

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE



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### Editors

Berkley Driscoll  
Teresa Read



# TickerTape - News in Brief

## Twickenham Stadium – Rugby Weekend

Saturday 27th May

PREMIERSHIP FINAL

KO 15:00, Attendance: 60,000

Whitton, London & Rugby Roads close 13:00-15:00 & 16:30-19:00.

CPZ 11:00-23:00.

Sunday 28th May

BARBARIANS v WORLD XV

KO 14:00, Attendance: 30,000

Whitton, Rugby & London Roads close 12:00-14:00 & 15:30-18:00.

CPZ 11:00-23:00

## London 2 Brighton Ultra Challenge - Saturday 27 May

The London 2 Brighton Challenge will be taking place from 09:00 to 22:00, beginning in Richmond Park. Large crowds are expected.

Now in its 11th year over 2,000 adventurers will take on the Capital to Coast route and test their grit over the whole weekend. Richmond-Upon-Thames is the start, and it's over the North Downs with wonderful Surrey & Sussex countryside to half way at Turners Hill. The full 100 km route heads over the South Downs before the welcome sight of the Brighton coastline comes in to view.

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# Covid-19

By Teresa Read

**World Health Organization:** Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 - 25 May 2023

**At the country level**, the highest numbers of new **28-day cases** were reported from the Republic of Korea (462,726), the United States of America (256,909), Japan (164,367), Brazil (146,105) and Australia (125,992).

The highest numbers of new **28-day deaths** were reported from the United States of America (4,135), Brazil (1,206), France (810), Spain (745), and the Russian Federation (663).

**The European Region** reported nearly 573,000 new cases, a 45% decrease as compared to the previous 28-day period. Three of the 61 countries for which data are available reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with the highest proportional increases observed in Andorra (+150%), Liechtenstein (+50%) and Spain (+25%).

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from France (122,239), the Russian Federation (90,491) and Italy (70,136).

The number of new 28-day deaths in the Region decreased by 44% as compared to the previous 28-day period, with 5,373 new deaths reported.

The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from France (810), Spain (745), and the Russian Federation (663).

## **Spring booster walk-in clinics available locally in May and June**

The clinics will take place every week at multiple locations in Richmond upon Thames until Friday 30 June 2023.

The [spring booster](#) will be offered to: Adults aged 75 years and older and individuals aged 5 years and over with a weakened immune system. *Residents can also access their first or second COVID-19 vaccine.*

## **Richmond and Hillcroft Adult Community College, Parkshot Richmond TW9 2RE**

Wednesday 31 May *Walk-in only*: 10.30am to 2.30pm

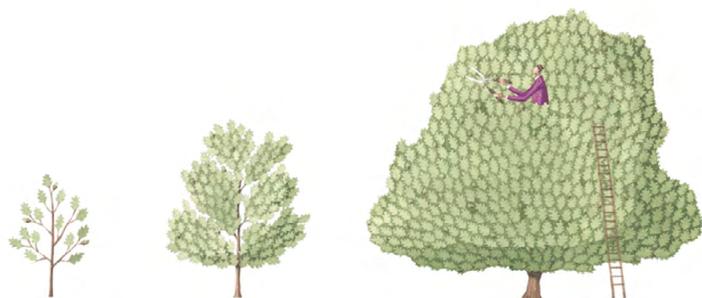
## **Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, 222 Sheen Road, Richmond, TW10 5AN**

Tuesdays until Friday 30 June, *Walk in or [book a time](#)*: 10.30am to 2.30pm

## **LiveWell, Kew, Unit A, Quadrant House, Levett Square, Kew, TW9 4FF**

Tuesdays until Friday 30 June, *Walk in or [book a time](#)*: 12 to 4pm

**Book where this option is available:** [https://www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may\\_2023/spring\\_covid\\_booster\\_clinics](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/news/may_2023/spring_covid_booster_clinics)



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Dear Editor

## Twickenham Riverside

The crucial objection to the Councils Riverside proposal (Application 21/2758/FUL)

As others have suggested there are several things that are not so good about the Councils proposals

But the crucial one is The Wharf Lane building is too big and tall, casting a long shadow for much of the year over the proposed younger children's play area. Even in summer It will be in shadow for the important middle part of the day making the DJG less attractive for mums/ carers and their children.

The Sunlight & Shadow BRE based study, prepared by the applicants, which averages sunlight over the whole day, is insufficiently sensitive given the significance and importance to people of sunlight /views of the sky which can be enjoyed on the DJG at present.

I don't like criticizing other architects, but the Application appears to include illustrations which suffer from inconsistent/impossible sun/shadow angles. The principal visual from Eel Pie Bridge shows the sun from an azimuth/orientation that is before sunrise I believe, but the Riverside and DJG are shown bathed in sunshine?

I do hope that the Trust will pursue these points at the forthcoming Enquiry.

Regards

Martin Stearman Architect RIBA MRTPI (Rtd) FRSA

Member of TRTG (Twickenham Riverside Terrace Garden Group) since 2001.

Author, on behalf of TRTG of the Planning Applications used by the Council to create the DJG.



# The Rotary Fair

Formerly the HANDS Fair

**Twickenham Green**



10am to 3pm  
Monday 29th May 2023



**Over 50 Stalls**

**Charities and Voluntary groups**  
Arts & crafts and local organisations

Plants • Toys • Home Produce • Cakes  
Jewellery • Arts & Crafts • Games • Books

[www.therotaryfair.uk](http://www.therotaryfair.uk)

# The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Half A Million Pound Fight Against A Residents' Trust

Teresa Read

The Public Inquiry into the Compulsory Purchase Order on Twickenham's Diamond Jubilee Gardens, starting on 6 June and finishing on 29 June, may cost half a million pounds.

The Council seems determined to take this land on Twickenham Riverside, currently for the benefit of residents, at all costs; the proposed flats will be unaffordable for many of us in the borough.

Details of the cost of the Public Inquiry can be found here: LBRUT Finance Committee Meeting of 19th January; see page 21 paragraph 3.18 **£500,000 set aside for the Public Inquiry** and 'any costs associated with prolonged design and planning processes and the timely discharge of necessary conditions'.

One wonders why this Council is so determined to push ahead with Unaffordable Housing on this area of land originally bought by the Council in 1924 for "public walks and pleasure grounds". Who will be able to buy a luxury flat on Twickenham Riverside with one of the best views of the Thames?



# Hampton North Ward

Councillor Geoffrey Samuel

## THE WHITE HOUSE- FUTURE PLANS?

I have now held the planned meeting with AfC [Achieving for Children] which is taking over the management. Officers clearly have wide experience in dealing with education and children's issues which is an advantage. I was pleased to hear that AfC accepted in principle the 'campus' approach which I have long advocated i.e rationalising and bringing together provision for young people, families and the community. For example: in the past there was a Doctors' Surgery in the old White House but all recent attempts to bring back this service have met refusal from the doctors. For a number of years the YMCA managed The White house very successfully and made a huge contribution to the local community: they are really missed!

My concerns are

- Whether the MUGA [multi-use games area] will be brought back into use
- Whether the once popular café will fully re-open
- The adult and community provision which the YMCA did so well
- Whether the Council will provide the funding to restore The White House as a real community centre.

To enable me to represent local people I should be grateful if you would let me know if in the past you have attended any courses, classes or activities which you would like to resume. Also if you have any ideas about future provision at The White , give me the details.

## LIME BICYCLES

A local resident writes: "We were going to Sainsburys and from our house me wife counted at least 20 more of these green bikes left on pavements and other areas where they would block the path of a pushchair or mobility vehicle". I serve on the Council's Regulatory Committee which refuses any application form a shop or street trader to use the pavement that would cause any form of obstruction. Why are lime bikes exempt! Together with the Committee Chairman and the relevant officer I met a representative of Uber [which owns Lime Bikes}. He assured us that Uber 'fined' any user who caused an obstruction. If so, it has little effect. He assured us that the Company would like dedicated areas for the return of these bikes but that seems a long way off. Westminster Council is taking action to "force cyclists to park in designated bays [Evening Standard]. Why not our Council? The campaign continues!

## THE SHOOTING STAR CHILDRENS HOSPICE

Kate [who once ran a marathon in their aid] and I met their Executive Vice-Chairman at the Hospice recently. It is now solely acting as a Therapy unit and I will send you full details next month. Together with its fellow Children's Hospice in Guilford it has joint running costs of £10m a year: the present government has increased their grant from 10% to 30% - but that still leaves a lot of money to raise.

## A PLANNING ISSUE

In a recent planning application residents are concerned that some of those who have written in support of the application have a financial interest in it. When neighbours – or a ward councillor! – submit their response their ‘interest’ is obvious. Not so with financial interests. I have raised this. Officers tell me that they separate ‘neighbour’ responses from ‘others’ but that may not be sufficient.

## SHORTER ITEMS

- Residents have expressed concern about drug dealing in **Fearnley Crescent**. They have named – which I cannot – the person[s] alleged to be responsible and the matter is now in the hands of the Police
- A national newspaper recently published the details of the revenue the Council received last year from penalty charges on drivers: it is **£10,587,650**.
- It is alleged that some people are using **Hampton Square** Car Park as a ‘garage’. I have been sent photos including a car with wheels off the ground.
- On enquiry I discovered that **Albury Close** was very low on the list for pavement repairs. However after representing a registered-blind resident I have received an assurance that repairs will be done
- Local residents have experienced real difficulty in dealing with **Thames Water** over a drain – not an easy company to deal with!
- I also have difficulty in dealing with the Housing Association Inquilab in an attempt to improve matters for residents of **Wordsworth Road**
- On behalf of residents of **Old Farm Road** I asked for short double yellow lines at the junction with **The Avenue** to improve sight lines for traffic turning right. The Council refused.
- At my request officers inspected benches on Pages **Green** where residents have expressed dissatisfaction with their condition but appear to be satisfied.
- I am still pressing RHP to deal satisfactorily with a resident in **Stevens Close** who has a number of issues.

