

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

## Contents

- TickerTape
- Covid 19
- Local Postcard Page:  
The Old Town Hall - Richmond
- Full Council Meeting
- Letters
- New Trees on Twickenham Green
- Twickers Foodie
- Summer Is Coming Soon But First  
I Have Some Snow News For You
- The Elgin Marbles and The  
Twickenham Riverside Connection
- Fall in love with Fall
- Sport

## Contributors

- Alan Winter
- James Knight
- Pamela Fleming
- Royal Parks
- Barnes Common
- South Western Railway
- Alison Jee
- Bruce Lyons
- Richmond Shakespeare Society
- Orleans House Gallery
- Mark Aspen
- World InfoZone
- Deep Patel
- Richmond College
- RFU
- Brentford FC
- LBRuT

## Editors

Berkley Driscoll  
Teresa Read



1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

T&RT

# TickerTape - News in Brief

## Transport

### TfL

London Overground: Sunday 3 December

No service between Stratford and **Richmond**/Shepherd's Bush until 13:00

Use Tube or alternative rail services or local or rail replacement buses. Rail replacement buses will run every 15 minutes between Gunnersbury and Camden Road and between Camden Road and Stratford. This is due to Network Rail works.

## South Western Railway

Strike action and other industrial action by the ASLEF union will take place on our network from Friday 1 to Saturday 9 December

### Wednesday 6 December – only travel if necessary

An extremely limited service will operate on a small number of lines, between 0700 and 1900 only, with most of the network closed. There will be no services outside of these times.

Services will only run on these routes:

- London Waterloo to Woking
- London Waterloo to Guildford via Woking
- London Waterloo and Basingstoke
- London Waterloo to Feltham via Twickenham
- Basingstoke to Salisbury

You can [click here](#) to download the map.

### Friday 1 to Saturday 9 December – please check your entire journey before travelling

ASLEF has also instructed its members not to work any overtime, which will affect our services Friday 1 to Tuesday 5 and Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 December.

We expect to run a normal service for most of the network from Friday 1 to Tuesday 5 and on Thursday 7 December, with some cancellations.

Drivers at other operators will be taking strike action on different days during this period, which may impact your journey.



**The Tree Agency**

darryl parkin

The Treehouse  
25 King Edwards Grove  
Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9LY  
Telephone 020 8274 0107  
Mobile 07960 123580  
Fax 020 8274 0119  
info@thetreeagency.co.uk  
www.thetreeagency.co.uk

# Covid 19

By Teresa Read

## World Health Organization

COVID-19 Epidemiological Update - 24 November 2023

**Globally**, more than half a million new COVID-19 cases and over 2,400 new deaths have been reported in the past 28-day period from 23 October to 19 November 2023. Compared to the previous 28-day period, those figures represent a 13% and 72% decrease in cases and deaths respectively. As of 19 November 2023, over 772 million confirmed cases and over six million deaths have been reported globally.

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

Among the countries reporting, the highest numbers of new 28-day cases at country level were reported from the Russian Federation (121,482 new cases; +90%), Italy (104,165 new cases; -32%), Singapore (65,021 new cases; +6%), Australia (34,635 new cases; +65%), and Poland (21,876 new cases; +208%).

The highest numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from Italy (597 new deaths; -10%), Sweden (372 new deaths; +151%), the Russian Federation (250 new deaths; +105%), the Islamic Republic of Iran (158 new deaths; +10%), and Czechia (112 new deaths; +87%).

**The European Region** reported over 378,000 new cases, an 18% decrease as compared to the previous 28-day period. Nine (15%) 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 (436 vs 102 new cases; +327%), Sweden (9,531 vs 2,933 new cases; +225%), and Poland (21,876 vs 7,103 new cases; +208%).

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Russian Federation (121,482 new cases; 83.2 new cases per 100,000; +90%), Italy (104 165 new cases; 174.7 new cases per 100,000; -32%), and Poland (21,876 new cases; 57.6 new cases per 100,000; +208%).

The number of new 28-day deaths in the Region decreased by 49% as compared to the previous 28-day period, with 1951 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Italy (597 new deaths; 1.0 new death per 100,000; -10%), Sweden (372 new deaths; 3.6 new deaths per 100,000; +151%), and the Russian Federation (250 new deaths; <1 new death per 100,000; +105%).

## Variants

During this reporting period, BA.2.86 was reclassified from a variant under monitoring (VUM) to a variant of interest (VOI).

WHO is currently tracking several SARS-CoV-2 variants: four VOIs – XBB.1.5, XBB.1.16, EG.5 and BA.2.86; and five VUMs. Globally, EG.5 (Eris), reported by 89 countries, represents 51.6% of sequences shared on GISAID and is presently the most prevalent VOI.

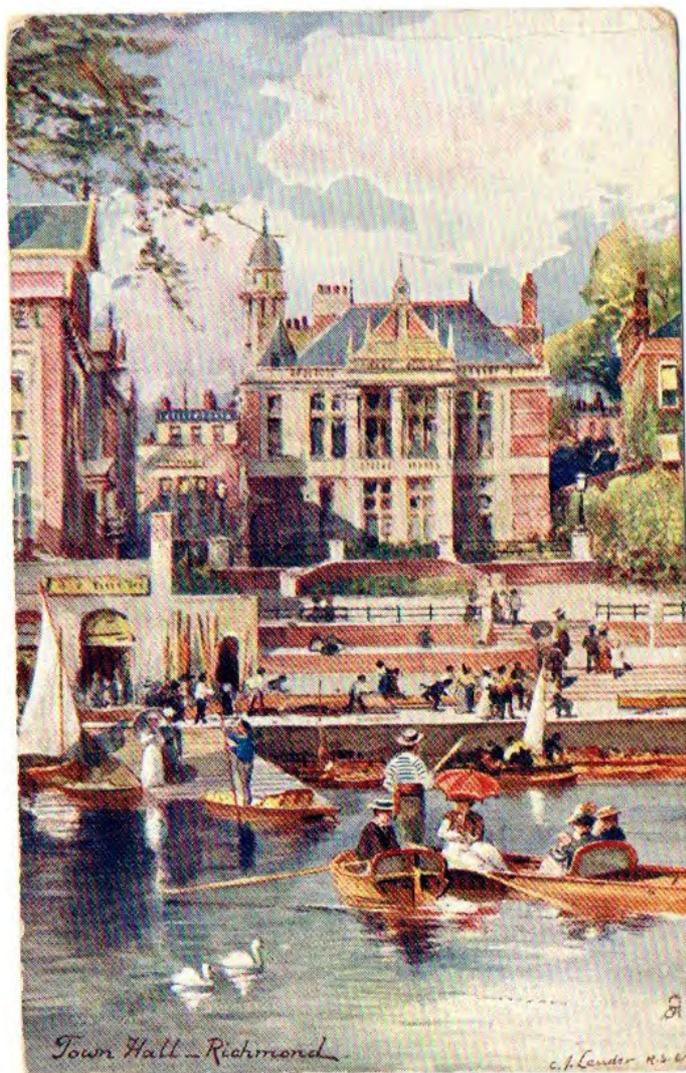
# The Local Picture Postcard Page Part 225

By Alan Winter

## The Old Town Hall - Richmond

The Old Town Hall was built in the 1890s on land donated by Sir John Whittaker Ellis for use by Richmond Council and opened in 1893 by the Duke of York. He was a former Lord Mayor of London and the first mayor for the new borough of Richmond. Whittaker Avenue is named after him.

The foundation stone for the new building was laid in 1891. The building was designed by W J Ancell in Elizabethan Renaissance style and officially opened by the Duke of York on 10 June 1893. The design involved an asymmetrical main frontage with six bays facing onto Whittaker Street; the central section featured an arched entrance flanked by Doric order pilasters on the ground floor; there was an oriel window above the doorway with niches on either side; there were three smaller windows above the entrance on the second floor. A turret was installed at the north west corner of the building at roof level and a projecting clock, made by the Leeds firm of William Potts & Sons, was installed on the Hill Street frontage; A set of bells were provided by John Taylor & Co of Loughborough on which the clock chimed the quarters and struck the hours (but the council voted to discontinue use of the bells in 1952). The principal rooms were the council chamber and the mayor's parlour on the first floor. A bust of Sir John Whittaker Ellis by Francis Williamson was unveiled by Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck on the staircase of the building in 1895.



The first postcard was painted by a well-known local postcard artist C J Lauder. The view is from across the Thames and dates to about 1906.

The second black and white postcard shows the proximity of the Town Hall to both the Castle Hotel and rooms and the memorial to those lost in the first world war. It dates to the 1920's.

The council chamber was completely gutted and other parts of the building badly damaged by a fire-bomb on 29 November 1940 during the Blitz; following a complete restoration the building was reopened by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother on 16 December 1952.

The building continued to serve as the headquarters of the Municipal Borough of Richmond for much of the 20th century but ceased to be the local seat of government when the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames was formed in 1965. Instead York House in Twickenham performed that role for the new borough.

The old town hall was refurbished as part of the scheme to redevelop the riverside area to the designs of Quinlan Terry in 1988. Although some of the building's ground floor was subsequently leased for retail use, most of the former town hall was retained to accommodate the Central Reference Library and the Museum of Richmond which was formally opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 28 October 1988. A section of the building was also converted into an art gallery (the Riverside Gallery) and the Local Studies Collection moved into the building in 2000.

Our last image is a photo taken in the last few years of the Town Hall on the junction of Hill Street and Whittaker Avenue. Both the clock and turret are features of the building during its life - span of c130 years



If you have any old postcards sitting in a box or album at home that you are considering parting with, I'd be very interested in arranging to see them. Please contact me on 07875 578398 or by email at [alanwinter192@hotmail.com](mailto:alanwinter192@hotmail.com)

I am happy to pay cash for any postcards or local photographs that I find of interest. So don't throw old postcards etc. in the skip or recycling bins. Show them to me first!

# CrusaderTravel



020 8744 0474

[crusadertravel.com](http://crusadertravel.com)

Escapology Experts

[info@crusadertravel.com](mailto:info@crusadertravel.com)

Your friendly local Travel Agency  
established in Twickenham since 1966

With over 50 years experience we pride ourselves on being able to offer an unrivalled service with attention to detail. Come and have a chat with us in our cosy office off the Church Street Square, we are open 6 days a week from 11am until 6pm (Closed Sunday)



# Full Council Meeting

## Report on the Full Council Meeting held on 28th November

By James Knight

### **Tributes to Cllr Elengorn & Cllr Samuel + hate crime + Chertsey Court ASB + Twickenham Riverside + Thames Water Abstraction + Blitzkrieg on Potholes + Capital Program + Council leaders' allowance to increase by 52% + Temporary Housing Emergency + Climate Emergency**

The meeting started off with **tributes** to two long-standing councillors who passed away in the same week: Martin Elengorn (Teddington Ward) and Geoffrey Samuel (Hampton North).

After an hour of tributes, normal Council business resumed with the Council Leader Gareth Roberts making a statement about “events around the world” alluding to the Israel-Palestinian War. He said the council condemned in the strongest possible terms the **recent hate crime incidents** in the Borough. Cllr Roberts stated the council had adopted the international definition of antisemitism and islamophobia and would like to recognise the work of residents, voluntary groups and public bodies to foster dialogue and understanding between different groups.

This was followed by public questions; there were two questions about the serious **ASB and criminality** taking place at the Richmond Housing Partnership (RHP) owned **Chertsey Court** where residents said they were afraid to leave their homes due to criminals taking over the estate. The Leader replied the problem was that there was not enough evidence to meet the evidential threshold needed to act and suggested the problem was down to residents contacting different people (like their housing association, and councillors) when they needed a single point to collate the complaints and that should be the police.

Another resident questioned why **Thames Water** did not attend the public meeting on their Teddington Direct Water Abstraction scheme at York House. The reply was that Thames Water did not feel safe attending following a similar event held in Kingston. Some of the people on this protest march were allegedly shouting “*Thames Water to the Slaughter*” to the Pink Floyd song The Wall and in scuffles two members of Thames Water staff had sustained minor injuries.

