

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE



Baby robins  
Photo by Berkley Driscoll

7<sup>th</sup> June 2024

T&RT

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Richmond upon Thames College

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Royal Star & Garter

South Western Railway

RFU

Brentford FC

# TickerTape - News in Brief

## Everything you need to do to vote in the general election in July

On Thursday 4 July 2024, residents will be able to vote in the UK parliamentary general election.

The deadline to [register to vote](#) is midnight on Tuesday 18 June.

Don't forget you will now need to provide original voter ID to vote at polling stations on Thursday 4 July.

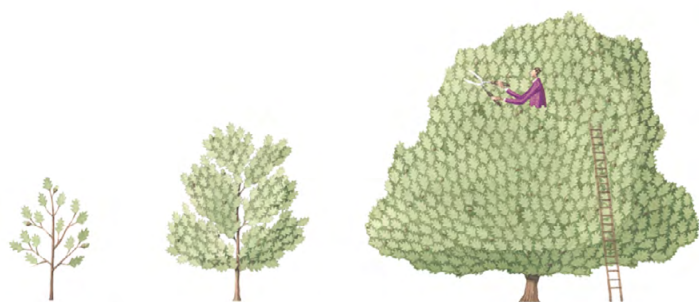
All voters will need to take an [approved form of photo identification](#) to the polling station to vote, which will take place between 7am and 10pm. If you do not have an accepted form of photo ID, you can apply for a [Voter Authority Certificate](#) until 5pm on Wednesday 26 June.

If you do not wish to show ID at a polling station or are away on polling day, you can apply to [vote by post](#) or [by proxy](#).

The deadline to register to vote by post in these elections is Wednesday 19 June at 5pm. You will need your date of birth, a copy of your signature and your National Insurance number. Postal voters will not be affected by voter ID and will be issued with their postal ballot papers as usual.

The deadline to register to vote by proxy in these elections is Wednesday 19 June at 5pm. Voters can now only act as a proxy for two people, regardless of their relationship. Anyone voting on behalf of UK voters who live overseas could act as a proxy for up to four people.

If you have any questions, you can speak to one of our advisors via [web chat](#) Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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*The Tree Agency*

# Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 252

By Alan Winter

## Teddington's Multi-View Postcards

As the next West London Postcard Fair takes place next Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June at the Baptist Church in Church Road, Teddington, I thought we could look at a few multi-view postcards from Teddington that were very popular in the last Century and often featured as their publishers best selling cards.



Sold for the same price as a postcard with only one image, the multi-views often showed 4 or 5 different images of the town and so the recipient of the postcard was given a quick snapshot view of the sender's location.



At next week's fair there will be many local postcards of the Tribune's area on sale from pennies to pounds. On my tables by the stage there are also photographs of the local area as well as postcards.

The fair is open from 10.00 until 4.00 and will feature some 14 dealers and a charity stall. Some sell coins and stamps as well as postcards. Light refreshments will be available all day.

There will be tens of thousands of postcards on sale some of which will go back to around 1900 so the fair covers about 125 years of history. Cards are from all over the UK and feature local scenes as well as subject matter ranging from animals to film stars.



If you have any old postcards you are thinking of parting with, why not pop in and see me by the stage. I pay cash on the spot for any postcards that I'm interested in.

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](mailto:alanwinter192@hotmail.com) I would like to see them and I pay cash!

### WEST LONDON POSTCARD FAIR

Including STAMPS and POSTAL HISTORY

**TEDDINGTON BAPTIST  
CHURCH**  
**CHURCH ROAD, TW11 8PF**  
**SATURDAY 15th  
JUNE**

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](mailto:alanwinter192@hotmail.com)

# CrusaderTravel

020 8744 0474

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

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# Next week at Richmond Council

On Monday afternoon, the **Licensing Sub-Committee** will meet to determine an opposed application for a new premises licence for Takaa Tak Indian restaurant on Broad Street, Teddington. The meeting will start at 2.30 pm, at York House, Twickenham.

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

On Monday evening, **The Transport and Air Quality Committee** is meeting to discuss a review of bus services, a twenty-year transport strategy for the borough, an expansion of the Good Moves scheme (where the council hands out £50 Oyster Cards, car club membership, bicycle loans etc.), a budget report, and the end of year corporate plan performance report. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at York House, Twickenham.

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

On Wednesday, the **Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee** will meet to discuss The Pools in Park service review, Richmond Leisure, Sport, and Physical Activity Strategy, community engagement for planning applications, planning enforcement management plan, the Housing Delivery Tests Acton Plan (due to the council missing its housebuilding targets), Cemeteries and Registrars performance update, end of year performance report, and a budget report. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at York House, Twickenham.

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

On Thursday, the **Education and Children's Services Committee** will review the budget report, the special educational needs and disabilities Futures Plan update, proposals for establishing Family Hubs, which will see youth centres absorbed into a new offer, and the end-of-year performance report. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at York House, Twickenham.

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

Dear Alan,

## White City exhibition

Just read your excellent article on the White City exhibition grounds and its postcards.

Brought back happy memories of my parents telling me about them riding on the various amusement rides like the 'Flip Flap' and a railway they had there! Also of me playing 'cowboys and indians' in the ruins of the exhibition in the late 1940's!

I particularly remember playing in the ruins of a Chinese pavilion which still had the stone Imperial Chinese Lion guards with the stone balls in their mouths. Great place to play.

By one of the entrances to the exhibition at the top of Shepherds Bush Green was a cafe called 'Lockharts' where you could get a cup of tea and a piece of fruit cake for one penny! My parents and godmother often reminisced about having tea there!

Also on the site of the exhibition, behind the TV Centre, there is now a wonderful narrowish park with a lake in it, that ran from near the TA Centre on South Africa Road through to a cul de sac called Frithville Gardens which came out on to Uxbridge Road opposite Shepherds Bush Market.

In this cul de sac there were film editing rooms in several of the houses that the BBC had bought and a pipe organ builder, called would you believe it? B. C. Shepherd!

I do hope you are going to do a piece on the Olympics held at the White City in 1908 or have you already done that?

Keep up the excellent work!

Best wishes,

Norman Green.

# VOTE FOR



# Jonathan HULLEY

## The **BEST** choice for **TWICKENHAM**

The Hamptons, Heathfield, St. Margarets,  
Strawberry Hill, Teddington & Twickenham

### 3

## Good reasons to **VOTE** for Jonathan **HULLEY**

### 1. **LOCAL HOMES FIT FOR THE NEXT GENERATION**

I believe in building the right kind of affordable homes in the right places so our kids can live here too. And, at the same time we must bring social housing providers to account on poor housing quality

### 2. **POLICE ON OUR STREETS**

I want to see more borough-based, visible policing across our constituency

### 3. **STANDARDS**

I stand for decency, integrity and transparency in public life



Promoted by Hilary Smith on behalf of Jonathan Hulley and Twickenham Conservative Association,  
all at 90 York Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 8SN.

# Skylarks Charity finalist in National Learning Disability & Autism Awards

[Skylarks Charity](#) has been shortlisted as a finalist in the Positive Behaviour category at this year's [National Learning Disability & Autism Awards](#). These annual awards recognise exceptional work and dedication in the field of learning disabilities and autism, celebrating excellence in support work, healthcare, education, and community engagement across the UK.

**Aaron Guiver, Managing Director of Skylarks, said:**



“We are incredibly honoured by this recognition. For over 18 years, Skylarks has passionately supported young people with additional needs and their families, and this celebrates our efforts to break barriers and make a positive impact on people’s lives.”

The winners will be announced on June 21st at the awards ceremony in Birmingham.



## Take part in Crossroads Care’s tea party fundraiser

As part of Carers Week, taking place between the 10 to 16 June, residents are being invited to host a tea party to help raise funds in support of those caring for a loved one.

Local charity Crossroads Care Richmond and Kingston is running a tea party fundraiser to help give those looking after a loved one of any age and disability a vital break. Raising just £54 would provide, for example, two hours of respite care, where a carer could enjoy a much-needed rest.



To support the fundraiser, residents can invite friends over for a tea party, and ask them for a donation to Crossroads Care. No fundraiser is too big, or too small to make a difference.

For over 35 years, Crossroads Care has been providing bespoke, high-quality home and community respite services in the community to support vulnerable, often isolated carers.

Read more about [Crossroads Care and the work they do](#).





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# Rugby at Twickenham Stadium

PREMIERSHIP FINAL

**Saturday 8th June 2024**

Kick off 15:00. Attendance 82,000.

CPZ in force 11:00-23:00.

Whitton, Rugby & London Roads will close 13:00-15:00 and 16:30-19:00.

