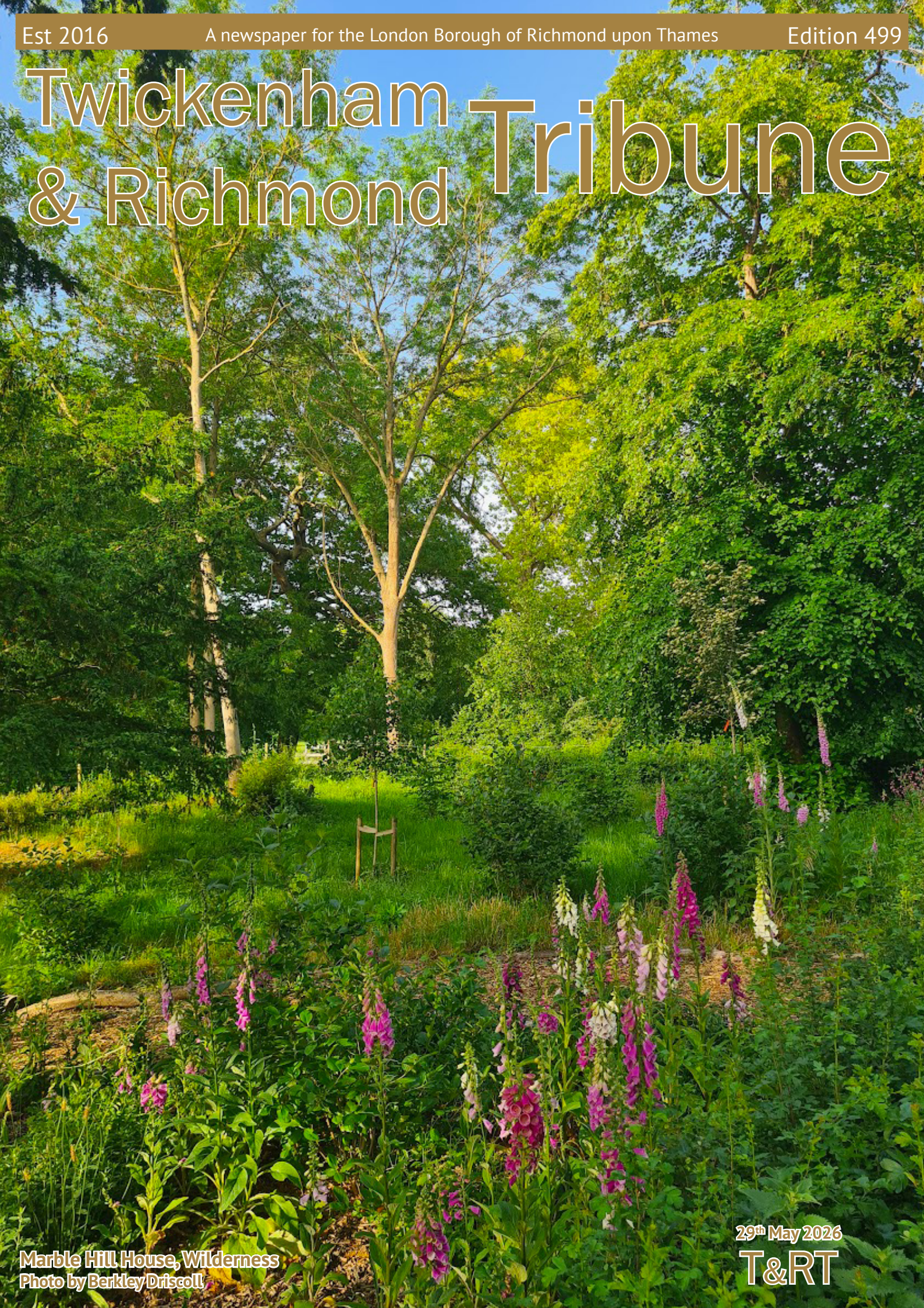


Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



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Port of London Authority

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TickerTape - News in Brief

South Western Railway

Altered train services and buses replace trains in the New Malden area Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 May

The lines in the New Malden area will be closed all weekend due to maintenance work.

Saturday 30th May

- Some London Waterloo to London Waterloo via Richmond and Kingston services will be revised.
- London Waterloo to Hampton Court services will be revised to run hourly. These services will start from Surbiton.
- Additional services will run between London Waterloo and Hampton Wick.
- London Waterloo to Windsor services will be revised to depart London Waterloo earlier.

Sunday 31st May

- London Waterloo to Shepperton services will be revised and will be diverted between Clapham Junction and Kingston via Richmond.
- London Waterloo to London Waterloo via Wimbledon and Kingston services will not run.
- The afternoon and evening London Waterloo to Kingston via Hounslow services will not run.
- London Waterloo to Hampton Court services will start from Surbiton and will run hourly.



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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



The Local Picture Postcard Page - Part 328

Twickenham Corporate Baths

By Alan Winter

Well, where better to have spent time during the last week with the hot weather breaking records for May around the country than at our local outdoor swimming pool.

Whoops! I forgot that Twickenham doesn't have one of those any more. That goes down as a great loss to the town and today's local authority has even missed the opportunity to build a smaller version of the pool in its current re-vamping of the riverside and King Street area being worked on currently.

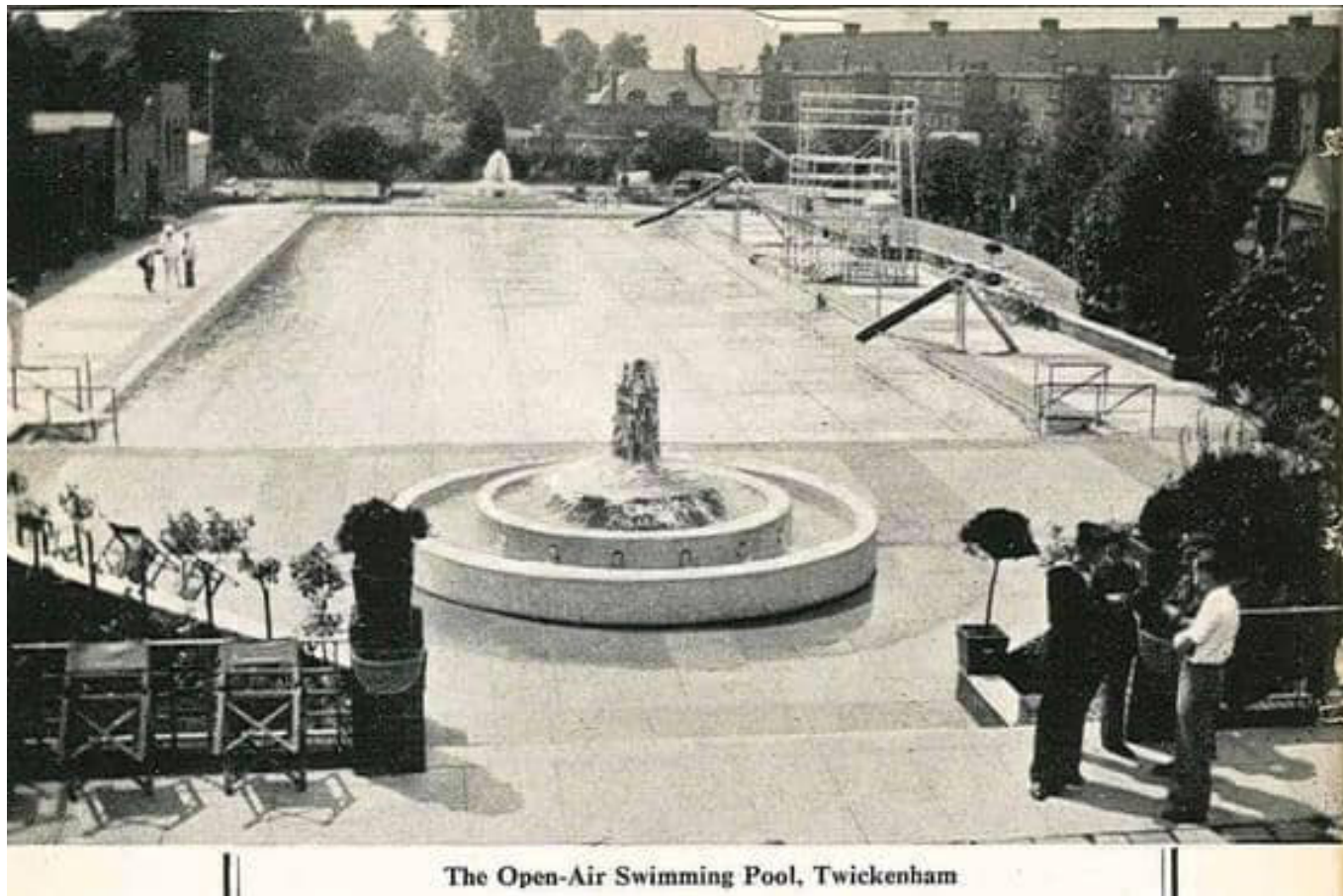
The baths were built in the 1930's, in a concrete and brick art deco style. Twickenham Baths was municipal architecture in the grand sense with its wide hall, twin staircase and deep arches. It occupied the site of Richmond House which was demolished in the 1920's. The pool itself was an old-fashioned lido, the last word in leisure, generously proportioned and with ample room for sunbathing on the paved areas.

