late father who passed away when Craig was 19, and represent his mum in New Zealand, who is cheering him on from afar.

Craig's family have been enthusiastically behind him - even if his children have introduced a humorous household rule: he must pay a 20p fine each time he says the word "marathon." His wife has been highly supportive throughout training, and friends who have completed the TCS London Marathon before have shared training tips and encouragement.

Leigh Middleton OBE, CEO of NYA, said:

*"Running a marathon is a huge commitment and our team is doing it to make sure young people everywhere have access to the support they deserve. Their determination mirrors the spirit of youth work by showing up, putting in the miles, and believing in the potential of every young person. Everyone at NYA is incredibly proud of what they're doing."*

Support Craig's fundraising here:

[National Youth Agency \(NYA\): NYA TCS London Marathon Team](#)





St Mary Magdalene

**MAY FAIR**

Saturday 9th May  
10 - 4

Hope to see you there

Coffee & cakes, books, tombola, plants, jams....

Choirs, dancers, kids games, face painting ...

**IN AND AROUND THE CHURCH**

We are supporting Richmond Soup Kitchen

Made with PosterMyWall.com



**FIND US**



**PROGRAMME**

10:00 Church Bells open the Fair

10:30 The Old Vicarage School

11:15 Archdeacon Cambridge School

12:00 Richmond Dance Academy

12:45 The Barnes Choir

1:30 King's House School

2:15 St Mary Magdalene Musicians

Made with PosterMyWall.com

## Give your items a second life at this weekend's Twickenham Repair Café

From Twickenham Repair Café

The next Twickenham Repair Café will be open on Saturday 18 April, for the repair of household items.

The café do not charge for repairs, but ask for a donation based on what you think their time and expertise is worth. There's no need to book ahead, just drop in.

While you wait, you can enjoy the café inside the Repair Café, serving tea, coffee and a selection of homemade cakes.

Event details:

- **Date:** Saturday 18 April 2026
- **Time:** 10.30am to 1pm (last job accepted at 12.30pm, or earlier if very busy)
- **Location:** St Margaret's Church Hall, Twickenham, TW1 1RL

Find out more about the [Twickenham Repair Café](#).



# East Sheen's Community Market Returns to The Hare & Hounds Garden this June

From East Sheen Village

**East Sheen, London – Saturday 6 June, 10am–1pm.** A much-loved local event is set to return this summer as East Sheen Village teams up once again with The Hare & Hounds to host a fantastic Saturday Garden Market.



Back by popular demand, this community-driven pop-up market will transform part of the pub's garden into a vibrant hub for local creativity and independent enterprise. Visitors can enjoy a relaxed browse while discovering a wide range of products from non-high street businesses.

Stalls will feature everything from handmade candles and jewellery to crafts, gifts, and artisan foods, offering something for everyone. The event provides a valuable platform for small business owners to showcase their work, connect with residents, and contribute to the local economy.

With its welcoming atmosphere and carefully curated selection of stalls, the market promises to be the perfect destination for a leisurely Saturday mooch!

Entry is free, and you are warmly invited to come along and support the growing community of local entrepreneurs.

## Event Details:

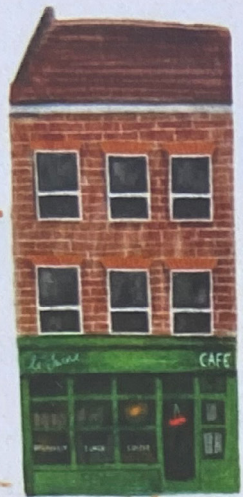
- Saturday 6 June
- 10:00am to 1:00pm
- The Hare & Hounds, 214-216 Upper Richmond Road West, East Sheen SW14 8AH

# THE SHEEN ART TRAIL

18 April – 2 May 2026

all around East Sheen



SHEEN  
**art**  
TRAIL

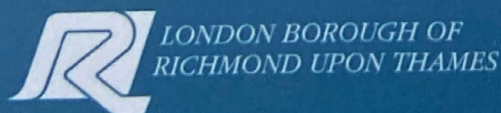


## Explore East Sheen's Second Art Trail ~ A Celebration of Local Talent & Creativity

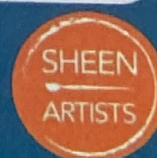
Take a stroll through Sheen from 18 April - 2 May and discover the works of 36 local artists, exhibited in the windows and on the walls of your favourite local businesses.

