

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



Contents

Editors: Teresa Read, Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape

Richmond Council urges residents to take part in Heathrow consultation despite 'poor timing

Richmond Council

The Tree Agency

The Local Picture Postcard Page - Goslings - George Street, Richmond. Part 2

Alan Winter

Crusader Travel

Four London boroughs face more than half of proposed 'Mansion Tax' bill

James Knight

Regal Spice Twickenham

Letters

Summer Big Bash Party

Lynde House

Richmond Society Calls for Action Over 'Filthy' High Streets

James Knight

Twickenham 60s Day

Crusader Travel

Naturalising the River Crane in Twickenham: a community celebration

Let's Go Outside and Learn

Fees waived to help your road become a Play Street for a day

Richmond Council

Free cooking classes starting in September

Cooking Up

Twickers Foodie: Some Beauty Product News

Alison Jee

Gibraltar Sunborn - Dive Adventure

Sunborn Gibraltar

Totality Totality - Where/ When?

Bruce Lyons

Mark Aspen Review: Magic Flute

Mark Aspen

Mark Aspen Review: Precious Little Talent

Heather Moulson

Screwed - An original play by Juliet Cooper and Lilli Wenzel

Michael Palin In the Philippines

Richmond Theatre

Kew's Carbon Garden celebrates a year of inspiring positive climate action with a vibrant perennial palette

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Join St Mary's for an Evening of World Class Athletics

St Mary's University

Alfie's journey from catering student to head chef

Richmond upon Thames College

Summer Holiday Fun at The Busen Trust!

Busen

Volunteer Rangers in the Royal Parks

The Royal Parks

Richmond Park - Deer birthing season closes

The Royal Parks

Momentum CEO takes on 24-hour Danceathon

Momentum Children's Charity

Lynde House Care Home's Nora Crotty Wins South East Resident Ambassador of the Year Award

Lynde House Care Home

Ready To Cheer on The Red Roses?

RFU

Red Roses 40-Player WXV Global Series Training Squad

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Match Preview: Rennes v Brentford

Brentford Football Club

BEST JOB EVER?? Pizza lover wanted

National Pizza Awards

Self-Driving 'Robotaxis' in London 'Worrying Development'

GMB Union

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TickerTape - News in Brief

Richmond Council urges residents to take part in Heathrow consultation despite 'poor timing'

Richmond Council is urging residents to take part in the government's online public meeting on Heathrow expansion and ensure they submit their views on the proposals before the consultation closes.

The Council says the consultation has been poorly timed for residents throughout, running across the summer holiday period when many families are away or juggling childcare, making it harder for people to engage fully with proposals that could affect them for generations.

Next week's [online meeting](#), scheduled for **Wednesday 12 August, from 2 to 3.30pm**, is the only public information event the Department for Transport (DfT) has organised during the consultation. Residents will be able to ask questions about the Heathrow Expansion National Policy Statement and proposals for a third runway. Residents can register to attend through the DfT's consultation website.

Residents are encouraged to [register for the online public meeting](#) on Wednesday 12 August and [respond directly to the consultation](#) before the deadline.

Richmond Council will submit its own formal response to the consultation and continue working with neighbouring boroughs, MPs and community groups to oppose proposals that would increase aircraft noise, air pollution, carbon emissions and disruption for local communities.



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darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

The Local Picture Postcard Page - Part 338

Goslings - George Street, Richmond. Part 2

By Alan Winter

I must apologise for an obvious error I made in last week's column (337).

The last paragraphs explained that the Goslings store was badly damaged by fire in 1962 and that I was ending the column by showing a photo of the fire brigade putting out the fire.

Whoops. I forgot to send the editor the photo!

So, to put matters right I have found two photos of the fire and thought we can use them all to finish off the story this week.

So here they are.



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Four London boroughs face more than half of proposed 'Mansion Tax' bill

By James Knight



Residents in four London boroughs could pay around £275 million a year under the Government's proposed Mansion Tax, accounting for more than half of the sum expected to be raised across England.

The leaders of Richmond, Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster and Wandsworth councils have written jointly to the Government, warning that the planned High Value Council Tax Surcharge would fall particularly heavily on long-standing residents whose homes have risen sharply in value without any comparable increase in their incomes.

They also dispute the Government's description of the measure as a Council Tax surcharge, since none of the additional money would remain with the boroughs collecting it or be used to support local services. Instead, the proceeds would be passed to the Treasury.

In their letter, the four leaders said: "A home is the centre of family life, not an untapped tax stream. Our residents have often lived in the same home for decades. They have raised families there, built communities and lasting connections, and in many cases have seen the value of their homes rise even as their incomes have stayed flat or fallen."

They described the policy as badly designed, with limited revenue-raising potential, substantial implementation costs and a disproportionate effect on a small number of London communities.

Richmond residents 'seen as cash cows'

Richmond Council leader Gareth Roberts said many residents had grown older in homes whose paper value had increased dramatically, even where their financial circumstances had remained unchanged or deteriorated.

"What the Government is doing is adopting a quick fix approach to try to solve the broken system of Council Tax," he said. "Essentially, the Government is seeing Richmond residents as cash cows that they can milk to fix funding gaps elsewhere in the country, irrespective of

whether they can afford to pay this new tax.”

The councils are also concerned that the proposed income threshold for allowing households to defer payment is too low. They say it is below the average London salary and could leave a couple earning the London Living Wage liable for the surcharge.

A policy with Liberal Democrat roots

The opposition is politically striking because the mansion tax was popularised by Sir Vincent Cable while he was Liberal Democrat MP for Twickenham. Cable proposed an annual levy on homes worth more than £1 million in 2009, making the taxation of high-value residential property one of the most recognisable Liberal Democrat economic policies of that period.

The party’s more recent policy papers continued to argue that expensive homes should carry a greater tax burden. Its 2018 paper, *Giving Everyone a Stake*, proposed additional Council Tax bands for the highest value properties and, in the longer term, replacing Council Tax with a percentage-based annual property tax using up-to-date valuations.

Any system giving greater weight to current property values would be likely to place a heavier burden on Richmond, where many ordinary family homes now sit far above national price levels.

The Liberal Democrats’ latest local government finance motion (Local Government Finance Emergency) is less specific. It describes Council Tax as flawed because bills remain based on property values from more than 30 years ago and calls for taxation to be fairer and more progressive, with a comprehensive review of the funding system. It nevertheless criticises Labour’s surcharge because the money would go to central government rather than councils.

The distinction is therefore less about whether expensive property should be taxed more, and more about the design of the tax, who collects the proceeds and whether residents should be able to defer paying.

Opposition to higher property taxes

Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch has taken a different position, arguing against further taxation of family homes. Responding to Labour’s plans, she described the new surcharge as a “property tax” that would be “clobbering family homes that will only raise small amounts”, arguing that people who had worked and saved to buy their homes should not simply be taxed more because those homes had risen in value.

Kensington and Chelsea leader Elizabeth Campbell said the Government’s proposal was not carefully targeted at the very wealthy and could instead affect pensioners, families and people who had remained in the same communities for many years.

The councils have asked the Government to pause the measure, reconsider the deferral arrangements and provide detailed guidance on how properties would be valued and the charge administered.

The dispute nevertheless exposes a tension within Liberal Democrat policy. Richmond’s council leadership is now opposing a national surcharge that would fall heavily on the borough, while the Liberal Democrats have previously been among the strongest advocates of increasing taxation on expensive homes through additional Council Tax bands, revaluation and more proportional forms of property taxation.

