

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



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And that includes a tasty free lunch!

Ellera Centre

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Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

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Budget to move “power and money out of Westminster, and into every postcode around Britain”

HM Treasury

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TickerTape - News in Brief

South Western Railway

Altered train services and buses replace trains in the Hounslow area Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 August

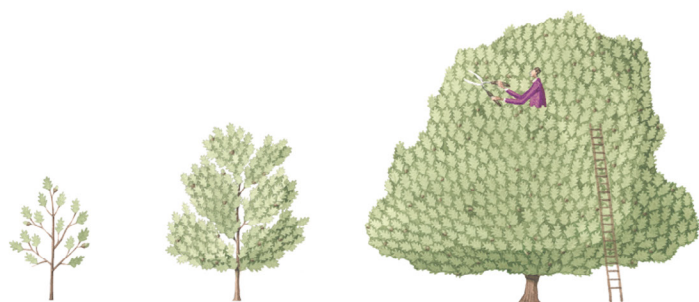
The lines in the **Hounslow** area will be **closed all weekend** due to maintenance work.

Saturday

- **London Waterloo to Weybridge via Staines** services will be **revised**. These services will be diverted between **Barnes and Feltham** and will call additionally at **Richmond and Twickenham**.
- **Buses** will run between **Barnes and Feltham via Hounslow**.

Sunday

- **London Waterloo to Woking via Staines** services will be **revised**. These services will be diverted between **Barnes and Feltham** and will call additionally at **Richmond and Twickenham**.
- **Buses** will run between **Barnes and Feltham via Hounslow**.
- The afternoon and evening **London Waterloo to Kingston via Hounslow** services will **not** run.
- **Buses** will run between **Barnes and Twickenham via Hounslow (afternoon and evening only)**.



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The Local Picture Postcard Page - Part 337

Goslings - George Street, Richmond

By Alan Winter

The first two postcards this week show the store in its heyday at the beginning of the 20th century. George Street has always been Richmond High Street without the title and these early postcards focus on a period where folk went shopping on an almost daily basis as they tended to stay longer in the area they were born in during those days.



Previously known as Great Street, it was renamed after King George III in 1769.



In October 1795, John Hunt Gosling founded a drapery store at 80 George Street, Richmond. As trade increased, 75, 76, 77, 78 and 79 George Street were incorporated into the store.

J.H. Gosling's sons and grandsons succeeded him in the business throughout the 19th century. The last links with the founder's family were severed with the deaths of Matthew Gosling and Herbert Gosling at the end of the 19th century. The manager at the time was Arthur Snow and his son, Ernest Snow, succeeded him at the store. In April 1947, Gosling & Sons Ltd was acquired by John Barker & Co Ltd, department store retailers, of London.

Gosling & Sons Ltd was then acquired by House of Fraser Ltd in 1957 as a subsidiary of John Barker & Co Ltd.

The store was badly damaged by fire in 1962 and demolished in 1968. The company was officially liquidated in 1974.

The store reopened as Dickins & Jones on completion of a new building in 1970 and was renamed House of Fraser in 2007.

The final image is not a postcard but is a photo I picked up years ago of the fire that brought the store to a halt in May 1962.



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High Tide Festival Floods Twickenham with Music

By Doug Goodman

Twickenham rocked to the sounds of many bands last Sunday during the High Tide festival. From The Green to Marble Hill and from The Cabbage Patch pub to three riverside stages the town was filled with locals and visitors enjoying music, regional food, locally-brewed beers and some shopping at the various market stalls.

The seventh High Tide festival was bigger and better than ever before and certainly louder, claiming that it's the UK's largest one-day, free music festival. Over 100 bands and artists, from the well-established to newcomers, took part in the event designed to commemorate Twickenham's historic music tradition and to provide a high point of the year for the town's community. The bands from Twickenham's Music Academy performed all day at The Barmy Arms and attracted a huge audience. On The Green a group in beautiful Ukrainian national dress danced in the hot sun while crowds picnicked on the brown grass. High Tide 2026 was a successful and happy event.

Next Up: still celebrating Twickenham's great musical history will be 60's Day on Saturday 9th August from midday to 18.00 in Church Street. Iron your old flares, polish your Vespa scooter and enjoy music and dancing from the Swinging Sixties.





SCHOOL OF ROCK LONDON
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1:00 PM	SCHOOL OF ROCK HOUSE BAND
1:30 PM	SURREAL
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2:30 PM	5VE WEEKS LEFT
3:00 PM	GLASS FACES X THE B-TOOLS
3:30 PM	THE MIDNIGHT CARTEL
4:00 PM	TUESDAY'S CHILD
4:30 PM	BLACK SCARAB X ROCKING DIAMONDS
5:00 PM	EEL PIE RIOT
5:30 PM	SCHOOL OF ROCK INSTRUCTOR BAND
6:00 PM	ANJA AND THE MAD DADS
6:30 PM	CHAINED ROSES X INK & IVY
7:00 PM	SCHOOL OF ROCK HOUSE BAND

JULY 26
HIGH TIDE
SUNDAY 26TH JULY 2026
TWICKENHAM



Richmond admits housing service has been “chaotic” as families face moves anywhere in England

By James Knight



Council accelerates policy allowing homelessness duties to end through private rented offers outside the borough

The most important words at Richmond’s latest housing committee meeting were not found in the official report. They came from Paul Chadwick, the executive director responsible for Resident Services, who said the council was trying to create a homelessness service that was more certain, more helpful and “not so crowded, so chaotic, frankly”. He also acknowledged that budgets had been seriously overspent and suggested that staff had previously felt unheard when identifying areas in need of improvement.

It was an unusually candid assessment, and one that ought to frame the policy that followed. Richmond has now entrusted that same service with decisions of considerable consequence for vulnerable households. Under the new Private Rented Sector Offer policy, the council may end its main homelessness duty by making one suitable offer of private rented accommodation. If the applicant refuses, the duty may come to an end, although a statutory review can be requested.

Every penny counts

The committee approved the policy unanimously and with immediate effect. The decision had been brought forward from September, with Councillor Chris Varley, Richmond’s housing lead, explaining that “every penny counts” and “every month or two counts”. The direct cost of homelessness and prevention rose from £3.46 million in 2022/23 to £9.57 million in 2025/26, and officers believe that making 48 private rented offers each year could eventually produce net savings approaching £1.92 million annually.

The financial pressure is undeniable. No serious administration could ignore costs rising at that pace. Yet the real significance of the policy lies not in the savings table but in geography.

Anywhere in the country

Paul Cooper, the interim assistant director presenting the scheme, told councillors that offers might be made “anywhere in the country”. Later, discussing what would happen if attempts to increase an applicant’s income failed to make local accommodation affordable, he explained that “their options in terms of what is affordable for them then changes geographically.”

That was the meeting’s pivotal sentence, because it stripped away some of the softer language surrounding the policy. Richmond is not merely widening the range of homes available. It is accepting that some households may no longer be able to remain within Richmond, neighbouring boroughs or

even London. When Councillor Nathanael MacDonald asked what proportion of placements would be outside the borough, officers could not provide a figure.

