

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE



Editors
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T&RT

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TickerTape - News in Brief

South Western Railway

The lines in the **Richmond** area will be **closed all weekend** due to maintenance work.

Saturday 18th May

- **London Waterloo to Reading** services will be diverted between **Barnes and Feltham** and will call additionally at **Barnes**.
- **London Waterloo to Windsor** services will be **revised**. These services will be diverted between **Barnes and Feltham** and will make additional stops.
- **Buses** will run between **Barnes and Feltham via Richmond**.
- **London Waterloo to London Waterloo via Richmond and Wimbledon** services will start from **Twickenham**.
- **Buses** will run between **Barnes and Twickenham via Richmond**.

Sunday 19th May

- **London Waterloo to Reading** services will be **revised** and will be diverted between **Barnes and Feltham**. These services will call additionally at **Barnes**.
- **London Waterloo to Windsor** services will be **revised**. These services will be diverted between **Barnes and Feltham** and will make additional stops.
- **Buses** will run between **Barnes and Feltham via Richmond**.
- **London Waterloo to London Waterloo via Wimbledon and Richmond** services will be diverted after **Teddington** and will terminate at **Shepperton**.
- **Buses** will run between **Teddington and Barnes via Richmond**.
- The afternoon and evening **London Waterloo to Kingston via Hounslow** services will **not** run.



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Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 249

By Alan Winter

Gaiety Theatre – High Street -Mortlake

Sometimes, when researching a particular building in the Borough, I find it difficult to find the sort of information that translates well to a column in this journal. I know there are several readers who enjoy learning about the Borough's Cinema and Theatre history, but this Theatre in Mortlake is a case in point. It was short lived, closed for a while in the first World War, then re-named and finally closed forever all within 17 years.

So, with my thanks to two websites called Cinema Treasures and Mortlake Theatre History I have done my best to tell the story as best I can.

I start with the Cinema Treasures Website. "Built on the site of Leach Brothers stores, and close to the Charlie Butler pub on Mortlake High Street at Vineyard Path. The Mortlake Cinema opened in early 1913 with a capacity of 500 seats. In 1914, it was re-named Electric Pavilion Cinema, and then it was soon closed and was used as a factory for the duration on World War I.



It was re-opened in 1920 as the Gaiety Cinema. An Edibell sound system was installed in 1930, but the cinema was closed later in 1930.

It was converted to industrial use, and was damaged by a fire in 1969. It was demolished in a road widening scheme of Mortlake High Street."

The following is from the Mortlake History Website. It tells a slightly different story, but I think between

them the two sites provide a pretty good picture of an early Theatre in Mortlake that finally closed its doors over 100 years ago.

"WM Carwithen in 1913 built the Mortlake Picture Palace on the site of Adams's Eel Pie House. The four exits, fireproof operating chamber and use of non-inflammable film satisfied the Cinematograph Act of 1909 but a licence was refused because the police had not been notified and not all seats were properly fixed. Nevertheless, opening was billed for the Monday after Christmas, with "Good Pictures! Good Music! Good Ventilation", matinees 2 and 2.30, continuous films from 6.30. But it went dark until March 1914, reopening as the Mortlake Cinema with

“House of Discord”, a “powerful domestic drama”, seats 2d, 3d, and (reserved) 6d. It again closed, but reopened as the Mortlake Electric Pavilion in October when the Great War was two months old. In 1915 it became a light engineering factory, until 1919 when it reopened again as the Gaiety Cinema under Isaac Cohen. Mrs Cohen worked the ticket office and her 15 year old daughter Rose accompanied the films on the stage piano six nights a week. The licence went to PT Cook in 1920 when weekly draws began for free aeroplane flights over London, the first winner being Mr Royal of 99 Ashleigh Road, Mortlake, with an alternative choice of a free charabanc trip to Brighton. Judah Schwartz became the licensee in 1921. Application for Sunday showings was refused, but on 4 and 11 December 1922 LS Dorling risked two Sunday performances and was fined 10 shillings for each offence.

The Gaiety (later the New Gaiety) was conveniently placed between the Two Brewers and the Old George, so that patrons could nip in and out for a quick drink. The narrow auditorium with red walls was heavy with the aroma of fish and chips brought in from Cotsfords, the fish-mongers. There were some boxes against the flank walls at the rear, price 1s 7d.



The Gaiety licence was constantly in jeopardy either from overdue electricity

bills, often paid by loans from patrons, or from the County Council inspector. In 1928 it was discovered there was no fire hydrant and the licence was made provisional for four months until one was put in, Norah Thompson being the licensee. More serious deficiencies came to light in July. The roof was on timber instead of steel trusses as specified in the 1913 plans, and the ceiling was not fire resistant. Ventilation was poor, there being no windows and there were no panic bolts on the exits. Worse, there was no gents toilet. The amendments had not been completed by the following February, yet the cinema limped on until 1930 when application was made for standing room at the rear of the stalls. The licence was suspended in July. Like many bijou cinemas it was affectionately known as the flea pit. Later it was used for storage by the Flush Block Co. of Fulham. One warm evening in July 1961 it caught fire and was completely gutted.”

That pretty much wraps up the story of Mortlake High street’s first Theatre unless of course anyone out there has anything to add and I will be pleased to get that into print here in the Tribune in due course.

My search for old postcards continues. I am always looking for old postcards and old photograph albums etc. The postcards can be British or Foreign, black and white or coloured and of places or subjects. If you have any that are sitting unwanted in a drawer, in a box in the loft or in the garage or under a bed, please contact me on 07875 578398 or alanwinter192@hotmail.com I would like to see them and I pay cash!

Aurora over Bushy Park

Photos by Paul Lawston



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Richmond upon Thames Council Appoint Honorary Alderman

By James Knight

On Tuesday, the council met for a special meeting to honour two long-standing servants of the borough.

The chaplain started the meeting with a prayer for Geoffrey Samuel and Martin Elengorn. He said that they may not have believed in God, but God may have believed in them. We give thanks for the years of their service and the years of dedication they invested in the work of the council, and we pray for all those who miss and grieve for them.

The mayor then said this evening is a historic occasion for us as this council has never made an award of honorary Alderman the evening is tinged with sadness as they are no longer with us, we celebrate in a long and distinguished service to this council and our borough.

History of Alderman

The title alderman comes from the Old English word ealdorman, meaning elder man.

Under the Municipal Corporations Act 1835, the term alderman was used to designate one type of membership in borough, municipal, and county councils. These councils had two types of members: councillors, who were elected by the voters, and aldermen, who were elected by the councillors. Because it was viewed as undemocratic, the office of alderman was abolished throughout England (except in the City of London) by the Local Government Act of 1972.

However, the Act made provision for the creation of honorary Aldermen and their participation in civic occasions. It is the highest award that can be given to former councillors.

The leader of the council, Cllr Gareth Roberts then moved the motion to make Martin Elengorn an honorary alderman. He said that Martin was very self-effacing, not wanting to be the centre of attention while at the same time making sure he was, to much laughter in the chamber. He had 40 years of unbroken service being elected during the Falklands War. He was not just an elder statesman, but also a walking talking encyclopaedia of planning law and custom and practice.

The deputy leader, Cllr Julia Neden-Wats, then seconded the motion. "I support the motion from the bottom of my heart." These two gentlemen were instrumental in helping me towards a great understanding of my role as a counsellor in Geoffrey Samuel's case he was unfailingly courteous, his very proper approach to doing things, his insistence on clear language, and I realise that speaking without notes as he would have done, I no doubt fall short of his very high expectations. But I do think of him when writing I report or an e-mail to cut out all the unnecessary words and to focus on what is really important. As for Martin, he became a dear friend as he led our environmental endeavours. I still find myself thinking that I better talk to Martin about this or that; and feeling both sorrow and a certain amount of pride in the

relationship that I had with him. With her voice starting to break, she went on to say, I hope that we have not done too badly without him although, of course, we would always benefit from his wisdom with a voice breaking she seconded the motion.

Councillor Roberts then moved the motion to honour Geoffrey Samuels's service. He said, now, in sharp contrast, Geoffrey would have enjoyed this meeting and showed every sign of doing so. For someone who was first elected in the 1950s and to remain central to the council 70 years later surely deserves to be recognised. It may not have been continuous services on the council. But it was continuous service to the borough through the education system and his party work. He put service first before anything else. He had many roles within the council, most notably as deputy leader and the lead member for finance; his ability to command a budget meeting was unsurpassed. He had a real passion for the chamber he was always in his element. It gave me great pleasure to enjoy his friendship during the six years I have been the leader of the council. Like Martin, a class act who will be sorely missed, the weight or wisdom experience that stood this council in good stead will be missed. We're going to miss them. They leave a huge gap.

