

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



Richmond Embankment
Photo by Berkley Driscoll

16th October 2026

T&RT

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TickerTape - News in Brief

South Western Railway

Altered train services and buses replace trains in the **Twickenham area Sunday 18 October**

Engineering work will take place in the **Twickenham** area **this Sunday**, with **buses** replacing trains between **Barnes and Hounslow via Richmond** & **Barnes and Teddington via Richmond**.

Journey planners will be updated on Saturday night for Sunday services, however short notice changes are likely.

Customers travelling on these routes are advised to check their journeys carefully, as there may be fewer services than usual on these routes due to reduced availability of rail replacement services. Services are also expected to be much busier than usual. We're sorry for the disruption this will cause to your journey.

The lines in the **Twickenham** area will be **closed all day** due to maintenance work.

- **London Waterloo to Reading** services will be **revised** to depart **London Waterloo earlier**. These services will be diverted between **Putney and Feltham** and will call additionally at **Barnes and Hounslow**.
- **London Waterloo to Windsor** services will be **revised**. These services will be diverted between **Barnes and Feltham via Hounslow** and will make additional stops.
- **London Waterloo to London Waterloo via Richmond and Kingston** services will start from **Shepperton**.
- The afternoon and evening **London Waterloo to Kingston via Hounslow** services will **not** run.
- **Buses** will run between **Barnes and Hounslow via Richmond**.
- **Buses** will run between **Barnes and Teddington via Richmond**.



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The Tree Agency

The Local Picture Postcard Page - Part 348

Barnes High Street – After 1920s

By Alan Winter

Following last week's postcards showing Barnes High Street prior to World War 1, we can now look at three postcards that were published after 1920.





These postcards introduce motor cars and motor bikes travelling through a widened part of Barnes High Street with several buildings having been modernised.

Local Postcard Annual Available for Christmas!

The Twickenham and Richmond Tribune will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary in November. I have been with it since the first few editions in 2016 and have now clocked up some 350 columns featuring old local post cards that were published between 1890 and the 1990s. The Tribune covers the whole of the LBRUT area, and I have contributed to that with columns featuring postcards from Twickenham, Richmond, Teddington, St. Margarets, Hampton, Hampton Hill, Hampton Wick, Hampton Court, Whitton, Kew, Barnes, Mortlake, East Sheen Petersham and Ham over the years.

Many people have suggested that we publish a book of these postcard columns and Editor Berkley Driscoll and I have been working on this project for a few months. More details to follow but the book is scheduled to be ready in November to coincide with the Tribune's 10th Anniversary. It will make an excellent local Christmas present and purchasing details will be announced shortly.

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Share creative enjoyment of our River, Sunday afternoon 12 to 3pm at Teddington Lock

From SOLAR

SOLAR <https://saveourlandsandriver.org.uk/> and others will be aboard the education boat Thames Venturer on Sunday October 18th to celebrate “A Song For The River”

From 12.00 to 15.00, moored in the lock cut by Teddington Lock footbridge. Thames Venturer will be hosting - songs, poetry, arts, and local river history in the general theme of creative celebrations of the River - step on board, amble around or create.

Scanning the QR code on the poster will also enable you to support SOLAR’s petition for higher sewage treatment standards.

The petition calls for new sewage infrastructures to meet higher standards already used in the EU, along with tougher controls on emerging pollutants such as forever chemicals and micropollutants. This push comes as the government is considering new water-sector legislation, making public pressure especially timely.

Your voice can help to jump the 50,000 hurdle which is so close. Follow this link and add your support:

petition.parliament.uk/petitions/763721

A SONG FOR THE RIVER DAY

SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER
12 NOON - 3PM

Aboard the Thames Venturer
By the Teddington footbridge (Ham side)

Two weeks to the day before our petition closes on 1st November, we invite you to join us aboard the beautiful Thames Venturer.

This historic 85ft Dutch barge is a floating environmental classroom and community boat – the perfect place to come together to celebrate and protect our homes, our lands and our river.

ALL WELCOME

WHAT TO EXPECT

- LIVE MUSIC
- SPOKEN WORD
- ARTS & LOCAL CREATIVITY
- FACE PAINTING
- TEA & POOH-CAKES
- LOCAL HISTORY

CELEBRATING OUR RIVER. PROTECTING ITS FUTURE.

HELP OUR PETITION TO REACH 100K SIGNATURES

SIGN THE PETITION. SCAN THE QR CODE

The Venturer is accessible, with ramp access and an onboard hydraulic lift connecting the upper and lower decks.

Whitton Christmas Lights Cancelled Amid £13,000 Funding Crisis and Mystery Debt

By James Knight



Popular festive celebration axed despite council funding and promised rugby sponsorship, as questions emerge over inherited debts and the finances of the business association formerly chaired by Liberal Democrat councillor Kuldev Sehra.

One of Whitton's best-loved Christmas traditions has been cancelled after organisers said they could no longer afford to stage the annual celebration, leaving disappointed families and traders questioning how the event got to this point.

The popular Light Up Whitton event, which draws residents and visitors to the high street for festive entertainment, shopping and the Christmas lights switch-on, has been abandoned for 2026. Organisers say staging the celebration would cost more than £20,000, leaving a funding gap of approximately £13,000, with unexpected inherited expenses further straining their finances.

The announcement has prompted widespread disappointment and offers of financial assistance from local businesses and residents. It has also raised questions about the Whitton Business Association's finances and the stewardship of the Association under the chairmanship of Liberal Democrat councillor Kuldev Sehra last year.

Mystery Debt Adds to Financial Crisis

In a statement published on 11 October, the Whitton Business Association, also known as Love Whitton, blamed rising costs and unexpected inherited expenses for its decision. Its current chairman, Stella Alesbury, explained that although Richmond Council provides a grant towards annual events and the Rugby Football Union has promised financial support, organisers still need approximately £13,000. Market stalls would generate around £4,000, reducing the anticipated shortfall to £9,000.

But the financial difficulties appear to extend beyond the immediate cost of Christmas celebrations. Liberal Democrat councillor Jo Humphreys revealed that an unexpected, potentially historic debt had recently come to light, explaining that councillors were trying to resolve it but had only learned about it a few weeks earlier. Neither the amount nor the origin of the liability has been disclosed.

Liberal Democrat Councillor Previously Chaired Association

Official Richmond Council minutes confirm that Councillor Kuldev Sehra was Chairman of the Whitton Business Association in May 2025. At a public meeting that month, he outlined plans to increase activity on Whitton High Street, highlighting the association's St George's Day parade and other community initiatives.

His appointment drew objections from some locals concerned about a serving councillor chairing an organisation meant to represent independent businesses. Stella Alesbury now leads the association, although the circumstances and timing of the leadership change have not been established.

Residents Offer to Save Christmas

The cancellation has prompted an outpouring of support from residents and businesses, many questioning why an appeal for additional funding was not launched sooner. Tango'd Sunbeds, which recently opened in Whitton, offered to contribute some of the remaining money from its opening budget, while Sheraton Interiors also said it was willing to help. Other residents suggested crowdfunding, sponsorship and volunteer assistance.

Several contributors asked why the financial shortfall had not been publicised sooner, allowing the community time to respond. However, Alesbury explained that securing funds alone would not be enough, as the association also needs volunteers to organise the event. Given the road closures, stalls and other arrangements requiring advance preparation, organisers have concluded that the full celebration cannot proceed this year.

Questions Over Council Support

The cancellation has also prompted criticism of Richmond Council's support for Whitton High Street. Liberal Democrat Councillor Michael Wilson said the Council provides about £9,000 to the business association, though the exact amount and conditions of the current grant have not been independently confirmed. Residents have questioned whether the Council could have offered more assistance, particularly given the event's importance to local traders.

The controversy also raises a wider question about how fairly Richmond Council distributes financial support between the borough's town centres. Whether Whitton receives comparable assistance to Richmond, Twickenham and other shopping areas remains unclear, as does the extent of the Council's efforts to help once the association's financial difficulties became known.

A Christmas Tradition Put on Hold

Whitton will not be entirely without Christmas decorations. Organisers have promised some lights along the high street and the traditional Christmas tree outside Sainsbury's, but the usual road closure, market stalls and large switch on celebration will not take place. The association hopes to restore the full event in 2027.

The cancellation also raises questions about the association's financial history. Councillor Kuldev Sehra was its Chairman in May 2025, but the date of his departure and the financial position at the subsequent handover have not been established. Nor is it known when the potential historical liability arose or whether it was identified in earlier accounts. These are matters on which the association and its former leadership may be able to provide clarification.

