

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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Editors

Berkley Driscoll
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9th February 2024

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

Road closures in Twickenham ahead of rugby match

On Saturday 10 February, England will play Wales at Twickenham Stadium, kicking off at 4.45pm. It is anticipated that London, Rugby and Whitton roads will close between 3.45 and 4.45pm, and then between 6.15 and 9pm.

As there is disruption on the rail network, we anticipate that it may take more time to clear the queue at Twickenham station, which may result in a longer closure of Whitton Road south of the A316 than normal.

A full CPZ will be in force between 11am and 11pm and shuttle buses will run to the stadium from Richmond and Hounslow East stations.

Live traffic updates will be posted on X/Twitter [@rfuhometurf](https://twitter.com/rfuhometurf) on the day.

View the schedule of [upcoming events at Twickenham Stadium](#).

Train delays for rugby fans travelling to Twickenham

Maintenance work will affect train journeys for rugby fans heading to Twickenham from Wales, the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean on Saturday.

The line between Reading and Bracknell will be closed from Saturday February 10, to Sunday 18 February, meaning England and Wales fans will need to amend journeys for the Six Nations fixture (4.45pm kick-off).

Fans who would normally change at Reading for South Western Railway services to Twickenham can travel:

- Reading – London Paddington on GWR or Elizabeth line, then Bakerloo line Paddington – Waterloo for SWR services to Twickenham.
- Reading – Basingstoke on GWR or CrossCountry for SWR services via any reasonable route to Twickenham.



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darryl parkin

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Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 235

By Alan Winter

Brinsworth House – Twickenham

Brinsworth House is a residential and nursing retirement home for theatre and entertainment professionals on Staines Road, Twickenham. The house is owned and run by the Royal Variety Charity and has 36 bedrooms, six living rooms, a library, an in-house bar and stage, and a staff of 64. It is set in five acres of land.

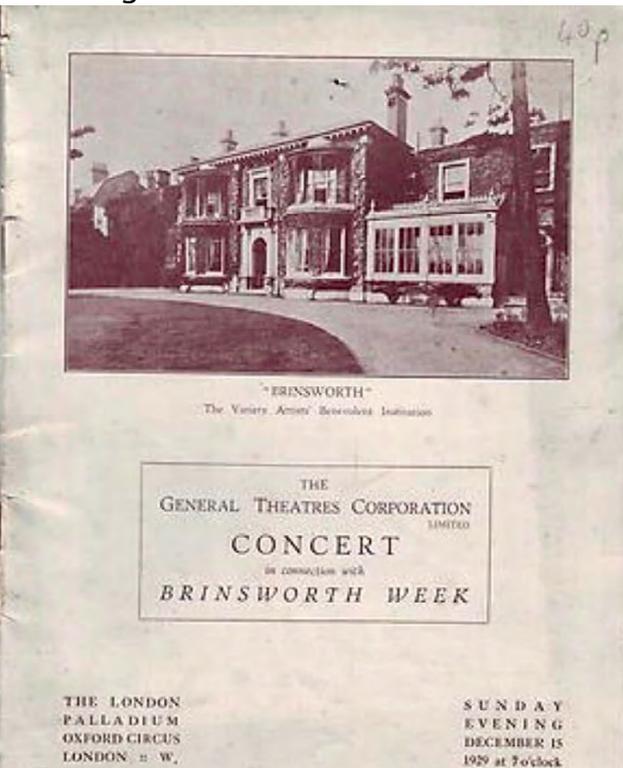
Brinsworth House was built in 1850; it opened as a retirement home in 1911.

The theatre architect Frank Matcham, in 1912, designed a wing at the house free of charge in aid of the fund. Work commenced in June and was completed in October.

Our first postcard is also the earliest I have ever found of the House and shows some of the grounds in the early 1920's.



The second image is of a programme for a benefit show in aid of the home which took place at the London Palladium in 1929 (I know it's not a postcard but it sort of fits this column doesn't it?). The third image this week is of a postcard with a banner at the front of the building in Staines Road.



The Royal Variety Charity, was founded in 1908 to care for members of, what was at that time, the variety and music hall profession. The charity and the house are funded by the Royal Variety Performance, by voluntary donations and, since 2007, by part-proceeds from phone voting from ITV Network's *Britain's Got Talent*.

Previous celebrity residents have included, Penny Calvert (died 2014), dancer and first wife of Sir Bruce Forsyth, Hylda Baker (died 1986), Charlie Drake (died 2006), Alan Freeman MBE (died 2006), Dame Thora Hird (died 2003), Pearl Carr (died 2020), Teddy Johnson (died 2018), Kathy Kirby (died 2011), Mick McManus (died 2003), John Hewer (died 2008), best known for his role as Captain Birdseye, Norman Wisdom (died 2010) and Impressionist Mike Yarwood who died recently.



Current residents include Richard O'Sullivan who as Robin Tripp starred in both the Man About the House and Robin's Nest sitcoms in the 1970's. Richard has lived at Brinsworth house for a number of years now.

The home offers short

term accommodation when needed as well as permanent residencies.

In December 2018 the house was visited by The Duchess of Sussex who was an actress in her previous life before becoming a "Royal". Meghan was welcomed to Brinsworth House – affectionately known as the Old Pro's Paradise by the charity's chairman, Giles Cooper.

Postcard Fair today in Teddington.

Today, Saturday 10th February sees our first postcard fair of the year at Teddington Baptist Church in Church Road, Teddington. There will be some 15 dealers with stocks of tens of thousands of postcards spanning some 130 years and covering every subject you can think of as well as topographical postcards of places throughout the United Kingdom and the rest of the world. The fair also has specialist stamp and coin dealers as well as other stalls with ephemera and books etc. Open from 10.00 until 4.00.

For those of you interested in local postcards and photos, do come and visit my tables next to the stage. I have boxes of postcards of Twickenham, Richmond, Kingston, Teddington and the Hamptons for sale. Also Bargain boxes where prices per card start at 10 pence and 20 pence each. Come and have a browse! Light refreshments are available all day.

If you have postcards for sale please bring them along to show me. I'm happy to pay cash for items that I like! See you there.

**WEST LONDON
POSTCARD FAIR**

Including STAMPS and POSTAL HISTORY

**TEDDINGTON BAPTIST
CHURCH**

CHURCH ROAD, TW11 8PF

**SATURDAY 10th
FEBRUARY**

10am – 4pm Admission £2.00

14 DEALERS REFRESHMENTS

EASY BY RAIL – Teddington (on Kingston loop from Waterloo) –
EASY BY BUS – 33, 281, 285, 481, R68 and SL7
EASY BY ROAD – From M3/A316

Enquiries: ALAN WINTER
07875 578398 / alanwinter192@hotmail.com

CrusaderTravel



020 8744 0474

crusadertravel.com

Escapology Experts

info@crusadertravel.com



Feel the love!

Limited edition Love magnet included with every booking that includes the 14th of Feb or if booked on the 14th of February!



Pharmacy First to boost access to primary care

By Jonathan Hulley, Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Twickenham

I am delighted by the introduction of Pharmacy First, an essential part of the plan to give residents quicker, more convenient access to NHS care from their local pharmacies and free up time for more GP appointments.

The new service, launched on 31 January by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, gives patients quick and easily accessible care and eases pressure on GP services. More than 10,000 pharmacies, including many in the Twickenham constituency, have signed up for the Pharmacy First Scheme – over 95% of all those in England.

Pharmacy First will enable community services like Herbert and Shrive Pharmacy in Hampton Wick to supply prescription-only medicines, including antibiotics and antivirals where clinically appropriate, to treat seven common ailments, like a sore throat, earache, or sinusitis, without the need to visit a GP. This will help save around 10 million GP appointments a year and speed up people's treatment.

A resident can get treatment for these conditions by walking into a pharmacy near you. Once there, the pharmacist can speak to you privately in a separate consultation room. They could perform an examination or ask to see your medical records and then recommend the best course of action, including issuing prescriptions for medication where necessary.

Pharmacy Plus service was also introduced by the Conservative Government to boost the community pharmacies sector as it provides them with an enhanced income stream. The new service represents an investment of £645 million over two years to help community pharmacies prepare for IT upgrades and a wide range of training, guidance, support and fees for providing the service.

The Pharmacy First approach builds on the other measures outlined in the Primary Care Recovery Plan last spring, including tackling the 8 am rush by giving GPs new digital tools and providing more GP staff and appointments. The Government has made substantial progress on improving access to primary care, including meeting its manifesto pledge to deliver 50 million additional GP appointments since 2019 and recruiting record numbers of doctors and nurses for the NHS.

By sticking to the plan, the Government is delivering on the Prime Minister's pledge to cut NHS waiting lists, deliver more care in the community and ensure that patients receive the care they need when they need it.

I am committed to supporting all residents as the Conservative parliamentary candidate for the Twickenham Constituency. I will be visiting local pharmacies to see first-hand how the Pharmacy First Scheme is expected to benefit more residents who need quick and easily accessible care and the pharmacists who will be able to provide much-needed community services.



