

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



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TickerTape - News in Brief

Bathing water season begins

Council welcomes London's first Thames bathing site

From Richmond Council

The start of this year's bathing water season, following the designation of the River Thames at Ham and Kingston as London's first official river bathing water site, has been welcomed by Richmond Council.

The site joins 464 designated bathing waters across the country and recognises the growing number of people using the Thames for swimming, paddling, rowing and other water-based activity.

It follows overwhelming public backing during consultation, with the Ham and Kingston site receiving record levels of support. During the bathing water season which runs from 15 May to 30 September, the Environment Agency will regularly monitor water quality at the site and display information to help people better understand water conditions.

Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said: *"The Thames is at the heart of life in Richmond upon Thames, so it's fantastic to see this stretch of river officially recognised for its recreational importance."*

Richmond Council announced earlier this year it is progressing feasibility work on the Ham side of the river to explore how riverside access and public spaces could be improved in response to increased use of the area.

Councillor Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee, added: *"People have been swimming and spending time on this part of the Thames for years, so regular water quality testing and clearer public information throughout the bathing season are really positive steps forward and reflect the strong local support for cleaner waterways."*

"As more people use and enjoy the river, we also want to make sure the surrounding riverside environment can support that growing interest in a safe and sustainable way."

The bathing water season runs until Wednesday 30 September 2026.



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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The Local Picture Postcard Page - Part 327

Hampton Wick - St Johns Church

By Alan Winter

St John's Hampton Wick is a Grade II listed Church of England church on Church Grove and St John's Road in Hampton Wick. It was built to a design by Edward Lapidge in 1829-30. So, the church is very nearly 200 years old.

The first two postcards show different views of the exterior and were posted over 100 years ago and the other two postcards show different images of the interior.



St John's was originally conceived as a chapel of ease to the parish church of St Mary at

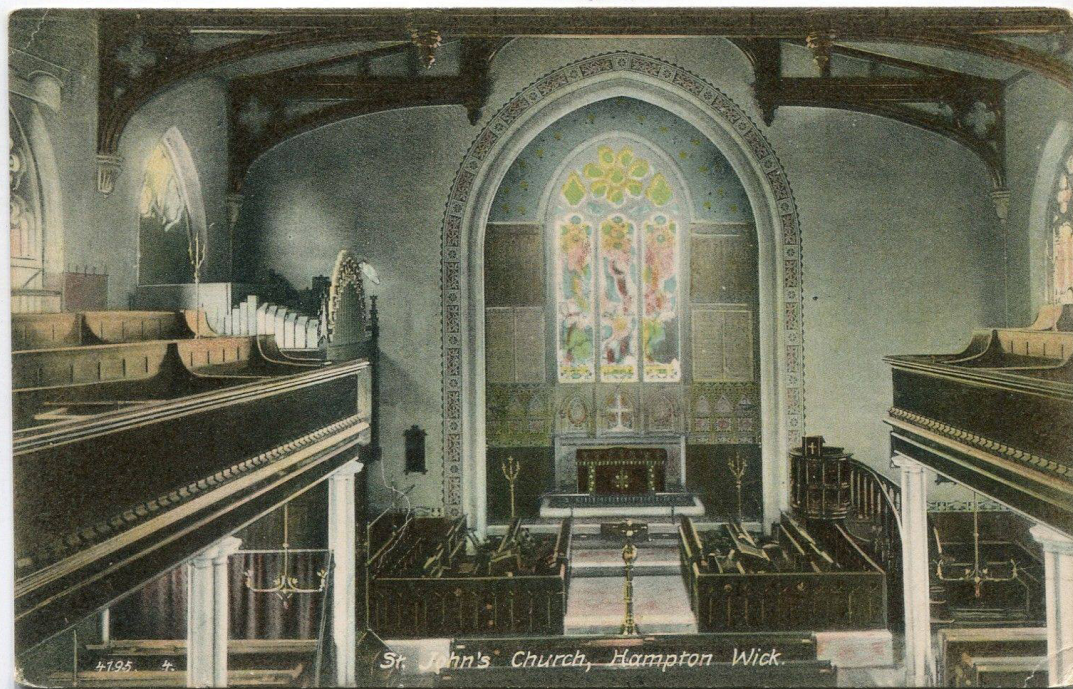


Hampton about 2 miles away, but following its completion, the district assigned to it was made a separate parish. The Church commissioners funded its construction on the condition that the parish church should also be enlarged at the same time. The cost of the church and the enclosure of the site was about £4,500. The first stone was laid on 7 October 1829, and the building was completed by 8 November 1830.

The building's architect Edward Lapidge also donated the land for it and paid for the enclosure of the site on one side. Lapidge had been born in Hampton Wick, and he also designed the present Kingston Bridge nearby.

It was built in a plain Gothic Revival style, faced with Suffolk brick and Bath stone. As originally constructed, the church was 65 feet (20 m) long and 43

feet (13 m) wide, with galleries on three sides, and a recessed window at the east end. It was intended to seat 800 people, half the accommodation being free (i.e. not subject to pew rent). A chancel was added in 1887 and the church was restored in 1880 and 1911.



In 2010, after five years of closure, the church re-opened its doors under the Church of England's church planting scheme. Services were resumed in December 2010.

On 1st May 2017 Hampton Wick was re-instated as a parish in its own right, with St John's once more recognised as the parish church.

It has been a great success and St John's now has a large and growing congregation. Even non-churchgoers appreciate the care that has been lavished on both the building and the gardens around it.

In 2024 St John's Hampton Wick partnered with St Mark's, Teddington (the church they used to share a parish with). They are now moving towards a shared vision, uniquely expressed in each location.

Rev Jerry Field is the Vicar of both St Mark's and St John's and Rev Tom Simpson is Minister-in-Charge at St Mark's whilst remaining part of the team at St John's.

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Peter Pearce - A Champion of Church Street

By Bruce Lyons.

Peter & Vaz came to Church Street in 1995, and over many years he was the Chairman (and the face) of our street. Peter was the Chair of the Church Street Association (CSA) and was the go-between between our community and the Council (LBRUT)

He was hugely responsible for the Al Fresco scene you see today, which underlines our street economy.

My memories of Peter go far beyond that.

In the 90's LBRUT and the CSA were concerned with the street being often used as a rat run and generously LBRUT offered to provide planters (the ones you still see today) at the King Street entrance, originally there were to be more - but as traffic calmers the bollards you see now took the place of the additional planters.



The Church Street Association agreed to plant and maintain the planters

Peter and I introduced the “flower scene” you see today. Initially we bought half mangers and installed them all the way down the street - planted them and we watered them from a water butt with an extended hose trundling up and down the street twice a week all Summer.

We used funds from the CSA subscriptions and money made from filming, we only progressed to hanging baskets a little later, as by then I had become one of the officers of the Richmond Borough in Bloom and that led to our relationship with Window flowers and LBRUT support and also from the BID and even the RFU!

Peter was also a force that enabled the street in the 2005 heatwave to introduce “Al Fresco” and as we all know our economy prospered with the street often dubbed “The Jewel in the Crown”

Peter and Vaz were inspirational for our street and sad as we are to lose him, we are proud to have had him amongst us.

God Bless you Vaz



Peter Pearce
16th April 1945 - 2nd May 2026



Richmond's One-Party Council is Already Showing Why Opposition Matters

By James Knight



Richmond Council's first annual meeting after the local elections was presented as a reassuring display of continuity. The leadership was confirmed, the committee chairs were named, and residents were told that the new administration would listen, welcome challenge and govern for all.

Yet beneath the polished municipal language sat a more awkward truth. Richmond now has a council in which one party holds every elected seat. The Liberal Democrats won all 54 seats with 51.46 per cent of the vote, while the Conservatives, Greens, Reform, Labour and Independents were left without a single councillor between them.