The council says every offer must be affordable and suitable, with schools, employment, medical treatment, disability, caring responsibilities and support networks all taken into account. Those safeguards matter, as does the right to seek a review. But safeguards are only as strong as the administration applying them. That is why Chadwick's description of a crowded and chaotic service matters so much. A department still undergoing wholesale reform must now make finely balanced judgments about whether a family can reasonably be separated from its schools, doctors, employment and relatives.

The equality assessment itself gives reason for caution. Disability information was missing for 70 per cent of households in temporary accommodation, yet the report still concluded that the policy would produce no adverse effect where mitigation was applied. That may be the intended outcome, but mitigation is a management promise rather than evidence of success.

Choice and compulsion

The meeting also revealed that the policy has a disciplinary purpose. Cooper described it as "that stick", intended to encourage households to secure private accommodation earlier in the homelessness process. He explained that applicants who engaged fully might retain more opportunity to find their own property. For those who did not, "the choice is taken away and we find something."

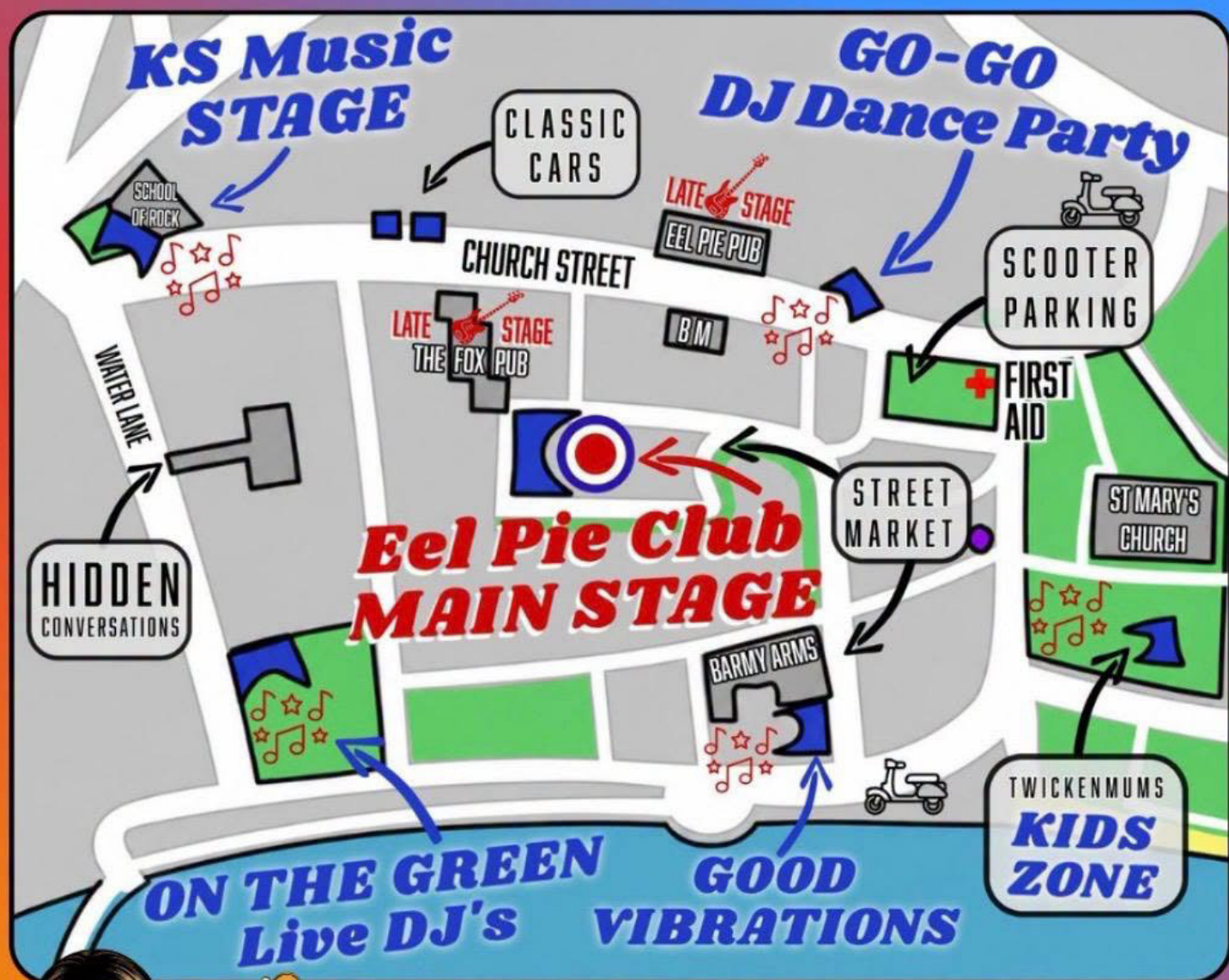
That may be lawful and, in some cases, more humane than leaving families in temporary accommodation for years. But it should not be dressed up as ordinary consumer choice. A household facing homelessness, presented with one offer and warned that refusal may end the council's duty, is exercising judgment under pressure.

The wider context is a shortage of homes, and this was brought into sharp focus at the previous Full Council meeting. More than 2,000 residents backed a Labour petition calling for more genuinely affordable housing and greater transparency over what Richmond's promised housing pipeline would actually deliver. Pam Marum, speaking for Twickenham Labour Party, urged the council to publish affordable housing starts and completions, distinguish between homes in the pipeline and homes actually built, and state how many would be available at social rent. Her central point was difficult to dispute: a pipeline is not a completed home, and planning permission is not the same as a family receiving the keys.

The administration replied that it had developed a pipeline of more than 1,000 affordable homes, with around 250 starts over the previous two years and a target of 500 affordable homes over five years. Yet Richmond has also delivered only 60 per cent of its assessed housing requirement. The new private rented policy creates no additional housing. It manages scarcity by enlarging the area within which poorer households are expected to live.

Richmond has itself bought private homes with vacant possession, while its new policy may place local families far beyond the borough. Richmond's acquisitions are scattered among individual properties rather than concentrated in one conspicuous block. The process is therefore less visible, but the underlying tension remains: existing private homes are being redirected to meet council housing pressures.

Richmond has now acknowledged three uncomfortable facts: its homelessness service has been chaotic, local housing is unaffordable for many of those who need help, and families may consequently be offered homes anywhere in England. The test is no longer whether the policy can save money. It is whether a system designed under financial pressure can preserve dignity when economy and belonging point in opposite directions.



TWICKENHAM

60s day!

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2026
Sunday
9
August

Ruils Movefest - accessible event for all

From Ruils Independent Living



Ruils Independent Living are hosting their very own accessible challenge event for all ages and abilities in Bushy Park on Sunday 4 October.

Walk, wheel, scoot or run your choice of 1km or 4.5km to raise funds for the charity's services to support local disabled people.

Sponsored by Pinnacle Plumbing and The Pantry, Teddington, there will be festivities including face painting, music and more after you've finished your challenge. Bring your own picnic or food will be available to buy.