This is a **FREE** event. Download your trail map using the QR code or from [www.sheenartists.com/sheen-art-trail](http://www.sheenartists.com/sheen-art-trail)

 sheenarttrail\_  eastsheenvillage



A COLLABORATION BETWEEN  
EAST SHEEN VILLAGE  
& SHEEN ARTISTS



**SHEEN art TRAIL**  
TRAIL map



Illustrations by Zoë Ellison  
@zoellison\_

	1. White Dove Coffee		9. The Robin Craft Cafe		17. The Bloom		25. Once Gallery Studio 134
	2. L+Architects		10. Level Crossing Records		18. Sheen Kitchen Design		26. Isabella
	3. The Plough		11. Oh Darling!		19. Poppy's		27. Sheen Pottery Studio
	4. Harris & Hoole		12. Boutique Café		20. Butikken		28. Sheen Uncovered
	5. Lark East Sheen		13. Chestertons		21. Upper Rich. Caffè		29. SW Tile Studio
	6. King of Cotton		14. Hamptons		22. Culver + Nelson		30. 11 Coffee & Co Sheen
	7. James Anderson		15. 7 Cafe		23. Pickle & Rye		31. Micro Beers
	8. Amathus		16. LASYL		24. Le Swine		32. Sheen Sports

**1 White Dove Coffee**  
364 Upper Richmond Rd W, North Sheen, London SW14 7JU

**Gillian Dent**  
@Gilly.artsy



**2 L+Architects**  
499 Upper Richmond Rd W, North Sheen, London SW14 7DE

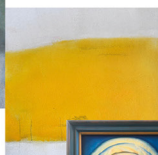
**Rachel Hunt**  
@RachelHuntIllustration

**3 The Plough**  
2 Christchurch Rd, London SW14 7AF

**Rachel Hunt**  
@RachelHuntIllustration

**4 Harris & Hoole**  
409 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 7NX

**Lucina Della Rocca**  
@art\_lucinadellarocca  
**Lewis Hier Thomas**  
@lewis\_hier\_thomas.art  
**Gill Ross**  
@gillianross\_art



