

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

## Contents

- TickerTape
- Local Postcard Page:  
Barnes Green And Barnes Pond
- Letters
- Council Suspends Green Bin  
Collection
- Watch this space!
- Twickers Foodie
- WIZ Tales: Linking Our World, a  
schools' project
- Travel 2024 – Tips, Trends and  
More
- New year resolution.....  
compassion and world peace?
- Sport

## Contributors

- Alan Winter
- James Knight
- Jonathan Haydn-Williams
- The Teddington Society
- Park Health Suite Action Group
- Alison Jee
- Bruce Lyons
- Shona Lyons
- Mark Aspen
- World InfoZone
- Deep Patel
- Richmond Shakespeare Society
- The Royal Ballet
- St Mary's University
- RFU
- Brentford FC
- LBRuT

## Editors

Berkley Driscoll  
Teresa Read



5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

T&RT

# TickerTape - News in Brief

## Tube strikes - January 2024

RMT strikes on the Tube are currently planned in early January.

If they go ahead, there will be severe disruption on the London Underground network from the evening of Sunday 7 January through to the morning of Friday 12 January.

- Sunday 7 January: Tube services will close earlier than normal. Complete Tube journeys by 17:30
- Monday 8 to Thursday 11 January: Severe disruption is expected, with little to no service expected to run
- Friday 12 January: Tube services will start later than normal, with a good service expected by midday

No other TfL services will be on strike.

Some bus, DLR, London Overground, Elizabeth line and national rail services will be busier. They may also be subject to change or affected by station closures where stations also serve London Underground lines.

One-way or queueing systems may also be in place at stations, and step-free access may be affected.

If you need to travel during this time, plan ahead, [check before you travel](#) and allow more time for your journey.

For information on national rail services, visit the [National Rail website](#).



**The Tree Agency**

darryl parkin

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# The Local Picture Postcard Page Part 230

By Alan Winter

## Barnes Green And Barnes Pond

I thought that after the Christmas and New Year over – indulgences, it would be a good idea to get out into the fresh air and see one of the outdoor jewels that we are lucky enough to have in this Borough.

Barnes Green and its pond is the quintessential Barnes landmark. It connects Barnes Common via a footbridge across Beverley Brook at the Northern end of the Green. (See Postcard 1.) It is located at the centre of Barnes Village.

Feeding the ducks on the pond has been a rite of passage for many Barnes childhoods. The pond is maintained using funds raised by the Barnes Community Association's annual Barnes Fair and is the home to many breeding pairs of birds. It is a community focal point and is known for its scenic beauty and wildlife.



Postcard images 2 and 3 sum up both the usage

and tranquillity of the pond and can be dated back 120 years or so.

Barnes Green has an accessible waymarked path around the pond. It is accessible at all times. Car parking in the area is limited, so it is advisable to walk or use public transport.



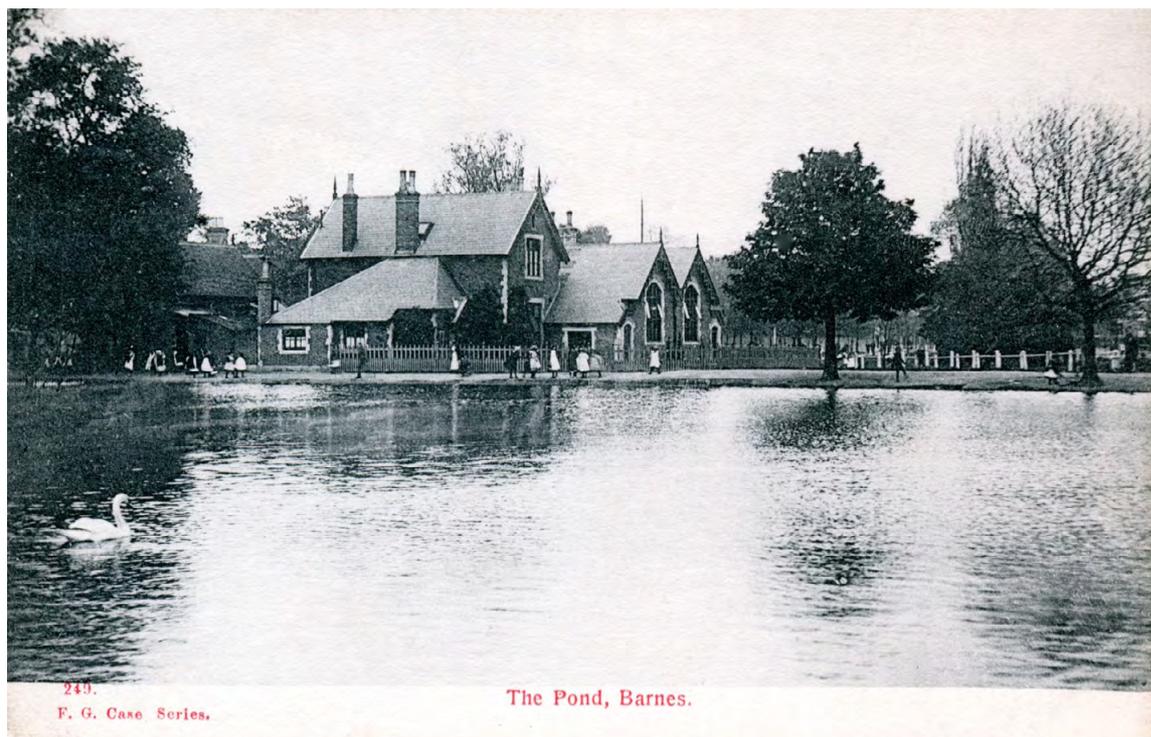
The nearest train station is Barnes Bridge, and the area is served by bus routes 209, 485 and 969. The freehold of Barnes Pond and Barnes Common is held by the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral after the Manor of Barnes was granted to them by the Saxon King Athelstan who reigned from 924 to 938 AD. Since the Metropolitan Act of 1866 Barnes Green has been the responsibility of the local authority.

Cattle were grazing on Barnes green well into the 19th century and carts were taken into the pond in the summer so that the water could swell the wooden wheels making them a tight fit in their metal rims.

Originally the Great Pond, known today as Barnes Pond, was one of four ponds on the Green, possibly used to water cattle. In 1388, the designated Rector of the nearby St Mary's Church was given the right to keep and catch fish in the Great Pond as well as a smaller pond.



For many years Barnes Pond was linked by pipe to the Beverley Brook but since the 1970's it has relied on groundwater, rainwater and mains supplies. In 2001 there was a leak and all the water drained away. During reconstruction it was discovered that the water had disappeared down a long-forgotten pipe beneath the pond which was installed in 1893 and used to flush the sewers with pond water. The pond was reshaped, relined and refilled in 2003.



The house behind the pond (see Postcard 4) is occupied by the Emmaus charity for the homeless and is dated 1800-05, called Great Cell Barnes House. It was extended and converted into the nurses' home for Cell Barnes Hospital. It has been occupied by a number of notable people including Viscount Encombe (1920's), The Hon. Mr & Mrs F W Anson (1901-

1917) and Viscount Grimston (1881-86). Originally it was the site of the retreat 'cell' for Dame Juliana Berners, the Prioress of Sopwell Nunnery (circa 1481).

Should you be interested in exploring the wildlife in the area, you can visit the WWT London Wetland Centre which is located nearby.

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

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# Practice your French for a good cause at ETNA with Live Languages

Pick up a new skill in the new year by joining Live Languages' conversation group.

On Saturday 6 January 2024 from 10.30 to 11.30am, residents of all ages and levels of French are invited to practice their French conversation over tea, coffee, croissants and traditional Galettes des Rois at ETNA Community Centre (TW1 2AR).

This is a great chance to start the year with new skills and meet like-minded French students in ETNA's café which includes both indoor and outdoor seating areas. [Live Languages](#) is using its French conversation groups as an opportunity to raise money for the ETNA Community Centre, so donations of £5 to £10 are encouraged.



To attend this event, please [RSVP online](#). For more information about it, contact Live Languages at [infolivelanguages@gmail.com](mailto:infolivelanguages@gmail.com).

Live Languages is also offering a free taster session in an appropriate French or Spanish conversation group to retired or semi-retired residents looking to flex their language skills in the new year. It is never too late to learn, improve or refresh a language, or make new friends with similar interests. You will learn together in a relaxed, mutually supportive environment, with a maximum of five other participants. Contact Live Languages if you are interested in taking up this offer.



Dear Editor

## Mr Lyons piece in last weeks issue demands a brief response

He says:

“... surely we all deserve something on our riverside than a concrete, astro turfed garden, small enclosed play area, dilapidated, boarded up and vandalized buildings and overwhelmingly large car park?”

Yes we do. But do we need to use the best part of the site to provide luxury housing and a pub? Land uses which the town clearly does not need more of. Surely, intelligent town planning and civic responsibility, demands that this once in a generation development opportunity should instead provide a major community facility, as the site once did.

He also says that we:

“..have a great Council and councillors”

Yes, a Council that thinks it ok not to provide public toilets and deludes itself that the failed Community Toilets scheme is sufficient.

This alone takes away any claim to be a “great” Council.