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Letters

Dear Sir,

Thames Water - Petition

Has the Tribune covered this petition? It needs to get more signatures to ensure a debate in Parliament so it would be helpful if you could include an update in your next edition.

Thames Water are proposing to take water out of the Thames above Teddington Lock and replace it with 'semi-treated' sewage from Mogden which will then flow through Richmond, Mortlake, Barnes and central London. The petition asks the Government to ensure that the replaced liquid meets current EU standards - safeguarding the many people who use the river for recreational purposes as well as the wildlife and plants.

If you agree that such safeguards are needed, please sign the petition and circulate it to your contacts.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/763721>

Judith Strong, Twickenham



Richmond Society Calls for Action Over 'Filthy' High Streets

By James Knight

The Richmond Society has called on Richmond Council to tackle the deteriorating condition of Richmond town centre after describing dirty pavements as a “long-standing issue”, triggering hundreds of comments from residents who say the problem now extends across the borough.

In a Facebook post accompanied by photographs taken by Society trustees, the independent civic organisation said: “Many of you have commented on the poor cleanliness of the pavements in central Richmond. We agree.” While acknowledging that the recent dry weather had made the staining more noticeable, the Society stressed that this was not a new problem. “Things may have been made worse by the lack of rain, but this is a long-standing issue,” it wrote, calling on “the council and other bodies concerned with the town centre to take action to clean things up.” The post attracted hundreds of comments from residents reporting similar problems in Twickenham, Teddington, Hampton Hill, St Margarets and Ham.

Council Blames Dry Weather

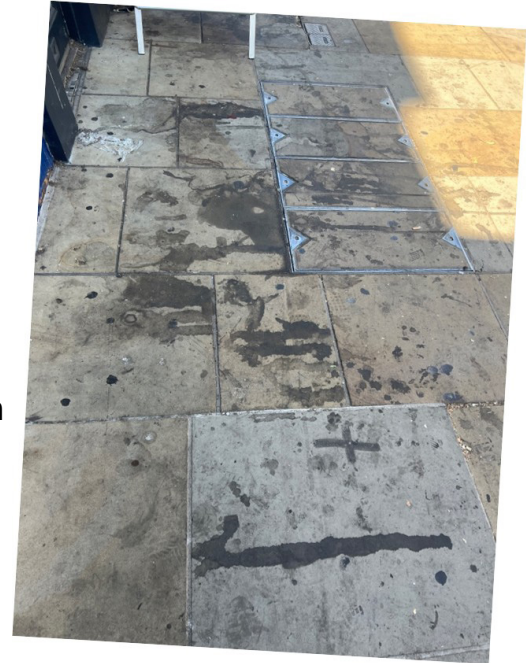
Responding on Facebook, Councillor Katie Mansfield said prolonged hot weather and Thames Water’s hosepipe restrictions had made staining on the pavements much more noticeable. She said officers had arranged targeted cleaning before the restrictions came into force and outlined a longer-term programme, including the purchase of a borough-wide jet-washing machine, investigating protective coatings for York Stone, stronger enforcement against businesses leaving waste on the street, reviewing litter-bin capacity and working with Richmond BID.

Earlier in the debate, Councillor Alexander Ehmann had argued that York Stone requires a considerable cleaning regime and questioned whether it was the best material for heavily used pedestrian areas. While Councillors Mansfield and Ehmann both responded publicly, some residents questioned why there had been no public comment from Councillor Julia Neden-Watts, whose Environment Committee is responsible for street cleansing.

Residents Turn on the Council

The council’s explanation failed to convince many residents, who argued that the borough’s pavements had been deteriorating for years. Paul Fondie wrote: “Rain is not a maintenance plan. It is weather, and it is unpredictable.” He added: “Relying on rain to clean pavements isn’t a maintenance strategy. It’s simply hoping the weather does the council’s job.”

Sandra Taylor was equally critical. “The Liberal Democrats have absolutely got to take action and get our filthy, disgusting pavements cleaned as a matter of urgency,” she wrote. After saying she had contacted councillors about conditions in St Margarets, Twickenham and Richmond without receiving a reply, she added: “I believe the Liberal Democrats have become complacent and disengaged.”



Isabelle Staveley argued that the council was focusing too narrowly on pavement staining when residents were also concerned about overflowing bins, scattered rubbish, smells and hygiene. “It’s not the staining on the streets that we’re concerned about, it’s the mess, smell, cleanliness, hygiene and general appearance,” she wrote. She called for more bins and seven-day collections in busy town-centre locations, adding that overflowing waste had “nothing to do with a hosepipe restriction”.

Bill Neely argued residents deserved better. “We pay over £400 a month to live in a borough that cares for its residents. All of them. And communal spaces count.” In another comment he added: “The councils are cutting back. They’re not spending the money we give them on cleaning the streets we walk on.” Mark Stanmort questioned the council’s priorities, writing: “£1.5m plans for Richmond town, yet they struggle to get basics right.”

An Awkward Reminder From 2017

The debate has also revived Cllr Ehmann’s own words from when the Liberal Democrats were in opposition. In a 2017 article published in the *Twickenham Tribune*, the local Liberal Democrats criticised the then Conservative administration for spending millions on York Stone while failing to maintain it.

Cllr Ehmann, then the party’s transport spokesman, said failing to clean the paving was “the equivalent of buying a Lamborghini and leaving it out in the rain to rust and rot”. He added: “We warned them time and again that unless they had a proper maintenance plan in place then they would soon become shabby and unattractive.”

The same article mocked the Conservatives for blaming warm weather, highlighting an earlier council statement that surface dirt would naturally wash away when it rained. Almost eight years later, residents have pointed out the similarities. Once again, York Stone, maintenance and rainfall are at the centre of the debate. The difference is that the Liberal Democrats are no longer in opposition. They have run Richmond Council since 2018, and critics argue the standards they demanded then should now apply to their own administration.

More Than Dirty Pavements

Although the discussion began in Richmond town centre, many residents said similar problems could be found throughout the borough. Others suggested businesses should take greater responsibility for cleaning outside their premises, while residents proposed more frequent bin emptying, additional litter bins, mechanical scrubbers and stronger enforcement against repeat offenders.

Despite the range of opinions, one message came through consistently. Residents accepted that the drought had made staining more visible, but many believed the decline in street cleanliness long predated the current hosepipe restrictions. The Richmond Society’s intervention has therefore become about more than dirty paving stones. It has sparked a wider debate about civic pride, council priorities and whether Richmond’s public realm is being maintained to the standard residents expect.





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Naturalising the River Crane in Twickenham: a community celebration

From Let's Go Outside and Learn CIC

River restoration of the River Crane earlier in 2026 at Mereway Nature Park meant that the river was removed from its concrete channel and natural river banks restored.

This has led to improved water flow through the channel, increased water storage capacity, richer habitats for plants and wildlife and an enjoyable natural space for the community.

A celebration of the achievements is taking place on 8 August 2026 at Mereway Nature Park, Twickenham and local residents are invited to come along and see for themselves what has been achieved, talk to the organisations involved and learn about the next phase of the project.

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



Fees waived to help your road become a Play Street for a day

From Richmond Council

Families in Richmond upon Thames are again being invited to come out and play as part of Car Free Day this September.

We're encouraging people to host a Play Street in their road on either **Saturday 19 or Sunday 20 September 2026**, by closing their roads to through-traffic for up to four hours. These closures will mean that children will be able to play outside in their street and have fun with their friends, family and neighbours.

