

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



Contents

TickerTape:

Allianz Stadium (Twickenham Stadium) consultation on more events
Teddington Lock Footbridge
South Western Railway

The Tree Agency

Local Picture Postcard Column - Briar Road School – Twickenham

Alan Winter

Crusader Travel

Greens push Council to sort out Lime bike parking issues

Green Party

Letters

Bushy Park Gates

The Royal Parks

Allianz Stadium public consultation launched

RFU

Council Reports

Kettner Concerts

Another Street - Another Story of Cultural Vandalism

Sue Weaver

Next week at Richmond Council

Twinning Underpass Murals Unveiled

Richmond in Europe Association

Teddington RNLI Crew Members Take Part in National Service for Seafarers at St Paul's

RNLI

Twickers Foodie - Everything Stops For Tea - High Chai

Alison Jee

Twickers Foodie - Comfort Food - Courtesy of Ottolenghi

Alison Jee

Twickers Foodie - Good Riddance to Messy Rubbish!

Alison Jee

Sunborn, Gibraltar

Traveller's Tales 166 - A Magical Garden Close To Home

Doug Goodman

Is it ever enough though?

Deep Patel

Mark Aspen Review: Humble Boy

Steve Mackrell

Mark Aspen Review: Birdsong

Andrew Lawston

Mark Aspen Preview: Il Tabarro and Rita

Salieri

Council Reports - Richmond Council Regulatory Committee:

Teddington Beer Festival is back!

Landmark Arts Centre

St Mary's Associate Professor Appointed Editor of International Golf Science Journal

St Mary's University

Richmond upon Thames College Art Students Paint Mural for Richmond in Europe Project

Richmond upon Thames College

Sally Harris becomes the new Chair of Princess Alice Hospice

Princess Alice Hospice

Mapletoft to lead England A against Australia A

RFU

Kevin Sinfield to continue role with England Rugby

RFU

Every Seat Counts dashboard launches

Brentford Football Club

Editors:

Berkley Driscoll
Teresa Read

TickerTape - News in Brief

Allianz Stadium (*Twickenham Stadium*) consultation on more events

The RFU has launched a public consultation seeking to increase the number of non-sporting events at the stadium from the current limit of three, proposing to host up to 15 non-sporting events. More information is given further below in this edition.

The consultation website can be found [HERE](#)

Teddington Lock Footbridge

Teddington Lock Footbridges will be closed for ramp replacement works from 8pm this Friday (11 October) and will reopen at 6am on Monday morning (14 October).

These works are to attach the new permanent ramp and remove the temporary ramp.

South Western Railway

Altered train services and buses replace trains in the Staines area **Sunday 13 October**

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

Longcross station will be **closed all day**. Please use other nearby stations.

- A **revised** service will run between **London Waterloo and Hounslow via Richmond and via Brentford**.
- **Buses** will run between **Hounslow and Ascot via Staines**.
- A **revised** service will run between **Ascot and Reading**.
- **Buses** will run between **Hounslow and Windsor via Staines**.
- **Buses** will run between **Hounslow and Woking via Staines**.
- The afternoon and evening **London Waterloo to Kingston via Hounslow** services will run **all day** and will terminate at **Hounslow**.



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 270

Briar Road School – Twickenham

By Alan Winter

I was recently sent an image of a postcard that I hadn't seen before. It was of the Briar Road school at Twickenham Green. I thought I would use it in the column but have failed to find much at all about the school. In 1937, when the borough was enlarged, it handed over its educational responsibilities to the county council. Archdeacon Cambridge had 247 juniors at Vicarage Road and 114 infants at Briar Road adjoining the Western End of Colne Road which ran parallel behind the Staines Road shops.

The image is c 1970 so presumably it was still open then.



I'm now handing the following description on life at Briar Road school to Tony Bryer who attended the school from 1959 for a year or two and who wrote this six years ago in 2018.

"I was duly enrolled at the Archdeacon Cambridge's Infant School, Briar Road, Twickenham. In the spring of 1959. The headmistress was a Mrs Nelson, who I can still picture.

The school had been built in 1860 and I don't think too much had changed in the intervening 99 years – coal stoves for heating (such as it was) and outdoor toilets. The school buildings were demolished many years ago and Google Maps now shows the current buildings as being occupied by Richmond Music Trust, with the large playground to the rear now being used as a

car park.

The site on the corner of Briar Road and Staines Road was, I remember, occupied by a betting shop, the building being a post-war rebuild following bomb damage. Aston Perforators was next door and just over the school fence. According to Google, the business was established in 1934 and is still trading, one of Twickenham's few surviving manufacturing businesses.

My first teacher was a Mrs Benfield, who I remember as a somewhat stern teacher. She had been a teacher there since before the war. Lessons were much as would be expected for the time: the three R's: reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic. We sat in lines in our iron framed desks with very formal lessons, save for the craft and painting sessions. Not to be forgotten was playtime with the third pint of milk for each child.

The school had no kitchen facilities, so for lunch we were marched in crocodile fashion (coats and hats in the winter) down to 'The Institute' in First Cross Road. It later became the Twickenham Preparatory School, and now the Jack and Jill Nursery School. I don't remember anything about the meals, but in those days we weren't expected to complain.

For my second and final year I moved up to Miss Hancock's class. I remember her as a kindly soul: she too had been at the school since before the war. Like me she lived in Strawberry Hill and I would see her around for many years after she retired."

I would like to acknowledge the above description of life at the school written by Tony Bryer. It was hard to find anything much on this particular school on the internet until I tripped over this 'memory of school' piece written by Tony.

The West London Postcard Fair takes place TODAY! at the Baptist Church in Church Road, Teddington. My tables by the stage have large quantities of postcards and photographs of our Borough going back 130 years or so. Light refreshments served all day. 10.00 - 4.00. Come along and have a browse. If you have any old postcards to part with feel free to come and show me.

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!

**WEST LONDON
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EASY BY ROAD – From M3/A316

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

Greens push Council to sort out Lime bike parking issues

Chas Warlow, Green Party Councillor for South Richmond

A motion by the Green Group on Richmond Council that committed the Council to crack down on bad parking and misuse of ebikes was passed at Tuesday's full Council meeting.

The Greens' original motion was amended to remove a point that committed the Council to communicating better with residents on its plans to deal with the issues that have been raised by many residents since the introduction of the scheme, especially with regard to poor parking of the bikes.

Councillor Chas Warlow said: "the bike scheme has been very successful, so we applaud the Council's commitment to active forms of travel. Unfortunately, poor parking of the bikes obstructs pavements and creates problems for pedestrians, especially those with impaired vision or disabilities, as well as parents pushing prams and buggies. We brought this motion in order to push the Liberal Democrat administration of Richmond Council to be more proactive in addressing those problems – and to communicate better with residents on the future strategy. Although we're pleased to see a promise of substantive action, we are concerned that our suggestion on transparent communication was rejected."

The amended motion commits the Council to holding operators accountable for obstructive parking, improved enforcement and infrastructure, as well as promising to double provision of cycle parking over the next five years. Councillor Richard Bennett, who brought the motion, responded to the Liberal Democrats' amendments: "Our original motion demanded better from all operators, including Lime who have an agreement with the Council. They are accredited members of CoMoUK, the national organisation for shared transport, and as such have made commitments to ensure bikes aren't allowed to cause an obstruction or become excessively untidy. The Liberal Democrat administration says it will hold Lime to account – but the question is how?"

At the same meeting, Green councillors proposed a motion that highlighted the serious ecological problems caused by the current lack of proper management of our rivers, particularly the River Thames, and suggested that Council support the Charter for Rivers developed by charity River Action UK and supported by over 70 organisations.

Councillor Andrée Frieze, leader of the Green Group, proposed the motion. She said: "The way that our rivers are being managed is not working and action needs to be taken: the motion brought by the Green Group highlighted that there is serious pollution and ecological harm happening to our rivers as well as excessive abstraction. Thames Water's proposed scheme to take more water from the river at Teddington is another example of this kind of deplorable and unsustainable approach. We're pleased the Liberal Democrat administration effectively supported our motion with a few amendments that committed it to taking action."



RICHMOND & TWICKENHAM

Dear Tribune,

A Slippery Slope.

Last week’s Tribune report about the Council’s Community Conversation on 24 September for the public to ask questions included the statement made to the Council by a Mr. Clive Osborne: *‘I think you’re a very authoritarian regime.’*

The report included the response of Cllr Ehmann, Chair of the Transport Committee:

‘Every four years, you have the opportunity to elect us or another political party’

I watched a previous council meeting in which Cllr Ehmann’s similarly condescending reply to a Conservative councillor’s question was: *‘It’s called democracy.’*

One assumes that’s the same democracy as used by Council Leader Roberts to state that agreement to the Council’s Twickenham Riverside development by 0.3% of the population was ‘broad public support’. (Tribune Edition 230, 2 April 2021)

It should be remembered that democracy is not a carte blanche do whatever you want just because you have been voted into power.

The outstanding example of such use of ‘democracy’ was in Germany in 1933.

We all know where that led.

Michael Jay
Hampton

Bushy Park Gates

From The Royal Parks



Important Update: As of this morning, Friday, 11 October, all gates in Bushy Park have returned to their regular opening and closing times.

Pedestrian gates are open 24/7, while vehicle gates will open at 06:30 & close at 19:00 hrs

We appreciate your understanding and patience.



Allianz Stadium public consultation launched

The RFU has today launched a public consultation to seek views of residents, businesses and the rugby community on proposals to host up to 15 more non-sporting events at Allianz Stadium, including concerts that can attract the world's biggest artists.



Currently, the RFU is limited to hosting no more than three concerts per year, each with a significantly reduced capacity, with two required to be on a Saturday meaning no single act can play across three consecutive days. These limitations have meant that in recent years other venues have become more attractive to concert organisers.

Alex Cohen, Venue Operations Director at the RFU said:

“Allianz Stadium generates 90% of the RFU’s revenues which all get re-invested back into community

and professional rugby in England. A study looking at the impact of the stadium on the UK economy between 2015 and 2019 estimated the stadium contributed around £180m a year to the UK economy, £91m of which was in the Richmond and Hounslow boroughs, while also employing the equivalent of 2,870 full time employees a year including event day staff.

“We have a history of successfully hosting non-rugby events including concerts by Depeche Mode, The Rolling Stones and Lady Gaga however, in recent years international acts have chosen other venues which can host more events over different dates and with a bigger audience. Therefore, our ability to continue to contribute to the national and local economy is lessened.

“Hosting more events is also critical to enabling us to invest in and redevelop Allianz Stadium. We appreciate the impact the stadium has on residents and businesses, and we therefore want to hear their views to ensure we can improve game day experiences while also finding ways to partner with the local community so the redeveloped stadium can benefit local residents.”

The RFU's long-term masterplan for Allianz Stadium is being developed to ensure England's national rugby stadium stays up to date, is compliant with all relevant regulations, provides the best possible experiences for fans, and continues to generate revenue for reinvestment into the community and professional game.