Yours disappointedly  
William Stewart

The Editor

### Twickenham and Richmond Tribune

May I point out a factual error in last week's edition of The Twickenham and Richmond Tribune (29th December). Alison Jee opens her food column (Twickers Foodie) with the words, "It's that strange time of year again: Christmas itself is over".

It seems that Alison has fallen into the trap of Commercial Christmas, a period which starts in October and ends on Christmas Eve, 24th December (and, incidentally, includes Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, also hijacked by commerce to promote Advent Calendars).

Christmas in fact starts on 25th December and is the twelve joyous days, The Twelve Days of Christmas, which last until Twelfth Night, on 5th January. (As another by-the-by, a significant number of people get Twelfth Night, or Epiphany Eve, muddled with Epiphany itself, which always starts on 6th January.)

In the same edition, your wonderfully quirky, but always optimistic columnist Deep Patel asks, "What should I say then? ..." when greeting people in what Alison Jee calls "Twixmas", that is during Christmastide, the Twelve Days of Christmas.

The answer is say "Happy Christmastide". This fills the blank, Deep, in your concluding question, and seems full of good karma.

Since The Twickenham and Richmond Tribune next goes to press on Twelfth Night, midnight on 5th January, when the Christmas trees come down, this suggestion is probably one for next year.

Meanwhile, however, we purists would be delighted to wish all your readers, a very Happy Epiphanytide!

Keith Wait  
Twickenham

## We Three Kings ...

The Tribune's editor was lucky to bump into the Three Kings on Twelfth Night.

Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar were happy to stop for a chat, before continuing their journey.



Dear Tribune,

## New Year Blessings!

I thought it would be nice to start the New Year by thanking Richmond Council for all the good things they've done during the last year. I thought and thought, and even asked my neighbours, but we couldn't think of anything. That is sad – so here are a few blessings for which, I am sure, our Council expects us to be grateful...

The myriads of potholes they have failed to repair and which cause so much stress, damage, danger, and even physical pain for those who must endure them daily as riders, drivers or bus passengers.

Their refusal to deal with the constant danger of bikes and scooters ridden illegally on our pavements and dumped on them as hazards for the disabled, elderly, and blind.

The arrogance and rudeness exhibited even in public meetings by certain councillors towards the residents who pay their salaries, and whom they purport to represent, including one making an inflammatory but false statement directly contrary to Home Office figures.

Their increasing restrictions on freedom of travel on the already appalling roads by inflicting so-called 'traffic calming' measures which actually just cause even more stress and which will eventually take us back to the dark ages when everyone will need a donkey to get around – something which will actually be far more comfortable than driving on our disgraceful roads.

Their failure to enforce the engine idling stop signs at level crossings such as at Mortlake and Strawberry Hill stations, in spite of their professed desire to reduce pollution.

Their refusal to listen to anyone not blindly in accord with their dictatorial political doctrine. Et al.

So perhaps we should count such blessings. After all, we are apparently not only living in '*The Best Borough in London*' but also in the '*Happiest Borough in the Country*', neither of which sou-briquets say much for the rest of the country. Let's hope the forthcoming elections ensure we don't receive any more blessings like these.

The real blessings are our wonderful parks and river which even Richmond's self-aggrandising Council and MP can't claim to have had anything to do with bestowing upon us!

So I wish everyone a Happy New Year with special thanks to the Tribune team, which actually IS the best with a great editor, and to its happiest contributor, Deep Patel, who, unlike some others, actually DESERVED a new year honour for his kind words and thoughtful concern for little creatures.

I wish our Council had as much concern for its residents.

From an UNHAPPY Resident of the 'Happiest Borough' (Name and address supplied)

# Hampton North

# VOTE



■ Nupur Majumdar

Business Studies from London Business School. Then I worked in various multi-national corporations in the aviation and oil industry where I held multiple senior operational roles. With my work experience, I harnessed my leadership skills and then started multiple businesses. Now I run a successful hospitality company and an aviation consultancy firm. Britain gives the opportunity to migrants to fulfil their dreams, and my success story can be shared with our empowering community and young people. It's a story of Hope!!

I was not born in a traditional Conservative family. I chose to be one based on my life's experiences because the Conservative Party fuels aspirations and values diversity and inclusion. Now I am eagerly waiting for you to believe in me and I will be honoured to proudly represent YOU!!

## On Thursday January 18th 2024 In HAMPTON NORTH

As a young girl in India, I loved playing football with the local boys. People often scolded me and told me I would grow up to be a loose woman because of that! I didn't by the way: I am happily married with two children! But I was not afraid of breaking down gender stereotypes for equal opportunity. And today when we cheer for our 'Lionesses', I feel happy and proud to be a woman.

I graduated from Delhi University in History and there I got my first taste of politics as a youth activist. While I was volunteering and teaching disadvantaged children in India, I was learning the meaning of community service. This flame continues to burn inside me and has brought me into local politics at home in Hampton North.

After graduation, I came to the UK with just one suitcase but a big bag of dreams. I completed my MBA at the University of Strathclyde and also earned a Diploma in

Business Studies from London Business School. Then I worked in various multi-national corporations in the aviation and oil industry where I held multiple senior operational roles. With my work experience, I harnessed my leadership skills and then started multiple businesses. Now I run a successful hospitality company and an aviation consultancy firm. Britain gives the opportunity to migrants to fulfil their dreams, and my success story can be shared with our empowering community and young people. It's a story of Hope!!



■ Vote for Nupur in Hampton North and keep Councillor Geoffrey Samuel's legacy alive.

Find out about my plans for Hampton North—visit [www.twickenhamconservatives.com](http://www.twickenhamconservatives.com)

## Vote Conservative

Promoted by Hilary Smith on behalf of Nupur Majumdar, both of 90, York Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 8N.

# Moonlighting

James Knight

Whilst times are tough for many residents with the cost-of-living squeeze, the Leader of Richmond Council is set for a very prosperous New Year after a bumper pay rise. Many will know that he increased the basic allowance for all councillors by 25% to £12,014 and his special responsibility allowance as leader went up by an incredible 52% to £46,569. This left many people to believe he was getting £58,583 for his public service.

However, it has since emerged that he has stood for election for Liberal Democrat group posts that add another £21,969 to this already tidy sum (paid for from taxpayer funds). He is the LibDem Deputy Chair of the City Regions Board of the Local Government Association for which he receives an allowance of £9,628 and another £12,341 as the LibDem vice chair of the London Councils executive bringing the total to £80,552 for his combined public service.

In contrast, when Lord True became leader of the council in 2010 (when times were even harder due to the credit crunch) he asked for his allowance to be reduced by 12.5% (from £30,000 to £26,250) along with reductions for all other councillors. The savings from reducing the leader's allowance were redirected to provide services for old people, which included a big band tea dance in the York House for senior citizens.

Maybe Cllr Roberts needs to reflect on Lord True's example and similarly elect to give back 12.5% of his allowance (£14,645) which will still leave him with £7,323 over what he would receive from his council allowance alone. He has been trying to justify the increase because being a leader is a full-time job, however, it seems he is not a full-time leader as he has two additional roles in local government and has a declared interest in a market research company.

## Take part in emergency first aid at work course

Would you like to be equipped with the essential skills needed to give safe, prompt and effective first aid in an emergency situation?

Richmond Work Match are offering a free one day certificated Emergency First Aid at Work course for residents. The course takes place on Friday 26 January from 9am to 4:30pm, at 100 Falcon Road, SW11 2LH.

The course will involve learning about the roles and responsibilities of an emergency first aider, assessing an incident, CPR, defibrillation and much more.

To book a place, please [register online](#).

For any enquiries, contact [sonia.wilson@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:sonia.wilson@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)

or call 07989 448 237



# VOTE

## Teddington



■ Elizabeth Foster

### On Thursday January 18th 2024 In TEDDINGTON

If Elizabeth was a stick of rock, she would have Teddington written through the middle.

Passionate about politics, Belfast-born Elizabeth has been involved in many political campaigns both locally and nationally for the Conservatives.

As an adopted Teddingtonian - of 45 years' standing - Elizabeth is a devoted follower of JFK's dictum: "Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country."

Giving back is in Elizabeth's DNA which is why she is so involved in the Teddington community.

Actions not words see

Elizabeth as the tireless Trustee of many local charities, a dedicated driver with Teddington and Hampton Wick Voluntary Care, a committed carer helping adults with learning disabilities and as an active member of The Teddington Society.

Having sold poppies for the Royal British Legion for 35 years running Elizabeth recently received a well-deserved 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for such service.

She will work diligently to ensure your views are properly represented on the Council.



