

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



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TickerTape - News in Brief

Rugby at Twickenham Stadium

ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA: Saturday 9th November, KO 15:10

Attendance 82,000

Whitton, Rugby & London Roads close 13:10-15:10 and 16:40-19:10.

CPZ in operation 11:00-23:00.

Shuttle buses from Hounslow East and Richmond.

South Western Railway

Altered train services due to Rugby at **Twickenham Saturday 9 November**

London Waterloo - Shepperton

- **Between 0911 and 2111**, all **Shepperton to London Waterloo** services are diverted via **Twickenham**.
- **Between 1012 and 2212***, all **London Waterloo to Shepperton** services are diverted via **Twickenham**. ***Between 1112 and 1342**, services depart at **xx:15/xx:45**.

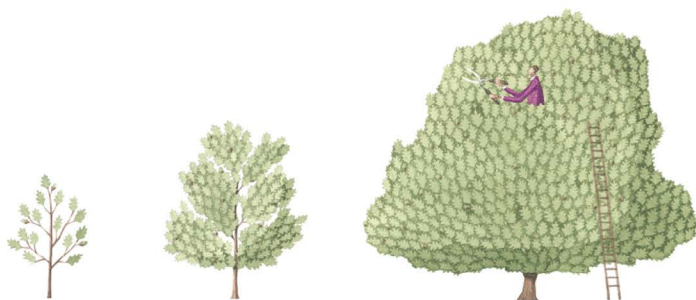
London Waterloo – Reading

- Services will depart **earlier** from **Reading** through most of the day (at **xx:05** and **xx:35**).
- Trains departing **Reading** between **1600** and **2100** will call additionally at **Putney and Vauxhall**.
- Services will also run **later** from **Richmond to Reading** before the match.

Altered train services and buses replace trains in the **Teddington** area **Sunday 10 November**

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

- **London Waterloo to Shepperton** services will be diverted after **New Malden** and will terminate at **Hampton Court**, calling additionally at **Surbiton**.
- **Buses** will run between **New Malden and Shepperton via Kingston**.
- **London Waterloo to London Waterloo via Wimbledon and Kingston** services will be diverted after **New Malden** and will terminate at **Hampton Court**, calling additionally at **Surbiton**.
- **Buses** will run between **New Malden and Twickenham via Kingston**.
- The afternoon and evening **London Waterloo to Kingston via Hounslow** services will terminate at **Hounslow**.
- Some **London Waterloo to Windsor** services will be retimed to leave **London Waterloo** earlier and make additional stops between **London Waterloo and Twickenham**.



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darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 274

Kneller Senior Girls School

By Alan Winter

With several postcards of the school in my collection, I was encouraged to write this column when Richard Seuke kindly passed me a copy of David Rose's 2018 book on the subject which tells the whole story. Our first image is the cover of the book and I understand it may still be available from <http://www.twickenham-museum.org.uk/> for further information. The publication "Kneller Senior Girls' School, Meadway, Twickenham, 1935 – 1980" is available there priced about £5.

Prior to 1926, Twickenham had been an urban district council. In 1926 it received its charter as a borough in its own right. This new Borough of Twickenham was now responsible for the education of all the children within its district and this led to the establishment of the Kneller Senior Schools.

The first entry in the Headmaster's log reads 2nd December 1935. "The Kneller Senior Girls School opened this morning". The official opening ceremony was to take place early in the New Year. The other half of the building was Kneller Senior Boys School which we will cover in a future column.

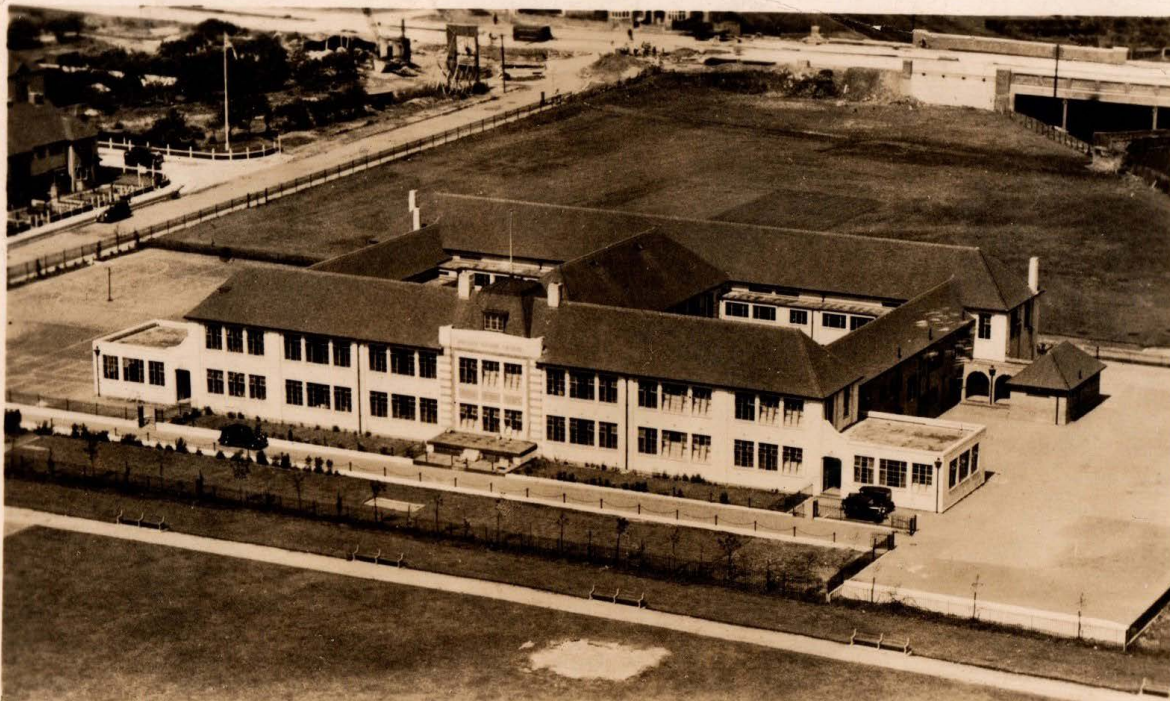
Kneller Senior Girls' School,
Meadway, Twickenham