Live traffic updates on the day on our Residents WhatsApp Channel:

<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Va>

## Teddington Lock Bridge

From Richmond Council

To attach the temporary access ramp at Teddington Lock, we will need to close the bridges from 8pm on Friday 14 June until 6am on Monday 17 June.

If you have any questions, come down to Ferry Road on 11 June 8am-5pm to speak to the project team.

More info [HERE](#)



## Come to Royal Ballet School's Summer Fair

On Saturday 15 June, residents are invited to join the Royal Ballet School for a day filled with dance, entertainment and family fun.



The school's Summer Fair returns and features live performances from Royal Ballet School students, tours of White Lodge, crafts and school merchandise stalls. There will also be a kids corner offering face painting and decorating pointe shoes, and a food court.

The event will be drawing a raffle with money-can't-buy prizes, including signed shoes by Royal Ballet dancers, dancewear, sketches of Royal Ballet dancers, free classes and more.

Event details:

- **Date:** Saturday 15 June
- **Time:** 11am to 5pm
- **Location:** White Lodge, Richmond Park, TW10 5HR
- **Price:** Adults £6, children £4

Tickets are now available to buy through the [summer fair event page](#).

# Pavements in a State of Disrepair

Teresa Read

One would think that as elected and former councillors covering the Twickenham Green area are often seen on the Green and in and around the Cricket Pavilion that dangerous paving within sight of Twickenham Green would have been reported and dealt with by the Council. There are also the Friends of Twickenham Green but perhaps they are only involved in the Green within the grass boundary and not with the condition of the footpath surrounding the Green and the paving within sight of the Green.

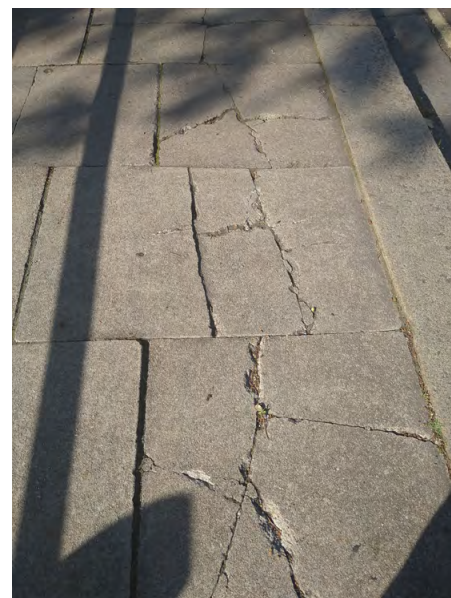
There are numerous broken pavements on the side of the Green facing Gifford Lodge. It is known that the condition of these damaged pavements, leading to and from a bus stop used on a busy bus route, have caused injury, but these paving slabs have been in a state of disrepair for some years.



Opposite the Twickenham Green Cricket Pavilion, outside Archdeacon Cambridge's School, there are broken and raised pavements; the Tribune heard about two injuries from residents last week. It seems that local passersby kindly stopped and helped those affected by the accidents.

It is unfortunate that councillors who frequent the Twickenham Green area do not report dangerous paving to the Council; the paving has been in this state of disrepair for years and is near a regular polling station where residents vote for councillors to look after the area.

Local Councillors are Cllr Richard Bennett, Cllr Michael Butlin and Cllr Rhi Lee; perhaps they could inspect the abovementioned area, including the paving outside Archdeacon Cambridge School leading towards Holy Trinity Church and let readers of the Tribune know what action is to be taken.



# Fix your broken items at Twickenham Repair Café

On **Saturday 15 June**, residents are invited to repair and extend the lives of their broken and old items for free.



Hosted by local group Twickenham Repair Café, the monthly event offers free repairs to items such as iPads, clocks, lawn mowers, coffee machines, bikes and even sharpen garden shears.

Residents are also welcome to donate tools. The Twickenham Repair Café is collecting them for Tools with a Mission (TWAM), a charity that refurbishes unwanted usable tools, sorts them into trade tool kits and sends them to

the developing countries to support livelihood creation.

Event details:

- **Date:** Saturday 15 June
- **Time:** 10.30am to 12.45pm
- **Location:** St Margarets Church Hall, 130 St Margarets Road, Twickenham, TW1 1RL

Twickenham Repair Café is a [non-profit community interest company](#) that aims to promote sustainable living through providing free repair services. They have saved over 5 tonnes of wastes in the past 19 months.

To support community-driven initiatives around climate change and sustainability, residents and community groups are encouraged to apply for the Council's [climate action microgrant programme](#) which awards grants every month.

If you're looking to explore your passion in repairing and crafting, the [Library of Things in Twickenham](#) can be very useful.

They have drills, staple guns and a range of tools available to borrow. You can also enjoy a 10% discount off your first rental using the code RICHMONDLOT10.



# Park Lane Stables Open Day

We're holding an open day at Park Lane Stables in Teddington this Saturday from 11am until 3pm. All are welcome to drop by to see our new home and meet (human only!) members of the team.



[www.parklanestables.co.uk](http://www.parklanestables.co.uk)

## Find out what's on to support carers

Carers Week which runs from Monday 10 to Sunday 16 June, aims to recognise the tremendous contribution that people who care for a loved one make to society and raise awareness of the support available to our carers locally.

One in eight of us, at some point in our lives, will look after a loved one who has a disability, mental or physical illness, addiction, or who needs extra help as they grow older. These responsibilities affect people of all ages and backgrounds and can be emotionally and physically challenging.

[Carers Week 2024](#), themed 'Putting Carers on the Map', is all about recognising the challenges carers face and putting the resources and information to help improve their daily lives front and centre.

More info [HERE](#)

# The Friends of Bushy and Home Parks



Come and find out about the use of Bushy Park  
during World War II  
at our exhibition and guided walks on

## **THE SITE OF USAAF CAMP GRIFFISS BUSHY PARK**

**Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June 2024**

**between 11am and 3pm  
to be held at the Eisenhower memorial near  
SHAEF Gate, Sandy Lane, Teddington**

An event organised by the Friends of Bushy and Home Parks to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day (the invasion of Europe) on 6 June 1944 by Allied forces, and the use of Camp Griffiss, Bushy Park as the headquarters of the United States Eighth Air Force and Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF).

# Hop aboard a railway adventure this summer!

Join local charity Hampton Kempton Waterworks Railway for a great family day out at their Gala Weekend and Model Railways Show.

The weekend show is perfect for residents who love heritage railways and steam.

Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy trips on 'Darent', the 1903 locomotive, and view over 10 model railway layouts as well as a rolling stock of 1960s diesels. As an extra attraction for the little ones, there will be a 7¼ inch steam sit-on train all day long.

Event details:

- Date: 15 and 16 June
- Time: 10am to 5pm
- Location: Hampton and Kempton Waterworks Railway, Kempton Park Waterworks, Snakey Lane, Feltham, TW13 6ND

[Register now](#)



## Join Clean Sheen 2024 for a greener community

This June, join your neighbours and local conservation charity Habitats & Heritage to collect litter across East Sheen.

This litter-picking session is open to residents of all ages for a morning to clear the local area, including pavements, gutters, paths, hedgerows and Sheen Common. Children are encouraged to join, but under-18s should be supervised by a parent or guardian. Litter-picking tools and rubbish bags will be provided.

If you can spare a Sunday morning to give our community a clean, please sign up and come along with your family and friends!

Event details:

- **Date:** Sunday 16 June
- **Time:** 10am to 12.30pm
- **Location:** Sheen Lane, East Sheen, London, SW14

[Register now](#)



Based in Twickenham, [Habitats & Heritage](#) is a charity acts for the natural and historic environment in south and west London.

# Richmond to host second borough-wide Sustainability Forum this June

From Richmond Council

We are inviting representatives from the business, education, public, faith and community sectors, as well as residents passionate about climate action, to our second Sustainability Forum Thursday 13 June 2024 at Orleans House Gallery in Twickenham (TW1 3BL).

Our Sustainability Forum was launched in late 2023, to provide a space for members of the community to gather and discuss strategies, share ideas and explore collective ways to reduce emissions and prepare the borough for the impacts of a changing climate.

Clare O'Connor, Assistant Director of Climate Change, Policy and Communications at Richmond Council, said:

*"Building on the success of the forum held last November, we are delighted to announce our second event that will bring together individuals from across sectors and communities in Richmond upon Thames as we continue to work together to make our borough more adaptable to a changing climate."*

*"We warmly invite those who live, work and study in Richmond upon Thames to join us for an evening of networking with other locals who are passionate about sustainability, to hear from experts and champions who are driving positive change in our borough, and to find out more about our plans to develop our new strategy for 2025-2030, and how you can get involved in this process."*

Find out more about [Richmond Sustainability Forum](#).