**5 Lark East Sheen**  
397 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 7NX

**Charlotte Hicks**  
@charlottehicksart

**6 King of Cotton**  
377 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 7NX

**Clare Boyd-Smith**  
@clareboydsmith

**7 James Anderson**  
363 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 7NX

**Harry Armfield**  
@Harry\_armfield

**8 Amathus Wine Warehouse**  
276, 278, 280 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 7JE

**Paul Hannon**  
@paulhannonpaul.com

**9 The Robin Craft Cafe**  
38 Sheen Ln, London SW14 8LW

**Sarah Newson**  
@princeslikequinces

**10 Level Crossing Records**  
49 Sheen Ln, London SW14 8AB

**Evie Balfé**  
@eviebalfé.art

**11 Oh Darling!**  
67 Sheen Ln, London SW14 8AD

**Jenny Elwin**  
@jenny.elwin

**12 Boutique Café**  
131 Sheen Ln, London SW14 8AE

**Natalia Solodoukha**  
@nataliasolo

**13 Chestertons East Sheen Estate Agents**  
254a Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8AG

**Allison Cracknell**  
@alisoncracknell

**14 Hamptons Estate and Letting Agents**  
252 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8AG

**Zoë Ellison**  
@zoellison\_

**15 7 Cafe**  
226 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8AH

**Dot Wallis**  
@dotlet56

**16 LASYL**  
220 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8AH

**Karen Pitcairn**  
@karen\_pitcairn

**17 The Bloom**  
218 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8AH

**Jocelyn Horsfall**  
@jocelynhorsfall

**18 Sheen Kitchen Design**  
206-208 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8AH

**Gill Haynes**  
@GillHaynesArt  
**Ross Van Nairn**  
@vanairnart

**19 Poppy's**  
202 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8AN

**Bronwyn Fleming**  
@bronwynflemingpaints

**20 Butikken**  
200 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8AN

**Alice Brooks**  
@alicebrooksart



**21 Upper Rich. Caffè**  
198 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8AN

**Becky Cunningham**  
@Littleframe\_art

**22 Culver + Nelson**  
182 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8AW

**Copper Stories**  
@copperstories

**23 Pickle & Rye**  
180 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8AW

**Matt Eley**  
@matteleyartist

**24 Le Swine**  
170 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8AW

**Charlie Hopkinson (Hoppo)**  
@hoppoart

**25 Once Gallery Studio 134**  
134 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8DS

**Jennifer Howe**  
@jenniferhowe\_artist

**26 Isabella**  
203 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8OT

**Joanna Sanderson**  
@zena\_and\_rose

**27 Sheen Pottery Studio**  
263 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8QS

**Shirley Henry**  
@shirleyhenrystudio  
**Lindy Barletta**  
@lindybarlettaceramics

**28 Sheen Uncovered and Ruby Blue**  
281-287 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8QS

**Joanna Ling**  
@joannalingceramics  
**Charlotte Innes**  
@charlotteinnes\_photography

**29 SW Tile Studio**  
315 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8QR

**Peter Clark**  
@peterclarkimagesuk

**30 11 Coffee & Co Sheen**  
321 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8QR

**Steffi Crivellaro**  
@steffi\_daydreamer

**31 Micro Beers**  
335 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8QR

**Brandon Spies**  
@brandon\_spies\_art

**32 Sheen Sports**  
353-355 Upper Richmond Rd W, London SW14 8QN

**Nick Gardner**  
@saltydogpix



# Be Richmond Champions Local Charities as Dose of Nature Shows Power of Community Support

From Be Richmond

Be Richmond, the Business Improvement District (BID) for Richmond town centre, continues to place supporting local charities and strengthening community wellbeing at the heart of its wider mission to make Richmond a great place to live, work and explore.

Among the organisations making a profound difference locally is Dose of Nature, a Richmond-based charity using the healing power of nature to help residents facing anxiety, depression, trauma and social isolation.



Set against the borough's unique backdrop of riverside walks, green spaces and protected reserves, Dose of Nature has become an inspiring example of how local partnerships and grassroots charities can transform lives.

Founded in 2019, the charity works with GPs, psychologists and community partners to provide structured outdoor programmes proven to support mental wellbeing.

Its flagship "Dose of Nature Prescription" offers an eight-week one-to-one programme led by trained Nature Guides, helping participants reconnect with themselves, with others and with the natural world.

Based at Pensford Field Nature Reserve in Kew, the programme offers a calm, restorative setting for those who may be struggling simply to step outside.

For Be Richmond, championing organisations such as Dose of Nature reflects the BID's commitment to ensuring the town centre thrives not only commercially, but socially and emotionally too.

*"Richmond's strength has always been its sense of community," said Fay Cannings, Chief Executive of Be Richmond. "Supporting local charities is an important part of our wider role, and Dose of Nature is a brilliant example of the life-changing work taking place right here in our borough."*

The charity's impact is already being felt across Richmond and neighbouring Kingston, with participants reporting increased confidence, improved mood and renewed independence.

Be Richmond is encouraging local businesses to play their part through volunteering, fundraising, sponsorship and partnership opportunities. From team volunteering days to direct financial support, even small contributions can create meaningful local impact.





# Twickenham Art Circle

[www.twickenhamartcircle.org.uk](http://www.twickenhamartcircle.org.uk)

**Affordable art by local artists**

**Saturday 25 April & Sunday 26 April**

**10am to 5pm**

**10am to 4.30pm**

**FREE ADMISSION AND CATALOGUE**



ra Weatherill, 'The Orange', Acrylic on Canvas

**2026 ART EXHIBITION**



**The Landmark  
Arts Centre  
Ferry Road  
Teddington  
TW11 9NN**

# Surrey Hospices come together to back Hospice UK's national campaign for fair funding

St Catherine's Hospice, Princess Alice Hospice, Shooting Star Children's Hospices, Phyllis Tuckwell and Woking & Sam Beare Hospice and Wellbeing Care have joined together to show their support to hospices across the country experiencing serious financial hardship. Hospice UK reports that 75% of hospices in England are already running a deficit this year, as costs continue to rise.