That is a commanding victory, and no serious observer can deny the scale of it. But a monopoly, even one freely granted by the electorate, carries obligations. It requires more than warm words about openness. It requires visible scrutiny, careful appointments and a generous approach to dissent.

The awkward gaps in the machine

The most striking detail in the annual meeting papers was not who was appointed, but how many places appear still to be unfilled. At least 16 posts across committees and outside bodies appear to have been left vacant, and the figure may be higher once the full list of external appointments is included.

These are not merely decorative positions. Vacancies appear across important parts of the council's machinery, including Planning, Regulatory, Joint Pensions, Corporate Parenting and other civic appointments. The council minutes also show vacancies for outside bodies, including Hampton Wick United Charity, Mortlake Crematorium Board and South West Middlesex Crematorium Board. Other external roles, including representation connected to Richmond Council for Voluntary Service, raise further questions about whether the new administration had its civic appointments fully in order.

One vacancy is different in character. The chair of the Audit, Standards and Statutory Accounts Committee is being kept open while the council considers appointing an external chair. That may yet prove wise. In a chamber with no elected opposition, an independent audit chair could be a useful safeguard.

But the wider pattern is harder to dismiss. Committees are where local government does much of its real work. They test assumptions, examine services, challenge officers and hold lead members to account. Outside bodies connect the town hall to charities, civic institutions and the wider life of the borough. Empty places send a poor signal precisely when scrutiny matters most.

Nor is it a good look for an administration with all 54 councillors to appear unable to fill its own committee and civic appointments at the first time of asking. During the local election campaign, councillor attendance became a live issue in Whitton and Heathfield, with opponents criticising the records of Councillors Michael Wilson, Jo Humphreys and Kuldev Sehra. The question now is whether these vacancies are merely an early administrative wrinkle, or whether they point to a broader problem of capacity and commitment in a council where one party must now provide both government and scrutiny.

A promise of openness, with a revealing threshold

Councillor Gareth Roberts acknowledged concerns that Richmond might now be seen as a "one party state" and said a constitutional amendment would be brought forward to allow party political questions at council meetings from parties polling above 5 per cent. He also said the audit chair would be kept open pending a further constitutional change to allow for an external appointment.

In principle, this is a reasonable attempt to widen debate. In practice, the threshold matters. Reform UK received 9.95 per cent of the borough-wide vote. Labour received 4.51 per cent. The Greens received 16.11 per cent and the Conservatives 17.91 per cent. The result is that Reform, the Conservatives and Greens would qualify for the proposed new platform, while Labour would not.

That may be defensible as a clean numerical rule. But politics is rarely so innocent. A line drawn at 5 per cent has the practical effect of excluding Labour while including Reform. The council will need to explain why that threshold is the fairest measure of democratic voice in a borough where no party other than the Liberal Democrats now has elected representation.

From threat to recognised voice

There is a further irony. During the campaign, the Liberal Democrats made much of the danger

posed by Reform UK. Ed Davey warned that Britain had to be saved from “the triple threat of Nigel Farage, Donald Trump and Elon Musk”, presenting his party as the responsible barrier against a Trump style populist movement. Yet one of the first consequences of total Liberal Democrat control in Richmond may now be to give Reform a formal voice in the council chamber.

There is, of course, a respectable argument for doing so. Reform won nearly one in ten votes, and those residents should not be treated as invisible. In a democracy, being heard is not a favour granted by those in power. It is part of the settlement.

But that is precisely why the campaign rhetoric now matters. A party cannot ask voters to fear a movement before polling day, then treat it as a convenient constitutional device once the votes are counted. If Reform was a danger during the election, the Liberal Democrats should be careful about assuming it will be easily managed afterwards. Populist movements are not always as containable as their opponents imagine.

The council’s public language has been about listening, challenge and different voices. But openness is not proved by language. It is proved by arrangements.

Scrutiny is not a courtesy

Richmond’s problem is not that the Liberal Democrats won too well. It is that victory on this scale tests the character of those who hold it. A council without opposition must work harder, not less hard, to expose itself to challenge.

That means filling vacancies promptly. It means ensuring outside bodies are properly represented. It means choosing fair and transparent rules for who may speak. And it means accepting that scrutiny is not an inconvenience to be managed, but a civic discipline to be welcomed.

A one-party council can still govern well. But in the absence of opposition, self-examination is no longer a courtesy. It is a duty.

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West London Cycling Mela at Osterley Park

From the West London Cycling Mela

The West London Cycling Mela is coming to Osterley Park on Saturday 13 June 2026, from 12 noon to 5pm.

This free, family friendly event celebrates cycling across West London and includes a programme of led rides, activities, performances and hands on experiences.

Expect performances from the Bicycle Ballet Company and Bicycle Pilot throughout the day, plus bike maintenance sessions, Dr. Bikes, Police bike marking, free bike raffle, Smoothie Bike, Scalectrix, Hounslow Repair Café, and try out a cargo bike.

Residents can also join guided rides from Hounslow, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham and Richmond, including a cargo bike led ride from Richmond, or simply arrive and take part on the day.

The event is delivered with partners including the National Trust and West London councils of Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham and Richmond and Wandsworth.

[Find out more](#)





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Be Richmond Partners with Dads' Run Club for Community, Coffee and Connection

Richmond Dads are being invited to celebrate the lead up to Father's Day a little differently this year, with a free community 5K run along the riverside followed by coffee, connection, and a relaxed morning in the heart of town.

Taking place on the weekend before Father's Day, the special Run Club will take place on Sunday 14 June at 9am. The event will be hosted by Be Richmond - the town's Business Improvement District - and organised in partnership with The Dads' Run Club and oneday. Coffee Richmond.

The free 5K route follows the scenic Richmond riverside and is designed for all abilities, whether participants are seasoned runners or simply looking for an enjoyable way to spend quality time outdoors.

Starting from oneday. Coffee at Richmond Lock, runners will be welcomed from 8:30am ahead of the 9am start, before returning for coffee and socialising afterwards. All participants will receive 20% off coffee following the run.



Organisers say the event is designed to encourage connection, community spirit, and a more meaningful way to celebrate Father's Day locally.

Eleanor Miller, the event organiser for Be Richmond said:

"This year we wanted to give something back to the Dads of Richmond, with an event that is about spending quality time together, feels welcoming and is accessible for everyone. The run club is a great opportunity for people to get outside, meet others, and enjoy Richmond's riverside community atmosphere together."

Tickets for the event will go live from 20 May 2026. The event is completely free to attend, with places available to sign up [HERE](#).

As part of the Father's Day celebrations, Be Richmond is also running a special competition giving one lucky winner the chance to enjoy a £150 voucher to Noci Richmond.

Whether celebrating a dad, grandad, partner, brother or father figure, the prize offers the perfect excuse to enjoy fresh pasta, signature small plates and a memorable meal together in Richmond.

The competition runs from 1 June until 14 June 2026, with free entry available via the Be Richmond website <https://berichmond.london/>

London Welsh Minis finish season in style

From London Welsh Minis



London Welsh Minis finished their season in style by representing Richmond upon Thames in rugby festivals in South Wales and a prestigious international tournament in Frankfurt.

With players drawn from schools throughout the borough, the season reached its climax with a number of age groups touring two wonderful locations during the sunny Spring season.

The U9s and U11s headed for a weekend of sun, rugby and surf in Mumbles and the beautiful Gower coastline. Both age groups attended professional level matches on the weekend, before playing in the Mumbles RFC tournament on the Saturday afternoon. They made the best of the great weather, with Sunday morning spent surfing and holding a barbeque on the Gower beaches.