■ Vote for Elizabeth in Teddington and she'll fight for what residents really want

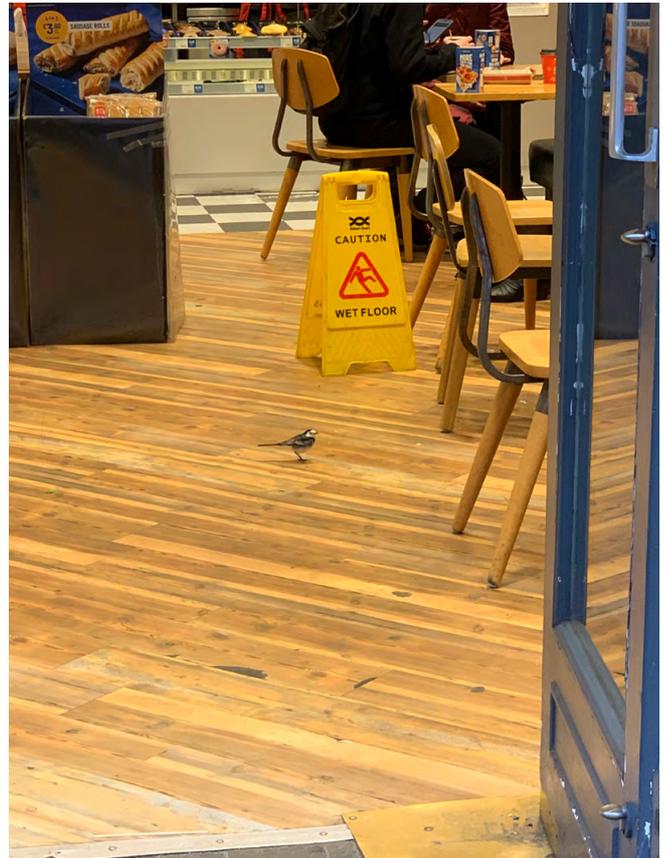
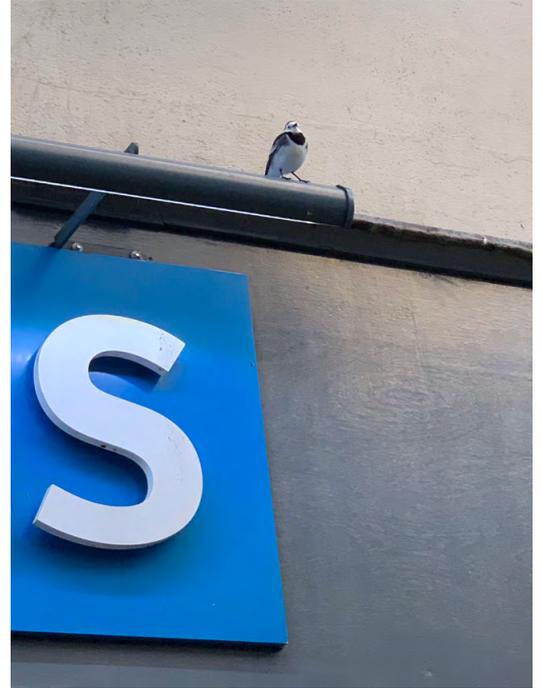
## Vote Conservative

# A clever 'Wagtail' at Greggs, Richmond

From Jonathan Haydn-Williams

I was amused, yesterday, to see this clever little 'Pied Wagtail', perching above the Greggs sign and hopping into the shop to peck at crumbs dropped by the human clientele, before flying out and back to its perch.

Everyone else was rushing by, most not noticing this little life entwined with ours.



# Council Suspends Green Bin Collection – to collect dead Christmas trees

Teresa Read

***Paid for “Garden waste collections, including bookable sack collections, will be suspended from Monday 8 to Friday 19 January 2024. Collections will be back to normal the week commencing Monday 22 January.” London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Council.***

In our leafy borough we have numerous Council trees in our streets and on Council owned land. However, the news that the Council is suspending Green Bin collection until 22 January 2024, paid for by residents in addition to Council Tax, may be unwelcome.

The LBRUT website also states: “You can order a maximum of 40 garden recycling sacks for each transaction. Sacks are sold in packs of 10 and cost £21.30 including postage.” But with piles of Council leaves to dispose of a pack of 10 would not be enough for the Council leaves that fall into my garden; from experience, the “sacks” are relatively small, and tear easily; 40 would cost around £85, on top of the cost of the “suspended” Green Bin collection.

It should be noted that in earlier administrations the Council provided these sacks to me free of charge for the purpose of filling with leaves from the Council owned Horse Chestnut and the Common Lime that overhang my garden but with more recent administrations there has been no help at all. Hardly neighbourly for a such a large organization.

When asking the Council for help with the disposal of the piles of Council leaves in my garden last year – following an accident resulting in stiches to my hand during the leaf collection from Council trees - I was asked by a Council officer whether I liked trees, but not given assistance with leaf disposal, even though the Council garden contractors park next to my gate with all the equipment needed.

In fact, I have eleven evergreen trees and a number of large evergreen shrubs so have little problem *with my own* leaf collection. Additionally, the Council gardeners use a very noisy and environmentally unfriendly petrol leaf blower when collecting leaves on their land next door, although I use a leaf rake that does not disturb the neighbourhood in the early morning.

However, at this time of year, dead Christmas trees and dead leaves (collection, storage and disposal) are an important issue to many residents.

*LBRUT: “Christmas tree collections will be between Monday 8 January and Friday 19 January 2024. Collections will take place on your normal garden waste collection day, but you do not need a paid garden waste contract for this.”*

But what about those residents who are paying for a 12-month garden waste collection?

To turn to the Christmas trees, we are told by Christmas Tree Growers that when Christmas trees are cut down replacements are planted; but the trees take around ten years to grow to a reasonable size, then there is an emission of carbon into the atmosphere when they are cut – approximately 7 to 8 million trees sold in the UK each year.

My answer for the Christmas Tree problem? There are many alternatives to a real tree and a pot grown tree can be enjoyed all year round and decorated during the Christmas period.

What of the decaying leaves uncollected in gardens? On this the jury is out. But dead leaves do emit carbon into the atmosphere.

**Climate Change Emergency Richmond Resident Action Pack:** “*Ceate (sic) wild spaces in your garden, practise ‘No Mow May’, leave leaf piles & weeds’.*”

# The Teddington Society



**Want to know what we do and how we represent our community?**

Local  
Planning

Social  
Events

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History

Horticulture

Environment

Roads  
& Transport

Riverside &  
Open Spaces

**Come & Meet the Committee**

**Share your views and ideas**

**FREE drop-in event – ALL welcome**

**11 am – 1 pm Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup>**

**St Mary's Parish Hall, TW11 9HF**

visit: [www.teddingtonsociety.org.uk](http://www.teddingtonsociety.org.uk)



# COVID-19 and flu vaccine pop-ups available through January

Eligible residents can receive their flu and COVID-19 seasonal jabs at a series of free walk-in vaccination clinics around the borough this month. Looking after your health and wellbeing, as well as that of others, as we head into the new year is important. Vaccines offer the best protection against flu and COVID-19.

There are a variety of pop-up clinics happening around the borough between now and the end of January for those who are eligible to receive their seasonal vaccines.

If you have any questions or concerns about the vaccines, you can come along and have a chat, with no pressure to get a jab.

No appointments are required, you can just walk in.

## Eligibility for vaccines

COVID-19 seasonal booster eligibility:

- All adults aged 65 years and over
- Adults under age 64 years in a clinical risk group
- All frontline health and social care workers
- Adults under age 64 who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
- Adults under age 64 who are carers, and staff working in care homes for older adults

Flu vaccine eligibility:

- All adults aged 65 years and over
- All adults under 65 years of age who have a medical condition
- All pregnant individuals
- People who receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person
- All adults living with someone who has lowered immunity due to disease or treatment
- All frontline health and social care workers

Find details of other walk-in clinics on the [NHS South West London website](#).

## Locations

The free pop-up clinics will be held at the following locations in January.

### Kew Community Trust

- Date: Monday 8 and Monday 22 January
- Time: 9.30am to 12.30pm
- Address: St Luke's, The Avenue, TW9 2AJ

### Richmond and Hillcroft Adult Community College

- Date: Every Tuesday in January
- Time: 2 to 5pm
- Address: Parkshot, Richmond, TW9 2RE

### The Barons in Twickenham

- Date: Wednesday 10 January
- Time: 10am to 3pm
- Address: The Barons, off St Margarets Road, TW1 2LH (pop-up health bus in Twickenham)

### Sainsbury's in Richmond

- Date: Monday 15 January
- Time: 10am to 3pm
- Address: Sainsbury's, Lower Richmond Road, TW9 4LT (pop-up health bus outside Sainsbury's)

### Kanset Pharmacy Ham

- Date: Thursday 25 January
- Time: 9am to 3pm
- Address: 177 Ashburnham Road, TW10 7NR (outside the pharmacy)



# Twickenham Stadium Hotel to become Radisson RED Twickenham

Following a competitive tender, with the assistance of the Rugby Football Union's Official Property Consultancy and Advisor CBRE Group Inc., the Rugby Football Union can today confirm that the Twickenham Stadium hotel will be transitioning to a new hotel provider.

Aimbridge Hospitality is set to take over as the operator of the hotel from 1 April 2024, with the hotel remaining operational while a refurbishment is undertaken to rebrand to a Radisson RED property.

Global hotel company Radisson Hotel Group boasts over 1,250 hotels (of which 520+ located in EMEA) and offers excellent benefits to guests, including the Radisson Rewards loyalty programme. The Group has over 70 hotels with over 16,000 bedrooms across its UK and Ireland portfolio with 10 properties and 1,600 rooms in the pipeline.