Next up was member questions, the majority were soft-ball questions planted by the ruling party to try and show themselves in a good light. Cllr Chard asked about the successful compulsory purchase order on **Diamond Jubilee Gardens** and if the leader had a message for the supporters and opponents of the scheme. Cllr Roberts replied that the **Twickenham Riverside Scheme** had enormous support and had an overwhelming mandate. He said the planning inspector said this is a great scheme, this is what people want. Those who still oppose should reflect; that we have already seen the costs rise due to the delay. The question they need to answer is whether they want to put more of a financial burden on the council by delaying things further or to accept it has been given the thumbs-up by the independent planning inspector.

There were questions on **highway maintenance** with Cllr Ehmann promising a **blitzkrieg on potholes** this year with his new thermal patching equipment being further deployed across the

borough. Whilst a question on **youth centres** revealed the council is carrying out an experiment in Hampton North to see if they should be merged into Family Hubs which Cllr Frost said could be rolled out across the borough if successful.

The Council's Treasury Report was then discussed with Opposition Leader Cllr Bennett questioning the fact that projects were kept being delayed. He said there were too many projects planned which could cause **prudential problems in the medium term**. Cllr Brown, the Finance & Resources Lead, stated that £45 million had been 'saved-up' for the Twickenham Riverside Development [however, readers should note this is not all cash-in-the-bank but includes a lot of planned future borrowing].

**Members allowances:** in a blink-and-you-miss-it move, the meeting approved a large increase that will cost ratepayers over a third of a million pounds in the next financial year. The most eye-catching increase is the **52% increase for Cllr Roberts** with his special responsibility allowance for being the leader (which is on top of the basic allowance) going up from £30,525 to £46,569.00 which will result in a total allowance of £58,583 when the basic allowance, given to all councillors, is added. Readers with a good memory will recall that back in 2016 the then-opposition leader Gareth Roberts went to the papers opposing the 0.5% increase in councillor allowances saying it was a conflict of interest for councillors to award themselves a pay rise.

The council then debated the opposition priority business which was the increase in **ASB across the borough** and how it has expanded from open spaces and has now taken hold on social housing estates. The Green Party believes the root cause was **Richmond having the highest level of substance misuse in London**. Cllr Bennet says the Community Safety Partnership, which Cllr Roberts leads, was not effective, and that the key documents are out of date. Deputy Leader Cllr Millard responded by blaming the increase in ASB on the cuts made at the start of the Conservative Government conveniently forgetting that the Liberal Democrats were in coalition when the cuts took place. Cllr Roberts replied furiously that the opposition didn't give him prior notice of their concerns and thus couldn't give a full response. He then tried to blame it all on the Tories but looked very flustered by the criticism levied by the Greens.

A further motion was debated on the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates. The council welcomed the Government's announcement to unfreeze rates in April 2024 but noted there was no commitment for 2025 and that temporary accommodation rates were still frozen in 2011 (by the Coalition Government). Cllr Millard stated that the borough had a **temporary housing emergency** that was the fault of the Conservatives. He gave the example of two sisters who attended Teddington School who had become homeless, and the council had placed them in temporary accommodation in Mitcham which meant they had a two-hour bus ride to school (as they did not have the money to pay for the quicker train journeys). Finally, a motion was passed giving the council's support to the private member's Climate and Ecology Bill which is being promoted by the Zero Hour Group. The Bill would require the UK to end the exploration, extraction, export and import of fossil fuels as rapidly as possible. Along with the establishment of a citizen's assembly to determine how this should be achieved.



# Twickenham Conservatives

Jonathan Hulley, the Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate for Twickenham constituency, will be holding a Shadow MP Surgery on **Saturday, 9 December from 10am to 12noon.**

The venue will be the Conservative constituency office, **90 York Road, Teddington, TW11 8SN.**

Jonathan will be in attendance to take up any issue of local concern and give his professional opinion and offer his expertise and support on any matter that you wish to bring to his attention.

There is no need to make an appointment.

Promoted by  
Jonathan Hulley  
of 90 York Road,  
Teddington,  
TW11 8SN.

**All are  
welcome  
to attend.**

## Shadow MP Surgery



Dear Tribune,

### Living in the past!

Sarah Olney, MP for Richmond Park, has responded to the latest TfL report which shows a 30% increase in crime since last year by saying:

*“This Conservative Government and the Mayor of London need to end their endless bickering, get around the table, and come up with a strategy to tackle this surge in crime. People across the capital deserve better - which is why the Liberal Democrats are calling for a return to local community policing which will help keep Londoners safe.”*

Well, it's not the government or the mayor who are committing the crimes – it's the public, so why blame the 'Conservative' government, as always?

The TfL report says that peak times for violence on buses include 3 to 6PM Monday to Friday, linked to younger passengers – so maybe their parents might have something to do with it?

Everyone in this country knows that there is a general deterioration in people's behaviour.

In fact, on 31 January 2002, Judge Roger Davis said: *“All over London people are violent, attacking other people just as they did in the 18th century”*. That is still true now.

This week I attended a public meeting with our local police who are clearly trying their best. Commendably, the meeting's main theme was reducing violence against women. But public apathy was clearly shown by the low audience attendance, just as at all such meetings.

The Liberal Democrats are now *‘calling for a return to local community policing which will help keep Londoners safe’*.

A good idea, but hardly THEIR idea.

Years ago, at a similar police meeting in York House, I suggested to their Richmond Councillors that we should have VISIBLE local police boxes just like low-crime Japan's *Kōban* which have two or three officers either in them or out on patrol on foot, bike, or car, 24 hours a day. The obvious result is that Japanese police know every household and business in their area and the local people know their police. Of course, like so many suggestions to our Council, my idea was sneered at. Later, some nondescript local police offices did appear around the borough but mostly they are invisible and locked without even a phone number on them.

Every day I see people of all ages walking around completely oblivious of their surroundings while they stare down at their phones, obvious targets for criminals.

But not even the LibDems can stop that – so let's not blame the wrong people.

Michael Jay  
Hampton

# Tribute to the late Geoffrey Samuel at Full Council on 28<sup>th</sup> November

By Pamela Fleming

With the sad death of Geoffrey Samuel Conservatives no longer have any representatives on the Council and I appreciated the Leader and Officers inviting me to Tuesday's full Council meeting to pay tribute to him on behalf of my former Conservative Councillor colleagues. I also took the opportunity to say a few words about Martin Elengorn, whose memorial service I attended last Saturday.

"I was very sad and shocked when Gareth called to tell me Martin had died. During most of my time as a councillor we'd shadowed each other at Environment in opposition and office and our exchanges in the Council, chamber were generally thoughtful and fair. I had the greatest respect for his views on environmental issues, his passion for nature and I always enjoyed our conversations about his family and music. When I have been talking to colleagues we all agreed that we'd learnt our Planning from Martin.

It's hard to come to terms with Geoffrey and Martin, the two most experienced and long serving councillors dying within days of each other. Although they were poles apart politically and they certainly differed sartorially, they also had a lot in common. Both had incisive minds. loved music and theatre and above all were dedicated to public service and especially their wards. The fact that Geoffrey was the only Conservative elected to the Council in 2022 proves how highly he was thought of in Hampton North.

As a lot of you know Geoffrey and I didn't always see eye to eye and most of you will know how exasperating he could be on occasions. But my colleagues and I always respected his knowledge of Council procedure, the constitution and his interpretation of it. Geoffrey shone in the Council Chamber and even when you disagreed with everything he was saying whether prepared or an off the cuff response it was always articulate and well argued. During his time as Cabinet member for Finance his budget speeches were made without a single note - he never told us how long he spent rehearsing them.

Looking back over the time I served with him in Council I think his greatest legacy was introducing the Tenants' Champion. The inspiration would have been from the high level of social housing in his ward and misery suffered by social housing tenants unable to get their landlords to take action over anti-social behaviour. I know what a difference this had made to so many people and one of my former constituents always reminds me it was the Tenants' Champion's intervention that freed her from suffering years of abuse from a neighbour.

Some of you here tonight will remember Geoffrey's first wife Rosemary and his devoted care over the years when she became ill. After so much pain we were all delighted when he married the lovely Lona and enjoyed her company at civic functions. In fact I saw them at the recent Civic Service on that beautiful October day and am so glad I had the chance of a long talk with Geoffrey. Over the years we used to chat about his cats, my dogs, theatre and occasionally cricket if he'd been to Lords.

Geoffrey loved gossip and always wanted to know what was going on. I contacted a number of former colleagues to ask if they had any particular memories they'd like me to share. I won't name them all but they include Peter Buckwell, David & Jane Marlow, Paul Hodgins, Stephen Speak and Sarah Tippett and Meena Bond who he met for lunch from time to time. They all praised his great performances in the Council Chamber and how he enjoyed socialising after meetings. Meena remembered all his help and advice when she was the Cabinet member responsible for the Music & Drama Festival. Sarah reminded me that he had appointed her and Paul Avon as deputy whips. She said the whips meetings always followed a similar format. Glass of wine, tutting at Paul Avon's tardiness, division of duties, bit of gossip, check of the Geoffrey timepiece and off into the night. She told me she once had a bet with him, he lost, and she was the beneficiary of a delicious lunch at the The Ritz. They both said he was a dear friend and how much they'll miss him and their lovely lunches, chats about cricket and trips to the Orange Tree Theatre. Everyone I spoke to sends their love and sympathy to Lona.

The chamber seems very strange without Martin and Geoffrey, and I am conscious that by now Geoffrey would probably be looking at his watch. Even though they aren't physically with us anymore both have passed on so much knowledge and the legacy of their many years of service will always be with us."

# New Trees on Twickenham Green

Teresa Read

On Friday 1st November the Council planted horse chestnut trees on the Hampton Road side of Twickenham Green; one replaced a horse chestnut that recently died. The trees are Indian horse chestnuts (*Aesculus indica*) that produce conkers with a softer smooth shell.

*Aesculus indica* is native to Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Himalayas; a fully grown specimen can be seen in Kew Gardens.

The Council's Arboricultural Manager told the Tribune that this species of horse chestnut was selected as it is resistant to some of the pests and diseases suffered by the common horse chestnut; it has similar characteristics so seems fitting for the site.

The trees on the Green are over a hundred years old, however, the new Indian horse chestnuts have a very long way to go to reach maturity.



# Stop Flooding: Start Shovelling

Volunteer with us to help reduce flooding on Rocks Lane and Station Road by moving gravel into the new drains that direct rainwater off the road and into Barnes Common.

New drains along both Rocks Lane and Station Road are designed to move rainwater into the common and reduce flooding on the roads. We are increasing the amount of water on the Common and improving its chances during drought conditions in the future.

In August, with the help of local school children, we started filling up the trenches with gravel to help the new ditches last and make it safer for people enjoying the Common. Now it's your turn.

Join our am and/or pm sessions over several days from 12 to 20 December.

Spend a morning, afternoon, or both making a difference. You'll learn about how you can:

- Tackle the impact of climate change.
- Reduce the risk of flooding.
- Become more flood resilient.
- Increase biodiversity and wellbeing at the same time.

All equipment will be supplied. Meet us at the Pavilion on Vine Road Rec. Minimum age 16+. Please arrive on time. Tea coffee and biscuits are provided but do bring a water bottle and a keep cup for your tea or coffee.



## REGISTRATION:

We welcome everyone at this volunteering session. Please note, to take part, you need to fill in our [conservation volunteer registration form](#) to make sure our insurance covers you.

Book your free tickets [HERE](#)

If you are a regular volunteer and have already filled in the form, there is no need to do this again.



# South Western Railway confirms service levels during December industrial action

The ASLEF union, which represents train drivers, will take industrial action from **Friday 1 to Saturday 9 December**, with SWR drivers taking strike action on Wednesday 6 December.

On **Wednesday 6 December**, there will be an extremely limited service, with trains only running between London Waterloo and Basingstoke, Feltham, Woking, Guildford and between Basingstoke and Salisbury. Trains will only operate on these routes between the hours of 0700 and 1900. There will be no other services, on any lines, outside of these times.