The U10s and U12s made the longer journey to the international Youth Festival, held in Frankfurt. This is a weekend-long tournament featuring teams from Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Romania, Czechia, Luxembourg and Wales.

With the club's U14s Youth team also at the tournament, there were about 220 children and adults at the festival representing the London Welsh rugby. A wonderful sight!

These tours provide children with wonderful new experiences. They allow team mates to get to know each better in a unique setting, they expose players to different cultures and languages and most of all they are a fun way for children and parents to finish what has been a superb season.

If you would like your child to play contact or non-contact rugby in Richmond upon Thames, get in touch with David on minischairman@londonwelshrfc.co.uk.

Love the NHS? Join the Local Involvement Pool!

From Richmond CVS

If you love the NHS, you can help to improve it as part of the Richmond Involvement Pool.

[Richmond CVS](#) is seeking people from a broad range of backgrounds who use health and care services - as well as those who support them - to join a new network aiming to improve local involvement in health and social care.




Love the NHS & want to help improve it?

Join *the*



INVOLVEMENT POOL



It's a chance to go beyond being 'consulted' on finished plans, as members work as equal partners with staff to solve problems and co-design services from the start, as they're being formed.

Anyone aged 18+ who uses local health services, receives adult social care, or supports others as an unpaid carer is eligible to join.

No experience is needed – the project values the unique perspective of individuals and their commitment to making services better for everyone. And as the NHS is for everyone, it's important that the pool is as diverse and representative of all those who use it.

Participation is flexible. How involved, and how often you get involved, is very much your choice. Once signed up, you'll be contacted with opportunities that fit your interests – it could be a quick survey, a short workshop or focus group,

or something more strategic. The options can be in-person or online.

By volunteering a few hours a year and sharing your experience with NHS and social care organisations, you can drive positive change.

If you'd like to learn more about the Richmond Involvement Pool, [email \[involvement@richmondcvcs.org.uk\]\(mailto:involvement@richmondcvcs.org.uk\)](mailto:involvement@richmondcvcs.org.uk) or call 020 8843 7945.

Or you can [sign up now with the online form here.](#)



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May Food and Drink News

With summer days ahead (☀), it's good to have a selection of appropriate snacks to hand, and this new range is fabulous. The new **unearthed® Mission Olives range** includes olives **Perfect with Drinks** (Nocellara & Kalamata), **Perfect with Friends** (mix of pitted Gordal, Nocellara, Kalamata and Edremit olives), **Perfect for Tapas** (Gordal olives known as the “Queen” olive) **RRP £4.00 a pack**, alongside two new ready-to-serve **Italian Style Sharing Platters (RRP £5.00 each) available in Sainsbury's**. Whether hosting a tapas evening, picking up nibbles for pre-dinner drinks or building a relaxed grazing board. As with the entire range, 1p per pack sold will be donated to **Action Against Hunger**. Since 2010, **unearthed®**, which is part of The Compleat Food Group, has donated more than £1m, from the sales of products to this international charity, helping to save 23,000 lives globally from life-threatening hunger.



Fiorella®, is a luxurious floral-shaped triple crème brie, and it's recently been launched by leading cheesemaker Tom Walker and Sons. Crafted in Germany from refined cow's milk, Fiorella is a soft speciality cheese characterised by its soft creaminess and buttery melting texture, offering a mild flavour with a delicate fresh cream note. Its distinctive flower shape is more than decorative: Fiorella matures slowly from the outside in, creating a beautifully balanced texture and flavour development. It's naturally lactose and gluten-free. What's more, it's really delicious! Look out for it in cheese shops and deli counters.



Few flavours are as instantly recognisable in Britain as Marmite and Colman's Mustard, and now the iconic condiments have found a new home in the sausage aisle. British meat brand [The Jolly Hog](#) has teamed up with the two household names to launch a new range of sausages that celebrate what the brand calls “a banger of a British pairing.” The Colman's are, in my opinion, the tastier option, as I found the Marmite ones rather too salty for my taste. But they are both good, meaty bangers and ideal for a barbecue. Available from Ocado, Tesco, Sainsbury's, and Waitrose at an RRP of £4.50 per 400g pack.



BOSH! has extended its plant-based product range with three new seasonings: BOSH! Sweet & Smoky BBQ Seasoning; BOSH! Citrus & Spice Zesty Seasoning and BOSH! Rich & Savoury Umami Seasoning. All packed in 120g tubs and available from Ocado at £4. The seasonings range can be cooked with, adding real depth to a dish, or sprinkled over at the end of cooking to give a burst of fresh flavour. Great on proteins, veg, soups, stews or scrambles, whether or not plant-based of course!



Perfect for drinking on one of the forthcoming summer days, is this delicious **Tesco Finest Greek Assyrtiko**. From grapes grown in northern Greece, grown at high altitudes for extra freshness and exquisite flavour, this vibrant and crisp wine has fresh aromas of lemon zest, green apple and white peach, with refreshing minerality which gives a mouth watering finish. Pairs with seafood, grilled vegetables, and goat's cheese. What's more, it's one of the oldest grape varieties in cultivation today. £11a bottle, but on offer at the moment for Clubcard holders, so worth stocking up.

When I visited Teddington's lovely **Baccaro** restaurant recently, I was treated to a tasting of some delicious Italian drinks produced by the company run by Giuseppe Gallo, the owner of Bacarro:

Savoia Rosso Americano is a darker, richer aperitivo character. Made in Turin, it combines Trebbiano wine with 14 month oak aged DOC Marsala Fine and a complex botanical blend of more than 20 ingredients, including artemisia, bitter orange and gentian root. The result is a style that sits elegantly between red bitter and vermouth, with herbal bitterness, warm spice and wine led depth. It lends itself naturally to classic serves, particularly the Savoia Spritz with 2 parts Savoia Rosso and 2 parts Prosecco, and the Savoia Negroni with 2 parts Savoia Rosso and 1 part London Dry Gin.

Savoia Orancio is the more luminous and contemporary counterpart, shaped by the wine based aperitivo tradition but with a citrus brightness and aromatic spice. Italian white wines alongside sweet and bitter orange, lime and bergamot, layered with warming spice notes inspired by the Silk Road. At 17.2% ABV it makes fabulous cocktails, including an Orancio Spritz, with 2 parts Savoia Orancio and 3 parts Prosecco or rosé sparkling wine.



Both are vegan, in very elegant 50cl bottles (inspired by the Mole Antonelliana in Turin) and available from Amazon at around £23 a bottle. Or better still, if in Teddington, pop into Bacarro for cicchetti and enjoy a glass or two in a cocktail.