Aimbridge Hospitality manages numerous Radisson Hotel Group hotels globally and has repeatedly contributed to multiple brands bringing their 'best in class' experience to hotel operations.

All current staff based at the Twickenham Stadium hotel will either be transferred over to Aimbridge Hospitality or remain employed by the current hotel operator.

Mark Lynch, Executive Director of Venue at the RFU said: *"Firstly, I would like to thank everyone involved with creating and maintaining a good working relationship between the Rugby Football Union and our current operator since the opening of the hotel back in 2009."*

*"We are very excited to start a new chapter with Aimbridge Hospitality and Radisson Hotel Group and look forward to the hotel becoming a Radisson RED hotel."*

*"Both Aimbridge Hospitality and Radisson RED align with the visions and aspirations of the RFU for the Twickenham Stadium hotel, so it's a relationship that I'm sure will prosper over the coming years."*

Adela Cristea, Vice President Business Development UK & Ireland at Radisson Hotel Group said: *"The signing of Radisson RED with the Rugby Football Union is an incredibly important milestone as we continue to grow both the Radisson RED brand and our wider brand portfolio across the UK."*

*"Since Radisson RED debuted over five years ago in the UK, we have seen exponential growth with multi-award-winning properties in Glasgow and Liverpool, as well London and have upcoming openings in Huddersfield and Edinburgh, in 2025 and 2026, respectively. Radisson RED is a very relevant brand for today's guests and owners as it taps into the creative traveller's mindset with its twist on the conventional hotel by incorporating art, music, fashion, and design, and we are expecting to see further strong, dynamic growth over the coming years."*

David Anderson, Aimbridge Hospitality EMEA Divisional President, said: *"We're thrilled to be partnering with the Rugby Football Union and Radisson Hotel Group to bring a Radisson RED hotel to such a prestigious, world-renowned stadium."*

*"As operators of the hotel, we look forward to showcasing our management capabilities, drawing on our global scale and expertise to deliver a best-in-class experience for guests."*

Anne Walsh, Senior Director, Hotels for CBRE said: *"Given its iconic location inside Twickenham Stadium, it's no surprise that this was a hugely competitive process, with national and international leading white-label operators and hotel chains expressing strong interest in the hotel."*



# Watch this space!

By Shona Lyons of Crusader Travel, 58 Church Street

The Church Street Square may look tidy to you with not much happening, apart from a few chess players, a table and some chairs and lots of empty looking pots, but you would be wrong! Because it is all about to grow! This winter we ordered 1,000s of bulbs, of all kind of different



varieties of tulips and daffodils, crocuses, alliums, and have been planting away the last few weeks of November.

This year we brought little fences to keep all

the dogs off and it has worked a treat and all the bulbs have been growing undisturbed.

We even went to Squires last weekend and brought some more compost to top up the pots and give them a bit more nutrients. We went on our bikes and put the bags in Bruce's trike box. So watch this space, it is all going to look really lovely this Springtime. Enjoy!



We also had one of our homeless men come in for some warm clothes. I didn't have any but said I would get some for him so went this morning and brought them (he has a friend who usually comes with him) from Pound Land – 2 x jogging pants, 2 x men's hoodies, 2 x 7 pairs of socks and 2 x 3 pairs of boxers. Just love Pound land! :-). But these people have such chaotic lives, I probably won't see them again for another month.

Also annoyingly someone walked off with our White Queen (from our giant chess board outside our office) just before Christmas. We very luckily had 2 spares one of which was a white queen!! How lucky can you be. Only not so lucky because just a week ago someone actually seems to have cut the top off that one as well, so I have had to bandage it up with gaffer tape. We are not giving up! If you see a poor queen with silver gaffer tape holding it together now you know why.



# Richmond Council BROKE planning law on Grade II listed building

From Pools on the Park Health Suite Action Group

Over the past couple of months that we've been dealing with the health suite fiasco, Richmond Council have repeatedly stated that Pools on the Park is a challenging building due to it being Grade II listed.

Pools on the Park opened in 1966 and is considered to be one of the finest surviving examples of public swimming pools from that period. In 1967 it was awarded a [Civic Trust Award](#) for its architecture and in 1996, it was [listed as Grade II](#) by English Heritage (now [Historic England](#)) as a building of national architectural and historic importance.

According to the [The Planning \(Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas\) Act 1990](#), any alterations to Grade II listed building require planning permission from the local planning authority, which is of course Richmond Council itself.

## **Carrying out unauthorised works to a listed building is a criminal offence.**

As you'll be aware, in July 2022, the Council decided to remove the jacuzzi, sauna and steam room equipment and strip the room back to bare floor and walls.

So you can imagine we were gobsmacked to recently discover that the council had NEVER actually applied (to itself) for planning permission to do these alterations as they are required to do by law. You can view all the Pools in the Park planning applications by searching for postcode TW9 2SF [here](#).

This is quite extraordinary and is just another example of the council not adhering to rules for the ongoing health suite saga.

Of course, the inconvenient downside with planning applications is that it gives interested parties an opportunity to file objections. It also requires the applicant to justify why they are proposing the alterations. 18 months later, we are still none the wiser on why the council's "further investigation works" required a full strip out of the room.

Who authorised this work and why was Grade II planning protocol not followed?

We have now filed a breach of planning control complaint against Richmond Council so it can investigate... itself. Watch this space.

<https://healthsuite.org.uk/>

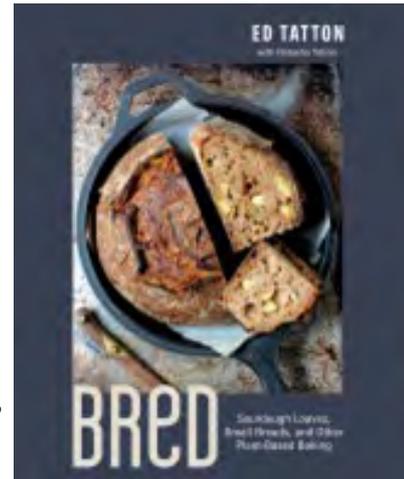
*Photo by Martin Baker*



## BReD: The Cookbook

Happy New Year. I always feel that January is a month to 'hunker down' and tidy up the house and prepare for sunnier days. It's also good to stay inside and bake and, of course, it's Veganuary for some, so I thought I'd tell you about a cookbook that was launched recently: **BReD**.

Sourdough bread is naturally vegan - flour, water, and salt transformed into extraordinary, delicious bread. **Ed Tatton**, vegan chef, artisan bread-maker, and co-owner of Canadian vegan cafe and bakery BReD, has been refining recipes and techniques for naturally leavened sourdough for years. These include a wide array of boules, baguettes, loaves, flatbreads, buns, and pizza. He uses plant-based alternatives in some savoury and sweet sourdoughs that would traditionally include dairy (butter, milk, or buttermilk) including panettone buns, hot cross buns, sticky buns, cinnamon buns, English muffins, brioche, and babka. **BReD** is a plant-based book for serious vegan bakers that goes beyond just making bread. You can take baking to the next level with gorgeous vegan baked goods - from cakes, muffins, and scones to biscuits, cookies, and tarts. The book also includes gluten-free recipes (bread and other baked goods), discard starter recipes to further zero-waste efforts, and an offering of dips, spreads, and accompaniments to complement the breads. It's published by Penguin Random House at £34 rrp. Here is a recipe from the book:



### **Espresso Coffee Cake** (Makes one 9-inch (23cm) round 2-layer cake, serves 10 to 12)

*"In the UK, coffee cake is literally a cake with coffee in it. When I was thinking of my favourite cakes to include in this cookbook, I found out that in North America coffee cake is a cake that you can eat with a cup of coffee— rather like how English tea cake does not actually contain tea but does pair well with tea. Coffee was first cultivated in or around Ethiopia and gained popularity on the Arabian Peninsula in the sixteenth century, spreading into Europe a century or two later. The Dutch and Germans are credited with bringing the concept of drinking coffee with various cakes (such as streusel-topped cakes and Bundt cakes) to North America, a time-honoured favourite ever since. Some coffee cake recipes from the late 1800s onwards contain coffee, but not many are vegan like this one!"*

#### **Coffee Frosting**

- 125g (½ cup) cold vegan butter
- 250g (1½ cups + 3 tablespoons) vegan icing sugar
- 250g (1 cup) vegan cream cheese
- 30mL (2 tablespoons) dark rum or coffee liqueur
- 30mL (2 tablespoons) brewed espresso, cooled
- 5.5g (1¼ teaspoons) pure vanilla extract

#### **Sponge**

- 30g (3 tablespoons + ¾ teaspoon) ground flaxseed
- 360g (1½ cups) unsweetened soy milk
- 250g (1 cup + 3 tablespoons) organic canola oil
- 250g (1 cup) coconut sugar
- 2 shots brewed espresso (or 60mL/¼ cup strong coffee), cooled
- 28g (2 tablespoons) pure vanilla extract
- 5.5g (1½ teaspoons) apple cider vinegar
- 300g (2⅔ cups) all-purpose flour

- 75g (2/3 cup) stone-ground whole-grain spelt flour
- 10g (2 teaspoons) ground cinnamon
- 10g (2 teaspoons) ground espresso beans
- 10g (2 1/4 teaspoons) baking powder
- 10g (2 teaspoons) baking soda
- 4g (3/4 teaspoon) fine sea salt

### For decorating (optional)

Cocoa powder

Shaved dairy-free dark chocolate Toasted whole or sliced natural almonds.