Residents are also entitled to ask when organisers first realised the event was in jeopardy and whether an earlier appeal could have secured the support now being offered by local businesses. With so much goodwill towards the celebration, understanding how matters reached this point is important if the same disappointment is to be avoided next year.

Whitton's Christmas lights may still shine, but one of the community's most cherished celebrations has gone dark.

View from Radnor Gardens

By Alan Rolph, Teddington





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The over 55s Daytime Disco is back

From Age UK Richmond

Great news for music and dance lovers - the popular Age UK Daytime Disco for over 55s is back! Over the past two years, these events have brought people together for afternoons full of music, dancing, laughter and friendship.

Organised by Age UK Richmond in partnership with the ETNA Centre, the event returns providing a much-loved fun-filled afternoon in great company.

- **Date:** Friday 23 October 2026
- **Time:** 3pm
- **Location:** ETNA Centre, St Margarets, TW1 2AR
- **Cost:** £8 (includes refreshments)



Don't miss the opportunity to dance along to the biggest hits of the 50s, 60s and 70s, catch up with friends, and meet some new faces along the way.

[Book your place online](#), email wellbeing@ageukrichmond.org.uk or call 020 8744 1965.

Council steps up enforcement to stop people trashing Richmond upon Thames

From Richmond Council

Fly-tippers in Richmond could face fines of up to £50,000 if they are caught dumping rubbish.

Leader of Richmond Council, Councillor Gareth Roberts, said: *"Fly-tipping is a crime that costs our residents thousands of pounds to clean-up and damages our beautiful borough."*

"We're monitoring fly-tipping hot spots and fining offenders. It is outrageous that people are dumping entire van loads beside recycling bins and abandoning bulky items on our roadsides."

"The Council is stepping up this enforcement so we can keep Richmond clean and safe."

Enforcement officers have the power to issue on-the-spot Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) of £1,000 for small scale fly-tips. Larger fly-tipping is punishable by fines of up to £50,000, and/or a prison sentence.

Fly-tipping includes furniture and other bulky items dumped by roadsides or recycling banks, as well as rubbish bags next to bins and clothes and toys left outside charity shops.



Councillor Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee, said: *"Fly-tipping is anti-social, harmful to wildlife, and an eyesore. It's especially offensive to those who live or work nearby and dispose of their waste responsibly and there is no excuse for it."*

"The Council provides re-use and recycling services across the borough to help residents dispose of unwanted items responsibly and conveniently."

The Council investigates reported fly-tipping incidents, issues FPNs where appropriate and takes legal action against serious offenders.

Fly-tipping can be [reported on the website](#), or via the [My Richmond app](#). Any information provided will be treated with the strictest confidence.

It's Spooky Season.... HALLOWEEN PARTY

It's that time of year again... and we're getting ready for one hell of a spooky night!

Join us Saturday 31st October from 8pm for an evening of banging tunes, dancing, spooky surprises, plenty of drinks and a few tricks along the way! Expect a proper Halloween party atmosphere, with creepy decorations, a fang-tastic disco and plenty of reasons to stay out for just one more drink...

Fancy dressing up? Go for it!

Not your thing? No worries—Just bring yourself, your mates and your party spirit!

So round up the gang, grab your best drinking buddies and come join us for a night of boos, booze & Halloween mischief! Don't miss it... it could get scary!

Saturday 31st October | From 8 till late!



Our Halloween decorations are always a scream, make sure you pop along to the pub in October to see this year's display!

ONLY IN THE PUB:

A CELEBRATION OF CASK ALE

Only In The Pub is back! Our celebration of cask ale shines a light on the craft, care and passion that go into brewing and serving the perfect pint.

Over the next five weeks, we'll be bringing a selection of exclusive new brews to the bar, alongside the return of seasonal favourites such as Red Fox.

And that's not all — the Magic Stamp is back too! With the app, you'll receive a digital stamp every time you enjoy a cask ale. Simply ask a member of our friendly team for more information and start collecting your stamps.



Download the Magic Stamp app to earn free pints!

DUBOIS V WARDLEY 2

Get ready for the upcoming rematch between Daniel Dubois and Fabio Wardley. Dubois will be defending the WBO heavyweight championship that he won from Wardley earlier this year. Watch the action live in the pub on Saturday, October 17, with the main event ring walk expected around 10:30pm. It's one not to miss!

HARLEQUINS RUGBY

Harlequins face two more exciting fixtures as they take on Sale Sharks and London rivals Saracens this October. First up, Quins travel to face Sale Sharks on the 11th October at 3pm. Watch all the action here, live on our big screens. Or why not gather some friends and elevate the experience by booking one of our Garden Pods - with their own TVs and heater, it's the perfect place to watch the match. The action then returns to The Stoop for the London Derby on 25th October, as Saracens journey south of the river to take on Harlequins at 3pm. Come

LIVE SPORT FOR OCTOBER

Premier League:

Sunday 11th

Liverpool V Man City KO 4:30pm

Sunday 18th

Nottingham Forest V Arsenal KO 5:30pm

Sunday 24th

Chelsea V Tottenham KO 5:30pm

Champions League:

Tuesday 13th

Arsenal V Lille KO 8pm

Wednesday 14th

Paris V Man City KO 8pm

Wednesday 21st

Bayern Munich V Arsenal KO 8pm

join us at the pub to watch the action live, or pop in before and after your visit to the Stoop. We're proud to offer fast, friendly service without ever compromising on quality, so you can always count on a great pint, perfectly poured, served with a smile.

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Next Week at Richmond Council

By James Knight



Richmond Council faces three significant meetings next week, with decisions on a controversial festival on Richmond Green, the future of a Twickenham restaurant's alcohol licence and scrutiny of the Council's finances. The latest audit reports also raise questions about financial controls and oversight of major projects.

Monday: Licensing Sub-Committee **7.00pm, York House, Twickenham**

Councillors will decide whether the Marzamemi Italian Festival can move from Old Deer Park to Richmond Green for three days in June 2027. The proposed festival could accommodate up to 4,999 people daily, with alcohol sales, live music and entertainment continuing until 9pm on Friday and Saturday.

The application has attracted 45 objections and ten representations in support. Opponents argue that the historic Green is unsuitable for such a large commercial event, citing noise, public safety and the temporary loss of public open space. Supporters describe a well-managed, family-friendly festival that benefits local businesses and enriches Richmond's cultural life.

Significantly, Richmond Green falls within a designated cumulative impact zone, where

licensing policy creates a presumption against new licences attracting relevant objections unless applicants demonstrate that they will not worsen existing problems. No statutory responsible authority has objected. Councillors must decide whether the proposed safeguards are sufficient to overcome residents' concerns.

Tuesday: Licensing Sub-Committee

11.00am, Virtual Meeting

Twickenham Tandoori, at 33 Church Street, faces a review of its premises licence following action by Home Office Immigration Enforcement. The proceedings arise from allegations concerning illegal working and a civil penalty issued in November 2025.

However, the restaurant's operator disputes the allegations and has appealed the penalty to the County Court, with a hearing scheduled for February 2027.

Councillors must consider what licensing action, if any, is justified while the underlying allegations remain contested.

Tuesday: Audit, Standards and Statutory Accounts Committee

7.00pm, York House, Twickenham

The Council's financial management comes under scrutiny as councillors consider the draft 2025/26 accounts and external auditor EY's findings. The auditors report no significant weaknesses identified so far in the Council's value-for-money arrangements. However, their assessment of financial sustainability remains unfinished following the publication of Richmond's updated Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

They have also identified financial reporting errors exceeding £600,000, including one that remains uncorrected, alongside recommendations to improve asset management, lease accounting and record-keeping. The committee is being asked to authorise its Chairman to sign the accounts once the audit is completed.

Of particular interest is the continuing scrutiny of the Council's Transformation Programme and Twickenham Riverside development. Previous committee minutes confirm that audits of both were underway, with significant concerns to be reported to councillors. With Richmond facing substantial budget pressures and increasing borrowing requirements, the central question is whether existing financial controls and scrutiny arrangements are sufficiently robust.

The committee will also consider progress on fraud prevention. The shared fraud partnership reports identifying or preventing more than £17 million in overpayments and notional savings since 2015/16. The findings matter because the Council is increasingly dependent on delivering savings while managing substantial capital commitments.

Council meeting papers:

[Monday - Licensing Sub-Committee](#)

[Tuesdays - Licensing Sub-Committee](#)

[Audit, Standards and Statutory Accounts Committee](#)

No And Low Drinks for October

The trend to reduce alcohol consumption is increasing rapidly still, with a host of new 00 versions of popular drinks being launched. With the lead up to the festive season, I thought I'd share with you some of our recent discoveries.