1935 – 1980



by

David Rose



1737

KNELLER SENIOR SCHOOLS, TWICKENHAM

AERO PICTORIAL LTD.
135 REGENT STREET, W 1

Our first postcard's photo was taken from an aeroplane in late 1935 and you can see Meadway to the left with an unfinished Chertsey Road (A316) still being built at the top of the photograph.

The next postcard shows the school from across Kneller Gardens.

Many of today's

readers won't believe this but there was a "Marriage Bar" which meant that female teachers had to resign their positions if they got married. This had been in place since the early 1900's but it was abolished under the Education Act in 1944. In other professions the "Marriage Bar" continued much later and in the Civil Service it was not ended until 1951.



Also in 1951, at Kneller, Physical Education Sports included Gymnastics, dancing, netball, rounders, tennis, athletics, swimming and hockey which made full use of the available accommodation, both indoor and outdoor.

Lack of accommodation to meet the needs of an increasing school population was to be a continuing issue for the next decade and

beyond. The Kneller roll was 645 at the beginning of the 1957 academic year.

In 1959 the Girls school took over all of the Boys school, the boys moving to Whitton Secondary Mixed School in Percy Road, Whitton. This left the girls roll with 774 pupils.

During the 1960's school trips to foreign destinations became an annual feature of school life and visits took place to Paris, Switzerland, Austria and Venice. There were also regular cruises taking place in this period.

Of great significance was the raising of the school leaving age to 16 from September 1972.

The mid 1970's saw a transition period with the government being driven by Margaret Thatcher moving senior education towards and into comprehensive status. As for Kneller girls it was decided that those who were 16+ in September 1973 would continue at Kneller to complete their courses while those girls who were 16+ in September 1974 would transfer to Thames Valley College in Fifth Cross Road on 1st September 1974.

The end of Kneller Senior Girls School was now in sight and the lead paragraph of the Richmond and Twickenham Times on 3rd June 1977 declared. "Richmond upon Thames Council plans to move the 750 pupils of Kneller Girls School, Meadway, Twickenham, to the buildings of Thames Valley College in Fifth Cross Road – and to sell the school site".

And so, at 11.59 pm on 31st August 1980. Kneller Girls School ceased to be and as part of a merger of Kneller and Twickenham Girls Schools on the Fifth Cross Road Site, Waldegrave Girls School was born.

My thanks to David Rose's book for all the detail in today's column. I just took a few key dates and happenings from it but there is much more fascinating detail between the book covers. I thoroughly recommend you get a copy if Kneller was your school or if you want to get on top of a large chunk of Twickenham's educational history.

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

CrusaderTravel

020 8744 0474

crusadertravel.com

Escapology Experts

info@crusadertravel.com



Your friendly local Travel Agency
established in Twickenham since 1966

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



Hampton Wick Residents Clash with Sainsbury's Over Alcohol Licence Proposal

In a robust council meeting, Hampton Wick residents came face-to-face with Sainsbury's representatives over the application for a new premises licence at the Sainsbury's Local, 5961 High Street, Hampton Wick. The proposal, which seeks permission to sell alcohol from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., drew significant community concern, raising alarm over potential public nuisance, safety risks, and the character of the area.

The subcommittee meeting, chaired by Councillor Lesley Pollesche, witnessed passionate arguments from both sides. The council chamber, filled with local residents and stakeholders, served as a platform for expressing grievances. Residents expressed concerns about noise, litter, traffic congestion, and underage drinking, especially given the store's proximity to schools and parks. Andrew Davis, a long-time resident, highlighted the narrowness of the high street and the high likelihood of increased disturbances. He supported his claims with persuasive photographs comparing Hampton Wick's tight layout to other, more spacious areas.

Tony Page, another local voice, stated that the new license could exacerbate existing issues, such as disorderly behaviour in nearby Bushy Park and at the local cricket club—both of which are already hotspots for underage drinking. "Hampton Wick has always maintained a quiet, residential character," Page noted, indicating that the introduction of a supermarket alcohol license could disrupt that balance.

The Applicant's Defence. Robert Botkheim, solicitor for Sainsbury's, alongside licensing manager Joanne Serguy and transport planner Gary Speller, sought to alleviate concerns. Botkheim emphasised that Sainsbury's had no intention of operating a 24-hour store, a point clouded by earlier miscommunications. He reiterated that the proposed opening and alcohol sale hours matched the store's regular trading hours. To counter fears about public nuisance, Sainsbury's proposed limiting delivery times to between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., barring exceptions for small deliveries like bread.

