

# Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



**After the storm, Twickenham Green**  
Photo by Berkley Driscoll

# Contents

Editors: Teresa Read, Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape Altered train services and buses replace trains in the New Malden area Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 June	South Western Railway
The Tree Agency	
The Local Picture Postcard Page - Farewell To Our Police Stations	Alan Winter
Crusader Travel	
D-Day Commemorations	Doug Goodman
Letters	
A children's market in Twickenham	Configur Academy
Wartime Hero's Grandson Makes Historic Visit to Bushy Park to Learn Secrets of Its Past	Stuart Higgins
Enjoy the Museum of Richmond's Trumpeters' House Garden Party	Museum of Richmond
Community power: caring for our trees	Richmond Council
Regal Spice Twickenham	Richmond Council
W G Grace & Gilbert Jessop - Signed Cricket Bat for auction	
Summer Charity Fun Day	The Builders Arms, Teddington
Get Swishing!	2nd Teddington Scouts
Twickenham Riverside transformation gathers pace as major construction begins	Richmond Council
Crusader Travel	
Design a poster to celebrate 150 years of St Margarets Station	Visit Richmond
Twickers Foodie: Romanian Wines	Alison Jee
Twickers Foodie: Father's Day Foodie Gift Ideas	Alison Jee
Gibraltar Sunborn	Sunborn Gibraltar
Traveller's Tales 183 - Discovering Durham Part 3	Doug Goodman
My Favourite Street Church Street Twickenham, I Call It Home!	Bruce Lyons
Mark Aspen Review: The Shawshank Redemption	Eleanor Marsh
Mark Aspen Review: Black Comedy	Eleanor Lewis
Emerging Young Actors' Showcase	Richmond Shakespeare Society
The Tempest, St Mary's Church Twickenham	Kettner Concerts
Help Us Make Twickenham 60s Day Bigger, Better and Free for All	A Taste of Twickenham
Songs from Stage and Screen	Hampton Choral Society
WWII Switchboard Operator remembers hearing horrors of war during D-Day landings	Royal Star & Garter
Organ Fund Summer Concert	St Mary Magdalen, Mortlake
Following in mum's footsteps – Alice raises over £2900 for British Liver Trust	British Liver Trust
A Fete Worse Than Death	All Saints, East Sheen
Richmond crowned London Youth Games 2026 Girls Volleyball Champions	London Youth Games
The London Floodlit Sevens	Rosslyn Park FC
Nations Championship 2026: Everything you need to know	RFU
Brentford announce pre-season friendlies	Brentford Football Club
Heading Abroad This Summer? New Entry Rules, Passport Checks and Biometric Borders Explained for UK Holidaymakers	Airport Parking and Hotels

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# TickerTape - News in Brief

## South Western Railway

Altered train services and buses replace trains in the New Malden area Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 June

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

### Saturday

- 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 via Kingston**.
- **London Waterloo to Windsor** services will be **revised** to depart **London Waterloo earlier**.
- **Buses** will run between **New Malden and Surbiton**.

### Sunday

- 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**.
- Additional services will run between **London Waterloo and Hampton Wick via Kingston**.
- **Buses** will run between **New Malden and Surbiton**.



*The Tree Agency*

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# The Local Picture Postcard Page - Part 329

## Farewell To Our Police Stations

By Alan Winter

Our Police Station at Twickenham will soon be nothing but a distant memory but for nearly 200 years the Borough's Police Stations have played a significant part in the establishment and continuation of law and order in this area.

I'm able to show you postcard images of the station in London Road, Twickenham as it appeared on postcards showing the original building in 1911 on the day of the coronation of George V and a postcard from 1965 when there were gardens outside.



Metropolitan Police patrols took to the streets on 29 September 1829, despite resistance from certain elements of the community who saw them to be a threat to civil liberties.

Originally, law and order in this area was overseen by a small, local constabulary established in 1835. Following Sir Robert Peel's creation of the Metropolitan Police, the area fell under the wider London force's jurisdiction.

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.”*



(C) Richmond upon Thames Local Studies

I can only agree with Councillor Gareth Roberts on this subject and am as amazed as most people that I am aware of, that at a time when crime rates are rising and the courts and prisons are working to over capacity we seem to have recent governments who don't seem to give a monkeys about how this country gets back on a sensible, civilised even keel. Having a visible Police Force might help surely!

Oh well, your weekly postcard columnist will get back to writing about postcards again next week. I promise.

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# D-Day Commemorations

By Doug Goodman

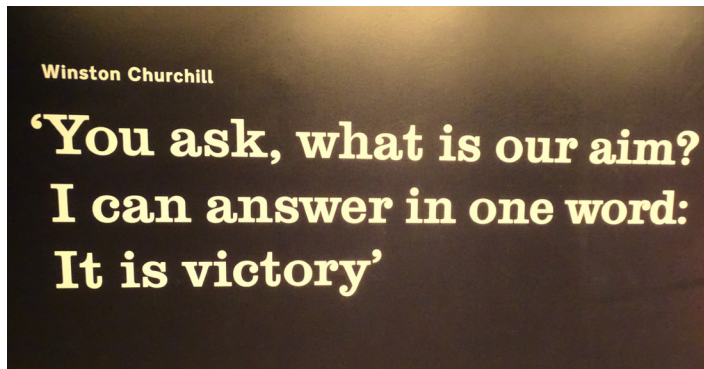
On June 6<sup>th</sup> 1944 the greatest seaborne invasion in history took place on the Normandy beaches to liberate Europe from Nazi occupation. Comprising 160,000 troops from the UK, Canada and the USA, 6,939 vessels and 2,200 aircraft the landings on five French beaches were preceded by 24,000 paratroops dropped inland. Today commemorations will be held in the UK and in many parts of Normandy to remember the invasion and the 10,000 Allied casualties incurred on that day 82 years ago.



The Spitfire



Winston Churchill



Churchill's Words



D-Day Commemoration



Veterans in Normandy in 2016



Pegasus Bridge. First Place to be Liberated



US Memorial at Utah Beach



Sherman Tanks



The Cenotaph in London.  
November 2025

# Letters

Dear Editor,

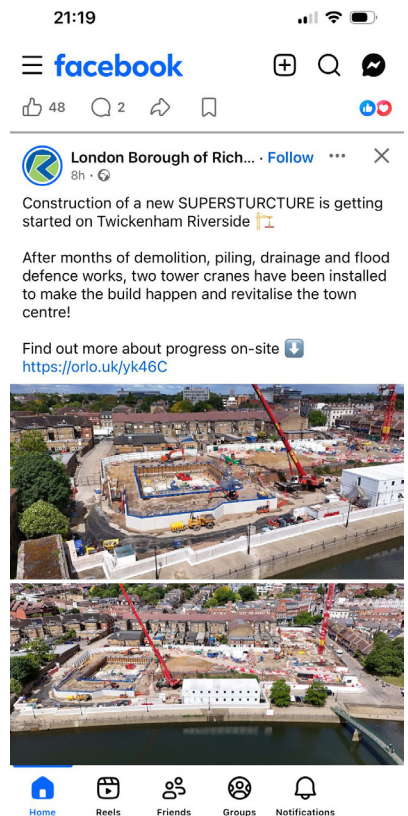
## Twickenham Riverside

Let us hope that the construction company takes more care of the building of the Riverside than the Council did in the issuing of this press release. Someone should have proofread it before sending it out!

Best wishes,

Sue Hamilton-Miller,

Twickenham



Dear Readers,

## Letter from the Editor

The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune has reached a milestone with today's 500<sup>th</sup> edition.

I would like to thank all our readers and supporters for your continued support. I would also like to thank our wonderful contributors, regular and occasional. Alison Jee's first *Twickers Foodie* column appeared in edition 0004 (on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016), Alan Winter today reached his 329<sup>th</sup> *The Local Picture Postcard Page* and Doug Goodman the 183<sup>rd</sup> *Traveller's Tales*! Bruce Lyons and Crusader Travel have been submitting articles and supporting the Tribune with advertising since edition 0002. Mark Aspen has been providing reviews since edition 0011.

It has been very difficult since Teresa passed away last October, and I wish she could have celebrated this milestone. I will do everything I can to continue with, and grow, the Tribune and I look forward to celebrating the Tribune's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2026!