There were fountains at each end of the pool and a diving board in the middle at its deepest point. There was also a spacious canteen with a sweeping corner terrace. A hot cup of oxo and a chocolate wagon wheel was a must have after the hours spent at the pool in those long hot summers.

The first postcard shows the frontage of the baths facing the river across the embankment and this photo is probably taken in the late 1930's.

The next postcard shows a brilliant aerial shot of the baths in relation to King Street which was taken and published as a postcard by Aerofilms of London in 1938.





The Open-Air Swimming Pool, Twickenham

Postcard three shows the overall length of the pool with its fountains at either end.

The last postcard this week shows the diving boards which were situated half way down the pool facing the river



TWICKENHAM. CORPORATION BATHS.

V6385

Before you ask, yes. I learnt to swim there in the late 1950's and yes it may well be me on top of the diving platform – or is it you!

Editor's note: You can find out more about The Twickenham Lido and the borough's lido heritage at the [Lidos Alive](http://Lidos Alive website) website.

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Richmond gears up for switch to new, borough-wide hire e-bike operator

From Richmond Council

Residents across Richmond upon Thames will soon see changes to the borough's hire e-bike service, as Forest becomes the official operator from Monday (1 June), as a phased transition begins.

Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said: *"Hire e-bikes are now part of everyday life in Richmond – helping people travel quickly, affordably, and sustainably. Residents told us they wanted to keep rental e-bikes but also wanted better management and better value. That feedback directly shaped this decision. We know many people currently use Lime, so we want residents to be clear about what's changing and when."*

Forest and Lime are contacting users directly through their apps and notifications, and the Council will continue sharing updates locally as the transition gets underway. The change follows the [Council's decision](#) earlier this year to appoint Forest after a borough-wide consultation, public hearings with operators, and a detailed procurement process shaped by resident feedback.

From Monday (1 June), Forest will begin operating in the borough and its bikes will start to appear on streets. At the same time, Lime will begin reducing the number of bikes as it winds down operations. Some Lime bikes may remain for a short period during the transition period.

Forest already operates in every borough surrounding Richmond, supporting more seamless journeys across London and many residents already use Forest elsewhere. More than 1.5 million hire e-bike journeys were made in Richmond upon Thames last year alone, underlining how widely the scheme is now used.



Councillor Alexander Ehmann, Deputy Leader and Chair of the Transport and Air Quality Committee, said: *"This is about securing a better deal for residents and taxpayers over the long term. Forest scored highest through the Council's evaluation process and already operates across neighbouring boroughs, making journeys simpler and more joined up. The new arrangement is expected to bring lower pricing, introductory offers, more consistent parking management, and a stronger overall service for residents. From 1 June, we're encouraging residents to make the switch and take advantage of the offers."*

Users will be able to access bikes via the Forest app to locate, unlock and pay for rides, as well as redeem 30 ride minutes for £1 for every ride that starts in Richmond. To mark the launch, Forest is also offering Richmond residents an exclusive deal of 400 minutes for £13.99 a month throughout June.

How to switch to Forest

- Residents planning to continue using hire e-bikes in Richmond upon Thames should:
- Download the Forest app from the Apple App Store or Google Play
- Create or log into a Forest account
- Check the app for introductory offers and pricing
- Use the app to find and unlock bikes across Richmond and neighbouring boroughs

Thames Water Delivers shocks to Ham riverside after Bathing Water news

By Mike Pemberton, SOLAR

Thames Water (TW) has delivered devastating news for Ham's riverside open space just next to the approved Bathing Water Status stretch, bathing news which was covered in last week's Tribune. TW's news relates to its proposed Teddington Direct River Abstraction (TDRA) proposals, or the "Thames Sewage Pump" as it has become known. Last year TW received over 14,000 statements of objection to its statutory consultation. This amounts to about ten times more responses than any other such major water related consultation.

SOLAR, Save Our Lands And River, local community campaign group in opposition to TDRA, reveals that TW has made big, damaging, changes but with little apparent consideration of that feedback. The impact on the large Burnell Avenue open riverside space will be far bigger, taking longer, and more damaging than previously presented. [SOLAR Campaign News - Save Our Lands & River from Thames Water](#) will continue to feature these issues. The latest plans include:

- Construction related to this open space increasing from around 2 years to around 4 years
- HGV movements increasing from around 6,246 to around 14,000
- Larger permanent infrastructure being proposed in open and riverside space areas
- Permanent addition of many maintenance hatches and underground equipment
- More space taken for control buildings, water intake and treated sewage outfall structures

These changes now bring even more serious concerns for the Ham community in both the construction and long-term phases. The increased impacts on the physical environment and loss of access to open space and the riverbank are major new issues.



Burnell Riverside and Open Space May 2026



Burnell Riverside if TDRA happens

TW is holding "have your say" events - an open information event on **Tuesday 2 June, 2pm to 8pm**, at St Andrew's Church Hall, Church Rd Ham, TW10 5HG; and also an online information event on **Monday 8 June, midday to 1pm**, registration required at [Events - Thames Water Strategic Resource Options](#)

Having become increasingly aware of the big inadequacies in sewage treatment processes and outdated river water standards, SOLAR has launched a parliamentary e-petition for new laws for higher standards equivalent to international best practice. This link takes to straight to the e-petition – need to be a UK resident, no age limits apply. [Ensure new sewage treatment infrastructure meets higher standards as in the EU - Petitions](#)

The new club making fencing available for all

From ZFW Richmond Fencing Club



ZFW Richmond Fencing Club believe fencing should be for everyone. Too often seen as an elitist sport, many children from working-class backgrounds never have the opportunity to experience it.

Club coach, Peter Barwell, knows first-hand how life-changing fencing can be. Coming from a working-class background himself, he is passionate about making the sport accessible to all.

The club's mission is 'fence, fun and friendship', aiming to create an inclusive club where everyone has the chance to discover, enjoy, and succeed in this incredible sport.

Based at Buckingham Primary School in Hampton, sessions take place on Saturdays and Sundays both in group and 1-2-1 settings.

You can [view available sessions and learn more about the club.](#)

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Come along to the Hampton and Hampton North Police Liaison Group

From Hampton and Hampton North Police Liaison Group

The next Hampton and Hampton North Police Liaison Group meeting will be take place at **7pm on Wednesday 3 June** at the White House Family Hub.

Richmond has 18 wards and there is a Police Liaison Group attached to each one.

The next event for Hampton and Hampton North will take place from 7 to 8.30pm on Wednesday 3 June at the White House Family Hub, 45 The Avenue, Hampton.

Each one relies on a hard working volunteer chair whose job is to arrange the meeting, the venue and ensure the local Police ward team attend. At the meeting, the team produce the crime statistics for the last three months and discuss present trends.

Attendees can raise areas of concern. Local councillors also attend, and if you live or work in the ward you are welcome to just drop in.