Work is currently underway on concept designs as part of a ten-year strategic plan to assess what improvement works might be undertaken within the existing footprint of the stadium. These plans will be presented to the RFU board next year.

The consultation website can be found [here](#).

Photo: [Christophe95](#)



Council Reports

We report below the four debates held at the end of last week's full council meeting.

E-Bikes: Revolution or Menace? London's Pavements Under Siege

Electric bikes, or e-bikes, are reshaping urban transport, with over 30,000 Lime bikes now scattered across London. While they offer a greener alternative to cars, their widespread use has sparked frustration, particularly over the chaos they leave behind. Abandoned bikes clutter pavements, creating obstacles for pedestrians—especially the elderly and disabled.

The issue recently came to a head at Richmond Council, where Councillors debated how to address the growing problem. Councillor Bennett was frank: *"What we have seen from Lime is that [e-bikes] are popular. We admit this... but there has been some bad behaviour."* He pointed out that boroughs like Brent have been *"very upset"* by the abandonment of bikes, which creates hazards, particularly for vulnerable residents.



Westminster has been vocal, too. Despite not having a formal arrangement with Lime, the borough is inundated with abandoned bikes. *"They don't have any arrangement, but they have an awful lot of abandoned bikes in Westminster,"* Councillor Bennett noted. He criticised Lime's free-floating model, suggesting that the company *"must have known what they were doing"* by allowing bikes to be parked anywhere, putting pressure on other boroughs to join their scheme.

While Lime has acknowledged the issue, proposing designated parking bays and new bike racks, frustration remains. Councillor Bennett highlighted the imbalance in bike bay distribution: *"We've got about 20 in Richmond and naught in nine of the 11 Twickenham wards. That is a massive imbalance."* With e-bikes travelling an average of 1.5 miles per trip, Councillor Bennett warned that the lack of accessible parking bays is leading to improper bike use and abandonment.

Councillor Chas Warlow, speaking for the Green Party, echoed concerns: *"All the good work on active travel might be undermined by the bad press and the problems that have occurred with Lime bikes being simply abandoned on pavements."* He stressed the need for better communication with residents, saying, *"The communication is really key here. Residents need to know what the strategy is going to be."*

Despite these challenges, there's widespread recognition of the benefits e-bikes bring. Councillor Julia Cambridge observed that e-bikes make journeys shorter and easier for many: *"For users, e-bikes are convenient and welcome... most tend to park responsibly."* However, he also cautioned that increasing infrastructure alone won't solve the problem, noting, *"All this will do is bring an increase in bikes,*

giving more opportunity for bad parkers to park badly.”

Councillor Alexander Ehmann, the chair of the Transport Committee, indicated that he is planning to convert many parking places in our high streets to provide space for e-bike parking near transport hubs but acknowledges that this will be unpopular with motorists.

As councils work to find a solution, the e-bike revolution continues to sweep through London. The question remains: can the capital balance the promise of e-bikes with the need for order on its streets, and parking spaces for motorists.

Labour Faces Backlash Over Winter Fuel Payment Cuts and Two-Child Benefit Cap

The Labour government is facing increasing criticism over its decision to scrap universal winter fuel payments and retain the controversial two-child benefit cap, sparking outrage across the country. At last week’s full council meeting Councillors voiced their dismay, calling on the government to reverse what many see as an attack on the most vulnerable members of society.

Councillor Gareth Roberts, who brought forward a motion to oppose the government’s policy, reflected on his late father’s Labour roots: *“I dare say my late father, a staunch Labour man, would be spinning in his grave at the thought that the first move of a new Labour government was not only to keep the two-child benefit cap but to start going after pensioners too”*. Councillor Roberts, recalling Labour’s campaign promises to target the wealthy and corporate giants, accused the government of turning its back on those most in need. *“They campaigned on the idea that those with the broader shoulders should bear the burden, yet it’s pensioners and low-income families who are being made to pay.”*

The Labour government’s decision to scrap universal winter fuel payments has drawn particular ire, with concerns that it will plunge many older people into fuel poverty as the coldest months approach. Councillor Robin Brown described the policy as a *“hardship disaster for low-income pensioners.”* He noted that while some better-off households could manage without the extra £200 or £300 per year, this wasn’t the case for the vast majority: *“Labour are taking this benefit away from nine in ten pensioners under the age of 80, and eight in ten of those over 80. This will hit at least a million pensioner households living in poverty.”*

Councillor Brown further criticised the government’s lack of planning, stating, *“The government expects only 100,000 of the 880,000 eligible pensioners to sign up for pension credit by the cut-off point to qualify for winter fuel payments. That leaves three-quarters of a million pensioners who desperately need financial support and who are going to lose out.”* He condemned the decision as part of a political effort to highlight the scale of the financial challenges inherited from the previous Conservative government, but warned, *“In their rush to wear the hair shirt and blame the Conservatives, Labour has forgotten how to govern responsibly.”*

The decision to maintain the two-child benefit cap has also triggered fierce opposition, particularly from those concerned about rising child poverty. The cap, introduced in 2017, prevents families from receiving additional financial support for a third or subsequent child. Councillor Niki Crookdake emphasised the devastating impact this has had on larger families: *“The more children you have, the higher your needs. Since the cap was introduced, families with three or more children have seen their child poverty rates soar to 40%—double that of smaller families.”*

Councillor Crookdake highlighted research showing that the cap has not influenced family planning, as originally intended, but has simply punished poor families: *“Instead of reducing birth rates, this policy has stripped significant resources from low-income families, putting their mental health and wellbeing at*

risk even before the added strain of rising living costs.” She called for Richmond Council to prioritise early intervention for families affected by poverty and urged the government to lift the cap, which she described as *“one of the quickest and easiest ways to reduce child poverty in the UK.”*

Councillor Sam Dalton, seconding the motion, also expressed disappointment at Labour’s broken promises: *“We were told that the wealthy elites and fuel giants would be made to pay their fair share. Yet here we are, weeks into a Labour government, and its pensioners and families with children who are footing the bill.”* He called on the government to reconsider, urging them to *“find a way to ensure that pensioners who need help get it”* and to abolish the two-child benefit cap.

As debate continued, several Councillors pointed to the long-term political implications of these policies. Councillor Roberts noted that many Labour supporters were feeling alienated and confused by the government’s actions. *“I’ve spoken to Labour supporters who are baffled by what’s happening. If they get this wrong, they could open the door for far-right groups to exploit the situation, claiming that Labour is out of touch with ordinary people.”* He warned that failure to address the needs of struggling families could have serious consequences, not just for Labour but for the country as a whole.

Councillor Nancy Baldwin echoed this sentiment, praising the local council for stepping in where it could but expressing frustration at the national leadership. *“We are proactively going out, looking for people to take pension credit and ensure they’re getting every penny they’re entitled to,”* Baldwin said. *“But Labour’s approach at the national level is concerning—they’re neglecting the people who put their trust in them.”*

The motion passed with broad support from Richmond Council, but it has raised an uncomfortable question about the Liberal Democrats’ own track record on policies affecting pensioners. While they have been vocal in their criticism of Labour’s decision to scrap universal winter fuel payments, the Liberal Democrats have made controversial moves targeting the elderly.

In recent years, the council, under Liberal Democrat control, has removed the 20% parking discount for over-70s and increased the cost of swimming lessons for retirees, reallocating funds to reduce fees children and those of working age concessions. At the time, Councillor James Chard defended the decision, arguing at the Environment Committee meeting that *“most pensioners are wealthy,”* and framing it as a matter of intergenerational fairness—the same argument now being used by Labour to justify cutting winter fuel allowances for most pensioners today.

The juxtaposition of these decisions leaves the Liberal Democrats in a tricky position, with critics accusing the party of hypocrisy. While the debate around winter fuel payments rages on, questions linger about how much of the burden should be borne by pensioners and whether the party’s own policies reflect the values they claim to champion.

Richmond Council Passes Motion to Protect Thames Amid Pollution Concerns

Richmond Council has passed a motion pledging to step up its fight against pollution in the River Thames. The motion, which emphasises the importance of safeguarding water quality and reducing over-extraction, was passed with broad support, though not without controversy.

Councillor Andrée Frieze, in her impassioned speech, highlighted the scale of pollution plaguing the Thames, pointing out that Thames Water discharged untreated sewage for more than 12,000 hours in 2023 alone. *“That’s the equivalent of 504 days”* she said, stressing the devastating impact this has on both wildlife and human health. Frieze also condemned the company’s failure to report over 6,000 additional raw sewage discharges, adding, *“Thames Water continues to dump its waste into our river*

while overcharging customers by £1.5 billion.”

The council’s motion reaffirmed its commitment to the *Thames Landscape Strategy* and expressed support for River Action UK’s charter, which calls for greater investment in water quality and the protection of river ecosystems. However, it also restated opposition to Thames Water’s controversial Teddington Direct River Abstraction (TDRA) scheme, which proposes further water extraction from the river.

Councillor Gareth Roberts supported the motion, calling for a balance between addressing water shortages and protecting river health. *“This level of extraction cannot be sustained,”* he said, urging Thames Water to prioritise fixing leaks and investing in sustainable infrastructure instead of implementing harmful schemes. He warned that schemes like the TDRA would only worsen the environmental damage.

Councillor Julia Neden-Watts introduced an amendment aimed at broadening the council’s approach. She emphasised the need for natural flood management techniques, highlighting successful conservation efforts such as the floodplains designed by Capability Brown centuries ago at Syon House. *“The more we work with, rather than against, nature, the better,”* she said, advocating for rewilding, meanders on tributaries, and other methods to protect the river.

Councillor Katie Mansfield also underscored the need for immediate action. *“Raw sewage is discharged into our rivers 300,000 times each year, and 10% of water species are threatened with extinction,”* she warned, adding that leisure users are being increasingly forced away from the river due to poor water quality. However, Councillor Mansfield did not mention that this may be due to people being better informed about water quality issues due to increased monitoring and campaigning – as the same problem affects rivers in the Western world due to how previous generations designed the drainage system.

While the amendment passed with broad support, some Councillors felt it diluted the original motion’s focus on the *Rights of Rivers*, an environmental framework gaining traction globally. *“The Charter for Rivers is ambitious,”* Councillor Frieze argued, calling for concrete steps to endorse the charter’s goals of ending sewage pollution and preventing agricultural runoff. *“We should consider what achievable targets we could put in place to endorse this charter.”*

The debate underscored Richmond’s unique position as the only London borough straddling both sides of the Thames. Councillors agreed that the council had a special responsibility to lead the fight for cleaner, healthier waterways, even as they acknowledged the immense challenges posed by pollution and over-extraction.

As the motion passed, Richmond’s Councillors reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that their stretch of the Thames is protected for future generations. Whether they can turn their words into action remains to be seen, but for now, the council has signalled its intent to hold water companies accountable and ensure that the river is treated with the respect it deserves.