*I follow up every case reported to me on [gjshn@btinternet.com](mailto:gjshn@btinternet.com) and will forward your exact message unless you instruct me to the contrary.*

# POSTCARD EXHIBITION

Alan Winter

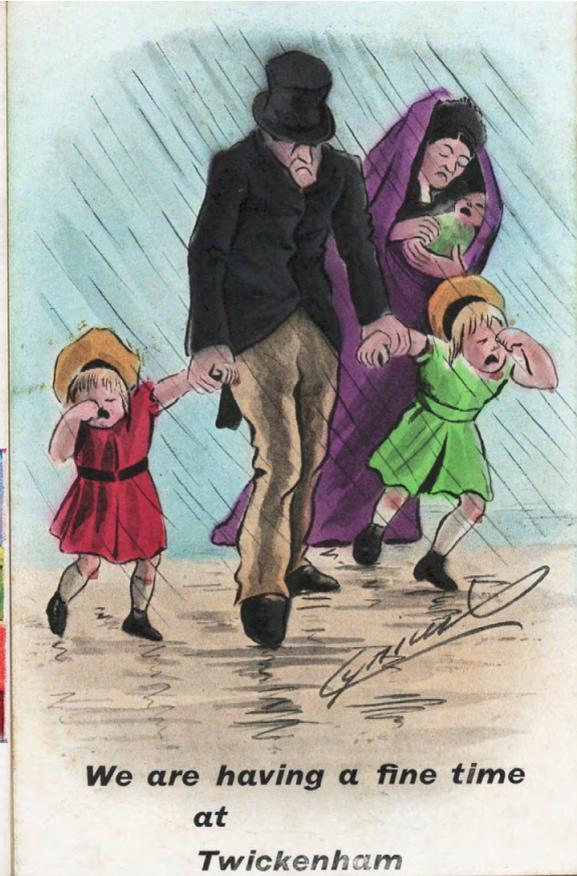
For those who like a bit of local history, an exhibition of postcards from 1900 - 1960's of Central Twickenham starts today and runs till the end of June at the Twickenham Club at 7, Church Street. The club opens 1.00 to 11.00 and the exhibition is on the wall in the bar to your right as you enter.



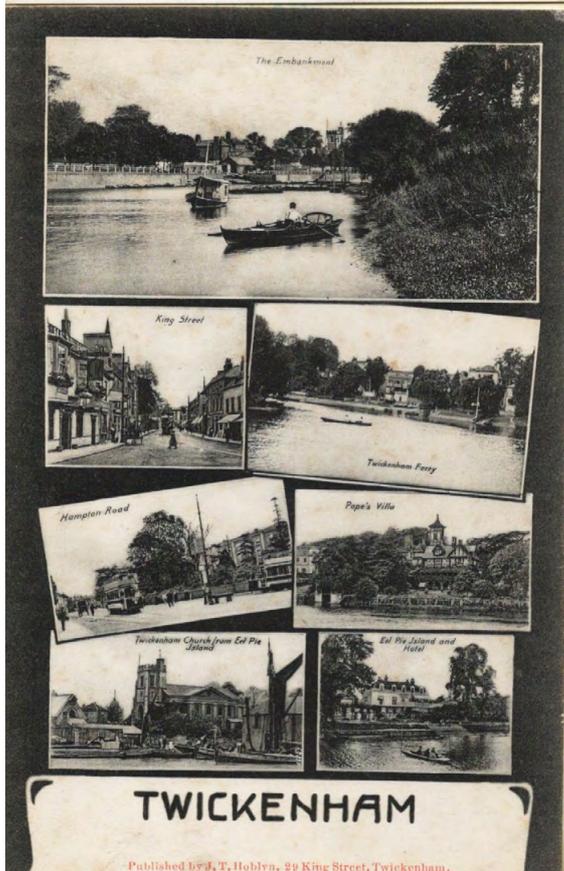
**GOOD LUCK**

From TWICKENHAM

LOOK OUT FOR GOOD LUCK, IT'S COMING I'M SURE,  
AND THO' YOU MAYN'T KNOW IT, GOOD TIMES  
ARE IN STORE.



*We are having a fine time  
at  
Twickenham*



**TWICKENHAM**

Published by J. T. Hoblyn, 29 King Street, Twickenham.



Souvenir of  Twickenham.  
MIDDLESEX



# Do you want to get into running this summer?

Do you want to get fitter? Do you want to relieve stress? Do you want to enjoy yourself? Do you want to make new friends? If the answer is yes to any of these questions, you should join the Kew Couch to 5K+ programme!

With the help of a grant from the Active Richmond Fund, former Council Leader and inveterate parkrunner, Serge Lourie, is starting a Kew Couch to 5K+ programme from 6.30 to 7.30pm every Wednesday from 31 May 2023. It is under the auspices of the Avenue Club in Kew.



People will meet at LiveWell in Kew by the Richmond Medical Centre, Quadrant House, Levett Square, Kew, TW9 4FF.

The programme will follow the NHS couch to 5K programme and is intended to help people achieve their goals of getting fitter, relieving stress, enjoying themselves and making new friends.

Because of the support from Richmond Council, there is no charge.

To find out more or to register, please contact Serge on [couch25k.kew@yahoo.com](mailto:couch25k.kew@yahoo.com) or call 020 8876 3545.

## Bank holiday waste and recycling collections

There will be no changes to the schedule of waste and recycling collections following the spring bank holiday on Monday 29 May.

We will continue to collect residential waste and recycling on households' usual collection dates of service. Find out your [collection day](#).

[Townmead Road Reuse and Recycling centre](#) will remain open, and residents will need to book a slot in advance. Please note that slots will be limited over the bank holiday weekend, so it is advised to book early.



# Rail Strike Action

Nationwide strike action by the RMT and ASLEF unions will take place on Wednesday 31 May, Friday 2 June and Saturday 3 June. This means the number of trains we'll be able to run and our hours of operation will be affected.

## Wednesday 31 May - check before you travel

Contingency timetables are still to be confirmed however we can announce the following service changes:

- There will be a reduced service between London Waterloo and Chessington South; Dorking; **Hampton Court**; London Waterloo via **Hounslow**; London Waterloo via **Kingston**; Reading; **Shepperton**; **Twickenham**; Weybridge; and Windsor & Eton Riverside
- A shuttle service will operate between Basingstoke and Exeter St Davids, with customers travelling between Exeter St Davids and London Waterloo required to change at Basingstoke

## Friday 2 June - only travel if necessary

Large parts of the network will be closed. For routes that are in operation, a significantly reduced service will operate between 0700 and 1900. There will be no trains outside of these times. [Click here](#) to download the map which shows how our network will be affected.

Check updated train times on 27 May via [journey planner](#) before travelling.

## Saturday 3 June

Services will start at the later time of 0730. Contingency timetables are still to be confirmed, however, we can announce the following service changes:

- There will be a reduced service between London Waterloo and Chessington South; Dorking; **Hampton Court**; London Waterloo via **Hounslow**; London Waterloo via **Kingston**; Reading; **Shepperton**; **Twickenham**; Weybridge; and Windsor & Eton Riverside
- A shuttle service will operate between Basingstoke and Yeovil Junction, with customers travelling between Yeovil Junction and London Waterloo required to change at Basingstoke

For detailed Q&As on ticketing options, please visit our [FAQ page](#).

**Journey planner for 31 May and 2 June will be up to date by Saturday 27 May. For Saturday 3 June it will be fully up to date on Friday 2 June.**

Please check ahead if you plan on travelling next week. Also, see our website for the latest information on strike plans.



# Come along to the Sheen Open Gardens

The owners of over 25 beautiful gardens in Sheen, are opening their gates to visitors to help raise funds for FiSH - Friendship, Independence, Support & Help for the older community of Barnes, Mortlake, and East Sheen.

Taking place on Sunday 4 June from 1 to 6pm, the afternoon will be a chance to be awed and inspired by the gardens. The Open Gardens event will include a delicious afternoon tea, a Pimm's tent, and live music. Guests will also receive free gardening advice.

Tickets are £10 and can be [purchased online](#). There will be free entry for children under 16.

Find out more information about [Sheen Open Gardens](#).



## Shop local at the East Sheen Foodies Market on 27 May

Come along and enjoy a variety of independent artisan food and drink stalls at this Saturday's East Sheen Foodies Market.

The market will take place outside East Sheen Library, 74 Sheen Lane, London SW14 8LP on Saturday 27 May between 11am and 5pm.

The all-day market will feature a wide variety of artisan food stalls from local producers and delicious street food and drink throughout the day.

Local independent makers and businesses featured at the market will include:

- [Marlow Cheese](#)
- [Daise's Kitchen](#)
- [Busy Bees Honey Suppliers Ltd](#)
- [Bossie's Biltong – Beer's Best Buddy](#)
- [Play The Wine Card](#)
- [Tua Italy](#)

And much more!

Follow the market's [Instagram page](#) for more information about this and future foodie markets.



## ROSÉ DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN!

I love rosé wine. For me, it's 'summer in a glass', but it is, in fact, an all-year wine, and while almost every country that produces wine has a rosé, I think we all have to admit that **Provence** rosés have stolen the march on most others here in the UK. It's not surprising, as the area boasts nearly 300,000 hours of sunshine each year, and is swept by 32 different winds. These winds help to dry and air the vines, protecting them from fungal disease, with each wind producing a mesoclimate with unique characteristics. Nearly half of the rosés produced in France are from Provence and - surprise surprise - the UK is one of the top three countries exported to! (The US is top in case you were wondering)



There are many reasons why Provence rosé is so popular: It's easy to drink; aesthetically pleasing; has a great mouth feel; is pale and dry, yet aromatic and reliably consistent in quality. It also pairs really well with so many different foods, from fish to cheese, and it's a great daytime drink.

Rosés from other regions can often vary a great deal in sweetness and colour. That's not necessarily a bad thing, but if you're looking for consistency, you'd be wise to choose from Provence. The area being synonymous with rosé does, of course, have a negative factor: there is usually a premium price attached to it! I enjoy a Spanish rosé rioja from a well-known German supermarket when holidaying in Mallorca (and it's always rather galling to find the same wine at about three times the price here in the UK).

For a long time rosé wasn't considered a serious category in the wine industry, and I understand that some sommeliers still don't consider it a table wine - they have the perception that it's just a drink to enjoy on the terrace on a hot summer day. They're wrong!

So what's so special about rosé? Well, a good rosé should be fruit-forward and have a crisp, dry finish. It might display notes of summer berries, stone fruit, crisp acidity and a touch of blossom. Some have more of a savoury, herbaceous element and thirst-quenching minerality. Rosés can be sweet or dry. They can come from the old world or Europe - the latter tend to veer towards the drier end of the spectrum, while new world rosés can often be sweeter, and fruitier. Of course, the grape type, region, climate and production method can lead to marked differences in the flavour of the wine - which is even more reason to explore different varieties to find your favourite! Rose can also pair surprisingly well with all manner of diverse foods - for example, soft cheeses, lamb, and even spicy food such as Asian or Middle Eastern. Here are some of my recommendations, in a range of price brackets:



## Mirabeau Pure Provence Rose

This is Mirabeau's flagship wine, inspired by sunny, lazy Côte d'Azur days. With notes of summer fruits, and a hint of rhubarb, it's a great aperitif, as well as with food.