On Wednesday 15 April, a Day of Action event at Westminster called on the government to implement Hospice UK's four-point plan for fair hospice funding, to safeguard against further service cuts, giving hospices the ability to plan ahead to meet the growing costs and need they continue to face.

Giles Tomsett, CEO of St Catherine's Hospice, represented the Surrey hospices when he attended the Day of Action. Giles said: *"Adults and children whose lives have been touched by hospice care know how vital it is. Hospices provide free, essential support to thousands of people every year, yet many are now facing impossible decisions about cutting services.*

*"Hospices will always be charities rooted in their local communities, and we are incredibly grateful for the fundraising support that helps sustain our services. But communities cannot do this alone. We are asking the government to match that commitment with fair, sustainable funding, so fewer people miss out on the specialist end of life care they need."*

On average, UK adult hospices receive 27% of their total expenditure in statutory funding, while children's hospices only receive 18%. For the rest, they fundraise in different ways to



deliver a wide range of clinical, holistic and wellbeing services to support people and their loved ones before, during and after death. Fundraising activity includes legacy giving, revenue raised from shops, and the generous ongoing contributions of supporters.

Nigel Seymour, CEO of Princess Alice Hospice, said: *"We stand shoulder to shoulder with all hospices in England that are struggling, financially. For those forced to cut services, the impact on local people at the most vulnerable time of their lives is clearly devastating. We want the government to fund hospice care fairly and to fully recognise the part we can continue to play, in the complex end-of-life healthcare solution, by relieving the burden on the NHS."*

Across England, surging costs have led to many hospice services being cut, despite an increasing need as people continue to live longer and with more complex needs:

- Hospice UK reports that 75% of hospices are currently running a deficit\*.
- Nearly six out of ten hospices have either already made cuts to frontline services or are considering doing so\*.
- It is estimated that nearly 1 in 3 adults who need palliative care miss out on the support they need\*\*.
- In 2023, it was estimated that the need for adult palliative care would rise by 25% by 2048\*\*.

\*Source: Hospice UK's Financial Benchmarking Survey. \*\*Source: Marie Curie.

# Red Roses Team to Play Scotland



Maud Muir will earn her 50th international cap and Demelza Short will become Red Rose #269 when John Mitchell's side take on Scotland at Murrayfield Stadium on Saturday.

As a 20-year-old, Gloucester-Hartpury prop Muir made her debut for England in a 43-12 win over New Zealand in 2021. She has since become an integral part of the Red Roses pack since, becoming a multiple Guinness Women's Six Nations Grand Slam winner and a World Cup champion whilst also earning a place in the World Rugby Women's 15s Dream Team of the Year in 2024 and 2025.

Bristol Bears forward Short was included in England Under-21 camp in January and received a senior call-up ahead of the Six Nations after impressing in the PWR. The 19-year-old's first cap will come from blindside flanker.

Aside from Muir and Short, there are three further changes to the starting XV that defeated Ireland in front of a record crowd at Allianz Stadium in the 2026 Six Nations opener.

Full-back Emma Sing is promoted from the replacements, meaning a switch to the wing for Ellie Kildunne, and Zoe Harrison takes the 10 shirt.

Abi Burton will line-up in the second row alongside Lilli Ives Champion in the forwards with Maddie Feaunati switching to Number 8.

Red Roses centurion Marlie Packer, Exeter Chiefs' Flo Robinson and Mia Venner of Gloucester-Hartpury are named on the bench.

Mitchell said: *"Last week was a positive start for us at home against Ireland. It was a special occasion to open the tournament at Allianz and a great opportunity for this group to come together, but we know there's plenty we can improve. Our focus this week has been on being honest about those learnings and turning them into actions as we prepare for Scotland. "We've had to adapt to a number of changes with injuries to teammates who are hugely valued within the group, but that's part of the culture we're building. It creates opportunities for others to step up and highlights the depth we're continuing to grow, both for now and the future. There's a real hunger in this group to keep pushing forward, regardless of the challenges we face."* He added: *"We're expecting a brilliant atmosphere in Scotland, and it's fantastic to see the game continuing to grow, with what will be a record crowd for a standalone women's sporting event there. That's something everyone involved should be proud of, and it sets the stage for a great contest on Saturday."*

