

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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## Editors

Berkley Driscoll  
Teresa Read



23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023

T&RT

# TickerTape - News in Brief

## Armed Forces Day

Armed Forces Day takes place on Saturday 24 June 2023. This is a day to commemorate and show our support for the people and services in the British Armed Forces. Armed Forces Day takes place on the last Saturday each June.

Find out more about Armed Forces Day [HERE](#)

## Out of the Deep Blue in Twickenham

York Street will be closed from London Road to Arragon Road between **8am and 7pm on Saturday 1 July** as Out of the Deep Blue comes to Twickenham.

Come down to York Street to experience an interactive walkabout with Eko and a little girl called Violet. The show tells a moving tale about our earth's climate emergency told through dance, movement and masterful puppeteering.

Show times are 11.30am, 2pm and 4.30pm including a half an hour promenade around the local streets leading to a static performance back on York Street.

York Street will be closed for this spectacular performance, bringing the action right into the centre of Twickenham. It is the focal point of the A Taste of Twickenham event taking place that day.

York Street will be closed from London Road to Arragon Road between 8am and 7pm. The diversion route for traffic will be: London Road, A316 Chertsey Road, St Margarets Road. With the closure of two bus stops on York Street, TfL buses will divert via Arragon Road/ London Road.

Find out more about Out of the Deep Blue [HERE](#).

The show is free to attend so don't miss it!

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# Covid-19

By Teresa Read

## World Health Organization

### Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 - 22 June 2023

**At the country level**, the highest numbers of new 28-day cases were reported from the Republic of Korea (363,382), Australia (135,144), Brazil (85,987), France (71,197), and Singapore (54,581). The highest numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from Brazil (978), Spain (729), the Russian Federation (577), Australia (496) and Italy (420).

## European Region

The European Region reported over 315,000 new cases, a 46% decrease as compared to the previous 28-day period. No country has reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater compared to the previous 28-day period.

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from France (71,197), the Russian Federation (46,109) and Greece (41,730).

The number of new 28-day deaths in the Region decreased by 49% as compared to the previous 28-day period, with 3,523 new deaths reported.

The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Spain (729) and Italy (420).

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

**Medscape:** Aspirin Warning: Anemia May Increase With Use

**Medscape:** Alcohol May Curb Stress Signalling in Brain to Protect Heart

**UK Parliament:** Health and Social Care Committee UK vaping industry called to account following rise in use among children

**Health Bus in Whitton Tuesday 27 June:** The health bus will be parked outside of Whitton Social Centre 111A Kneller Road, Whitton, Twickenham, TW2 7DT, on Tuesday 27 June from 10am to 4pm. No appointments necessary. [https://www.richmond.gov.uk/news/june\\_2023/visit\\_our\\_health\\_bus\\_to\\_get\\_advice\\_from\\_local\\_health\\_experts](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/news/june_2023/visit_our_health_bus_to_get_advice_from_local_health_experts)



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# The local postcard column – Part 202

By Alan Winter

## The Gothic tower and Whitton Castle in Whitton Park

Gone but not totally forgotten. There are several postcards from the first few years of the 20th century that show the Gothic tower in Whitton Park. I'm often asked where the tower is or was but it has never been an easy question to answer. The Twickenham Museum usually comes up trumps when it comes to local history and their very informative website helps to resolve many queries.

It is 'The history centre for Twickenham, Whitton, Teddington and the Hamptons' and may I extend my thanks to those who manage the Twickenham Museum website for much of the information about Whitton Park and the Gothic Tower used in this article.

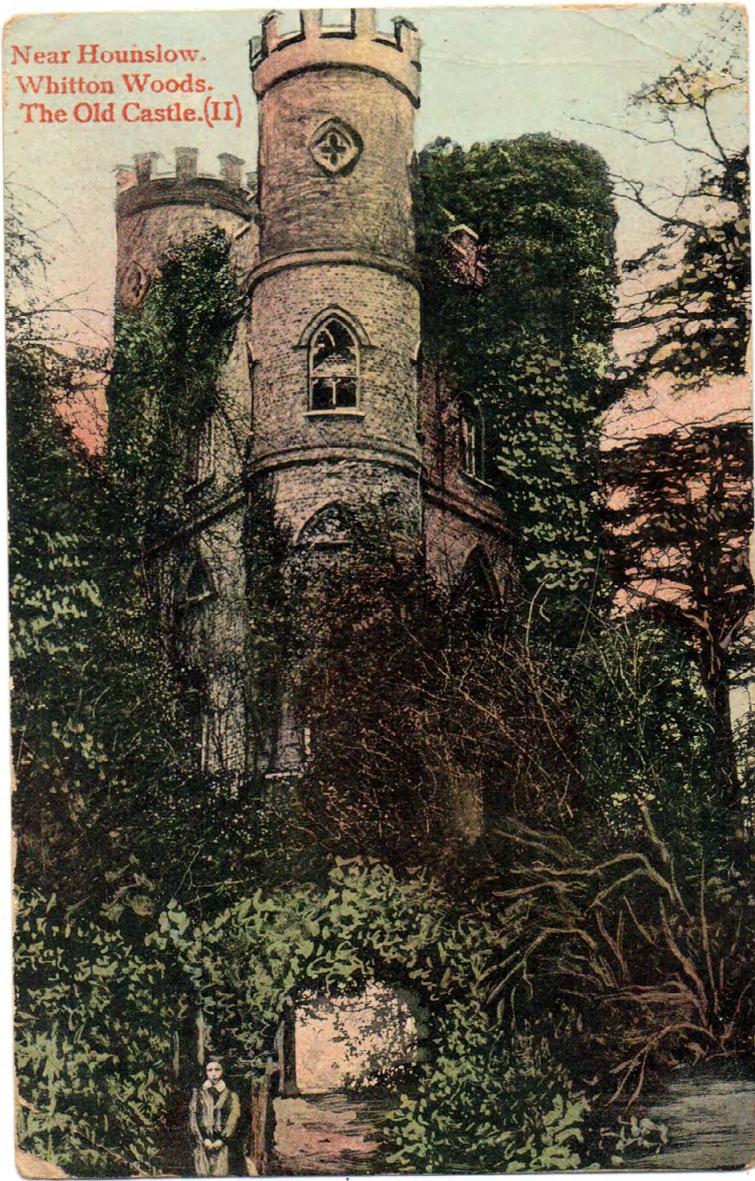
The history of Whitton Park can be traced back to 1625 when Henry Saunders, Bailiff of the Manor of Isleworth Syon was granted permission to enclose several parcels of land in West Field Corner on Hounslow Heath, Whitton. By 1635 the property had expanded to twelve acres and included a substantial house. He passed away and in 1680 it had become a private estate surrounded by a paling fence and was called Whitton Park.

In 1722, now 16 acres, the estate passed to Archibald Campbell, Lord Ilay who later, on becoming the 3rd Duke of Argyll and a copyhold tenant of Isleworth Manor, was allowed to enclose a further ten acres of Hounslow Heath and in 1724 he began the planting of his celebrated exotic trees and shrubs as well as laying out the grounds in the definitive setting amid winding paths, groves leading past



symbolic urns and temples, Campbell also built the Gothic Tower to be used as an observatory for his astronomical studies. (Postcard No.1 is a modern reproduction of a painting c1750 by William Woollett) of the Gothic Tower shortly after it was built.)

The next 150 years passed with a variety of owners and Whitton Park developed into a 200 acre estate. Towards the latter part of the 19th century, Colonel Gostling-Murray succeeded as



the last of the local landed gentry. On his death in 1892 the estate was put on the market but failed to reach its reserve price. Local residents and others pressed both the Heston and Isleworth and Twickenham Urban District Councils to save the estate as a public open space but failed. Heston and Isleworth (now part of the London Borough of Hounslow) were preoccupied with acquiring the Treaty House estate for public offices, and Twickenham (now part of the London borough of Richmond upon Thames) in saving Marble Hill.

In 1910 it was announced that the park and much of the estate had been sold for housing. The Gothic Tower had survived, becoming known as 'Whitton Castle'. It was demolished that year. (Postcard No. 2 shows the Castle in a dilapidated state in 1906.) The base remained until the 1960s. and during the next few decades, the Whitton Park estate gradually disappeared under roads and housing. The Old Latymerians Association saved a sizeable piece of land in the twenties when they acquired it as a sports ground for the old boys of Latymer School, Hammersmith. A few of the famous

cedars survive at its entrance and a section of the original moat can be determined. In 1928 and 1931 joint acquisition proposals for Heston and Isleworth and Twickenham councils to save the last twenty-five acres were not taken up and that was the end of Whitton Park.