Normally around £16 a bottle, but currently on special offer at **Waitrose for £12.99**



## Barton & Guestier Tourmaline 2020 Côtes de Provence

Perfect for a summer party, this fresh, fruity Provence Rosé Magnum (150cl as opposed to the usual 70cl) is an elegant Provence rosé that has Grenache, Cinsault and Syrah grapes. With lovely floral, citrus, pear, peach and red berry notes, it also has a herbal note. **£26 for 150cl magnum at Waitrose**



## Maison Castel Côtes de Provence Rosé

This is a superb example of Provence Rosé, and it tastes as fabulous as it looks, with a beautiful pale pink hue, the hint of freshly picked red fruits and delicate flavours of wild strawberry, all wrapped up in a wonderfully stylish bottle. **£14.99 at Waitrose.**



## Cave Des Roches Coteaux D'aix En Provence 75Cl

A dry, fruity rosé with flavours of juicy red berries & delicate citrus fruit from the vineyards of Provence. Cinsault, Grenache, Shiraz/ Syrah grapes. **Stonkingly good value from Tesco at £7.50** but there's also a 25% discount for Clubcard holders currently - so hurry before the offer finishes next week!



## Arbousset Tavel Rose 75cl

Tavel is a Cru in the southern Rhône Valley that produces only rosé wines, known for their complexity and finesse. They can be appreciated in their youth, and unlike much rosé, can also be considered for ageing. The Arbousset Rosé is dry and full bodied, with notes of grapefruit, raspberries and spices. Its great complexity means it can be enjoyed throughout the year, as well as with foods such as grilled meats, spicy cuisine, cheeses and fruity desserts. Another one from **Tesco, and a tad more pricey at £12 but worth it** (and don't forget the discount offer!)



So, let's raise a glass to those lovely folk in Provence, who produce such wonderful wines... Santé!

# TRAVELLER'S TALES 146

## LOWER SAXONY PART 3

DOUG GOODMAN COMPLETES HIS TOUR OF LOWER SAXONY WITH VISITS TO WOLFSBURG, WOLFENBUTTEL, CELLE AND HILDESHEIM

Wolfsburg, also known as Autostadt, is the Head Quarters of Germany's car manufacturer Volks- vagen and the world's biggest car plant. Part sales centre and collection point, museum and theme park, it offers a chance to experience the best of auto-technology. Twin towers, 48 meters high, dominate the area beside the River Aller. Up to 800 finished cars are directed by computer and stacked in the two towers in order of collection by their new owners. When the drivers arrive their new cars are taken by robot to a showroom where the proud owners are welcomed at a hand-over ceremony. This happens up to 500 times each day. There's The Ritz Carlton Hotel in the park if you want a short break after collection, where the 3 Star Michelin restaurant overlooks a lake. Showrooms with gleaming Audis, Porsches as well as VWs attract visitors while the museum, with over 60 veteran cars, is an Aladdin's Cave full of automobile history from the past 130 years. The first Beetles naturally take pride of place: early Minis, American gas-guzzlers, the iconic French DS from the fifties, a red E-Type, which looked as if it was straight from the factory, all needed examining and photographing. Another star was a silver Bugatti Veyron, one of only 300 built and capable of 0-100 in 2.5 seconds with a top speed of 250mph.



Autostadt in Wolfsburg



Car Coming Down



Vintage VWs



Super Car

### WOLFENBUTTEL

An hour's drive from Hanover and 235 kms from Berlin is the city of Wolfenbuttel. Famous for its production of the drink Jaegermeister and for its 1,000 half-timbered houses, the city was the residence of the Guelph Dukes for three centuries. Escaping damage in WW2 the city centre is a delightfully pretty spot. An area known as Little Venice, the imposing Castle in the main square, the statue of Duke August by the town hall and the colourful houses make this a great spot to explore. A world-renowned library is named after the Duke, who came to power in the 30 Years War and ensured that Wolfenbuttel flourished.



Palace of Wolfenbuttel



Wolfenbuttel, Duke August



Wolfenbuttel, Little Venice



Half-timbered Houses

## CELLE

The city of Celle is situated on the banks of the river Aller and with a population of 71,000 is known as the Southern Gateway to Luneburg Heath. Many of the centre's old, half-timbered houses date from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and were saved from WW2 destruction when the city surrendered to Allied troops on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1945 without resisting. There's plenty of Bauhaus-style architecture but the main attraction is the imposing Celle Palace. Built in 1530 it was enlarged in the 17<sup>th</sup> century in Baroque style with the addition of a theatre and a Renaissance chapel. Within the palace is the Residence Museum, state rooms and a grand collection of portraits of ruling families. The city has a 24 hour art museum and from the tower of St. Mary's church there's a spectacular view of the region.



Celle Palace



Celle Palace Stateroom



Chapel in Celle Palace

## HILDESHEIM

The final city visited in Lower Saxony was Hildesheim. Here two churches, St. Michael's and St. Mary's Cathedral, have Unesco World Heritage Site status. Both date from the 11<sup>th</sup> century and their ecclesiastical architecture draws visitors from all over Europe. During the war the city was completely destroyed with over 1,000 historic houses lost. Reconstruction took the form of plain post-war buildings but in the 1980s the market square was reconstructed in its original style. Particularly striking are the carvings on the facades of many houses. In the pretty market place we dined on local specialities at the Hotel Van der Valk. Five days in Lower Saxony allowed us to visit five of the nine cities. Next time I hope to see Braunschweig, Einbeck, Gottingen and Goslar.



Hildesheim, Ornate Carvings

Doug Goodman was a guest of Hannover Airport, Hotel Maritim and the 9 Cities Tourist Board in Hanover.

Info: Autostadt, [www.autostadt.de](http://www.autostadt.de); Wolfenbuttel, [www.lessingstadt-wolfenbuettel.de](http://www.lessingstadt-wolfenbuettel.de); Celle, [www.celle.travel](http://www.celle.travel); Hildesheim, [www.hildesheim-tourismus.de](http://www.hildesheim-tourismus.de); Nine Cities in Lower Saxony, [www.9cities.de](http://www.9cities.de); Tourist Board, [www.9cities@hannover-tourismus.de](mailto:www.9cities@hannover-tourismus.de); Hannover Airport, [www.hannover-airport.de](http://www.hannover-airport.de); Hotel Maritim Airport, [www.maritim.de](http://www.maritim.de).

# WIZ Tales: Singapore

Teresa Read



Sir Stamford Raffles founded a British trading post in Singapore in 1819. Over the years the island, with its deep harbour, became more and more important as a staging port between Europe, India and the Far East.

As well as its strength as a shipping and trading centre, Singapore was an important British naval base, gaining independence in 1959.

Today, a global financial centre, Singapore is said to have one of the most open and business friendly economies in the world.

Often seen as indicator of the global economy, Singapore has warned of the effects of the escalation of the war in Ukraine and the effect on the global economy.



Information about Singapore: <https://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=Singapore>

# Could you be a BIRD HERO?

By Deep Patel

~ Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

Anyone coming into my shop this past week may have noticed me serving them whilst WhatsApp messaging on my mobile phone... pretty much continuously...so is it a new love interest? Flirting? Messaging my mates to make plans for the weekend?... Or...trying to save a duck?



What was your guess?... Those who said the duck option are right! (Yes...if only it was a love interest or a bit of flirting) ...no such luck...so why on earth am I running a shop whilst trying to save ducks at the same time?

Some time ago, when closing the shop one evening, I noticed a wood pigeon sitting on the corner of the street very still. On closer inspection, I realized he was bleeding from his wing. He had been attacked by a cat. If I left him there, he would have passed away in the jaws of a fox, probably quite a painful death...so I went across the road with my dad and a shopping basket... we cornered the bird and threw the basket over him...we then got a large piece of card and stuck it under the basket to seal the bird in, sort of like a spider in a cup...

Next, I posted on Facebook where I could take the bird for help. My initial instinct was the RSPCA, or a vet...before I was bombarded by messages on Facebook NOT too...I wondered whyever not? I was later told that the RSPCA and many other “rescues” put injured animals like squirrels, parrakeets, pigeons and many more to sleep without giving them a chance as it were...this was later sadly verified by some past volunteers. Many vets were sadly found to also do the same. So where to take this poor bleeding wood pigeon at 9pm in the night?

The organization I chose to use was a charitable organization named LONDON WILDLIFE PROTECTION...and boy was I glad I did...they are one of the ONLY wildlife rescues that have a “NO-KILL” policy, that is to say, they will ALWAYS give the injured birds a chance that many other rescue organisations and vets will simply put to sleep. This instantly melted my heart and gave me a warm fuzzy feeling inside, it was then that I knew, this was the rescue organization for me...anyway, a young lady came in a car, took the wood pigeon with such affection and care, gave him antibiotics and pain killers and rehabilitated him...a few weeks later...she released him into nature again! Their service was free, easy and caring...

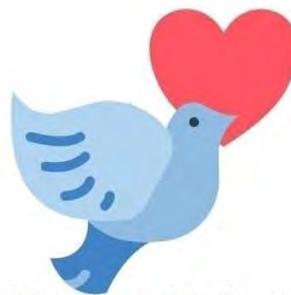
A week later, we volunteered at Meet & Deep Newsagents (my shop name) to be a drop-off point for London Wildlife Protection. This meant that anyone with injured wildlife from Twickenham and neighbouring towns could bring injured birds and animals to us and we would send them onwards to a specialist rehabilitation centre. We have had bats, mice, squirrels, ducks, pigeons, finches, robins, parrots, budgies, cockatiels, cats, hedgehogs and many other little lives coming to us before being sent onwards to specialist rehabilitators. We are proud to be known as the half shop/half zoo good-karma shop of Twickenham, where EVERY life matters.

London Wildlife Protection are responsible for saving 100s of lives each day. Their main focus is on injured birds all throughout central and greater London and even further out. If it wasn't for them, many birds would be left on the streets to suffer in pain. The busy season has just started for London Wildlife Protection with 100s of chicks falling out of nests, young birds being attacked by cats, fledglings being separated from their parents and pigeons getting stuck in netting. They are a charitable organization offering a completely free service and are in desperate need of new volunteers to join them on their mission to help save more of London's wildlife from suffering and being left on the streets in pain. This week I want to appeal to anyone reading my article to consider becoming a volunteer for London Wildlife Protection and helping them to save even more lives from unnecessary suffering.

