

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



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TickerTape - News in Brief

Rugby at Twickenham Stadium

Big Summer Kick-Off

Saturday 16th May

Harlequins v Exeter Chiefs, KO 16:00

Attendance: 50,000

Whitton, Rugby & London Roads will close 14:00-16:00 and 17:30-20:00.

Twickenham Green Highway Maintenance Works

Carriageway resurfacing works will take place by the Green between Vicarage Road and First Cross Road.

The works will take place **Tuesday 19th May to Thursday 21st May**, between **8pm and 5am**. During the works the road will be completely closed.

Tube drivers' strikes

Tuesday 19th May to Friday 22nd May

Tuesday 19 and Thursday 21 May

- Morning - normal services until mid-morning
- Mid morning - some disruption to journeys as services reduced ahead of strike starting
- After midday - disruption to journeys on all lines continuing through the following day and Tube services that do run will finish early

Wednesday 20 and Friday 22 May

- Morning - disruption to journeys on all lines. Tube services that do run will start later than normal
- After midday: some continued disruption to journeys throughout the afternoon and evening as we return the service to normal
- Evening - normal service



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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The Local Picture Postcard Page - Part 326

The Fourth Twickenham Ferry!

By Alan Winter

Most folk with an interest in Twickenham's ferries will know about the three ferries that were busy throughout the twentieth century.

The Twickenham Ferry, sometimes known as Dysart's Ferry, was a historic ferry crossing of the River Thames. The ferry connected a location just downstream to Eel Pie Island near the White Swan pub on the northern bank of the river with Ham House on the southern bank. It should not be confused with today's Hammerton's Ferry, which crosses the river from Marble Hill Park some distance downstream of the route of the Twickenham Ferry.

The earliest documentary reference to its existence known is in an ordinance of the Privy Council dated 19 August 1652, in which it was listed, with others, prohibiting use after sundown except by special dispensation. The right to license ferrymen was always claimed by the owners of Ham House, notably the Dysart family. The earliest known ferryman was Richard Blower, licensed prior to 1692.

Twickenham Ferry features in Charles Dickens' novel *Little Dorrit* when Arthur Clennam visits Meagles and crosses to Ham and back one morning. It is further commemorated in a song of 1878 written and composed by Theo Marzials (1850–1920).

Our first postcard from 1903 features the ferry with its wooden shed where payment was made. It is still there now albeit a bit dilapidated. Note there was no house on the left at that time. Find it now at the bottom of Lebanon Park.



The rival Hammerton's Ferry commenced operation in 1908. The Earl of Dysart again brought legal action against the operator, but this time he lost and the rival ferry remained in operation. When ownership of Ham House was transferred to the National Trust in 1948, ownership of the Twickenham Ferry was transferred to a private operator. After further changes in ownership, a decline in traffic and a long dispute about the right of way down the slipway on the Twickenham side it finally closed in about 1970.

Hammerton's Ferry is a historic pedestrian and cycle ferry operating on the River Thames between Twickenham and Ham. Established by Walter Hammerton in 1909. It links Marble Hill House with Ham House and, remains one of the few remaining traditional Thames ferry services. In 1913, the owners of the nearby, older Twickenham Ferry sued to stop Hammerton, claiming a monopoly. After a lost appeal, public support funded a successful appeal to the House of Lords, which ruled in Hammerton's favour on July 23, 1915.

Today, it remains one of the few remaining traditional Thames ferry services. The ferry was operated by the Hammerton family until 1947. Later, it was taken over by others, including Sandy Scott, and in recent times has been run by the Spencer family.

Today, it operates seasonally (typically March 1st – October) seven days a week roughly 10.00 - 6.00, with on-demand service from the river banks.



Our second postcard shows the Hammertons ferry premises next to the Warren towpath by Marble Hill Park. C 1920. The photograph taken from a boat on the river I think.

Eel Pie Island, a small Thames island in Twickenham, was historically accessible only by boat or a 24/7 chain-ferry service until a pedestrian bridge was built in 1957. The ferry, often a “big punt” operated by a ferryman, was famously unstable when crowded, particularly during the

1950s beatnik era, often causing visitors to fall in. Throughout the 1800s, access was by private boats or local ferry services, as it was a popular destination for visitors from London to see the Eel Pie Hotel and enjoy the riverside.

The third postcard shows the chain ferry approaching Eel Pie Island with the Island Hotel sign on the river bank. The postcard is probably pre the First World War at about c1908 ish.



So now the postcard of the fourth Twickenham Ferry that I doubt very few of you have seen before. This one was posted to England from the Melbourne, Australia area in 1909. The Twickenham Ferry on the River Yarra was a historical rope-pulled punting service operating from 1880 to 1934 between Burnley and Toorak near the current MacRobertson Bridge. Founded by Jesse Barrow and named after the London Thames ferry, it provided a crossing near the Richmond Survey Paddock and was replaced by the bridge. Founded by Jesse

Barrow and later operated by his family, it served picnickers and residents, often charging a penny for the trip. Active for over 50 years; it was a popular spot for boaters before its closure in 1934. Today the ferry remains commemorated by Twickenham Crescent in Burnley, Victoria. You can read the name on the building to the left of the postcard.



So, there we have it – The Fourth Twickenham Ferry! Has anyone got a fifth?

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- **Key Details of the Yarra’s Twickenham Ferry:**
- **Location:** Linked Burnley with the Toorak/Grange Road area, close to where the MacRobertson Bridge stands today.
- **Operation:** A cable-suspended, rope-pulled punt (or ferry) operated by Jesse Barrow and his family.
- **History:** Active for over 50 years; it was a popular spot for picnics and boaters before its closure in 1934.
- **Legacy:** Commemorated by Twickenham Crescent in Burnley.
- Facebook·Lost Melbourne +4

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Richmond Hill Open Gardens

From Richmond Hill Open Gardens



On Sunday 17th May 2026, 16 beautiful gardens will be open to the public. We are delighted to welcome visitors to join us for a day to remember, offering something of interest for everyone. Within walking distance of each other and close to Richmond town centre, the gardens are all set on the slopes of picturesque Richmond Hill.



The gardens will be open from 11am - 5pm, with plant sales at some locations. Tea and homemade cakes at St Matthias Church will complete a wonderful day out. After the amazing success of our previous Open Gardens events, we are delighted to hold the event once again.

This year we are supporting local charities and community projects: [Holly Lodge Centre](#), [The Real Junk Food Project](#) and [Richmond Soup Kitchen](#).

To speed up entry to the gardens, please buy tickets in advance [HERE](#)

Richmond's One-Party Council Fails Its First Test of Transparency

By James Knight

There are moments in local government when procedure ceases to be mere procedure and becomes a test of character. The first meeting of a newly elected council is one of them. It is where authority is organised, committees are appointed, scrutiny is assigned, outside positions are distributed and councillors' allowances are approved.

For Richmond, now controlled entirely by one party, that moment matters more than usual. It is the first opportunity for the Liberal Democrats to show whether overwhelming power will be matched by exceptional care.



A Promise of Openness

Only days ago, speaking to the Local Democracy Reporting Service, Council Leader Gareth Roberts made the right promise. Richmond, he said, would be “transparent, open and trustworthy” and would seek to “repay the trust” placed in it by residents across the borough.

It was a necessary pledge. After the Liberal Democrats won all 54 seats, Richmond was left without an elected opposition inside the chamber. There are no Conservative, Green, Labour or Reform councillors able to challenge reports from the committee table, press awkward amendments, or ask the questions that administrations would sometimes rather avoid.

In those circumstances, transparency is not a decorative virtue. It is one of the few safeguards left.

Key Papers Still Missing

Yet at the first outing, that pledge already looks strained. The agenda for Tuesday's Annual Council meeting lists several important items, including appointments to committees, appointments to outside bodies, and the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2026 to 2027. The agenda states that the Appointments to Committees paper is “Attached”. The Members' Allowances Scheme is marked simply as “To follow”.

If, as appears to be the case, the committee appointments paper has not in fact been made available, this is not a small technical error. It means residents cannot see who is being proposed for the committees that will oversee adult social care, children's services, finance, planning, transport, standards and scrutiny. They cannot see who will chair them. They cannot see how power is being arranged inside a council where every seat is held by the same party.

Nor is the allowances scheme a trivial matter. Councillors are entitled to be paid for public service, and rightly so. But because public money is involved, the public is entitled to see the proposed scheme before councillors are asked to approve it.

A heading on an agenda is not transparency. Transparency requires substance.

Urgency Is No Substitute For Planning

There is an uncomfortable precedent. At last year's Annual Council meeting, Richmond considered

committee nominations on grounds of special urgency. The minutes record that this was done because of the need to appoint members to the various committees. The same meeting also considered outside body appointments and the Members' Allowances Scheme on special urgency grounds.

That may have allowed the business to proceed. It did not make the practice admirable. Annual Council is not an emergency. It happens every year. The need to appoint committees is not a surprise. The need to approve an allowances scheme is not a sudden crisis. The calendar is known, the business is predictable and the papers should be ready.

Special urgency has its place in local government. It exists for the genuinely unforeseen, not for routine annual business which officers and political leaders knew would have to be conducted. To rely on it once may be unfortunate. To appear to need it again for the same predictable business suggests something more troubling: a casualness about openness precisely when openness matters most.

The Legal Duty

This is not merely a question of courtesy, nor is it a fussy procedural complaint of interest only to town hall regulars. The law requires that council agendas and related reports be made available for public inspection in advance of a meeting. Where that ordinary requirement has not been met, the council cannot simply wave the papers through as if nothing has happened. It must either delay the business or rely on the special urgency procedure, with the chair identifying the special circumstances and ensuring they are recorded in the minutes.

That is what makes Richmond's position so difficult to defend. Committee appointments and councillor allowances are the predictable business of Annual Council, known about months in advance and central to how the authority will exercise power.

For a Liberal Democrat administration that has just promised openness, trust and a stronger hearing for dissenting voices, missing papers at the first meeting of a one-party council are not a technical lapse. They are an early warning.

