

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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Editors

Berkley Driscoll
Teresa Read



11th August 2023

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

South Western Railway: Saturday 12 August – ASLEF overtime ban

The ASLEF union overtime ban continues into Saturday 12 August with similar services to the midweek timetable, however, **further service reductions will be made due to a shortage of drivers and guards.**

Journey planners will be updated overnight, between Friday 11 and Saturday 12, and customers are advised **to double check their journeys before travelling.** Short-notice cancellations are also possible.

Engineering work is also taking place between Eastleigh and Fareham and in the Staines area. [Find out more about engineering work.](#)

Customers travelling to the **England v Wales** Summer Series rugby fixture on Saturday 12 are advised to travel to Twickenham as early as possible. A limited number of additional services will operate following the game however customers should be aware that a queuing system will be in place and that queues may be longer than normal.

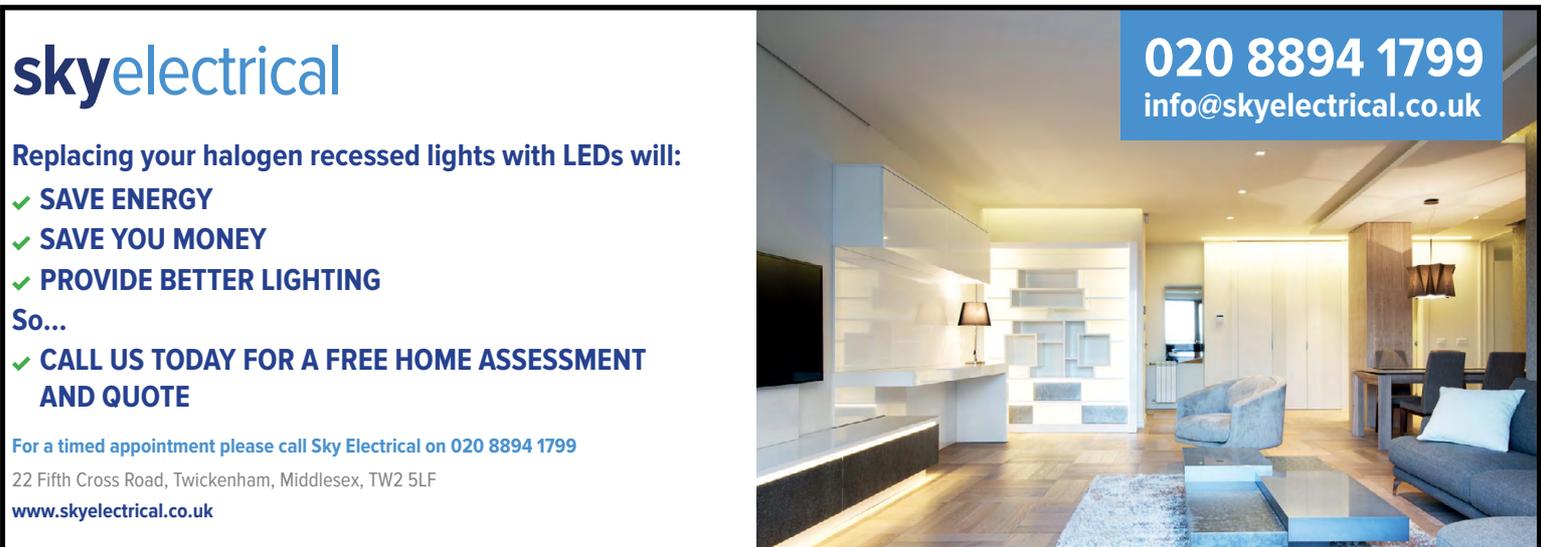
Customers travelling to the **Dubai Duty Free Shergar Cup event** at Ascot racecourse are advised to **travel early.**

For more information on our services during industrial action and strike action, please see our [Frequently Asked Questions page.](#)

Sunday 13 August – normal service

A normal Sunday service will operate on the mainland however a small number of services will be cancelled due to industrial action on the previous day. Engineering work will continue to affect services in the Staines area and between Eastleigh and Fareham.

[Find out more about engineering work.](#)



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Covid-19

By Teresa Read

World Health Organization, Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 10th August 2023

Although the public health emergency of international concern for COVID-19 was declared over on 5 May 2023, COVID-19 remains a major threat. WHO continues to urge Member States to maintain, not dismantle, their established COVID-19 infrastructure.

Currently, reported cases do not accurately represent infection rates due to the reduction in testing and reporting globally.

At the country level, the highest numbers of new cases reported within the 28-day period were from the Republic of Korea (1,278,065), Brazil (34,402), Australia (19,754), Singapore (18,914) and Italy (15,769).

The highest numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from Brazil (500), the Republic of Korea (340), the Russian Federation (205), Peru (161) and Australia (151).

The European Region reported over 67,000 new cases, a 46% decrease as compared to the previous 28-day period. Five 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 San Marino (+173%), Iceland (+43%) and Ireland (+31%).

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from Italy (15,769), the United Kingdom (14,042) and the Russian Federation (13,586).

The number of new 28-day deaths in the Region decreased by 71% as compared to the previous 28-day period, with 634 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Russian Federation (205), Italy (137) and Greece (58 new deaths).

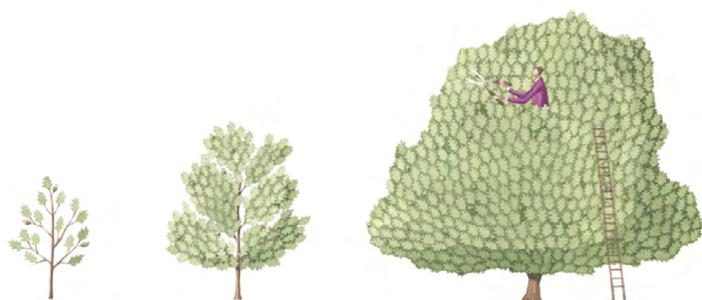
NEWS

SKY: A new fast-spreading COVID strain has been designated a “variant of interest” by the World Health Organisation COVID-19.

The Guardian: WHO declares ‘Eris’ Covid strain a variant of interest as cases rise globally.

Gov.UK: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has announced its advice regarding persons who will be eligible for a COVID-19 booster vaccine in autumn 2023. Specifically, JCVI advises the following groups be offered a COVID-19 booster vaccine this autumn:

- residents in a care home for older adults
- all adults aged 65 years and over
- persons aged 6 months to 64 years in a clinical risk group, as laid out in the Immunisation Green Book, COVID-19 chapter
- frontline health and social care workers
- persons aged 12 to 64 years who are household contacts (as defined in the Green Book) of people with immunosuppression
- persons aged 16 to 64 years who are carers (as defined in the Green Book) and staff working in care homes for older adults



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darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency



The local picture postcard column: Part 209

By Alan Winter

All Saints Church - Twickenham

Half-way down Campbell Road off Staines Road stands the church of All Saints. It was opened in 1914 having replaced an old iron church next door.

Our first postcard was published by Richard Young & Co of Teddington High Street and clearly shows the old iron church to the right of the new church. This postcard was posted in 1917 and so it is likely that the photograph was taken about the time that the new church opened 109 years ago.



The second postcard shows the same two churches but taken from a northern angle in the same period.



The iron mission church had been opened in 1908 by the London Diocesan Home Mission and a parish was created out of Holy Trinity parish in 1914. The church was designed by J. S. Alder in the style of the 14th century. It is built of red brick, faced with stone internally, and has a spacious clerestoried nave divided from the aisles by lofty arcades. Some of the furnishing's date from the 19th century and come from bombed London churches.

Our third postcard is a fine view of the interior. It was posted in 1923 and so was also photographed at or before 100 years ago.

The current vicar and Parish Priest is Fr Alex Lane OSB and details for all church services and events can be found on the church website. [ALL SAINTS TWICKENHAM - Home](http://www.all-saints-twickenham.org.uk)

I am always looking for old postcards, so if you have any that are sitting unwanted in a drawer, in a box in the loft or the garage or under a bed, do contact me on 07875 578398 or by email to alanwinter192@hotmail.com



I would like to see them and I pay cash!

Notice of application for a Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that KASIMALI MOHMEDALI HAJI YANI has applied to Richmond Council for a new premises licence at SALT AND VINEGAR and address of premises 115 London Road Twickenham TW1 1EE for sale of alcohol from Monday-Sunday 11:00-23:00.

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing by 03.09.2023 stating the grounds for making said representation to: Richmond Licensing Authority, Regulatory Services Partnership (Serving Merton, Richmond and Wandsworth Councils) Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5DX or by email: licensing@merton.gov.uk

The record of this application may be inspected Monday to Friday (except Bank Holidays) by prior appointment at the offices of Richmond Licensing Authority, Regulatory Services Partnership (Serving Merton, Richmond and Wandsworth Councils) Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5DX between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. Information on all new and variation applications received by the Licensing Authority can be viewed on the Council's website www.richmond.gov.uk

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application, punishable upon conviction by an unlimited fine.