There will be no service on the Island Line and customers in areas such as Bournemouth, Exeter, Portsmouth, Reading, Southampton, Staines, Windsor and Yeovil will not be served by SWR trains on Wednesday 6 December.

SWR customers are urged to **only travel if absolutely necessary on Wednesday 6 December** and to check their entire journey carefully if they must travel.



Unlike previous rounds of ASLEF industrial action, the union will be striking on different days for different train operators across the industrial action period.

Drivers at Southeastern, Gatwick Express and Southern will also take strike action on Wednesday 6 December, with others taking strike action on other days, which may impact connections with other operators' services.

Throughout the nine-day period, ASLEF has also instructed its members not to work any overtime, which will affect SWR from Friday 1 to Tuesday 5 and from Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 December.

While SWR will be running a normal timetable on most of its network from Friday 1 to Tuesday 5 and on Thursday 7 December, there will be some cancellations. Customers are advised to check their full journey before travelling during these dates due to strike action occurring for other operators.

Customers can check now journey planners for Friday 1 to Thursday 7 December. For Monday 4, Tuesday 5, and Thursday 7 December, services for the West of England are due to be up to date later in the week, with all other services accurate now.

Service levels for Friday 8 and Saturday 9 December are being finalised and will be confirmed in due course, with journey planners for those days to be updated as soon as possible next week.

**Stuart Meek, Chief Operating Officer for South Western Railway, said:**

*"We're sorry that national industrial action will again impact SWR services for the first nine days of December. ASLEF will take strike action on Wednesday 6 December, meaning we will run an extremely limited service, and we must urge our customers to only travel if absolutely necessary on that day.*

*"During other days of industrial action, customers should check their entire journeys before setting off, as there will be some cancellations and drivers at other operators may be on strike.*

*"We know that this is a busy time of year as we approach Christmas, so we would like to thank customers for their continued patience and understanding."*

Customers are also reminded that from Sunday 10 December, SWR will begin operating a [new timetable](#).

**South Western  
Railway**

HAMPTON VILLAGE TRADERS ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS EVENT

# SANTA CLAWS

## IS COMING TO TOWN



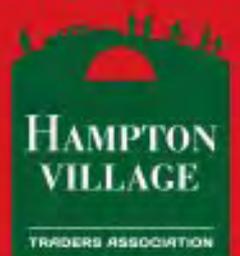
**SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER**  
**From 4pm to 7pm**

Spot the **'Living' T-Rex** and **Polar Bear**  
prowling around the village

Local Craft Market on the Green

Cher, Roy Orbison & Elvis perform by Hampton Cellar

Food Stalls, Local Shops & Businesses open for family fun!



# Have your say on proposals to improve public courtyard space in East Sheen

Richmond residents, businesses and visitors are invited to feedback by 5 December on the proposed improvements to public space near Sheen Lane.

We have identified a number of local centres across the borough for investment as part of our Public Realm Improvement Fund (PRIF) programme. This consultation forms part of the work being done to revitalise neglected spaces and transform them into vibrant, thriving public places that benefit the entire community.

Over the past year, East Sheen ward councillors have worked with council officers and specialist urban design consultants, WSP, to develop proposals that will renovate the courtyard space around the municipal buildings off Sheen Lane.

The proposals include:

- Improvements to the areas surrounding the existing trees and existing planting areas with a wider variety of planting used
- A central garden with sensory planting
- Integrated lighting features to create an attractive environment and improve the sense of safety in the space
- Playful elements integrated within the street furniture to create an engaging public space where outdoor activities can occur all year round



Residents, businesses and visitors are being asked for their views on key design principles for the proposals which seek to provide continuity across the public spaces, streets and greenspaces within the borough and local area. If the results of this consultation show majority support for the scheme, we will work to secure appropriate funds to implement it.

You can [learn more about the proposals and take part in the consultation online](#). The consultation closes on Tuesday 5 December.

Alternatively, a hard copy of the consultation questionnaire can be requested by contacting the Customer Services line on 020 8891 1411.

# Tree Planting Community Event at Thames Young Mariners in Ham, Richmond



Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development (SOLD) are thrilled that the local community came together to participate in their community 'Tree Planting' event on Sunday 26th November at Thames Young Mariners in Ham, Richmond.

Over 50 families and their children took part in contributing to a brighter, greener future for generations to come who visit the centre.

Thanks to the Woodland Trust and Tree Council who have funded a mixture of over 250 tree and hedge saplings, their contribution has supported a number of positive developments on the site including:

- Making new and extended woodland learning areas for the benefit of children, young people and community groups who use the centre all year around.
- The creation of an orchard to grow our own fruit on-site for use by the SOLD catering team. This offers a great learning perspective of where food comes from and reduces food miles.
- Capturing carbon, reducing pollution, and enriching the soil.
- Establishing new habitats for wildlife including birds, bees, butterflies and beetles. This will create a site with greater biodiversity from which our visiting groups can learn and foster a greater respect and understanding for nature.
- Generating a sense of emotional well-being for our visiting groups.

The volunteers were kept warm and fuelled by hot drinks and bowls of soup during their efforts throughout the day.

SOLD were thrilled to hold this local initiative at Thames Young Mariners as having more trees on site can only be a good thing. As we all tackle the climate crisis, it was heartwarming to see so many of the local community taking part. Not only does this positivity contribute to social cohesion by uniting the local community but also prevents some of the loneliness that can occur.



SOLD look forward to watching the trees and hedges becoming established and support the longer-term benefits to visitors to Thames Young Mariners.

SOLD Manager, Louise Edwards said, 'We are thrilled to be growing a brighter, more sustainable tomorrow through the power of trees at Thames Young Mariners. We are so grateful to the Woodland Trust and Tree Council for their generous funding to make this project possible and especially to the local community for volunteering their time and energy to help us make it happen.'

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

**SOLD** | Surrey Outdoor Learning & Development

# Enter VisitRichmond's advent calendar giveaway

To celebrate the festive season, VisitRichmond is launching a Christmas advent calendar giveaway on Friday 1 December, where you can enter each day for a chance to win one of 24 fantastic local prizes.



To participate, you can either sign up to the VisitRichmond e-newsletter now to receive an early entry code, or go to the [VisitRichmond website](#) from Friday 1 December.

Each day holds a unique prize, all of which have been sourced from a variety of attractions, local businesses, and hotels in Richmond upon Thames.

The prizes include:

- An overnight stay at The Selwyn Hotel
- A midnight swim at Hampton Pool
- A private group tour of the Eel Pie Island Museum
- High tea at The Original Maids of Honour
- A tour of Strawberry Hill House and Walpole afternoon tea for four

With a diverse range of experiences up for grabs, this will be a month filled with excitement and the chance to win fantastic prizes.



# Crowds Flock to Be Richmond's Free Festive Weekend Event

More than 3,000 people enjoyed free family Christmas events as part of Be Richmond's Be Festive launch weekend.

Whittaker Avenue hosted a pop-up Winter Wonderland complete with festive Elf gingerbread and tree decoration workshops, a Selfie Sleigh and a North Pole Post Box which proved to be a big hit with youngsters.

While the riverside Christmas Market, with more than 60 stalls featuring the very best of local gifts and produce, was also popular with shoppers seeking out festive presents.

On Saturday, the Deputy Mayor was joined by actor Wendy Mae Brown, who plays the 'Spirit of the Bells' in this year's Richmond Theatre Pantomime, Dick Whittington (played by Paul Merton) for the official Christmas Lights Switch on Ceremony.



Visitors enjoyed complimentary mulled wine and mince pies from Scott's Richmond, and paella and hot cider from Brindisa. The Sing Space Choir also performed a beautiful set of festive tunes.

*"The weekend was the perfect way to start the festive season. We were delighted to see so many families that enjoyed the Winter Wonderland, Christmas market and our Saturday switch on event venturing into the high street to start their Christmas shopping in Richmond," said Lou Abbotts, Be Richmond's Chief Operating Officer.*

*"It was also great to see the support and enthusiasm for the event from local businesses and retailers, it clearly provided an early boost to the town," she added.*

There's more free festive fun on offer in the coming weeks. On Saturday, 9th December join Buddy the Elf and friends at the launch of the Christmas Family Reindeer Trail.

Download a map, find each of the reindeer, crack the code and win a festive treat. The trail runs until Tuesday, 19th December. Celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas from 1st to 12th December with a special gift giveaway across all Be Richmond's social platforms.

Each day there will be a winner announced from the online entries, with fabulous presents kindly provided by Richmond BID businesses including the Richmond Hill Hotel, L'Occitane and Gaucho as well as a family ticket to Dick Whittington at the Richmond Theatre.

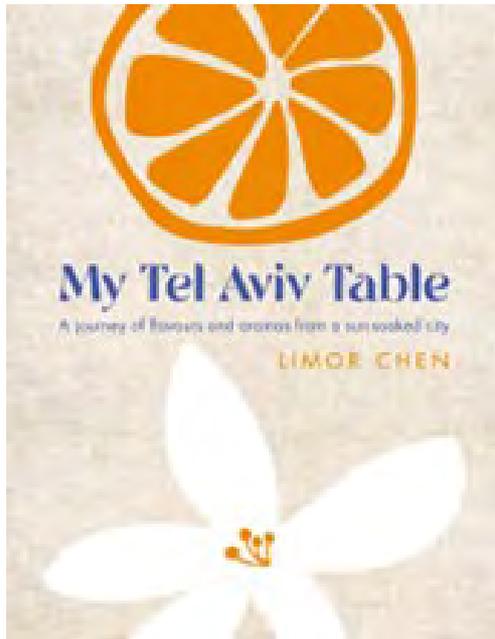
Be Richmond is the Business Improvement District (BID) for Richmond town centre. Its purpose is to represent and support Richmond BID levy payers, and to promote Richmond town centre as a great place to live, work and explore.



To find out more and to download the Reindeer Trail Map go to [www.berichmond.london/christmas](http://www.berichmond.london/christmas) .

## MY TEL AVIV TABLE

When I was first looking at reviewing this glorious new cookbook, published earlier this month, I had no idea, of course, that terrible atrocities were about to happen in Israel and Gaza. Irrespective of politics, the food of the region is glorious. So fans of London's **Delamina** restaurants (Marylebone & Shoreditch) will be delighted to learn that **Limor Chen**, who runs the restaurants with her husband Amir, has written a celebration of her recipes in **My Tel Aviv Table**, her debut cookbook.



Her restaurants are famed for their fragrant, exciting and vibrant dishes and in this book, Limor shares her wholesome cooking style (centering on healthy, fresh dishes). Tel Aviv, where she grew up, is almost in its own carefree bubble, one of the food capitals of the world - it's a melting



pot of cuisines and inhabitants. Limor has tried to ensure that her recipes don't require complicated methods and can be made in a home kitchen. She offers shortcuts where possible, and highlights some of her favourite ingredients, such as za'atar and orange blossom and rose waters. Here are some recipes from this fabulous cookbook that will take you on a journey of flavours and aromas from this sun-soaked city. My Tel Aviv Table is published by Nourish Books at £28 for a cloth-bound hardback with colourful photography - it will make a wonderful gift!

### **Persian-style Omelette** (serves 2-4)

*"My father was an omelette expert who would cook this dish for us frequently as kids, and my children would lap this up when I made it for them on weekends! The abundance of herbs and the turmeric help make it really nutritious as well as delicious. With its striking green and yellow colours, it makes a wonderful centrepiece for a healthy brunch when you want to whip something up quickly. It's also lovely with a dollop of yogurt on the side."*

- 4 eggs
- 1/2 small onion, chopped very small
- Handful of chopped parsley
- Handful of chopped coriander/ cilantro
- Handful of chopped dill
- 1/2 tsp ground turmeric
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 2 tbs rapeseed/canola or vegetable oil
- Dollop of plain yogurt (optional)



1. In a medium-size bowl, whisk the eggs with a fork.
2. Add the onion, herbs, turmeric and salt and mix well until combined.
3. Place a large frying pan on a medium-high heat and add the oil.
4. When the oil is hot, pour in the eggs and reduce the heat, as we don't want the bottom to burn.
5. Cover and let it cook fully, or flip it over after a couple of minutes when it has firmed up.
6. Transfer to a large plate and slice to portion. Serve with a dollop of yogurt, if you like.