Cllr Andrée Frieze then seconded the motion. She said that to honour Geoffrey, she would speak without notes; one of his most impressive feats was being able to stand up and speak for 5 minutes purely off the top of his head and finish perfectly on time. I have always been in great admiration of him. She said that both Geoffrey and Martin's public service is incalculable; the effect and impact they had between over nearly 100 years between them is something we can only hope to allude to. So, I'm very happy to second this motion. Whilst the certificates were being signed the chamber gave a round of applause.

The mayor concluded the meeting by saying Martin and Geoffrey will long live in our memories. I think we have shown our appreciation, and I think we can give another round of applause for their contribution.

Next week at Richmond Council

On Tuesday, the **Planning Committee** will meet to hear an application to vary the planning permission to redevelop Barnes Hospital so the number of residential units can be increased by 35% from 80 to 106. The meeting will start at 7 pm at York House, Twickenham.

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

On Thursday, the **Licensing Sub-Committee** will decide an application to vary the ice cream street trading licences opposite Hampton Court Palace. The meeting will start at 10:30 pm at York House, Twickenham.

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

On Friday, the **Quality Accounts Sub-Committee** will meet to discuss the Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare NHS Reust Draft Quality Accounts 2023/24, followed by the South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS rust Draft Quality Account 2023/24. The meeting will start at 2pm at York House, Twickenham.

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

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

For further details on how to participate, please follow the link [HERE](#)

Hydrogen powered cars

Teresa Read

At the end of September 2017 The Twickenham & Richmond Tribune was invited to the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), in Teddington, to their relaunch to accelerate low-carbon technology and combat climate change; during the visit Tribune editors were given a short ride in a NPL hydrogen powered car.

Today, we hear a lot about electric cars with all their disadvantages, such as scarcity of charging points and the hardship and misery of the people, including young children, who work in slave-like conditions abroad to collect the necessary components for the batteries.

Last year the New Scientist published an article “Geologists think there may be vast natural stores of hidden hydrogen gas within Earth, but no one is sure how much there is or how much could be recovered for energy”.

The U.S. Department of Energy has the following to say about hydrogen power: “Hydrogen can be produced from diverse domestic resources with the potential for near-zero greenhouse gas emissions. Once produced, hydrogen generates electrical power in a fuel cell, emitting only water vapor and warm air.”

However, at the present time it seems that electric and hydrogen cars both have their drawbacks; it would be interesting to hear our readers’ views.

Tribune
NPL
article,
[edition 47](#)
Pages 23
and 24

Photos by
Berkley
Driscoll





Twickenham Conservatives

Jonathan Hulley, the Conservative prospective Parliamentary candidate for Twickenham constituency, will be holding a Shadow MP Surgery on **Saturday May 25 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

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**All are
Welcome
To attend.**



Annual Council Meeting & Mayor Making

By James Knight

Cllr Garth Roberts, leader of the council, stood up and announced that he was delighted to move the motion for Councillor Richard Pyne (North Richmond) to be elected leader. The chamber erupted as the assembled members laughed at Cllr Roberts's mistake. His face turned a deep shade of red, while Cllr James Millard smiled like the Cheshire Cat. The mayor interjected, saying, Cllr Roberts, that may be for next year. Cllr Roberts replied, just checking that you were paying attention, and then read out the correct motion at the rate of knots so he could sit down as quickly as possible.

Councillor Andrée Frieze seconded the motion and quipped that she also would quite like to second the original motion, with more laughter in the chamber, especially with your two hats on now (a dig at Cllr Roberts being both leader of Richmond upon Thames Council and the London Assembly constituency member for Southwest London).

The mayor then announced that Cllr Pyne, you are now appointed to serve as our mayor; please come forward to accept this office. The chief executive read the declaration to Cllr Richard Pyne who accepted. The outgoing mayor then left the dais and the chain of office was transferred to the new mayor.



On sitting down, the new mayor said you are doing me a very great honour, and I look greatly forward to meeting many organisations and many people in the borough over the course of the next twelve months. He announced his consort would be his wife Helen and his deputy would be Cllr Kuldev Sehra (Whitton ward).

Cllr Suzette Nicholson made a short valedictory speech; it's been a great honour to serve the borough as the 58th mayor. She said Cllr Richard Pyne would bring distinction to the role of mayor she thanked various groups who she visited. She also gave special thanks to Cllr Lesley Pollesche (Heathfield) and Cllr John Coombs (Heathfield) for stepping in when her consort was ill.

The leader, Councillor Roberts, then proposed the vote of thanks. He said he always enjoys mayor making and that it reminded him of the regeneration of Doctor Who. We get someone new who we're not quite used to in the role. Cllr Roberts also let slip that he would miss the mayoral car taking him to East Sheen.

He said he knew Suzette the longest of anyone in the chamber; he met her in about 2007 after she noticed a young man in Hampton who she thought had the potential and capabilities and approached him to find out if he wanted to be on the council. He wasn't available, so she approached me! So, if you want someone to blame, anybody, for the fact that I am here tonight, then Suzette is the person. I'm only disappointed that Tony Arbour (the former leader of the council) wasn't in the chamber to see her as mayor. That is a joke for all the old heads, he added. He finished off by saying Richard you have big shoes to fill.

Moving on to the rest of the meetings business, the mayor's first announcement was to congratulate Cllr Gareth Roberts on his election as a constituency member for Hounslow, Kingston Upon Thames and Richmond upon Thames on the London Assembly, congratulations, fantastic. He then led the chamber in a round of applause. Considering the mayor is supposed to not be overtly political, this was not a good start for the new mayor.

The next big item on the agenda was the election of the leader and deputy leader. Cllr Neden-Watts was called to move the motion. She said this is the motion I really need to get the wording right, she then proposed Cllr Roberts, who was elected. Cllr Roberts then moved a motion for the two joint deputy leader posts, proposing Cllr Neden-Watts and Cllr Millard, who were also elected.

As required by law, the councillors reconfirmed their allowances for the forthcoming year. They rushed through it as quickly as possible, not mentioning they had increased their basic allowance by 18% and the leaders' allowance by 52% in 2023.

Thames Water Invests in West London's Water Supply

Thames Water is investing £21m in the Thames Water Ring Main to improve resilience in the water supply in West London.

The 38-meter-deep inspection shaft located at Mogden Sewerage Works will be fitted out with pumps that can supply the whole of the Hampton distribution area, which includes parts of West London, Kingston Upon Thames and Twickenham, close to normal pressure in the event of pump failure at Hampton waterworks.

The shaft will be fitted out with four new pumps and a connection built to the 33" water main at Kew. A new surge column and tank will also be built, and the equipment will be linked to a new electrical supply that is independent of the one supplying Hampton to reduce the risk of electrical failure.

To protect the mains water from cross-contamination, the shaft is located in a separate compound in the Mogden Sewerage Treatment Works.

Richmond libraries operating offline temporarily

From Richmond Council

From Tuesday 28 May to Friday 2 June, a large-scale IT system upgrade will take place to improve our library services.

During this time, all Richmond libraries will remain open but will operate offline.

However, book issues and returns, new members joining, public computer services and eLibrary access will still be available.

The services that will be temporarily unavailable are:

- Library catalogue for searching
- Printing from the public computers
- Sales of garden waste bags and other items
- [SELMS](#) reservations
- Stock suggestions
- New book orders

For more information on available services and alternatives, contact our library team at Libraries@richmond.gov.uk.



With great power comes even greater responsibility

Councillor Ron Mushiso, Chiswick Gunnersbury Ward

During the local election campaign, my Twitter feed was inundated with Metro Mayor candidates, Councillor candidates, and activists from the Liberal Democrats and Labour parties, all coming out in their thousands to blame the serving Conservative Government for their woes. The Labour Party now holds 11 of the 12 Metro Mayor offices in the country. The only exception was Ben Houchen in the Tees Valley. As a campaigning strategy, the blame-game worked.

As the dust settles, you would naturally expect these Metro Mayors and local politicians, with their new and renewed mandates, to start focusing on delivering what they promised in their campaigns. Surely?



Well, not exactly. Rarely do you see these elected officials take full responsibility for their new mandate from the public. Devolution seems to have created a class of politicians who make a career out of blaming someone else for their shortcomings. It seems there is a playbook to blame everything on the central government; but not a playbook on how to be responsible with public finances and services.

Why do local and regional politician feel it is okay to take the public for granted after each election campaign? I am a councillor in Chiswick, where I have seen our local administration, implement a flurry of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods across my ward, rubber-stamped with consultations conducted retrospectively. Even this did not help; the schemes have remained, and millions of pounds have been taken from the public in fines and charges.