Best wishes,

Berkley Driscoll

Co-Editor, Twickenham & Richmond Tribune

# My 9-year-old asked if we had £1 million in the bank. The answer became a children's market in Twickenham

By Orgesa Meli, founder of Configur Academy

I was walking my daughter Eliza to school one morning when she asked me, "Mummy, do you have £1 million in the bank?"

I said, "Why?"

She said, "Because we are looking at houses, and the ones in the estate agents' windows are about £1 million. So do you have it?"



I spent the rest of the walk explaining what a mortgage actually is, why a bank lends you money you do not have, how interest works, and how people pay it back.

That evening, instead of a bedtime story, we talked about how things are priced. The next night we talked about the difference between an employee and a business owner. Then taxes. Then investments. She was 9, and she asked sharper questions than most adults I know.

It made me think: if she finds this interesting, other children her age will too. Most of us were not taught any of this at 9. Most of us still wish we had been. That is how Young Founders House began, a programme to teach children everything about money by getting them to build, price, and sell something real.

On Sunday 7 June, from 12 to 2pm, 20 children aged 7 to 12 will hold our first market at The Patch, the co-working space at 42 York Street, Twickenham. They have learned how to design a product, work out what it costs to make, price it, and sell it. Each child has signed a loan agreement with their parents for their start-up money. On Sunday, they pay it back.

The market is free for anyone to attend. There will be face painting, games for younger children, food and drink, and 20 children selling things they have made themselves. It will then run on the first Sunday of every month thereafter.

If you live locally and have a Sunday afternoon free, please come and meet the children behind the stalls. They have worked very hard, and they would love a real crowd.

Young Founders Market. The Patch, 42 York Street, Twickenham TW1 3LJ. Sunday 7 June 2026, 12 to 2pm. Free entry. First Sunday of every month thereafter.

More at [www.configuracademy.com](http://www.configuracademy.com)



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# Wartime Hero's Grandson Makes Historic Visit to Bushy Park to Learn Secrets of Its Past

By Stuart Higgins

The grandson of wartime hero **Field Marshal Bernard 'Monty' Montgomery** visited **Bushy Park** to see the newly-renovated monuments of the Second World War and learn about the vital role played by the park when it was turned into a **US military base called Camp Griffiss** and a base for the **Supreme Headquarter Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF)**.

In March 1944 Camp Griffiss, Bushy Park became the location of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) led by **General Eisenhower**. It was from here that the plans for **Operation Overlord, the D-Day landings in northern France**, were finalised.

Monty's role in the operation was to lead the joint US, Canadian and British army forces in the initial phases of the invasions which took place on June 6 1944.

Now his seventy-one year old grandson, **Henry Montgomery, Third Viscount of Alamein**, has embarked upon a historic and nostalgic 4000 mile journey called **'In Monty's Footsteps'** travelling through the UK and Normandy to uncover the extraordinary human stories leading up to D-Day and the role of his grandfather in raising the morale of the troops and the country as a whole.



The grandson of wartime hero Field Marshal Bernard 'Monty' Montgomery (left) visits the SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force) monument and is invited to place the commemorative plaque by historian David Ivison in Bushy Park. Photo – Stuart Higgins



The grandson of WW2 war hero Field Marshal 'Monty' Montgomery arrives at the SHAEF entrance gate of Bushy Park named after The Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (Photo – courtesy of Royal Parks)



A moment of solemn reflection for Henry Montgomery studying the monument which honours the US Army Air Forces (Photo – Stuart Higgins)



This marks the site of US General Eisenhower's office in 1944 and is sometimes known as The Eisenhower Memorial. It had become damaged and needed to be replaced

Among them, he will meet **Second World War veterans**, relatives of those who served and those who fell, people who lived through the war as children and historians with first-hand accounts.

He says: "To my shame it was not until 2014 when I first met veterans from the Normandy Campaign, that I began to realise the significance of D-Day and the Battle that followed.

"Since then, I have had the privilege of hearing their stories first-hand. Stories of ordinary men and women doing extraordinary things. Thanks to them we, in Western Europe, have enjoyed over 80 years of unprecedented peace and freedom. That is being challenged now.

"It is more important than ever to ensure younger generations learn the cost at which our freedom was bought and are motivated to continue "winning the peace". That is the aim of the Memorial's educational programme which I hope will help many people learn this important message at a much younger age than I did."

Today, he was visibly moved as he was invited to lay the restored plaque in Bushy Park at the actual spot where **General Eisenhower**, who was the supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, had his office just to the left of the park inside the Teddington entrance gate near the flagpole.

He revealed that he was in regular touch with **Susan Eisenhower**, who lives in Washington DC and is granddaughter of the General who later became the **34th President of the United States**, and planned to be in contact with her about his Bushy Park experience. "She will be very interested in all of this and the strong links with her grandfather," he told *Teddington Town*.

He arrived by train at **Teddington Station** and later had a light lunch in **Bushy Park's Pheasantry Cafe** – with other visitors totally unaware of his identity and historic wartime links.

His guides for the historic visits were **David Ivison, a Trustee of the Friends of Bushy and Home Parks**, which led the project to restore the two important monuments and his wife, a fellow Trustee, **Claire**.

Henry recorded their conversations which included details about why the camp was set up at Bushy Park, where the huts were positioned and who built them, how the officers spent their leisure time (*The Foresters Arms at Hampton Wick was a popular watering hole, according to David*)

They also discussed how Camp Griffiss got its original name from **Colonel Townsend E. Griffiss** who was the **FIRST** United States airman killed in Europe after the US joined World War 11. Aged just 41, he was returning from a mission in the Soviet Union when he was mistakenly shot down by friendly fire in 1942. David told Henry that a surviving relative of Colonel Griffiss had also visited Bushy Park.

Their discussion also touched on the crucial issue of the **weather for the D-Day landings** which was made more complicated because of a serious disagreement between the US and the British weather experts. "The British based their assessments on scientific information," David told Henry. "While the US relied on data based on historical facts.

Fortunately, the British intelligence was much more accurate and eventually accepted by both sides."

David took Henry to the **Warren Plantation** – which is now a fenced-off safe area for the deer – but was a specific area for the men's huts in 1944 and he explained to Henry how telephone wire-insulated points could still be seen in some of the trees as remnants of the elaborate communication system at the camp.

Henry then revealed that his grandfather's diary contained only one word in his entry for June 3 1944 – three days before the actual Normandy beach landings – and that one word was **WEATHER**.

Henry, who lives in Gloucestershire, has worked in agriculture all his life, mostly as a farm management consultant. He is president of The Spirit of Normandy Trust, Trustee of the Normandy Memorial Trust and Patron of both The Portsmouth D-Day Story Trust and The Friends of the Fusilier Museum Warwick. He travels to Normandy each year with veterans of the Normandy campaign to commemorate the anniversary of the D-Day Landings.

He will be travelling throughout April and May meeting over 75 groups of people, visiting almost 40 locations and covering more than 4,000 miles in Britain and Normandy.

You can follow Henry's journey **@BritishMemorial** on Facebook, X and Instagram.

From **Friday 1st May 2026, 'In Monty's Footsteps'**, the **podcast and documentary series**, will be available across all major podcast platforms.

You can read the full article by Stuart Higgins [HERE](#)



Henry next to his grandfather on the steps of Monty's 'campaign caravan' in summer 1959 aged 5, and General Montgomery in North Africa during the Second World War

# Enjoy the Museum of Richmond's Trumpeters' House Garden Party

From Museum of Richmond

Unwind in a lovely garden with your favourite drink and a delicious slice of cake, all while enjoying the uplifting sounds of the Barnes Concert Band and fundraising for the Museum of Richmond. **20<sup>th</sup> June, 2-5pm.**

Ticket prices:

- Adults: £20
- Children aged 5 to 17: £5
- Under 5s: Free

Tickets include a glass of wine or a soft drink, a piece of cake and unlimited tea and/or coffee.

[Book tickets](#)



# Community power: caring for our trees

From Richmond Council

National environmental charity [The Tree Council](#) brought more than 30 volunteers from nine organisations to Kneller Gardens in Twickenham for a day of community giveback. Discover what they achieved and explore simple ways you can get involved.

With funding from The Tree Council for new trees and hedgerows across the borough, the hands-on day focused on helping these young plantings thrive.