The party that speaks most fluently about democratic reform should be especially careful with democratic process. On this evidence, Richmond's Liberal Democrats have treated transparency less as a duty than as a slogan to be invoked after an election and tested only when convenient.

Trust Must Be Earned in Practice

Cllr Roberts was right to recognise that voters who did not support the Liberal Democrats should not be "frozen out for four years". But listening to other voices begins with letting them see what is going on.

Residents cannot respond to documents they cannot read. They cannot test appointments or the new allowance scheme. They cannot trust a process whose key papers arrive late, incomplete, or not at all.

The Liberal Democrats have won an extraordinary mandate in Richmond. That gives them authority. It does not absolve them of obligation.

Indeed, it increases it. A one-party council must be more careful, more open and more scrupulous about process, because there are fewer people inside the room able to say no. Cllr Roberts promised transparency, openness and trust. At the first meeting of Richmond's new one-party council, that promise has failed its first serious test.

Explore and enjoy Ham's Open Gardens event

From Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group

This unique event will give visitors the opportunity to visit a selection of the most beautiful private gardens around Ham Common.

You can explore 20 open gardens and enjoy jazz, tea and cakes at St Thomas Aquinas Church, church. There will be churchyard tours at St Andrew's, as well as a barbeque and Pimms. There'll even be a cricket match!

Event details:

- Date: Sunday 17 May
- Time: 12 to 5pm

You can [find out more about the event](#).



Join Himalayan Balsam Bash volunteer sessions

From Thames Landscape Strategy

Join Thames Landscape Strategy for friendly, hands on volunteer sessions helping to control Himalayan Balsam, an invasive plant that threatens riverbanks, wildlife habitats and our historic Thames landscape.

- **When:** every Tuesday 10am to 2pm, starting 26 May 2026
- **Where:** Ham Street Car Park (What3Words: ///slowly.rising.audit)

Together, volunteers will be working along the riverside to remove Himalayan Balsam before it sets seed. This simple but effective action helps protect native plants, improves habitats for wildlife, and keeps our local rivers healthy and resilient.

No previous experience is needed – just enthusiasm! All tools, gloves and guidance will be provided on the day. Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.



These sessions are relaxed, sociable and open to all. Bring along a friend, family member, or come solo and meet like minded people.

Hot drinks and biscuits will be provided, so everyone can relax and chat between tasks.

[Register now](#)

You can also find out about [other events](#) planned by Thames Landscape Strategy.

Letters

Dear Sir,

Taking Pride in the Richmond Riverside

I am writing to share a recent experience I had while visiting the Richmond town centre with my young daughter.

We love our town, but like many residents, I have become increasingly concerned with the state of our public spaces. Rather than simply complaining about the “dirtiness” and lack of maintenance in the town centre, I decided to use this as a teaching moment for my daughter. We took to the riverside with cleaning supplies to show her that if we want a better community, we must be willing to take action ourselves.



While we were happy to do our part, it raises a larger question: why are our public amenities, such as the benches along our beautiful Thames path, being left in such a state of neglect? Richmond is a jewel of London, and its upkeep should reflect that.

I hope this serves as a small reminder to both our neighbours and our local council that we should all expect—and work toward—a cleaner, more inviting environment for everyone.

Sincerely,
Rocco Mogliarisi



The Party That Won Everything by Being Almost Everything

By Micheal Jones

Richmond's Liberal Democrats did not just win the election. They removed the opposition. All 54 councillors now sit under the same party banner, leaving no Conservatives, no Greens, no Labour councillors and no Reform councillors in the chamber. A borough that likes to think of itself as independent-minded has produced a council with only one political voice, which may be efficient, but is not quite the same thing as scrutiny.

That makes a recent comment by Cllr James Chard, chair of the Richmond Liberal Democrat councillor group, more revealing than he may have intended. Asked what the council would do with no Conservatives, Greens or Socialists on it, he replied that, as chair of the Lib Dem group, he would "happily introduce you to several of each." It was meant as a joke, but jokes in politics have a habit of disclosing the truth with less effort than official statements.

The Orange Shelter

The Liberal Democrats in Richmond have become less a conventional party than a broad electoral shelter. Former Conservatives can stand beneath it, soft Labour voters can support it, Greens can lend it their vote, and residents who dislike party politics can persuade themselves that this is not really party politics at all, but local community service with orange diamonds attached.

Seamus Joyce, newly elected as a Liberal Democrat in Ham, Petersham and Richmond Riverside, was previously elected as a Conservative councillor in East Sheen in 2018 and later stood there again as a Conservative in 2022. Cllr Nathanael Macdonald's own digital past also points to the same porous boundary, including Conservative Party social media activity during the 2015 general election.

None of this proves opportunism. It does, however, make Cllr Chard's joke rather more than a joke. The Richmond Liberal Democrats really do contain people whose political routes into the party began some distance from the party's present self-description.

Moderates, Progressives and Populists

That flexibility is the source of their success. On one doorstep, the Liberal Democrats can sound like One Nation Conservatives, careful with money, local, moderate and pragmatic. On the next, they can sound like Labour without the red rosette, anti-poverty, socially liberal, interventionist and fluent in the language of inclusion. To another voter, they need not sound ideological at all. They are simply the councillor who reported the broken paving slab, turned up at the fair, or promised to chase the council, which is to say, themselves.

There is also a more populist element here, one shared with the Greens and Reform, though



expressed in softer Richmond language. The Liberal Democrats are adept at presenting themselves as the people against distant power, whether that power is Westminster, Thames Water, Heathrow, developers, train operators, utility companies or whichever government happens to be in office. It is not the angry populism of Reform, nor the moral populism of the Greens, but it is populism all the same: the local community cast against remote, obstructive forces, with the Liberal Democrats positioned as its natural voice.

Radicalism In a Cardigan

Their manifesto reflects the same balancing act. It promises financial discipline, difficult decisions and a transformation programme aimed at saving around £30 million a year by 2029, while also promising anti-poverty action, expanded early help, council tax reductions, winter heating support, more affordable housing, stronger intervention in the private rented sector and broader use of council contracts to deliver social value. This is not simply moderation. It is expansion, carefully presented as prudence.

Transport shows the point most clearly. The public language is calm and managerial, safer streets, cleaner air, better pavements and healthier travel, but the policy direction is sharper. The manifesto promises air quality standards above national requirements, progress towards World Health Organisation targets, anti-idling enforcement, more bike hangars, rental e-bike parking, safe cycle routes, cargo bike rental, cargo bike parking near libraries, leisure centres, high streets and schools, and incentives for residents to move away from car use.

Some residents will welcome that. Others, especially in outer parts of the borough where public transport is weaker and the car remains a necessity rather than a lifestyle choice, may wonder when they voted for it. The genius of the Liberal Democrat offer is that such policies are rarely sold as ideology. They arrive as tidying-up exercises, safety improvements, environmental housekeeping and small acts of civic good sense. Radicalism, in Richmond, comes wearing a cardigan.

The Whole Product

None of this means the Liberal Democrats won by accident. They did not. They were better organised, better disciplined and better attuned to the borough's political mood than their opponents. They understood that many Richmond voters wanted competence without confrontation, public services without Labour, environmentalism without the Greens, and anti-Conservatism without too much class war.

But a party that wins everything also owns everything. It owns the budgets, the savings, the transport schemes, the housing choices, the committee system and the failures of scrutiny. It can no longer pretend to be merely a friendly group of local campaigners keeping an eye on the council. It is the council, and the distinction between campaigning against power and exercising it has now disappeared.

CLlr Chard's joke therefore points to a serious question. If Richmond's Liberal Democrats contain conservatives, greens and socialists, what exactly did residents elect? The answer may be that they elected the most successful political machine in south-west London, a party capable of being moderate on one doorstep, progressive on the next, and populist whenever it suits.

That may win elections. It is not, by itself, a substitute for scrutiny.

Join the Big Sheen Clean!

Sunday 17 May
9.30-11 am

East Sheen residents will be coming together to give the streets and green spaces of our wonderful community a thorough spring clean.

Families welcome!

To join, please register using the QR code or contact Cleansheen@habitatsandheritage.org.uk



Love Sheen? Let's keep it clean!

Organised by



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The Future of Allianz Stadium

From the RFU

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) will soon be submitting a new planning application to Richmond Council to increase the number of non-sporting events, like concerts, that can be held at Allianz Stadium, Twickenham. On this [website](#) you can find out more about our plans and why they matter.

WHAT WE ARE PROPOSING:



Permission for **15 major non-sporting events (concerts) per year**, about half of what is allowed at other major stadia, and meaning **the stadium would remain empty for around 325 days per year**



Smaller crowds and fewer road closures compared to rugby matches – with concert capacity capped at 75,000 on weekends and an even lower limit applying midweek initially



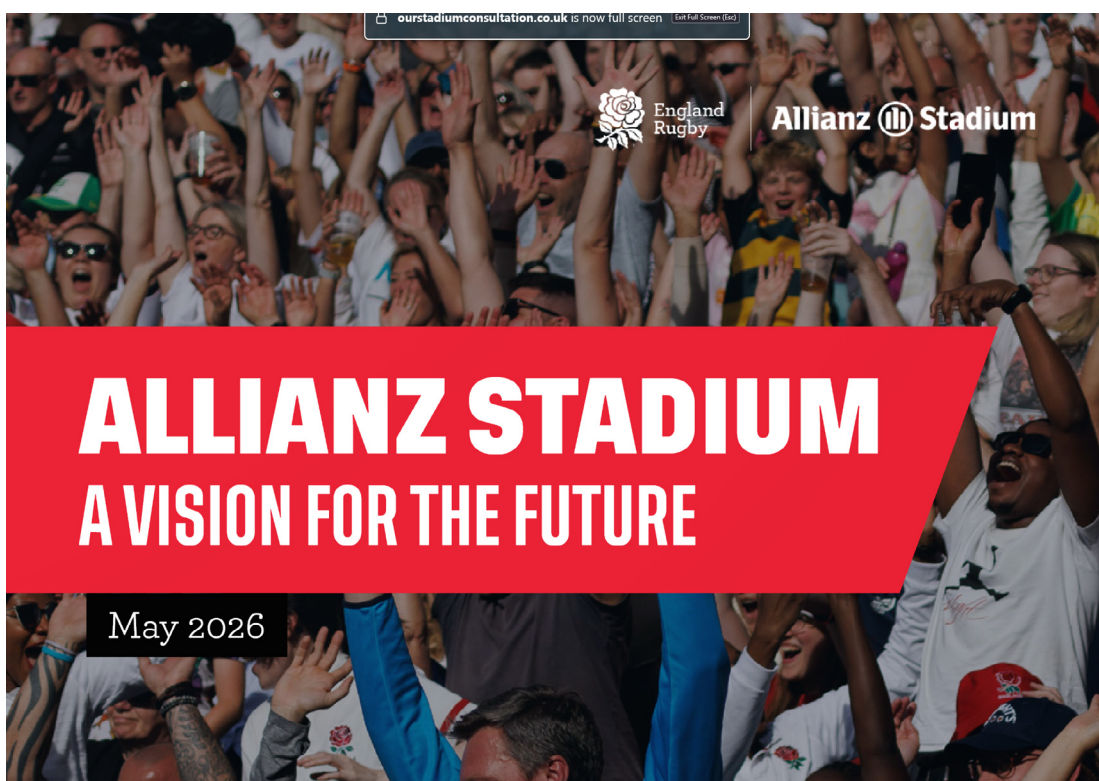
A staggered and phased increase, controlled by Richmond Council, Met Police and local transport providers, dependent on how well we manage each event

