

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



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TickerTape - News in Brief

Join the Squad: Thamesians Women's Rugby invites new players to the pitch

From Thamesians Women's Rugby

Looking to try something new, get fit, and join a fantastic group of local women? Thamesians Women's Rugby Team is recruiting new players across the borough for the upcoming season, and they'd love for you to join the squad!

Over the past year, their team has grown rapidly, welcoming more than 15 new players. They are an ambitious, inclusive, and supportive group of women (ages 18+) of all abilities. Whether you've played for years, are returning after a break, or have never held a rugby ball in your life, there is a place for you here. You don't need to be the fastest or strongest player on the pitch - commitment, enthusiasm, and a willingness to give it a go are what matter most.

They work hard on the pitch, but the vibrant community off the pitch is just as important. Highlights from the recent season include a summer tour to Paris - where an intense heatwave turned their match against RC Suresnes Femmes into an afternoon of barbecues and water fights - and upcoming squad outings to see the Red Roses take on New Zealand. From themed social nights to casual pub meetups, you'll gain a whole new circle of friends alongside a great sport!

Come down to a session, meet the team, and see what they're all about!

Weekly Training Sessions:

- **Tuesdays** (Technical & S&C): 7 to 8.30pm at Performance Education Centre, St Mary's University, TW1 4SX
- **Thursdays** (Tactical & Team Run): 7 to 9pm at Orleans Park School, TW1 3BB
- **Sundays** (Forwards & Backs): 10am to 12pm at Twickenham RFC, TW12 3PE

Find out more about [Thamesians Women's Rugby](#).



The Tree Agency

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The Tree Agency

The Local Picture Postcard Page - Part 342

Pearce Newsagents - 16, King St, Twickenham – Part 4

By Alan Winter

This week we look at the final two postcards in the 10 series set published by Pearce Newsagents in the mid 1950s. We can see from our first image this week that the 1957 posted reverse confirms both the time period and the publisher.

So, postcard number TW9 is titled Radnor Gardens, Twickenham and shows the memorial statue.



One hundred and eight years ago – on November 11 1918, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month – millions of men laid down their guns.

This was Armistice Day, the end of the First World War. Armistice Day – later known as Remembrance Day, has since been commemorated every year.

There are many memorial monuments to the fallen of this Great War throughout Europe and a high number of them have found their way onto picture postcards over the years. The two postcards featured this week are of postcards published in the 1920's following the erection of the First World War memorial erected in Radnor Gardens, Strawberry Hill Twickenham in 1921. The memorial is the principal public work by sculptor Mortimer Brown and faces south. It was

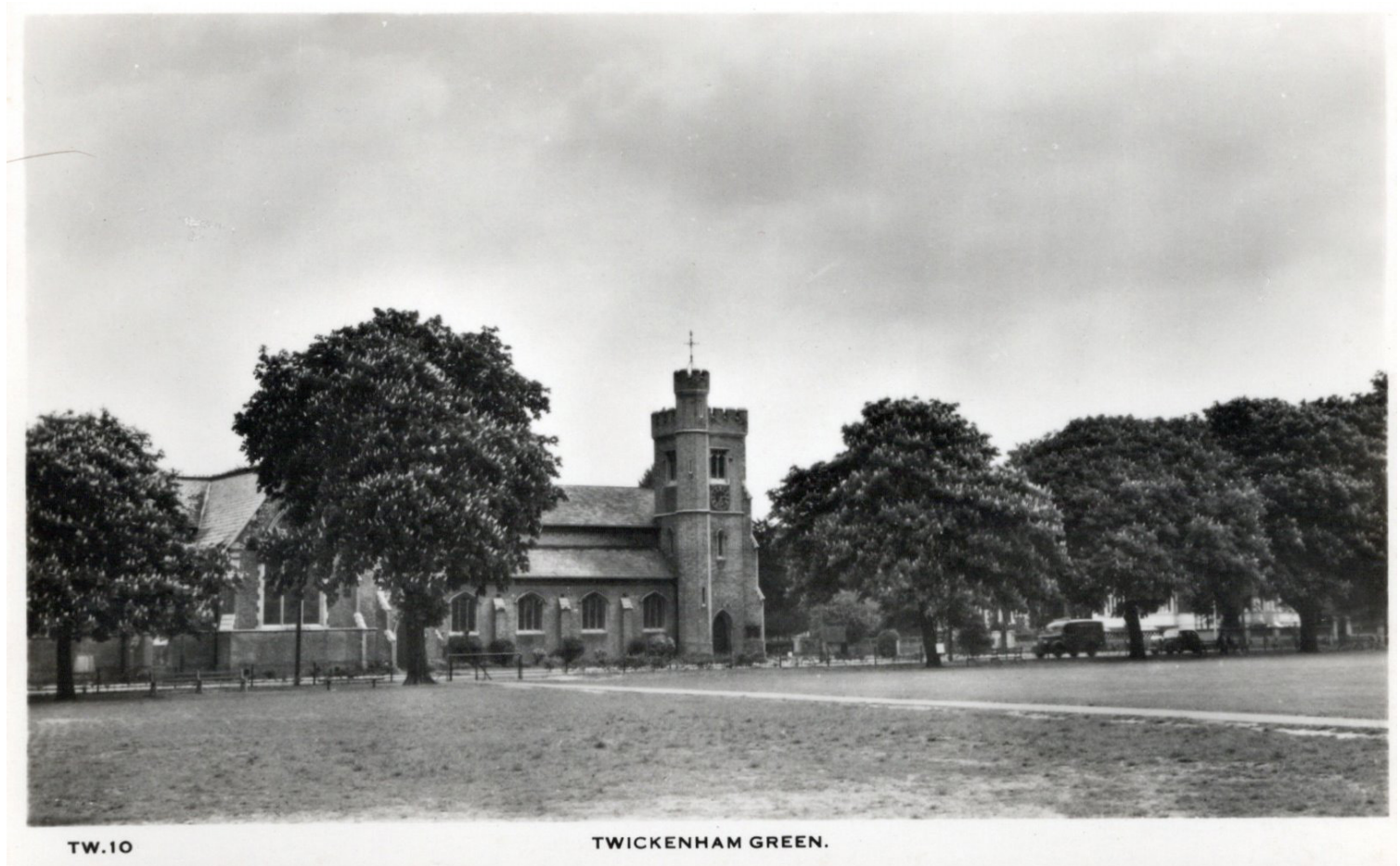
sited to form a focal point of a vista from the Royal Star and Garter Home on Richmond Hill to the north-east.

The monument consists of a bronze figure of a soldier on a Portland Stone plinth, with three panels of low relief sculpture and a coat of arms, also in bronze. The summit figure is shown marching forward, waving his hat in one hand, rifle in the other, clearly returning home victorious. There is a sense of movement in the figure, his coat swirling open, and some success at conveying an idea of jauntiness in his stride. He is shown smiling, always difficult in sculpture, and perhaps having lost something with the years and the patina the bronze has acquired.

One of the panels shows two sailors on the bridge of their ship, one pointing forward, the other looking through his binoculars. In the foreground we see the head and shoulders of a further sailor. The second panel shows three airmen, two shaking hands, with the propeller of an aircraft seen behind. The third panel shows two women, one of whom is clearly a nurse, and a motor car behind. The commemorative text is to both the soldiers of Twickenham in the First World War, and, added later, the Second World War.

The sculptor, Mortimer Brown, lived to a ripe old age. He died in his early 90s in 1966.

Our second postcard this week which is also the final one in the Pearce series is titled TW10. Twickenham Green.



Twickenham Green once formed part of the common land of Hounslow Heath. Development around this part of the common began in the 18th century. Although some cottages do

survive from this period, most development dates from the 19th century, including the listed Holy Trinity Church built in 1840-1 by George Basevi. The green was enclosed in 1818 and subsequently sold to Twickenham Town Council in the 1860s for use as a public recreational space. The trees fringing the green were planted in 1872.

There has been relatively little development in modern times. Character Twickenham Green conservation area is formed around the important historic open recreational space of Twickenham Green. The busy Hampton and Staines Roads and the more sedate First Cross Road define the distinctive triangular shape of the green. It is edged with mature trees and a rail fence. It is anchored at each corner by the prominent features of a pavilion to the South, listed telephone boxes to the North and the group of a water pump, trough and former toilets now bistro to the West, a group which also terminates the westward view along Heath Road. The green is enclosed by a diverse collection of fine buildings.

The varied facades, materials and roofscape of these buildings add great interest to this area and provide an important encircling skyline to the green. Key Buildings include Twickenham Baptist Church, Congregational Church and the landmark Gothic Holy Trinity Church and tower. On the South side is the important unspoilt group of Apsley Villas, large paired houses of stucco under shallow slate roofs set in large garden plots behind consistent front boundary walls and built in the 1840s.

Other grand Victorian villas, this time in red brick, continue to the West in substantial gardens. The buildings along Hampton Road form the approach to the green from the South West. The materials, style and scale of buildings is varied, and include no.24 with its distinctive dutch gable and castellation and the ornate Victorian public house – The Prince Albert.

The North side displays the greatest mix of activities and building types, including residential, commercial and industrial uses. The character of these buildings is varied, however they are generally of a larger two to three storey scale and are closely packed with a building line close to the back of the footway. The use of brick and slate for roofs provides some unity here. These buildings include a number of fine traditional shopfronts.