To spread the fun as far as possible, we are once again waiving the administration costs for the necessary road closures.



To host a Play Street, residents will need to get permission to have their street closed and will need to speak to their neighbours in case there are any objections.

Residents will also be responsible for organising and supervising events, including ensuring someone is present to allow safe access if required for residents' cars and emergency vehicles. Any street can apply, providing their street isn't a main road, bus route or emergency vehicle route.

You can [apply to host a Play Street](#) before this year's deadline of 4 September.

Free cooking classes starting in September

From Cooking Up

Cooking Up is a small Richmond-based charity offering free five week cooking courses in three locations across the borough.

At Ham, Hampton Hill and Whitton, classes will start on **16 September**. If you can't make it this time, another course will be starting in November.

Over the course of 5 weeks, you'll enjoy a weekly 90-minute cooking session where you'll learn to prepare a delicious meal and take home what you've cooked in the class.



Friendly volunteers will be there to guide you every step of the way. All meals are cooked on the hob, and we make sure all ingredients are budget-friendly, costing no more than £1.50 per person. The course is free for you to join.

You can [find out more and sign up](#).

Some Beauty Product News



Superdrug has opened its newest store in Twickenham, covering 6,759 sq. ft. and creating 22 new jobs. And it's fabulous. Designed as a one-stop destination for health, beauty, and wellbeing, it marks the latest step in Superdrug's ambitious expansion plans, with the retailer set to open 30 new stores across the UK in 2026. You can browse an extensive selection of international beauty brands, Superdrug's own-brand ranges including Studio London, as well as popular ranges such as B. Skin, Me+, Vitamin E and Optimum. It also stocks one of my favourite brands, Hada Labo, the No. 1 Japanese beauty brand. The store is led by the same Store Manager and Assistant Store Manager from the previous Twickenham

site. There is a dedicated Beauty Studio, offering a range of professional treatments prices, including brow, nail and piercing services. And of course, an extensive premium fragrance collection and an expanded range of beauty products, including trending Korean skincare brands such as Biodance and Medicube. Superdrug's Health & Beautycard and VIP Rewards are available, allowing you to earn points on purchases to redeem later, and exclusive perks.



In oral care, billions of plastic items - from toothpaste tubes and toothbrushes to floss and mouthwash bottles are thrown away every year. **PÄRLA** believes it's time to stop pretending that recyclable plastic is a sustainable solution. The only honest response is to remove it completely. As such PÄRLA's new range of beautifully clean toothpaste is: 100% plastic-free (even down to the lid!!): Made from 100% recyclable aluminium and Infinitely recyclable in standard household recycling.

Designed by dentists, their formulations embrace a more modern, holistic approach to oral care and cosmetics – they call it “beautifully clean”. This means harnessing the power of



clinically backed ingredients like **hydroxyapatite to strengthen and whiten enamel, essential vitamins like B12 and E to support overall wellbeing and oral probiotics to support a balanced oral microbiome** (as after all gut health starts in the mouth!!). The result is a smarter kind of oral care that not only boosts your smile, but also contributes to whole-body health without harming people, animals, or the planet in the process! Sometimes it's what you leave out that counts – unlike many mass production pastes all of PÄRLA's pastes **are free of SLS, Palm oil and titanium dioxide** with all their flavourings being

100% natural. They are leaping bunny and vegan certified as well as being one of the few B Corp Certified oral care brands in the world! PÄRLA's beautifully clean toothpaste is now available at selected Waitrose and Holland & Barrett across the country and online at www.parlaoralcare.com From £6.95 per tube (1 month supply).

Wild Wipe is a clever reusable hygiene product designed for women to help stay fresh, comfortable and dry after a wee, when loo roll simply is not available. This product has gone viral with 12m views on Instagram. Pocket sized, lightweight and designed to fit easily into a bag, pocket, rucksack or festival crossbody, Wild Wipe has been created for real life moments whether that is festivals, walking, bike rides, picnics, camping, travel, road trips, beach days or simply being out and about all day. Unlike disposable options, Wild Wipe is reusable and designed to offer a more practical and lower waste solution for outdoor adventures and everyday use. Available from wildwipe.com at £14



The **BarberBoss Electric Foot File** makes achieving soft, smooth feet easier than ever from the comfort of home. Designed to gently remove hard, dry and callused skin in minutes, it delivers salon-inspired pedicure results with minimal effort. Complete with fine and coarse interchangeable roller heads, a built-in LED light for precision and a safe, gentle design, it leaves feet feeling noticeably softer after every use. USB rechargeable with detachable washable rollers, a travel lock and compact design, it's the perfect addition to any beauty routine at home or on holiday. And it lets you trim your nails after a manicure or pedicure without the varnish splitting as it's so cleverly designed. **RRP: £14.99**

Many of us find it difficult to get access to a GP appointment, or simply don't want to feel like a burden visiting the doctor. But this can mean a key health problem is overlooked, not managed and could run the risk of becoming more severe or causing other health problems. More people are now taking advantage of the increasing availability of self-diagnostic tests, which allow them to take control of their health in the comfort and privacy of their own home. **Berkeley Health** offers a variety of at-home testing kits, which test for a range of health conditions, including prostate health, fertility, vitamin D deficiency, iron deficiency, UTIs, thyroid health, menopause and vaginal infections. All tests are under £10 at Waitrose stores and online.

Helpful as these kits are, it's important to approach them with a balanced mindset. A test might flag something unusual, but it can't tell the full story. **Follow-up with a healthcare professional is essential.** Without medical guidance, results can sometimes cause unnecessary worry, or worse, false reassurance. While generally reliable, at-home tests don't replace laboratory testing or clinical assessment. **Even if a test result appears normal, ongoing symptoms should never be ignored.** For more information and where to buy Berkeley Health Tests, see: <https://www.berkeleyhealth.com/> or buy at Waitrose or online at Waitrose: Waitrose.com.



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Totality Totality - Where/ When?

By Bruce Lyons

*TOTALITY IS COMING TO
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This year on August 12th we have a Solar Eclipse, The Totality map runs from Greenland thru to Spain.



And the maximum totality is 2 minutes +

BUT in 2027 we have the Solar Eclipse of the Century with Totality of 6 minutes + in Luxor.

We will tell you more about it next week, here in the Tribune.

In the meantime, if you want to get away - call me before I'm 92 next week
Bruce @ 020-87440474

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Magic Flute

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder
West Green House Opera at the Green Theatre, Hartley Wintney

To the boisterous nightlife of 1790's Vienna, the showman Schikaneder and the ailing Mozart brought a new concept of opera for the masses. Although a fun package of comedy and spectacle, supporting the finest singing, it told of good versus evil. Director-designer [Richard Studer](#) steers his imaginative light-hearted *The Magic Flute* firmly in the direction of this concept.



Overlooking the façade of West Green House, the stage hosts a monochrome proscenium arch. This theatre-in-theatre depicts an Egyptian temple flanked by Sun and Moon, symbols of day and night, enlightenment and darkness. [Sarah Dell](#)'s lighting subtly integrates the stage with the landscape beyond.

[William Morgan](#) convincingly characterises Tamino's maturing in moral strength. His engaging tenor has real conviction and warmth. Given a locket with a portrait of Pamina, he immediately falls in love. She is the daughter of the disingenuous Queen of the Night, who convinces Tamino that Pamina has been imprisoned by the high priest Sarastro, whom she misrepresents as an evil tyrant. In the role of Pamina, [Harriet Eyley](#) is enchanting, her beautiful lyrical soprano portraying the nuances of Pamina's emotional journey.