## Red Roses team to play Scotland

15 Emma Sing (Gloucester-Hartpury, 14 caps)  
14 Jess Breach (Saracens, 54 caps)  
13 Megan Jones (Trailfinders Women, 34 caps) – captain  
12 Helena Rowland (Loughborough Lightning, 47 caps)  
11 Ellie Kildunne (Harlequins, 58 caps)  
10 Zoe Harrison (Saracens, 66 caps)  
9 Lucy Packer (Harlequins, 40 caps)

### Replacements

16 Connie Powell (Harlequins, 20 caps)  
17 Mackenzie Carson (Gloucester-Hartpury, 24 caps)  
18 Sarah Bern (Bristol Bears, 80 caps)  
19 Haineala Lutui (Loughborough Lightning, 1 cap)

1 Kelsey Clifford (Saracens, 22 caps)  
2 Amy Cokayne (Sale Sharks, 90 caps)  
3 Maud Muir (Gloucester-Hartpury, 49 caps)  
4 Abi Burton (Trailfinders Women, 5 caps)  
5 Lilli Ives Champion (Loughborough Lightning, 6 caps)  
6 Demelza Short (Bristol Bears, uncapped)  
7 Sadia Kabeya (Loughborough Lightning, 29 caps)  
8 Maddie Feaunati (Exeter Chiefs, 24 caps)

20 Marlie Packer (Saracens, 112 caps)  
21 Flo Robinson (Exeter Chiefs, 1 cap)  
22 Holly Aitchison (Sale Sharks, 45 caps)  
23 Mia Venner (Gloucester-Hartpury, 2 caps)

# Match Preview: Brentford v Fulham

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford welcome west London neighbours Fulham to Gtech Community Stadium in the Premier League on Saturday (12.30pm kick-off BST, live on *TNT Sports*).

The Bees drew 2-2 with Everton last time out, while Marco Silva's side lost 2-0 to Liverpool.

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 need to guard against several Fulham players capable of scoring from distance

Brentford entertain Fulham in a high-stakes west London derby this Saturday lunchtime - with both sides chasing record-breaking Premier League seasons.

Under Marco Silva, the Cottagers have evolved into a tactically flexible side, capable of tailoring their approach to the opponent. Last year, they amassed a club-record haul of 54 Premier League points.

With six games remaining, Fulham sit 12th in the top flight, requiring 11 points to surpass that benchmark. Brentford, in seventh, are well placed to beat their best-ever Premier League finish (9th in 2022/23) and potentially qualify for European competition for the first time in their history.

The outcome of this game is likely to hinge on which side can maintain their composure and be clinical in key moments.

Fulham's 2-0 defeat to Liverpool last weekend gave the impression that Arne Slot's reigning champions had brushed the Cottagers aside at one of English football's fortresses. However, the post-match stats told a very different story, underlining the creativity within Fulham's ranks.

The Whites took 19 shots (to the Reds' 18), the joint-most Liverpool have faced in a Premier League game at Anfield since Opta records began in 2003/04.

Those efforts were spread across the squad, with Fulham's strength in depth emphasised by seven of them coming from substitutes Raúl Jiménez (3), Emile Smith Rowe (2) and Samuel Chukwueze (2).

With Harry Wilson in the best form of his career - he has 10 goals and six Premier League assists this season - and the likes of Alex Iwobi, Oscar Bobb, Josh King, Rodrigo Muniz and the injured Kevin complementing the aforementioned trio, Fulham have genuine quality in attacking areas.

What has held the Whites back is the quality of their efforts on goal. Only Liverpool (28.8%) have fired a smaller percentage of their shots on target this season than Fulham (29.6%), who average 0.11xG per shot. These numbers contrast sharply with Brentford's league-leading shot on target percentage of 37.4% and xG-per-shot figure of 0.17xG.



However, with Wilson chief among them, the Cottagers have several players capable of scoring from outside the box - Harrison Reed's ballistic strike in a 2-2 draw against Liverpool in January a surefire contender for the Premier League's Goal of the Season.