Now available here in the UK following early success in Switzerland, **Bel Nada** has blended elevated European apéro culture with mindful drinking. Founded by Rebecca Coombe after her own sober-curious journey, the brand was created to fill a gap in the market for beautifully crafted non-alcoholic alternatives that feel as premium and celebratory as traditional spirits. Inspired by the Swiss Alps and developed over 18 months alongside award-winning Swiss drinks experts, there are three in the range but I've only tried **L'Aperitivo** – a vibrant floral spritz alternative with grapefruit, rose, lavender, and rosemary. If you're a fan of Campari and similar drinks, I thoroughly recommend it! £29 from www.belnada.co.uk



Created in the heart of Hampshire, **Hydes Cyder** has since been highly acclaimed, and especially praised for its authentic, refreshing taste and elegance. It is delicious, but now this small start-up producer has also created a non-alcoholic cider that mirrors the taste of its original 5% one. Made through wild fermentation and crafted with zero artificial ingredients, it boasts fewer calories than broccoli or a banana. It's also naturally gluten-free and suitable for both vegetarians and vegans. It's produced using a secret recipe that begins with their original cider base, diluted and back-sweetened using concentrated apple juice from English orchards. This ensures no added sugar or malic

acid is present. This lightly carbonated medium dry cider is light on the palate, with gorgeous aromas of pronounced apple and citrus translating into a full flavour with bold apple notes. £4 per 330ml can from hydescyder.com and you may be lucky enough to find a pub or hotel that stocks it, as we did when in Hampshire.

If you are a fan of a drink with a 'kick' then I thoroughly recommend **Picoso**. Meaning 'Spicy' in Spanish, it was created to blur the lines between drinking and sobriety with flavour-led drinks that are as exciting solo as they are mixed with alcohol. Picoso's spicy sodas are a market first, targeting major consumer trends and the huge rise in the demand for chilli infused products. Using two of the world's favourite chillies: Habanero – synonymous with Mexican culture, and Scotch Bonnet – a favourite in Caribbean and West African cuisine, They are in slim 250ml cans – the ideal size for solo sipping or for mixing with spirits for a delicious spicy cocktail. They're low in sugar and absolutely delicious. They're available in Waitrose in multipacks of four for £7.50





Most of us are familiar with the Fever-Tree brand - the one that pioneered the premium mixer category. It recently launched the Classic Mojito, bringing a zesty, refreshing serve to its growing collection of alcohol-free cocktails. Joining Mediterranean G&T and Italian Spritz (which is also fabulous), the new non-alcoholic Mojito is inspired by the timeless classic. Using natural ingredients and no artificial flavourings or sweeteners, Mojito delivers a sophisticated non-alcoholic liquid in a convenient ready-to-drink

format. Available in elegant 250ml cans at Ocado, Waitrose, Sainsbury's – RRP: £1.90 and in a 4 x 250ml format at Tesco, Ocado and Amazon priced - RRP: £6.

Another great drink from Fever-Tree is **Blood Orange Ginger Beer**. The fiery, full-bodied taste of ginger beer, is balanced with the subtle citrus flavour of Italian Blood Orange, creating a bold, but refreshing soft drink. The blood oranges used have a very distinctive flavour, which is sweeter and softer than table oranges. The sweet notes of the blood oranges, combined with the signature blend of three real gingers to make this deliciously refreshing mixer. In bottles and cans from major supermarkets, including Sainsburys and Ocado.



Blue Nun is back. Yes, once one of the most recognisable wine brands on British dinner tables, the famous German wine has returned with a new look and two lower-alcohol wines for a new generation of drinkers. Founded in Germany in 1921, Blue Nun became a household name around the world, with more than **one billion bottles sold** and available in 64 countries. For its UK return, the famous blue bottle remains, but Blue Nun has been given a makeover for 2026, with two easy-drinking wines: **Blue Nun Authentic White** – 10% ABV *Available at Ocado and DrinksSupermarket.com, £7.50* (Fresh, with flavours and aromas of apple, peach and citrus, plus a touch of sweetness. Its fruit-forward style makes it good with spicy dishes, Asian food and anything with a little sweetness or umami.) **Blue Nun Authentic Riesling** – 9% ABV *Available at DrinksSupermarket.com, £8.49* (Made from grapes grown in Germany's Rheinhessen region, this is a fruit-forward 100% Riesling with tropical flavours, lively acidity and a subtle sweetness. At just 9% ABV, it's a lighter option for wine drinkers and pairs well with sushi, seafood, aromatic and lightly spiced dishes, Alternatively, it can be enjoyed as a light dessert wine.)

Another cider that's slightly easier to buy, of course, is **CHANCE Clean Cider**, a Great Taste award-winning non-alcoholic cider made with British cider apples and available from M&S. It starts life at 8.2% ABV before the alcohol is carefully reduced, retaining a crisp, full flavour and character of a traditional cider at 0.5% ABV. Best served chilled, CHANCE is gluten-free and vegan-friendly, making it an easy addition to the shopping basket when in Marks. And as evenings become colder, CHANCE makes a delicious non-alcoholic mulled cider. Gently heated with cinnamon spices, cloves and fresh apples, it makes a comforting winter warmer serve for anyone who wants to embrace seasonal rituals without the alcohol. CHANCE Clean Cider is now available in M&S stores priced at £2.25 per 330ml bottle.





With Christmas planning starting earlier every year, **innocent** is getting ahead of the festive season with the launch of **Winterberry Spice**, a new limited-edition winter punch. Inspired by cosy get-togethers and seasonal celebrations, Winterberry Spice brings together a rich, festive blend of cherry, cranberry, grape and apple, finished with a warming hint of mixed spice. Made with 100% real fruit, Winterberry Spice is a natural source of Vitamin C and contains no added sugar. While delicious served chilled straight from the fridge, **innocent** is encouraging shoppers to try something different and gently warm their Winterberry Spice for a comforting, fruity alternative to traditional winter drinks.

I discovered some delicious sodas at the Hampton Court Food Festival recently - **Libeau**. It is a **unique and delectable sparkling blend of botanicals, aromatics and citrus fruits** made specifically for adult tastes. **Barely sweet, slightly bitter, and very refreshing**, Libeau offers three signature sparkling blends: **Floral Pressé**: Rose, artemisia (wormwood), and elderflower with a bitter-sweet floral and citrus profile. **Exotic Citronnade**: Lemongrass, exotic bitters, and lemon zest and **Aromatic Apéro**: Yerba maté, aromatic bitters, and bitter orange (my favourite). They are made from 100% natural ingredients with low sugar, no artificial preservatives, and plant extracts sourced from an organic farm in Herefordshire or global growers. It's listed in Michelin-starred restaurants, smart hotels and discerning delis. Around £3.50 a can from libeaudrinks.com and I'd suggest buying the mixed case at £34.50 for 12 cans.



Alcohol-free wines generally received mixed reviews, especially compared with beers and ciders. But **ZENO** was born out of a desire to create high-quality alcohol-free wines, a vision shared by its founders David Hodgson and Will Willis, both wine trade veterans. With their partner winery in Spain and a team of experts, including a leading Master of Wine, they developed techniques that redefine alcohol-free wine potential. Taking grapes from their organic vineyard in Spain, they use traditional winemaking techniques to make the best base wines possible. Then they gently remove alcohol using low temperature, high vacuum distillation, followed by skilful blending for flavour & balance.

The wines are widely acclaimed, and some multi award-winning, especially the reds like **Tempranillo Cabernet** (*Vibrant ruby red with bright salmon pink edge. Pronounced aromas of red and black forest fruits, sweet spices and a hint of sweet green pepper. On the palate, ripe blackberries and raspberries merge with juicy plums and hints of crisp cherry. There is spice, pepper and bright tannin adding weight to a creamy mouthfeel and textured, satisfyingly long finish.*)

There is also a **Sparkling White NV** - again highly acclaimed (*Yellow/green straw appearance with a fine, persistent mousse and aromas of green apple, elderflower and creamy lemon zest. On the palate, delightfully crisp with creamy bubbles and notes of crisp apple and elderflower, followed by mouth-filling citrus and fresh lemon thyme and hints of brioche on a long satisfyingly fresh finish.*)

And the fact that ZENO is stocked by people like The Wine Society, Waitrose, Majestic and Hedonism Wines is itself a testament to the quality. From around £8 a bottle. For further info and to buy online visit zenowine.com



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'Tis the season

By Bruce Lyons

Xmas Markets - Day trips to Lapland - Xmas & New Year Breaks.