## Chicken with Olives & Raisins (Serves: 6–8)

*“My husband loves chicken, and this is certainly a household favourite. The combination of olives and raisins results in a delicate balance of sweet and savoury flavours. Once cooked, the chicken absorbs the sauce and gets slightly darker and very tender. I recommend serving it with white rice. I have made this dish probably more than any other, and it never disappoints.”*

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 large onion, diced
- 6 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1/2 cup tomato puree/paste
- 1 1/2 tbsp white wine vinegar
- 375ml/13fl oz/1 1/2 cups water
- 1 1/2 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp sweet paprika
- 1/2 tsp chilli flakes
- 8 skinless chicken thighs
- 150g/5 1/2oz/1 1/2 cups pitted green olives
- 200g/7oz/scant 1 1/2 cups black raisins

1. Heat the olive oil in a medium-size, heavy saucepan over a medium heat. Sauté the onion for 2–3 minutes until translucent, then add the garlic for 1–2 minutes. Once the onion and garlic are slightly golden, add the tomato purée/paste, vinegar and water and give it a good mix. Add the cumin, paprika and chilli flakes. Increase the heat to high and bring to the boil.

2. Place the chicken in the sauce and let it continue to bubble for about 5 minutes.

3. Add the olives and raisins, bring back to the boil for a few more minutes, then reduce the heat to low, cover and simmer covered for 1 1/2 hours. The chicken will be very tender and dark and will have absorbed the flavours. Serve with rice.



GIBRALTAR  
**sunborn**

5 - STAR YACHT HOTEL  
CASINO RESORT



# CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS



## PACKAGE INCLUDES:

WELCOME AMENITIES | BREAKFAST BUFFET  
CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH BUFFET | CHRISTMAS DINNER ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
1X CHRISTMAS PAMPER VOUCHER AT SUNBORN INFINITY SPA (£50)

**Book 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> December, 4 nights £1050**

For 2 guests in a Super Yacht Superior Room

**Book 24<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2 nights £575**

For 2 guests in a Super Yacht Superior Room

Terms and conditions: offer Subject to availability in all outlets  
Bookings can not be combined with other bookings. Reservations must be made directly via phone or email cannot be extended to third party bookings  
Pre payment is required and bookings cannot be cancelled or modified.

TO BOOK CONTACT: +350 200 16900 | [RESERVATIONS@SUNBORNGIBRALTAR.COM](mailto:RESERVATIONS@SUNBORNGIBRALTAR.COM)

# Summer Is Coming Soon But First I Have Some Snow News For You

By Bruce Lyons. Edited by Shona Lyons

Immediately after Xmas our days will be filled with trying to match budgets with reality. Happens every year, but fortunately the Travel Trade helps with wonderful offers to get the “booking season” off to a good start. It’s triggered by Christmas Festive Behaviours – Turkey and Tinsel, you’ve eaten too much and your besieged on Telly with travel adverts and documentaries. But more of all that in the weeks to come.

For now, let me tell you about NEW travel opportunities. There has been a lot of creative travel work focussed on the Shoulder months; December/January/February/March and travel to the “Cold Spots”.

Santa Breaks are well known, but overall, on the expensive side. Northern Lights are much more within reach. Iceland, Norway, and Finland have plenty of those, just remember the days can be SHORT. This year we are in the middle of the 11 year Solar Cycle which has helped immensely with people getting a good glimpse of the Northern Light Phenomena. I am sure you have seen examples of the Northern Lights in the UK on Television. Yes, it is a good year to see the Lights. Of course, it shouldn’t come as a surprise to hear that if you are going to Iceland you won’t be swimming in the Blue Lagoon, as that is in Grindavik which has been evacuated due to the impending Volcano eruption, so they closed the Lagoon.

Here are some other exciting ideas. Please read on, good people of Twickenham.

**NORDIC EXPERIENCE**  
**ITINERARY**  
*Taiga Forest Adventure*  
18th – 22nd December 2023  
MUOTKA

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Leave for Lapland**  
Fly from London Heathrow to Helsinki, Finland. On arrival you will meet your local guide for the 40 minute transfer to the Wilderness Lodge which is set in the beautiful Taiga Forest next to the Kallunki National Park. On arrival you will be shown to your accommodation and briefed about collecting your thermal clothing. Dinner is welcome but not included. (Dinner is included in the price of the package.)

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Santa Surprise and Snowmobiling**  
This morning starts with a snowmobiling adventure. Follow your guide through beautiful scenery, enjoying the lights snowed there in plenty of white snow. Adults are asked to bring their own snowmobiling gear, or hire one from the lodge. Children can also hire their own snowmobiling gear, or hire one from the lodge. (Dinner is included in the price of the package.)

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Husky Safari & Christmas Craft**  
After breakfast, it is time to embark on a husky safari. After meeting the local dogs, you will be taught how to handle the sled before heading out into the surrounding Taiga Forest. The huskies will pull your sled through the forest and over frozen rivers. (Dinner is included in the price of the package.)

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> – Reindeer Farm**  
This morning you will travel to the local reindeer farm to meet some of Santa's special helpers. After a warm welcome you will have the opportunity to have a short ride on a sled, or to visit the reindeer farm to see the reindeer in their natural habitat. (Dinner is included in the price of the package.)

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Return to the UK**  
After breakfast, you will have time to enjoy the local shops and services. (Dinner is included in the price of the package.)

**IMPORTANT:** Outside temperatures can vary at this time between 0°C and 30°C. As such, local conditions can mean that the itinerary, location, duration and order of activities may change. Any changes to the itinerary will be made to ensure your comfort, enjoyment and safety in the region.

**NORDIC EXPERIENCE**  
**ITINERARY**  
*Taiga Forest Adventure*  
2023  
MUOTKA

**The magic of Christmas**  
A trip to Lapland to visit Father Christmas at his Arctic home will transport you to a time and place where we can all believe in the magic of Christmas. Parents and grandparents will have the opportunity to experience the wonder of Christmas anew through the astonishing looks and excited voices of their children and grandchildren. You are never too old to be one in the magic of Christmas.

**Flight Details**

18 Dec 2023	London Heathrow	Helsinki	1020/1512
18 Dec 2023	Helsinki	Oslo	1440/1600
22 Dec 2023	Oslo	Helsinki	1350/1525
22 Dec 2023	Helsinki	London Heathrow	1600/1700

**Accommodation – Muotka Wilderness Lodge**  
This former post office has been lovingly converted into an authentically crafted hotel that reflects the local culture. Located in an Aurora hot spot, this warm and cosy property captures the essence of rural life in Finnish Lapland, which is enthusiastically shared by its owners, Mari and Jouko.

Although small, Muotka offers adaptable accommodation including hotel rooms, apartments, cabins and log lodges that are flexible enough to accommodate couples, groups of friends and differing family sizes. In addition to the hotel's restaurant there is a welcoming lounge area and bar.

**Wilderness Room**

**Superior Sauna Room**

**Riverside Log Cabin**

**Restaurant**

**What's Included**

- Return flights from London Heathrow to Helsinki (UK-EU)
- Return bus transfers from Helsinki to Muotka
- Hotel accommodation
- Full Board
- Individual Finnish Lapland Forest Guide
- Wilderness Experience
- Bring your own snowmobiling gear
- Small children (5-11) free
- Small children (12-17) free
- Private thermal clothing
- Services of Nordic Lapland and local guides

**Adult Price** £2,475 pp  
**Child Price** £2,075 pp  
**Infant Price** £275 pp

The above adult price is based on 2 adults and 3 children staying in Superior Sauna Room.

**Supplements**

- Insurance, Jet Set Fee, Airport Transfer, Visa Fee, etc.
- Private Lapland Forest Guide

Prices subject to change without notice. All prices are in GBP and include all taxes and charges.

Nordic Experience, have the odd space on their Taiga Forest Adventure (18th – 22nd December) Santa/Huskey Safari/Snowmobiling/ Reindeer Farm and more.....This is Finland (fly t Ivalo) Arctic Circle. You even get your Reindeer Licence (don't tell the DVLR) £2475 adult: £2075 child- infant £250. Which will look great in the scrapbook!

More affordable still is the Northern Lights in Norway – Tromso  
3-night breaks £1200 per person B & B in the City and a 6 hr search for the Northern Lights Excursion.

Possibly even more appealing is Northern Iceland on the New flights to Akureyri from February to March (getting lighter). These are 4-night breaks, whale watching, waterfalls, Hot Pool, Baths – optional fishing on the Ice Lake (Myvatn) with Bird life, Volcanoes and much more from £1285p.p

Or better still price wise is the February Spitzbergen Winter Adventure  
1 night Oslo and 4 nights in 4\* Hotel Longyearbyen B & B. A total Arctic Wilderness Experience with Polar Bears, Polar nights, and Aurora Spectacle. From £995 p.p  
All flights referred to here have Heathrow options.



## AKUREYRI - THE WONDERS OF THE NORTH

### ICELAND

- Direct flights from Gatwick
- 4 Nights in a 4 star central hotel
- Breakfast
- Return Transfers
- Whale Watching
- Small Group Northern Lights Hunting
- Full day tour of Godafoss Waterfall, Lake Myvatn, Hvevir mud pools, Griotagia Cave and Mt Namafjall
- Nature Baths at Lake Myvatn (Entrance and towel)
- Forest lagoon geothermal baths (Entrance and towel)
- 23kg of luggage per person

Prices from  
**£1295**  
per person  
Validity  
February - March 24

For more details please speak to your travel agent



Terms & Conditions: Price is per person based on two adults sharing and valid for departures as specified. Price includes flights as specified, air payable taxes and standard accommodation. All prices are firm and subject to availability and change. Book by close of play. Nordic Experience reserves the right to withdraw this offer at any time. Full terms given at the time of booking. Holidays operated by Corbett Travel Ltd, ATOL protected 5335.



## SPITSBERGEN WINTER ADVENTURES

### SVALBARD

- Worlds most Northerly City
- Authentic Arctic Wilderness Experience
- Realm of the Polar bear
- 24 Hours Darkness Experience
- Svalbard's polar night & amazing Aurora displays
- Return flights from Heathrow
- 1 night accommodation in Oslo
- 4 Nights 4\* hotel in Longyearbyen with breakfast

Prices from  
**£995**  
per person  
Validity  
February 24

For more details please speak to your travel agent



Terms & Conditions: Price is per person based on two adults sharing and valid for departures as specified. Price includes flights as specified, air payable taxes and standard accommodation. All prices are firm and subject to availability and change. Book by close of play. Nordic Experience reserves the right to withdraw this offer at any time. Full terms given at the time of booking. Holidays operated by Corbett Travel Ltd, ATOL protected 5335.



If these don't entice you, then we are afraid maybe nothing will! Come and see us and have a chat. We have a warm, cosy office, even chocolates, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, even Lemsip and strepsils to offer you whilst we chat about these or other holiday ideas. We are off the square, by the giant chess board at 58 Church Street.



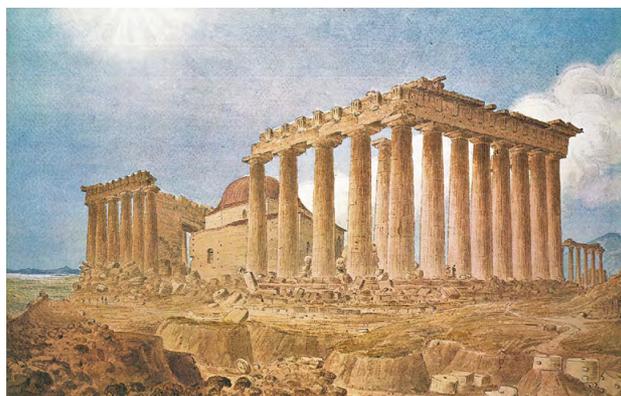
# The Elgin Marbles and The Twickenham Riverside Connection

Martha, Countess of Elgin (1739-1810) was one of the illustrious people who lived in Richmond House on Twickenham Riverside, soon to be the site of a block of luxury flats. Many areas would be only too pleased to celebrate the history of an area such as Twickenham Riverside, but I doubt that there is even a nod in this direction in the plans chosen by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

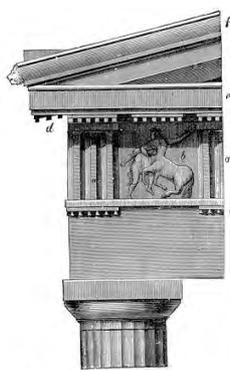
The Richmond Environmental Information Centre, a registered charity, studied the history of the Twickenham Riverside site a number of years ago and with the Elgin Marbles in the news it is interesting to remember the Twickenham connection.