To find out more, [visit the Metropolitan Police website](#) and enter your post code. You can also [register with Met Engage](#) to receive regular email updates.





TEDDINGTON DUCK RACE!

A QUACKING DAY OUT FOR EVERYONE!

SUNDAY 31ST MAY

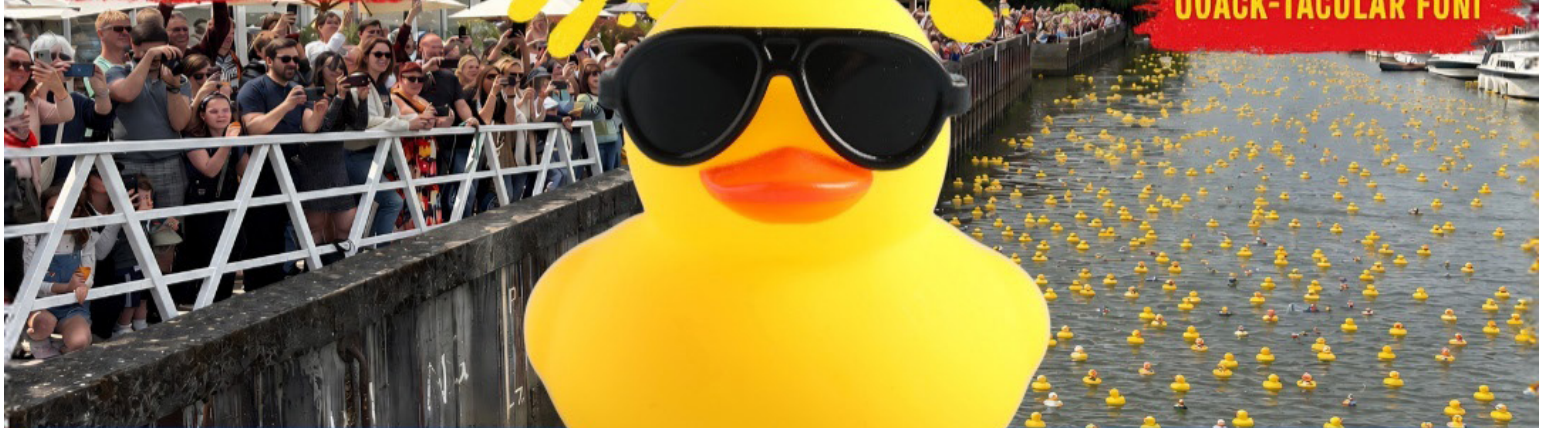
NEW TIMINGS 12:00 - 4:00

Community Race 12:30
Business Race 1:15
Prize Draw 2:00

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£3,50	£10	£15
FOR 1	FOR 3	FOR 5

SPONSOR A DUCK TODAY!
BE PART OF THE QUACK-TAGULAR FUN!



Manor Road Recreation Ground & Next to RNLI Station & The Wharf

Food & Drink
Local Stalls
RNLI Open Day



The Richmond Society calls for more visible policing in Richmond

From The Richmond Society



The Society is calling for more visible policing in Richmond, particularly on The Green at holidays and other times when it's busy.

Local residents say that there wasn't any police presence for some of the late May bank holiday and half-term period. The result was an increase in anti-social behaviour, and we're particularly concerned to hear about the Fire Brigade having to be called out to deal with fires lit on the Green.

Richmond Society trustee Pam Fleming and other interested parties attended a meeting with the local Safer Neighbourhood team on May 28th. We understand the challenges local police are facing, which include officers being redeployed to manage demonstrations in central London and restrictions on overtime for safer neighbourhood teams.

But we will be pressing for the police and the council, who employ security firm Parkguard to keep an eye on parks and open spaces, to ensure visibility during all peak periods and to reassure local residents that their safety is paramount.

We are glad to hear there will be a police and Parkguard presence this weekend.





Art House Open Studios

**23rd, 24th & 25th May
30th & 31st May**

**Explore the work of
local visual artists
at venues across
Richmond upon
Thames**

**Free
Admission**

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www.ArtsRichmond.org.uk

Council frustration as Richmond left without police front counter despite City Hall promises

From Richmond Council

Richmond Council has expressed frustration after the High Court refused permission for a judicial review into [the closure of Twickenham Police Station's front counter](#) – the last remaining police front counter in the borough.

The closure in February has left Richmond as one of five London boroughs without any face-to-face police counter service, despite previous assurances from the Mayor of London that every borough would retain one.

Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said: *"We are obviously disappointed by this decision. Our position remains unchanged: Richmond residents should have access to a face-to-face police counter service.*

"Richmond is now one of five boroughs in London without one – despite clear promises from the Mayor of London that every borough would retain a front counter.

"For many residents, particularly older or vulnerable people, being able to speak to someone in person matters. It is about accessibility, visibility, and public confidence in local policing.

"We took action because residents deserved to have their voices heard before such an important service was removed. While the court has reached its decision, that does not change the fact that Richmond has lost another visible part of its local policing presence.

"The Council will continue pressing the Met Police and City Hall to properly recognise the needs of Richmond residents and restore accessible front counter provision in the borough."

Richmond Council [launched legal action](#) against the Metropolitan Police and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime following concerns over the lack of public consultation and the impact the closure would have on residents.

The Council noted that no costs order was made against Richmond Council in the case.

Last Chance to add your business to the Richmond Map & Guide

From Con O'Brien

Deadline 10th June. All we require is your logo and a short description of your business!

The map lasts for one year and is distributed at local hotels, libraries, Civic Centre, Richmond Train Station etc

This opportunity is open to all businesses/organisations. Put yourself on the map and let us do the rest!

Click here to see a copy <https://yourtownmapandguide.co.uk/richmond-map-guide>

Please reply to conobrien68@gmail.com if you want to be included and find out more about the different options.

Teddington RNLI Open Day and Duck Race

From Teddington RNLI

We hope that you will be able to join us at this year's Teddington RNLI Open Day on **Sunday 31st May from midday until 4pm.**

Manor Road Recreation ground, The Wharf car park and the area in and around the RNLI lifeboat station will be transformed as food and drink stalls, as well as games will take over.

The timetable for the day is:

- 12.00 The event is opened by Cllr Thay Thayalan, the new Mayor of Kingston, accompanied by his wife, Mayoress Lata Thayalan.
- 12.30pm The community duck race begins as hundreds of ducks sponsored by the local communities will vie for great prizes donated by Teddington businesses
- 1.00pm Teddington RNLI lifeboat and crew on-the-water demonstrations
- 1.15pm The business duck race begins at Manor Road recreation ground, where local businesses' decorated ducks will take to the Thames
- 2.00pm Sir Ed Davey MP will announce the prizes for 'best dressed duck, as well as for both duck races

2.15pm- 4.00pm

- Climb aboard a lifeboat and its tractor
- See lifesaving demonstrations by volunteer crew
- Enjoy food and drink from local outlets such as Shambles, The Anglers and The Wharf, as well as RNLI volunteer-made cakes, tea, coffee and cold drinks
- Meet firefighters and see a fire engine
- Meet paramedics and see an ambulance
- Play water safety themed games
- Get gory with a make up artist
- Hear ukulele and wind bands play favourite tunes