The Prince Blucher public house guards the North West gateway to the green. To the North, May and Albion Roads are characterised by tightly packed terraced houses either set behind small front gardens or opening directly on to the footway. There is an important view down May Road towards Holy Trinity Church across the green.

This concludes the 10 postcards in the set published by Pearce Newsagents in the 1950's.

I still haven't found or even seen a copy of number 6 and so if anyone is able to send or email me a copy of it, we can feature it here. Thanks. alanwinter192@hotmail.com

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Thames Racing Tradition

By Doug Goodman

On Tuesday the world's oldest boat race took place from London Bridge to Chelsea's Cadogan pier, a distance of over four miles. The Doggett's Coat and Badge wager was established in 1715 and has been contested for more than 300 years by watermen and lightermen. The race is organised by The Fishmongers' Company and the Company of Watermen and Lightermen of The River Thames. The three competitors who took part in this very tough race were Callum Howard, Jack Finelli and Charlie Milward followed and umpired by Bobby Prentice The Bargemaster.



The competition combines heritage and pageantry and provided a great spectacle for enthusiasts following the three scullers in a fleet of boats and for those assembled on the eleven bridges under which the race passed.





Winner of The Doggett's Coat and Badge race was 21 year old Callum Howard with Jack Finelli a close second and Charlie Milward in third place. The City of London's prestigious award – the Red Coat and Silver Badge will be cherished by Callum.



Three competitors celebrate. L-r Jack Finelli, Callum Howard and Charlie Milward

The winner in orange shirt Callum Howard with Jack Finelli who came second

Historical note: Fred Hammerton of Hammerton's Ferry was a winner of The Doggett's Coat and Badge race and was killed on Twickenham Riverside in 1944 by a V1 rocket.

Government Tax Inspectors Could Come Calling at Twickenham Homes

By Jonathan Hulley



Conservative MPs have uncovered details of Labour's proposed High Value Council Tax Surcharge which could see government inspectors entering homes valued at more than £1.5 million as part of the process of identifying properties liable for the new tax. Homeowners who obstruct the valuation process could face fines and potentially criminal penalties.

The tax itself, commonly referred to as a "mansion tax", would apply to homes valued at £2 million or more, with annual charges ranging from £2,500 to £7,500. But the valuation exercise would cast a considerably wider net, potentially bringing inspectors to the doors of homeowners whose properties ultimately fall below the tax threshold.

That distinction matters particularly in Twickenham. A £1.5 million property here is not necessarily anyone's idea of a mansion. It may simply be a medium-sized family home bought many years ago whose value has risen with the London property market.

That is why the Conservative description of this as a **Family Home Tax** may prove rather closer to the reality than the reassuring label of a mansion tax.

When the Tax Inspector Calls

The Parliamentary Questions have revealed just how intrusive the valuation process could become. Ministers confirmed that homeowners in properties valued at more than £1.5 million may be contacted by the Valuation Office to arrange visits.

Internal inspections may be required when the characteristics of a property cannot otherwise be established, with officers gathering information, including its size, architectural style and the number of floors, rooms, bedrooms and bathrooms.

There are consequences for those who do not cooperate. Intentionally delaying or obstructing a valuation officer can attract a £200 fine, while failing without reasonable excuse to provide requested information can result in a fine of up to £500. Parliamentary answers cited by The Telegraph also make clear that failure to provide information required by law can ultimately become a criminal matter.

When these details emerged, Conservative MPs were scathing. Mel Stride described the proposals as a “sinister assault on civil liberties”, while Sir James Cleverly warned that families and pensioners could face inspectors “snooping around” their gardens and homes to establish whether they would be liable for the tax.

Why This Matters in Twickenham

For people in Twickenham, this is not an abstract debate. Tax Policy Associates estimates that around 1,394 homes in the constituency could already be caught by the new tax. It says its figures are approximate and may in fact underestimate the number affected.

That number could also grow. The Government plans to revalue homes every five years, with the next revaluation due in 2033. That matters particularly in Twickenham, where house prices have risen faster over the long term than the national average.

Families living in homes below the £2 million threshold today could therefore find themselves drawn into the tax later, even though their incomes have not risen at anything like the same rate. Someone who bought an ordinary family house decades ago could find themselves facing an increasingly extraordinary tax bill simply because of what has happened to property prices around them.

There is another potential consequence. Homeowners approaching the threshold may start to think twice about improving their properties. An extension, conservatory or major refurbishment may make a family home more comfortable, but it can also increase its value.

For someone close to the threshold, improving their home could eventually push them into a higher tax bracket. A tax system should not leave families wondering whether installing a new bathroom or extending their home could prove to be an unexpectedly costly decision.

The £2 Million Cliff Edge

The tax also creates a sharp financial dividing line between a home valued just below £2 million and one valued just above it.

A buyer considering a property on the wrong side of that line is not simply buying a slightly more valuable house. They could also be taking on an additional annual tax bill of at least £2,500, rising with inflation.

That is likely to affect what some purchasers are prepared to pay for homes around the

threshold. For owners who have recently bought with large mortgages, even relatively small changes in property values can have a significant effect on the equity they hold.

Once again, those affected will not necessarily resemble the popular image of a mansion owner. They may simply be families who have stretched themselves to buy a home in an expensive part of London and find themselves on the wrong side of an arbitrary tax boundary.

Richmond Liberal Democrats Helped Beat the Drum

There is a particular local irony in all of this.

The mansion tax was originally championed by Sir Vince Cable when he was the Liberal Democrat MP for Twickenham and became one of his party's signature policies. The underlying argument was that people living in more valuable homes should make a substantially greater contribution through property taxation.

That argument has continued under Richmond's Liberal Democrat administration. In June 2025, Council Leader Gareth Roberts publicly complained that the Government had failed to reform Council Tax, describing the existing system as "deeply unfair".

For years, Richmond Liberal Democrats have argued that higher-value homes should shoulder a greater tax burden. Residents can now see what that principle may mean in practice: regular revaluations, substantial annual surcharges and, for some families, government inspectors asking to come inside their homes.

Richmond Council itself estimates that around 5,730 homes in the borough could be subject to the surcharge, while acknowledging that many affected residents may have lived in those properties for decades as their incomes remained flat or fell.

That exposes the fundamental problem with using the paper value of somebody's home as a proxy for their ability to pay.

More Than Another Tax Rise

There is a long-standing belief in this country that our home is our castle: a private space where government power should be exercised only with the greatest restraint.

Labour's Family Home Tax is therefore about more than another tax rise. It could bring government inspectors into thousands of homes that are not even liable for the tax, penalise families whose only good fortune has been to live in the same house for many years, discourage people from improving their properties and drag more homeowners into its scope through future revaluations.

For many people in Twickenham, these are not mansions. They are family homes.

Twickenham Conservatives will continue to oppose Labour's Family Home Tax and defend local homeowners, property rights and the privacy of the family home.



Riverside Walks

illustrated guided walks from

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JUST EAT

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Mayor invites residents to charity wine tasting evening at York House

From Mayor of Richmond upon Thames

Residents are invited to join the Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Councillor Nancy Baldwin, for an evening of wine tasting at York House this September, raising money for two local charities, Cocoon Care After Care and Skylarks.

Hosted by Doran Wines, the fundraising event will take place in the [Salon at York House in Twickenham](#) - a popular wedding venue which has been newly refurbished.

Guests will have the opportunity to enjoy a curated selection of wines and nibbles while supporting two organisations making a real difference in the borough.

A charity raffle on the night will have a range of prizes on offer, helping to raise more funds for the Mayor's chosen charities.

The Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Councillor Nancy Baldwin, said: *"I am excited to invite residents to join me for what promises to be a wonderful evening of wine tasting."*



"This event is a fantastic opportunity to come together, enjoy some excellent wines and support two remarkable charities that provide vital help to children, young people and families across our borough. I hope residents will join us in raising a glass for these important causes."

The Mayor's chosen charities for 2026/27 are Cocoon Care After Care and Skylarks. Cocoon Care After Care supports care-experienced young adults as they transition to independent living, helping to reduce isolation and overcome practical, emotional and financial barriers. Skylarks provides vital services, activities and support for children and young people with additional needs, and their families, helping them to thrive within their community.

Event details

- **Date:** Saturday 26 September 2026
- **Time:** 6.30pm to 8.30pm
- **Location:** The Salon, York House, Richmond Road, Twickenham, TW1 3AA

Tickets cost £27 per person (includes wine tasting and light refreshments)
All proceeds from the evening will support the Mayor's charities.

[Find out more and book](#)

Ed Davey Opens Door to Another Lib Dem Conservative Coalition

By James Knight

Liberal Democrat leader's change of position raises awkward questions for tactical voters in Richmond and Twickenham

Sir Ed Davey has opened the door to another Liberal Democrat Conservative coalition after the next General Election, despite previously saying that he had spent his political life fighting the Conservatives and that his task as leader was to remove them from government.



Edward Davey ©House of Commons

The Liberal Democrat leader told BBC Radio 5 Live that he agreed with Kemi Badenoch that the next election could produce a hung Parliament. He then pointedly drew attention to his own experience of coalition government, saying: "I'm the party leader with most experience of how you manage that sort of situation for our country. And I want my party to be in government."