There are two events residents can attend, to meet us in person:

- Tuesday 19th May, 5pm – 7.30pm
- Thursday 21st May, 5pm – 7.30pm

Venue: At the Clubhouse Bar & Kitchen, Level 4, East Stand, Allianz Stadium.

To access the events at Allianz Stadium, please enter via the gates between Gate E and F.





Mortlake
Community
Association

You are warmly invited to attend

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 21 MAY 2026

17:30 - 19:30

MORTLAKE HALL, 30 MULLINS PATH
SW14 8EZ

Kindly RSVP by Friday 15 May for catering purposes
timi.fabian@mcaonline.org.uk or 07494 297 690

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Enjoy the upcoming Rotary Fair on Twickenham Green

From Rotary Club of Twickenham

The Rotary Fair on Twickenham Green on Spring Bank Holiday (25 May) is great opportunity for a lovely family day out.

Rotary look forward to welcoming you again this year when you will be able to get in touch again with the great charity and voluntary work that is done all over our local area and beyond.

Around fifty charities and local voluntary groups will be publicising their activities and displaying their wares. There will also be a few local arts and crafts and information stands and, of course, opportunities to buy food and soft drinks and to listen to some great entertainment.



The five Rotary clubs in the borough are all looking forward to making this year's fair another enjoyable family Bank Holiday event and you will find details for all of them as you walk through the fair.

Fair details:

- Date: Monday 25 May
- Location: Twickenham Green
- Time: 10am to 3.30pm

You can [find out more about the fair](#).

Next week at Richmond Council

On Tuesday, 19th May, the **Annual Council Meeting** will be held to 1) elect the Mayor, deputy Mayor and Chaplain, 2) election of Leader and Deputy Leaders, 3) appointment to committees, 4) programme of meetings, 5) appointments to outside bodies, 6) reports of the head of paid service, 7) appointments to the standing council on religious education (SACRE), 8) councillors allowance scheme 2026/27. The meeting will commence at 7 pm in the council chamber at York House, Twickenham.

For more details, click [HERE](#).

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

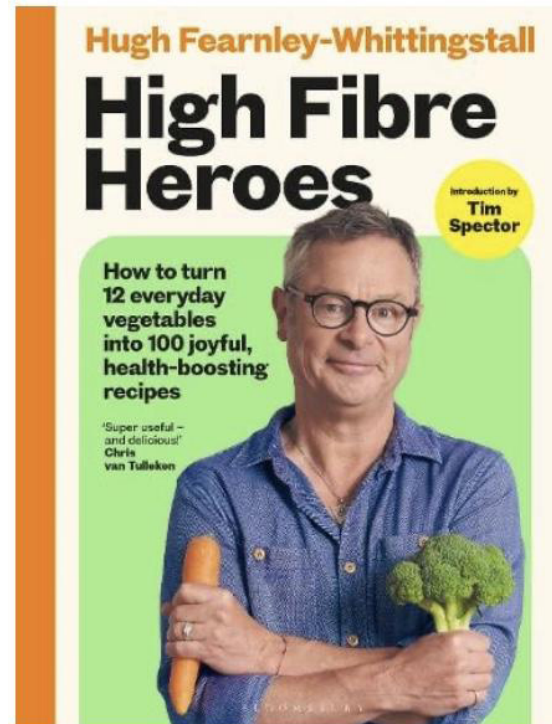
High Fibre Heroes

This newly published cookbook by **Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall** shows us how to turn 12 everyday vegetables into 100 joyful, health-boosting recipes. As a society, our diets are now seriously lacking in fibre, a problem which goes right to the heart of the health crisis, not just in the UK but all over the western world. This health crisis, marked by soaring rates of obesity and illnesses like diabetes, cancer and heart disease, can very reasonably, and not unhelpfully, be described as a fibre crisis. And perhaps unsurprisingly, the best way to address the fibre crisis is with a fibre solution. The moment we begin to increase the fibre in our diets, we also begin to improve our health outcomes across a whole range of diet-related illnesses.

High Fibre Heroes starts with a fascinating introduction by gut-health professor Tim Spector, who explains the



science behind the fibre-revolution, and how eating more plants can only be of benefit to your 'good' microbes and your long-term health. So because of this science Hugh is on a mission to help us eat more fibre and he wants to do that in the simplest, most effective and most delicious way possible. In **High Fibre Heroes**, the king of veg celebrates 12 of the most inexpensive, recognisable, versatile and readily available plant superstars in the UK, that will help you boost your fibre count and hit your 30 plants a week in no time at all. Many of us aren't getting enough fibre in our diets, but Hugh shows us how simple – and delicious – it can be with 100 easy recipes (beautifully photographed) all celebrating these 12 veg heroes: **Peas – Carrots – Cabbage – Tinned beans – Cauliflower – Leeks – Mushrooms – Tomatoes – Lentils – Spinach – Sweetcorn – Broccoli**



Getting the most out of these 12 plant superstars doesn't need to be complicated – many of the recipes use only one pan and can be on the table within half an hour. In this book, Hugh gets the very best out of these often-underestimated veggies, this is food that's good for you and for the planet, too.

High Fibre Heroes is published by **Bloomsbury** at **£26** for a hardback.

Here are a couple of recipes to whet your appetite:

Leek and Fennel Bruschetta

“The alchemy that occurs as leek and fennel slowly cook down together is very special, making this a maximum bang-for-your-buck quick snack meal.” **Plant count 8: Fibre count 12g:** Serves 2 as a light meal, 4 as a snack or part of a sharing spread: Ready in 30 minutes

- 1 large or 2 small leeks (about 300g trimmed weight)
- 1 large or 2 small fennel bulbs
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 garlic clove, chopped (plus another, halved, to rub the toast if you like)
- Finely grated zest of 1 lemon and a good squeeze of juice
- 2 large or 4 small slices of wholegrain sourdough
- Sea salt and black pepper

To finish

- Extra virgin olive oil, to trickle
- 1 tbsp pumpkin seeds
- 12 olives, pitted and roughly chopped (optional)
- A handful of parsley, chopped (optional)

1. Clean the leek(s) and slice thinly into roughly 5mm thick slices. Trim the fennel bulb(s), saving any feathery fronds, then quarter and slice each quarter thinly.
2. Heat the olive oil in a large frying pan over a medium heat. Add the leek and fennel slices and season well with salt and pepper. When everything is sizzling nicely, turn down the heat a little and sweat gently for 10–15 minutes, stirring regularly, until the veg is very tender and the leek has lost any squeakiness. Add the chopped garlic and lemon zest and cook for a few more minutes.
3. Meanwhile, toast the sourdough slices, then rub with the cut garlic clove, if using, and trickle with a little extra virgin olive oil.
4. Take the frying pan off the heat and add a good squeeze of lemon juice. Taste and add more salt and/or pepper if needed.
5. Heap the leek and fennel mixture onto the toasted sourdough. Trickle over a little more extra virgin oil and scatter with the pumpkin seeds, olives and/or chopped parsley, if using, or all three chopped together and mixed with a little olive oil – as a kind of tapenade. Finish with any saved fennel fronds, torn into little sprigs.



Fried Rice with Peas, Soy and Sesame

“This simple main course is very customisable. The key things are the onion and the soy/sesame/bouillon mix, which brings lots of savoury flavour. You can then use pretty much any veg you like (see below). If your brown rice is a bit clumpy in places, break it up with a fork before adding it to the pan.”

Plant count 8: Fibre count 7g: Serves 2: Ready in 25 minutes

- 2 tbsp rapeseed oil
- 1 medium onion, quartered and sliced
- About 75g extra-firm tofu
- 1 tbsp soy sauce or tamari, plus a little more to serve
- 1 tbsp toasted sesame oil
- 1 tsp vegetable bouillon powder (or ¼ veg stock cube, crumbled)
- 1 small garlic clove, grated
- 1–2cm piece of fresh ginger, grated (optional)
- 100g frozen peas
- A couple of handfuls of roughly shredded de-stalked kale, cabbage greens, spinach or pak choi (or a mix)
- 300g cooked brown rice

To finish

- 2–3 tsp sesame seeds
- A handful of coriander and/or mint leaves, chopped (optional)

1. Heat the rapeseed oil in a large, wide frying pan over a medium heat. Add the onion and fry for about 10 minutes until softened, stirring from time to time.
2. Meanwhile, cut the tofu into roughly 1cm cubes. Whisk the soy/tamari, sesame oil and bouillon powder (or stock cube) together in a small bowl.
3. Add the grated garlic to the onion with the ginger, if using, and cook for another minute, stirring often.
4. Add the tofu cubes to the pan and cook for another few minutes, stirring frequently.
5. Add the frozen peas and cook for 2–3 minutes until defrosted, then add the shredded greens and cook for a few minutes more until they are starting to wilt.
6. Add the soy, sesame and bouillon mix, stir and cook until most of the liquid has evaporated (less than a minute).
7. Add the cooked rice, stir it through, then cover the pan and cook for 3–4 minutes, stirring now and then, to get the heat into the rice and make sure everything is piping hot.
8. Serve straight away, with a scattering of sesame seeds and herbs, if using. Add a little more soy sauce/tamari at the table if you like.