Addressing security, Botkheim assured that Sainsbury's stores adhere to stringent procedures, including Challenge 25 ID checks. The Metropolitan Police confirmed that conditions agreed upon with Sainsbury's were satisfactory enough for the police to withdraw their objections. However, concerns about potential external deliveries via third-party platforms like Uber Eats or Deliveroo remained contentious. Botkheim asserted that current plans did not include such services but left the door open for future operational shifts.

Community Outcry and the Path Ahead. While Sainsbury's maintained its position of aligning with the community's interests, several residents, including Maria McManus, voiced their apprehension that the proposal would invite increased foot traffic and late-night disorder. They cited past issues with gatherings and unsanctioned activities in public areas.

Paul Moore raised concerns about the safety risks posed by delivery vehicles navigating the busy, congested high street. He highlighted the danger to pedestrians, particularly during peak traffic hours when buses and emergency vehicles frequently use the route.

Despite assurances from Sainsbury's representatives about their commitment to maintaining community peace, the room remained split. While some arguments turned to procedural nuances—whether issues such as the adequacy of parking or traffic management fell under licensing or planning purviews—residents' emotional appeals highlighted their desire for the council to prioritise the community's long-standing tranquillity.

Conclusion: The licensing subcommittee has adjourned to deliberate, with a decision expected within five working days. The outcome will either reassure residents by upholding their concerns or grant Sainsbury's the sought-after licence, reshaping the high street dynamic. Much of the opposition clearly stems from the council turning a Napoleonic blind eye to ASB in the borough's open spaces at night.



Kettner Concerts in Twickenham



Unheard Harmonies

a piano and cello recital

LYDIA HILLERUDH (cello), CRISTIAN SANDRIN (piano)
Saturday, November 16, 2024 6pm

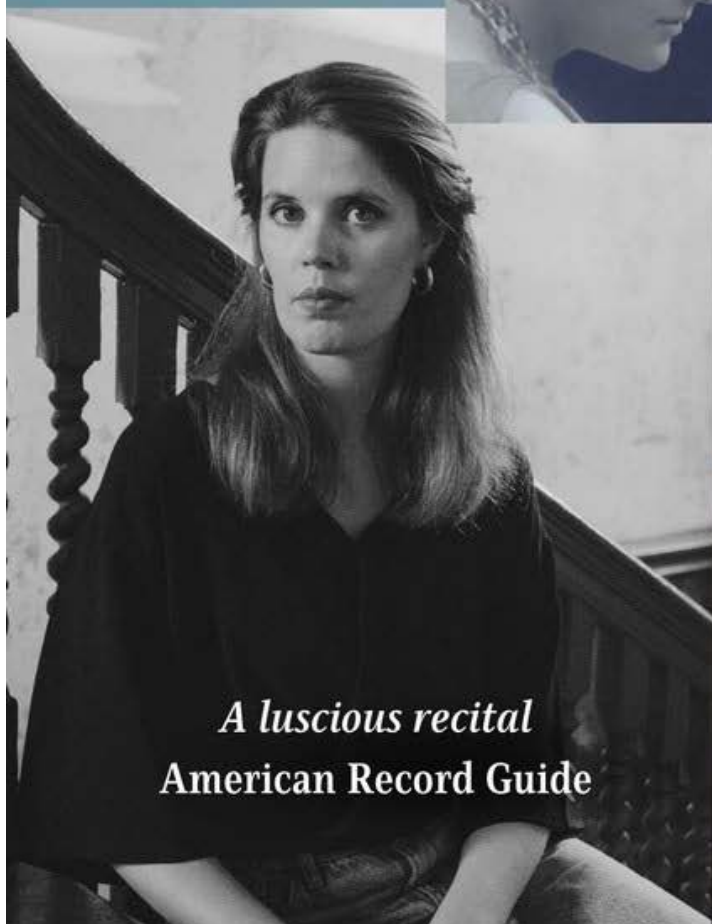
Tonight our outstanding young artists have joined forces to perform sonatas by two unjustly neglected Edwardian women composers alongside lesser-known works by Beethoven and Vaughan Williams, the Seven Variations on Mozart's Marriage of Figaro, and Six Studies in English Folk Song respectively. All the 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)

Locals at The March For Clean Water

From (SOLAR Save Our Lands And River)

Around 15,000 from around the UK came together in London last Sunday in The March For Clean Water initiated by River Action group. Many residents from Teddington, Twickenham and Ham took part together with supporters of local clean water campaign group SOLAR, Save Our Lands and River, alongside 140 other organisations.

The rally's central demand was that: 'the new government enforce the current law and deliver new legislation that will end all pollution and restore our rivers, waterways, seas and reservoirs to full health by 2030.'

Local group SOLAR was there to represent the widespread and serious local concerns about Thames Water's Teddington Direct River Abstraction (TDRA) plan. The TDRA is proposed to take water from the Thames above Teddington weir for transfer to reservoirs in E London and replace it with treated sewage piped underground from Mogden sewage works, Isleworth, to the river upstream of the weir.