One critical aspect that should have been addressed during the debate was the substantial cost associated with preventing stormwater overflows into the Thames and bringing up water quality levels to allow for wild swimming. There is a prevailing assumption that the burden of these expenses should fall solely on the shoulders of water company shareholders. However, the reality is far more complex: utility bills for consumers would inevitably rise to cover these mounting costs. This unspoken financial implication raises important questions about who will truly pay for the necessary infrastructure improvements to protect the river’s health as London’s population grows.

Richmond Council Passes Fairtrade Motion as Fairtrade Mark Celebrates 30th Anniversary in the UK

In a significant move to reaffirm its commitment to ethical procurement, Richmond Council passed a new Fairtrade motion during its latest meeting, as the UK celebrates 30 years of the Fairtrade mark. Councillors across party lines voiced strong support for the initiative, underscoring the need for sustained efforts in promoting Fairtrade goods across the borough.

The motion, introduced by Councillor Suzette Nicholson, emphasized the council's role in encouraging its partners to purchase Fairtrade goods. *"By encouraging its partners to buy Fairtrade goods and, where possible, in its own procurement processes, this Council actively promotes the purchase of Fairtrade goods within the Borough,"* Councillor Nicholson declared during the session. The motion also commends local residents for their ongoing support of Fairtrade, contributing to London's standing as a Fairtrade city.

Richmond's Fairtrade group, working in tandem with councillors, has been instrumental in raising awareness. Reflecting on their recent efforts, Councillor Nicholson added, *"I asked Richmond's Fairtrade group if we could find 30 Fairtrade items in our store cupboards. We did manage to find more than 30."* These items included two Fairtrade cotton products, highlighting the vast range of over 5,000 Fairtrade items currently available in the UK.

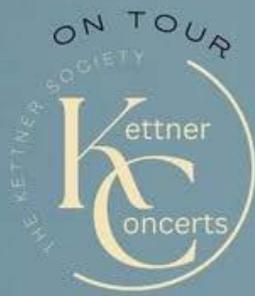
The motion comes just after the conclusion of Fairtrade Fortnight, an annual event aimed at increasing public awareness of Fairtrade products. *"Fairtrade supports farmers and producers in low-income and less developed countries. The minimum price guarantee and the Fairtrade premium allow farmers to invest in community projects of their choice, often health and education,"* Nicholson explained.

Councillor Penelope Frost echoed these sentiments, humorously engaging her colleagues by referencing the high-quality Fairtrade chocolate made available during the council meeting. *"Fairly traded goods are very high quality, they're always delicious and a little moreish,"* she noted, adding, *"Richmond has a strong tradition now of encouraging fair trading and reminding our shops to stock fairly traded goods."*

The motion also touched on the growing challenges posed by climate change, particularly its impact on Fairtrade producers. Small-scale farmers, who produce 60% of the world's coffee, are particularly vulnerable. *"They're using some of the extra funding they receive to learn about and invest in climate-resilient production of coffee and cocoa,"* Councillor Nicholson said. She went on to highlight that many of these farmers are more environmentally friendly than larger operations, underscoring Fairtrade's dual impact in both social and environmental spheres.

Councillor Fiona Sacks, also expressed its support, praising the altered wording of the motion and calling for further progress in the future. *"I hope that the motion may come back to us before another five years is up with a bit more information about the progress that's been made,"* Sacks said.

In a unanimous decision, the council carried the motion, reaffirming its commitment to supporting Fairtrade practices and ensuring the availability of ethically sourced products in Richmond's shops and services.



Kettner Concerts in Twickenham



Unheard Harmonies

a piano and cello recital

LYDIA HILLERUDH (cello), CRISTIAN SANDRIN (piano)

Saturday, November 16, 2024 6pm

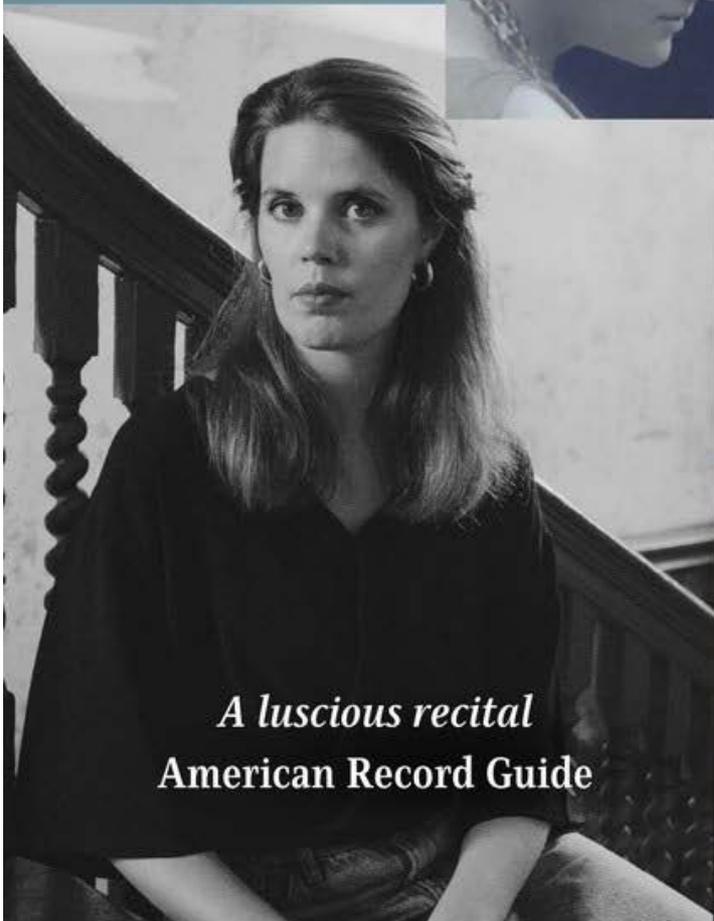
Tonight our outstanding young artists have joined forces to perform sonatas by two unjustly neglected Edwardian women composers alongside lesser-known works by Beethoven and Vaughan Williams, the Seven Variations on Mozart's Marriage of Figaro, and Six Studies in English Folk Song respectively. All the compositions are hidden gems of the cello and piano repertoire that deserve a wider audience. Join us to celebrate a programme of musical revelations.

Rebecca Clarke • Vaughan Williams • Beethoven • Dora Pejačević

St Mary's Church
Church Street
TW1 3NJ
Twickenham



Rebecca Clarke
(1886-1979)



A luscious recital
American Record Guide



Tickets: £15
(£10 students and under 18s)
book on Eventbrite
kettnerconcerts.co.uk



Dora Pejačević
(1885-1923)

Another Street - Another Story of Cultural Vandalism

6.5 days in the life of the Roads Department of RBC

By Sue Weaver

I would like to add to Sue Hamilton-Miller's excellent letter in your Edition of 4th October regarding closing off roads and depriving residents of valuable parking spots for several days, marking off with cones and disappearing, without a single soul seen working.

A similar situation for the 'School Street', Vernon Road, leading into Sheen Lane, SW14. Here is the sequence: The signs first went up on 3rd Oct - plenty of warning, including dire consequences if you were parked there 4-9th Oct...



End of Day 1, Fri 4th Oct. One side of the street - seems that Zip Cars are exempt?



Opposite side of street - seems that Lime bikes and scooters are exempt? - or think they take precedence over the needs of residents, in this case not helped by the Council's refusal to move this dangerous site



End of Day 2 - Sat 5 Oct - again, Zip Cars and Lime don't seem to think all this applies to them and if anything, Lime seem to be accelerating their appalling behaviour, parking on pavements and in the road

As Day 3 was a Sunday, I refrained from taking photos - I wrongly assumed Monday would mean all systems go - no such luck. I came home late on Sunday, and it took me 20 minutes to find a Resident Parking spot. I then had to walk home in the dark, carrying heavy bags - nowhere near my home.



Day 4, Monday 7th, the Limes were multiplying.... Still no workers.



Day 5: Tuesday 8th, the Zip van was gone, Lime scooter still on pavement and others coming and going. Do you see anyone actually working?

(Drivers couldn't miss the large signs either side of the road, erected many months ago)

Day 6: Wednesday 9th Oct - all clear of cars and scooters. You'd think being the last day of inconvenience to residents, there would be major action.....no such luck.



... until just after 20:00 hrs



Humps going in and lots of action



and at approximately 22:00 hrs...humps removed, this garish splash of paint thrown across the road - then they left...only to return at 01:30 to finish (?) the job. Note the large signs either side of the road had been erected many months ago. Why was this not enough - do they think we're all blind?

Thursday 10 October: All done?? - humps removed! Ugly red strip...I wonder how long it will be before the red degrades like the Rainbow Crossings in Richmond - rendering this historic protected corner into another slum (NB corner building and most properties in the Mortlake end of Sheen Lane dated AD 1899)



All that inconvenience to residents for just one night of glorious red carpet.... whatever this cost, filling in a few potholes around the Borough might have put our taxes to better use.

A very concerned long-time Resident of East Sheen.

Next week at Richmond Council

On Monday, the **Licensing Committee** will discuss the Mediterranean Supermarket (Heath Road, Twickenham) application to extend their alcohol licence from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. The police oppose the application due to the ongoing Anti-social behaviour issues on Twickenham Green at night. The meeting will start at 10.30 a.m. and will be held virtually.

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

The **Audit, Standards and Statutory Accounts Committee** will meet on Tuesday. They will receive updates on the council audit. A fraud update reveals that staff members have been dismissed for fraud, and the RHP has been delaying evictions relating to tenancy fraud due to the cost of court action. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at York House, Twickenham.

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

On Wednesday, the **Planning Committee** will meet to decide the following two applications: front garden parking for 18 Church Grove Hampton Wick; and 13-15 Tayben Avenue Twickenham for a new house to be built between existing properties. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at York House, Twickenham.

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

The **Policy and Performance Review Board** will meet on Thursday. The items on the agenda are the task group looking at retrofitting properties in the borough to improve energy efficiency, the council performance against its own benchmarks, proposals for a code of good practice on consultations, and an update on the community toilet scheme. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at York House, Twickenham.

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

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

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

Council Reports

Richmond Council Regulatory Committee:

Key policy decisions on gambling, alcohol, and the Roslyn Road abortion clinic buffer zone

See the above report later in this edition

Twinning Underpass Murals Unveiled

From The Richmond in Europe Association

2nd October 2024. The Deputy Mayor of Richmond, Cllr. Kuldev Sehra, was delighted to be invited to open the new Twinning Underpass in Whitton, which had been decorated with pictures of our twin towns of Fontainebleau & Konstanz by local art students from Richmond College.

The work was commissioned by REA to commemorate the Reaffirmation of Richmond's European Partnerships, which will be celebrated in Richmond from 6th-8th June 2025.



Over 500 guests from Fontainebleau & Konstanz are expected to attend the Reaffirmation & all 200,000 residents of Richmond are invited to participate.