### Make the coffee frosting

In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle, cream the butter on medium-high speed until soft, 1 to 2 minutes. Add the icing sugar and beat on medium-high speed until smooth. Add the cream cheese and beat on medium-high speed until smooth and creamy, 1 to 2 minutes. Add the rum, brewed espresso, and vanilla and mix until smooth. Scrape the frosting into an airtight container and place in the fridge to set up for a couple of hours. Clean the bowl so there is no residue of coffee frosting.



### Make the sponge and bake

Preheat the oven to 350°F (175°C). Lightly coat two 9-inch (23cm) springform pans with canola oil spray, then line the bottoms with parchment paper.

To make your flax egg, whisk together the flaxseed and soy milk in the bowl of a stand mixer until a smooth paste forms. If there are any lumps, push a small rubber spatula against the side of the bowl to break them up. Let sit for 10 minutes to bloom and thicken.

Whisk in the canola oil, coconut sugar, flax egg, brewed espresso, vanilla, and apple cider vinegar.

In a large bowl, whisk together the all-purpose flour, spelt flour, cinnamon, espresso powder, baking powder, baking soda, and salt.

Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients. Using the paddle, beat on medium speed until a smooth batter forms, 1 to 2 minutes. Stop the mixer halfway through and use a rubber spatula to scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl to ensure there are no lumps or dry patches.

Divide the batter evenly between the prepared pans, about 700g per pan. Bake until a skewer inserted in the centre of the cakes comes out clean, 25 to 30 minutes. Let the cakes cool in their pans on a cooling rack for 15 to 20 minutes. Remove the ring from the pan and let the cake layers cool completely before frosting, about 60 minutes.

### Assemble the cake

Remove the coffee frosting from the fridge. Transfer 1 cake layer to a serving plate. Using a piping bag fitted with a plain tip or an offset spatula, pipe or spread a third of the chilled coffee frosting over the cake layer. Place the other cake layer on top and lightly press it down. Pipe or spread a third of the frosting around the sides and then the remaining frosting over the top.

Pipe some decorative droplets. Decorate by sifting cocoa powder or sprinkling shaved chocolate or toasted nuts over the top, if using. Place the finished cake back in the fridge for at least 30 minutes to let the frosting set. Store the cake in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 5 days.

*Excerpted from BReD by Edward Tatton and Natasha Tatton. Copyright © 2023 Edward Tatton and Natasha Tatton. Photography by Janis Nicolay. Published by Penguin, an imprint of Penguin Canada, a division of Penguin Random House Canada Limited. Reproduced by arrangement with the Publisher. All rights reserved.*

# Travel 2024 – Tips, Trends and More

By Bruce Lyons of Crusader Travel 58 Church Street

Let's start with new destinations on the "wish list" Shropshire (yes, in the UK) Mauritius, Zambia, Aruba, Vietnam and Albania.

Shropshire tells us more than you think about us BRITS, Staycations surged post Covid. True largely coastal in demand, but our seaside can get unpleasantly crowded so it is no surprise to have a lovely landlocked county surface in the popularity stakes. Since Covid coupled with Global Warming there has been an unprecedented surge in Staycation bookings and that surge has brought about a renaissance in that market - new styles, creative approach. Holiday camps seem a thing of the past – variety and adventure is key!



Trending: Albania, has become a favorite with Adventure and Culture but there are great beaches here too. Further away are Vietnam, with a never ending selection of experiences to enjoy, Mauritius & Aruba both with sparkling clean beaches and great Coral too for Snorkeling and Diving ; Zambia with Victoria Falls and acting as the Gateway to Botswana and it's fabulous Wildlife.

That brings me to the & more...

For the rest of January (though some end earlier than others) many operators have incentives;



low deposits, flight/cabin upgrades and /or cabin spend allowances, whilst others just offer a % discount if you book by...! Here is a snapshot of the Adventure Market as an example. Intrepid 20% off book by 27/01/24; Explore 20% off book by 19/01/24; Exodus up to £300 p.p. book by 101/01/24; G Adventure 25% book by

31/01/24 But beware some have a caveat selected dates – ask us for more details.

The Adventure Companies have embraced the Post Covid travelers with creative changes. Family Small Groups now have added TEEN departures and a lot more cycling and walking as well as each having a category for travelers seeking much the same experiences but requiring a tad slower pace and an upgrade from local “huts”. Many of these tours are very popular and as they have a worldwide audience. Early booking is recommended.



River Cruising has literally exploded this last decade. What started on the Rhone and the Rhine is now Worldwide. Europe is still very much the central HUB but there are river cruises on the Nile, The Mekong, On the Zambesi, in India & The USA and coming soon on the Magdalena (Columbia, South America) They too have many January offers, and there are different grades and boats to choose from.

Ocean Cruising is changing too. More options geographically as well and many more UK Port departures – offers in this area are often complex – but ask us about Cabin Spends, optional upgrades, booked by discounts and more.

A lot of countries still require VISAS but nowadays most can be done digitally (even India), you just need to be sure you have the right web site, otherwise you can easily pay double/treble the required cost.

So, in short. Best choices for 2024 – Wildlife Safaris- Family Adventures, Solo Travelers Departures (there are even small groups & also female only, even for Cycling adventures)

Enjoy 2024! – we`re waiting for you at 58 Church Street, brochures at the ready.



# Linking Our World, a schools' project

Teresa Read



Between 2002 and 2010 I was actively involved in global communication projects with schools around the world, a relatively smaller project than the World InfoZone global communication project. Such projects resulted from the report "Europe and the Global Information Society" (i994) by the EU Commissioner Martin Bangemann followed by international exhibitions and conferences in Stockholm and Rome.

The WIZ schools project, Linking Our World, combined early school internet partnerships with information about their countries from the World InfoZone studies, a collaboration with hundreds of individuals and organizations worldwide.

Unfortunately, there is a long way to go for the dream to be realized.

<https://worldinfozone.com/features.php?section=sMenu>

***Hello, Kohomada, Merhaba, Chao Ong, Molo, G'day, Annyong Ha Shimnikka, Shalom, Dobar Dan, Konnichiwa, Magandang umaga, Salaam Aleihum***

*Each photograph is from a different country. Can you match the greeting to the picture from the WIZ Galleries?*



# New year resolution..... compassion and world peace?

By Deep Patel

~ Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shop Keeper ~



How many of those reading this article right now have made a new year resolution? Fifty press-ups every morning before breakfast? Salad 4 times a week? Going for a walk every evening after work? All good things, but how would you like to have world compassion and peace? Ok... ok...it sounds a bit cliché right? However...what if we could? Just imagine...

So you may be thinking that I have started the year with a VERY big topic indeed, and you would be right, I have...why? Well, because I think the Prime Ministers, Kings, Queens and Presidents have all had enough chances at trying to achieve world compassion and peace for so many years but have all failed to do so...so what am I suggesting to achieve it?

Well...I am saying that darkness cannot get rid of darkness...only light can do that...hatred cannot get rid of hatred...only love can do that...so we all know that we must love each other and help each other in this life, but there is something else I am getting at here...and it's not entirely based on the tired and slightly crazy brain of an eccentric shopkeeper this time, but based on factual evidence too...

Everyone who has read my articles knows that I am a strong believer in kindness...especially to the little life forms...but what's that got to do with anything I hear you ask? Well, what if I were to say that the first steps towards achieving compassion and world peace are actually in practicing the simple act of moving a snail off a busy pavement so it's not stepped on? You would likely think Deep has really gone crackers this time right?

Well, I jest not...the very act of moving a snail off the pavement may well be the answer to starting the process of compassion and world peace...? Not convinced? Well, I base this on hard evidence from the world of criminology would you believe...a retired customer of mine who was the former president of the UK Forensics Society told me that a survey of one hundred research papers on some of the most notorious dictators and serial killers of all time confirmed that as children, 100% of these criminals began disruptive behaviours towards insects in the playgrounds.

Teachers of the dictators and serial killers included in this research unanimously quoted these children as being those that tortured ants, rats and snails initially, later going on to cats and dogs and finally humans...so shouldn't we be trying to "nip this in the bud" so to speak? If someone had stopped those children from harming those snails and rats...maybe they would not have developed into the dictators and killers that they later became? It may seem far-fetched...but it isn't really...its facts and it is there in the evidence...who are we to argue with that?

So am I proposing to achieve world peace and compassion, all we need to do in Twickenham is to go around using our mobile phone torches on damp, dark nights and using a leaf, move all the slugs, snails and worms off the pavements over a nearby wall?... no I am not...BUT it WILL be a start...no one can argue against that surely?