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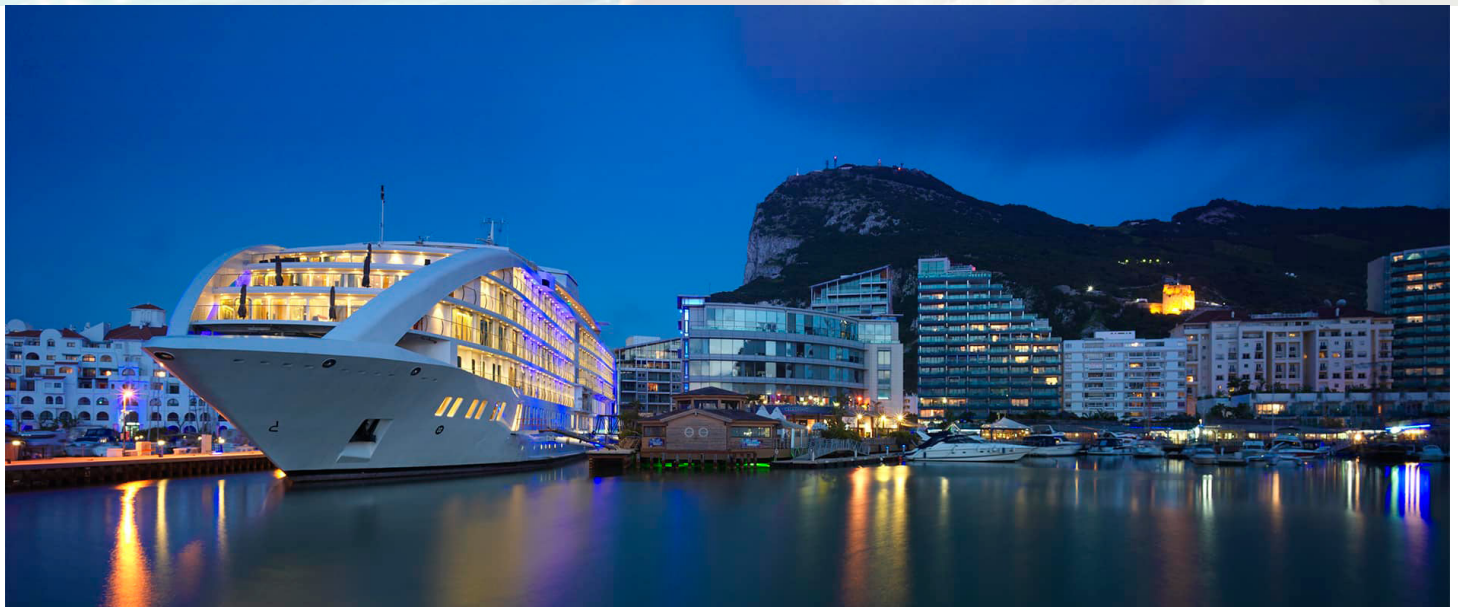
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Traveller's Tales 180

Discovering Durham

Doug Goodman Visits the Historic City



I've viewed Durham Cathedral many times from a distance as my train sped through the city on the way to Newcastle or Edinburgh and wished I could visit the historic location. Last week my wish was granted when I spent a few days there as guest of the tourist board.



Durham Cathedral and The River Wear



The Cathedral

The train is always my favourite way to travel and LNER took me from Kings Cross to Durham in under three hours. The modern Raddison Blu Hotel situated by the River Wear is within a short walk of the city centre. The towers of The Cathedral dominate the skyline so the first visit was naturally to the magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Site.

NORMAN MASTERPIECE.

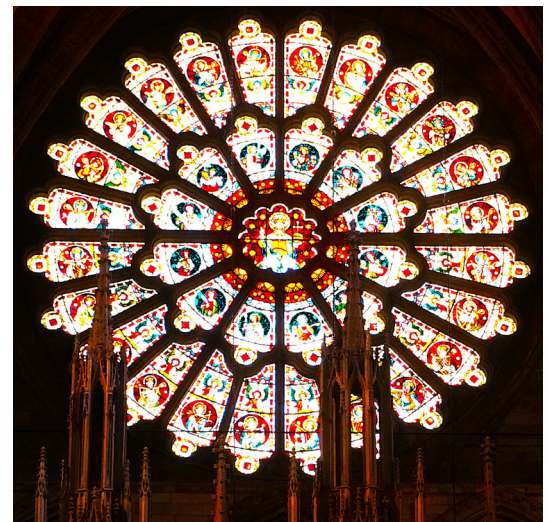
Most of the building was constructed between 1093 and 1133 on an easily defensible hilltop above the river Wear with additions made until 1490. Within the Cathedral precinct the adjacent castle is used by Durham University, the first object to be seen is the Sanctuary Knocker on the formidable entrance door. The ornate knocker was made in the 1170s with the aim of frightening off evil. Cathedrals were places of refuge in medieval times where a criminal could find temporary sanctuary. Anyone touching the door ring would be safe in the building for 37 days. When the period expired the criminals were obliged to face trial or choose lifelong exile.



Sanctuary Knocker on the Door of the Cathedral



The Cloister



The Rose Window

The Cathedral is the seat of the Bishop of Durham and contains the tombs of Saints Cuthbert and The Venerable Bede. It was built to honour St. Cuthbert, who was born in 634 and became Bishop at Lindisfarne after his time as a monk. Viking raids on Lindisfarne compelled the monks to leave for a safer place at Chester -le -Street. St Cuthbert's relics were carried by the monks as they sought a permanent home. The coffin suddenly became impossible to move when the party arrived at a hilltop overlooking a loop in The Wear. This became a sign that the new shrine should be built on the spot that was to be the future City of Durham. In 1104 the remains of St. Cuthbert were placed in a shrine in the new cathedral where the monks cared for it until the Reformation.



The Pieta



Shrine of St. Cuthbert

Not to be missed are the Saints' tombs, The Rose Window, the Marks and Spencers' Last Supper window, a memorial to the miners and the earliest surviving example of a pointed rib vault in the nave ceiling. On display at the Cathedral's eastern end is a magnificent wooden sculpture, Pieta, by Fenwick Lawson. It shows Jesus lying at his mother's feet. Lawson, who died in January this year, has another piece of work in the city centre depicting St Cuthbert's coffin on the shoulders of six monks. Entry to Durham Cathedral is free. A guided tour with one of The Cathedral's experts costs £8.50. A climb to the tower for a spectacular country-wide view is £10. After an enlightening morning in the historic building a walk around the quiet and uncrowded cloister was a joy.



The Castle



Market Square



The Market Tavern

STUDENT CITY

Many new bars and night spots cater for the significant student population. On the steeply cobbled streets leading to the university area are book shops, clothing shops and places supplying items for students living in the centre. In the Market Square you'll find the old traditional pubs, a very extensive market, a band of locals ready to answer questions and offer helpful advice and a variety of restaurants. A Spanish restaurant, Gussto at 32 Silver Street provided an excellent Tapas meal. Durham City is compact with the sites easily reached on foot. Walks along The Wear are very pleasant and public transport will take you to places of interest outside the city. And I do love the Geordie accent even though it was difficult to understand the taxi drivers.



Hotel Radisson Blu by the River Wear



Fast and Comfortable with LNER

More details: Tourist Information, www.thisisdurham.com
Cathedral, www.durhamcathedral.com Gussto Tapas restaurant, Tel 01913840911.
Radisson Blu, www.reservations.durham@radissonblu.com LNER. www.lner.co.uk

Next time in part two the Auckland Project: Bishops' Palace, Faith Museum, Miners' Art Gallery and Spanish Art Treasures.

The Great River Race

By Bruce Lyons

They say a bad day on the River is better than 3 good days in the office. Bit of a myth that, but you may like to note that the 12th of September is the annual GREAT RIVER RACE and we have a supporter boat sailing from Mast House Pier (opposite Greenwich) on the Isle of Dogs, in the City. You catch the build-up of the 270+ boats and

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nearly 3,000 rowers from 08.30 and then walk down the Westferry Road to the Connaught. The boat has ample space inside and out and you can bring a picnic.

The build up (from 08.30) is very busy, imagine 270+ boats and nearly 3,000 rowers and when most are on the water it is a spectacular sight. The Connaught will sail just down the road from Millwall Slipway (the start) @ Mast House Pier @ about 12.00, it can't leave till the last rowers (the fastest boats) have left. You motor through the Iconic skyline of London's Thames Greenwich, HMS Belfast, The London Eye, The Cutty Sark, Houses of Parliament.



It is like passing through time, as time goes on you reach calmer stretches like Putney, The Oxford & Cambridge Course, Syon House, Kew Gardens and more and more.

Around Kew you enter that area referred to as the Arcadian Thames - coming to Richmond, the last bridge before the end @ Ham House.