Duke of York redevelopment

The redevelopment of the former Duke of York public house on Hanworth Road in Whitton is nearing completion.

The building on Hanworth Road will have a Tesco Express on the ground floor with flats above. The second building fronting Powder Mill Lane will house a community centre for the Turkish Volunteers with more flats above.

At the planning stage, the development was controversial due to the lack of social housing. There will be 15 flats, though none of which will be affordable housing, however an offsite contribution has been secured.



Teddington Society donates to the Teddington Memorial Hospital

The League of Friends of Teddington Memorial Hospital is thrilled to announce a significant donation by The Teddington Society, which is dedicated to revamping the teen areas within the hospital.

The generous contribution marks a milestone in the ongoing commitment of The Teddington Society and The Friends of Teddington Memorial Hospital to the well-being of our community.

The donation aims to help create a welcoming and uplifting environment for teenagers receiving medical care at Teddington Memorial Hospital. Recognising the unique needs of young people, the funds will be directed towards revamping of existing spaces, ensuring they are tailored to teenage patients.

Liz Waters, Vice Chair of The Teddington Society, expressed her enthusiasm for the project, stating, “*We are delighted to support*

The Friends of Teddington Memorial Hospital in helping to enhance the experiences of teenagers undergoing treatment. It is our hope that the revamped Teen Areas will provide comfort and encouragement to those in need.”



The teen areas’ revamp is part of a larger project to enhance both the paediatric and teen areas of Teddington Memorial Hospital by Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Trust (HRCH). The environment in which children and teens receive medical care is pivotal in their overall well-being, comfort, and healing.

Well-decorated paediatric and teen areas can significantly enhance the experience of young patients, reduce anxiety, and promote recovery. Making enhancements to the paediatric and teen areas of Teddington Memorial Hospital is not merely a cosmetic endeavour but a strategic investment in the health and well-being of our community’s youngest patients.

In response to the donation, Simon Douglas Lane, Chairman of The Friends of Teddington Memorial Hospital, expressed gratitude, saying, “*We extend our heartfelt thanks to The Teddington Society for their generous donation. This investment will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the well-being of our teenage patients, creating a more comfortable and uplifting atmosphere during their hospital visit.*”

The Friends of Teddington Memorial Hospital and The Teddington Society encourage the community to join in supporting this initiative. Both organisations remain committed to projects that enhance the quality of life for residents of Teddington and surrounding areas.

For further information, please contact [The League of Friends of Teddington Memorial Hospital](#).

Council Report

Adult Social Services, Health and Housing Committee

6 February 2024

By James Knight

The first item discussed was the **quarterly budget report**, with the committee noting the **£1.46 million overspend**. Most overspending is on Adult Social Care, Public Health, Environment, & Community Services, with a small underspend in Housing and Regeneration.

Cllr Stephen O'Shea (Twickenham Riverside Ward) noted the **£1.19 million overspend on adult social spending** and asked what learning has been taken when setting next year's budget. The officer said it resulted from demand still rising. Therefore, the budget has increased by £2.1 million, along with additional grant funding through the Government's Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (to increase carers' pay) and Discharge Grant (to reduce hospital discharge delays). The directorate is also planning to manage future demand by using a 'strength-based approach' to keep residents healthy and independent while trying to prevent, reduce or delay the need for long-term care services.

Cllr Clare Vollum (Kew) asked if the **early reablement underspend** could be transferred to long-term care where there was pressure. The officer replied that the number of hours spent per head on reablement at home had reduced this year. The officer said they did not want money from early enablement as they needed to focus on that. Cllr Richard Bennett (South Twickenham) said that **commissioning was the council's Achilles heel**. We talk about these things as if they are surprised can't we forecast them and foresee them? The officer replied that we try to forecast, but capacity can be inadequate, and we need to supplement it. Cllr Paulina Vassileva noted the **biggest item of overspending was on adults with mental health issues** and asked what plans were being made for this group. She was told the officers were bringing a mental health commission review to the committee later in the year.

Moving on to the next item, uprating the charges for adult social care for the next financial year. Cllr Niki Crookdake (Mortlake and Barnes Common), a registered speaker (she is not on the committee), **asked for a budget amendment** for the care contribution policy for non-residential care. She said there were around 1,100 people with a care package that cost the council £29.8 million, and their means-tested contribution amounted to £3.2 million. However, within this group, there is a much smaller cohort with progressive health issues such as motor neurone or multiple sclerosis who are entitled to the highest enhanced level of disability benefits and receive income benefits. Living solely on benefit income means they have very little discretionary income. **Users have contribution rates they cannot afford and are fearful of falling into debt, stopping care they desperately need**. She said that Rules, a local disability advocacy charity, has numerous clients in this situation. She believes charging is a false economy as it results in their health deteriorating quicker, resulting in more expensive care home placements. She **asked for the council to reduce charges for this cohort**.

The committee agreed for her to participate in a discussion on this. The officer said the charging is based on people's illnesses or benefits, and the **council does not apply differential charging**. Another officer noted that the national social care charging reforms are on hold until 2025. They had planned to reduce care charges for younger adults because of the proposed lifetime cap on care charges (£86,000). The committee approved the increase in charges for the next financial year, 2024/25.

The next item was the **Adult Social Care End-of-Year Performance Report for 2022/23**, which discussed benchmarks against other London Boroughs over 19 indicators. Cllr Vollum asked why

the **adjusted social care quality of life indicator had reduced**. She was told the department was not concerned about that, as it was externally driven by cost-of-living issues and rising crime in London. Cllr Bennett said the indicators seemed to be random where we are good at some whilst others are bad, and or is the situation that other councils are bad? Officers replied the indicators are a national set, and some were driven by factors outside of the council's control. The results were also in quartiles, so a small change could appear to be a big one if it resulted in moving up or down quartiles. There were several more questions about the details, and the committee noted the report.

The committee then discussed the **Adult Statutory Complaints Policy**. There were several questions regarding how the council dealt with complex complaints. Officers said it can sometimes take a while to investigate as other parties, such as the safeguarding team, are involved. The council agreed to adopt the new policy.

The next agenda item was the GLA Council Homes Acquisition Programme and Richmond Council **applying to become a registered provider**. The council is applying to become a registered provider so that it's in the position to bid directly for funding to **acquire property** on the open market for **temporary accommodation**. They had difficulty last year applying for GLA grants to buy 30 houses as the GLA will only fund registered providers, and so the council had to partner with RHP, who was one. It proved to be much more complex than envisaged to partner with RHP as they only wanted to provide general needs housing (i.e., long-term lets), meaning only 17 properties were eventually purchased. Once they are a registered provider, they can apply directly for government and GLA grants to buy the remaining 13 house properties. The number of properties they can buy is limited as the council has to borrow to fund part of the purchase price of each property. Cllr Jim Millard (Hampton Wick and South Teddington) said the council's work on the climate emergency and active travel work reduces what we can do for affordable housing.

The proposed **Quality Accounts Subcommittee** was next on the agenda. The chairman, Cllr Piers Allen (West Twickenham), explained that the new subcommittee was being set up as the committee did not have time to deal with them appropriately. Cllrs Vollum, Hale & Bennett were appointed to this committee.

Cllr Stephen O'Shea provided an update on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) work. The main area of focus now is the **proposed transfer of children's cancer services from the Royal Marsden hospital to the Evelina Hospital** next to St Thomas' Hospital in central London. The JHOSC had responded to this service reorganisation by saying that moving services into central London was not in the patient's interest. They have also received notification from the Secretary of State for Health that the government will remove JHOSC powers to refer NHS service reconfigurations to the Secretary of State. Cllr Allen said the council plans to write to the Secretary of State to object to this, along with other council leaders through London Councils.

The final item was the **Forward Plan**. Mr Dexter, from Twickenham Labour Party, spoke as a registered public speaker. He asked for the upcoming report on affordable housing to include charts and diagrams to make the information more accessible. Pointing out that the committee had already noted that the previous charts he had submitted were helpful and had asked officers if they could include something similar in future reports. Afterwards, Cllr Bennett asked if the report was for information only or if they would be making decisions. The reply was to inform them of the progress as the planning aspect was dealt with by the Environment Committee. He said the new Local Plan targets 50% affordable housing, but the viability testing rips it into shreds, with Stag Brewery delivering only around 7%. Cllr Millard said they have appointed a new senior planning officer to focus on viability testing, and the council is trying to insist some is included and said the Kingston Bridge House had some affordable housing provided despite the viability testing saying there should be none.

Interest in Twickenham Green

Teresa Read

This week I received a Liberal Democrat leaflet from Councillors Michael Butlin and Rhi Lee stating that they, together with leader of the Council. Gareth Roberts, were looking at lighting the path that crosses Twickenham Green.