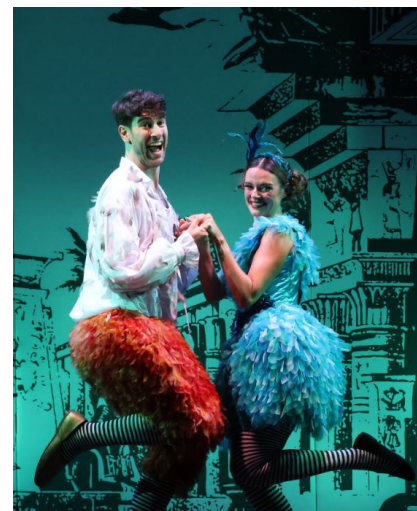
The bird-catcher, Papageno is the ordinary bloke, who only wants food, drink, somewhere to live and someone to love. But he gets sucked into the adventures of Prince Tamino after lying that he killed the pseudo-anserine "serpent". With his warm strong baritone, [Mark Nathan](#)'s Papageno attracts empathy. Soprano Kirsty McLean is a delight as a spirited Papagena, transmogrifying

from flirtatious old crone to the charming girl of Papageno's dreams.

[Nazan Fikret](#) is gloriously dramatic as the scary vehement Queen of the Night. Her coloratura convolutions and thrilling high tessitura have a natural ease. [Sion Goronwy](#)'s commanding stature brings an imposing stage presence to the role of Sarastro, reflected in his richly profound bass voice. His High Priest is a sage, dignified and open-hearted patriarch.

Conductor [Jonathan Lyness](#)'s reduced score loses nothing of consequence from Mozart's inventive score, and the eighteen-strong orchestra clearly enjoys its concentrated lavishness.

This *Magic Flute* has a wide appeal, as Schikaneder intended. It's quite a breeze, but still has the moral tale to tell. Broad on comedy and high on all the musical and technical skills Wolfgang Amadeus would approve this enjoyable production.



Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2026/07/21/magic-flute-wgo

Photography by R Studer

Precious Little Talent

by Ella Hickson

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

Set in a high-rise in Manhattan, *Precious Little Talent* is an examination of awkward relationships. Joey, a reluctant English visitor, encounters Sam, a spirited young American, in a rooftop meeting. They have a whirlwind of a romance and fall in love.

The play opens with a vibrant start from the leather-jacketed Sam, and one is instantly drawn to this fresh nineteen-year-old New Yorker. He faces a prospective Christmas as a carer for George, who has Lewy body dementia. As the proud older man who is resistant to Sam's care, Nick Hall is a very natural actor and intelligently portrays George's dignity and pride. Caleb Clarke gives an endearing and honest performance as Sam.



Joey has had a private education and is a recent law graduate. But after recently losing her job, she goes to New York City on Christmas Eve for a surprise visit to her father. He has lived alone since separating from his wife and has lost touch with Joey. However, she is unaware that her father is losing his capacity to look after himself ... and that her father is the same George for whom Sam is carer.



Jasmine Jones plays the role of Joey with intelligence and sincerity, but alas has some projection issues, resulting in some vital information being missed. Nevertheless, she holds her own with her strong co-stars.

As the plot progresses, Joey, initially an unlikeable character, reveals her true reasons for escaping her home country. With mounting debt and barren career prospects, plus her familiar home ground changing drastically, she had planned to reunite with her father located across the Atlantic. Now there, she finds that George has issues of his own. Moreover, Sam and George share a strong rapport, leaving us to question who is really dependent on whom.

Anger, loneliness and strong emotions run through the play. Plus it leads to a surprising poignant ending, that one could not have envisaged.

An economical set of black boxes is versatilely and effectively used. With atmospheric moody lighting designed by Rich Evans and Rey Wong, it works well and looks very striking. Sensitive directed by Craig Legg, *Precious Little Talent* is a strong and well-paced piece that slickly deals very with familiar and uncomfortable contemporary issues.

Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2026/07/27/precious-talent
Photography courtesy of PTC

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Monday 24th August

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Tuesday 25th August

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 [screwed.show](https://www.instagram.com/screwed.show)



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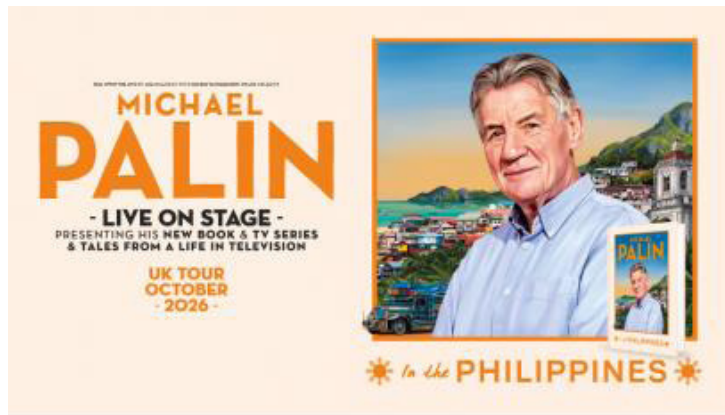
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Michael Palin In the Philippines

Coming To Richmond Theatre
Mon 19th October



Monty Python legend and intrepid globetrotter Sir Michael Palin brings tales from one of his most ambitious and revealing journeys to the stage this autumn in a brand-new solo tour, **'Michael Palin in the Philippines'**.

Michael Palin in the Philippines will see Michael share first-hand stories from his latest Channel 5 series, taking audiences behind the scenes of his remarkable journey through one of the world's most fascinating, politically charged and historically complex countries.

Using photographs and exclusive film shot during the expedition, Michael will recount his travels across the spectacular Philippine archipelago, from the bustling streets of Manila to the remote islands of the South China Sea, where he found himself at the centre of escalating tensions between Philippine and Chinese coastguard vessels.

Travelling from idyllic tropical beaches and underground rivers to regions under military escort, Michael encountered a country of extraordinary contrasts. Along the way he explored the lasting legacy of the Marcos family, witnessed communities living with extreme poverty and political unrest, visited the haunting remains of Marawi, and met people whose warmth, resilience and generosity left a lasting impression.

The Philippines is often seen as a picture-postcard holiday destination, yet Michael discovered a nation whose remarkable beauty exists alongside profound social and political challenges. As always, his journey looked beyond the headlines to reveal the lives, humour and humanity of the people who call it home.

Michael Palin said: *"I'm delighted to be taking **Michael Palin in the Philippines** on tour around the UK. Every journey leaves me with stories that never quite make it into the television programmes, and I always enjoy the chance to share those moments with a live audience.*

Alongside the films and photographs from my travels, I'll be talking about the remarkable people I met, the extraordinary places I visited and some of the unexpected adventures along the way. I hope audiences will feel as though they've travelled with me and perhaps leave seeing the Philippines in a completely new light."

This tour follows Michael's acclaimed three-part Channel 5 series, **Michael Palin in the Philippines**, produced by ITN Productions.

It will also accompany Michael's new book, **Michael Palin in the Philippines**, published by Hutchinson Heinemann on **1 October**.

Copies of *Michael Palin in the Philippines* will be available to purchase at each venue.

Kew's Carbon Garden celebrates a year of inspiring positive climate action with a vibrant perennial palette

From Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

The Carbon Garden at Kew Gardens in West London is celebrating its first year since opening with a stunning array of colours and scents, nestled amidst the historic landscape of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Inaugurated on 24 July 2025, the garden has come into full bloom with its 35 trees and more than 6,500 plants, all of which have been selected to weave a story about the scale of the climate crisis and the role plants and fungi play in responding to it. This design and implementation reflect Kew's vital mission to build a thriving planet for all, powered by plants and fungi.