Martha's husband was Charles Bruce, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Elgin; on his death the eldest son became the sixth Earl, but he died at the age of seven, thus Thomas became the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Elgin. Thomas was appointed the Ambassador Extraordinaire to the Ottoman Empire, known for bringing the "Elgin Marbles" from the Parthenon temple and other structures from the Athenian Acropolis to England in the early part of the nineteenth century.

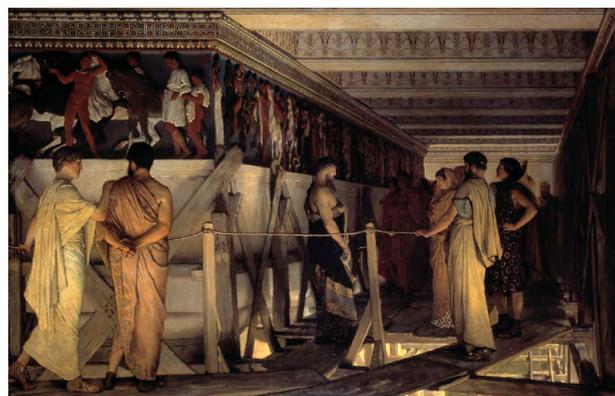
The Elgin Marbles are now in the British Museum in London.



*Drawing of the Parthenon by James Skene, 1838*



*The Doric order of the Parthenon*



*Phidias Showing the Frieze of the Parthenon to his Friends, 1868 painting by Lawrence Alma-Tadema*

Information about Greece from WorldInfoZone

<https://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=Greece>

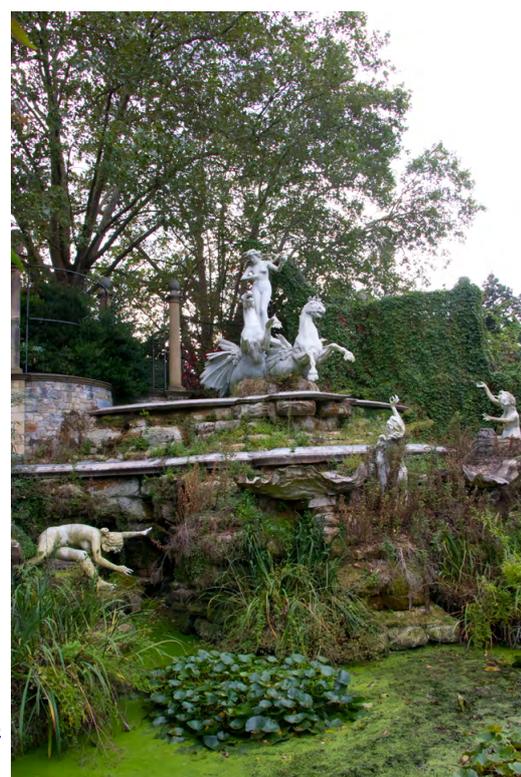
In Twickenham we have our own statues, known as the Naked Ladies in a water feature in the gardens of York House in Twickenham. The water feature has eight Oceanids (water nymphs) and two horses.

The water feature is a Grade II listed building carved from white marble, possibly from Carrara in Italy at the turn of the nineteenth century.

Italy has a notable artistic heritage especially in sculpture. The water feature was brought to Twickenham in 1906 by Sir Ratanji Dadabhoji Tata who owned York House at the time.

Italian Arts from WorldInfoZone:

<https://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=Italy&page=2#arts>



# Fall in love with Fall...

Through the eyes of a Twickenham shop keeper

By Deep Patel

I am sure I speak for everyone living in Twickenham when I say this past week we have all felt a real drop in the temperature and weather conditions in general...I think it's safe to say that you can definitely put away your summer wardrobe now (unless you are going to Barbados or somewhere similar, in which case...can I come?). Jack frost has even made a few early morning appearances here in Twickenham this past week and he's making sure we all know it too...I have had to wear gloves for the first time in a long time and I am not embarrassed to say I have been wearing 2 shirts one on top of the other (one day I wore three and a tee shirt inside) all week long just to layer up a bit.



This past week I have been having plenty of conversations with customers regarding the weather (yes, I know we all do this ALL the time and it is what makes us British, but this past week I have had many more of these conversations than I have in a long time...the sudden change in temperature seems to have spurred this on. Many of the conversations have been around the fact that this year autumn is around 5 to 6 weeks late...the majority of leaves have only JUST fallen to the ground and the trees are looking bare again (although some of the horse-chestnut trees on Twickenham Green are still holding on, refusing to succumb to the ways of Jack frost) ...

Some of my customers have been marvelling at just how wonderful mother nature is with all her colours changing in the leaves from the pale washout yellows to the more vibrant oranges and reds, whilst other customers have told me about how much of a nuisance the leaves are as sloppy slurry muddy slip hazards bringing dampness to everywhere they fall.

One man came into my shop on his way to work and told me that he had opted to go into work rather than work from home because every other day his wife keeps telling him to rake the garden, whilst another city worker expressed his anger that the incredibly heavy train that he took to work in the city each day could literally be "stopped in its tracks" by some fallen leaves on the track...

The conversations surrounding autumn (or Fall as they call it in the USA) have been more enlightening and very much more varied than I would have imagined...however, it wasn't a customer, but it was my own mother who inspired me this week on this subject matter.

We were just getting ready to shut the shop after a long day and I was bringing the advertising boards into the shop when a gust of wind suddenly came followed by a rainfall of leaves in golden brown and orange dancing as they twisted and turned gently floating as they danced to the ground...it was really quite magical and my mother and I both gazed up at the trees outside our shop on Hampton Road as the leaves kept falling so peacefully all around us...it was then that I felt a little sad suddenly and said to my mother “isn’t it sad how these leaves grew and majestically sat on the branches of these trees basking in the summer sun and shading us underneath and now they are falling to the end of their existence, never to dance again?”.

My mother smiled and put her arm around me as we stood at the door of our shop and said “Deep, who said they are falling to the end of their existence? They are simply moving on to do their next job...they were shiny and green during summer, but they are still so beautiful, look at the golden colours”. She went on to say “now they will go back into the ground to enrich the soil again and in turn be taken in through the roots to nourish the tree to provide new shiny green leaves the following year, and in this way their existence never ever ends, it simply continues going around and around”. My mother said “don’t be sad Deep, there is never ever a real end to anything, because an end is just another word for a new beginning”. She was right, and made me think.

My mother went on to say how she loved the autumn, and when I asked her why she loved it so much she said “in autumn, the trees drop their leaves because they no longer serve their purpose...and in life we must also drop the things that no longer serve our purpose...so be like a tree and drop what no longer serves your purpose and you will see how much happier you can be even through losing something, like the tree is at peace when it loses its leaves too”.

I slept with a smile on my face that night thinking about how the trees outside my shop had taught me so much through my mother that evening, and how as I slept, the trees would be relaxing, silently celebrating and heading towards a dormant mode where they dropped what no longer served their purpose...an unusual example of how we can also gain something through losing something...

***Remember...***

***“To win sometimes you have to lose...”***

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

### **RESPONSIBLE RAKING (GOOD KARMA):**

When you are raking your garden, try to be mindful of the many little lives that are trying to keep warm from the freezing conditions as they hide under those leaves too...when you rake, be gentle and allow time for woodlice, snails and centipedes to move on before you sweep them up, move any worms or snails aside...for every life you show mercy towards... the universe will show mercy towards you too...

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 group: “INSECT LOVERS”

# The trees of the Royal Parks

There are over 170,000 trees in the Royal Parks, some of the oldest and largest living things in the landscapes. They help give the parks their different characters and are loved by wildlife and visitors alike. Our staff are no different. For National Tree Week 2023 we asked to pick some of their favourite trees.

## Oak

### Richmond Park

When you think of [Richmond Park](#), two things probably come to mind: [deer](#) and oak trees! Richmond Park is an ancient hunting forest, which is part is the reason why it still has so many ancient oak trees today. As the park has been enclosed since the 1600s and been royal land since the 1200s, it has had a rare level of protection and landscape



continuity that sets it apart from many other parks. The continual presence of deer and careful management has kept Richmond Park looking more or less the same for nearly 1,000 years, in contrast to the formal landscaping projects that have made some of the other Royal Parks what they are today.



*Click image to view video*

The ancient oak trees of Richmond provide some of the rarest and most important deadwood habitats for invertebrate species in Britain. The deadwood conditions have developed over centuries and provide a variety of habitats from dead branches in the tree, dead wood on the ground, all manner of fungi and decaying wood in the trunk of the trees. Some of the rarest and most important habitats can be found at the base of cavities in the trunks of the oak trees;

the long-term deadwood areas are decayed by a succession of invertebrates and fungi, the rarest of which can only live off of the late-stage decay which can take centuries to develop. This is why the continuity of landscape management and protection of these trees is so important.



## Passion Play

by Peter Nichols

Teddington Theatre Club at the Coward Studio, Hampton Hill

*Passion Play* centres on the changing relationship of married couple James and Eleanor Croxley, which undergoes a forensic examination on stage when James is tempted away by the lure of a younger woman, Kate.

Director Ben Clare skilfully leads an exploration of human nature and morality, serving as a constant reminder of the conflict between desires and the views of society. The masterstroke is to allow the central characters to represent the outward actions, but then have two further protagonists, Jim and Nell, who respectively embody James' and Kate's consciences and



internal thoughts. This Cartesian dualism could be overbearingly dense, but it discovers a double-levelled story that is visible from many angles and is an immediate joy - the lightness of a theatrical *mille-feuille*.

James (Oliver Tims) and his wife Eleanor (Kirsty MacDonald) grapple with his inner conflicts. Kate was the mistress of his late best friend Albert, and public enemy number one to Albert's widow, Agnes, played with aplomb by Cath Messum. The cast delivers a highly commendable performance, with TTC stalwart Jane Marcus playing the edgy part of Nell.

Natasha Nicole shines in her portrayal of Kate, bringing a genuine quality, depth and conviction to a character that could've easily otherwise felt one-dimensional. However, it's Daniel Wain's portrayal of James Croxley's alter ego and conscience Jim which steals the spotlight. Wain's command of the character is enthralling, infusing the performance with a magnetic

intensity that drives the play forward.

Clare's direction of the play is clever, using minimal staging to emphasize the inner turmoil of the characters, as the play delves into themes of fidelity, morality, and the conflict between desire and societal expectations.

*Passion Play's* exploration of moral perspectives adds depth (and often humour) to a character-driven drama, illustrating the multifaceted nature of human ethics. The standout choice to split each of the leads into two parts elevates the play to a far greater level, and allowed the visualisation of the internal and external self to be openly examined.



Read Brent Muirhouse's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/11/23/passion](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/11/23/passion)

Photography by David Shortland



## The Mongol Khan

Hero Entertainment and Wild Yak Productions at the London Coliseum until 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Based on a play by the late Mongolian writer, Lkhagvasuren Bavuu, the beautifully crafted piece *The Mongol Khan* tells a cautionary tale of imperial greed and the determination of a fictitious leader of the Hunnu people, Archug Khan. In the early statehood of Mongolia, the nomadic Hunnu became a mighty force, challenging China for land. *The Mongol Khan* is set at the very peak of their power.

