

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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Editors

Berkley Driscoll
Teresa Read



8th December 2023



TickerTape - News in Brief

Richmond Police

Richmond Police reported "Police were called at 06:40hrs on Wednesday, 6 December by London Ambulance Service to St James Primary School, Stanley Road, Twickenham after a male was found unresponsive.

The male, aged in his 50s, was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The incident is not being treated as suspicious.

His next of kin has been made aware.

Our thoughts are with the family and friends of the deceased at this time."

Take part in a seasonal singing session with Whitton Adult Community Singing Group

Come and join the Whitton Adult Community Singing group for a seasonal open session on Saturday 9 December from 11.30am to 1pm at Whitton Community Centre, Percy Road, TW2 6JL.

The singing group is for adults of all ages, cultures and ability levels. No previous experience needed.

Guests can come along to listen and join in. The free event will also include refreshments. If you are interested in taking part and joining the group, you are welcome to come for a free trial session on any term time Saturday from 11.15am to 12.30pm.

The next term starts on Saturday 6 January 2024.

For more information please contact Whitton Adult Community Singing at loulla82gorman@gmail.com or on 07788 664957.



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

The Tree Agency

The Local Picture Postcard Page Part 226

By Alan Winter

The Black Dog Pub, London Rd

First registered as a Twickenham business in 1722, the name Black Dog survived 250 years until 1975. Its address was 60 London Road in 1899 and earlier after which the road was re-numbered and the Black Dog then became No. 11. Since 1975 it went through several name changes and has variously been named Twickers, Hobgoblin, Filthy McNasty and The Grand Union. In recent years it has morphed into several short-lived food and drink businesses none of which has survived for very long. At the time of writing the building is still empty and unused.

At the beginning of the 20th century this was a very popular town centre pub. Our first postcard shows a nice frontage of the pub and was an advertising card given out at the pub when the licensee was Isleworth born Arthur Finn. Note the Black Dog statue on the roof name plinth. It was certainly there before 1900 but disappeared in later years. During the late Victorian era and right up to the late 1960's two full size snooker tables stood at the back of the pub. It also seems that it was compulsory for men and boys to wear caps in those days as you can see. This postcard was posted in 1911, three years before the first World War.

Arthur Finn was married to Louise Caroline and they had three children all of whom died in childhood. Arthur was born in 1870 and died in Twickenham in 1924, aged 54.

Both Arthur and Louise had publicans as parents so you could say that beer was in their blood. (Thanks to Stanley Stanley for that line!).

Our second photograph was posted in 1901 before the Kingsway buildings were built on the opposite corner to the pub (where the Midland HSBC bank has just closed.) A great photo of that Victorian / Edwardian period showing period dress and trams etc.



ARTHUR FINN. The Black Dog Twickenham.



The pub went through a period when it put on some good musical acts in the 1970's and among the top bands to appear there were the Troggs and the Searchers.



The third and final picture is of the Grand Union pub which was a short lived but recent iteration of one of Twickenham town centres main and historic buildings. Hopefully someone can bring it back to life soon.

An idea - why not put a bar and couple of snooker tables with a dartboard and a shove halfpenny board in it and call it The Black Dog?

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

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

Escapology Experts

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)



Dear Tribune,

Their Snouts in *Your* Trough?

Richmond Council Leader Gareth Roberts recently admitted that parts of Richmond town centre '*Could be a bit better*', so his Council spent £45,000 of *our* money on a survey asking residents for ways to improve it.

Amazingly, it's now been announced that, for presiding over a town which has deteriorated to the point where it most certainly could be a LOT better, the reward is a massive 52% rise in his Special Responsibility Allowance. Other council members will also receive increased allowances made under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 et al.

However, whilst there is no suggestion of impropriety under the rules, this begs the wider question of whether ANY public bodies should be allowed to award themselves pay rises without scrutiny by the actual electorate whom they purport to serve, especially in hard times.

Only this week, the Prime Minister said that all public organisations should '*cut their cloth accordingly*' during a difficult time for households.

But, in the above survey, not one question asked whether *our* council should cut its cloth accordingly, even though Cllr Roberts himself was reported as having opposed a mere 0.5% increase in councillors' allowances when in opposition in 2016, saying it was a conflict of interest for councillors to award themselves a pay rise. A convenient loss of memory, perhaps, or just blatant hypocrisy?

All this money could have supplied thousands of hot meals to the needy in this bitterly cold season. Even Mr. Bumble, the beadle in *Oliver Twist*, couldn't eat that many.

Leaders should lead by example. A *good* example, that is.

But massive public pay rises such as this, particularly just before Christmas, clearly show the arrogance of our Liberal Democrat Council and its callous disregard for those struggling to pay their mortgages, heat their houses, and feed their children.

So, Liberal with *our* money but not Democratic enough to ask us how to use it.

Public service – or public self-service?

Michael Jay
Hampton

Dear Sir,

Making allowances for Christmas

At Richmond's Full Council Meeting on 28 November, it was announced that Council Leader Gareth Roberts will receive a 52% increase in allowances.

What a lovely Christmas present at our expense – even though when in opposition in 2016 he said it was a conflict of interest for councillors to award themselves a pay rise. Wrong then so why OK now?

No doubt our increased council tax for 2023/24 will help pay for it.

How generous we are!

Never mind the fact that we're all struggling to pay for our mortgages, food, and heating bills at ever rising prices.

Cllr Roberts himself recently said that: 'Richmond could be a bit better'.

Well, it certainly will be for him.

In fact, 52% better.

From a Richmond Resident, (Name and address supplied)

Sir

Solum Planning Extension

Readers who are familiar with the triangle of land below the London Road railway bridge might be interested to read that Solum has applied to the Council (Ref: 19/3616/NMA1) for an extension to the planning permission as they are struggling to meet the deadline of sticking a spade in the ground before 3rd March 2024, when their 3 years is up. This land, formerly a car park and right next to the mainline railway has no sewage, water, gas, electricity and an attempt by Thames Water to start to lay sewer connections had to be postponed because there was no traffic management plan in place and it became apparent that the long closure of Station Road would impact negatively and dangerously on nearby residents.

The plan is to build 46 flats on this small plot of land, with no parking provision except for two disabled bays. Some residents will have cars and will certainly have friends / family with cars, deliveries etc, thus putting more strain on the residential area.

Solum ends its plea for an extension by stating that until Thames Water has completed their works, no building works can occur and "would add significant financial burden to the Applicant and risk rendering the scheme unviable."

Solum might be better cutting their losses now and finding an alternative and more suitable site to build their flats and this triangle returned to car parking to alleviate the burden when parking is soon removed from Twickenham Riverside.

Name and address supplied (Twickenham)

Twickenham's Treasure Island

By Doug Goodman

The view most of us get of Eel Pie Island is from the river bank by The Barmy Arms or from the gardens by St. Mary's Church.

But last weekend visitors crossed the bridge to see the displays put on by the island's artistic community. The opportunity to explore the workshops gave Doug Goodman plenty to photograph.





Kingston Bridge House redevelopment

Another major application lacking affordable housing

By James Knight

Richmond Council planning officers are recommending approval for plans to convert student housing in Hampton Wick into 70 flats at the next planning committee meeting on the 6th of December. Controversially, the scheme **will only have 4 affordable housing units** which is only 5.7% of the total: against the target in the new Richmond Local Plan for 50%. Instead, officers are recommending there will be a review of the viability later to see if the development is profitable enough to contribute to offsite provision.

Some positive outcomes of the development would be a new facade that will improve the look of the host Hampton Wick Conservation Area, a green roof to improve biodiversity, and the pavement by Church Grove and Hampton Court Road being widened by taking land from the development site.

Why is Richmond failing to deliver enough affordable housing?

The reason is twofold. Richmond Council is still using the viability method that most London Boroughs have stopped using because developers know how to game it. Secondly, it suits the council's administration to collect offsite contributions as it allows them to use the money to build their 'own' developments and present them as something 'they' achieved like a magician pulling a rabbit out of the hat.

The most notable example of this magician's art is the Twickenham Riverside Development where Cllr Gareth Roberts loves to claim that 'he' is delivering 50% onsite affordable housing. However, behind all the smoke and mirrors the funding for this is coming from gutting the affordable housing out of other developments like Kingston Bridge House.

This merry-go-round may engineer positive PR for the ruling Liberal Democrat group but for the 5,000-plus people languishing on the housing waiting list, this is another dose of bad news. Relying upon viability testing and offsite contributions delivers substantially fewer affordable homes than onsite provision.

It is also notable that the Greater London Authority is objecting to the much-delayed **new Richmond Local Plan** as they believe Policy 11 (on the affordable housing threshold approach) **'is not in general conformity' with Policy H4 of the London Plan 2021** and will result in fewer affordable houses being delivered. With Richmond unwilling to back down, there is a real risk the planning inspector may reject the whole Local Plan at the inspection hearing in Summer 2024.

To see the GLA objections go the London Assembly website [HERE](#)

Richmond Named Happiest Place to Live in Britain

Richmond has been named the happiest place to live in the country in a national survey by property website Rightmove.

The survey, which polled over 26,000 people, asked residents how they feel about their area based on 13 happiness factors.

These include things like the club-together community spirit of a local area, having green space on the doorstep, or the sense of belonging in a local community.

It's the first time anywhere in London has come top of the survey since it was launched 12 years ago.



The news has been welcomed by Be Richmond, the town's Business Improvement District (BID): *"We are incredibly proud to see this wonderful place presented with the accolade it deserves,"* said Lou Abbotts, Be Richmond's Chief Operating Officer.



"Aside from the beautiful natural assets of parkland and the river Thames with far reaching views into the city, it is a bustling town centre full of a mix of boutiques and big-name stores to be discovered in the lanes and on the High Street. With Scotts, the Ivy, Megan's and Gails it has all the Chelsea eateries with the feel of Surrey. Family and community events and activities like the free Christmas pop ups, wellbeing walks and the annual mass paddle boarding litter pick all add to Richmond's strong sense of community. It's easy to see how it really is one of the happiest places to live, work and explore," she added.

News of Richmond's success was also welcomed by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan.

"I'm delighted for Richmond to win this award. It has so much of what makes London so special – its access to beautiful green spaces, its real sense of community, and an array of shops, cafes and local culture that makes it stand out," he said.

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 go to berichmond.london

Step into a fairytale with a Shire Horse Carriage Ride

This winter, spoil a loved one with something truly unique and book an enchanting seasonal carriage ride drawn by majestic [Shire Horses](#).

Enjoy the sounds of hoofs and bells. Revel in the crisp air and watch the wildlife up close while you snuggle under a blanket...and have some sloe gin and mince pies to truly get into the festive spirit!