“A handful of mushrooms, chopped fairly small, is a lovely addition. Toss them into the softened onion and cook for a few minutes before adding the garlic and ginger.

Instead of kale or greens, use Tenderstem or purple sprouting broccoli, or green beans – all of these need a little more cooking than leafy greens, so chop into 2cm lengths, slicing broccoli stems lengthways if thick, and add to the softened onion. Cook for a couple of minutes before adding the garlic and ginger.”

Twickers To Regain a Fishmonger

After the shockingly sad demise of Stuart Sandys last year, and the consequential closure of Twickenham's beloved fishmonger and game supplier, you'll no doubt be relieved as I was to hear that well-known London fishmonger **Moxon's** has taken over the site.

I had the chance to have a chat with founder **Robin Moxon** the other day, and I'm really looking forward to Twickenham having a fishmonger again. Robin told me that he originally started his career breaking in racehorses, but an injury put an end to this for him. He then worked part time at Tesco's Guildford on the fish counter, which triggered his interest and subsequent career.

Moxon's will sell 'fish and things that go with fish'. The company also owns **The Wimbledon Smokehouse** which smokes the most superb smoked salmon I've tasted for a very long time. It produces its own range of smoked fish – salmon, cod, haddock, mackerel, kippers - to a secret blend of hardwoods. Robin told me that in fact he never intended to open a smokehouse, but couldn't find products of the quality he wanted, so decided to produce his own.



Moxon's prides itself on being able to trace every one of its products to its original source, with the focus being heavily in favour of British fish: John Dory, Sea Bream, Line caught Bass and Dover sole in particular. In addition shoppers will be able to buy a range of home produced pies (including their famed salmon en croute), patés, fishcakes and sauces. For those of us who feel flush, or have something to celebrate, he will also be stocking top-notch caviar, from locally-based **Kings Fine Food**.

"Dictated by seasonality and sustainability, we buy our fish and shellfish directly from all corners of the British coastline – from Newlyn to Shetland, via much of the South and East coasts, the Gower Peninsula in Wales and up to Peterhead in Scotland." says Robin *"Our wealth of knowledge in the industry, combined with the trust we have built with the specific boats we buy from means we have the pick of the finest quality British fish and shellfish landed each day."*

Twickenham will be the fourth location for Moxon's - the others are in Clapham, East Dulwich and South Kensington.

I don't know about you, but I can't wait for Moxon's to open - apparently they are aiming for **June 23**, as long as interested folk don't keep popping in to chat to the builders and slowing them down!



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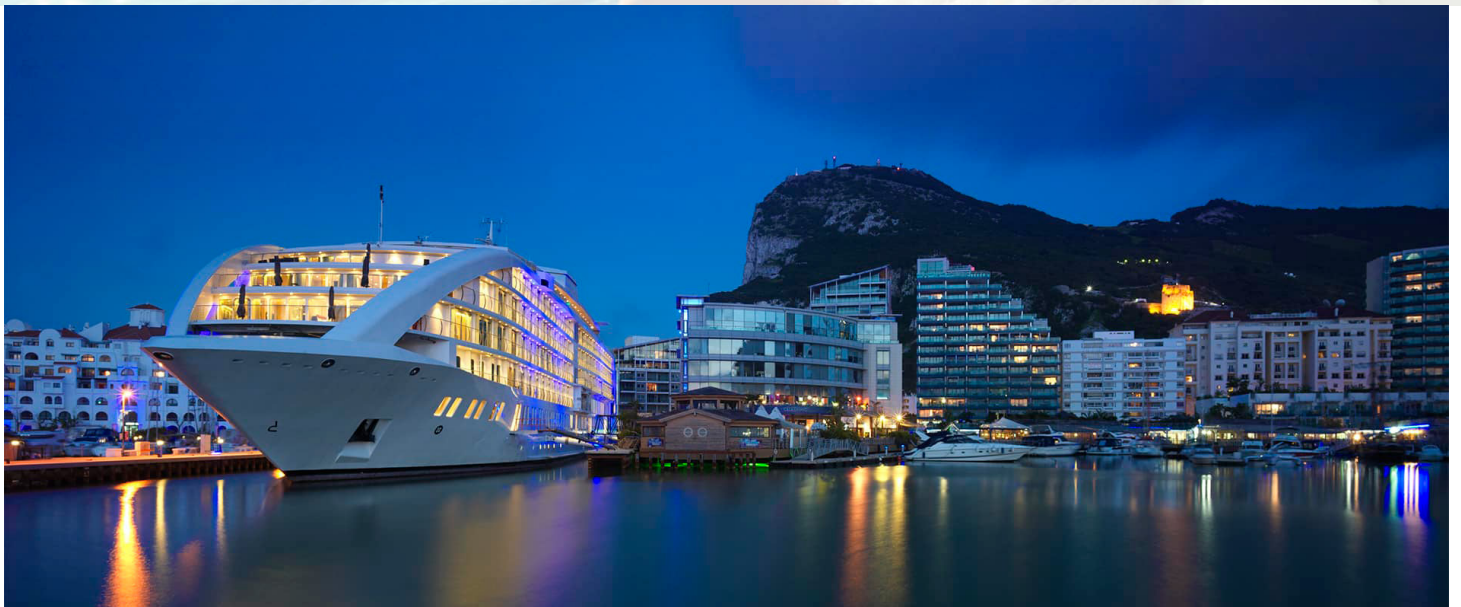
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Traveller's Tales 180



All Exchange Please

Doug Goodman Recalls the Currency We Once Used in Europe

In 1983, 43 years ago, a £1 coin came into circulation as part of our new decimal coinage. But this circular coin was removed a few years later because it was too easy to forge. The replacement has many sides and other special features. Can you recall pre-decimal coins and bank notes? For many of us this is almost ancient history but there are still plenty of examples available for collectors. There were farthings, half pennies, pennies, three penny pieces, sixpenny pieces, shillings, two shilling and half crown coins and notes to the value of ten shillings, one pound, five and ten pounds and 20 pounds. Prices were often in guineas, (21 shillings). I think there was also a £50 note.



Old Money



Early £1 Coins

Fortunately or perhaps unfortunately we didn't adopt the Euro following the launch of a new monetary system throughout Europe. I remember sorting through bags of coins before embarking on a trip to various European countries: France and Belgium used Francs but of different values; Deutschmarks for Germany; Pesetas in Spain; Lire in Italy; Drachma for Greece; Guilders for Holland; Escudos in Portugal and many more. I've still got bags of these useless coins and banknotes but I'm reluctant to dispose of them as they bring back happy memories of places visited. Like my albums of foreign postage stamps they taught me a lot about different countries as a child.

CONFUSED

Travel around Europe today is so much easier using the single currency. Once, when crossing borders, it was confusing changing from one national currency to another and each time paying an exchange fee. The Swiss Franc never changed to the Euro and I've still got a few of those. Before the Euro was launched you could use Belgian Francs in Northern France and French Francs in Southern Belgium but I remember crossing at the Belgian border with France after visiting De Panne for dinner from Dunkirk. The French customs officer, who knew my friend, always stopped the car and asked if we had anything to declare – especially chocolates. He was given some of Belgium's finest hand-made variety and sent us homeward with a smile and salute. The change over to the Euro began in January 1999 and two years later the coins and banknotes became the only currency in most EU member states.

The history of currency is fascinating and collecting coins and banknotes is a popular and often a profitable hobby. Tracing the fall in value of a currency during extreme inflation is very interesting. During the 1920s in Germany banknotes of millions of Deutschmarks were in use and as recently as 30 years ago inflation in Zimbabwe was so severe that notes of millions of Zimbabwe Dollars were printed. It is said that if you went to a restaurant in that country it was wise to pay for the meal before you were served. Waiting until the end could mean paying a million dollars more than shown on the menu. Finances were in chaos until Zimbabwe switched to The American Dollar. Countries like Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam have their own currencies but the American Dollar is readily accepted and much preferred. In Laos a 500 Kip note is worth £0.017 with 10,000 worth 34 pence. £1 In Cambodia will buy 5,400 Riels. In India a 5 Rupee note is worth about £0.039. Take a large wallet or big bag to carry around your money. Let's be thankful that we moved over to decimal money as we have just 100p to £1. With 'old cash,' (£sd), before February 1971 there were 240 pennies to the pound or 480 half pennies.



Inflation



Foreign Collection

IN THE UK

Commemorative coins in the form of our 50p and £2 versions are minted regularly in vast numbers. Most are worth just their face value but some with limited manufacture or faults are worth keeping. Check your change regularly for the rare 50p Kew Gardens coin – selling for several hundred pounds on E-Bay as only 210,000 were minted. The £2 coin commemorating the abolition of slavery in 1807 was issued with faults not spotted and is on sale on E-Bay from £42 to £10,000.

If you fancy collecting coins and banknotes then look at on-line auctions where bags of mixed coins and bundles of assorted notes sell for a few pounds.

Next time a trip on LNER to the City of Durham.

Animals Behaving Badly (on Holiday)

By Bruce Lyons

Last week we all celebrated Sir Davids Centenary and his remarkable life till now.

Sir David often reminds us that we are merely custodians of the Universe, and he also reminds us of just how resilient Nature is, especially the Oceans.

With so many millions of us travelling the World there are many sorts of Crossroads where the wildlife meets us humans in tricky environments and in these situations, we should all respect nature even more; especially as their surroundings can be alien to them or under threat.

For example,
The David Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage in Nairobi, where you can join the calves for their daily mud bath and feed, but the youngsters often get up to mischief with both the audience and their keepers. Enjoy the show, but don't get upset if you become the butt of their fun!