Entering the garden, visitors are now met by a sea of colourful perennials inspired by Reading University's climate stripes, with shades of blue and purple (e.g. *Echinops ritro* 'Veitch's Blue', *Salvia* 'Mainacht') giving way to warm hues of red and orange (*Crocsmia* 'Lucifer' and *Hemerocallis* 'Stafford' amongst others), reflective of rising global temperatures.

Other immediate highlights include the bold yellows and reds of *Achillea* 'Moonshine', 'Paprika' and 'Red Velvet' as well as the violets of *Hydrangea serrata* 'Bluebird'.

In another section of the garden, an arid selection of drought-tolerant planting highlights species such as Parry's agave (*Agave parryi*), a perennial succulent known for its remarkable adaptation to dry climates and rocky environments with very little rainfall. Plants like these, Kew's horticulturists say, will play an increasingly important role in our future gardens as our climate continues to change.

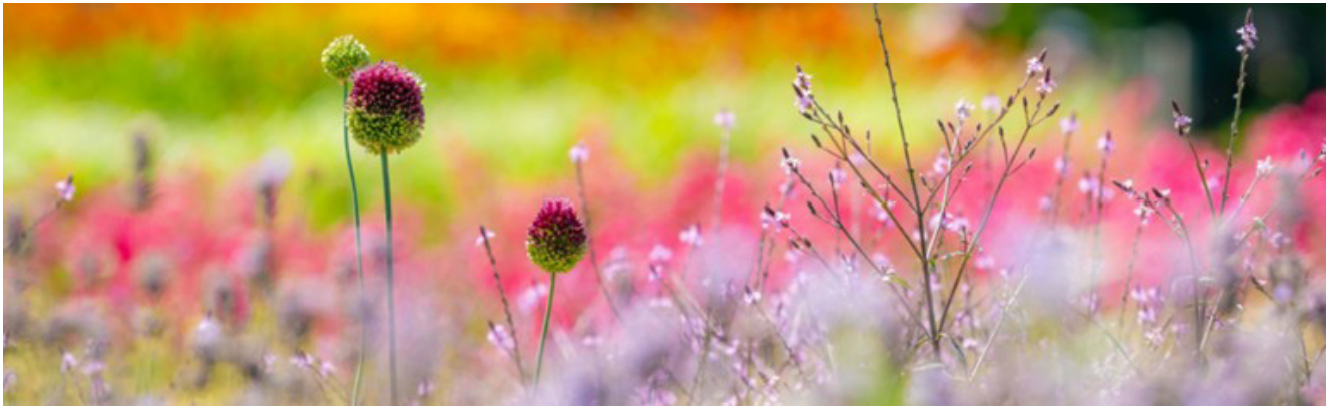
Joe Richomme, Botanical Horticulturist whose team manages the Carbon Garden, says: 'It's truly remarkable just how well the Carbon Garden has performed over the past year, with the planting now coming into full bloom. But even as we stand amidst these colourful flowers, especially in the context of the record-breaking heatwaves we witnessed this summer, we are reminded that London's climate is on track to resemble that of present-day Barcelona by the year 2050 and we need to be prepared to adapt to those changing conditions.

'We hope that the work we do here in the Carbon Garden and behind the scenes at Kew will continue to teach and inspire people to adapt our landscapes to be better prepared for what awaits us.'

Amongst the resilient trees overlooking the garden are specimens of Japanese elm (*Zelkova serrata*) and Persian ironwood (*Parrotia persica*), as well as:

- Honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)
- Oriental hornbeam (*Carpinus orientalis*)
- Judas tree (*Cercis siliquastrum*)

The 35 species in the garden have all been selected based on Kew's research detailed in [Planting for the Future: Kew's Landscape Succession Plan](#), with consideration for their resilience to changing climate conditions.



Practical tips shared in the Carbon Garden by Kew's horticulturists include advice on climate-resilient plant selection, ways to garden without disrupting soil, meadow-establishment and how composting can help create carbon sinks in our backyards.

The goal of the Carbon Garden is to remind visitors that while climate challenge is global, meaningful action can begin locally. It does so by revealing the extraordinary ways plants, fungi and healthy ecosystems capture, store and cycle carbon, and the space encourages visitors to see nature not simply as something to protect, but as an essential partner in building a more resilient future.

The Climate Changed Oak

Visitors venturing down from the Palm House along Kew's historic Syon Vista will be treated to an unusual sight: a mature red oak tree (*Quercus rubra*) that has been painted a bright red colour. [The Climate Changed Oak](#) is one of 400 trees that died because of the drought and extreme heat experienced during the summer of 2022, when temperatures in the UK hit 40C for the first time in recorded history.

The tree, which has been painted using linseed oil, now stands as a reminder that climate change is here and is affecting our lives right now.

As revealed in [Kew's 2024 Landscape Succession Plan](#), as many as 50% of Kew's 11,000 trees could be killed by climate change by the end of the century, highlighting the need for urgent action to mitigate the long-term impacts of our changing climate on plant collections.

Enjoy Kew Gardens for less this summer

Until September 1, all visitors to Kew Gardens will enjoy reduced ticket prices thanks to the UK Government's Great British Summer Savings initiative.

As part of the scheme, adult online tickets have been reduced to £21.85 (£24.50 with donation), and child tickets (under 16s) have been reduced to £1.75. Children under the age of 4 continue to visit for free.

Recipients of Universal Credit can enjoy entry for just 88p, with the added option to bring up to four additional guests with them for the same price.

Included in entry is access to [Henry Moore: Monumental Nature](#), the largest-ever outdoor exhibition of Henry Moore's work, and [Tom Gates EPIC Adventure](#), a brand-new interactive experience for families.

For the full range of ticket prices and concessions, including Young Persons' tickets, visit [Kew.org](#).

Each ticket sold supports Kew's mission as a scientific, horticultural and educational charity at the forefront of tackling the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Royal
Botanic
Gardens **Kew**

St Mary's University

Join St Mary's for an Evening of World Class Athletics



St Mary's University is proud to be hosting a British Milers Club (BMC) Grand Prix on the Sir Mo Farah Athletics Track on Sunday 9 August, with races starting from 4.30pm.

A BMC Grand Prix is the clubs top level athletics meet and forms part of the World Continental Tour. The event is free and open to the public who would like to spectate. There will be food trucks and refreshments available for purchase at campus outlets.

With the meet taking place between major international athletics events, it promises to be a high-level competition with athletes lining up from UK, Ireland, France, Spain, Finland, New Zealand, Tunisia, Iceland, Australia, Qatar, Belgium, Netherlands, Canada and many more.

The meet will see men's and women's races at 800m, 1500m, 3000m and 2000m Steeplechase at a range of junior age groups alongside the senior races.

Speaking of the meeting, St Mary's Endurance Performance Centre Coordinator and Performance Coach Craig Winrow said, *"Building on the success of last year's BMC Record Breaker event, which celebrated St Mary's 175th Anniversary, we're delighted to step up to hosting a Grand Prix at St Mary's. The level of athletes registering has been fantastic and we're looking forward to some hotly contested races."*



**St Mary's
University**
Twickenham
London

Alfie's journey from catering student to head chef

An alumnus has spoken of his journey from Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) student to head chef.