Experience Richmond Park and Bushy Park like never before whilst getting a unique behind-the-scenes visit of the stables.

Proceeds will help fund sustainable conservation initiatives with the working Shire Horses in the Royal Parks.

When: 17 December - 1 January

Buy tickets for [Richmond](#) or [Bushy Park](#)



Richmond Council launches Action Pack to support residents in responding to climate emergency locally

Richmond Council has launched its first [Climate Emergency Resident Action Pack](#), an easy-to-navigate guide for local people looking for guidance on actions they can take to reduce their impact on climate change as well as lower the impact that climate change can have on our borough's people, homes and spaces.

It is full of simple, everyday actions and links to local groups, services and resources available.

The Resident Action Pack explores each pillar of the Council's [Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan](#) and aims to provide clear, up-to-date information about how residents can work together with the Council and other local groups and organisations, to achieve the greatest collective impact in limiting climate change and responding to its effects.

Cllr Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee, said:

"As we continue to implement our ambitious plans to become a Net Zero Borough by 2043, we are committed to providing residents with the information they need to take action on climate change and work together with us to find shared solutions to reducing our collective carbon footprint.



"Small changes in our everyday habits and behaviours can make a huge difference in lowering our carbon emissions. But, with so much information available and so many areas to consider, it can be difficult to know where to start and what convenient support is available to help. That's why our Climate Change team has worked hard to compile our comprehensive Action Pack for residents, to help serve as that starting point and make connections to others who are already championing sustainability work in Richmond upon Thames."

The Resident Action Pack dives into themes like air quality, energy efficiency, community projects, nature and biodiversity, ability to respond to extreme weather patterns, waste and recycling, and the additional benefits acting on climate change can bring in saving residents money and improving their health and wellbeing. It also includes a glossary of terms to help unpick common climate change jargon.

Read through it [here](#).

Turing House School celebrates a glowing Ofsted inspection

By James Knight

In October Turing House School in Whitton received a routine 'ungraded' inspection visit from Ofsted. The Inspection report published last week stated that had a full inspection been carried out **it believes the school would be upgraded from Good to Outstanding.**

Ofsted wrote: "Pupils are proud members of this school community. They hold a great deal of respect for their teachers, who ensure that they are in a caring and stimulating learning environment. Leaders have been thoughtful about every aspect of pupils' experience. This leads to pupils being happy, treating each other respectfully and behaving very well. **Pupils' academic achievement is exceptional.**"

"Leaders fulfil their vision to provide a rich curriculum and a welcoming atmosphere to all pupils. Expectations are high, and pupils make the most of the opportunities available to them. Teachers are inspirational and act as caring guides with the best interests of pupils at heart."

"A vast range of activities is available to pupils before, during and after school. Pupils can choose from football, netball, drama, judo, debate, mindfulness, chess and a band club among many other available clubs. When pupils show interest in an area not provided for, it is not unknown for the school to introduce additional activities to meet these interests. Pupils are also encouraged to be citizens in the local community. Pupils who take on volunteering roles are celebrated for their efforts and act as role models to their peers."

"The school has organised its curriculum to be ambitious and rigorous. Leaders have thought carefully about exactly what they want pupils to learn and when they should learn it in each subject. Leaders go further, aiming to nurture curiosity and passion for subjects. These expectations remain equally high for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Consequently, pupils achieve very well in public examinations."

Turing House School in battle with council over expansion plans

The inspection report shows there are currently 786 pupils in the secondary school, 36 pupils more than there are supposed to be, but only 153 pupils in the sixth form. Because of this, the school applied for planning permission nearly a year ago to alter the ratio of pupils between the secondary school and the sixth form as stipulated in planning condition NS14 (750 pupils in the secondary school and 300 in the sixth form).

The Twickenham and Richmond Tribune understands that the **council is opposing this application** as it wishes to protect pupil numbers at nearby Twickenham School. Minor planning applications like this are supposed to be determined within 8 weeks yet it is unclear when the application will be put in front of the planning committee even though it has been in the system for over 50 weeks.

Festive Stories with Father Christmas At Marble Hill House

Join in the festive fun with Father Christmas at Marble Hill as the man himself tells seasonal stories among the traditional decorations.

Tickets to Festive Stories with Father Christmas at Marble Hill costs £12.50 per child. This includes the group storytelling session and a small present.

These will begin promptly at the allocated start time so please arrive at least 30 minutes before your booked slot.

Please note, due to capacity of the room, only one adult may accompany each child ticket holder.



DATE: Every weekend throughout December

TIME: 10:30, 11:10, 11:50, 12:30, 13:20, 14:00, 14:40, 15:20

LOCATION: Marble Hill

[Sat 9 Dec](#)

[Sun 10 Dec](#)

[Sat 16 Dec](#)

[Sun 17 Dec](#)

[Sat 23 Dec](#)

How to book

Simply click on a date you would like to book above and this will take you to our online booking system. Choose your admission tickets, click checkout and then add on the number of 'Father Christmas at Marble Hill' tickets you would like under the 'Enhance Your Visit' section.

Please make sure you bring your booking confirmation with you when you visit.

If you are a Member please remember to bring your English Heritage Membership card.



ENGLISH
HERITAGE

Hampton North Police

Come to meet your local officers for a chat and find out more about what is going on in our area.

When? This **Saturday, 9th December at Hampton Common**. Time 11:00 till 12:00hrs. See you there.



**Let's Walk & Talk.
Share your thoughts
on women's safety.**

Come and chat to our friendly local officers on a 'walk and talk' of the local area. We're inviting you to tell us your experiences and concerns. If you feel unsafe in a particular area, let us know so we can work with partners to improve safety on our streets.

If you wish to register for a Walk & Talk please email WAMailbox.Walk&Talk@met.police.uk



Welcoming Hong Kong residents to the borough

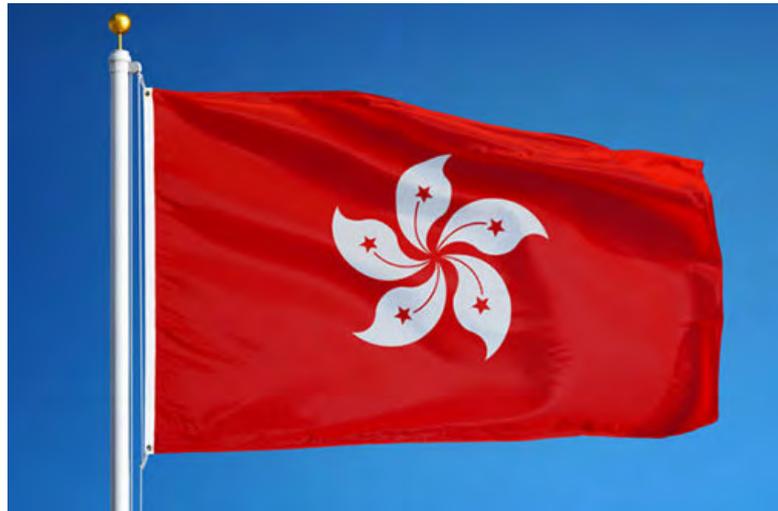
In 2022 and 2023, we were awarded funding from the Greater London Authority's (GLA) Hong Kong British National Overseas (BNO) fund.

In 2022, we spent the awarded £16,822 on improving access to advice and information for Hongkonger's (HK) settling in the borough. We developed a digital [Welcome to Richmond information pack](#) for new residents from Hong Kong.

We also engaged with students and their families through primary and secondary schools. We funded [Achieving for Children](#) to work with teachers in our primary and secondary schools delivering training workshops to teachers and parents of students.

In 2023 we were awarded £21,205 to help fund the following:

- Further schools work from June to November 2023
- Multicultural Richmond – The local organisation held weekly Community Social events in Ham over 6 months to:
 - Make Hong Kong residents feel welcome, an opportunity to socialise and give them confidence
 - Provide an opportunity for them to get to know the borough through events and trips with friends and family, like trips to Kew Gardens and Frensham Great Ponds
 - Involve Citizens Advice Bureau to offer advice and information
 - Provide English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) classes for adults
- A series of events were carried out in the summer of 2023 for young people from the HK community at Ham Youth Centre, partly designed by some of the HK young people to introduce others to what they saw as important parts of their identity.
- Libraries resources - a selection of adult and children's books in Cantonese and traditional Chinese will be stocked in libraries in areas with the highest number of HK settlers from December 2023.



For more information, visit LBRuT's [Hong Kong pages](#) and the [Multicultural Richmond website](#).



The Ghost of Christmases past

By Shona Lyons

This week I decided to change the Church Street of Twickenham face book page I had managed over many years whilst I was secretary of the Church Street Association (2006-2022).

I had used the page to promote the street and let the local community know about the many fairs and events I organised with Bruce, my dad (chair of the association these last 35 odd years)

Someone told me it was confusing that there were now two face book pages for Church Street Twickenham, and he suggested that I remove or change mine.

I didn't know anyone had a monopoly on pages for Church Street and I think, mine had been there much longer than any new page, but as I am not organising any fairs or events now & to, remove any confusion, I have renamed it, Memories of Church Street Twickenham, as it truly has many wonderful memories of all the things, me and my family did and the work we put into the street.

Here is a glimpse of a Christmas fair from just a few years back.

Happy Christmas Everyone!







DECEMBER FOOD AND DRINK NEWS

The number of sometimes weird, but often wonderful, new flavours of crisps launched for Christmas, isn't surprising really, as we're entering the entertaining season. I've recently tried a couple of ranges: one from **Tesco** and the other from **Walkers** and they're both good. The Walkers Beef Wellington flavour in the Sensations range combines rich umami mushroom flavour with notes of thyme. Also featured in the festive



range is the divisive **Walkers Christmas**

Pudding flavour, which has left crisp

fans divided (including me). The new range also includes **Walkers Sensations Beef Wellington** (150g sharing bag), £2.50, along with **Walkers Roast Turkey** (5 pack multipack), £2.00, **Walkers Pigs in Blankets** (5 pack multipack), £2.00, and **Walkers Sensations King Prawn** (150g sharing bag), £2.50.