After an extraordinary Summer of hot days, little rain and goodness what else we have COOL, Autumn colours and soon Xmas. We, at Crusader Travel, are seeing an unprecedented demand for weekend City Breaks and many of these will be City Break locations where there are Festive Xmas Markets. Many hotels in the European Cities have added VIP Perks and here are some cities that this applies; Prague, Vienna, Copenhagen, Budapest, Paris & Amsterdam - call for details.



Day Trips to Lapland have also been announced, just today - but there are very few

departures from London, prices from £599 adults, children £569- includes; meet Father Xmas, Husky Sled Safari, Reindeer Camp Visit, Snowmobile Safari -adults in the Snowmobile - kids towed on a sled!!!



How about Xmas in a French Chateau 4 nights/ five days @ The Chateau de Chambord in the Loire, fly or drive.

Winter Xmas Breaks in the Swiss Mountains - non ski breaks - or a Rail Break on the Alpine Express.

There are plenty more to choose from, but this is the perfect time to these booked - once we get to November it is hard to find availability.

Looking for a Xmas Market in England, Oxford, Manchester, Bristol, Edinburgh and Bath - and here too, there are VIP Perks, call us.

Skiing over Xmas & New Year - it is already late - but we can find you a good break for that too.

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



The Cherry Orchard

by Anton Checkov, in a version by Ben Clare

Teddington Theatre Club at the Hampton Hill Theatre until 16th October

The Cherry Orchard is set at very beginning of the 20th Century; a time of change in Russia. A communist ideology is soon to seed the Russian revolution. The emancipation of the serfs brought great social change, and a new middle class emerged, which both resents and seeks to emulate the aristocracy.

Liubov Ranavskaya, a Russian aristocratic, has an emotional reunion of with her childhood home. She has lost wealth and position, and their family estate is up for sale. Memories abide of the death of her young son, and of her beloved cherry orchard, now likely to be cut down and replaced by Dachas.



Ben Clare's thought-provoking, fascinating and intense interpretation is set in a specially created acting space, enveloping and intimate. A few chairs and blankets under a canopy of white cherry flowers serves as the nursery, a ballroom and an orchard.



This intimacy really works for the scenes which feature Melanie Richardson's totally convincing Liubov. Various playful or desperate, she is every inch the aristocrat. Generous and kind, she is quite incapable of adapting to the new order. One feels her emotions, shares in her despair, and recognises the inevitability of the loss of her old life.

The radical student Pyotr embodies coming change. Barney Healy-Smith's soliloquy at the picnic, admirably updated by Ben Clare, really packs a punch.

The female characters are feisty and powerful, while the men are feeble, grasping or both. It's impossible not to feel sorry for Alex Farley's hapless Semyan Eipikhodov, whereas Ian Kinane's Ermolai Lopakhin, a self-made man finding his way in this new world, shifts between obsequiousness and triumphalism. Although wanting to be seen as altruistic, he is selfish and unable or unwilling to feel (or at least show) emotion.



In a stand-out performance, Muriel Keech switches brilliantly from aged manservant to give the long-serving nanny Firs a special poignancy, as she simultaneously regrets the loss of the old order and her caring role with the still child-like Leonid. Her highly affecting final speech, and accompanying superb sound effects of the house being closed for the last time, are truly chilling.

Read Polly Davies' review at www.markaspen.com/2026/10/12/cherry-orchard-ttc

Photography by Steve Sitton

Blood of My Blood

by Joy Nesbitt

The English Stage Company at The Royal Court Theatre, Chelsea until 7th November

There are histories that refuse to remain buried. They linger in the walls of old houses, in the silences between generations, and in the lives of those who inherit the consequences of events they never witnessed. In *Blood Of My Blood*, a cabin in South Carolina, once a home during the American Civil War, becomes, in contemporary America, a 'fashionable' Airbnb, where a pregnant black woman turns to conjure up the voices of her ancestors. The past is not merely a sequence of events to be revisited; it is an active presence, shaping identity, complicating belonging and demanding recognition.



The cabin becomes a repository of memory, made all the more potent by remarkable set design. Rather than placing us at a comfortable distance from the action, Natalie Pryce creates an entire cabin, surrounded by grass that extends into the auditorium. It is an invitation to intimately inhabit the play's world, and to feel implicated in its histories.

Hannah Morrish is a particular standout. Her transformation between the eager, jumpy Amanda and the cruelly controlled, dismissive Nora is striking in its precision and its emotional intelligence. The contrast creates an entire shift in the atmosphere of the room. The transition is stark and often shocking.

Jodie Campbell, meanwhile, offers a masterclass in naturalism. Her acting feels refreshingly unforced, attentive to the rhythms and irregularities of real conversation. She possesses an ease that makes the character feel discovered rather than performed, an apparent effortlessness that is compelling.



At its heart, *Blood Of My Blood* is a play about women: their stories, their friendships and their struggle to retain ownership of their own narratives. There is a natural tenderness in the way these relationships are allowed to breathe, and a recognition that women's lives are shaped as much by their connections to one another as by the histories imposed upon them.

There are moments when the play's considerable thematic ambitions threaten to overwhelm its dramatic focus. Its enormous subjects are each capable of sustaining a drama in their own right. Occasionally, their accumulation leaves less room for individual ideas to settle and resonate, yet this is a limitation of proportion rather than imagination. Willingness to grapple with such complex material is precisely what makes the work so exciting.

Read Ravenna Vale's review at www.markaspen.com/2026/10/09/blood-blood

Photography by Marc Brenner

An Oak Tree

by Tim Crouch

Francesca Moody Productions at The Other Palace, Victoria until 15th November

Could this be the future of theatre? At a time when audiences are dwindling, ageing, and less engaged with live theatre, Tim Crouch invites a different actor on stage at each show to perform without having seen the script. Crouch premiered *An Oak Tree* in 2005 and over 350 performers have shared his stage.

It's an unusual theatre experience and exposes actors, more known for their work on film, to live theatre. It forces the actor to fall back on natural acting skills; no costumes to hide behind and a bare stage, and the confrontative strains of *Carmina Burana*. Crouch is known for breaking the boundaries of traditional theatre, and this he certainly does.



The actor plays the father, and Crouch an unnerving stage hypnotist. It proves to be part comedy, part stage hypnotics show and part an emotional narrative about two people dealing with the aftermath of a horrific accident. Its unpredictability makes for the uncomfortable possibility that it could trivialise a tragic event. Although theatre deals with tragedy all the time, the idea of grief being drawn out through stage hypnotism is disturbing.

There are beautifully vivid descriptions in the text, such as the way he describes through colour the visceral observations the father felt as he was told about the death of his daughter.

With an unrehearsed performer, every night is a constantly shifting relationship between Crouch, actor, and audience. There are [some brave big names](#), such as Juliet Stevenson, lined up to take part in this experiment over the next few weeks.

All credit to Gwyneth Keyworth for being the brave soul to step up for the first performance. She gave an honest and truthful performance as the father of the dead girl. She seemed more comfortable responding to her role, than in reacting to the hypnotist working his stage act. Crouch not only plays the hypnotist, but also the girl's mother and himself. He has a disconcerting presence and is totally in control of his material. There is a slightly unnerving charm to what he is doing.

When the hypnotist and the father finally make peace with their guilt in their different ways, *An Oak Tree* is profound and thought provoking. If your theatrical experience is fulfilled by after-show discussion, this is certainly for you.

Read Claire Alexander's review at www.markaspen.com/2026/10/08/oak-tree

Photography by Pamela Raith

Arthur Miller's THE CRUCIBLE

at the Mary Wallace Theatre, October 24th-31st

Written in the 1950s, Arthur Miller's THE CRUCIBLE takes as its subject the notorious Salem witch trials of 1692-93, when fear and hysteria surrounding the supposed use of witchcraft infected a small devout town in Massachusetts, sparked false accusations, trials and the summary execution by hanging of nineteen innocent citizens. Undoubtedly a gripping and dramatic theme, but Miller's play was also intended to be a dark parable for the anti-communist, "Red Scare" hysteria and McCarthy's hearings at the House Un-American Activities Committee which were current in America at that time.



This new production of THE CRUCIBLE, not presented here since 1989, is currently in the final stages of rehearsal before opening on Saturday October 24th, playing till the 31st, with a captioned performance on Thursday 29th.

Tickets are scarce and early booking recommended.

Booking at www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk

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

Rehearsal photos - Simone Sutton



National pollinator survey reveals insects' favoured flowers

From Butterfly Conservation

An eight-year study has revealed that the most popular flower with pollinating insects is Common Ivy.



The climbing vine's abundant late-summer and autumn blooms, typically rich in pollen and nectar, received the highest average number of insect visits out of 14 common and widespread flowers surveyed during ten-minute citizen-science counts across the UK.