It's easy to sign up to become a volunteer and incredibly rewarding as well as being completely free of charge. You don't need any experience and you can devote as little or as much time as you like on a very informal basis from your own home. If this sounds like something you or someone you know would like to help with, please contact London Wildlife Protection for the details in the poster below and become a part of London's most compassionate animal rescue mission. There are different ways in which you could volunteer, from driving injured birds to specialist local rehabilitation centres to contacting members of the public via WhatsApp from the comfort of your own home to guide them to relevant specialist local to them.

This week, please consider joining their humble team today and become a part of one of the kindest bird and animal rescue groups in the whole of London and also share this article with anyone that you know who may be interested in joining too. London Wildlife Protection...they care where others don't.

## COULD YOU SPARE SOME TIME TO HELP SAVE WILD BIRDS FROM SUFFERING?



**Everyday 100s of London's birds are left injured and suffering waiting for help. If you care, please become a volunteer for London Wildlife Protection. You don't need much time or previous experience...**

**just a heart that cares. If this sounds like you or anyone you know, please get in touch and help** LONDON WILDLIFE PROTECTION  
For more information: **07740 346 875**

## Remember...

*“There is no greater service than that of helping another being in their time of need”*

### TIP OF THE WEEK:

GOT ANTS?

Sprinkle talcum powder, essential peppermint oil or white vinegar around where they come (but not directly on them) and they will stop without having to harm or kill them...you will get blessings in your life or have good karma for choosing a kind way too! This remedy also works to deter virtually any insect without harming them...like it & share it! For more tips, email: [thedeepatel@gmail.com](mailto:thedeepatel@gmail.com) or join my Facebook page: "KIND WORLD". Thank you!



## *Around the World in 80 Days*

by Jules Verne, adapted by Juliet Forster

Tilted Wig at Richmond Theatre and on tour until 22<sup>nd</sup> July

“This play is about the joy of movement ... in every sense”, says Forster, also the director of this high-energy version of the Jules Verne classic. The inventive and dynamic company leaves us exhausted. It packs stacks of theatrical genres too, circus, pantomime, thriller, farce, travelogue and physical theatre. A spoof on *Around the World in 80 Days* [has been tried before](#), but this adaptation takes it much further.

A circus wants to mount a show based on Verne’s story. When the acrobat is cast in “all the other bits”, she rebelliously proposes setting up an alternative narrative, that of Nellie Bly, an American journalist, who replicated Phineas Fogg’s fictional eighty-day journey, a feat that could “only be done by a man”. So, we end up with two plays-within-the-play, the journeys of fictional Fogg and factual Bly.



A circus big-top creates both the setting and the ambiance of the show. There is lots of outside-of-the-box thinking: a ladder becomes a carriage, a railway track or a ship’s rail. A ride-on elephant, improvised from ladder, cloak and actress’s leg is priceless in its ingenuity.

The promised joy of movement is epitomised by a scene on a see-saw, as Passepartout and Detective Fix have a battle of wits whilst

getting increasingly drunk on gin, a triumph of equilibrium against inebriation. The Acrobat, in bodysuit and chaparajos, decapitates roses with a bullwhip, whilst putting The Clown in parental peril.

As may be gathered from all this zany zip and zing, *Around the World in 80 Days* is very much an ensemble piece. Nevertheless, each of the five actors adds individual skills but equal energy in their multiple roles.



The national stereotyping in *Around the World in 80 Days* is joyful and unfashionably unashamed. Its ad-hoc feel and unpretentious touches belie a carefully choreographed presentation. There is a self-deprecating sincerity that makes for an exhilarating, entertaining and exhausting evening’s exploration of the joy of movement.

Read Mark Aspen’s review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/05/18/world-80-tw](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/05/18/world-80-tw)

Photography by Anthony Robling



## All's Nell That Ends Nell

by Little Nell

Trafalgar Studios Theatre until 23<sup>rd</sup> May

An enigmatic icon of *Rocky Horror* royalty, resplendent in a sequined dress, tapped danced her way to a splendid throne on a very camp set. Here was Laura Elizabeth Campbell, aka Little Nell, backlit with an impressive slideshow, who gave us an honest and open account of her life and success. We were drawn in from the start, as she invited us into her rich and generous past.

When I saw Little Nell in *The Rocky Horror Show* in 1974, she was only nineteen years old, a former busker, discovered tap dancing in Kensington High Street. And what a discovery! Australian director, Sharman was asked to put on a production at [The Royal Court](#), with a budget of a £1,000, a three week rehearsal and a three week run. While searching for a project, he was shown a musical written by a young Richard O'Brien. Nell became a natural part of the team of powerful Antipodeans.



Premiering in 1973, it was an overnight success and by the second evening they signed up LP of the soundtrack. An added bonus was Vincent Price attending the opening night. What an era! [The Rocky Horror Show](#) is now fifty years old.

Breathless from such an extraordinary rag to riches story, Nell turned to 1985, when New York beckoned her. Under the witty presentation, *How to Knit a Nightclub*, she elaborated about her club on West 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan. Prince would perform in the tiny room, while Andy Warhol and the magical guest list of the day would pour in.

Nell then ended that part of her life for motherhood at the age of 45. I came away with a tinge of disappointment that Nell did not go more into her acting career post-*Rocky Horror*. She was stunning in *Rock Follies* and was a vibrant sociopathic co-lead in Derek Jarman's *Jubilee*, a highly disturbing but marvellous film. I think there needs to be a sequel, Nell.



Read Heather Moulson's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/05/24/all-s-nell](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/05/24/all-s-nell)

Photography by JD Byrne

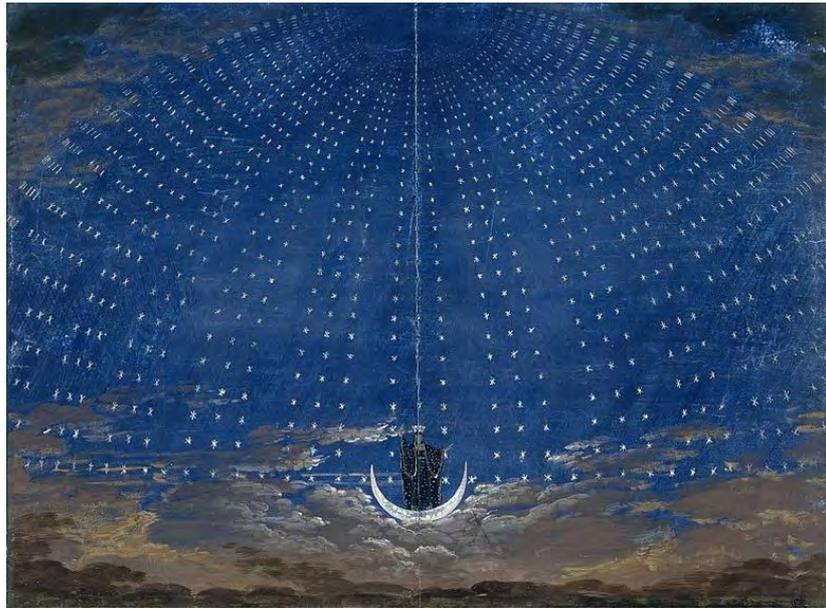
## *The Magic Flute*

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder  
Harrow Opera at the Compass Theatre, Ickenham until 28<sup>th</sup> May

*The Magic Flute* is a timeless classic and, despite its abstract and allegorical storyline, the imaginative brilliance of the score always uplifts and stimulates.

Given the complex fantasy world in which *The Magic Flute* exists, the opera has been staged in countless imaginative ways. No liberties have been taken in director Jessica Dalton's Production, sung in English and stripped back to its basic essentials.

There is just a bare set, a grand piano in the pit, and the rest is brought to life by the excellent vocal range of a strong cast of players. Music Director, Ezra Williams commands the well-loved score with skill and energy, allowing the audience to concentrate on the beauty of the music and the quality of the vocals without the distraction of over-elaborate staging.



The first act was stolen by the two arias of the Queen of the Night, played by Katerina Oikonomou, which were perfectly executed by her glass-shattering range and put across with the confidence of a high soprano who knows she's belting out a show-stopper.

The two lovers, Prince Tamino (tenor Stephen McNealy) and Pamina (soprano Adrienne Walters) gained in their confidence, both with fine singing voices and with a growing chemistry in their scenes together. Pamina's hurt was almost palpable in her Act Two lament, full of anguish and subtlety, with every note bearing its weight of pathos.

Of course, Luke Reader's rustic Papageno is at the heart of this production, as we follow his journey toward earthly fulfilment. His rendition toward the end, together with Papagena (Mehreen Shah), of the famous "*pa-pa-ge-na – pa-pa-ge-no*" was a sheer delight. He also provided a fine balance between the art of acting and the art of singing.

This was a simple retelling of an operatic masterpiece, without frills and bells, which allowed the audience to appreciate the basic mechanics of this fine work.

Read Michelle Hood's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/05/25/magic-flute-ho](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/05/25/magic-flute-ho)

Image by Karl Friedrich Schinkel (courtesy of Kupferstichkabinett)



## Toothpaste Kisses

by Keir Buist

Three Dot Theatre at the Kenton Theatre, Henley, then on tour at the Edinburgh Fringe

Armed with a short teaser, I went to see *Toothpaste Kisses* by Keir Buist at the Kenton Theatre in Henley. Although (or perhaps because of) not knowing what was going to happen, and how it would all turn out, this touching play about fatherhood kept me engaged throughout.

Keir Buist wrote, directed and performed the play, and so it was very much a one man show. For a play like this, it is a high risk strategy, requiring all these skills to be top notch. Happily, Buist excelled in all of these roles, providing a production that brought a manly tear to the eye of this reviewer, and judging by the sniffles around me, to many other audience members too. This was provocative entertainment at its best.



Where did that first scar come from, and would the medical staff really have reacted the way they did? Yes, there were one or two minor niggles, although they didn't seriously detract from the quality of the production. There was little reference to the involvement of either set of parents, and some of the side characters seemed annoyingly one dimensional and even monstrous.

Having said it is a one man show, this isn't quite true. The appearance of young Sophie, who played Evie, at the end provided a delightful flash of sunlight that lifted the play to a new high.