Volunteers lent a hand with watering, weeding, mulching and clearing brambles. They also enjoyed short walk and talks around the park, learning about the heritage of Kneller Gardens' trees and the positive impact of river restoration along the River Crane.



We would like to thank The Tree Council for making the day possible, and our local partners [Let's Go Outside and Learn](#) and [The Conservation Volunteers](#) for their support.

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# W G Grace & Gilbert Jessop - Signed Cricket Bat for auction

A cricket bat used by Gilbert Jessop and signed by W G Grace, a Stuart Surridge bat, signed in ink and with scores also written in ink. With a photocopy of a note of provenance. 88cms long.

This was purchased at an auction after a charity match in 1902 at **Twickenham Green** in around 1902, and was apparently broken by Jessop. It has passed through the family to the present owner.

More info [HERE](#)



**THE BUILDERS ARMS**

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**THIS IS A CAUSE THAT IS DEEPLY PERSONAL TO US. LAST YEAR A FAMILY MEMBER OF A LOCAL RESIDENT AND FRIEND OF THE PUB SURVIVED A BRUTAL ATTACK BY HER EX-PARTNER WHICH HAS RESULTED IN HER BEING TETRAPLEGIC.**

**“FUN FOR ALL. SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST.”**

**EVERY DONATION AND ALL PROCEEDS HELP REFUGE CONTINUE THEIR VITAL WORK.**

The community pub The Builders Arms in Teddington is hosting a big day this Sunday (June 7) for the charity REFUGE UK which supports women and children impacted by domestic violence.

The Builders Arms  
38 Field Lane  
Teddington  
TW11 9AS

# Get Swishing!

**Wear it, Love it, Share it!**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 6.30-9pm**

**@ 2nd Teddington Scout Hut**

## How a 'Swish' Works!

Bring along (up to 10) items of clothing, handbags, accessories etc. Items are exchanged for tokens. Have a browse, and when the 'Swish' starts you can buy other items using your tokens.

**£5 entry**

Enjoy  
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Reg charity number 289912

*Raising funds for 2<sup>nd</sup> Teddington Scouts*

# Twickenham Riverside transformation gathers pace as major construction begins

From Richmond Council

The transformation of Twickenham Riverside is moving rapidly ahead, with major construction works now underway across the site as the long-awaited regeneration of the town's waterfront takes shape.

The latest phase follows months of demolition, piling, drainage and flood defence works, with two tower cranes now installed and construction of the superstructure beginning.



Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council, said: *“There is real momentum on site, with major construction now underway as we create a riverside that matches the ambition and character of Twickenham.*

*“Like many residents, I was disappointed that a small amount of opposition sought to delay the scheme, contributing to unnecessary costs for taxpayers at a time when construction costs were rising globally. What matters now is that we are moving forward at pace, with visible progress on the ground.*

*“This is about providing much-needed affordable homes, attracting new businesses, creating high-quality public spaces and reconnecting the town centre with the Thames – delivering a riverside residents can be proud of for generations to come.”*

Recent works have included completion of foul and surface water diversions, basement excavation works at Wharf Lane and ongoing waterproofing and foundation works. Construction of pile caps and ground beams – key structural elements that support the new buildings – continues across the site, while demolition of the existing flood wall is also progressing.

The scale of activity on site is already substantial. More than 4,200 tonnes of demolition material – equivalent to around 350 London double-decker buses – has been crushed and reused on site, significantly reducing the need for heavy vehicle movement to remove material from the site.

Meanwhile, around 600 cubic metres of concrete has been poured for basement works at Wharf Lane, while 43 tonnes of reinforcement steel has been installed as the project moves into its next phase.

The council and construction company Kier are taking a sustainable approach to the works, with 95% of demolition materials set to be recycled or reused. Real-time monitoring is also in place to manage dust, noise, and vibration, while access to the riverside will be maintained throughout the works wherever possible.

Councillor Jim Millard, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Finance and Resources, said: *“This is one of the most significant investments in Twickenham town centre for a generation. It is about investing in places, supporting local economic growth, and creating opportunities for residents and businesses.*

*“Not only will this development revitalise the town centre, but it will also help strengthen Twickenham’s future as a sought-after destination on the Thames, bringing new homes, jobs, public spaces, and increased footfall that will benefit the wider local economy.*

*“There’s a real sense of progress on site now, and I’d encourage anyone passing by to take a look through the viewing windows and see firsthand how Twickenham Riverside is being transformed.”*

Main construction works will now move into the superstructure phase, with the visible structure of the development beginning to emerge above ground. This includes the installation of precast columns, stairwells and balconies using modern construction methods designed to reduce disruption to neighbouring residents and businesses.



What’s coming:

- New public spaces including terraced lawns, gardens, children’s play area, event space, and riverside seating
- 45 new homes, including 50% affordable housing, alongside new shops, café, office accommodation, and community spaces
- Improved pedestrian connections between King Street, Wharf Lane, Water Lane, and the riverside
- A revitalised riverside destination reconnecting Twickenham town centre with the Thames

More broadly, the [Richmond Growth Plan](#), launched earlier this year, sets out how the council will continue to support businesses, attract investment and strengthen Richmond’s position as one of London’s most dynamic local economies. You can [watch newly released drone footage](#) showing the significant progress being made onsite



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## Design a poster to celebrate 150 years of St Margarets Station

From Visit Richmond

Get creative and help celebrate the 150th birthday of St Margarets Station with a colourful poster design.

The station first opened in 1876 and has been part of the community for 150 years.

Winning entries and selected artwork will be proudly displayed in the station waiting room and around the station platforms.

You could win a family train ticket to anywhere on the South Western Railway Network **plus** a fantastic bundle of goodies!

How to enter:

- Create an A4 poster using paint, crayons, pencil or pens
- Your poster could include: trains, the station, birthday celebrations, the future of rail travel, your local community



Submit your artwork by 1 July 2026 by handing it in to the station's ticket office.

[Read full entry details](#)

## Romanian Wines

I don't know about you, but until fairly recently there was little talked about the wine of Romania. But actually, it is one of the world's largest wine producers, ranking among the top ten globally by vineyard area and boasting over 6,000 years of winemaking history. I've been on a discovery journey, and I have to say that I'm really impressed - not just by the quality, but by the excellent value for money.

While historically it had prioritized quantity under communist rule, a modern renaissance driven by private investments has shifted focus towards quality and value for money. Today we can easily find Romanian wines in most major supermarkets, sometimes own-label and sometimes budget-friendly ranges produced by **Cramele Recas**, the major exporter.

Of the red grapes, **Fetească Neagră** (Black Maiden) is the flagship variety. It's medium-to-full-bodied, with velvety tannins and deep flavours of black cherry, plum, blackberry, and warm baking spices. Oak ageing often adds rich tobacco and chocolate notes. **Negru de Drăgășani / Novac** is a rare, complex grape that produces intense, structured, and deeply coloured reds akin to Bordeaux styles. And **Băbească Neagră** is a lighter, high-acid, traditional red boasting elegant red fruit notes with a subtle hint of clove.

Of the white grapes the most widely planted native is the **Fetească Regală** (Royal Maiden). It creates crisp, fresh, and aromatic wines with notes of green apple, tropical fruit, and citrus. The **Fetească Albă** (White Maiden) gives a more delicate, light, and elegant white wine. It is known for its floral bouquet, white peach notes, and clean finish. **Tămâioasă Românească** (Romanian Muscatel) is a highly expressive, ancient aromatic variety, yielding luxurious semi-sweet or dry whites bursting with honey, basil, and rose petal aromas. And **Grasă de Cotnari** is historically famous across European royal courts, producing rich, botrytised dessert wines with high natural acidity.

While Romania also produces excellent well known varieties like Pinot Noir, Merlot, and Chardonnay, the local, native grapes are worth checking out. Here are some I'd recommend you try:

**Sorcova Fetească Regală 2023, [£9.00, Waitrose](#)**

Similar in taste to Chardonnay, Fetească Regală is one of Romania's best-known grape varieties, with floral aromas and notes of dried fruit and almonds. A perfect aperitif wine for drinking well chilled with good friends. Perfect with creamy pasta, seafood and even oriental dishes



## Solomonar Reserve, [£11.50 Majestic](#)

A blend of Cabernet, Merlot and the indigenous Feteasca Neagra grape made by one of the country's very best wineries. It's full-bodied and rich with notes of blackcurrant, plum, blueberry and vanilla. In 2022, this wine won an IWC award for the 2020 vintage.