The Tesco selection includes something for those with a taste for home comforts: **Tesco Finest Steak & Onion Chutney Crisps**, and other highlights in the Finest range like: *Camembert, Honey & Rosemary Crisps; Pigs in Blankets Crisps; Buttered Turkey & Herbs Crisps* all at £1.35

Still on a savoury note, after mentioning the fab new sweet range of extra chocolatey **M&S** biccies recently, I wanted to tell you that they've also launched a range to go with cheese, charcuterie or dips. Made exclusively for M&S by the **Comino** brothers in Piedmont, they really are good - and well priced. The range includes: [Collection Italian Rosemary & Sea Salt Dried Focaccia](#), [Collection Italian Extra Virgin Olive Oil & Black Olive Lingue](#), [Collection Italian Extra Virgin Olive Oil & Sea Salt Lingue](#), and [Collection Italian Extra Virgin Olive Oil & Sea Salt Stirati](#), all priced at £4 per pack



Maybe something rather special to enjoy with these special crisps and various dips? The **Codorniu Ars Collecta** bottle is beautiful: hand-blown glass, showcasing echoes of Spain's cultural heritage and the artistic legacy of Gaudi. It makes a lovely gift, but you could also treat yourself! The bottle contains the **Ars Collecta Blanc de Blancs** that has fine bubbles and delicate toasted notes with a hint of stone fruits, brioche and nuts. It's creamy, complex, yet balanced, and is also fab with shellfish as well as poultry. And it's very reasonably priced for the quality of wine at £15 (on special offer) a bottle from [Ocado](#) (it's also vegan btw - and it's delicious)



Are you a fan of chai? If so, do check out **Chai Guys**, a London-based, authentic, chai company, founded by Abhilash Jobanputra and Gabriel Unger. My Indian neighbour Sidrah has given them a big thumbs up, and is now a customer. There are three different chais available (gorgeous tins, too nice to hide in a cupboard) There's [Masala Chai Tin](#) - classic Masala Chai blend, premium tea and spices; [Kadak](#)

[Chai Tin](#) - robust flavours from strong black tea and subtle spices. [Kesar Chai Tin](#) - limited edition, infused with saffron and rose. £19.95 a tin or indulge in [The Trio Bundle](#) - £59 the ultimate chai celebration with Masala Chai, Kadak Chai, and Kesar Chai.. Refillable tins last, and if you already own them, there are eco-friendly compostable refill pouches.



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5 - STAR YACHT HOTEL
CASINO RESORT



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS



PACKAGE INCLUDES:

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

Book 23rd to 27th December, 4 nights £1050

For 2 guests in a Super Yacht Superior Room

Book 24rd to 26th 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

My week in the Travel Business

By Bruce



As usual there was lots of variety this week. After all the negative things I said about Black Friday and Cyber Monday, I have retracted it, as we did really well & had a super family adventure booking with a 20% discount and a great Newmarket booking that saved the client's £500 and maybe there's more to come as Hurtigruten have their offers till 19th December, some discounts with them are up to 50%!



We have been sending out Xmas cards, Shona saw some really fun cards when we were in Kinsale on our August Bank Holiday break.

We particularly wanted to send for Christmas a cheery greeting to our many single clients, many of whom are missing relatives – as we are missing our beloved

Hedda. For her this week was a special time as it is Chanuka and for this week we always lit the candles and sang lots of old folk songs.



Of course, we are sending out as many as we can to our wonderful clients who have kept Shona and I so busy this Summer long. For us, our clients are not strangers. We think of everyone as a friend, who we get to know and appreciate them for their idiosyncrasies, their individual needs and their kindness is giving us their business instead of going online or booking somewhere else, which is something we want to repay with as

good a service as we can possibly offer.

We do have some good news this week. Epsom Coaches, run short – up to 7-night Coach trips and day trips as well as a couple of Dutch (Tulips) and French (Passchendaele – WW1) trips. They can now be booked through us at Crusader, and they also have a home pick-up for most local postcodes. This is a great help, especially for seniors, oh and by the way they often have discounts for them too! We are asked so often if there is this kind of service and now we have it! And they also do day trips as well.

Next up is Peaks and we have to be ready as that comes around as soon as the Turkey is cold, and we have devoured all the leftovers. Peaks is a time when all the travel companies reckon, they have saturated your brain with travelogues and travel adverts, and you are possibly a bit bored and hankering to get back to work. So, this is the time that they tantalise you with offers, free kids, early booking discounts – 3 nights for the price of 2 and goodness knows what else – and of course the travel agent is meant to know all- well at least we know where to look for it – even if we don't know it all but we have the time to search and know where to look.

Lastly, we have been making the office and the Square inviting – the Bulbs are just peeping thru and by Feb we should have the first blooms as well as some of my favourite Camelias.

Hot tip for the “I don't know where to go” brigade – get yourself some FREE tickets for the Destination Show February 1st thru 4th @ Olympia. Please ask us to send you the link, just email us at info@crusadertravel.com

We are agents for all the companies at the Fair and it is a great place to get some inspirational holiday ideas.

Traveller's Tales 151

Traveller's Tales Returns After A Long Summer Break With A Look At The History Of London Transport.

Doug Goodman Goes Underground

The London Transport Museum in Covent Garden is my favourite London museum. I've always been interested in the Capital's history and the development of its transport systems. The Museum and the discovery tours it runs offer a fascinating insight into the history of London's rail and road links. The imposing building in Covent Garden is a treasure trove of memorabilia with its collection of motor vehicles, tube carriages, posters, uniforms, station items and enough objects to keep you occupied for many hours. I try to visit the museum several times a year to see the superbly displayed buses and trains and the special exhibitions.



Vintage Transport



Tickets Please



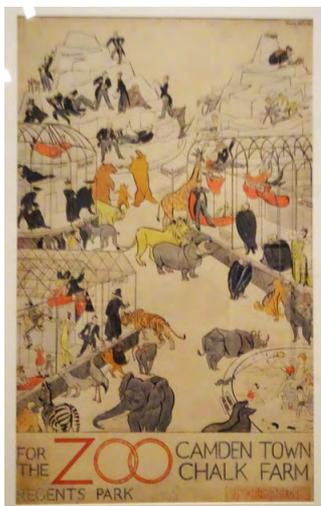
Remember the Tram and Trolley



Presenter Siddy Holloway

Secrets of the London Underground

If you've been watching the series Secrets of the London Underground on TV's Yesterday channel, you will have seen many of the abandoned tube stations being explored by Siddy Holloway and Tim Dunn. The films have gained a cult following but for anyone interested in the disused and modern stations and their history it's a must-see series. The enthusiasm and great knowledge of the two presenters when discovering a 'new' site and the excitement shown by Siddy on finding rare wall tiles in dusty old stations is infectious. London's hidden stations offer ten tours to places the public never gets to see: Charing Cross, Clapham South, Moorgate, Euston, Piccadilly Circus, Shepherds Bush, Baker Street, Kingsway, Aldwych and Down Street. You won't find the last three on any transport maps as they closed many years ago. Kingsway is the former tram tunnel from Waterloo Bridge to Holborn; Down Street between Hyde Park Corner and Green Park was used by the Government in WW2 and provided accommodation for Churchill; Aldwych closed in 1994, was the branch line from Holborn to Strand and has featured in many films.



From the Poster Exhibition



From the Poster Exhibition



Edwardian Poster

I've taken two tours this year: the first to Charing Cross and the second to Baker Street. At Charing Cross, where the Jubilee Line, which opened in 1979, was supposed to continue east and called the Fleet Line, you can see the escalators, platforms and signs looking brand new. All that's missing are passengers. The station was closed in 1999 when the Jubilee Line continued to Docklands on the south of the river. Trafalgar Square was incorporated into the Charing Cross complex and in our walking tour beneath Trafalgar Square we noticed a sharp bend in the tunnel built to avoid the foundations of Nelson's Column. The station is occasionally used for filming; Paddington Bear comes down the escalator: Bond chased after a train and was nearly killed in a spectacular crash in Skyfall: The Bourne Ultimatum and many more. The few minutes of the dramatic scenes in Skyfall, shot in Charing Cross, cost the film makers £2 million. Touring the empty platforms I noticed many posters and particularly holiday ads. They were all fake and made for filming backgrounds. Exploring the tunnels, examining old machinery, observing packed trains below your feet, all in the presence of very knowledgeable guides, provided two very stimulating hours. Baker Street station, where the history of the underground really begins, will be described later.



Charing Cross



Paddington's Arrival



Fake Posters

Background to underground

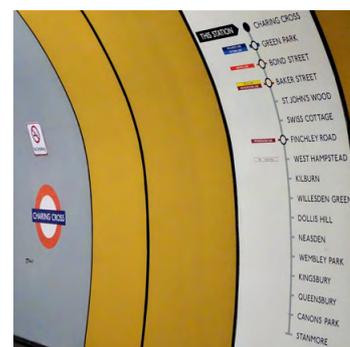
London Transport Museum has arranged curator-led tours to non-operational stations since 1991. More recently the visits to disused stations, of which over 40 are completely empty or have unused platforms or other spaces, have become very popular. The TV series was a logical continuation with books, talks, educational events and special exhibitions on-going. The most recent exhibition is on the history of poster art and design. The museum has a vast collection of graphic art with over 30,000 posters at its Acton Depot Museum. Together, the two collections reflect London transport's creativity and reputation for producing outstanding works of commercial art and design. The Edwardian posters encouraging us to take the tube are particularly amusing.



Disused Tunnel



Empty Platform



Original Sign

Over half a million visitors each year head for Covent Garden to tour the converted flower market hall, which rightly claims to be the world's leading museum of urban transport. The gift shop, as you might expect, has a huge collection of books, maps, souvenirs, posters, clothing and fabrics from many tube train seat designs.

Next time we visit Baker Street Station and the huge Acton Depot Museum.

For details of The London Transport Museum, its station tours and to view episodes of Secrets of the London Underground go to www.ltmuseum.co.uk

Climate Change – Food for Thought

Teresa Read

The Smithsonian Institution's Global Volcanism Program states that some 40 to 50 volcanoes are erupting on any given day; 46 volcanoes were in continuing eruption status as of 11 October 2023 (intermittent eruptive events without a break of 3 months or more).

Erupting volcanoes emit carbon dioxide from underground magma through vents, porous rocks, soil and water from volcanic lakes and hot springs.

There are about 1,350 potentially active volcanoes worldwide, as well as the continuous belts of volcanoes on the ocean floor. Many are located along the Pacific Rim, known as the "Ring of Fire" (about seventy-five per cent of all the world's volcanoes).

However, NOAA (US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) states that human activities emit 60 or more times the amount of carbon dioxide released by volcanoes each year with a strong relationship between cumulative CO₂ emissions and the increase in global surface temperature; the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere has been increasing since the Industrial Revolution.

Burning fossil fuels creates a blanket of pollution trapping the sun's heat on earth, raising global temperatures. Global warming leads to other changes like droughts, water scarcity, fires, rising sea levels, flooding, melting polar ice, storms and declining biodiversity. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says there is a strong relationship between cumulative CO₂ emissions and the increase in global surface temperature with the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere about 50% higher than in 1750, exceeding natural changes over at least the past 800,000 years.