So if you make one new year resolution this year (it's not too late, they can be made any day in January, it still counts)...make your resolution that you will make a conscious effort to pick up snails, choose humane live-capture mouse traps instead of cruel poison, sprinkle white vinegar to stop ants and all insects, put bowls of white vinegar where you don't want rats, mice, squirrels and foxes, burn citronella candles to stop flies and wasps, allow little lives to move away after moving large pots or logs in the garden before sweeping up, put into boxes injured pigeons to report to London Wildlife Protection as they are the only ones with a no-kill policy, many vets will put to sleep)...all of these things...if each of us does all these things, we will automatically develop a culture of compassion, accrue good-karma (you never know when you may need it) and also help to achieve the first tiny step towards world peace...how? Well if we don't want to hurt an ant or snail as we understand they feel suffering too and it's not good karma then we will not want to hurt each other...leading us on our way to peace...

Let's all try it this year...I promise you it will work...

***Remember...***

***“Peace starts with the little things  
because the little things become the big things...”***



## *The Enfield Haunting*

by Paul Unwin

Smith and Brant at the Ambassadors Theatre, West End until 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

*The Enfield Haunting* is scary. Nearly ninety minutes scary in fact, with no interval to catch your breath (or have stiff drink). Director Angus Jackson's play tells a true story of ghostly events that took place in Green Street in Enfield during the late seventies.

Almost a character in its own right, designer Lee Newby's set reveals two floors of a dark fire damaged council house, and its household items, a family's TV set, and a hazardous gas fire. Sudden blackouts and shorting neon lights, and a spasmodically blaring soundtrack are used effectively to create moments of true horror.



The grim situation evoked by Neil Austin's terrifying lighting is and the chilling sound by Carolyn Downing underpins strong performances all round. However, David Threlfall as Maurice, an amateur psychical researcher, has the sharpest edge with his empathy for the Hodgson family. Maurice slips unwittingly into being a father figure, although a bit too often for Mrs Hodgson's liking. Peggy Hodgson, played by Catherine Tate, is a single mother with three children, who variously brings despair and optimism into the tumultuous situation, whilst clinging on to keeping the family unit together. Peggy lives under the shadow of her ex-partner, anticipating his intimidating return. Tate's screams are real and convincing.

Grace Molony as Margaret, the eldest of the siblings, brings an animated presence and light relief. The youngest family member, Jimmy, whose pre-adolescent behaviour is summed up convincingly by Jude Coward Nicoll and Noah Leggott, is brittle, disturbed and ashamed of the media attention. Janet, the middle child, carries a sinister burden of paranormal malevolence, which, in an impressive debut stage by Ella Schrey-Yeats, has the potential to arouse sheer terror.

Maurice gradually reveals a real tragedy of his own, and the appearance of his late wife, Betty confirms their terrible loss. Ironically it is not Maurice who stands up to this ghostly force, but the matriarchal Peggy.

*The Enfield Haunting* builds up to a startlingly strong ending, but a chilling one. Those hairs on the back of the neck won't stay down!

Read Heather Moulson's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/12/11/enfield-haunt](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/12/11/enfield-haunt)

Photography by Marc Brenner

## The Women's Centre

by Eliza Halling

The Play Is Not The Thing at Oxford House, Bethnal Green

*The Women's Centre* is a play that states its focus is 'on the process rather than the product', so one could be forgiven for thinking that it might be a mish-mash presentation of ideas and concepts. This is however not the case, and what director Louise Wellby and her company have put together is an acute look into a maligned aspect of society, through what is, for the most part, a well-crafted linear piece of theatre.



The play circles round domestic abuse, and for anyone looking for insights into the situations that people in these circumstances may suffer from, lines such as 'the worst bit was, I called the police' from Michelle Baker's character Chelsey, a client at the centre, serves as a stark and almost morbid highlight. It is remarkable that the humour that draws audible laughs from the audience comes from dialogue taken from real accounts of what people have actually faced.



In terms of individual performance, special mention must go to Abigail Kwao, who brilliantly plays the role of Ama, a woman in a vulnerable and unnerving situation. She really helps to anchor all going on around her with a sense of understated realism.

Eliza Halling, as Phoebe the head of the centre, captures the outlook of someone at the top of the chain, but oblivious to the real needs and concerns. It is a comedic portrait of a self-congratulatory authority figure, who thinks progress and success counts as a clever slogan or soundbite rather than any real practical undertaking.

Shelly Corsine accurately embodies Dee 'The Cleaner' who may be the centre's most valuable asset, a true human face, who offers more hope to the women that need it than any official policy or decree.

There are very poignant moments of dialogue between characters, and *The Women's Centre* is a very commendable piece of theatre with timely insights and perspectives.

Read Denis Valentine's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/11/24/womens-ctr](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/11/24/womens-ctr)

Photography by Kash Khan, image by Maha Shami

# The MARY WALLACE THEATRE IN JANUARY

Shakespeare's most enigmatic play - **MEASURE for MEASURE** - opens at the Mary Wallace on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> playing till the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Hotel manager Vincentio takes a sabbatical, leaving the management in his absence to his deputy, Angelo, instructing him to enforce order and discipline in his absence. However, Angelo misuses his new-found authority to seduce and blackmail young Isabella with the threat of her brother's execution. Will she yield? Will her brother die? And who guards the guardians?

Evening performances 7.45 - Matinee Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> at 3pm.  
Booking at [richmonndshakespeare.org.uk](http://richmonndshakespeare.org.uk)

**AND ON MONDAY, JANUARY 29<sup>th</sup> - OPEN AUDITIONS FOR OUR APRIL PRODUCTION OF SHAKESPEARE'S "OTHELLO" !!**

All the major roles will be auditioned at the Mary Wallace Theatre from 7.45pm. Auditions are open to all (you do not have to be a member) and In this production Othello will be played by an actor of colour. For further information about the production or the auditions please contact [secretary@rss-mwt.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rss-mwt.org.uk)

The Mary Wallace Theatre is situated on Twickenham's Embankment, close to St Mary's church and the Barmy Arms.



## Richmond May Fair

The new Richmond May Fair website is now live & applications for stallholders, volunteers & sponsors are open.

Visit <http://richmondmayfair.co.uk> and apply online today. The Fair takes place on Saturday May 11th, 2024 so save the date & start looking forward to a wonderful day out!

Over 100 Charity & Small Business Stalls  
Dog Show • Craft Fair • Fun Fair  
Food & Drink • Entertainment & more...



# Kenneth MacMillan's *Manon* returns for its 50th Anniversary

17 January – 8 March 2024

Live in cinemas: Wednesday 7 February 2024

This new year, **The Royal Ballet** presents **Kenneth MacMillan's *Manon***, marking 50 years since the production's 1974 premiere, and 100 years since the death of its esteemed designer **Nicholas Georgiadis**.

Adapted from **Abbé Prévost's** novel ***Manon Lescaut***, *Manon* embodies Kenneth MacMillan at his best, his acute insight into human psychology and his mastery of narrative choreography finding full expression in the impassioned duets of the central couple, visceral and urgent in their desire.



Alexander Campbell as Des Grieux and Francesca Hayward as Manon  
*Manon, The Royal Ballet, (c) 2019 ROH. Photographed by Alice Pennefather*



Mayara Magri as Lescaut's Mistress and Thomas Whitehead as Monsieur G.M.

*Manon, The Royal Ballet, (c) 2019 ROH.  
Photographed by Alice Pennefather*

With its evocative designs, and powerful tale of poverty, love and longing, the work is one of the most dramatic and devastating ballets in the repertory. Set to music by **Jules Massenet**, and with lighting design by **Jacopo Pantani**, the ballet is regularly performed by companies across the world.

The production's premiere, which received a standing ovation, was danced by **Antoinette Sibley** and **Anthony Dowell** in the lead roles. This revival now offers a new generation of dancers the chance to take on some of ballet's most beloved roles. Debuts include **Yasmine Naghdi** and **Fumi Kaneko** as Manon, and **Marcelino Sambé**, **William Bracewell** and **Calvin Richardson** as Lescaut.

In addition to a full stage run, the production will be broadcast live to cinemas across the world on **Wednesday 7 February**. The cast that night includes **Natalia Osipova** and **Reece Clarke** in the lead roles. Encores will follow from **Sunday 11 February**.



Lauren Cuthbertson as Manon, Bennet Gartside as Monsieur G.M. and artists of The Royal Ballet  
*Manon, The Royal Ballet, (c) 2019 ROH.  
Photographed by Alice Pennefather*

# St Mary's University

## St Mary's Sport Rehabilitation Associate Professor Features in Arsenal Women FC Documentary

Sport Rehabilitation associate professor at St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU), Kat Okholm Kryger, has featured in an Arsenal Women FC documentary series alongside footballers Beth Mead and Vivianne Miedema.

The [Step by Step: Viv and Beth's ACL journey](#) series follows Beth Mead and Vivianne Miedema during their recovery from anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries. The aim of the documentary is to highlight the mental and physical toll of injuries on athletes, as well as explore why ACL injuries are so prevalent in the women's game.



SMU's Kat Okholm Kryger features in the third episode of the series, where she is invited by Beth and Vivianne to talk about why ACL injuries

happen and what can be done to minimise the number of injuries in women's football. Kat was invited alongside five other researchers from around the world, to share their expertise and knowledge on ACL injuries in sport.