Alfie Green studied Hospitality and Catering Level 1 at RuTC from September 2019. After graduating, he went straight into full-time work and even travelled to Australia, where he worked as a chef for a year.

Alfie currently works as a head chef at a pub in Farnborough, Hampshire, where he runs a small kitchen team of five staff.



Structure and discipline

Explaining how his studies prepared him for this role, Alfie said: *"I was pushed to my limit when learning in the kitchen at Richmond and I would always listen to what the head chef would say to me. This has shaped me into the chef I am today as I have learned structure and discipline."*

"I know first-hand that no other teachers push their students as hard as the teachers at RuTC. I was proud to be a student and I would love to have the chance to see my old teachers again and give advice to the new generation going into hospitality and catering."

Life-changing

When asked what advice he would give to a student considering a career in the hospitality industry, Alfie said: *"If this is the career you really want to pursue, then you have to be willing to sacrifice a lot, but the reward for it will be life-changing."*

"You have to put in the hours and grind daily to aspire to be better than you ever could be. And one day you'll be able to share your skills with the next generation."

"Being a chef is by far the most rewarding job and career I've been a part of."

To find out more about how RuTC can help you fulfil your ambitions, please visit our [Course Explorer](#).



**Richmond upon
Thames College**

Summer Holiday Fun at The Busen Trust!

Looking for something fun, active and exciting for the children over the summer holidays? Come and join us for our Bouncy Castle & Soft Play Sessions every Sunday at The Busen Trust!

We'll have our amazing soft play set-up, bouncy castle, colourful play equipment and plenty to keep the children entertained. We truly believe it's one of the best soft play sessions in town – with something for everyone!

Everyone is welcome – brothers, sisters, cousins, neighbours... bring them all! Perfect for children aged 6 months and above, giving little ones a safe, fun and regular place to play, explore, bounce and burn off energy over the summer.

The Busen Trust
244 Stanley Road, Teddington, TW2 5NP

BOUNCY CASTLE & SOFT PLAY SESSIONS

SUMMER HOLIDAYS AT THE BUSEN TRUST

EVERY SUNDAY | 10:00 - 14:00
dates below

244 STANLEY ROAD, TEDDINGTON, TW2 5NP

DATES

19 Jul	26 Jul	2 Aug
9 Aug	16 Aug	30 Aug

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY SIGNED UP, **CLICK THE LINK IN BIO.**

FUN-FILLED SUNDAY SESSIONS FOR CHILDREN

Volunteer Rangers in the Royal Parks

London's eight Royal Parks offer 5,000 acres of historic, nature-rich parkland across the capital, and attract millions of people every single year. Visitors may also spot some friendly figures in orange – our Volunteer Rangers!



First launched in 2019, the Volunteer Ranger service has now expanded to Richmond Park, Bushy Park, Greenwich Park and The Regent's Park. Our Volunteer Rangers roam around the parks, working in pairs to welcome visitors and help them get the most out of their experience by sharing facts about the history and nature of the parks, tips on the best walking or cycling routes, and information about what the public can see and do in these unique green spaces.

Volunteer Ranger recruitment open for Bushy Park and Greenwich Park!

We're now excited to open recruitment for the next cohort of volunteers to join us in both the Bushy Park and Greenwich Park Volunteer Rangers services.

If you're friendly, approachable, enthusiastic, and want to help us tell the fascinating stories of these iconic parks, this volunteering role could be for you!

Do take a look our role descriptions below, and apply for your chosen Volunteer Ranger service using the online application forms linked below.

Applications close on **Sunday 9 August at 5pm.**

If you have any questions regarding the Volunteer Ranger services, please do get in touch with the Volunteer Team at volunteering@royalparks.org.uk

[Bushy Park Volunteer Ranger Application](#)

[Greenwich Park Volunteer Ranger Application](#)

[Greenwich Park Volunteer Ranger Role Description](#)

[Bushy Park Volunteer Ranger Role Description](#)



Richmond Park

Deer birthing season closes

From The Royal Parks



The deer birthing season has now come to a close. We wanted to say a big thank you to park visitors for keeping your dog on a lead during this period when females and baby deer are particularly vulnerable to disturbance, and mothers are especially defensive.

In certain areas of the park, it is compulsory to keep dogs on leads all year round to protect wildlife. This includes the areas surrounding Pen Ponds to protect wetland birds, the skylark protection zones, which are well signed, as well as the Isabella Plantation. While dogs are not permitted in Pembroke Lodge Gardens.

A reminder that we advise that dogs be kept on leads during the deer rutting season (September – November). Thank you for your continued help in protecting this special nature reserve.



Momentum CEO takes on 24-hour Danceathon

Momentum Children's Charity CEO, Sarah Woods is set to dance non-stop for 24 hours as she takes on one of her biggest fundraising challenges yet for Move for Momentum.

Starting at 10:00 on Friday 18 September, Sarah will remain on the dance floor until 10:00 on Saturday 19 September in a gruelling effort to raise funds for Momentum during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

The 24-hour Danceathon will be held at Colets Health and Fitness in Thames Ditton, Surrey. During the challenge, Sarah will be joined by a fantastic line-up of well-known faces, guest DJs, family and friends, all helping to keep her energy levels high and feet moving.

As part of the challenge, Sarah will throw herself into a range of fitness classes at Colets, including Dance Fit, Barre, Zumba, Konga and a special children's disco.

Talking about her challenge, Sarah Woods, CEO at Momentum Children's Charity said: "I have never attempted anything quite like a 24-hour Danceathon before, so I know it will test me both physically and mentally. However, I also know that the families we support show incredible strength and resilience every single day. If taking on this challenge helps raise awareness and vital funds, then every sore muscle and every hour without sleep will be worth it. I would love as many people as possible to join us by taking part in Move for Momentum in whatever way suits them."



With around 1,900 children diagnosed with cancer in the UK each year, Sarah has chosen to set herself a meaningful fundraising target of £1,900 - one pound for every child diagnosed annually.

Momentum Children's Charity provides practical and emotional support to families across Surrey, London and Sussex whose child has cancer, helping them through one of the most challenging times in their lives.

Now in its second year, Move for Momentum encourages people of all ages to get active throughout September to raise money so Momentum can continue to be there for families. It's not too late to take part in Move for Momentum. Download a free fundraising pack from the charity's website for everything needed to get started, including fundraising ideas, planning tips, step-by-step guidance on creating a fundraising page and advice on spreading the word to maximise support.

You can sponsor Sarah for her 24-hour Danceathon for Momentum Children's Charity [here](#). To find out more about the work of Momentum Children's Charity and to sign up to take part in Move for Momentum, please visit www.momentumcharity.org



Lynde House Care Home's Nora Crotty Wins South East Resident Ambassador of the Year Award

From Lynde House Care Home

Nora Crotty at Lynde House Care Home in Twickenham has been crowned Resident Ambassador of the Year for the South East Division in the Barchester Care Awards 2026 and is through to the national round of judging.

The Barchester Care Awards celebrate the staff who go the extra mile for the benefit of the 14,000 residents living in Barchester's 271 care homes and private hospitals across the country. Categories range from 'Registered Nurse of the Year' and 'Carer of the Year' to 'Dementia Care Champion' and 'Activities Coordinator of the Year'.

Almost 6,000 nominations were received from homes and hospitals across the UK. All entries were a very high standard and Nora is over the moon to have been named the winner for the South East Division beating hundreds of other nominees.