You, as Londoners can reach the Isle of Dogs on the Light Railway and walk to Westferry Road, but if you want to can book one of our transfers from hereabouts for £20 and the Connaught costs £45.

Look forward to seeing you there - oh and by the way there is a finishing party in front of Ham House too, entirely free.

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



Care

by Alexander Zeldin

Zeldin Company at The Young Vic, Waterloo until 11th July

It is Dementia Action Week, and images of forget-me-nots remind us of all those whose sense of self has been lost due to this cruel disease. So this unflinching analysis of this most uncomfortable of topics could not be more timely.

Care is not for the faint-hearted, at 140 minutes straight through. The discomfort of not being able to leave one's seat whilst inhabiting Rosanna Vize's realistically designed care home setting feels truly immersive. Gradually its four walls really do seem to be closing in.

Although primarily the story of Joan, the new arrival to the home, in a pitch perfect portrayal by Linda Bassett, the play also depicts the struggles of the home's other residents. Zeldin explores the varied effects of dementia, from loss of speech to total loss of inhibition. He also captures the struggles of Joan's family. They do not intend tier elders to become a



burden, but in the business of real life, it is so easy to perceive them as such. "I'll visit you every day, Mum", says Rosie Caveliero's Lynn, only for us to be told "it's been three months" a scene later. This, together with the "six minutes and one wipe only" for each resident's wash, the dodgy electrics and the obviously overworked staff sum up perfectly the crisis in the care system.

Amongst the uniformly excellent performances, the contrasting portrayals from Hayley Carmichael as Simone and Ann Mitchell as Agnes stand-out, while Richard Durden's portrayal of John is heartbreaking.

From the dark comedy to be found in any tragic situation, sometimes oh-so-welcome moments of humour spring from the unfiltered thoughts and words of youth, and William Lawlor and Ethan Mahoney shine as Joan's grandsons Laurie and Robbie.

Zeldin has created uncomfortable theatre, at times almost unmatchably realistic. It moves slowly and often actions are repeated or seem interminably long. *Care* succeeds in making the audience uneasy. The jury is out on whether those who need to see this play, those in a position to remedy the real-life care situation, will have the stomach or stamina to put themselves in the position of doing so.

Read Eleanor Marsh's review at www.markaspen.com/2026/05/20/care

Photography by Johan Persson



Sensational Spy Thriller at the Mary Wallace Theatre

CIPHERS by Dawn King

May 30th-June 6th

In Dawn King's 1913 espionage thriller, inspired by real events, a woman dies in mysterious circumstances. Someone knows how and why, but since she worked in an environment of danger and deceit where nobody could be trusted to tell the truth, how can you ever believe witnesses who lie for a living?

CIPHERS plays at the Mary Wallace Theatre on Twickenham's Embankment from May 30th-June 6th, with a captioned performance on Thursday, June 4th



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Shona's art cards and fridge magnet art cards

From Shona Lyons

My passion for card making was ignited when a mature art student at Kingston. We had a competition, and true, to my Jewish heritage (the cut out art form, was perfected by Jewish artists and craftspeople, in order to decorate their ketubot, marriage certificates, particularly in the Diaspora, where, it needed little expensive materials just a lot of skill) I discovered I was good at cut outs and made a range of 8 animal designs for the competition. My designs were not selected, but my passion, was ignited.

Then in 2002, I had a bad accident on my moped whilst living in Israel and with my mum, who flew out the night of my accident and stayed with me throughout my 6 months, on recuperation, learning to use my leg and arm again!, I came across a fantastic card making book, and my passion for card making was reignited again, and when I got well enough, physically and returned to Eilat in the South of Israel, I started my own card and hand stencilled t shirt business at a little craft market in the town.



It's been 24 years since then, but even though I was working in something else, I've always been an enthusiastic artist and particularly a card maker. My skills have advanced and I started a new invention, where I now try also to make certain designs into fridge magnets too, so that my hand painted designs and also the message of the giver, have a much longer shelf life, and live on the recipients fridge, for years, even.

I'm trying to design a web site, but for now, I can be reached by email Shonal Lyons@yahoo.com



If anyone would like to buy a fridge magnet art card, or any other kind of card. Some examples are attached to this advertorial, but I can also send more by email and can also custom make, artcards, fridge magnet art cards and also I still make the hand stencilled t shirts.

I also have been involved in art classes for adults and children, one thing that was very popular, was a Mishloach manot class, that I designed for the Jewish holiday of Purim, where I made box templates that the kids and adults decorated, and then filled with hamentashen biscuits and sweets, all goodies for the Purim celebration, to give to family or friends, but the box art classes are good for other events too, the kids were always delighted with their boxes, they are very bright, well designed and colourful, and something the children can be really proud of.

I can also offer t shirts and also classes making hand stencilled t shirts. I also enjoy painting murals, the one featured, was for an ice cream shop. Please enquire for more details.



The Royal Parks appoints Jack Aldridge as Horticultural Curator

From The Royal Parks

The Royal Parks charity, which manages London's eight historic Royal Parks, has appointed Jack Aldridge as its first ever Horticultural Curator, starting in early June.

Working across the parks' 5,000 acres of historic parkland, the new role will focus on delivering exceptional horticulture for the millions of visitors who enjoy the parks each year, helping to cement The Royal Parks' reputation as a world-class horticultural destination.



Jack will support the charity's eleven Head Gardeners to develop and enhance plant collections and displays across the parks, ensuring they are beautiful, biodiverse and resilient in the face of a changing climate. He will also work with a wide range of nurseries and growers to oversee plant sourcing across the parks.

Jack brings a wealth of horticultural expertise from RHS Garden Wisley, where he has led the team responsible for the historic Rock Garden and Alpine Meadow, as well as the RHS collections of alpines and bulbs. Prior to this, he managed Oakwood, a historic four-acre woodland garden that marks the origins of Wisley. Jack is recognised by the RHS as a Horticultural Specialist in woody ornamental plants and is a contributing author for Trees & Shrubs Online.

In 2025, Jack received the RHS Roy Lancaster Award, which recognises individuals aged 35 or under who have made an exceptional contribution to horticulture. He serves on the RHS Woody Plant Expert Group and is a trustee of the White House Farm Arboretum Trust.

Matthew Pottage, Head of Horticulture and Landscape Strategy at The Royal Parks, said: *"We are delighted to be welcoming Jack to The Royal Parks team. We are passionate that horticulture can bring benefit to both people and planet, and in these times of climatic extremes, the need to diversify our landscapes has never been greater. We have no doubt that Jack's extensive plant knowledge will help us create extraordinary displays that are not only beautiful, but also resilient, as we adapt to meet the challenges of a changing climate."*

Jack Aldridge added:

"I am looking forward to working with the team to support the shared aim of delivering wow-factor horticulture and developing a world-class plant collection throughout the Royal Parks. I feel that the need to diversify our planting in response to the changing climate offers us an exciting opportunity to push the boundaries and experiment with what we plant within a variety of interesting microclimates, bringing joy to visitors and putting The Royal Parks firmly on the global horticultural map."



St Mary's University

St Mary's alumnae victorious in Women's Six Nations



St Mary's University, Twickenham alumnae Ellie Kildunne, Jess Breach, and Abi Burton are victorious as England's Red Roses win an eighth successive Women's Six Nations title.

England won the championship with a 43-28 victory over France, sealing a fifth successive Grand Slam.

Current [Physiotherapy](#) student, Aoife Wafer also had a remarkable tournament for Ireland. The back row forward produced a series of standout performances, earning [two Player of the Match](#) awards during the championship and helping Ireland secure a third-place finish.