Music always enlivens any ceremony & a local community choir enthusiastically sang Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" to entertain the students, their teachers, local councillors, REA members & local residents who filled the subway.

Beethoven's 9th symphony was a fitting choice of music, as the theme of the art work for this tunnel is, "Peace & international friendship." "Alle Menschen werden Brüder."



To see a short film of the opening ceremony please click on the following link: [Film of Ceremony](#)

The underpass, which is used by thousands of pedestrians & cyclists every day, connects the communities of Whitton & West Twickenham. Therefore, as well as making the underpass far more attractive & raising awareness of Richmond's international partnerships & the reaffirmation in 2025, the students' art work also provides a pictorial symbol of the aim of our association to bring people together.



Teddington RNLI Crew Members Take Part in National Service for Seafarers at St Paul's Cathedral, London

On Wednesday (9 October 2024), Miranda and Graham Jagers from RNLI Teddington took part in the Annual National Service for Seafarers (ANSS) at St Paul's Cathedral in London, in the presence of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

The service gave recognition to the 200th anniversary of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

The ANSS has been held annually since 1905. Organised by The Seafarers' Charity and The Corporation of Trinity House, it aims to recognise, celebrate, and express thanks for the seafaring community. The service is dedicated to seafarers from various maritime professions, including the Royal Navy, the Merchant Navy, fishing fleets, workboats, cruise liners, commercial shipping, yachts and ferries, as well as maritime welfare charities, nautical schools, maritime youth groups and veterans' associations.

The RNLI marked its 200th anniversary on 4 March 2024, so this year's ANSS recognised the 200 years of courage and dedication of the RNLI's lifesavers, and their vital contribution to the safety of those at sea. Since the RNLI was founded by Sir William Hillary in 1824, the charity's volunteer lifeboat crews and lifeguards have saved over 146,000 lives.



A number of RNLI representatives were involved in the service at St Paul's. Several RNLI volunteers were in the Colour Party, forming part of the procession. They were: Eamon Fanning MBE from Gravesend lifeboat station; Alexandra Cook from Chiswick lifeboat station; Graham Jagers and Miranda Jagers from Teddington lifeboat station, and Paul King from Tynemouth lifeboat station.

The Venerable Robert Townsend, Archdeacon of Meirionnydd, is an RNLI volunteer and gave the sermon during the service. Other RNLI speakers in the service included Katarina Harrison-Gaze, an inshore lifeboat crew member at Staithes and Runswick; Emily Burgess, an RNLI face-to-face fundraiser, and Ian Smith, the station manager at Gravesend RNLI lifeboat station. Around 200 RNLI representatives were present in the congregation, including Peter Sparkes, the RNLI's Chief executive, and Fiona Fell, the RNLI's Deputy Chair.

Miranda Jagers, water safety officer at RNLI Teddington, said, 'This was an amazing experience and a real honour to represent the RNLI in the colour party at the National Service for Seafarers in this our 200th Anniversary. It was a very moving service, with wonderful music.'

Founded in a London tavern on 4 March 1824 following an appeal from Sir William Hillary, who lived on the Isle of Man and witnessed many shipwrecks, the RNLI has continued saving lives at sea throughout the tests of its history, including tragic disasters, funding challenges and two World Wars.

Today, the RNLI operates 238 lifeboat stations around the UK and Ireland, including four on the River Thames, and has seasonal lifeguards on over 240 lifeguarded beaches around the UK. It designs and builds its own lifeboats and runs domestic and international water safety programmes.

While much has changed in 200 years, two things have remained the same – the charity's dependence on volunteers, who give their time and commitment to save others, and the voluntary contributions from the public which have funded the service for the past two centuries.

Photo: RNLI Volunteers at ANSS Left to Right Ian Smith, Station Manager, Gravesend LBS Graham Jagers, Launch Authority, Teddington LBS Paul King, Crew, Tynemouth LBS – 200th anniversary this year too Miranda Jagers, Water Safety Officer, Teddington LBS. ©RNLI



Lifeboats

Everything Stops For Tea - High Chai

I was fascinated to learn that Vivek Singh's **Cinnamon Bazaar** in Richmond has started serving High Chai - an Indian take on our own high tea. I decided to check it out with my friend Seema, whom I knew was already a great fan - and regular customer - of Cinnamon Bazaar, and certainly knows her chai. Vivek is one of the most successful and respected modern Indian chefs in the UK, with four London restaurants and one Oxford restaurant. He's published six cookbooks and a regular guest on BBC's Saturday Kitchen.



We arrived at the gorgeously colourful restaurant at lunchtime (the High Chai is served every day from noon till 4 p.m.) and Manisha, our lovely server, coming from Mumbai herself, was incredibly helpful. She suggested that we had one vegetarian Chai Tea and one 'standard' so that we could both enjoy the range of products included. Now when I say included, we were also told that customers are welcome to ask for top ups of any particular dish they really enjoyed. With the Chai Tea is £27.50 per head and including a selection of chaats, then 'nibbles' and then sweet this is great value. It also includes a pot of tea or Indian Masala Chai.

We enjoyed a Chai Bellini - an interesting cocktail with Indian tea, cinnamon syrup and prosecco. It was refreshing and a great accompaniment to what was to follow. Then Manisha came with the Chaats... cleverly chosen to give customers a diverse range of textures and flavours. We had a plate of Pani Puri - little 'one-bite' shells filled with tangy sweet and sour water; Pineapple Kasundi Chaat and Samosa Chaat. The smoky pineapple one was my favourite - crunchy, sweet and sour, with a light heat coming through at the end. It was refreshing - and refreshingly different. The puris were good - little bombs of flavour filled with a tamarind flavoured 'water' that added another dimension. The only slightly disappointing dish was the Samosa chaat, which was very tasty, but rather on the stodgy side. Seema felt it would have been improved with a yogurt dressing.



Then onto the 'nibbles': Masala Fish Finger Sandwiches and a Kadhai Chicken Spring Roll. The sandwiches were interesting; the fish was in fact cold, which surprised us, but the tomato



chutney added a sweet element. The warm spring roll was very good - fragrant at first, then followed by a warm heat that built in the mouth. The vegetarian alternatives were excellent too - the Kolkata Sandwich was filled with beets, raisins, potato and a Kasundi ketchup. It reminded Seema of a Bombay Sandwich but of course, as Manisha reminded us, Kolkata is Vivek Singh's home city. The vegetarian alternative to the chicken spring roll was



Kadhahi Spiced Paneer Roll with peppers and red onion - again delicately spiced and filled with strands of paneer.

The 'Sweets' were an interesting collection. The Saffron & Pistachio Macaron was not at all what I was expecting. It looked like a standard French macaron - but this one was more of shortbread filled with a delicious, creamy pistachio and was beautifully presented. The square of 'Bebinca' was a new one on Seema (and of course me). Manisha told us that it's a Goan delicacy, and the taste was reminiscent of a bread and butter pudding, but the texture was completely different...and it was also fabulous. The final dish was 'Serradura'; another Goan pud, like a deconstructed blackcurrant crumble, but with an extra richness given by the condensed milk in the creamy sauce and finished with a tangy blackcurrant compote.

All three of the little tasters were great, and again, the balance of the dishes gave an interesting introduction to some unusual Indian desserts.



High Chai is a fascinating venture into some unusual Indian recipes and I loved the fact that the portions were generous, but also small enough to leave room for the next taste experience. Do consider this fascinating alternative to our traditional afternoon tea - it's a perfect mid-afternoon pick me up and available Tuesday - Sunday from 12 pm - 4.00pm at £27.50 per head, and an additional £7.50 for a chai bellini.

Comfort Food - Courtesy of Ottolenghi

Regular readers will know that I'm a great fan of **Yotam Ottolenghi's** recipes (and if you follow @aca_jee on Instagram, you'll see a lot of my food that's been influenced by him). With perfect timing for those autumnal days when we start to crave comfort food, he's produced another fabulous cookbook, aptly named **COMFORT**.

Published last month by Penguin Random House, it's his first new cookbook since his era-defining Ottolenghi SIMPLE and Ottolenghi FLAVOUR. This new book is the work of 'four hungries' – Yotam



Ottolenghi, and colleagues Helen Goh, Verena Lochmuller and Tara Wigley – and they all bring their own memories, childhoods, and travels with them to explore what comfort food means to them. Mac 'n' cheese, chicken ramen, schnitzel, sausages and mash, pizza, chicken noodle soup, lentils, and rice, dhal, dumplings: the definitive comfort food for many, certainly, but there is no one-comfort-food-fits-all. The team explored the four elements of comfort in the book: 'Who we eat with'; 'Why we eat'; 'What we eat' and finally 'How we eat' – as important as what we are eating in the first place.



With over 100 recipes, including classic new takes on pasta and potatoes, traybakes, noodles, curries, soups and sweet things, **Ottolenghi COMFORT** is full of dishes that feel both nostalgic and novel, familiar yet fresh – this is at the heart of the Ottolenghi interpretation of comfort. It will make a great Christmas present, but why wait? It's worth treating yourself now so that you can practise the dishes in time for festive entertaining. It's £30 for a lovely hardback, with photography by Jonathan Lovekin.

Here's a recipe, that's just perfect for this time of year, to whet your appetite:

Butter beans with roasted cherry tomatoes (Serves 4)

- 500g cherry tomatoes
- 85ml olive oil
- 1 onion, finely diced (150g)
- 2 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 2 tsp dried oregano
- 2 tsp thyme leaves, roughly chopped, plus a few whole thyme leaves to garnish
- 1 tsp fennel seeds, toasted and lightly crushed
- 1 fresh bay leaf
- 80ml dry white wine
- 2 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 x 700g jar of good-quality butter



- bean, drained and rinsed
- salt and black pepper

To serve

75g thick Greek-style yoghurt thick slices of sourdough (or any crusty) bread, toasted (optional)

Source the larger butter beans, or judiones, for this, if you can. They're softer, more buttery and much creamier than the smaller ones (which come in a tin). This dish works well as part of a mezze spread, or can be eaten as it is, with something like crumbled feta or olives on top.

Keeping notes: *Once made, the beans keep for up to 3 days in the fridge: just bring them back to room temperature before serving. The crispy tomato skins are a great thing to have around as well, to add to salads and pasta dishes. The recipe comes from a restaurant called Bar Rochford in Canberra, Australia, where they're served with fresh green beans. They keep for a week in a sealed jar.*

Preheat the oven to 210°C fan.

Toss the tomatoes with 2 teaspoons of the oil and spread them on a parchment-lined baking tray. Roast for 20 minutes, until the skins have loosened and the tomatoes are soft and have shrunk a little. Remove from the oven and transfer the tomatoes, along with all their juices, to a shallow bowl to cool.