If you have an interest in postcards, stamps, coins or football programmes etc may I remind you that the West London Postcard Fair takes place today at Teddington Baptist Church in Church Road. 10.00 – 4.00. 14 dealers, lots to look at and light refreshments available all day.

**WEST LONDON  
POSTCARD FAIR**

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# OUR WAY OF SAYING GOODBYE TO OUR BELOVED HEDDA

By Bruce & Shona

Hedda left us on the 14th of May. It was a massive shock. Totally unexpected and has left a huge void in our lives.

Shona and I, faced with the reality (since Covid just Shona and I run the agency) we had to find resolve to keep the work going.



So, we're keeping the memory of Hedda here with us in Church Street Square. We've upgraded our gardening and made a memorial garden to her, we hope you'll like it & made a new flower bed full of pollinating plants in Hedda's Memory, flew the Israeli Flag in her honour (which prompted a few comments, some negative and some positive) and we even persuaded LBRUT to renovate the Square, and they were very nice about it & already within a week have had the benches cleaned and varnished. We will have a plaque on it in the coming days.

So, when we come to work Hedda is all around us and this gives us the motivation to work even harder and help all our wonderful clients, who I have to say have been amazingly kind and very understanding, with their diverse and often quirky enquiries.

Thank you all for your generosity in this difficult time,  
Bruce and the Family.

If you are looking for a Summer, No Fly offer. How about a 10-night cruise on the Rhine 18th August, save £250 so now £1799. And by the way, Church Street is one of 10 high streets nominated in "Shop Independence Day, Saturday 24th June. A National Promotion.



# “Dither and Delay” has replaced “Forty Years of Neglect”

Teresa Read

Oh, what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive, the words of Sir Walter Scott may spring to mind when reading the May/June 2023 edition of Comments delivered this week.

The slogan “forty years of neglect” in relation to Twickenham Riverside has appeared in various publications and has been emailed directly to residents in and around Twickenham in the run up to the hearing of the planning application for Twickenham Riverside and thereafter.

Perhaps, giving the benefit of the doubt, we could say that the promoters of this slogan have not lived in the area for many years but when providing information to residents they should get their facts right.

During the current Public Inquiry into the Compulsory Purchase Order on Diamond Jubilee Gardens hard evidence has been submitted – copies of The Rugby Post published by the RFU - showing photographs and reports of a vibrant Twickenham Riverside with a full programme of events, until around 2017, when events on The Embankment stopped with attention focussed on “redeveloping” the Riverside. But events did not stop on Diamond Jubilee Gardens, opened in 2012.

It seems from evidence provided for the Public Inquiry into the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Compulsory Purchase Order on Diamond Jubilee Gardens, protected by a charitable trust, that the “40 years of neglect” slogan has finally given way to 40 years of “dither and delay”.

The only organization neglecting Twickenham Riverside is the owner of the derelict car park next to Water Lane, i.e., the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames council. And additional neglect with the Council closure of the service road that used to be accessed through the car park, resulting in cars being unable to get out of the area unscathed during flooding at high tides.

It seems that throughout this Council venture there are those who appear to be “economical with the truth” – or maybe they just believe what they are told rather than look at the historical facts.

# THE GRUFFALO<sup>®</sup> FUN DAY!

**SUN. JUNE 25TH**

**FREE** live shows  
and book signings with  
illustrator Axel Scheffler

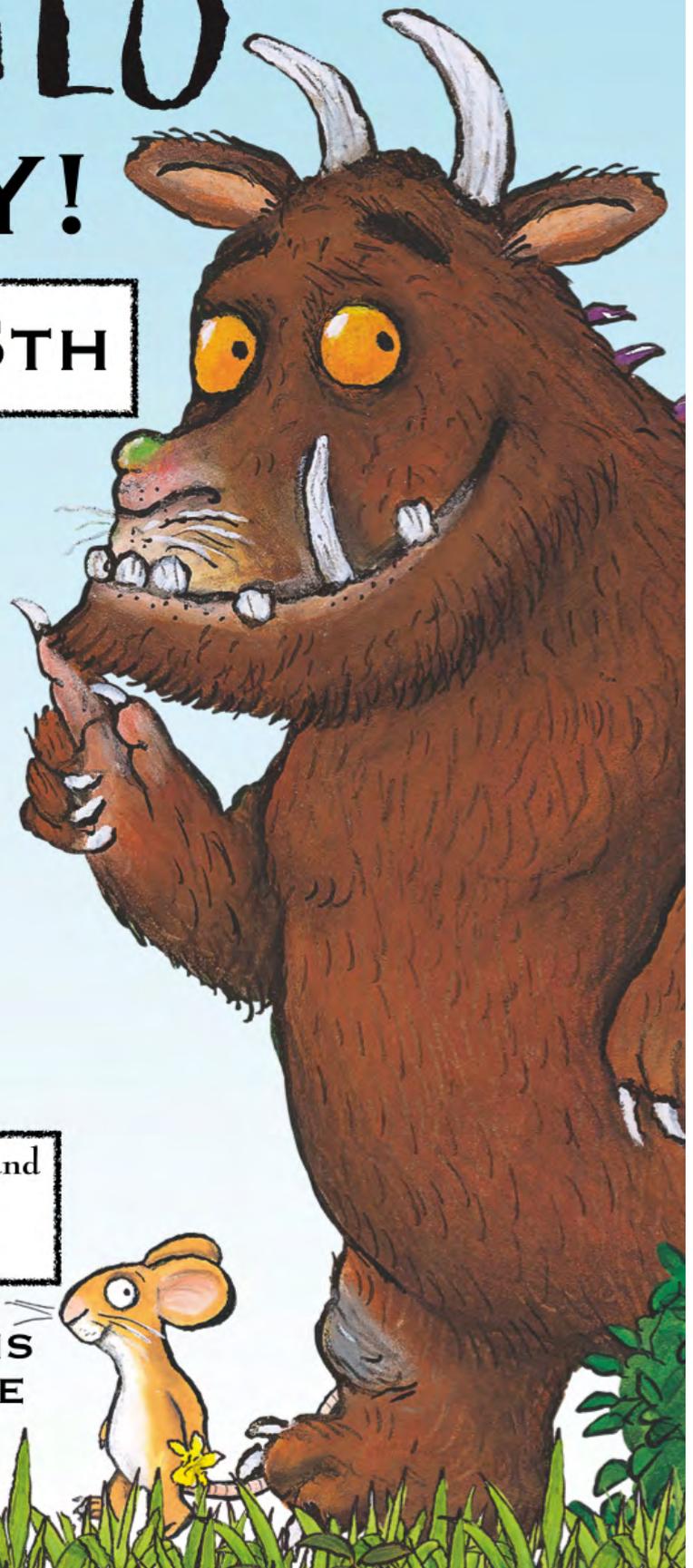
2pm and 3.30pm

And meet the  
Gruffalo himself!

## TICKETS:

Limited to four per applicant, on the day and  
in person only. Available from Diamond  
Jubilee Gardens from 12pm onwards.

**DIAMOND JUBILEE GARDENS  
AT TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE**



# Vision for development in Richmond upon Thames set out in new Local Plan

Richmond upon Thames' new Local Plan has been published for public comment, before it goes to the national Planning Inspectorate for examination.

The Local Plan is the main policy framework Richmond Council uses to set out its aspirations for our places, ensure developments will meet the needs of communities and identify potential sites for development. This final, statutory consultation is for interested parties to comment on the soundness and legal compliance of the plan.

Cllr Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of Richmond Council's Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee, said: *"The Council is working hard in various ways to make our borough a vibrant, inclusive and healthy place for all our communities. To achieve that, we must evolve to meet changing needs, including the need for homes, green and social spaces, education and jobs, whilst addressing the impact of climate change and economic challenges. A Local Plan cannot tackle all of these challenges on its own, but it does set out our vision to accommodate growth through guiding and managing development. Allowing for sustainable growth in Richmond upon Thames will help ensure that this is an affordable place for people to live, at any stage of their life, and that there is sufficient infrastructure, jobs, services and amenities to support a growing population. And, of course, that all of this is delivered in a way that helps us meet our goal of being carbon neutral as a borough by 2043"*



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The Local Plan has been through several rounds of consultation since March 2020, as well as informal ward-based engagement with residents throughout summer 2021 and workshops with schools.

This version of the plan, known as the 'Publication' or 'Regulation 19' version, must be tested against legal and procedural compliance, including the duty to cooperate, and the soundness of the Plan, [as set out in national guidance](#).

The Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation will be open until 24 July 2023. Anyone wanting to comment should read this page carefully first: [the Local Plan explained](#).

