

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune

Contents

TickerTape: South Western Railway

The Tree Agency

Local Picture Postcard Column - Alfred Lord Tennyson Montpelier Row – Twickenham

Crusader Travel

Local Barnes heroes recognised by the Barnes Communication Association

NHS Richmond Community Healthcare

Spot chimpanzee statues in Richmond

Letters

MET in the Park

Richmond Timebank

Funding available to protect communities and properties from flooding

Have your say on a new community garden for Hounslow Heath

Holiday hang-out events at ETNA Community Centre this August

Make your own poppy and support veterans

Grimwood Road garden site looking for a tenant

Local charity wins award for best intergenerational activity

Twickers Foodie - July food and drink news

Sunborn, Gibraltar

“You can’t save them all”...

Mark Aspen Review - Humble Boy

Mark Aspen Review - Opera Gala Concert

Meditate and heal at free immersive exhibition ‘The Templum’

Enjoy laid back musical ambience at the OSO this August!

RNLI reminds everyone to stay safe in the water on World Drowning Prevention Day

Barnes safer neighbourhoods team

Paris 2024 Olympics: Team St Mary’s Preview

Creative Arts Students at RuTC Have Work Displayed at UAL Origins Creatives Exhibition

Championship Rugby League Fixtures for the 2024-25 Season Announced

Highlights, report and reaction: Benfica 1 Brentford 1

Educational outcomes for SEND pupils have failed to improve

Editors:

Berkley Driscoll

Teresa Read

Alan Winter

Barnes Community Association

Kingston Hospital

Be Richmond

Metropolitan Police

Alick Munro

Community BlueScapes

Richmond Council

ETNA Community Centre

The Poppy Factory

Richmond Council

Brighter Together

Alison Jee

Deep Patel

Claire Alexander

Mark Aspen

Orleans House Gallery

OSO Arts Centre

RNLI

Metropolitan Police

St Mary’s University

Richmond upon Thames College

RFU

Brentford Football Club

Local Government Association

TickerTape - News in Brief

South Western Railway

Altered train service and buses replace trains in the Hounslow area **Sunday 28 July**

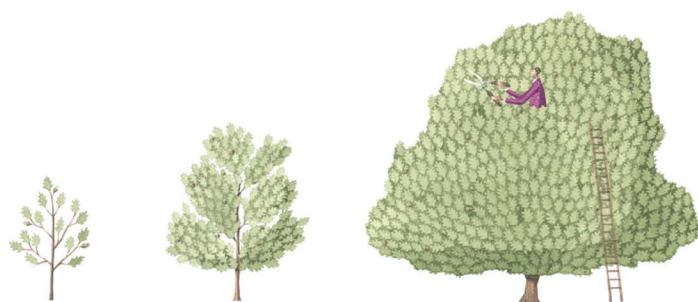
The lines in the **Hounslow** area will be **closed all day** due to maintenance work.

- **London Waterloo to Woking via Staines** services will be **revised**. These services will be diverted between **Barnes and Feltham** and will call additionally at **Richmond and Twickenham**.
- **Buses** will run between **Barnes and Feltham via Hounslow**.
- The afternoon and evening **London Waterloo to Kingston via Hounslow** services will **not** run.
- **Buses** will run between **Barnes and Twickenham via Hounslow (afternoon and evening only)**.

Altered train services and buses replace trains in the Barnes Bridge area **Monday 29 July to Friday 2 August**

The lines between **Barnes and Kew Bridge** will be **closed all days inclusive from Monday 29 July until Friday 2 August** due to maintenance work.

- **London Waterloo to Weybridge via Staines** services will start from **Kew Bridge**.
- **London Waterloo to London Waterloo via Hounslow** services will start from **Kew Bridge**.
- Passengers from **London Waterloo** should travel on other services to **Barnes**.
- **Buses** will run between **Barnes and Kew Bridge**.



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

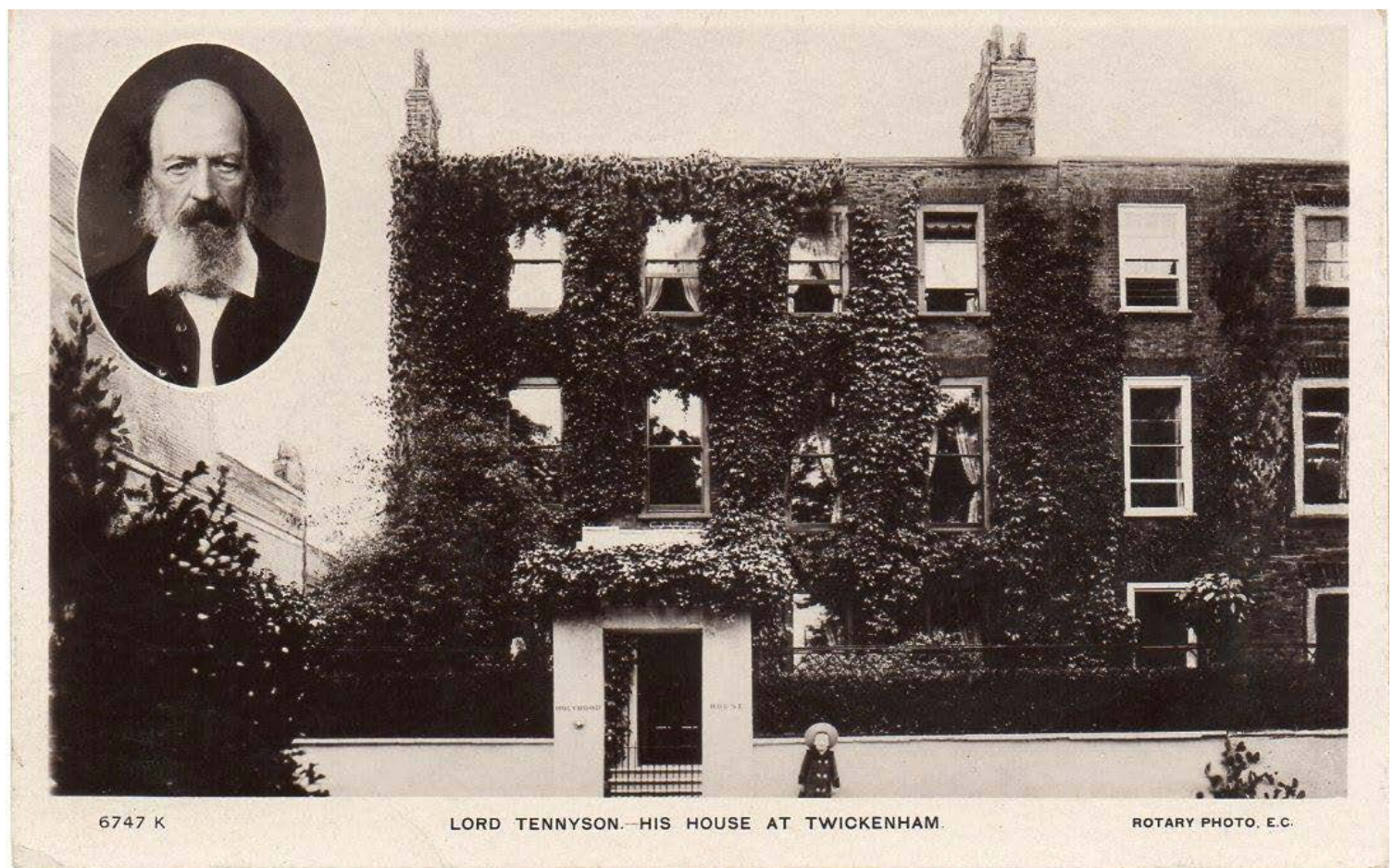
Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 259

By Alan Winter

Alfred Lord Tennyson Montpelier Row – Twickenham

We could write a very thick book about the well - known folk who have lived in Montpelier Row in Twickenham. As this column is all about what can be found on postcards, we shall take occasional looks at the people and individual houses that have appeared on postcards of this famous Row facing Marble Hill Park.

Let's look at number 15. This house was built in around 1721 and sits on the corner of Chapel Road. The garden spans the whole length of Chapel Road and originally had rear entrances to the property in Orleans Road which was originally built as a road of Servants cottages for those who lived in Montpelier Row.



Number 15 was originally called Chapel House and has also been named Holyrood House and Tennyson House in its time. Postcard Number 1. this week shows the house in the period it was named Holyrood House and identifies the link between Tennyson and the property. It has been listed as a Grade II building by English Heritage and boasts a blue plaque dedicated to Alfred Lord Tennyson who lived there between 1851 and 1853. His son was baptised at St Mary's Church at this time.

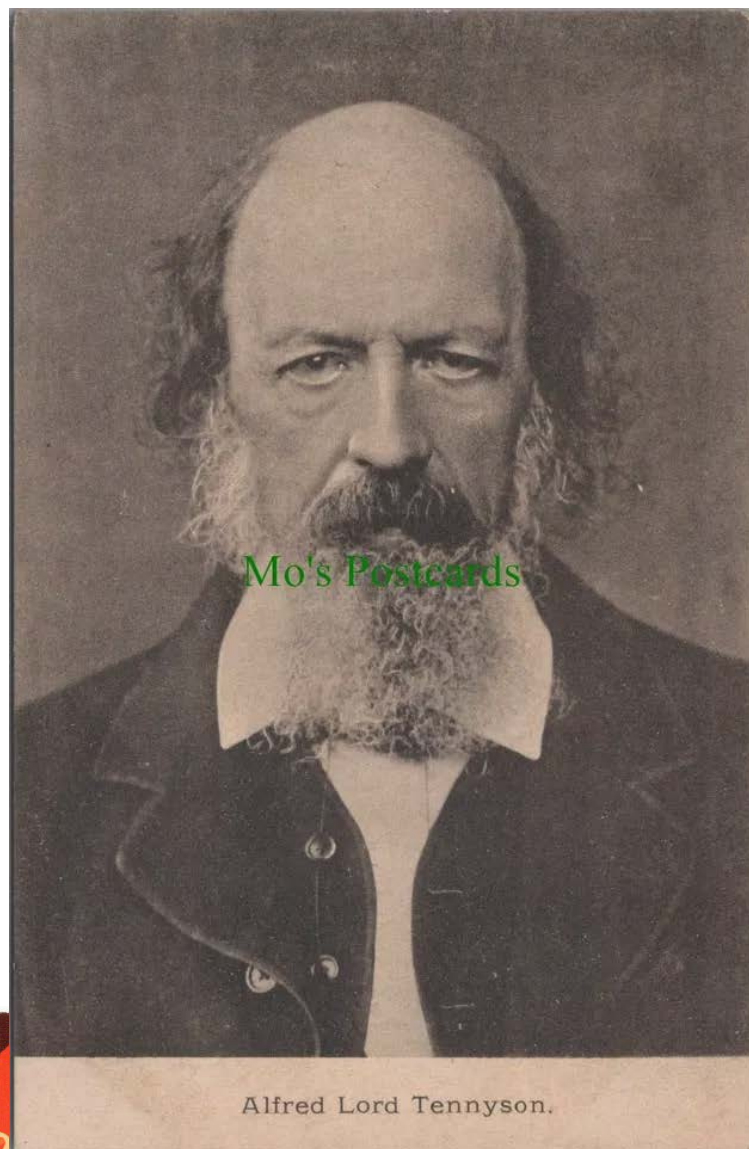


In 1850, after William Wordsworth's death and Samuel Rogers' refusal, Tennyson was appointed to the position of Poet Laureate; Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Leigh Hunt had also been considered. He held the position until his own death in 1892, the longest tenure of any laureate.