As a long-time resident opposite the Green. I was widowed with two teenage children when Amelie was murdered on Twickenham Green twenty years ago.

Before the murder I was aware of various disturbing incidents that took place locally and were under police investigation; there was also a notice on Twickenham Green on the Staines Road side of the Green asking for witnesses. As a precaution I always met my children if they arrived home late and had to cross the Green. Unfortunately, not everyone was aware of this situation and there was no obvious police presence.

Following the murder, I approached the Council to ask for lighting on Twickenham Green, especially the path that crosses from the Staines Road to the Hampton Road, but the Council refused as it was said that it would create dark areas beyond the lighted area.

Now, twenty years later we were asked by councillors to bring mobile phones and light the path on Twickenham Green with phone torches to highlight what is now seen as a need to light the path. I wonder about the outcome of this event?

Twickenham Green has been a problem over the pandemic years with groups of people congregating and drinking on the Green, often late into the night. One year it was particularly dangerous with fireworks thrown at passing cars and near residents crossing the Green. Underage drinking has also been an issue and people have been seen lighting small fires, possibly connected with drug use.

Some readers of the Tribune will remember the campaign to reinstate the toilets on Twickenham Green but to no avail and even elected representatives made a joke about Le Piat d'Or where the leader and a councillor and a Twickenham Riverside councillor Liked a joke on Twitter about "Lee Pee at door".

At this time, I was a long-time member of the Strawberry Hill Residents Association (SHRA) and asked the Committee for help with the situation; I was appointed by SHRA to liaise with the Friends of Twickenham Green but the Friends would not allow me to attend their meetings and told me to look at their website.

So, it now seems that Cllr Butlin and Cllr Rhi Lee, and even the leader Gareth Roberts are interested in Twickenham Green, let us hope that this time they shut the stable door before the horse bolts. I shall be interested to see the outcome following the vigil on 5th February and lighting the path on Twickenham Green with mobile phone torches.





Twickenham Conservatives

Jonathan Hulley, the Conservative prospective Parliamentary candidate for Twickenham constituency, will be holding a Shadow MP Surgery on **Saturday February 17th from 10am to 12noon.**

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

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

There is no need to make an appointment.

Shadow MP Surgery

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

**All are
Welcome
To attend.**



Barnes Ward - Community Conversation

Richmond Council is holding a Community Conversation for East Sheen, Barnes, Barnes Common and Mortlake wards! We invite residents, local businesses, and community organisations to come together and discuss local ideas, concerns and initiatives that can help enhance your neighbourhood.

Tuesday 13 February 2024, Sheen Lane Centre, 6.30 to 9pm, SW14 8LP

Attendance is **free** but must pre-register for the event using the [Eventbrite](#) as places are limited (or call 020 8487 5031 if someone is not able to use online options).

The themes covered for the East Sheen, Mortlake, Barnes, and Barnes Common event are:

1. **Community Safety**
2. **High Streets and Local Infrastructure**
3. **Stag Brewery**
4. **Traffic and Transport**

After the discussion, there will be an open Q&A where residents will be able to put questions to Councillors on other local matters or any ideas they may have for the future.

For more information about the event and how to register, please visit:

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/council/have_your_say/community_conversation.

Alternatively contact the Community Engagement Team:

Email: communityconversations@richmond.gov.uk

Phone: 020 8487 5031 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday

Register here as places are limited <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mortlake-and-barnes-common-east-sheen-and-barnes-community-conversation-tickets-795227465757>



ULEZ adverts made misleading claims

By Ron Mushiso

Conservative GLA Candidate for South West London



No doubt many of you would have seen the Advertising Standards Authority ruling **against claims made in ULEZ adverts**. Adverts promoting the expansion of ULEZ made a number of claims “**likely to mislead**” about the pollution levels in London and inside cars, the watchdog found. We all want clean air, but the unfair ULEZ is not the answer. Susan Hall, the Conservative mayoral candidate, has pledged to “scrap the ULEZ Expansion on day one” and she has my full backing.

The first finding relates to TFL radio adverts that claimed that nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels had halved, but this was not based on measurements taken before or after the implementation but on current air quality measurements and a projected “non-ULEZ scenario.” The watchdog found not qualifying was likely to mislead them.

A second upheld claim relates to a claim made in another TFL advert that most deaths related to air pollution “actually” occurred in outer London when this is also based on modelled estimates. The watchdog said this was also misleading because it did not explain the basis of the claim.

The third upheld claim relates to a Greater London Authority (GLA) radio advert that stated, “According to research, one of the most polluted places in London is inside your car,” which was misleading. The ASA said they had not directly compared pollution inside a car with other locations around the city, meaning it had not substantiated the claim and was likely to mislead.

Next week at Richmond Council

On Tuesday, the Policy and Performance Review Board meets to discuss (1) the Q2 corporate performance report, (2) the Pools on the Park swimming pool booking system, shorting swimming sessions from 1 hour to 45 minutes, operation of the outdoor pool in summer, (3) progress on changing rules for vehicle crossovers and, (4) the housing allocation scheme to give care leavers more priority. Start time: 7 pm, York House.

How to participate: members of the public who live or work in the borough can submit questions or speak on an item in the agenda. To ask a question, you need to submit your question by 12 noon, two working days in advance. To speak, you will need to register by noon the day before the meeting.

For full details, please follow the link [HERE](#)

Keeping our communities safe

From Munira Wilson MP

I was devastated, as I know so many residents were, to hear of the tragic fatal stabbing of a young man at Strawberry Hill station a few weeks ago. The senseless loss of a young life is something no parent should ever have to face and, as a parent myself, my thoughts are with the young man's family after this terrible loss.

There is a general feeling across London, and indeed our country, that knife crime is on the increase – something that is reflected in national media coverage. We can take some comfort in the fact that Richmond Borough is statistically the safest borough in London, and that knife crime is still rare in our area. But we must never forget that people are not just statistics, and any loss of life to knife crime is one loss too many. I know from talking to teenagers in local schools, and the emails in my inbox, that a few knife-related incidents in the borough over the past year or so have left people understandably alarmed.

Tackling knife crime is not straightforward, and it needs an approach that involves a range of public services – schools, youth services, the NHS and, of course, our police. Sadly, one of the challenges we have faced in London, especially over the past decade, has been the cuts to community policing. Our officers are overstretched, and the few we have are often taken into central London to police large events and protests, leaving precious little time for bobbies to be out on the beat, building relationships in the local community and gathering intelligence.

In Parliament, I have called on Home Office ministers to address officer numbers and the need for greater community policing on our streets (you can watch one of my questions in Parliament [here](#)). I have made the same point in meetings with the Met Police Commissioner and the Deputy Mayor for Policing & Crime in London.

Locally, I hold regular meetings with the Metropolitan Police Neighbourhood Inspector for Richmond, and senior officers in borough command, to discuss all aspects of crime in our constituency. The local Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) conduct both uniform and plain clothes operations and targeted patrols, including regular targeted patrols of our parks.

Apart from holding the Government to account to ensure it is doing everything in its power to keep communities safe, it is so important that we as a community get involved and work together against all types of crime – whether knife crime, hate crime or anything else. Your local SNT holds regular public meetings to address concerns from residents and to involve you in setting their priorities.

Teddington Police Liaison Group meeting – 29 February

The next Police Liaison Group (PLG) meeting for Teddington ward will be at St Mary's Church Hall in Teddington on 29 February at 7:30 p.m.

Creating the Everything Device: Showcasing the machines that built the future

Wednesday 14 February - Saturday 17 February 2024

Time: 10.00am - 5.00pm

Venue: Main Building - room 0063 (behind the canteen), Penrhyn Road campus, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2EE

Price: free

Kingston University, Faculty of Engineering, Computing and the Environment, Computer Science Department in association with Just Clear are hosting a public exhibition. This is an incredible opportunity to see and even have a play, with early microcomputers, including the rare and pioneering Q1 from 1972. You will also experience seminal games that shaped today's major game developers, featuring classic game competitions, and programming challenges.



We are really excited to host this exhibition and display incredible historic items.

Please come down, bring your families, and show your kids how you used to play games!

Details and directions [HERE](#)



Know how to contact
your neighbourhood
policing team?