Please email fundraising@ruils.co.uk with any questions.

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

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Three jailed for more than 15 years in Richmond smash and grab robbery

From Metropolitan Police

Three men have been jailed for a combined total of 15 years and 6 months following an investigation into a smash and grab robbery at a jewellery shop in Richmond.

They were sentenced on Thursday, 30 July at Kingston Crown Court:

- [A] Deniz Mehmet, 28 (04.10.97), of Elham Drive, Basildon, jailed for five years, after pleading guilty at the same court on Friday, 10 July.
- [B] Robert Clarke, 50 (06.08.75) of Lever Lane, Rochford, jailed for five years and three months, after pleading guilty at the same court on Friday, 22 May.
- [C] Lee Ramsey, 46 (28.05.79) of Hastingwood Road, Harlow, jailed for five years and 3 months, after pleading guilty at the same court on Friday, 22 May.

A video of the robbery was widely shared online. It showed the men smashing the window of the jewellers with a sledgehammer before reaching in to grab jewels worth £225,000 and making off.

Officers immediately launched an investigation, arresting two of the men on Tuesday, 31 March and the third on Wednesday, 8 April – all at addresses in Essex.

Detective Superintendent Dan Mitchell, from the Met's Flying Squad, said:

"Robberies of this kind cause real concern for residents and businesses in the communities that are targeted. It's they who feel the immediate impact. These sentences mark a significant step in what has been a detailed and determined investigation. I hope they demonstrate our commitment to tackling smash and grab robberies in London by going after those involved, wherever they are. The groups responsible should be under no illusion – we will pursue you relentlessly and hold you to account."

An investigation was launched immediately following the incident which took place in Paved Court, Richmond on Saturday, 31 January. Specialist officers carried out an extensive review of CCTV footage, alongside forensic analysis and the recovery of a vehicle believed to be linked to the robbery.

This painstaking work led to the identification of the three suspects – who were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit robbery.

The Met remains committed to tackling issues that have a real impact on businesses and communities – including ram raids.

New figures released show neighbourhood offences fell by 14 per cent in the 12 months to June compared with the previous year – the equivalent of more than 35,000 fewer offences reported across London. This includes:

- 23,311 fewer thefts from person (-23 per cent)
- 2,943 fewer personal robberies (-11 per cent)
- 8,737 fewer vehicle offences (-9 per cent)

Footage of the arrests and robbery can be found here:

<https://mps.box.com/s/myph6upg9givqxqih31o90d2tlc1kow0>







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From Skylarks Charity

To celebrate the release of Supergirl in cinemas, Skylarks are thrilled to be running the Skylarks Supergirl Art Auction.

Skylarks are incredibly grateful to Prentis Rollins for generously donating this original Supergirl illustration, giving one lucky bidder the chance to own a rare piece of DC Comics artwork while supporting a great cause.

Every bid will help Skylarks continue providing vital support, activities and opportunities for children and young people with additional needs and their families.

You can [find out more and place your bid.](#)



Twickers Foodie – By Alison Jee

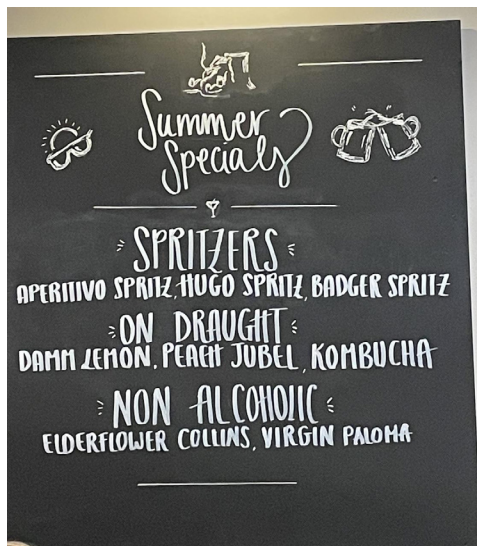
Full Marks in Fulham: The Brook & Badger

Following the sale of his highly successful pub group, Eamonn Manson opened **Brook House** on the new King's Road. He's now joined forces with his pal Adrian Palengat, the pop art dealer, to create **The Brook and Badger** in Munster Road, Fulham. Heading up the kitchen is chef **James Scott** who in tandem with Eamonn, created a menu that is not confined to any particular nationality. It offers a simple selection of dishes which combine exciting flavours with seasonal ingredients. Nibbles to enjoy with your pre-dinner drinks include anchovies on toast or pumpkin hummus all at under £10 a portion. Having heard rave reviews, I was keen to check it out.



It's on a corner of Munster Road and Orbain Road, with adjacent on street parking. There's seating on a terrace outside, and it's obviously very popular with the locals. The first part of the pub is more of a 'pub' that you walk through to the gastropub. It was a Tuesday evening and pretty busy with a real community pub atmosphere. The friendly pub dog - a Cavalier spaniel - walks around checking out all the new arrivals and (judging by its slightly bulky figure) is fed quite a few titbits by customers. The tables are well spaced and I was pleased to note that even though the tables had bare wooden tops, we had proper, freshly starched, napkins. This attention to detail continued as I noticed that a nearby table had their napkins neatly refolded when they all popped outside for a fag break.

There was a noticeboard detailing current summer special cocktails including a range of spritzes. I enjoyed a Negroni and my husband had an alcohol free elderflower Collins while we studied the menu...and what a menu! It's very rare for me to want to order almost everything on a menu, but this one really did appeal. I started with watermelon salad, feta, olive, basil, oregano, balsamic and honey dressing. It was the perfect starter for a warm summer evening and the addition of olives to the salad was an inspired one and one that I will be doing at home from now on. It was a perfect balance of sweet and sour, and while the basil was obvious and played its part well, I wasn't aware of any oregano. My husband chose seabream ceviche, tomato concasse, red onion, avocado, citrus dressing, and chilli and I managed to persuade him to let me have a tiny taste. It was delicate, refreshing with a burst of lime and a hint of chilli, and beautifully presented.



As it was a hot evening, I opted to have another starter instead of a main course. Steak tartare, tarragon mustard, truffle emulsion, beef fat crostini sounded like a culinary marriage made in heaven - and it was.

I paired it with a salad of mixed leaves, that included deliciously sweet pickled breakfast radishes. The steak tartare was almost an art form; it was so beautifully presented. It was topped with crispy onions and the tarragon mustard was an inspired addition. I would have perhaps liked it to be a tad more spicy, but it was seriously good and absolutely delicious.

My better half had chosen a 200g bavette steak (28 day dry-aged) and served with beef fat fries and a choice of sauces. He opted for bearnaise. It was served ready sliced and beautifully pink as requested. It was declared tasty and fabulous and the meat was very tender.



The serving staff were, not surprisingly, incredibly busy, but highly efficient and professional on such a busy evening. We were comfortably replete, but the pub's lovely deputy manager Cecilia persuaded us to choose a dessert. Buttermilk panacotta with strawberry coulis was quickly selected by my husband (slightly to my annoyance, as I adore panacotta, but to be honest I didn't really need or have room for anything else). I managed to swipe a quick spoonful, though, which made me even more jealous as it really was very good. A vanilla affogato for me filled the gap between a small pud and a coffee refreshingly well.