Nora said: *"I have been Resident Ambassador at Lynde House Care Home for well over two years now. It's a Role I love and enjoy. I am a people's person, so being Resident Ambassador enables me to reach out and help and comfort people wherever possible. For me, it's a great honour to have been nominated for Resident Ambassador of the year. It has also come as a big surprise. So may I say a big thank you to all those who nominated me. I will always do my best to continue my role."*

As the winner for South East Division, Nora is through to the national finals in which the overall winner is decided. They will join winners from across the UK at a special awards event in October to celebrate their outstanding achievements and discover if they have won a national award.

General Manager, Alison McIntosh said: "This is a fantastic achievement, and everyone at Lynde House is incredibly proud of Nora. She truly embodies everything that this award represents. Nora consistently goes above and beyond to ensure our residents feel valued, respected and cared for. She is a compassionate advocate for our residents, always putting their wellbeing, dignity and happiness first.

Lynde House Care Home is run by Barchester Healthcare, one of the UK's largest care providers, which is committed to delivering high-quality care across its care homes and hospitals. Lynde House provides nursing, residential and dementia care.



Ready To Cheer on The Red Roses?

Why not see your favourite team live? The Red Roses take on **New Zealand** at Allianz Stadium on **Saturday 26 September** in a blockbuster WXV Global Series clash.

This is your opportunity to see your favourite rugby stars compete on one of the world's biggest stages. The Red Roses would love your support - be there to cheer them on from the stands.

Join thousands of fans for an unforgettable day of international rugby, incredible atmosphere and entertainment on and off the pitch.

Grab your England shirt and join us this September! Tickets are on sale now, with **adults from £20 and juniors at just £5**.

Buy [HERE](#)



ALLIANZ STADIUM
SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER
RED ROSES V
NEW ZEALAND

WXV
GLOBAL SERIES

Red Roses 40-Player WXV Global Series Training Squad



John Mitchell has selected a 40-player squad to kick-start the Red Roses' WXV Global Series preparations.

The group - which contains 22 forwards and 18 backs – will assemble at the University of Nottingham on Monday 3 August for the start of pre-season training.

They will spend the first three weeks of pre-season in Nottingham before returning to London at the Lensbury ahead of their opening match of the series against Australia on Saturday 12 September, CorpAcq Stadium, Salford.

The Red Roses then take on Canada at Exeter's Sandy Park a week later before ending their home leg of WXV fixtures at Allianz Stadium against New Zealand on Saturday 26 September.

Tickets for all three home matches can be purchased at englandrugby.com/tickets.

Mitchell said: *"The naming of this squad is only the beginning; it's not the reward. These 40 have been selected because we believe they have what it takes to build something real together as a squad; firstly, through building better connections to make us stronger, and then with how we want to play this game. We're identifying the players who we think will buy into the Red Roses spirit; those who will elevate their connections, those who will develop their repeat physical capacity, and those who will approach their skillsets with enthusiasm and show the necessary hunger to compete under pressure. That's the standard this programme is setting. We're focused on building and playing lethal exciting rugby which requires us to train above the game level with an intensity that allows every selected player to adapt seamlessly into Test rugby when the moment comes. That's what we do here, and it starts now!"*

Red Roses squad for pre-season training

Forwards

Sarah Bern (Bristol Bears, 84 caps)
Hannah Botterman (Bristol Bears, 62 caps)
Delaney Burns (Bristol Bears, 6 caps)
Abi Burton (Trailfinders Women, 9 caps)
May Campbell (Saracens, 5 caps)
Mackenzie Carson (Gloucester-Hartpury, 28 caps)
Kelsey Clifford (Saracens, 25 caps)
Amy Cokayne (Sale Sharks, 94 caps)
Maddie Feaunati (Exeter Chiefs, 27 caps)
Bryony Field (Saracens, uncapped)
Keevy Fitzpatrick (Loughborough Lightning, uncapped)

Haidee Head (Trailfinders Women, 1 cap)
Lilli Ives Campion (Loughborough Lightning, 8 caps)
Hayley Jones (Trailfinders Women, uncapped)
Sadia Kabeya (Loughborough Lightning, 32 caps)
Haineala Lutui (Loughborough Lightning, 4 caps)
Alex Matthews (Gloucester-Hartpury, 82 caps)
Annabel Meta (Trailfinders Women, uncapped)
Maud Muir (Gloucester-Hartpury, 53 caps)
Marlie Packer (Harlequins, 116 caps)
Demelza Short (Bristol Bears, 4 caps)
Morwenna Talling (Sale Sharks, 29 caps)

Backs

Holly Aitchison (Sale Sharks, 49 caps)
Jess Breach (Saracens, 57 caps)
Millie David (Bristol Bears, 1 cap)
Zoe Harrison (Saracens, 70 caps)
Tatyana Heard (Sale Sharks, 36 caps)
Natasha Hunt (Gloucester-Hartpury, 89 caps)
Megan Jones (Trailfinders Women, 38 caps)
Ellie Kildunne (Bristol Bears, 62 caps)
Amelia MacDougall (Saracens, uncapped)

Claudia Moloney-MacDonald (Exeter Chiefs, 40 caps)
Carmela Morrall (Loughborough Lightning, uncapped)
Lucy Packer (Harlequins, 44 caps)
Flo Robinson (Exeter Chiefs, 5 caps)
Helena Rowland (Loughborough Lightning, 51 caps)
Jade Shekells (Gloucester-Hartpury, 4 caps)
Emma Sing (Gloucester-Hartpury, 17 caps)
Mia Venner (Gloucester-Hartpury, 4 caps)
Bo Westcombe-Evans (Trailfinders Women, 2 caps)

Match Preview: Rennes v Brentford

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford continue their pre-season preparations against Ligue 1 side Rennes at Roazhon Park on Saturday evening (4pm kick-off BST/5pm kick-off CET).

Keith Andrews' side travel to France for their penultimate fixture before the start of the 2026/27 Premier League campaign.

Analysis, team news, match officials and more, here's everything you need to know ahead of the game.

Pre-match Analysis

Stephen Gillett, *Playmaker Stats*: Why Rennes will provide a stern pre-season test

Brentford take on Rennes in their penultimate pre-season friendly of the summer, with Franck Haise's side likely to provide a good barometer for the Bees.

Named Habib Beye's successor in the Rennes dugout in February, Haise has quickly put his stamp on The Red and Blacks, introducing a measured yet high-energy brand of football that ultimately secured sixth place in Ligue 1 and a spot in this season's Europa League.

Among the most prolific sides in the French top flight last season, Rennes will aim to hone their attacking threat against their English visitors at Roazhon Park on Saturday - where Brentford will face Ligue 1's reigning Golden Boot winner.

After working his way through the French lower leagues, Estéban Lepaul enjoyed a fabulous 2025/26 campaign, hitting 21 Ligue 1 goals to finish well clear of Marseille's Mason Greenwood and Strasbourg's Joaquín Panichelli (16 apiece) at the top of the scoring charts.

Quick and elusive, the 26-year-old has a rare knack for finding space in the box. Lepaul outperformed his Expected Goals by a huge margin (+4.85 xG) last term to underscore the quality of his finishing, with Rennes the only side to surpass their xG in the French top tier. Rennes have acted decisively in the transfer market to bolster Lepaul's supply line and the signing of playmaker Adrien Thomasson looks an exciting addition.

Signed on a free from Lens this summer, Adrien Thomasson was the only Ligue 1 player to reach double figures for assists last season, registering 10, and the experienced 32-year-old will inject guile and creativity into Rennes' midfield.