The plot revolves around the birth of two princes, three days apart; the first, born of the Archug Khan's wife, Queen Tsetser and the



second of his consort, Gerel. However, as he has not shared his wife's bed for years, he decrees that his son with Gerel should be declared heir to the throne. Indeed, it is Egereg the Khan's Chancellor, who has fathered Tsetser's child. However, Egereg and the estranged Queen swap the infants, determined that his blood-line will rule. All does not go to plan. As thirst for power gives way to terror and bloodshed, Khan pledges to continue his reign for the good of the Hunnu people.

The play is banned in China. In September, although approved by Chinese authorities for performance in Inner Mongolia (a Chinese province), it was cancelled at curtain-up. China's concern of the growing sense of nationalism among the Mongolian people was the cause. Nevertheless, director Hero Baatar was determined to bring his production to the stage and it was certainly enthusiastically received by a sympathetic West End audience.

Quite simply, the production is spectacular. Its seventy-strong cast, exquisitely adorned

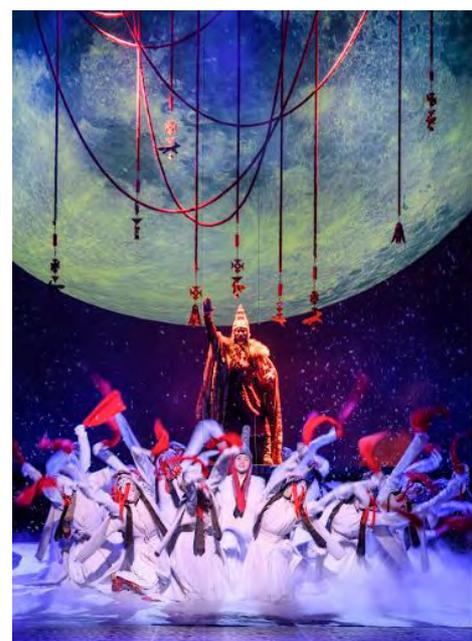
in traditional costume, excel in every area of theatrical performance. Traditional dances are immaculately choreographed, delivering a sense of Mongol spirit, identity and legacy. The acting is superlative.

Moreover, each character has eight spirit bodies, synchronised dancers mirroring the characters' movements at all times, sometimes replicating, sometimes echoing, sometimes anticipating the character's emotions. The effect is jaw-dropping, as is the level of complex choreography involved in making this happen, scene after scene.

*The Mongol Khan* is a masterpiece not to be missed.

Read David Stephens' review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/11/24/mongol-khan](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/11/24/mongol-khan)

Photography by Katja Ogrin



## The Creation

By Joseph Haydn, libretto by Baron Gottfried van Swieten  
Glyndebourne Festival Theatre until 15<sup>th</sup> December

It is a joy to stand in a gallery and immerse oneself in vast Old Master canvasses depicting the Garden of Eden, but in *The Creation*, orchestra and voices paint in music, as vividly detailed a picture as old master's oils, a description of God's creation of the World. Rich and powerful, it is remarkably upbeat, for finishes its narrative before the serpent and the apple mar the world. We are in a perfect prelapsarian realm of peerless innocence.

The libretto is derived from the Bible and Milton's *Paradise Lost*. Austrian polymath van Swieten developed the libretto, batting it between English and German translation, but keeping the robust directness of the words.

The optimistic ambience before the Fall permeates the performers in their animated delivery. Conductor James Henshaw's dynamism brings out all the brightness, lightness and fleetness of the work from the Glyndebourne Sinfonia.



Archangels Gabriel, Uriel and Raphael tell of the sequential days of God's creation in the voices of the soprano, tenor and bass soloists respectively. The Glyndebourne Chorus represents the heavenly host, who punctuate the oratorio in triumphant songs of praise.

Representation of Chaos before time began has a sense of unease. Then, a sudden sensational fortissimo, as God creates light, is amongst the most spectacular soundscapes in music. Orchestral pictures of light are further described by Uriel and Hugo Hymas's precise ringing tenor extols the brittle aventurine starlight with its "hosts of radiant orbs".

Gabriel tells of the appearance of flora as "fragrant herbs their odours shed". Soprano Cleo Lee-McGowan decorates the descriptions with thrilling athletic coloratura. The creation of the birds, the eagle "cleaves the air", and the "nightingale's delightful notes" echoes between flutes and soprano.

The biggest creatures are described in the rich resonant voice of bass William Thomas as Raphael. He also gets the other end of the scale. In his lugubrious description, "in long dimension creeps, with sinuous trace, the worm", one can almost see it dropping off the score's lowest staves.

The culmination is a paean of the delights of the Garden of Eden, told by Adam and Eve. It is a pity that this is not a staged work, as Thomas and Lee-McGowan show us the chemistry between Adam and Eve. It is perfect marriage, literally one made in heaven. They sing, "with thee is life incessant bliss" in a beautiful, exciting and uplifting passage.

Glyndebourne's *The Creation* is a wonderfully positive piece, an antidote to today's ills. We can count our blessings, reflect on good in the world, and muse that, but for that serpent, it could all be better.

Read Mark Aspen's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/11/20/creation](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/11/20/creation)

Photography by ASH ©Glyndebourne Productions Ltd

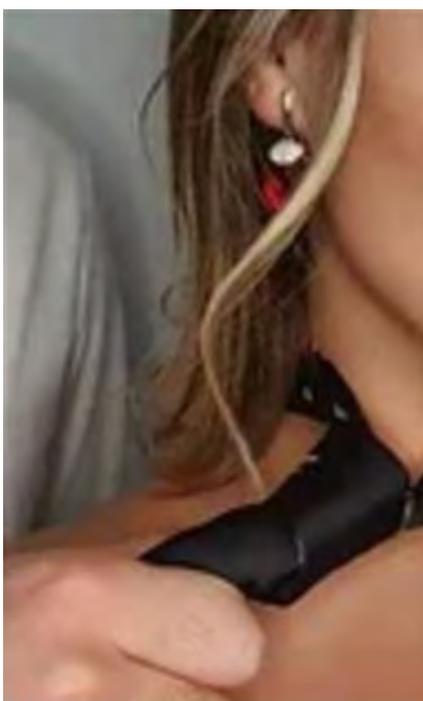


## Lady J

by Lewis Webb and Christina James, after August Strindberg  
Off Main Stage and Umbilicus Productions, at Waterloo East Theatre

The set is suitably black and bleak for the premiere of *Lady J*. A new translation of Strindberg's 1888 masterwork *Miss Julie* by a Merton College classics don, Dr. Lewis Webb, complemented with a contemporary adaptation by director Christina James, give the production a modern edge.

The two main characters are fatally flawed in this dark and depressing study of human nature. It's *Lady Chatterley* meets *Downton Abbey* as class and money motivate a troubled triangle. The action has been transplanted from Strindberg's *Midsummer Night's Eve* in late-19th-century Sweden to *Burn's Night* at an ancient university in contemporary Scotland.



Angst and anger run a calamitous course as the entitled and titled Lady J, played by Marianne James, flirts and fawns, tantalises and titillates in her pursuit of her father's butler. Lady J is the vain, bored and pampered daughter of the widowed provost of St. Duncan's College. A troubled family background - arson, suicide, infidelity all feature - go some way to explain her hang-ups.

She deserts the pomp of the formal dinner to join the fun and games of the domestic staff, setting her romantic sights on the macho Jock (Joshua Urquhart), all dark hair, moustache and muscles. He is at once flattered and enraged. Intelligent and well-read, Jock is an impoverished social climber determined to move up in this class-ridden world, while she seems determined to move down to gain freedom from the restraints of her upbringing.

As the night progresses, the intoxicating mix of Ceilidh, single malt and forbidden fruit provide a perfect recipe for a toxic union. Passion and desire spiral ever downwards as insults and taunts are traded.

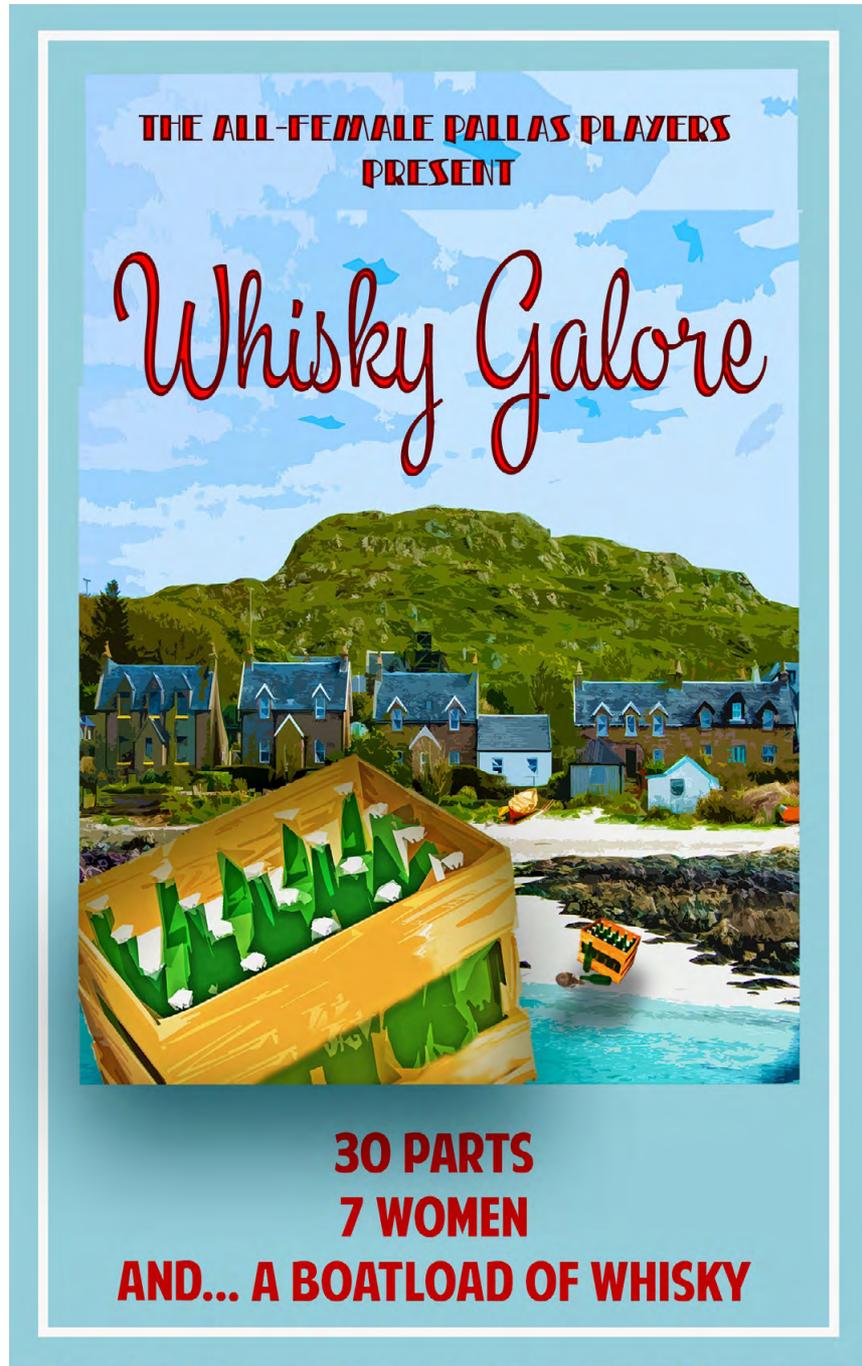
And all the while the long-suffering Kirsten (Anna Georgina), a homely housekeeper and cook at the big house and Jock's almost-fiancée, remains long-suffering, God-fearing and content in her social class. Whilst she is prepared to overlook Jock's philandering, her venom is directed at her mistress ... ..

Read Gill Martin's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/11/25/lady-j](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/11/25/lady-j)

Photography courtesy of Off Main Stage

# “Whisky Galore” at the Mary Wallace A Wee Dram at The Mary Wallace Theatre This Week

“The All-Female Pallas Players present WHISKY GALORE”  
by Compton Mackenzie, adapted for the stage by Philip Goulding.



A cast of seven actors will present the well-loved story of the whisky-starved Scottish islanders who were only too willing to “liberate” the cargo of Scotch, shipwrecked just a stone’s-throw from their shores. Their subsequent attempts to conceal their bounty from the police and customs officials promise to provide an evening of hilarious, tipsy entertainment.