Ivy was followed by Hogweed, Bramble, Buddleja, Knapweeds and Thistle in overall insect popularity.

The survey also found that Buddleja attracts four times as many butterflies and moths as other high-scoring flowers.

The floral facts have been revealed by the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (PoMS), which has asked citizen scientists to record insect visits to flowers since 2017. The scheme recommends a list of 14 target flowers to monitor (including Ivy), but counts can be carried out on any patch of flowers in gardens or the countryside.

The scheme is run by the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) with support from Butterfly Conservation and other partners.

Butterfly Conservation Butterfly Monitoring Officer Jo Milborrow said: *“These results are fantastic because they provide valuable information about pollinators’ favourite flowers, helping people all over the country take action at home to support butterflies, moths and other insects.*

“We already recommend Ivy as a great plant to grow because it is an important resource for breeding Holly Blue butterflies and nectaring Commas and Red Admirals, so the fact that this easy-to-grow native species is also the number one plant for pollinating insect visits is a fantastic discovery - we would recommend people to start growing Ivy today!”

The latest annual report from PoMS revealed that hoverflies declined by around a third in both their abundance and number of species recorded across GB in all three surveys conducted over the past eight years. The total numbers of all insects, and of bumblebees, also declined in two of the three PoMS surveys, signalling possible risks to the health of our ecosystems.

In contrast, the abundance and number of species of solitary bees increased in one survey but did not change in the other two. Honeybees, other (non-hoverfly) flies and beetles all increased in the survey covering mostly gardens, suggesting that these could be providing an important refuge for some of our pollinators.

PoMS volunteer coordinator Martin Harvey at UKCEH said *“PoMS is grateful to everyone who has participated in our surveys, allowing us to gather evidence on changes in pollinating insect populations. Participants often say how much they have enjoyed spending time counting pollinators on FIT Counts, and it is always fascinating to observe the close association between insects and flowers. Counts can be contributed between 1 April and 30 September each year - see the PoMS website to find out more about getting involved for 2027.”*

These figures support Butterfly Conservation’s research which shows that 80% of butterflies in the UK have declined in abundance or distribution since the 1970s.

The charity encourages people to grow plants for pollinators, however the popularity of Buddleja, known as ‘the butterfly bush’, is more complicated because it is a non-native species that can be invasive.

Butterfly Conservation advises anyone growing Buddleja at home to deadhead it (chop off the flower heads) as soon as it has finished flowering: this stops it from self-seeding.

The charity also encourages people to grow caterpillar foodplants, which are essential for butterflies and moths to complete their life cycle, such as bird’s-foot trefoil, garlic mustard and nasturtiums.

Jo Milborrow added: *“Sadly, these figures from the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme add yet more evidence of worrying declines among our insects, which isn’t a huge surprise given what we know about our native butterflies and moths. However growing flowers for pollinators like Ivy, and caterpillar foodplants such as nasturtiums, are simple and really effective actions we can take to make a tangible difference.”*

To find out more about PoMS and how to get involved, go to www.ukpoms.org.uk

Find out more about gardening for butterflies at butterfly-conservation.org

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FREE COMMUNITY HALLOWEEN PARTY

MOVIE BEFORE
THE PARTY!



SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2026
12PM - 13:45PM



POPCORN
AND SQUASH

£2

ALL PROCEEDS GO
TO OUR COUNSELLING
SERVICES



SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2026

2PM - 4PM



Whitton Community Centre
Percy Road, Twickenham, TW2 6JL

Come along and celebrate with us
and have some **spooktackular** fun!



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THIS IS A TICKETED EVENT SO
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TO BOOK YOUR FREE TICKETS!

Take a Taste Trip Around the World Without Leaving Richmond

From Be Richmond

From Spanish tapas and Argentine steak to Japanese sushi and Thai street food, Richmond is offering diners the chance to take a culinary trip around the world without leaving south-west London.

With an increasingly diverse food and drink scene, Richmond is home to restaurants serving flavours from across the globe, from established independent favourites to newer additions bringing fresh dining experiences to the town.

Be Richmond, the Business Improvement District for Richmond town centre, is highlighting the breadth of the town's food and drink offer, showcasing some of the restaurants giving visitors the opportunity to discover flavours from around the world.

Among the latest names to join Richmond's food scene is **Tower House**, located on Bridge Street. Located in what was once a mid-19th-century riverside home, the stylish restaurant and bar combines Mediterranean-inspired dishes with a relaxed riverside setting, serving everything from burrata and roasted vegetables to wood-roasted chicken and seafood. Its elevated riverside garden is also available for walk-ins, making it an option for spontaneous late summer dining.



For a taste of India, **Cinnamon Bazaar** offers a modern interpretation of the country's rich culinary traditions. Inspired by the vibrant bazaars and historic trading routes, its Richmond menu combines street food-style dishes with creative takes on classic flavours.



Richmond's Spanish offering includes **Rincón Bar Español**, a family-run tapas bar on Paradise Road. Owned and run by cousins Felipe and Gianni, the independent restaurant has been serving modern and traditional Spanish food since 2012, with sharing plates, Spanish wines and classic tapas at the heart of its menu.

Thai food lovers can head to **Rosa's Thai**, where bold and fresh flavours take centre stage. The menu features Thai favourites including fragrant curries, stir-fries, papaya salad and tom yum.

Just round the corner on George Street, **Sticks'n'Sushi** brings a mix of nature and city vibes with stylish Japanese-inspired dining to Richmond, with a menu combining sushi, salads and grilled sticks.

Italian cuisine is also well represented, with **Sebastian's** having been a Richmond favourite since 2013. Located on King Street, the restaurant serves home-cooked Italian dishes in the heart of the town, while **Noci** offers another Italian option for diners keen to discover one of the newer additions to Richmond's food and drink line up.

Meanwhile, **Gaucho Richmond** offers a taste of Argentina from its renown riverside setting. Its menu centres on premium grass-fed beef, alongside seafood, salads and vegetarian options, while its location beside the Thames offers views towards Richmond Bridge and surrounding Gardens.

From a quick bite to a long lunch, a family meal to a special occasion, Richmond's food scene offers plenty of opportunities to discover something new, all within a town surrounded by the Thames, parks and open green spaces.

To discover more places to eat and drink in Richmond, visit Be Richmond's online food and drink directory - <https://berichmond.london/directory/shop-eat-stay/eat-and-drink>

THE CHANGING FACE OF LONDON

An illustrated talk
by Tim Catchpole



Monday 2 November • 7.30pm

Tower House School Hall, 188 Sheen Lane, SW14 8LF

Admission £5 • Members Free

More details from info@mess.org.uk

Autumn, Winter & Festive Afternoon Tea in London's parks – now for little ones too!

From Roots & Berries, Strawberry Hill House

Served in beautiful park cafés across South and West London, the traditional Afternoon Tea (£29pp) features freshly prepared artisan savouries, homemade scones, delicious little cakes and loose-leaf teas. From mid-November, the festive menu brings a seasonal twist, with treats including roast chicken, truffle and sage buns, mince pies and Christmas present fondant fancies.



New for this year, Kids Afternoon Tea is available in two sizes – Tots (up to 7 years, £9) and Junior (7–12 years, £15). Expect child-sized favourites, adorable hand-iced biscuits and a colouring sheet to keep little hands busy.

But it's about more than just afternoon tea. With cafés nestled in some of London's loveliest parks and commons, families can make a whole afternoon of it – from exploring the playgrounds and enjoying a stroll through the autumn leaves to feeding the ducks with a complimentary bag of duck-friendly food, included with children's teas at participating locations.

There's a lovely feel-good element too, with £2 from every afternoon tea donated to local Friends groups, helping to care for these much-loved green spaces.

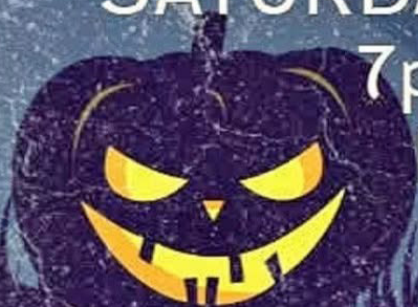
Afternoon Tea is available at six locations, including Wandsworth Common, Streatham Common, Bishop's Park, Ravenscourt Park, Brockwell Park and Strawberry Hill House.

Teddington
Constitutional
Club Presents

A VERY SPOOKY HALLOWEEN PARTY

FANCY
DRESS
COMPETITION
£20 bar tab for the winner

SATURDAY 31ST OCT 2026
7pm-Midnight
DJ PIERS



Five spooky activities for families this October Half Term

From Butterfly Conservation

Beat the boredom this October Half Term with Butterfly Conservation's five fun, slightly spooky and wild-inspired activities for the family.