Costa Rica, Norway, Iceland, Paraguay and Uruguay power their grids with hydro, geothermal, wind and solar energy. Denmark, Scotland, South Australia and Hawaii have met more than a hundred percent of their total electricity demand with wind and solar, exporting the surplus. While most countries experienced dramatic emission reductions in 2020 due to COVID-19, China was one of only a handful of countries where emissions increased.

However, it is reported that **China**, is the world's biggest emitter of carbon dioxide, producing 12.7 billion metric tons of emissions annually (Share of the world 29.18%). **USA** emissions are about 5.9 billion tons a year (Share of the world 14.02%).

Looking at cumulative CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion worldwide 1750-2021, by country, the **United States** was the biggest emitter in history as of 2021, having released 422 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere since the start of the Industrial Revolution – followed by **India, Russia, and Japan**; the **United Kingdom is 17th on the list** (Share of the world 1.03%). The country at the bottom of the list at 207th is Greenland.



Colima volcanic complex, Mexico
(Smithsonian Institution)



Ulawun, Papua New Guinea
(Smithsonian Institution)



Semeru volcano, Indonesia
WIZ



Popocatepetl Volcano, Mexico
WIZ / (Guillermo Aldana)

Indonesia gallery:

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

Mexico gallery:

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

CAPTURING CARBON

The race is on to find ways of capturing carbon.

What Planning Authorities Can Do

It is generally agreed that a tree can store about 167 kg of CO₂ per year, or 1 ton of CO₂ a year for 6 mature trees.

Planning authorities should ensure that plans for development do not allow trees to be felled releasing stored carbon dioxide.

It is not just residents who need to make changes.



Never trust a text message...

By Deep Patel

~ Through The Eyes of a Twickenham Shop Keeper ~

This week I learnt a very big lesson in my shop...I wanted to share it here with you, so grab a cup of tea or coffee and sit down comfortably and read on...

Earlier this week a customer of mine was telling me how she felt a little unwell. I told her to see her doctor as I was concerned for her as she lived alone. Three days ago her neighbour came into my shop to tell me that the same lady had been taken to hospital in an emergency. I was very worried for her, but relieved that she was in the best place at least. Later that evening I couldn't stop thinking of her... wondering how she would be getting on, what the doctors had found and whether I could help her in any way, even delivering her shopping etc.



I really wanted to ask the woman's neighbour how she was doing, what I could do to help. It was cold and dark and I felt a need to do something, something more for her. After I shut the shop that night, I noticed that the woman's neighbour had still not returned home and it had been almost 6 hours. I was feeling restless and wanted to contribute somehow, but I didn't know how.

I suddenly remembered I had the neighbour's mobile phone number from a previous time she had ordered some goods from my shop. I was so relieved and immediately called the neighbour's number, however she didn't answer, and I began to think the worse...

I didn't want to pester her and call again and again, so I chose the "non-invasive" option of sending a simple short, but sweet text message of support to comfort her (it's not easy waiting around in a hospital all day and a friendly message of support can sometimes make all the difference). So I chose the "non-invasive option of sending a short, simple text message of support. Big mistake.

I asked how she was, and the neighbour messaged me back and said the lady was in a critical condition but she ended her message with the words "the doctors are not sure that this woman is going to make it through"...I felt awful, I didn't know what to write and so I kept it short and wrote back "I sincerely with all my heart hope she does" (make it through this). However, I made a typo error in this message. It was unforgivable. Instead of typing "I sincerely with all my heart hope she DOES", I mistakenly wrote "I sincerely with all my heart hope she DIES".

YOU CAN IMAGINE THE LOOK OF HORROR ON MY FACE WHEN I READ BACK AND SAW WHAT I HAD ACTUALLY TYPED BY MISTAKE...

The small error of writing switching the word "does" for "dies" made a HUGE difference to the tone and meaning of my text message. Luckily the neighbour understood it was a typing error on my part. Thankfully, through the grace of God, two days later the lady in hospital recovered and was back home too. You may say "all's well that ends well" ...and yes, you are right in saying so, but I also learnt an important lesson...NEVER SEND A TEXT MESSAGE WITHOUT READING IT BACK TWICE FIRST...you may end up meaning to say one thing... yet come out with something COMPLETELY the opposite...

Remember...

"THINK before you SEND..."

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

STOP ANY INSECT KINDLY (GOOD KARMA): Sprinkle pure essential peppermint oil, Olbas oil, fine black pepper or white vinegar around places where you don't want them to come (but NOT directly on them) ...they will go without you having to harm them. For ANY specific tip to stop any "pest" or insect KINDLY (for good karma/ blessings), email me: thedeepatel@gmail.com or join my Facebook page: "INSECT LOVERS UNITE".

Monty Python's *Spamalot*

by John Du Prez and Eric Idle

Teddington Theatre Club at the Hampton Hill Theatre until 9th December

Spamalot is anachronistic, puerile, scatological. It has schoolboy humour, bad taste, and weak jokes. But this is the whole point. It doesn't take itself seriously, and there is not much danger that we should either. What it is meant to be is pure fun ... well, actually fairly impure fun.

Spamalot requires great acting, spot-on comic timing and lively physicality. This production has it all, plus more; it's a musical whose singing zings, and dancing is electric. It is a must-see and a must-see again (in case you missed anything). And there is a lot to miss if you don't keep up, fishy Finns, flagellating fathers, surreally singing corpses, airborne cows, and Trojans, plus bebies of beautiful showgirls.



Ostensibly, *Spamalot* tells of the legendary King Arthur, and his quest for the Holy Grail. However, there are lots of tangents.

Our King Arthur is a monarch of mediocre means. He lacks a trusty steed, but he does have his loyal factotum, Patsy, with coconut shells. Nick Moorhead's stature and commanding singing voice signal a King Arthur haughty and self-assured under all circumstances. Ian Nethersell plays put-upon Patsy, and, my, he acts his gambadoes off! His fine bass-baritone shows deep pathos, a picture of abject obeisance.

The Lady of the Lake is wow-inducing, rising through the stage, gorgeous, glamorous and glittery, part. Heather Stockwell is consummate in her versatile acting of the charismatic icon cum vampish cabaret singer, and she sings impeccably in umpteen different singing styles.

The ensemble, many often seen in principal roles, are first-class; as are all the credited performers. What is a real *tour-de-force*, however, is the choreography. Ranging exhaustingly from high-kicking lines of showgirls to galumphing knights, choreographer Gita Singham-Willis has masterly created a faultless intricate indulgence of movement.

Monty Python is a Marmite taste. I've swapped to being lover of this marmite, after seeing *Spamalot*. Director Nigel Cole, with musical director Lizzie Lattimore, has served up a feast fit for a king, Marmite and Spam ... a lot!

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/12/05/spamalot

Photography by Sarah J Carter





Peter Pan

by Evan Placey, music and lyrics by Vikki Stone, after JM Barrie

Rose Theatre Original at the Rose Theatre, Kingston until 7th January

Peter Pan has flown into the Rose Theatre in a new musical, although our boy hero remains firmly rooted to the ground. However, the loss of the flying effect is of little consequence, as Lucy Morrell's production relies on good old-fashioned storytelling. Moreover, the storyline is reinvigorated with fast-moving action, mixing humour, romance, action and fantasy.

There are just four professional actors, the remaining twenty players coming from the Rose Youth Theatre. Youth performer Isla Griffiths' Wendy conveys a sense of innocence and naivety, and her *Family Means Love* is sung with style, strength and conviction. She is equal to the professionals, including Kaine Ruddach as Pan, whose performance is full of well-intended energy, although his singing outmatches his acting. *My Name is Peter Pan* is particularly powerful and passionate.



Of the musical numbers, *So You Think You Wanna Be a Pirate*, with Hook, Smee and the pirates, steals the show. There are clever lyrics and rhymes about being a superpirate. "We know what you all say, that we are all cliché" received a deserved warm ovation.

Michelle Bishop's rough Captain Hook displays a rich mixture of evil and glamour, while Dominic Rye plays the thankless part as Smee with understated comic timing.

Worthy youth performances include Shona Maggo as Tiger Lily; excellent Mimi Forster, who plays Michael the smallest of the Darling children; and puppeteer Audrey Johnston.

As for the famous "flying" scene, this is effectively mimed with actors holding puppets, flying over small wooden replicas of London landmarks, to great effect.

In this *Peter Pan*, there are subtle hints of Barrie's melancholy in the final touching scenes between Pan and Wendy and their poignant *The Lullaby*. The twist in the final scene is a surprise!



Peter Pan is a joyous witness to the exuberance of a colourful cast exploring a familiar story with fun and enthusiasm; what an antidote against ills of the modern world.

Read Steve Mackrell's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/12/08/p-pan-rtk

Photography by Mark Douet

The Lamb Disagrees

by Eratle Wang

Kibo Productions, at Baron's Court Theatre

Willow is living her worst nightmare. Not only has she discovered that her boyfriend James is married, but his wife has just been found dead. Now Willow is prime murder suspect. Then Willow realizes: what if she's actually a token Chinese character in a whodunnit? Can she track down the author, change her destiny and help an uninspiring and uninspired author with his lazy writing? This is the intriguing plot of *The Lamb Disagrees*, which garnered this year's Vault Festival Origins Award.



The play opens with a long-distance phone call from anxious Chinese mother to daughter, fretting about the dangers of her living alone in the dangerous city of London with no suitable husband on the horizon.



In this dark cellar theatre is the stereotype setting of a writer with manual typewriter and crumpled discarded sheets of paper. Author Aaron slaves away to find an authentic and original voice for his crime novel. He fails. His attempt at introducing feminism and diversity into his novel relies on creating the character of Willow, a Chinese immigrant, played by the unapologetically feisty Gawa Leung. Aaron employs a dating app to meet Lily and "research" by quizzing her about her experiences as such a woman.

In a clever twist she turns the tables on Aaron, putting herself in the driving seat of his stalling whodunnit. Willow morphs from scapegoat to protagonist. The helpless muse comes to life to banish the downtrodden trope: she is in charge of the narrative now.



Ben Butler takes the dual roles of Aaron and the unfaithful husband James, while Martina Greenwood effectively plays both the about-to-be-dispatched wife Charlotte and Aaron's determined, demanding agent Sam. **Gerrie Skeens** doubles as Charlotte's whisky-swilling failed life-coach mother and a police officer. In its surprisingly short running time of just 45 minutes the audience has scant opportunity to devour and digest *The Lamb Disagrees*. I left wanting more than another slice... but less of the dry ice special effects.

Read Gill Martin's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/12/01/lamb-disag

Photography courtesy of Kibo



It's A Wonderful Life

adapted by Mary Elliott Nelson from the film by Frank Capra
Reading Rep Theatre, Reading until 30th December

It's a Wonderful Life captures the sentiment of the original film in a satisfyingly heart-warming four-hander, another brilliant adaptation of a classic from Reading Rep.