## Meet local artists at Art House Open Studios Festival

This June, Arts Richmond is hosting a festival to showcase creative spaces of artists, designers and makers from across the borough.

The Art House Open Studios Festival is a free event open to residents interested in arts and crafts.

Visitors will have the opportunity to engage in discussions with artists and crafts people, learn about industry updates and explore the local artistic community.

Event details:

- **Date:** 15 to 16 June and 29 to 30 June
- **Time:** 11am to 5pm
- **Price:** Free

The event will take place at various venues.

Visit [Arts Richmond's website](#) for more details.



# Mega Skip Event

Residents will have the opportunity to declutter their homes for free by using one of the new mega skips. Usually there is a charge for bulky waste collections but you can put your unwanted items in the Mega Skip for free.


How it works:


Up to six items per household, can be taken along to the mega skip for free, including some electrical equipment and household items like mattresses and sofas.

Building rubble, paint or dangerous chemicals will not be accepted

Please bring ID to show you are a local resident e.g. driving licence, passport or bill

## Mega skip event

 Saturday 08th June

 9am-12noon

 St Marks Road

adjacent to St Marks Church, TW11 9DD



# Hampton Wick & South Teddington

# Dame Mary Archer appointed as Chair of The Royal Parks

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has appointed Dame Mary Archer as the new Chair of [The Royal Parks charity](#). Dame Mary has been appointed on a term of four years, which will commence on 24 July 2024.

Loyd Grossman is the current [Chair of The Royal Parks](#). Loyd's term comes to an end on 4 July 2024.

Dame Mary brings a wealth of valuable experience to The Royal Parks. Her previous roles



include Chair of the National Energy Foundation, co-founder of the UK Section of the International Solar Energy Society, Director of Cambridge University Health Partners, Chair of the Science Museum Group

and Chair of Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. She is currently a Non-Executive Board Member of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Chancellor of the university of Buckingham and member of the Board of the Library of Alexandria'

Following her appointment, Dame Mary said:

*"I greatly look forward to joining The Royal Parks, which has clearly flourished under the chairmanship of Loyd Grossman since becoming a charity in 2017. I look forward to working with the trustees and the team to continue this work and ensure the charity goes from strength to strength. The Parks are an outstanding resource, open to all, and help improve everyone's quality of life and wellbeing".*

Andrew Scattergood CBE, Chief Executive of The Royal Parks, said:

*"I am delighted that Dame Mary has been appointed as Chair of The Royal Parks charity. Dame Mary's experience will be hugely valuable to us as we look forward to an exciting period of investment into our parks to enhance and conserve their natural beauty whilst continuing to provide our visitors with outstanding experiences. I would also like to offer my thanks to Loyd for his service and commitment to the Parks over his two terms as Chair".*



## Top Notch Noci

Walking into the recently opened **Noci**, located at the former site of the Fat Badger restaurant, felt refreshingly different. The basic layout remains the same, but the place has a completely new vibe. I was meeting my Italian friend Barbara there for dinner - I thought it sensible to gain an Italian foodie's opinion of the food, as well as my own.

We had a cocktail each while perusing the menu: I enjoyed a Negroni and Barbara an Aperol Spritz. We were brought some House focaccia, Datterini tomato, thyme & garlic along with some excellent extra virgin olive oil. The focaccia was excellent: as light as anything, with generous cloves of roast garlic, herbs and tomato, and the 'evoo' was deliciously peppery and incredibly moreish.

I'd heard some good reports of the Crispy fried mussels, shaved fennel & cucumber salad, yoghurt dressing, so we ordered a starter portion of this, and also some of the 'Nduja arancini & Parmesan foam. While the salad was a triumph, it didn't really need the mussels, which were not that crispy, lukewarm and rather gritty. It was the only disappointment in our meal.

We ignored the remaining mussels, but thoroughly enjoyed the salad - I feel it might perhaps be better with some anchovies, rather than the mussels. The arancini were very good indeed: piping hot, well proportioned, neat little balls of deliciousness with a spicy filling. Barbara commented that it was unusual to serve them with a Parmesan purée, but we both agreed that it was a great pairing and our remaining focaccia was used to wipe the plate clean.



The friendly server, Anaïs, was telling us that the front of house staff have been well inducted into pasta, even trying their hand at making it. We wanted to choose main courses that were fairly light, and Anaïs advised us well.

We chose Silk handkerchiefs, sautéed leeks, mint, peas, walnuts, confit egg yolk. This was not only beautifully presented, but superbly light and tasty. There was a lemony freshness to it, and the dish was delicate and so good. We were sharing our food, and our other main course was equally good, but very different: Beef & shallot ravioli, button mushroom cream & crispy shallot. Wow! This was packed with flavour - one large pillow of pasta filled with rich meat that had been cooked down to perfection. The crispy shallots and the sauce were the icing on the cake, so to speak. Being a pasta restaurant, Noci isn't perhaps ideal for anyone on a low carb diet, but even if one is, this is pasta well worth breaking a diet for.

I commented that I felt it a shame that Noci doesn't offer side salads to accompany their pasta dishes, but Barbara told me that it's not common practice in Italy.

We accompanied our meal with a fabulous bottle of Montepulciano, Bosco Nestore (also available by the glass and the 500cl carafe - as were most of the wines, and needless to say, predominantly Italian).



Our desserts: coffee & tequila cheesecake, amaretti, and a portion of plant-based chocolate mousse, olive oil, Maldon sea salt, toasted Marcona almonds were interesting. The cheesecake was incredibly rich and very good, but we were blown away by the amazing plant-based mousse. Anaïs told us that it is made with avocado, and the olive oil added a really unctuous element, with surprising depth of flavour.

When I'd first heard that a pasta restaurant was coming to Richmond, I have to admit that I wasn't that excited.

I was so very wrong, this place is a triumph and a great addition to our local restaurant scene - I'm just glad they don't have to put the calories on the menu.

## Fathers' Day Gift Suggestions

Here are some foodie-focused gift suggestions for fathers in your life - be it your own papa, or the father of your offspring:

For the chocolate lover I have a couple of suggestions: He can have fun experimenting and making his own chocolate recipes with this kit from **Just Spices**. For £26,99 you have everything needed to make delicious chocolate bars at home. The spice blends included are enough to make more than five different creations. Full instructions and recipes and silicon moulds are included - just add your choice of chocolate. Available online from [justspices.co.uk](https://justspices.co.uk).



If you'd rather give a box of chocolates, Belgian chocolatier **Pierre Marcolini** has launched 'Destination Vanilla' for the summer with two exceptional Grand Cru vanillas: bourbon vanilla from Madagascar and vanilla from Papua New Guinea. A box of nine (vanilla caramel, vanilla praline and vanilla ganache) £12.50 or 18 for £23. Available from the various Pierre Marcolini outlets in London or online: [marcolini.co.uk/en/chocolates/summer-collection](https://marcolini.co.uk/en/chocolates/summer-collection)

A delivery from **Fortnum & Mason** is always rather special. This lovely 'DAD' pork pie and Piccalilli gift is fabulous and not as expensive as you might expect. The 440gm pie is packed with British Lincolnshire pork, enveloped in crumbly pastry and adorned with 'DAD' on top. The pickle, 200g of a true British favourite, is the perfect accompaniment. The gift set is £14.95 plus delivery. (available for despatch after 11 June). Another great gift idea from Fortnum's is a 600g giant tin of the Toffolossus biscuits £21.95 (Salty-sweet and chewy toffee with dates in an indulgent chocolate-covered biscuit). Pop into the store to buy these or order online from [fortnumandmason.com](https://fortnumandmason.com)



Special teas are always popular, and **Bird & Blend's** alco-free tea tipples are packed with notes of Bourbon, caramel & smoke, or perhaps a tea take on the Mojito, with a refreshing mint & lime infusion? If he needs or deserves a rest, Deckchair Dreaming tea with chamomile & apple might hit the spot. Lots of teas with a difference, and over 100 flavours to choose from are available online at [www.birdandblendtea.com](https://www.birdandblendtea.com).