Hampton North

0207 175 9428
@MPSHamptonNorth
HamptonNorth@met.police.uk

South Richmond

0207 175 9463
@MPSSthRichmond
SouthRichmond@met.police.uk

Hampton

0207 175 9427
@MPSHampton
Hampton@met.police.uk

St Margarets & North Twickenham

0207 175 9465
@MPSSthMargarets
StMargarets&NorthTwickenham@met.police.uk

Hampton Wick & South Teddington

0207 175 9430
@MPSHamptonWick
HamptonWick@met.police.uk

South Twickenham

0207 175 9464
@MPSSTwickenham
SouthTwickenham@met.police.uk

Barnes

0207 175 9363
@MPSBarnes
Barnes@met.police.uk

Heathfield

0207 175 9432
@MPSHeathfield
Heathfield@met.police.uk

Teddington

0207 175 9469
@MPSTeddington
Teddington@met.police.uk

East Sheen

0207 175 9382
@MPSEastSheen
EastSheen@met.police.uk

Kew

0207 175 9436
@MPSKew
Kew@met.police.uk

Twickenham Riverside

0207 175 9470
@MPSTwickenham
TwickenhamRiverside@met.police.uk

Fulwell & Hampton Hill

0207 175 9410
@MPSFulwell
Fulwell&HamptonHill@met.police.uk

Mortlake & Barnes Common

0207 175 9453
@MPSMortlake
Mortlake&BarnesCommon@met.police.uk

West Twickenham

0207 175 9473
@MPSWTwickenham
WestTwickenham@met.police.uk

Ham, Petersham & Richmond Riverside

0207 175 9417
@MPSHamPetersham
Ham&Petersham@met.police.uk

North Richmond

0207 175 9462
@MPSNthRichmond
NorthRichmond@met.police.uk

Whitton

0207 175 9474
@MPSWhitton
Whitton@met.police.uk



Richmond

Temporary cycle lanes across Hammersmith Bridge open

Hammersmith Bridge will re-open to cyclists, cargo bikes and e-scooters from Tuesday 13 February.

We've created a new two-way central lane across the bridge to allow greater access to residents, visitors and businesses on both sides of the river. Spanning three metres wide, the cycle lane is likely to remain open for around 10 weeks. This means that cyclists will no longer have to dismount and walk their bikes across, which frees up the footways for pedestrians.

Motorbikes and mopeds will not be allowed to use the bridge and marshals will be on duty 24/7 to handle traffic management.

The decision to repair and reopen the carriageway comes because of a pause in stabilisation works on the Grade II* listed bridge.

West Ham boat damaged bridge

Completion of stabilisation had to be suspended due to the requirement for some refabricated steel plates for the pedestals, while damage caused to the bridge's gantry by a boat carrying football fans has made it difficult to carry out safety checks.



The accident in December caused significant damage to the bridge. A boat carrying West Ham United football fans to Fulham FC's Craven Cottage severed the 130-metre-long steel gantry running under the bridge. This platform is required for maintenance workers to access the underside of the bridge.

The gantry is now being repaired and the new steel plates being fabricated. Until those works are completed and stabilisation can resume, we have taken the opportunity to create a temporary central cycle lane on the bridge.

The final stage of the stabilisation project is the jacking up of the four corner pedestals to enable the replacement of the bridge's bearings.

Following that, H&F will review e-mobility options to shuttle residents across the bridge, notably the elderly or Disabled, subject to a 1.5-tonne weight limit imposed by safety experts.

Funding delay

Hammersmith Bridge – made out of wood and wrought iron with the suspension held in place by cast iron pedestals – is one of the world's oldest suspension bridges. That's why, at £250m, it is also one of Britain's most expensive and complex to repair.

The BBC has called it "a key bit of national infrastructure in a global city." Unfortunately, the Department for Transport (DfT) has delayed consideration of H&F's business case for the full restoration of the bridge, which would allow full use by motor vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. It was submitted to the DfT last year and had been expected to be agreed before Christmas.

Cllr Sharon Holder, H&F Cabinet Member for the Public Realm, said: "Hammersmith Bridge is a major regional transport asset that will cost a massive £250m to repair. This is a national and a London issue with most users of the bridge coming from south London and the A3 corridor. Fixing this historic bridge requires the support of both national and regional government. We are committed to the full re-opening of Hammersmith Bridge to motor vehicles including buses, and we are doing all in our powers to deliver on that commitment. But we are a small local authority, and we must have the financial support of the DfT and Transport for London, as well as an agreement to fund our share via a toll."



Twickers Foodie – By Alison Jee

TOP CHAAT AT CHATORA!

I've been hearing about **Chatora** in Richmond for a while now, and finally went to check it out last week. I went with an Indian girlfriend, Seema, as it made sense to visit with someone who knew her Asian onions, so to speak! Chatora's been listed in the Michelin Guide for some time, meaning it serves a good meal by the exacting standards set by the Michelin inspectors. The restaurant is on Kew Road, and on three levels, with a small terrace in front for al fresco dining when the weather allows. The proprietor, Jamshed Rahman, showed us to a table on the mezzanine - well placed to view the diners below - and explained that his chefs represent a diverse range of cuisines from across India.

We started by ordering a few starters to share (always my favourite part of a meal). Having had another Indian mate recommend the chaat at Chatora, we chose **Crispy Aloo Tikki Chaat** (*bhujia, pea shoot, artichokes and date chutney*). We had also been recommended to try the **Anjeer Lamb Chops** (*two Cornish lamb chops, fresh fig marinade, farm fresh leaves, breakfast radish, cherry tomato, pea and mint chutney*). And I'm such a fan of **soft shell crab** that the Chatora version, (*with crab meat, tomato lentil chutney and garlic chips*), was a must as far as I was concerned.

We were presented with a delicious selection of papads and home-made chutneys to enjoy with a glass of house wine, a Kleinkloof Chenin Blanc. One particular dip - yoghurt, curry leaf and onion seeds cleverly identified by Seema - was so delicately spiced, and gave a taste sensation akin to a good cognac, with the flavours working their magic as they developed on the palate.



Reader, the starters were beautifully presented and sensational: the chaat was a combination of textures - crispy and soft - with a gentle spice. The soft shell crab was amazing. It was a clever inclusion of all the components, with the white and the brown meat having been removed, gently seasoned, and then presented at the side of the dish. There were curry leaves within the tempura batter and the dish tasted wonderfully of the sea, despite the spices; clearly an indication of the skill of the chef. The lamb chops: well, I can honestly say that they were the best I have ever tasted. So very tender, delicately spiced, yet - as with the crab - the skilled brigade allowed the inherent flavour of the lamb to be the hero of the dish.



On the way to repleteness by this stage, we opted just to share a main dish and a couple of sides. **Malvani Prawn** (Tiger prawns, roasted chilli, curry leaf) was good, but slightly outshone, we felt, by the excellence of our starters.



The signature **Chatora**

Black Dal (*Black lentils simmered with garlic, tomato and chilli*) served with a generous dollop of ghee melting on top, was smokey and creamy. The **Peshawri Naan** was soft, generously filled with fresh coconut, and also fabulous.



We were persuaded to try some desserts, and Seema liked the sound of the **Chocolate Samosa** (*dark chocolate and hazelnut chikki vanilla ice cream*). These were rich, deeply chocolatey, and reminded us of a cross between a florentine and a mince pie - but again, a triumph. I am rather partial to **Gulab Jamun** (cottage cheese dumplings, roasted almonds, cardamom and saffron sugar syrup) and these were some of the best I've

tasted; not too sweet, and so very light in texture.



We were impressed with our Chatora meal, and will be back very soon. The menu is well constructed, as is the wine list - with a good selection at under £30 a bottle. I'd like to try the excellent value **Bottomless Weekend Lunch** (unlimited prosecco or Kingfisher beer accompanied by a two course set menu at only £30 per head).

There is also a five course **Valentine's special menu for February 14** at £50 per head which sounds really good value too. Full info on these are on the website.

THROWN to the LIONS

By Bruce Lyons

Inspiration for the Curios you can experience the workings of Wildlife conservation and more for around £2000 a month.

Our Volunteer Programme *by* Samara (South Africa)

In 2010 we launched Samara's Volunteer Programme. Geared towards eager learners of all ages, and particularly students and school leavers, the programme was developed with a strong focus on research and hands-on involvement in the field. Its aim is to demonstrate the hard work that goes on behind the scenes in a game reserve, and to engage the next generation of citizens and decision-makers from all over the world. Our 17 volunteer base is truly international, and particularly popular in South Africa, the UK and Switzerland. The course is UCAS-accredited and endorsed by Professor Graham Kerley, Director of the Centre for African Conservation Ecology at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, and all volunteers receive a signed certificate on departure.



Over the course of any duration between 2 weeks and 6 months, a maximum of 8 volunteers at a time participate in a variety of projects, from cheetah tracking to antelope demographic surveys; soil erosion control to alien vegetation removal; rhino monitoring to learning the tricks of the trade with the Tracker Academy. The emphasis is on work that contributes to the objectives of Samara and its research partners. As such, the programme collaborates with research institutions working on Samara, training and dispatching volunteers to assist with monitoring vervet monkeys (University of Lethbridge), collecting dung samples to test for parasites (Smith College, USA), evaluating the composition of cheetah diets (Endangered Wildlife Trust, South Africa), and assessing the bird species present on Samara (University of Cape Town, Birds in Reserves Project).