**M&S Found Fetească Albă 2025 (£8 M&S)** - expressive grapefruit and peach aromas followed by a fruit-packed palate of melon and apple, lifted by crisp, citrusy acidity.

Slightly more difficult to obtain perhaps as no supermarket listings, but worth tracking down is this **Pinot Grigio Paparuda from Cramele Recas**. With lovely, opulent aromas of grapefruit and peach follow through to a lithe body, there's loads of fruit as well as abundant melon and apple character and citrusy acidity. £8.49 from [Adnams](#)

**Spar** has raised the bar on its own-label wines with its **Legends** collection and this includes a lovely Romanian red, **Palace of the Peacocks**, a Pinot Noir that's rich and full-flavoured, proving you don't need to head to more expensive regions to enjoy this world-renowned grape variety from Romania. Ideal with roast duck, lamb kebabs, mushroom risotto, or cheese fondue. £8.49 and worth seeking out.

Tesco's **Val Duna Romanian Merlot (£7.50)**, reveals an abundance of fruity notes, led by plum, blackberry, and luscious strawberry jam. Smooth and semi-dry, it pairs effortlessly with roast pork with seasonal vegetables or a beef Bolognese, making it equally suited to relaxed occasions and more refined dining experiences.



## Father's Day Foodie Gift Ideas

I've been researching appropriate gifts for foodie fathers and here are some suggestions:

Renowned for its handmade creations, **Hilton Macarons** has launched a limited edition savoury gift box that showcases three unique cheese flavours. This is a game-changer for those who, like me, love savoury treats but also love a traditional macaron. This box includes three savoury flavours, complemented by handmade chutneys from Two Magpies Bakery; Cheddar, Chive & Wholegrain Mustard, Binham Blue & Chilli Jam, and Brie & Fig & Apple Chutney. These can be enjoyed as an appetiser or after dinner treat. And having tasted them, I can assure you that they are fabulous. £15 (for box of 6). For more information and to view the whole range visit <https://hiltonmacarons.co.uk>



For coffee fans, whether they always reach for the same favourite or love discovering something new, a coffee subscription, delivered UK-wide, from independent coffee specialists, **Missing Bean**, will bring freshly roasted specialty coffee to his doorstep. He can choose his own coffee, or let the team curate a rotating selection of beans. Hand roasted every weekday, **Missing Bean** coffee subscriptions are delivered across the UK with complete flexibility. Cancel, pause or skip whenever you like. From £36 [here](#)

A rather wonderful idea for fathers who are fond of a Cornish pasty is a surprise delivery from **The Cornish Company**. It believes the solution is simple - the way to a man's heart is firmly through his stomach. Available now, the [Father's Day collection](#) features a lineup of locally-made, deliciously fresh Cornish delicacies designed to satisfy every craving. From £16 for this giant 'Dad' Cornish pasty.



For a chocolate fan, here's a great idea. I tend to think of **Appleyard** as a florist, but I was surprised to discover that they also have a number of mail order gifts too. Any chocolate-loving father will love this [hatbox](#) chocolate hamper. It contains: chocolate spread; a triple chocolate round; a tray of six Appleyard milk chocolates; 200g chocolate and orange cantuccini and 150g of all butter fudge. It's from £36 and presented in a nice hatbox. And hopefully he'll share some of it with the rest of the family...



A rather wonderful idea for fathers who are fond of a Cornish pasty is a surprise delivery from **The Cornish Company**. It believes the solution is simple - the way to a man's heart is firmly through his stomach. Available now, the [Father's Day collection](#) features a lineup of locally-made, deliciously fresh Cornish delicacies designed to satisfy every craving. From £16 for this giant 'Dad' Cornish pasty.

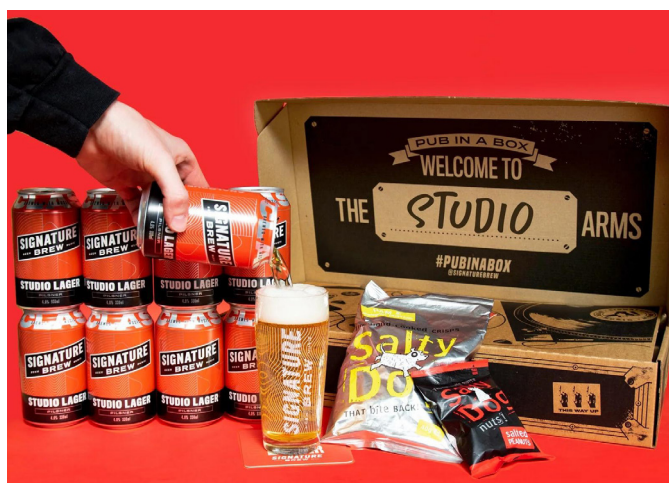


Olive oil has finally come into its own, with people realising that it is not only healthy, but it adds so much flavour to our food, whether in salad dressings, for cooking and of course for drizzling on top to finish a dish. GOOD PHATS is keen to help dads cook like they've never cooked before, by offering some great bundles - each featuring delicious fats - from finest Spanish and Italian olive oils, to tasty beef tallows. You can buy online from [GOOD PHATS](#) to have them sent directly, or also trot to Waitrose to choose a selection. They are also stocked by Ocado.



A good whisky is always a popular gift for dad who enjoys a dram or two. But for something slightly more unusual, but equally good, how about a gift that offers a selection of six drams of cracking whisky from some of the world's top distilleries? And it's housed in a smart box so you needn't even worry about gift wrap. This **Dad's Dram Selection Whisky Tasting Set** will be a most welcome gift and allow them to choose their favourite. It costs just £24.95 from [Master of Malt](#)

Perhaps beer is more to his taste? Well, London's biggest independent brewery, **Signature Brew**, has created a [Pub in a Box](#) (£32.95), which is excellent for any beer lover. Signature Brew's award-winning Pub in a Box features a selection of their finest craft beers, together with glassware, some snacks, the world's greatest music quiz and also exclusive playlists curated by music journalists and tailored to each beer. You can choose between 8 cans of Roadie All-Night IPA or Studio Lager. He can even grab a pen to name his establishment with the pub sign inside the lid of the box. All beers are suitable for vegans. The Pub In A Box is available



throughout the UK, dispatched in just 1-2 days.



If he's someone who enjoys spending time on the water, and also enjoys a good G&T, this Coastal Gin from Bullards, is ideal. **Bullards** is a name that's synonymous with the history of Norwich. The elegant designs of Bullards' bottles are much like the handcrafted gin inside and look elegant on a home bar or drinks cabinet. And when the bottle has been emptied, it can be topped up with an eco-refill pouch – the same premium gin, delivered straight to their door. Choose from its award-winning London Dry Gin, or the delicate, salty influence of Coastal Gin which instantly transports you to the beautiful Norfolk coastline. [bullardsspirits.co.uk/](http://bullardsspirits.co.uk/) (RRP £45.00 for 70cl bottle, £40.00 for eco-refill pouches).

I've always been very impressed indeed with deliveries from **Côte at Home** - it was a Godsend during lockdown and since then it's expanded its range considerably. The carefully selected wines from recently launched **Côte Uncorked** - offer a fabulous selection of French wines [here](#) including their own Côte Cuvée. And the wonderful [cheese selection](#), too, will make a lovely surprise delivery. The French Cheese Box at £27.95 offers a selection of France's most iconic and artisanal cheeses, carefully chosen to take his taste buds on a journey. The box includes a variety of flavours and textures, from creamy and delicate to bold and pungent. Ready to serve with seeded crackers and confit of Mirabelle plums.

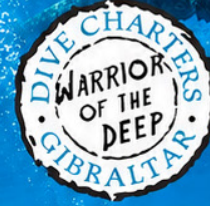


Perhaps he already has a good supply of wines of his choice? Then the **CellarDine Rouge 02 Electronic Wine Breather from Dexam UK** is ideal, as it's designed to speed up the normally lengthy process of aerating and breathing red wine, reducing breathing time down to one minute. It does this by gently bubbling air through via an automatic mechanism to ensure the correct breathing time. £22 from [dexam.co.uk](http://dexam.co.uk). There are lots of other wine related ideas on the Dexam website too.