Asked about possible partners, Sir Ed explicitly ruled out Reform UK, arguing that it would be odd to spend years fighting Nigel Farage's party only to do a deal with it afterwards. But he did not impose the same prohibition on either Labour or the Conservatives. When pressed on whether he would talk to anyone apart from Reform, he declined to narrow the field further.

A clear change from 2024

That is a notable change from the position Sir Ed adopted before the last General Election. Asked in 2024 whether he would enter a coalition with Rishi Sunak's Conservatives, he was unequivocal: "No. I've spent all my life fighting the Conservatives." He went further, saying that when he became Liberal Democrat leader he had made it clear that his job was to get the Conservatives out of government.

Two years later, he is no longer offering the same categorical assurance.

Sir Ed subsequently attempted to play down the suggestion that another Conservative coalition was being contemplated, writing that it made "zero sense to work for years to beat Reform and the Conservatives just to put either of them in power". Yet that intervention did not remove the ambiguity created by his original comments, particularly as he had ruled out Reform in explicit terms while refusing to do the same with the Conservatives.

Unease inside the Liberal Democrats

The remarks have already caused discomfort within his own parliamentary party. One Liberal Democrat MP told the Mail on Sunday: “I thought he would have learnt from the mistakes from when we last went into coalition with the Tories.”

Another said it had taken “the best part of a decade” for the party to recover from the political consequences of the 2010 to 2015 coalition and added that they did not believe anyone in the parliamentary party would be happy to repeat the experience.

That reaction matters because the Liberal Democrats themselves know how damaging the previous coalition proved. The party entered government with David Cameron in 2010 with 57 MPs. Five years later it was reduced to eight, losing former strongholds across the country, including Twickenham, where Sir Vince Cable was defeated by Conservative Tania Mathias.

Questions over Davey’s leadership

Sir Ed’s intervention also comes at a sensitive moment for his leadership. Despite the Liberal Democrats’ record result at the 2024 General Election, discontent has been growing among some of his MPs over the party’s political direction and its failure to establish a sufficiently distinctive national message.

In January, the Guardian reported that significant numbers of Liberal Democrat MPs were frustrated with Sir Ed’s cautious approach, with one describing morale as low and another saying there were “penetrating questions being asked about our purpose and where we are going”. Some MPs had already identified the 2026 local elections as an important test of whether the party could translate its parliamentary breakthrough into broader support.

The results produced successes in Liberal Democrat strongholds, including Richmond, but did not deliver the broader breakthrough in Britain’s cities that the party had hoped for. That leaves Sir Ed facing a familiar strategic problem: whether the Liberal Democrats remain primarily a highly effective local campaigning machine concentrated in particular parts of the country, or can establish a sufficiently clear national identity to compete in an increasingly fragmented political system.

His decision to raise the prospect of a hung Parliament, emphasise his experience of coalition and declare that he wants the Liberal Democrats back in government therefore comes against a wider debate within his party about what it now stands for and where it goes next.

Why it matters in Richmond and Twickenham

The issue has particular resonance locally because Liberal Democrat success in Richmond and Twickenham has depended not only on committed Liberal Democrat voters, but also on people prepared to vote tactically in order to defeat Conservatives.

After the Richmond Park by election in 2016, the Financial Times identified tactical voting by Labour supporters as crucial to the Liberal Democrats’ prospects of further gains in south west London, including the recovery of Twickenham. One Liberal Democrat activist also remarked that the damaging “coalition effect” was finally beginning to fade.

That reliance on cooperation across the progressive vote was reinforced by the electoral

understanding between Richmond's Liberal Democrats and Greens, who avoided competing against each other in selected wards at successive council elections. That arrangement ended before the 2026 local elections, when the Liberal Democrats contested the former Green seats and went on to win every seat on Richmond Council.

Sir Ed's comments now introduce a different uncertainty. A Labour or Green supporter considering lending their vote to a Liberal Democrat candidate in order to keep out a Conservative can no longer point to the same unequivocal assurance that was offered before the last General Election.

Coalition arithmetic returns

The question has become more pressing because Sir Ed himself believes a hung Parliament is increasingly plausible. He has also chosen to remind voters that he has more experience of coalition government than any other current party leader and has made clear that he wants the Liberal Democrats back in government.

The Conservatives have sought to close the door from their side. Kevin Hollinrake, the Tory chairman, dismissed the Liberal Democrats as "not a serious party" and said Kemi Badenoch had repeatedly made clear that the Conservatives would not do deals with other parties.

But that does not resolve the question created by Sir Ed's remarks. Governments formed after hung Parliaments are shaped by arithmetic as much as rhetoric, and circumstances after an election can look very different from those before it.

What would voting Lib Dem mean?

There is nothing constitutionally improper about coalition government. If voters return a hung Parliament, political parties have a responsibility to determine whether a stable administration can be formed. Compromise is sometimes part of democratic government.

The difficulty for the Liberal Democrats is that much of their electoral appeal in places such as Richmond and Twickenham has rested on something rather simpler: vote Liberal Democrat to keep the Conservatives out. Before the last election, Sir Ed could reinforce that proposition by ruling out a Conservative coalition altogether. Today he is unwilling to give the same guarantee. He has ruled out Reform. He has not ruled out Labour. And, unlike in 2024, he has not ruled out the Conservatives.

For tactical voters in Richmond and Twickenham, that leaves a question which may become increasingly difficult for local Liberal Democrats to avoid.

Perhaps no coalition will be necessary and perhaps the Conservatives would refuse one in any event. But Sir Ed himself has raised the prospect of a hung Parliament, reminded voters of his experience in coalition and declared that he wants the Liberal Democrats back in government. For voters in Richmond and Twickenham, the question is therefore no longer simply whom a Liberal Democrat vote keeps out. It is whom that vote might ultimately help put in.





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www.TwickenhamTribune.com 4th September 2026 - Page 19 A newspaper for Richmond upon Thames

Discover, explore and be inspired at Richmond Reads 2026

From Richmond Council

The popular Richmond Reads season of events is returning this September. Join us to discover new authors, explore different genres and broaden your reading horizons.

Richmond Reads brings together authors, readers and communities across the borough with a line-up of talks, discussions, workshops and creative activities. Join us to celebrate books, spark conversation and inspire new reading discoveries.

This year's programme will highlight acclaimed authors, family-

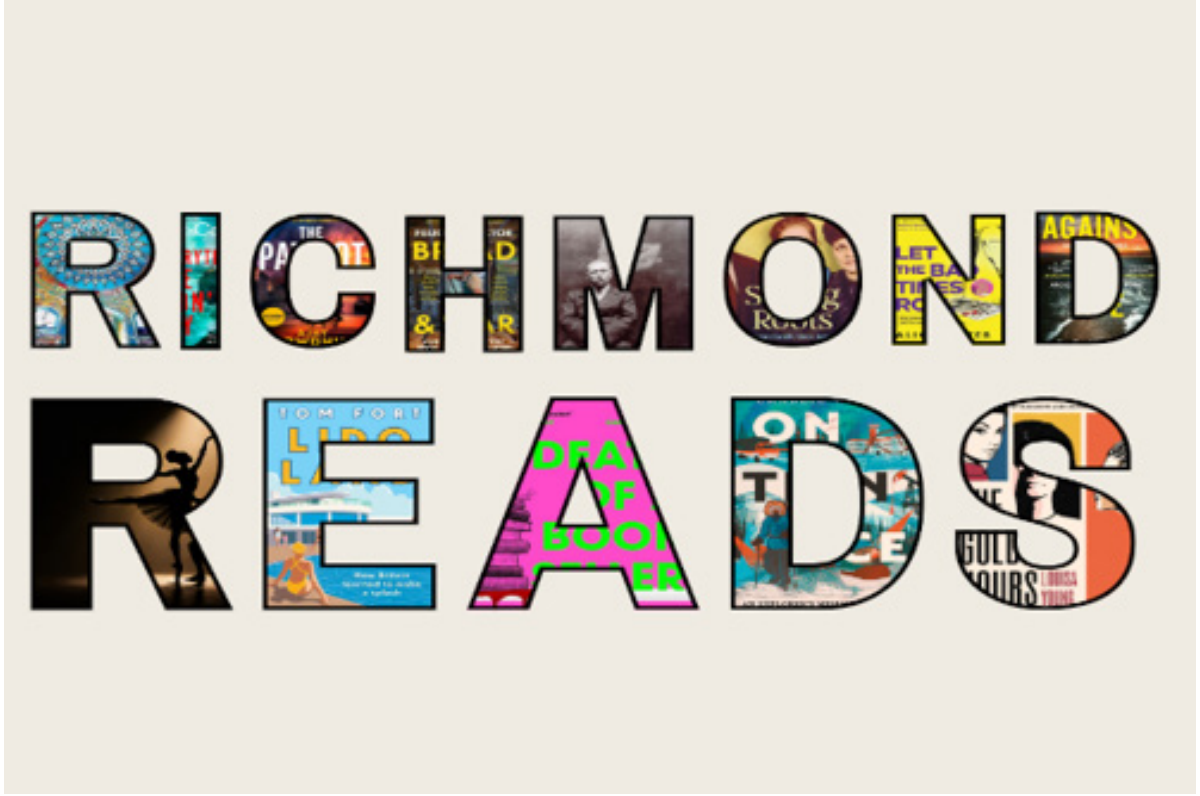
friendly events and opportunities for aspiring writers, alongside innovative experiences that bring stories to life in unexpected ways.