Any opposition to this coercive form of governance is seen as being anti-environment or worse. It seems we are no longer expected to stand up for our residents and their views when they run counter to the will of the local authority. The assumption used to be that devolution would give local authorities the power to make democratic decisions locally to better serve the people they represent.

Instead, it seems that devolution has created leviathans of Labour and Liberal Democratic local authorities that function to advance their status by blaming central government while collecting record motoring fines, charges, and taxes, with very little in services back to show for it.

Devolution was intended to decentralise powers. Responsible politicians understand this. They understand that democratic powers must not be reduced to a blame-game campaign strategy. They must be used in the way they were intended—to serve the public.

BBQs are not permitted in our parks

From Richmond Council

With the warm weather and the bank holiday on the way, we are reminding residents that BBQs are not permitted in any of our parks and open spaces.

This is in line with Article 6 of our [Public Space Protection Orders \(PSPOs\)](#).

During this time, we really hope you'll visit one of the many beautiful parks and open spaces we have around the borough, but please do enjoy them safely and responsibly.

If provided bins are full, take your litter home with you. If a park bin is full, use the QR code on the top of the bin to report this as full to our cleansing team.

You can also report it on [our website](#) or via the free [My Richmond App](#).



Donate food and toiletries to the Vineyard Community and Richmond Foodbank

From Vineyard Community & Richmond Foodbank

Richmond Foodbank, part of the Vineyard Community charity and the Trussell Trust's network of foodbanks, has issued an urgent call for food and toiletries donations to help meet the increasing demand for emergency food parcels.

They are seeking donations of non-perishable food items and toiletries. Top on the list of most-needed items are tinned meat and fish, long-life milk and fruit juice, tinned fruit and vegetables, rice (500g and 1kg), and toiletries such as washing up liquid, shaving supplies, and deodorant.

Donations can be made at the Vineyard Community and Richmond Foodbank located at Vineyard Community Centre, The Vineyard, Richmond, TW10 6AQ. The community centre is open Monday to Thursday from 9am to 3pm.

Alternatively, donations can be dropped off at The White House, The Avenue, Hampton, TW12 3RN from 10am to 1pm on Thursdays.

Every donation makes a difference and goes directly to someone in need in our community. Help them to continue their vital work by donating today.



Discover the hidden beauty of Ham's gardens

From Ham and Petersham Association and Amenities Group

On Sunday 19 May, Ham Open Gardens returns giving residents the chance to explore a selection of the most beautiful private gardens in Ham.

The event features a fascinating journey through a variety of gardens which reflect the area's rich history.

With more than 20 gardens open to the public, there will be a showcase of traditional gardens belonging to grand Georgian houses, highly innovative contemporary schemes, charming cottage gardens, and some of the area's much-loved community gardens.

Event details:

- **Time:** 12 noon to 5pm
- **Location:** Ham Common, Richmond, TW10 7JG
- **Price:** £11.55 for advance garden admission, £15 for general admission. Booking required.

Visitors can also enjoy teas and delicious homemade cakes served at St Thomas Aquinas Church near the pond on Ham Common.

A barbecue will be provided by the Scouts on South Avenue.

[Buy tickets for Ham Open Gardens 2024](#)



May Food And Drink News

At long last we are seeing a little sunshine. It's time to start thinking of summer and planning our food and drink for lazy summer days. Here are some of my latest food and drink finds:

London Essence's Crafted Sodas are great. Now in a new 250ml slim can, available in Pink Grapefruit; White Peach & Jasmine; Raspberry & Rose (my favourite), with Aromatic Orange & Fig soon. They are delicious, and a perfect refresher on a hot day. Pink Grapefruit blends zesty grapefruit with lime leaf distillate, while the White Peach & Jasmine blends white peach and floral notes. Alternatively the citrus with the Aromatic Orange & Fig, take your taste buds to a summer garden. As too will Raspberry & Rose's raspberry, infused with a hint of sharp blackberry, balanced with lavender and a signature rose distillate. They're available from major supermarkets including Waitrose, Tesco, and Asda at £1.45.



Tyrrells is a multi award-winning company and when one tastes the crisps, it's easy to see why. The company has just launched some new flavours and they're fab. **Black Garlic & Sour Cream** (carefully aged garlic balanced with cooling sour cream) **Truffle & Sea Salt** (a perfect balance and nice and 'truffly') and **Tomato & Chilli Chutney** (sweet tomato with a subtle spicy kick). Around £2.75 for a 150g sharing bag from major supermarkets including Waitrose, Sainsbury's, Asda and Tesco.

As we enter BBQ Season, it's time to stock up with some top-notch accompaniments, so they're to hand when we fire up that barbecue. **Tracklements Special Edition Chimichurri Chilli Relish** is a great standby. A popular, green sauce originating from Argentina and Uruguay, it's a 'flavour fiesta' of coriander, oregano, parsley, garlic and lemon juice, with a smack of Bird's Eye Chilli. Traditionalists may say it should be for complementing the richness of grilled or barbecued meat - but it has a host of other culinary uses. Tracklements Special Edition Chimichurri Chilli Relish RRP £4.10 for 170g, is available from fine food delis and farm shops nationwide and online at www.tracklements.co.uk.



Applewood Vegan, launched in 2019, has been tweaked to improve the cheeze's texture, and make it look and taste more like a dairy cheese. Many folk following a plant-based diet feel that what stands Applewood Vegan apart from other brands of cheeze is its 'meltability'. It melts like dairy cheese, while many other cheezes don't. So, Applewood Vegan has changed the original recipe, making it more "dairy cheesy" with a creamier taste and texture. I'm impressed; it makes a pretty good toastie and is good in recipes. Now available in blocks or slices at Asda, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose and Ocado.

Look out for a new brand of premium, organic rice available here in the UK, from Cambodia. **IBIS Rice** directly supports farmers in Cambodia. involved in preventing deforestation and protecting indigenous wildlife. They sign up to a program of organic agriculture, zero deforestation and zero poaching and are paid a 70% premium for their crops. The IBIS Rice farmers grow a local variety of long grain jasmine rice known as *phka rumdoul*, **voted the best rice in the world five times** at the World Rice Forum. It's available as rice grain, either white, brown, or semi-milled; puffed into rice cakes and popped for a breakfast cereal. From Planet Organic, selected health stores and ibisrice.co.uk



Buying **Amarula Cream Liqueur**, you indulge in a delicious creamy drink, and support female entrepreneurs and their families in Africa. From tree to bottle, it takes over two years to create each bottle of Amarula Cream Liqueur. The exotic marula fruit is considered one of Africa's botanical treasures. Harvested by hand, it gives Amarula a distinctive taste and texture. The rare tree grows naturally across sub-equatorial Africa and can't be cultivated. Fruits are selected when they are perfectly ripe and yellow. Then made into a wine, double-distilled, then matured in oak barrels for two years, then blended with fresh cream. **The Amarula Trust** ensures that this precious eco-system lives on with its commitment to safeguard African elephants, sustain local communities and take conscious action for conservation. **Amarula Cream Liqueur** bottles wear the image of the African Elephant and are decorated with a gold tassel, narrating its ethics. Available from most supermarkets at around £13.50 for a 70cl bottle.



I love a good G&T, and I was delighted to discover **Padstow Distilling**, a young business created by wine merchant David McWilliam. The company makes a series of excellent small batch, award-winning Cornish spirits, using local barley, in the heart of Cornwall's culinary capital. **Padstow Gin**, a gem in Padstow Distilling's portfolio, is distilled by hand, from locally sourced natural ingredients, foraged along the North Cornwall coastline. The botanical recipe combines tradition with the beauty of its location, blending juniper, citrus, and pepper with local Alexanders, an ancient coastal plant foraged from the cliffs above the same beach on the western side of the estuary. It's £48 for the Padstow Gin range, while there are 50cl Limited Edition runs of Spiced Cranberry and Orange Gin and Sloe Gin available from £38. Padstow Gin is fabulous - do check out the website [here](#) for more info.

One tends only to think about red wine when **Malbec** is mentioned, but there is far more to it: it was **International Malbec Day** last month, and I had a chance to try some delicious **Trivento** Malbecs. Trivento is the leading family of Argentine Malbecs in the UK, with an extensive range of well priced, award-winning wines ranging from £8 - £15. There are traditional Red Malbecs, a Rose Malbec and a lovely White Malbec, available in supermarkets including Waitrose, Sainsbury's, Asda, Ocado, and Tesco.