Bring forward those summer hols with a genuine taste of Greece and the wonderfully smooth taste of **Metaxa 12 Stars**. This incredibly agreeable



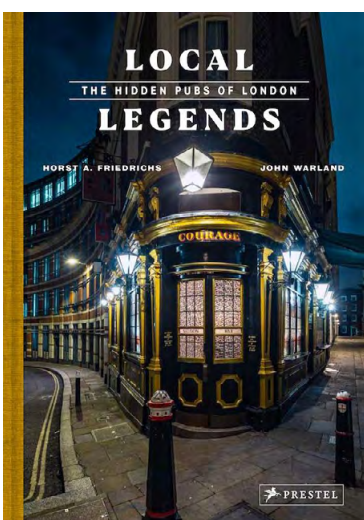
brandy is the perfect gift for anyone who enjoys unique dark spirits. Metaxa's elegant bottle makes a stylish addition to the home drinks trolley, and its unique taste of Samos Muscat wines, aged distillates and Mediterranean botanicals offers a great twist to cocktail creations. Or just relax and enjoy it neat, or on the rocks. Available from Waitrose at £37 for a 70cl bottle.



Perhaps he enjoys a dram or two and a good whisky is more to his taste? And does he like a peaty one? If so, here's a great gift: produced at the oldest distillery on the Isle of Skye, **Talisker Single Malt Scotch Whisky** has been made beside the sea since 1830. This malt whisky is aged for a minimum of 10 years in wooden casks that previously held bourbon whisky - a choice of cask that gives the final liquid a solid backbone on which to build its flavours. This is a fabulous whisky for anyone wanting to dive into the world of peated scotch whisky with a coastal influence. £37.95 for 70cl from [houseofmalt.co.uk](http://houseofmalt.co.uk)

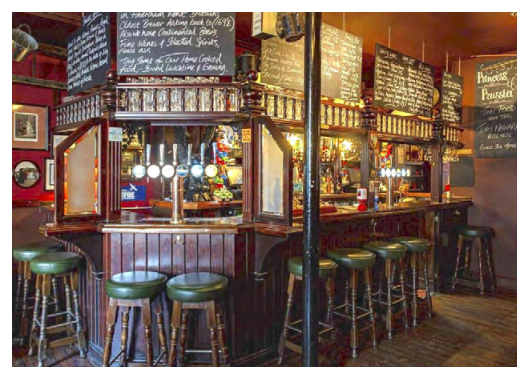
Does he have strong views about restaurants? Then this newly published guide is perfect. It's an unashamedly biased guide to places in London worth the hype. It's not just a list of Michelin-starred eateries (although there are a few); it's a round-up of bright, innovative, deliciously multicultural cooking in our capital, from fresh pasta to fiery curries, BYOB grills to life-affirming bagels. **An Opinionated Guide to London Food**, published by **Hoxton Mini Press**, is a short, to-the-point, tasteful guide on where to eat, scoff, munch, slurp and dine your way around town.

Author **David Paw**, a writer and editor based in east London, as well as launching The Infatuation and Resy guides in London, writes for titles including *Wallpaper\**, *Eater*, *Monocle* and *British Vogue*. £12.95 from WH Smith, Amazon and other bookshops. The same publisher produces a whole series of other London guides, including Delis, Hotels and Museums. Further info [here](#)



For anyone interested in history and finding quirky pubs, here's a fab gift idea. John Warland, London's leading pub tour guide and host of the celebrated **Liquid History Tours** takes readers off the beaten path and into London's lesser known, but most authentic pubs. **Local Legends: The Hidden Pubs of London** is published by **Prestel** at £32.50 (hardback) **You** can stumble into iconic London pubs, ones where Shakespeare trod the boards, or Dickens scribbled his next novel, lovingly captured on camera by esteemed photographer **Horst A. Friedrichs**. Covering every corner of London from the city centre to its outer limits and beyond, these watering holes are permeated by personality and a passion for traditional hospitality. If the interiors mightn't boast architectural wonders

or famous artwork, their unique qualities are brought to life through Friedrichs' stunning photography, illuminating character and charm, idiosyncratic hosts and patrons, menus scrawled on chalkboard, proudly polished brass, worn leather stools, and quirky artefacts. The pubs are the stars of this invaluable book that's as informative as it is collectible.



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# Twickenham's Connection With Gibraltar

The first Earl of Strafford, who negotiated the Treaty of Utrecht ceding Gibraltar to Britain in 1713, lived in Gifford Lodge opposite Twickenham Green, which is now in the London Borough of Richmond.

## THE NEW GOVERNOR OF GIBRALTAR

4<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Excerpts from the Statement by the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, the Hon Fabian Picardo KC MP, on the Arrival of His Excellency the Governor, Lieutenant General Sir Benjamin Bathurst, KCVO, CBE in Gibraltar on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024

*Your Excellency, On behalf of the people of Gibraltar, on behalf of His Majesty's Government of Gibraltar and as Leader of this House, I have the privilege of being the first leader of the institutions of Government to formally welcome you to your new home in Gibraltar. It is a great privilege to be entrusted to deliver the terms of your official welcome to the new position you now hold as the Constitutional representative of His Majesty the King. You are the first representative of a King welcomed to Gibraltar by a democratically elected Chief Minister of Gibraltar. A first for both of us and for The Rock.*



*So long and so great was the reign of Her Majesty, our late, much loved, Queen Elizabeth the Second, that all of our modern Constitutional development occurred during the course of her time on the Throne. Under our current Constitutional settlement, Your Excellency enjoys a singular honour that is bestowed upon you to represent the monarch, our Sovereign. I have no doubt that, in no time, you will settle into this new role. The excellent staff of the Convent and Convent Place will help no end.*

*Not least because His Majesty, King Charles the Third, King of Gibraltar, enjoys the loyalty, of course, of all his British subjects in Gibraltar. He also, in particular, enjoys the love, support and affection of us all as the embodiment of the British Sovereignty of our treasured and beloved land. Of that, neither His Majesty, nor you as his representative in Gibraltar, will ever be in any doubt. Indeed, it is demonstrable that the staunchest defenders of the exclusively British sovereignty of Gibraltar are the British Gibraltarians. Much more so than any other class of British subject. ...*

*Indeed, one of the things that unites parties in this House is the view that there is work to be done to continue the modernization of our Constitution. And that should not be seen as a criticism of the current text, but as a salutary reality check that our roles require us always to ensure that we keep our Magna Carta up to date.*

*In fact, the very references to EU matters in the 2006 Constitution under which you are today appointed, shows that there is a need to consider how we deal with matters now that we have left the EU.*

*The conundrum, however, is to find that deal that is safe and secure by our measure and by the measure of our negotiating partners also. A deal that is beneficial for all relevant economic actors. A*

*deal that enjoys popular support here but is not so unpopular elsewhere as to be rendered stillborn for that reason.*

*Ironically, we will not be able to vote in this EU election as we would have in the past. But many of us are now able to vote in the UK election, for the first time, if we have previously resided in the UK. In this dual election period, although technical talks continue in earnest, I do not believe an agreement is likely to be declared before the installation of a new Government in London. Whichever political party may form Government, we are clear that under either a continuity Conservative administration or, an incoming Labour administration, the key fundamentals in this negotiation will not change. Labour have made that clear now for some time to our relevant negotiating counterparties.*

*... Your Excellency, there should be no doubt in anyone's mind. In fact, what is more important than anything in this and in every negotiation, in politics and in life generally, is honesty and consistency. And that is why we are negotiating, hand in glove with the United Kingdom Government, to achieve the Mandate agreed between us in 2021.*

*... We have been consistent in the views we have presented in that respect, talking about the possibilities of concluding fluidity agreements with the EU in respect of the Schengen immigration zone and the Single Market in goods since*

*... We are the Gibraltarians. The people of the Rock. And this is Gibraltar. The home of our People.*

*... We are British in our own way, in our own style, with our own British laws, and – indeed - our own British Government of which you come to form a part in proud representation of His Majesty.*

*... Indeed, the interests of Gibraltar are arguable even more aligned with a Global Britain outside the EU than they were with the UK in the EU. Now, in a perhaps harsher and more dangerous world, our role as a British military base, an asset 1,500 miles south, is the modern embodiment of the projection of British power and influence. And so, reflecting on the relationships I have had with your predecessors during my time in office, it is clear that the stronger the relationship between a Chief Minister and a Governor, the more successful, ultimately, the partnership between Great Britain and Gibraltar.*

*... Prickly on some issues – notably anything related to our sovereignty - but friendly and endearing in equal measure. Having had the privilege to represent us all for the past 12 and a half years, I can tell you that the People of Gibraltar value those who represent them and you will be no less valued as you embark on this journey with us. Sir Ben. Welcome to Gibraltar. Your new home. The home of the Gibraltarians.*

*Your 32,000 new friendly neighbours. A place that will enchant you like no other. And a People whose love will henceforth colonise your hearts forever.*



*Welcome to Calpe. Welcome to Jebel Tarik. WELCOME TO OUR ROCK.*

# Are slime crimes on the increase in Twickenham?

By Deep Patel

~Life Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper~

The sun is out...the rains followed after...the result was a huge increase in “slime crimes”...what exactly is a slime crime? We all know it well...your vegetable plants are sprouting, dahlia shoots are shooting, leafy veg is leafing...all seems tiketdee-boo...until whooooosh...you wake up one morning and that lush green foliage is gone...completely gone...just a few measly stumps left to remind you of the lush paradise that once was...but now is no longer...but who is causing this increase in these so called slime-crimes...you got it in one...our five-hundred million year old friend...the slug and partner in crime, the snail...but can we actually live in harmony with these guys whilst still having lush green plants? Well...YES we can...read on to find out how you can do this relatively cheaply and in an easy-peasey lemon-squeezy kinda way, as well as why we should even bother...