A glass of house rosé for me and a large bottle of sparkling water accompanied our delicious meal. Wines start at £8 a glass or £32 a bottle.

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Bonkers! I think the Sun has gone to your heads!!

By Bruce Lyons

I know it is school holidays now and there is a lot of pressure on Mum & Dad, and there is pressure on me too!!! Never mind the hosepipe ban we have rivers all over Europe with low water levels, then there are wildfires and despite all these hazards you want to get away!!!

And it's now - in the Summer Holidays, before they go back in September. It is like there is no "Cost of living Crisis" no worries about fuel costs, never mind the VAT on private schools, you'll manage with a shortage of electric fill-up points on the continent - you just want to get away - a change of scenery.

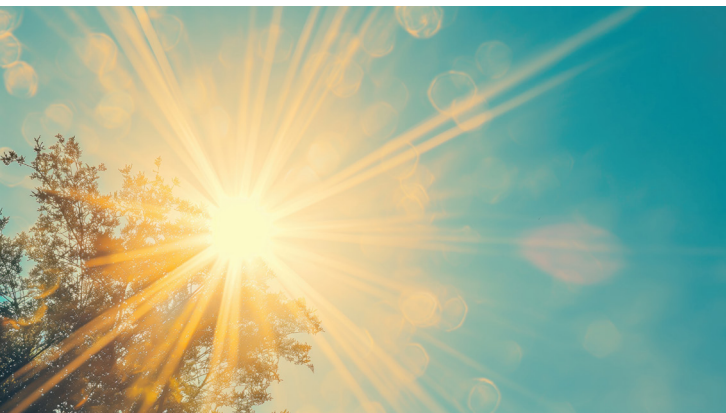


Well, there are still bargains around - especially in the Villa Holidays world and I told you a couple of weeks ago that there are great discounts on Greek Island breaks, many with pools. There are still free child places on Corsican holidays as well.

By and large nearly everywhere is fine to go to, less popular this year is the USA, and I could say that Cuba is hardly ever asked for now - sadly.



As an agent I would really like, in these days of advanced technology and AI to have more diverse enquiries, it is easier than ever to follow your preferences. Learn about different cultures, reach remote places, learn new Hobbies, Diving - Kayaking - sailing, find out about Nature, Watch wildlife and some where there's a company to cater for your needs - Specialist Travel has seen exponential growth, as has rail travel.



Small Group travel and Solo tours - have become increasingly popular, and Arctic and Antarctic travel and expedition travel is another area of huge growth and ever-increasing popularity.

So, whilst we are here to serve everybody, please don't be shy - we really enjoy the work and if you are curious to find out about something special to you - ask.

As to planning for the future Christmas and New Year are soon to come and there is no time like the present to start looking at February School Break, and the Summer Beyond. Summer 2027 fares are just coming into range and the earlier you book the better price!

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Escaped Alone

by Caryl Churchill

Putney Theatre Company, at the Putney Arts Theatre
Breaking Point Drama Festival

The set of *Escaped Alone* has a touch of Ayckbourn. Three women of a certain age sit in a suburban garden for a summer afternoon tea gathering and natter. They are from different backgrounds, but their chat ranges from trivia to health concerns.



The conversation shifts when a neighbour, Mrs Jarrett, gatecrashes the get-together. The uninvited caller seems to blend in naturally with the other women, but her conversation is wholly different, as she suddenly interjects much darker themes. The character dynamics deepen as each woman unveils her personal fears and traumas.

As Mrs Jarrett, Andrea Miller makes an impressive entrance, and her gruff yet sympathetic persona is highly engaging. As the interaction gains pace, Miller breaks away from the lush green area to an isolated corner of the stage to read and pronounce doom and apocalypse. She describes fires, floods and famines, while vast areas are turned into wastelands. The juxtaposition is sharp, hiding a sinister subtext, and the effective and dramatic lighting emphasises the contrast. Yet nevertheless, beneath this dark surface, the women still enjoy their garden tea party.



Meanwhile, Vi, Lena and Sally's feelings are revealed as the tea is poured. While Mrs Jarrett recounts horrors with mounting rage, the others share inner-fears, genuine phobias, all the while mourning a shop that is no longer there. This clever writing makes the green and pleasant garden and the abyss disturbingly close, as the women face horrors of their own.

However, just as we relate to the women and are drawn into their bonding, the flow is interrupted by Mrs Jarrett's rantings. While this is a significant move in the play, the

impositions disrupt the flow, making the relationships among the women feel less cohesive.

Rebecca Fallon, as Lena, performs with poignancy and naturally as she discusses trauma and illness, while Suzanne Warre-Dymond plays Sally as nicely meandering between Lena's and her own problems. Allison Defree's Vi is powerfully presented; she is brutal and blunt as she carries her own pain, while her thoughts are revealed in a strong soliloquy.

Escaped Alone is a studied and intelligent piece and is directed with sensitivity by Carrie Cable. At times quite absurdist, this is a disturbing but gripping production.

Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2026/07/27/escaped-alone-ptc

Photography by Stuart Watson

Opera Gala

West Green House Opera at the Green Theatre, Hartley Wintney

If there ever was a fairytale, magical setting for an opera evening, this is it. Tucked away in the Hampshire countryside, West Green House's gardens and grounds provide the perfect backdrop for an outdoor performance under canopy. The venue is nothing short of sheer perfection. The house itself, a listed Georgian mansion, adds its own theatrical flourish.

Featuring just two soloists, soprano [Jenny Stafford](#) and mezzo-soprano [Katie Bray](#), with the orchestra of English National Opera under [John Andrews](#), *Opera Gala* enhances West Green's far-too-short season, which rivals the other "G" opera festival seasons, Garsington Grange Festival and Glyndebourne.

The first half parenthesised Mozart. *Le nozze di Figaro* opened with its sprightly overture and Cherubino's *Non so più* sung with gusto by Bray, and closed with a beautifully blended pairing of voices in the lovers' duet *Ah, perdona* from *La clemenza di Tito*.

Stafford's bright, steely soprano soared effortlessly through Dvořák's *Song to the Moon* from *Rusalka*, ending on a commanding top B flat, and she delivered Tchaikovsky's Letter Scene from *Eugene Onegin* with sensitivity and superb Russian diction.



Obligatory gala favourites, included Lehár's Vilja's Lied from *Die lustige Witwe*, sung with absolute mastery by Stafford, her voice entirely at ease in the pianissimo top register, in an outstanding moment of real vocal refinement, while Bray demonstrated the beauty and evenness of her tone in Bizet's Card Aria from *Carmen*.

An unusual but hugely welcome inclusion was Weber's overture to *Euryanthe*, which draws directly on themes recurring later in the opera itself. This idea of the overture as a preview or distillation of the drama to come is something Wagner would take to an entirely new level and Weber's influence on the younger composer is unmistakable. Weber's imaginative orchestral colouring, hushed strings, eerie tremolos, carefully chosen instrumental combinations conjure real atmosphere.