Road closures in Twickenham ahead of rugby matches

Throughout August, Twickenham Stadium will be hosting matches ahead of the Rugby World Cup in France this Autumn.

The matches are:

- England v Wales on Saturday 12 August (kick off 5.30pm)
- South Africa v New Zealand on Friday 25 August (kick off 7.30pm)
- England v Fiji on Saturday 26 August (kick off 3.15pm)

Whitton, Rugby, and London Roads will close two hours prior to kick off. They will reopen during the match and close again 90 minutes after kick off. It is estimated that this could be for around 2.5 hours while trains and buses are loaded.

A Controlled Parking Zone will be in operation from 11am to 11pm on matchdays.

You can follow live traffic updates on [Twitter at @rfuhometurf](https://twitter.com/rfuhometurf) on the day.

You can also text their matchday helpline on 07894 814180 or call if you have a landline.



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Tell Jonathan – what’s your view on South Western Railways proposals to shut some window ticket offices?

By Jonathan Hulley

I am very concerned at the impact of South Western Railway proposals to shut some window ticket offices, including at Teddington Station where the company is proposing to have no staff on a Monday morning.

I have been running a consultation of my own on these proposals, and the responses in writing and on the doorstep to date have left me in no doubt that we must vigorously oppose these proposals.

According to South Western Railways consultation document they are making the proposed changes to: “include training more colleagues to become multi-skilled, with a clear focus on helping customers”.

But if they haven’t got anyone on duty how can they possibly help customers?

I will be making a detailed submission of my own but before doing so, I am very keen to hear more views of residents.

If you would like to write to me, please do so at Jonathan.hulley@outlook.com with your views.

The public consultation has been extended to 1 September and so there is still time to respond.



Have your say on youth engagement in parks and open spaces

We are running a consultation in order to understand better how young people use our greenspaces and how we could improve access to them.

The consultation opens on Friday 11 August and closes on Friday 29 September 2023.

All participants in the youth engagement survey who provide their full name and address in the borough will be eligible to be entered into the prize draw to win Love to Shop vouchers.

Find out more and submit your comments on our [youth engagement in parks and open spaces](#).



PUBS

Doug Goodman photographed some of our local pubs and wonders if colourful displays of flowers encourage us to visit them.

But they certainly make Twickenham look brighter.



A Taste of Twickenham presents charity event, Tex-Mex under the Stars

The Richmond Yacht Club's annual charity event returns on Saturday 19 August 2023, in aid of the worthy RNLI Lifeboats.

Presented by A Taste of Twickenham, Tex-Mex under The Stars will take place between 5.30 to 11pm on Eel Pie Island in Twickenham.

Guests can enjoy a complimentary margarita or beer, check out the Tasty Taco Bar and dance to live music from Los Pistoleros and Candy Suns.

The last event raised £2,000 for the charity, with hopes to match or exceed that sum this year.



The tickets are £45 and will also include a free entry in the big raffle!

Tickets are only available in advance and can be booked by contacting Lauri at tasteoftwickenham@gmail.com.

Dramacube to host charity fundraiser workshops this summer

This summer, Dramacube will be hosting musical theatre workshops for children in support of the Shooting Star Children's Hospice Charity.

The Little Mermaid Charity Workshops for children aged 7 to 12 years takes place on Thursday 31 August at St Mary's University, Twickenham. Led by a creative team of directors and musical theatre teachers, the workshop will include acting, singing, dance and a sparkling end-of-workshop performance for family and friends to watch.

Visit the [Dramacube website](#) to find out more and to register for a place. A minimum donation of £5 per child is requested.

All proceeds from workshops will go directly to [Shooting Star Children's Hospices Charity](#).



Dear Sir

RUBBISH COLLECTION

Following the disgraceful sight of a variety of plastic bags and plastic food containers blowing down the road immediately after the recycling was collected early this morning, I thought I should highlight the problem of the rubbish situation where we live.

Anyone who follows Twitter will probably have seen photographs of rubbish in the street that needs collecting. However, this morning it was obvious that the recycling collectors had taken plastic items out of one of the recycling bins and thrown them in the street - subsequently propelled by the wind to the end of the road.

I am shocked that the recycling company employs people with little regard for the environment. A responsible organization should have a policy in place to deal with rubbish, such as plastic bags, that are in the wrong containers.

I do hope our councillors will take this issue on board and have serious discussions with the recycling company currently employed by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

Perhaps Cllr Needham-Watts, Chair of the Environment, will look into this issue, and we might hear a solution from Cllr Needham-Watts or one of her colleagues next week.

Teresa Read
Strawberry Hill

Volunteer litter pick this weekend in Richmond Green!

On Sunday 13 August 2023, around 70 volunteers from ASEZ and other volunteers from the community will gather to clean Richmond's area around The Green.

The event will take place between 11am and 1pm. The cleanup is part of the group's 'Environmental protection' activities to take the lead in protecting the environment and raising awareness on the problems of litter.

ASEZ volunteers intend to deliver the message, 'Continuous care and concern change our living environment and impact the overall wellbeing of the community.'

The members of ASEZ and the World Mission Society Church of God often carry out litter picks with big smiles and sincerity, taking the lead in taking care of communities.



Visit [ASEZ website](https://www.asez.org.uk) for more information about the litter pick event.

Car thefts – Strawberry Hill

From MPS South Twickenham

There was a spate of 4 recorded thefts of motor vehicles overnight in Strawberry Hill. All of these Crimes involved a two-man Team targeting cars with keyless entry systems.

The best deterrent is a **Farraday Pouch** and Steering lock and to Dial 999 if you see anything Suspicious.



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Twickenham Stadium – Rugby

Saturday 12th August

England v Wales

KO 17:30

Attendance: 82,000

CPZ in operation 11:00-23:00

Whitton, Rugby & London Roads close 15:30-17:30 and 19:00-21:30.

Shuttle buses from Richmond & Hounslow East.

Local resident tickets £10

If you are a Twickenham resident with a registered ticket account for the ballot, you can buy special £10 tickets for England v Wales (12th Aug) and England v Fiji (26th Aug). (2 tickets per game per account). Just follow the links below.

England v Wales, Saturday 12th August: Register and tickets [HERE](#)

England v Fiji, Saturday 26th August: Register and tickets [HERE](#)

If you don't have a registered ticket account, you can easily register at the above links. Otherwise, the ticket office at the stadium will be open from 9am and you can purchase the discounted tickets; just bring a proof of local address.



RFU

Teddington Society Coffee Morning

Come and join us for hot drinks and pastries at Shambles on Tuesday 15th August from 10am to noon, £8.80 each payable directly to Shambles on the day.

Both members and non-members very welcome.

www.teddingtonsociety.org.uk

Teddington
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THE EEL PIE CLUB in association with THE BARMY ARMS presents:



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YOU 2023

THE EEL PIE ALL-STARS + Guests

The Alix Anthony Band

The Deputies

The Barmy Arms, Twickenham Embankment, TW1 3DU

SUNDAY, 13 AUGUST, 2023

Music 2-6pm. Drinks and food all afternoon. FREE. Dress 60s if you can!!

Celebrating the Independence Day of Ukraine- Market

Sunday 27th August 12-5pm

Discover Twickenham will once again partner with the **Ukrainian Social Club and Prosperity Centre for Humanitarian Aid** to celebrate the Independence Day of Ukraine in Twickenham. There will be a stage with live music and entertainment, an international food market and artisan stalls featuring local crafts and gifts.

If you are a local trader and would like to take part, please [get in touch](#). BID businesses can participate at no charge.

Traditional Ukraine activities include: “Motanka Doll: Traditions and Protection” Masterclass

Suitable for adults and young people ages 10 and above; Materials Provided

Discover the Timeless Art of Motanka Doll Crafting!

Join us for an immersive masterclass led by the talented Iva Repnytska, where you'll explore the rich heritage of Ukrainian motanka dolls. These captivating creations symbolize the unbreakable bonds of family and carry the essence of protection and positivity.



Unveil the Ancient Legacy:

Motanky, enchanting family talismans, have graced Ukrainian households for over 5,000 years. Crafted without seams, these dolls embody not only craftsmanship but also the hopes and blessings passed down through generations.

Experience the Magic:

Under Iva Repnytska's guidance, you'll learn the intricate art of crafting a Motanka doll. Using traditional techniques, you'll wind, wrap, and fasten ribbons and threads to create your very own symbol of wellbeing and optimism.

A Journey Through Tradition:

Motanka dolls have a profound place in Ukrainian culture, often treasured as family heirlooms and cherished for their role in wedding ceremonies and special occasions. This masterclass offers you the chance to delve into this heritage, creating a unique charm or souvenir that connects you with ancestral traditions.

When: Every hour, on the hour from 12:00-16:00 on the 27 August 2023.

Don't miss out on this captivating opportunity to delve into Ukrainian culture and create your very own Motanka doll.