Well, what can we do?...buy some pure copper mesh from online stores or from my shop (Meet & Deep Newsagents!)... trail it around the bottom of plants you need to protect, the slugs and snails WON'T go past it! It is much better than copper tape! We have sold many rolls to allotments near us who have all come back to repeat purchase and say it's the only thing that worked! You can also place bamboo canes on each corner of your vegetable patch and trail the copper mesh around the bottom to make a mini-fence, this will definitely stop them crawling in, and you can do this around pot rims too. Make sure you remove and relocate any slugs and snails that are already hiding in the soil or under leaves before you put the copper mesh down as otherwise you will simply lock them in! Make sure you only use PURE copper mesh, cheaper copper coated mesh won't work so well, the mesh we sell in my shop at Meet and Deep Newsagents is 100% pure copper, and if you buy it online just make sure it is 100% pure copper and not simply copper coated. You can also use finely crushed up egg shells, sawdust, ash and used coffee grounds around the bases of plants to help protect them too.

Why bother I hear you ask? Well slugs and snails actually contribute to breaking down organic matter and enriching our soil. A study by the University of Belfast has found evidence that suggests slugs and snails are not only capable of feeling pain, however they also experience emotions too...and whilst beer traps may sound like a “good way to go”, sadly they feel the drowning sensation before alcohol even kicks in...So slime crimes are up, but why?...because these creatures are trying to live? They mean no harm, they don't understand they are eating our favourite flowers...we wouldn't do that to humans

would we? (kill them for being hungry) so why do it to others?...big or small, short or tall...all lives matter...so be a hero today and save a slug...it's good karma...and if it's raining and dark...and you are out...use your phone torch to avoid stepping on snails and slugs and if you see one, use a nearby leaf to pick it up and place it over a nearby wall...you will help it be saved from someone stepping on it and you will have good karma too! A life is still a life...



**Remember...**

***“...Big or small...short or tall...all lives matter..”***

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

**STOP ANTS AND ALL INSECTS KINDLY (GOOD KARMA):** Sprinkle 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. For ANY specific tip to stop any “pest” or insect KINDLY (for good karma/blessings), email me: [InsectLoversUnite@gmail.com](mailto:InsectLoversUnite@gmail.com) or join my Facebook page: **“INSECT LOVERS UNITE”**

# Platée

by Jean-Philippe Rameau, libretto by Adrien-Joseph Le Valois d'Orville  
 Garsington Opera, at Wormsley, Stokenchurch until 30<sup>th</sup> June

Bizarre, bold and brilliant; Garsington's *Platée* is packed with wild grotesquerie, vivid fluorescence, and exuberant energy.

Twickenham's Naked Ladies, our imposing statuary Naiades, are water nymphs. They are beautiful and full of joy. Not so the water nymph in Rameau's *Platée*, who is aesthetically challenged and hapless. She is one of the Limnades, the nymphs of swamps; and Platée has puffed herself up with vanity and obsessional delusions.

The plot of *Platée*, written for the 1745 celebrations of a French royal marriage, revolves around a ruse by Jupiter, king of the gods, to cure his wife, Juno of her tiresome jealousy. Jupiter will pretend to fall in love with a nymph, but with such a repulsive creature that Juno will be gulled into seeing how ill-founded is her jealous. Poor Platée is the target for this heartless trick.



Louisa Muller has relocated her production of *Platée* into a twenty-first century reality show: think *Love Island* rather than Mount Olympus, now the studios of Olympus TV. The executives Momus (Jonathan McGovern), the personification of satire, and Thalie (Holly Brown), the muse of comedy, are re-jigging *The Jupiter and Juno Show*. They wake Thespis, the inventor of comedy, after his all-night party with all the staff, and the stage soon swarms with the twenty-two strong Garsington Opera chorus and an octet of dancers who are indefatigable throughout the opera against the dynamic patterns of the bright bubbly Baroque music. Platée "wins" the completion against a disgruntled bevy of beauties whose plastic pulchritude is apparently

surpassed by a swamp-nymph. The mountain king, Chitheron (Henry Waddington) becomes the front man for *The Jupiter and Platée Show*.



The garish set of chrome and glass, fluorescent lime and pink plastics, purple lamé slit-drapes, and a moving gantry, is backed by a giant TV screen, animated by Illuminos's video design. Platée, scored by Rameau for an *haute-contre*, the highest tenor, is demanding

in its vocal contortions, but Samue Boden sings with assured agility. He is Platée to perfection, but full of empathy, even in a green bathing cap and flippers, amongst blow-up flamingos in the Jacuzzi, or in her Sunday-best purple peacock tail, tiara and tutu.

Jupiter's big entrance is in a winged gold golf-buggy. He sits jauntily in a silver lamé jacket and cool shades, like an archetypical Las Vegas narcissist. Ossian Huskinson, in his rich bass-baritone, eats the role with relish.

Another highlight is La Folie, the personification of human foolishness, who emcees the reality show's finale. Mireille Asselin's La Folie is a pop-starlet and the aria *Aux langueurs d'Apollon* is backed up by a DJ and glo-stick banishing chorus. The dancers wear ash-blond wigs and silver puffa jackets, and little else, and their sensual contemporary dance puts an explicit erotic edge to the wooing of Apollo and Daphne. Rameau, Baroque, 1745?



Rameau's music was startlingly innovative, with twists and turns, musical comments and gags,



which pop up all over the place. Paul Agnew, who has himself sung the role of Platée, conducts The English Concert with vigour and vivacity, driving every note for its full impact. Yet, far from being gimmicky, many music passages are sublime, and the whole of the opera is a wonderful amalgam of arias, interludes, choruses and dance, which is much to the fore. (Rameau called the piece a *ballet bouffon*.)

Platée is set-up for a mock madcap “wedding”. Chavery at its brashest, geezers and girls, first-bumping blokes, their tottering birds in stilettos and fascinators, the guests dance with chairs, some nod off and the Cupid arrives, Momus, very thinly disguised in gold lamé with a foam-rubber bow. When Juno (Annabel Kennedy) crashes in, but her incandescence at the events, turns to incredulous laughter, as Platée has been totally ridiculed and humiliated. Rameau suddenly pours cold water over all this fun. Sitting on the floor, while everybody turns away to party, her final words dissolve in despair.

Read Mark Aspen's review at [www.markaspen.com/2024/06/01/platee](http://www.markaspen.com/2024/06/01/platee)

Photography by Clive Barda, Alistair Muir and Julian Guidera

## Medea

by Euripides, adapted by Ben Power

The Questors at the Studio, Questors Theatre, Ealing until 8<sup>th</sup> June

From the riveting opening monologue to the dark finale, the archetypical Greek tragedy, *Medea* holds the attention. We learn the backstory in a spellbinding narrative by Tamara Gordon Laryea, as the nurse who also tells of her fears for her mistress. Still madly in love with Jason and distraught at being abandoned far from home, for a younger woman, Medea has locked herself away, weeping and refusing all attempts at comfort. She has already killed for Jason, what might she do now, deserted and alone, and turning away from her sons? The monologue gives the tale all the gravitas it deserves, whilst sharing the nurse's concern and trepidation at what might come next.



We join the story at this point when Jason has left Medea and is about to marry the daughter of the King of Corinth. As Medea, Sarah Sharpe dominates the rest of the play. Her distress is total, her disbelief that she could have been abandoned so, in a strange and hostile land, utterly credible.



The plot is so powerful I hardly noticed that the costumes were modern, but somehow, with all the references to Hecate and the sun gods, the modern dress of the chorus seemed incongruous, even though they emerge from the standing audience.

Jason and his soon-to-be father-in-law King Kreon (Stuart Watson), come to remonstrate with her. She pleads not be banished, and purports to offer an olive branch to him and his future wife. Angry and upset, Medea eventually turns to deadly revenge as a solution to her disempowerment.