Former St Mary's students Ellie Kildunne, Jess Breach and Abi Burton were all part of the victorious England squad. The trio were previously recognised by St Mary's alongside fellow Red Roses player Rosie Galligan when they were [awarded Honorary](#)

[Doctorates by the University](#) in recognition of their outstanding contribution to sport and women's rugby.

Professor Anthony McClaran, Vice-Chancellor of St Mary's commented: *"We're incredibly proud of Ellie, Jess, Abi and Aoife for their achievements in this year's Women's Six Nations. Women's rugby continues to inspire audiences around the world, and it is fantastic to see members of our community playing such an important role in the success and growth of the game."*

St Mary's has a proud sporting history and longstanding reputation for nurturing elite athletes across a range of sports. The University continues to [support student athletes](#) competing at the very highest level while combining their sporting ambitions with academic study.



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Expanding Horizons: Enriching Opportunities for Sixth Form Learners

From Richmond upon Thames College

Students across our A-Level courses have recently benefited from a range of enriching opportunities designed to bring their studies to life beyond the classroom.

Exploring History, Faith and Ideas at Westminster Abbey

Philosophy, Ethics and Religion, and History students visited the iconic Westminster Abbey, immersing themselves in one of the UK's most significant historical and cultural landmarks.

Through private tours led by an expert team, students explored the Abbey's rich heritage, encountering the tombs of monarchs and influential figures including Charles Darwin and Stephen Hawking. The visit provided a powerful opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world contexts, particularly in exploring themes such as belief, faith, and the relationship between science and religion.



Philosophy in Practice

Philosophy learners continued their academic journey, taking part in the first-ever HRUC (Harrow, Richmond & Uxbridge Colleges) Philosophy Conference, hosted in the Richmond upon Thames College Auditorium.

Centred on the theme Why Philosophy Still Matters in 21st Century UK, the conference encouraged students to engage with philosophy as a vital and evolving discipline. Students presented their own research, exploring topics such as authenticity, morality, religious belief, the impact of technology, and what it means to live in today's world.



The event also featured keynote speakers from [Royal Holloway, University of London](#) and [University College London](#), including Professor Henry Somers-Hall, Dr James Brown and Dr David Preston, who highlighted the importance of philosophy in shaping ethical and political awareness.

The conference was a fantastic student-led success, with special thanks to organisers Andrea Hidalgo, Sophia Jafri and Thurrayia Hussain for their dedication and leadership.

Industry Insight for Aspiring Architects

Architecture students have also been gaining valuable industry experience, with a recent visit from Gareth Box of Blue Zoo Animation Studio, who delivered specialist Revit software training.

Students developed their digital design skills using industry-standard software, with opportunities extending beyond the classroom. Several students have already progressed to work experience placements with IID Architects in Richmond, recognising their proficiency and potential in architectural design.



These experiences are helping students build practical skills and industry connections, preparing them for future careers in architecture and the creative industries.

Understanding Politics in Action

Politics students have been exploring key institutions at both national and international levels through a series of educational visits.

First years visited the UK Supreme Court, where they observed a live case and deepened their understanding of judicial independence and neutrality in the legal system.



This was followed by a visit to Europe House, where students engaged in an interactive session on the structure and functions of the European Union.

Through debates on topics such as human rights, the economy, immigration and climate change, students developed their critical thinking skills and gained insight into contemporary global issues.

Well-Rounded Student Experiences

These experiences highlight the college's commitment to providing A-Level students with opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom. Whether exploring historic sites, presenting academic research, gaining industry skills or engaging with political institutions, students are developing the knowledge, confidence and skills needed for their future pathways.

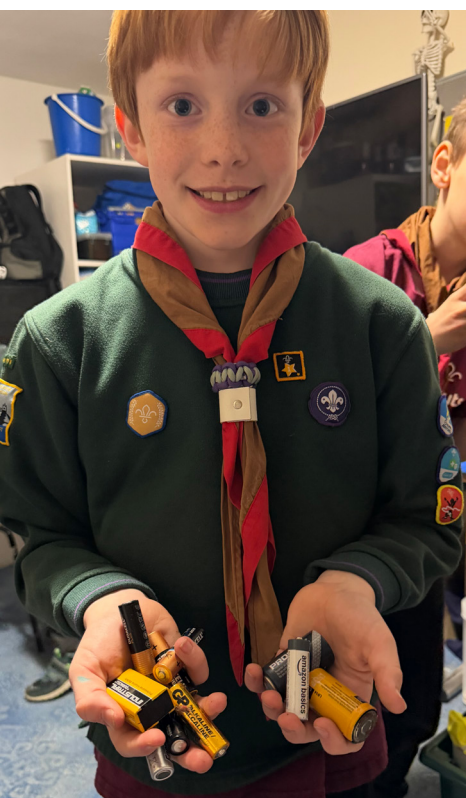
[Discover where A-Levels at Richmond upon Thames College could take you - explore our courses and apply today!](#)

Scouts from 2nd Teddington power up recycling with VARTA battery campaign

Scouts from 2nd Teddington have recycled more than 1,000 batteries as part of a national initiative, helping to protect the environment and build more sustainable habits for the future.

The activity is part of a partnership between VARTA Consumer Batteries UK and The Scouts, which aims to inspire young people to take positive action for the planet.

As part of the campaign, young people from 2nd Teddington have been collecting used batteries and raising awareness of the importance of recycling batteries safely.



The initiative also includes a range of hands-on activities designed to build understanding of sustainability, including the 'Ready, Steady, Recycle' challenge, which encourages better recycling habits at home.

Cub Scout Volunteer Lola Doyle said 'As a Cub Scout Volunteer, I've been incredibly proud to see how enthusiastically our Cubs have embraced learning about why recycling batteries is so important. They made their own little battery pots to collect used batteries at home, which really helped bring the message into their everyday lives. As a group, we then came together to collect household batteries for the competition, and it's been fantastic to see their teamwork and commitment to making a positive difference for the environment.'

Emmy Allen age 8 said "I think recycling batteries is important because it helps keep our planet clean, and I enjoyed collecting them at home"

Simon Laidler from VARTA Consumer Batteries UK said:

"We are thrilled to partner with The Scouts, aligning our commitment to sustainability with their focus on environmental responsibility. Our battery recycling campaign shows the real impact young people can have when they are empowered to take action. Together, we're helping to turn awareness into meaningful change and inspire lifelong responsibility for the planet."



Teddington fundraiser steps out for major charity appeal to support communities living in poverty

Members of Teddington Churches Together have been marking [Christian Aid Week](#) with special services and collections.

But one member is going the extra mile by taking part in the charity's 70K in May challenge.

The aim is to cover 70km any way you like but Andrew Stanley is planning to more than double this target and walk around 270km.

This year's appeal is focusing on work in Nairobi, Kenya, where intense poverty means families have a daily struggle to feed their children. With secure jobs hard to find, and most people earning less than a dollar a day to cover school costs, rent and water, some days there isn't enough for a meal.

But with tools, seeds and specialist training from Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope, families are learning how to make the most of a small space in the city to grow a steady supply of fresh vegetables to cook or sell.

Seventy-one-year-old Andrew explained: *"Every year, during this appeal, people across Britain and Ireland have seven days to make a difference.*



"I have been aware of the work that Christian Aid does around the globe and have supported the charity for 50 years. I am very enthusiastic about growing my own food and have had my own allotment for 15 years – I've always been amazed by what can be grown from a small seed if it is carefully nurtured.

"I am walking the Thames Path from Whitchurch to Lechlade over five days with a group of friends so will have some good company. I have never walked this far in consecutive days but I am very much looking forward to it as it is a beautiful stretch of river and the effort will be for such a good cause, I will be walking from May 22-27 and aiming to raise at least £750."