## What can a Local Plan do?

A Local Plan can:

- Think long term and anticipate future needs
- Balance the needs of all groups in society
- Shape how places look and feel
- Ensure developments are in the most appropriate places and protect land allocations
- Support our high streets and local centres by protecting buildings for commercial use
- Influence how we travel

## What can't a Local Plan do?

A Local Plan cannot:

- Operate specific shops, services or community facilities
- Resist chain shops
- Control where people park and drive
- Cap property prices or lower rent
- Control the frequency of waste & recycling collection
- Directly provide jobs

# Mortlake, East Sheen, Kew and Barnes needs a transport infrastructure strategy, says Mortlake and Barnes Common Councillor, Niki Crookdake

From Niki Crookdake, Green Party Councillor for Mortlake & Barnes Common

Since May 2022, I have raised issues on behalf of residents and community groups over the impacts from the proposed developments at STAG Brewery, Kew Retail, Homebase, and Barnes Hospital, some of which have already received planning permission. **One of the main concerns is transport**, others include housing, schools, green space, and health provision. I also submitted detailed comments on the draft Local Plan for my ward of Mortlake and Barnes Common, that were not taken up.

My main aim has been to express the concerns of local people about the **cumulative impact of four major developments** in the area to council leaders. These schemes will add at least 3,000 homes and bring more than 6,000 people living, working, and going to school in our already densely populated, locality.

Mortlake, East Sheen, Barnes, and Kew is squashed between the river, Richmond Park, the railway line and Barnes Common. There are four level crossings in the area, which are down for over 40 mins an hour, and few dedicated cycle or safe pedestrian routes. This already inadequate transport infrastructure has been further impacted by the closure of Hammersmith Bridge and Richmond Park gates, along with disrupted bus and train schedules.



However, council officers accept developers' transport assessments which declare that virtually no action is required to mitigate for the impact of the additional residents and visitors on our area's transport systems, roads and pavements. This is why we need an **independent transport review**, as developers' assessments do not reflect residents' experience of long waiting times, unreliable public transport, congested roads, and poor walking and cycling provision.

Over the last year, many people in Mortlake, East Sheen, Kew, and Barnes feel that senior council leaders have not 'listened to locals', leaving them feeling powerless. This is why **community groups have brought this petition, to collectively try and get council leaders to hear, at the very least, our legitimate concerns over the cumulative impact of these four developments on transport.**

By 30 June, we need to reach the 1,000-signature threshold required to trigger a debate on the petition at the Full Council meeting on 11 July, **nearly 600 have already signed.**

If you support this petition, please sign on-line using the following link:  
<https://www2.richmond.gov.uk/Account/ePetitionDetails.aspx?ID=168>

If you prefer to sign a paper copy, or have any queries, please contact Niki Crookdake via [cllr.n.crookdake@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.n.crookdake@richmond.gov.uk), as a number of local shops and pubs are hosting a paper copy of the petition.

# The new car ferry across the Bodensee is named “RICHMOND”

17th June 2023. The Mayor of Richmond and REA Patron, Cllr. Suzette Nicholson, christened the new car ferry across Lake Constance, “RICHMOND” after Konstanz’s twin town. The ship was baptised with water from the Bodensee & Thames, thus making the twin towns blood/water brothers.

The Mayor led a large delegation from Richmond, which included Council Leader, Cllr. Gareth Roberts & REA Chairman Alan Mockford. The Oberbürgermeister of Konstanz, Uli Burchardt, said that a ferry brings people together, & consequently provided a powerful symbol of the enduring partnership between Richmond & Konstanz. Cllr. Roberts looked forward to the United Kingdom returning to the European fold and then presented the Oberbürgermeister, with an engraved ship’s bell on behalf of the town of Richmond.

The REA Chairman presented Dr. Norbert Reuter, the chief executive of die Stadtwerke-Konstanz, with 8 REA souvenir mugs, promoting the reaffirmation of the partnerships with Konstanz & Fontainebleau, which will take place in Richmond from 6th-8th June 2025.



These mugs will be for the use of passengers in the ship’s restaurant during the regular crossings.

In return Gareth & Alan received huge bottles of beer.

The ship’s lounge, next to the restaurant on the upper deck, features a large screen which continuously shows a film of the sights of Richmond.



The carbon neutral, state of the art ferry, which cost €28 million to build, will transport four million passengers & one & a half million vehicles between Konstanz & Meersburg each year.

Almost a thousand residents from Konstanz & Meersburg attended the christening ceremony.

Following the naming ceremony the Richmond delegation was invited to a barbecue cruise around the Überlinger See, a beautiful arm of the Bodensee, calling at the garden island of Mainau among many other places. Herrlich!

Germany is renowned for its hospitality & Konstanz literally pushed the boat out for us!

Please click on the following links for reports in the German press.

[Was lange währt, wird endlich gut.](#)

[19.06.2023 – Fährtaufe, Südkurier 19.06.2023](#)

Die “Richmond,” which is powered by liquified natural gas, is one of the most environmentally friendly ships in the world incorporating state of the art Rolls-Royce technology. For further information about how die “Richmond” is helping to save the planet & some great pictures if you cannot read German please click on the following link: [Fährtauf, Südkurier 21.06.2023](#)



# Learn how to paddle safely with Hampton Canoe Club's Paddle Safer Award

Bought a boat and want to gain knowledge and awareness of how to paddle safely on the Thames? Hampton Canoe Club have courses to help you!

A paddling safety award course is offered to non-members on 1 and 29 July.

If you're a beginner paddler and want to learn more about how to paddle on open water safely, the Paddle Safer Award is for you. It'll help you develop a better understanding of how to be safe when taking to the water.

During this nationally-recognised award, your instructor will work with you to develop your knowledge on equipment and environmental factors, as well as practical rescues to give you confidence on the water.



Part of this two to three hour course will take place on land where they will look at your equipment and explain things to be aware of on the river. You will then get wet practicing how to rescue and be rescued if your craft were to capsize.

There are a limited number of spaces available, so be sure to [learn more and sign up](#).

You can also find more details about the [Hampton Canoe Club's other courses](#).

## Take part in Summer of Play at Ham House and Garden

Join in on the fun-filled garden games happening at Ham House and Garden, this summer.

The National Trust Summer of Play takes place from Saturday 22 July to Thursday 31 August 2023, for an exciting variety of garden games.

The gardens will be transformed with activities including bowls, croquet, badminton, Jenga, and hoopla. Guests will have a chance to explore Ham House and Garden, as well as discovering the garden's wilderness.



Find out more information and how to book [Summer of Play at Ham House and Garden](#).

# RICHMOND HILL HOTEL CELEBRATES A DUO OF RECENT AWARD WINS

Richmond Hill Hotel, the luxury hotel set within the leafy town of Richmond, is celebrating two recent award wins.

Last month, the hotel which is located atop Richmond Hill and only minutes from the Royal Richmond Park, was named one of the best places to work, according to the 2023 Sunday Times Best Places to Work list.

Richmond Hill Hotel successfully placed in the medium organisations category (50 – 249 employees) and is one of only three hotels listed. The publication’s prestigious awards recognise and celebrate organisations with the highest employee engagement and wellbeing levels. Winners are selected solely from results of employee surveys.

On top of this, the hotel has also recently achieved a TripAdvisor Travellers’ Choice Award, which places Richmond Hill in the top 10 per cent of hotels worldwide. Richmond Hill is also the number one hotel in Richmond on TripAdvisor.

TripAdvisor’s annual award recognises travellers’ favourite hotels around the world, with the results only based on reviews and ratings from the past year.



Diane Tapner-Evans, General Manager of Richmond Hill Hotel, said: “At Richmond Hill we always strive to give guests the best possible experience which is why both of these award wins are equally as important.

“What’s special about these accolades is that the results have come from our employees who have filled out surveys on their experience working at Richmond Hill and for the TripAdvisor award, it was thanks to our lovely guests who have stayed with us and would recommend us.”

Last year, Richmond Hill Hotel was also recognised as Top Employer by The Caterer Awards and Best Large Hotel at the Beautiful South Awards.

# Green Party announces change in Opposition Leadership

Councillor Richard Bennett has announced he is stepping down as Leader of the Green Group. Richard was first elected to Richmond Council as Councillor for South Twickenham Ward in May 2018 and became the Minority Opposition Leader. After re-election in May 2022, when the Green Party overtook the Conservatives as the second largest party on the Council, he became Leader of the Official Opposition.