Downtime is spent camping in wild olive groves, picnicking, swimming in the river, going on game drives, and hiking to the top of Samara's mountains, from which the views stretch for 280km. There is also the opportunity to go on weekend excursions, with volunteers travelling to Addo Elephant National Park, Mountain Zebra National Park, and the Garden Route. The programme also engages in community outreach with the Vuyani Safe Haven in Graaff-Reinet, a shelter for orphaned and abused children who have been removed from their parents by the courts or social services. The volunteers visit Vuyani, helping with construction work, building vegetable gardens, and playing with the children, many of whom have been deprived of love and affection since they were born. Several times a year, the programme also organizes environmental education day-trips to Samara, during which the children visit the reserve to swim in the pool, have a picnic, and go on a game drive. The highlight of the year is undoubtedly the Vuyani Safe Haven Christmas Party, held at Samara in early December. We encourage guests, volunteers and friends to donate old toys, books and games, so that the Vuyani orphans might experience a Christmas of love, hope, and presents. For many, it is their first Christmas celebration altogether. 18 Several volunteers have been so touched by their interactions with the Vuyani Safe Haven that, on returning to their home countries, they have raised thousands of rand to support the charity. Their engagement with the Tracker Academy has also proven mutually beneficial – as the trackers impart their knowledge of this disappearing art form, the volunteers provide them with the experience of interacting with guests in English, a great help for their future careers. Our volunteers tend to leave Samara not only wiser about conservation, ecology and the environment, but their horizons broadened and their lives changed, misty-eyed and vowing to return.

If you are interested in this program please contact Crusader Travel,
58 Church Street, Twickenham, TW1 3NR 020 8744 0474
info@crusadertravel.com



WIZ Tales: Iceland volcanic eruptions



Teresa Read

A new 3km-long fissure has appeared in Iceland's erupting volcanic area, near the now evacuated town of Grindavik, resulting in damage to the hot water system throughout the region, affecting around twenty-thousand people.

Volcanic eruptions impact upon the carbon cycle releasing huge amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Carbon capture

Many volcanoes are close to oceans; each year millions of tonnes of volcanic ash settles on the ocean floor; this carbon storage reduces carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The oceans are perhaps the earth's greatest sink of CO₂. However, as we have seen previously, trawling the seabed for food is detrimental to carbon capture.

Volcanic ash and volcanic rock

In 2020 the University of Southampton investigated ways of removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Research showed that volcanic ash can play a vital role. The University's School of Ocean and Earth Science looked at the impact of spreading volcanic ash from a ship to an area of ocean floor to lock CO₂ into the seabed; once stored in marine sediments the experiment suggested that atmospheric CO₂ could be reduced by this method.

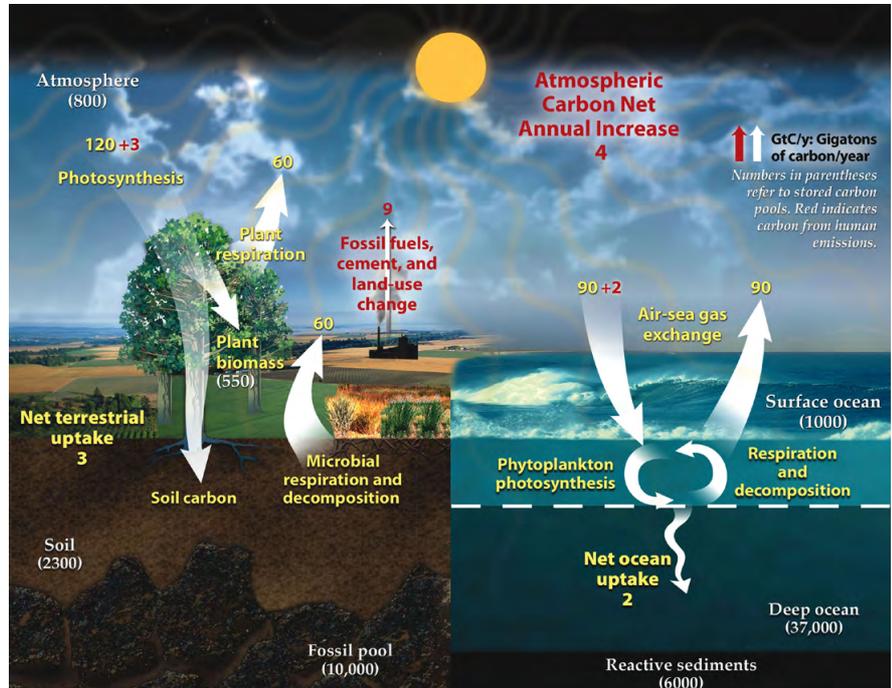
Crushed volcanic rock spread on fields has also been suggested; rain absorbs CO₂ from the atmosphere, the water reacts with the volcanic rock to form carbonates which are then washed into rivers and seas where it is stored. On 23 January 2024 the New Scientist's article concerning "enhanced weathering" described the method of crushing volcanic rock on agricultural fields to capture CO₂.

Carbon capture -what can we do?

Planting trees is a way we can all help to capture CO₂. Mature trees are important and should not be removed to make way for development, rather planners should design around existing and mature trees, they owe it to future generations. Preserving mature trees is an investment in our future.

Plant a tree

The Woodland Trust: UK woods store 213 million tonnes of carbon, but we need at least another 1.5 million hectares of extra woodland to reach the Government's net zero carbon targets.



This diagram of the fast carbon cycle shows the movement of carbon between land, atmosphere, soil and oceans in billions of tons of carbon per year. Yellow numbers are natural fluxes, red are human contributions in billions of tons of carbon per year. White numbers indicate stored carbon.

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

The little wooden box...

By Deep Patel

~ Through The Eyes of a Twickenham Shop Keeper ~

It was Monday night and I was just closing up the shop for the night. I had just pulled down the metal shutters and locked up when I began to hear a frantic banging on the front door shutter of my shop...the odd thing was that I could not see anyone through the grill, so I assumed it was perhaps the wind...a few seconds later it started again and this time a voice with it too saying "please, we need a doctor...it's urgent"...but I still couldn't see anyone through the grill (which is at eye level by the way)...so what was this all about I wondered?

I unlocked the door and opened the shutter and there she was...an eight year old girl standing with tears in her eyes and a small box in her hand. I was puzzled and then saw her grandmother standing next to her apologising to me...I still couldn't work out what this was about. I called them both into the shop and wondered if the girl was desperate for her favourite sweet perhaps? I was wrong... she passed me the tiny wooden box and looked sadly at me. I thought it must be a very late Christmas present for me? I opened it and nearly dropped it as a tiny brown mouse nearly jumped out of it!? I quickly closed the box and nervously laughed and looked at the little girl's grandmother in a confused but friendly way. It was the grandmother spoke...



She said "I am so sorry, I really am...I tried to stop her but she just wouldn't listen and wouldn't go to bed... she kept saying we have to take this injured mouse to the animal hospital"...so I assumed she meant our lovely neighbours at Twickenham Vets...but the grandmother said "no, she meant you, she led me to your shop and said that you were the animal hospital"...she had seen the posters in our window (I think most of Twickenham have) about my kind ways to stop ants using drops of white vinegar where they come, or bowls of white vinegar in places to stop mice and rats coming and she assumed we were an animal hospital!!

She was so worried about the little mouse that had been attacked by her cat that she wanted to bring it to me for urgent treatment...If a bird is caught by a cat, even if there is no blood, it is essential to catch the bird and take it to a local wildlife organization like London Wildlife Protection so they can give it some antibiotics (as even if the bird looks ok, once a cat has them in mouth or under a claw a type of bacteria transfers from the cat that can kill the bird within hours...so never release one without taking it to London Wildlife Protection so they can give antibiotics!)...but a mouse without piercing and just in shock can be fine after a rest...so I took the mouse and kept him in a cage in the shed with a digestive biscuit and a bowl of water and old towel to sleep in.

For the next 3 days, before school the little girl would come to visit the mouse...she got the mouse a new gift each day...some flowers too...the mouse healed and was ready for release so we took him to a wooded area and released him there...the girl was in tears again, just like the first time I saw her banging on my shop shutters...but this time they were tears of happiness...

As everyone who reads my articles here knows, I am a great believer in kindness towards all life forms big and small, in the interest of compassion and good karma...but this little girl reminded me that kindness towards all is what the world needs...you may be reading this thinking "it was just a mouse"...yes it was just a mouse... but it was the compassion and love this little girl showed towards that mouse that was special...to understand the feelings of another life form...much smaller than us...and to genuinely care as much as she did...that is rare and something to be proud of...she reminded me, that where there is real love...there will always be real hope.

Remember...

"Love always wins..."

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: InsectLoversUnite@gmail.com or join my Facebook page: "INSECT LOVERS UNITE".



All the World's a Stage

compiled by Anne Warrington

Poetry Performance at the Hampton Hill Theatre

A delightful evening of poetry and song was enjoyed at the one-off event, *All the World's a Stage*, to aid with much-needed fundraising for the repair and maintenance of Hampton Hill's much-loved community theatre. The performance showcased the works and talents of Poetry Performance, a group consisting of local poets, singers and actors, who meet monthly at the Adelaide in Teddington.