Join us in celebrating tradition, creativity, and the enduring legacy of Motanka dolls. Let's craft a piece of history together!

Richmond Council invites input on five-year strategic plan to meet local health needs

People who live and work in Richmond upon Thames are being invited to feedback on an updated strategic plan for how local organisations, including Richmond Council, the NHS, and voluntary and community sector partners, will meet local health and wellbeing needs over the next five years.

This feedback will help to ensure the actions in the final plan are bold enough to make a real difference to local communities.

Cllr Piers Allen, Chair of the Adult Social Services, Health and Housing Services Committee and Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, said:

“We have set out 18 Steps to Health and Wellbeing, which have been identified based on in-depth assessment of need in our communities at every stage of a person’s life.

Now we need your views on how we deliver these steps. Our focus is to create a fairer and healthier borough for all and keep our residents healthy and happy at all stages of their lives – this affects all of us who live in Richmond upon Thames, so I encourage you to make sure your voice is heard.”



The plan will go into detail about how the 18 steps can be met in a way that most benefits local people, such as rethinking the services provided, commissioning new ones and agreeing which local organisations hold responsibility for each action going forward.

The aim is to keep people healthier for longer, to delay the need for health and care services and to adopt a system-wide approach to preventing ill health, promoting positive health and wellbeing, and addressing health inequalities.

The [online survey portal](#) will be open for feedback until Thursday 21 September 2023.

There is no need to answer questions about every priority – only the ones respondents feel are most relevant or important to them. The final plan will be published in autumn 2023.

Join the Royal Parks Panel

Whatever you use the Royal Parks for – leisure, meeting friends, unwinding or as part of your commute – we value all your opinions, and we welcome your ideas. Your feedback helps us to keep the parks at their best

Let us know how we're doing

The Royal Parks Panel is our new online research platform. It's a quick and easily accessible way to share your views and ideas about The Royal Parks, whether you live and work locally or are just visiting.



You'll receive invitations to complete a major annual survey and some smaller surveys each year. Each one will take around 10 minutes or less. It's quick and easy – and if you can spare a little more time, you can also opt-in to other visitor research opportunities such as short polls, focus groups and interviews to help us understand what you want from your local park.

We are working with our research partner [trueology](#), an independent market research company. When you sign up, [trueology](#) will be in touch with you on our behalf.



How your input helps the Royal Parks

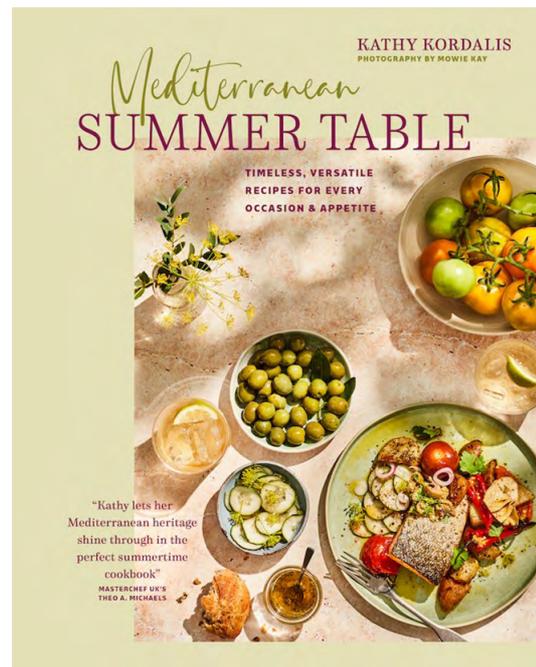
London is a diverse, multicultural city and we want to hear from everyone. This is an opportunity to tell us what makes you feel welcome, what we're doing well or could do better, what might stop you from visiting – your feedback will help us improve and ensure we're welcoming for all.

Being part of the Royal Parks Panel means everyone's voice is heard. Sign up [HERE](#)



MEDITERRANEAN SUMMER TABLE

This glorious cookbook is the perfect tonic for anyone who's not going to the Mediterranean imminently (or, indeed, anyone who has just returned). With ***Mediterranean Summer Table***, author **Kathy Kordalis** has produced a fabulous collection of timeless and versatile recipes - all inspired by the food of the Mediterranean countries. The collection has something for every day, any occasion and all appetites. It features sauces, pickles and ferments for the fridge and store cupboard, recipes for easy homemade breads, seasonal veg dishes, fish plates and meat plates. Oh, and there are also some deliciously indulgent sweet things! Add to this, the fact that Kathy has peppered vignettes on key Mediterranean ingredients (most incidentally are available from our lovely local Mediterranean Supermarket here in Twickers).



Kathy was raised by Greek parents in Australia, and her food style draws inspiration from her Aussie and Med heritage. She's a graduate of Leith's School of Food and Wine, and now works as a freelance food stylist and gastronomic tour guide in London. ***Mediterranean Summer Table* by Kathy Kordalis**, is published by Ryland Peters & Small (£20) Photography by Mowie Kay © Ryland Peters & Small

Here are some recipes to tempt you into buying the book. A delicious starter or side dish and a truly wonderful Walnut & Espresso Cake that will prove very popular indeed:

AUBERGINE TARTARE with flat-leaf parsley salad (SERVES 4 TO SHARE)

'A flavour-packed super tasty alternative to steak tartare. A great side or starter, or serve as canapés for a crowd. It is also nice piled into a bowl with the bread on the side, for people to help themselves family style.'

- 2 aubergines, cut into small cubes
- 2 tablespoons olive oil, plus extra for brushing
- 20 thin baguette slices
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped mixed fresh herbs (chervil, parsley, tarragon)
- 1 teaspoon cornichons, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon capers, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- freshly squeezed juice of 1 lemon
- Tabasco sauce and parsley oil, to taste
- sea salt and black pepper



PARSLEY SALAD

- 50 g fresh flat-leaf parsley, coarsely torn
- 15 ml extra virgin olive oil
- 3 spring onions, thinly sliced
- freshly squeezed juice of 1/2 lemon

1. Preheat the oven to 160°C fan/180°C/350°F/gas 4. Line a baking sheet with non-stick baking paper.
2. Place the aubergine in a single layer on the lined baking sheet, season well with salt and pepper and drizzle with olive oil. Bake in the preheated oven for 20–25 minutes until golden brown.
3. Brush the baguette slices with olive oil, season to taste and bake, turning once, for 5–7 minutes until golden and crisp. Set aside to cool.
4. For the parsley salad, combine all the ingredients in a bowl, toss lightly to combine and set aside.
5. Put the roasted aubergine in a large bowl with the remaining ingredients, stir to combine and season to taste. Pile the onto the toasted crostini, top with parsley salad (or serve alongside) and serve.

WALNUT & ESPRESSO CAKE (SERVES 6)

'A favourite afternoon pick-me-up or a great cake to serve to a crowd. Incredibly moist and tasty with the classic combination of coffee and walnut, this will become a family favourite.'

- 220 g golden caster sugar
- 4 eggs, separated, plus 1 extra egg white
- 130 g walnuts, finely chopped, plus extra to finish
- 100 g plain flour, sieved sea salt

ESPRESSO CREAM

- 100 g pure icing sugar, sieved
- 100 g softened butter
- 30 ml espresso
- 100 g dark chocolate, melted
- 22-cm/8¾-in. round cake pan

1. Preheat the oven to 160°C fan/180°C/350°F/gas 4. Line the cake pan with non-stick baking paper.
2. Whisk the sugar and egg yolks together in an electric mixer for about 4–5 minutes until very thick and pale and the mixture resembles frosting. Transfer to a large bowl, stir in the walnuts, then the flour, a little at a time, until combined (the mixture will be very stiff).
3. Whisk the egg whites and a pinch of salt in an electric mixer for about 2–3 minutes until firm peaks form, then stir half of this into the walnut mixture. Fold through the remaining egg white and spoon into lined cake pan.
4. Bake in the preheated oven for 20–25 minutes until lightly golden and firm to touch. Cool in the pan, then turn out, trim the sides and cut in half horizontally.
5. For the espresso cream, beat the sugar, butter and espresso in an electric mixer for about 6–8 minutes until pale and fluffy. Swirl the melted chocolate through the cream. Spread the bottom half of the cake with half the espresso cream, sandwich with the top half and set aside to set for 20–30 minutes.
6. To serve, pile the remaining espresso cream on top and scatter with extra chopped walnuts.



THE AVOCADO SHOW - AND WHAT A SHOW!

I adore avocados, and the idea of a restaurant that has a whole menu devoted to this delicious fruit certainly appeals! So, having not yet managed to check out the first London all-avo restaurant (in Princes Street, near Oxford Circus if you were wondering), the idea of trying a newly opened branch in New Row Covent Garden sounded perfect. Added to this, we had tickets for Tina Turner, the musical, and a fabulous evening was promised.

I'm delighted to report that I wasn't at all disappointed (by the restaurant or the show).