Playing from December 9th-16th at 7.45pm - 3pm matinees 10th and 16th.

Tickets available now at [www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk](http://www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk)

Find the Mary Wallace Theatre on Twickenham’s Embankment, between St Mary’s Church and the Barmy Arms.



# Off The Record Twickenham to host Christmas concert

Off The Record's popular Christmas Concert at St Mary's Church, Twickenham returns this year on Tuesday 12 December.

The Off The Record concerts bring together talented local young musicians who are keen to support the charity's vital work. The evening will involve an audience who enjoy participating in singing their favourite Christmas carols.

Guests can also enjoy festive refreshments served after the concert with wine from Doran Family Vintners and an opportunity to win a fabulous prize in the Christmas Raffle.



The concert starts at 6.30pm and entry is free. Donations are very welcome on the night.

For more information, visit the [Off The Record website](#).

## Christmas presents needed for young care leavers

Cocoon, Care After Care are holding their annual Christmas Day Dinner for young care leavers to celebrate their resilience and create positive memories.

On 25 December, 50 young adults who grew up in care will be brought together for a very special event to ensure that they do not spend the day alone and will be treated to the Christmas they deserve.

All those attending on the day are aged between 18 to 25 and do not have family they can spend Christmas Day with.

As well as being provided with a delicious chef-prepared Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, entertainment and a hamper full of essentials, they will also go home with a sack full of carefully chosen high-quality presents.

If you would like to buy a present for a guest you can shop local at The Hare and The Moon in Twickenham who have a [specially curated gift list](#).



To find out more about the Christmas Day Dinner, please visit the [Cocoon, Care After Care website](#).

# Richmond Theatre Scoops Three Awards at The Richmond Business Awards 2023

Richmond Theatre are pleased to announce that the venue was thrice awarded at the Richmond Chamber of Commerce's Business Awards held on Friday 24 November at Twickenham Stadium.

The theatre, which will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> birthday next year, was recognised in the following categories: Best Digital Marketing (WINNER, for their 'Richmond Recreates' social media series), Best Environmental Sustainability (HIGHLY COMMENDED, for their lighting project which saw them change all stage lighting to LED lights), and the public-voted People's Choice Awards (COMMENDED). You can read more detail about our awards below.

Allie Long, Theatre Director, said: "We are thrilled to have received these three awards, which recognise and reflect the hard work and creativity of our team. This includes our commitment to improving our greener ways of working with our LED upgrade, and our local 'take' on the exceptional national touring product we receive with our Marketing team's brainchild, 'Richmond Recreates'. We couldn't be prouder to have received Commended for the People's Choice Award, the only publicly voted for category, firmly cementing our belief in the venue's importance in the heart of the Richmond cultural landscape."

Anne Newton, Richmond Chamber of Commerce, said: "Our congratulations go to all the Richmond Business Awards 2023 winners. The independent judging panel received excellent submissions across all the categories and these 2023 wins are all very well-deserved. It was fantastic to see directors and their teams celebrating in style last Friday and the vibe at Twickenham Stadium was truly electric!"

## About the Awards

### **HIGHLY COMMENDED for Best Environmental Sustainability**

In 2023, Richmond Theatre undertook a huge project to replace all stage lighting (which was at least 30 years old) with LED Lights. LED Lights are not only safer, sturdier, and longer lasting, but they have a much smaller carbon footprint. LED Lights emit 80% less greenhouse gases than incandescent bulbs and use 70-80% less energy than traditional lamps. Additionally, the theatre have purchased Solarpix 7's, which means the lighting colour and position can also be controlled from the lighting desk. This provides more flexibility for the show, as well as uses less electricity per light meaning less lights are needed overall.

### **WINNER for Best Digital Marketing**

In order to complement the high-quality touring product that comes to their venue, the Marketing team at Richmond Theatre this year began a new series across Instagram and TikTok called 'Richmond Recreates'. The series sees team members from across the business (from Customer Experience to Technical) come together to recreate show posters or production images for upcoming shows. Examples include being the cast of *Fisherman's Friends* by Richmond riverside, and helping *Peter Pan* 'Go Wrong' in an episode which gained over 23,000 views on TikTok. The fun, tongue-in-cheek series has become widely known across social media, with audience members regularly asking when the new 'episode' will be posted.



# Join Orleans House Gallery's Christmas shopping weekend!

Orleans House Gallery is hosting its fantastic Christmas shopping weekend on 2 and 3 December 2023 with 45 local makers selling their wares.

Come and enjoy live music, free family activities, and festive treats whilst looking for that perfect present.

With everything from jewellery and ceramics, to prints and homewares on offer, this year you'll also find a food marketing in our Stables Courtyard.

On Saturday 2 December, local band Eel Pie Two will be playing their trademark 1950s rockabilly, rock 'n' roll, country, and skiffle with a touch of jazz.

Guests can also explore the [Winter Show](#) in the Stables Gallery, which launches on Friday 1 December 2023 and runs until end of January 2024.

Each artwork on display will be original, for sale and made in the borough so come along and celebrate Richmond's vibrant visual arts community.

Find out more about the [Christmas shopping weekend](#).



# Celebrating trees this National Tree Week

Richmond is home to vast green spaces and beautiful acres of woodland. This National Tree Week, we're celebrating the immense benefits of our trees, the start of this year's tree planting season, and the launch of our revamped tree management policy.

Did you know that we are responsible for over 25,500 trees, 107 hectares of woodland and 12.5 kilometres of wooded towpath? In the last four years, we have planted more than 2,000 trees, with an average of 700 planted each year from November to March.

This planting season our aim is to work closely in partnership with local groups to plant approximately 800 trees within our highways, parks and open spaces. These will replace trees that have historically been removed and add trees in 300 new locations.

Our planting work will focus in particular on:

- Increasing shade for play areas in our parks and open spaces
- Enhancing natural habitats for our local wildlife within conservation sites, including planting key tree species such as Resista elm trees that support rare species like the white-letter hairstreak butterfly
- Continued planting of the endangered Native Black Poplar, which will include planting genetic clones of rare and unique specimens predominantly located on the Barnes riverside. This is being done in accordance with the aims of our Native Black Poplar Species Action Plan, which is part of [Richmond's Biodiversity Action Plan](#)



Our trees offer many crucial benefits to our communities and our environment, such as:

- Improving air quality
- Absorbing carbon
- Providing shade that reduces temperatures during extreme heat
- Creating natural habitats that support local wildlife
- Enhancing our physical and mental wellbeing through a connection to nature
- Making welcoming areas within our town centres that make people want to come and stay for longer, using local shops and restaurants

Our responsibility is to protect our trees against the effects of a changing climate, such as extreme heat and weather, and to do everything we can to enhance their benefits.

## Tree management

Our Tree Management team is made up of specialist arboriculturists and technical support officers, who work hard to make sure our trees are looked after.

We have recently launched our refreshed [Tree Management Policy](#), in which you can find out more detail about the vast work that takes place to care for, protect and enhance the many trees in our borough.



# Architecture Students Visit Zaha Hadid Foundation

Our A Level Architecture students recently visited the Zaha Hadid Foundation (ZHF) in central London, to help enhance their course learning.

The ZHF is a charitable organisation founded by Dame Zaha Mohammad Hadid DBE RA, who was an Iraqi and British architect, artist and designer, recognized as a major architectural influencer. The Foundation opened in 2022 with the purpose of preserving and making Hadid's works publicly available. It was also set up to help support young people and students (particularly from diverse and complex backgrounds) in their quest to become architects, designers, and scholars.



During the visit, students were given an introduction to ZHF and Zaha Hadid in a presentation from staff, followed by a tour of the building. The tour included seeing Hadid's first design studio and the Foundation's library, where they could explore books from Hadid's personal collection, as well as learn more about the history of the building. The afternoon consisted of a model-making workshop, which involved sketching designs inspired by Hadid's work to then turn into final paper models.

This trip was a fantastic opportunity to inspire our students and for them to learn outside of the classroom.

[Interested in learning more about our Architecture A Level course and what else we have to offer at RuTC? Browse our courses here.](#)

[Find out more about the Zaha Hadid Foundation here.](#)

# Science Student Receives Jack Petchey Award

Earlier this month, Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) was proud to present a Jack Petchey award for excellence to BTEC, Level 2 Applied Science student, Wiktoria Jakuszyk.

Wiktoria won this award for being a respectful student who engages and participates well in class activities. She is recognised by her peers and tutors as being a bold student who takes the initiative to help and support classmates. She is also a lead voice in raising students' concerns and welfare in the class, something valued very highly at RuTC.

Along with this, Wiktoria's communication skills are described as excellent and the lively spirit she brings to lessons creates a positive atmosphere and attitudes towards learning – she is praised as the heartbeat of her class! Academically, she is excelling in her science subjects and has committed to 100% attendance and punctuality.

Congratulations to Wiktoria, she is thoroughly deserving of this award!

Wiktoria commented on her achievement:

*“Success is not just a destination, but a journey paved with determination, perseverance, and unwavering commitment. Winning this wouldn't have been a possibility if it weren't for my lovely group and my friends and family!”*



**Richmond upon  
Thames College**

# **FULWELL AND HAMPTON HILL**

**DECEMBER 2023**



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**

Come and visit your local SNT officers this December. We look forward to seeing you, and if we don't see you we hope you stay safe over this Christmas period and have a lovely New Year.

## **THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER**

Quarterly PLG - Starts 7pm

The Greenwood Centre, 1A School Rd,  
Hampton Hill, Hampton TW12 1QL

## **FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER**

Community Contact Session - 12pm till 1pm

Squire's Garden Centre, Sixth Cross Rd,  
Twickenham TW2 5PA

## **WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER**

Pop-up Gazebo - 4pm till 6pm

Lidl Car Park, 50 South Rd,  
Twickenham TW2 5NT

## **SATURDAY 23RD DECEMBER**

Pop-up Gazebo - 3pm till 5pm

Near the Xmas Tree, High Street  
Hampton Hill TW12 1NL

## **THURSDAY 28TH DECEMBER**

Bike Marking Event - 3pm till 5pm

David Lloyd Hampton, Staines Road  
Twickenham TW2 5JD



# Hunt And Wyrwas Awarded Red Roses Contracts

Scrum-half duo Natasha 'Mo' Hunt and Ella Wyrwas have been awarded Red Roses contracts.

Debuting against USA in 2011, becoming Red Rose 161, Hunt has featured 67 times for her country to date over the past decade, winning the Rugby World Cup in 2014.

She has impeccable knowledge of the game and has transferred her excellent club performances at title-winning Gloucester-Hartpury on to the international stage.

Head of Women's Performance, Charlie Hayter, said: *"Mo's mindset to keep improving and push herself has seen her play some of the best rugby of her career over the past year."*

*"She suits the way we want to approach the game and her experience is invaluable. During the recent WXV campaign, she enhanced the Red Roses culture and has bought into what we are aiming to achieve on and off the field as we embark on our new journey."*

Wyrwas' six England caps have all been earned in a stellar 2023 which has seen the 24-year-old contribute to a Grand Slam TikTok Women's Six Nations title and success in the inaugural WXV competition.

Scoring her maiden try against Australia in October, the Saracens nine's desire to enrich her performance makes her a deserving recipient of a Red Roses contract.

Hayter added: *"Ella has taken the international opportunities during the 2023 Six Nations, and this year's WXV with both hands."*

*"She has brought her club form into the Red Roses environment and continues to grow and develop. We are looking forward to working with Ella as a centrally contracted player and continue to see her exciting talent evolve."*

Hunt and Wyrwas will reunite with their international teammates in January 2024 as John Mitchell leads his first training camp as head coach ahead of the Women's Six Nations.

Following last season's record-breaking crowd against France at Twickenham Stadium, the Red Roses will once again host a standalone fixture at the home of English Rugby. Ireland will provide the visitors on Saturday, 20 April (KO 14:15).

Two rounds prior, England Women head to Ashton Gate, Bristol to take on Wales on Saturday, 30 March (KO 16:45).