The Kenton Theatre is one of five finalists in this year's *Muddy Stiletto* award for Theatre and Arts Venues. The appearance of *Toothpaste Kisses* at the Kenton is only a short preview, so if you want to see it, then you'll have to take yourself off to the Edinburgh Fringe. It is worth the trip.

Read Nick Swyft's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/05/26/tooth-kiss](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/05/26/tooth-kiss)

Photography by Tom Daniels

# New artwork comes to the Landmark Arts Centre next month

Luke Jerram's Gaia is a new, awe-inspiring artwork piece which will be unveiled at The Landmark Arts Centre on 16 June until 2 July 2023.

Measuring seven metres in diameter and suspended inside the Landmark Arts Centre, Gaia features high-resolution NASA imagery of the earth's surface and features surround sound composition by BAFTA award-winning composer, Dan Jones.

The incredible work is a 'must see' part of the exciting new Arts & Ideas Festival which takes place across the Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

The exhibition will include late-night viewings, music concerts, family and infants' activities, yoga classes, school visits, specialist talks, plus dedicated relaxed performance times for those who need them.

Gaia has been created in partnership with the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), Bluedot, and the UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres.

Tickets are free and available to [book online](#) from the Landmark Arts Centre.



# BCA BARNES FAIR – SATURDAY 8 JULY 2023



Barnes Community Association is delighted to be holding Barnes Fair on Barnes Green once again this year! We look forward to welcoming visitors to this much-loved community fundraising event on Saturday 8 July, 9.30am – 5.30pm. Admittance is free.

There's something for everyone at Barnes Fair: a carefully selected group of around 300 exhibitors offering fashion, jewellery, gifts and homeware for browsing plus food and drink stalls from some of Barnes' favourite bars and restaurants including The Crossing, Rick Stein, The Nest and Postbox.

Our much-loved food and drink area with live music and margaritas will be based alongside Church Road and the BCA will be serving their famous Pimm's all day. Live music on the Bandstand starts at 10am and comes from several local bands and choirs and a selection of dance and karate displays on the Events stage will be performed by SW13-based groups, plus there will be a wandering band of ukulele players!

Younger visitors may also like to explore the police car and fire engine that will be parked up on the Green and there will be a classic 1965 Mustang on display for car enthusiasts alongside the usual Barnes Fair favourites of carousel, helter skelter and vintage swings.

We look forward to celebrating with you.

*BCA Barnes Fair 2023 takes place on Saturday 8 July, 9.30am-5.30pm. Admittance is free. This year's event is kindly sponsored by Attic Conversions, [www.atticconversionsltd.co.uk](http://www.atticconversionsltd.co.uk). Barnes Fair is a community fundraising event organised by Barnes Community Association, an Incorporated Charitable Organisation (CIO). Further details about the event will appear in Prospect (the BCA seasonal newsletter) published 1 July and on the BCA website, [www.barnes-ca.org](http://www.barnes-ca.org)*



# St Mary's University

## St Mary's Signs Agreement with the Mauritius Institute of Education

St Mary's University, Twickenham has signed an ambitious Memorandum of Understanding with the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE).



Founded in 1973, the MIE is a degree-awarding teacher education institution of higher learning based near to Port Louis, the Mauritian capital. MIE is responsible for Educational Research, Curriculum Development, and Teacher Education for pre-primary, primary, secondary, and tertiary Education in the Republic of Mauritius.

The new partnership will see St Mary's working collaboratively with MIE to provide progression routes for Mauritian senior teachers and other educational practitioners and leaders, through to the University's MA Education and Professional Doctorate in Education (EdD) awards.

St Mary's will also provide a quality assurance function/role for MIE's Postgraduate Diploma in Education and Master of Philosophy (MPhil)

awards.

The partnership will also develop collaborative research initiatives between the two institutions, with MIE Partnership Lead Dr Hyleen Mariaye, and St Mary's Senior Education Lecturer Dr Mark Price recently publishing research on *Narrative encounters of pedagogic partnership, and the development of collegial capital in higher education* in the [Journal of Professional Capital and Community](#).

Speaking of the partnership, St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran said, "I am pleased to see this exciting new partnership come together. We share much in terms of values and approach with our colleagues at MIE, and I am confident that this partnership will see many benefits for students and researchers at both institutions in the years to come."

The Director of MIE, Hemant Bessoondyal views the partnership as key to driving MIE's vision to positioning itself in the region as a centre for post graduate studies and research in education. He stated "The signing of this MoU with St Mary's Institute of Education will enable MIE to further the goal of achieving a robust system of education through high quality professional learning for educational practitioners and research. We are so looking forward to developing this partnership in a way that it impacts on educational experience and

outcomes not only locally but also regionally."



**St Mary's**  
**University**  
**Twickenham**  
**London**

# Match Preview: Brentford v Manchester City

**Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of Brentford's Premier League game against Manchester City**

Written by [Brentford Football Club](#)

**A remarkable season for Thomas Frank's Bees comes to an end on Sunday, with the visit of Champions Manchester City to the Gtech Community Stadium.**

And a memorable campaign could still have one more moment to come, as Brentford remain in the race for a Europa Conference League place heading into the final day.

Having wrapped up the Premier League title - a fifth in six years - last weekend, City's aims now will be to make that league win the first part of a treble, with the FA Cup and Champions League finals still to come for Pep Guardiola's side.

## The opposition

**Manchester City have historic treble in their sights**

Top of the league from 4 December until the bitter end, Manchester City once again established themselves as the cream of the crop in 2021/22, with a fourth title win in five years.

It wasn't plain-sailing, though - they were pushed by Liverpool every step of the way - and, to be frank, without a domestic cup and with the Champions League eluding them once again, given the precedent they have set in the past, there have been better seasons in recent years.

There was a feeling that would change in 2022/23 if they signed the reliable out-and-out striker they had been without since the departure of Sergio Aguero to Barcelona a year earlier. As it turned out, paying £51 million to bring Erling Haaland to the Etihad from Borussia Dortmund has turned out to be one of the shrewdest pieces of business in football history.

The way the Norwegian has run amok, shattering records for fun, has, arguably been the story of the season. No player scored two Premier League hat-tricks quicker than him, nor three trebles. He is the only player in the history of the league to have scored hat-tricks in three successive home games and he has become the fastest to ever score 20 league goals. Earlier this month, he set a new benchmark for goals scored in a single Premier League season.

There are simply not enough superlatives to describe City's irrepressible no.9, who, somehow, does not even turn 23 until July.

Still, despite Haaland's ridiculousness, Arsenal led the way for large periods of the season. October to February was punctuated by four defeats - one of which was, memorably, against Brentford - which kept Pep Guardiola's men at arm's length from the Gunners.



After a 1-0 defeat at Tottenham on 5 February, Guardiola said: “We are not in the position to think about being champions, just the next game.”

That match proved to be a turning point in City’s season.

Since then, they have progressed to the FA Cup final without conceding a single goal, seen off RB Leipzig, Bayern Munich and Real Madrid on the way to the Champions League final and won 14 of their last 15 league games at the time of writing. It is easy to see why Jack Grealish said he and his team-mates felt “unstoppable” after a 4-0 second-leg win over reigning champions Real.

The last of those league wins came on 21 May, when a much-changed side beat Chelsea 1-0 one day after they secured a third-straight league title without kicking a ball, with floundering Arsenal’s hopes extinguished by a defeat to Nottingham Forest.

“We have the feeling that we have done something exceptional in terms of the Premier League,” said Guardiola afterwards.

“Of course, to be considered one of the greatest teams we have to win in Europe. We have to win the Champions League otherwise you will say it was not complete. It can be unfair that you need to win the Champions League to give credit and value to what you have done but we have to accept it.”

### **The gameplan**

#### **With *Manchester Evening News*’ Simon Bajkowski**

Manchester Evening News’ chief Manchester City writer Simon Bajkowski discusses another Premier League title win for the Cityzens, their upcoming Champions League and FA Cup finals, and the division’s top goalscorer Erling Haaland in [Hot off the Press](#).

“It is more difficult to say than it might have been had the title been on the line because it would just be the strongest XI he has available, whereas now he has the opportunity to think about the FA Cup and the Champions League.

“City have got to where they are by not taking their foot off the accelerator, but, at the same time, we have seen players like Phil Foden, Julian Alvarez and Riyad Mahrez come into the team and show what they can do as well.

“I would expect it to be a strong team because City will want to end the season strongly, regardless of having already been crowned champions, so I would expect Haaland to play, but there could be some rotation behind him to keep everyone feeling valued.”

### **Team news**

#### **Frank confirms no fresh injury concerns**

Thomas Frank has confirmed that there are no no injury concerns ahead of the Bees’ clash with Manchester City on Sunday.

That means that the Bees will be without Ivan Toney (suspended), Keane Lewis-Potter (knee), Pontus Jansson (hamstring), Matt Cox (England duty) and Christian Norgaard (Achilles), after Thomas Strakosha returned to the squad last weekend at Tottenham.

With the title already wrapped up, Pep Guardiola has rotated his City squad over their last two matches.

With a pair of finals on the horizon, Nathan Ake (thigh), John Stones (muscle), Phil Foden (knock), Aymeric Laporte, Ruben Dias and Manuel Akanji all might not be risked on Sunday due to minor issues.



# Can Lancashire do the double?

Will Kent win for the first time since 1927? All to be decided this Sunday in County Championship final.

History can be made in the Bill Beaumont County Championship final on Sunday as Kent look to end a 96-year drought when they take on Lancashire at Twickenham.

Last victorious in 1927, the county have reached the men's final for the first time since 1986 and now have the opportunity to finally lift the trophy again. Standing in their way are Lancashire, the most successful county in the competition's history, who have triumphed 25 times - most recently in 2018. Kent have had to overcome significant challenges to make the showpiece, defeating Hampshire and Somerset before a thrilling 34-31 win over Cornwall at Camborne saw them to Twickenham. Lancashire have not had it easy themselves, beating Cheshire and Hertfordshire before edging past Yorkshire 29-28 in a thrilling Roses battle last weekend.

Kent captain Jamie Stephens is aware of the challenge Lancashire will bring but is focusing on his own side's abilities. He said: *"We are both coming off the same thing – a difficult final pool game last week. It is hugely exciting. Lancashire are obviously a huge county in terms of rugby and if you look up and down their team, they have a lot of level four players at Fylde and Sedgley Park, for example, so we know it will be tough. It is unknown to us a little bit but I imagine it will be another really good game. I am trying to keep a lid on it in terms of excitement leading up to it but it is hard with a game like this - I'll be leading the boys out which is very exciting. Playing at Twickenham will be huge for us as a county and it will probably be a career highlight for a lot of the boys in the team. Hopefully, we can get the win too."*

A packed weekend at Twickenham could be a memorable one for northern rugby, with Sale Sharks taking on Saracens in Saturday's Gallagher Premiership final before Lancashire take part in both the Bill Beaumont Men's County Championship and Gill Burns Women's County Championship finals the following day.