Richard says “It has been an honour to be the first Green Party Opposition Leader on Richmond Council, holding the Liberal Democrat administration to account. The Greens have consistently focused on constructive challenge and achieving changes in policy by means of collaboration and consensus. I wanted the Green Councillors to become respected and influential beyond our numbers. I also wanted civilised Council debates. I am proud to claim significant successes in pursuing these aims.”



Andrée Frieze



Richard Bennett

By their collaborative approach the Greens have secured agreement to many of their proposals. Examples are declaring a Climate Emergency; adopting the more stringent World Health Organisation (WHO) standards on dangerous particulates in the air we breathe; safe travel home at night; and the London Living Wage for Council and Contractor staff.

Cllr Andrée Frieze, who represents Ham, Petersham and Richmond Riverside ward, has been elected Leader of the Opposition by the

Green Group on the Council. Frieze has been Deputy Leader for the last five years; Cllr Bennett now takes on this role.

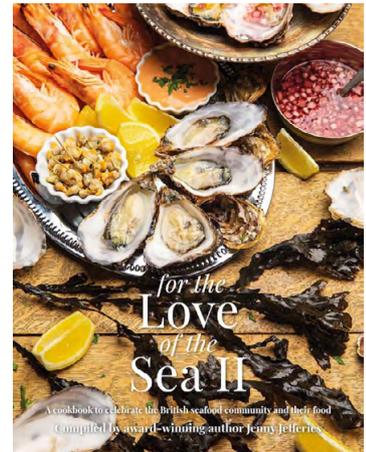
Andrée says: “I look forward to continuing in Richard’s footsteps of challenging the administration to keep to its election promises. Much more work needs to be done to reduce carbon emissions across the borough, particularly from transport and people’s homes. Helping residents improve the insulation in their properties must be a priority, as this will – crucially – cut energy bills as well as carbon emissions.

“The Liberal Democrats also need to take more active steps to reduce carbon emissions and air pollution from car use, such as removing incentives like free car parking and lobbying the Mayor of London harder for investment in more buses in our borough.

“The Greens in Richmond borough have replaced the Conservatives as the Opposition, and as the new Leader I aim to show residents they were right to put their faith in us, and vote for us again in 2026.”

## FOR THE LOVE OF THE SEA II !

I have to confess that I missed the first book by Jenny Jefferies, but it was an award-winning culinary tome, and I strongly suspect its sequel will follow suit. ***For the Love of the Sea II*** has recently been published by **Meze Publishing** and it's a lovely hardback cookbook that celebrates our British seafood community and its food. The book has been hailed by chefs such as Mitch Tonks of Rockfish as a 'seafood odyssey'. It certainly is: you, the reader will travel along our shores, discovering stories and recipes from fishmongers to basket weavers. It's also an ideal guide to finding your next destination restaurant and even includes Scott's in Richmond (as well as far flung locations such as The Isle of Mull). A central theme is also advocacy for sustainability and education, such as the 'Fish in Schools Hero' programme, run by The Food Teachers Centre, introducing youngsters to the delights of cooking with fish and seafood. Jenny is donating 10 percent of her net profits from the sales of this book to The Food Teachers Centre, a charity.



Michelin-starred chef Nathan Outlaw says that author Jenny's "love of the sea is evident in every page" in his endorsement of the book, a love partly expressed through the host of delicious dishes to try at home. Combining familiar flavours with fish and seafood in ways that may be new to many readers, recipes include Cockle and Bacon Chowder; Haddock Scotch Egg; Thai Red Curry Mussels; Stargazy Pie; Whelks in Chilli Garlic Butter; Mediterranean Roasted Whole Sea Bass and many more. *For the Love of the Sea II* is a true homage to the bounty of Britain's waters, inviting its readers to celebrate our coastline and the incredible communities who are bound to it. ***For the Love of the Sea II*** is a 192-page hardback retailing at £22. It's available from Amazon, bookshops including Waterstones, and also online from [www.mezepublishing.co.uk](http://www.mezepublishing.co.uk) and [www.jennyjefferies.co.uk](http://www.jennyjefferies.co.uk).

Here are a couple of recipes to 'lure you' into buying the book...

### **COCKLE & BACON CHOWDER - Osborne & Sons (Shellfish) Ltd, Leigh-on-Sea**

*"There is only one main ingredient that we could use in our dish and that is our Leigh-on-Sea cockles! We've paired them with classic ingredients to make a velvety winter warming chowder, served with beautiful fresh bread. We often serve it inside a hollowed-out cob from our local bakery."*

- 50g butter
- 150g unsmoked bacon lardons, cubed pancetta or chopped streaky bacon
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- Sprig of thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 35g plain flour
- 800ml fish stock
- 150ml milk
- 150ml double cream



- 2 medium potatoes, cubed (about 250g)
- 300g Osborne's cooked cockles
- Salt and black pepper

Heat the butter in a pan and sizzle the bacon for 3-4 minutes until it starts to brown. Stir in the onion, thyme and bay and cook everything gently for 10 minutes until the onion is soft and golden. Scatter over the flour and stir in to make a sandy paste, cook for a further 2 minutes, then gradually stir in the fish stock, followed by the milk and cream.

Add the potatoes, bring everything to a simmer and leave to bubble away gently for 10 minutes or until the potatoes are cooked. Use a fork to crush a few of the potato chunks against the side of the pan to help thicken the chowder – you still want lots of defined chunks though.

Stir through the cockle meat and simmer for a minute to reheat. Season with plenty of black pepper and a little salt, if needed.

Serve with a fresh cob loaf, cut into wedges, or if you are feeling indulgent, hollow out a fresh cob loaf (you can use the bread for breadcrumbs at a later point) and use this as your serving bowl.

### **BASS EN PAPILOTE - David Morgan, crab & lobster fisherman, South Devon**

*“This cooking method works wonderfully to produce juicy and aromatic fish dishes, presenting whole fish such as bass, sea bream or mullet in an attractive way using a greaseproof paper or foil envelope. The herbs and other flavourings can easily be adapted to suit your preferences.”*

- 1 whole bass, gutted and cleaned
- Butter or olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- 1-2 onions, sliced
- 1 fennel bulb, thinly sliced (or you can use sprigs of dill instead)
- 1 lemon, cut into slices or wedges
- Sprigs of fresh thyme
- A dry wine



Note that a 42cm wild-caught bass will feed 2-3 people but farmed fish may be smaller. If you are using red mullet, serve this as individual parcels with one fish per person.

Brush a large piece of greaseproof paper or tin foil generously with the butter or olive oil. Season your cleaned fish with salt and pepper inside and out. Score the sides of larger fish.

Place the fish on the greased paper or foil and fill the cavity with onions, fennel or dill, a couple of lemon slices and some thyme. Add another knob of butter to the cavity with a splash of wine.

Fold the paper or foil over the fish and crimp to seal in all the juices. Place the whole parcel on a baking tray and cook in a preheated oven at 220°C for 10-15 minutes.

Check the parcel after 10 minutes; the fish is ready when it just pulls away from the bone. A large single bass may take 20 minutes.

Serve your bass en papillote with new potatoes and a tomato or green salad.

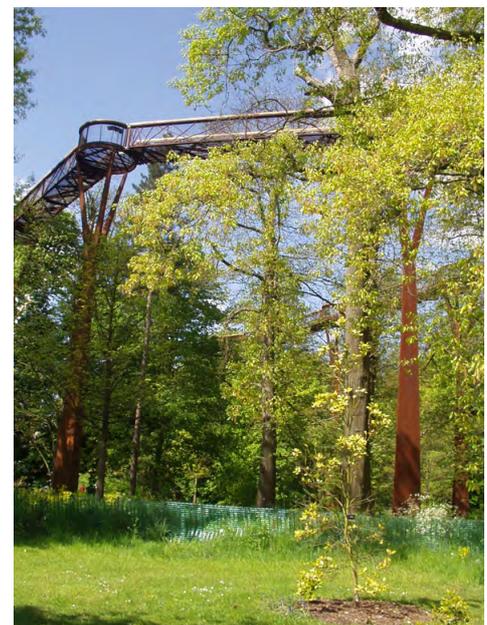
## Kew Gardens Walkway and the Fibonacci Sequence

Teresa Read

This week's New Scientist has an interesting article pointing to research at the University of Edinburgh which concluded that ancient plants did not follow the Fibonacci sequence as seen in the arrangement of most leaves today.

I found this of particular interest as in 2008 I visited the newly opened Treetop Walkway in Kew Gardens and was informed that the design of the Walkway draws on the Fibonacci sequence, where each new number is the sum of the two before (for example 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13,); the sequence determining a number of plant structures.

At Kew the sequence is used for the spacing of connection points for the diagonals of the Walkway trusses. The 12-metre-long trusses are connected to circular nodes supported by pylons.