Only Aston Villa (14) and Bournemouth (11) have scored more goals from outside the 18-yard box than Fulham (9) this term - something Brentford will need to guard against.

Bees head coach Keith Andrews will relish the chance to pit himself against the wily Silva, and it will be fascinating to see how two of the Premier League's more pragmatic sides - and coaches - line up on Saturday.

The data offers a glimpse into their usual tendencies. The Bees (36%) rank third in the Premier League for the share of forward passes played this season, while Fulham (31%) are more inclined to circulate the ball to open up passing lanes.

In a game shaped as much by adaptation as identity, however, those patterns may count for little - as both sides seek to counter the other's strengths.

### **Scout Report**

Dan Long, Sky Sports: Fulham's quest for a first European campaign since 2011/12 still very much alive

Fulham secured a third west London derby win in succession when they came from behind to beat Brentford 3-1 at Craven Cottage in September, but the high was short lived.

Marco Silva's men lost four of the five Premier League games that followed and were 15th in the table by the time of the November international break, only one point above the relegation zone.

Cliché as it sounds, that pause came at just the right time. Otherwise, they could easily have slipped into a dangerous spiral.

Instead, they returned with wins against Sunderland and Tottenham Hotspur - with the latter their first on the road in the league since the penultimate outing of 2024/25.

*"I'm very proud of the boys,"* said Silva after the victory over Spurs. *"We have been really speaking about the games on the road, so it was very important for us to win. We knew that it was going to happen one day and we prepared ourselves again for that tonight."*

Fulham then showed incredible grit after going 5-1 down at home to Man City to bring it back to 5-4. *"We probably deserved the fifth goal,"* Silva reflected afterwards.

The Whites soon emerged as European contenders. A six-game unbeaten run that started in mid-December included wins over Burnley, Nottingham Forest, West Ham and Chelsea, while a dramatic 97th-minute equaliser from Harrison Reed secured a point at home to Liverpool on 4 January.

The win over Chelsea three days later lifted Fulham to ninth and just three points behind Liverpool in fourth.

The quest for a first European campaign since 2011/12 is still very much alive going into the final weeks of the season, but the outlook could have been a lot more positive. Against Leeds on 17 January, they conceded the winning goal after 91 minutes, against Manchester United on 1 February it was the 94th and against Everton on 7 February it was the 83rd.

Those late lapses have proven costly, turning what could have been a genuine top-seven push into a more uncertain battle on the fringes, which looks more menacing given Aston Villa and Arsenal are up next after the trip to the Gtech. The story is far from over, but they can ill afford mistakes from here.

If they can force their way back into contention, they will have a solid chance of breaking their record Premier League points total of 54, which was set last term. Based on their current points-per-game average of 1.38, they will pick up another eight points and finish on 52, two short.

But there are 18 points up for grabs - and how many of those they take will most definitely define Fulham's season.

## **In the Dugout**

Marco Silva

Marco Silva passed 14 years in management in September and has now taken charge of almost 550 matches in Portugal, Greece and England.

After a playing career as a right-back in his home country, the Portuguese was appointed director of football at Estoril in 2011.

He was quickly thrust into his first role as leading man when the club endured an unfavourable start to the campaign and Vinícius Eutrópio was sacked.

Silva managed to turn the club's fortunes around, winning the Liga de Honra - Portugal's second tier - and cementing a return to the Primeira Liga after a seven-year exile.

In 2014, Silva signed a four-year deal at Sporting CP and went on to win the Taca de Portugal (the Portuguese Cup) but he lasted just over a year in charge.

Shortly after the cup win, the club produced a 400-page document where they detailed the reasoning for his dismissal, with one section claiming his failure to wear a club suit during a match partly justified the decision.

A title-winning season at Olympiacos came next, before he took on a fire-fighting job at relegation-threatened Hull City in January 2017.

Silva galvanised a Tigers team that included Harry Maguire and Andy Robertson but ultimately could not prevent the club dropping back into the Championship, and he resigned just under five months later.

That preceded time at Watford and Everton, before he joined Fulham as their new head coach in July 2021. He won the Championship title with the club in 2021/22, before guiding them to their first top-half Premier League finish since 2011/12 in 2022/23.