However, it was numbers from musicals that rounded off West Green's *Opera Gala*, including Porter's *Let's Do It, Let's Fall in Love*, Novello's *We'll Gather Lilacs* – superbly lit in violet hues by lighting designer Sarah Dell – and for the grand finale, Lowe's *I Could Have Danced All Night* from *My Fair Lady*. Here too both singers excelled in a pleasurable end to the evening.

But the real highlight of the evening was the setting itself, [Marylyn Abbott](#)'s stunning house and lush gardens, which stole the show.

Read Helen Astrid's review at www.markaspen.com/2026/07/20/opera-gala-wgho

Photography by Charlotte Daykin

Richmond Shakespeare Society

Invitation To Our Grand Curtain Raiser Party - August 1st

You are cordially invited to the Richmond Shakespeare Society's Grand Summer CURTAIN RAISER PARTY on August 1st at the Mary Wallace Theatre, when non-members of the RSS are especially welcome. Join us for an introduction to our Autumn/Winter season of plays when directors of shows as diverse as *The Shakespeare Codex*, *The Crucible*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, *Cluedo* and *The Beasts of Holm* will share their plans for those productions.

Further details will be revealed about our ongoing programme of RSS ALIVE! events, which includes talks, workshops and rehearsed readings. In addition, our Spring/Summer/Autumn 2027 season of plays will be announced.

Find out how you can become involved onstage or backstage, in set design, lighting and sound design, box-office, front-of-house or wardrobe. Whether you are experienced or just curious about the inner workings of Theatre, come along on Saturday, August 1st from 7.30pm, when you are invited to participate in our work at the Mary Wallace, Twickenham's only Permanent Playhouse.

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



RSS
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A vibrant, dynamic and welcoming amateur theatre company in the heart of Twickenham (south-west London), the RSS specialises in bringing the timeless works of Shakespeare to life, along with captivating performances from various genres. Whether you're a performer, a behind-the-scenes maestro, or a theatre lover, there are multiple opportunities to be involved. We believe in the power of inclusivity, fostering a warm and supportive environment.

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STRAWBERRY HILL
House & Garden

**SUNDAY 30TH
AUGUST 2026**

strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/pasadena

7.00-9PM 268 Waldegrave Road,
Twickenham, TW1 4ST

**The
Pasadena
Rooftop
Orchestra**

St Mary's University

St Mary's University will welcome its first cohort of medical students this September

London's newest School of Medicine is opening its doors to start training medical students at the University's purpose-built Centenary Building this September.



This September, a new School of Medicine will open at St Mary's University in London, bringing together digital and clinical excellence with a deep commitment to social purpose and addressing health inequalities. The School combines cutting-edge new facilities in the Centenary building, which includes a Skills and Simulation Suite, with clinical placements in community settings in areas of need, preparing students for an increasingly community-based model of health driven by the NHS 10 Year Plan.

The General Medical Council has confirmed that St Mary's has made sufficient progress through their processes to begin teaching medical students from September 2026. This reflects the School's work to meet the standards expected of new medical programmes.

The School of Medicine has social accountability at its core by placing community priorities, engagement, and partnership at the heart of training. St Mary's will play a meaningful role in strengthening the health of the local population by embedding community voices and local public health priorities across the breadth of the School's activities.

From the outset of their learning at St Mary's School of Medicine, students will be embedded in real-world settings, working alongside patients, communities, and NHS partners across primary, community, and

hospital care. This approach will not only produce highly capable clinicians, but also ensure that the doctors of the future understand the social context of health and are committed to improving outcomes locally and beyond.

Professor Sonia Kumar, Founding Executive Dean of Medicine at St Mary's University, said:

"Doctors trained at St Mary's School of Medicine will not only be clinically excellent but also experience a holistic, progressive education aligned to the clinical realities of today and the future."

"With a curriculum that brings together scientific rigour, digital innovation and a strong foundation in compassionate, person-centred care, the School will ensure that graduates are equipped to meet the priorities of modern healthcare and the communities they serve."

"This milestone has been made possible through the collective efforts of staff, community organisations, NHS partners, advocates and philanthropic supporters who have shared St Mary's vision for a new kind of medical education rooted in service, compassion and social accountability."

Professor Anthony McClaran, Vice-Chancellor at St Mary's University, said:

"The opening of St Mary's School of Medicine is an important moment in the University's story and a powerful example of St Mary's vision in action. It shows how we are growing with purpose: building on our academic strengths, deepening our partnerships, and creating new opportunities for students to serve society in areas where their contribution is urgently needed."

"Our mission, as a University, is the forming of people who use their knowledge, skills and character in the service of others. The School of Medicine gives that mission a new and highly significant expression, extending St Mary's contribution into healthcare at a time when new ideas and new forms of collaboration are essential."

"We are very excited to welcome our new students to campus this September."



**St Mary's
University**
Twickenham
London

Business and Sport Students Secure Third Place in International Industry Design Challenge

Business and Sport students from Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) achieved an impressive third-place finish in a prestigious industry design project delivered in partnership with Chelsea FC, Meta and IBM.

University Standard Competition

Competing against undergraduate and postgraduate students from Brunel University and Seoul National University, the RuTC team demonstrated exceptional creativity, professionalism and innovation to secure a place on the podium. Only Brunel University's Level 7 students finished ahead of them.

Live Industry Brief

Working on a live industry brief, students gained valuable experience developing solutions to real-world challenges and presenting their ideas to external stakeholders. Their prototype can be viewed [here](#).



This achievement highlights the talent, ambition and potential of RuTC students, demonstrating their ability to compete successfully with learners studying at a much higher level on an international stage. As a result of their success, students will receive official certification and be able to showcase the project on LinkedIn with endorsement from Brunel University.

Business Lecturer, Tieran, commented:

"Congratulations to students Danylo, Setareh, Tyler and Mohamed on this exceptional achievement. The

College is incredibly proud of the way they represented themselves, showcasing quality, creativity and professionalism."

Ready to Follow in Their Footsteps?

At RuTC, students benefit from industry-focused learning, employer-led projects and opportunities to work on real-world challenges with leading organisations. Whether your ambition is to progress to university, an apprenticeship or employment, you'll gain the skills and experience needed to stand out.

[Applications are now open. Explore our courses and apply today to start your own success story.](#)



New exhibition opens in Richmond on 250th anniversary of historic signing of Declaration of Independence

From Aurora Metro Arts & Media

To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American War of Independence, a new exhibition opens this August at Books on the Rise in Richmond, highlighting its surprising links to Surrey.

‘How We Lost America’ takes a fresh look at the dawn of American Independence through a British lens 250 years after delegates began officially signing the Declaration of Independence in August, 1776.



A series of banners informed by satire, newspapers and little known letters of the time, reveal how these new-born ideas of liberty and equality set a democratic precedent for the rest of the world and raise important questions today as to how they continue to be used and abused.