The second postcard is circa 1890's and shows an early photograph of Tennyson.

The final postcard was published by the BBC in recent years and quotes part of one of his more memorable poems.

And so to more recent times that even some of our older readers can remember! In the 1970's Number 15 Montpelier Row was bought by Pete Townshend of the Who. Pete lived there for a number of years before purchasing the Wick on Richmond Hill. We will have a look at postcards featuring Pete on another occasion.



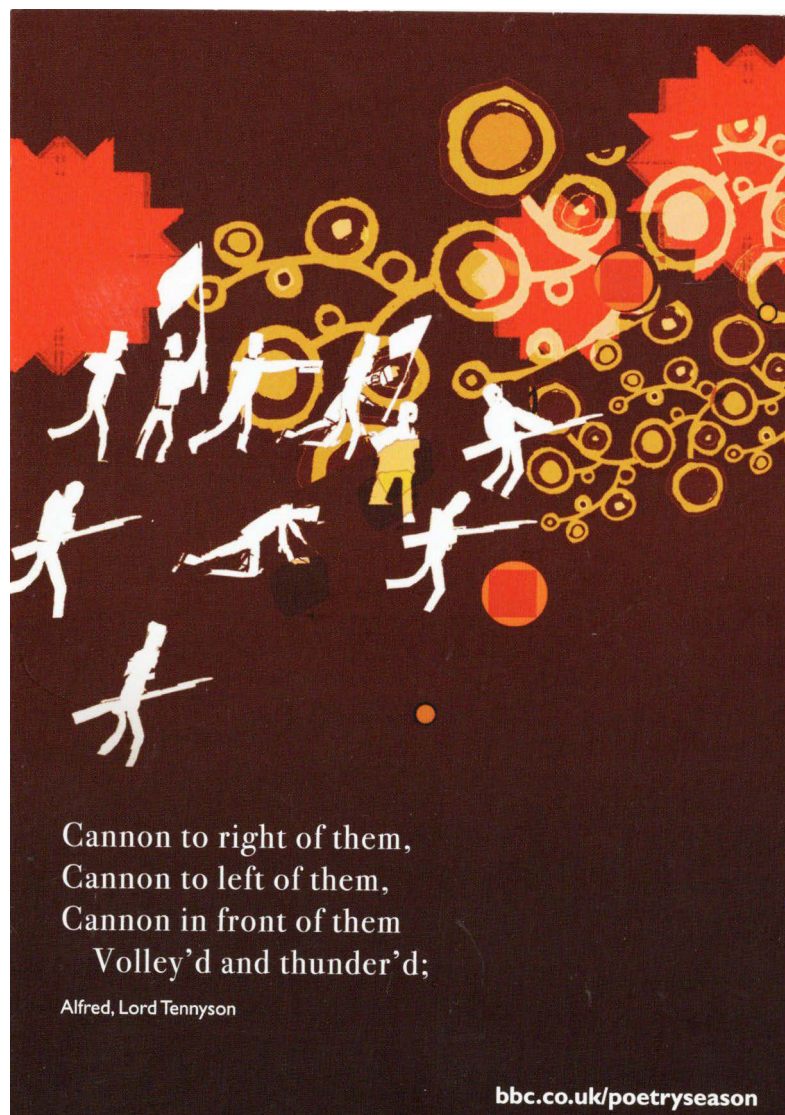
My search for old postcards continues.

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!



CrusaderTravel

020 8744 0474

crusadertravel.com

Escapology Experts

info@crusadertravel.com



Your friendly local Travel Agency
established in Twickenham since 1966

With over 50 years experience we pride ourselves on being able to offer an unrivalled service with attention to detail. Come and have a chat with us in our cosy office off the Church Street Square, we are open 6 days a week from 11am until 6pm (Closed Sunday)



Local Barnes heroes recognised by the Barnes Communication Association

Tribute to extraordinary Barnes and Mortlake residents – past present and future - on the BCA's 50th anniversary

With nearly 100 nominations from across Barnes and Mortlake in London, the Barnes Community Association (BCA) is thrilled to announce the nominees for the **50 Faces of Barnes Awards**. This year's awards, marking BCA's 50th anniversary, celebrates the remarkable individuals who contribute to our community.

Given the overwhelming response, the BCA has expanded the awards to include three new categories:

- **Barnes Local Heroes:** Honouring 50 individuals who have significantly impacted our community over the past 50 years.
- **Future Faces of Barnes:** Recognising the next generation of volunteers making their mark. Future Faces of Barnes nominations are [now open](#).
- **Leyla Hutchings Award for Meritorious Service by a BCA Employee:** Celebrating exceptional service by BCA staff members.

Commenting on the awards BCA Trustee, Carrie Spurgeon, said:

"Wow ... who would have thought it! Nearly 100 nominations from across Barnes and Mortlake and all amazing people who have done so much to keep our special place special! In fact, having seen the response, it threw up a whole range of thoughts and so, in this special Anniversary year, the BCA have decided to expand the Awards so that we can recognise even more people and have plenty of time for everyone to be honoured properly."

Celebrations kicked off at the [BCA Barnes Fair](#) on 13th July, where BCA chair, John McNeilly, along with Mayor Cllr Richard Pyne presented the special Heroes Award to David Stott, Ben Mackworth Praed and Mike Hildesley, three of the five amazing people who have spent most of the last 50 years doing remarkable work in the area. The other two local hero awardees - Ann Sullivan and Veronica Schroter - were unable to join us but will be hosted at their own event shortly.

Nominations for the Faces of Barnes awards closed on the 17 June 2024 but [Future Faces of Barnes nominations are now open](#). The awardees of the Faces of Barnes will be announced over the coming months, including at the [BCA's Barnes Food Fair](#) on 14th September. The awardees for the Future Faces of Barnes will be announced on 24th October. For the complete list of Faces of Barnes nominees please see below:

Amanda Brettargh	David Stott	Lisa Ross	Simon Danciger
Andrew Summers	Elizabeth Parletti	Louisa Platt	Simon Roach
Andrew Wilson	Emma Little	Mairead Murray	Simon Stewart
Ann Sullivan	Emma Robinson	Michel Birkenwald	Sophie Farrah
Anna Wigley	Fiona Smith	Mike Dixon	Stephanie and Roderick White
Anne Hahlo	Gemma Curran	Mike Hildesley	Steve Chapman
Anne Johnstone	Helen Pennant-Rea	Myszka Guzkowska	Steven Mindel
Anne Mullins	Isobel Woolf	Nathalie Jacob	Stevie McClarrity
Anne-Marie True	James Kelly	Pam Palairat	Sue Pandit
Ann-Marie Sheehan	James Kyle Pope	Pauline Crawford	Sue Richardson
Ann-Valancha Brown	Janet Falush	Rashadee Miller	Susie Pugh
Avril Joslin	Jenny George	Robin Martin	Terry The window cleaner
Ben Mackworth Praed	Jill & Mike Spillane	Roger Miles	Tracy Hamilton
Caroline Egerton	Jo Waldeck	Sam Cullis	Trisha Hawkins
Caroline Spurgeon	Jonathan Chapman	Sam Tidswell-Norrish	Vanessa Willis
Charles Champion	Judith Roberts	Sandy Urqhart	Veronica Schroter
Chris Marshall	Judy Gowing	Sarah Arthur	Wendy Kyle Pope
Connor Picken	Julia Llewelyn Smith	Sarah Baker	William Mortimer
Crispin O'Brien	Karine 'K' Pengelley	Sarah Wilson	William Tobin
David King-Farlow	Katie James	Simon Clough	Winnie Pun
David Leftwich	Leyla Hutchings		

The BCA relies on donations and membership to continue its vital work.

[To give donations or purchase BCA membership please do so on the BCA website](#) or reach out to us at membership@barnes-ca.org.



**Barnes
Community
Association**

Some of your local
healthcare services
are joining **together**
to improve care for
you and your family.

Hounslow and Richmond Community
Healthcare NHS Trust now only provides
community services in Richmond and later
this year will be merging with Kingston
Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

You won't notice any immediate changes,
but in time this should lead to better and
more joined-up care.

Our new name will be:
**Kingston and Richmond NHS
Foundation Trust.**

Scan the QR code or
visit our website to
learn more:

www.kingstonhospital.nhs.uk



Spot chimpanzee statues in Richmond

Until Saturday 31 August, residents and visitors are invited to explore a specially crafted
'Chimps are Family' trail.

Along the way, you will discover chimp
statues displaying different facts that
educate us about chimps and highlight
the importance of wildlife conservation.

Hosted by Be Richmond, Gillie and
Marc Art and WWF UK, the art trail
aims to raise awareness and generate
donations for the ongoing efforts to
protect these remarkable creatures and
their environments.



This summer, follow the trail, engage with the thought-provoking art, and support the vital
cause of wildlife conservation.

View the [trail map](#).

To Editor, Twickenham Tribune
Sir,

Richmond and Wandsworth Councils' shared Chief Executive

I was baffled and concerned to read the heartwarming eulogy on departing Richmond and Wandsworth Councils' shared Chief Executive, Mike Jackson, penned by Richmond Council Leader Gareth Roberts and published in your latest edition. This is very similar in vein to the glowing piece on Mr. Jackson that was also published in the latest Council News email.