Sharpe's Medea convincingly moves from hysteria to a state of cold calm reason. As her plans for revenge became increasingly deranged, her emotional state turned to cold logic, until taking murderous pleasure in poisoning her rival, Jason's bride to be and King Kreon seemed inevitable. But the double murder is still not enough to assuage her hurt. In the dramatic final twist, the blood curdling screams of her sons are heard, Jason has now lost everything and Medea is finally avenged.

Read Polly Davies' review at [www.markaspen.com/2024/06/02/medea](http://www.markaspen.com/2024/06/02/medea)

Photography by Evelina Plonyte

# Heroes

by Gérald Sibleyras, translated by Tom Stoppard

Richmond Shakespeare Society at the Mary Wallace Theatre until 8<sup>th</sup> June

When Oberon returns Titania to her original self in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, he talks of “the fierce vexation of a dream”. *Heroes* fits this, in that we have three elderly ex-officers from the war who have been together in a care home for many years. We gradually see the “fierce vexation” as they try to escape from their futureless life. Although clearly this will not happen, they are dauntless, as they look towards their forthcoming dreams.

*Heroes* is basically a comedy, albeit with moving soul-searching moments. Our indomitable three come up with a number of increasingly ludicrous ideas to put their “plans” into action. In this production nothing is overdone – no gimmicks, faithful attention to the script and the period (1959). The set, in its pastoral presentation, the view of the house in the middle-distance provides balance, and the soundscape evokes the two World Wars.



Francis Abbott (Gustave), John Mortley (Philippe) and Chris Haddock (Henri) produce very fine performances. They know what they are doing and how to work together. The comedy dialogue is gentle with the odd one-liners. They don't try to go for more than the text requires. They are real people whose situation we can believe in, even sympathise with.

We can laugh at the banter, however silly it is, as when they climb on each other, and when they tie themselves together with a fire hose reel. But this is not slapstick. It is the most poignant moment. Their dreams have come across a barrier and Henri tells his compatriots, “nothing changes”.

The conclusion is swift and brief: they all see a flight of geese whose sound gradually increases, then is gone. The geese repeat the departure and return with ease *ad infinitum*, contrasting with the inability of the three heroes to go anywhere.

*Heroes* provides entertainment laced with thought. As Oberon also says, “be as thou must wont to be”. Nevertheless, Henri, Phillippe and Gustave will surely go on dreaming for as long as they can.

Read Salieri's review at [www.markaspen.com/2024/06/03/heroes](http://www.markaspen.com/2024/06/03/heroes)

Photography by Pete Messum

## Jesus Christ, Superstar

music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, lyrics by Tim Rice

Regent's Park Company at the New Victoria Theatre, Woking, then on tour until 17<sup>th</sup> August

The curtain rises on *Jesus Christ, Superstar* with Judas' haunting *Heaven on Their Minds*, leading to the ensemble's *What's the Buzz*, passionate, tight and tense. They pave the way for Jesus and the devoted Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene, is played by the captivating Hannah Richardson with a clear singing voice and genuine tenderness, bringing pathos to the tender ballad *I Don't Know How to Love Him*, and a tone of sheer regret in *Could We Start Again, Please?*

Jesus is torn between the dominant figures of Judas and Mary Magdalene, plus his energetic disciples. Although Ian McIntosh gives a polished performance, he takes time to grow into the role of The Messiah.



Judas has a lot to carry with his conflicting views and frustration, and Shem Omari James carries this with angry energy. Judas' reward for his betrayal of Jesus is a treasure chest full of silver powder in which the betrayer's hands become symbolically coated.

The menacing presence of the dark disapproving ensemble singing *This Jesus Must Die* casts a long shadow. The excellent Caiaphas, played by skilled baritone Jad Habchi, enhances this powerful group, which works as an imposing force.

Directing in astonishing detail, Timothy Sheader covers every possible aspect. The impressive band, led by Grant Walsh, is particularly evident in the unforgettable climax, which has Judas leading the classic song, *Superstar*.

Tom Scutt's boldly lit set, with its striking neon crosses has a raised catwalk centrepiece, effective in Jesus' crucifixion, is emphasised by Lee Curran's effective lighting design, augmented by Nick Lidster's haunting soundscape. However, although one must appreciate Drew McOnie's superbly detailed choreography, it is restricted by the catwalk.

Herod's song is still a great favourite. It is performed beautifully by Timo Tatzber, but why dress like a *Rocky Horror* character? And Pilate, a compelling Ryan O'Donnell, have garb like a rock star figure? Plus does Jesus really need that baseball cap that hides his reactions at the start of a highly significant story?



Read Heather Moulson's review at [www.markaspen.com/2024/06/04/jc-superstar-nvw](http://www.markaspen.com/2024/06/04/jc-superstar-nvw)

Photography by Paul Coltas

# HAMPTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Maurice Duruflé - Requiem  
John Rutter - Requiem

**Musical Director - Richard Harker  
with professional soloists**

**Saturday 29 June 2024 - 7.30pm**

**St James's Church, St James's Road,  
Hampton Hill, TW12 1DQ**

**Tickets: £15 (Adults), £7 (Under 16's)**

**Box Office: 020 8941 5394**

**on the door: contactless, card, cheque, cash  
[www.hamptonchoral.org.uk](http://www.hamptonchoral.org.uk)**

# O Positive And O Negative Donors Asked To Urgently Fill The 6,400 Appointments To Give Blood In London

1. 6,400 appointments available at Stratford, Shepherd's Bush, Oxford Circus, Tooting and Edgware
2. To book an appointment to donate, visit [blood.co.uk](https://blood.co.uk), see the GiveBloodApp or call 0300 123 23 23

NHS Blood and Transplant is calling for O Positive and O Negative blood donors to urgently donate blood to shore up stocks of O type blood in London.

O negative is the type that can be given to anyone which makes it vital in emergencies or when a patient's blood type is unknown. Air ambulances and emergency response vehicles carry O negative supplies. Just 8% of the population have type O Negative but it makes up for around 15% of hospital orders.

O positive is the most common blood type – 35% of donors have it – and can be given to anybody with any positive blood type, meaning three in every four people, or 76% of the population, can benefit from an O positive donation.



An NHSBT spokesperson said:

“We urgently need O Negative and O Positive donors to book appointments to give blood in London. We currently need to prioritise donors who know they are type O but also welcome new donors who don't yet know their blood type.

“Please book an appointment at one of donor centres which currently have good appointment availability. There are more than 6,000 appointments available in London this week and next week. Go to [blood.co.uk](https://blood.co.uk) or call 0300 123 23 23.”

Following the bank holidays and school holidays, the NHS currently has lower than normal stocks of type O blood. Next week is National Blood Week during which NHSBT will be launching a big push for new donors ahead of the summer.



**Blood and Transplant**

# TEDDINGTON VILLAGE FAIR

Sunday 30th June 12 - 5:30 pm

Udney Hall Gardens, off Langham Rd.



The Village Fair is returning to Teddington again this year. Come and help us celebrate 100 years of Rotary in Teddington and join in all the fun.

- ◆ Music and Dance on our stage and performance area
- ◆ Fun and Games on stalls from all our local community groups
- ◆ Food and drink from local businesses.
- ◆ The finish line for the United Response pram race!

Organised by your local Rotary club together with the Teddington Society, St Mary with St Alban, and the local Scouts and Guides, this year's fair will be one to remember. Updated information is available on our website. Search "Teddington Rotary" or use QR code.

**Rotary**  **Teddington & the Hamptons**  
**100 YEARS OF SERVICE, 1924 - 2024**

Registered Charity No: 1031422



**StMARYwithStALBAN**  
PARISH CHURCH of TEDDINGTON



# St Mary's University

## St Mary's Student Sporting Success Continues

SMU saw great sporting success last month, with current student Mia Eldridge having been selected to join the 2023/24 English Universities Sport Women's Rugby 7's squad, and the SMU Women's Futsal team finishing top of the BUCS Premiere South league.

St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) saw great sporting success last month, with current student Mia Eldridge having been selected to join the 2023/24 English Universities Sport [Women's Rugby 7's squad](#), and the SMU Women's Futsal team finishing top of the BUCS Premiere South league.



The Premiere South League is the highest division in UK university futsal, with the team taking the title after an undefeated run of games this season. Team President Charlotte Close was the fourth overall highest futsal goal scorer in the country, across both men and women.

SMU student Mia Eldridge was selected to join the EUS Rugby 7's squad alongside 15 other women from universities across England.