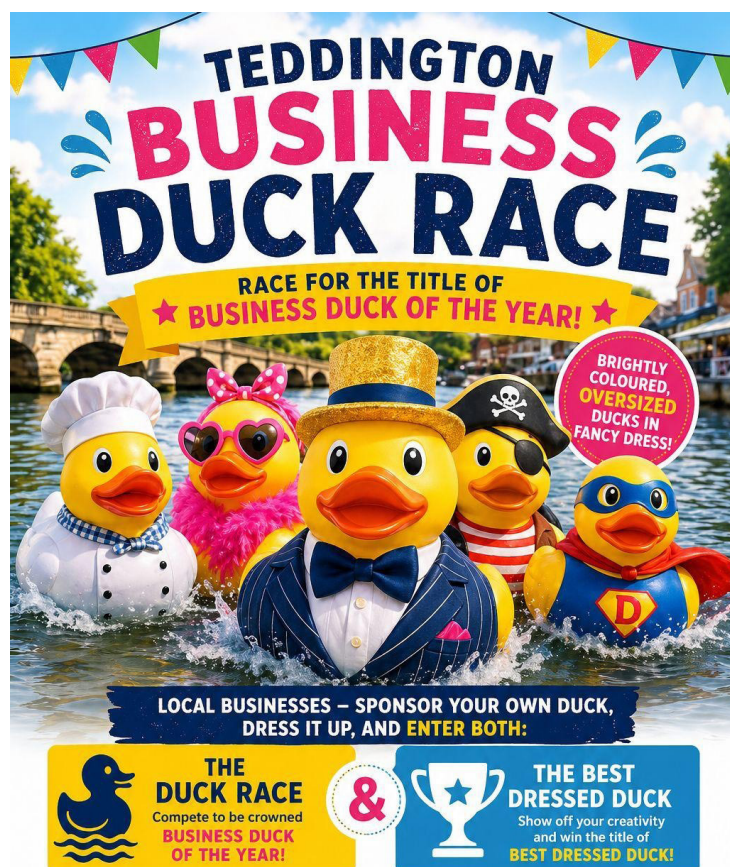
Come and meet the volunteer crew, local traders and our neighbours.

Where

Teddington Lifeboat Station, Fairmile House, Twickenham Road, Teddington TW11 8BA

When:

Sunday 31 May 12.30pm to 5pm



Friends of Twickenham Green meeting

From Friends of Twickenham Green

Reminder of the FoTG Members meeting **Tuesday 2nd June, 7:30 p.m.** in the cricket pavilion, Twickenham Green. All members and interested parties welcome!



Gala 2026 and Model Railway Show

Saturday 30th
and Sunday
31st May
10am to 5pm

A perfect day out for families and enthusiasts alike

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 - * Model railways
 - * Heritage steam and diesel locomotive rides
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 - * Drive a miniature steam locomotive (18+)
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 - * Get close and personal with all of our diesel and steam locomotives
 - * Find out how we prep our Steam locomotive Darent 10:00-12:00
 - * Refreshments
 - * Free Parking
 - * Adults £9 Children £4 Under 3s Free
- Book Online or Just turn up – www.hamptonkemptonrailway.org.uk/



FiSH Barnes Open Gardens 2026

From FiSH



Everyone welcome to explore an inspiring collection of over 20 gorgeous gardens around Barnes and support the work of FiSH Neighbourhood Care.

Enjoy delicious teas, cakes and Pimms on the lawn outside the FiSH office near Barnes Pond with musical accompaniment provided by Saxanova. Advance tickets £10 (children under 16 free) from the FiSH website and from local shops tbc - and on the day from Barnes Green Centre. Free FiSH shuttle buses will circulate throughout the afternoon. Generously sponsored by Property Partnership. Sorry no dogs permitted in gardens

Guide Prices

Adult £10.00 per ticket

Child Free

Booking and details [HERE](#)

Note: Prices are a guide only and may change on a daily basis.



A 25th Anniversary Celebration Menu

It's hard to believe that it's a quarter of a century since **Vivek Singh** opened his first **Cinnamon** restaurant. Tempus fugit as the Romans used to say, and when I heard that there is a special **25th anniversary celebration menu at £25 for three courses**, I thought I should check it out.

The menu is made up of some of the favourite dishes and ingredients from the early days and it's more than a seasonal offering: it's a nod to the dishes, flavours and ideas that shaped the restaurant's early years, but reimagined to make it more contemporary.

I trotted along the other evening with my friend Sidrah (I often think it's useful to get the perspective from an Indian point of view as well as my own). It was a Wednesday evening and the restaurant was pretty busy - good to see in these times when the Government seems to be intent on killing off our hospitality industry.

We enjoyed a cocktail while perusing the special menu. There was a choice of three starters: **Railway style vegetable cake** with beetroot and raisin, kasundi ketchup; **Grilled sardine fillets** with chilli and garlic, spiced rava crumble or **Sandalwood flavoured tandoori chicken breast** coriander chutney.

Sidrah opted for the vegetable cake, and not quite fancying sardines, I chose the chicken breast. Interestingly, Sidrah commented that sardines aren't a very Indian fish but I'm sure they will have been given the Vivek Singh magic touch.

Sidrah felt that, even for an Indian palate, the vegetable cake was pretty spicy, but she enjoyed it. My portion of the chicken was very generous, with a whole breast (not pieces as I had expected) and a delicious coriander chutney that paired beautifully with it.



For our mains, with Sidrah not being a big meat eater, she chose **Stir-fried aubergine in sesame tamarind sauce with coconut rice**. This comprised three baby aubergines, that were cooked so that they were lovely and soft, but still held their shape. The tamarind sauce was beautifully tangy. The accompanying coconut rice was a perfect pairing - it was a triumph.

Smoked Kentish lamb cannon pickling sauce, keema palak, pilau rice appealed to me (note though, that there is a £10 supplement). It was rather well done for my taste, but Sidrah tells me that this is normal for lamb in India. The smoked element was very subtle and the keema palak was the spiciest part of the dish. It came with pilau rice, but to be honest the lamb portion was so generous I hardly ate much of the rice, but it was very good.



Not that we needed a dessert, the included options sounded too good to pass up: **Alphonso mango and cardamom brûlée with carom seed crisp** or **Carrot and ginger toffee pudding with cinnamon ice cream**. We opted to share a portion of each and the brûlée was so delicious we wished we'd chosen two portions of that. The other pudding had a rather strange, chewy texture and luckily wasn't too sweet for a toffee pud, and the ice cream wasn't cinnamon, but banana - although it tasted good.

This special menu is definitely worth trying, especially if you haven't yet been to Cinnamon Bazaar.

Another Special Menu

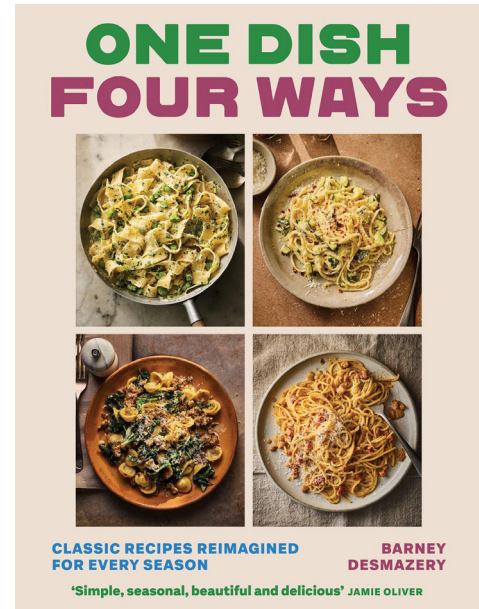
But there's another special menu on the horizon: Following a sell-out run at **The Cinnamon Club** this January, the much-loved **Retro Menu** is back and this time it's going on tour. For a limited period, this spring and summer, the menu will travel across select Cinnamon Collection restaurants in London, before returning to The Cinnamon Club for a final encore. Created by Executive Chef Vivek Singh to mark 25 years of pioneering modern Indian dining, the menu revisits dishes from the restaurant's original 2001 opening, with plates starting from just £5. Available for lunch and dinner, it offers a rare opportunity to experience the bold, pioneering dishes that helped redefine modern Indian dining in the capital, all at their original prices. It will be at **Cinnamon Bazaar Richmond from 26th May – 7th June** so the perfect time to check out either of these special nostalgic menus while we enjoy this unusually warm weather.

Executive Chef Vivek Singh comments: *"When we created the Retro Menu at The Cinnamon Club, the response from guests was incredible. Many of these dishes hold a special place in our story, and taking the menu on tour felt like the perfect way to share that experience with the wider Cinnamon community across London."*



One Dish Four Ways

Barney Desmazery is a long-standing member of the **Good Food** magazine team, so certainly knows his stuff. His latest book, one that's just been published, is **One Dish Four Ways** and is packed with easy family favourites that will help you eat the seasons or create a twist on a classic. It gives your repertoire the ultimate refresh – without complicating the weekly shop or compromising on flavour. 'Food trends come and go, but our favourite things to eat remain constant, so in this book I've chosen 25 timeless dishes that I know you already love and that lend themselves beautifully to seasonal variations.' says Desmazery aka 'the dude from Good Food'. He takes 25 of the UK's most popular dishes, and gives them a different spin for each season, resulting in 100 recipes for year-round crowd pleasers.