World InfoZone Treetop Walkway, Kew Gardens: <https://worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=Kew>

# So...the nights are drawing in...

By Deep Patel

~ Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

For those of you who are fed up of the recent heat, sit yourself down this evening and snuggle up with a blanket on the sofa with a mug of hot chocolate and a chocolate digestive because we've now officially passed the longest day of the year in the UK on the 21st June, so now the days are getting shorter and the nights are drawing in... (ok maybe not the hot chocolate and blanket bit just yet...but you get what I mean.



So, what were you doing at 9.20pm on the 21st of June when the sun was setting on the longest day of the year in the UK? It is said to be a spiritually significant moment, perhaps to chant, to meditate, to reflect and radiate inner positivity?... I traced back to what I was doing at that exact time, and it happens to be that I was hugging the Asda delivery driver who was in my shop at the time...he's a great guy, we always hug each time we meet. Well, it was still spiritual in my eyes as it was an exchange of good energy.

Regardless of what you were doing, the bare fact remains that the longest day of the year in the UK has now passed...how does that make you feel? Sad? Happy? Or you don't really care? Most customers in my shop were pretty damn disappointed when I asked them about it...they said "oh no, summer is coming to an end then?"

Although it has technically started to become darker earlier now, summer is by no means over...it's only just getting started... I mean some of the hottest days of the year are in July and even August, and I always think summer never really "starts" until the school summer holidays start as that is when I remember summer to be when I was a child...summer days, when people go away, eating ice creams on Twickenham Green, meeting friends by the riverside and generally soaking up the sun... so to the majority of customers coming into my shop this week whom have accused me of being depressing when I told them "the nights are drawing in now"...I would like to say, it isn't about how much of summer has passed that we should be focusing on, it is about how much of summer is still left... equally life isn't about how many things we may have done wrong...rather about how many things we can still do right...and therefore our outlooks in life perhaps should not be about how much we have lost of anything really...but instead of how much we still could gain, the different opportunities that still may come our way and indeed, to see what tomorrow may still bring...for as long as there is hope...our days or nights can never truly be dark... x

**Remember...**

***"The cup is never half empty ...it is always half full."***

## MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

### TO STOP FOXES, SQUIRRELS, MICE, RATS & RABBITS...

Place empty bowls filled with white vinegar around where they come and they will stop coming without you having to harm 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 ANY specific tip to stop any "pest" or insect KINDLY (for good karma/blessings), email me: [thedeepatel@gmail.com](mailto:thedeepatel@gmail.com) or join my Facebook page: "KIND WORLD"



## Tony! The Tony Blair Rock Opera

by Steve Brown and Harry Hill

Nicholson Green at Richmond Theatre until 24<sup>th</sup> June, then on tour until 14<sup>th</sup> October

Don't put your head above the parapet, Sir Tony, for there are satirists about. But what can a satirist's vitriol say about a man who notoriously triggered a Middle Eastern war that has horrifically destabilised the region for a quarter century? Well, make a comedy musical, "a reckless reappraisal of the life of former *Ugly Rumours* front man and Britain's first pop Prime Minister".



*Tony! The Tony Blair Rock Opera* hits town on a tour that takes in grand theatres; plus Sedgefield parish hall, in Blair's former constituency; and, even more provocatively, Liverpool during the week of the Labour Party Conference.

Bursting with energy, the musical races along from Cool Britannia until it hits the interval with "What could possibly go wrong?" Along the way all is fair game. This is very British satire, and at its most hard-hitting. *Tony! The Tony Blair Rock Opera* is as delicious as it is vicious.



This Blair is propelled to highest office in spite of himself. His advance is due to the manipulation of others. His childhood inspiration is to be like Mick Jagger, and his overvaulting ambitions are merely a substitute for pop stardom. Jack Whittle plays Blair brilliantly, lithe in movement and slippery in gesture, with authentic rictus grin, a schoolboy, dazzled by celebrity and easily led.

Blair's earliest manipulator is Cherie, portrayed by Tori Burgess as an off-Wirral Lady Macbeth, who seduces Tony, explaining Marxism to him during coitus. The arch-manipulator is Peter Mandelson. Priceless in this

Mephistophelean role, smoothly saurian, Howard Samuels laces it with lasciviousness.

Princess Diana is portrayed as sensual as cream on fruitcake by a pouting Emma Jay Thomas. Tony is in there in a shot like a priapic puppy-dog, until brought to heel by Cherie.

Then comes 9/11. Bush explains the Special Relationship as like "a pimp and his hooker", until the show is stolen by a Groucho Marx lookalike Saddam Hussein.

But in the end, as the sting in the tail, it turns to the audience, pointing out that it is we who fall for show over substance, for we vote them in.

Read Mark Aspen's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/06/23/tony-rock-op](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/06/23/tony-rock-op)

Photography by Mark Senior



## *Sense and Sensibility*

by Jane Austen, adapted by Jessica Swale

Putney Theatre Company at the Putney Arts Theatre until 24<sup>th</sup> June

Any adaptation of a novel necessarily need to edit the plot and even some characters and, lean toward some aspect or perspective. In PTC's version of *Sense and Sensibility*, the characters are the focus, and the humour in the writing is the perspective, demonstrating the wit of the piece excellently.

Emma Bugg and Olivia Jackson are well cast as the sisters Elinor and Marianne respectively, both giving strong and convincing performances. Great support comes from Lois Savill as Mrs Palmer, an object lesson in comedy, while Hubert MacGreevy as Mr Palmer, her long-suffering husband, gets few words in, but makes them count. Jamie Cameron as John Willoughby also provides a strong performance. The stand-out though is Isabella Walsh-Whitfield as Margaret Dashwood. This is a soup-to-nuts feast of childhood energy, enthusiasm, and curiosity. Isabella never lets up in her intensity on stage, and is everywhere, including holding one end of a clothesline up for some minutes whilst Elinor hangs laundry on it and has a discussion with Marianne. (She'll be shoulder pressing to Olympic standard by the end of the run.)



The production takes a straightforward approach to staging, mainly using furniture and props, which is appropriate to the venue and helps to keep the action rolling. Lighting director Peter Rees uses subtle colouring to create atmosphere and time of day. Barney Hart Dyke's choice of music, seemingly a string quartet playing contemporary music, provides a classy bridge between past and

present. His ambient soundscape, such as birdsong and breaking waves has a detailed level of attention.

Ben Clare's direction is crisp and considered, pushing the action along at pace. The cast draws every ounce from the characters and the humour certainly helps to engage. Its accomplished delivery and strong talent for character portrayal were rightfully appreciated by an enthusiastic audience.



Read Vince Francis' review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/06/21/sense-sensibty-ptc](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/06/21/sense-sensibty-ptc)

Photography by Steve Lippett



## Tristan und Isolde

by Richard Wagner

Grange Park Opera at the Theatre in the Woods, West Horsley until 9<sup>th</sup> July

Wagner wrote *Tristan und Isolde* as a break from writing the *Ring Cycle*, intending it to be a small scale chamber opera. However, the result is, ahem, Wagnerian in length, and has the most physically demanding roles in all opera. Stephen Barlow's conducting takes a measured approach to this most volcanically passionate of scores. He lets the score breathe and gives his singers space.



Charles Edwards's production and design is crammed with clever ideas, some quietly subversive (Marke eavesdropping on the lovers) others rather baffling (Kurwenal seems to die twice). But his approach pays dividends. Setting the opera in the period of its composition rather than something vaguely Arthurian makes a lot of sense. The garden scene becomes a suffocating Victorian drawing room (possibly inspired by Villa Wesendonck, where Wagner had an affair his host's wife?)



Grange Park Opera has gathered together a splendid cast. Gwyne Hughes Jones is a vocally impressive Tristan if rather dramatically stolid in his be-medalled military uniform. Wagner so often benefits from a vocally Italianate approach; a repertoire in which Hughes Jones specialises.

Rachel Nicholls is one of the most convincing Isoldes I've ever seen. She means every note that she sings, and sounds glorious. The passionate urgency Nicholls brings to the *Liebtestod* is thrilling and exceptional, as she removes her 19<sup>th</sup> Century dress to reveal a vest and jeans and demands of the orchestra, "Do I Alone Hear This Tune?" Most singers relax into concert mode here, but Nicholls burns with intensity. Unable to go through the door that Tristan left by at his death in a blaze of yellow light, she ranges over the stage and exits another way, having left the 19<sup>th</sup> Century - as well as Tristan behind - as dry ice invades the stage.