The Avocado Show serves breakfast, brunch, lunch, and dinner and, I'm told, has become a worldwide phenomenon. It's apparently renowned for its 'Pretty Healthy Food' and each dish we tried was visually beautiful, as well as delicious. The brand has cultivated a large and devoted fan base across the globe, drawn to its unique blend of tasty avocado dishes, beautiful presentation, and emphasis on sustainability.

I started with a cocktail - an Avo Rita (£11.50). It was an excellent take on a classic Margarita and was served in a beautifully appropriate, cactus-shaped, glass. My husband had a Peroni (£5.50)

To start, we shared some avo fries with truffle mayo (£9.95). They were really tasty, piping hot with soft avo centres surrounded by a crisp shell. My husband then chose the Sassy Salmon (£15.95 - avo, baked salmon, sauteed spinach and broccoli) while I opted for Citrus Blast - pictured - (£16.95 - Avo, orange, grapefruit, mixed leaves, fresh salmon, red onion, black quinoa, pomegranate, cashews and maple dressing). Well, for once I had no sense of food envy, as I was delighted with my beautifully presented, really tasty plate. That said, my husband was also delighted with his food! My salad had a delicate dressing, the citrus elements



giving little bursts of freshness and the chopped cashews and pomegranate adding texture and another element to the dish. The salmon was served in little cubes which was unusual, but certainly worked and I'm already inspired to attempt a similar dish at home.

We finished with some avocado ice cream; yes, avocado ice cream...and it was delicious! The Avocado Show is a show-stopper: it's a great place for a relaxed pre theatre meal or lunch with friends. The menu has something for everyone, including vegetarians, vegans, low carb fans - or just folk who love a good avo based nosh! We'll be returning soon.



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Terms & Conditions: package is subject to availability and cannot be combined with other promotions | reservations must be made direct on the website or via email or phone | pre-payment is required | bookings made cannot be cancelled and are amendable from 1st of July - 31st of August 2023 (subject to availability)

BOOK NOW | RES@SUNBORNGIBALTAR.COM | +350 200 16000

Save it for a Rainy Day!

By Bruce Lyons of Crusader Travel

You could say July was a bit of a damp squid – Though my garden thought it was PERFECT as David Jason would say and I say Blooming right too, I read today the weather has been perfect for Hydrangeas, (we thought so too!)



However, as a Travel Agent and an avid reader of the Dailies and a watcher of TV Breakfast I agree with David Calder & Co. There are plenty of gloomy faces and YES, we have been inundated with “Last Minutes” as they call them.

Take a tip from me – the vast majority don’t end up with what they want. We’re a fussy lot, us BRITS and 9 times out of 10 one thing or another isn’t right! Or not quite right!

And we don’t like wasting our hard-earned cash either Do We!!

So, my recommendation is make a “Wish N a Prayer” that the rest of August is Hot, Sunny and Dry!

Plan now, instead, for October School Break – You’ll find with Global Warming temperatures are much better in a lot of Destinations in Europe that previously considered October “off season” Now they stay open and with the UK£ faring better in places like Turkey and Morocco there’s a good chance for reasonable prices and some heat and sun too!

So, get your “School Break” booked now – earn some smarty points and surprise the family. I’m sure Bournemouth will be lovely for August Bank Holiday, and you never know the trains maybe running as well. Bliss! See you soon!

Crusader Travel
58 Church Street
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TW1 3NR

020 8744 0474



Slovenia – Devastating Floods

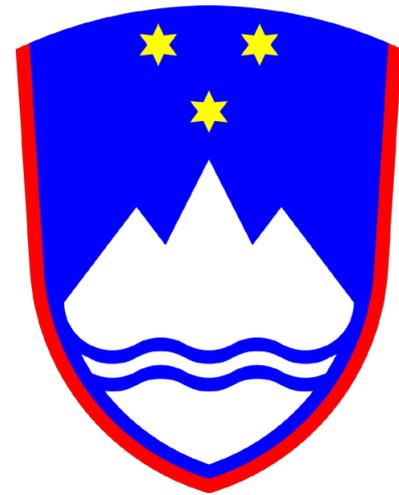
Teresa Read



Last week Slovenia suffered from what is said to be Slovenia’s worst national disaster; exceptional rainfall led to damage to roads, bridges, energy infrastructure and loss of life.

Prime Minister Robert Golob was reported as saying that Slovenia faced “the biggest natural disaster” in its history.

NATO Allies are providing support. The United States has sent staff to Ljubljana to help with humanitarian needs. Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany and France have provided excavators, prefabricated bridges, engineering teams and helicopters.



Coat of arms of Slovenia

Assistance has also come from Austria, Czechia, Italy, Slovakia and Ukraine.

President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine said, “I wish all the victims a speedy recovery, to overcome the consequences of the disaster, and to restore homes and infrastructure.”



Ljubljana in the 18th century



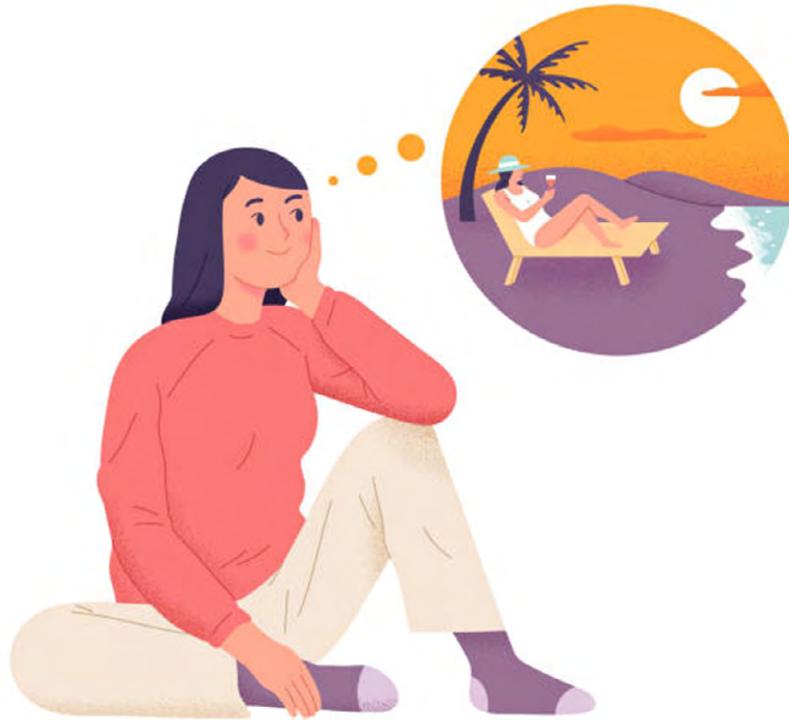
Ljubljana Cathedral

Information on Slovenia: <https://worldinfozone.com/facts.php?country=Slovenia>

Who needs a holiday when you have a head?...

By Deep Patel

~ Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~



Well, there is no denying it...the school holidays are in full swing...the flowers are blooming profusely...and Twickenham has become a ghost-town...everyone has GONE! The roads are dead, the shops deserted, and Primark has run out of flip-flops and swimming trunks (probably)...but seriously...where has half of Twickenham disappeared to?...

Those of you who have lived in Twickenham for a fair few years would have noticed the trend each summer...fewer and fewer cars on the roads...less people in the parks...and main roads running silent...why? Well, Twickenham loves a good old holiday abroad...and sometimes not one, or even two...but three... Yes, you read that right...three holidays...abroad too!

I have been talking to a lot of customers in my shop this week about this and it seems it's not uncommon to go on a few holidays abroad through the school summer holidays...it almost seems like the norm...the main hot spots this year seem to be Turkey, Greece and Spain...but exactly why do so many opt to leave the UK at the time we have nice weather here? Well, we all know that humans tend to follow each other...there seems to sometimes be a need to conform to the norm of wanting to keep up with what everyone else is doing...but sometimes we have to stop and ask ourselves what exactly does a holiday means to us? What feelings exactly does it promote? Once we can understand exactly what we are getting from our holidays...we can understand what we need...and understand how to get that without having to rely on anything else...

You see, from talking to customers in my shop this week, I have understood that people go on a holiday for a multitude of reasons...to see new places...to be away from their work and life at home...to get some sun...to experience new experiences...and above all to relax...but is this all possible to do without leaving the country?...

Well, I have been putting this to the test this past week whilst I have been sitting behind the counter in my shop during quiet periods...I put on a little music (anything that reminds me of summer, good times, and happiness)...I sit down comfortably with the shop door and back door open to encourage a little breeze...I stare out of the front of my shop (alright, I know it overlooks the Hampton main road)...and I allow myself to simply breathe deeply and slowly in...and then deeply and slowly out...in a slow and repeated motion whilst my favourite summer songs play in the background...