And finally, last but not at all least, is yet another fabulous hamper idea from [Hampers.com](http://Hampers.com). While they offer a host of great hampers with all sorts of themes, I thought this one, which offers a superb Father's Day gift for a non drinker, is perfect, particularly as so many folk have decided to eschew alcohol now. You can treat him to a premium selection of alcohol-free beers and snacks. Inside, he'll discover a trio of craft non-alcoholic beers from

**Bero**, the alcohol-free brewing company co-founded by **Tom Holland**. These include a **Kingston Golden Pils**, a **Double Tasty West Coast Style IPA** and an **Edge Hill IPA**, all offering the taste of a great beer, without the alcohol. They've been paired with a selection of savoury snacks, including award-winning Lancashire cheese and spring onion drinks biscuits, black pepper mochi rice bites, cheese and onion crisps and classic dry roasted peanuts, all chosen to complement those bold flavours of the beers. Hand-packed into a smart gift box, this is a thoughtful gift ideal for those who prefer alcohol-free options, without compromise. £32 and of course you can also include a personal message in a gift card.





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*Experience*

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PER PACKAGE  
(FOR 2 GUESTS)



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ROOM, BREAKFAST



2 NIGHTS, 2 GUESTS



EXTRA TOWELS,  
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# Traveller's Tales 183

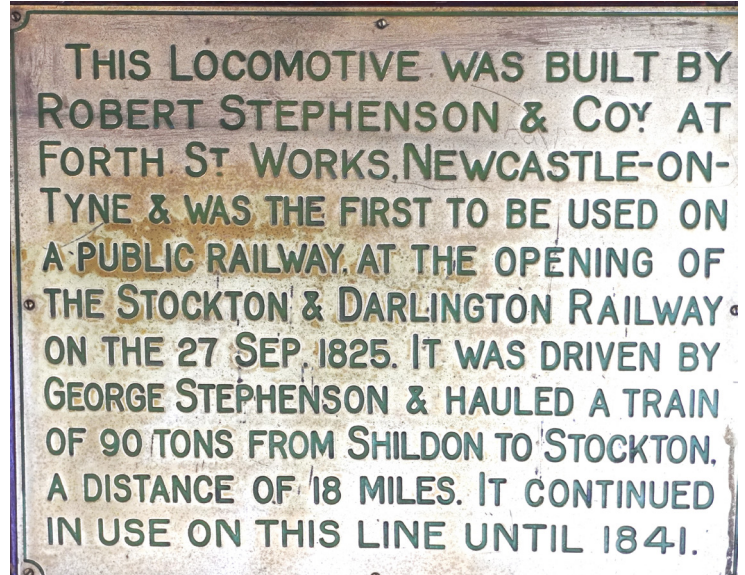
## Discovering Durham Part 3

Doug Goodman Visits Shildon

I was an enthusiastic train spotter in my school days and the interest in steam trains has never disappeared. On the third day of my visit to Durham I was taken to Shildon to see Locomotion. Described as the largest undercover rail museum in the UK, I was a little doubtful. After several visits to the famous York Railway centre I thought that no other establishment could be more comprehensive or exciting. I was wrong!



Locomotion, the Original Engine



Commemorating the Stephensons

Past Darlington off the A1 you'll find Shildon to the south of Bishop Auckland. The world's first railway town was established on the route of the Stockton to Darlington link when the very first steam locomotive, now known Locomotion No.1, pulled a train of goods wagons and some 300 passengers. This went down in the history books as the first steam-hauled passenger train to run on a public railway.



Exhibits at Shildon



Preservation at its Best

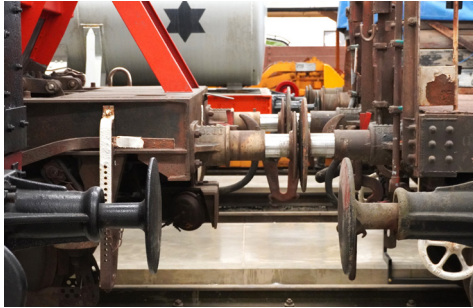


Former Southern Region Electric

### LOCOMOTION

The engine was built by Robert Stephenson and driven on the historic day in September 1825 by George Stephenson from Shildon to Stockton – a distance of 18 miles. Shildon became a major centre for railway development and construction. Locomotion No. 1 was in service until 1841 although parts were replaced after a boiler explosion in 1828. In 1856 the engine underwent a complete rebuild and was put on public display. The museum you can visit today was built at a cost of £11 million and opened in 2004. While Locomotion remains the star exhibit there's much more to see in the two huge exhibition halls. Nearly 100 engines, wagons and unusual items of rolling stock are on show with information about their history. Apart

from the gleaming ancient and not so old locomotives I was glad to see old Southern Railway Electric carriages in their distinctive green livery, the APT HS 125, the Night Ferry sleeper car – all in which I once travelled – and Queen Alexandra’s royal saloon. These along with displays of miniature railways, memorabilia, a gift shop and café are located in the main hall. The new hall has a fascinating collection of wagons including a snow plough, a sewage tipper and coal hoppers. For children who get bored with the engines there are play areas inside and outside. Allow three hours to see the exhibits in this magnificent, historical place. And there’s no admission charge.



Old Buffers



Snow Plough Still in Use



Beamish Living Museum  
(image provided by Durham Tourist Office)

### MUCH MORE TO SEE

Within a very short distance from Durham City there’s so much to see. With visits to the cathedral, to the Auckland Project and Shildon I felt that several more days in the north east would have been very welcome. But with only one day remaining I had to choose carefully. Beamish, known as the Living Museum of the North, situated between Durham and Newcastle was first choice. A whole day or more is needed to explore the wonderful attractions of Beamish. Different sections of the huge area take you back to 1820s, early 1900s, 1940s and 1950s. There’s a coal mine to visit and the opportunity to learn about the hazardous work of local miners, sit in a school room, ride a tram and enjoy ‘Edwardian’ shopping. The post-war shops where rationing was still in force reminded me of my favourite sweets which were in short supply and the dental surgery brought back painful memories.

Last visit was to the Bowes House and Museum in the Durham Dales. Set in parkland near Barnard Castle this imposing building displays a wealth of treasures. It opened in 1892 as a purpose-built art gallery and



The Bowes House and Museum



The Silver Mechanical Swan

contains works by Goya, El Greco, Canaletto and many other famous painters. Textiles, ceramics, porcelain and a wonderful full-size silver swan fill the galleries. Check the times when the mechanical swan performs so gracefully. Special exhibitions take place regularly and running until September is one based on the designs of Vivienne Westwood.

Information: Locomotion at Shildon [www.locomotion.org.uk](http://www.locomotion.org.uk). Beamish Living Museum. [www.beamish.org.uk](http://www.beamish.org.uk). The Bowes Museum [www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk](http://www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk). Durham tourist office [www.thisisdurham.com](http://www.thisisdurham.com)

# My Favourite Street Church Street Twickenham, I Call It Home!

By Bruce Lyons

As a family we have been here since 1966 and I still work here!!!

Today is the Summer Flower Festival @ St Mary's Church, a must - this year's theme is 100 Years of the Hundred Acre Wood and if you're lucky you'll meet Owl in Residence. Winnie the Pooh will be there too and many others!



Months in planning - today is the day and you will be amazed the Church is ablaze with the hidden horticultural talents of the community. Opens 11.00am, fingers crossed for fine weather.

I am delighted to tell you, that finally, despite my age, I am getting the Church Square back into Shape - I miss the view from my office (in the Square) but whilst I have been ordering plants galore, I just couldn't find help to get it under control, but my wish came true and over the next three weeks you will see changes, I won't be competing with the Church, but at least there will be colour and hopefully some good plantings.

Today is also the Anniversary of D Day and Church Street was fortunate to be one of the locations of The Michael Caine & Glenda Jackson film *The Great Escaper*, the charming true story of the D DAY Veteran escaping his Care Home and making his way to the D Day Celebrations across the Channel.



Since 1966, when I first opened out travel agency, I have seen many changes to our street, and in a small way helped it to be what it is today. When I first came there was two-way traffic (can you imagine !!!) The Square was still a bomb site! As buildings fell into disrepair they were demolished - in fact there were hardly any operating businesses - but over time it became the Jewel of the Crown - Al Fresco, pedestrianisation and the street caught the imagination of young entrepreneurs.