Visitors to the exhibition will discover how Surrey's influence on the American Declaration of Independence runs through military service, legal tradition, and the personal experiences of the Founding

Fathers. Troops from the 1st and 2nd Royal Surrey Militia fought in the American War of Independence, while Surrey born Lieutenant General William Tryon served in the regiment later renamed the 70th (Surrey) Regiment of Foot. Far more significant, however, was the legacy of the Magna Carta, sealed at Runnymede in 1215, which established the principle that the monarch was bound by law – a foundation stone of English common law and a central pillar of Thomas Jefferson's argument for self determination. Sir Edward Coke's reinterpretation of this tradition shaped the legal education of Adams, Jefferson, and Madison, and fuelled colonial claims to "English liberties," invoked repeatedly during the revolutionary crisis. Massachusetts revolutionaries even placed the Magna Carta on their official seal, a symbol of liberty drawn directly from Surrey's soil. Surrey also touched the personal lives of America's founders: Jefferson and Adams toured its estates in 1786, finding inspiration in its landscapes and agricultural innovation, while George Washington's ancestor, Colonel Henry Washington, lies buried in Richmond upon Thames. These threads weave Surrey into the intellectual, military, and symbolic fabric of America's struggle for independence.

‘How We Lost America’ runs from 2nd August to 21st September 2026 at Books on the Rise, 80 Hill Rise, Richmond, London TW10 6UB. A series of talks by historians and a play reading will run alongside the exhibition. Check aurorametro.org.uk/how-we-lost-america-events for details.

Photo taken at Benjamin Franklin House © Lucinda MacPherson

Everyone is invited to the Ellera Centre's FREE Summer Party! And that includes a tasty free lunch!

Friday August 7th - that's the date of a wonderful free party at the spectacular new Ellera Centre in North Lane in the heart of Teddington. We'll start at 10.00 am with some games guaranteed to get everyone in party mood before we serve a freshly cooked two course lunch (with vegetarian options). Then there will be live entertainment. Everyone will receive a free ticket for the raffle and you can increase your chances of winning a prize by buying additional tickets. It's certainly going to be a fun event!

Michael Hill, one of the trustees, adds, *"Everyone is welcome – we are, after all, a centre for the entire local community - but at this event we especially welcome those who live alone and who would enjoy sharing some fun and food with good company!"*

So, if you or someone you know – maybe an elderly neighbour or a friend who lives alone – would like to come and enjoy some good old-fashioned fun, food and entertainment, please ask them to reserve their seat by calling 020 8977 0549 or emailing avc@ellerycentre.org But spaces are limited, so do hurry!



Free Community Lunch at 12 noon on Tuesday, August 4

Two free lunches in one week! This is the date of our community lunch which is held on the first Tuesday of every month. It will be two nutritious courses prepared with the help of the local charity Surplus to Supper.

This is another Ellera Centre community event and is completely free, but we do ask you to reserve your space as numbers are limited.

Ellera Centre, North Lane, Teddington TW11 0HJ



The Sheen Bookshop (Richmond) installs new audiobook listening station

Bookshop.org, the ethical alternative to Amazon that supports independent bookshops, is today launching its new audiobook offer. For the first time, readers can buy books in all formats from indie bookshops.

This is excellent news for booksellers including Adam and Wendy Hewson, owners of [The Sheen Bookshop](#), who have installed an audiobook listening station in celebration of this launch. Through Bookshop.org, readers can try audiobooks out for themselves in a beloved community space and benefit from recommendations from indie booksellers.

Customers will be able to buy and listen to audiobooks on one easy-to-use platform, while financially supporting indie bookshops in their fight against Amazon (who owns Audible). Audiobooks will be available to buy on a subscription model priced at £12.99 per credit/month, which has been designed to generate the most revenue for indie bookshops.

To mark the launch, Bookshop.org will offer **exclusive audiobook content** to listeners, which will be available exclusively when buying an audiobook from their platform. These “indie exclusives” include:

A speech by Meta whistleblower and *Careless People* author **Sarah Wynn-Williams**, about the “analogue tenacity of books” in the face of powerful people trying to silence important stories.

A conversation between best-selling thriller writer **Adele Parks** and her narrator, Kristin Atherton, answering questions collected from her readers & listeners.

An exclusive new lecture from journalist and historian **Max Hastings** about bravery and valour across wars.

An message directly from **Cody Dahler**, author of *The State of This!*

An exclusive conversation between **Ellery Lloyd**, thriller author of *Time to Burn*, and narrator Louise Brealey.

The audiobook market in the UK is growing rapidly, with no signs of slowing down. The [most recent data](#) provided by the Publishers Association revealed that in 2025, audiobooks were worth **£255 million**, up **10%** on the previous year – significant in comparison to the overall publishing industry which only grew by 3%. A [2025 study](#) by YouGov has shown that **30%** of readers listened to audiobooks in the previous year.

While the number of independent bookshops in the UK and Ireland has risen from 1,025 to 1,086 in the last year, reaching [its highest level since 2012](#), bookshops are still struggling with [surging operational costs](#). With audiobooks, Bookshop.org offers booksellers a meaningful, regular revenue stream, and a tool to advance their growth. Readers will now be able to support their local booksellers through audiobook subscriptions, while benefiting from human recommendations and the valued community that independent bookshops are uniquely positioned to deliver.

In our **National Year of Reading**, celebrating and encouraging all forms of storytelling – including audiobooks – is key to aiding access and development of a genuine passion for reading. Research by the National Literacy Trust revealed that **37.5%** of children and young people said listening to audiobooks ‘[sparked their interest](#)’ in reading. There is also [evidence](#) that audiobooks support wellbeing, help close gender gaps in enjoyment, inspire interest in reading and widen access to stories. Bookshop.org’s new offering marks a crucial step towards diversifying sources for readers to find their reading fix.

In celebration of the momentous launch, **audiobook listening stations** will be installed in eight bookshops across the country as a pilot programme, in anticipation of a future where audiobooks are integral to the ‘physical bookshop’ experience. The biggest of these will be in **Real Magic Books** in Wendover (Aylesbury), where the listening station will be signposted by an eye-catch mural installation by artist and graphic designer **Craig Oldham**, created especially for the occasion.



Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew announced as British Pullman, A Belmond Train, England's charity partner

From Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Throughout 2026, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew has partnered with the British Pullman, A Belmond Train, England as their charity partner for the year. As part of this special collaboration, guests on board the iconic British Pullman will have the opportunity to learn more about RBG Kew's vital work, and the role which this globally recognised charity plays in helping to create a thriving planet for all. From ancient woodlands of native trees including oak and beech, to meadowland habitats full of hundreds of species of flowering plants, Britain's countryside offers not only spectacular beauty but also rich biodiversity, storing carbon and providing vital habitat for native wildlife.

Safeguarding biodiversity: Kew's Millennium Seed Bank

These landscapes and the ecosystems which they support are under increasing pressure from climate change and biodiversity loss; in less than a century, meadow and grasslands have been depleted by more than 97%. Kew's work, spearheaded by the Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst, is vital in helping to redress this balance, supporting over 100 UK restoration projects, providing seeds, plants and sharing expertise to restore wildflower meadows and woodlands. To date, the Millennium Seed Bank has conserved 98% of the UK's bankable plants, safeguarding seeds for successful and sustainable restoration projects for generations to come. Donations made by passengers across the duration of the partnership with Belmond British Pullman will support the conservation work of the Millennium Seed Bank.