I pour myself a little drink of nothing more than cooled sparkling water and a few slices of fresh lemon and I allow myself to day dream and get lost in the music along with my memories of holidays gone by and I imagine myself on a beach with the gentle tumbling of calm waves and the warm soft caress of a gentle, salty sea breeze...I imagine the warm kisses of the sun against my skin and the occasional sound of a distant seagull soaring high above me...I am in heaven...when the shop is quiet, I can do this...and even if only for ten minutes...it makes such a change in my mood, my outlook and my sense of wellbeing...it's like a tonic for the mind, the body and the soul all in one...and best of all...I can do this anywhere...and it's free...no passport needed, and the only limitations as to where I go are governed by me...and me alone...why not try this yourself at home? Go on holiday everyday...without leaving the comfort of your arm chair...and allow yourself to get lost in your own paradise, created perfectly for you...in your own head...so I ask myself...who needs a holiday...when you have a head?...

Remember...

“Nothing exists in reality without existing first in your own head...”

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

RODENT TIPS...MICE CAUSING YOU ISSUES?

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 or join my Facebook page: “KIND WORLD

Robinson Crusoe

by Jaques Offenbach, libretto by Eugène Cormon and Hector Crémieux
West Green House Opera, at the Theatre on the Lake, Hartley Wintney

Offenbach's 1867 operetta, the tongue-in-cheek *Robinson Crusoe*, is huge fun. If you like panto, you'll like this. If you like G&S, you'll love this. If you like wonderful symphonic music, you'll adore this.

In his welcoming remarks WGHO's Chairman, points out, a little too apologetically, that the evening is a concert performance. He goes on to describe it as "quite bonkers". It doesn't really quite fit either of these descriptions. It evolves from black-tie concert, bit-by-bit into a costumed semi-staged performance. By the interval, it

has acquired itself a set ... and moves from lyrical love-story to gung-ho adventure, edging towards bonkers-lite. Everything happens at a joyful canter, whatever the outrageous goings-on.

Robinson Crusoe is played magnificently by Robert Murray, who a few weeks previously was in another (entirely different) eponymous role in [Mitridate, re di Ponto](#). Murray's controlled and characterful tenor creates an engaging picture of the eager Robinson.



Offenbach's music in *Robinson Crusoe* is a triumph. With intricately intertwined melodies, affecting romantic episodes, and pulsating comedy pieces, it enthralls, entertains and excites. The Orpheus Sinfonia, under the scintillating baton of David Parry, brings out its sheer vivaciousness.

Robinson is stranded on a tropical island, where tribespeople are cannibals! Six years later his fiancée, Edwige and two of his servants, come to rescue him, but are captured. The cannibals' chef (a one-time neighbour!) casually informs them

that one of them is to be the *plat de jour*. With [Sweeney Todd](#) and *Robinson Crusoe*, cannibalism seems to be West Green's theme for 2023!

A breeches role, [mezzo Martha Jones](#) almost steals the show, portraying the boyish candour of the artless Friday - a Cherubino without the guile and without the lust. Friday innocently takes Robinson to his word about sharing everything ... including Edwige. (The French have a word for it.)

Meanwhile there are angry hungry cannibals, drunken treasure-seeking mutineers, and ship with its loyal crew imprisoned. By subterfuge all is solved by a brave Friday and a crafty Robinson, a rip-roaring finale to the frolics of this fun-filled piece.

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/07/31/robsn-crusoe

Photography by John Reading



Cocktail Sticks and *Two in Torquay*

by Alan Bennett

BCP at the OSO Arts Centre, then at the EdFringe until 19th August

A jazz trio playing in the foyer is a warm-up for an Alan Bennett double-header, *Cocktail Sticks*, and *Two in Torquay*.

Cocktail Sticks is an autobiographical piece, in which Bennett explores his feelings about his early years. As of a budding dramatist, he is frustrated by the ordinariness of his upbringing and its lack of trauma, essential inspiration for great writers. As in Bennett's *A Life Like Other People's*, a theme is the illusion that other people have more fulfilling lives, including endless cocktail parties, a fascination for both Bennett and his mother.

Ashley Brown ably interprets the young Bennett, providing a passable impression of Bennett in the process, although the wig might benefit from further house training! Ashley Duggan and Trevor Hartnup, as Mam and Dad respectively, give a warm image of a happy marriage, notwithstanding the odd grumble. A nod is due to Trevor for precipitate changes in accent, costume, and character ... simultaneously. The deaths of Dad and, later, Mam are delicately handled.



As a plethora of incidental characters, Cressida Strauss and Jonathan Simmonds also use on-stage costume changes from the heavily loaded coat stand. Terry Oakes' production is clearly preparing the cast for transfer to the smaller spaces offered for its forthcoming EdFringe outing. One niggle is the use of the Dvorák's music, ex Hovis ad, as a symbol of "Up North" (Czech composer inspired by Native American music, played by a brass band and filmed in Dorset). Otherwise, the production rocks along fairly well

The shorter piece, *Two in Torquay*, is a two-hander with Lizzie Williams as Miss Plunkett, a 'lady of a certain age'. She is joined in a conservatory, where she sits knitting, by a solicitous Mr Mortimer (Jonathan Simmonds), who engages her in what seems to be very ordinary polite conversation. Quickly clues arise that all is not what it seems. Lizzie Williams has an ease of delivery that demonstrates her understanding of the writer's intent and vision.

Bennett's lugubrious wit and observation are well interpreted and delivered in a pair of good productions. With fluidity and engagement, *Cocktail Sticks* should come up trumps at the EdFringe.

Read Vince Francis' review at www.markaspen.com/2023/07/30/cocktail-oso

Photography by Charlotte May and Malc McDonald

Le Roi de Lahore

by Jules Massenet, libretto by Louis Gallet
Dorset Opera at the Coade Theatre, Bryanston

Dorset Opera's summer Festival has come a long way since the first production of [The Bartered Bride](#) in 1974. It has a proud tradition of revivals and premieres. One often wonders why such operas are rarely staged. For *Le Roi de Lahore* it may possibly be its sheer epic scale, transporting us from Indra's temple in Pakistan to the Elysium fields in paradise.



Sita, an avowed priestess, has two men wishing to claim her, King Alim of the title, and villain Cyndia, who has his greedy eyes on the crown. None is entirely blameless in the ensuing tale of deceit and dishonesty. The King is killed by Cyndia, and ends up in paradise, before being returned in penury, but to his true love, linked in life and death.



The stage is filled with the vibrant colours and the ornate majestic costumes, by Stewart Charlesworth, set against a versatile series of slatted doors, which give a sense of cool, while opening out onto the steamy Asian plains, a paradise reminiscent of Titian.

Thomas Bagley is impressive as Timour, the High Priest of Indra. Julian Close is partially memorable in Indra's aria, condemning the King to his fate. Making the most of the emotional depths of the music, Amar Muchhala as King Alim, Michael Magee as Scindia, and Seljan Nasibli as Sita sing impeccably. As soldiers, villagers, priestesses and Souls in Paradise, the wide ranging chorus offers committed and fearless singing.

Ella Marchment's brave production is epic in style and she gives bold characterisation reminiscent of Aladdin or Flash Gordon, especially in the mix of camp and evil in Michael Anthony Magee's delightful Cyndia.

Massenet's music is transfixing. Searing emotions in intimate moments contrast with the chorus' wide narrative. Dorset Opera Orchestra, intelligently led by Jeremy Carnall, plays with clarity and passion.

Le Roi de Lahore is a bejewelled epic opera, boldly brought to life by Dorset Opera. It deserves further airing.



Read Claire Alexander's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/07/31/roi-lahore

Photography by Julian Guidera

The School for Scandal

by Richard Brinsley Sheridan

YAT, Hampton Hill Theatre, then at theSpace @ Niddry St, Edinburgh until 19th August

In a world where reputations can be demolished in the blink of an eye on social media, *The School for Scandal* is a timely play with its clique of rumour-mongering gossips. Hampton's YAT is going to Edinburgh, and its "heavily-abridged" production wastes no time in labouring any contemporary resonance, as it crams Sheridan's sharp comedy into EdFringe's 55 minutes. The young cast handles Sheridan's dense prose with confidence and clarity.



The Coward studio is dressed simply, a chaise longue and a decorative screen, allowing Emily Moss's flamboyant costumes to take centre stage.



Two brothers who are courting Maria. Charles has won her heart, while the smoothly unctuous Joseph resorts to intrigues and deception. Having partied away his money, Charles is dependent on his benefactor uncle, Sir Oliver Surface (Alfie Kennedy) who puts him to a test.

Discussing their various intrigues, Grace Allen's wonderfully-named Lady Sneerwell gives a commanding performance in her playful conversation with Naomi Pink's enigmatic Snake.

Daniel Siner makes a gleefully exuberant Joseph Surface, whose lacy cuffs are flourished almost as often as Lady Sneerwell's fan is unfolded with a lethal snap. Juliet Hill gives the demure Maria some solid backbone as she rejects Joseph's advances.