In Borneo there is quite a large number of Orangutangs in the nearby jungle and there are treks to their habitat, but they also can be playful and often steal ladies handbags and scupper up to the Canopy high above and inspect their winnings Their keepers and the scientists studying them have managed to keep their numbers up, and you are playing a part in supporting them.

The Barbary Macaques in Gibraltar can behave especially badly, often round the Cable Car, guard your belongings! They have been here for centuries, but if they die out the British will leave (The Story Goes) so the Gibraltar Government cares for them.



These days, here in the UK, if you don't watch out you can lose your sandwich, or Ice Cream to a Seagull and in Italy in Punta marina there is an *ostentation* of 100 Peacocks disrupting traffic and creating an impossible screech at night keeping the citizens up much of the night.

Fortunately, the keeping of performing Dolphins to give shows to tourists have lost their attraction, but there are many Asian and Indian areas where there are Elephant Camps, where they work and play. But wherever you encounter them, remember they are Wild.

Luckily for me, most of my wildlife experiences have been underwater and Divers (and usually snorkelers too) learn not to touch from an early age

Lastly, if you want to go on Safari, now is the; perfect time - after the rains.

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

www.TwickenhamTribune.com

15th May 2026 - Page 26

A newspaper for Richmond upon Thames



Krapp's Last Tape

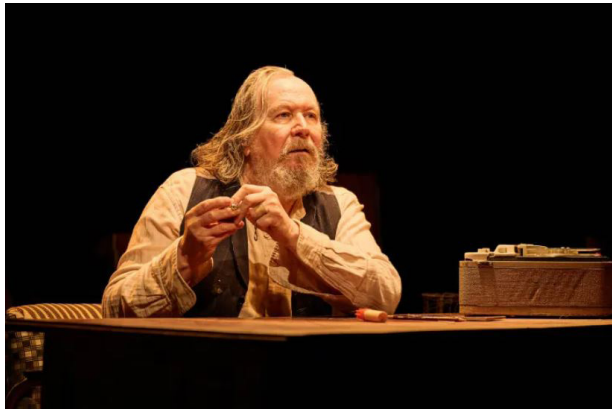
by Samuel Beckett

English Stage Company double bill at The Royal Court Theatre, Chelsea until 30th May

Although *Krapp's Last Tape* had its premiere in 1958, it has not lost its modernist edge. Nevertheless, it does give away its age, not least in its use of spools of reel-to-reel tape rather than cassettes, let alone something entirely digital. Whilst the Lord Chamberlain expressed concern about the sexual language (yes, the Lord Chamberlain had power to demand cuts in any publicly performed play as late as 1968), the only trigger warning deemed necessary today is about sudden loud noise.



The long opening, Krapp silently eating three bananas, remains provocative, while generating uneasy laughter of a Beckettian kind, but doesn't really gel with the later angst.



The play is less of a monologue and more of a duet between a man and his past selves preserved on tape, and the way that time gives a new, not necessarily welcome or encouraging, perspective. The image of a lonely isolated man listening to his earlier self is certainly a very resonant one; think Facebook. But Facebook is more about curating memories to generate a reaction from others, whereas Krapp is analysing his tapes for himself and risks disappearing into his own solipsistic black-hole.

Gary Oldman directs, designs, and acts with great subtlety, injecting dramatic charge without ever overloading it. He is boosted by sensitive lighting and set, long-hoarded clutter, books, tea chests, boxes. Similarities with Oldman's Jackson Lamb in *Slow Horses*, include a smoker's cough and swigging whisky from the bottle. More remarkable are the differences: the body language is physically more robust, but emotionally more distraught, overcome with self-hatred. It's a masterclass in creating a distinct character through gesture, movement, as well as speech. Oldman, with apparent effortless, manages the paradoxical achievement of communicating isolation and loneliness to an audience that the character is entirely unaware of.



The teenage Leo Simpe-Asante's *Godot's To-do List* provides an entertaining curtain-raiser to the double bill that doesn't outstay its welcome. Godot (Shakeel Haakim) knows that Estragon and Vladimir are waiting for him but is unable to get away, because an off-stage voice (Flora Ashton) keeps giving him random tasks. It's too much fun to echo Becket, but a welcome chink of comic light before the Krapp's existential bleakness.

Read Patrick Shorrock's review at www.markaspen.com/2026/05/12/krapps-ltape

Photography by Jack English



Guys and Dolls

by Frank Loesser

TOPS Musical Company at the Hampton Hill Theatre, until 16th May

Why does this *Guys and Dolls*, which faithfully follows the familiar script, feel so fresh and modern. Well, director Charlie Booker has changed the gender balance in the gangster gangs; notably introducing Harriet Law's Mary Murphy as the more than equal partner to Christian Scales' Harry the Horse. And there's a star performance from Jenny Simpson-Wood as the truly scary Big Jule. But, from the exuberant opening number to the finale, it is a treat, with truly funny comedy to moving romantic scenes; while musical director John Davies and his dynamic musicians fire up the well-known musical.



The plot is based on the interaction between a group of tough New York gamblers and the members of a Street Mission, desperate to save the souls of the miscreants around them. There's every character you might have found in 1950's New York, office workers, late night revellers, and more, including the Salvation Army, all perfectly dressed in an extraordinary range of costumes. Big Apple backdrops and perfect accents add authenticity.



Becky Silverstein's Broadway diva Miss Adelaide is a joy, whether channelling her Ethel Merman or belting out *Take Back your Mink* with the talented HotBox girls. And my, Gaby Law's choreography for such a small stage is so entertaining to watch.

Equally, Heidi Delve's Sarah makes the wildly implausible conversion, from missionary to fun-loving tourist through the love of a bad man, believable. Her drunk scene is a delight.

Michael Stacey reveals the complexity of Nathan Detroit's character, inveterate gambler with a soft heart, but maybe not quite soft enough. Though his sweetly romantic duet *Sue Me* with Miss Adelaide wins hearts. Aidan Dobson makes the transition of the enigmatic Sky Masterson from gangster to evangelist plausibly funny, and his well-known number *Luck be Lady Tonight* is enthralling.



Tyler Fagan's Nicely Nicely Johnson is the star of the night. There, although in the background for most scenes, his athletic *Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat* is a showstopper.

Suffice to say it was quite hard not to do a quick song and dance act along the High Street on the way home.

Read Polly Davies' review at www.markaspen.com/2026/05/13/guys-dolls-tops

Photography by Simon Drake



The Harmony Test

by Richard Molloy

Putney Theatre Company at Putney Arts Theatre until 16th May

The Harmony Test weaves together two distinct storylines, with large dollops of comedy and serious sorrowful angst, as the fortunes of two couples intertwine, twist and spiral with alternating episodes of hilarity and heartache, merriment and melancholy.



Teacher Zoe and unemployed actor, Kash are trying for a baby. Zoe takes almost military precision to a pragmatic approach to the task, with planned conception timetables . . . plus an intimate application of a bag of frozen peas. Laid-back Kash also has a dubious “aid” to conception from Holland and Barrett.



Daughter now at university, empty-nesters Naomi and Charlie face a different matrimonial challenge. Charlie is excited at having the house back, but Naomi wonders whatever attracted her to him. She leaves Charlie, moves into Zoe and Kash’s spare room, and heads to the gym, and solace aplenty in Rocco, a well-toned personal trainer twenty years her junior.

Zoe does become pregnant, but other anxieties arise with the development of their baby. Zoe takes a Non-Invasive Prenatal Test (the Harmony Test), foetal screening for congenital abnormalities; and the pair confront their worst fears.

Director Jodi Rilot balances the juxtaposition of comedy against apprehension and anxiety to give play’s thrust a realistic flow. Excellent ensemble playing effectively and effortlessly moves the narrative. With consummate comic timing, pauses and glances are judged skilfully, and the dialogue crackles with life.

As Zoe, Emily Kate Dixon adroitly balances comedic exasperation with heartfelt seriousness, variously acidly amusing, assailable, or agonisingly anguished.

Aaron Thakar’s Kash has a likeable, optimistic ingenuousness that is endearing. A personification of confusion, he mines this characterisation for laughs.

Naomi’s caustic selfishness cannot disguise her quintessential vulnerability and fear of being alone. Emily Fellows sensitive portrayal prickles with bitterness.

Jerome Joseph Kennedy imbues Charlie with a sense of pain and bewilderment, veering from melancholy to anger when, in a drunken peroration, he demonstrates lingering love and desire for his wife.

Caleb Clarke makes the most of his character without straying into parody. His Rocco becomes more than a “hunk in trunks”, as his empathetic side gradually matures.



Whilst the climax is a little contrived, with the overwrought ambiguity of the ending offering no real surprise, *The Harmony Test* delivers an enjoyable and entertaining evening, with empathy and laughter.

Read Harry Zimmerman’s review at www.markaspen.com/2026/05/13/harmony-test

Photography by Steve Lippett

Local Group The 3rd Act Hits the High Notes with Sell-Out Showcase

From The 3rd Act

'The 3rd Act' Richmond's new U3A Drama Group proved that talent has no age limit this week, performing a sell-out performance of original work to an enthusiastic local audience at ETNA Community Centre.

The evening featured three distinct sketches, all devised and written by the group's members. From the nostalgic 1990s comedy 'Dated Love is our business' to the gritty drama 'Trouble on the Ward', the performance showcased a diverse range of storytelling. The evening concluded with the high-energy comedy 'The Amalfi Catastrophe', leaving the audience cheering for Amore!

"It takes a lot of heart to put yourself out there," commented **The 3rd Act** member Sue Luminati.

"For many of our members, this was their first time on stage. Seeing the community come out in such force to support us was the best reward we could ask for."



*Our group is a living testament to the U3A motto: **Learn, Laugh, Live.** In a stage of life where the world sometimes expects us to be quiet, we've chosen to be heard. We've discovered that these years aren't for slowing down, but for stepping up. By learning new lines, laughing through our mistakes, and truly living for the buzz of the performance, we've found a community that keeps us sharp and connected. It's a reminder that the '**3rd Act**' is every bit as fulfilling, and is exactly where the heart of this story belongs."*

Call for New Members Following the success of the showcase, the group is now inviting new members to join them in their exciting journey. They are looking for U3a members who are interested in theatre. We are particularly keen to engage with those who have live theatre and stage management skills, as well as those with sound and lighting experience. But whatever your experience, enthusiasm and willingness are welcome in all their forms.