March outside Downing St

SOLAR's campaign challenges [STOP Thames Water TDRA - Save Our Lands & River from Thames Water](#) have forced Thames Water to make changes to their TDRA plan over this summer saving much recreational, environmental and ecological damage to sites in Moormead Park, Ham Lands and the Thames. However, the company still fails to address many issues. SOLAR continues to press the company and Steve Reed, Secretary of State for environmental matters about local community concerns:

- Thames Water cannot say what the environmental impact will be from contaminates - the antibiotics, hormones, microplastics, forever chemicals etc which their planned tertiary treatment plant at Mogden sewage work will not remove
- still no evidence the proposal satisfies challenges raised by the Environment Agency (EA) earlier this year – harm to biodiversity and the water ecosphere?
- there remain better and more sustainable alternatives with lower risks – why no evidence they get serious consideration?
- water quality threats from pumped treated effluent seriously challenge the wide range of recreational usage on and in this, the most used recreational, stretch of the Thames. London's mayor Sadiq Kahn recently vowed to make the Teddington an open water swimming spot!
- TW have not reviewed their "best value" argument since major new tunnelling costs, at very high borrowing rates, incurred for the pipeline under Twickenham and Ham
- much local feedback indicates very low trust in Thames Water's intentions for TDRA. Its performance in river quality management is not well respected.

Update - Richmond to Kew towpath

From Richmond Council

The Thames towpath between Richmond Lock and Kew Gardens car park on Ferry Lane is still entirely closed following the collapse of a section of the towpath on Saturday 19 October.

We are not the only body with interests and responsibilities in the damaged section, but we have consciously taken the lead on this very complex project and are convening relevant parties in efforts to deliver solutions as quickly as possible.



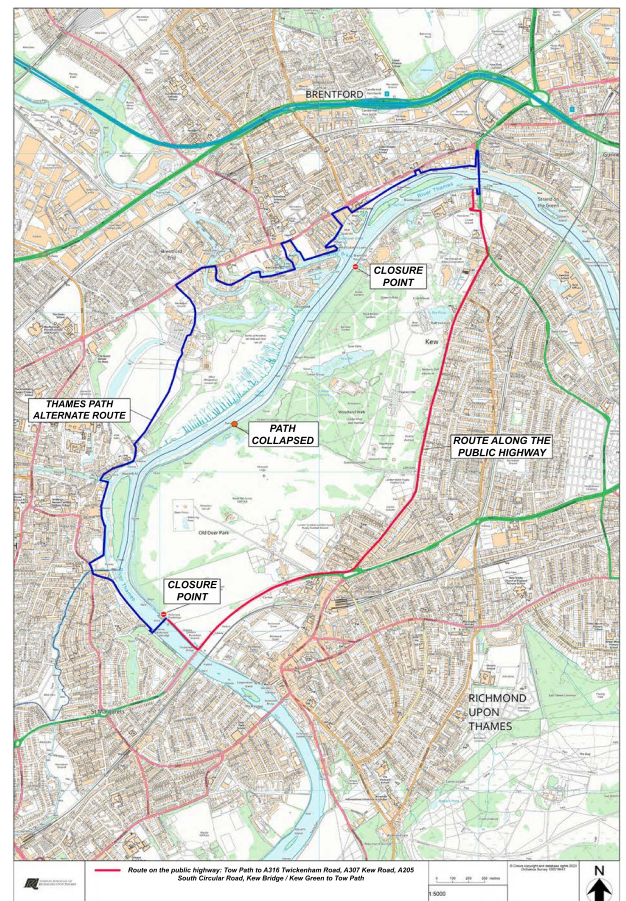
While we are still undertaking ground investigations, the collapse is likely to have been caused by a combination of factors including the high river levels and high winds on that day. Since the collapse, our engineers have been working with specialist contractors to investigate this and to explore temporary and permanent solutions.

The diversions already in place will remain for now, with fencing still in place at either end of the closure. Residents and visitors are asked not to make any attempt to access the towpath, as it is not safe.

Diversions are in place:

- For towpath walkers and cyclists, a route is shown on the map on the opposite side of the river, crossing at Richmond Lock
- For a more direct route to Kew, pedestrians and cyclists can take Kew Road (A307)
- Diversion signage is in place at Twickenham Bridge and at Ferry Lane

You can [view a map showing the diversions](#) or [find out more about the National Trail diversion route](#).



Council Reports

Environment, Sustainability, Culture, and Sport Committee

By James Knight

The committee's most significant decision was to reduce the discount for swimmers over 60, marking the second consecutive year of absorbing a steep increase. As a result, swimming costs will rise by more than 33% for pensioners not receiving pension credit, reflecting Labour's changes to the winter fuel payment. This decision highlights the alignment between Labour and the LibDems in redirecting funds from pensioners to younger people.

A proposed two-year partnership with "Make My House Green" aims to revive a group-buying initiative for solar panels. Richmond's previous involvement in a similar program, the Solar Together initiative, received mixed reactions. Although there was clear public interest, the program faced significant criticism, resulting in one installer going bankrupt and numerous complaints from participants about delays and being treated with disrespect by the installers.