I was going to write about travel but today I am just enjoying the official start of Summer, but we are here for you be it be a Battlefield Tour or a small group tour to Gardens of Europe.

Have a lovely day  
Bruce - Crusader Travel

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

Winnie the Pooh ©photology1971 - stock.adobe

# The Shawshank Redemption

by Stephen King, adapted by Owen O'Neil and Dave Johns  
Bill Kenwright Ltd at Richmond Theatre until 6<sup>th</sup> June

The stage adaptation of the movie (itself an adaptation of Stephen King's novella) was first produced in 2009, before the current infatuation with such things. It is all the better for it. There is no pretence that this is anything other than a theatrical piece. *The Shawshank Redemption* lends itself well to the medium and this production is stylised yet grounded in harsh reality.



Set in the fictional Shawshank Maximum Security Penitentiary, the action takes place over twenty years, with the passage of time subtly indicated by an effective musical soundtrack and updating of uniforms. It is a study in corruption and an unfair justice system. Shawshank is somewhere in the USA. It could be anywhere. The plot revolves around Andy and his journey from new inmate to seasoned prisoner. He could be anyone. He's ordinary. He's a banker, out of his depth, and constantly under threat. He is also innocent. Yet by his wily resilience and use of a particular set of unique skills he survives. His tragedy is, once he's made himself indispensable to inmates and guards alike, there is no escape. Andy is a chameleon whom we never quite get to know. He

is the window through which we observe the horror of how a life can be destroyed in a heartbeat and Joe McFadden's low-key performance hits the spot perfectly.

The beating heart of the play, though is Red. Ben Onwukwe is outstanding in this role. Wise, compassionate, and pragmatic by turn, Onwukwe portrays Red with humour, gravitas and a twinkle in his eye. Red's journey is more complex than Andy's and he's the character we root for.

With excellent performances from all the inmates, this is a truly ensemble piece. The guards are rather two dimensional characters though and it can be easy for them to slip into caricature.



David Esbjornson's production emphasises the black humour that comes out of the worst of situations. It's a master stroke not to play this down, as the contrast of humour ensures that the true horrors of *The Shawshank Redemption* hit all the harder.

Read Eleanor Marsh's review at [www.markaspen.com/2026/06/03/shawshank-rmptn-rt](http://www.markaspen.com/2026/06/03/shawshank-rmptn-rt)

Photography by Jack Merriman

# Black Comedy

by Peter Shaffer

OT at the Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond until 11<sup>th</sup> July

*Black Comedy* has such an air of vintage charm that you couldn't describe it in any way but as a drawing room farce. Something of a surprise, it's an impressively skilled piece of comedy.

A collection of disasters wait to happen in struggling sculptor Brindsley Miller's tiny flat. He's expecting a visit from millionaire Georg Bamberger whom he hopes will buy his work. Miller has borrowed his absent neighbour's furniture without his permission. He is with his fiancée Carol, but her "monster" father is about to arrive. Nearby his ex-girlfriend Clea hovers.



The quirk is the concept of inverting light and darkness, so the play begins in total darkness, but this is light for the characters on stage. They're heard speaking and moving about quite normally. Then there's a power cut, the flat is thrown into darkness, the stage lights come back up and the characters stagger about as if in total blackness while we watch them bumping into things and each other.

Complications ensue with the arrival of Brindsley's nervous neighbour Miss Furnival, a man from the London Electricity Board, Carol's father Col Melkett, Harold Gorringe (owner of the furniture) and ultimately Bamberger. Chaos ensues in the darkness: furniture is furtively returned to Gorringe's flat; teetotal Miss Furnival is wrongly served whisky. Identities are mistaken, people climbed over and kissed. As if this weren't enough, Clea arrives, intent on winning Miller back whilst causing maximum mischief.

Director Caroline Steinbeis has achieved a great deal in a tiny space; while Elliot Griggs' lighting perfectly inverts light and dark. It dims when a match is struck and sudden lights up when it's blown out. In this topsy-turvy world, the cast works well as an ensemble, mastering the physical comedy on the confined stage.

Joe Bannister is an endearing, helpless Brindsley. Simon Manyonda is particularly funny as neighbour Gorringe, determined to stay positive in a constantly deteriorating situation. Petite Patricia Allison flits about the stage as Clea, an anarchic Tinkerbell leaving a wake of destruction. Jason Barnett is suitably brusque and patriarchal as Col Melkett and Julia Hills' spinsterly Miss Furnival is a masterclass in very sweet drunks!



With its great sense of warmth and nostalgia, *Black Comedy* is a charming shot of bonkers escapism.

Read Eleanor Lewis's review at [www.markaspen.com/2026/06/02/black-comedy](http://www.markaspen.com/2026/06/02/black-comedy)

Photography by Sam Taylor

# Emerging Young Actors' Showcase

at the Mary Wallace Theatre. Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>

As part of our *RSS ALIVE!* season, Richmond Shakespeare Society's Young Actors' Company will present a special exhibition of its talents onstage at the Mary Wallace Theatre on the afternoon of **Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**.



Using poetry, prose and song, and with material ranging from Shakespeare to Dario Fo, from Caryl Churchill to Andrew Lloyd-Webber, our next generation of talent looks forward to entertaining and impressing you with their Summer Showcase at 5pm on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Admission is free and all are welcome!

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

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





ST MARY'S CHURCH, TWICKENHAM  
Church Street  
Twickenham TW1 3NJ

# THE TEMPEST

Sunday | 7 June 2026 | 6.00 pm

**Cristian Sandrin**

*"We are such stuff as dreams are made on and our  
little life is rounded with a sleep"*  
(William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, IV, 1)

Hailed by the critics on both sides of the Atlantic for his interpretations of the classical repertoire, Cristian Sandrin presents a thrilling piano recital featuring piano sonatas by Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert, in a musical feast of colour and drama, intimacy and elemental fire.

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**  
Piano Sonata in A minor K. 310

**Ludwig van Beethoven**  
Piano Sonata in D minor Op. 31 no. 2 "Tempest"

**Franz Schubert**  
Piano Sonata in A minor D 845



*"Sandrin is a wonderful Beethoven interpreter"*  
Piano News Deutschland

*"pianist Cristian Sandrin sets the bar impressively high"*  
BBC Music Magazine

*"this is a pianist to watch"*  
Critics Choice 2025  
American Record Guide

Concert tickets:  
£20 General Admissions  
£10 Concessions (Under 18s, Students)

**eventbrite**

The concert will be followed by a reception  
with drinks and refreshments

# Help Us Make Twickenham 60s Day Bigger, Better and Free for All

From A Taste of Twickenham

Twickenham 60s Day is a free, family-friendly community celebration of the rich musical heritage that helped put Twickenham on the map. Inspired by the legendary sounds, style and spirit of the 1960s, the event brings our town together for a day of live music, fun, fashion and nostalgia for all ages.

Last year's event was an incredible success, attracting thousands of visitors and proving just how much our community values and enjoys celebrating Twickenham's unique musical story. Thanks to that support, we're expanding the footprint this year to bring you even more live 60s music, entertainment, activities and vintage fashion throughout the town. 🎵 🎸 🎤

While the event is completely free to attend, it is not free to stage. We are committed to ensuring that performers, musicians and contributors are fairly supported for the enjoyment they bring to our community.

Twickenham 60s Day is a not-for-profit event, organised entirely on a voluntary basis by A Taste of Twickenham, Gina Wray of The Eel Pie Club and Linda Birch of The Brewery Market. We are incredibly grateful for the support of Discover Twickenham BID and FSG Estate Agents, whose backing helps make this celebration possible.

We do not rely on large corporate sponsorships, preferring instead to preserve the independent, community-led spirit that reflects the values and character of Twickenham. ❤️

★ That's why we're asking for your help.

Our Crowdfunder has just gone live, and every donation—large or small—will help us bring this expanded event to life and ensure that Twickenham 60s Day remains free and accessible for everyone.

If you love live music, community events and celebrating the incredible legacy of Twickenham and Eel Pie Island, please consider supporting our Crowdfunder today. Together, we can make Twickenham 60s Day 2026 our biggest and best celebration yet! 🎸 🎤 🎵

📱 **SCAN THE QR CODE AND DONATE TODAY**

❤️ Every contribution makes a difference.

🎵 Every donation helps keep the music playing.

👏 Every supporter helps keep this community event free for all.