How many folk say they don't like Chardonnay, but they love Chablis? Chablis is made from the Chardonnay grape, so is 100% Chardonnay, the only grape allowed in the Chablis Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée (AOC). This **Moillard-Thomas Chablis Premier Cru** is from one of the oldest wine merchants in Nuits-Saint-George. For this Premier Cru Chablis, they ferment the grapes separately – part in barrel, the rest in stainless steel. After 12 months of ageing, with regular lees stirring for complexity, the wines are then expertly blended. Expect floral and mineral aromas with citrus fruit flavours and a long finish. £29.99 per bottle (£24.99 mix six), from [Majestic](#). It's worth paying a bit more for a superb wine.

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Traveller's Tales 160

World War 2 In Northern France

Doug Goodman Visits Some Of The WW2 Sites In Hauts-De-France



In the First World War vast areas of Northern France along The Western Front suffered tremendous damage from shelling and the construction of trenches and other fortifications. As the static warfare continued more destruction took place, particularly in The Nord, Pas-de-Calais and Somme regions. Today much can still be seen by visitors to the former battlefields in the form of trenches, concrete blockhouses, memorials, monuments, cemeteries and museums. In places the bombardments were so severe that many areas remain heavily polluted with chemicals including poison gas and are closed to the public. By contrast the Second World War was one of movement and, in 1940, one of retreat to the beaches of Dunkirk for the evacuation of Allied troops. While the British army constructed minor fortifications, what you see now are mainly German coastal defences and many museums. The Atlantic Wall, as it became known, ran from Scandinavia to the Spanish border. The areas most heavily fortified stretched from Calais to Normandy where the German defenders believed the landings to liberate Europe would take place. Fortunately, through great deception, the Germans were almost convinced that Calais was the designated place for the landing of Allied armies even after the 'real' invasion on June 6th on the Normandy beaches had started.



Message from De Gaulle



La Coupole



La Coupole Space Museum



V1 Launch Pad

ROCKET SCIENCE

The war sites in Pas-de-Calais are within easy reach of the car terminal if you choose the tunnel or if you prefer the DFDS ferry from Dover to Calais. Two routes will take you to all the major attractions. Leave the port on the AutoRoute A26 and head for St. Omer. Turn off at J3 and find Wizernes and La Coupole. This huge concrete dome once concealed a V2 rocket base before it was put out of action by the RAF. It traces the development of the Nazi V1 and V2 rockets and covers space travel up to modern times. The 3D planetarium with special effects takes visitors on a voyage into space. Just off the D943 you will come to Eperlecques in the forest north of St Omer. This huge, partly ruined bunker was built as an assembly spot and launch site for Hitler's victory weapons. Surrounded by bomb craters the bunker is now a museum dedicated to the slave labourers who were forced to work there. If the project had not been bombed it's thought that up to 36 missiles could have been launched towards the UK each day. The third base, built to fire rocket-assisted shells on London at up to 600 every hour, is at Mimoyecques off the A16 inland from the coast. Like the other launch sites this too was bombed before becoming operational. There's a memorial to Joseph P. Kennedy, elder brother of the US President who was killed during a bombing raid on the tunnels.



Eperlecques Rocket Base



Emplacement for Giant Gun



Cross Channel Gun



Museum at Ambleteuse



39-45 Museum



39-45 Museum

THREE MUSEUMS

Back in Calais, based in a former German Navy bunker, is the 39-45 Calais Museum. A wide range of documents, weapons and memorabilia are displayed as well as offering a moving insight into the daily lives of the local people under occupation. Leave Calais heading south on the scenic coastal D940 road to Boulogne. It's a very pretty drive with The English Channel in view much of the time. Make a short detour to Cap Griz Nez for a spectacular view of the White Cliffs of Dover. A little further on you'll see a sign to The Atlantic Wall Museum. Housed in a former cross-channel gun emplacement the blockhaus displays weapons, heavy guns and vehicles. In the grounds by the fortification you can't miss the huge railway gun – the K5 - one of two still surviving. Several other bunkers are nearby and if you take the track towards the sea you'll find the ruins of another gun emplacement. At Ambleteuse the 39-45 Museum is the best and most comprehensive WW2 museum I have ever visited. It's unique in the way it traces the conflict from the invasion of Poland to the surrender of Japan. Reconstructed battle scenes with 120 uniformed mannequins and original weapons bring to life scenes from WW2. You can walk down a Paris street under occupation and examine the items on sale for the local people as well as uniforms, insignia and medals for the Nazi occupiers. There's a 1940s-style cinema showing wartime films. The 39-45 museum was established in 1989 by two military historians and passionate collectors – Christophe Deschodt and Denis Barbe. The collection continues to grow with a recent acquisition of a V1 launch ramp rescued from a UK scrap yard. There's a souvenir shop and a good range of relevant books. The Hotel de la Plage at Audresselles is good value and you'll discover some excellent fish restaurants within walking distance. Try La Galante.



Atlantic Wall Museum



Atlantic Wall Museum



New Normandy
D-Day Book

Leger Holidays has a number of WW2 tours. D-Day commemorations will be held in various places in Northern France while the main events take place in Normandy. La Coupole will have a dedicated exhibition. For visitors to the Normandy Beaches a new guide book has been published. 'D-Day Landings – A Travel Guide to Normandy's Beaches and Battlegrounds' by French experts Mary Anne Evans and Alastair McKenzie offers a wealth of information.

Information: La Coupole at Wizernes: www.lacoupole-france.com Blockhaus at Eperlecques: www.leblockhaus.com Mimoyecques: www.mimoyecques.com Calais Museum: www.musee-memoire-calais.com 39-45 Museum at Ambleteuse: www.musee3945.com Atlantic Wall Museum: www.batterietodt.com. Hotel: www.hoteldelaplage-audresselles.com Restaurant: www.mariegalanteaudresselles.fr Guide Book: D-Day Landings by Mary Anne Evans and Alastair McKenzie published by Bradt. Tourism: www.pas-de-calais.com Dover-Calais ferries: www.dfds.com Holidays: www.legerbattlefields.co.uk Map: Michelin 301, 'Pas-de-Calais and Somme', 1cm = 1.5 kms is the most useful.

Hold on or let go?

By Deep Patel

~Life Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

This week many customers have been coming into my newsagent shop telling me about “little things” that have irritated them. Some customers find this to be a problem to the extent that these “little things” have ruined their entire day...I mean things like the bus driver being rude to them in the morning, or a negative comment from a work associate, there being no milk in the fridge for their morning cereal or coffee (now that one is annoying)...but are these things worth holding onto? Are they serving any purpose aside from simply making us feel irritated all day long?

Customers tell me that when something upsets their day, if they keep thinking about it, their day gets progressively worse...for example, if they make a mistake in the morning and choose to carry it with them as their day progresses, they are much more likely to make a subsequent mistake due to their lack of focusing on the present moment, resulting in further frustration and resentment, which in turn are feelings that are perfect prerequisites for making further mistakes...and so your day continues to get worse!

So what is the solution I hear you ask? Well I am a shop keeper, not a psychiatrist would be my answer... although the two are rather indifferent in actual fact, both of us spend time helping others – the only difference being that a psychiatrist would prescribe pills alongside their advice to correct chemical imbalances in the brain, whereas I provide chocolate bars, fizzy drinks and sweets alongside my advice also...so not much different at all really, in fact I would argue that my products still lift the mood and make people feel better and they taste better than pills not to mention they have less side effects. Back to the point of this article, from conversations with customers in my shop this week, I wanted to explore the question (and hopefully answer it)... the question being how long is too long to hold on to an initial mistake or something that may have upset us during our day?

Well think about having a cup of water in front of you on a table. Now imagine picking it up in one hand and holding it out straight in front of you. You can even try this whilst we are talking about it right now as you read (unless you are on a busy train or something as the passengers standing in front of you may not appreciate having a glass of water shoved in their face) ...now...how long can you hold it until it starts to hurt? A minute, 5 minutes? Half an hour? (if you can hold it that long then there is something seriously wrong with you or you have a bionic arm, either way...that's not normal). My point being, the longer you hold onto the full glass of water, the more discomfort and pain you will begin to feel right? Reading this, you may have started to think that I am just a bumbling, mad Twickenham shopkeeper, but now you see my logic...or maybe now you definitely think I am bumbling, mad shop keeper?...back to my point...the longer you hold onto that glass of water, the more your arm will feel the strain and you will feel the discomfort too...The little things that upset us during our days are much the same...the longer we hold onto them, the more we hurt...so what is the secret?...learn to let go...it's done. So it's done. Once a moment has passed, let it go (no I am not about to break into a song from the film Frozen, don't worry). Focus on the present moment or you will end up unintentionally ruining that due to a moment in the past which has gone anyway? How long is too long to hold on to something that has upset you...? Any amount of time is too long as life is simply too short...