In an opera where every act ends with a suicide attempt, this *Tristan und Isolde* is ferociously intelligent, willing to interrogate what this extraordinary piece may be about, without sucking the emotion or the dramatic life out of it.



Read Patrick Shorrocks's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/06/23/trist-isld-gpo](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/06/23/trist-isld-gpo)

Photography by Marc Brenner and Alistair Muir

**RICHMOND COMMUNITY CHOIR**



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# Exciting news for the Vine Road Project

Richmond Council's Parks Teams and Barnes Common Friends are delighted to announce that they have secured funding from the Council's climate emergency fund, to enable the designs for the Master Plan for Vine Road Recreation Ground to be developed into a formal Planning Application, which is the next key stage in this exciting project.

The Master Plan received massive support from the Community following informal public consultation in 2021, and it has since then received support from the Council's Environment and Sustainability Committee.

Councillor Neden-Watts, Deputy Leader and Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee, said:

"I am delighted that Richmond Council are supporting this exciting and innovative proposal. Working together with the community to build resilience and foster wellbeing, while facing the increasing challenges of climate change."



The Master Plan sets out new facilities including water play for a wider age ranges, a skateboard pump track, community growing, re-landscaping to improve amenity, flood resilience and biodiversity, and a new Social Hub with café.

Hildesley, Chair of Barnes Common Ltd, said:

"It is so encouraging to receive good news in these times of uncertainty. Moving forward to Planning is a significant step towards realising the fantastic Master Plan for this much-loved park."

It is proposed that the Social Hub is designed so it can also serve as a refuge for at risk members of the community during climate-related emergencies, such as flooding due to extreme rain, heatwaves or extreme cold snaps. The plans are believed to be one of the first in the UK designed with this facility, bringing together climate resilient building design alongside other benefits to wellbeing offered by a park environment.



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# Marshgate Primary School wins England's PTA of the Year Award

The Parent Staff Association (PSA) of Marshgate Primary School was one of the big winners at the National PTA Awards 2023, winning the award for England's PTA of the Year.

The judging panel commended [Marshgate PSA](#) for going above and beyond to make their PSA inclusive of their diverse community and embracing families that joined the school during the COVID year.

As part of the award, Marshgate PSA will receive £1,000 towards its fundraising pot.

The current committee's term comes to an end in July, with the majority of its core members having recently committed to continue for another 12 months, including Chair Tom Panagos, who has been spearheading the team since January 2022.

Marshgate PSA will have the award on display during its Summer Fair, its biggest fundraising event of the year, which takes place on Saturday 1 July (11am to 3pm) and is open to all local families. Entrance to the event will be free.

Working with the local community is at the heart of the committee's efforts, who are looking forward to working closer and creating partnerships with businesses in the borough.



# St Mary's University

## St Mary's Alumna Awarded MBE

Teacher Training Alumna of St Mary's University, Twickenham Maria McLoughlin has been awarded an MBE in the King's Birthday Honours for services to gymnastics.

Maria McLoughlin, who has been involved in developing women's gymnastics for the past 50 years is the Chair of British Gymnastics' Women's Artistic Gymnastics Technical Committee. She has been involved in gymnastics for most of her life, having started as a child in the early 1950's, going on to become one of the country's leading gymnasts, representing Great Britain at the 1966 World Championships and the European Championships in both 1967 and 1969.



At an international level, Maria has been an ambassador for British Gymnastics, and is now the longest-standing international judge in the world, having served for over 45 years and is now in her 12th Olympic cycle. She has adjudicated at World and European Championships, Commonwealth Games and World University Games as well as being Judging Secretariat at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Speaking to British Gymnastics, Maria said, "I am so delighted and honoured to have been nominated by British Gymnastics to receive an MBE. Over the very short time I have known about the nomination I have been able to reflect on my gymnastics journey.

St Mary's Associate Dean for Student Experience, and Maria's daughter, Claire McLoughlin added, "We are truly proud of Maria and to be recognised in the King's Birthday Honours is something quite special. She has dedicated her life to the sport of gymnastics and education, as a teacher, coach, judge, and a competitor herself.

"She has supported so many female athletes achieve their goals in sport, encouraging participation from recreation to the elite level. Her many years of voluntary commitment to the sport have been selfless and that only comes with having a real passion to help others achieve. To be the longest standing Judge in the world over 12 Olympic cycles is something quite remarkable. We hope maria continues to do what she loves best in the world of sport for as long as she can.

Maria has been a member of the British Gymnastics National Women's Technical Committee for the last 17 years, where she champions inclusivity and equality in the Women's Gymnastics programme. As Chair, she has overseen the development of a parallel performance pathway for disabled gymnasts, a revised performance pathway to keep young women engaged in the sport, and increased opportunities across all areas of competition including student and adult events.

In addition, Maria has been an administrator for London Gymnastics, her local area, undertaking a wide variety of roles since 1996 in support of the sport.

Alongside Maria's gymnastics career, she also served as Head of Physical Education at St Mark's Catholic School and authored and translated gymnastics books and publications.



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

# ENGLAND MEN'S WORLD RUGBY U20 CHAMPIONSHIP

## TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT: ENGLAND V IRELAND

England men's U20 head coach Mark Mapletoft has named his side to face Ireland U20 to open their World Rugby U20 Championship campaign in South Africa on Saturday, 24 June (KO 13:30 local time, 12:30pm BST) at Paarl Gymnasium outside Cape Town.

Leicester Tigers lock Lewis Chessum captains the side which features four players who will earn their first England U20 caps on Saturday.

The match will be streamed on the [World Rugby digital channels](#) while ITV will broadcast highlights from each match day.

Asher Opoku-Fordjour and Afolabi Fasogbon are the starting props, with Finn Theobald-Thomas completing the front row at hooker. Harvey Cuckson is set to earn his first England U20 cap when he joins the skipper in the second row.

The backrow sees Finn Carnduff (blind-side flanker), Greg Fisilau (open-side flanker) and Chandler Cunningham-South (no. 8) combine. Charlie Bracken is the side's scrum-half, starting in the halves alongside Connor Slevin who will steer the backline in his debut.

Joseph Woodward and Rekeiti Ma'asi White again pair up in the midfield, continuing their partnership from this year's Under-20 Six Nations tournament. In the back three, Joe Jenkins and Tobias Elliott are the wingers and Sam Harris lines up at fullback. Nathan Jibulu, Archie McArthur, James Halliwell, Nathan Michelow, Tristan Woodman, Nye Thomas, Louie Johnson and Jacob Cusick are the replacements.

The match against Ireland is the first of England's three pool matches, with a full playing schedule is available on the [World Rugby website](#).

**Mapletoft said:** *"Firstly, congratulations to all players selected to represent their country in our first game of the World Rugby U20 Championship. For many players this tournament will be the highlight of their rugby journeys so far, providing the opportunity for them to develop in an environment that emulates the challenges that hopefully awaits in the senior international arena in future years. We've had a good week of preparation since landing in Cape Town last week and the players are ready for the challenge Ireland presents. They were the dominant team in this year's U20 Six Nations tournament, and we're relishing the chance to take them head on to open our campaign."*

### England U20 team v Ireland U20

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Asher Opoku-Fordjour (Sale Sharks)        | 8. Chandler Cunningham-South (Harlequins) |
| 2. Finn Theobald-Thomas (Gloucester)         | 9. Charlie Bracken (Saracens)             |
| 3. Afolabi Fasogbon                          | 10. Connor Slevin* (Harlequins)           |
| 4. Harvey Cuckson* (Bath Rugby)              | 11. Joe Jenkins (Bristol Bears)           |
| 5. Lewis Chessum (Captain, Leicester Tigers) | 12. Joseph Woodward (Leicester Tigers)    |
| 6. Finn Carnduff (Leicester Tigers)          | 13. Rekeiti Ma'asi-White (Sale Sharks)    |
| 7. Greg Fisilau (Exeter Chiefs)              | 14. Tobias Elliott (Harlequins)           |
|  | 15. Sam Harris (Bath Rugby)               |

### Replacements

- |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 16. Nathan Jibulu (Harlequins)       | 20. Tristan Woodman (Sale Sharks)     |
| 17. Archie McArthur (Gloucester)     | 21. Nye Thomas (Sale Sharks)          |
| 18. James Halliwell* (Bristol Bears) | 22. Louie Johnson (Newcastle Falcons) |
| 19. Nathan Michelow* (Saracens)      | 23. Jacob Cusick (Leicester Tigers)   |

\*Denotes England U20 debut



# HISTORIC TEST MATCH BETWEEN ENGLAND AND JAPAN ANNOUNCED

The first ever Test match between England and Japan to be played in Japan will be held next year, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and Japan Rugby Football Union (JRFU) have announced, in an historic occasion for the two nations.