"We are a friendly, inclusive bunch," Group Co-ordinator Hilary Shenken explained. *"If you've ever had the itch to perform or help behind the scenes, now is the perfect time to get in touch."*

Come and be part of the journey. There's no pressure, just a lot of teamwork and a fair bit of laughing!

For more information on joining, please contact: Hilary Shenken hilaryshenken@hotmail.com



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St Mary's University

St Mary's University Acting graduate named finalist for prestigious Spotlight Prize 2026

A graduate from St Mary's University has been named a finalist for the prestigious [Spotlight Prize 2026](#), recognising some of the most promising emerging acting talent across the UK and Ireland.



[BA Acting](#) graduate Ashik Rasool has been selected as one of just 20 finalists nationally for this year's Spotlight Prize category, chosen from nominees representing 75 drama schools and universities.

The achievement marks the [second consecutive year that a St Mary's graduate has been named a Spotlight prize finalist](#), placing the University alongside some of the UK's leading drama schools, including Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, and other nationally recognised conservatories.

The Spotlight Prize gives drama school graduates the opportunity to demonstrate their talents in front of a room full of industry professionals. As part of the final showcase in July, Screen Prize finalists will perform monologues on camera directed by acclaimed theatre and television director [Paulette Randall MBE](#).

Ashik said : "Younger me would never believe this. I got into acting because I grew up watching films and never quite saw myself represented on screen. As someone from a South Asian background, that absence stuck with me and now it's a big part of why I do what I do. I want to tell stories that feel real and relatable, and hopefully inspire others who've felt the same way I did to see a place for themselves in this industry. I'm very grateful for this opportunity."

[Mark Street](#), Senior Lecturer for Drama at St Mary's University, expressed the university's pride in Ashik's achievement: *"We are thrilled to see Ashik named as a finalist for the Spotlight Prize 2026. This recognition reflects both his talent and commitment as an actor. It is also a testament to the high level of training delivered on the BA Acting programme and the ambitious spirit we encourage within our students."*

We are incredibly proud of his achievement, and we look forward to seeing what he does next. We'll be supporting him every step of the way."



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Cookery Student Secures First Place on International Stage



Level 2 Professional Cookery student, Charlie Sexton, secured first place in the [Cook and Serve Challenge](#) at a prestigious international finals event held at [UNOX](#) headquarters in Venice, Italy.

The competition, which has grown significantly over the past four years, now attracts entries from over 70 colleges across the UK. The Unox Combiguru Catering Competition awards the highest-scoring students through its initial app test with an all-

expenses-paid trip to Italy, where finalists compete in front of live judges and leading industry professionals.

Impressed Judges

Charlie impressed judges with his exceptional technical ability and creative execution. His menu featured a main course of Poached Ballotine of Chicken with Sundried Tomato Mousseline, Confit Peppers, Roasted Tomato Coulis and Crispy Chicken Skin, followed by a dessert of Lemon Custard Tartlet with Soft Meringue and Seasonal Berries.

They praised his work highly, commenting that “the main course components complemented each other well, demonstrating a strong balance of flavours and technical skill. The dessert was well executed, with fresh, well-combined flavours.”



Prize Package

As a result of his achievement, Charlie was awarded an impressive prize package, including a 15-piece professional chef knife set, a residential pizza masterclass in Italy with Scuola Italiana, and a [CHEFTOP](#) combination oven worth £6,000 for the college.

The annual UNOX competition proved to be a highly valuable and rewarding experience for all involved. Students and staff from both Richmond upon Thames and Uxbridge represented the HRUC (Harrow, Richmond & Uxbridge Colleges) group with excellence, showcasing consistently high standards, skill and commitment.

Inspired by Charlie's success?

Start your journey in professional cookery with us.

[Explore our Professional Cookery & Hospitality courses](#) and apply today to develop your skills, gain industry experience, and take your first steps towards an exciting culinary career.



First-ever vote launched to find Britain's Favourite Butterfly!

From Butterfly Conservation



Wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation is today launching the first-ever vote to crown Britain's Favourite Butterfly.

From Friday 15 May - Sunday 7 June, people across the country are being asked to choose the butterfly they love most, whether that be a familiar garden visitor like the Red Admiral, Orange-tip or Holly Blue, or an elusive rarity like the aristocratic Duke of Burgundy or the mighty Purple Emperor.

With a plethora of species to choose from, Butterfly Conservation has today launched a dedicated website with fun facts about every single species, where people can cast their vote and even take a fun 'what's your butterfly personality?' quiz to choose their champion.

The charity hopes to encourage children and adults to marvel at butterflies this summer, reconnect with nature and celebrate the diversity and importance of the UK's most iconic insects.

Julie Williams, Chief Executive of Butterfly Conservation, said: *"It's clear Britain is a nation of butterfly lovers. From Sir David Attenborough and the Royal Family, to the hundreds of thousands of people who have taken part in Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count, these incredible insects hold a very special place in our hearts.*

"Now, for the first-time ever, we want to find out which of our much-loved butterflies takes the nation's top spot. From the colourful to the quirky, the common to the elusive, all butterflies are beautiful and we look forward to officially crowning Britain's favourite."

The UK is home to 60 species of butterfly, 58 resident including Large White, Small Tortoiseshell and Green Hairstreak, and two regular visitors - Painted Lady and Clouded Yellow.

For many of us, butterflies are one of our earliest memories of wildlife; in a [recent survey](#) they were voted most-loved creatures in childhood.

Julie says: *“It’s no surprise butterflies are loved by people of all ages. Their journey from caterpillar to adult is both fascinating and joyful. It is in this almost magical story of transformation that butterflies have the power to connect people to the natural world, and inspire us to keep fighting for a wilder future.”*

But these incredible insects, which evoke childlike joy, delight and visions of balmy summer days, are in trouble. 80% of species have declined in the last 50 years due to habitat loss, land use change, and climate breakdown.

However, all is not lost. Recent [scientific evidence](#) proves that, as well as benefiting our wellbeing, as little as 15 minutes watching butterflies can increase people’s feelings of being connected to nature, which has a direct correlation with how motivated they are to protect it.

In short, time spent simply enjoying spotting butterflies could play a vital role in nature’s recovery.

Butterfly Conservation’s President, Sir David Attenborough, famously said: *“No one will protect what they don’t care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced.”*
“A few precious moments spent watching a stunning Red Admiral or Peacock butterfly feeding amongst the flowers in my garden never fails to bring me great pleasure.”

With different butterfly species appearing in different areas of the UK, the search for Britain’s Favourite Butterfly could prove fascinating and show some big regional variations in voting.

After analysing 50 years of data, researchers have discovered a clear northward spread for some species, including common garden favourites the Peacock, Comma and Holly Blue, the result of climate change creating warmer habitats for them to survive in.

Julie explained: *“It will be interesting to see if people in different parts of the UK have different favourites. Some of our native butterflies are garden visitors across much of the UK, some live only in certain areas, and some are more secretive, living in very remote, specialised habitats. But all are equally important as indicators of the health of our natural environment.*

“The exciting thing about this vote is that anyone, anywhere can take part and root for their favourite. You don’t have to know anything about butterflies! So whether you choose based on a lovely colour, a fun name, what you spot in your garden, or your fondness for a specialist species, it’s what’s important to you that matters.”

The highly coveted title is up for grabs. The nation will decide...

The vote to find **Britain’s Favourite Butterfly** will take place from Friday 15 May - Sunday 7 June, and the result will be announced later in June. Vote for your favourite at <https://britainsfavouritebutterfly.co.uk>



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

Family club, OurHouse, announces expansion into East Sheen, following sell-out membership success

From OurHouse

South West London families are about to gain an exciting new option designed to make family life that little bit easier, bringing work, exercise, and play together under one roof.

In 2027, OurHouse (formerly Little Houses Group) will open Orly's in East Sheen, introducing its much-loved blend of adults-only wellness, fitness, and co-working, alongside childcare and activities for all ages to SW London for the first time.

Designed around one simple idea - that family life is busy, and time together matters - OurHouse offers everything families need in one welcoming space. Facilities include swimming for all ages, a fully equipped gym floor, steam rooms and a study for parents, alongside a cinema, arcade, dens and jungle gym for the kids. Parents can drop their children off at the crèche or kids club for up to three hours a day, giving them the time to work, exercise, or simply breathe.



Already a family favourite, OurHouse memberships at existing houses Jaego's in Kensal Rise and Jesse's in Parsons Green have sold out in minutes, cementing its reputation as the go-to destination for modern family life. Now located in the heart of East Sheen's vibrant shopping district at Parkway House on Sheen Lane (SW14 8LS), Orly's is set to become one of the area's most loved new family destinations.

Core to OurHouse's ethos is building a community where no parent feels alone, and in addition to its facilities, Orly's will host regular member events, coffee mornings, seasonal activations, and opportunities to connect with like-minded families. All included in a holistic membership that reimagines the way families spend time together.

Founder of OurHouse, Charlie Gardiner, said: "Orly's is named after my daughter and continues the tradition of naming the OurHouse clubs after my children. From the moment we began exploring South West London, East Sheen immediately stood out. It's an area I know and love personally, with Orly's grandmother living just down the road."

The building itself also carries real personal meaning for our family. Before becoming Orly's, it was once a local cinema, and Orly's grandfather used to visit it as a young boy.

There is a warmth and strength to the community here that felt completely aligned with what we're trying to create at OurHouse. Orly's has been designed as a true home-from-home for local families. A place to spend time together, build friendships, and make everyday family life feel a little easier and more connected. We can't wait to open our doors and become part of the East Sheen community."

With memberships for other houses selling out in just minutes, families interested in joining should register their interest in Orly's [here](#). Only those on the waitlist will receive an invitation and access link to Orly's first membership sale, later in the year.