So next time, you make a little mistake, or something little goes “wrong”...instead choose to allow yourself peace...not because you don't care, but because you deserve it...after all we are only human (well most of us anyway)...

Remember...

“Always choose peace...not because it is right...but because you deserve it...”

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

STOP ANTS KINDLY (GOOD KARMA): Sprinkle traditional talcum powder, 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...works for practically all insects too! For ANY specific tip to stop any “pest” or insect KINDLY (for good karma/blessings), email me: thedeepatel@gmail.com or join my Facebook page: “INSECT LOVERS UNITE”.



Sleuth

by Anthony Shaffer

Bill Kenwright Productions at Richmond Theatre until 18th May

Those of us who enjoy cryptic crosswords will love *Sleuth*, a psychological detective thriller whose mood darkens as the play progresses.

A cuckolded husband arranges to meet his wife's lover, ostensibly to discuss the circumstances of a divorce, but a trap is set... then another, and another.

Andrew Wyke, a very successful writer of detective novels, is urbane, witty and erudite; but is also arrogant, cynical and sadistic. He dines alone on caviar and champagne, because his wife has left him for another man. That man is part Italian Milo Tindle, a young self-made businessman, who is urgent, wily and energetic; but also is antagonistic, cocky and sarcastic. Milo's foreign blood gives Andrew reason to sneer and Andrew's affected lifestyle gives Milo reason to sneer, for Andrew is a snob and Milo an inverted snob.



Andrew's remote mansion is full of disconcerting objects, an Egyptian sarcophagus; automata, including Jolly Jack Tar; and senet, the board game of Pharaohs. Milo however becomes entangled in a different game, an elaborate ruse to humiliate him. *Sleuth* is a tech-heavy show, and Julie Godfrey's Jacobethan baronial set is impeccable. As the action gets nasty, it is underlined by Tim Oliver's subtly shudder-inducing lighting.

With its mannered quick-fire wit, and more twists than a jeroboam corkscrew, *Sleuth* is a hard call, but both actors, well-known from TV soaps, are equally adroit on the stage. Todd Boyce, chisel-faced, exudes an air of casual menace as Andrew, suave yet unpredictable, full of natural insouciance. Neil McDermott pitches Milo between lairy barrow-boy and earnest sophisticate, convincingly following Milo's harrowing emotional journey. He also shows his singing competence with a taunting snippet from *Pagliacci*, Andrew as Canio, the cuckolded circus ringmaster.

Sleuth gives masterclasses in manipulation. In a macabre turn of events Milo is coerced into wearing a masked clown costume. Two days later Inspector Doppler arrives investigating the sounds of a shooting. The anagrammatical Tom Mendriclet plays this small but pivotal role with great aplomb and much padding.

Director Rachel Kavanaugh has created an intelligent, perceptive and thoughtful balance of its complexities, peppered with puzzles, but *Sleuth* is primarily about the self-sustaining spiral of revenge, said to be a dish best served cold. Milo might have done better by not microwaving it.

The cryptic crossword? 2 across followed by 1 down, brilliantly executed.

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/05/14/sleuth

Photography by Jack Merriman

Beginning

by David Eldridge

Putney Arts Company at Putney Arts Theatre Studio until 18th May

Laura's thrown a housewarming in her new flat. Danny is the last man standing. It's meant to be, isn't it? They both really like each other. Both are single. But can they take that final leap?

Beginning is a poignant real-time examination of relationships, with two emotionally vulnerable people reaching out at the end of a party; a wry, funny and touching meditation on the loneliness of being single in the era of social media dating.



Laura is left with the post-party detritus after the housewarming at her Crouch End flat. She is a managing director, while Danny is a recruitment consultant, whose career has never reached Laura's status. He came with a casual friend of Laura, but now is the only remaining guest. They are very different in many other ways. She is a passionate Labourite, initially exuding self-confidence and capability. Danny, awkward, gauche and hesitant, is apolitical, living with his mum and in awe of his Facebook hooked Nan. Sensitivity directed by Ben Clare, the play perfectly captures the changing relationship developing between them as they seek a new "beginning".



Barney Hart Dyke's and Simon Crump's simple set splendidly evokes the after-party feel, while subdued lighting from Peter Rees is absolutely right for the contemplative atmosphere.

Debra Bond's Laura is initially coquettish but clear sighted. She wants Danny; we are left in no doubt about that. The gradual disintegration of her outward confidence into introspective emotional desolation is visceral, sometimes making uncomfortable viewing. Des Healy gives us a down to earth, rugged wariness whose gruff exterior conceals a profound shyness and self-doubt, stemming from the buried hurt of a failed marriage, and alienation from his little daughter.

The narrative is full of awkward gaffes and wincing misfires, painful revelations and defensive stances. Never has the consumption of a fish finger sandwich been so invested in meaning!

A superbly observed, and poignant piece of theatre, shot through with humour, warmth and compassion, *Beginning* is a kind of emotional striptease, peeling away the barriers and defences of its pair of needy, and ultimately unsatisfied, characters.

Read Harry Zimmerman's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/05/15/beginning

Photography by Ben Copping

Jesus Christ, Superstar

by Andrew Lloyd Webber, lyrics by Tim Rice

Regent's Park Theatre Company at the New Wimbledon Theatre until 18th May and then on tour until 17th August

Director Timothy Sheader's vision for the iconic rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar* transforms the stage into an industrial tableau resembling an abandoned construction site. Steel girders frame the action, creating multi-levels from which characters observe and interact.

The band is prominently visible, giving a bold, concert-like aesthetic that challenges the traditional format, injecting the show with vibrant energy and a unique visual style.

However, prioritising musical delivery over emotional engagement, the performers appear detached from their roles, hugely affecting the overall impact of the story.



Ian McIntosh, as Jesus, exemplifies this dichotomy. His delivery of *Gethsemane*, whilst vocally flawless, lacks the necessary gravitas and emotional complexity, reducing the character to a rock star archetype rather than the requisite messianic figure grappling with profound existential crises. This dissonance undermines the emotional weight of Christ's journey.

Shem Omar James also delivers a vocally stellar performance as Judas, capturing the character's turmoil with intense passion. However, the critical relationship between Jesus and Judas fails to resonate fully. The chemistry between McIntosh and James is lacking, which diminishes the dramatic tension and the emotional stakes of their conflict.



Similarly, Hannah Richardson's Mary Magdalene impresses vocally, especially in her rendition of *I Don't Know How to Love Him*. Nevertheless, her portrayal does not convincingly convey Mary's deep love and torment, leaving her character's emotional arc feeling somewhat superficial.

The supporting cast shines with more believable performances. Jad Habchi as Caiaphas and Matt Bateman as Annas deliver compelling sinister portrayals of the villainous priests, adding a palpable sense of menace and gravitas to the production. Blending humour and menace, Timo Tatzber's performance of *Herod's Song* is a show-stopper. The chorus maintains the show's electrified pace. Their strong vocals and tight choreography add layers of energy and texture to the performance, ensuring that the momentum never wanes.

The net result feels more like a 'special anniversary concert', leaving *Jesus Christ Superstar* as an electrifying, albeit somewhat superficial, shadow of its former self.

Read David Stephens's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/05/14/j-c-superstar

Photography by Paul Coltas

St Mary's University

St Mary's Continues Climb Up League Tables

St Mary's University has continued to climb up the league tables, moving up 16 places in the 2025 Complete University Guide.

St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU), has continued to climb up the league tables, moving up 16 places in the 2025 Complete University Guide.



SMU is the third highest riser in the league table (70th nationally), which also placed SMU in the top 10 and second in London for student satisfaction. The University has also seen significant improvements in the Guardian University Guide, climbing 30 places in the past two years.

The news follows SMU climbing into the top 50 of the Good University Guide in the 2024 edition. The University's position of 45th overall, fourth amongst modern universities, and eighth in London, are its highest ever positions in that league table. The Good University Guide also rated SMU in the top five for Teaching Quality and top ten for Student Experience.

Speaking of the performance, St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran said, *"I am delighted to see St Mary's go from strength to strength in all of the major league tables. These results are the consequence of careful planning and the hard work of staff to ensure the best experience and outcomes for our students. Excellence is a core value for SMU, and rising steeply across all league tables in recent*

years is a demonstration of this value in practice."