The programme was divided into three sections, examining theatre through different lenses. The first was a historical overview, focussing on some literary and theatrical heroes (Shakespeare and Chaucer), some theatrical villains (Cromwell and Panto!) and some of the shining lights of variety and opera. The second section explored theatre tales, including hilarious poetic anecdotes, poignant verse and entrancing song. The final segment explored the theatre of war, in truly moving, sombre and thought-provoking pieces.

No poetry recital would be complete without Shakespeare, and of course the Seven Ages of Man speech from *As You Like It*, alluded to in the title, was a must. *The Tempest* was represented by Anne Warrington, who also produced the show, in her beautifully crafted piece *Caliban's Lament*, delivered by Nathan Haisley.

Highlights included an hilarious poem, based on Chaucer's *The Miller's Tale*, written and performed by Sam Ball with the aid of his hand-made puppets; the Noel Coward classic, *Don't Put Your Daughter on the Stage, Mrs Worthington*,

perfectly performed by Robin Legard; British Music Hall Society stalwart Lottie Walker in the guise of Marie Lloyd;

Ian Lee-Dolphin's poetic *A Play on Words or a Word on Plays*; and Francis Abbot's wonderful delivery of the prologue from *Henry V*.

The evening was a huge success, being well compiled and structured, with poems that provided the perfect blend of comedy and tragedy, interspersed with songs by the talented Annie Morris.

All the World's a Stage shows art being used to support the community. We are blest to have such artistic talent locally and such wonderful venues within which to showcase it.

Poetry Performance's artistic talents made for an entertaining, engaging and effective evening.



Read Ian Moone's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/01/30/all-world-stage

Photography courtesy of Poetry Performance

Ladies' Day

by Amanda Whittington

CP at the OSO Arts Centre, Barnes until 11th February

The commuters of South West London have long enjoyed a simple shared tradition. Every morning during Royal Ascot, we feel a quiet stab of envy at everyone taking the trains out to Ascot, decked out in their finery. And every evening we share a quiet smile at the dishevelled state of those same racing enthusiasts as they weave their way homewards.

Ladies' Day goes some way to explaining what happens in the interim. Set in a Yorkshire fish processing plant in 2005, four women decide to go to Ladies' Day at Royal Ascot, to mark Pearl leaving the factory – but not retiring, as she keeps insisting. Over the course of a fast-paced two acts, they gradually open up to each other about the secrets in their lives, while also crashing into shot on national television, coming very close to winning a life-changing jackpot, and consuming impressively copious amounts of wine and champagne.

The performances, complete with sturdy Yorkshire accents, are immaculate. Clare Catford is Jan, a woman who appears to have sacrificed her own happiness to raise her daughter alone. Lizzie Williams plays the older Pearl, who seems constantly uneasy despite her apparently blissful marriage. Ali-May Hignell's diffident Linda is the youngest of the quartet, and if her Tony Christie obsession seems a shade unlikely at the start of the play, it later makes complete sense. Marie Bushell plays Shelley, an apparently confident woman who boasts of celebrity dalliances. All four inhabit their characters completely, and the audience becomes truly invested in their lives and dilemmas.



The play isn't about horse racing or gambling, despite some entertaining bookies' signals, or Pearl explaining how the odds work. At its heart, this is the story of the ladies themselves. Out of their comfort zones at an event like Royal Ascot, they bare their souls to each other, while occasionally drowning their sorrows in champagne.

Director Jane Gough's brisk, slick comedy becomes deeply poignant at unexpected moments. *Ladies' Day* gives all the fun and excitement of a day at the races, and you don't even need to wear a hat.

Read Andrew Lawston's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/02/09/ladies-day

Image courtesy of BCP

DNA and COWARD at the Mary Wallace

DNA - Denis Kelly's gripping psychological drama. Young Actors Company at the Mary Wallace Theatre. February 15th- 18th, 2024 at 7.45pm

From **February 15th-18th** the talented RSS Young Actors Company will present Denis Kelly's gripping psychological drama - DNA. A group of teenagers do something bad, really, really bad. Once they find that their attempted cover-up unites them and brings harmony to their once fractious lives, where is the incentive to put things right? In a world filled with lies and deceit, a bond formed in the shadows may be the only thing holding them together.

DNA - Booking now at www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk



Meanwhile at the Mary Wallace, Noel Coward's imperishable comedy of divorce, marriage and reconciliation - **PRIVATE LIVES** - is in full rehearsal. We are proud to present the most tender, most romantic and wittiest of The Master's many triumphs in this, the 125th anniversary of his birth. **Booking from February 19th**

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



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New Library of Things launches in Twickenham

From Richmond Council

We have joined forces with [Library of Things](#) and Twickenham co-working space Patch (42 York Street) to open the borough's first branch of the community-focused social enterprise.

The aim is to help people save money and reduce waste by sharing common items they may only use every-so-often, rather than buying new.

Library of Things, which has 16 other locations across London, works like a library, but instead of books, residents can rent out over 30 useful household items like drills, carpet cleaners, hedge trimmers, sound systems and sewing machines for as little as a few pounds a day. It also helps people share practical skills like DIY and repair with others in their neighbourhood.



From Tuesday 6 February, residents can [reserve items online](#) and collect from self-service lockers in Patch's ground floor.

Councillor Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee, said: *"We are very pleased to be bringing the Library of Things movement to Richmond upon Thames, giving residents a convenient opportunity to share common items they may only use every once in a while, rather than buying new, to save money and, importantly, reduce waste locally. As we continue forward with our ambitious plans to become a Net Zero borough by 2043, we are committed to providing residents with community resources, like Library of Things, that are needed to support sustainable and cost-effective habit changes that can help us reduce our carbon footprint. I'm looking forward to borrowing from our new location, and I'd encourage others to do the same. Together we can ensure Richmond upon Thames Library of Things gets off to a great start and remains a success."*

Renting items is easy. Search the Twickenham [Library of Things website](#) to find the item you're looking for, make your booking and select your collection and return dates. Collections and returns can be made Monday through Saturday, 8:45am to 5:30pm. You'll receive an email with all the information you need when you make your booking.

As well as helping Richmond upon Thames residents save money from not buying new things, residents in need of a helping hand will have the option to sign up with the concession membership, which gets them 25% off rentals.

Save money, reduce clutter and support the planet by getting involved with Library of Things today. You can also sign up to the [Library of Things mailing list](#) to stay up to date on the latest items and local offers available.

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Twickenham Student Recognised for Outstanding Academic Achievement

A student from Twickenham has been twice recognised by the University of Worcester for his outstanding academic achievements.

Jean-Sébastien Prénovost was awarded with a £1,000 scholarship for outstanding academic achievement. But he was also awarded with the GIS Award for the Most Inspirational Web Student. The awards recognised the student's achievements throughout the 2022/23 academic year.

"I am very happy that my efforts in my first year have paid off and been recognized by the University," said the 19-year-old, who is currently in the second year of a Computing degree. *"The prize money will be going into savings."*

For Jean-Sébastien, it was his experience attending one of the University's Open Days that really decided where he would study. He said: *"The Open Day was what sparked my initial interest in the University of Worcester, as the teachers that were presenting the Open Day lecture were very enthusiastic about their subject. The resources that the University also has for computing are very good and, combined with the new experience of being far from home, I decided to choose the University of Worcester."*

Since coming to the University, the former Waldegrave Sixth Form pupil said he had been very satisfied with his time there so far. *"The facilities that are available to me enable me to do my work to a high standard. The campuses are walking distance from each other, and Worcester as a city is very nice to walk around and has a lot of stuff to do."*

The University of Worcester awards a number of Academic Scholarships and Prizes each year.

University of Worcester Provost, Ann Jordan, said: *"Congratulations to all our students who earned an Academic Scholarship or prize this year. These students achieved highly in their studies and it is wonderful to be able to recognise their dedication and commitment during the last academic year. Hopefully this award will inspire them to further academic success in the future."*

"The scholarships and prizes are supported by generous philanthropists, including the University's distinguished Honorary Fellows, local employers, and many successful graduates of the University, and we are very grateful to all our benefactors, whose generosity makes such a difference to our students."

For information on courses at University of Worcester visit www.worcester.ac.uk or for application enquiries telephone 01905 855111 or email admissions@worc.ac.uk



St Mary's University

St Mary's Law Professor Appointed to Civil Justice Council by Lord Chancellor

Head of the School of Law and Society at St Mary's University, Twickenham, Prof Liz Smart has been appointed to the [Civil Justice Council](#) (CJC) by the Lord Chancellor for a three-year term.

[Liz has been appointed](#) as an Advice Sector Member to the CJC, alongside five other new members - John Cuss, Amrik Kandola, Daniel Hoadley, Laurence Shaw, and Sue Prince. All six appointments are effective from 1st January 2024.