Libby Todd's set design captures the cosiness of small-town America with a nod to Christmas and its traditions. The framing of the stage, mirroring snow globe ornaments, the Guardian Angels, reveals the protagonist's memories. This magical symbolism smacks of the

nostalgia within the story, and provides a lens to peer into the life of George Bailey, a luckless banker who, to help others, has forgone his own dreams.



Paul Stacey and Chris Cuming's direction is playfully poignant. Although transporting to a fantastical world, they give a sense of security through the narrators, the Angels. The clever use of the snow-globe provides power to skip through George's life and understand his devastating decision. Their storytelling has clarity, warmth and precision, freezing key moments which highlight highs and lows.

The small cast effortlessly pivot between characters over decades of their lives with dizzying pace. Charlotte Warner and Eugene Evans deftly move between multiple characters, with characterisation that is consistently confident and certain.

Orla O'Sullivan is captivating as Angel Clarissa and as Mary. There is a genuine chemistry between Mary and George as they fall in love. Mark Desebrock's George paints a sorrowful landscape of unfulfilled dreams. The contrast in his delighted thankful persona, having seen what life could be like without him in it, is pitched perfectly to counter the gravity of his despair at the reality of letting his family down.



If you are a fan of Capra's 1946 film, you won't be disappointed as there is a comforting familiarity. However, the play works brilliantly in its own right, and the charming direction supports the sentiment of being grateful for family, friends, and community. A perfect antidote to a cold winter's evening with a feel-good ending that is full of the Christmas spirit!

Read Sam Martin's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/12/06/wonderful-life-rr

Photography by Harry Elletson

“WHISKY GALORE”

A WINTER WARMER at the MARY WALLACE THEATRE

Playing at the Mary Wallace Theatre this week - a delightful stage adaptation of Compton Mackenzie's heartwarming tale of the whisky-deprived Scottish islanders who find a bonanza on their doorstep in the form of a shipwreck containing thousands of bottles of the golden dram.

Performed here by a cast of seven talented actors playing 30 parts, the comic potential of the “liberation” of the precious cargo and the islanders subsequent attempts to evade the police and customs officials is endless.

“THE ALL-FEMALE PALLAS PLAYERS PRESENT WHISKY GALORE” by Compton Mackenzie, adapted for the stage by Philip Goulding - plays from DECEMBER 9th - 16th at 7.45pm - with 3pm Matinees on the 10th and 16th.

Booking at www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk



Orleans House Gallery launches winter celebrations

On Friday 1 December the gallery launched their winter celebrations with an opening reception for The Winter Show.

The borough's thriving arts community was celebrated by Councillor John Coombes, spokesperson for Arts, in his welcoming speech to the assembled guests.

The Winter Show showcases over 70 local artists working in a variety of ways from landscapes to portraits, abstract works to ceramics, and much more.

Each artwork on display is original, for sale and made in the borough and illustrates how Orleans House Gallery supports and nurtures local artists.

[The Winter Show](#) is on until Sunday 28 January 2024.



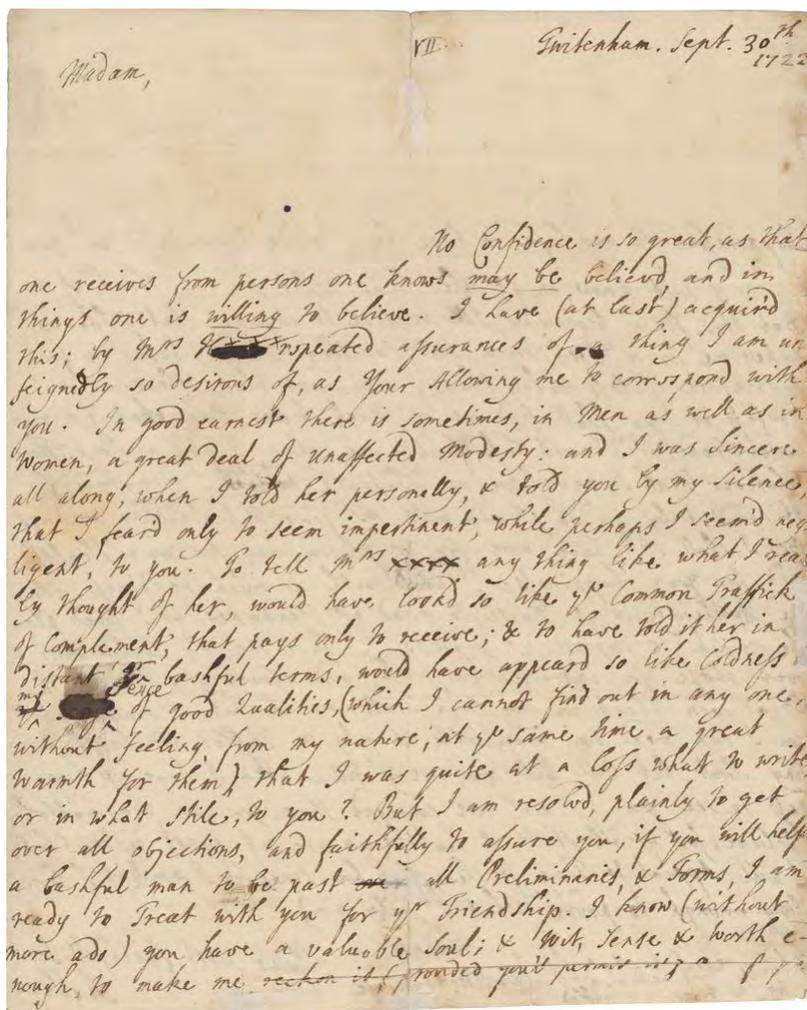
Alexander Pope's letters offered by Christie's

By James Knight

Five lots of autograph letters by one of Twickenham's most famous residents, **Alexander Pope** (1688-1744), are being auctioned by Christie's. They are part of The Alphabet of Genius: Important Autograph Letters and Manuscripts online sale running between 1st December and 14th December 2023.

Lot 148: 29 pages of letters exemplifying Pope's relationship with the poet Judith Cowper, containing early versions of three of his poems, and providing insight into his work on his edition of Shakespeare and his translation of the *Odyssey*. Estimate: £20,000 - £30,000

Judith Cowper and Pope had known each other neither long nor intimately at the beginning of their correspondence in 1722, and the early letters, full of the hyperbolic romanticism he habitually showered on his female friends, reveal some difficulty in establishing an appropriate tone. Their rapid exchange of letters settled into a mutually respectful trade of verses and friendly concern before the relationship virtually ended upon Judith Cowper's marriage to Captain Madan in December 1723. Pope's letters to Cowper were published, apparently under Cowper's supervision, in *Letters to a Lady* (1769). The letters in this collection bear editorial markings connected with that publication.



Lot 149: 12 pages of letters giving a view into Pope's thoughts on a range of literary, social and personal topics, freely expressed to a close friend during a fertile period of his career. Estimate: £15,000 - £25,000

These letters provide an excellent specimen of Pope's extensive correspondence with Fortescue, an intimate of both Pope and Gay, and the addressee of Pope's *First Satire of the Second Book of Horace* (1733). The common thread of these letters is Pope's deep pleasure in their friendship: *'when shall you & I sit by a Fireside, without a Brief or a Poem in our hands, & yet not idle, not thoughtless, but as Serious, and more so, than any Business ought to make us, except the great Business, that of enjoying a Reasonable Being, & regarding its End ... God deliver you from Law, me from Rhime! And give us leisure to attend what is more important'* (23 August 1735).

Lot 150: All of the known letters (22 pages) from Pope to Marchmont, a leading member of the Tory opposition and a close friend of Pope at the end of his life. Estimate: £20,000 - £30,000

Pope deplores the political climate under Walpole, writing after the death of Sir William Wyndham that he and Marchmont ought to '*study Popery & Slavery abroad a while, to reconcile ourselves to the Church & State we may find at home on our return*' (22 June [1740]). He reflects on his life and work at a time of political malaise, writing in his letter of 10 October 1741, '*I thank God, that I do not yet live under Tyranny, nor an Inquisition: that I have thus long enjoyed Independency, Freedom of Body & Mind, have told the world of my Opinions, even on the highest subjects, & of the Greatest Men, pretty freely; that good men have not been ashamed of me; and that my Works have not dy'd before me.*' These letters also demonstrate the strength of his feeling for Marchmont and Bolingbroke, to whom Pope writes near the end of his life, '*When I see a finer Day, or feel a Livelyer Hour, I find my thoughts carried to you, with whom & for whom chiefly I desire to live*' (26 March 1744).

Lot 151: Letter to George Lyttelton, secretary to Frederick, Prince of Wales, 4 ½ pages. Pope reports on a plan to install Lyttelton's master, Frederick, Prince of Wales, as leader of the Tory party, following a meeting with Sir William Wyndham. Estimate: £2,000 - £3,000

Pope reports on the recent affairs of the Tory party, and '*the result of ye conference with Sr. W. W. [William Wyndham] and the disposition in which it left him.*' He writes that Wyndham '*seemed strongly touch'd with a sence of the indignity, the folly, and the danger, that attend the present state & conduct of the opposition*'. For Wyndham, Pope writes, the Tory party as it stands is '*nothing more than a bubble-scheme, wherein multitudes who intended the publick service, would be employ'd to no purpose than to serve private ambition.*' He moves on to relate a secret plot to have '*his R. H. take over as head of the party. For this to succeed, members of the party must be pushed to the dilemma, of joyning with the court, or of following their friends with no good grace.*' All this will require is for one prominent peer to come out in favour – namely, Lord Thomas Saunderson, followed by '*any 2 or 3 old members more, with the phalanx of young members.*' Then, '*a new opposition would be thus created, (or rather the old one reviv'd).*'

Lot 152: A letter (1 page) documenting of Pope's relationship with Bolingbroke's secretary, John Brinsden. Brinsden's master was Henry St John, 1st Viscount Bolingbroke, the Tory leader, political philosopher and notorious bon-vivant. He was a friend and patron of Pope, whose Essay on Man (1734) is dedicated to him. Estimate: £2,000 - £3,000

Pope wrote apologising for not visiting: '*I have been much concern'd not to have a day in my power to see you in yr Confinement, wch I am heartily sorry to find continued. But I have a whole family of Visitors, who do not leave me these five days yet, after wch nothing shall hinder me. I attempted the only day I had in London, to get to Chelsea, but could not, so as not to be in the night.*' Pope had been living at his villa in Twickenham since 1719 but was known to have been guarded about his physical infirmity, which made travel difficult and might been a further reason for his not travelling to Chelsea. Brinsden's master was Henry St John, 1st Viscount Bolingbroke, the Tory leader, political philosopher and notorious bon-vivant. He was a friend and patron of Pope, whose Essay on Man (1734) is dedicated to him.