MAY HALF-TERM CAMP AT TEDDINGTON CC 25TH - 29TH MAY



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TWICKENHAM ROWING REGATTA 2026



SATURDAY 23RD MAY

Red Roses Team to Play France

Lilli Ives Champion, Sadia Kabeya and Maddie Feaunati have recovered from injury to feature in the Red Roses pack in Sunday's Guinness Women's Six Nations match against France.

The trio all missed the victory in Italy last time out and line up at second row, openside flanker and Number 8 respectively.

In total, head coach John Mitchell has made seven changes to his side that started the Round 4 match at Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi.

Jess Breach and Claudia Moloney-MacDonald return to the wings, resulting in Ellie Kildunne switching back to full-back, while Mackenzie Carson and Sarah Bern start at loosehead and tighthead prop respectively.

Captain Megan Jones has played every available minute so far in the tournament and has partnered Helena Rowland in the centre each match. Lucy Packer and Zoe Harrison combine in the half-back positions for a third away match in a row.

Versatile forward Abi Burton is named at blindside flanker behind ever-present hooker Amy Cokayne and lock Delaney Burns.

Kelsey Clifford misses out due to a leg injury.

"France are a quality side, and we've got a huge amount of respect for what they bring and the way they play the game," Mitchell said.

"To face them in Bordeaux - in the heart of the south-west, a region so passionate about rugby with a vocal home crowd behind them - is exactly the sort of challenge the girls relish, embrace and walk towards. With that support comes expectation and pressure, and Francois has already laid down the challenge to his players.

"This tournament has demanded adaptability and the ability to learn quickly from us throughout. The girls have stayed connected, composed and continued to grow within our new attacking identity. I'm proud of the way the players have competed for positions, pushed one another every day and earned the right to contest for the Championship.

"We understand the significance of the performance ahead and what it would mean to us, but our focus remains firmly on trusting our game, staying present, being courageous, creating stronger connections and continuing to act selflessly for one another, throughout this tournament."

Red Roses team to play France

15 Ellie Kildunne (Harlequins, 61 caps)
14 Jess Breach (Saracens, 56 caps)
13 Megan Jones (Trailfinders Women, 37 caps) - captain
12 Helena Rowland (Loughborough Lightning, 50 caps)
11 Claudia Moloney-MacDonald (Exeter Chiefs, 39 caps)
10 Zoe Harrison (Saracens, 69 caps)
9 Lucy Packer (Harlequins, 43 caps)

Replacements

16 Connie Powell (Harlequins, 23 caps)
17 Liz Crane (Saracens, 2 caps)
18 Maud Muir (Gloucester-Hartpury, 52 caps)
19 Demelza Short (Bristol Bears, 3 caps)

1 Mackenzie Carson (Gloucester-Hartpury, 27 caps)
2 Amy Cokayne (Sale Sharks, 93 caps)
3 Sarah Bern (Bristol Bears, 83 caps)
4 Lilli Ives Champion (Loughborough Lightning, 7 caps)
5 Delaney Burns (Bristol Bears, 5 caps)
6 Abi Burton (Trailfinders Women, 8 caps)
7 Sadia Kabeya (Loughborough Lightning, 31 caps)
8 Maddie Feaunati (Exeter Chiefs, 26 caps)

20 Marlie Packer (Saracens, 115 caps)
21 Flo Robinson (Exeter Chiefs, 4 caps)
22 Holly Aitchison (Sale Sharks, 48 caps)
23 Emma Sing (Gloucester-Hartpury, 16 caps)



RFU sets out plans to secure £500 million for rugby and £86 million for the UK economy

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) has reaffirmed its plans to bring world-class live music to Allianz Stadium, following in-depth discussions with Richmond Council, transport providers, and the local community over the past 18 months.

In plans to be submitted to Richmond Council, the RFU will seek permission for the phased and staggered introduction of up to 15 major non-sporting event days, such as concerts, per year.

Securing more concerts at Allianz Stadium is central to the long-term sustainability of rugby in England at a time of growing financial strain on the game. The venue generates around 85% of RFU revenues, which, as a not-for-profit, are

reinvested across the sport – from grassroots clubs to the men’s and women’s national teams.

More concerts at Allianz Stadium will underpin over £500 million of investment into rugby over the next five years, supporting the game from grassroots to elite and helping grow the sport, with a target to attract 50,000 new players by 2030. Crucially, if approved, the move would secure funding to upgrade Allianz Stadium, improving the experience for fans and supporting England’s national teams.

The proposals come at a time of growing demand for large-scale live music, with the UK live entertainment market estimated at around £7 billion annually, around 30% of which is concentrated in London.

The stadium’s current operations, including Six Nations and Nations Championship matches, already generates £181 million for the UK economy each year. If all 15 concerts were to go ahead, they could generate an associated £86 million in Gross Added Value (GVA) to the UK economy through new event spending as a whole and increase spending locally by £28.5 million per year, helping support shops, bars, restaurants and hotels across Richmond and Hounslow.

Allianz Stadium is the second largest stadium in the UK, with a capacity of 82,000, however currently sits empty for around 340 days a year, in part due to the limited national rugby calendar and strict planning and licensing limits. The stadium is currently limited to just three major non-sporting events annually, none of which can be held on consecutive days, and with capacity capped at 55,000.

By comparison, Wembley Stadium is permitted up to 54 non-sporting events per year and Tottenham Hotspur Stadium up to 30, and both benefit from limited restrictions on capacity and when these events can be held.



This disadvantage compared to other UK venues has limited the RFU's ability to attract global tours, with artists typically wanting to play longer concert runs over multiple weekend days, and has meant that Allianz Stadium has only hosted one major concert in the past six years.

The plans have been carefully shaped through more than 18 months of engagement with Richmond Council, transport providers, and the local community.

The RFU has agreed that any increase in events would be staggered and phased over time, beginning with a smaller number of lower-capacity events and only progressing when representatives from Richmond Council, Metropolitan Police and South Western Railway are satisfied the events are being well managed.

The proposals also include new limits on crowd sizes for non-sporting events, with a cap of 75,000 on weekends and an even lower limit applying midweek initially, compared to 82,000 for rugby matches. Additional rail capacity at Twickenham Station has also been secured for event days, adding an additional services during peak times.

Allianz Stadium is already one of the largest employers and job creators in the area, with current stadium operations estimated to support c. 2,900 FTE jobs per year, with c.1,300 of these occupied by residents of Richmond and Hounslow.

To further support the local community, the RFU will introduce of a new Facility Fee to all concert tickets, used in part to finance a Community Enhancement Fund. This will be used to improve event day operations and support projects that matter to the local community. It is industry standard for entertainment venue operators to charge a facility fee on each ticket sold as another revenue stream to increase overall profitability. The RFU's approach is unique as the money generated through the Community Enhancement Fund will be put directly back into the local community to benefit residents.

At least £1 of every Facility Fee collected will be allocated into the Community Enhancement Fund, generating up to £1m a year, to be ringfenced and reinvested locally so that the benefits of hosting concerts are felt throughout the year outside of the stadium.

To administer the fund, the RFU will create a panel comprising local community and business organisation representatives, Richmond and Hounslow councillors and officers, and members of the RFU to help decide how the money is spent.

Local residents would also benefit from priority access to tickets, with 1,000 tickets per concert made available through a dedicated pre-sale window, meaning that they would be at the front of the queue for some of the biggest events happening anywhere on the planet.

Bill Sweeney, Chief Executive of the RFU, said: *"The UK has one of the strongest live events industries in the world, and Allianz Stadium – as the second largest stadium in the country and one of our most prized national assets – is best placed to capitalise on that success.*

The stadium is by far our biggest financial asset as a sport, but the fact that it's use is currently limited to the short rugby calendar is in turn impacting the growth and potential of the game and its benefit to the local community.

More concerts in Twickenham will generate tens of millions of pounds each year for the local and national economies, and hundreds more jobs here in south-west London. It will also increase our ability to continue to work as a proud local neighbour, supporting local schools, charities and businesses across Richmond.

Bringing the world's biggest artists here to Twickenham will also underpin the £500 million of funding we want to invest into rugby over the next five years.

I would like to thank Richmond Council and all the many stakeholders who have engaged with us to date, and we look forward to continuing to work with them over the coming months."



Match Preview: Brentford v Crystal Palace

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford face Crystal Palace in their final home game of the Premier League season on Sunday (3pm kick-off BST, live on *Sky Sports*).

The Bees are chasing their highest-ever finish and European football for the first time, while Oliver Glasner's side visit Gtech Community Stadium having secured top-flight safety and with a Europa Conference League final against Rayo Vallecano to look forward to later this month.

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*: Patience key on Sunday

Brentford entertain Europa Conference League finalists Crystal Palace in their final home game of the 2025/26 season on Sunday - and to sign off in style at the Gtech, they must breach one of the Premier League's meanest defences.

The appointment of former Eintracht Frankfurt manager Oliver Glasner in early 2024 has ushered in a halcyon period for the Eagles, who will aim to win a third trophy under the Austrian when they face Rayo Vallecano in the UECL final later this month.

Last season's FA Cup triumph over Manchester City - followed by Community Shield success - has Palace on the brink of further unprecedented success, but there is an emotional edge to their run-in, with Glasner set to depart at the end of the season.

Although the Eagles will have one eye on that looming swansong, there is serious Premier League business still to take care of.

Despite losing former captain Marc Guéhi to the Citizens in January, the Eagles have kept an impressive 12 clean sheets this season, with only Arsenal (18) and City (15) registering more. Palace have limited their opponents to an average of 11.4 shots per game - only the Premier League's top two and Chelsea have protected their goal more diligently.

In the context of Sunday's clash, Palace's underlying numbers point to a cagey opening before a flurry of goalmouth action prior to half-time.

Over a third of their Premier League goals this season (35%) - scored and conceded - have arrived in the 15 minutes before the interval. By contrast, no side has conceded fewer goals in the opening 15 minutes than Palace's four, highlighting their control in the early phases of matches.



For Brentford head coach [Keith Andrews](#), the message may be one of patience early on - with opportunities more likely to emerge as the first half wears on.