Is Mr. Roberts not aware that Mike Jackson is at the heart of a General Election votes miscounting at Wandsworth Council, in which 6,500 votes simply disappeared, as reported in the national media? Indeed, it has been suggested that this gathering storm, is the reason for his abrupt resignation less than two years into his post.

Although quietly brushed under the carpet by our "sister" Wandsworth Council, this situation has now rightly been exposed and will no doubt be the subject of a serious investigation. Therefore, questioning the facts behind Mr Jackson's resignation, and his part in the vote counting blunder, is premature, inappropriate and potentially prejudicial to the investigation.

It reveals a disturbing lack of judgment on the part of Mr. Roberts, not to mention the appearance that he, too, is trying to "damage limit" in a situation where a more positive stance would have been to call for an examination of the vote count methodology for our own constituencies, to ascertain whether we, too, suffered a similar problem.

I am deeply unhappy that our elected Leader, whose job is to hold our Council officers to account, feels substandard performance and over-seeing mismanagement merit plaudits rather than criticism.

Name and Address Supplied
Hampton

Letters published do not necessarily reflect the views of the Twickenham & Richmond Tribune, its Publisher, its staff or its advertisers.

Letters of approximately 500 words of body text will be printed at our standard 14pt font size, which will be published as a single page.

All letters must be submitted by the end of Thursday, prior to publication the following day on Friday.

The Tribune prefers letters to include the writer's name, but will publish anonymously provided details are supplied.



METROPOLITAN
POLICE

MET *Park*

in the

Monday 05th August 2024
Old Deer Park, Richmond

11AM to 5:00 PM



Police Vehicles

Come along to meet:

*Firearms officers,
Territorial Support
Group,
Police Horses
& Dogs,
RNLI,*

*London Fire Brigade,
St Johns Ambulance,
Harlequins RFU
and
Face Painting!*



Richmond Timebank

By Alick Munro

Would you or a relative of yours appreciate help from a friend in your local timebank: perhaps with practical tasks like gardening, decorating, cleaning, tidying, filing, shopping or petcare; perhaps with coaching, tuition, constructive listening and moral support or entertainment?

Could you, with your skills and experience, offer a corresponding length of time to other friends in your local timebank?

You might want to get to know your fellow timebankers before the practical work starts. You will meet them at a discussion of the development of the timebank itself, at a teleconference or in person, followed by discussion of the members' immediate offers and needs.

Have you already been giving time to voluntary and charitable endeavours? The organisers might credit you for that time, and thus you can get initial credit for your timebank account.

People get involved in time banks for a range of reasons: to find an outlet for their skills, to obtain help, to build their social network, to develop the sense of community where they live, and to build credit that they may use for themselves or relatives if and when they are in failing health.

If these suggestions interest you, we'd like to hear from you, and welcome you as a founder member of Richmond Timebank - serving the whole Borough of Richmond and people nearby.

There are 130 timebanks in Britain affiliated to Timebanking UK. It's time that we in Richmond had one. Have a look at the website – www.timebankinguk.org - for more detail of how timebanks operate.

Our next in-person meeting to develop Richmond Timebank will be at the Old Ship, 3 King Street, Richmond, TW9 1ND at 6.30 on Mon 2nd September. Look out for the table with the Timebank sign.

However, meantime, do feel free to get in touch with me and join in the e-mail discussion and teleconferences we will be having as we refine the constitution and procedures and the roles we may play as timebrokers, IT and database developers, publicists, secretary and treasurer to keep Richmond Timebank running and developing, as well as exchanging our time informally.

When you get in touch, I'll send you a more detailed account of progress so far, and what we envisage will be the next stages in development of Richmond Timebank and an application form to join us.

We timebankers can start exchanging time as soon as we like. I'd like some help at my allotment in North Twickenham, and in exchange I can offer any of the practical services listed above.

Alick Munro: alick@munro.com.

Tel: 020 8892 9243.

Text: 07944 933532



Funding available to protect communities and properties from flooding

From Community BlueScapes

Community BlueScapes has launched grants of up to £30,000 to residents and organisations in the Beverley Brook catchment area to help adapt to climate change.

The funding could be used to help people prepare for or recover from flooding and extreme weather, improve natural spaces in the local area, or help local communities connect with nature.

Interested parties can apply for a grant of up to £1000 per person or group without an organisation bank account, and up to £5000 per group with an organisation bank account.

Ideas for projects include:

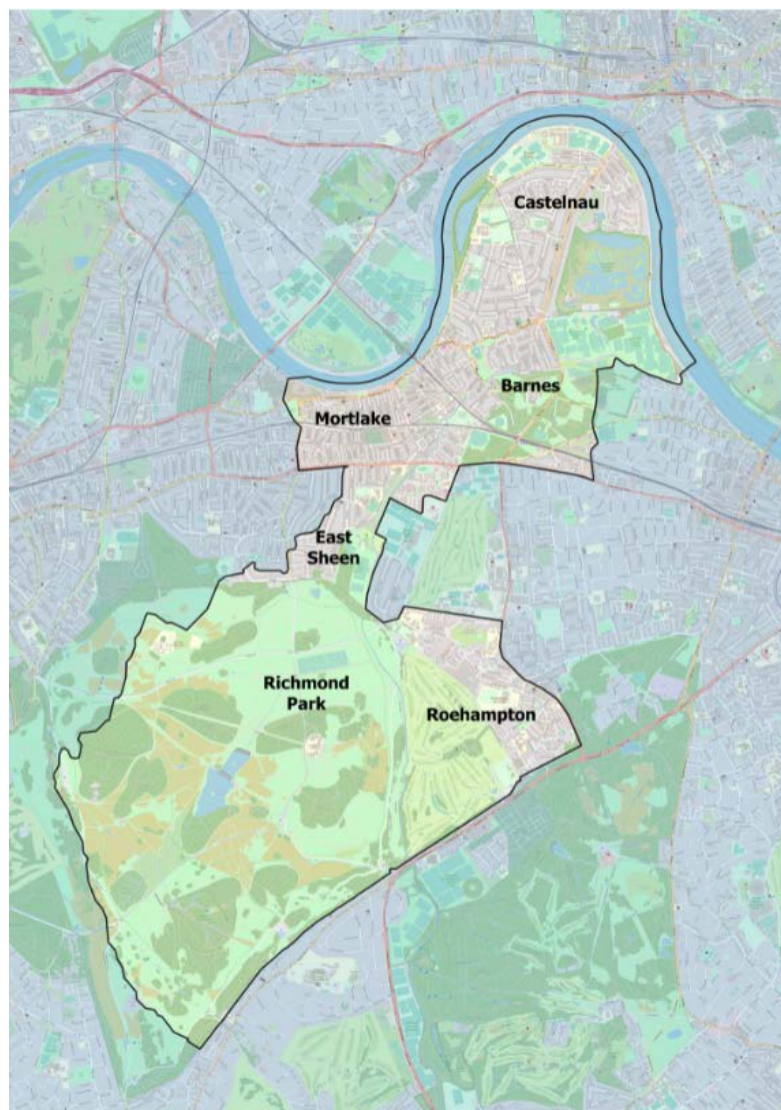
- Installing a rain garden - rain gardens can survive long, dry summers and short periods of heavy rain or flooding
- Setting up a community climate event or trail - set up a competition or art trail to make your community aware of flooding and the impact of a flood on the neighbourhood
- Planting trees - trees are excellent at reducing the impact of a flash flood as they slow the flow of rainwater and absorb it. Join forces with neighbours, colleagues or friends to plant trees in your front garden, business site or local green space

The deadline for applications is Monday 2 September 2024.

[Apply for Community BlueScapes funding](#)

Find out more about [Community BlueScapes](#).

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



Have your say on a new community garden for Hounslow Heath

From Richmond Council

Our Parks and Arts teams are proposing to establish a new community garden in Hounslow Heath and want to hear from the local community.

As a part of our Arts Services' Cultural Reforesting Initiative, the proposed community garden will feature flowering plants and shrubs, trees and a seating area, which would be a cultural space for communities to share and tell stories in.

Residents, local schools and community groups are invited to be part of the creation of the garden. We are collecting suggestions and comments from the local community regarding their views on how we can renew our relationship with nature. Our artists working on this project will interpret the results to guide the design and creation of the garden. Additionally, the Arts team plans to host small-scale events to celebrate cultural reforestation at this site.

You can learn more about the proposals and give us your feedback before Monday 19 August 2024 by filling out our [online survey](#).



If you need to request a paper questionnaire or any other format contact our Parks team by emailing parks@richmond.gov.uk.

Holiday hang-out events at ETNA Community Centre this August

From ETNA Community Centre

If you're between 11 and 14 years old and live around East Twickenham, head over to the ETNA Community Centre for their holiday hang-out events.

These will feature a gaming day, floristry workshop, crafting workshop, and a cooking session. Whether you're looking to spend time with friends or try something different, join the holiday hang-out event for a unique and fun-filled experience!

HOLIDAY HANG-OUT @ETNA COMMUNITY CENTRE



Event details:

- **Date:** 6, 8, 20 and 22 August
- **Time:** 11am to 1pm
- **Location:** ETNA Community Centre, 13 Rosslyn Road, TW1 2AR
- **Fee:** £15

[Register now](#)



ETNA
Community
Centre

Make your own poppy and support veterans

From The Poppy Factory

Join The Poppy Factory for their discovery sessions to explore their unique story this summer and autumn.

The sessions will feature a hosted presentation and exhibition explaining the tradition of Remembrance wreaths. Participants will also have the chance to craft their own wreaths and poppies.

You will get to hear the story of how the first group of injured veterans came to work at The Poppy Factory after the First World War and the role they played in establishing the Remembrance tradition.



Event details:

- **Dates:** Tuesday 23 July to Thursday 26 November
- **Location:** The Poppy Factory, 20 Petersham Rd, Richmond, TW10 6UR
- **Price:** £14 each, £75 for group bookings

Tickets are available from [The Poppy Factory website](https://www.thepoppyfactory.org.uk/).

Funds raised through The Poppy Factory's visitor centre go towards the charity's Veteran & Family Services, helping members of the Armed Forces community to build brighter futures in communities across England and Wales.

Grimwood Road garden site looking for a tenant

From Richmond Council

Voluntary sector and not-for-profit organisations are invited to apply to lease the Grimwood Road garden site.

Successful site tenants will maintain and manage the garden to deliver a broad portfolio of community-based activities.