From Soups, Salads, Roast Chicken to Cheesecakes, **One Dish Four Ways** is everything you need for delicious and reliable recipes all year round. The book was published last week by **Quadrille** at **£22** for a lovely hardback with great photography by Sam Folan.

To tempt you to invest in the book, here are a couple of recipes:

Sweetcorn, Courgette and Halloumi Fritters (makes 6 large fritters)

“When I lived in Australia, nearly 30 years ago, the brilliant Bill Granger had just one little restaurant. It rewrote the rules for breakfast, and it was there that I had sweetcorn pancakes for the first time, which I've been making and evolving ever since. This version is as happy with eggs for breakfast as it is with a nice punchy dressing as a starter (appetizer) or as a light meal with a salad.”

- 1 large courgette, grated
- 1 corn on the cob, kernels sliced off, or 100g (3½oz / 2/3 cup) frozen sweetcorn, defrosted
- 100g (3½oz) halloumi, coarsely grated
- 2 spring onions (scallions), finely sliced
- 1 egg
- 2 tbsp self-raising flour
- 2 tbsp cornflour
- oil, for frying
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the dressing (optional)

- 100g (3½oz / ½ cup) green olives, pitted
- small handful of parsley or mint leaves
- juice of ½ lemon
- 4 tbsp olive oil

1. If serving straight away, make the dressing by blitzing together all the ingredients in a blender or finely chopping the olives and herbs and mixing with the lemon juice and oil into a loose dressing.
2. To make the fritters, tip the grated courgette into a colander and toss with a generous pinch of salt. Leave for 10–15 minutes, then squeeze out as much water as



you can – the most efficient way to do this is to transfer it to a clean dish towel and wring it as tightly as possible, really trying to get every last drop out of it.

3. Tip the courgette, corn, halloumi, spring onion and egg into a bowl, scatter over the flours, and season with pepper. Scrunch it all together with your hands, so you have a sticky mix.
4. Heat a layer of oil in a frying pan and pat out rough patties between your hands, making them as thin as possible – the thickness of two stacked pound coins is ideal. Slip them into the oil and cook in batches for 3–4 minutes on each side (turning carefully) until crisp and browned – don't be afraid to take them to a deep brown, as this is when they will be best.
5. Drizzle the dressing, if using, over the warm fritters to serve.

MAKE AHEAD: The fritters can be fried, cooled and kept in the fridge for up to 2 days. Reheat in a hot oven or air fryer. The dressing keeps well for a day in the fridge – just give it a quick stir before serving.

Summer Berry Tira-mess-su Pots (Serves 4)

“Make these individually or double this up for a crowd in a baking dish, or turn them into a trifle. The ‘mess’ in the title refers to the scattering of meringue, which, though optional, does add some much-needed texture. The elderflower cordial is also optional, but if there’s one flavour that sings spring into summer for me, it’s elderflower. If you want a summer reminder during the colder months, I’ve also made a perfectly passable version of this using defrosted frozen summer fruits.”

- 200g (7oz) strawberries, hulled and halved or quartered
- 100g (3½oz/¾ cup) raspberries
- 75g (2½oz/½ cup) blueberries
- 1 tbsp elderflower cordial (optional, but delicious)
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 70g (2½oz) raspberry or cherry jam
- 200g (7oz/¾ cup) mascarpone
- 200ml (7fl oz/scant 1 cup) double cream
- 2 tbsp icing (confectioner’s) sugar
- ¾ tsp vanilla extract
- 16 sponge fingers or Savoiardi biscuits
- 1–2 shop-bought meringue nests, crushed (optional)

1. Tip the strawberries, raspberries and blueberries into a bowl. Gently fold through the elderflower cordial (if using), lemon juice and jam, then set aside while you make the cream
2. In a separate bowl, whisk together the mascarpone, cream, icing sugar and vanilla extract until soft peaks form. It should be thick enough to hold its shape, but still soft and billowy.
3. To assemble, divide a few spoonfuls of the berries and their juices between four glasses. Break up the sponge fingers or Savoiardi biscuits and add a layer over the fruit – press them down slightly if needed. Spoon over a layer of the mascarpone cream and gently smooth the top. Repeat with another layer of berries, sponge and cream. Finish with a final spoonful of berries and a swirl of cream. Chill for at least 3 hours, or ideally overnight. Just before serving, sprinkle with crushed meringue (if using).



MAKE AHEAD: The trifles can be assembled up to 24 hours ahead (without the meringue) and kept chilled. Add the meringue just before serving, so it stays crisp. Leftovers will keep for 1–2 days in the fridge and still taste great, even if the sponge softens.

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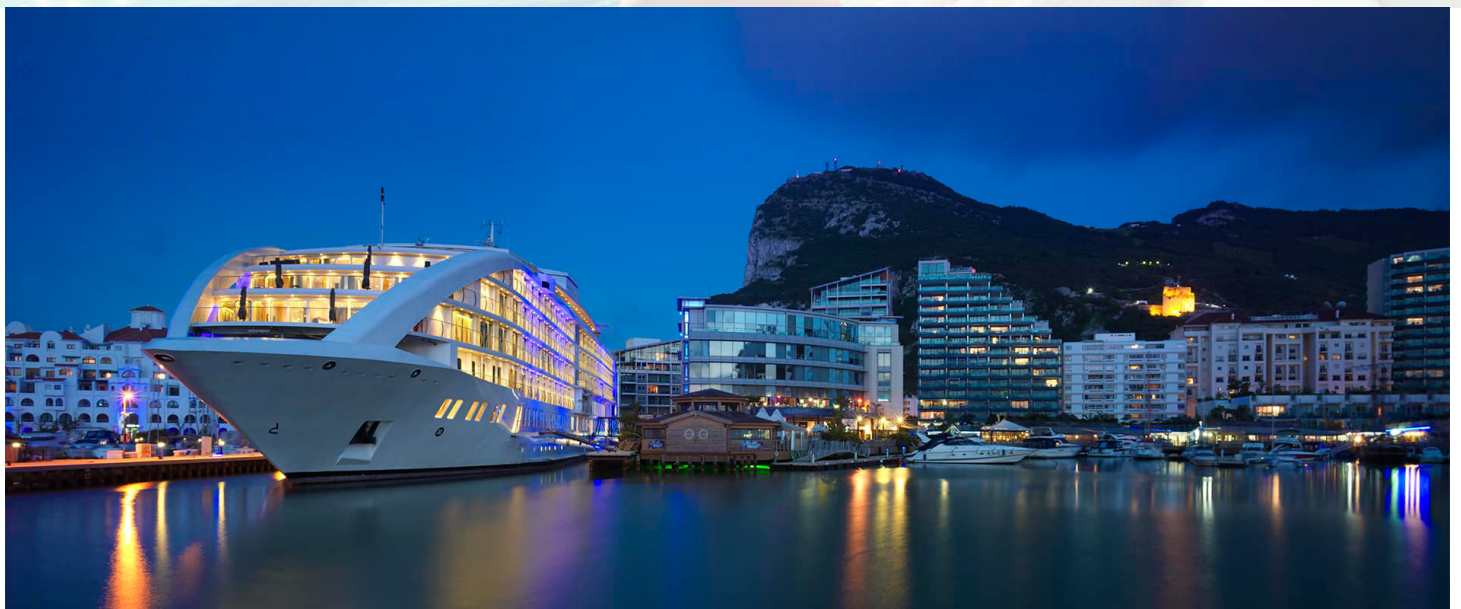
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Traveller's Tales 182

Discovering Durham Part 2

Doug Goodman Visits The Auckland Project



A fascinating day in Durham seeing the magnificent cathedral and exploring the old parts of the city was followed by a visit to The Auckland Project. A twelve mile drive south through rolling countryside and former mining villages took me to the market town of Bishop Auckland. I wasn't quite sure what to expect from the 'project' and wondered if there would be sufficient attractions to fill a whole day. After visiting the Bishops' Palace, seeing the treasures in the Faith Museum, learning about mining in the Miners' Art Gallery and viewing masterpieces in the Spanish Art Gallery I wish I could have spent a night in one of the pretty cottages adjacent to the Palace. That would have allowed more time to explore the attractions and walk in the colourful gardens and historic parklands.