Lancashire men's captain Dan Birchall said: *"It adds a huge amount to the whole experience, as there is also the Barbarians and the World XV game on the same day. It is a huge day for the county and for us to cap off quite an impressive weekend, hopefully with Lancashire women and Sale Sharks on Saturday too, would be fantastic. It has been done before when both teams are at the final and we both won in 2017. It was quite the celebration and hopefully we can do that again. It would mean an awful lot to lift the trophy at Twickenham. When I was first asked if I would captain the side, it was an honour and I was taken aback by it. To be able to take the team the distance and do the job we set out to do would be a banner moment in anyone's career, let alone my own. We are just concentrating on us and making sure we can do it on the day. Whatever the result, both teams will savour the experience of walking out at the home of English Rugby and the man who gives his name to the competition understands what the occasion will mean to the players."*

*"Playing for my county was a tremendous honour and something I will always remember," said Bill Beaumont. "I have no doubt that for the players at Twickenham, these finals will be just as memorable, and I wish them all the most enjoyable experience playing alongside teammates from across their counties."*

The Bill Beaumont Senior Men's County Championship Division 1 Final and the Gill Burns Women's County Championship Division 1 Final will take place on 28 May at Twickenham Stadium. The finals for Divisions 2 & 3, as well as the Jason Leonard U20s Final, will take place across the weekend of 3/4 June at Ealing Trailfinders. All the finals will be livestreamed via the England Rugby YouTube channel.

Sunday 28th May – Twickenham Stadium

1030h - Gill Burns Division 1 Final

1400h - Barbarians v World XV

1600h - Bill Beaumont Division 1 Final

Saturday 3 June at Ealing Trailfinders – Bill Beaumont Division 2 Final & Bill Beaumont Division 3 Final

Sunday 4 June at Ealing Trailfinders – Gill Burns Division 2 Final, Gill Burns Division 3 Final & Jason Leonard U20 Final



# Rocky Clark aiming to coach Buckinghamshire to success against Lancashire in Gill Burns County Championship final

England legend Rocky Clark wants to emulate her 'proudest coaching achievement' by leading Buckinghamshire to another Gill Burns County Championship title this weekend.

The 2019 Division 2 champions are back at Twickenham for their latest shot at lifting a coveted trophy, against a Lancashire side looking to complete a double for the county, with their men's side in action in the Bill Beaumont Championship final later in the day.

Both sides won three from three in the pool stage, with Lancashire beating Leicestershire, Yorkshire and the North Midlands in Pool 1.

In Pool 2, Buckinghamshire got the better of Surrey, Gloucestershire and Berkshire under the guidance of Red Roses stalwarts Clark and Sarah McKenna.

Clark said: *"We are absolutely delighted and having been there four years ago and won it, we are hoping to emulate that again in Division 1 of the Gill Burns County Cup. It was my proudest coaching achievement, and all the girls are fired up and ready, we are just super excited about a fantastic day of rugby. It is very different being a coach to a player but I still feel the excitement, the heartbreak and the highs and the lows of the team. It is massive, we know how strong Lancashire are and what a threat they are going to be. They will bring it and there is nothing bigger than a final, especially at Twickenham, the home of rugby. We are coming down for the whole weekend and I am also commentating on Saturday, so I will basically be living there. The girls are just super excited."*

Lancashire are no strangers to the big occasion themselves and are preparing for their third final in ten years. Team manager Mike Dale has helped his side go unbeaten this season and now he believes his side can excel on the big occasion.

He added: *"We have had a good run in really, it has not been too bad whatsoever. Any team coached by Clark and Sarah McKenna isn't going to be a pushover. There are some people who have been there, and that will give us the experience on the day. The stadium should not be the factor, but it will be what it will be and we are expecting a very physical encounter. The players are all really excited and ready for the encounter, it is for us to keep them as level-headed as they can be. The girls have got to cherish the day and take everything they can from it, but we will try and make it as normal as we possibly can."*

Whatever the result, both teams will enjoy the experience of walking out at Twickenham and former England captain, Gill Burns, after whom the tournament is named, is urging the players to savour every moment.

*"Twickenham is the best stage in the world to play rugby and this Sunday is going to be a huge day," she said. "From the excitement of going down that iconic tunnel and running out on to the pitch to playing in front of their families, friends and club members, the players involved will make wonderful memories that they'll always treasure."*

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Sunday 4 June at Ealing Trailfinders – Gill Burns Division 2 Final, Gill Burns Division 3 Final & Jason Leonard U20 Final



England men's U20 head coach Mark Mapletoft has named his side to face Georgia U20 in the first of its two-match tour on Saturday, 27 May at Avchala Stadium, Tbilisi.

The match kicks off at 16:00 BST (19:00 local time) and will be streamed on the [Georgian Rugby Facebook](#) page.

Sale's Tristan Woodman captains the side from open-side flanker, joined in the back row by Zach Carr and Nathan Michelow.

Ethan Clarke starts at loosehead prop alongside Harlequins teammate Nathan Jibulu at hooker, while Bristol Bears' James Halliwell packs down at tighthead prop.

Harvey Cuckson and Harry Browne lock behind them in the second row.

Sharks scrum half Nye Thomas and Newcastle's Louie Johnson are the halves pairing, while Toby Thame and Jacob Cusick partner in the centres.

The back three will see Alex Wills and Benjamin Waghorn take their places on the left and right wing respectively with Connor Slevin named at full back.

Craig Wright, Asher Opoku-Fordjour, Afolabi Fasogbon, Finn Carnduff, Chandler Cunningham-South, Charlie Bracken, Joseph Woodward and Joe Jenkins are the replacements.

**Mapletoft said:** "We've selected a side for our first match against Georgia U20 which will give us a chance to try out new on-pitch combinations and also to see players who didn't play big minutes during the Under-20 Six Nations campaign.

"We expect the locals to come out hard, backed by a vocal crowd. We can't wait for the experience."

## England men's U20 team

- |                                       |                                    |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 15. Connor Slevin (Harlequins)        | 1. Ethan Clarke (Harlequins)       |
| 14. Benjamin Waghorn (Harlequins)     | 2. Nathan Jibulu (Harlequins)      |
| 13. Jacob Cusick (Leicester Tigers)   | 3. James Halliwell (Bristol Bears) |
| 12. Toby Thame (Northampton Saints)   | 4. Harvey Cuckson (Bath Rugby)     |
| 11. Alex Wills (Sale Sharks)          | 5. Harry Browne (Harlequins)       |
| 10. Louie Johnson (Newcastle Falcons) | 6. Nathan Michelow (Saracens)      |
| 9. Nye Thomas (Sale Sharks)           | 7. Tristan Woodman (Sale Sharks)   |
|                                       | 8. Zach Carr (Harlequins)          |

## Replacements

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 16. Craig Wright (Northampton Saints)  | 20. Chandler Cunningham-South (London Irish) |
| 17. Asher Opoku-Fordjour (Sale Sharks) | 21. Charlie Bracken (Saracens)               |
| 18. Afolabi Fasogbon (London Irish)    | 22. Joseph Woodward (Leicester Tigers)       |
| 19. Finn Carnduff (Leicester Tigers)   | 23. Joe Jenkins (Bristol Bears)              |

# Former soldiers reunite at veterans' care home

Two soldiers who first served together nearly 70 years ago have met up, thanks to staff at Royal Star & Garter.

Paul Gray and Les Wilson were both in The Queen's Regiment and met 66 years ago, in 1957. Even though they stayed in contact after leaving the Armed Forces, their reunion on May 17 at Royal Star & Garter in High Wycombe was the first time the friends had met in 10 years.

Paul lives at the charity's Surbiton Home, while Les is a resident in the High Wycombe Home.

Royal Star & Garter provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their partners living with disability or dementia, and also has a third Home in Solihull.

Both men enjoyed long and distinguished careers in the Army. Les, 93, served from 1947 to 1983. Paul, 86, joined in 1954 and served for 30 years.



They were together in the Queen's Regiment from 1957 to 1968. During this time, they served in Bahrain, Hong Kong, Germany and Aden.

Paul moved into the Surbiton Home in 2022, one year after Les became a resident at High Wycombe.

The old buddies enjoyed lunch together, reminisced about their Army days and caught up on old times.

The pair had kept in touch after leaving the Army through their Regimental Association, but this meeting was their first in 10 years.

Paul knew that Les was a fellow Royal Star & Garter resident, and once Wellbeing Coordinators from Surbiton and High Wycombe found out, they worked together on the reunion.

Paul, who is deaf and a lip-reader, rose to the rank of Major. He said: "I was looking forward to coming here and seeing Les, and it's been great to meet up after a very long time. I'm looking forward to coming back to see him again."

Les, who reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, added: "It was nice to see Paul after all this time. I can't believe it's been 66 years since we first met. The Army was a large portion of our lives. It was good to catch up and talk about the old days and the people we knew."

*Photo credit: Royal Star & Garter*



**Royal Star  
& Garter**

Care with courage

# “I WANT MET POLICE OFFICERS TO ATTEND EVERY BURGLARY IF I BECOME MAYOR OF LONDON”

PAUL Scully says he will push to ensure MET police officers attend the scene of all burglaries if he becomes London Mayor.

The Minister for London also said he'd lean on Boris Johnson for support if he dislodged Sadiq Khan and had already consulted him for advice.

Speaking exclusively to [GB News](#) about the importance of reducing crime in the capital, Mr Scully told Gloria De Piero: “I actually saw Sir Mark Rowley with some of the other London MPs just this week, and he was talking about how to have increased trust and how to lower crime. It's really important to make sure we get behind him on that journey.

“Everybody wants to see more policemen on the street, but they've got to be the right ones. They've got to have the confidence of the public, so what I want to see from Mark is a really good program for vetting, and not just vetting people coming into the police service, but I want to see ongoing vetting as well.

“Then we've got to make sure the second stage is that the officers are more ingrained in the community and that they can be around the beat speaking to people, gaining that trust there. But they also need to be attending crimes like burglary, and low level crimes as well.”