1. See what's going bump in the night

The nights are drawing in but there's still lots to see when the sun goes down! Head out after dark with a torch and look for fallen fruit, berries or Ivy and you might find some moths enjoying a sweet treat. Many caterpillars are nocturnal, so you can also check out plants and leaves to see if any caterpillars are out having a midnight feast. You can even make your own moth magnet. Heat a bottle of red wine (moths don't mind what vintage) and stir in 1kg sugar until dissolved but make sure not to boil. Allow the mixture to cool and then soak lengths of rope or fabric



in the sugary concoction. Drape the ropes over low branches, bushes or fences just before dusk and check for moths by torch light during the first two hours of darkness. You can identify what you spot on Butterfly Conservation's moth pages www.butterfly-conservation.org/moths

2. Carve a butterfly or moth themed pumpkin

Looking to get a bit more creative with your pumpkin designs this year? Head over to Butterfly Conservation's [butterfly](https://butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies) [https://butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies] and [moth](https://butterfly-conservation.org/moths) [https://butterfly-conservation.org/moths] pages to pick your favourite, copy their outline onto your pumpkin and cut out your design. For the perfectionists of the family, you can make things more detailed by printing out a picture and tracing the butterfly, moth or caterpillar using tracing paper and thick pencil. Whatever you create, make sure to tag Butterfly Conservation in your designs on social media at [@savebutterflies](https://twitter.com/savebutterflies)



3. Dress up as a Death's-head Hawk-moth

Looking for a spooky nature-themed Halloween outfit? Make your own Death's-head Hawk-moth mask. This fun craft is great for kids on rainy days and can make a fun party activity. Download Butterfly Conservation's [moth mask template](https://butterfly-conservation.org/discover-and-learn/activities-and-resources/moth-mask-template) and follow the simple steps [<https://butterfly-conservation.org/discover-and-learn/activities-and-resources/moth-mask-template>]



4. Create your own Frankenstein's caterpillar

Caterpillars have loads of clever ways of avoiding predators, from colourful bodies to spitting acid. Learn all about their adaptations on Butterfly Conservation's [Discover and Learn page](https://butterfly-conservation.org/discover-and-learn/activities-and-resources/clever-caterpillar-adaptations) [<https://butterfly-conservation.org/discover-and-learn/activities-and-resources/clever-caterpillar-adaptations>] and then have a go at coming up with your own caterpillar creation – will it have horrible hairs, cunning camouflage or maybe a toxic taste? You could even bring it to life with whatever materials you have around the house!



5. Go on a weird and wild walk

Although it's seen as a quieter time of year for wildlife, there's still lots of weird and wild things to see. Grab your scarves and head out for a walk around your local green space – and don't forget to take a magnifying glass to get a bit closer. Look out for skeleton leaves, strange-looking lichens (and some of the caterpillars that eat them), and maybe even moth "mummies" pupating in leaf piles. Check out Butterfly Conservation's [spooky spotter sheet](https://butterfly-conservation.org/discover-and-learn/activities-and-resources/spotter-sheets) for some inspiration of what to look out for [<https://butterfly-conservation.org/discover-and-learn/activities-and-resources/spotter-sheets>]



Looking for more fun activities to do with the kids this autumn? Check out [Discover and Learn | Butterfly Conservation](https://butterfly-conservation.org/discover-and-learn) [<https://butterfly-conservation.org/discover-and-learn>]



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

St Mary's University

New research centre and White Paper launched to address barriers to healthcare access

St Mary's University has launched its [Centre for Applied Health and Wellbeing](#), bringing together research and collaboration to address real-world health and wellbeing challenges.

and community organisations assess their services and identify improvements.

Dr Cerga Pashoja said: *"Digital healthcare only works when people can understand it, trust it and get help when they need it. We need to look beyond whether a service is available online and ask whether people can actually navigate it and access the care they need. That means designing pathways around people's experiences, with human support and alternatives when digital routes create barriers."*

Bringing research, practice and lived experience together

The event's panel discussion explored the gap between policy ambitions and people's experiences of accessing services. Contributors highlighted how language, trust and cultural differences can affect access to healthcare, as well as the challenges professionals face when translating policy into practice.

Discussions also emphasised the importance of involving people with lived experience in shaping services and ensuring research leads to practical improvements.

The event reflected the importance of bringing researchers, healthcare professionals, policymakers and communities together to identify barriers, share expertise and develop approaches that can make a meaningful difference.

Join the centre

If you are an external organisation who would like to explore collaborations together, please [register your interest](#).

If you are a St Mary's staff or student who would like to join the centre, please [register your interest](#).

Explore the resources:

[Find out more about the Centre for Applied Health and Wellbeing](#)

[Read Availability Is Not Accessibility and explore the research resources](#)



The launch took place on Friday 9 October at *Celebrating World Mental Health Day 2026: Research, Voices & Collaboration* at The Exchange in Twickenham. The event brought together policymakers, NHS organisations, community groups, healthcare professionals, researchers and people with lived experience to explore how evidence and collaboration can help improve health and wellbeing.

The event also marked the launch of [Availability Is Not Accessibility](#), a White Paper led by [Dr Arlinda Cerga Pashoja](#), examining barriers migrant communities face when accessing digital primary and mental healthcare in London.

Research with real-world impact

The Centre for Applied Health and Wellbeing aims to connect interdisciplinary research with policy, professional practice and communities, helping address challenges in health and wellbeing.

The White Paper demonstrates the importance of this approach, exploring how barriers can arise throughout the healthcare journey, from registering with a GP to accessing consultations, referrals and treatment.

It sets out nine practical recommendations for improving digital healthcare pathways and is accompanied by a Toolkit to help healthcare providers



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Esports Students Captivated by BFBS Pro League Grand Final

As part of our enrichment programme, our Esports students took an exciting trip to the British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS) Pro League Grand Final at the Royal Air Force Museum in North London in September.

The Rocket League event, the biggest of its kind to date, brought together the eight top teams from across the UK Armed Forces community to compete for the championship title and celebrate the growing Esports and military community.

Congratulations to S.E.A Dragons, who were crowned champions following an impressive performance in the tournament.



From classroom learning to professional gaming

The visit gave our students the opportunity to experience a major live Esports event first-hand, connecting their classroom learning with the realities of competitive gaming.

Throughout the day, learners observed the importance of teamwork, communication, strategy and decision-making at the highest level of play, while gaining valuable insight into how professional competitions are organised and delivered.

In addition to watching the competition, learners were able to explore the many career opportunities available beyond playing professionally, including:

- Event management
- Broadcasting
- Production
- Coaching
- Content creation.

The experience provided students with a greater understanding of the fast-growing Esports sector and the diverse range of roles that contribute to the success of large-scale events.

Beyond the classroom

Studying with us will give you the chance to enhance your skills, gain industry insights and take part in enriching experiences that bring learning to life beyond the classroom.

From live events to real-world industry exposure, our courses are designed to help you take your first steps towards a career you'll love.

[Search our courses and apply now](#) - we've got something for everyone!



A Mystery Unfolds at Lynde House, as Residents become detectives for the day

From Lynde House, Twickenham

Residents at Lynde House Care Home in Twickenham enjoyed an afternoon of mystery, storytelling and lively discussion during a drama reading session inspired by Agatha Christie's classic whodunnit, *A Murder Is Announced*.

The home's lounge became a gathering place for budding detectives as residents followed the twists and turns of the intriguing story. With each new chapter, curiosity grew, and residents eagerly considered the clues, discussed their theories and tried to work out who might be responsible for the murder.

The session encouraged residents to use their imagination, share their thoughts and engage in meaningful conversations, creating an enjoyable experience filled with laughter, suspense and companionship.



One resident reflected on the mystery, saying: *"It certainly keeps you guessing! Just when you think you know who did it, something else happens. I'm looking forward to finding out what happens next!"*

Another resident added: *"I do enjoy a good mystery. It's lovely to sit together, share our ideas and see if we can solve it. We should have our own detective club!"*

The activity was about much more than solving a fictional crime. It provided an opportunity for residents to connect with one another, express their opinions and enjoy the pleasure of sharing a story together.

At Lynde House, activities like these reflect the home's commitment to creating meaningful experiences that celebrate residents' interests, encourage participation and bring people together through shared enjoyment.

The team looks forward to continuing the story at the next reading session, when the mystery may finally begin to unravel. Until then, the question remains: who do you think did it?

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 care, residential care, respite care.