Re-line the baking tray with a fresh sheet of baking parchment and reduce the oven temperature to 100°C fan. Once cool enough to handle, pinch the skins off the tomatoes and place the skins on the lined baking tray. Return the tray to the oven for about 45 minutes, until the skins are dry and crisp, giving them a good stir a couple of times during baking. Set the skinless tomatoes aside.

Put the remaining 75ml of oil into a medium saucepan and place on a medium heat. Add the onion, garlic, oregano, thyme, fennel seeds and bay leaf and cook for 10–12 minutes, until the onion has softened but has not taken on too much colour. Add the wine, simmer for 2 minutes to reduce, then add the paprika. Cook for another minute, then add the reserved tomato flesh, along with 1 teaspoon of salt. Simmer gently for about 15 minutes, stirring often so that the tomatoes break down. Add the beans and a good grind of pepper and stir to combine. Cook for a couple of minutes, just to warm through, then remove from the heat.

Spread the yoghurt over a serving plate and then pile the beans on top. Crumble over the dried tomato skins, finish with a sprinkling of thyme leaves and serve.

Extracted from Ottolenghi COMFORT by Yotam Ottolenghi, Helen Goh, Verena Lochmuller and Tara Wigley (Ebury Press, £30). All photography by Jonathan Lovekin

Good Riddance to Messy Rubbish!

I don't know about you, but with mail order shopping on the increase, and more and more foods coming in multiple layers of packaging, our kitchen had turned into a giant recycling centre...and a very messy looking one at that.

Apparently in 2023, 64.8% of **UK packaging waste** was recycled, increasing from 62.4% in 2022. Many kitchens now have built-in recycling bins, but our kitchen lacks these, so one corner had a container for paper and a bag for glass and cans etc.

My poor husband was continually moaning about the mess, and we were having to keep taking consignments outside to the collection

bins. It not only looked dreadful, but it was high time we decided to do something about it!



After some considerable research we discovered the fabulous range from **EKO**, with some 23 (yes, 23) different options for recycling bins on the webpage [here](#). Obviously, as you can see from the mess in the photo above, we needed to get something pretty substantial, so opted for the [EKO ECO CASA II](#) - a large capacity recycling bin in fingerprint resistant, coated steel. It has two colour coded removable compartments (2 x 30 litre) for easy waste separation. It's made from fingerprint resistant brushed steel too (something I hadn't even considered as necessary, but actually it's brilliant). You can line it with bags, but to be honest that just adds to landfill and the bins are easy enough to swill out if they get messy. There's a space in the lid for a deodoriser but we haven't needed this, as we're pretty careful about rinsing containers.

Another great feature is that it has a foot pedal to open the lid, but you can also press a switch to keep the lid open if, like my husband does, you like to cut up cardboard to maximise capacity.

I can't tell you what a difference it's made: not only does that corner of the kitchen now look smart and tidy, but the bins are surprisingly capacious, so don't actually need emptying that often.

If you haven't already invested in some form of recycling bin, I would urge you to think about it; it's so nice for us to have a tidy corner of our kitchen now!

There's a lot more info on the EKO website www.ekohome.co.uk



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Traveller's Tales 166

A Magical Garden Close To Home

Doug Goodman Discovers A Beautiful Sculpture Garden In Surrey



The drive through The North Downs heading south on very narrow roads was delightful. Sunlight sparkled through the canopies of trees growing over the road and the pools of recent rain water sprayed over the edges of the fields. It's just 28 miles from Twickenham to The Hannah Peschar Sculpture Garden near Ockley with several old pubs en route. Lunch in the garden of The Royal Oak in Holmbury St. Mary with excellent sandwiches and Sussex draft beer provided a good start to the afternoon exploration of the sculpture garden. It's a wonderful, rambling ten acre site on a hillside with streams running through, exotic plants and unusual trees. The garden alone is the perfect place to relax but as you follow the footpaths a vast collection of sculpture is revealed. With the sun reflected from the hanging and free-standing glass objects and the light bouncing off the large works of art, a mesmerising atmosphere has been created. There's an indoor exhibition of smaller, delicate items. An illustrated guide to the dozens of pieces strategically positioned in the garden can be borrowed to identify all the works and their origins.



Dark Side of the Moon.
Nicolas Moreton



Tulip Colour Catchers. Neil Wilkin



Sound Architecture.
Ronald van der Meijs

REGENERATION

This year The Sculpture Garden celebrates 40 years since it started exhibiting and selling works of art. From the early 80s sculpture have been set up amongst the plants and trees and fit perfectly in the environment. Hannah Peschar created the garden within the ten acres of land which also has a grade two listed cottage. It was once part of a large estate laid out between 1915 and 1920. After the estate was sold and broken up the area fell into decline. An ever changing exhibition of contemporary sculpture by international artists forms the collection which has been redesigned and replanted by landscape designer Anthony Paul. On arrival you will get a warm welcome from Vikki who will help you to make the most of your visit.



Reclining Valencia Figure.
Paul Vanstone



Off Shore Wind. Jilly Sutton



Belonging. Deborah Davies



Dew Drops. Neil Wilkin



The Royal Oak at Holmbury St. Mary

Directions from Twickenham to the garden:
Esher, Cobham, Effingham, Holmbury St. Mary and Forest Green.

Pubs: The Royal Oak at Holmbury St. Mary and The Scarlett Arms close to the garden.

Hannah Peschar Sculpture Garden:
www.hannahpescharsculpture.com. Tel:01306 627269.

Booking essential. Closed from 27th October until April 2025.

Is it ever enough though?

By Deep Patel

~ Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~



What does a shop keeper like me do all day then you may find yourself asking?

Well, I sell lots of things from baked beans to birthday candles...but one of the other things I guess you could say I sell is dreams...or perhaps the prospect of a dream coming true...has anyone guessed what I am talking about yet?...no?...well let me tell you then...lottery tickets!

So when I asked my customers if they won, “what would you do?” ...what did Twickenham folk have to say? Read on and find out...

Now we have all heard the saying “money can’t buy you happiness” which I can see is true, as if it did buy you happiness, all the rich people would always be happy which we all know is not always the case...I know plenty of incredibly rich yet incredibly miserable people (which is silently quite reassuring) and of course the same is true for the opposite (let us be fair here).

So if money can’t buy us happiness, why on earth do so many of us buy lottery tickets (me included)?

Well...money can’t buy us happiness...but it may help right?

So then the next question arises...what would you do with it if you won? When I asked this question to my customers, the first thing most of them said was “I would give some of it to you!” which I thought was so kind of them to say!

After this, many said “I give most if away to charity” (what a truly lovely folk Twickenham folk

truly are). The next top answer was “I would give some to my family and friends” ...ahhhh how nice, Twickenham folk are truly family and friends focused too. After this, the next answer was “I don’t really want to win, it’s too much money for one person” to which I answered “well why are you even buying a ticket then?” ...yes that was a common answer, but a weird one you may agree?!

Out of all this, something that made me smile was that when asked what they would do if they won the lottery, the majority of customer’s first answer was “give some to you Deep!”...

When I asked them why me they said “without you I wouldn’t have had the ticket, thanks to you for selling it to me!”...for the rest of the week I walked around with a huge smile on my face feeling so loved by the customers...even if they may have been saying it to be polite...it’s the thought that counts, and I felt chuffed that as their local shopkeeper, I was put ahead of their friends, families and even charities on their priority list of whom they would give money too if they won the lottery...I am truly humbled...ahhh Twickenham people...what a bunch of lovely folk you are...you warmed the heart of this shopkeeper and I too would give you ALL a share of my winnings.

Remember...

“A candle doesn’t lose its brightness from using it’s flame to light another candle... it just makes the whole room brighter for everybody...sharing is caring”

CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK: GOT FLIES?

Don’t waste your money on fly sprays...that will only mask the problem and is bad for us too... instead get to the root of the problem and remove any uneaten dog/cat food soon after your pet has eaten it, keep food covered up or stored in airtight containers, keep bin lids both outdoors and indoors firmly closed at all times and sprinkle talcum powder in your kitchen bin every few days to keep it dry and mask the smell of rotting foods that flies are attracted to lay their eggs in...always choose a kind way...you will get blessings in your life and have good karma too! Share this tip!

For more tips, email: InsectLoversUnite@gmail.com or join my Facebook group: “INSECT LOVERS UNITE”. Thank you!

Humble Boy

by Charlotte Jones

Teddington Theatre Club at the Coward Studio, Hampton Hill

Humble Boy feels like *Ayckbourn* on steroids. It sparkles with sharp witty comedy, familiar characters potter around a pleasant English country garden: matriarchal mother, troubled son, boorish self-made businessman, his daughter and even an eccentric gardener.

The death of Flora Humble's bee-keeping husband brings the family reunion, the trigger for exhuming old ghosts and uncovering past secrets. When Flora's son Felix returns home from Cambridge, the tensions between mother and son are revealed.

The empty hive is a metaphor. Dionne King's Flora, the queen bee, displays the acid sharpness of a self-assured matriarch, driven by a need to control those around her. King's performance captures Flora's essence without over-playing. Acerbic comments such as "the last word is *my* prerogative" balance fine comedy as she reflects on her "Lamborghini" nose job.



Felix Humble, Flora's son, cements the play by projecting his fears and feelings, thus gaining our empathy. He is a complex character, with a brilliant scientific mind, but there is a gulf in understanding between mother and son. Alex Farley sensitively portrays the introspective Felix, who is deeply disturbed by his father's death. Felix's contemplating suicide, or recalling watching the Apollo moon landing with his father during the night, make powerful reflections.

To Felix's consternation, the larger-than-life George Pye intends to marry Flora. A self-made man (and Glenn Miller fanatic) he is the antithesis of Flora's "decent upright" deceased husband. Peter Hill magnificently conveys the obnoxious, flashy Pye, a comedic element in the play, especially in his drunken scenes. Madeleine Gordon plays Pye's daughter Rosie, Felix's ex-girlfriend, and her scenes with Felix are sensitive and touching.

Jane Marcus' understated performance as Mercy, Flora's long-suffering friend underlines her subservience. Mercy seems to be controlled by Flora to act as her spy. The farcical scene where she serves up gazpacho, with a surprise ingredient, is perfectly timed.

The enigmatic Jim, quietly played by Alan Hooker, is an old gardener, who appears incidental, but becomes the only person whom Felix truly confides in. His scene with Flora discussing the botany of the garden flowers is remarkably touching and powerful.

While teasing out the subtleties of the characters without stereotyping, Ben Clare's assured direction ratchets up the tensions and growing friction between the characters. *Humble Boy* is an excellent and engrossing production, powerful, funny and emotional.

Read Steve Mackrell's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/10/03/hum-boy-ttc

Photography by Steve Sitton

Birdsong

by Sebastian Faulk, adapted by Rachel Wagstaff

Original Theatre and JAS Theatricals at Richmond Theatre and on tour until 22nd February

Birdsong perfectly evokes France from 1910 to 1918, a period that everyone thinks they know.