From Friday 4 September, get ready for a packed programme, including:

- A special event exploring The Cazalet Chronicles and the enduring legacy of Elizabeth Jane Howard
- Publishing panel discussions featuring leading industry professionals
- Non-fiction events covering topics from Britain's historic lidos and Siberian exploration to the culinary heritage of Ukraine
- An interactive family dance session with professional ballet dancers
- A scent-inspired workshop exploring memory, emotion and place in literature
- Creative writing workshops, interactive experiences and hands-on activities that inspire imagination, creativity and storytelling for all ages

Read the [full Richmond Reads programme](#).

Our libraries are also taking part in the worldwide [Silent Book Club movement](#), offering readers the chance to enjoy dedicated reading time in a relaxed and welcoming environment.





OPEN DAY

Twickenham Fire Station

Sunday, 6 September 2026 12pm–4pm

- Your chance to meet your Twickenham firefighters and get fire safety advice.
- See our latest fire and rescue service equipment.
- Plus lots of fun activities for children and families!

30 South Road Twickenham Middlesex TW2 5NT



Next Week at Richmond Council

By James Knight



Three major committees meet at Richmond Council next week, bringing some of the borough's bigger political choices over transport, housing and SEND into focus.

Monday: Transport and Air Quality

Richmond is replacing its Active Travel Strategy with a new Walking and Cycling Strategy, alongside another phase of School Streets and proposals for a Lane Rental Scheme.

The new title sounds more pragmatic, with welcome emphasis on better pavements, crossings and cycling infrastructure. Walking and cycling have also increased substantially in Richmond. But has the policy changed as much as the language? The Council still wants to make walking and cycling the “preferred choice of travel” and explicitly encourages a shift away from cars.

Supporters will see healthier streets, less congestion and cleaner air. Others may welcome better alternatives while questioning whether the Council should try to change people's behaviour, particularly in outer London, where many residents still depend on cars. School Streets illustrate the divide. The Council points to safer roads around schools, while critics worry about displaced traffic, restrictions and ANPR enforcement. The coming consultation should reveal whether Richmond is adopting a more pragmatic transport policy or simply giving the old approach a less controversial name.

Monday 7 September, 7.00 pm

York House, Twickenham

For the papers & webcast, click [HERE](#)

Tuesday: Adult Social Services, Health and Housing

Tuesday brings a different problem: how to allocate something of which there simply isn't enough. The Council is reviewing its Housing Allocations Scheme, which determines who qualifies for social housing and who receives priority.

There are legitimate arguments about local connection, need and fairness. But changing the rules largely redistributes scarcity: giving greater priority to one household can mean another waiting longer. Some will therefore focus on ensuring that a scarce public resource goes to those with the greatest need and strongest claims. Others will argue that continually reorganising the queue does nothing about the fundamental shortage of affordable and social housing.

The harder question is whether Richmond has a credible long-term plan to reduce that scarcity while providing new homes in appropriate places and with the infrastructure communities need. The committee will also consider Adult Social Care, safeguarding, complaints and housing association performance.

Tuesday 8 September, 7.00 pm

York House, Twickenham

For the papers & webcast, click [HERE](#)

Thursday: Education and Children's Services

SEND may present the most difficult choices of the week. Richmond wants more children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities supported locally, including through specialist provision within mainstream schools. There are good arguments for excellent provision closer to home, and 101 new places are due to open at Clarendon and Strathmore.

But there is a major financial backdrop. Richmond forecasts a SEND funding shortfall of around £11 million this year, and its report says greater mainstream inclusion could provide "more affordable education provision."

That creates understandable parental concern that financial pressure could influence where children are educated.

Parent representatives have already raised concerns that specialist units could become segregated spaces within mainstream schools. Others will argue that the existing system is financially unsustainable, that national funding is inadequate, and that good local provision can produce better outcomes while costing less. The test should ultimately be straightforward: is the new provision better for the individual child, or merely cheaper?

Thursday 10 September, 7.00 pm

York House, Twickenham

For the papers & webcast, click [HERE](#)

Great Value at Sam's

I wrote about my delicious dinner at **Sam's Waterside** in Brentford a couple of years ago, shortly after it opened.

I was tempted back recently, though, when I heard reports of its excellent value set menu...

It was a gloriously sunny day but slightly windy, so on arrival we decided to eat indoors, rather than on the nice terrace. We still had great views of the boats moored nearby, while I sipped my Campari spritz and my husband enjoyed a refreshing sparkling water.

I should start by saying what amazing value this set menu offers: two courses for £20 and three for £25. (with a veggie option at each) We were tempted to try the **Dorset Crab Toasts** (£15) that had been specially recommended and I'm glad we did - they were really delicious and a fabulous 'amuse bouche' that promised great things to follow. The three toast fingers of crispy sourdough had been generously piled with crab and sprinkled with subtle herbs - just the right amount to avoid detracting from the crab. They were on the pricey side, compared to the set menu, but with the amazing value of the rest of the meal, definitely worth it.

There is a choice of three starters and I opted for **Cured Sea Trout, Ponzu Dressing, Pickled Courgette, Edamame and Trout Roe**. My husband chose the **Chicken Liver Parfait with Cornichons and Sourdough Toast**.

My starter was delicious - the kitchen had forgotten to add the trout roe, but to be honest, it didn't need it. It was light, refreshing, very tasty and the ideal starter on a sunny day. The Ponzu dressing added a delicate piquancy and the pickled courgettes were a new one to me (and one I'm going to try at home).

The chicken liver parfait was slightly 'wetter' than expected, but excellent, and deliciously rich. Again, perfectly finished with pea shoots, lettuce and radicchio.



I chose **Corn-Fed Chicken, Charred Corn, Black Garlic, Wild Mushroom and Poulette Sauce** for my main and my better half selected **Pan Fried Mackerel, Roasted & Pickled Beetroot, Horseradish Creme Fraiche**.

Sauteed Green Beans with Toasted Almonds as a side dish and, of course, a portion of **French Fries** for my husband.

The chicken was deliciously moist and a generous breast fillet. The black garlic was a 'ketchup' and added interest, together with the charred corn. A grilled shallot added further texture and flavour. The green beans were crispy and the perfect accompaniment. This was a plate of food that I would have expected to cost considerably more, and it was a surprise to find such quality in a set menu.

The mackerel fillet had a beautifully crisp skin and the beets - a mix of pickled and roast - were an earthy and great pairing. My husband felt that the horseradish, while softened by the creme fraiche, was rather too strong and harsh for the delicate mackerel (but of course, it's up to the customer to add it as desired, as it was served alongside).



For dessert, **Strawberry Eton Mess** appealed to my husband and I was tempted by the **Vanilla Creme Brulee**. The Eton Mess was attractively presented in a glass, and the strawberries had been diced and marinated in a delicious syrup. The Creme Brulee was, as expected, very rich, but the perfect, dinky size with a crisp topping. It was well worth those extra calories!



I had enjoyed with my meal a glass of the lovely house white - a **Viognier Deakin Estate, Victoria, Australia 2005** (£9.50) that showcased the skill of Sam's sommelier.

Reader, I'd urge you to check out this set menu - which as well as lunch, is also available for early dinner Tuesday - Thursday from 5-6.30 - so ideal for pre cinema. It really does offer superb value and exemplary service and ambience.

Incidentally, Sam's is now open for breakfast every day with an interesting selection of breakfast choices. Check out the menus at www.samswaterside.co.uk

Ottolenghi Simple Too

Hey, fellow Ottolenghi fans, I have some great news for you ... there's a new book just published: **Ottolenghi SIMPLE TOO** - and it's really fabulous!

For the three million home cooks around the world who loved Ottolenghi SIMPLE, **Yotam** and his co-author, test kitchen colleague **Verena Lochmuller**, set themselves the task to further pair down processes and ingredient lists, while keeping the vibrant, multi-layered, surprising signature flavours. Many of the dishes, such as Braised halloumi with tomatoes and beans, or Smoky tomato and feta prawns, are made in one baking tray, with no preparation at all, ready to put on the table in about 30 minutes. They're for feeding family and friends or just yourselves; classics reimagined the Ottolenghi way using flavour-enhancing ingredients such as za'atar, tahini, harissa and garlic. Whatever your barriers to cooking, this book brings you into the kitchen with a promise that even the simplest of meals can be full of flavour and joy. So stop, take a minute or two, listen to the soup bubble or the egg crackle... and discover the pleasure of keeping things SIMPLE TOO.

Ottolenghi SIMPLE TOO



"SIMPLE TOO is an extension of SIMPLE, but the two years I spent working on it also felt like a response to where our lives are right now, in this noisy and bustling world; a world full of options that can sometimes feel distracting or numbing. We wanted to carve out a space that allows people to relax a little more in the kitchen, to use the pantry they've already built and the knowledge they already have." says Ottolenghi.

The book is published by Ebury, at £30 for a glorious hardback - one that is sure to be a top seller this Christmas. Photography is by Jonathan Lovekin.

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

Breakfast Potatoes - Serves 6

Prep time: 10 minutes, Cook time: 1 hour 5 minutes

"This is a combination of two great Spanish potato dishes: patatas a lo pobre (poor man's potatoes) and huevos rotos (broken eggs). Traditionally both fried, here we bake: not to be virtuous, it's just easy. One tray, one mandoline (if you have one, it makes light work of slicing the potatoes and shallots), and you have easily fed a crowd."