Prof Symeon Dagkas, Provost at St Mary's, added, *"I would like to thank colleagues across the University for their contributions to enhancing student success which contributes to the success in the recent league tables. I look forward to progressing our work and continuing to make improvements across the University as we celebrate future successes in various league tables."*

The Complete University Guide is one of the biggest national university league tables, ranking UK universities on a range of key measures that include graduate prospects, student satisfaction, research quality, and entry requirements.

Students at SMU also continue to rate their experience at the University highly, as it received outstanding feedback from graduating students in the 2023 National Student Survey (NSS). SMU was rated in the top five in London, and top 20 nationally, in six key themes amongst higher education providers with university status (excluding specialist providers).

The University was rated top in London for Academic Support, with a rating of 89%, and second in London for Teaching on my Course, with a rating of 88%; almost three percent above the sector average.

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



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Local unsung heroes honoured at Community Heroes Awards

From Richmond Council

Last night, Thursday 16 May, members from across our community were celebrated at Richmond upon Thames' annual Community Heroes Awards.

Over 150 inspiring local heroes were nominated across ten categories.

The Community Heroes Awards aim to highlight and honour those working and living in Richmond upon Thames who go above and beyond to make their community a better place to live, work and learn.

The winners:

- **Business Contribution in the Community** - The Coach & Horses Pub, Barnes for their continuous support to various community initiatives, charities and residents in their local area. This support includes hosting the much-beloved Christmas Day Dinner for elderly and vulnerable residents and the Turkey Run fundraiser for Barnes Community Association, which has provided great comfort and a boost in wellbeing to the community.
- **Communities Together** - Learning English at Home (LEAH) Volunteers for the dedicated work of volunteer tutors to offer free, tailored English language support to asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants to our borough. This vital work helps in improving and facilitating opportunities for individuals and families to access local education, support and community.
- **Community Group of the Year** - Albanian Heritage Club (Gjurmë Iliriane) for their work to create an entirely volunteer-run community hub that has brought together hundreds of local residents from our Albanian and Kosovo communities and beyond. The club provides a safe, fun space for children to learn and explore the language, dance, history and heritage of Albania, celebrating inclusion, ethnic belonging and diversity for future generations.
- **Community Project of the Year** - The Hampton Hygiene Bank for the efforts of volunteers in Hampton and St Margarets to go above and beyond in ensuring everyone should have the dignity of hygiene by pulling together and distributing hundreds of gift bags of essential toiletries for people in our community who need it most.
- **Environmental Award** - Kew EcoFair for the work of three volunteer members of the congregation at St Luke's Church, Kew, to put on Kew EcoFair as part of the St Luke's EcoChurch initiative. EcoChurch is a national programme to encourage churches to cut their carbon footprint and raise awareness of the need to care for the planet. Through the Fair, they galvanised hundreds of locals in learning more about the benefits of sustainable living and making it easy to know how to get involved in climate activity in our borough.
- **Helping Hands** - Noorzera Sheikh for giving of her time, resource and skills to bake delicious cakes for a variety of regular activities and events in the community, many hosted by The Mulberry Centre where she has been a client, to help foster a sense of

enjoyment, fun and comfort for those whose lives have been affected by cancer.

- **Lifetime Achievement** - Veronica Schroter for her remarkable dedication to voluntary work in the borough spanning over 50 years. Her immeasurable contribution, strategic influence and diligent leadership to a wide variety of organisations and environmental causes has helped to improve residents' quality of life. Her work is across many organisations including Age UK Richmond, FiSH Neighbourhood Care, Home-Start Richmond and the Leg O'Mutton Nature Reserve.
- **Outstanding Volunteer** - Lt Cdr Martyn Mayger for his full-time voluntary service, alongside his career in the Royal Navy, investing his personal time, energy and passion into local young people through his leadership of the Twickenham Sea Cadet volunteer unit. His exemplary effort has taken the unit from one of the lowest points in its 90+ year history to being named best in the UK.
- **Trustee of the Year** - Jenny Harris for her work as a Trustee and co-founder of space2grieve, a local charity set up to offer free, confidential bereavement support to members of our community dealing with grief. This charity is helping to create a system of deeply personalised support that has made a profound impact on the mental health and wellbeing of residents navigating loss.
- **Young Person Achievement** - Jessica Stone for her dedication to helping other young people in the arts shine through performing, particularly through her instrumental work in the creation of SoundCheck, a band night and youth enterprise programme that provides a platform for local young people to showcase their musical talents and earn money from playing

View our [virtual event programme](#) to meet all our shortlisted nominees, who each made immense contribution to the wellbeing of our borough in 2023.

Cllr Nancy Baldwin, Richmond Council's Spokesperson for Communities, Equalities & the Voluntary Sector said: *"Reading through this year's nominations, I have felt extremely privileged to live in a place where so many people, businesses, organisations and groups work tirelessly and selflessly to give back to their communities, often under the radar, with no expectation of thanks or recognition.*



"Whether they are looking after those who are more vulnerable or isolated, creating safer, healthier and more inclusive communities for their neighbours or taking care to enrich our environment and people's lives—we want to say a huge "thank you" to each of you for all that you do."

Care home staff represent WWII veterans at VE Day Buckingham Palace Garden Party

Members of staff from Royal Star & Garter, who attended a Buckingham Palace Garden Party on Victory in Europe (VE) Day, were proud to be there on behalf of all the veterans cared for by the charity.

Surbiton Home Nurse Hazel Agustin and Solihull Home Physiotherapist Nickie Harrison attended the afternoon event on 8 May – 79 years after Nazi Germany’s surrender and the end of war in Europe.

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, including some who served during WWII. The charity has also launched new services which reach out into the community.



Among the members of the royal family attending the Garden Party were Their Majesties The King and Queen, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh and Her Royal Highness Princess Anne.

Hazel and Nickie were part of 14 frontline staff selected by the National Care Forum, a membership group which represents not-for-profit organisations in the care and support sector, including Royal Star & Garter.

It was both Hazel and Nickie’s first time at Buckingham Palace, and at a royal Garden Party. Afterwards, Hazel said: “It was a special day and I am really very honoured and proud to have been there representing Royal Star & Garter and our wonderful residents. And for it to also be on VE Day made a special occasion that little bit more special.”

Nickie said: “VE Day is an important day at Royal Star & Garter, and when I told the Solihull residents that I would be attending the Buckingham Palace Garden Party, they were very excited and happy for me. It was a great occasion with just the most amazing atmosphere. I felt great pride in representing our residents on a day that means so much to them.”

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



Royal Star & Garter

Care with courage

Dementia Action Week: Care home residents become Dementia Friends

Residents at a care home in Surbiton have been learning about the effects of dementia and how best to support people living with the syndrome.

The talk was organised by staff at Royal Star & Garter in Surbiton, to enable residents there who are not living with dementia to offer more support to residents who are.

The Dementia Friends talk took place ahead of Dementia Action Week, which is running from 13-19 May.

Royal Star & Garter is a charity which 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 into the community.

Dementia Action Week is an awareness-raising campaign run by Alzheimer's Society.

Staff came up with the idea for the talk because residents in the Home, both those who live with dementia and those who don't, often socialise together when taking part in activities and events.

It was delivered by Dementia Friends Ambassador Sylvie, who is also a volunteer at the Home.

Staff and relatives also attended the Dementia Friends talk, in which Sylvie explained how simple actions can raise awareness and understanding.

Afterwards, residents tried on sensory perception equipment, which replicate the physical hardships people living with dementia endure.

Among those who attended and became a Dementia Friend was resident Rosemary. Her husband Bob also lives at the Home, with dementia. Rosemary said: *"I could relate to what was said because of Bob. I found it really interesting and very relevant."* And fellow resident Derek said: *"I think it is important that the Home has done this so that residents, staff and relatives have a better understanding of what living with dementia is like, and what we can do to make life a little easier for them."*



Dementia Friends Ambassador Sylvie said: *"These important sessions raise awareness and help change attitudes. You can live incredibly well with dementia if people around you understand you."*

Events and activities will take place in each of Royal Star & Garter's three Homes to mark Dementia Action Week. In Solihull, this will include memory and music sessions and sensory day trips, while in High Wycombe there will be arts and crafts activities, and a visit from the mobile zoo, Ark Farm.

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



**Royal Star
& Garter**

Care with courage

The Sunday Times Rich List

- The Wealthiest Man In The UK Lives In London – Six Of The Top 10 Rich Listers Own Homes In The Capital
- The Duke Of Westminster Is The UK's Richest Person Under 40
- Tech Entrepreneur Herman Narula Has The Highest Self-Made Fortune In The 40 Under 40 List
- David And Victoria Beckham, Sir Elton John, Sir Paul McCartney, Simon Cowell, Sir Mick Jagger And Keith Richards Are Among The Stars In The Rich List
- Prime Minister Rishi Sunak And His Wife's Wealth Has Risen From £529 Million To £651 Million
- Euan Blair Makes His Debut With A Wealth Of £375 Million

London-based **Gopi Hinduja and family** are the richest people in the UK, according to this year's edition of **The Sunday Times Rich List**, published today online at <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/sunday-times-rich-list> and in the print edition of the newspaper on Sunday, May 19.