(Image courtesy of Christie's)

Winter Music Concert Entertains Packed Audience

Last week, on Wednesday evening, Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) enjoyed the delights of our annual Winter Music Concert, which was held on campus, in the Auditorium. The performers were drawn from our UAL Level 3 Diploma and Extended Diploma courses in Music Performance and Production; A Level Music Technology and Supported Learning department. The performances included a range of instruments as well as singers and covered a variety of different music genres.

There were so many high points of the concert, from the blazing rock guitar solos of Alex Portat and Liam Fitzgerald-Sosa to the cool Latin beats of Nicole Carvalho and her band. We had supercharged hip-hop from rapper Ryan Connolly and a beautiful rendition of Mozart from Lily Geary-Edwards on flute. There was something for everyone!

The packed audience was made up of friends, family, fellow students, staff and external guests, who were all thoroughly entertained throughout the evening.



Music tutor Tony Chidgey said of the evening: *"This type of event provides invaluable experience for our students as they have a hand in planning and producing a concert to a high professional standard. The show was project-managed by our Extended Diploma group. All our students had a role, either as performers or technical crew and they gained invaluable skills and confidence from their participation. They really enjoyed the process too!"*

Health & Social Care Student Receives Final Jack Petchey Award of the Year

Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) was proud to present our final Jack Petchey award of the calendar year to Level 3 Health and Social Care student, Jasmine Ramzan.



Jasmine won this award, as during this first term she has emerged as a committed learner, who thoughtfully and actively listens during lessons. She is also a very supportive student, always looking out for friends and can be commended for having 100% attendance since the beginning of the academic year.

On top of this, Jasmine is using her own experiences of having a hearing impairment to support others outside of college. She is currently learning British Sign Language to

be able to support deaf young people in the future, when she hopes to become a social worker.

Jasmine's tutor, Natasha, and the rest of her classmates were incredibly proud and happy to congratulate her on her success. The class is also looking forward to spending the £300 prize money on something exciting and beneficial to their learning.

Jasmine commented on her achievement: *"I am incredibly honoured to receive the Jack Petchey Achievement Award. I am truly grateful for the recognition. Winning this award reminds me of the little actions that have a meaningful impact on others."*



Richmond upon
Thames College

Local Care Home Cleans Up At Awards Ceremony

Alison McIntosh, General Manager of Barchester's Lynde House care home in Twickenham, and her talented team have cleaned up at the regional finals of the Great British Care Awards 2023, winning an amazing four awards in total.

The Great British Care Awards is a series of nine regional awards celebrating excellence across the care sector. The purpose of the awards is to promote best practice within both the home care and care home sectors, and pay tribute to those individuals who have demonstrated outstanding excellence within their field of work. All regional winners will now go through to the national finals in March 2024.



The Lynde House team were the proud recipients of the following awards:

- **Premalatha Puvanenthiran, London Social Care Nurse of the Year** – Premalantha is everything you could want in a nurse! She is an absolute superstar, loved by her colleagues and residents alike, she is so committed to looking after older people and so very caring.
- **Lindsey McIntosh, London Ancillary worker of the year** – Lindsey has progressed from care assistant to senior care assistant, to care practitioner and is now in a managerial role but keeps her hand in regularly to care. Residents love her happy disposition and the team love that she will roll her sleeves up whatever the task.
- **Ridel Francisco, London Care Planner of the Year** - Ridel is a fantastic nurse and manager with over 18 years' service at Lynde House. Always up for karaoke, he is a ray of sunshine and can put a smile on anyone's face.
- **Smita Patelia, South West Social Care Nurse** – Smita is an excellent nurse and role model to everyone at Lynde House. She has progressed from RN to Deputy Manager thanks to her clinical skill and underpinning knowledge plus the compassion and consistent, instinctive care she demonstrates daily to her residents and their family members.

General Manager, Alison McIntosh says: *"I am absolutely amazed that we won so many awards! But I shouldn't really be surprised, I have an absolutely fantastic team here at Lynde House - we are a family and we all support each other, I am so lucky to have such incredible people around me. We're all bursting with pride, everyone is so happy, including all our wonderful residents."*

Barchester Healthcare's Regional Director for the South East, Jayne Holloway, comments: *"This is absolutely fantastic! I could not be prouder of Alison and her team. They have all done brilliantly and it is testament to their hard work and dedication to their residents. A massive well done to everyone at Lynde House!"*



Veterans sing busker's praise after Surbiton care home performances

A singer has become a hit at a Surbiton care home after being spotted busking by a member of staff.

Archie McKeown has become a regular performer at Royal Star & Garter since he was spotted singing in Kingston Market Place by the Home's Wellbeing Coordinator Lesley O'Driscoll.

The Home provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their partners living with disability or dementia.

Archie wows residents with a selection of classics, ranging from Broadway, to opera, to Elvis. Among the favourites sung at Royal Star & Garter are Bring Him Home, Edelweiss, Nessun Dorma, Can't Help Falling in Love and Moon River.

Explaining how he came to sing at Royal Star & Garter, Lesley said: "I was shopping in Kingston and all of a sudden I saw this young man singing, and he had the most extraordinary voice. I was blown away. I quickly checked that I could invite him to sing at the Home, and then introduced myself to him. I told him where I worked and who we cared for, and asked if he'd sing for us. I'm delighted he said yes. The residents love listening to him, and so do the staff!"

Archie said: "It was a pleasant surprise when I was approached by Lesley. I was very flattered." The 23-year-old enjoys lots of busking, is part of a wedding band, and also writes and performs his own music.



Click image to view video

But he says he gets a special thrill from performing at Royal Star & Garter: "I love it. When I busk, people are on the go. When I sing at weddings, it's kind of hectic. But at Royal Star & Garter I feel that I'm singing to people that are really listening and appreciate what I'm doing. It's a lovely atmosphere at the Home, the residents

are really friendly and I always feel very welcome. Some come up to me after I've finished and say they enjoyed the performance, which means the world to me. I'll never take compliments for granted!"

Among his many fans at Royal Star & Garter is Air Force veteran Vera. She said: "I think he's superb. I would like to be his agent!"

Lesley is part of the Home's dedicated Wellbeing Team, which deliver activities, companionship, outings and exercise for residents seven days a week.

Royal Star & Garter also has Homes in Solihull and High Wycombe. The Surbiton Home is welcoming new residents.

For more information on this, or to work for the charity, go to www.starandgarter.org/surbiton



Uxbridge by-election winner, Steve Tuckwell MP, visits Twickenham

By James Knight

Twickenham Conservatives welcomed **Steve Tuckwell MP** (Uxbridge and South Ruislip) as the guest speaker at Twickenham Conservative Association's popular Pints & Politics event on Wednesday 6th December 2023.

Steve won a shock bi-election victory against all the odds in July 2023, undermining the media's narrative by winning with a majority of just 495 votes. He put down to the determination of volunteers to get the Conservative vote out and his track record of listening and acting on the concerns of residents as a local councillor. ULEZ expansion was one of the main issues that united many people in the constituency as they did not like how it penalised the poorest residents who could not afford to upgrade their cars.

He thanked the many activists from Twickenham who travelled over to Uxbridge to help in his bi-election campaign and promised to return the help in the two bi-elections coming up in Hampton North and Teddington. There followed a question-and-answer session dealing with many topical issues. Including inflation, the tax cuts announced in the Autumn Statement and the NHS.

The Conservative parliamentary candidate for the Twickenham constituency **Jonathan Hulley**, thanked Steve for visiting and said that he took inspiration from his energetic by-election campaign. He believes there is everything to play for in Twickenham, especially with the Liberal Democrats' poor record in running Richmond Council and Munira Wilson's lack of effectiveness in opposing the Teddington DRA scheme that will see numerous green spaces dug up, not helped by how slow she was off-the-blocks.

He explained how he has been picking up casework where the Liberal councillors and MP have not been willing to assist residents. Shockingly, some cases involved people facing homelessness whom the council has been trying to move out of the borough to Croydon. He used his knowledge as a senior housing lawyer to remind the council of their legal responsibilities which has saved them from being moved out of the borough and cut off from their support networks. This has prompted him to set up regular shadow MP surgery so that he can help more people the local Liberal Democrats establishment was failing.

Ron Mushiso, the South West London Prospective Conservative Candidate for the London Assembly elections in 2024 also spoke about how the late Cllr Geoffrey Samuel was an inspiration to him. He remembers his kindness on his first day at Heathlands school, saying how Geoffrey would meet each new pupil individually before they started. He said that his memory will help turbo-charge his efforts in the campaign as it will be a way of saying thank you to his old headmaster.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman of Twickenham Conservatives, **John Davey**, who thanked the large and growing Conservative family in Twickenham for helping step up the local campaigning efforts in the run-up to the elections ahead in the new year.



Barnes Safer Neighbourhood Team

Crime Update - December 2023

For the past four weeks, where has it happened?

Burglary X3

- Residential Burglary, 5/11-18/11, 01:00-10:30 hours, Madrid Road, SW13.
- Residential Burglary, 25/11/23, 17:00-17:33 hours, Nassau Road, SW13.
- Residential Burglary, 28/11/23, 20:48 hours, Walnut Tree Close, SW13.

Vehicle Crime X5

- Theft from Motor Vehicle, 7/11, 19:30-19:46 hours, St Mary's Barnes Parish Church, SW13.
- Theft from Motor Vehicle, 8/11, 11:00-15:00 hours, Cardigan Road, SW13.
- Theft from Motor Vehicle, 21/11, 12:00-12:27 hours, Castelnau, SW13.
- Theft from Motor Vehicle, 25/11, 19:15-23:15 hours, Church Road, SW13.
- Theft from Motor Vehicle, 3/11, 18:30-19:45 hours, Melrose Road, SW13.

Criminal Damage X1

- Criminal damage under £500, 19/11, 20:45-20:5 hours, Castelnau, SW13.

Robbery X0

Violent Offences X3

- Common Assault, 19/11, 20:45-21:06 hours, Walnut Tree Close, SW13
- Common Assault, 20/11, 02:10-02:15 hours, Hammersmith Bridge, Castelnau, SW13.
- Common Assault, 28/11, 16:00-19:49 hours, Castelnau, SW13.

Drugs X1

- Importation of drugs, 28/11, 11:33 hours, Stillingfleet road, SW13.
- (While possession of drugs recorded is low for this month this doesn't necessarily reflect the real number).