The opening, with a young man searching for a name in the war cemeteries, provides ominous foreshadowing to the adventures of Stephen Wraysford, a wonderfully dynamic James Esler. Wraysford is in René Azaire's factory in 1910 Amiens, reporting for his guardian who wishes to buy it. However, the factory's workers are facing hardship, and there are stirrings of unrest.

A clipped and menacing Sargon Yelda plays the tyrannical industrialist Azaire. His abused wife Isabelle and Wraysford soon find themselves in a passionate relationship in scenes that inspire the interval talking point. Charlie Russell conveys Isabelle's emotional turmoil in a restrained and brittle performance.



This first act is a straightforward period piece with Roger Ringrose providing comic relief as the apparently avuncular, but ultimately sinister town councillor Berard; and Gracie Follows giving an entertaining performance as the young Lisette Azaire. However, the second act switches drastically to the trenches of 1916.



Richard Kent's single set of wooden slats, with some clever changes to Jason Taylor's lighting, transforms from the country house to the claustrophobic trenches, dug-outs and long narrow tunnels, a staggering achievement in design.

Here, Max Bowden's sensitive Jack Firebrace and his squad of sappers, "sewer rats" as the naive new infantry soldier Tipper (an instantly endearing Raif Clarke) calls them. When Jack encounter Wraysford, the officer is not the earnest young man of the first act. Fortune-telling has

become his compulsion as he tries to read a rat's entrails, to the bemusement of his men (who include some of the female cast in *Blackadder* false moustaches; try not to think, "Bob").

The big action scenes go all out with sound, lighting, and smoke effects to evoke tunnel collapses, artillery bombardments, and pitched battles. Then the third act moves to the very end of the war in 1918.

While the lingering question of Wraysford's relationship with Isabelle is addressed, Natalie Radmall-Quirke develops her earlier fleeting performance as Jeanne Fourmentier, Isabelle's sister.

Confident pacy direction by Alastair Whatley deftly portrays the War without moving too far into sentimentality or nostalgia. *Birdsong* is powerful theatre with something for everybody.

Read Andrew Lawston's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/10/04/birdsong

Photography by Pamela Raith



Il Tabarro and *Rita*

Instant Opera at Normansfield Theatre, Teddington, 11th to 13th October

Salieri will be hurrying down to that wonderful gem of Victoriana, the Normansfield Theatre, in Teddington, to take a look at an exciting pair of seldom performed operas, as one of [Mark Aspen Reviews](#) experienced opera critics.

Instant Opera is excited to present [a captivating double bill](#) featuring Giacomo Puccini's *Il Tabarro* and Gaetano Donizetti's *Rita*, two distinct yet complementary operas that explore the complexities of love and life.



Puccini's *Il Tabarro*, (The Cloak) a poignant one-act opera, is set in a barge and delves into themes of jealousy and betrayal. Known for its atmospheric depth and emotional resonance, this work features some of Puccini's most haunting melodies, inviting the audience into a world of shadow and intrigue.



In contrast, Donizetti's *Rita* is a light-hearted comic opera that, despite its controversial themes, presents a lively and humorous portrayal of marriage and relationships. With its commedia dell'arte-inspired characters and catchy tunes, *Rita* delivers a refreshing and humorous feel that balances the intensity of *Il Tabarro*.

The two operas are brought together for this production into the same location and time, specifically Venice in the 1960s. Creating this link between the two scores provides an opportunity to investigate the polar opposite representations of marriage, highlighting that in neither of them do we have a clear definition between the positive and negative characters. The ambiguity and the uncomfortable aspects of how relationships are portrayed become apparent, leaving the audience to consider the deeper message behind it.

Both works will be fully staged with a full orchestra, premiering a new orchestral arrangement, conducted by [Lewis Gaston](#). The Stage Director is [Valeria Perboni](#).

With performances led by two outstanding international casts, this production is set to provide drama and laughter in equal measure, and is not one to be missed!

There are four performances, Friday and Saturday evenings and Saturday and Sunday matinées. Tickets are currently available and [can be purchased online](#) or on the door.

Photography courtesy of Instant Opera

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Council Reports

Richmond Council Regulatory Committee:

Key policy decisions on gambling, alcohol, and the Roslyn Road abortion clinic buffer zone

Richmond's Regulatory Committee convened on Tuesday 8th October, with Councillor Rob O'Carroll presiding. The session saw significant debate on three central issues: the borough's gambling policy, the renewal of its alcohol cumulative impact policy, and an extension of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) around Roslyn Road's BPAS Abortion Clinic.

1. Review of Gambling Policy

The first item on the agenda was a review of Richmond's gambling policy, which must be updated and published every year. Licensing Manager Caroline Sharkey took the floor, summarising the council's obligations under Section 349 of the Gambling Act. Sharkey explained that the council is required to publish its updated policy by December 31st to ensure it is in place for the next successive period starting January 31, 2025.

Sharkey detailed the consultation process conducted between July and mid-September, receiving 15 responses. Concerns were raised about gambling establishments in the borough, but Sharkey made it clear that under Section 153 of the Act, local authorities cannot arbitrarily limit the number of gambling premises. *"A local authority is required to grant an application unless there's a compelling case not to do so,"* she stated.

In an interesting turn, the conversation shifted toward the perception of gambling as a leisure activity. Councillor Andrée Frieze challenged the wording in the draft policy, which described gambling as an "important part of the leisure industry." Frieze argued that while gambling is legitimate, it should not be elevated as "important." After a brief exchange, it was agreed that the wording would be revised to *"legitimate part of the leisure industry."* Sharkey responded pragmatically, noting we can take out the adjective as it's just expressing the view of the authority.

Questions were also raised about how the council enforces compliance with local risk assessments. Sharkey assured the committee that Richmond's gambling operators are generally compliant and proactive in updating their assessments. *"We carried out a lot of proactive visits prior to the June meeting... and all had been above and beyond what's required,"* she confirmed.

With all queries addressed, the policy was approved for recommendation to full council.

2. Alcohol Cumulative Impact Policy: A Decade of Balance

Next on the agenda was the Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP), a key regulatory tool that has shaped Richmond's licensing landscape for over 20 years. Peter Willan, speaking on behalf of the Friends of Richmond Green, was the sole registered speaker. In his address, Willan highlighted the significance of the CIP in maintaining equilibrium in the town's hospitality scene.

"This policy has been absolutely vital to us," Willan remarked. *"We're essentially celebrating 20 years... of the cumulative impact policy. It has maintained a delicate balance between residents' concerns and the flourishing hospitality industry."* Willan acknowledged the council's efforts in continuously refining the policy and expressed hope that the committee would renew it for the foreseeable future.

Licensing Manager Sharkey returned to the floor to summarise the consultation responses, 17 of which had been received through an online survey. While most respondents were in favour of retaining the existing CIP for Richmond and Twickenham town centres, some had called for an expansion of the policy into other areas. However, Sharkey clarified that such decisions require robust evidence. *"While there are suggestions to expand the CIP, we can only do so with evidence that the policy would make a significant difference in those areas,"* she said. The policy will be reviewed again in three years, when more data can be gathered to assess whether new areas meet the criteria for a cumulative impact zone.

The committee was also informed about how the policy works in practice. Councillor Giesler raised the issue of high-crime areas and whether the council has ever had to reject a license due to elevated crime levels. Sharkey responded: *"To the best of my knowledge, we have not had an instance where crime has prevented an application. We do, however, liaise regularly with the police." The police support restaurant applications even when they are in a*

cumulative impact area.

With unanimous support from the committee, the Alcohol Cumulative Impact Policy was approved for recommendation to full council.

3. Roslyn Road Abortion Clinic Buffer Zone

The final item, and one of the most anticipated, was the proposal to extend the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) around the BPAS Abortion Clinic on Roslyn Road. The PSPO, which has been in place since 2019, creates a buffer zone around the clinic to prevent harassment of women seeking services. With the current order set to expire in March 2025, the committee was asked to approve a three-year extension and increase the area it covers.

Buffer zones around abortion clinics have ignited national debate following the arrest of Isabel Vaughan-Spruce, a Christian volunteer worker, for silently praying outside a clinic in Birmingham. The arrest, which occurred despite Vaughan-Spruce praying without any outward expression or visible action, has been described as the first prosecution of a so-called “thoughtcrime” in the 21st century. In February 2023, she was acquitted of all charges and received £13,000 in compensation.

The case has sparked a global backlash, with the US government citing it as an example of European authorities “*targeting individuals for their peaceful religious expression.*” Deputy Leader of Reform UK Richard Tice said: “*The arrests of Ms Vaughan-Spruce for silent prayer are another clear example of two-tier policing in the UK. Nobody should be criminalised for their thoughts. It is right that she has received compensation from the police.*”

Kieran Fagwall, Assistant Director for Stronger and Safer Communities, explained that this was not the first time the PSPO had been subject to review, and each time, it had been met with strong community support. Over 600 responses were received during the latest consultation, with more than 90% in favour of extending the order.

Councillor Michael Butlin noted that national legislation to establish similar buffer zones across the country was in progress but had yet to be enacted. Butlin said, “*I think it’s good practice to carry on with what we have,*” he argued. His fellow committee members agreed. Even when national legislation is enacted, the specifics of Richmond’s PSPO offer more tailored protections, which might not be replicated in a nationwide framework.

Councillor Phil Giesler sought clarification on what would happen when the national law does come into effect. Fagwall responded, “*While Section 9 of the Public Order Act is already in place, it has not been enacted yet. There are certain prohibitions that we are putting in for this buffer zone that potentially may not be covered by that new piece of legislation should it come in.*”

Councillor O’Carroll was particularly vocal in support of the PSPO, highlighting its broad cross-party backing. “*This has been one of the most universally supported measures we’ve taken. It was introduced with cross-party consensus, and I’m pleased to see that consensus continues,*” he said, referencing the strong bipartisan backing, including from the late Alderman Samuels, who had been a vocal supporter.

In closing, Councillor Suzette Nicholson pointed out that even some pro-life respondents had supported the PSPO, noting that aggression at the clinic, even from a pro-life perspective, was seen as unnecessary. However, in the consultation report, The Good Council Network, a pro-life group, stated, “As the Government has passed a law to bring in a National Buffer Zone, it seems to me that it is a great waste of your taxpayer’s money for Richmond Council to spend thousands of pounds on another Consultation to renew the local PSPO.”

With no objections, the committee agreed to extend the PSPO, subject to full council approval, before the March 2025 deadline.

Closing the meeting

Councillor Carroll praised the officers’ work and noted the significance of the decisions made. “*Our thanks to the officers who have done sterling work on this and all matters before this committee,*” he said before closing the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

You can read the papers of the meeting [HERE](#):

Teddington Beer Festival is back!

From Landmark Arts Centre

Teddington Beer Festival is back for a third time! Come along from Thursday 7 November to Sunday 10 November, where the festival will take place at Landmark Arts Centre, Teddington, London, TW11 9NN.