## TWICKENHAM 60's day!

**You can help  
make all the  
60S HAPPENINGS HAPPEN!**



# Hampton Choral Society

*Presents*

## Songs from Stage and Screen

### Opera Choruses

Verdi - Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves  
Bizet - Carmen - 'Habenera' and 'Les Voici'  
Purcell - Dido's Lament and Final Chorus

### Film Favourites

Mozart - Lacrimosa  
Orff - Carmina Burana - O Fortuna  
Handel - Zadok the Priest  
Enya - May it Be  
Mitchell - Both Sides Now

### Musical Hits

Andrew Lloyd Webber - Concert Celebration  
Rodgers and Hammerstein - You'll Never Walk Alone  
Rodgers and Hammerstein - Climb Every Mountain  
Arlen - Somewhere Over the Rainbow  
Mancini - Moon River

*and more .....*

**Saturday 4 July 2026, 7.30pm**

*Musical Director - Emma Warren*

*Accompanist - Pam Kent and professional soloist*

All Saint's Church, The Avenue, Hampton, TW12 3RG



Tickets: £15 (Adults), £7 (Under 16's) Box Office: 020 8941 5394  
On the door: contactless, card, cheque, cash [www.hamptonchoral.org.uk](http://www.hamptonchoral.org.uk)

Charity Number 261788

# WWII Switchboard Operator remembers hearing horrors of war during D-Day landings

A WWII veteran has recalled hearing the “sounds of hell” when she worked as a Switchboard Operator during the D-Day landings.

Marie Scott was serving with the Women’s Royal Naval Service (WRNS) and passing coded messages between the front line and the leaders of Operation Overlord – the codename for the Normandy landings – when she was exposed firsthand to the horrors of warfare.

The 99-year-old was speaking during a respite stay at Royal Star & Garter in Surbiton, and ahead of the 82<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of D-Day on 6 June. The charity provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their families living with disability or dementia, from Homes in Solihull, Surbiton, High Wycombe and Worthing. It also has services reaching out into the community including Day Care, Lunch Club and a national Telephone Friendship Service.

Marie had joined the WRNS in March 1944 and in June that year was based at Fort Southwick, a secret underground communications centre near Portsmouth where the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF), led by General Dwight D. Eisenhower, was operating ahead of D-Day.

Aged just 17 at the time, she was tasked with using new VHF radio systems to verbally relay coded messages to frontline troops. It was during these exchanges that Marie was given her terrifying insight into the utter devastation unfolding across the Channel. She said: *“When they gave their responses to me, I couldn’t believe my ears. Because what I heard was incessant machine gunfire, the sound of cannons, and bombs dropping. I could hear men shouting orders and I could hear men screaming. And I suddenly realised that what I was listening to was the actual invasion of the beaches. Those men were storming the beaches of Normandy, and I was hearing the accompaniment of war. I’ll never forget that day. Never. It was the sound of hell.”*



Marie at Royal Star & Garter, where she spoke about her D-Day experience during a respite stay



Marie holds her Légion d'honneur, given to her by the French Government in recognition of the role she played in the liberation of the country from Nazi Germany



Marie joined the WRNS at 17

Marie left the Armed Forces in 1946. She would later receive the Légion d’honneur – France’s highest decoration – from the French Government, in recognition of the role she played in the liberation of the country from Nazi Germany.

Eighty-two years later, Marie still finds herself thinking of that day and the lives that were lost. She said: *“I remember all those desperately young men that didn’t survive D-Day. There were so many thousands killed on D-Day alone, it was an enormous number. For a few moments, I was there that day, listening to the hell those young men were in. I can’t help but think of them and their families – I often do.”*

The D-Day assault marked the start of the successful campaign to liberate Western Europe from Nazi occupation.

Royal Star & Garter’s Homes mark special days in the Armed Forces calendar, such as D-Day, VE Day, Remembrance and Armed Forces Day. The charity’s Veterans’ Voice project also aims to give a platform to its residents and the people who use its services, ensuring they are not overlooked because of their disability or dementia.

Royal Star & Garter in Surbiton is welcoming new residents. For more information on this, its other services or to work at the Home, go to [www.starandgarter.org/surbiton](http://www.starandgarter.org/surbiton)



**Royal Star & Garter**  
Care with courage

# ORGAN FUND *Summer* CONCERT



CHOIR OF  
ST WINEFRIDE'S KEW

*directed by Michael Bevan*



& NEVIS QUARTET

7:30PM, SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026



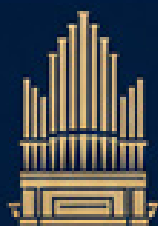
ST MARY MAGDALEN'S R.C CHURCH

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REPERTOIRE TO INCLUDE  
*choral works by Mozart, Palestrina,  
Tallis, Franck, Colin Mawby &  
Mozart's String Quartet in G Major K387*



REFRESHMENTS SERVED  
*from 7pm and during interval*



**ENTRY FREE.**  
DONATIONS FOR  
ORGAN REFURBISHMENT  
FUND WELCOMED.



# Following in mum's footsteps – Alice raises over £2900 for British Liver Trust

Alice Craig from **Richmond**, who was born with a rare liver disease, has completed the London Marathon, raising over £2,900 for Children's Liver Disease Foundation (now merged with the British Liver Trust). The event was made even more special for Alice, a 24-year-old paediatric nurse, as she was cheered on by her mum, Jess, who ran the marathon for the same charity 15 years ago.

*"My mum has actually done the marathon twice and ever since she first took part, we have always watched it on TV, which made me really want to do it myself,"* says Alice, who has biliary atresia, a lifelong condition which required major surgery when she was just nine weeks old and multiple hospital admissions as a child. *"I have a list of 30 things to do before I'm 30 and this was a big one on there!"*



Alice and Jess 2011



Alice and Jess

*"It's undoubtedly a challenge! The first 19 miles were ok although it was very hot, but the last seven miles was the real hard part. Having to walk because I felt so sick wasn't what I anticipated but hearing strangers cheer for you is a very motivating experience. In the end I completed it in 5 hours 17 and raised £2,911! Everyone has been so generous, and it felt great to smash my original target of £2000. It was such an emotional day and the memories it's given me are so special. Now I can say I ran 15 years after my mum for the exact same reason!"*

Amongst Alice's supporters on the day was one very proud mum, Jess:

*"I absolutely loved watching Alice run the marathon - I found it all very emotional" says Jess. "Unless you knew Alice in her early years it is difficult to understand what she went through and why running 26.2 miles is even more of a massive achievement. I never thought all those years ago that she'd be able to do this and of course I worried about her during the marathon, but that's what parents do. I'm so happy for Alice to have achieved another super event in her life. The fact that she completed this and raised money for a charity which means so much to us makes the whole experience even more special."*

Dan Painter, Public Fundraising Manager at British Liver Trust commented: *"As a charity, we are leading the fight against liver disease and liver cancer. We reach over two million people each year; providing information and support to patients and families, but there is still so much to be done, so we are incredibly grateful to people like Alice for running the London Marathon for us – it's a huge commitment and it was a privilege to cheer them on. Knowing what Alice has overcome to be able to do this makes her achievement all the more special and we're delighted that she enjoyed the experience."*

You can still support Alice's London Marathon challenge at [British Liver Trust: Alice's page](#)



**ALL WELCOME TO A 1980s-THEMED MURDER MYSTERY EVENING**

[Optional: Come in your best 1980s dress if you fancy getting into the spirit]

MORTLAKE WITH EAST SHEEN TEAM MINISTRY

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# Richmond crowned London Youth Games 2026 Girls Volleyball Champions

From London Youth Games

The 2026 London Youth Games Volleyball Competition delivered a high-energy weekend on 30th and 31st May 2026, as 345 young people from across London came together at UEL SportsDock for a chance to compete against their peers from across London.

17 girls' teams and 18 boys' teams competed in round robin matches throughout the day, before moving into the knockout stages – with teams fiercely competing for a podium place.

Richmond played strongly as a team throughout the day. Mikeighla, Richmond girls volleyball player said *“All the matches are very well organised and I think just the overall vibe is really nice. It’s really like that there’s a community, and all the London boroughs can come together and just enjoy sport, which I find very amazing.”*



The inclusion of volleyball at the London Youth Games has long provided a platform for future careers, with the likes of 2012 Olympians, Peter Bakare (Havering) and Dami Bakare (Wandsworth) and Yassir Sliti (Southwark) all benefitting from this competition at the start of their journeys.