Bishop Auckland Market Square



Cottages for visitors to Bishop Auckland and Observation Tower



Entrance to the Palace

REGENERATION

To bring life back to the town of Bishop Auckland a unique collection of heritage attractions has been established for tourists and local people. These attractions show visitors the history of the town from the time of the rich and powerful Prince Bishops of Durham to the connection with Spain's Golden Age of Art. The Museum of Faith covers the history of religion and worship and the Miner's Gallery offers an insight into a very tough way of life. There's a platform at the top of a specially built tower next to the tourist office giving spectacular views over the Vale of Durham.



Sarah, left, from the tourist office helps a Palace visitor



Seat of Durham's Bishops



Bishops' Throne Room



Bishops' Dining Room with Spanish Masterpieces

“There are two kings in England, namely the lord king of England wearing a crown and the lord bishop of Durham wearing a mitre in place of a crown”, (William de St. Botolph, 1302). For over a 1,000 years the palace was home to some of the most powerful men in our history. From the middle-ages the Prince Bishops ruled over the north east of England on behalf of the king. At every coronation since 1189 a bishop from Durham has been standing next to the monarch during the ceremony. In May 2023 it was Bishop Paul Butler who attended the coronation of King Charles. The palace is grand in style with many rooms but only a few are lavishly furnished: the throne room and the dining room with Spanish paintings adorning the walls are the highlights of the tour. Bedrooms, the study, the breakfast room and the drawing room all look as if they are ready for use again. Stop for refreshments in the bishops' kitchen before exploring Faith.

The Faith Museum, set within the palace, has a collection of objects tracing the history of all faiths and types of worship over 6,000 years. The historic items and works of art offer an insight into how religion has formed our many different ways of life.



Memorial to Durham Miners in The Cathedral



The Faith Museum

MINING AND SPANISH TREASURES

The Mining Art Gallery tells the story of local mining in pictures painted by the miners themselves. While the wealthy mine owners commissioned paintings to portray their status the miners painted scenes of their every-day struggle to make a living. Some very powerful images show how exhausting and dangerous the work was. Tom McGuinness, who worked in the mines for 30 years, painted the coal mining industry and its people from his own experiences: “I put my feelings into my paintings and my art mirrors my life in the community”, he wrote. From the 1930s miners began to produce their own art and between the 1960s and 1980s the work was prolific. It was a very strong and thought-provoking exhibition.



Spanish Art Gallery

Across the square is The Spanish Gallery. Here you can see the UK's largest collection of 16th and 17th Century Spanish works of art outside London. For those who appreciate Spain's art the gallery's four floors will keep you immersed for several hours. On display are stunning works by Velazquez, Murillo, El Greco and Francisco de Zurbaran. Zurbaran was one of the greatest artists of The Spanish Golden Age who specialised in painting full-length religious figures. Pictures of Jacob and his sons represent the Christian and Jewish Faiths. Displaying these in the palace indicated that Bishop Trevor in the mid-1750s was keen to show support for members of the Jewish Community which had been denied the same rights as British citizens.

The Auckland Project is certainly a wonderful collection of art, architecture and culture and combined with a visit to Durham and other local sites you'll find plenty to fill a week when you go up north.



Gallery of Spanish Art

More information: Durham City tourist office www.thisisdurham.com The Auckland Project. www.aucklandproject.org. A ticket combining all the attractions costs £43

Next time. An amazing railway museum at Shildon.

Leave The Politics Behind - The Sun Is Out

By Bruce Lyons



Strange really, but these last weeks people have seemed disorientated by We've done a deal, We're doing a deal, Soon - tomorrow, soon last week! Nobody seems to know what's the What What.

With the Sun coming out, the magnificent School Break and the sudden realisation it's the 1st of June next Monday and the Summer Holiday is only just over a month away.

Yesterday and Today, we've seen a stream of people pass thru our doors seeking quotes for this

Summer and later family holidays.

Nordic Summer, Villa holidays in Greece & Croatia, Active breaks for restless teens, Sicilian Short stays, City Breaks, Cruises even staycations.



We've even had Summer 2027 for Villas in Greece and some Mexican Magic. For a while clients were surprised at price increases, but to be honest that isn't entirely true. Flights are up a bit but not Villas nor hotels, on the whole and as the Politics tended to slow the bookings in April & May we are finding plenty of late availability - So, June should be a positive month and we welcome new enquiries.

Today I even had two learn to dive enquiries - my favourite, and there is nothing so magical to dive or snorkel in Coral waters.



Crusader Travel - 58 Church Street, Twickenham TW1 3NR - 020 8744 0474





I'm Sorry, Prime Minister

by Jonathan Lynn

Barn Productions at Richmond Theatre, until 30th May, then on tour until 1st August

In this Tuesday's record-breaking temperatures, it was a relief to enter the wintry world of *I'm Sorry, Prime Minister*.

Yes, *Prime Minister's* original co-creator Jonathan Lynn, writing and directing, now sees his characters forty-odd years on since their 1980s heyday. Octogenarian Jim Hacker is now Master of Hacker College, Oxford, and is ennobled. In his spacious but untidy rooms Lord Hacker insists he's not yet dead, but signs of his decline are plainly visible in Lee Newby's magnificent set.



Simon Rouse gives a wonderful performance as the rumpled Hacker. With wayward wispy white hair and dishevelled clothes, we first see him barefoot as he interviews his new care-worker Sophie. His pompous attitude and careless comments to Sophie contrast with his present inability put on his own socks.



Sophie, played by Princess Donnough, represents the voice of youth. A young, black, gay woman, she "ticks all the boxes" as Hacker puts it. Donnough is superb at reacting even when she's not speaking. Although exasperated or frustrated, Sophie is merely amused by Hacker's entrenched attitudes.

Hacker is under pressure to resign as College Master and calls upon his old colleague, Sir Humphrey Appleby. Clive Francis puts in a commanding performance as the unctuous civil servant, and has a huge amount of fun in the role. Appleby has lost all his money to his son and daughter-in-law, who had him briefly committed to a hospital for the elderly deranged. Sir Humphrey has weathered the changing world better than Lord Hacker, despite his reduced circumstances. He and Sophie swap literary quips; and his relentless charm makes real headway with the college trustee Sir David.

An attempt by the College to force Hacker's resignation is the play's catalyst. This threat is personified by William Chubb, who appears unforgettably as the Grim Reaper before introducing himself as Sir David. Chubb has less time on stage to shine than the others, but he certainly makes his mark.

Lynn and co-director Michael Glyngell keep the play brisk, balancing the wordy script with visual gags. *I'm Sorry Prime Minister* feels animated and dynamic, telling with warmth and pathos of two old colleagues struggling in a world that's left them behind. If you remember *Yes, Minister* with fondness, or appreciate political comedy, its sharp script and great performances tick all the boxes.



Read Andrew Lawston's review at www.markaspen.com/2026/05/27/sorry-pm-rt

Photography by Johan Persson



Eric and Ern

by Ian Ashpitel and Jonty Stephens after Eddie Braben

Martin Clarkson and The Production Garden at BEAM, Hertford until 29th May, then on tour until 20th December

Should you go to see *Eric and Ern* expecting to find out about the off-stage lives of Morecombe and Wise, then this is not the show for you. What we are treated to is an evening of nostalgia and celebration of the lives of arguably our greatest comedy partnerships. And what a celebration it is, of the much loved *Morecombe and Wise* TV shows of many decades ago, recreated by Jonty Stephens as Eric and Ian Ashpitel's Ern, with great affection and joy.