Money raised will help Christian Aid and its partners to support communities to find practical and sustainable ways out of poverty.

To support Andrew, please go to his fundraising page: [Andrew's May Challenge - Christian Aid Week](#) and to find out more about Christian Aid and the appeal, visit [Christian Aid Week 2026](#).



Chris McCausland headlines charity

Comedy Night

From Momentum Children's Charity

A spectacular evening of stand-up awaits as some of the UK's funniest comedians unite to support Momentum Children's Charity.

Taking place at The Arthur Cotterell Theatre at Kingston College on Thursday 9 July, this year's Comedy Night will be headlined by the brilliantly funny Chris McCausland, fresh from a hugely successful nationwide tour.

Chris McCausland is a much-loved comedian and familiar face on television, known for regular appearances across leading comedy and entertainment shows, and for winning the 2024 series of Strictly Come Dancing.

Joining Chris on the lineup is acclaimed comedian, Esther Manito, known for her sharp wit and relatable storytelling, and Michael Odewale who is well-recognised for his intelligent humour and delivering standout sets at venues and festivals across the country.

Returning for his fifth year as host is the brilliant local comedian and long-time supporter Erich McElroy, ensuring the laughter continues throughout the evening.

Talking about why he is supporting the event, Erich McElroy said: *"I'm really pleased to be hosting Momentum's Comedy Night for the fifth time. It's a brilliant charity doing incredibly important work for families with seriously ill children. This is the best kind of gig - people come in expecting to laugh, and if they don't, we can always call it 'raising awareness' instead. The Arthur Cotterell Theatre is a small, intimate venue, so don't leave it too late to get your tickets!"*

Tara Sherjan, Head of Public Fundraising at Momentum Children's Charity said: **"We are absolutely thrilled to welcome back the brilliant Chris McCausland to headline this year's Comedy Night. It's always a standout evening - full of energy, laughter and incredible community spirit. Alongside Chris, we're delighted to have the hugely talented Michael Odewale and Esther Manito joining the line-up, with the hilarious Erich McElroy returning as host. A big thank you to the comedians who are donating their time and to Kingston College for sharing their venue for the night. Every ticket sold will help Momentum continue providing vital care and support to families facing the most difficult circumstances."**

Momentum Children's Charity supports families across London, Surrey and Sussex whose children are facing cancer or a life-challenging condition. The charity partners with local hospitals to offer personally tailored support to the entire family through their family support workers, both in hospital and at home.

Tickets for Momentum Children's Charity's Comedy Night start at just £20 each, buy yours [here](#)

To find out more about the work of Momentum Children's Charity, please visit www.momentumcharity.org



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England Rugby and Castore unveil new Home, Training and Travel Collections for 2026/27 Season

'Into the Elements' inspired collection blends heritage, innovation and elite performance.

England Rugby and Castore today unveil the new men's and women's Home, Training and Travel collections for the 2026/27 season, introducing a bold new visual identity inspired by the forces of nature and engineered for elite performance.

Built around the creative concept 'Into the Elements', the new collection combines the physicality of rugby with the power and unpredictability of the natural world. Drawing inspiration from the way wind and water shape surfaces over time, the range reflects themes of resilience, movement and evolution through innovative fabrications, engineered textures and dynamic detailing.



At the heart of the launch is the new England Rugby Home Kit – a modern interpretation of tradition that delivers a clean and refined aesthetic while incorporating advanced performance technology. Designed as ‘heritage reborn’, the jersey stays true to England Rugby’s iconic white identity while introducing an engineered 3D jacquard fabric that creates depth, texture and movement throughout the garment.

The jacquard pattern transitions from smooth to textured surfaces, inspired by the impact of natural forces over time, creating a contemporary visual language that remains rooted in England Rugby heritage. Lightweight construction, breathable knit zones and moisture management technology ensure the jersey performs at the highest level, supporting player comfort during elite competition.

Alongside the Home Kit, Castore and England Rugby also unveil the new Training and Travel collections for both the men’s and women’s teams. Designed to support performance on and off the pitch, the wider range incorporates a rich palette of navy, purple, deep reds and earthy tones to create a cohesive identity across the full collection.

The 2026/27 range also introduces enhanced technical innovation throughout the playing kit. A new moisture management finish improves the speed at which fabric draws sweat away from the skin, while upgraded abrasion testing standards have doubled from 10,000 to 20,000 revolutions to ensure greater durability and performance under the demands of international rugby.

Tom Beahon, Co-Founder of Castore, said: *“England Rugby represents one of the most iconic and respected institutions in world sport, so every detail of this collection had to reflect the pride, resilience and performance standards associated with wearing the Red Rose.”*

“For the 2026/27 season, we wanted to evolve the visual identity of the range while staying true to the heritage that supporters and players connect with so deeply. The ‘Into the Elements’ concept allowed us to introduce a more dynamic and modern design language inspired by movement, strength and the raw intensity of the game.”

“From the engineered jacquard fabrics through to the enhanced performance technologies embedded across the collection, every element has been obsessively engineered to support players performing at the very highest level. We’re proud to unveil a range that combines innovation, craftsmanship and tradition for both players and fans alike.”

The new England Rugby Home, Training and Travel collections will be available from 21st May 2026 across [England Rugby](#) and Castore retail channels.



Match Preview: Liverpool v Brentford

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford close their 2025/26 Premier League campaign against Liverpool at Anfield on Sunday afternoon (4pm kick-off BST, live on *Sky Sports*).

The Bees remain in contention for a European place while Arne Slot's side's Champions League spot will be confirmed should they avoid defeat.

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*: Set-piece battle key

Brentford travel to Anfield for their end-of-season showdown on Sunday looking to do the double over Liverpool for the first time in their history.

The Bees' only win at one of English football's most formidable fortresses came all the way back in 1937, when flying winger Bobby Reid bagged a hat-trick in a thrilling 4-3 victory for the Londoners.

Fast forward nearly 90 years, and Keith Andrews' side will be hellbent on writing another famous chapter in Brentford's annals.

Still in the hunt for either a Europa League or Europa Conference League spot, the Bees sit ninth in the Premier League table on 52 points - but know only victory over Arne Slot's Reds will do if they are to qualify for Europe for the first time ever, barring an unlikely goal difference swing involved Brighton & Hove Albion.

Andrews will look to sidestep the final-day mathematical permutations and focus solely on winning. He already knows Brentford's 'Class of 25/26' have what it takes after October's 3-2 victory over the reigning Premier League champions at the Gtech.



[Dango Ouattara](#), [Kevin Schade](#) and [Igor Thiago](#) were all on the scoresheet that day, and Andrews will need his attacking unit to be at their clinical best if Brentford are to claim three points on Merseyside.

The west Londoners top the Premier League for shooting accuracy this season, boasting a shot-on-target percentage of 36.8%, while no side has generated more xG per shot than Brentford's 0.17.

That ruthless edge was evident in last year's win over against Sunday's opponents at the Gtech. Despite having just 34% possession, Brentford fired off 17 shots, eight of them on target, and generated more xG than Liverpool, who trailed throughout after Ouattara volleyed the hosts ahead early on.

Ouattara's goal in the previous meeting - like his equaliser against Crystal Palace last week - stemmed from a [Michael Kayode](#) long throw, and any discussion around Liverpool's strengths and weaknesses this season inevitably leads back to set-pieces.

Despite a raft of high-profile summer signings, Liverpool have endured a difficult title defence, with their shortcomings repeatedly stalling any momentum. Their set-piece record offers perhaps the clearest example.

Although their overall goal output has fallen substantially, Slot's side still rank joint-second in the Premier League for goals from corners, free-kicks and throws this season, with Virgil van Dijk (six goals) and Dominik Szoboszlai (four) among the division's most dangerous dead-ball operators.