Ideas for activities could include gardening activity to support people with learning disabilities, mental health issues, those experiencing loneliness and isolation or other vulnerabilities. Any proposed activity would need to be sensitive to the residential location of the site.

The deadline to apply is 5pm on Friday 13 September 2024. To apply, contact voluntarysector@richmond.gov.uk.

Find out more about the [Grimwood Road garden site](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/garden-site).



Local charity wins award for best intergenerational activity

From Brighter Together

Brighter Together, one of the finalists for our Community Heroes Awards this year, has won the intergenerational activity category at the recent Dementia Care Awards.

Brighter Together was nominated for their work in delivering outstanding intergenerational activities which enhance the lives of those living with dementia.

They were praised for their innovation and impact for programme participants, particularly for those affected by dementia.



Intergenerational activities have been proven to have extraordinary benefits for older participants, such as improving wellbeing and cognitive functioning as well as tackling social isolation.

There are also numerous benefits for the children involved, including improving confidence, communication skills, concentration levels and developing their sense of empathy and understanding of others.

Brighter Together aims to provide socially isolated older people a valuable sense of purpose by regularly bringing children into their lives for structured, activity-based sessions. [Find out more about the charity.](#)

Brighter Together was a finalist in our recent [Community Heroes Awards](#).

Dementia is an umbrella term for a range of progressive disorders affecting the brain, the most common of which are Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia.

Collaborating with health and care partners, we have developed a Health and Care Dementia Strategy to support residents affected by dementia and their carers in living well.

Find out more about [our local dementia support](#).



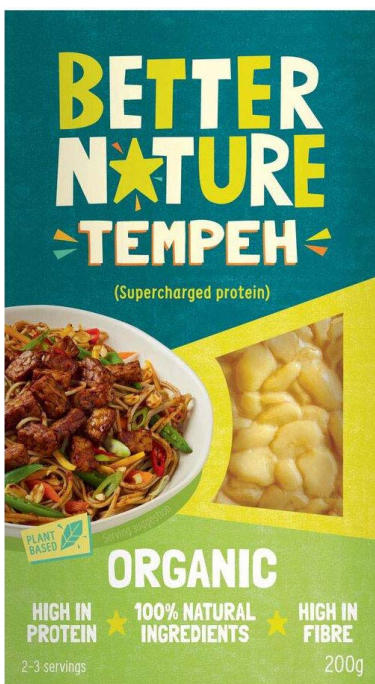
Brighter Together

July food and drink news

At long last we're managing to experience a few sunny days, and the fruit and veg in the garden are starting to ripen. Here are a few recommendations of products I've recently discovered:

Unearthed® products are always reliably excellent, and the company has a new deli range that's perfect for al fresco dining and picnics. Available in major supermarkets, **unearthed®** Mediterranean deli range includes foodie discoveries including; olives, meats, antipasti, seafood, tortilla, sausage, pate, pastas, sauces and desserts. We're fast becoming addicted to these chilli anchovies. With the entire range, 1p per pack sold is donated to Action Against HungerUK. **unearthed®** products are widely available at

Waitrose and Sainsbury's, Tesco, Asda, Co-Op and Ocado. Look out too, for the new Pastel de Nata dessert products (in the freezer cabinets) and recent research by the company has indicated that the famous Spanish dish, paella has been voted the best loved holiday food of all time according to a poll of 2,000 Brits by **unearthed®**.



Have you tried Tempeh? It's a brilliant plant based protein, as it's made from natural, whole, fermented soybeans, making it gut-friendly and packed with prebiotic fibre. It's a great health hack to supercharge and augment your favourite dishes e.g. crumbled into bolognese, blended into pasta sauce, grated into smoothies, or chopped into stir fries and curries. I recently tried **Better Nature Tempeh** and had great fun trying it in different recipes - it's very tasty and versatile, widely available from Ocado, Tesco and Asda nationwide and very reasonably priced at around £2.70 a pack, Available in Smoky, Mediterranean and BBQ too. There are lots of recipe ideas on the website [here](#)

Whittard of Chelsea has launched a wellness botanical infusion range which features new blends that are infused with added vitamins and minerals. Perfect for an energised morning kick or a nighttime soother, there's something for everyone in the new line which includes Sleep, Glow, Defence, Digest, Relax and Boost. £6 a pack from [Whittard of Chelsea](#)



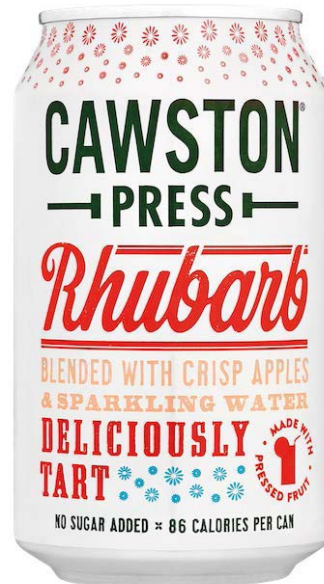
I was delighted to discover that **Tesco** has an own-label gin that compares very well indeed with many of the artisan gins, but it is considerably lower in price. **Tesco Finest The Melodist** is a London Dry, a blend of botanicals sourced from around the world; notes of classic juniper, coriander seed and angelica work in harmony with top notes of yuzu and green tea for a distinctive, characterful spirit. It's crafted in partnership with the Master Distiller at **The Two Tykes distillery**. Serve with tonic water over ice with a slice of grapefruit and a sprig of rosemary. It's great value at £21.25 for a 70cl bottle, but currently on offer to clubcard holders at just £18.

Torres Vina Sol is one of my favourite white wines. It's so reliable and, for me, brings happy memories of holidays in Mallorca. Crafted from grapes grown in the sun-kissed coastal vineyards of Catalonia in the North East of Spain, award-winning Viña Sol wines truly capture the spirit of summer. But until recently I'd only tried the original blend, the one that's been a crowd pleaser since 1962. There are now two new varieties and they are fab: **Torres Viña Sol Rosado Rosé 2023**, £8.99 from Waitrose has a delicate raspberry hue and notes of redcurrant, It's ideal for barbecues and sunset sipping and stands out amongst other rosés with a pink peppercorn finish that complements seafood, fish and rice-based dishes. **Torres Viña Sol Sauvignon Blanc 2022**, £7.75 from Tesco and Morrisons, is perfect for enjoying with friends at the end of a long day. A pale yellow colour, with subtle golden highlights, it's delicate on the nose, revealing aromas of passion fruit. The palate is light, pleasant, fresh, and silky.



It was National Ice Cream Day the other day, so the chance to have some **Venchi gelato** was too good to miss. The story of Venchi dates back to 1878 when Silvano Venchi, a 20-year-old chocolate enthusiast from Turin, spent his savings buying two bronze cauldrons to experiment with chocolate. Today, **Venchi** is internationally recognized, with over 350 chocolate recipes and 90 gelato flavours, sold in more than 70 countries through over 180 stores worldwide... including Richmond. Venchi makes gelato on site in the stores the traditional Italian way, using fresh milk, Venchi's own chocolate, PGI Piedmont hazelnuts and DOP Bronte green pistachios (transporting you to Sicily in one taste). Venchi gelato is also totally free from artificial colourings, flavourings, preservatives and palm oil. Venchi's gelato flavours include Cremino, Nougatine, Stracciatella, Tiramisu, Mango, Cappuccino and so many more - and there are vegan options too, such as Extra DarkGianduiotto gelato flavour. Price-wise, Venchi gelato is surprisingly reasonably priced for the quality, and the perfect treat on a hot day.

Rhubarb is quickly becoming a trending flavour for 2024, due to its unique tartness and vibrant pink colour, and is included in this year's *Kerry Taste Chart* as one of the **fastest growing flavours**. Rhubarb has also become popular in alcoholic drinks and cocktails, now being **found in cocktails in 34% of bars**, up from 18% in 2022. **Cawston Press** blends pressed juice to make the very best tasting fizzy Rhubarb drink, one that you can serve chilled on its own, or as a Rhubarb mixer, served with vodka or gin on a summer's day when making a cocktail. It's also perfect for mocktails. Inspired by British summertime flavours, they're made with natural ingredients and contain no artificial sweeteners, colours or preservatives. Naturally gluten free, it's suitable for vegans, and only 70 calories a can. Around £1 per can and widely available.



I'm a dark chocolate aficionado, and having judged The Academy of Chocolate Awards for many years, can recognise quality. I've found a great new single origin dark chocolate brand: **Cox & Co.** It's available in 100% paper packaging, making it not only a delicious choice, but an eco-friendly one. It's also Great Taste Award-winning, and vegan-friendly. There are three flavours in the range: Bee Pollen & Honey, Miso & Caramel and Mint Crunch. Available from coxandcocacao.com, Ocado and Amazon from around £3-4 for a 70g bar.

sunborn
GIBRALTAR
YACHT HOTEL RESORT



GIBRALTAR ROCKS PACKAGE

STAY ON THE ONLY PURPOSEFULLY BUILT 5 STAR FLOATING YACHT
HOTEL IN THE WORLD AND EXPERIENCE A BRITISH TERRITORY
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN!