Kylie Pearson's Sir Benjamin Backbite wins the awards for most flamboyant costume and most extravagant flourishing. They welcome the young Lady Teazle (Leah Dawson), who is also armed with a fan that she is not afraid to snap, flourish and generally deploy during arguments.



In Joseph's home the tone lurches from sharp comedy of manners into highly-entertaining farce. By the time Charles Surface appears, a great deal has heard about his lifestyle. Arthur Holmes puts everything into Charles, but the only indication of his misspent youth is that he's very chirpy. And the only indication of his decent nature is that ... he's very chirpy.

Josh Clarke directs a breezy version of a classic play, his cast providing compelling energetic performances. *The School for Scandal* is a triumph of talent. Until we can see them tackle the play's full text, it off to Edinburgh we go.

Read Andrew Lawston's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/08/09/sch-scandal

Photography by Jonathan Constant

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info@ageukrichmond.org.uk

ageukrichmond.org.uk

HYBRID

St Mary's University

St Mary's University Sees Excellent Results in 2023 National Student Survey

St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) has received outstanding feedback from graduating students in the 2023 National Student Survey (NSS), and is rated in the top five in London in six key themes amongst higher education providers with university status (excluding specialist providers).



SMU was rated no 1 in London for *Academic Support*, with a rating of 89%, and second in London for *Teaching on my Course*, with a rating of 88%, almost three percent above the sector average. The survey found 94% of students said that staff were good at explaining things, the top score in London, and 87% said staff made their subjects engaging.

The University was also rated in the top ten nationally and second in London for *Learning Opportunities*, and in the top five in London for:

- *Organisation and Management* (second)
- *Assessment and Feedback* (fifth)
- *Student Voice* (fifth)

Speaking of the results, St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran said, "These are fantastic results. At St Mary's we place the experience of our students at the heart of

all we do, and I am delighted to see that this has been recognised in the National Student Survey. The findings from the survey are a great endorsement of the work of our brilliant academic and professional service teams, who deliver a top-rate experience for St Mary's students.

"I am particularly pleased to see the high response rate to the survey, which, at 11% higher than the sector average, has ensured we're hearing the voice of as many students as possible."

St Mary's has seen a number of successes in recent months amongst sector rankings, climbing 25 places over the past two years in the Complete University Guide. St Mary's was also ranked in the top ten in the country on the league table for student satisfaction. In the 2023 Sunday Times Good University Guide, the University was rated in the top five nationally for teaching quality and the top ten for student experience. St Mary's also saw its highest ever ranking on the league table, sitting in 51st place.

The University was the highest riser in the Times Higher Education Research Excellence Rankings, climbing 32 places since the previous edition. In the 2021 Research Excellence Framework, the majority of research submitted by St Mary's was 4* World Leading or 3* Internationally Excellent in its originality, significance, and rigour. The University more than doubled its research rated by the REF in the top two three- and four-star classifications as compared to the previous research exercise in 2014.



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

WIZ Around the World – The Challenges

Extracts from the 25th anniversary book of an internationally acclaimed internet project from Twickenham

Teresa Read



THE ROME GLOBAL CHALLENGE The Final Event of the Global Junior Challenge took place in the Campidoglio City Hall; the Campidoglio overlooking the Roman Forum. The design for the Piazza del Campidoglio, and the surrounding palazzi, was the inspiration of Michelangelo Buonarroti in the sixteenth century. The Piazza del Campidoglio, approached by the Cordonata, is decorated by Michelangelo's star or "Never Ending Path". It was at this event that I met many educators from around the world leading to years of collaboration.

Various projects involved work with teachers and children in a number of countries gaining acclaim at the highest level in Rome: *"per aver contribuito con il proprio impegno a favorire lo scambio di culture e di esperienze tra studenti di paesi diversi incoraggiandoli all'utilizzo delle tecnologie informatiche."* Il Sindaco di Roma, Walter Veltroni, Il Presidente del Consorzio Gioventu Digitale, Tullio De Mauro - Comune di Roma 2004. World InfoZone was chosen as an Education Finalist to exhibit in the Global Junior Challenge (Rome) in 2002, 2004 and 2009.



Piazza del Campidoglio Michelangelo's Never Ending Path



Campidoglio City Hall



Il Presidente del Consorzio Gioventu Digitale, Tullio De Mauro - Comune di Roma 2004
Meeting with participants from many countries of the world participating in the Global Challenge

THE STOCKHOLM CHALLENGE The Stockholm Challenge, formerly known as The Global Bangemann Challenge, was hosted by the City of Stockholm and the European Community for best practice projects in information technology. The Bangemann Challenge was launched in November 1994 by the Mayor of Stockholm in response to Commissioner Martin Bangemann's Report on Europe and the Information Society.

"To be a finalist in the Stockholm Challenge is a victory in itself - a group of highly qualified and respected experts have evaluated the project and found it to be of such excellence that it has been nominated for the Stockholm Challenge Award. Being a winner or a finalist of the Stockholm Challenge gives projects a very important international recognition. The jury has found the project to be of great importance to local progress, and to be of such innovative and pioneering fabric that it should serve as a model for regions, cities and countries." Alfonso Molina, Chairman of the Jury, the Stockholm Challenge 2004. World InfoZone was a Finalist in The Stockholm Challenge in 2004, 2006 (in two categories, Education and Culture), 2008 and 2010.



Next week, part 3 of 10

WIZ World InfoZone

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- Staff experience anxiety, stress and depression.
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Thank you for your support

[Teddington Memorial Hospital](#)





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Borthwick Announces England Team To Face Wales At Twickenham

England men's head coach Steve Borthwick has named his match day 23 to face Wales at Twickenham Stadium (kick-off 5.30pm). Owen Farrell (Saracens) returns to captain a team which has 11 changes from the starting XV that took to the field last Saturday for England's opening fixture of the Summer Nations Series in Cardiff.



In the front row, loosehead prop Joe Marler (Harlequins) joins hooker Jamie George (Saracens) and Will Stuart (Bath Rugby), who retains his place on the tighthead. Behind them, George Martin (Leicester Tigers) partners Maro Itoje (Saracens) in the second row, to win his third England cap and his first at Twickenham Stadium.

Vice-captain Courtney Lawes (Northampton Saints) is named on the blind side flank alongside Ben Earl (Saracens) on the open side. Earl wins his first start for England after 15 previous appearances as a replacement joining Saracens teammate Billy Vunipola to round off an all-new back row at No.8.

Scrum-half Jack van Poortvliet (Leicester Tigers) links up with Farrell in the half back berths. In midfield, 2022/23 Premiership Player of the Season, Ollie Lawrence (Bath Rugby) starts at inside centre next to Joe Marchant (Stade Francais) at 13. Elliot Daly (Saracens) is named on the left wing, with 20-year-old Henry Arundell (Racing 92) on the right and Freddie Steward (Leicester Tigers) keeps his place at full back.

Amongst the replacements, loosehead prop Ellis Genge (Bristol Bears), who is also named as a vice captain, will win his 50th England cap when he joins the action. Elsewhere, Theo Dan (Saracens) Dan Cole (Leicester Tigers), Jack Willis (Toulouse), Ben Youngs (Leicester Tigers), George Ford (Sale Sharks), Max Malins (Bristol Bears) and Jonny Hill (Sale Sharks) will all be hoping to make a difference from the bench.

"We are very much looking forward to our return to Twickenham Stadium on Saturday, and the opportunity to play in front of our supporters again," said Borthwick. "England versus Wales is always a special fixture, and we are pleased to be playing the visitors again so soon. We're delighted for Ellis who will win his 50th cap from the bench. He's a brilliant professional, both on and off the field, and I'm sure Saturday will be a very proud moment for him and his family."

On Jonny Hill's involvement, Borthwick added: *"Jonny has trained with us throughout the week, and I am pleased to be able to name him in the match day 23. I have no doubt he will provide a big impact for us off the bench"*

Saturday's Summer Nations Series clash against Wales which will be shown live and exclusively on Amazon Prime Video, with games against Ireland in Dublin on Saturday 19 August, and Fiji at Twickenham Stadium on Saturday 26 August to follow before the start of Rugby World Cup in France in September.