Today's announcement marks exactly one year until the England men's team plays against the Brave Blossoms in the Lipovitan D Challenge Cup on Saturday, 22 June 2024.

While England toured Japan in 1971 and 1979, playing matches which did not hold Test status, and the two nations have since faced off in a further three international fixtures (1987, 2018 and 2022), this will be the first ever Test match they play hosted by Japan.

The fixture is the result of a strengthening relationship between the two unions, after England played the Brave Blossoms at Twickenham Stadium during last year's Autumn International Series and previously in 2018. Discussions for a venue and kick-off time ahead of next year's fixture are ongoing, with broadcast agreements also to be announced in due course.

**RFU Chief Executive, Bill Sweeney, said:** *"We are delighted to announce England will play its first ever Test match against the Brave Blossoms in Japan. This is a landmark occasion for our two rugby nations."*

*"After hosting Japan twice at Twickenham Stadium in recent years, we're eager to continue building our strong relationship with the JRFU. We have a lot of respect for Japanese rugby, and I know there will be mutual excitement between fans from both countries for this fixture."*

**Executive Director of Performance Rugby, Conor O'Shea, said:** *"This Test match will be something for Steve [Borthwick]'s playing group to really build towards and an historic event. An occasion like this is one of those special matches players remember fondly during, and long after their careers."*

*"Rugby in Japan continues to grow enormously and so too do their on-pitch performances, so a tough test awaits the England team."*

**JRFU President, Masato Tsuchida, said:** *"We are delighted to welcome England to Japan next year for this historic test match and to have the opportunity to test ourselves against one of the world's best teams. The JRFU and Japanese rugby fans have great respect for English rugby and recognise England as the birthplace of our great sport."*

*"We fondly remember England's performances at the World Cup in 2019, especially their incredible semi-final victory in Yokohama. English fans made a fantastic contribution to the atmosphere of the tournament, making up the largest contingent of visiting international fans. They left a wonderfully positive impression on the Japanese public, and we look forward to welcoming the team and English fans back to Japan and renewing the great rugby connection between our two nations."*



# Romeo Beckham joins Brentford B on permanent deal

**Romeo Beckham joins Brentford B on a one-year deal from Inter Miami; watch Beckham's first interview since signing a permanent deal with the Bees**

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford Football Club are pleased to announce the permanent signing of Romeo Beckham from Inter Miami on a one-year contract, with a club option of an additional year. Beckham, who spent the second half of the 2022/23 campaign on loan in west London, has now agreed to join Neil MacFarlane's side on a permanent deal.

The 20-year-old was part of the B team squad that went on to lift the Premier League Cup in May, and he also featured for the young Bees against teams such as Monaco, as well as AIK Fotboll and Halmstads BK in the Atlantic Cup.



In total, Beckham featured 15

times for the young Bees during his time on loan from the MLS outfit. He netted once against National League side Wealdstone, helping his his side to a late 3-2 victory in the Middlesex Senior Cup.

The youngster put pen to paper on a loan deal with Brentford in January after gaining experience with Inter Miami II earlier last year, where he played 20 times and grabbed 10 assists.

Brentford B head coach Neil MacFarlane said: "We added Romeo to our squad in January and he's been fantastic for the group.

"He's had a terrific end to the season in terms of his recent match against Manchester City, where he showed what he's learned during his loan with us.

"We've continued to develop him in and out of possession and we look forward to him coming back in good spirits to continue working with him next season."



# Advancing quantum information science

The UK and US team up to advance quantum information science

Organisations in the United Kingdom and United States have committed to sharing expertise and capabilities in the blossoming field of quantum information science. This new partnership between the countries will lead to new quantum devices, insights into their performance, ways to harness quantum information and discoveries in fundamental physics.

The new partnership is between the Superconducting Quantum Materials and Systems Center, hosted by the U.S Department of Energy's Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, the UK's National Metrology Institute, NPL and Royal Holloway, University of London (RHUL).

Quantum information science seeks to harness the behaviour of quantum mechanics to process information in new ways, develop ultra-sensitive detectors and much more.

Under these new partnerships, researchers will investigate the following: losses of quantum information in quantum computing devices, new systems based on quantum technologies to search for new particles, new quantum algorithms, and the performance and fundamental limits of quantum computers.

*"The areas the SQMS Centre focuses on are building high-quality superconducting qubits and looking at ways in which this will scale for both quantum computing and fundamental physics,"* said Sir Peter Knight, chair of the U.K. National Quantum Technologies Programme and SQMS Centre advisory board member.



Scientists will use quantum computers to manipulate qubits – the basic building block of information used by quantum computers – to perform calculations that would be practically impossible for classical computers when the machines are fully realised.

*"Superconducting qubits can be used as a quantum computing engine, but equally in the other direction for dark matter detection,"* said Knight. *"Quantum has become a major part of the scientific adventure that everybody wants to participate in, and SQMS is going to be a beacon of getting stuff done. NPL and RHUL researchers are excited to become collaborative SQMS Center partners."*

Quantum devices need to be cooled down to prevent information from being obscured or lost by noise produced by heat. Making devices ultra-cold might lead to better device performance and new insights on how quantum devices behave and operate.

This new partnership will draw on the expertise and experience of NPL and RHUL in this area of research.

*"What my group brings to the table is expertise in low-temperature physics into the microkelvin regime,"* said John Saunders, a professor at RHUL and SQMS Center advisory board member. *"For approximately the last 10 years, we've been working on developing new low-temperature platforms and working on cooling down quantum circuits and quantum materials to the lowest possible temperatures. We are very interested in cooling them down to ultra-low temperatures to see how they behave,"* said Saunders.

*"As NPL's head of science for quantum technologies, I lead a team of about 100 scientists working on various aspects of computing, sensing, communications, metrology, and materials,"* said Alexander Tzalenchuk, the SQMS Center principal investigator for NPL. *"In particular, we strive to understand and mitigate noise in superconducting circuits, which affects their "quantumness". We also work on algorithms and developing technologies that enable scalable quantum computing in the future. This formal collaboration is one of the first examples where the two countries can work together on closely aligned projects, which is enabled by the joint statement."*

This partnership comes at a time when the development of quantum technologies is at the forefront of national and international priorities, with [UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak](#) and [US President Joe Biden](#) recently confirming that "we're building on our extraordinary shared strengths in cutting-edge future technologies, with joint research collaborations" in areas of strategic importance including quantum "to make sure they are developed safely and responsibly".



# Chancellor agrees new support measures for mortgage holders

This morning the Chancellor met the UK's principal mortgage lenders and the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to agree support for people struggling with mortgage repayments.

The latest market indicators (FCA; UK Finance) show that mortgage arrears and defaults remain below pre-pandemic levels, which were themselves extremely low. The FCA reported 0.86% of total residential mortgage balances in arrears in the first quarter of 2023 which is significantly lower than the 3.32% rate in 2009.

The proportion of disposable income spent on mortgage payments is currently at 5.4%, compared to around 10% in the 1990s and prior to the financial crisis.

The average homeowner re-mortgaging over the last twelve months had around a 50% loan-to-value ratio. This indicates homeowners have considerable equity in their homes, which makes it easier to manage repayments. Lenders have less than 10% 'owner-occupier mortgages' on their books with loan-to-value rates greater than 75%, compared to around 25% before the 2008 financial crisis. Taken together, this puts the market in a significantly stronger position than before.