Paul Oakenfold Announced as Big Game 18 Headline Act

From Harlequins

Harlequins are thrilled to announce world-renowned DJ and producer Paul Oakenfold will be the headline music act at Big Game 18, the club's much-loved festive fixture, on Monday 28 December 2026.

Quins will host Northampton Saints and Loughborough Lightning in a huge double header of Gallagher PREM and JAECOO Premiership Women Rugby, with Paul Oakenfold on board to set the tone with an epic pre-match set at Allianz Stadium.

Born in London, Oakenfold is known as one of the most influential figures in dance music. Twice crowned the world's best DJ by DJ Mag, he pioneered the trance sound with his Perfecto label and signed artists including David Guetta, Calvin Harris, Carl Cox and Tiesto and he's previously been hailed as the most influential DJ of all time by the London Evening Standard.



Three Grammy nominations and more than ten million albums sold worldwide, as well as sharing his pioneering sound through movie soundtracks like 'Swordfish' and TV show themes like 'Big Brother', have earned him a reputation as the "Godfather of electronic music".

Anthems like "Ready Steady Go", "Starry Eyed Surprise" and "Southern Sun" sit alongside remix and production credits for Madonna, U2, The Rolling Stones, Snoop Dogg and Beyonce. His unique sets have taken him from the base camp of Mount Everest to Stonehenge, and now to Allianz Stadium, where he'll bring that energy to the Men's pre-match show at Big Game 18 at the Home of England Rugby for the biggest annual club rugby fixture in the calendar.

Now in its 18th iteration, Big Game has grown from a one-off Christmas fixture into a festival of rugby, music and entertainment for fans of all ages and Paul Oakenfold's set will be the centrepiece of this year's off-pitch entertainment.

Laurie Dalrymple, Harlequins Chief Executive, said: *"Big Game is one of the biggest days in our calendar, and the headline act plays a crucial role in building the excitement in-bowl as we approach kick-off of the men's fixture. Paul Oakenfold is a global icon and a proud Londoner, and his set will build the atmosphere at Allianz Stadium. With a double header of Gallagher PREM and JAECOO Premiership Women's Rugby action as the main event, we have no doubt that Paul's set is only going to add to the occasion, and we can't wait to welcome our supporters."*

Previewing his Big Game 18 performance, Paul Oakenfold said: *"Playing to over 80,000 people at the Home of Rugby is going to be magical. I've played in stadiums all over the world but there is something extra special about performing in your home city and creating a unique moment. The Harlequins fans are known for their loyalty and passion, and I'll be looking to bring this excitement and energy into my set"*.

Tickets for Big Game 18 are now available on General Sale from £40 for Adults and £25 for Under-18s [here](#).



Match Preview: Brentford v Liverpool

Written By Brentford Football Club

Brentford welcome Liverpool to Gtech Community Stadium in the Premier League on Saturday afternoon (3pm kick-off BST).

Keith Andrews' side remain unbeaten in all competitions this season following a 2-2 draw at Aston Villa, while Liverpool responded to a 3-0 home defeat to Manchester City with a 6-3 Champions League victory over LASK on Wednesday.



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*: Brentford's defensive approach could test Liverpool's attack

Brentford host Andoni Iraola's Liverpool at Gtech Community Stadium this Saturday, looking to maintain their unbeaten start to the 2026/27 campaign.

The Bees have the benefit of a week on the grass following their 2-2 draw at Aston Villa last weekend, while the visitors face a quick turnaround after Wednesday's 6-3 Champions League victory over LASK in Austria.

Keith Andrews' side have made a positive start, with an impressive goal difference of +12 across all competitions reflecting their effectiveness at both ends of the pitch.

Andrews has spoken about the breadth of Brentford's attacking options this season, and the Bees had two new names on the scoresheet at Villa Park.

Kristoffer Ajer and Yehor Yarmoliuk both opened their Premier League accounts with sharp strikes, and only Brighton and Hove Albion (10) have had more different goalscorers than Brentford (nine) in the top flight this term.

Saturday's visitors Liverpool, meanwhile, are still to find their rhythm in front of goal in the Premier League under new boss Iraola.

Alexander Isak (three) is the only Liverpool player to have scored more than once in the Premier League this season, with Victor Muñoz, Cody Gakpo and Dominik Szoboszlai the only other Reds players to find the net.

Liverpool rank among the top six Premier League sides for both shots (89) and shots on target (30), but their underlying numbers suggest they are struggling to carve out high-quality opportunities. Indeed, no side has created fewer 'big chances' than Liverpool (nine) in the top flight this season.

The Reds' difficulties in this regard could be compounded on Saturday by Brentford's ability to restrict opponents to low-probability shots.

Last season, only champions Arsenal and Sunderland conceded shots with a lower average xG than the Bees, and that trend has continued, with the average shot conceded by Brentford this term carrying an xG value of just 0.11.

As was the case last season, the Bees encourage opponents to take a high proportion of their shots from outside the penalty area, with former Red Caoimhín Kelleher having made more saves from outside the box (10) than any other Premier League goalkeeper this season.

Tellingly, Brentford have conceded an average of 14.5 shots per game, but fewer than 7 per cent of those attempts have resulted in goals, with only Everton and Leeds boasting lower opposition shot conversion rates.

Liverpool have, however, kept three league clean sheets this season and notably improved their defending from set-pieces.

Last season, the Reds conceded more goals from corners, free-kicks and throw-ins than any other Premier League side, but they have tightened up considerably. Liverpool and Brentford are among just four teams yet to concede from a set-piece this term.

Summer signing Jérémy Jacquet has also made an immediate impression at Anfield, with a string of eye-catching defensive statistics suggesting the 21-year-old centre-back could be a star in the making.

Check out Saturday's matchday programme for a profile of the Frenchman, who earned his first senior international caps over the recent international break.

If last season is anything to go by, fans would be well advised to stay in their seats until the final whistle on Saturday.

Only Liverpool (20) scored more Premier League goals after the 75th minute than Brentford (19) last term, suggesting there could be plenty of late drama at the Gtech.

Scout report

Dan Long, *Sky Sports*: Liverpool showing signs of change under Iraola

In hindsight, Liverpool's Premier League title defence was over before the end of November last year.

After a run of six defeats in seven, it was all about playing catch-up, and Arne Slot's side simply couldn't do it. And that, arguably, set the tone for the campaign as a whole.

Their total of 60 points was their lowest Premier League points tally since 2015/16 and, for the first time in five seasons, they did not win a single piece of silverware. They were runners-up in the Community Shield, reached the quarter-finals of the FA Cup and Champions League, and were dumped out of the Carabao Cup in round four by Crystal Palace.

Club legends Mohamed Salah and Andy Robertson departed in the summer, but before that, on 30 May, head coach Arne Slot was sacked. "The conclusion we have come to is built on a belief that the team's trajectory is best addressed through a change of direction," said the club in a statement.

It was not a knee-jerk change of direction, as Andoni Iraola had been linked with the job at Anfield for several years. But when he left Bournemouth upon the expiry of his contract, there was seemingly only one destination for the Spaniard.

"I can only say [to the fans] that I want to become one more of you, I want to earn the right to be one of you, so we can enjoy it all together," he said, having signed a two-year contract.

According to Sky Sports data, Liverpool were the sixth-biggest spenders in the Premier League as the new era started this summer (£250.1 million) and had the biggest net spend of all 20 clubs (£219.4m).

The majority was spent on three quality additions: Victor Muñoz provided another option in wide areas, Jérémy Jacquet was brought in as the long-term successor to Ibrahima Konaté and Bradley Barcola was the statement signing. Perhaps the latter is not a direct replacement for Salah, but he is a player that could, in time, produce similar levels of goal contributions.

Asked in his first Liverpool interview about playing vertically and attacking with speed, Iraola said: "I think they have to be our core principles." The summer signings reflect that.

Iraola's start has been encouraging, although Sunday's 3-0 home defeat to Manchester City brought an unbeaten start of seven games in all competitions to an abrupt end.

It was also Iraola's first Premier League defeat since 3 January, ending a lengthy unbeaten run stretching across the end of his Bournemouth tenure and the start of his time at Liverpool.

The Reds responded in emphatic fashion on Wednesday, beating LASK 6-3 in the Champions League as summer signing Bradley Barcola scored a hat-trick.

There is still a long way to go this season, but after the disappointment of how Liverpool fell short last term, there are already signs of the change in direction the board wanted.

In the dugout

Andoni Iraola

A right-back by trade during his playing days, Andoni Iraola came through the ranks at Athletic Bilbao and made his debut during the 2003/04 La Liga season, following two years in the Segunda Division with Bilbao's B team and a year with Basconia - effectively the club's C team - before that.