- 1kg Yukon Gold, Maris Piper (or other floury) potatoes, unpeeled and thinly sliced
- 2 red peppers, deseeded and thinly sliced (300g)
- 4 oregano sprigs
- 3 large banana shallots, thinly sliced (200g)
- 1 head of garlic, top 1cm removed



- 1 tsp sweet smoked paprika
- 150ml olive oil
- 6 eggs
- fine sea salt and black pepper

1. Preheat the oven to 190°C fan.
2. Put everything apart from the eggs on a large baking tray (about 28cm x 40cm x 4cm), along with 1¼ teaspoons of salt and plenty of pepper. Mix together well and bake for 30 minutes.
3. Remove from the oven, turn everything over and bake for another 30 minutes (turning the vegetables over again halfway through), until the potatoes are soft and jammy and the peppers and shallots are frazzled. Remove from the oven, squeeze the garlic cloves out of their skins and fold them through.
4. Crack the eggs into a jug, season with a pinch of salt and some pepper, then lightly break with a fork: just enough to burst the yolks. Create a few small pockets in the potato mixture, then pour in the eggs.
5. Return to the oven for 5 minutes, or until the eggs are just cooked through.

Fennel, grape and olive tarte Tatin - Serves 6–8

Prep time: 10 minutes, Cook time: 1 hour 15 minutes

“If you think that a bowl of mixed nuts is more than enough to welcome your guests before dinner or a party, or that you’re definitely not the kind of person who might serve a homemade savoury tart to go alongside drinks, please think again! This looks sophisticated and you might think complicated, but it’s easy (really!). Serve cut into squares as a snack or as a light dinner option, with a leafy salad.”

- 4 fennel bulbs, trimmed, halved lengthways and cut into 3cm wedges (750g)
- 2 tsp fennel seeds, lightly crushed
- 100g red seedless grapes
- 80ml maple syrup
- 85g unsalted butter, cut into small cubes
- 75g pitted Kalamata (or other black) olives
- 325g sheet of ready-rolled all-butter puff pastry
- fine sea salt and black pepper

1. Preheat the oven to 230°C fan.
2. Put the fennel, fennel seeds, grapes, maple syrup, butter, 1½ teaspoons of salt and lots of pepper on to a parchment-lined 23cm x 32cm shallow baking tray, making sure the paper is slightly larger than the tray, and mix together. Bake for 40–45 minutes until starting to catch around the edges, turning the fennel over halfway through, then remove from the oven.
3. Reduce the temperature to 200°C fan, stir in the olives and place the puff pastry on top, tucking the edges in as much as you can. Use a knife to make 4 or 5 small slits in the pastry (to let the steam escape) and bake for 25–30 minutes, until puffed and golden brown. Leave to rest for 2–3 minutes, then invert on to a serving platter or wooden board, cut into squares and serve.



Extracted from Ottolenghi Simple Too by Yotam Ottolenghi and Verena Lochmuller

Ambridge Fun in Wimbledon

Pay attention Archers fans: the show is on the road: **The Archers: Live at 75**

And as it was on in Wimbledon this week, I couldn't resist going along to check it out. Touring for another couple of months till November 2026, this brand-new live production is bringing the beloved iconic radio drama out of the studio and onto stages across the UK. It's hosted by comedian and Archers devotee Angela Barnes, and each performance features a cast of four actors alongside Vanessa Nuttall, The Archers' live sound-effects specialist. Joining the tour are eight of Ambridge's most beloved voices and appearing for us in Wimbledon were Tim Bentinck (David Archer), Annabelle Dowler (Kirsty Miller), Charlotte Martin (Susan Carter) and Ben Norris (Ben Archer) known collectively as the tour's "Flower Cast".



First broadcast on 1st January 1951, The Archers is the world's longest-running radio drama. Broadcasting six times a week to millions of listeners, it follows the everyday lives, loves, and dramas of the residents of the fictional village of Ambridge, deep in the heart of Dorsetshire in the English countryside. Over the course of more than 20,000 episodes, the show has chronicled significant social and cultural changes in Britain, dealing with complex contemporary issues alongside the traditional rhythms of rural life, earning its place as a cornerstone of the British cultural landscape.



Today, it remains one of the BBC's most popular programmes and is currently the top on-demand show for listeners of all ages – as well as regularly topping the list of most popular on-demand programmes for listeners under 35 – on BBC Sounds.

Set within a playful reimagining of the Ambridge Flower & Produce Show, **The Archers: Live at 75** includes on-stage interviews, insider stories and gossip, live performances with live sound effects of specially written scenes created exclusively for the tour. It also shared archive treasures spanning seven decades from the BBC vaults, fascinating

demonstrations of the sound-effects artistry that brings the fields, kitchens and barns of Ambridge so vividly to life, audience questions and an interactive pub quiz straight out of The Bull.

There was a poignant tribute to the late Patricia (Paddy) Green, who played Jill Archer for 70 years, and sadly died this summer at the ripe age of 95. As well as being a stalwart of the show, she was apparently quite a playful and naughty member of the cast. Vanessa showed us some of her secrets, including the ancient metal ironing board that mimics a farm gate.

Among the audience were a number of other Archers actors, including Hugh Dennis who played the Father Crispin, with his wife, actor Claire Skinner.

I have to confess that while I thoroughly enjoyed the cast we had, I was slightly disappointed that it wasn't the other cast - the Produce Cast - as I'm such a fan of Lilian, Brian and Tracy. Of the four we had, I found Susan the most interesting, as Charlotte Martin has clearly had to alter her natural voice considerably to play this part.

The whole evening is great fun and is the 'icing on the lemon drizzle cake' for us Archer aficionados.

If you can catch one of the other shows, and you're an Archers addict, do go. Tickets and further info on the other shows at fane.co.uk/the-archers

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A GOOD DAY ON THE RIVER

Saturday 12th September

By Bruce Lyons

Just last Sunday as I sat on Richmond's wonderful Riverside with my new Girlfriend Virginia, I reminisced how lucky we were with this space and the wonderful Riverside views and the relaxing Embankment activity, music and more. And then I remembered that next week it is the Annual Great River Race again and this is perhaps the best spot to watch all the Rowers pass.



There will be over 170 boats with some 1,500 rowers in fixed seat rowing boats of all shapes and sizes, both Rowers and boats!!!



They will be tired by the time they get to Richmond as they have started at Greenwich/ Isle of Dogs some 20 miles downriver and finish just upstream on the high tide at Ham. They row through the wonderful City panorama and up thru Chelsea, Putney, Barnes and Isleworth. The fastest row it in just over 2 hrs but many - like me of old, take some 3hrs +, many rowing for Charity, but all enjoying this annual event.



As always there will be a party on the Towpath by Ham House around 16.00 hrs and if you fancy a day out following the race there are still spaces on the MV Connaught a River Boat taking up to 150 passengers, but it will have less than 100 on board - to make sure there is comfortable space. It will embark @ Mast House Pier (Isle of Dogs) @ 14.15 for departure @ 14.30

If you care to join you can come early to Millwall Slipway and watch the build up for the start of the 270+ boats preparing for the staggered starts. Tickets

are available from Crusader Travel £45.00 adults children under 16; 50% and infants free. Bring your own picnic, there are toilets and a pay bar.

Both Millwall Slipway and Mast House Pier are located off West Ferry Road (Isle of Dogs) . It is a rare opportunity to see the Waterfront of our city from the London Basin to our Arcadian Thames Stretch of Twickenham. You can reach this area by the Docklands Light Railway, if in doubt call me (02087440474)



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

The Tempest, A Semi-Opera

by William Shakespeare, music by Henry Purcell, Francois Couperin et al.

Vache Baroque and Out of Chaos at The Vache, Chalfont St Giles until 6th September

Shakespeare's *The Tempest* abounds in musical opportunities. Ariel is given songs to sing, and Caliban describes the Isle as 'full of noises'.

Semi-opera prioritises music in a combination of spoken text and musical interludes. However, it remains misconceived to lovers of full-fat opera: a self-sabotaging fudge that puts music and drama into separate boxes. The point of opera is that music and drama should confront and strike sparks from one other.

Even Prospero, Miranda and Ferdinand do not get any music to sing. This *Tempest* just about avoids the risk of the music being incidental to the drama, because Shakespeare provides so many musical cues. This hodgepodge version contains a lot of music from a huge number of different sources.



Nevertheless, talent, commitment, and good judgement ensure that all just about coheres. The musicians are involved in the performance, with the instrumentalists chasing characters off the stage and participating in the masques, while music director and harpsichordist Jonathan Darbourne also plays Gonzalo.

Given the prolonged drought, Gonzalo's, 'How lush and lusty the grass looks, how green!' inevitably wins laughter. Remarkably, then on press night the heavens opened with an extreme and prolonged downpour and we had a real-life tempest!

The tiny Vache Baroque Band, which has nowhere to hide, provides a very full attractive sound. Tim Delap, rescuing the role from the grumpy old man stereotype, is a refreshingly straightforward and direct Prospero, and Tré Medley and Leah Haile are an engaging pair of young lovers. Camila Seale and Ross Cumming as Stephano and Trinculo also sing in the masques and they do both extremely well. Stephanie Heshaw is a sweetly voiced Ariel. If Hannah Barrie makes less of an impact as Caliban, it's partly because the role's limited agency and sheer stupidity make it deeply unappealing.