The CJC is a statutory advisory body established by the Civil Procedure Act 1997, and brings together members of the judiciary, civil servants, legal professionals, and others found across the civil justice system.

The CJC has a statutory role in keeping the civil justice system under review, advising the judiciary, government, and rule makers on the development of the civil justice system. It particularly looks at how to make the system more accessible, fair, and efficient.

Alongside her role as Head of School at St Mary's, Liz is a National Teaching Fellow and Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, as well as a non-Executive Solicitor Director of the Solicitors' Regulation Authority (SRA). She also serves on the Independent Ethics Panel for the Police and Crime Commissioner in South Yorkshire advising on equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Speaking on her appointment, Liz said, "It is an honour and privilege to have been appointed to serve on the Civil Justice Council and I look forward to contributing to the incredibly important work they do in the civil justice system and improving access to justice."

St Mary's Awarded Bronze Race Equality Charter Award

St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) is delighted to announce it has been awarded the Race Equality Charter (REC) Bronze award after a successful application to Advance HE.

The [REC](#) is a framework provided by Advance HE through which institutions work to identify and address internal barriers faced by Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff and students. The framework aims to help improve the representation, progression and success of BAME people in higher education.

Speaking of the award St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran said, "I am delighted that St Mary's has been awarded the Race Equality Charter Bronze Award from Advance HE. This award underpins our commitment as a university to fostering equality, diversity and inclusion in higher education.

"In doing so, we draw on our University values of Excellence, Respect, Inclusiveness and Generosity of Spirit. We pledge to implement our action plan dedicated to addressing and overcoming racial inequality within our institution."

SAT Co-chair Melina Healy said, "It has been a great privilege to be Co-chair of the REC, I have to say a huge thank you to the self-assessment team, present and past, whose hard work has led to us achieving our Bronze award. We still have work to do but this is an amazing achievement, and we should all be proud."



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Valentine's Day: Romantic meals and gifts as Royal Star & Garter couples prepare to celebrate

Valentine's Day will be celebrated by all residents at Royal Star & Garter.

The charity is gearing up for the big day on Wednesday 14 February by decorating its three Homes in Solihull, Surbiton and High Wycombe, and preparing extra special treats for the married couples it cares for.

Royal Star & Garter provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their partners living with disability or dementia, from Homes in Solihull, Surbiton and High Wycombe. It has also launched new services reaching out into the community.

The charity is proud to be able to care for couples, enabling them to stay together even when they have to leave their martial home. Among the married couples celebrating in High Wycombe are Roy, a Navy veteran, and his wife Patricia. The couple are childhood sweethearts, who married in 1966. Also at the Home is Army veteran Neil, and his wife Betty. They married in 1969 after meeting at a judo class. Staff will serve up romantic meals for the couples, and arrange for small gifts to be exchanged between the pairs.

In Surbiton, Armed Forces couple Vera, an RAF veteran, and Eric, who served in the Army for two years for his National Service, will be pampered by staff. They married in 1975. Another Surbiton couple, Jack and June, met at a dance while both serving in the Army, and last year celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Bob, who also served in the Army, will enjoy Valentine's Day at the Home with his wife Rosemary, who he married in 1982.

In Solihull, resident Ann will welcome her husband Ray into the Home for a delicious Valentine's lunch cooked by the in-house catering team. Ray comes to the Home daily with his dog Mallory, to see Ann, who he wed in 1960.



June and Jack toasting their 70th wedding anniversary last year, and on their wedding day

To ensure that all residents feel loved and included at Royal Star & Garter, the Homes are putting on special activities for Valentine's Day. Residents are making cards during arts and crafts sessions, and heart-shaped biscuits in cookery activities. In Solihull, residents will receive Love Hearts sweets and chocolates on the day, while in Surbiton, a live concert will see an Elvis impersonator leaving fans All Shook Up.

Shirley Hall, Director of Care & Wellbeing at Royal Star & Garter said: "The thought of being in a care home and separated from the person you love and have spent your life with is heart-breaking. That's why it's such a privilege for us to care for so many couples at this stage of their lives. It's also lovely that staff help bring couples like Ann and Ray together, and put in so much effort to make the day special for all our residents. Valentine's Day may be a difficult time for many who have lost loved ones, and our staff are there to make everyone feel special. The chefs are busy prepping delicious meals and treats, there's lots of fun activities going on, and I know we will share some Valentine's Day love with everyone in the Homes."

Lillian, a resident at the Solihull Home, said: "It's nice to be with my friends here on Valentine's Day, and with the staff who do so much each day to keep us happy and involved."

Royal Star & Garter is welcoming new residents into its three Homes. For more information on this, or to work for the charity, visit www.starandgarter.org



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& Garter**

Care with courage



2024 FIXTURES

— GMT —

ROUND	FRANCE	DATE	TIME	IRELAND	ROUND
ROUND 1	FRA	FRI 2 FEB	20:00	IRE	ROUND 1
	ITA	SAT 3 FEB	14:15	ENG	
	WAL	SAT 3 FEB	16:45	SCO	
ROUND 2	SCO	SAT 10 FEB	14:15	FRA	ROUND 2
	ENG	SAT 10 FEB	16:45	WAL	
	IRE	SUN 11 FEB	15:00	ITA	
ROUND 3	IRE	SAT 24 FEB	14:15	WAL	ROUND 3
	SCO	SAT 24 FEB	16:45	ENG	
	FRA	SUN 25 FEB	15:00	ITA	
ROUND 4	ITA	SAT 9 MAR	14:15	SCO	ROUND 4
	ENG	SAT 9 MAR	16:45	IRE	
	WAL	SUN 10 MAR	15:00	FRA	
ROUND 5	WAL	SAT 16 MAR	14:15	ITA	ROUND 5
	IRE	SAT 16 MAR	16:45	SCO	
	FRA	SAT 16 MAR	20:00	ENG	

U19 Men's 2024 Fixtures Confirmed

The England U19 Men's side will return this spring with fixtures against fellow European competitors France and Italy.

The team, led by the England U20 Men's coaching staff, will take on their French pathway counterparts on 30th March 2024 at Castle Park, Doncaster, kicking-off at 1pm.

England will then travel for a contest against Italy U19 Men the week following on 6th April 2024 at the Stadio Tommaso Fattori, L'Aquila, with the exact kick-off time to be determined in due course.

The U19 side serves as an avenue for England Rugby pathway players for developing their skillsets with meaningful gametime on the international circuit.

Fixtures such as the upcoming meetings with France and Italy can act as a bridging point for those players eligible for U20 selection in the summer's World Rugby U20 Championships in South Africa, who missed out on selection for the 2024 Under-20 Six Nations.

Current U20 EPS members Zach Carr and Nathan Michelow were capped in last year's slate of U19 games and went onto represent their country in the World Rugby U20 Championships.

Alan Dickens led last year's U19s to a 60-14 win over Wales and conquered Italy in the corresponding fixture by a score of 28-26 at Bedford Blues' Goldington Road, Sam Harris slotting the winning conversion in the 80th minute.

Mark Mapletoft, U20 Men's head coach, spoke ahead of the announcement on what to expect for the games.

"The U19 fixtures always serve up exciting encounters, last year's being no exception, and we're pleased to add this to an already intriguing pathway schedule in the coming months," he said.

"Working with the U19 cohort can pose challenges in integrating a fresh group quickly, but it's a great challenge for the squad as much as the coaches.

"Facing the likes of France and Italy, whose pathway systems have impressed me greatly in recent years, will really serve us well in our players' progression and strengthening our group mindset alike."

Tickets to England U19 Men vs. France are available to purchase [here](#).

A ticket bundle for England U20 Men's home Under-20 Men's Six Nations fixtures at the Recreation Ground against Wales and Ireland can be purchased [here](#).



Match Preview: Wolves v Brentford

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

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford take on Wolverhampton Wanderers in a Premier League clash at Molineux this weekend (3pm kick-off) - and there's no doubt the two sides are well-acquainted.

Saturday's showdown will be the fourth time in eight games that the Bees have faced Gary O'Neil's team, and the Londoners have scores to settle having lost twice and drawn one of those previous three encounters.

Goals have not been in short supply in the trio of games to date: Wolves winning an FA Cup third-round replay 3-2 last month (after an initial 1-1 draw), having dished out a 4-1 league defeat to Thomas Frank's side in late December.

Pre-match Analysis

Stephen Gillett, Playmaker Stats: Clinical Wolves pose considerable attacking threat

Wolves have hit 17 goals in seven games in Hwang Hee-chan's absence (the striker could return on Saturday after South Korea's Asian Cup exit) - notably scoring three against Manchester United and four against Chelsea in their last two Premier League outings.

With fit-again winger Pedro Neto hitting top form and hat-trick hero against Chelsea Matheus Cunha adding goals to his game, Wolves pose a considerable attacking threat these days - only Spurs (23 games) and Liverpool (22) netting in more Premier League games this season than Wanderers (20).