Over the 10 seasons that followed his debut year, Iraola astonishingly missed only 26 league games. During that time, he was part of the squad that finished as runners-up in the Copa del Rey twice, once in the Europa League and once in the Spanish Super Cup.

Between 2008 and 2011, he earned seven senior caps for Spain.

He featured considerably less during 2014/15 - his final season at San Mamés - but captained Athletic in his final game for the club, in a third Copa del Rey final defeat, this time against Barcelona.

Iraola then signed for New York City of the MLS, where he spent 17 months, before retiring in November 2016.

Just over 18 months later, he was handed his first managerial role with AEK Larnaca, but lasted only until January 2019 after winning 12 of his 29 matches in charge of the Cypriot First Division club.

That summer, he joined Mirandés, where, in his only season at the club, he masterminded a run to the semi-final of the Copa del Rey for only the second time in the club's history.

In August 2020, he took over at Rayo Vallecano, whom he led to promotion from the Segunda Division in his first season in charge.

Los Franjirrojos finished 12th in their first season back in La Liga and 11th the following campaign, leading to an approach from Leeds United, which was rebuffed by the club's board.

However, he left at the end of the campaign when his contract expired and joined Bournemouth in June 2023.

In three years at Vitality Stadium, Iraola guided the Cherries to 12th, ninth and sixth, setting a new club-record Premier League points total each time.

Having secured Europe for the first time in the club's history, he left in June to sign a two-year deal at Liverpool.



Would You Believe It? Richmond's Missing Lotto Millionaire Has Been Found

From The National Lottery

A missing Lotto millionaire has come forward in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to claim their incredible £1M prize.



Following an extensive search by The National Lottery to find the missing winner and with the public urged to believe it could be them, the lucky winner has come forward nearly two months after their lucky numbers were drawn to claim their winnings.

The lucky pink ticket was purchased in Richmond for the Lotto draw on Wednesday 19 August and matched five main numbers and the Bonus Ball in Round 2 to scoop the seven-figure prize. The winning numbers were **4, 8, 10, 17, 23, 28** and the Bonus Ball was **16**.

Toby Moxham, Head of Winners' Services at Allwyn, operator of The National Lottery, said:

"What a result. Someone has come forward following our appeal to claim their one-million-pound prize. If Ted Lasso has taught us anything, it's the power of believing, and we believed we would unite our missing winner with their life-changing prize."

"Just imagine, for nearly two months someone has been walking around without realising they have been sat on a winning ticket that would change their life forever."

The claim follows a fantastic few weeks for Lotto winners, with the game now making more millionaires than ever before. Since the launch of new Lotto in June

76 millionaires have been created, with the total for 2026 at a whopping **140 millionaires**.

As with all major prizes, the claim will now go through the process of validation, which includes checks to ensure the Games Rules and Terms and Conditions are adhered to, and the integrity of The National Lottery is protected. Subject to validation, the prize will then be paid at an appointment with an Allwyn Winners' Adviser.

Once validated and paid, the ticket-holder will decide whether or not they wish to go public and share their news. There will be no information released about whether the winner is an individual or syndicate, or where the tickets were purchased, unless the winner chooses to go public.

Playing any National Lottery game is more than just a chance to win; it's a way to contribute to something much bigger. Each week, players help generate around £33M for National Lottery-funded projects. With more than £53BN raised for Good Causes since launch, this funds hundreds of projects in every postcode area across the UK.

Mayor announces tickets for London's world-famous New Year's Eve fireworks go on sale next week

From Mayor of London



The first batch of tickets for London's world-famous New Year's Eve fireworks celebrations will go on sale at midday on Friday 23 October, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan has announced.

London will welcome 2027 with a spectacular display of fireworks, lighting and music, as around 100,000 Londoners and visitors unite along the banks of the River Thames.

The showstopping event will begin with Big Ben's famous bongs, before thousands of fireworks and hundreds of lights illuminate the night sky around the London Eye, accompanied by a wide-ranging soundtrack.

The eyes of the globe will be watching as London honours the moments that shaped 2026 and looks ahead to 2027, before the event ends with the traditional singalong of 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Many millions around the world tune in each year on TV and online, making the annual display an incredible advert for our capital, culture and tourism industry.

It is essential to buy a ticket to watch the fireworks in person and next Friday at midday will be the first opportunity to secure one. A final smaller batch of tickets will go on sale later this year.

Demand is always extremely high and this year is expected to be no exception, which is why the Mayor is urging anyone interested to buy their tickets as soon as possible.

Only tickets bought from the authorised outlet Ticketmaster will be accepted. No official tickets will be sold by any other websites and those bought through any other means will not be valid. Anyone without a ticket will not be allowed to enter the specially designated viewing areas.

Once again, ticket prices for Londoners remain at £20 and £35 depending on the viewing area. Tickets for people who live outside the capital will be £40 and £55.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said:

“Nowhere in the world brings in the new year like London. Every year our unique display of fireworks, lighting and music shows off the very best of London, as around 100,000 Londoners and visitors line the banks of the River Thames and millions watch on around the world.

“I’m proud that our celebrations get better every year and are an incredible advert for our capital and a significant boost to our hospitality and tourism industries.

“Demand for tickets is always high, so I urge anyone wanting to attend to buy your ticket as soon as possible so you don’t miss out on experiencing the best New Year’s Eve fireworks show in the world.”

Laura Citron OBE, CEO of Visit London, commented:

“London’s New Year’s Eve fireworks display is one of the most important moments in our city’s cultural calendar, but it also provides an annual economic boost to our hospitality and tourism sectors.

Once tickets go live next week, we encourage the 100,000 lucky ticketholders to soak in some of the winter magic the city has to offer. Whether they are travelling to London on holiday for the first time and want to see the festive sights, or are Londoners looking to enjoy a local meal out beforehand, there is so much to see and do, both across our city’s neighbourhoods and close to the iconic South Bank where the show takes place.

We hope ticketholders are able to make the most of the city’s world-class cultural offer, before seeing London dazzle as the backdrop for the world’s most beloved fireworks show.”

Robin Goodhild, Senior General Manager, The London Eye: “

The London Eye is the perfect place to celebrate our incredible city and welcome in the new year with the capital’s world-renowned fireworks display. We are proud to be at the heart of this spectacular celebration and look forward to welcoming visitors from across London, the UK and around the world to mark the start of 2027.”



MAYOR OF LONDON

Chancellor says 'It is my job to protect resilience of the UK economy and the Budget will do that' in the face of international headwinds

Chancellor of the Exchequer John Healey used the IMF Annual Meetings in Bangkok to set out how the UK and its international partners can work together to respond to global economic headwinds and strengthen the conditions for growth.

Conflict in the Middle East and Ukraine is pushing up energy prices and the cost of government borrowing, with consequences for households and businesses around the world. The IMF has raised its inflation forecasts for G7 economies in 2027 by an average of nearly 0.8 percentage points compared with its assessment last year and lowered its 2027 growth forecasts for G7 partners by an average of nearly 0.1 percentage points compared with its pre-conflict January assessment.

The UK has shown strong resilience in the face of these challenges. The IMF have upgraded UK growth for 2026 and said that our deficit reduction plan stands out, with borrowing falling to its lowest level in six years this year and the UK forecast to have the lowest deficit in the G7 by 2029.



Today the Chancellor set out his view on how international co-operation can strengthen that resilience globally, focusing on: driving economic growth, including by harnessing AI; building resilience to crises and shocks; and unlocking international finance for development.

He set out that AI is a general-purpose technology which must be harnessed as one of the greatest innovations of our time. The UK will prioritise the AI transition by identifying barriers to adoption and managing the risks.

The Chancellor is keen to explore how, under UK's presidency of the G20, he can use the Finance Track to make progress on these issues. The UK's priorities for its G20 presidency will be announced in early 2027.

Chancellor of the Exchequer John Healey said: *"The UK economy is resilient and my Budget will protect Britain's resilience through this turbulent time. Conflict in the Middle East and Ukraine is hitting people and around the world, pushing up energy prices and the cost of government debt. Britain and our allies can face these challenges together. I will work with international partners to keep trade moving, strengthen resilience and deliver good growth for all. Fiscal discipline is the foundation for supporting families and businesses today, and building hope for the future."*

The Prime Minister has set out that the UK will continue his drive to tackle major global challenges, such as AI, through the UK's hosting of the G20 next year. The Finance Track will examine what AI means for growth and jobs, alongside action to strengthen economic resilience and support growth in developing economies.

The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting will take place in Edinburgh on 8 and 9 July 2027.



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