Discover more about Kew's work on board

Available to all guests on board during the year, a limited-edition travel journal illuminates Kew's global scientific partnerships, which offer solutions to some of the world's most urgent challenges, including sustainable agriculture, habitat conservation and researching plant diversity. From researching resilient tree species, to futureproofing the iconic Palm House at Kew Gardens as part of a forthcoming renovation project, each journey on the British Pullman throughout the rest of 2026 will showcase the breadth of this ambitious global work. As part of their journey, guests will also be able to enjoy a range of special dining options, inspired by Kew and showcasing key areas of Kew's work.

The British Pullman: an icon of slow travel

The British Pullman is a fully restored luxury train from the 1920s, taking visitors back to the Golden Age of travel through meticulously restored Art Deco carriages. Running across the UK from February to December, this icon of slow travel offers a range of journeys departing from London Victoria, with guests able to indulge in gourmet dining and admire the best of Britain's spectacular natural landscapes across a busy calendar of departures. Since 2025, all journeys on the British Pullman have been powered by a certified HVO biodiesel, a renewable fuel capable of reducing lifecycle carbon emissions by up to 90% when compared with traditional diesel, setting a standard for sustainability into the future.

Richard Deverell, Director of RBG Kew, said: *"We are incredibly proud to be the nominated charity partner for the iconic British Pullman for 2026. This partnership is a wonderful celebration of heritage, beauty and the joy of discovery - values which we both share. Every journey taken will help support Kew's vital work to understand and protect the plants and fungi that sustain life all on Earth. At a time when the natural world needs our care more than ever, collaborations like this help us inspire people to connect with nature and play a part in protecting the planet for the future."*

Adam Baylis-Waterlow, General Manager of the British Pullman added: *"Partnering with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew as our charity partner is a natural fit for British Pullman. Our journeys celebrate the beauty of Britain's landscapes, and we're proud to support an organisation whose work is dedicated to protecting the plants and ecosystems that make those landscapes so extraordinary. Through this partnership, we hope to raise awareness of Kew's vital global research while inspiring our guests to feel a deeper connection with the natural world."*

Royal
Botanic
Gardens **Kew**

SUMMER HOLIDAY FAMILY ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST
10:30-12:00

From fluffy water voles and dazzling kingfishers to shimmering dragonflies and slippery eels, discover the amazing wildlife that calls our rivers home. Follow the trail to learn all about them, then dive into fun craft activities and let your creativity flow!

Meeting Point: Sandy Lane
Playground, Sandy Lane,
Richmond, TW10 7EJ

For more information or to book
places please email:
gaby.docker@lgoal.org.uk

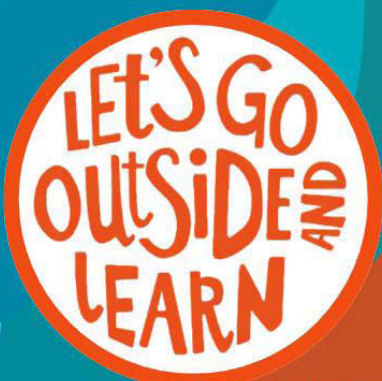
Stay up to date on sessions at
www.lgoal.org

Adults must stay with their children & are
responsible for their welfare

We are grateful for the support of



All activities are free



CIC Registration 9435120

Red Roses 2026/27 Contracts Announced

Thirty-two Red Roses will be contracted for the 2026/27 season, with a further six players awarded transition contracts.

The 32 contracted players include 30 Rugby World Cup winners and have accumulated a combined 1,475 international caps. Among the transition contracts, three players made their Red Roses debuts during the 2026 Guinness Women's Six Nations.

Lock Lilli Ives Campion receives her first full-time Red Roses contract, as has scrum-half Flo Robinson and wing Mia Venner. Emerging players Hayley Jones, Haineala Lutui, Annabel Meta and Demelza Short will each be awarded transition contracts for the first time.

Head of Women's Performance, Charlie Hayter, said: "Today's announcement recognises a group of competitive and committed players who continue to drive standards every day and represent what this team is all about, as evidenced by our achievements in the 2025/26 season.

"Competition within this squad remains incredibly fierce, and that's one of our greatest strengths. We're excited by what this group can achieve together over the coming year, and beyond, and are looking forward to continuing our work as we prepare for the next phase of the international calendar."

The Red Roses next take to the field against Australia on Saturday 12 September at CorpAcq Stadium, Salford as part of the WXV Global Series.

Tickets for the match, and England's other two home matches in September - including a mouthwatering encounter with New Zealand at Allianz Stadium – can be purchased at englandrugby.com/tickets.

Red Roses contracted squad for the 2026/27 season

Holly Aitchison (Sale Sharks)
Lark Atkin-Davies (Bristol Bears)
Sarah Bern (Bristol Bears)
Hannah Botterman (Bristol Bears)
Jess Breach (Saracens)
Abi Burton (Trailfinders Women)
May Campbell (Saracens)
Mackenzie Carson (Gloucester-Hartpury)
Kelsey Clifford (Saracens)
Amy Cokayne (Sale Sharks)
Maddie Feaunati (Exeter Chiefs)
Rosie Galligan (Harlequins)
Zoe Harrison (Saracens)
Tatyana Heard (Sale Sharks)
Natasha Hunt (Gloucester-Hartpury)
Lilli Ives Campion (Loughborough Lightning)

Megan Jones (Trailfinders Women)
Sadia Kabeya (Loughborough Lightning)
Ellie Kildunne (Bristol Bears)
Alex Matthews (Gloucester-Hartpury)
Claudia Moloney-MacDonald (Exeter Chiefs)
Maud Muir (Gloucester-Hartpury)
Lucy Packer (Harlequins)
Marlie Packer (Harlequins)
Flo Robinson (Exeter Chiefs)
Helena Rowland (Loughborough Lightning)
Jade Shekells (Gloucester-Hartpury)
Emma Sing (Gloucester-Hartpury)
Zoe Stratford (Sale Sharks)
Morwenna Talling (Sale Sharks)
Mia Venner (Gloucester-Hartpury)
Abbie Ward (Bristol Bears)

Transition Contracts

Millie David (Bristol Bears)
Hayley Jones (Trailfinders Women)
Haineala Lutui (Loughborough Lightning)

Annabel Meta (Trailfinders Women)
Sarah Parry (Harlequins)
Demelza Short (Bristol Bears)