Asked if he could really make officers attend every burglary he continued: “Yeah, absolutely. And, the commissioner said that and I'm totally behind him on that because, people feel if a bike's nicked, a phone's nicked or the house is burgled, you just get a crime number for your insurance and that's it. We need more than that.”

Explaining why he was so keen to take on Sadiq Khan he said: “I've been Minister for London for three years now and I've seen the current Sadiq Khan at close quarters and I've got more and more frustrated because he tends to deflect rather than deliver for people. And there's so much we need to do in London in terms of housing, getting transport and TfL back on its feet financially and making people feel safe.

“I just want to get stuff done in London, as the 9,000,000 Londoners deserve better. I've got an understanding of the issues and I've got the temperament to work cross party as well, and to work for Londoners rather than a party.”

Commenting on the controversial ULEZ scheme he said he backed it in central zones of the capital: ““Absolutely, that works. Residents wanted it. It works. Why? Because there's alternatives. There's good public transport in the centre of town. But what would I do instead? I'd spend that money generated on better public transport for outer London. If there's anything left, you can have scrappage schemes, better than the one the Mayor's offering, and also make sure that we can get rid of the particulates on the London Underground which actually. These have been proven to be highly polluting.”

Explaining how he would cope with the pressure and abuse of such a high profile job he said: “It's not easy enough. I feel sorry for anyone that has had real mental health strains in particular. I've seen it not just from the reports from the City, but I've seen it first hand from colleagues in the House of Commons. Of course, I've had two colleagues and friends die at the hand of extreme behaviour, David Amess and obviously Jo Cox. And they were the two worst days of my political life because I just found it really difficult. I still find it difficult to talk about them and what happened because it could have been any one of us. And so it's understandable that it takes a toll. But you know what? I can't hide away. There's so much to do. And if we hide away, if good people hide away, nothing gets done. And so I do love the job I'm doing. I would love to be Mayor of London so that I can deliver for Londoners.”

Revealing how he'd turn to the former London Mayor, Boris Johnson, for advice should he win, Mr Scully added: “Whatever you think about Boris Johnson, he has reached into parts of London and indeed parts of the country in 2019 the Conservatives in general didn't do. And there's something about that, that relentless optimism, that positive nature that even the greatest city in the world can be greater still. And he had that same view for Britain. I've already spoken to him. I've already had, you know, chats with him as I have with a number of other people. He was the guy that appointed me minister for London in the first place. And so we talked a lot about London over the last few years. But clearly, yes, if I'm selected, I'm going to be getting advice from a lot of different people.”



# Chancellor to examine high prices with food manufacturers

The Chancellor will meet with food manufacturers on Tuesday (23 May) to raise concerns about the high price of food in the UK and discuss measures the government can take with industry to ease the pressure on households.

Building on engagement between the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the UK's biggest supermarkets earlier this month, the Chancellor will ask food manufacturers to do what they can to support consumers. As crucial players in the supply chain to supermarkets, this follow up meeting with food manufacturers will help ministers better understand the challenges firms are grappling with as inflated prices continue to plague the economy. The food and drink manufacturing sector is the largest in the UK, accounting for nearly 20% of total UK manufacturing and employing almost half a million people across the country.

On the same day, the Chancellor will meet with the independent Competitions and Markets Authority (CMA) to discuss the scope of their investigations into road fuel and groceries markets, including the possible action they could take if they are dissatisfied with the level of competition in the sector which could be allowing higher prices to prevail. The government wants it to be easier for consumers to compare the prices of products, and the CMA is currently reviewing the use of unit pricing both in-store and online in the groceries sector. The government will consider updating pricing rules, including by strengthening the Price Marking Order 2004 (Retained EU Law), after the CMA review has concluded.

While rising food prices in the UK are in line with the EU average and headline inflation fell by 0.3 per cent last month, food inflation grew to 19.2 per cent. Food inflation disproportionately affects low-income households, who spend more of their income on food and are less able to swap what they would usually buy for cheaper alternatives.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Jeremy Hunt, said:

“High food prices are proving stubborn so we need to understand what’s driving that.

“That’s why I’m asking industry to work with us as we halve inflation, to help ease the pressure on household budgets.”

The government has acted decisively to help struggling households with rising prices, pledging to halve inflation this year and taking action to bring down bills for families. This includes introducing the Energy Profits Levy on oil and gas companies to pay almost half of a typical household’s energy bills, freezing fuel duty and taking difficult decisions on government spending to make sure we do not fuel inflation further. One of the most generous support packages in Europe has also been rolled out, worth £3,300 per household on average over this year and last. Benefits and state pensions have been increased by over 10 per cent, up to £1,350 in direct cash payments are being made to millions of vulnerable households and record uplifts in the National Living Wage mean someone who is currently out of work and takes a full-time job will be over £7,500 better off.

Extra support has been put in place to help the most vulnerable with high food prices, including the £2.5 billion Household Support Fund which provides local authorities with money to support their communities with the cost of essentials, the £200 million Holiday Activities and Food Programme which supports children on Free School Meals with a nutritious meal during the holidays and an expansion of Free School Meals to all 5-7 year-olds.

The Prime Minister and Farming Secretary brought together representatives from across the UK food supply chain last week, where they outlined a range of measures to help strengthen the long-term resilience and sustainability of the sector and put farmers at the heart of plans to grow the economy.



HM Treasury

## Chancellor reveals life sciences growth package to fire up economy

A £650m war-chest to fire up the UK's life sciences sector and drive forward the government's priority to grow the economy has been unveiled by the Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt today [Thursday 25 May 2023].

The multi-faceted 'Life Sci for Growth' package brings together 10 different policies including £121m to improve commercial clinical trials to bring new medicines to patients faster, up to £48m of new money for scientific innovation to prepare for any future health emergencies, £154m to increase the capacity of the UK's biological data bank further aiding scientific discoveries that help human health, and up to £250m to incentivise pension schemes to invest in our most promising science and tech firms.

The Chancellor's £650m package also includes plans to relaunch the Academic Health Science Network as Health Innovation Networks to boost innovation by bringing together the NHS, local communities, charities, academia and industry to share best practice. It also lays out changes to planning rules to free-up lab space and updates a route for East West Rail (EWR), the new railway line, to improve connections between UK science powerhouses Oxford and Cambridge, bringing more investment to the region.

Life Sciences is one of the UK's most successful sectors, worth over £94bn to the UK economy in 2021, a 9% increase on the year before. As a key industry driving UK growth the Chancellor has identified it as a focus for government, ensuring regulation aids innovation, government funding is targeted at vital projects and investment is diverse. This also helps to deliver the Science and Technology framework through reforming regulation, boosting investment and driving up talent and skills.

### Chancellor Jeremy Hunt said:

*"Our Life Sciences sector employs over 280,000 people, makes £94bn for the UK each year and produced the world's first covid vaccine.*

*"These are businesses that are growing our economy while having much wider benefits for our health – and this multi-million pound investment will help them go even further."*

The package was first revealed to the UK's Life Science Council this morning by the Chancellor at a meeting at No10 Downing Street, where it was welcomed by the CEOs of global life sciences companies and industry representatives.

The package follows the Treasury's Life Sciences Connect conference which the Chancellor hosted on 29 March where he heard first-hand from senior industry representatives about the opportunities and challenges they are facing.

### Policy Announcements

The announcements improve the regulatory environment for Life Sciences companies and our approach to UK commercial clinical trials. As part of this, the Chancellor has committed to make it easier for revolutionary healthcare products to get to NHS patients by cutting the regulatory burden of approving clinical trials, and committed £121m, made up of new and existing funding, to speed up clinical trials and improve access to real-time data via new Clinical Trial Acceleration Networks. This comes in response to publications of the Lord O'Shaughnessy review on commercial clinical trials and Dame Angela McLean's review on the life science regulatory system.

'Life Sci For Growth' commits to invest £154m from UK Research and Innovation to upgrade the UK Biobank capabilities, the biomedical database containing the in-depth genetic information of half a million UK citizens, something greatly valued by the global scientific community helping drive forward new medical treatments in the sector. The money will go towards a new facility at Manchester Science Park, a new Hub to help SMEs collaborate with industry and academia and better IT to accommodate multi-disciplinary data.

A call for proposals will shortly be released on the government's Long-Term Investment for Technology and Science (LIFTS) initiative, which will offer £250m of government support to spur the creation

of new vehicles for pension schemes to invest in the UK's high-growth science and technology businesses, benefitting the retirement incomes of UK pension savers and driving the growth of critical sectors like Life Sciences.

**Science and Technology Secretary Chloe Smith said:**

*“Backing our life sciences sector is a double win for the UK. The package we are announcing today won't just help this £94 billion industry drive more economic growth and create more high skill jobs. It will support advances in public health which will mean we can all have happier, healthier, more productive lives, delivering a virtuous circle of benefits to society and the economy.*

*“From our pioneering medics trialling new therapies, to our medicine and vaccine manufacturers, and the world-leading population health studies underway at UK Biobank, we have a life sciences industry the rest of the world is rightly envious of. Today we are delivering on the plan we set out in our Science and Technology Framework by going even further in our efforts to back this burgeoning sector, ensuring that it can stay right at the front of the global race for new investment and talent.”*

The government has also signalled its ongoing commitment to the transformational new East West Rail line between Oxford and Cambridge. This region is a globally renowned hub of science, research and innovation, and the railway will support job creation and growth at towns and cities along the route. Today it announced its preferred route alignment for the third section of the railway between Bedford and Cambridge, including a direct link to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, marking a significant step towards delivering the scheme.

**Transport Secretary Mark Harper said:**

*“The cities of Oxford and Cambridge are renowned across the globe for their academic excellence - East West Rail will be vital in allowing them to thrive for generations to come and help to grow the economy.*

*“With the potential to unlock £103bn of growth through new homes, businesses and job opportunities, this crucial line will also serve as a catalyst for development in one of Europe's most vibrant local economies while making travel quicker, cheaper and easier across the region.”*

The manufacturing arm of the UK's life sciences sector is also set for a funding boost thanks to three new pots to bolster the country's health resilience. A Biomanufacturing Fund worth up to £38m in new funding has been announced to incentivise investment and improve the UK's resilience to any future pandemics, via a competitive process to distribute grants. This comes on top of a further £6.5m made up of new funding and funding from Innovate UK, to ensure that the Life Sciences sector continues to have the right people it needs to deliver its high skilled work. £10m new cash has also been announced to fund projects to drive innovation in cutting edge medicine manufacturing that can bolster the UK's health resilience, such as those which use nucleic acid technology and intracellular drug delivery to help improve vaccines, as part of Innovate UK's 'Transforming Medicines Manufacturing Programme'.