## The winning boroughs of the Girls Competition:

- 1st Richmond
- 2nd Merton
- 3rd Haringey

## The winning boroughs of the Boys Competition:

- 1st Kingston
- 2nd Westminster
- 3rd Ealing

The Games remain dedicated to ensuring that every young person in London has access to inclusive and empowering sporting and physical activity experiences. The 2026 Volleyball Competition highlighted the power of sport to build confidence, resilience and community.

The event was brilliantly supported by the Borough Team Organisers, Team Managers, parents and volunteers, whose support ensured a memorable experience for all involved.

The London Youth Games Foundation supports more than 10,000 young people across London each year, delivering opportunities across 37 sports for all 32 boroughs & the City of London.





KO 4.30PM, FINALS FROM 8.40PM  
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THURSDAY 11 JUNE



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# Nations Championship 2026: Everything you need to know

## How Does the Tournament Work?

The Nations Championship is a new international tournament featuring the world's leading men's teams.

The 12 teams will compete in two intense blocks of fixtures – first in July, then November – before finishing with a Finals weekend to decide the overall winner.

The six northern hemisphere teams, including England, will travel to play three fixtures away from home in July, before then hosting three matches on home soil in November.

Results from the July and November fixtures will count towards the league table for each hemisphere, with the Finals weekend at the end of November bringing everything together as first takes on first, second against second and so on.

## Which Teams Are Taking Part?

Northern Hemisphere:

- England
- France
- Ireland
- Italy
- Scotland
- Wales

Southern Hemisphere:

- Argentina
- Australia
- Fiji
- Japan
- New Zealand
- South Africa



## Where Can I Get Tickets?

Tickets to England's home matches in November against Australia, Japan and New Zealand are available now, [via England Rugby Ticketing](#).

For tickets to the finals weekend, head to [the Nations Championship website](#).

## Who Are England Playing?

### JULY *[all times BST]*

**4 July:** South Africa v England (16:40) | *Ellis Park, Johannesburg*

**11 July:** Fiji v England (14:10) | *Hill Dickinson Stadium, Liverpool*

**18 July:** Argentina v England (16:10) | *Estadio Unico Madre de Ciudades, Santiago del Estero*

### NOVEMBER *[all times GMT]*

**8 November:** England v Australia (15:10) | *Allianz Stadium, London*

**14 November:** England v Japan (16:40) | *Allianz Stadium, London*

**21 November:** England v New Zealand (14:10) | *Allianz Stadium, London*

### FINALS WEEKEND *[all times GMT]*

**27 November:** Sixth-place North v Sixth-place South (16:45); Third-place North v Third-place South (20:10) | *Allianz Stadium, London*

**28 November:** Fifth-place North v Fifth-place South (13:10); Second-place North v Second-place South (16:45) | *Allianz Stadium, London*

**29 November:** Fourth-place North v Fourth-place South (13:10); First-place North v First-place South (16:45) | *Allianz Stadium, London*

## Where Can I Watch?

All Nations Championship matches, including England's home and away fixtures, will be live and free to air on ITV.



# Brentford announce pre-season friendlies

Written by Brentford Football Club



Brentford have announced two pre-season friendlies this summer, ahead of the 2026/27 Premier League season.

The Bees will face Ligue 1 side Stade Rennais in France, before a clash with Bundesliga outfit Eintracht Frankfurt at Gtech Community Stadium. Ticket information, including sales windows, will be announced in the week commencing Monday 22 June.

The match in Rennes will be on Saturday 8 August at Roazhon Park (6pm kick-off local time), with the fixture open to supporters.

The teams are also due to play each other earlier that day at the club's training centre, with kick-off at 11am local time. Fans will also be able to attend that match.

Rennes recorded a sixth-place finish in Ligue 1 this season, with their striker Esteban Lepaul named the division's top goalscorer, having scored 21 league goals.

Then, Frankfurt will travel to west London on Saturday 15 August for a pre-season game at the Gtech.

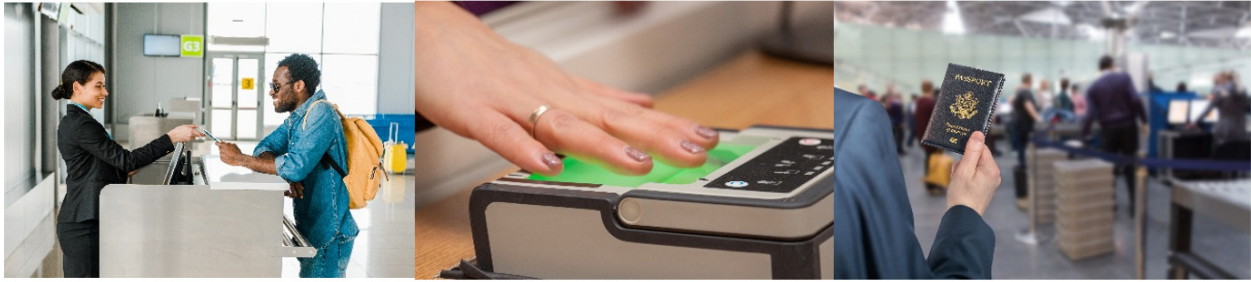
The German side finished eighth in the Bundesliga this season, and also featured in the league phase of the Champions League.

The Bees will also spend time in Portugal as part of a private training camp this summer, with no games planned.



# Heading Abroad This Summer? New Entry Rules, Passport Checks and Biometric Borders Explained for UK Holidaymakers

Following the full roll-out of the EU's Entry/Exit System (EES) on 10 April 2026, UK travellers heading abroad this summer are being encouraged to familiarise themselves with changing European entry requirements before travelling.



New research from Airport Parking and Hotels ([APH.com](http://APH.com)), available at [www.aph.com/uktravelrules](http://www.aph.com/uktravelrules), reveals the varying entry rules facing British holidaymakers across some of the UK's most popular overseas destinations, including Europe, the USA, Turkey, Jamaica and the Maldives.

With millions of Britons preparing for summer getaways, the APH guide helps travellers avoid common mistakes relating to passport validity rules, permitted lengths of stay in the Schengen Area, and Europe's new Entry/Exit System (EES), currently being introduced across 29 European countries ahead of the peak holiday season.

The new EES system requires non-EU nationals entering participating European countries to undergo biometric border checks, including fingerprint scans and facial photos, with a traveller's digital EES record remaining valid for up to three years. The system is being rolled out across 29 European countries, including most Schengen Area destinations, with the exception of Ireland and Cyprus. However, in a move aimed at reducing disruption during the peak summer travel period, Greece has temporarily relaxed the new biometric EES process for travellers this summer to prevent long queues and delays during the busy summer season.

The EU's future ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorisation System), a digital travel authorisation required for visa-exempt travellers to enter most European countries for short stays, is also planned for late 2026, requiring UK visitors to apply online before departure and costing €20 per person. However this fee will not apply to travellers under 18 or over 70, and approvals are expected to remain valid for up to three years or until passport expiry.

Travellers should also be careful with passport validity rules, which remain one of the easiest ways for holidaymakers to run into issues. Many European countries now require UK passports to have been issued within the last 10 years on the date of entry, also known as the '10-Year Passport Rule', while also having at least three months remaining before expiry. Failure to meet passport validity rules could result in passengers being denied boarding or refused entry on arrival. Meanwhile, destinations such as Turkey have their own separate requirements, including at least 150 days validity from arrival.

One of the biggest areas of confusion surrounds the Schengen Area and how the length of stay for a visiting tourist is calculated. While destinations including Spain, France, Italy, Portugal and Greece follow the standard Schengen allowance of up to 90 days within a 180-day period, Cyprus operates outside the Schengen Area despite being an EU member state, meaning time spent there does not count towards the wider Schengen limit.

Nick Caunter, Managing Director of [Airport Parking and Hotels \(APH.com\)](http://Airport Parking and Hotels (APH.com)), said: "Travel rules have become more complicated for UK holidaymakers in recent years. Small details around passport validity, Schengen limits and the upcoming EES and ETIAS systems could easily catch people out if they do not check requirements before flying. Our guide is designed to help savvy travellers plan ahead and enjoy a smoother start to their holiday."



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