Thomasson is set to line up against his former Lens team-mate [Mamadou Sangaré](#) after the latter's club-record move to Brentford this month, adding an intriguing subplot given the pair lifted the Coupe de France together a matter of months ago.

As well as leading Ligue 1 for assists, Thomasson also ranked first for key passes (81). Sangaré,



meanwhile, topped the division for possessions won, regaining the ball on 207 occasions during the 2025/26 campaign - with Thomasson (193) not far behind him. If the pair lock horns on Saturday, it promises to be competitive!

Likely to adopt a 4-3-3 and favour intense one-on-one battles all over the pitch, Rennes look ideal pre-season opponents from a conditioning perspective, and they also boast impressive technical quality.

Rennes averaged 53 per cent possession last season, with only PSG (218) and Marseille (120) recording more build-up attacks than the club from Brittany (94). A build-up attack is an open-play sequence containing at least 10 passes that either ends in a shot, or includes at least one touch in the opposition's penalty box.

Brentford are likely, therefore, to have opportunities to polish their game both in and out of possession on Saturday.

With summer signings Eliezer Mayenda and Charlie Cresswell, who joined recently from Toulouse on loan with an obligation to buy, Rennes have added further physicality and quality at both ends of the pitch, and both may feature against the Bees.

England Under-21s international Cresswell ranked among Ligue 1's top 10 for aerial duels won, clearances and shots blocked last season, underlining the defensive qualities he should bring to a backline that conceded 33 away goals last term - only relegated Metz shipping more on their travels.

Scout Report

Dan Long, *Sky Sports*: How Rennes found stability after three turbulent seasons

Rennes had followed up two successive fourth-place finishes in Ligue 1 by dropping to 10th in 2023/24, their lowest in five seasons, prompting a huge squad turnover.

Among those sold were Désiré Doué and Enzo Le Fée, while Kyōgo Furuhashi, Leo Østigård, Glen Kamara and Jordan James arrived as part of the rebuild. Expectations had not been met, and there was clear ambition for it not to happen again. But it did.

Les Rennais went through three managers in 2024/25 - Julien Stéphan, Jorge Sampaoli and Habib Beye - and never once won more than two league games in succession, leading to a 12th-place finish, the lowest in 11 years. The intense recruitment drive had failed to deliver the envisaged European push.

The club stuck with Beye for 2025/26, but adopted an altogether more conservative approach to last summer's transfer window. Valentin Rongier, Quentin Merlin, Mahdi Camara, Estéban Lepaul and Breel Embolo arrived permanently, while Przemysław Frankowski joined on loan; further funds were recouped by the sales of Adrien Truffert to Bournemouth, Kyōgo to Birmingham, Azor Matusiwa to Ipswich, Arnaud Kalimuendo to Nottingham Forest, and Christopher Wooh to Spartak Moscow.

On paper, what followed during the first five months of the season was encouraging. Despite only two wins from the first 10 Ligue 1 games, they only lost two of those, and what followed was a run of six wins in the next eight.

But Beye was sacked on 9 February after three straight league defeats and a last-16 exit from the Coupe de France at the hands of Marseille. Sébastien Tamboulet was placed in caretaker charge and oversaw an impressive 3-1 win over PSG four days later, before Franck Haise was appointed on a

contract running until the summer of 2027.

Speaking after the appointment, Rennes' sporting director Loïc Désiré said: *"Our objective remains the same: to qualify for European competition. We expect a lot from the team. The win against PSG is further proof the players are capable of great things. We expect unity and total commitment from everyone to help us enjoy a very strong end to the season, with results that match our ambition."*

What happened in those final weeks of the season under Haise certainly matched the brief. Rennes won eight of the final 12 games, scoring an average of two goals per game and conceding 1.17, compared to 1.59 scored and 1.64 conceded before his arrival.

A sixth-place finish was secured - the same position as when he arrived - but sufficient for a place in the Europa League league phase.

After three turbulent seasons, there is a welcome sense of calm at Rennes. Belief, too, and evidence the team can meet the expectations placed upon them. The challenge for Haise now is to build upon the excellent work and momentum generated in those last few months to ensure this does not become a false dawn.

In the Dugout

Franck Haise

Franck Haise had a long playing career as a defender, the bulk of which he played in the second tier of French football with Rouen, Laval, Beauvais and Angers.

He took his first steps into coaching with Stade Mayennais, whom he joined as a player-coach in 2003 before substituting himself at half-time in a league game and bringing a conclusion to his playing days at the age of 32. He stayed there for three years, then joined Rennes for the first time, working within the club's youth setup until 2012 when he moved on to US Changé in the French sixth tier.

Haise's next move was to Lorient in 2013, where he managed the club's B team. In 2013/14, he guided the team to the CFA2 Group H title, securing promotion to the fourth tier. Towards the end of the following campaign, Lorient's first-team manager Sylvain Ripoli promoted him to the role as his assistant and, when Ripoli left in October 2016, Haise oversaw two Ligue 1 matches as caretaker: a 2-2 draw with Montpellier and a heavy 6-0 defeat away at Monaco.

He joined Lens in 2017 and trod a similar path, starting out with two-and-a-half years with the club's B team. However, when he started working with the first team in February 2020, it was as the permanent replacement for Philippe Montanier. There was near-instant success as he won his first two games in charge before the Ligue 2 season was curtailed early, resulting in Lens' promotion as runners-up, ironically, to his former club Lorient.

Two seventh-placed finishes in Ligue 1 preceded one of Lens' greatest-ever seasons, when they finished as runners-up - just one point behind Paris Saint-Germain - and qualified for the Champions League for only the third time which, unsurprisingly, saw him win Manager of the Year. Haise then departed for Nice in the summer of 2024, before he was sacked just after Christmas 2025.

He was only out of work for a matter of weeks, however, with Rennes appointing him on 18 February.



BEST JOB EVER?? Pizza lover wanted

From National Pizza Awards

The **National Pizza Awards** is searching for one lucky pizza fanatic to join the judging panel at this year's grand final in London.

The catch? You'll need to sample 16 of the UK's best pizzas in a single day as chefs battle it out for the coveted National Pizza of the Year title. A tough gig, but someone's got to do it...

To be in with a chance, simply tag your favourite pizza place in our Instagram competition post. If they enter the awards and make it through to the final cook-off, you'll be entered into a draw to become our guest judge this November.

Think your local pizzeria has what it takes? Back them, get tagging, and you could find yourself helping crown the UK's pizza champion. **Instagram** post [here](#).

Pizza operators: if you're tagged by one of your loyal customers, head to nationalpizzaawards.co.uk to enter the awards (it's completely free). We can't wait to hear about your signature pizza.



Self-Driving 'Robotaxis' in London 'Worrying Development'

From GMB Union

GMB Union, which represents thousands of private hire drivers in London, has today [5 August] reacted to TfL's decision to grant minicab licenses to autonomous vehicles used by Uber.



Matthew Wright, GMB Regional Organiser, said:

"This is a worrying development for our private hire driver members.

"We can't go charging ahead with new technologies without considering the implications of autonomous vehicles on all parties.

"For drivers; how will they be supported to reskill and redeploy if their jobs go? How will society cope with the lost tax revenue and potential increases in unemployment?

"For the public, how will their safety be impacted? Who is liable for accidents? What implications are there for disabled passengers?

"And for passengers, driverless cars cannot replace the knowledge, experience, and human connection that a skilled driver offers.

"GMB urges TfL to proceed with extreme caution."



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