2 nights in a Superyacht Deluxe Room

Substantial breakfast buffet including Full English Breakfast

Bubbly Afternoon Tea for 2 guests on the top deck

Discover Gibraltar's Top Attractions with Gibraltar Pass

Price £439.00 per package for 2 guests
(plus £3 per person / day tourism tax)

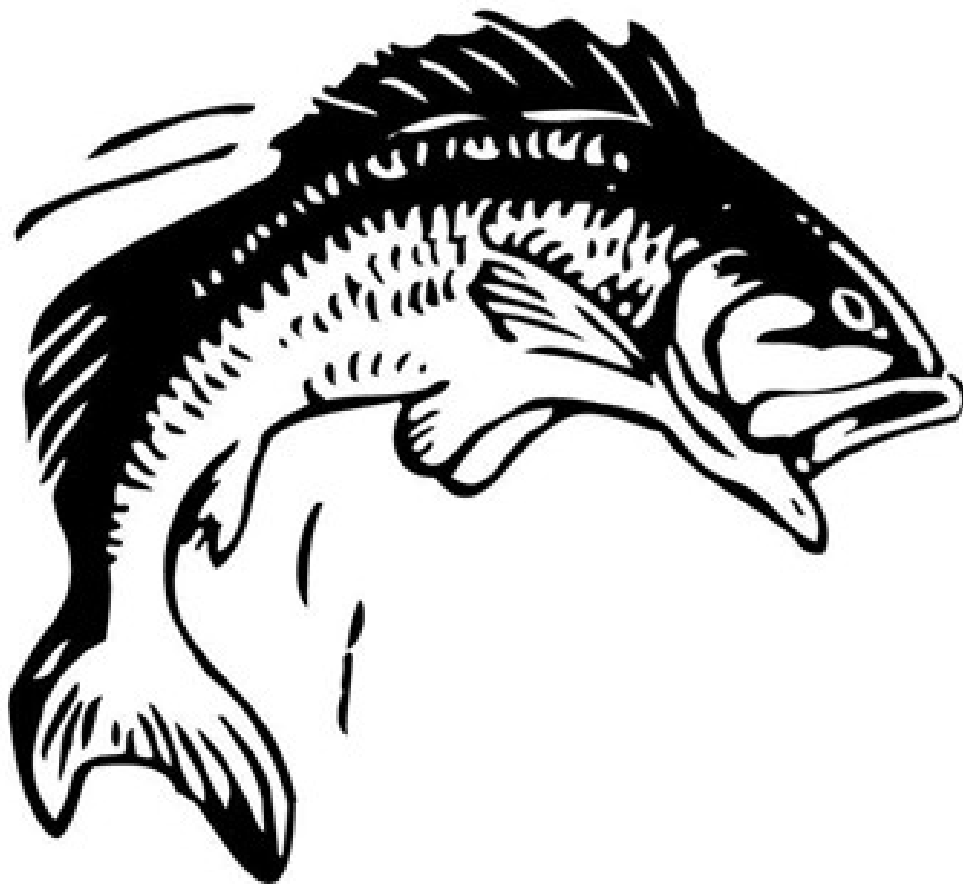


BOOK NOW | WWW.SUNBORNGIBALTAR.COM | RES@SUNBORNGIBALTAR.COM

“You can’t save them all”...

By Deep Patel

~Life through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper~



The holiday season is about to start...and this past week it has been a bit of a conversation point at Meet & Deep Newsagents...parents of young families telling me that they cannot wait to get their kids outta school and onto a beach, university students telling me they cannot wait to get to Ibiza where they will be drinking, clubbing (and God knows what else) from dawn to dusk, and me...well, I cannot wait to...turn on the telly after I close the shop and watch travel documentaries whilst eating beans on toast from my own shop shelves...(the joys of being a shopkeeper).

One gentleman who comes to my shop regularly spoke to me a few days back about an experience that he had recently whilst he was on holiday and it reminded me of a very important lesson in life that I had forgotten myself...

He spoke of how during the very early hours of the morning, he was sitting with his mother on a boat when they suddenly heard a lot of slashing around...they wondered what this could be during the early hours of the morning...they investigated further only to find to their amazement many, many fish jump out onto the pontoon...the gentleman and his mother watched as they saw a huge tuna fish chasing smaller fish who were jumping out to escape being eaten by the giant tuna fish as they had no other option...they were then ending up stranded on the pontoon not knowing that they were jumping out to their death anyway...but they were trying their best to save themselves the best they could...

Seeing this, the gentleman and his mother started walking up and down the pontoon at 2am picking up each individual fish and safely dropping them back into the water so that they may live...they did this for some time and kept doing so to save the lives of as much fish as they could...

This story from the gentleman reminded me of another story similar...

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed boy picking up and gently throwing things into the ocean.

Approaching the boy he asked, "Young man, what are you doing?"

"Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up, and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die," the boy replied.

The man laughed to himself and said, "Do you realize there are miles of miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make any difference."

After listening politely, the boy bent down to pick up another starfish and threw it into the surf. Then, he smiled at the man and said, "I made a difference to that one."

Those of you that know me know that I go out of my way to pick up slugs and snails using a leaf off the pavements so people don't accidentally step on them; or how I try to move ants off my shop door step as people are always walking there and their lives are in danger, so the above story is very close to my heart...however I had forgotten why I do this... the gentleman and his mother reminded me exactly why...because when I am moving little insects to safety, people always tell me "why do you bother, you won't save all the snails or ants in the world so what's the point"...thanks to that gentleman and his mother, I remember the point now... because it makes a difference...at least to that individual life we save...there is always a point.

I want to thank that gentleman who is both a regular customer at Meet & Deep Newsagents (my shop) and also one of the most enthusiastic and loyal readers of the Twickenham and Richmond Tribune (he has NEVER missed an issue in his life)...I thank you firstly for making the effort at 2am to save all those innocent little fish whilst you were on holiday and secondly for reminding me of why I care too...

Remember...

"To the world you may be one being...but to that being...you could become the world...the very reason they live..."

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

STOP ANY INSECT KINDLY (GOOD KARMA): Sprinkle pure essential peppermint oil, Olbas oil, fine black pepper or white vinegar around places where you don't want them to come (but NOT directly on them)...they will go without you having to harm them.

For ANY specific tip to stop any "pest" or insect KINDLY (for good karma/blessings), email me: InsectLoversUnite@gmail.com or join my Facebook page: "INSECT LOVERS UNITE"

Humble Boy

by Charlotte Jones

BCP at the OSO Arts Centre, Barnes

Humble Boy is set in a garden, replete with glorious flowers as if to emphasise the lack of life and nourishment for the family that inhabits it. There is a parallel allusion to the bees, beloved by Flora Humble's late husband. The hive, prominent on the set, is now empty.

Felix Humble, who has a fractured relationship with his mother, Flora, has returned to the family home following the death of his father. Crashing insensitively into their discomforting reunion, comes businessman George Pye. George and Flora have been having a long-time affair and now intend to marry. Adding to these complexities, Felix and George's daughter Rosie have also had a fling, ending in unhappy resentment. Rosie has a young daughter... and who might the father might be?



Flora's rootless friend Mercy, energetically played by Marie Bushell, is privy to many of these secrets, and has much of the cleverly written humour, witness Mercy, preparing lunch, unknowingly adding a spoonful of the father's ashes to the gazpacho.

Thoughtful angles come with Felix's genius mind, including clever juxtaposition of the art of bee-keeping and the science of chaos theory and black holes. He hopes that the universe holds a defining moment that will explain all. Richard Scott's a strong performance draws one into Felix's inner world of anxieties, fears and emotions, a man disturbed by his father's death, who harbours Hamlet-like suicidal thoughts.

Flora is the "Queen Bee", whose prerogative is always to have the last word. Susan Reoch perfectly captures the essence of this dominating, self-centred matriarch.

Playing George is Ashley Brown, who brings the loud brashness of this dreadful self-made man, out of his depth in the genteel world to which he aspires. His daughter, Rosie, "she's not a looker but has character" in George's words, is played with an exuberant mix of playful confidence by Anna Piggott.

The mysterious gardener, always in the background, played sensitively with studied under-statement by James Phillips, flourishes in a final touching scene where he shows himself to be the only person that Felix can trust.

Director Jane Gough brings *Humble Boy* together with sympathy and enthusiasm, enhanced by music sympathetically reminiscent of the English country garden, to create a clever and absorbing mosaic of a play that works on many different levels.

Read Claire Alexander's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/07/18/humble-bcp

Image courtesy of BCP

Opera Gala Concert

West Green House Opera, at the Theatre on the Lawn, Hartley Wintney

Gleaming white dining pavilions by the glittering lake and the gardens, swollen with glorious blooms, form the setting for a new opera season. On the hottest day of the year there is a party atmosphere as the champagne corks pop. (Ice-pack don't last at 32°C.) Bacchus smiles out from the programme cover, the Bacchus on the façade of West Green House, which forms the backdrop in the Theatre on the Lawn, a generous pavilion, sans upstage wall, looking across the greensward towards the handsome house.

The BBC Concert Orchestra is full of energy in spite of the heat. Its dynamic conductor [John Andrews](#) is a champion of neglected [pieces](#), tonight Poulenc's seldom seen surrealist opera, *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*. A wife changes sex, a current rage, but not like this. Her breasts becomes balloons and float off. Meanwhile her husband gives birth to 40,049 children! Mafi brings out all its wicked playfulness in a spirited Piafian sort of way.



Accomplished tenor soloist Nicky Spence MBE provides the ear-worm: from Lalo's opera *Le roi d'Ys*. The warrior Mylio sings an aubade to his bride, princess Rozenn, a rich velvety aria, not knowing that her jealous sister is about to inundate the city by breaching the sea wall. (Quite hard to stage.) Of course nowadays for any tenor *Nessun dorma* from Puccini's *Turandot* is a must. This time though we feel the full force of Spence's powerful voice, against every instrument in the orchestra in the crescendo, "vincerò"!

The stand-alone orchestral pieces include an exuberantly energetic czárdás from Johann Strauss' only opera, *Ritter Pázmán*, about knights, kings and stolen kisses. It is folksy multi-tempo dance, full of zesty zip and zing, with vigorous violin virtuosity in the prestissimo passages.

Mafi has fun with *Glitter and Be Gay*, from Bernstein's operetta *Candide*. Demi-mondaine Cunegonde, is arraying herself in jewels for a Parisian soirée. Mafi's nimble coloratura skips along even through this demanding aria's most florid sections. Her eyes twinkle with the naughtiness, as does her glittering gravity-defying dress.

However, it is the duets that grip the audience. The much-loved *Lippen Sweigen* from Lehar's *The Merry Widow*, forms the finale for the concert. The familiar lyricism of the piece permeates the audience, Mafi and Spence dance the waltz, and everyone believes that "all the world's in love with love". And walking back to the dining pavilions through the illuminated wonderland of glowing pools and niches, it seems that all the senses are alive.

Read Mark Aspen's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/07/21/opera-gala-wgo

Photography by EAW

Meditate and heal at free immersive exhibition 'The Templum'

Orleans House Gallery

This summer, come along to Kate Howe's waxed paper sculptural installation at Orleans House Gallery.

The free exhibition will display a glowing Temple of Contemplation, complete with translucent tunnels, rooms, and burrows for visitors to explore. Visitors are invited to listen to the Templum's soundscapes and observe its changing light.

Kate is completing a residency on Saturday 27 July, Wednesday 31 July and Saturday 3 August. All are welcome to see the Templum take shape.



Exhibition details:

- **Date:** 6 August to 22 September (Tuesday to Sunday)
- **Time:** 10am to 5pm
- **Location:** Orleans House, Orleans Road, Twickenham

Find out more about [The Templum exhibition](#).

Enjoy laid back musical ambience at the OSO this August!

Some theatres go dark over August but not the OSO!