Reflecting on the experience, Kat said, "This documentary is both emotional, fun and powerful. You get a unique insight into the minds of injured athletes, as well as how the backroom staff manage challenging

situations like ACL injuries. I really enjoyed being part of the research discussions within the documentary on why ACL injuries happen in football, and how inequalities in men's and women's football today are likely to influence both the number of injuries and the management of injuries. The most important message is that we can do a lot more to minimise the risk of injury."

The first episode of *Step by Step: Viv and Beth's ACL journey* was released on Monday 18th December 2023, with a new episode coming out each day. The series can be watched on the [Arsenal website](#) as well as on the official Arsenal app.

Kat will also be participating in a Q&A session at the upcoming [Unleashing the Potential of Women and Girls in Sport](#) conference held by Westminster Insights, on Tuesday 30th January 2024.

The session is titled Next Steps for Professional and Elite Sport – Levelling the Playing Field with the Men's Game, with Kat saying, "This event is a brilliant opportunity to highlight the developments and challenges still faced regarding sports opportunities for women and girls in the UK.

"I am very excited to discuss the current inequalities in elite sports with experts in the field, and I am confident that having constructive conversations like this will help spread awareness of the actions needed to improve opportunities, facilities and respect in women's sport."



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

# England U20 Men's Side to face Bath Rugby named

Mark Mapletoft and Andy Titterrell have selected their first England U20 Men's matchday squad of the 2023/24 season as their side prepares for the challenge of Bath Rugby this Saturday (6 January, 2pm kick-off).

In preparation for the upcoming 2024 U20 Six Nations, the U20 Men encounter an academy-focused Bath outfit led by head academy coach Andy Robinson at the home of Dings Crusaders, Shaftesbury Park.

Entry to see the first meeting between Bath Rugby and the pathway team is free and available on a first come, first served basis this weekend.

Saracens back-row forward Nathan Michelow has been awarded the captaincy for the friendly match in Bristol and will lead the 26-man travelling party onto the pitch of the National 2 West club.

Michelow, who played in all five 2023 U20 World Championship fixtures last summer, is complemented with eight more capped U20 players in the makeup of the team.

Forwards Craig Wright and Joe Bailey, centre pairing Ben Waghorn and Toby Cousins, wing Alex Wills, as well as replacements James Halliwell, Finn Carnduff and Zach Carr, will seek to impart their experience on the newly-introduced members of the U20 pathway.

Head coach Mapletoft and assistant coach Titterrell also welcome non-EPS members to the fold for this weekend's action; Bath Rugby hooker Scott Kirk, scrum halves Ben Douglas (Newcastle Falcons) and Max Blinkhorn (Nottingham University), Junior Kpoku of Racing 92 and Newcastle centre, Ollie Spencer.

The U20 EPS for 2024 travelled abroad for a maiden warm-weather training camp at Browns Sports Resort in Portugal last month before three days of gym sessions, unit work and on-field training at Bisham Abbey this week.

Nathan Catt also links up with the coaching staff for his first matchday since joining the RFU as the designated pathway scrum coach, facing his former club where he headed up the club's academy line from Beechen Cliff to the Recreation Ground.

The U20 Men took on Loughborough University and Oxford University in preparation for the 2023 U20 Six Nations and continue the tradition with a rematch with the former next Saturday (13 January, tickets available [here](#)) before their first Six Nations tie with Italy on 2 February.

England U20 Men's head coach Mark Mapletoft said: *"It's been a real pleasure to bring this new cohort together over the last week, the boys have showcased a real intent on proving themselves in a game capacity for the first time.*

*"Our training regime has reflected the intensity we want to arrive with in Saturday's game with Bath. We know Bath's capabilities in producing some of the country's best talent, so this weekend's*

meeting is a suitable one for our boys.

*“Myself, Andy and the rest of the coaching staff expect a really competitive 80 minutes at Shaftesbury Park. The boys are aware that the U20 Six Nations awaits in a few weeks, but our focus remains on attaining a positive performance on Saturday afternoon.”*

A ticket bundle for England U20 Men’s home U20 Six Nations fixtures at the Rec against Wales and Ireland can be purchased [here](#).

### **England U20 Men’s side to face Bath Rugby**

- 1 Cameron Miell (Leicester Tigers)
- 2 Craig Wright (Northampton Saints) \*
- 3 Billy Sela (Bath Rugby)
- 4 Olamide Sodeke (Saracens)
- 5 Joe Bailey (Exeter Chiefs) \*
- 6 Nathan Michelow (C) (Saracens) \*
- 7 Henry Pollock (Northampton Saints)
- 8 Lucas Schmid (Harlequins)
- 9 Ben Douglas (Newcastle Falcons)
- 10 Rory Taylor (Gloucester Rugby)
- 11 Sean Kerr (Harlequins)
- 12 Ben Waghorn (Harlequins) \*
- 13 Toby Cousins (Northampton Saints) \*
- 14 Alex Wills (Sale Sharks) \*
- 15 Ben Redshaw (Newcastle Falcons)

### **Replacements**

- 16 Scott Kirk (Bath Rugby)
- 17 Jacob Oliver (Newcastle Falcons)
- 18 James Halliwell (Bristol Bears) \*
- 19 Junior Kpoku (Racing 92)
- 20 Finn Carnduff (Leicester Tigers) \*
- 21 Zach Carr (Harlequins) \*
- 22 Max Blinkhorn (Nottingham University)
- 23 Josh Bellamy (Harlequins)
- 24 Ollie Spencer (Newcastle Falcons)
- 25 Will Glister (Northampton Saints)
- 26 Ioan Jones (Gloucester Rugby)

*\*denotes a player previously capped at U20 level*



### **England U20 Men’s 2024 U20 Six Nations fixtures**

- 2 February - Italy v England - 19:15 - Stadio Monigo, Treviso
- 9 February - England v Wales - 19:15 - The Recreation Ground. Tickets available [here](#).
- 23 February - Scotland v England - 19:15 - Hive Stadium, Edinburgh
- 8 March - England v Ireland - 19:15 - The Recreation Ground. Tickets available [here](#).
- 15 March - France v England - 20:00 - Stade du Hameau, Pau

# Report and reaction: Brentford 1 Wolves 1

**Brentford held by 10-man Wolverhampton Wanderers in Emirates FA Cup third round; Neal Maupay's opener cancelled out by a long-range strike from Tommy Doyle; Wolves' João Gomes sent off inside the opening 10 minutes for a bad challenge on Christian Nørgaard; Thomas Frank: "We can only blame ourselves"**

Written by Brentford Football Club

**Brentford and Wolverhampton Wanderers will play an FA Cup third-round replay at Molineux after drawing 1-1 at Gtech Community Stadium on Friday night.**

Wolves' João Gomes was sent off inside the opening 10 minutes for a bad challenge on Christian Nørgaard, which allowed the Bees to dominate the ball and take the lead through Neal Maupay towards the end of the first half.

But the visitors kept themselves in the game and equalised in stunning fashion in the second half, when Tommy Doyle arrowed an effort from the edge of the area into the top corner.

**Maupay gives Brentford the lead as Bees capitalise on Gomes dismissal**

Thomas Frank made four changes to the side that lost 3-1 to Crystal Palace: Thomas Strakosha was selected between the posts with Mark Flekken given the night off; Josh Dasilva - making his first appearance since August - replaced Saman Ghoddos; Mikkel Damsgaard and Neal Maupay came in for Vitaly Janelt and Yoane Wissa respectively.



Wolves made three changes from their most recent league outing - a 3-0 win over Everton: Santiago Bueno and Matt Doherty came into the backline for Craig Dawson and Rayan Aït-Nouri. Jean-Ricner Bellegarde started in attack, with Hwang Hee-chan at the Asian Cup.

Wolves were almost gifted the opening goal of the game with less than 10 minutes on the clock, when a Strakosha pass was intercepted by Matheus Cunha. The Brazilian drove towards goal but was kept out by the Bees keeper, before Zanka cleared over his own crossbar.

Having nearly gone 1-0 up, the visitors were reduced to 10 men just moments later. Gomes raked his studs down the Achilles of Christian Nørgaard - who had to be taken off due to the injury suffered - and Tony Harrington showed no hesitation in sending the Wolves man off.

The red card allowed Brentford to keep possession in the attacking third, and a lovely move followed. Some clever play and trickery from Mathias Jensen and Dasilva saw the ball played into Maupay, who set Nathan Collins on the edge of the area with a perfectly weighted lay-off, but the centre-back's effort cleared the crossbar.

The Bees kept pushing, with Jensen and Dasilva at the heart of things again. This time, it was the latter to the former, as the returning midfielder stood up his man and found his team-mate in space, but the Dane shanked his effort wide.

Eventually, the pressure saw the hosts take the lead. A Jensen free-kick, which he won on the left wing, was whipped into the box and, after ricocheting off multiple players inside the penalty area, the ball fell to Maupay.

With the centre-forward just outside the six-yard box and with multiple defenders in front of him, he lashed an effort past Jose Sá and into the back of the net.

### **Doyle stunner forces replay**

Despite being a man down, Wolves had the opening chance of the second period.

A quick Doherty throw-in saw him play a one-two and find the ball at his feet on the byline. A low cross into Sarabia created a good opening for the Spaniard, but he got his flick all wrong and a Brentford goal kick was the result.