Officers covering Barnes

PS Kate Whitaker, PC Darren Meakins, PC May Moody, PCSO Matthew Morbey

We had good attendance at our previous PLG our next meeting is now confirmed for **Monday the 11th of December** in Jenner Place Hall at 7pm all are welcome to attend.

Email us at: Barnes@met.police.uk

Or for enquires you can call; 02071759363



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Met officers make record number of arrests to keep London moving

A total of 657 arrests were made over the last five weeks as our officers worked to keep London moving in the face of JSO disruption.

Just Stop Oil activists also faced 338 charges as a result of dozens of attempts to bring the capital to a standstill. We believe this is the highest number of arrests ever made in response to mass unlawful disruption.

A further 308 activists remain on bail accused of offences including interfering with national infrastructure, ahead of further charging decisions. Some individuals were arrested multiple times and face multiple charges.



The five-week operation cost at least £3.5m and led to 10,500 officer shifts being taken away from communities. The total cost of policing Just Stop Oil protests since October 2022 is now £19.9 million.

Commander Kyle Gordon, who oversaw the operation, said: *“Community policing is at the forefront of the Met’s priorities and it is tough to see resources being taken away from our boroughs by Just Stop Oil. “These officers should be responding to local communities and dealing with local issues instead of being taken away to police Just Stop Oil protests. Their time could be far better spent tackling issues in our communities and keeping them safe.*

“We understand that in a democratic society there is a strong presumption in favour of the right to protest, but we also have to consider the rights of those who are impacted by JSO’s actions. While there is a right to protest and have your voice heard, there is no right to cause sustained serious disruption.

“It is Londoners who ultimately face the brunt and bill for this action and we understand the frustration of Londoners who are caught up in the disruption, which as we know from previous campaigns impacts on everything from a school run or commute to work through to issues such as attending hospital appointments.

“Our response has successfully minimised the disruption for the majority of Londoners going about their lives, but I urge anyone who was impacted to contact us. This is a busy time for Met officers and I also want thank them for their commitment to minimising JSOs disruption by effectively using the new legislation.”

Our aim in response to Just Stop Oil’s activity was to keep London moving and reduce serious disruption.

We used new legislation (section seven of the Public Order Act 2023) to arrest activists and remove them from roads. On one occasion we made 79 arrests within 20 minutes to clear Whitehall.

The dedicated Just Stop Oil portal is still live (<https://www.met.police.uk/news/met/tell-us-about-your-experience-jso/>) for anyone who has been impacted by the disruption to get in touch with us.

These case studies could be used as evidence in court to support prosecution.



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Tom Foley steps back from international match officiating

Tom Foley, a hugely respected match official both domestically and as part of the International Match Officials group, has decided to step away from international match officiating for the foreseeable future. He will continue to officiate in the Gallagher Premiership.

Tom began refereeing in 2010 in the National Leagues and has been involved in 217 games in the Premiership, including 127 as referee and 67 as Television Match Official (TMO); three of these were Premiership Finals. He has also officiated at four Champions Cup Finals in 2018, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

His first experience at international level came in November 2016 in a match involving Romania and Tonga and he's officiated in 48 Tests in total, 16 in the Six Nations and eight in the Rugby World Cup this year.

Tom Foley said: *“Having reached the pinnacle in officiating at the Rugby World Cup Final, now feels the right time to take a break from the international game. Over the course of 13 years, I have been fortunate to officiate alongside many dedicated professionals and be involved in some of the greatest games in international rugby.*

“However, the pressure and scrutiny I came under after the Rugby World Cup Final, along with a torrent of criticism and abuse online, has helped to reaffirm that this is the right decision for me at this point in my life. While it's a privilege to be at the heart of some of the sport's most iconic moments, the increasing levels of vitriol, when the demands and expectation are so high, have led me to this moment.

“Working as an international match official takes you away from home for extended periods, and I am looking forward to spending more time at home with my young children. I am very grateful to my family for their support during my career; without them none of it would have been possible.”

Bill Sweeney, RFU CEO, said: *“I would like to thank Tom for his outstanding contribution to international officiating. Tom has officiated in 48 games internationally and is considered one of the best Television Match Officials globally.*

“The abuse he has suffered since the Rugby World Cup Final, along with other officials involved in that game, is totally unacceptable and no one should be treated in this way, doing their job for the sport they are so committed to and passionate about. We will do everything possible to help guard against the abuse aimed at match officials and players and would urge everyone in our game to consider the role they can play in upholding rugby values.

“Although Tom steps back from Test officiating, we are pleased that he will remain part of the RFU Professional Game Match Officials Group, and that the sport will continue to benefit from his extensive experience domestically.”



Match Preview: Sheffield United v Brentford

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

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford are looking to bounce back from defeat on the road against Brighton and Hove Albion as they take on Sheffield United this weekend.

Saturday's fixture has an added complication with the home side dismissing manager Paul Heckingbottom earlier in the week. Boyhood Blade Chris Wilder returned to the role on Tuesday, a post he previously held from 2016 to 2021.

Sheffield United were much improved midweek and gave Liverpool a tough time of things at Bramall Lane, showing a resilience that the side currently bottom of the league have been missing so far this season.

Pre-match Analysis

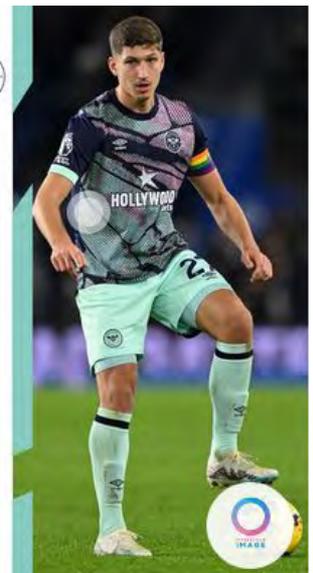
Richard Cole, Playmaker Stats: Brentford should create chances at Bramall Lane

Sheffield United fans may feel a little hard done by on refereeing decisions for both goals in their 2-0 defeat to Liverpool, with an apparent push by Virgil van Dijk in the area before the Reds' opener and a wild-looking challenge from Darwin Núñez that led to the second both ignored by the referee.

"I wanted to make it an uncomfortable night for them," Chris Wilder said afterwards.



Head to Head		
11	Goals	23
41	Goals Conceded	21
93	Shots	155
38%	Possession	48%
2	Red Cards	0
44	Yellow Cards	33



They did exactly that, with the manager admitting he was "disappointed" not to get anything from the game.

So while there was no 'new manager bounce' (or 'old manager bounce' in this case) in the final result, the performance on the pitch demonstrated that Thomas Frank's team may find their trip to south Yorkshire more difficult than expected.

Or maybe a tricky trip is expected; when the two sides have faced off in recent years, both in the Championship and League One, the Bees weren't able to pick up a win at Bramall Lane.

In fact, you'd have to go all the way back to 1982 for the last time Brentford won away to Sheffield United: a 2-1 victory in the old Third Division.

On top of that, injuries continue to be a problem with [Bryan Mbeumo, who scored Brentford's goal against Brighton, the latest player to pick up a knock.](#)

However, with or without Mbeumo, Brentford can expect to have chances against Sheffield United.

The Blades remain the team to have conceded the most shots per game on average this season (18.7) while at the other end having the lowest average number of shots themselves (just 8.5 per game).

Against Liverpool, United retained just 24 per cent of possession and ended up with just a single shot on target, while conceding eight on their own goal.

More than anything, perhaps, Wilder will want the Blades to pose opponents more questions, as they have lacked variety as well as cutting edge this season.

For example, they have made fewer switches of play (21), completed fewer crosses (161), won fewer corners (49) and completed fewer shot-creating actions (198) than any team in the Premier League this season, and they are yet to score a goal after a successful take-on.

The Bees should no doubt enter the contest with a healthy amount of confidence - but now seems a dangerous time to play a team with plenty to prove, and plenty of ground to make up.

Scout Report

Heckingbottom dismissed: Blades roll the dice after disappointing start

Once Burnley got into their scintillating stride last season, Sheffield United had little hope of catching Vincent Kompany and his troops. Rarely since the 2004 rebrand has a team looked more certain to get promoted out of the Championship. But, then again, the same could be said for the Blades and the chasing pack. As runners-up, they finished 11 points clear of eventual play-off winners Luton Town in third, with the second-best home form in the division and third-best away form.

Sheffield United rarely looked like slipping up and, from November onwards, they never once dropped out of the automatic promotion places. Iliman Ndiaye was exquisite and improving with each passing game; at times, Oli McBurnie looked back to his very best.

Paul Heckingbottom's Blades even reached the semi-final of the FA for the 15th time in club history, where they were beaten - but not outclassed - by Manchester City, who would go on to win the competition. A return to the Premier League was most welcome at Bramall Lane.

After 12 seasons away, Sheffield United competed in the top flight in 2019/20 and, as a relatively unknown entity, battled their way to a ninth-place finish - their highest placing since the formation of the competition in 1992. The chance to do something similar would have been ideal, but the reality is that hopes were already pretty much over before they had even really got going.

It did not help that club legend Billy Sharp was surprisingly released earlier this summer. At 37, perhaps the Premier League is a step too far, but as a boyhood Blade who 'gets it', his absence has no doubt been felt.

Ndiaye left for Marseille, with a £20 million offer "reluctantly accepted" by the club, just as reports had surfaced that he had been offered a new deal to remain in the Steel City. Ample replacements were signed in their places, but in truth, Heckingbottom probably needed further backing in the summer.

As a result, on the pitch, this season has been one of sheer misery. The Blades have won one, drawn

two and lost 12 of their 14 games so far. There have been two 5-0 defeats, one 8-0 defeat and just 11 goals scored.

If that was not enough, they have shipped an incredible 41 goals already, which equates to an average of 2.79 goals per game. If they continue at that rate, they will set a new, unwanted, Premier League record of 106 goals conceded in a single 38-game season, bypassing Derby County's 89 conceded in 2007/08 by some way.

A crushing 5-0 defeat away against last season's closest competitors Burnley last weekend saw Heckingbottom's reign come to an end after three and a half years on Tuesday, with cult hero Chris Wilder rapidly installed as his successor, as owner Prince Abdullah revealed on talkSPORT before the club had even announced the news.

There is sure to be a new manager bounce brought by the 56-year-old, but has it come early enough to see the Blades mount a challenge to preserve their top-flight status again? Four points separate them from safety with 23 games left to play.

In the Dugout

Chris Wilder

Chris Wilder the player – a right-back by trade – started out at his beloved Sheffield United after leaving Southampton in 1986. Alongside Brentford legend Bob Booker, he was part of the Blades squad that achieved promotion from the Third Division to the First between 1988 and 1990.