Director Paul O'Mahony keeps everything unobtrusively on the move and Dan Samsa conjures a lightly executed soundscape that enhances the atmosphere but never distracts.

There is something really rather unusual about Vache Baroque: not just the enchanting setting, but their willingness to take the road less travelled and to think through their musical choices with such great care.

Read Patrick Shorrock's review at www.markaspen.com/2026/08/30/tempest-vache

Photography courtesy of Vache Baroque

Terry Pratchett's Elves and Witches at the Mary Wallace!

September 12th-19th

When evil elves attempt to take control of Elizabethan England, resistance is in the hands of an array of Discworld's most famous characters, supported by a very familiar and renowned playwright.



In THE SHAKESPEARE CODEX, to be performed at the Mary Wallace in September, Stephen Briggs blends Terry Pratchett's fantastical Discworld with Shakespeare's England to bring us a satirical and dazzling evening of sparkling improbability. A sure-fire "must see" for Pratchett-lovers.

THE SHAKESPEARE CODEX plays from September 12th to 19th - with a Matinee on Sunday 13th and a Captioned Performance on Thursday 17th.

Tickets available now at
www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk

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

Photo credit: Simone Sutton



HAMPTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Invites singers to come and try us out at our rehearsal on Tuesday 8th September 2026. We will be having our “first run through” of

Mozart Requiem

which we will sing at our concert on Saturday 28th November 2026

We rehearse every Tuesday at Teddington Methodist Church, Stanley Road, Teddington, TW11 8TP at 7.30 – 9.30pm.

This is an opportunity to find out if our friendly choir is for YOU!

Open to all enthusiastic singers, especially tenors and basses – no audition.



For more information, please go to our website –
www.hamptonchoral.org.uk

Or email: macdonald.avf61@gmail.com

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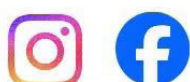
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Music, food and family fun at Moormead Community Picnic

From Moormead Community and Sports Pavilion

Meteorological summer may have ended, but the summer vibes continue in Moormead Park with the annual Community Picnic on Sunday 6 September from 11.30am to 3.30pm.

Bring a blanket, bring the family and enjoy an afternoon of live music, performances, games and great local food – including the chance to try your hand at camel racing!

Local performers include Marble Hill Dance School, Perrin Jazz Collective, Penny Lynch, Alex Driver and Joshua Jarvis, with food from Doughful Turkish Pancakes, Isaac's Coffee and Spice Up, plus candy floss, popcorn and ice cream.

The Moormead Community & Sports Pavilion volunteer team will also be there throughout the day with the latest news on plans for the new pavilion and what happens next.

Come along, meet friends and neighbours and enjoy a relaxed afternoon in the park.



Kew Gardens introduces new £10 Tuesday ticket this autumn



From Tuesday 8 September, a brand-new £10 ticket will allow visitors to explore all that Kew Gardens has to offer for less this autumn. Announced today, £10 Tuesdays will run weekly until Tuesday 29 December, enabling people to enjoy London's largest UNESCO World Heritage Site for less, broadening access to nature and making Kew Gardens more accessible for people of all ages and incomes.

The £10 ticket can be booked online or at the gate and is for daytime entry on a Tuesday. This new scheme follows the successful introduction of the £1 Universal Credit ticket in January 2022, and further solidifies the commitments made in Kew's 2021 Manifesto for Change reflecting the desire for Kew to be accessible to a wide range of audiences.

Half-term highlights

On £10 Tuesdays during October half-term, visitors can enjoy a new [Hey Duggee](#) trail, inspired by the global hit animated CBeebies TV series. This bespoke outdoor trail will include interactive challenges which encourage younger visitors to explore and learn in nature, discovering more about the seasonal spectacles of autumn and collecting stamps across a series of bespoke challenge stations.

Younger visitors can also enjoy interactive play in the Children's Garden, explore the Family Kitchen & Shop and get creative with the Henry Moore Family Trail.

Entry to [Henry Moore: Monumental Nature](#) is also included in Gardens admission during the promotion period. This critically acclaimed exhibition is the largest-ever outdoor exhibition of Moore's work, set across Kew's spectacular vistas and bringing incredible art to life in a unique living landscape. Alongside the outdoor works, the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art also showcases over 90 working models and rarely seen sketches, shining new light on Moore's artistic output and the inspiration which he drew from nature throughout his career.

To allow everyone to enjoy their visit to Kew Gardens and explore the exhibition at their own pace, a bespoke [Henry Moore Accessible Programme](#) has been created to support visitors with additional interactive, sensory and access needs. Free 60-minute guided walking tours are available for all visitors, daily at 12.30pm and 2pm.

Autumn in the Arboretum

As the seasons change, the Gardens will once again come alive with the rich colours of autumn, highlighting the beauty of the 11,000-strong Arboretum.

The changing seasons can be enjoyed from the Treetop Walkway, allowing a special opportunity to get closer to some of Kew's most resplendent trees, and visitors can also explore the changing colours of the season through the free [Remarkable Trees trail](#), taking in seasonal spectacles including the maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo biloba*), Turner's oak (*Quercus × turneri*), and the largest tree at Kew, the chestnut-leaved oak (*Quercus castaneifolia*).

The Winter Garden also showcases vibrant colours, scents and textures, with a colourful planting palette offering continuing interest throughout the season. Elsewhere, The Hive allows visitors to experience life inside a beehive and learn more about the vital work of pollinators across our ecosystems.

Explore the greatest glasshouses in the world

For rainy days or winter walks, Kew's iconic glasshouse offer a welcome respite from the weather. The Grade 1 listed Temperate House, the largest surviving Victorian glasshouse in the world, is home to 1,200 species from Asia, Australia, the Americas and Africa, including some of the most threatened plants on the planet.

The Princess of Wales Conservatory showcases a plethora of diverse species, from cacti and succulents to orchids and bromeliads, as well as bizarre carnivorous plants- perfect for spooky season!

As the iconic Palm House prepares for [renovation](#), visitors can explore London's stunning indoor rainforest and learn more about rare tropical plants, including species which provide vital food, medicine and shelter for communities all over the world.

Richard Deverell, Director of RBG Kew said:

"I'm delighted that we're able to offer £10 entry to Kew Gardens every Tuesday throughout this autumn, and I hope that this new concession will allow visitors to benefit from being out in nature and having access to our wonderful Gardens."

There is much to enjoy at Kew this autumn, from the beauty of the Arboretum as the trees transform, to the unique experience of seeing Henry Moore's monumental artworks surrounded by our incredible living landscape. Everyone is welcome at Kew, and I hope that this new offer reaches as many people as possible."

Royal
Botanic
Gardens **Kew**

St Mary's University

St Mary's University Named Finalist at Times Higher Education Awards

St Mary's University, London has been [shortlisted](#) in three different categories for the Times Higher Education (THE) Awards 2026.



The awards are an annual event that celebrates exceptional work, innovation, and achievements in UK and Irish universities.

St Mary's University is a finalist for the categories 'International Collaboration of the Year', 'Outstanding Marketing and Communications Team', and 'Outstanding Estates Team'.

The nomination for 'International Collaboration of the Year' is for the partnership between St Mary's University and the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE). The partnership demonstrates how international collaboration can drive institutional transformation through genuine reciprocity.

The partnership began as a postgraduate initiative and has since evolved into a strategic alliance spanning postgraduate education, doctoral study, research collaboration, and academic development. Since 2023, more than 200 educators have engaged with programmes across the partnership, while five MIE academics are currently studying on the Professional Doctorate in Education at St Mary's.

The nomination for 'Outstanding Estates Team'

reflects how the Estates team have been redefining the role of estates in higher education through a distinctive model of co-creation, community, and integration with the academic mission. The team has transformed the estate from a collection of buildings into a student-centred ecosystem of spaces that support learning, wellbeing, and belonging.

Students are active partners in estate development, contributing directly to the design and delivery of projects. This approach has delivered innovative spaces such as the Living Room and The 1850. The team has also reduced carbon emissions by 15% in a single year and safeguarded a complex heritage estate.

The Marketing and Communications team have been shortlisted for their work on a unified brand framework across recruitment, communications, and student experience. This approach has had a measurable impact on the University, with the team strengthening institutional coherence, improving student engagement across the lifecycle, and delivering reputational improvements.

Speaking on this announcement Deputy Vice-Chancellor Jo Blunden said, *"Everyone at St Mary's is incredibly proud of our School of Education, Estates, and Marketing and Communications teams for being shortlisted for awards at the 2026 Times Higher Education awards. Their work is a fantastic example of how innovation, collaboration, and agility can have a real impact on the wider University community. At St Mary's, we celebrate collaboration and taking a values driven approach. These teams are all great examples of that, and this sector recognition is a brilliant endorsement of our approach."*

All winners will be announced at the Times Higher Education Awards Ceremony taking place on Thursday 26 November in Birmingham.



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Students' Artwork Selected for UAL Origins Creatives Exhibition

In July, staff from Richmond upon Thames College attended the annual [UAL Origins Creatives Exhibition](#) at London's Mall Galleries to celebrate the success of Level 3 Art student, Tyra D'Souza, whose ceramic artwork was selected for display.