We'll be bringing a selection of brilliant home grown talent to provide some excellent musical ambience to our Bar every single Friday that month.

<https://www.osoarts.org.uk/>

The background of the central section is a collage of record sleeves, including 'The Party's Over', 'Violeta', 'Lords of the New Church', and 'Pink House'. A large, dark blue vinyl record is superimposed over this background, with the event details written in white text on its surface.

Summer Nights at the OSO
DISCOVERED
IN BARNES
with
BARNES COMMUNITY CHOIR
DJ SENRAB
EVENING STANDARDS
CIRCLE OF 5
DJ OLI KERR
EVERY SINGLE FRIDAY IN AUGUST

RNLI reminds everyone to stay safe in the water on World Drowning Prevention Day

Today (Thursday 25 July 2024) marks World Drowning Prevention Day and the RNLI is reminding everyone in the South East heading to the coast to visit a lifeguarded beach and swim between the red and yellow flags. In addition, it warns against entering perilous rivers and inland waters. The charity is sharing its lifesaving safety advice as school children across the country enjoy the start of the summer holidays, with the coast predicted to be incredibly busy.

Figures released by the RNLI show that 83% of the UK adult population (aged 16-64) expect to visit the coast this summer, and 40% expect to go three times or more.

Figures from the RNLI reveal that Teddington RNLI volunteer crew attended 95 incidents and saved two lives on the Thames last year. RNLI lifeguards will be patrolling around 245 beaches this summer to offer advice on how to stay safe and they are also there to help anyone who gets into trouble. Teddington Water Safety experts will also be visiting fairs and fetes throughout the summer.



236 people accidentally died in water related fatalities in 2023, ten more than in 2022 but in line with the five-year average. Of the 236 accidental fatalities in the UK in 2023; 20 occurred in July and 21 in August, reinforcing how important it is to stay safe at the coast over the summer.

On July 25th Teddington RNLI safety advisors and volunteer crew will join the London Fire Brigade and other emergency services in front of Hampton Court Palace from midday. They will demonstrate how to use throwlines, the importance of floating to live and other lifesaving advice.

Miranda Jagers, Teddington RNLI Head of Water Safety said: "On World Drowning Prevention Day we want to remind everyone that visiting a lifeguarded beach and swimming between the red and yellow flags can make a lifesaving difference. We know the coast is going to be incredibly busy over the summer holidays and we want everyone to enjoy their time but to also remember our vital safety advice."

"If you get into trouble in the water, Float to Live; tilt your head back with ears submerged and try to relax and control your breathing. Use your hands to help you stay afloat and then call for help or swim to safety if you can. It's OK if your legs sink, we all float differently. In a coastal emergency, call 999 and ask for the Coastguard."



Lifeboats

Barnes safer neighbourhoods team

Crime Update July 2024



For the past four weeks, where has it happened?

Burglary X2

- Business & Community, 1/6, 16:30 hours, Tesco Church Road, Barnes, SW13.
- Business & Community, 23/6, 15:59 hours, Making Waves, Church Road, Barnes, SW13.

Vehicle Crime X5

- Theft from motor vehicle, 4/6, 10:00-18:00 hours, Lonsdale Road, SW13.
- Theft from motor vehicle, 10/6, 22:20 hours, Station Road, SW13.
- Theft from motor vehicle, 12/6, 19:00- 22:15 hours, Lonsdale Road, SW13.
- Theft from motor vehicle, 27/6-28/6, 23:39-05:30 hours, Lyric Road, SW13.
- Theft of motor vehicle, 27/6, 20:00-21:00 hours, Suffolk Road, SW13.

Criminal Damage X5

- Criminal damage to building other than dwelling where value is under £500, 21/6, 23:37 hours, Boileau Road, SW13
- Criminal damage to ground floor window & breach of closure order, 22/6, 17:30 hours, St Anns Road, SW13.
- Criminal damage to dwelling is £500 or over and under £5000 in value, 26/6, 20:00-20:15

hours, Suffolk Road, Barnes, SW13.

- Criminal damage to vehicle where damage is under £500, 1/6, 13:30 hours, Ranelagh Avenue, Barnes, SW13.
- Criminal damage to other property where value of damage is under £500, 20/6, 22:30 hours, Seaforth Lodge, Barnes High Street, SW13.

Robbery X2

- Robbery, 8/6, 17:42 hours, Church Road, SW13.
- Robbery, 20/6, 05:39 hours, Boileau Road, SW13.

Violent Offences X4

- Assault without injury, 3/6, 05:45-05:50 hours, Hammersmith Bridge, SW13.
- Assault occasioning actual bodily harm, 5/6, 14:00 hours, Nowell Road, Barnes, SW13.
- Assault occasioning actual bodily harm, 10/6, 14:00 hours, St Anns Road, SW13.
- Assault occasioning actual bodily harm, 30/6, 14:50 hours, St Anns Road, SW13.

Drugs X3

- Unlawful importation of a controlled drug, 24/6, 00:01 hours, Everdon Road, SW13.
- Unlawful importation of a controlled drug, 17/6, 00:01 hours, Parke Road, SW13.
- Unlawful importation of a controlled drug, 3/6, 22:55 hours, Church Road, SW13.

Officers covering Barnes

PS Michael Hirsch

PC Darren Meakins

PC May Moody

PCSO Matthew Morbey

*We had a good turnout for June's Police Liaison Group Meeting the next meeting is now confirmed for **Thursday the 5th of September** at 7pm in Jenner Place Hall, Boileau Road, Barnes, SW13 9DB.*

Or you can send us an email to;

Barnes@met.police.uk

Or for enquires you can call;

020 71759363



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

St Mary's University

Paris 2024 Olympics: Team St Mary's Preview

Thirteen athletes from St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) and the Endurance Performance Centre (EPC) have been selected to compete at the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games this summer.

Thirteen athletes from St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) and the Endurance Performance Centre (EPC) have been selected to compete at the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games this summer. The Paris 2024 Games will see current, former, and associate athletes of SMU compete in athletics, triathlon, rugby sevens, and para-cycling events for Great Britain, Jamaica, and France.



St Mary's University has a history of success at recent Olympic and Paralympic Games. Athletes, alumni, and students from SMU have won a Gold medal at every Games since Beijing 2008. In total the University has seen 51 athletes take part in the last four Olympic and Paralympic Games, with some representing multiple events, winning 15 medals for their nations.

At the Rio Games in 2016, SMU athletes took home four Gold medals, as well as three Silver and two Bronze. This included Sir Mo Farah who won double Gold in the men's 5,000m and 10,000m, as well as alumnus Moe Sbihi who won Gold in the coxless four. Moe has also won Bronze twice in the men's eight at the London and Tokyo Games. Alumna Corrine Hall took home Gold and Bronze in the track and road para-cycling events respectively as a Pilot for

Lora Fachie in Rio, and at the Tokyo Games in 2021 the pair won Gold and Silver in the track and road para-cycling events. Overall, SMU athletes won three medals at the Tokyo 2020 Games.

Speaking of the team going to Paris, Head of Sport St Mary's said, "The Olympics is often referred to as the greatest show on earth, and with good justification. St Mary's is incredibly proud of all our athletes, and we understand how much work they've all put in to be selected for a Games. We wish them an enjoyable and successful experience and we'll be cheering them on."

Here is the full list of all the SMU athletes selected to compete at the Olympic Games in Paris this summer to watch out for:

Beth Potter

Beth is an EPC and SMU alumna and will be competing for Team GB in the women's triathlon, having secured her place after taking the World Championship title last year. Paris will be Beth's second Olympic Games, having previously competed at the Rio Games in the women's 10,000m event. She made her switch to triathlon in 2017, winning Gold just two years later at the 2019 European Triathlon Championships.

Emile Cairess

Emile is an EPC and SMU alumnus and will be competing in the men's marathon for Team GB. Emile was the first-placed Briton in the 2024 London Marathon, running the second fastest British marathon time ever at 2:06:46. Fellow EPC alumnus and four-time Olympic Gold medal winner Sir Mo Farah currently holds the record with a time of 2:05:11. Emile is the current European record holder for the road 10 miles.

Charlotte Purdue

Charlotte is an EPC and SMU alumna. She will be running in the women's marathon for Team GB. She is currently third on the women's British

all-time Marathon record list, and holds the UK junior 10,000m record. Charlotte completed her first marathon in 2016 and was the first British woman across the line at the World Athletics Championships in 2017.

Corrine Hall

Corrine is an SMU alumna and will be competing in her third Paralympic Games as a tandem pilot for Lora Fachie. The pair have already won Gold twice at the Paralympics in the track para-cycling events at Rio and Tokyo. In the road para-cycling events they took home Bronze in Rio and Silver in Tokyo.

Adelle Tracey

Adelle is an EPC and SMU alumna and is representing Team Jamaica at the Paris Games. Adelle is running in the women's 800m and 1500m events, having previously broke a Jamaican national record in both distances at the World Athletics Championships in 2023. Adelle represented Great Britain until 2022, and was one of the torchbearers at the Opening Ceremony for the London Games in 2012. She was selected as a torchbearer by Dame Kelly Holmes as one of six young British sport talents to watch.

Revée Walcott-Nolan

Revée is an EPC and SMU alumna and will be racing in the women's 1500m. She made her Olympic debut for Team GB at the Tokyo Games in 2021, having been crowned the women's 1500m champion at the British Championships that same year. Earlier this year Revée placed third in the 1500m at the British Athletics Championships, securing her place at the Paris Games.

Jake Wightman

Jake is an EPC associate and has been regularly training at SMU since 2017. He made his Olympic debut at the Tokyo Games, running in the men's 1500m event. Jake became the men's 1500m World Champion in 2022 at the World Athletics Championships in Eugene, USA. At the Paris Games, he will be competing in the men's 800m for Team GB.

David Weir

David is an associate of St Mary's and regularly trains and undertakes testing in its world class

facilities. He has been selected for his seventh Paralympics for Team GB, racing in the men's T54 1500m, 5000m, and marathon events during the Games. David previously won four Gold medals at the Beijing 2008 Paralympics, and a further two Golds in the London 2012 Paralympics.

Emma Uren

Emma is an alumna at SMU and has been named captain of the Team GB women's rugby sevens squad at the Paris Games. This is Emma's second Olympic selection, having competed with the Team GB squad at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. The team came fourth at the Tokyo Games.