Even before the performance begins, the presence on stage of the famous red curtain, the window and familiar furniture, replaced by a grand piano for the second half, set the scene perfectly.



Their opening song, *Positive Thinking* instantly dispels any thoughts that this might be a bridge too far for the performers; after all, here is the impersonation of comic geniuses. Ian and Jonty's performances are faultless; their convincing physicality, appearance, movements, facial expressions and mannerisms draw one completely into the hilarious and, at times chaotic, world of Morecombe and Wise at the peak of their powers.

So it is that we are treated to the classic sketches, including Grieg's Piano Concerto, Charlie the ventriloquist dummy, and Memory Man. These classic skits and sketches are suffused with constant banter, double entendre, sharp repartee, all skilfully delivered. Familiar punchlines are keenly awaited by the audience, who are then treated to the regular references to Ernie's wig, his short fat hairy legs, his thrift, Des O'Connor and mentions of "the play what I wrote".

Guest star Olivia Fines further illuminates the show as perfect comedic foil, singing *Send in the Clowns* beautifully, whilst clown and balloon mayhem ensues behind her. As part of the infamous quartet, and plus a particularly plucky audience member, she brings great comedic effect to the classic *Boom-OO-Ya-Ta-Ta-Ta* sketch.

The show reaches its finale with Eric and Ern singing *Bring Me Sunshine*, joined by Olivia and the very enthusiastic audience, sending us back out into the hottest May with joy, happiness and a very large smile on our faces.



Read Steven Roberts' review at www.markaspen.com/2026/05/27/eric-ern

Photography by Paul Coltas

CIPHERS by Dawn King

The Mary Wallace Theatre

May 30th-June 6th

In Dawn King's 2013 thriller, inspired by real events, Justine, an MI5 agent, dies in mysterious circumstances. Someone knows how and why, but Justine operated in a world of deception and deceit where no one was what they seemed. In a situation where the witnesses all lie – and sometimes die – for a living who can be trusted? Who killed Justine? Who was Justine?

CIPHERS plays from May 30th to June 6th – with a captioned performance on June 4th

Join us at Twickenham's only permanent playhouse by the Thames.

Booking at www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk

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



CIPHERS by Dawn King

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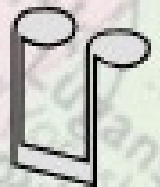
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Richmond pubs and bars emoji game

From MyRichmond

Who remembers the Richmond pubs and bars emoji game we played during lockdown in 2020? Well, here's a slightly updated version. How many can you get?

myrichmond.london

RICHMOND PUBS & BARS EMOJI GAME

Who remembers the Richmond pubs & bars emoji game we all played during lockdown?

Well... here's a new one.

How many can you get?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1.   | 11.   | 21.    |
| 2.   | 12.  | 22.   |
| 3.  | 13.   | 23.   |
| 4.   | 14.   | 24.   |
| 5.   | 15.   | 25.   |
| 6.   | 16.   | 26.   |
| 7.  | 17.   | 27.  |
| 8.   | 18.    | 28.     |
| 9.   | 19.   | 29.      |
| 10.   | 20.    | |

Richmond law firm raises £6,300 for charity Will-writing campaign

From Will Aid

A Richmond law firm has raised a brilliant £6,300 by participating in an annual charity Will-writing campaign, making it one of the top-donating firms across the UK this year.

Perfectly Legal has proudly supported Will Aid since 2016, dedicating their time and expertise to writing Wills and raising a grand total of £6,450. Instead of charging their usual fees for basic Wills, the team invited clients to make an upfront donation to Will Aid, helping to fund vital charity work in the UK and beyond.

The funds raised will support Will Aid's partner charities, which carry out work across a range of important causes, from providing humanitarian aid to protecting vulnerable children and those facing hardship here in the UK.

Shanice Marsh from the firm, said: *"Will Aid is always a highlight for us - it's a chance to do something positive for both our clients and the wider community.*

"Helping people put the right plans in place while also raising money for important charities makes it a really worthwhile initiative, and we're proud to have been involved again this year."



Shanice Marsh Celebrating

Since its launch in 1988, Will Aid has raised more than £26 million in donations, with millions more pledged in charitable legacies thanks to the generosity of participating solicitors.

Lauren Poole, Chair of Will Aid, praised the firm's achievement, and said: *"Congratulations to the team on raising such a fantastic amount. It's always inspiring to see firms come together to support Will Aid, giving their time and expertise to help clients while raising vital funds for our partner charities."*

Peter de Vena Franks, Will Aid's Campaign Director, added: *"The continued commitment from firms like Perfectly Legal is what makes Will Aid such a success year after year. Their support helps ensure the campaign can reach more people while generating essential funding for charities delivering crucial work in the UK and beyond.*

"It's a great example of how the legal profession can make a meaningful difference in communities."

Will Aid runs every November, offering people the opportunity to have a professionally written Will in exchange for a donation. The suggested donation is £120 for a basic single Will and £200 for a pair of basic mirror Wills, with all proceeds supporting Will Aid's partner charities: Age UK, British Red Cross, Christian Aid, Crisis, NSPCC, SCIAF (Scotland), Shelter, and Trócaire (Northern Ireland).

To be the first to know when the list of Will Aid solicitors goes live for the 2026 campaign, sign up here: <https://www.willaid.org.uk/early-bird>

More solicitors are needed each year to meet demand. To find out more about taking part, visit <https://www.willaid.org.uk>



St Mary's University

St Mary's Space Research Featured by BBC



Research led by Dr Dan Cleather at St Mary's University has been featured by the BBC for his work which has helped develop exercise technology designed for use in space.

The story focused on the High-Frequency Impulse for Microgravity (HIFIm) rowing ergometer, an innovative device invented by [Physical Mind London](#) to help astronauts combat the significant muscle and bone density loss experienced during long-duration missions in space. Astronauts can currently spend up to two and a half hours a day exercising in orbit yet still experience substantial physical deterioration during missions.

The project involves Dan Cleather, Professor of Strength and Conditioning at St Mary's University, whose expertise in exercise physiology and human performance has contributed to the development and testing of the device.

Part of the BBC filming took place at the University's Performance Education Centre, where demonstrations of the science behind the HIFIm device were carried out. The coverage highlighted St Mary's role in

supporting cutting-edge research with real-world applications both in space and on Earth, including potential future benefits for conditions linked to ageing, frailty, and osteoporosis.

Also featured was St Mary's alumnus and Olympic rower Matthew Wells, who tested the equipment during parabolic zero-gravity flights. Other St Mary's graduates have also contributed to the wider research and development work surrounding the project.

The HIFIm rowing ergometer is one of only three exercise countermeasure devices selected by the European Space Agency for potential future use on space exploration missions.

The BBC coverage demonstrates how research taking place at St Mary's continues to contribute to international scientific innovation, while also creating opportunities for students, graduates, and researchers to work on globally significant projects.

Watch the BBC coverage [HERE](#)



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Liverpool 1 Brentford 1: Schade on target as Brentford secure top-half finish at Anfield

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford secured a ninth-place finish in the Premier League after Kevin Schade's second-half header earned the Bees a 1-1 draw against Liverpool at Anfield on the final day of the season.

Curtis Jones had given the hosts the lead shortly before the hour mark, but Schade responded soon after, stooping to head home following a deflected Keane Lewis-Potter cross.

Keith Andrews' side could even have left Merseyside with all three points. Needing a win to secure European qualification, the Bees carved out one final chance in stoppage time when Vitaly Janelt's cross found Dango Ouattara inside the six-yard box, but the forward's header flew agonisingly over the bar.

Jordan Henderson started on his return to the club where he spent 12 years, captaining Liverpool to Premier League and Champions League glory.

Schade also returned to Brentford's line-up, with Mikkel Damsgaard named among the substitutes and Yehor Yarmoliuk omitted from the matchday squad.

Andy Robertson and Mohamed Salah were both named in Arne Slot's starting XI for their final Liverpool appearances.

The first chance fell to the hosts. Following Salah's short corner, Robertson's first-time cross from the right was glanced goalwards by Ibrahima Konaté, but his header was comfortably held by Caoimhín Kelleher.