The 76-page special edition of **The Sunday Times Magazine** reveals the largest fall in the billionaire count in the guide's 36-year history, from a peak of 177 in 2022 to 165 this year. This year's list of **350 individuals and families** together hold combined wealth of **£795.361 billion** – a sum larger than the annual GDP of Poland. **Sir Elton John, Lord Lloyd-Webber** and **David and Victoria Beckham** all appear in the annual survey. The minimum entry for the list of 350 this year is £350 million.

Fawn and India Rose James and family, are fourth on **The Sunday Times 40 under 40 list**. The granddaughters of Paul Raymond run his Soho property empire and their own businesses, securing them a large fortune of £750 million.

The **Duke of Westminster**, who recently announced his move to Cheshire, retains his position as the richest person under 40 in the UK. The Duke came into his fortune at 25 when he inherited his title and a vast land and property portfolio. Now 33 the billionaire's fortune stands at £10.127 billion. The Duke is one of the few young people who also appear on the full Rich List. Entry for the full 350 list starts at £350 million.

The 66-year-old billionaire, **Sir Leonard Blavatnik**, born to a Jewish family in Soviet-era Ukraine, was an executive producer of the Oscar award-winning film *The Zone of Interest*. He also controls Warner Music Group, the music service - Deezer, and the sports streaming outfit DAZN. He was knighted for services to philanthropy in 2017.

India-born **Reuben brothers** made their millions in metals trading and at one point controlled 5 per cent of the world's aluminium output. This year, the Reuben's have increased their share of Premier League football club, Newcastle United, to 14.3 per cent. Next year the brothers hope to open a hotel in Admiralty Arch on The Mall.

Robert Watts, compiler of the Sunday Times Rich List, said: "This year's Sunday Times Rich List suggests Britain's billionaire boom has come to an end. Many of our home-grown entrepreneurs have seen their fortunes fall and some of the global super rich who came here are moving away.

"Thousands of British livelihoods rely on the super-rich to some extent. We'll have to wait and see whether we have now reached peak billionaire, and what that means for our economy.

"These may be harder times to create wealth, but The Sunday Times Rich List continues to unearth entrepreneurs building fortunes in diverse and often surprising ways. This year's new entries include people who have made money from artificial intelligence and virtual worlds as well as plumbing supplies and teaching aides.

"We know many of our readers find such people – especially those from humbler backgrounds – very inspiring."



THE SUNDAY TIMES

Kildunne voted Guinness Women's Six Nations Player of the Championship

England and Harlequins full-back Ellie Kildunne has been crowned the 2024 Guinness Women's Six Nations Player of The Championship, after a shortlist of the competition's standout players was put to a fan vote.

Kildunne claimed 38% of the 32,240 votes in this year's record-breaking fan vote, which registered over double the number of people having their say, compared to last year, to decide the awards winner.

The statistics gathered across the Guinness Women's Six Nations highlighted the standout players per position, with fans then asked to cast their votes to determine which players made the Team of The Championship. The top players, from a stats and votes perspective, then dictated the shortlist for the 2024 Guinness Player of The Championship.



Kildunne topped this year's Championship statistics leaderboard in five categories breaking four records in the process. The 24-year-old Red Rose finished top try scorer with ten, highest meters carried (869.3), highest meters gained (677.5) and line breaks (13). She capped these incredible stats off with three Guinness Player of the Match awards against Italy, Scotland, and the penultimate game at Twickenham against Ireland, where she scored a hatrick.

Kildunne had fierce competition for this year's award, in the form of France powerhouse back row Romane Menager, Ireland breakthrough back row Aoife Wafer and Italy's star winger Alyssa D'Inca, on her way to being crowned Guinness Six Nations Player of the Championship.

Kildunne said: "I am honoured to be named Player of The Championship, but the credit needs to be shared with my teammates. The award is particularly special given it has been decided by the fans. There is a genuine sense that the sky is the limit for the growth of women's rugby. We are chasing down a sold-out Twickenham for a women's game. Attendances and viewers are up, and the buzz around the sport is only getting louder. As players, we feed off this, and want to put on a show for fans.

Huge congratulations need to go to the other players on this year's shortlist. It just goes to show that the teams and players competing cross the Championship are helping put women's rugby on more people's radar."



Match Preview: Brentford v Newcastle United

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of Brentford's final game of the Premier League season against Newcastle United on Sunday (4pm kick-off GMT)

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford conclude their 2023/24 Premier League campaign with a visit from Newcastle United on Sunday (4pm kick-off).

The Bees are looking to climb above Everton and finish in 15th, while Eddie Howe's side are in the hunt for European qualification for a second successive season.

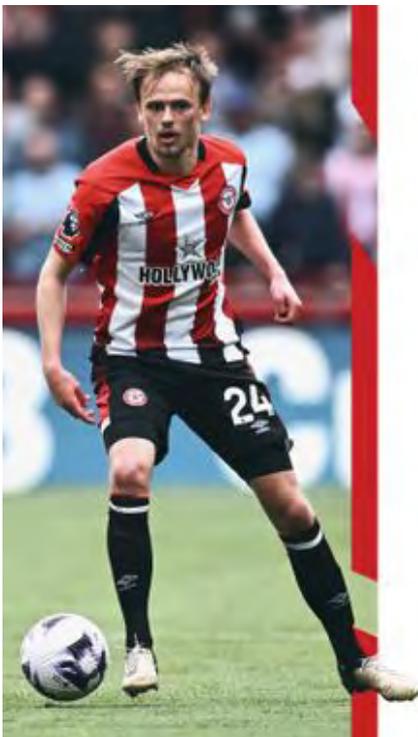
Analysis, team news, match officials and more – here's everything you need to know ahead of the final weekend.

Pre-match Analysis

Alex Lawes, Playmaker Stats: In-form Brentford looking to finish the season with a flourish.

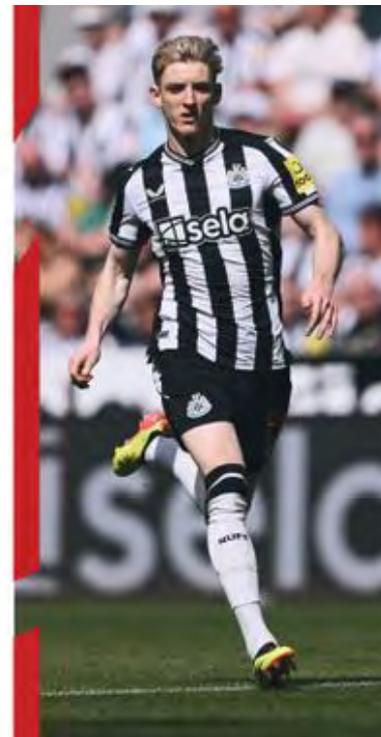
Gtech Community Stadium plays host to Brentford's final game of what has probably been their trickiest season since arriving in the Premier League, but the Bees are looking to finish with a flourish.

For much of the campaign they have



Head to Head

	Comparisons	
54	Goals	81
61	Goals Conceded	60
344	Shots	388
45%	Possession	52%
85	Yellow Cards	73
2	Red Cards	1



underperformed against their expected goals, which can actually be viewed as a positive, as it suggests their performances would and should have them higher in the table if not for issues such as injuries, suspensions and general bad luck.

With players returning from injury or suspension and that bad luck potentially beginning to revert to the mean, Thomas Frank's side have begun to get improved results as the season draws to a close.

The Bees' 2-1 victory at Bournemouth last weekend, in which Yoane Wissa notched a 95th-minute winner, means they have now suffered just one defeat in eight matches since the March international break - only Arsenal (4) and Manchester City (5) conceding fewer Premier League goals since then than Brentford (7).

Brentford once again showed their effectiveness in the final third with an expected goals rate of 1.93 against Andoni Iraola's Bournemouth (1.07).

According to understat.com, Brentford's expected goals this season stands at 62.59, which is 8.59 more than their goals in reality. They have also conceded over four goals more than expected.

If the Bees had notched 62 goals in the Premier League they would be the eighth top scorers in the entire division with only the actual top seven scoring more than them with one game to go – such has been their profligacy or bad luck in front of goal and why they will be confident ahead of next season.