'Generations Apart'

Chosen from over 600 entries, Tyra's piece, 'Generations Apart', was exhibited alongside some of the highest-quality student work from across the country. Created in the College's ceramics studio, the piece reflects on her grandmother's wisdom, resilience and optimism, while encouraging viewers to think about the future of our world.

Tyra dedicated many hours to developing the artwork throughout the year, with support from Ceramics Technician Zoe Halliday and teachers Kirsty Chau, Julia Hembrow and Alice Swinhoe.



Explaining the inspiration behind her work, Tyra said:

"It's my grandma's wisdom, protectiveness and loving nature that make her our angel and allow us to dream. I'll leave you with a little question to ponder on: what type of world did your dream take place in when you were a kid?"

Congratulations to Tyra on this incredible achievement and recognition of her creative talent.

Start Your Creative Journey

Inspired by Tyra's success? Our Creative Arts courses are designed to help you develop your skills, build your portfolio and take your next steps towards a career in the creative industries.

We still have places available on a range of courses, including:

- Levels 3 and 4 Foundation Diploma in Art & Design
- Dance
- Acting.

With expert tutors, industry-standard facilities and opportunities to showcase your work, Richmond upon Thames College is the perfect place to turn your creativity into a future career.

[Enrol now and join our vibrant creative community this year.](#)



**Richmond upon
Thames College**

Women's Watersports Open Day

From Queen Mary Sailing Club

The holidays are over, the dust has settled and September is the perfect time to do something new - just for you. Join us at Queen Mary Sailing Club for our second Women's Watersports Open Day of the year, on Friday 18th September.

Whether you've always fancied sailing, wondered what windsurfing is all about, or simply want to try something completely different, this is your chance to get out on the water in a relaxed, friendly and supportive environment. We're offering half-price taster sessions for just £22.50, across sailing, windsurfing and more.

No experience is needed and no kit is required – just come along, have a go and see what you think. You don't need to be sporty or experienced; if you've ever looked out on the water and thought "I'd love to try that", this is your chance.

So, before September disappears into the usual routine, why not make time for something new? Come along, meet some like-minded women,

discover what Queen Mary Sailing Club has to offer and, most importantly, have a go! You might just discover your new favourite thing.

More info [HERE](#)

**WOMEN'S
OPEN DAY**

Friday 18th September

**Sailing • Windsurfing • Keelboating
Standup Paddleboarding • Wingsurfing**

Queen Mary Sailing Club

local resident scoops coveted resident ambassador in lynde house care home

Nora Crotty at Lynde House in Twickenham has been crowned Resident Ambassador 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/resident 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 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 division, Nora Crotty 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, said: "This is an amazing achievement and the whole home is supporting Nora. We are so proud of her. We believe Nora represents everything that a Resident Ambassador should be, and we couldn't be prouder to see her recognised at the national level. We will be behind her every step of the way and wish her the very best of luck in the national finals."

Lynde House 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.

Match Preview: Brentford v Sunderland

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford host Sunderland at Gtech Community Stadium in the Premier League on Saturday afternoon (3pm kick-off BST).

Keith Andrews' side have picked up four points from their opening two fixtures of 2026/27, while the Black Cats got on the board with a 1-0 victory against Fulham last weekend.

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*: Sunderland's success built on stubborn defence

Still unbeaten this season, Brentford take on Régis Le Bris' Sunderland in the Premier League this Saturday - and Keith Andrews has some interesting tactical questions to weigh up.

The Black Cats were one of the surprise packages of the 2025/26 campaign, finishing a sensational season in seventh to qualify for the Europa League.

The third-lowest scorers in the Premier League last term, Sunderland's success was built largely on their defensive qualities. Le Bris' side conceded just 48 goals - the fourth-best record in the division - and excelled at limiting the quality of their opponents' chances.

Remarkably, Opta's Expected Points model suggested Sunderland 'should' have been relegated based on the underlying numbers, but such metrics only tell part of the story.

Sunderland conceded just 0.11 Expected Goals (xG) per shot last term, the joint-lowest figure in the Premier League alongside champions Arsenal, and the early indications are that they have doubled down defensively so far in 2026/27.

Only Arsenal (one) have conceded fewer shots on target than Sunderland (three) across the opening two games of the campaign, numbers which make Saturday's meeting particularly intriguing given Brentford's impressive attacking start to the new season.

The Bees have played some fantastic front-foot football in their opening two league fixtures, and only Manchester United (27) currently average more shots per 90 minutes than Brentford (24).

[Kevin Schade](#), who scored a delightful flick at Elland Road last weekend, leads the way with eight attempts on goal, closely followed by [Igor Thiago](#) on seven.



Le Bris' side are comfortable soaking up pressure in a compact block, but they are far from passive. Sunderland can press aggressively from the front and currently rank eighth in the Premier League for pressed sequences, with the Frenchman, much like Andrews, willing to tailor his approach according to the opposition and game state.

Despite having home advantage, Brentford could therefore see value in occasionally conceding territory themselves and inviting Sunderland forward.

The Bees were devastating on the break last season, particularly during the opening months of the campaign, and no Premier League side scored more than their nine counter-attacking goals. Sunderland, meanwhile, were caught on the counter seven times over the course of the season.

Andrews, however, may be reluctant to move away from the aggressive style of play that has served his side so well thus far.

[Mamadou Sangaré](#) and [Vitaly Janelt](#) have been outstanding at the base of Brentford's midfield and both currently rank among the Premier League's top 20 players for tackles won, while Janelt leads the division with eight interceptions.

With their mobile forwards also mucking in, the Bees have repeatedly won the ball in dangerous areas. In fact, Brentford lead the Premier League for high turnovers ending in a shot (seven), with 31 per cent of their high regains resulting in an attempt on the opposition goal.

Against a Sunderland side so adept at maintaining its defensive shape, Brentford's challenge will be to find ways to disrupt their visitors' successful formula. An aggressive press at the right times will surely have an important part to play, but so too will patience in possession.

Scout report

Dan Long, *Sky Sports*: Premier League remains Black Cats' priority

Before a ball was kicked in 2025/26, newly-promoted Sunderland were being tipped to finish bottom of the Premier League. In 66.4 per cent of Opta Analyst's simulations, they were relegated. It was not quite the welcome back they would have envisaged after eight seasons away.

It is unlikely number-crunching alone would have provided fuel to tackle the season head on, but the Black Cats started to prove the doubters wrong from the opening day. They went into the November international break in fourth after a 2-2 draw at home to Arsenal.

The opening four months of 2026 did not go quite as smoothly, though 18 points from 16 games was still not to be sniffed at. Perhaps that was always going to happen anyway, given the rigours of the league, particularly once the initial bounce had faded.

No team has ever been relegated with 43 points, and Régis Le Bris' side hit that on 22 March, with a 2-1 Tyne-Wear derby win over Newcastle at St James' Park, which would no doubt have made the achievement taste all the sweeter. With that target met, it was all about finishing as strongly as possible and seeing where that could take them.

Going into the final day visit of Chelsea, there was still work to do if Sunderland were to achieve the previously unthinkable and qualify for Europe. But they beat the Blues 2-1 and results elsewhere meant they finished seventh - their joint highest position ever in the Premier League - and qualified for the Europa League.

It was the first time Sunderland had secured a place in European competition since 1973, when they qualified for the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup after beating Leeds in the 1972/73 FA Cup final. "This 24 May, it's a perfect day," Le Bris said afterwards.

According to Sky Sports' transfer figures, Sunderland were the seventh-biggest spenders in the Premier League last summer and had the fifth-biggest net spend. The team needed to be revamped to ensure they gave themselves a fighting chance of survival.

Having achieved that target and then some, as [Sunderland Echo's Phil Smith](#) said earlier this week, allowing the squad to enjoy the fruits of their labour in taking on the next challenge was imperative.

Thomas Meunier, Dayann Methalie and Jules Ahoka have joined, while the seven players they have sold played 24 league games between them in 2025/26. By moving those players on, the club have recouped in excess of £30m.

As ever, when a team outside the traditional top six qualifies for Europe, the question is raised about whether they can balance the additional requirements. In the Europa League league phase alone, Sunderland will play eight more games than usual. When West Ham United won the Conference League in 2022/23, they played 13 extra games and survived by only six points.

And that is just it. The adventure that is about to begin is one generations of Sunderland fans have dreamed about, but staying in the Premier League - and thus further chances of reaching Europe again - has to be the priority. Anything else will be a very welcome bonus.

In the Dugout

Régis Le Bris

Régis Le Bris had a low-key playing career as a defender between 1994 and 2003, playing for Rennes and Laval in France and Ronse in neighbouring Belgium. He played for France up to U17 level, too, and retired at the age of just 27.

The Frenchman was a qualified coach by the following year and, in 2006, received his doctorate in sports physiology and biomechanics. He went on to return to Rennes, where he stayed until 2012 in a coaching capacity, before moving on to Lorient.

He was Les Merlus' head of youth development for three years, then replaced Franck Haise as Lorient B chief. In 2021/22 - Le Bris' final campaign in charge - he guided the team to second place in the Championnat National 2 - Group A. Once he had completed his UEFA Pro Licence, he was appointed as the club's first-team head coach in June 2022.