ENGLAND v WALES

Saturday 12 August 2023, Twickenham Stadium, London, Kick-off: 5.30pm

- | | |
|--|---|
| 15. Freddie Steward (Leicester Tigers, 23 caps) | 1. Joe Marler (Harlequins, 79 caps) |
| 14. Henry Arundell (Racing 92, 7 caps) | 2. Jamie George (Saracens, 77 caps) |
| 13. Joe Marchant (Stade Francais, 16 caps) | 3. Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 26 caps) |
| 12. Ollie Lawrence (Bath Rugby, 11 caps) | 4. Maro Itoje (Saracens, 67 caps) |
| 11. Elliot Daly (Saracens, 57 caps) | 5. George Martin (Leicester Tigers, 2 caps) |
| 10. Owen Farrell © (Saracens, 106 caps) | 6. Courtney Lawes (Northampton Saints, 97 caps) |
| 9. Jack van Poortvliet (Leicester Tigers, 13 caps) | 7. Ben Earl (Saracens, 15 caps) |
| | 8. Billy Vunipola (Saracens, 68 caps) |

Replacements:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 16. Theo Dan (Saracens, 1 cap) | 20. Jack Willis (Toulouse, 10 caps) |
| 17. Ellis Genge (Bristol Bears, 49 caps) | 21. Ben Youngs (Leicester Tigers, 122 caps) |
| 18. Dan Cole (Leicester Tigers, 100 caps) | 22. George Ford (Sale Sharks, 82 caps) |
| 19. Jonny Hill (Sale Sharks, 20 caps) | 23. Max Malins (Bristol Bears, 19 caps) |

Borthwick names England Squad for Rugby World Cup 2023

England men's head coach Steve Borthwick has confirmed his official 33-player squad for the 2023 Rugby World Cup in France starting next month.

Owen Farrell will captain England in his third Rugby World Cup with Ellis Genge and Courtney Lawes named as vice captains.

The squad of 33 players – which is made up of 19 forwards and 14 backs – totals over 1,400 England appearances combined, with an average age of 27 years old. 17 players have previous Rugby World Cup experience. Ben Youngs, Dan Cole, and Courtney Lawes will compete in their fourth Rugby World Cup. Youngs is England men's most capped player with 122 appearances. Theo Dan is included having won his first cap against Wales on Saturday in Cardiff. 20-year old wing Henry Arundell is the youngest member of the squad.

“Rugby World Cups involve unique challenges in terms of the demands on players, the need for squad flexibility and the limited number of squad places available,” said Borthwick. *“France 2023 is no different, but I am confident we have selected a squad of 33 that is well able to meet those challenges and leave us best placed to be at our most competitive in this exciting tournament.”*

“There have been a number of very difficult selection decisions to make, given the quality of our wider training squad. Some very good players have missed out on selection such as been the competition for places over the last eight weeks and more of preparation. “As Saturday’s game in Cardiff proved, we have a series of demanding Test matches through August as we continue that preparation towards our opening Rugby World Cup pool game against an in-form Argentina side.”

On announcing his squad in early August, Borthwick added: “We believe that announcing the squad a little earlier than otherwise might have been the case, brings a clarity and certainty to the group, allowing the players as much time as possible to settle and develop as a squad.”

England face Wales (12 August), Ireland (19 August) and Fiji (26 August) in the Summer Nations Series before the Rugby World Cup starts.

“We look forward to welcoming Wales to Twickenham this weekend in front of our home support. There can be no doubt that it will be another hard-fought encounter.”

England begin their Rugby World Cup campaign in France against Argentina in Marseille (Saturday 9 September, kick off 2000 BST) before playing Japan in Nice (Sunday 17 September, kick off 2000 BST), Chile in Lille (Saturday 23 September, kick off 1645 BST) and Samoa in Lille (Saturday 7 October, kick off 1645 BST).

England's official 2023 Rugby World Cup squad

Forwards (19)

Ollie Chessum (Leicester Tigers, 9 caps)
Dan Cole (Leicester Tigers, 100 caps)***
Tom Curry (Sale Sharks, 45 caps)*
Theo Dan (Saracens, 1 cap)
Ben Earl (Saracens, 15 caps)
Ellis Genge (Bristol Bears, 49 caps)*
Jamie George (Saracens, 77 caps)**
Maro Itoje (Saracens, 67 caps)*
Courtney Lawes (Northampton Saints, 97 caps)***

Lewis Ludlam (Northampton Saints, 20 caps)*
Joe Marler (Harlequins, 79 caps)**
George Martin (Leicester Tigers, 2 caps)
David Ribbans (Toulon, 6 caps)
Bevan Rodd (Sale Sharks, 3 caps)
Kyle Sinckler (Bristol Bears, 62 caps)*
Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 26 caps)
Billy Vunipola (Saracens, 68 caps)**
Jack Walker (Harlequins, 3 caps)
Jack Willis (Toulouse, 10 caps)

Backs (14)

Henry Arundell (Racing 92, 7 caps)
Danny Care (Harlequins, 88 caps)*
Elliot Daly (Saracens, 57 caps)*
Owen Farrell (Saracens, 106 caps)**
George Ford (Sale Sharks, 82 caps)**
Ollie Lawrence (Bath Rugby, 11 caps)
Max Malins (Bristol Bears, 19 caps)

Joe Marchant (Stade Francais, 16 caps)
Marcus Smith (Harlequins, 22 caps)
Freddie Steward (Leicester Tigers, 23 caps)
Manu Tuilagi (Sale Sharks, 51 caps)**
Jack van Poortvliet (Leicester Tigers, 13 caps)
Anthony Watson (unattached, 55 caps)**
Ben Youngs (Leicester Tigers, 122 caps)***

**denotes number of Rugby World Cup tournaments played*

ENGLAND POOL GAMES

Saturday 9 September, kick off 2000 BST – **England v Argentina** (Stade Vélodrome, Marseille)

Sunday 17 September, kick off 2000 BST – **England v Japan** (Stade de Nice, Nice)

Saturday 23 September, kick off 1645 BST – **England v Chile** (Stade Pierre Mauroy, Lille)

Saturday 7 October, kick off 1645 BST – **England v Samoa** (Stade Pierre Mauroy, Lille)



Match Preview: Brentford v Tottenham

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of Brentford's Premier League opener against Tottenham Hotspur

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford get their 2023/24 Premier League campaign underway on Sunday.

The Bees' 3-1 win at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in May – inspired by Bryan Mbeumo's man-of-the-match performance - was their first victory over Spurs since 1948.

Thomas Frank's side have had no shortage of tough tests this summer, with three games against Premier League opposition during a [two-week tour of the USA](#) preceding a visit from Ligue 1 side Lille last weekend.

Tottenham's trip to TW8 will be broadcast live in the UK on Sky Sports Premier League (2pm kick-off).



Pre-match analysis

Stephen Gillett, Playmaker Stats: Maddison the one to watch ahead of Kane's potential exit

After a summer of transfer talk fuelled by Bayern Munich's pursuit of Harry Kane, Tottenham's all-time record goalscorer may be inching towards the exit ahead of Brentford's Premier League opener against Spurs this Sunday.

With Kane's future up in the air, this preview opts to ignore the most prolific English forward of recent times and focuses instead on the nation's most productive midfielder: James Maddison.

Signed from Leicester for £40 million in June, Maddison will inject undoubted guile and creativity into Tottenham's ranks this season and, taken as a whole, his stats over five seasons with the Foxes were pretty staggering.

Dating back to his first season in the Premier League in 2018/19, Maddison (43 goals and 31 assists) has been involved in more top-flight goals than any other English midfielder - only Man City's Kevin de Bruyne (43G, 58A) and Man Utd's Bruno Fernandes (44G, 33A) clocking up more goal participations from midfield.

They are certainly impressive numbers, but perhaps Brentford fans don't need reminding about Maddison's quality given his performances against the Bees in the past.

Now 26, Maddison has played against Brentford on eight occasions to date - and, more often than not, he has come out on top.



Then in the Championship, Brentford overcame a Norwich side featuring the midfielder back in December 2017 but, since then, Maddison has gone unbeaten against the Bees in seven subsequent contests (five won, two drawn), scoring four goals and supplying three assists.

The England international - who featured in the Three Lions' Euro 2024 qualifier wins against Malta and Ukraine earlier this year - has seemingly gone from strength to strength

during his time in the Premier League and, despite relegation with the Foxes last term, his stats from last season underline the hefty threat he will again pose Brentford this Sunday.

In addition to 10 goals and nine assists last term, Maddison featured in the division's top 10 for key passes made (69) and no player scored more goals (3) from outside the box.

Maddison's threat from remote positions is well known, and his stats attest to his prowess from long range.

The Opposition

Spurs seek stability under Postecoglou

Tottenham will be chasing some much-needed stability this season after a rollercoaster campaign last time out.

Antonio Conte started the campaign in charge and things were, for the most part, going well under the Italian until the World Cup break in mid-November. Spurs were fourth in the Premier League and had topped their Champions League group. The momentum from the prior campaign seemed to have been carried over.

But that was not the case after Christmas, with their form severely lacking consistency. They lost three and drew one of their first seven league games back and were left without Conte on the touchline at the start of February after he returned to his native Italy for surgery to remove his gallbladder.

Conte returned shortly afterwards but was soon forced to rest further after admitting he underestimated the required recovery time. His trusted assistant Cristian Stellini took charge in the interim and soon found himself in the hotseat on a full-time basis following an extraordinary rant from Conte following a 3-3 draw against Southampton.

"We are 11 players that go into the pitch," he said. "I see selfish players. I see players that don't want to help each other and don't put their heart in."