Contracted until 31 October 2026

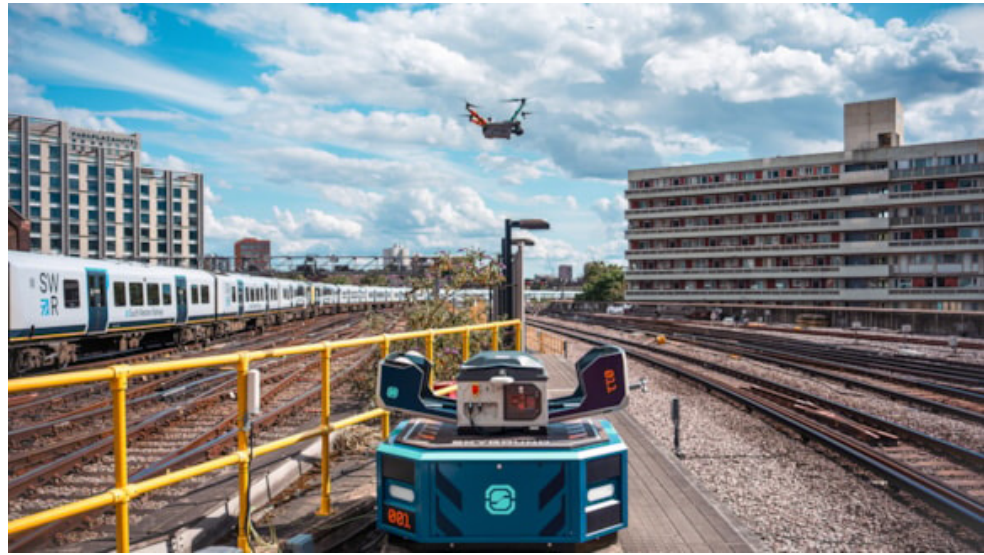
Lizzie Hanlon (transition contract), Connie Powell and Ella Wyrwas have received short-term contract extensions until the end of October.



Drone takes to the skies to prevent delays at London Waterloo

RAILWAY customers at London Waterloo may have spotted a new presence overhead: a drone helping to prevent delays at Britain's biggest station.

South Western Railway (SWR) and Network Rail Wessex (NR Wessex) are deploying automated drone technology to deter and tackle trespass, improve safety and reduce disruption on one of the country's busiest rail corridors.



Trespassing on the railway is illegal and extremely dangerous. SWR and NR Wessex trains are powered by an 'always on' electric third rail carrying 750 volts of direct current, which can cause severe, lifechanging injuries or death.

When trespass is reported on the railway, SWR and NR Wessex must turn off the power, preventing trains from running until the incident has been resolved and power to the lines can be safely restored.

Most of South Western's 1,600 daily services begin or end at London Waterloo. Even minor incidents can delay thousands of customers and cost taxpayers millions.

Between April 2025 and June 2026, trespass and fatalities caused almost 14 per cent of cancellations and over 200,000 minutes of delay to SWR and NR Wessex services, making it one of the leading causes of disruption.

Last September, a trespasser near Clapham Junction caused more than 57 hours of delays and was later imprisoned for eight weeks.

Another even more serious incident in the New Malden area in August 2024 saw the equivalent of nine days of delays, costing the taxpayer £1.2 million. The trespasser was sentenced to 18 months in prison.

The drone is operated remotely by British firm SkyBound from a high-tech control centre almost 80 miles away in Woolston, in the Southampton area.

When required, operators launch the drone from its trackside station to provide rapid intelligence for SWR and NR Wessex's control centre, security and engineering teams, even before teams arrive on the ground.

Its high-resolution and thermal imaging cameras give enhanced visibility of trespass incidents, infrastructure concerns or any situation that requires inspection, with live footage streamed directly to the network's operations centre in Basingstoke.

This allows the railway and emergency services to respond more quickly, reduces the need for ground teams to access the track, and limits the need to switch off the power and delays customer journeys.

The drone at Waterloo is just the first of a planned chain of SkyBound drones to help protect the busiest section of the SWR and NR Wessex network, with further drones to be based at Clapham Junction, New Malden and Walton-on-Thames.

Tom Desmond, Operations Director for South Western Railway and Network Rail Wessex, said:
“Trespass is one of the leading causes of disruption on our network, delaying our customers’ journeys and costing taxpayers. Every minute of delay at London Waterloo also has a significant impact on our wider network.”

“By providing rapid, live intelligence from the air, this drone helps us respond more quickly to incidents, enhance safety and keep trains moving along one of the country’s more important railway lines. It’s an exciting use of innovative technology between South Western Railway, Network Rail Wessex and our partners at SkyBound and part of our plan to give customers more reliable journeys.”

Rail Minister, Lord Hendy said:

“Publicly owned operators like South Western Railway are utilising the latest tech to prevent disruption. Trespassing on the tracks is dangerous – it put lives at risk and costs taxpayers money. Under Great British Railways we’re bringing track and train together to tackle this persistent issue and keep journeys running smoothly.”

Gemma Alcock, Founder and CEO of SkyBound, said:

“London Waterloo is exactly the kind of complex environment where automated drone operations can make a practical difference. From our control centre in Woolston, SkyBound is helping turn drone capability into a reliable operational service for critical infrastructure, giving railway teams faster access to visual and thermal information when it matters.”

“This is about more than a single drone at a single station. It is about building the model for rapid response and more persistent awareness across key rail corridors, so teams can better understand incidents, inspect assets, gather evidence and make informed decisions in high-pressure environments.”

“The aim is simple: to help keep people safe, reduce disruption and give railway teams better information when it matters most.”

To be authorised for use at London Waterloo, the fully licenced drone has passed rigorous safety checks, only operates within set railway boundaries and adheres to strict privacy standards. Drones are just one example of publicly owned SWR and NR Wessex using innovative technology to prevent disruption and deliver improvements for customers ahead of the formal establishment of Great British Railways by the end of 2027.

In autumn 2025, two thermal imaging cameras were installed on a longer-distance Class 450 train to constantly monitor track conditions for potential faults.

Since deployment, the train known as [Hotshot](#) has detected 21 high-risk hotspots across 12 locations, allowing engineering teams to address emerging defects early and limit disruption to customers.

In early 2026, Hotshot helped engineers detect and address a fault in the Waterloo area which otherwise could have caused 2,000 minutes of delay and cost the railway and taxpayers up to £200,000.

Anyone who witnesses trespassing on the railway is urged to contact British Transport Police by texting 61016 or calling 999 in an emergency.

South Western
 **Railway**

Budget to move “power and money out of Westminster, and into every postcode around Britain”

Today (Friday 31 July), the Chancellor has confirmed that the date of the Budget will be Wednesday 28 October.

In a video message posted this afternoon, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, John Healey MP said:

“This government is working fast to restore hope and back Britain’s communities.

“In the past two weeks, we have begun to kickstart growth in every postcode.

“We have backed British jobs, British skills and British businesses.

“And we have provided just a bit of breathing-space for those families and businesses that feel so squeezed, that feel without hope.

“Today, I’m confirming the date of my first Budget as Chancellor will be Wednesday 28th October.

“This will be a Budget that moves money and power out of Westminster, and into every postcode around Britain.

“It will be built on fiscal discipline.

“It will meet our fiscal rules. It’ll give businesses and families some of the stability they need to plan for the future.

“Now, let’s get on with the job.”



HM Treasury

Picture by Lauren Hurley / No 10 Downing Street

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Supporting the Tribune with a small donation will help you to keep local news and views alive; support is very much appreciated.

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