[Tickets](#) for both matches are on sale priced from £5 for kids and £15 for adults\*.

[England Rugby Hospitality](#) packages are also available.

*\*Adult ticket prices for the Red Roses v Ireland Women match will increase by £5 following the completion of an early-bird window.*



# Match Preview: Brentford v Luton Town

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

Written by Brentford Football Club

**A few years ago, not many would have believed that Brentford and Luton Town would be competing in the Premier League, but both sides, in large part thanks to impeccable off-field management, have surpassed all expectations.**

On the pitch, the Hatters and the Bees continue to punch above their weight, with Brentford aiming for another top-half finish and Luton looking to be competitive in their first season back in the English top flight since 1991/92.

Brentford's direct style of football is extremely difficult to play against and, [despite being edged out at home to Arsenal last Saturday](#), they sit firmly in mid-table, just below 10th-placed Chelsea on goal difference.

Having taken four points from their last three matches, Luton head into the weekend in 17th, four points above the relegation zone.

## Pre-match Analysis

Alex Lawes, Playmaker Stats: Saturday's meeting likely to be defined by aerial duels and set-piece opportunities

Whilst pragmatic and defined as 'direct', that doesn't mean Brentford are not an entertaining watch and their 13 matches in the Premier League so far this season have yielded 37 goals (19 for, 18 against) at an average of 2.85.

In contrast, only two teams have scored fewer goals than Luton (12) so far this season with only Sheffield United (11) and Burnley (10) hitting the net on fewer occasions.

The Hatters' relative lack of firepower thus far is reflected by the fact that they have averaged the joint-fewest shots on target per game (2.7 level with Sheffield United).

Rob Edwards' side are reliant on forcing themselves into the 'position of maximum opportunity' before taking a punt with the fewest shots per game from outside the box (3). That is a similar method to Brentford, in some respects, the Bees' 2.2 shots per game inside the six-yard box placing them second in the division behind Everton from close range.

Given that, this match is likely to be defined by aerial duels and set-piece opportunities with a reliance on long balls. Luton's 39.1 inaccurate long balls per game offer an example of just how often they attempt to get the ball launched and that will likely help Brentford's defending as the Bees manage 25 clearances per game, the most in the division. So, Luton's biggest strength would appear to be



something that Brentford are built to contend with.

Having said that, though, Luton themselves rank fourth for most clearances so with their five-at-the-back system, they will be confident of shutting down Brentford's own attempts to target their six-yard box.

Interestingly, though, both teams are quite effective and efficient in possession with Brentford being dispossessed on average just 6.8 times a game, the fewest in the Premier League, while Luton are dispossessed only 8.1 times per match, meaning only four teams in the Premier League have been dispossessed less than the Hatters on average.

An intriguing game lies in store with both teams appearing capable of dealing with their opponent's key strengths.

## **Scout Report**

Luton looking to make more history following Premier League promotion

Luton Town in the Premier League, who would have thought it?

When Brentford lifted the League Two title after a 2-0 win over the Hatters at Griffin Park on the final day of 2008/09, the visitors were at the end of a season where they had been fighting a losing battle, after being handed a 30-point deduction for off-field issues.

Though their 13 wins and 17 draws should have led to a 15th-place finish, the penalty saw them finish 15 points from safety, meaning they dropped out of the Football League for the first time in their history as a result.

The journey since has been nothing short of inspirational and now, after a remarkable three promotions in 10 seasons, they find themselves as the 51st club to play in the Premier League since its foundation in 1992. Had they not been relegated from Division One in 1991/92, they would have already experienced life at the new top table long ago, of course.

The last - and most pivotal - of those promotions was secured at Wembley on 27 May, when Rob Edwards' side beat Coventry 6-5 in a tense Championship play-off final penalty shootout that followed a 1-1 draw, which was marred by the concerning collapse of Tom Lockyer.

Even going into the so-called richest game in world football, they were seen as underdogs by some, not least because of the fact Edwards had been in his role as Nathan Jones' successor for little more than six months by that point.

Promotion, understandably, put the club under the spotlight. First, there was the social media fixation with the unusual away entrance at Kenilworth Road, then the fact they had to stump up £10 million to bring the stadium up to league regulations, which resulted in the postponement of their opening home game, was scrutinised.

The Hatters' recruitment was also picked to pieces. Their signings were made with a tight budget in mind, with some suggesting their lack of frivolousness in the transfer market constituted a lack of ambition and that they were simply setting up for life back in the Championship after a brief foray into the big time.

It has not been easy so far - far from it - but Luton's grit and spirit has forced some to swallow their words.

They opened with four straight defeats but earned their first point after a 1-1 draw with 10-man Wolves on 23 September and their first win a week later, when they left Goodison Park with three points after a 2-1 victory over Everton, thanks to goals from Lockyer and Carlton Morris.

Five further points have come from the seven league games since and, though they have lost four of those games, only one has been settled by more than a one-goal margin.

Taking a brief look into the stats, Luton are underperforming in terms of expected goals (16.66 xG v 12 actual) and expected points (10.06 xPTS v 9 actual), but they boast the biggest overperformance in the division when it comes to expected goals against (32.45 xGA v 23 actual).

There is real potential for this team to make strides against the odds as the players' experience grows week by week.

That said, even with Everton's 10-point deduction and the various signs of positivity, Luton are up against it this term; one bookmaker has an immediate relegation priced at 4/11, at the time of writing.

But this club are used to facing adversity and, when you factor in recent times, to even call it adversity is doing the magnitude of their journey back from the depths a disservice.

As cliché as it sounds, it is fuel that is welcome to be poured upon their fire. Whatever happens this season, Luton have made history, but keeping that Premier League status for another year would make those history books look infinitely better.

## **In the Dugout**

Rob Edwards

Former Wales international Rob Edwards played the final game of a career hampered by injury on 2 March 2013, aged just 30. In the decade since, has been on an exciting journey in the world of coaching that has led him to managing a Premier League team in his own right perhaps even sooner than he might have anticipated.

Edwards made inroads at Wolves - for whom he had played from 2004 to 2008 - working with the youth teams initially, before moving up to work with the first team, even leading them in two Championship games after Walter Zenga's short tenure came to an end in 2016.

In the summer of 2017, he left Molineux to take over at Telford United in the National League North and, after one season, returned to lead Wolves Under-23s into the Premier League 2 Division 1 after a successful 2018/19 campaign.

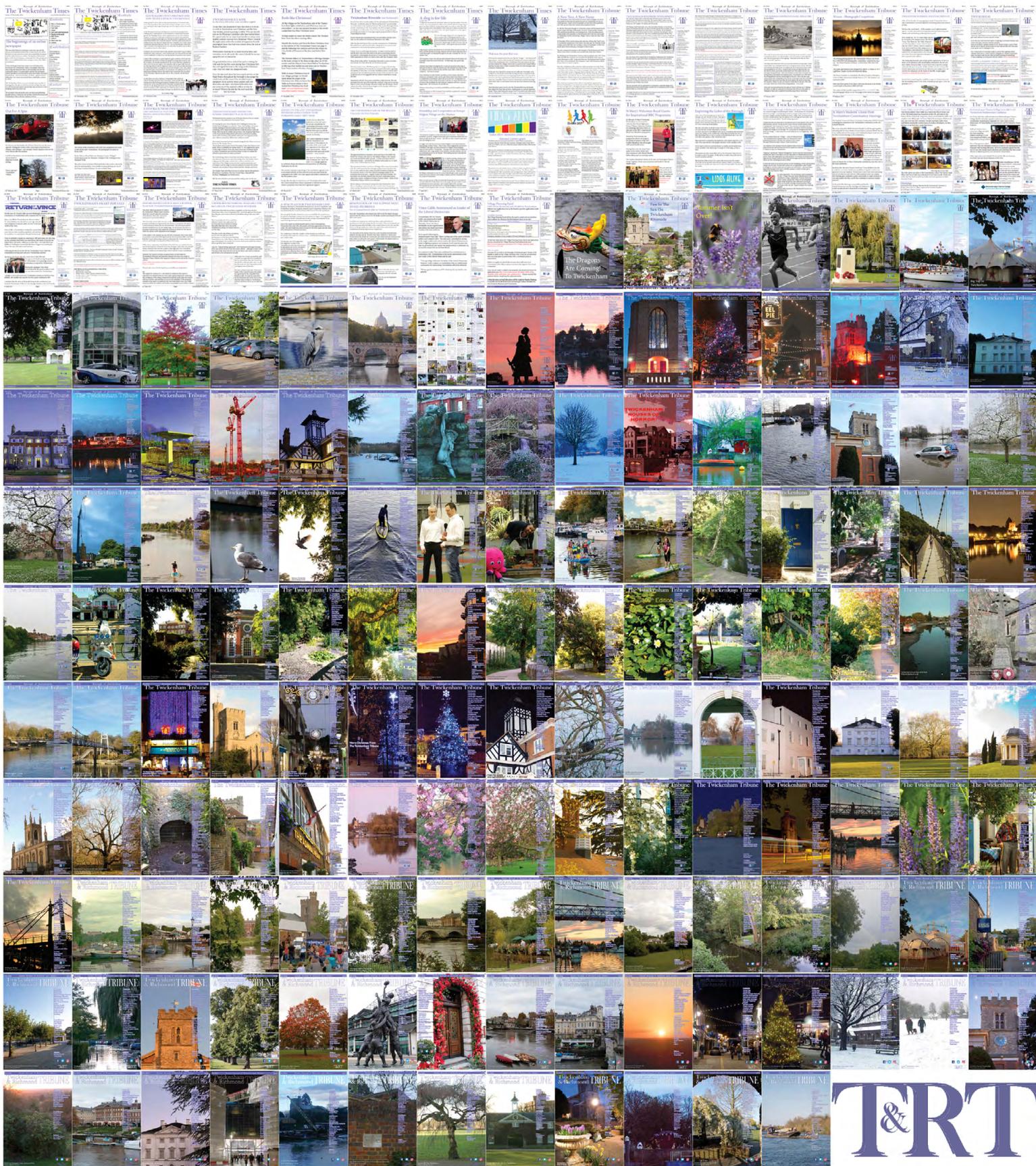
Those efforts led to Edwards being headhunted by England and, in the national-team set-up, he worked as England under-20s assistant and then under-16s head coach, coaching players such as Liverpool's Bobby Clark and Sunderland's Jobe Bellingham.

He guided Forest Green Rovers to the Sky Bet League Two title in 2021/22 - his only season in Nailsworth - before moving on to Watford, where he was given just 10 Championship games before being sacked in September 2022 after delivering only three wins in that time.

Less than two months later, he joined Luton - Watford's arch-rivals - and the rest is history.



# 369 editions of the **Twickenham & Richmond Tribune** online - Lots to read: News, Reviews, History, Sports and On-going Sagas in the Borough of Richmond upon Thames



Half Page

Quarter Page  
Landscape

Quarter Page Portrait

Eighth Page

Eighth Page  
Landscape

Example advert sizes shown above

Thousands read The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune

If you are reading this you could be advertising your business with  
The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune. Community rates are  
available

Contact: [advertise@TwickenhamTribune.com](mailto:advertise@TwickenhamTribune.com)

View ad details at [www.TwickenhamTribune.com/advertise](http://www.TwickenhamTribune.com/advertise)

**Contact**

[contact@TwickenhamTribune.com](mailto:contact@TwickenhamTribune.com)  
[letters@TwickenhamTribune.com](mailto:letters@TwickenhamTribune.com)  
[advertise@TwickenhamTribune.com](mailto:advertise@TwickenhamTribune.com)



**Published by:**

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune (in association with World InfoZone Limited)

Registered in England & Wales

Reg No 10549345

The Twickenham Tribune is registered with the ICO under the Data Protection Act, Reg No ZA224725

©Twickenham & Richmond Tribune. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be used or reproduced without the permission of Twickenham & Richmond Tribune. While we take reasonable efforts, this online newspaper cannot be held responsible for the accuracy or reliability of information. The views and opinions in these pages do not necessarily represent those of The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune.

[Terms & Conditions](#)