Ellie Kildunne

Ellie is an alumna of SMU and will be making her Olympic debut in Paris with the Team GB women's rugby sevens squad. Ellie was the leading point-scorer for the winning England team at this year's Six Nations tournament, scoring nine tries throughout the Six Nations. She also finished the tournament with the most carries, most metres gained, and most line-breaks for the team.

Lauren Torley

Lauren is a current MSc Applied Sport Psychology student and Gold sports scholar at SMU. She will be making her Olympic debut with Team GB women's rugby sevens squad in Paris. Lauren was previously on the gold medal-winning Team GB squad at the 2023 European Games.

Aaron Grandidier

Aaron is an alumnus and former rugby academy scholar at SMU. He is part of the France men's rugby sevens squad in Paris, and previously scored a French record of 11 tries in a single weekend at the 2022/23 Hong Kong sevens.

Abi Burton

Abi is an alumna of SMU and has been listed as a reserve for the Team GB women's rugby sevens squad. Abi previously competed at the Tokyo Games with the squad in 2021.



**St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London**

Creative Arts Students at RuTC Have Work Displayed at UAL Origins Creatives Exhibition

Two creative arts students at Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC), Sienna Ghai of Level 1 Art, Design and Media, and Carly Fernandes of Level 2 Art & Design, had their work selected for the [UAL Origins Creatives](#) exhibition this year.

The UAL Awarding Body's annual celebration of student achievements took place in July this year at the Mall Galleries, in central London. About 150 pieces of works, by incredibly talented students, were chosen from 400 submissions to be displayed for over 2500 visitors over the 4-day exhibition. It was an opportunity for students, teachers and families to come together and celebrate student creativity.



Sienna commented on her project, "Happier Than Ever":



"The theme I explored was pop culture, particularly the singer and song writer Billie Eilish. I was very inspired by Billie's song titles during this project and wanted to create a visual representation of the themes in the songs. I selected fourteen songs from Billie's album, "Happier Than Ever" and created a piece of artwork for each song.

I enjoy making collage pieces, so I found images to print and cut out, ripped and created things out of scrap paper, and drew components to stick on my collage pieces. I rely on my imagination when it comes

to art, and this project was based entirely on that and how I interpreted the pop culture theme. I am inspired by Billie for who she is, because she has spoken very openly about her mental health struggles and her ability to overcome this. This strength helps me to not give up myself, even when things get tough."

This is a fantastic achievement for our gifted students, and a wonderful way to end a year of hard work!

[Find more about our courses and September enrolment here.](#)



**Richmond upon
Thames College**

Championship Rugby League Fixtures for the 2024-25 Season Announced

Fixtures for the 2024-25 Championship Rugby league season have been confirmed for what is anticipated to be another highly competitive season.

The league competition will be played over 22 rounds, beginning over the weekend of 20-22 September, with the final round scheduled for the weekend of 30 May-1 June next year. A two-leg play-off for promotion to the Gallagher Premiership will then take place on the weekends of 6-8 June and 13-15 June between the top placed team in the Championship (provided it meets the minimum standards criteria) and the last placed team in the Gallagher Premiership.

The league will consist of 12 teams in the upcoming season after Chinnor RFC secured promotion to the Championship having topped National 1.

2023-24 season league winners Ealing Trailfinders kick off their first match at home to Hartpury University and newcomers Chinnor take on Cambridge away in their first-round game. Cornish Pirates who finished second in the league last season, play Nottingham at The Bay, while elsewhere in the competition Doncaster Knights face Ampthill at home, London Scottish play Coventry at The RAG and Caldy travel to Goldington Road to face Bedford Blues.

The Cup competition will begin in November with the first games taking place over the weekend of 1-3 November, with further rounds in February, before the quarter finals (28 February-2 March), semi-finals (7-9 March) and the final over the weekend of 14-16 March. The fixture details for the Cup will be announced soon.

RFU Director of Performance Rugby, Conor O'Shea said: *"We're pleased to be able confirm the fixtures for what promises to be season full of excitement, drama and close encounters.*

"The past few seasons have seen close finishes at the top of the table and 2023-24 was no different with only a handful of points between the top two teams. We will no doubt see further demonstration of the competitiveness of the league in the upcoming season.

"We're really pleased to welcome Chinnor to the Championship, who will be a great addition to the league following some brilliant performances in National 1. We wish them and the other clubs success for the year ahead.

"Throughout this season we will continue work that's taken place over the past 18 months with the clubs to develop and enhance rugby's second tier. It's an exciting time for the league and we look forward keeping its fans updated as these plans develop."

Championship Committee Chairman, Simon Halliday, said: *"The value of the Championship was clear for all to see last season. The quality of rugby played was exceptional, crowds were up, and they were hugely entertained by fast, open and positive play which was particularly evident in the Premiership Cup. The role of our league as a conveyor belt of talent for English rugby will continue to feature strongly as we build and invest in our competition through the development of a new league in 25/26.*

"The idea of promotion and relegation is now a long-term reality after recent Council decisions and for the first time in some years there is the genuine chance for our clubs to challenge for the top table in English rugby. This brings equivalent excitement and jeopardy to the Premiership which we all desire and which is the lifeblood of any competition.

"I wish all 12 clubs the very best of luck for the coming season and I would particularly like to welcome Chinnor, who triumphed in a very competitive National One. I am certain they will bring fresh energy and talent to the Championship.

"In this transformational season, we all look forward to fierce clashes, close matches and excitement in every game, the length and breadth of England."

To see the full Championship Rugby fixture list click [here](#).

For more information visit www.championshiprugby.co.uk or @champrugby on X and Insta.



Highlights, report and reaction:

Benfica 1 Brentford 1

Bryan Mbeumo's opener cancelled out by Vangelis Pavlidis's close-range finish as Brentford draw with Benfica at Estádio da Luz

Written by Brentford Football Club

Bryan Mbeumo was on target as Brentford drew 1-1 with Benfica on Thursday evening.

Mbeumo capitalised on Morato's sloppy back-pass to give Thomas Frank's side an early lead in Lisbon, but the Eagles levelled on 24 minutes when Vangelis Pavlidis poked home Álvaro Carreras's cross at the front post.

Kevin Schade led the line for Brentford with [Igor Thiago sidelined by a meniscus injury](#).



Vitória, a bald eagle, soared above the stadium before kick-off as the noise levels rose inside Estádio da Luz. The hosts, perhaps inspired by their winged mascot, looked to get off to a flying

start on the pitch and fashioned the first chance of note in the fifth minute.

Pavlidis released Leandro Barreiro beyond the Bees' backline with a deft touch and the midfielder was brought down by Myles Peart-Harris on the edge of the box. Fredrik Aursnes curled the resulting free-kick over the crossbar.

Brentford took the lead four minutes later. Schade's ball up the left channel was intercepted by Morato and the defender's back-pass to goalkeeper Anatoliy Trubin was underhit, which allowed the alert Mbeumo to steal in and finish first time into the bottom corner.

Benfica levelled midway through the first half. Aursnes played a short pass into the overlapping Carreras down the left, who took the ball in his stride, advanced to the byline and delivered a low, fizzing cross to the front post. Pavlidis made no mistake in poking beyond Hákon Valdimarsson from close range.

Matt Cox and Frank Onyeka replaced Valdimarsson and Yehor Yarmoliuk at the break.

Two minutes after the restart, a corner dropped to João Mário inside Brentford's box and his driven effort deflected off Nathan Collins and flew just wide of Cox's left post.

Cox showed his reflexes to deny Gianluca Prestianni on 56 minutes, diving to his left to get a strong hand on the winger's bending effort from 25 yards.

Prestianni then turned provider, lifting the ball into the area for Arthur who shot first time into the side netting.

On 64 minutes, Mbeumo cut in from the right and saw a trademark curling effort strike the far post. Moments later, at the other end, Arthur drove low across the face of goal and narrowly off target.

On 69 minutes, shortly after coming on as a substitute, Ji-soo Kim made a brave block to prevent Aursens' fierce shot from testing Cox.

João Rego, at full stretch inside the six-yard box, then turned Jan-Niklas Beste's cross from the left side wide of the post.

In the final minute of regulation time, Martim Neto received a pass from João Rêgo, took a touch to set himself on the edge of the box and forced Cox into a smart stop.

Prestianni's cross from the right was then flicked on by Arthur into the path of Casper Tengstedt, and the forward's left-footed shot from the centre of the box lacked power and was straight at Cox.

Gouveia saw his shot blocked by Conor McManus in the final seconds as Brentford withstood some late Benfica pressure to draw their second pre-season friendly of the summer.

Benfica: Trubin, Carreras (Beste HT), Morato (Neto 72), Bah (João Mário HT), Neres (Prestianni

HT), Aursnes (Tengstedt 72), Pavlidis (Cabral HT), Barreiro (Bajrami 71), Leonardo (Gouveia HT), Tomás (Silva), Florentino (Rêgo 71)

Brentford: Valdimarsson (Cox HT); Roerslev (McManus 66), Collins (Crama 66), Pinnock (Ji-soo 66), Ajer (Fredrick 66); Yarmoliuk (Onyeka HT, Booth 85), Janelt (Owen 80); Mbeumo (Morgan 66), Wissa (Konak 66), Peart-Harris; Schade (Yogane 66)

Subs not used: Rose

Attendance: 40,826

Frank: A good test and a great experience

Head coach Thomas Frank was pleased with his side's performance in the pre-season draw against Benfica, and also touched on the fantastic experience of the Bees taking on the Portuguese giants in the historic Estádio da Luz.

He stated: *"It's a great experience for everyone. The Premier League is the best league in the world, we are privileged to play in it, but sometimes we don't think or talk enough about the other countries or clubs."*

"Benfica is a huge club, I don't know if we really understood that, but we come to this fantastic stadium and they bring over 40,000 to a friendly - it's impressive."

"It was another good test against another good opponent. I thought we started the game very well, until they equalised I felt we were more on top of the game."

"The second half started slow but we grew into it; the last half-hour, we played with a very young team - well done to them and to everyone who has been involved in their development. What a great experience for them today."

Pinnock: Benfica's high press a big test

Brentford defender Ethan Pinnock believes that Thursday's game against Benfica was a "good test" in preparation for the upcoming Premier League season.

"It was a great experience," he said. "They're a side with a lot of calibre and a lot of history and it was a packed-out stadium. It was a good test."

On Benfica's high-pressing game, Pinnock added: *"It posed us a challenge. One of the things we focus on is trying to play out, so that helped us."*

"They provided a difficult situation and we had to solve it. More often than not, we solved it. There are things we can tweak but overall we did fairly well."