Despite scoring 18 goals from set-piece situations, excluding penalties, the Reds have a set-piece goal difference of -2, having conceded more goals in this regard than any other side in the Premier League.

Such vulnerabilities are a far cry from the defensive resilience that underpinned Slot's title-winning debut campaign. Only five teams in the entire top flight have conceded more goals than Liverpool this season (52).

Notably, the Reds have averaged more possession this season (59%) than they did during the previous campaign, and they are likely to dominate the ball again on Sunday.

Brentford's challenge will be to maximise the possession they do have, continue generating high-quality chances - something the Bees have consistently excelled at - and exploit the weaknesses that have plagued Slot's Liverpool throughout the campaign.

If the Bees can do that, and enjoy a slice of luck, history could be in the making.

Scout report

Dan Long, *Sky Sports*: Where Liverpool's title defence fell short

Liverpool rocketed to the top of the table after starting the defence of their second Premier

League title with five straight wins, but that did not tell the full story.

Champions always find a way to win, but the Reds rode their luck in those opening weeks. A 100th-minute winner from teenager Rio Ngumoha earned a 3-2 victory over Newcastle, for example, while a 95th-minute Mohamed Salah penalty was all they managed to put past Burnley at Turf Moor.

Then, while their collapse was surprising, it was not entirely unexpected.

A [3-2 defeat to Brentford](#) on 25 October condemned Liverpool to a fourth Premier League defeat in succession for the first time in 11 years. But the slump did not end there.

In fact, between the 2-1 defeat to Crystal Palace on 27 September and the 3-3 draw with Leeds on 6 December, Arne Slot's side picked up just eight points from 10 games.

That night at Elland Road was memorable for more than just the result. After being an unused substitute for the second time in three games, Salah claimed there was no relationship between him and Slot and that he was being 'thrown under the bus'. He did start the next game against Brighton, however, before jetting to AFCON with Egypt.

The regular defeats stopped after that, but any hope of challenging Arsenal and Manchester City at the top was effectively gone. Four defeats from four to start 2026 made sure of that.

Since then, Liverpool have only been able to string together a run of three league wins on two occasions. A luxury for some teams, granted, but there were four runs of three last season and three runs of four. There is simply no comparison.

A largely miserable season was compounded on 24 March, when Salah announced he would be leaving in the summer, 11 months into the two-year contract extension he signed the previous April. The 33-year-old will depart Anfield as the third-highest scorer in club history, with only Roger Hunt (285) and Ian Rush (346) ahead of him.

Andy Robertson announced in early April that he, too, would be leaving after nine seasons and, to make matters worse, a few days later, Hugo Ekitike ruptured his Achilles in a Champions League game against Paris Saint-Germain. That meant he would miss not only the season's conclusion, but the World Cup, too.

Liverpool sit in fifth place, the final Champions League place, going into the final day, and need to avoid defeat to 100 per cent confirm their return to Europe's premier competition for a third season running and the ninth time in the last 10 seasons.

That said, Man City's late equaliser against Bournemouth means that, even if the Reds are defeated this weekend, the sixth-placed Cherries would have to overturn a six-goal goal difference swing.

In the Dugout

Arne Slot



Arne Slot had a long career in his native Netherlands, which spanned 18 years from 1995 to 2013. He was a goalscoring midfielder – once capped internationally at U19 level - who scored 100 league goals in 462 appearances, over 300 of which came during spells at PEC Zwolle and NAC Breda.

During the three separate periods spent at Zwolle, he won the Eerste Divisie – the Netherlands' second tier - in 2001/02 and 2011/12.

After retirement, Slot moved into a coaching role within PEC Zwolle's youth academy, before four years at Cambuur, first as assistant to Henk de Jong, Marcel Keizer and then Rob Maas, then as joint head coach with Sipke Hulshoff. The pair guided Cambuur to a third-place finish in the Eerste Divisie in 2016/17, which secured a play-off spot, though they were defeated 3-2 on aggregate by MVV Maastricht.

Slot left Cambuur in the summer of 2017 to take up the assistant role at AZ Alkmaar and he was handed the head coach role two years later. His first and only full season in charge was disrupted by Covid but, when the season was abandoned on 24 April 2020, his side were joint top with Ajax.

He lasted less than eight more months in the role before agreeing a deal to take over at Feyenoord in 2021. It was in Rotterdam that he really started to make a name for himself.

In 2021/22, Feyenoord finished third in the Eredivisie and as UEFA Conference League runners-up. In 2022/23, they won the league for the first time in six years, reached the semi-finals of the KNVB Cup and the quarter-finals of the Europa League. And in 2023/24, they finished as Eredivisie runners-up and won the KNVB Cup.

In all, he won 98 of his 150 games in charge at De Kuip, before being named as Jürgen Klopp's successor at Liverpool in April 2024. Slot reached a century of games in charge of the Reds in March.



Cynergy Bank and Brentford FC Community Trust host financial literacy workshops

Cynergy Bank, in partnership with Brentford Community Trust, hosted a financial literacy workshop yesterday aimed at empowering young people with essential money management skills. The sessions, held at the Gtech Community Stadium, engaged more than 50 male and female students aged 16 and above from the Trust's Post-16 Football and Education programme.

The workshops addressed the need for financial education among teenagers, equipping participants with the knowledge to make informed financial decisions as they transition into adulthood. The initiative recognises the importance of financial literacy for both Cynergy Bank, Brentford FC and the Trust, and highlights their shared commitment to equipping young people with the knowledge and confidence to build secure financial futures.



The event programme featured two interactive two-hour sessions, led by financial experts from Cynergy Bank. The agenda included live demonstrations, Q&A segments, and practical activities designed to enhance understanding of budgeting, saving, and responsible spending. To make the day more relatable for participants, the team incorporated sports analogies, drawing parallels between financial planning and football strategies.

Recognising the varied backgrounds of the attendees, with some entering their first jobs and others still in school, the workshops were tailored to meet varying levels of financial exposure. A team of nine support staff from different departments at Cynergy Bank facilitated engagement, while Brentford FC CST coaches were present to provide familiar support based on existing relationships with the students.

Participants received a digital financial literacy guide after the event as a reference for future financial decisions. The success of the event has prompted discussions about making these workshops a recurring feature, underscoring the commitment of Cynergy Bank and Brentford Community Trust to ongoing community education and support.

Claire Head, Chief People and Culture Officer at Cynergy Bank said:

“At Cynergy Bank, we believe financial confidence should start early. Partnering with Brentford Community Trust to deliver these workshops was a fantastic opportunity to give young people practical tools to manage their money, make informed decisions and build strong foundations for the future. By making the sessions interactive and relatable, we hope to inspire lasting confidence in their financial journeys. It’s been great to partner with Brentford Community Trust, and we look forward to continuing this work together to support young people in the local community.”



Marcus Gayle, Brentford FC Club Ambassador and Ex-Professional Football Player said:

“Football gave me an incredible career, but it also taught me that talent on the pitch only takes you so far. What you do with your money and your choices off the pitch matters just as much. I wish I’d had a session like this when I was 16. Sharing my own experiences with the Trust’s participants today, alongside the brilliant team from Cynergy Bank, felt genuinely meaningful. The Trust does an outstanding job of preparing young people for life beyond the game, and being part of that today was something I’ll remember.”

Tomas Abreu, Head of Fundraising and Partnerships at Brentford Community Trust, added:

“We are proud to work with Cynergy Bank to bring meaningful financial education to our young people. Developing life skills beyond the pitch is a key part of what we do, and these workshops gave participants valuable knowledge they can use as they move into employment, further education and adult life. It was great to see such strong engagement from all those involved.”



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