The lenders – which cover over 75% of the market - agreed to a new mortgage charter providing support residential mortgage customers. These are:

- Anyone worried about their mortgage repayments can call their lender for information and support, without any impact on their credit score and we would encourage you to contact your bank who are there to help.
- Customers won't be forced to have their homes repossessed within 12 months from their first missed payment.
- Customers approaching the end of a fixed rate deal will be offered the chance to lock in a deal up to six months ahead. They will also be able to apply for a better deal right up until their new term starts, if one is available.
- A new agreement between lenders, the FCA and the Government permitting customers to switch to an interest-only mortgage for six months, or extend their mortgage term to reduce their monthly payments and switch back to their original term within the first six months, if they choose to. Both options can be taken without a new affordability check or affecting their credit score.
- Support for customers who are up-to-date with payments to switch to a new mortgage deal at the end of their existing fixed rate deal without another affordability check.
- Providing well-timed information to help customers plan ahead should their current rate be due to end.
- Offer tailored support for anyone struggling and deploy highly trained staff to help customers. This could mean extending their term to reduce their payments, offering a switch to interest only payments, but also a range of other options like a temporary payment deferral or part interest-part repayment. The right option will depend on the customer's circumstances.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Jeremy Hunt, said:

*"There are two groups of people that we are particularly worried about. The first are people who are at real risk of losing their homes because they fall behind in their mortgage payments. And the second are people who are having to change their mortgage because their fixed rate comes to an end, and they're worried*

*about the impact on their family finances of higher mortgage rates.*

*“So today I agreed with the banks and the principal mortgage lenders and the Financial Conduct Authority three very important things.*

*“The first is that absolutely anyone can talk to their bank or their mortgage lender and it will have no impact whatsoever on their credit score.*

*“The second is that if you are anxious about the impact on your family finances and you change your mortgage to interest only or you extend the term of your mortgage and you want to go back to your original mortgage deal, within six months, you can do so, no questions asked and no impact on your credit score. That gives people a powerful new tool for managing their monthly budgets – and it will begin taking effect within the next two weeks.*

*“And finally for people who are at risk of losing their home in that extreme situation, the banks and mortgage lenders have a number of things in place. The last thing that they want to do to repossess a home, but in that extreme situation they have agreed there will be a minimum 12 month period before there’s a repossession without consent. These measures should offer comfort to those who are anxious about high interest rates and support for those who do get into difficulty.*

*“Tackling high inflation is the Prime Minister and my number one priority. We are absolutely committed to supporting the Bank of England to do what it takes. We know the pressure that families are feeling. That’s why we’ve introduced big support packages around £3,000 for the average household this year and last.*

*“But we will do what it takes, and we won’t flinch in our resolve because we know that getting rid of high inflation from our economy is the only way that we can ultimately relieve pressure on family finances and on businesses.”*

Martin Lewis, founder of MoneySavingExpert.com said:

*“The unprecedented steep rise in mortgage rates is causing a nightmare for many with variable mortgages and those coming off fixes. Therefore, the most important thing we can focus on right now is appropriate, flexible forbearance measures. While the Bank of England’s aim is intended to squeeze people’s disposable incomes, no one wants people’s lives to be ruined by arrears and repossessions – and that is the urgent protection we need to focus on.*

*“I met the Chancellor on Wednesday and reiterated that the minimum we needed was to ensure that when people asked for help from lenders, they knew that if things changed, it wouldn’t be detrimental to their financial situation and their credit scores would be protected as much as possible.*

*“I’m pleased to see it looks like the Chancellor has listened and those measures are going to be put in practice by the banks. We need to make sure everybody knows their rights if they are in trouble with their mortgage, so they can feel comfortable speaking with their lender and understand the measures that they can request for help.”*

Nikhil Rathi, chief executive of the Financial Conduct Authority, said:

*“Today’s productive meeting builds on the work we’ve done over the last year to ensure those who get into difficulty receive the tailored support they need. We’ll move quickly to make any changes needed to support today’s commitments.”*



**HM Treasury**

# CALLS FOR ALL MUSIC FESTIVALS TO BAN DISPOSABLE VAPES

## BMRA URGE EVENT ORGANISERS TO FOLLOW GLASTONBURY TO SAFEGUARD REVELLERS

MUSIC FESTIVAL bosses across the UK have been urged to follow Glastonbury's lead by asking festival-goers to leave disposable vapes at home during events this summer.

The British Metals Recycling Association (BMRA) is calling on summer festivals to act on the grounds of safety and fire risk.

The BMRA, which represents the metal recycling sector in the UK, say more fires are occurring due to items containing lithium-ion batteries, like vapes, often due to not being disposed of correctly.

James Kelly of the British Metals Recycling Association: "We welcome the move by Glastonbury festival and would like to see other festivals follow suit to increase site safety this summer.

"At the very least we would like to see suitable disposal bins for vapes allowing festival-goers to safely dispose of and increase the recyclability of them.

"We have seen the devastation of fires at member sites caused by lithium-ion batteries being placed in the incorrect waste stream and we would hate to see this occur at a summer festival.

"Lithium-ion batteries in vapes are so small. There is a possibility if the weather takes a turn for the worse that the vape could end up in the mud, the battery could become separated from its casing and fall under the surface. If the land is used for grazing, this could potentially be swallowed by an animal. Let's hope people are responsible.

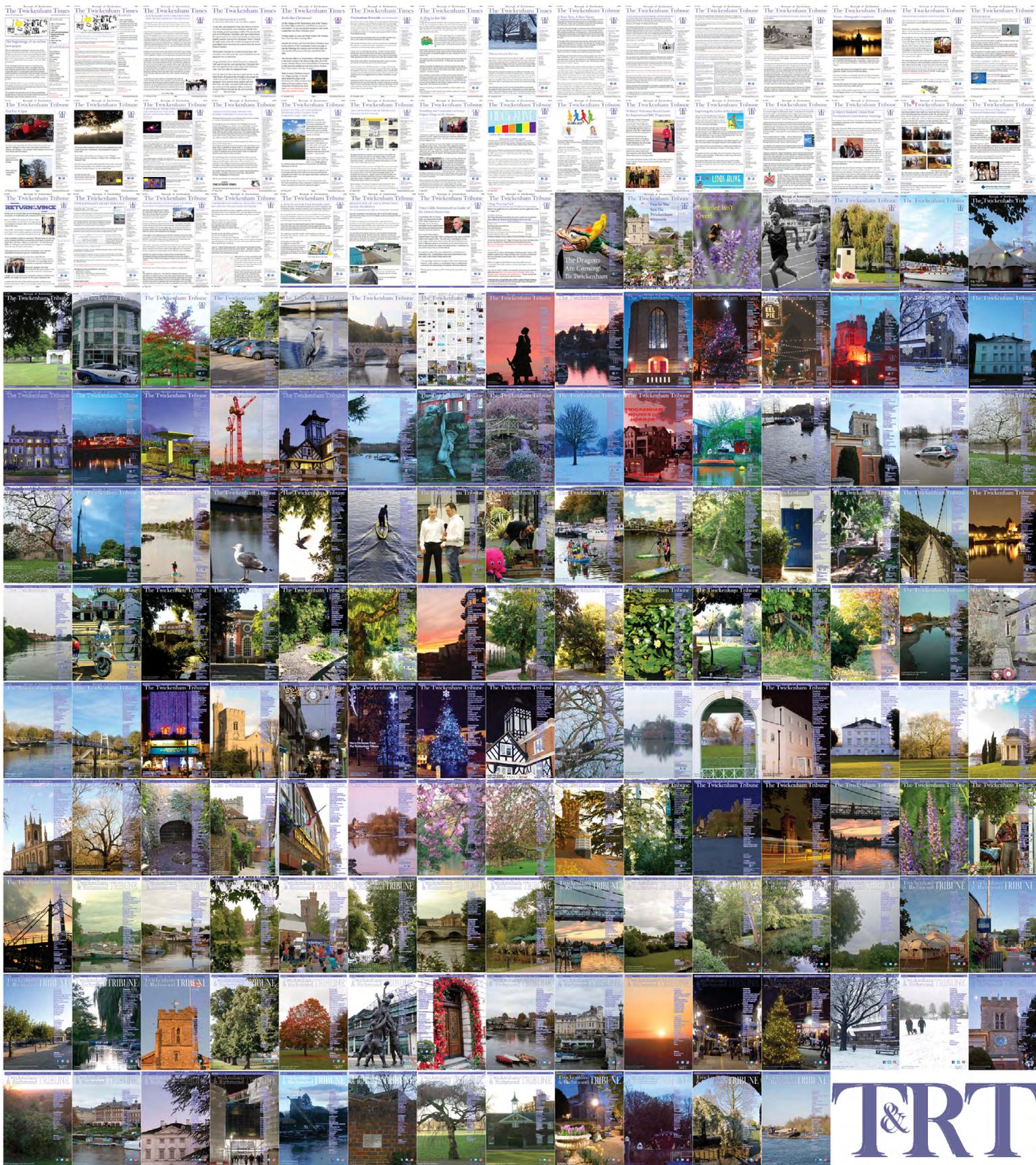
"Another reason, often forgotten, is the fact that lithium-ion batteries can be recycled. Critical raw materials can be drawn from the batteries to be used again, including: lithium, graphite, cobalt and nickel. This not only saves natural habitat from being mined, but also the huge amounts of energy needed to process new metal mined from ore.

"With more and more UK-based lithium-ion recycling facilities opening, and the increased opportunities to recycle the batteries, we think there are plenty of options for festivals to provide such recycling amenities."

It is estimated that lithium-ion batteries are responsible for around 48% of all waste fires occurring in the UK each year, costing the UK economy some £158 million annually according to research conducted by Eunomia Research & Consulting



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