The new scheme aims to address past shortcomings by offering competitive group pricing and upfront online quotations. A public speaker highlighted several significant omissions: the lack of specific targets, clarity on CO2 savings, cost-benefit analyses, and essential ethical considerations such as the risk of modern slavery in the supply chain. As Martin Baker noted, while the Cotswold District Council decided to return referral fees to residents in the form of discounts, Richmond's plan to use these fees in a "joint marketing pot" raised eyebrows, casting doubt on who truly benefits the most—residents or the council coffers.

Paul Chadwick, the Executive Director of Environment and Community Services, and Andrew Haggar, the Head of Climate Change and Sustainability, defended the transparency of their partnership. However, both councillors and residents raised concerns about the due diligence conducted. Their main worry was whether the partnership and its proposed fees genuinely serve the borough's best interests or merely promote commercial expansion disguised as eco-responsibility.

Although Make My House Green has been assured of relevant accreditations, doubts persist over whether these standards are stringent enough. The debate sparked a broader dialogue: Does the council rigorously vet its partners for responsible business practices, including environmental sustainability and ethical labour practices? Councillor McLeod asked an essential question: "Are we certain our appointed providers meet basic responsible business criteria?" The committee appeared unsure if Richmond's procurement policies adequately addressed these concerns, and it became clear that pressing gaps exist in transparency and oversight.

A Rising Tide of Costs: while the solar panel scheme dominated headlines, the committee's agenda also included evaluating new fees in the leisure sector. Head of Finance Alex Moylan noted that inflation had led to a 2.2% general fee increase. However, the introduction of more accessible pricing schemes was presented as a countermeasure. Yet, buried within the hopeful rhetoric, some price hikes, such as a 33% increase for the over-60 swim membership, raised concerns about their impact during a cost-of-living crisis.

Councillor McLeod stated, “The reality is that these adjustments, although minor individually, collectively strain household finances.” Residents shared this concern, questioning whether the council’s good intentions may inadvertently worsen economic divides. Upon reviewing the report, it was notable that no equalities impact assessment was conducted, which is especially concerning given that single female retirees have 40% less income than their male counterparts.

Community Engagement and Strategic Planning: The committee explored climate resilience projects such as “**Community Bluescapes**,” which secured DEFRA funding to enhance flood defences and received enthusiastic support. However, concerns about funding dependencies and sustainability remained. Lizzie Bunker, the program manager, highlighted successes like the installation of reed beds and sustainable drainage systems. Nevertheless, it was clear that without ongoing investment and long-term support, these pilot projects could face challenges once the initial excitement fades.

Many speakers emphasised that the council should align its ambitious environmental strategies with practical cost management and transparent policies. As Councillor Needham-Watts stated, Richmond’s vision must increase the pace of action as she conceded the council had been falling short.

While Richmond’s council is committed to sustainability, the execution and financial soundness of its plans are subject to debate. The council must balance promoting green initiatives with imposing fair, sustainable costs on taxpayers. As residents look ahead, the question remains whether the council’s actions will be seen as genuine steps toward a greener future or merely as another example of the council trying to appear greener than it actually is.

New almshouses on Queen’s Road opening this spring

From The Richmond Charities

In March 2025, Richmond Charities’ new Elizabeth Doughty Almshouses on Queen’s Road in Richmond will be opening for older residents living in the borough.

The brand new development will feature one two-bed and eleven one-bed high quality, accessible and adaptable dwellings, with one specifically designed for wheelchair users. These almshouses will be suitable for older people in need of level access accommodation.

These affordable homes will be suitable for the over 65s in the borough who are in housing and financial need. To apply or for more details, contact The Richmond Charities on info@richmondcharities.org.uk.



The [Richmond Charities](https://www.richmondcharities.org.uk) provides a vibrant, friendly and caring community where older people are encouraged to live full and active lives within the setting of high quality housing, support, comfort and security.



Twickenham Conservatives

SHADOW MP SURGERY



Jonathan Hulley, your Conservative Parliamentary spokesperson for Twickenham constituency, will be holding a Shadow MP Surgery on:

**Saturday November 16th
from 10am to 12noon.**



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

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

Everyone welcome to attend

Promoted by John Davey of Twickenham Conservatives, both at 90 York Road, Teddington, TW11 8SN.

Richmond Council's Tree Planting Policy Under Fire: Suburban Residents Left in the Shade

In recent years, Richmond Council has eagerly promoted its tree-planting achievements, portraying itself as a green leader for the community. But a closer look reveals a troubling picture that is causing frustration for residents in suburban areas like Whitton, where once lush, tree-lined streets are now marred by empty patches of tarmac. While the council proudly touts its planting statistics, many local streets are losing trees without adequate replacements.

The 2024-2025 Annual Tree Planting List boasts 682 planned plantings, including 118 entirely new trees, yet many are destined for parks, and replacement trees are sometimes nowhere near where a tree was removed.

Historically, many Richmond's streets were designed with a regular planting pattern, placing a tree between every pair of semi-detached houses. This created lush, shaded streets that enhanced character and aesthetic appeal. However, current policies have reduced tree planting density, with the council opting not to plant trees directly opposite each other. The justification for this is to minimize complaints about light obstruction and to create additional parking spaces, which often take priority over preserving tree-lined avenues. It seems that the council has even given its transport department veto power over new planting locations.

Residents express their concerns about the impact of this new approach. On Waverley Avenue in Whitton, one resident shared her frustration with The Tribune, highlighting areas of tarmac where beautiful, mature trees once stood. Photos from Google Streetview show evidence of this transformation, illustrating the street's decline due to street trees not being replaced.