[English Universities Sport](#) is the official association for England which administrates all representative student sport and competition across higher education, providing first-class coaching and high-end competition for top students in hockey,

football, netball, basketball, and rugby sevens.

Speaking on her selection for the rugby sevens squad Mia said, *"I am extremely grateful and excited for this opportunity to be selected and play for the EUS 7's team. Having not played a lot of rugby sevens in the past, I am eager to improve and enhance my rugby performance."*

These achievements continue a successful season for SMU students, with multiple individuals seeing national success in their sport.

Earlier in May two students won medals at the [BUCS Athletics: Outdoor Championships 2023-24](#). Jade Spencer-Smith took home Gold in the women's pole vault, while Sam Charig was awarded the Silver medal in the men's 1500 metres.

This followed a previous win for Jade in the women's pole vault at the [BUCS Indoor Athletics](#) event, while fellow student Bijan Bayati took home the Silver medal in the Men's Intermediate Kata karate category at the same event.

Outside of BUCS, students Lulu Banks and Maisie Davidson were chosen to join the English Universities Sport (EUS) [Women's Hockey Squad](#) for the 2023/24 season.

In international sporting news, SMU PhD student Christopher Bryde has been selected to compete in the [2025 Invictus Games](#) for the United States Marine Corps after winning five medals at the Marine Corps Trials.

SMU will also see alumni competing at the Olympic Games in Paris this summer, with [Emile Cairess](#), [Beth Potter](#), and [Charlotte Purdue](#) already selected to represent Team GB at the Games.



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

# Media Students Place 3rd in West London Film Competition

Over the last month, some of our Media students at Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) have been working on a film for the West London Film Competition 2024, hosted by the JGA Group.

Those involved were Level 3 Extended Diploma TV & Film students, Rob Flynn and Alaa Dahham, and Level 3 Diploma TV & Film students, Erin Green and Duru Kalamani. Together they created a short film titled 'Creativity Grows,' exploring the creativity of people (specifically creative students at RuTC) in West London. Their film placed 3rd out of multiple entries, a fantastic achievement!



Student Alaa spoke of their success:

*"I'm proud to say that we've made something that hit the big screen, and placing 3rd is a position that I am proud to have reached."*



Erin followed up:

*"I am proud of what we have achieved, and we've learned that we can make something great in such a short time."*

Media tutor, Rhys Slyfield commented on his students' brilliant result:

*"I am really impressed by the hard work that these four students have put into this project, and we're looking forward to next year's competition!"*

[Watch the RuTC film entry here.](#)

[Watch the full film of competition entries here.](#)

Well done to all that were part of this!

[Find more about our courses and studying at RuTC here.](#)



**Richmond upon  
Thames College**

# Singer serenades Mary during her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party

A resident has celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at a care home in Surbiton.

Mary was joined by a small number of family and friends for a party, organised by staff at Royal Star & Garter, on Thursday, 30 May.

And days later, the great-grandmother enjoyed a large family gathering at The Petersham Hotel in Richmond.

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

Mary was born in Bristol on 30 May, 1924. She was working as a comptometer operator when WWII broke out in 1939, and married her husband Roy, who was serving in the Navy, in April 1944, shortly before he took part in the D-Day landings.

After leaving the Navy, Roy worked in the Civil Service for the Admiralty, with the family moving around the country and living in Malta for three years.



After retiring, the couple settled in Bath, but Mary moved to London to be closer to her children after Roy died in 2014. She moved to Royal Star & Garter in 2023.

Staff at the Home threw a special 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Mary, with Royal Star & Garter favourite JP Christian invited to sing for her and other residents.

The centenarian said: "The tea party at Royal Star & Garter was absolutely lovely, the Home pulled out all the stops. The party at The Petersham was also excellent. Both events were perfect and I enjoyed every moment."

Royal Star & Garter in Surbiton is welcoming new residents. For more information on this, the new services it has launched, or to work at the Home, go to [www.starandgarter.org/surbiton](http://www.starandgarter.org/surbiton)



**Royal Star  
& Garter**

Care with courage

# New Surbiton Day Care service for veterans living with disability or dementia launches with free taster sessions

A Day Care service for veterans and their partners has launched at a Surbiton care home.

The sessions, which will run several days a week from Royal Star & Garter and include dedicated days for people living with early-stage dementia, began in May.

To mark the launch, the charity is offering a free Day Care session at its Surbiton Home.

The service will support veterans and their partners who live with disability or dementia but are not in need of full-time residential care. Furthermore, it will offer valuable respite to their carers, who are often older people themselves.

Royal Star & Garter provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their partners living with disability or dementia, and has launched several new services reaching out into the community.

Day Care is already running in Royal Star & Garter's Solihull and High Wycombe Homes, and has received high praise from people using it.

As well as tackling social isolation which can be a significant issue amongst the veteran population, it will also promote wellbeing by providing home-cooked food, activities and structure to the week.

The arrival of Day Care at Surbiton is the latest move by Royal Star & Garter to increase the number of veterans it helps. All three Homes now provide the service and, in 2023, the charity launched Lunch Clubs and a Telephone Friendship Service to help combat loneliness and isolation in the Armed Forces community.

The offer of a free taster session runs until 31 August. Booking in advance is required and places are subject to availability. There is no obligation to continue using the service later.



People using Day Care will be kept busy, joining permanent residents in activities including quizzes, outings, entertainment, art therapy, and movement to music. Emphasis will be placed on rekindling memories and creating connections, including making new friends over delicious and healthy meals.

Among those using Day Care at Surbiton is Sadie. She said: "It's lovely here. I've enjoyed meeting other people and taking part in activities. And I've been spending time in the beautiful garden, there's so many varied flowers and plants."

Helena Maher is the Home Manager at Royal Star & Garter in Surbiton. She said: "We know there is demand for Day Care, so I'm delighted to have launched this service here at our Home. We've had a lot of enquiries already, and we're looking forward to welcoming more members of the Armed Forces community through our doors."

Further information about Royal Star & Garter Day Care in Surbiton, and the free taster session, can be found here: <https://starandgarter.org/our-homes-and-care/types-of-care/surbiton-day-care-service/>

For specific Surbiton Home enquiries, including Day Care and the free taster session, email [surbiton.enquiries@starandgarter.org](mailto:surbiton.enquiries@starandgarter.org) or call 020 8339 5100.

Royal Star & Garter is welcoming new residents into each of its three Homes. For more information on this, or to work for the charity, go to [www.starandgarter.org](http://www.starandgarter.org)



**Royal Star  
& Garter**  
Care with courage

# South Western Railway looks forward to potential £50m+ investment in accessibility at stations

- Eight South Western Railway stations included in latest government announcement of Access for All funding
- South Western Railway achieves the highest number of stations to be included of any operator
- Feasibility studies to be carried out for lifts at all eight stations
- Successful studies will release £50-60m in investment

South Western Railway (SWR) has the highest number of stations of any train operator in the latest government Access for All (AfA) funding announcement.

A recent government announcement listed 50 additional stations selected for initial feasibility work which, if successful, would be taken forward as part of the AfA programme.

Eight SWR stations – Ash Vale, Dorchester South, Esher, Hedge End, Kew Bridge, Raynes Park, Swanwick and Yeovil Junction – have been included in the list and will now go forward to have feasibility studies conducted.



Should these studies be successful, between £50m and £60m in AfA funding will be released to enable the schemes to proceed to construction.

The studies will consider how accessibility can be improved at these stations, most typically through the delivery of new lifts and in some cases bridges. If completed, the projects would significantly boost accessibility and make it easier for all customers to travel on the SWR network.

Michael Adlington, South Western Railway's Senior Accessibility and Inclusion Manager said: *"We're absolutely delighted to hear that our nominations for these eight stations have been successful."*

*"We work incredibly hard in collaboration with local stakeholders to submit these nominations, and so we are really pleased that SWR has secured the most successful bids of any train operator, unlocking huge investments in the communities we serve."*

*"We really appreciate the commitments made by partners through match funding contributions which will have been a key factor in securing this DfT investment."*

*"Should the feasibility studies achieve positive outcomes, customers who use these stations will benefit from transformative accessibility upgrades in the years to come."*

**South Western**  
 **Railway**

# Joint letter published by the RFU, FA, ECB, LTA & RFL

## What's the sporting vision?

This General Election is taking place against the backdrop of an extraordinary summer of sport.

As chief executives for five of the country's largest governing bodies we know just how much sport is woven into the DNA of our country. Millions play, volunteer, work and watch across a huge range of activities – from the world's leading sporting events to grassroots clubs and organisations at the heart of communities across the nation.