At the other end, Schade nodded wide after Lewis-Potter had lifted the ball in from the left.

Salah swung his next corner into the box. Kelleher punched clear from almost underneath the crossbar before Nathan Collins blocked Rio Ngumoha's follow-up effort.

Salah was then denied by the woodwork. Mathias Jensen brought Ryan Gravenberch down on the edge of the box and the Egyptian curled his free-kick around the wall and onto the post before Gravenberch lashed over on the rebound.



Moments later, Salah cut in from the right and forced Kelleher into a smart stop at his near post.

Dominik Szoboszlai then drove into the box and saw his low shot skip narrowly wide of the far post.

Kelleher launched himself to his left to palm away Gravenberch's fierce 20-yard effort after the midfielder had been picked out by Szoboszlai. Ngumoha's curling strike from a similar range dipped just wide of the post as Liverpool continued to probe.

Despite the hosts' pressure, Brentford almost took the lead shortly before the break. Expecting a long throw from Michael Kayode, Liverpool's players dropped back into their own box.

The full-back instead went short, finding Janelt who quickly shifted the ball onto Henderson.

The midfielder's deep cross from the right was headed back across goal by Sepp van den Berg and then flicked on by Collins. The ball eventually dropped to Schade who tried to poke home from close range, but Alisson rushed off his line to make a sprawling save.

Slot's side broke straight up the other end. Szoboszlai crossed from the right and Cody Gakpo's header was blocked by the recovering Kayode.

Liverpool made a bright start to the second half. Robertson's cross was headed wide by Konaté, while Salah's low strike after a string of passes around Brentford's box was pounced upon by Kelleher.

The Bees then got forward. Ouattara drove inside, hurdling challenges from Virgil van Dijk and Alexis Mac Allister, and attempted to find the far corner, but his shot lacked the whip needed and flew wide of the post.

Brentford fell behind on 58 minutes. Gakpo's hooked pass released Salah down the right, and the forward picked out the oncoming Curtis Jones in the centre, who tapped into the net from a few yards out.

Replaced by Aaron Hickey on the hour mark, returning hero Henderson was given a standing ovation from all four corners of Anfield.

Liverpool's lead was short-lived. After the Reds failed to clear their lines following a Kayode cross from the right, Lewis-Potter's delivery deflected off Jones and Schade beat Alisson with a stooping header.

Needing a win to secure European football, the Bees pushed on for a second goal.

Played in by Jensen, Igor Thiago's low cross narrowly evaded Ouattara at the back post.

In the first of 10 additional minutes, substitute Damsgaard's free-kick found van den Berg in the penalty area, but the defender was unable to turn the ball towards goal.

Szoboszlai met Jeremie Frimpong's cross with a deft flick, but Kelleher made a routine save.

After a lightning counter attack, Szoboszlai found Florian Wirtz with an inch-perfect cross from the left and Kelleher spread himself to make an impressive stop and keep Brentford in the game.

Ouattara had a big chance to win it for Brentford at the death. Janelt crossed from the left, finding the forward in the six-yard box, but his header flew over the bar as the Bees were forced to settle for a point at Anfield.

Liverpool (4-3-3): Alisson; Jones, van Dijk, Konaté (Gomez 89), Robertson (Kirkez 83); Mac Allister, Szoboszlai, Gravenberch; Ngumoha (Wirtz 72), Gakpo, Salah (Frimpong 74)

Subs not used: Mamardashvili, Endo, Isak, Chiesa, Nyoni

Brentford (4-3-3): Kelleher; Kayode, van den Berg, Collins, Lewis-Potter (Nelson 89); Janelt, Henderson (Hickey 60), Jensen (Damsgaard 83); Ouattara, Thiago, Schade

Subs not used: Valdimarsson, Pinnock, Dasilva, Ajer, Donovan, Furo

Andrews on Anfield draw

Brentford head coach Keith Andrews shared his thoughts on the Bees' final-day draw against Liverpool.

"It was a pretty emotional day," he said. "We knew what we were striving towards and that we'd have to win the game.

"We did everything we could to try and make that happen. That was never going to come in a way where we were reckless and too open from the start of the game.

"We gave everything to try and get that win. Unfortunately, we couldn't quite get it."

On the 2025/26 season as a whole, he added: *"I'm proud of everybody connected with the club. I felt the trust and belief grow and grow. It shouldn't be underestimated what we've achieved this year after a summer of so much change.*

"We're very proud of what we've achieved. Everybody has put everything into it and it's been a special season"

Henderson: We gave everything this season

Jordan Henderson reflected on the draw against Liverpool, as he returned to Anfield on Sunday.

"We came so close to finding a winner to get us into Europe," he said. "That's the least that we deserve this season; we've given everything. In the end, it's a tough one to take.

"Overall, we couldn't have given any more - players, staff and everyone involved in the club. The fans have been amazing for us as well, home and away.

"I'm disappointed for them, the players, and the whole club that we couldn't quite get over the line."



Active Thames doubles investment in watersports and introduces multi-year funding to boost long-term community impact on the Thames

From Port of London Authority



Active Thames, the community sport and wellbeing programme led by the Port of London Authority (PLA), has awarded over £210,000 to 28 community projects across London, Kent and Essex as the PLA doubles its contribution this year.

Of this, over £110,000 is awarded for delivery this summer, and a further £100,000 marks the start of a major commitment to long-term investment. This will form part of a £300,000 commitment over three years, providing sustained support for key delivery partners.

This new multi-year funding will support Thames-based charities the AHOY Centre, Brentford Community Boat House, Fulham Reach Boat Club, London Youth Rowing and Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity Centre.

This marks a significant evolution in how the programme funds community activity, recognising that longer-term investment enables clubs to plan with confidence, build capacity and deliver deeper, more sustainable impact in their communities.

Active Thames is dedicated to increasing access to physical activity by and on the water,

particularly for people who are less likely to be active – including children and young people, people with disabilities and long term health conditions, those from ethnically diverse communities, and people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

Siân Foster, Director of Corporate Affairs at the Port of London Authority, said:

“Over the last five years we have seen the positive impact Active Thames makes to individuals, clubs and communities, and we’re delighted to announce a significant expansion of the programme.

“This new approach has been shaped by the people we support and was inspired by a young sailor at the AHOY centre, who told us how much they struggled in school but found a sense of belonging and confidence through time on the water. This got us thinking – how can we do more to support organisations delivering lasting change in the communities we serve?

“So, this year we are doubling the PLA’s financial support and making a new commitment to three-year funding agreements. This will help more communities access the river and give organisations the stability to plan and deliver even greater impact.”

This latest round of funding brings the total to over £770,000, supporting 73 organisations since 2021. Active Thames forms part of the PLA’s commitment to the future of the tidal Thames, supporting safe, inclusive access to the water as set out in the long-term plan for the River, Thames Vision 2050.

2025-2026 Active Thames grant recipients include:

Putney Town Rowing Club, Richmond

Putney Town Rowing Club will receive £5,000 to expand its Learn to Row and development programmes on the Thames. The funding will enable the club to increase its Learn to Row courses from one course per year to three, reaching a wider and more diverse audience, including students from the University of Roehampton and local residents. The project will also support the training of new coaches, helping to sustain and grow the club’s development pathway. By creating more entry points into rowing and strengthening progression opportunities, the programme will support long-term participation, improve fitness and wellbeing, and foster a strong sense of community on the river.

South London Scouts, Richmond

South London Scouts will receive £2,200 to deliver Putney Paddles on the River Thames at Putney Embankment. The project will provide a series of ten open canoeing sessions for young people aged 13–18 from South London, many of whom have limited access to outdoor and water-based activities. Delivered in partnership with Wandsworth Youth River Club, the sessions will offer subsidised access to paddlesports, enabling up to 100 young people to develop skills in canoeing, teamwork, and water safety. Participants will work towards recognised Paddle UK awards while building confidence, resilience, and a stronger connection to the river. The programme will also support the development of young leaders and volunteer coaches, helping to grow a more diverse paddlesports workforce.



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