It's not just Waverley Avenue; on Pauline Crescent, another Whitton street that spans only 250 meters, ten trees have been removed without being replaced. The council's shift to a sparse planting strategy has left this street—and many others—without their green canopy, with minimal efforts to restore it. This lack of planting has led many to question the council's true commitment to urban greening.

The council's failure to fulfil its promises has added to residents' discontent. In its 2018 Corporate Plan, the council committed to developing an online portal for residents to suggest planting locations. However, this portal has not materialised, and the commitment has been quietly dropped. Instead, the council now promises to plant 800 net new trees between 2022 and 2026, which averages about 45 trees per ward. Notably, the tree department now refuses to consult with residents or consider suggestions, leaving them with little input and feeling disempowered.

The high rate of tree removal in Richmond has raised questions about the council's oversight of utility work. Many allege that many utility subcontractors often cut through tree roots, leaving the soil improperly filled and causing trees to die within a year or two. In many cases, these removals seem to go unnoticed, leading to a cumulative decline in suburban tree cover.

While Richmond Council claims to prioritise sustainability, the reality tells a different story. For residents of Whitton and beyond, the council's actions feel more like a symbolic gesture than a genuine commitment to urban greening. As tarmac replaces trees, the council must consider whether it is truly planting roots in its community or merely masking a deepening environmental and aesthetic gap.

For residents who were promised greener streets, the council's tree policy feels like a broken promise—one that Whitton's suburban streets can no longer afford to bear.

You can see the planting list by following the link [HERE](#)

Adventures in Richmond and The Arcadian Thames

by Bruce Lyons

I've written before about Tourism in our borough. I have been working here in Church Street Since 1966, mostly as your local retail travel agent but also as a specialist tour operator for worldwide wildlife, scuba diving and creating programs to the Red Sea and the USA as well as countries closer to home.

But our spectacular borough has always had a special place in my heart. Early in the new Millenium I spent a great deal of time doing my darndest to get all sort of support and collaboration to no avail. I did try to create a consortium of likeminded people in the Attraction/ Hotels/Civic Administrations but in the end I had to abandon the venture.



However, from another direction, there came light!! My love of the Thames and my involvement with Shona (my daughter) in creating the annual (since 1995 until 2019) Twickenham Festival and the yearly River Cruise to Hampton Court from Eel Pie Island and our annual participation with our 1910 double leisure scull in the Great River Race opened up a new window of opportunity. From 2014 we offered GRR entries hotel accommodation options and Spectator Boats and then in 2019 we were asked to do also all the transportation from the borough to the Isle of Dogs (opposite Greenwich) to the start of the race. As they say "from little acorns mighty oaks grow" This year we transported nearly 1000 rowers from local hotels accommodated nearly 400 people. Nearly Half were from overseas; USA, Holland and Spain. For forward GRR bookings in 2025 we already have a group of 60 from America rowing in 4 boats & a local guide (Guild Member) to do escorted walks.

Our borough has a Pandora's box of jewels. Perhaps the finest collection of attractions you could find anywhere; Kew Royal Botanic Gardens, Turners House, Strawberry Hill House, Ham



House, Marble Hill House; the Royal Parks of Bushy and Richmond; Hampton Court Palace, The View, River Cruise Boats on the Arcadian Thames; Both Richmond and Twickenham have Museums as well as the Eel Pie Island Museum. Rugby @ The Stoop and The Alliance Stadium is home to worldwide rugby, the iconic Richmond Theatre too- and a plethora too of good restaurants, bars, Heritage English Gastro Pubs too! The borough also has an eclectic mix of hotels to suit all tastes. And all this just 30 minutes to Central London, with our fantastic public transport links.



So, with the success of 2024 around me (or in my blood?) I am tackling incoming tourism afresh - with renewed zest – tricky to find @ 90yrs! We are finding it more successful going alone and really we are too small to be a threat to “over tourism” and unlikely to attract 1000’s of Chinese, Americans, Russians and North Koreans – at least not in our first season!!!

But I can dream!!!!



Lord True reappointed as Shadow Leader of the House of Lords

Kemi Badenoch has re-appointed Lord True, the former Leader of Richmond Council, in his leading role as Shadow Leader of the House of Lords. He embodies a conservative ethos and career trajectory that melds both policy influence and public service. Born in 1951 and educated at Nottingham High School and Peterhouse, Cambridge, Lord True studied Byzantine history, gaining a double first in classics and History. His early years, however, are less about lofty titles and more about an unpretentious dedication to political thought, roots in conservative research, and even international flair—True is a fluent Italian speaker, having spent considerable time studying and living in Italy.

His political journey began within the Conservative Research Department, a proving ground for many of the party's thinkers. There, from 1975 to 1982, he laid the groundwork for a formidable advisory career. In 1978, he was appointed assistant to the Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party, eventually serving as a special adviser to Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Security. These early years reflect not only True's ideological alignment but also his increasing reputation as a trusted voice within the Conservative circle, further validated by his appointment as Director of the Public Policy Unit in 1986. By 1991, he had risen to Deputy Head of the Prime Minister's Policy Unit and later became a special adviser to John Major—Prime Minister, who described True as his "favourite speechwriter," a testament to True's influence on Major's voice and vision. He was honoured with a CBE in 1993 for these contributions.