One of those seven teams above them are Newcastle United as the Magpies, under the management of Eddie Howe, chase back-to-back European qualifications. They have been likened to Kevin Keegan's 'entertainers' of the 1990s with their 37 games this season producing a total of 141 goals.

In what has been a high-scoring Premier League season generally, Newcastle have been among one of the very best teams to watch at both ends of the pitch and they, like Brentford, are finishing in exciting fashion.

Prior to the Magpies' 3-2 defeat at Manchester United on Wednesday, Newcastle had suffered just one defeat since returning from the March international break, scoring four or more goals in a game on four occasions in that time.

So, with the summer looming and a pleasurable end-of-season atmosphere in store, Sunday's clash could well be a bit of a thriller.

Scout Report

European qualification still on the cards for Newcastle heading into Gtech finale.

Expectations were high at St James' Park going into the 2023/24 season.

In the first full campaign after Newcastle were taken over by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, the Magpies had finished fourth in the Premier League for the first time in two decades and secured European qualification for the first time since they reached the quarter-final of the Europa League in 2012/13.

In truth, the progression from their status as a bottom-half team to one challenging the usual suspects at the top again probably happened significantly sooner than many expected - but few on Tyneside have complained about it.

"We want the supporters to dream," said Eddie Howe when his team stuck five past Aston Villa on the opening day.

Such dreams were put on hold until after the September international break, given the three straight defeats that followed.

Newcastle returned with a 1-0 win over Brentford on 16 September; the first in a run of seven wins over the next 10 games - including an 8-0 win at Sheffield United, which set a new club record for the biggest away league win in history.

They were in the top six - and deservedly so - at the beginning of December, despite being rocked by the 10-month ban handed down to Sandro Tonali by the Italian Football Federation, after the midfielder breached Italian betting rules.

But a period between early December and mid-January threatened to derail their campaign altogether. Not only did goalkeeper Nick Pope dislocate his shoulder - and become sidelined for five months - the 3-0 home win over Fulham was the sole highlight in a run of six defeats in seven league games.

To add insult to injury, the 2-1 loss to AC Milan in the final Champions League group game meant they finished bottom and missed out on the chance to drop into the Europa League to continue their long-awaited European adventure, with a shootout defeat to Chelsea also dumping them out of the Carabao Cup at the quarter-final stage.

“There’s not a lot wrong with our performances. You can see today we are a top team,” said Howe after the 3-2 defeat to Man City on 13 January. “The group is in a good place, I don’t see any negativity. I see hurt because we aren’t winning and that’s what we’re here to do.”

Fortunately for Newcastle, their form improved greatly since the winter break and they have picked up 28 points of the last 48 on offer.

Challenging for a place in Europe again next season is very much on the cards going into the final day. That is despite the fact they have been dealt a shocking hand on the injury front. Pope is back in contention again now, but four players - Lewis Miley, Matt Targett, Sven Botman and Jamaal Lascelles - were ruled out for the season in March, and question marks remain over whether Fabian Schär and Callum Wilson will play any further part.

Fast progression has forced Newcastle to embark on a steep learning curve this season and, while they will not reach the same great heights as last year, this term will certainly serve as a benchmark for something to improve upon next season and beyond.

In the Dugout

Eddie Howe

Before turning his hand to management for the first time, Eddie Howe had a 13-year playing career as a defender, with all but two of his 312 senior appearances having been made in a Bournemouth shirt.

He was, however, forced to retire prematurely at the age of just 29 at the end of the 2006/07 season.

By this time, he was already managing the Cherries’ reserve team, which he continued to do until September 2008, when manager Kevin Bond was sacked, concluding his time at the club, too.

Before long, he had been re-hired as a youth coach and, in January 2009, was appointed first-team manager after a short spell as caretaker, following Jimmy Quinn’s sacking.

The odds were stacked against Howe; Bournemouth were second bottom of League Two on New Year’s Day - having been handed a 17-point deduction at the start of the year.

Yet, he managed to guide his team to 12 wins from the final 21 games, which saw them miraculously survive by nine points.

Howe’s side were promoted to League One the following year but, in January 2011, he left the south coast for Burnley, where he stayed until October 2012, before returning to Bournemouth to take over from Paul Groves.

He, essentially, picked up where he left off, securing promotion to the Championship in April 2013 and to the Premier League for the first time two years later.

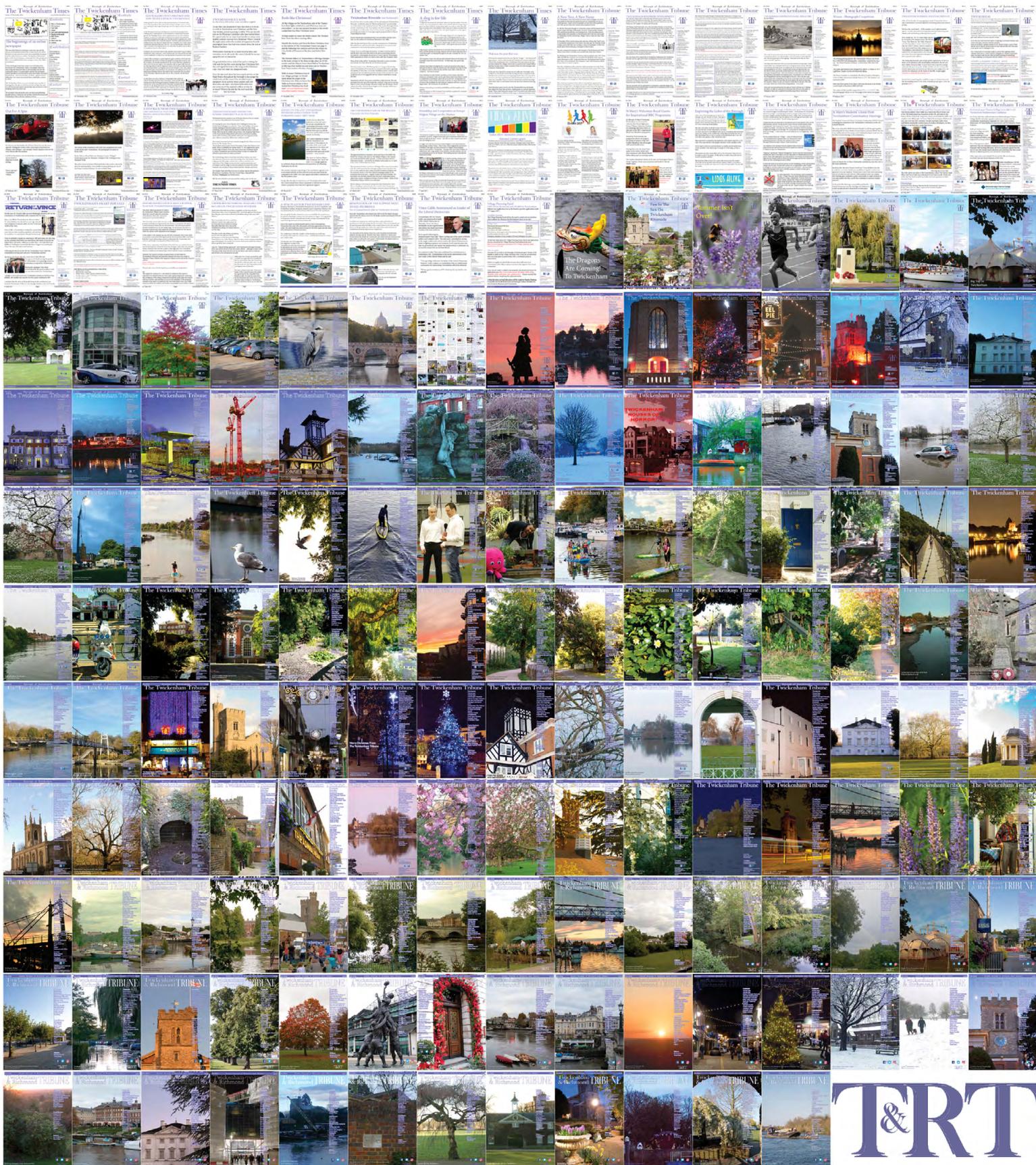
Bournemouth were relegated from the Premier League, after five consecutive seasons, in 2020, leading to Howe’s departure from Vitality Stadium by mutual consent.

After a 15-month break, he took over from Steve Bruce at Newcastle in November 2021, with the 3-3 draw against Brentford his first official game in charge, though he had to watch the game from a hotel room after contracting Covid-19.

He is currently the 14th longest-serving manager in the country after just over two and a half years in the job and recently took charge of his 100th top-flight match as Newcastle boss.



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