Lorient finished 10th in Ligue 1 in 2022/23, but 17th in 2023/24, which resulted in relegation to Ligue 2 after four seasons in the top flight. Le Bris left the club by mutual consent in June 2024 and signed a three-year deal at Sunderland the very same day. After guiding the Black Cats to promotion back to the Premier League, he signed a fresh three-year deal in August, which runs until the summer of 2028.



Richmond Upon Thames Lotto Winner Could Be the Borough's Newest Millionaire

A Lotto player in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames could be the borough's newest millionaire, with a winning £1 million ticket waiting to be claimed.

National Lottery players are encouraged to check their tickets for the Lotto draw on Wednesday 19 August bought from a retailer in Richmond upon Thames that matched five main numbers plus the Bonus Ball in the second round to scoop the seven-figure prize. The winning numbers from the draw were **4, 8, 10, 17, 23, 28** and the Bonus Ball was **16**.

Whether you live in the Richmond area or were perhaps visiting the famous Royal Park when you bought your lucky Lotto ticket, now is the time to check your ticket. The winner has until 15 February 2027 to come forward and claim their prize.

The winner joins a growing list of newly created Lotto millionaires as the game enters a new era of millionaire-making. New Lotto is now making more millionaires than ever before with the new draw format set to create hundreds more millionaires each year, expected to go from around 140 a year to approximately 345.

Andy Carter, Senior Winner's Advisor at Allwyn, operator of The National Lottery, said: *"Imagine discovering that a ticket you bought weeks ago is worth £1 million. That's exactly what could happen for a Lotto player in the London Borough of Richmond."*

"We're encouraging everyone who bought a ticket in the area to give it another check. Tell your friends, family, colleagues, even the postman. Creating millionaires is one of the most exciting parts of the job, and we're looking forward to celebrating with the lucky winner when they come forward. It could be you."

The ticket-holder has until **15 February 2027** to claim their prize. However, anyone not in possession of their ticket, for whatever reason, but who believes they have a genuine claim can still make a claim in writing to Allwyn, but it must be within 30 days of the draw. Players can check the current list of unclaimed National Lottery prizes on the website [here](#).

With all National Lottery draws, players have 180 days from the day of the draw to claim their prize if they have the winning ticket. Anyone who has any queries or who believes they have the winning ticket for any of the National Lottery draws within the 180-day deadline should call the National Lottery Line on 0333 234 5050 or email help@national-lottery.co.uk. Please see Game Rules and Procedures for full details of how to claim.

Each week, players help generate around £33M for National Lottery-funded projects. With over £53BN raised for Good Causes since launch, this funds hundreds of projects in every postcode area across the UK. From supporting the arts and sport sectors, to empowering local community groups and preserving iconic British landmarks, players' participation makes a difference every single day.



New railway station mural celebrates the rich heritage of Kingston upon Thames

A striking new mural has been unveiled at Kingston station, celebrating the rich heritage of Kingston upon Thames, its unique place in England's history, and Railway 200, the 200th anniversary of the railway.

The large-scale artwork was commissioned by South Western Railway (SWR) and Network Rail Wessex (NR Wessex), the only railway to serve the South West London town, to create a brighter and more welcoming environment for residents and visitors.

It has been installed on Platform 1 and was created by Kingston artists Skyhigh and Roo in partnership with The Community Brain, one of SWR and NR Wessex's dozen community rail partnerships.



The mural is one SWR and NR Wessex's [many legacy projects](#) for Railway 200, a permanent enhancement for Kingston station, which sees over four million entries and exits per year. It is the latest addition to the station, following the recent opening of a new Sainsbury's.

The artwork uses colours that reflect the town's natural environment as well as its urban landscape and long railway story.

It depicts a Victorian era steam train alongside one of SWR and NR Wessex's new Arterio trains. It also displays a ticket from 1863, the year the station opened, and a reference to the electrification of the Kingston Loop in 1916.

The mural also recognises Kingston's unique place in England's history. Athelstan, the first King of England, was crowned in Kingston 1,101 years ago today on 4 September 925. Six other early English kings were also consecrated in the town.

One year ago, on 4 September 2025, SWR and NR Wessex partnered with historian and *The Rest is History* co-host Tom Holland to celebrate the 1100th anniversary of Athelstan's coronation by [naming a train 'King Athelstan'](#) on the same platform as the mural.

The mural was unveiled by Cllr Thay Thayalan, the Mayor of Kingston; Cllr Andreas Kirsch, the Leader the Leader of Kingston upon Thames London Borough Council and Portfolio Holder for Heritage and Culture; and Cllr Nicola Nardelli, the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Transport and Waste and Recycling.

Also in attendance was Noel Hadjimichael, the Mayor's predecessor. Mr Hadjimichael represented the borough during the visit of the Railway 200 train Inspiration to Kingston station in February 2026 and the naming of the King Athelstan train.

Cllr Thay Thayalan, Mayor of Kingston, said: *"This mural is a wonderful celebration of Kingston's proud history and its place within the story of England. It brings together our royal heritage, our vibrant local community and the railway that continues to connect people and places every day. I am delighted to see this impressive piece of public art unveiled and know it will be enjoyed by residents, visitors and rail travellers for years to come."*

Chris Ellis, South Western Railway and Network Rail Wessex's Regional Manager (Metro), said: *"The new mural transforms Platform 1 with a vibrant celebration of Kingston's heritage, King Athelstan and Railway 200. Delivered in partnership with The Community Brain and artists Skyhigh & Roo, it creates a lasting legacy for customers and the wider community, while helping make Kingston station an even more welcoming and attractive place to visit."*

**South Western
Railway**

Over 6,200 free days out! Heritage open days unveils its biggest-ever festival

Heritage Open Days returns this September with thousands of free events and experiences taking place across England. Each year, millions of people take part in a nationwide celebration of their heritage, community and history. The festival is brought to you by the **National Trust** and supported by [Postcode Lottery](#) players, with an exciting programme of events delivered locally by thousands of organisations, community groups and volunteers.



Many of England's best-known attractions and destinations are ready to welcome visitors this year, such as Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery, Silverstone Museum and Lyme Park. There are plenty of great free days out to be had, whether it's watching the British Library's robotic retrieval cranes in action in Leeds, becoming a Bletchley Park recruit during their interactive family day, enjoying free tickets to a Wigan Athletic match or sharing a traditional Langar lunch at the Sikh Museum Northampton and SGSS Gurdwara.

What exactly is a fogou? Come curious, because there is always something new to discover across Heritage Open Days! What was life like in an Iron Age village? How can analogue computers predict the tides? Find answers at Chysauster Ancient Village, the National Oceanography Centre and Halliggye Fogou, then take a crash course in gynaecological history at the Vagina Museum, decide the fate of the accused in an immersive historic trial at Crime Unlocked or experiment with Arabic calligraphy using Bradford-made pigments.

More than 2,400 events are embracing this year's theme, Everyday Histories, which is presented by Findmypast. The theme celebrates the working lives and daily routines that have shaped

the places around us. At seven flagship events visitors can explore their own family histories at Norwich Cathedral and Manchester's People's History Museum, learn about the generations of traders behind Newcastle's Grainger Market, or discover the women who powered Ironbridge's ceramic industry. They can also follow laundress Queenie Frankpit through a working week at the National Trust's Killerton, explore life above and below stairs at Pippbrook House, and hear how nurses and frontline soldiers became Everyday Heroes at The Guards Museum.

The festival is about more than just looking back at history with visitors encouraged to get stuck in and join the conversation about heritage and what it means today. Vanny Radio in Coventry will share live interviews inviting visitors to be part of a community heritage recording, young people will reveal previously hidden LGBTQ+ stories through Voices for Pride in Gosport, and visitors will be invited to create a mini-zine celebrating local women as part of the 20,000 Women Zine Project at Her-Place. You can explore Black British identity through music, fashion and lived experience at Rhetoric, Rhythms & Roots, contribute to a large-scale mosaic which will be created at Bradgate Park based on visitor drawings and responses to nature, or help weave personal experiences of migration into the wider history of Chesham at Migration Stories.

Annie Reilly, the National Trust's Audience & Engagement Director, said: *"England's largest festival of history and culture is back. Heritage Open Days opens the door to thousands of extraordinary stories, places and experiences on your doorstep. With over 6,200 free events across the country, millions can discover the places around them in new and -often-surprising ways. By inspiring curiosity today, the festival helps build a stronger sense of connection, care and action for the future"*

Founded in 1994, Heritage Open Days has been making history and culture more accessible for more than three decades. Last year over 2,500 organisers and 44,200 volunteers ran 5,879 events across the country, attracting over one million visits. Around one-quarter of visitors had not visited a heritage site/event in the past year while 83% of festival-goers said their visit made them more proud of their local area.

Laura Chow, Head of Charities at Postcode Lottery, said: "It is fantastic that Postcode Lottery players have been supporting Heritage Open Days for 14 years, allowing millions of people to explore England's rich heritage for free. This year's theme of 'Everyday Histories' shines a light on the workers who helped shape the country we know today and are often missing from history books. Through an exciting programme of special events, experiences and activities, visitors will have the chance to discover more about these unsung heroes and their extraordinary lives!"

Heritage Open Days is brought to you by the National Trust with support from Postcode Lottery players. Every single Heritage Open Days event is free, including access to many sites that usually charge for admission.



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To find events visit www.heritageopendays.org.uk.

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