Beyond Westminster, True's influence stretched to local governance. He served as a Conservative councillor in Richmond upon Thames, representing the area with commitment from 1986 to 1990 and again from 1998 to 2018, including a tenure as Leader of the Council from 2010 to 2017. His local governance experience allowed him to remain grounded in the practicalities of public service, reinforcing his Conservative pragmatism and enriching his perspectives on national issues.

In February 2020, his career took a pivotal turn as he was appointed Minister of State at the Cabinet Office. Then, with Liz Truss as Prime Minister, he ascended further, taking on the significant role of Leader of the House of Lords on 6 September 2022. A few days later, he was sworn into the Privy Council, securing his place at the heart of the British establishment. Notably, Lord True played a central role in the Accession Council, which formally proclaimed Charles III as King in September 2022—a historic moment in which True's ceremonial and governmental roles intertwined.

Today, as Shadow Leader of the House of Lords, Lord True continues to shape Conservative policy and discourse. He remains a statesman of quiet determination, his legacy crafted as much through his role as a principled public servant as through his intellectual and ideological contributions to British conservatism. His enduring dedication to both local and national governance speaks to a vision of conservatism that is deeply rooted in tradition, tempered by pragmatic experience.

Photo Crown copyright

Lime Bike Parking

Photo of the week

Nope, nobody's using this pavement!



Richmond pedals to victory with highest number of community cargo bikes in London

From Richmond Council

Richmond upon Thames is now home to ten community cargo bikes thanks to our new bike hosted by the Waterman's Arms in Barnes.

This exciting addition is part of the OurBike community scheme, which offers an affordable and sustainable transportation option for residents and businesses with their electric cargo bikes available for hire by the minute. They can be booked with the OurBike app for just £3 an hour.

The first 60 minutes is free for all new users signed up as residents and 180 minutes for those signed up as businesses.

[View a map of all the locations in the borough.](#)

Richmond upon Thames now boasts the highest number of community cargo bikes of any London borough.

This achievement demonstrates our commitment to providing a convenient and safe environment for cycling as we strive to become the cargo bike capital of London. We have also introduced dedicated cargo bike parking bays near popular destinations for young families including primary schools, playgrounds and libraries.

Local residents and businesses can also rent cargo bikes, e-cargo bikes or trailers through our 'Try Before You Bike' scheme thanks to our partnership with Peddle My Wheels. Bikes are available on a one month subscription that you can cancel or renew whenever you wish or even buy the bike at the end of your trial.



Find out about the [cargo bike hire scheme](#) and [how the OurBike scheme works](#).

You may qualify for discounts on your water bill

From Richmond Council

We have written to over 900 households who could be eligible for reductions of up to 50% on their water bills.

Thames Water offers two types of support with its bills – WaterHelp and WaterSure.

WaterHelp

If your water bill is more than 5% of your net household income (excluding disability benefits), you could get a 50% discount.

WaterSure

If you have a water meter, receive a means tested benefit (such as Universal Credit or Housing Benefit), and either have a medical condition requiring extra water or have three or more children under the age of 19, your bill will be capped at £471 for 2024 to 25.



How to apply

Contact Thames Water on 0800 980 8800 with details of your income, debts, regular bills, other outgoings, and your Thames Water account number which can be found at the top of your bill.

Thames Water also offers other types of financial support.

If you're falling behind on your bills, you may be able to apply for WaterDirect to pay these directly from any benefits you receive.

If you're struggling to pay previous water bills, you may be able to apply for debt support. This means Thames Water will match your payments towards your debt and will write off the debt completely after two years of regular payments.

Other support

Social tariff discounts are also available on some other household bills, including energy, mobile phones and broadband. If you contact your current providers, you may be able to switch to a cheaper social tariff.

You can also visit the [Richmond Cost of Living Hub](#) for the latest information on what support is available nationally and locally as well as details of the borough's [network of Community Spaces](#) and [free support calculator](#).

You can also [sign up to receive cost of living support updates](#) straight to your inbox.

Council Reports: Transport and Air Quality Committee

By James Knight

Councillor Alexander Ehmann chaired the meeting, which featured a comprehensive discussion on pedestrian safety, traffic measures, and the ongoing push towards sustainable transport modes instead of private motor cars.

London Road Twickenham Transport Study: Cautious Optimism. Councillor Ehmann began by discussing the status of the London Road Twickenham transport study, an initiative to reduce speeding along a key route for pedestrians and cyclists. Nick O'Donnell, Director of Traffic and Engineering, highlighted the significant decrease in average speeds from over 24 mph in 2020 to 22.2 mph, below the level requiring further interventions.

Despite the encouraging figures, Councillor Bishop questioned the phased implementation plan and sought clarification on which proposed zebra crossings would be prioritised. O'Donnell tentatively confirmed that the first crossing would likely be nearest Ivy Bridge.


Pedestrian Pilot Project Gains Support Despite Concerns. David Tidley, Head of Transport Strategy, outlined the council's commitment to improving pedestrian pathways. He emphasised targeted interventions to enhance connectivity and safety without relying on costly reconstruction projects. Jesse Handler discussed the data-driven approach used to identify which streets would benefit the most. However, some councillors expressed concerns. Councillor Davies raised valid questions about footpath alternatives that could impact pedestrian traffic on main roads. In response, Ehmann acknowledged the importance of integrating local insights to refine the initiative's scope.