Wilder would later play mostly in the First and Second Divisions for Rotherham United, Notts County and Bradford City, before retiring at Halifax Town in 2000/01.

In October 2001, Wilder started out in management at Alfreton Town, before six years back at Halifax and another five years at Oxford United, who he led out of the Conference in 2010. In January 2014, he took over at Northampton and, in his second season at Sixfields, won the League Two title with the Cobblers. By far his most notable work, however, came in the five years he spent back at Sheffield United.

The boyhood Blade led the club back to the Championship, after a six-season exile, in his first season in charge (2016/17) and, in 2018/19, Wilder and his overlapping centre-backs took United back to the Premier League. It was fairytale stuff. But there was to be no happy ending as, with Sheffield United bottom of the Premier League, he departed in March 2021, shortly before relegation out of the top flight was confirmed.

In November 2021, Wilder returned to management by taking over from Neil Warnock at Middlesbrough. Boro were 14th in the Championship when he was appointed, and though he transformed their fortunes, four defeats in their final eight league games saw them miss out on the play-offs by only five points. Middlesbrough struggled to get going at the start of last season, which led to his sacking on 3 October.

Wilder's most recent role was at Watford, who he took charge of for the final 11 Championship games of last term, following Slaven Bilić's sacking. His short-term deal came to an end after a win over Stoke on the final day and he was out of work for just six months before making a return to Bramall Lane earlier this week.



The Great British Cup Of Tea Is At Risk If Taps Stop Flowing Act Now To Keep Britain Brewing

Affinity Water is calling on the public to act now by signing a [Change.org](#) petition asking UK political parties to incorporate 8 policy recommendations into their upcoming manifestos to keep the taps flowing and Britain brewing.

New analysis suggests that the UK's water demand is set to outstrip supply, which will leave the nation short of the equivalent of more than 1 billion cups of tea. With a shortfall of 200 million litres of water a projected reality within 15 years, Demos, Britain's leading cross-party think-tank, has developed a report, supported by Affinity Water, outlining the policy recommendations and collective action needed to keep Britain's taps flowing.

The [report](#) investigates the factors preventing people from using less water and what is needed to ensure a resilient supply in the near and long term. Leading experts were brought together from across government, policy makers, academia, home builders, climate experts, and the water industry, to consider how to fix the looming national water crisis.

Keith Haslett, CEO, Affinity Water, comments: *“As the UK's largest water-only company, Affinity Water, and the wider water industry have a responsibility to protect the UK's water supply and help customers reduce their water consumption. We are acutely aware of the challenge here and we are working to improve the resilience of our network, ensuring we do our part to save water.”*

“The public are already playing a key role in solving this crisis. To this end, Affinity Water has been investing in the award-winning behaviour change programme, Save Our Streams, for three years. Nearly 300,000 customers have joined the campaign since it was launched in 2021, and last year, households in the Affinity Water region collectively saved millions of litres of water every day following the communications encouraging them to reduce their water use at home.”

Affinity Water is now calling for the public to sign a [Change.org](#) petition asking UK political parties to incorporate 8 policy recommendations into their upcoming manifestos to keep the taps flowing and Britain brewing.

Consultation with government, policy makers, academia, home builders, climate experts, and the water industry, has led to the development of **8 policy recommendations that will act as a foundation for tackling water resilience in the UK:**

- 1. Resurrect the post of Minister for Water as a formal political position to act as a national champion for water efficiency.** Water, like food and energy, is a basic human right. While there are Ministerial roles that cover food and energy, there isn't a Minister for Water. Resurrecting the post of Minister of Water will ensure there is a leader in Government championing the issue for the public.
- 2. Create a National Water Council to bring key organisations and experts together to resolve issues relating to water in one place.** This would include a holistic group of experts from different fields to collaborate.
- 3. Better training for plumbers and installers to reduce leaks and ensure that water efficient products achieve maximum efficiency.** Knowledge is power. New training for plumbers across the UK will make them hubs for advice on water efficiency, making it easier for everyone to make an informed decision on which fittings and machines to buy to save the most water.

- 4. Compulsory water meters for all households including the removal of pre-installation inspections.** The installation of water meters will enable households to better understand their usage, so they can leave more water in the environment.
- 5. Create a rapid “Greywater Review” to identify the feasibility of using greywater for businesses and recreational usage.** Improving policy on recycling water from dishwashers, washing machines and showers, will empower businesses and organisations to be more water efficient.
- 6. Set more ambitious targets for new homes for water efficiency:** New homes should be built with an overall aim of 100 litres per person per day in water-stressed areas, and 110 litres in all other areas.
- 7. An ‘All-In-One’ approach to retrofitting homes so that water efficiency is included alongside energy efficiency.** Start to treat the water crisis with the same urgency as the energy crisis and encourage people to make their homes more water efficient too.
- 8. Explore the use of rising block tariffs, providing a range of tariffs which determine the price consumers pay based on usage:** Water is a precious resource, but it isn’t infinite, so it’s reasonable for households who overuse water to face higher costs, without punishing normal users and subjecting them to water shortages.

The environmental, political, and public context

While the UK is deemed to be a nation that sees a lot of rain, research conducted by Demos and Affinity Water found there is public concern towards the impact climate change will have on the UK’s water supply with one in three people being concerned that climate change will lead to an increase in droughts and water shortages in the next 5 years.

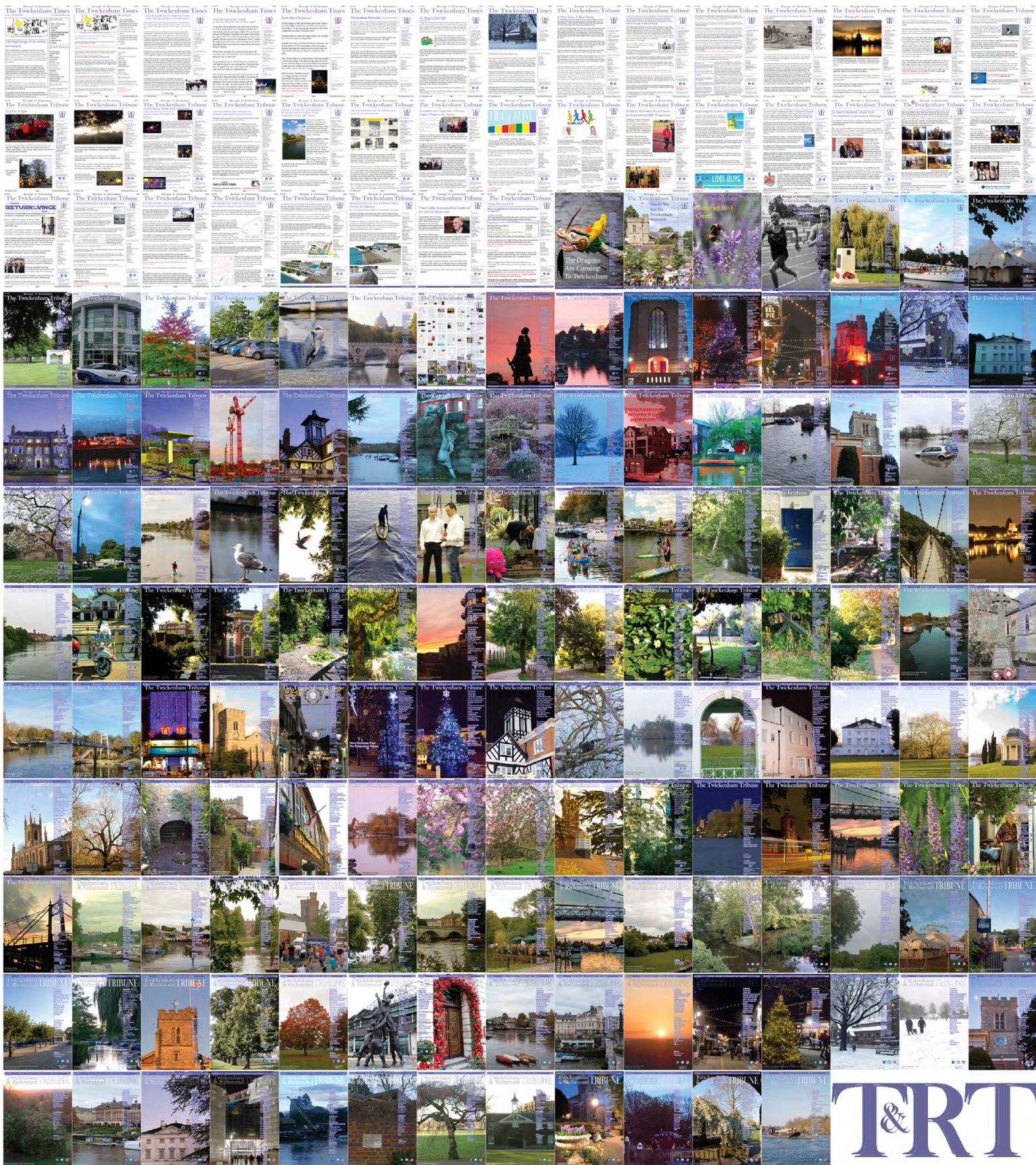
[WRSE reports](#) confirmed that whilst February 2020 was the wettest on record, July 2022 was the driest for almost 70 years. The report stresses that this variability makes it more challenging to develop long-term plans as to the nation’s water supply. However, currently the public believe that their water usage has little impact on the environment.

Keith Haslett, CEO, Affinity Water, continued: *“In 2022/23, we beat our 14% leak reduction target, achieving 15.8% and are progressing well towards our 2025 goal to reduce leaks by 20%. However, we are not stopping there and aim to reduce leakage by 50% by 2050. We are continuing with our efforts to reduce demand through investments in technology, and the exploration and delivery of successful demand management and customer behaviour change programmes. But to achieve even better results, we believe there is a need for a more collaborative approach involving government, regulators, and the industry, ensuring we tackle this issue from all sides.*

“At Affinity Water, while pleased with our progress, we recognise the industry must do more to ensure long-term sustainable supplies of water. This is why we have been collaborating across the industry on water resource plans at a regional level to put forward proposals on new sources of water such as water transfers and new reservoirs. However, this is just one aspect of our long-term plans and must work in tandem with reducing leakage and a societal wide push to reduce demand for water to ensure a more sustainable supply of water for the future.”

Andrew O’Brien, Director of Policy and Impact, Demos said: *“Our fundamental needs in life are food, shelter, and water. So, the public rightly expects that we have a plan to keep our taps flowing. The good news is that everyone is waking up to the need for urgent action to tackle this issue, but there is still a lot to do. We need a truly national effort to ensure that we meet future demand. This will require the government, water industry, business and citizens working together towards a common goal - making the UK as water efficient as possible.”*

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