Indeed we expect more people will engage with sport this month than actually vote in the election – which sends an important message to those standing for office. That is why we are calling on all of the political parties to step up and set out their vision for sport.

The contribution sport makes is often relegated to the political sidelines. In fact it has a huge public policy contribution to make.



Our sector makes a significant contribution to the economy while also delivering benefits such as improved physical and mental health and educational attainment, and engaging young people in positive activities. In 2017 Sport England found that the contribution of community sport was worth £85.5bn to the economy and for every £1 spent on sport and physical activity it generated almost £4 in return.

Amongst many issues, we have two priorities we are keen to see addressed in the Party manifestos. Firstly, ensuring that school sport is fit for the future. An obesity time bomb is ticking in young people and the Chief Medical Officer has reiterated that every child should undertake the equivalent of an hour a day of physical activity.

The societal benefits of ensuring children develop a healthy relationship with sport and physical activity are huge, but while we expect children to leave school with numerical, verbal and written literacy, our current approach leaves physical literacy to chance.

Good progress has recently been made towards offering all boys and girls the opportunity to play the sport of their choice, but we now need to see this commitment backed up by the offer of good quality PE sessions.

We hope that the manifestos due to be published next week will include a commitment to put physical literacy at the heart of the school day by having a minimum of two hours of quality Sport and Physical Education mandated within the National Curriculum and every child guaranteed the opportunity to be active for an hour a day inside and outside of the school setting.

Secondly, investment in sports facilities across the country. Clubs, pitches, courts and local facilities are the lifeblood of all communities. They are a vital part of our nation's wellbeing and national infrastructure. Everyone should have access to good quality sports facilities. Yet many are now in a poor state. Across our sports we have all identified a common need for additional investment to improve grassroots facilities.

We want to see our political leaders commit to building on the progress that has been made recently through Government investment in good quality facilities through models such as the Football Foundation, legacy investment connected to international events such as the recent Rugby League World Cup, the Women's World Cups for Rugby (2025) and Cricket (2026) and the Parks Tennis programme.

We are keen to encourage a sporting debate. We will make sure all commitments and information provided by any of the political parties is shared across our members.

**Bill Sweeney, Chief Executive, RFU**

**Mark Bullingham, Chief Executive, The FA**

**Richard Gould, Chief Executive, ECB**

**Scott Lloyd, Chief Executive, LTA**

**Tony Sutton, Chief Executive, RFL**



# The Brentford players at Euro 2024: Where to watch group-stage games

**Mark Flekken (Netherlands), Christian Nørgaard, Mathias Jensen, Mikkell Damsgaard (Denmark) and Ivan Toney (England) are confirmed to be heading to the European Championship in Germany this summer; find out when, where and how to watch the Bees players at Euro 2024**

Written by Brentford Football Club

Five Brentford players are confirmed to be heading to the European Championship this summer, with the tournament starting on Friday 14 June.

Mark Flekken (Netherlands), Christian Nørgaard, Mathias Jensen, Mikkell Damsgaard (Denmark) and Ivan Toney (England) will all be representing their respective countries at Euro 2024. Albania's squad is yet to be confirmed, with Thomas Strakosha potentially joining them in Germany.



And here's all you need to know about when, where and how to watch the Bees players in action over the next few weeks. All kick-off times are GMT, with UK TV coverage information.

## **Mark Flekken – Netherlands**

Group D: Poland, Netherlands, Austria, France

- Poland v Netherlands | Sunday 16 June, 2pm | Volksparkstadion | BBC
- Netherlands v France | Friday 21 June, 8pm | Red Bull Arena Leipzig | BBC
- Netherlands v Austria | Tuesday 25 June, 5pm | Olympiastadion Berlin | BBC

## **Christian Nørgaard, Mathias Jensen, Mikkell Damsgaard – Denmark**

Group C: Slovenia, Denmark, Serbia, England

- Slovenia v Denmark | Sunday 16 June, 5pm | MHPArena | ITV
- Denmark v England | Thursday 20 June, 5pm | Deutsche Bank Park | BBC
- Denmark v Serbia | Tuesday 25 June, 8pm | Allianz Arena | ITV

## **Ivan Toney – England**

Group C: Slovenia, Denmark, Serbia, England

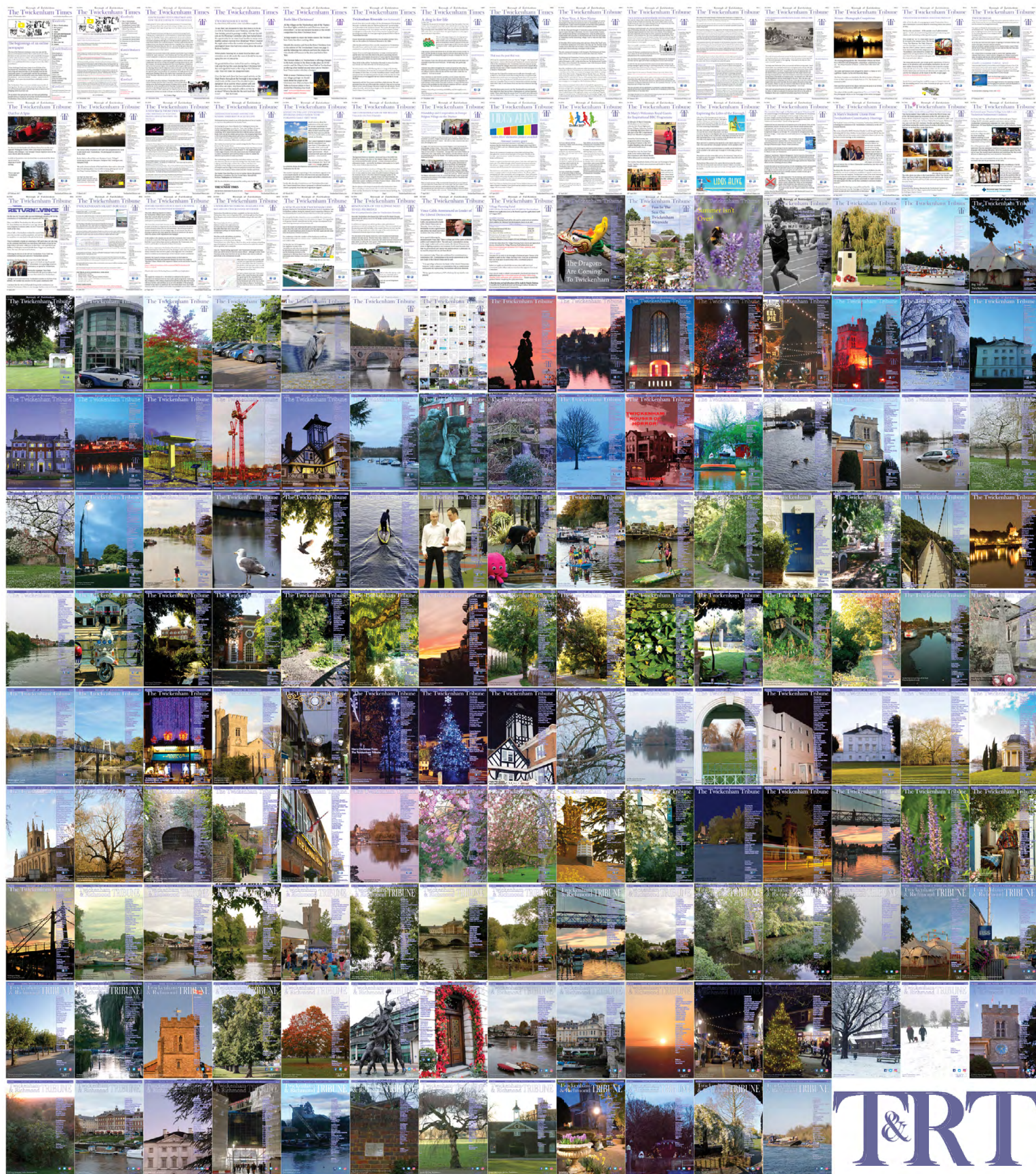
- Serbia v England | Sunday 16 June, 8pm | Veltins-Arena | BBC
- Denmark v England | Thursday 20 June, 5pm | Deutsche Bank Park | BBC
- England v Slovenia | Tuesday 25 June, 8pm | RheinEnergieStadion | ITV

*You can watch England in action at Gtech Community Stadium, with tickets for screenings of the Three Lions' Euro 2024 clashes [available now](#).*

David Raya, on loan from Brentford at Arsenal, will also be heading to Euro 2024 with Spain, where they will face Albania, Italy and Croatia in Group B.



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**Published by:**

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

Registered in England & Wales

Reg No 10549345

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

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