The event will feature an extensive selection of 75 cask ales from across the UK, including IPAs, pales, stouts, porters, and bitters.

Participants will have the opportunity to explore a variety of keg beers, 18 types of cider, and mead, alongside a diverse selection of wines, spirits, and no/low alcohol options.



There will also be food and live music from local musicians. Please note there will be no music on Friday afternoon.

The event will be taking place across the following dates:

- Thursday 7 November from 6 to 10.30pm
- Friday 8 November from 12 to 4.30pm and 6 to 10.30pm
- Saturday 9 November from 12 to 4.30pm and 6 to 10.30pm
- Sunday 10 November from 12 to 4.30pm

General admission tickets are available from £15.

Tickets include a souvenir glass, programme, first half pint beer token and access to entertainment.

Find out more about [Teddington Beer Festival](#).

Your attendance supports the arts and community programmes that make the Landmark Arts Centre a vibrant and essential part of Teddington. For nearly 30 years, this remarkable charity and venue have been focal points in the local community, hosting a wide array of events such as gigs, concerts, fairs, exhibitions, and classes. By participating in the beer festival, you're not only enjoying a memorable event, but you are also contributing to their ongoing fundraising efforts to preserve and enhance this iconic landmark and support their works.

St Mary's University

St Mary's Associate Professor Appointed Editor of International Golf Science Journal

Dr Alex Bliss, Associate Professor and Subject Lead for Strength and Conditioning at St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) has been appointed as the Editor-in-Chief at the International Journal of Golf Science.



Alex's PhD and golf research focuses primarily on the application and integration of physical training within high-performance golf. In 2022, Alex edited the book "Strength and Conditioning for Golf: A Guide for Coaches and Players" which was published by Routledge and has had copies sold worldwide.

Speaking on his appointment Alex said, *"I am honoured to take the role of Editor-in-Chief at the International Journal of Golf Science. The journal plays a crucial role in the creation and dissemination of knowledge in golf. I'd like to thank outgoing Editor-in-Chief, Dr Martin Toms, for considering me and congratulate him on his successful tenure in the role. I look*

Dr Alex Bliss, Associate Professor and Subject Lead for [Strength and Conditioning](#) at St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) has been appointed as the Editor-in-Chief at the [International Journal of Golf Science](#).

The journal is a peer reviewed publication and is the official journal of [Golf Science](#), also known as the World Scientific Congress of Golf. The journal itself was first published in August 2012 by Human Kinetics and is now published through Scholastica.

The mission of the journal is to advance the scientific knowledge of the game of golf, and in turn enhance the game through the application of that knowledge. All papers in the journal are open access with researchers able to submit and publish with the journal for free.

As part of the appointment, Alex also joins the Board of Golf Science.



forward to leading the journal and welcome prospective authors of golf research to consider submitting there in the future."



**St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London**

Richmond upon Thames College Art Students Paint Mural for Richmond in Europe Project



Level 2 Art and Design students at Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) were recently commissioned to design and paint a public mural in the A316 underpass near the college campus.

The Richmond in Europe Association asked students to paint a series of murals celebrating Richmond's links with its twinned towns in Europe, Fontainebleau in France and Konstanz in Germany.

Students developed motifs based on their research, then painted these onto the walls of the underpass. Each image is connected to the rest by 'ribbons' of paint which represent traditional English maypole ribbons. The painting was completed in weeks 3 and 4 of the first term of the academic year and the mural was officially opened by the Deputy Mayor of Richmond, Kuldev Sehra on the 2nd of October.



Speeches congratulating the students on their work were made by Alan Mockford, Chairman of the Richmond in Europe Association and

RuTC Art & Design teacher, Toby Rye. Principal of RuTC, Gavin Hughes, and the Head of Creative School, Jo Terrell, also joined the celebrations. Music teacher, Peter Garvey and members of his local choir provided musical entertainment at the event, including singing the European anthem, Ode to Joy.



Toby Rye commented, *"I am particularly proud of all the students' work, dedication and skill in completing the mural, as it was their first project for their Level 2 course.*

Working quickly to a deadline, all students contributed to this excellent venture."

[Learn more about Richmond's twinned towns here.](#)

[Interested in being part of exciting projects like this? Check out our Art & Design and other courses here.](#)



Sally Harris becomes the new Chair of Princess Alice Hospice

Princess Alice Hospice is delighted to announce that Sally Harris was appointed as their new Chair on Wednesday 9 October 2024.

Sally's predecessor, Professor Sean Hilton, was thanked at this week's Annual General Meeting for his 12 years of dedicated service as a trustee and, more recently, as Chair of Princess Alice Hospice.



Sally brings a wealth of professional and personal experience to the role. She began her career in retail finance and worked with the Arcadia Group for 13 years, where she became Finance Director for brands within the organisation, before moving to Marks & Spencer in 2012. Following the birth of her daughter, Sally re-trained as an executive coach.

Alongside her career, Sally started as a trustee and co-chair for the [Fertility Network](#), before becoming a trustee for [RNID](#), where she has been part of their transformational strategy that's seen

them move from providing care homes to focusing on social change. Sally also brings her passion for fashion to a trustee role at the [Fashion Retail Academy](#).

Sally said:

Community's really important to me, my values really match those at Princess Alice and it is a privilege to continue the fantastic work done by Sean and play my part in the incredible work done here.

Nigel Seymour, Chief Executive, said:

'I'm extremely grateful to Sean for his service and for ensuring there has been a smooth transition for Sally, who has been immersing herself in all things Princess Alice over the summer. Sally joins us at an exciting time and I look forward to seeing how her professional experience and personal qualities become embedded within the organisation.

We have challenges to face and an ever-changing healthcare system to work within, but we know this next stage brings many opportunities. We are an organisation full of brilliant people who are dedicated to reaching more people in underserved communities and reducing the level of unmet need in our care area.



Mapletoft to lead England A against Australia A

England U20 Men's head coach Mark Mapletoft will lead the England Men A squad against Australia A this autumn as the team's head coach.

The England A side return to face Australia A at the Twickenham Stoop on Sunday 17th November (14:00 GMT kick-off), with tickets available [here](#). In what is the first of two scheduled fixtures for the team this season, Ireland A await England at Ashton Gate Stadium on Sunday 23rd February (13:00 GMT kick-off).

After guiding the U20 Men to a 'double' Six Nations and World Rugby U20 Championship victory in 2024, Mapletoft is entrusted with the opportunity to head-up the programme in November as the England Men's Pathway strengthens its alignment across age groups.

The former Men A and senior men's international boasts a distinguished playing career at clubs such as Gloucester Rugby, Harlequins and London Irish, making his move into coaching alongside Nigel Redman in the RFU Pathway in his first spell back in 2007. Mapletoft then spent a decade at Harlequins before returning to England Rugby, firstly as U18 Men assistant coach, and then as U20 Men head coach as of May 2023.

Mapletoft will be accompanied by former England and British & Irish Lions international and current U20 Men assistant coach, Andy Titterrell, as the team's designated forwards coach.

Additionally, the duo will be bolstered by the inclusion of pathway scrum coach Nathan Catt and key U20 Men's Strength & Conditioning, Medical and Operational staff for the game.

Lee Blackett of Bath Rugby and Exeter Chiefs' Haydn Thomas join the coaching ticket as attack and defence coaches, respectively. Blackett had previous coaching stints at Rotherham Titans, Wasps and Scarlets before joining the Somerset side in 2023, whilst Chiefs' senior coach Thomas played a crucial role in the England U20 Men's recent silverware as defensive coordinator.

The exciting coaching team was chosen by the RFU in consultation with Premiership Rugby, with the selection of the match day 23 determined by senior men's head coach, Steve Borthwick, and RFU Executive Director of Performance Rugby, Conor O'Shea.

The England A side provides a platform for players transitioning from the Gallagher Premiership and pathway at U20 level to the senior men's team, with the reintroduction of the side coming earlier on in 2024 with a 91-5 victory over Portugal after an eight-year absence.

Wider squad information regarding the upcoming fixtures will be communicated in due course.

Upon confirmation of his appointment, Mark Mapletoft commented: *"It's an honour to be asked to take on this role with England A in November, I'm very proud and also grateful to be entrusted*

with the responsibility to preside over a very intriguing fixture.

“It’s important that the coaches and I maintain our work alongside Conor [O’Shea] and Steve [Borthwick] to ensure continued development for the best young players in our system. We want to demonstrate that we have a clear, linear progression for talent from age-grade to the pinnacle of English rugby.

“Just as with the other pathway and senior sides, we demand players embrace the opportunity and adapt to the England Rugby environment with new coaches and players. We can’t wait to get started.”

Conor O’Shea added: *“We are excited to see Mark and Andy continue their pathway work with this team, with Lee and Haydn completing an outstanding coaching team. The A team is and always will be a great development opportunity for coaches and players alike, and there will be a different group of coaches in place from the clubs for our A game in February against Ireland when Mark and Andy are with the U20 Men during the Six Nations.*

“The upcoming games offer a platform for emerging players in the English game and show a commitment to an ambitious, unified and winning England.

“Any fixture between England and Australia is special and we anticipate this game at The Stoop in November will be no different, both on and off the pitch, as we look to inspire the next generation of England Rugby supporters.”

Tickets for England A vs. Australia A at the Twickenham Stoop are available from £25 for adults and £15 for U16s* and can be purchased [here](#).

Tickets for England A’s clash against Ireland A also available via [this link](#).

England Men A coaching staff for Australia A fixture

- Mark Mapletoft – Head Coach
- Andy Titterrell – Forwards Coach
- Nathan Catt – Pathway Scrum Coach
- Lee Blackett – Attack Coach
- Haydn Thomas – Defence Coach

England Men A 2024/25 fixtures

- Sunday 17th November 2024 – England A vs. Australia A – Twickenham Stoop, 14:00 GMT kick-off
- Sunday 23rd February 2025 – England A vs. Ireland A – Ashton Gate, 13:00 GMT kick-off



Kevin Sinfield to continue role with England Rugby

England Rugby can confirm Kevin Sinfield will continue his involvement with the senior men's national team.

Sinfield, a former rugby league international, first joined the England set-up ahead of the 2023 Guinness Six Nations Championship initially as a defence coach and more recently tasked with improving individual skills and kicking, as well as fulfilling a squad mentoring role.

From November, Sinfield will continue his current responsibilities, however his contact time outside of Test windows and during match weeks will be reduced, allowing the 44-year-old greater flexibility to balance other personal and professional commitments.

"Kevin is a talented coach and an inspirational figure in our set-up", said England men's head coach Steve Borthwick.

"The work he does on and off the field is invaluable to our players, so I am pleased he'll remain part of the management team and continue to contribute towards the success of England Rugby.

Sinfield added: *"Working with Steve and the team has been an immensely rewarding experience, and I am excited to continue my involvement with the team.*

"This new arrangement allows me to keep doing the thing that I'm passionate about, coaching and mentoring players, while also balancing other commitments which are important to me."