Up to 10th in the table, the Midlands have been revitalised under O'Neil's astute leadership, and their additional goal threat under the former Bournemouth manager is clearly evident in the context of Wolves' goal-scoring numbers dating back to their Premier League return in 2018/19.

In fact, Wolves' current goals-per-game ratio (1.6 goals per game) out-strips their conversion rate in any of the past five Premier League campaigns - and is almost double last season's average return of 0.82 strikes per game.

One very noticeable area in which Wolves have improved this season relates to their shooting accuracy. Last season, the Midlands club hit the target with just 29.1 per cent of their attempts on goal and even across their past five top-flight campaigns, their SOT percentage stands at 31.2 per cent.



Head to Head

Wolves	Comparisons	Brentford
37	Goals	32
37	Goals Conceded	39
194	Shots	205
46%	Possession	47%
60	Yellow Cards	47
3	Red Cards	1



This season under O'Neil, however, that figure has leapt up to 36 per cent - only Spurs (37 per cent), Brighton and Man City (both 40 per cent) hitting the target with a higher percentage of their shots to this point.

Brentford have rightly been heralded for their efficiency from set-pieces over recent seasons, but Wolves are much improved in this respect this season.

Last term, only Manchester United (5) scored fewer goals from free-kicks, corners and throw-ins than Wolves (6), but the Midlands have already scored nine from set-pieces this season - with only Arsenal (9) scoring more Premier League goals from these situations at home than Wolves (7).

Wolves may pose less of a threat to the Bees from outside the box, however.

Currently, Wanderers are the only team yet to score a Premier League goal from beyond the 18-yard line - and Brentford keeper Mark Flekken will feel confident of dealing with any strikes from distance having successfully dealt with a whopping 13 of them against Man City last Monday.

Scout Report

O'Neil and Wolves surpassing pre-season expectations

Wolves played out another season of relative mediocrity in 2022/23, finishing 13th after scoring only 31 goals in the Premier League - their lowest tally since the 1983/84 First Division campaign (27).

Until just after last Christmas, they were prime relegation candidates after picking up 13 points from their 18 games to the turn of the year. They were second bottom by this point - and had already sacked Bruno Lage in October as a consequence of a miserable first few months.

The Portuguese was replaced by former Porto, Real Madrid and Spain boss Julen Lopetegui, who had first been linked with the job at Molineux six years earlier.

There was still a lack of consistency after domestic football restarted, but the Spaniard ultimately delivered the results to secure a place safe in the middle of the pack, leading to a sixth straight season back in the Premier League.

"I don't want to forget the second part of the season," said Lopetegui after the season's conclusion. *"It was fantastic to be out of the relegation zone three matches before the end. Maybe it has been a little miracle, but now we have to learn for the future. Maybe one miracle is possible, but two? No. That's why you have to improve and do your homework."*

A hectic summer followed. To comply with financial fair play regulations, Wolves had to sell their best assets this summer, including Rúben Neves to Al Hilal and, of course, Nathan Collins to Brentford. Matheus Cunha and Boubacar Traoré's loan moves have become permanent, but the club were otherwise greatly restricted.

Then, six days before the curtain-raiser against Manchester United at Old Trafford, Lopetegui departed after his contract was cancelled by mutual consent.

The search for a new boss lasted only a day, with Gary O'Neil installed two months after leaving Bournemouth but, as Wolves writer Liam Keen told us last month, on paper, this was not seen as an upgrade. Yet O'Neil has won most of his doubters over with the way things have panned out so far.

Results-wise, they struggled at the start, with four defeats in the first five leaving them in the familiar surroundings of the relegation zone.

But things have picked up greatly since September, with the 29 points taken from the last 18 games resulting in a comfortable mid-table spot and a top-half finish not out of the question.

Wolves have already scored 37 goals in the Premier League, surpassing last season's total of 31.

That suggests an element of entertainment has returned to Molineux after two pretty conservative campaigns.

In the Dugout

Gary O'Neil

Gary O'Neil is a familiar face for the majority of English football fans, having played in either the Premier League or the Championship for the entirety of his 19-year career.

The former England Under-21 international played more than 500 games for the likes of Portsmouth, West Ham United and Norwich City, and won promotion from the second tier a remarkable four times.

He only retired from playing the game four years ago, having finished at Bolton Wanderers in May 2019 (after winning their Player of the Year award), and then been unable to find a club to prolong his career with after an Achilles injury.

O'Neil's coaching career began in August 2020, when he worked as the assistant to Liverpool Under-23 boss Barry Lewtas and, six months later, he was drafted in as first-team coach at Bournemouth, after Jonathan Woodgate's appointment.

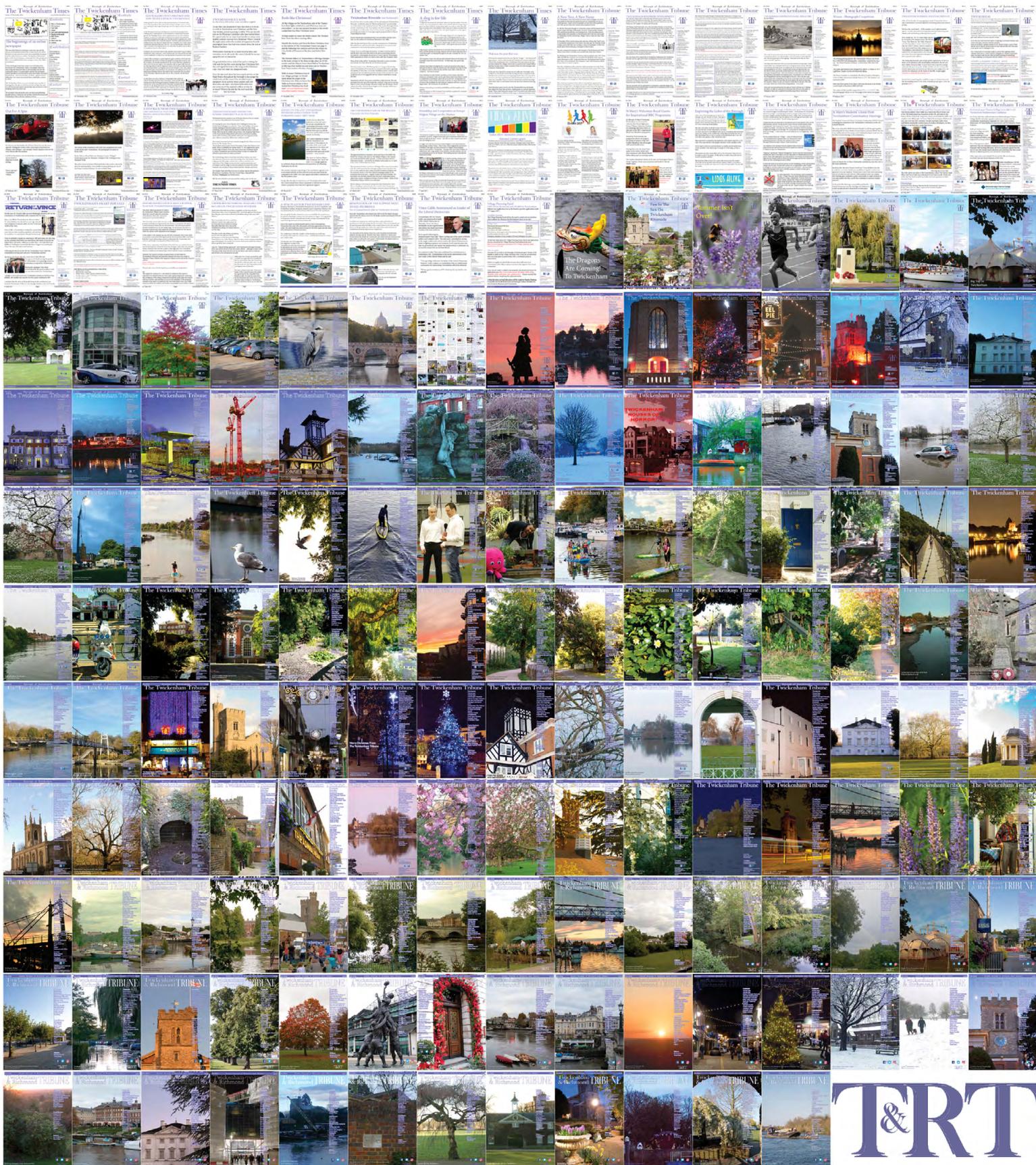
Woodgate departed the Vitality Stadium that summer, but O'Neil stayed on to work under former West Ham team-mate Scott Parker and, when Parker left shortly after promotion back to the Premier League at the start of the 2022/23 campaign, he was appointed as head coach last November after three months as caretaker.

The 40-year-old kept the Cherries in the top flight for another season, securing a 15th-place finish, five points above the relegation zone, but was sacked in June in favour of Andoni Iraola.

O'Neil was appointed as Wolves boss on 9 August.



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