At the other end of the pitch, there is one damning statistic that Eagles fans will be all too aware of - although their take may depend on how much faith they place in expected goals.

Across Europe's top five leagues this season, no side has underperformed their xG by a greater margin than Palace. The Eagles have scored 37 goals from 58.86 xG (-21.86), pointing to a consistent lack of cutting edge in front of goal.

Intriguingly, xG suggests Palace will face kindred spirits in the UECL final, with Rayo Vallecano (-19.29) ranking as the second most wasteful side in Europe.

Sunday's clash between two of the Premier League's more physical and direct sides may ultimately be shaped by each side's work out of possession - and whether the Bees can engineer the kind of end-to-end moments that suit them.

While Brentford (9) are joint-top for Premier League goals from counter attacks this season, Palace are the only side yet to score on the break in the top flight.

Scout report

Dan Long, *Sky Sports*: Palace eyeing European glory

Crystal Palace have been a solid, established Premier League club for well over a decade now. While not always spectacular, their longevity is the envy of many, and it is a status they have not taken for granted.

But since Oliver Glasner has been in charge, the south London club have dared to dream bigger.

In 2024/25, they reached the Carabao Cup quarter-finals for the first time in 13 seasons, set a club-record points total of 53 in the Premier League and, most significantly, won the FA Cup for the first time in history.

They won the Community Shield last summer, too, and were set up for a season like no other, even after the big money sale of starman Eberechi Eze to Arsenal. That has certainly proved to be the case - just not in the manner expected.

Glasner's side were as high as fifth in the table in mid-December, but things soon started to unravel.

They were thumped 4-1 at Leeds five days before Christmas and dumped out of the Carabao Cup by Arsenal three days later. They went two months without a Premier League win before the derby victory away at Brighton on 1 February.

January was a tough month, and not just from a results perspective.

Firstly, the 2-1 FA Cup third round defeat to non-league side Macclesfield on 10 January will be considered the biggest giant killing in the competition for a long time to come. Then, on the 16th, Glasner announced he would leave Selhurst Park in the summer.

"A decision has already been taken months ago. I had a meeting with Steve [Parish] in October," he revealed. "We had a very long talk, and I told him I will not sign a new contract. We agreed at the time it

was the best to keep it between us. It's the best that we could do that and keep it confidential for three months. But now it's important to have clarity."

And on the 19th, captain Marc Guéhi was sold to Man City. Palace fans had been through the wringer over a painful nine-day period.

That time is over now, though, and a new chapter will begin in the summer. But not before the Eagles have the chance to make history once again.

Going into the final two games of the season, their Premier League status is secure for another year. That means they can focus every single drop of energy into trying to become the third English club to win the Conference League.

They finished 10th in the tournament's league phase, then beat Zrinjski Mostar, AEK Larnaca, Fiorentina and Shakhtar Donetsk to book a spot in the final, where they will face La Liga side Rayo Vallecano in Leipzig on 27 May. FA Cup glory one year, European glory the next? Now, that would be the perfect way for Glasner to bow out.

In the Dugout

Oliver Glasner

Barring a short loan spell at LASK in the 2003/04 season, Oliver Glasner spent his entire 19-year playing career at SV Ried in his native Austria, from 1992 to 2011, where he holds the record for the most appearances made for the club, with 572 in all competitions.

During his time at SV Ried, he won the Austria Cup in 1998 and 2011, as well as helping the club achieve promotion to the Austrian Bundesliga in 1994/95 and a decade later in 2004/05.

In August 2011, he suffered a brain haemorrhage and, after an operation, was advised to end his playing career at the age of 36. After his enforced retirement, Glasner spent two years as assistant to Roger Schmidt at Red Bull Salzburg.

When Schmidt later left for Bayer Leverkusen, Glasner made his return to SV Ried. During his one and only season in charge, the club secured a fourth-straight sixth-place finish. Next was a return to LASK. Glasner spent four seasons at Raiffeisen Arena and enjoyed plenty of success.

The club finished second in the second tier in his first season and were promoted as champions in 2016/17. Back in the top flight, they then finished fourth, before finishing second in 2018/19 - their highest finish since winning the Staatsliga in 1965.

Glasner then moved across the border to Wolfsburg in July 2019 and, two years later, joined Eintracht Frankfurt. He could not guide the German club to any higher than seventh in his two seasons in charge, though he did mastermind the Europa League triumph in 2021/22, where Frankfurt beat Barcelona, West Ham and Rangers on their way to glory.

He departed Frankfurt in the summer of 2023 and joined Crystal Palace as Roy Hodgson's successor in February 2024 and, in his first full season, he guided the club to their first major trophy win, when they beat Man City to lift the FA Cup. In January, Glasner announced he would leave the club this summer upon the expiry of his contract.



The Sunday Times Rich List

- Sanjay and Dheeraj Hinduja inherit no 1 spot on the Sunday Times rich list with an estimated wealth of £38 billion
- At no 6 on the London list, Revolut founder Nik Storonsky is the biggest riser, soaring to £16.411 billion and into the top ten. His wealth grew by more than £25 million a day
- The 38th edition reveals an exodus of wealth from the UK: one in six people in the rich list just two years ago do not appear in the 2026 edition
- Steel baron Lakshmi Mittal exits the rich list after moving to Switzerland
- Eight out of the top 10 entries have strong London ties
- Sir Chris Hohn is the first British billionaire to give away more than a billion in a year – £1.4 billion
- Labour's biggest donor, Gary Lubner, debuts on both the rich list and the giving list

Sanjay and Dheeraj Hinduja and family top the London and national list, according to this year's edition of **The Sunday Times Rich List**, published today online at <https://www.thetimes.com/sunday-times-rich-list> and in the print edition of the newspaper on Sunday, May 17, 2026.

It's a fifth successive year at the top of the Rich List for the Hindujas, with an estimated wealth of **£38 billion**, up from £35.3 billion last year. The Hindujas' vast, diverse empire spans everything from oil and banking to car manufacturing and luxury hotels.

Sanjay, 62 this month, chairs Gulf Oil International, while Dheeraj, 54, oversees the automotive giant Ashok Leyland. The latter has had a strong year, with the share price soaring by almost 50 per cent. Turmoil in the Middle East has also boosted revenues of the Hindujas' coal businesses.

The 76-page special edition of **The Sunday Times Magazine** reveals the largest fall in the billionaire count in the guide's 38-year history.

This year's list of **350 individuals and families** together hold combined wealth of **£783.5 billion** – a sum larger than the annual GDP of **Belgium** (\$776 billion), **Sweden** (\$760 billion) and **Israel** (\$719 billion). It represents about a quarter of the United Kingdom's total annual GDP.

Sir Elton John, Lord Lloyd-Webber, Sir Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, JK Rowling, Charlotte Tilbury and Sir Lewis Hamilton all appear in the annual survey.

The minimum entry level dips to £340 million – another indicator of a subdued year.

Robert Watts, compiler of the Sunday Times Rich List, said: *“This year's Rich List is a tale of two exoduses. One in six of the individuals and families who appeared on the list two years ago don't feature this time. Many foreign billionaires who have been living in the UK have also dropped out because they have moved away. We have also seen a sharp rise in the number of British nationals now resident in Dubai, Switzerland and Monaco. As UK nationals these people remain on our Rich List – wherever they now live.*

“These two exoduses pose challenges for the UK economy and its public finances. Will more of the wealthy now set up or grow their ventures overseas and in doing so create fewer jobs here? How much tax – if any – will Rachel Reeves’s Treasury be able to extract from those affluent Brits who have now left the country?”

“For nearly 40 years the Sunday Times Rich List has analysed the fortunes of Britain’s most affluent people. We believe understanding where wealth lies and where it is being accumulated is a vital part of a functioning democracy.

“Over the years our research has told us a lot about our country, charting the way a generation of largely self-made entrepreneurs overtook the old money of the landed gentry.

“This year’s edition shines a light on fortunes made from artificial intelligence, driverless cars and crypto-currencies as well as baby milk, make-up, hoodies and other everyday items. We know many of our readers find those rags-to-riches stories of entrepreneurs who started out with little more than a laptop and an idea particularly inspiring.”

For the full 350 richest people in the UK go online at:

www.thetimes.com/sunday-times-rich-list

2026 Rank	Name	Estimated wealth 2026	Source of Wealth	Rise/Fall	Estimated wealth 2025
1	Sanjay and Dheeraj Hinduja and family	£38bn	Investors	▲	£35.304bn
2	David and Simon Reuben and family	£27.971bn	Landlords	▲	£26.8763bn
3	Sir Leonard Blavatnik	£26.852bn	Investor	▲	£25.725bn
4	Idan Ofer	£24.481bn	Shipping	▲	£20.121bn
5	Guy, George, Alannah and Galen Weston and family	£18.939bn	Heirs and retailers	▲	£17.746bn
6	Nik Storonsky	£16.411bn	Payments pioneer	▲	£6.978bn
7	Alex Gerko	£16.006bn	Financial trader	▲	£8.745bn
8	Sir Jim Ratcliffe	£15.194bn	Chemicals magnate	▼	£17.046bn
9	Igor and Dmitry Bukhman	£14.26bn	Gaming	▲	£12.54bn
10	Michael Platt	£12.481bn	Investor	▼	£12.5bn

THE SUNDAY TIMES RICH LIST 2026 – THE 10 WEALTHIEST IN GREATER LONDON

Regional Rank	National 40 Under 40 Rank	Name	2026 Estimated wealth	Source of Wealth
1	1	The Duke of Westminster*	£9.677bn	Property heir
2=	3=	Piotr Dabkowski	£1.333bn	Technology
2=	3=	Mati Staniszewski	£1.333bn	Technology
4	6	Oliver and Alexander Kent-Braham	£779m	Financial services
5	7	India Rose James*	£689m	Property
6	9	Alex Kendall	£584m	Driverless cars
7	10	Herman Narula	£578m	Gaming technology
8	13	Martin Kissinger	£511m	Financial services
9	14	Ed Sheeran	£410m	Music
10	15=	Tilly Harrison*	£350m	Jewellery

THE WEALTHIEST UNDER 40 IN LONDON



THE SUNDAY TIMES

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