Educational outcomes for SEND pupils have failed to improve over the last decade despite costs of these services trebling and councils facing a financial cliff edge, new independent report reveals

Educational attainment amongst children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) has not improved since the introduction of landmark reforms in 2014, despite councils projected to be spending £12bn on these services by 2026, up from £4bn a decade ago.

The findings come in a major new independent report by Isos Partnership commissioned by the County Councils Network and the Local Government Association. Based on substantial engagement with councils, schools, health partners, young people and parents, the study concludes that the current system is not working for families, schools and councils alike.

With a new government now in place, councils say the need for reform of SEND services is now 'unavoidable' with the report setting out a system at breaking point despite families, schools and councils all acting rationally. Councils have called on the new government to set out reform of SEND over the next 18 months, delivering its manifesto pledge to ensure mainstream schools become more inclusive.

The report outlines how councils are struggling to cope with a more than doubling of children on Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) within a system that creates 'perverse incentives' to shift responsibility between public bodies and inadvertently creates adversarial relationships between local authorities and parents. It finds a system weighted down by legal disputes through tribunals and an over-reliance on special schools due to a loss of parental confidence that mainstream schools can meet their children's needs.

Unless the system is fundamentally reformed, the report warns that outcomes for children and young people with SEND will not improve and the system will become even more financially unviable for councils. The report estimates that local authorities are projected to be spending £12bn a year on SEND services by 2026, but will still face a £5bn funding black hole to meet demand that year.

Those deficits are currently being kept off councils' balance sheets, but if they were to be placed onto their accounts, one in four councils surveyed for the research said that they would cease to be solvent within a year or less: a significant financial cliff edge.

Despite this increase in spending, educational attainment for pupils has not improved, including reading, writing and maths, and at various different ages.

New analysis contained in the report *Towards an effective and financially sustainable approach to SEND in England*, demonstrates the challenge within the system and the case for change:

- **Half a million more children and young people are now identified as having special educational needs.** Since the 2014 reforms of the SEND system, the number of children and young people with EHCPs – which set out the level of statutory support individuals are eligible to receive - has risen from 240,183 in 2015 to 575,973 in 2023/24, an increase of 140 per cent over 10 years. A further 1.2 million children in schools are identified as requiring SEN support below the level of a statutory EHCP, up from 990,000 in 2015.
- **In seven of the last 10 years, more children with EHCPs have been placed in special schools compared to mainstream settings.** Since 2014/15, there has been an increase of 60 per cent in the numbers of children and young people in state-funded special schools and a rise of 132 per cent in the number placed in independent and non-maintained special schools. In total 185,000 pupils with an EHCP were in special schools in 2024, up from 109,000 in 2015. For local authorities, the costs to the high needs block of a maintained specialist school placement are £25,000 per year, with an independent placement costing £58,500. This is compared to £8,200 for placing a child with an EHCP in a mainstream school.
- **Higher rates of identification of SEND are not leading to better educational attainment.** The report reveals that children with EHCPs have seen performance flatline, or decline, across key educational milestones over the past decade. At the end of primary school in 2022/23, only 8 per cent of children and young people with EHCPs achieved the expected level in reading, writing and mathematics – exactly the same percentage who achieved that level in 2016/17. At the other end of the age spectrum, only 30 per cent of young people with EHCPs achieved Level 2 by age 19 compared with nearly 37 per

cent who achieved this level in 2014/15.

- **This is despite expenditure by councils tripling over the course of a decade.** In 2015, councils SEND related expenditure was £4bn, with this forecast to reach £12bn by 2026.
- **These rising costs on SEND have outpaced reform and funding from the previous government.** Despite bespoke 'Safety Valve' financial support for some councils, transfers from mainstream school budgets and use of councils reserves all projected to total around £1bn between 2019 and 2026, new analysis shows cumulative deficits currently stand £3.2bn this year and are projected to rise to £5bn by 2026.
- **With these deficits currently held off councils' budgets due to a temporary 'statutory override' councils face a financial cliff edge when this ends in March 2026.** If the statutory override came to an end tomorrow, 1 in 4 councils surveyed for the report said that they would cease to be solvent within a year or less, with half stating they would cease to be solvent in three years or less.

In 2022, the previous government published its 'SEND Improvement Plan', designed to reform services and curtail costs. However, eight in 10 research participants surveyed as part of the report stated they disagreed (47 per cent) or strongly disagreed (36 per cent) that the improvement plan would address the fundamental challenges in the system.

Instead, the report argues there is a 'strong consensus' for a more radical programme of reform, one focused on meeting the needs of more SEND children in mainstream education. It argues that currently many mainstream schools, early years settings and colleges lack the capacity, resources, and in some cases, the expertise to meet the needs of many SEND children, resulting in more parents seeking ECHPs and an over reliance on special school placements.

The report recommends the new government invests in building capacity in mainstream schools to meet children's needs, such as therapists, educational psychologists, and wider inclusion support, helping to reduce the reliance on specialist school places. It also recommends resetting the vision and guiding principles of the SEND system towards inclusion, prevention and earlier support which would cater for young people who do not have a statutory plan, with such plans reserved for the most complex cases.

Reforms would also include a new 'national framework' for SEND and establishment of 'Local Inclusion Partnerships' to enable more effective assessments, commissioning and collaboration between councils, schools and health. This would be supported by the creation of a *National Institute for Inclusive Education* as an independent arbiter around inclusive education and support for children and young people with additional needs.

Cllr Tim Oliver, CCN Chairman, said:

"The SEND system is broken. Wide-ranging reform in 2014 was well intentioned but a decade on, it has created a system that does not work for councils, schools and parents alike. Parents often feel they struggle to access schools' services, lack the capacity to support pupils, and councils have seen a doubling in needs over the last ten years, and have amassed deficits that threaten their financial solvency. Most importantly, education outcomes and employment opportunities have not improved for children with SEND."

"As this landmark report shows, the case for reform is unquestionable. With a new government in place and elected on a 'change' platform, it is vital that reform happens over the next 18 months. The government should build on this report's clear recommendations and work with local government to create a system that is sustainable for councils and schools and works better for parents and pupils."

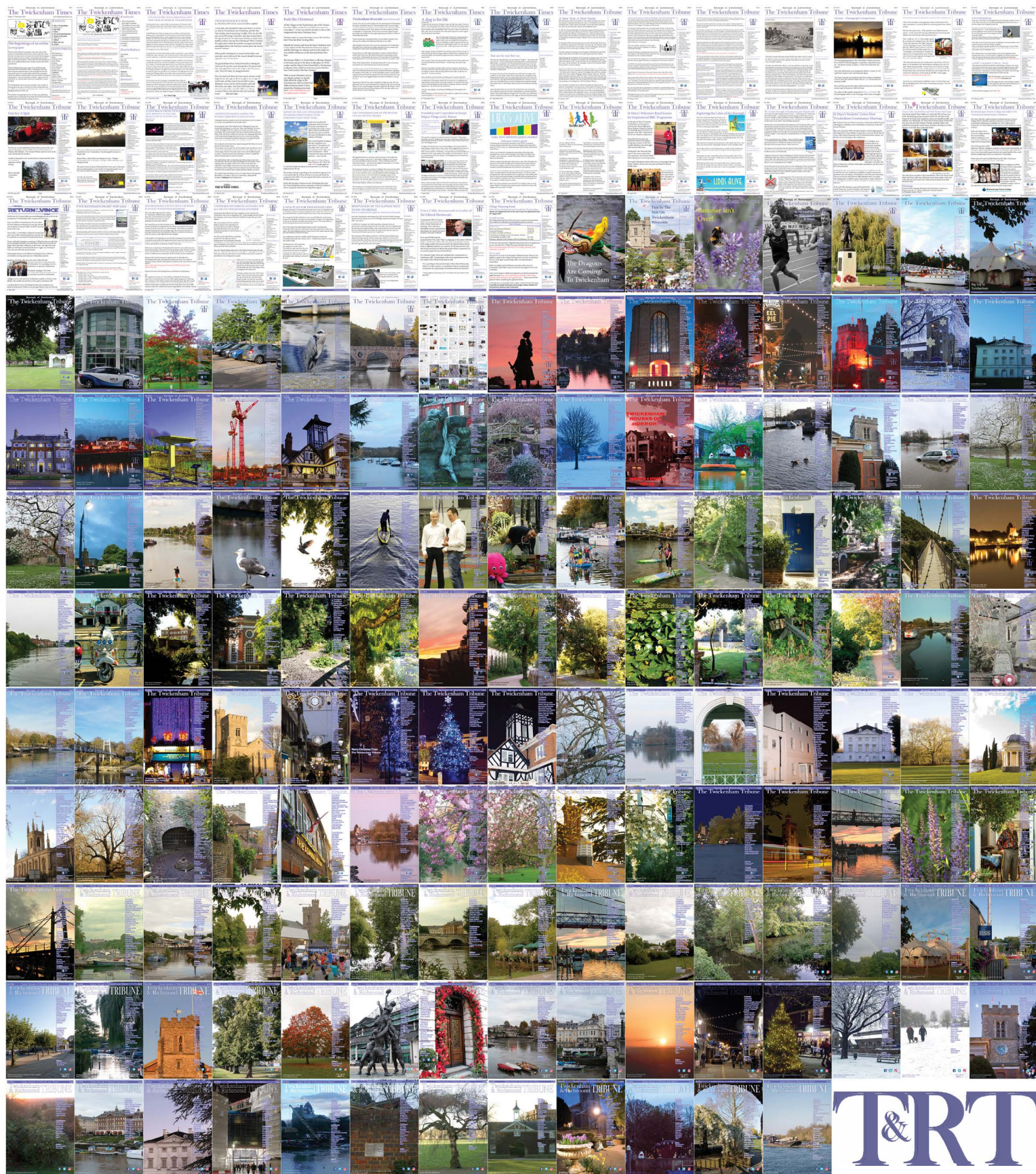
Cllr Louise Gittins, LGA Chair, said:

"What parents and children need and deserve is a properly reformed and funded SEND system that meets the care and support requirements of every child and young person with special needs."

"For too long, the current system has failed children with SEND and left parents struggling to ensure their child gets the support they desperately need. As set out in our Local Government White Paper, we are calling for action which builds new capacity and creates inclusion in mainstream settings, supported by adequate and sustainable long-term funding, and the writing off of councils' high needs deficits."



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