On 26 March, Conte's 16-month tenure in north London came to an end by mutual consent. Stellini took over as acting head coach until the end of the season, but lasted only four games, the last of which was a 6-1 defeat at Newcastle.

Ryan Mason subsequently saw out the season but could not lift Tottenham higher than eighth. It was their lowest finishing position in 14 years and meant they failed to qualify for Europe for the first time since 2010. The 32-year-old was, at one point this summer, even reported as a candidate to take the job on a permanent basis, but chair Daniel Levy instead opted to pursue Celtic boss Ange Postecoglou.

The Australian was appointed on a four-year deal in June and, in his first interview, his words promised plenty. "My main thoughts will be on the responsibility I bear and the excitement I have within me that I can fulfil those dreams and aspirations of every Tottenham supporter," he said.

The fact his side scored 10 goals across their last two pre-season games gives a glimpse into the style said fans can expect to see.

In the Dugout

Ange Postecoglou

Ange Postecoglou started out in management in his native Australia with South Melbourne, where he had spent his entire playing career.

After two years as assistant, he was handed the head coach role in 1996 and spent another four successful years at the club, before leaving to work with Australia under-17s and U20s national teams for the next seven years.

Having failed to guide the U20s to the 2007 World Cup in Canada, he left the national set-up to coach Greek outfit Panachaiki and later Whittlesea Zebras.

In 2009, he took over at Brisbane Roar and won the A-League Championship in 2010/11 and 2011/12, before moving onto Melbourne Victory, where he was unable to produce a similar level of success.

Postecoglou's tenure at AAMI Park concluded prematurely, however, he was appointed head coach of the senior Australia men's team in October 2013. He oversaw an encouraging group-stage campaign at the 2014 World Cup and won the Asian Cup the following year.

The Socceroos later qualified for the 2018 World Cup, but he resigned shortly afterwards to join Yokohama F Marinos of the J-League, where he would go onto guide the club to its first title in 15 years in 2019.

The 57-year-old arrived in north London this summer after two incredible years at Celtic. He won an unbelievable 83 of his 113 games in charge in Glasgow, on the way to two Scottish Premiership titles, one Scottish Cup and two Scottish League Cups.



Lord Chancellor backs campaign to keep cash as legal tender, as petition gains 258,000 signatures

Alex Chalk MP also hinted at compromise on the 2030 ban on diesel and petrol vehicles

LORD Chancellor Alex Chalk has backed the GB News campaign to protect the legal status of cash as legal tender.

Asked if he backed the Don't Kill Cash campaign, he told [GB News](#): "Yes, absolutely. I'm aware of this GB News campaign and I think you're absolutely right on this because there are some communities for whom cash remains extremely important...and access to cash is something that we're absolutely committed to try to retain.

"So just because plenty of people are moving digitally, that doesn't mean that people should be left behind or somehow stigmatised because they want to continue using cash, so that's opposition."

In a discussion with Stephen Dixon and Ellie Costello, he suggested that there may be room for compromise on green targets.



He said: "We are absolutely committed to our green targets, that's fine, the 2030 [ban on] vehicles and so on, but we are going to do so in a way that is proportionate and that is pragmatic.

"So when, for example, it comes to issues about whether we should have drilling licences in the North Sea, it's absolutely right. We should do that not just for energy security, but because by the way, it is a greener thing to do..."

"We're committed to the targets but we are going to do so in a way that is proportionate and it takes account of the cost of living pressures that people are under."

On the Government's crackdown on corrupt immigration lawyers, he said: "I'm a barrister by background and for the overwhelming majority of lawyers who do the right, thing they want to absolutely make sure that crooked lawyers are rooted out...there's been life imprisonment for those who aid and abet illegal migration for many, many years.

"And yes, I'm absolutely comfortable that those who breached their professional duties, who act illegally, should be convicted, punished and disgraced. I'm entirely comfortable with that."



BRITAIN'S NEWS CHANNEL

Minor improvements in performance welcome amid 'substantial' summer pressures on A&Es

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) has responded to the [latest Emergency Department performance statistics for July 2023](#).

Published today (10 August 2023) by NHS England, the July data show 96,515 patients waited 12-hours or more from their time of arrival, this accounts for 7.3% of major A&E (which deal with the most serious emergency conditions and injuries) attendances.

This figure is 10.8% lower than the previous month (June 2023 saw 108,225 12-hour waits measured from their time of arrival at A&E).

Commenting on these figures, Dr Adrian Boyle, President of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, said:

“It is welcome to see further small improvements in these data. The number of patients waiting 12-hours or more from their time of arrival has dropped below 100,000 for the first time since February 2023, which was the first month of data to be made publicly available.

“This remains an appallingly high number of patients experiencing these dangerous delays, but the trend is beginning to move in the right direction.

“We remain concerned that there is a lack of adequate bed capacity for patients who need admitting.

There is still a significant shortfall of bed numbers and this needs to be addressed before winter bites.

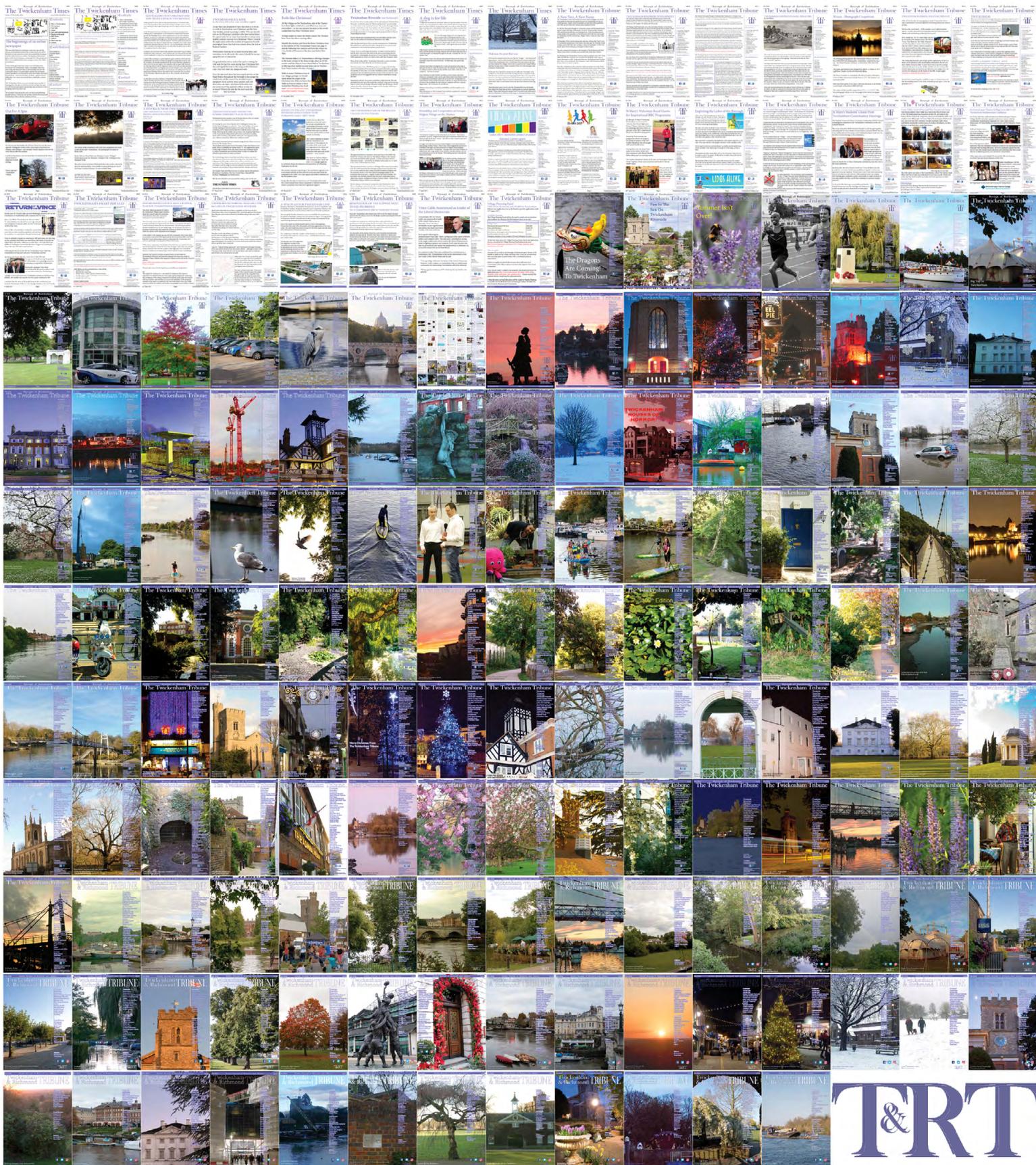
“Our members and their colleagues continue to work tirelessly in difficult circumstances and these improvements are in no small way a testament to their hard work.

“Emergency care continues to face unprecedented pressure for a summer period, it is likely this will be our most difficult summer yet.”



Royal College *of*
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