As of 2024, Sinfield has raised over £10m for Motor Neurone Disease (MND) research and charities.

His fundraising efforts began when his former rugby league teammate and friend Rob Burrow was diagnosed with MND in 2019 and have included running seven marathons in seven days as well as other endurance feats.

Burrow sadly passed away in June, but Sinfield's fundraising continues. Later this year he will embark on his latest challenge as he attempts to run over 50km every day for a week, visiting towns and cities across Great Britain and Northern Ireland including Liverpool, Wrexham, Gloucester, Belfast, Stirling, Glasgow, Hull, Northampton, Leicester and Manchester.

England welcome New Zealand at Allianz Stadium, Twickenham on Saturday 2 November (kick-off 3.10pm) for their first match of the Autumn Nations Series, before taking on Australia, South Africa and Japan.



Every Seat Counts dashboard launches

Updates to the Every Seat Counts policy include a new dashboard for tracking yellow cards

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford has launched a new Every Seat Counts dashboard to help supporters keep track of their season ticket usage.

Last year, the club introduced the Every Seat Counts policy to help reduce the number of empty seats at Gtech Community Stadium.

The new dashboard will make it easier for season ticket holders and premium seat holders to keep track of any yellow cards accumulated throughout the season. The dashboard will be updated within five working days of each fixture.

[Click here to go to the dashboard](#) and log in using your Brentford FC account details.

Updates to the Every Seat Counts policy for 2024/25

As a reminder, two new updates have been made to the Every Seat Counts policy for the 2024/25 season:

- **A new deadline for listing on the ticket exchange**

The deadline for season ticket holders and premium seat holders to list their tickets on the ticket exchange will move from 10am on a matchday, to **2pm on the day before the game.**

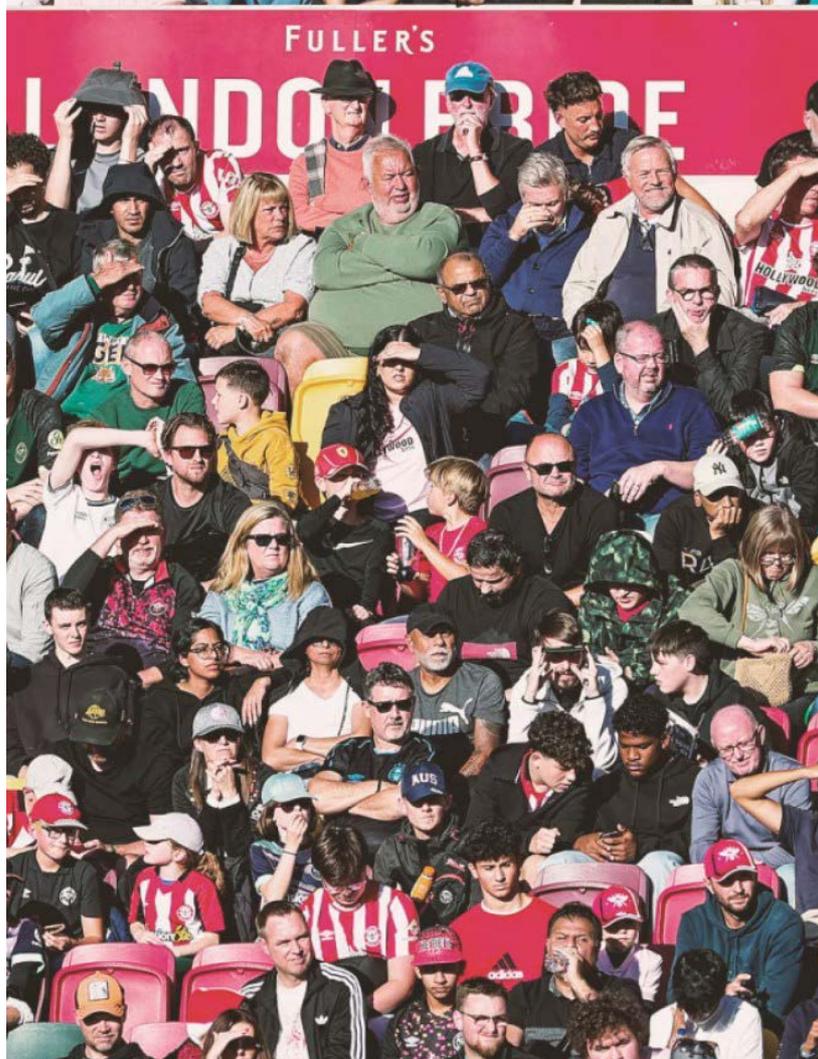
We are aware that this might impact fans who have responsibilities which can impact their plans at the last minute. We won't penalise fans in this position.

If you would like us to keep a record of your personal circumstances on file to help us review any yellow cards, please email us at tickets@brentfordfc.com.

Under-18s, fans with disabilities, and their personal assistants, remain exempt from the policy.

- **Guaranteed payout when you list your ticket a week before the game**

To increase the early availability of tickets on the exchange for other Bees fans wanting to come to games, we have been **guaranteeing payouts** for Premier League tickets even if they don't sell - as long as they are listed at least seven days in advance of the fixture.



If you know in advance that you can't attend a game, list your ticket as early as you can - but at least a week or more before matchday to ensure you receive your payout.

For example, if you list up until 11.59pm on the Saturday prior to a game at 3pm on the following Saturday, you will receive a 19th of the cost of your season ticket back as credit into your account!

More about the Every Seat Counts policy

Last year, the club introduced the Every Seat Counts policy to help reduce the number of empty seats at the Gtech Community Stadium.

As part of the policy, if a season ticket or premium seat holder fails to use their ticket for a league match, they will receive a 'yellow card'. Fans who get four yellow cards by the next season ticket renewal date will lose the automatic right to renew their season ticket for the new season.

As a result of introducing the policy, and thanks to the support of our season ticket holders, we saw a reduction in empty seats of around 500 per match.

Additionally, in the 2023/24 season, over £300,000 was given back to season ticket holders through sales on the ticket exchange, and almost 10,000 My Bees Members were able to purchase tickets, allowing more Bees fans to get to games than ever before.

To avoid getting a yellow card this season

Each season ticket or premium seat holder must 'use' their ticket by performing one of the following actions:

1. Attend the match and have their season ticket card scanned
2. Transfer their ticket to another Brentford supporter and the recipient scans the ticket
3. List their ticket on the ticket exchange prior to **2pm on the day before the game**
4. Sell their ticket on the ticket exchange, even if they miss the 2pm deadline

We recommend that all season ticket holders and premium seat holders look at the list of upcoming fixtures well in advance to identify any games that you're not able to attend.

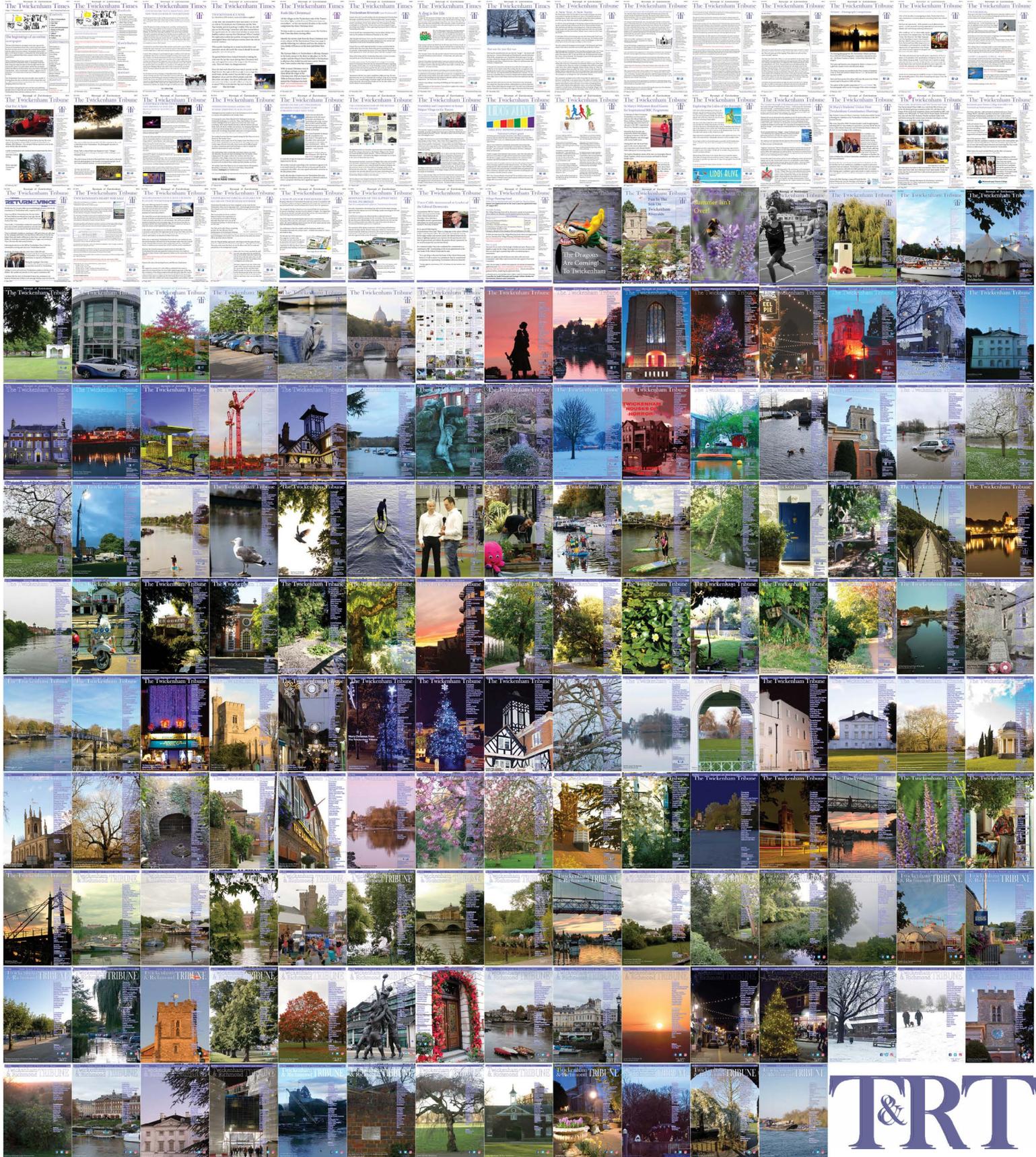
Fans should also stay alert to changes in dates and times of fixtures throughout the season. To get the latest updates on fixture rescheduling, please ensure that the contact details on your Brentford FC account are up to date and that you have opted in to receive communications from the club. You can also receive fixture rescheduling notifications directly to your phone if you download the [Brentford FC app](#).

If you have any questions about the Every Seat Counts policy, please contact tickets@brentfordfc.com.

If you are a premium seat holder with special dispensation, or you have any questions, please contact premiumseating@brentfordfc.com.



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