Doyle then scored a stunning equaliser on the 65-minute mark. A corner was played short by Pedro Neto and fed out to the midfielder and, with Myles Peart-Harris closing him down on the edge of the area, a smart dummy saw him work some space to arrow an effort beyond Strakosha and into the top corner.

With the clock running down, Brentford tried to gain back control of the game - and they had two chances to win it before the 90 minutes were up.

First, Damsgaard's ball into Shandon Baptiste saw the midfielder shoot, before Peart-Harris diverted it wide. Then, a Yehor Yarmoliuk cross was headed at Sá, before Damsgaard fired the rebound wide.

**Brentford:** Strakosha, Collins, Zanka (Yarmoliuk 73), Pinnock, Roerslev (Peart-Harris 46), Nørgaard (Janelt 11), Jensen (Baptiste 73), Damsgaard, Lewis-Potter, Dasilva (Olakigbe 63), Maupay

**Subs not used:** Balcombe, Adedokun, Fredrick, Brierley

**Wolves:** Sá, Kilman, Bueno, Toti, Doherty, Doyle, Gomes, Semedo, Sarabia (Neto 54), Cunha, Bellegarde (Chirewa 90)

**Subs not used:** King, Keto-Diyawa, Mosquera, Hodge, Barnett, Griffiths, Kalajdžic

**Attendance:** 16,818

### **Frank: We can only blame ourselves**

Brentford head coach Thomas Frank expressed his frustration following the Bees' 1-1 draw with Wolves.

“We can only blame ourselves that we didn't go through to the next round today,” he said.

“Clearly, we want a cup run. And clearly we wanted to win this game.

“When you play 11 against 10 for 80 minutes, you've got to win. End of discussion.

“We know it's not that easy. Credit to Wolves, it's the classic example of a team with momentum, and a team not with momentum. It's down to quality today. Simple.

“Some nice moves but not efficient; we didn't create enough chances.”

### **Dasilva: It was amazing to be back**

Josh Dasilva has described how it felt to be back in the Bees squad, as he returned for the FA Cup clash on Friday night.

The midfielder hadn't played since the 3-0 win over Fulham on 19 August, but featured for 63 minutes for Thomas Frank's side on Friday night.

And Dasilva described the feeling of returning to the squad, as well as how the last few months have been on the treatment table.

He explained: “It was weird being in the [matchday] routine because I hadn't been in it for so long! But I felt relaxed and just focused on what I had to do when I'm on the pitch.

“Everyone knows how it's been for the last three years; going through that again was obviously not the best, but I just cracked on and it was amazing to be back out there.”



# COVID and Influenza

**NHS England:** Doctors are warning winter virus cases are increasing alongside pressure on NHS services as data shows the number of people testing positive for Covid continues to rise in London.

In the run up to Christmas London had the highest rate of Covid in England, with data from the UK Health Security Agency estimating that around 6.1% of Londoners had the virus as of December 13, more than 1 in 20 people, the highest proportion of any region.

Around 4.2 per cent of people in England and Scotland were estimated to have the virus as of December 13 – the equivalent of one in 24 people.

Just before Christmas there were around 700 beds occupied with confirmed COVID patients in London hospitals. Figures released show an average of 220 people were in hospital in the capital with flu in the week before Christmas (18 to 24 December), up 67 percent on the week before.

Norovirus cases continue to cause problems in hospitals across the capital with an average of 56 beds closed each day and unable to be used due to measures to stop the spread of norovirus to other patients in the week ending the 17 December.

Senior medics across the region have cited an increase in the number of people socialising indoors for the rise in cases and are advising people to take steps to protect themselves, and those around them from falling ill – especially those who are at risk of becoming very unwell if they become infected.

Additionally, data shows that vaccinations for eligible Londoners against flu and Covid are behind those across the rest of the country with an overall uptake of for Covid jabs of 36.8 per cent. Uptake in England is higher at 53.1 per cent.

Of those eligible for a free flu jab from the NHS 38.6% have been vaccinated, with 2.8m eligible patients still remaining. Overall uptake in England is higher at 49.2%.

The Director of Public Health Programmes at the UK Health Security Agency, said: *“The effects of the recent cold weather and increased socialising indoors in the run up to Christmas are unsurprisingly causing flu and COVID-19 to spread more easily and numbers infected going up further.”*

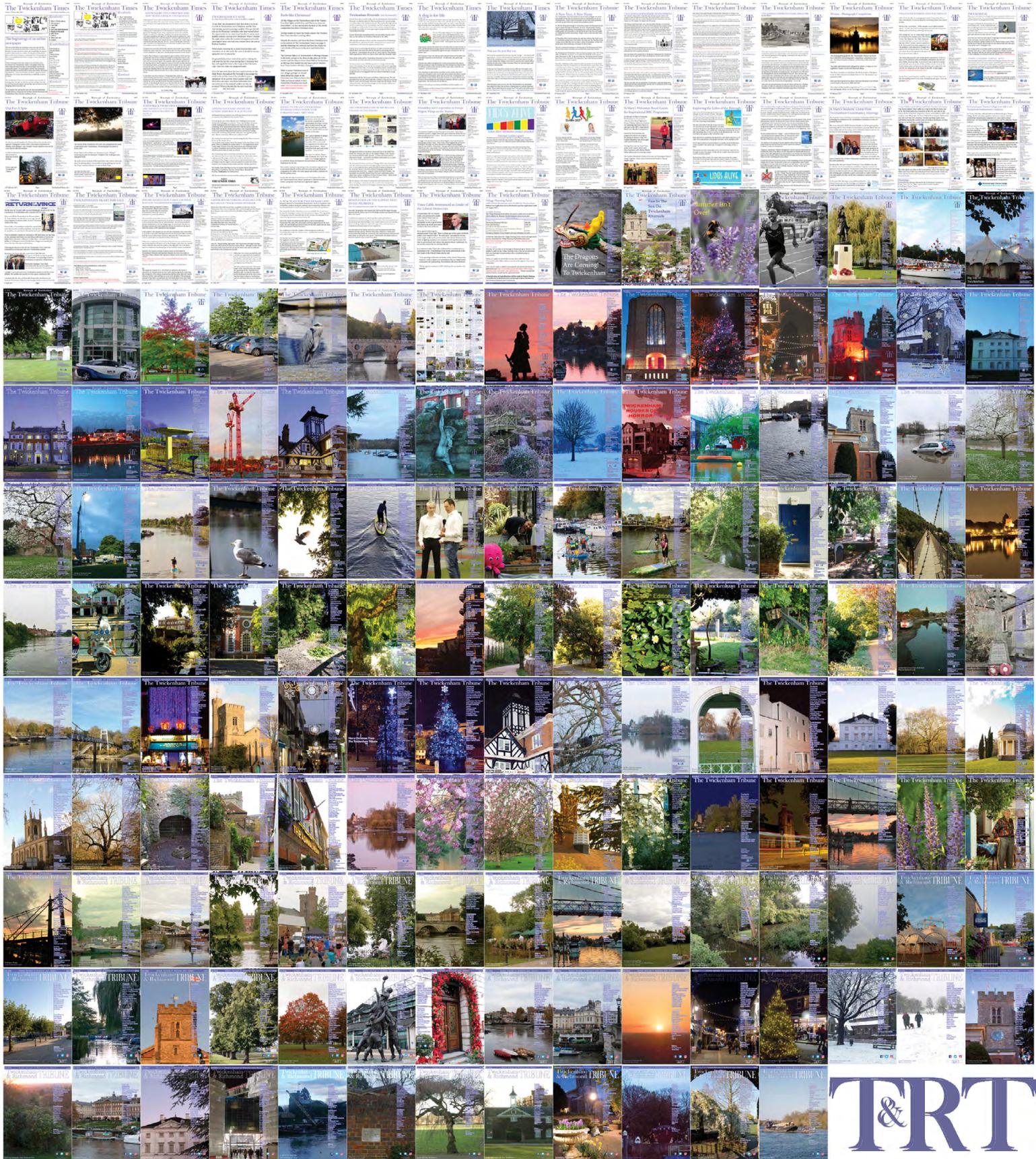
Dr Meera Chand, Deputy Director at the UK Health Security Agency, said: *“Through our genomic surveillance we continue to see evolution of variants in the Omicron family. We are monitoring JN .1 closely and the prevalence of this variant is increasing.”*

Chris Streater, Regional Medical Director for the NHS in London said: *“Demand on hospitals and staff remains high, and as we experience more spells of cold weather and people gathering indoors for festive events and end of year celebrations, we expect to see a continued increase in winter viruses spreading in the community and in some cases, this will lead to hospital admissions.”*

*“And now we are also preparing to mitigate the impact of the longest period of strikes in history, once more prioritising urgent and emergency care – including emergency surgery – to protect patient safety and ensure those in life-saving emergencies can receive the best possible care. The public can continue to play their part by using NHS services in the usual way and calling 999 in an emergency and using NHS 111 for other health conditions, and by getting their flu and Covid jabs if eligible.”*

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/london/2023/12/28/advice-to-londoners-as-covid-and-flu-cases-rise/>

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