Today the government announced that Sterling Pharma Solutions are the latest recipient of funding through the Life Sciences Innovative Manufacturing Fund. This announcement follows the first tranche of four grants from the Life Sciences Innovative Manufacturing Fund in March 2023 and the Medicines and Diagnostics Manufacturing Transformation Fund (MDMTF).

**Health and Social Care Secretary Steve Barclay said:**

*“This investment is another significant step in harnessing UK innovation to help cut waiting lists - one of the government's five priorities - and build a stronger NHS.*

*“We will take forward Lord O'Shaughnessy's recommendations to speed up the delivery of clinical trials and boost patient involvement in research, so people getting NHS care can benefit from cutting-edge treatments faster, supported by £121 million in government funding.*

*“We're also accelerating research into mental health, backed by over £42 million of investment in clinical research centres across the UK - including in Birmingham and Liverpool - to improve the speed and*

accuracy of diagnosis and increase the use of technology for treatment.”

Jeremy Hunt also committed to increasing lab space today through pledging to reform planning rules to help scientists. Proposals including local authorities taking greater account of R&D needs in their planning decisions.

In addition, £42.7m for the Mental Health Mission will go towards delivering treatments to patients, setting up a new centre in Liverpool to understand how mental, physical and social conditions interlink, and a site in Birmingham to support research and novel treatments for early intervention in psychosis, depression and children. £10m will go to support UK organisations and researchers to create novel pharmaceuticals, MedTech, and digital tools to improve treatment and aid recovery for people with opioid and cocaine addictions.

The Chancellor has hosted four similar events to the Treasury’s Life Sciences Connect conference throughout 2023, each one focused on his key growth industries; digital tech, green industries, creative industries and advanced manufacturing.

### **Stakeholder quotes**

**Steve Bates OBE, CEO of Bioindustry Association, said:**

*“Today’s package of support for the UK life sciences sector will help address fundamental challenges large and small companies in our industry face as they look to invest and grow in the UK.*

*“We welcome today’s initiatives, including those that will improve access to finance for start-ups and scale-ups, and to create a pro-innovation regulatory environment. These positive steps will put us on the front-foot in the global race to develop and manufacture the next generation of medicines and technologies, underpinning our economic growth and better health for years to come.”*

**Richard Torbett, Chief Executive, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI), said:**

*“Today’s announcements show that the government recognises the huge opportunity waiting to be grasped if the UK can unlock the economic potential of its life science industry – already worth £94.2bn in 2021. These measures demonstrate the government has listened to industry and will help put the UK on track to meeting its life science vision.*

*“Lord O’Shaughnessy is right that making the UK an attractive destination for industry clinical trials requires regulatory reform, speedier study set-up and approvals, and improved access to data. Implementing his proposals, alongside these other announcements, can be a springboard to delivering on the UK’s ambition to be a science superpower, and we now must press forward with delivery at pace.*

*“However, improving research is only one part of the equation. To get innovative medicines to patients and fully capture the growth opportunity, we must also fix the commercial environment, and for that, we also look forward to agreeing with Government to a new and improved Voluntary Scheme as soon as possible.”*

**Association of British HealthTech Industries (ABHI) CEO, Peter Ellingworth said:**

*“Today’s range of announcements and their emphasis on HealthTech are very welcome. I am pleased to see that the contribution of our industry has been acknowledged in each of them.*

*Critical for the continued supply of technology to NHS patients and the competitiveness of our country, will be the approach taken to the regulation of medical devices and diagnostics. This was recognised last year by the Life Sciences Council and led to the creation of an Advisory Group. Today builds on that group’s aligned proposals published in March, and the Chancellor’s ambition for the recognition of approvals from other, trusted jurisdictions.*

*Collectively, this package represents significant progress to create a system that values innovation and affords our citizens safe, timely access to life saving and enhancing technology.*

*We look forward to continuing to support the work of the LSC Advisory Group, and helping to deliver the recommendations of the Pro-Innovation Regulation of Technologies Review, through initiatives such as secondments to a Regulator with an enhanced and welcome focus on HealthTech.”*



**HM Treasury**

# Home insurance expert offers tips to avoid new 'scary' TikTok trend, as searches for 'home security' skyrocket 525%

A new TikTok trend has been flagged as concerning by the Metropolitan Police this week, which sees users recording themselves walking into Brits' homes uninvited.

In the viral video that started the trend, the creator is seen walking through a front garden before heading straight into the London property, flanked by his two friends. He then refuses to leave, despite the residents pleading with them to vacate the property.

The video has amassed a staggering 528.7 views and 32.3k likes so far, prompting the creator to continue uploading similar content, and encouraging others to do the same.

The video is now being investigated by the authorities, and has led to a spike in homeowner concerns, with Google Trends showing that searches for 'home security' have increased by a huge 525% since news of the trend first started circulating.

To help alleviate concerns, home insurance specialists [A-Plan Insurance](#) offers advice on how to avoid being targeted by TikTok-ers jumping on the trend.

Chris Biggs, A-Plan's Farnham Branch Manager said: *"It's scary how quickly a harmful social media trend can take off, and whilst a good portion of commenters on the original video are condemning the creator's actions, many others are finding it funny and insisting they'll give it a go.*

*"And despite the creators not looking to steal or harm anyone whilst making the videos, they are still causing significant anxiety by walking into family homes uninvited.*

*"With that in mind, it's essential that you keep your front and back door closed at all times - even if you're only a few steps away or are sitting out in the garden. This will be seen as an 'easy win' or 'free pass' for creators looking to up their likes by walking in.*

*"Even better, keep your doors, windows and gates locked when you're in the house as well as when you're out and about. Because these users don't seem to grasp that what they're doing is wrong, many won't be deterred by you being in the house when they walk in."*

Chris also says that keeping vigilant will help, and making sure that your neighbours are made aware of the trend - even if it's unlikely to occur in your area.

He says: *"Even though the trend is limited to isolated incidents so far, we've all seen how widespread trends can become - and even if you feel your area is secure or not likely to partake, these home security best practices should become like second nature.*

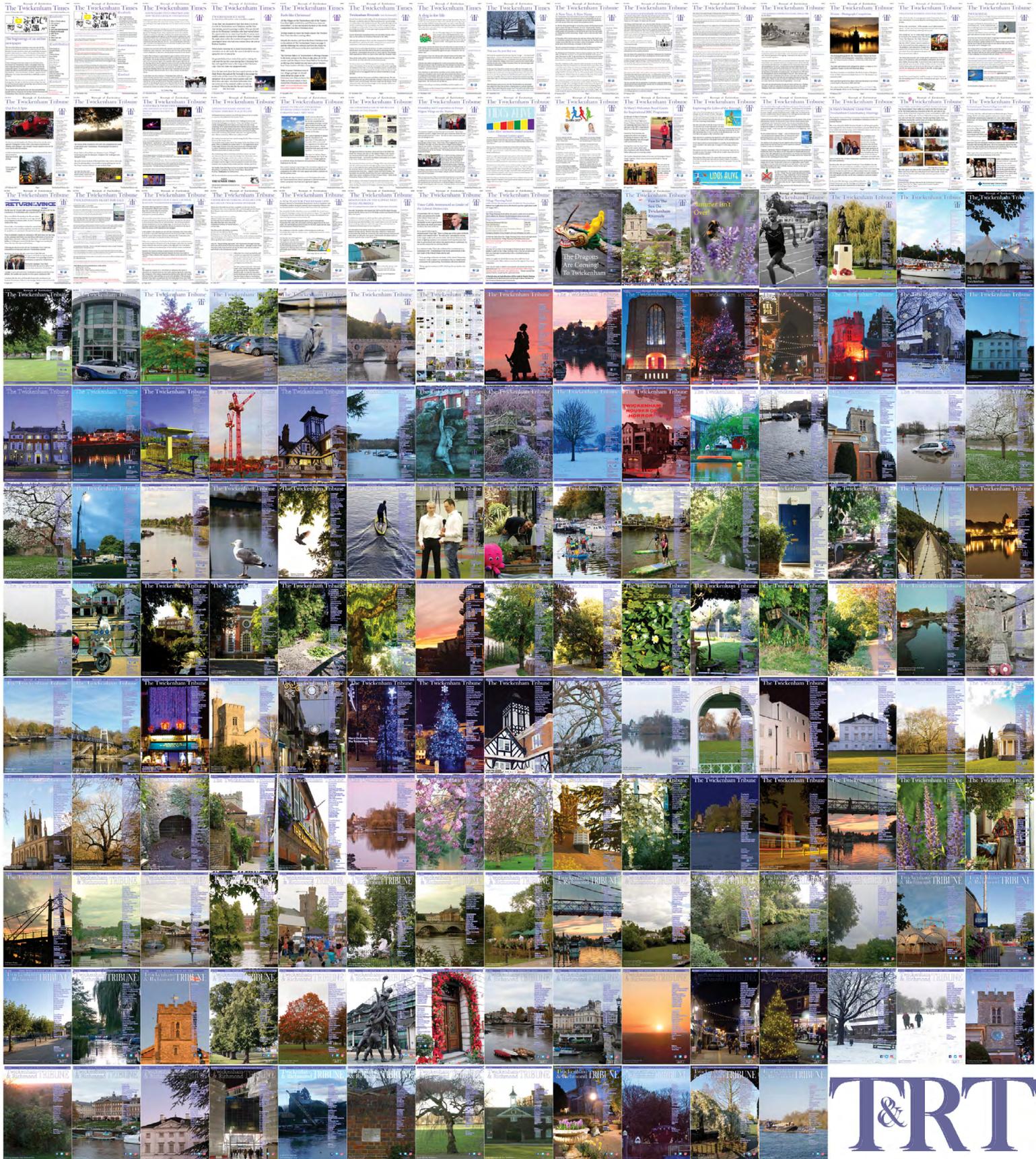
*"Check in with your neighbours and local news sites to see how they're dealing with the situation, and make sure to flag any suspicious or concerning behaviour without delay.*

*"This is particularly important for the areas that have higher burglary and theft rates, as there's a higher likelihood of the 'harmless' trend escalating into something more severe."*

According to the latest crime trends from the Office for National Statistics, overall theft increased by 20% over the last year, whilst there were over 2.6 million cases of theft and 271.5k incidents of burglary reported across the UK.

Areas that should be particularly cautious - based on residential burglary rates - include Greater Manchester, South Yorkshire and the West Midlands.

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