Should Silva remain in his post until July, he will reach five years in the job and become the first Fulham manager to do so since Bedford Jezzard, whose six-year spell came to an end all the way back in 1964.

Silva is also currently the sixth-longest serving manager in the top four divisions of English football.



# London Fire Brigade urges Londoners to spring clean gardens to help prevent grass fires

From London Fire Brigade

As the brighter weather arrives and Londoners begin their spring clean, London Fire Brigade is urging residents, community groups, councils and landowners to take action to reduce the risk of grass fires by clearing dry vegetation in gardens, parks and open spaces.



With warmer, drier weather on the way, grass, shrubs and garden waste can quickly become fuel for fires. One way to reduce the risk is by creating fire breaks, which are clear strips of land where long grass, dry leaves and other flammable plants have been removed. These gaps help slow or stop a fire from spreading by reducing how much it has to burn.

London presents one of the most challenging urban environments in the world for a fire and rescue service. Just under half of the capital is considered green space, but the risk is heightened because many of these areas sit close to homes and businesses. Fires in dry grass can spread rapidly, particularly in windy conditions, and can quickly threaten nearby properties.

Those responsible for managing these green spaces are being asked to take preventative steps ahead of the summer. This includes creating fire breaks by cutting and removing grass or, in some cases, ploughing earth to remove flammable vegetation.

In June, during a grass fire on Wigley Road in Feltham, firefighters successfully prevented flames from spreading to nearby properties by creating fire breaks, which acted as barriers and reduced the fuel available for the fire to consume. The Brigade is once again asking local authorities to help by proactively creating fire breaks ahead of summer.

London Fire Brigade's Deputy Commissioner Spencer Sutcliff said: *"As we approach the warmer months, we're looking at how we can help prevent grass fires this summer and how the public can support that effort. Periods of hot, dry weather significantly increase the risk of grass fires, particularly when grass becomes tinder-dry, as flames can spread rapidly. This becomes especially concerning when fires threaten homes and livelihoods, which is why taking proactive steps to reduce the risk is so important."*

*“This week, I wrote to the chief executives of every London local authority outlining key measures they can take, including creating fire breaks, clearing rubbish, and working closely with local landowners.*

*“We have strengthened how we plan, train, and respond to grass fires, but the steps we are asking councils and landowners to take now will be critical in minimising risk as we head into summer.”*

In 2025, London experienced its highest number of wildfires since the extreme heat of 2022. Firefighters attended around 88 wildfires across the capital during June, July and August, with 122 wildfire incidents recorded by the end of August. This is double the number seen in 2023 and a 42 per cent increase on 2024. This trend highlights the growing risk from hot and dry conditions.

With forecasts this year indicating warmer than average temperatures, there is a clear need for early, preventative action to reduce risk to communities, infrastructure and the natural environment.

Between 2022 and 2025, outer London boroughs recorded over 6,000 grass fires, which is more than three times the number seen in inner London, which recorded fewer than 1,800. The highest totals were concentrated in outer areas such as Havering (536 grass fires), Bexley (494), Bromley (462), Hillingdon (419) and Enfield (404).

These outer-London boroughs sit on the urban–rural interface, where the risk of fires spreading to homes is higher. While the Brigade is encouraging all Londoners to spring clean their gardens to reduce the fire risk, residents in these areas of suburban London are being urged to take extra care in clearing gardens and outdoor spaces.

Deputy Commissioner Sutcliff added: *“Spring cleaning offers a dual benefit: it keeps gardens and public spaces tidy and welcoming, while also helping to make communities safer.*

*“Grass fires can spread fast across parks and open spaces towards nearby homes. By creating fire breaks, removing dry debris, and storing waste safely, you can help protect your home, your neighbourhood, and local wildlife.*

*“Remember to keep garden waste in secure piles and dispose of it responsibly and regularly. Don’t leave it to dry out near homes, fences, or pathways. Small steps like these make a big difference in keeping your community safe.”*

The Brigade is also reminding Londoners that barbecues, bonfires and outdoor heating equipment can pose additional risks when used near dry grass or brush. Keeping these well away from flammable materials, supervising them at all times and having a water source nearby can help prevent accidents.

Number of grass fires between 2022-2025 in Richmond upon Thames: 162



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