Electric Vehicle Charging: Trials and Expansion. The committee decided to support the trial of pavement gulleys, innovative solutions allowing residents to charge electric vehicles at home without blocking pathways. Although the project was welcomed, it raised questions about maintenance and funding. Councillor Butler expressed concerns about the practicality of annual fees, which his colleagues agreed with. Tidley confirmed that, although the council intended to expand lamppost chargers and faster charging points, residents' objections often hindered progress. Councillor Millum mentioned that the upcoming Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) should ideally include dedicated electric charging bays.

Thames Towpath Strategy: Seeking Long-term Solutions. The committee discussed improvements to the Thames Towpath, which has become a more significant concern since a section was swept away in Kew. The strategic plan aims to prioritise access for pedestrians and cyclists while also addressing heritage and biodiversity issues. Cycling will no longer be discouraged on the towpaths, as Councillor Ehmann believes pedestrians should not have precedence. Regarding the section damaged by floodwater in Kew, Councillor Richards inquired about the repair timeline, emphasising the need for clarity regarding responsibilities for the towpaths and flood defences.

Committee Work Programme. The Air Quality Action Plan has been postponed until April to allow for a more thorough public consultation and engagement process. Councillor Frieze proposed a comprehensive review of car parking, questioning the necessity and usage of current sites while exploring alternative options. This highlights a key difference between their approach and that of the LibDems: they are willing to take more proactive steps in reducing car use. However, Councillor Ehmann advised that, due to resource constraints and existing workloads, this request could not be added to the work plan immediately and that a detailed proposal from Councillor Frieze would be needed for future consideration. Additionally, Councillor Millum emphasized the importance of notifying ward councillors about planned highway works and advocated for improved communication. Nick O'Donnell noted that major projects typically progress during the summer, with the schedule finalised by the preceding November. The meeting concluded with an agreement to acknowledge the current forward plan.

HAMPTON CHORAL SOCIETY A Christmas Fantasy



Wenceslas - Bob Chilcott
Fantasia on Christmas Carols - Ralph V Williams
The Feast of Stephen - George W Parris (new
commission for Hampton Choral Society)
Carols for audience and choir

Musical Director - Emma Warren with professional soloists

Saturday 7 December 2024 - 6.30pm

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on the door: contactless, card, cheque, cash
www.hamptonchoral.org.uk

Charity Number 261788

Next week at Richmond Council

On Monday, the **Licencing Sub-Committee** will determine the controversial application for an alcohol licence for a Sabra Convenience Store by Hampton Station. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Roberts, is objecting on the grounds it's too close to Hampton Green. The meeting will commence at 7 pm and be held virtually. For full details, please follow the link [HERE](#)

On Tuesday, the **Special Standing Committee on Heathrow** will meet to discuss a report on Heathrow Airport Developments. The meeting will be held at 7.00 pm at York House, Twickenham. For full details, please follow the link [HERE](#)

On Wednesday, the **Planning Committee** will discuss an application to open an MOT test centre and repair garage at Arundale Terrace, Barnes. This was followed by an application to demolish a bungalow in Udney Park Road, Teddington, and replace it with two semi-detached houses. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. at York House, Twickenham. For full details, please follow the link [HERE](#)

On Thursday, the **Finance, Policy and Resources Committee** will meet to discuss (1) CCTV strategy, (2) funding for the Domestic Violence and Advocacy Service, (3) staffing change programme update [which is targeting savings of £4-£6 million], (4) fire suppression system for Townmead recycling centre, (5) Community Infrastructure Levy spending in 2023/24, (6) treasury management mid-year review, (7) council tax reduction scheme options for change, (8) quarterly monitoring report, (9) additional budget requests, (10) appointments to outside bodies, (11) committee work programme. 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 participate. You can submit questions or speak on an item on the agenda. To ask a question, simply submit it 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](#)

Diwali celebration lights up Marble Hill

From Marble Hill House

Late last month, we partnered with performing arts company Nutkhut and English Heritage to bring together thousands of residents and visitors in celebration of Diwali.

The event, one of the largest free Diwali celebrations outside of central London, reflected the spirit of the season with music, performances, community and light installations across 66 acres of Marble Hill.

Attendees were encouraged to get hands-on in their celebration of the Festival of Light. As part of this, we funded a lantern-making workshop for nearly 500 young people to celebrate joy and togetherness of this special occasion. The day concluded memorably, with light installations across 66 acres of Marble Hill.

You can [watch highlights from the event on YouTube](#).

We are proud to honour our residents of South Asian heritage by celebrating their history, culture, and impact in the community. Find out more about [stories of South Asian people who live, work and run businesses in Richmond upon Thames](#).



Gino's Air Fryer Cookbook

I know there have been a few books on how best to use your air fryer, but this latest one is rather special. **Gino's Air Fryer Cookbook** is by Gino D'Acampo and it focuses on Italian recipes the air fryer way. Published just a week or so ago by **Bloomsbury** at £22 for a hardback, it's packed with a host of ideas and inspiration to make preparing Italian food much easier, more cost efficiently, but tasting just as delicious. Gino is one of the UK's best loved chefs and well known to viewers of ITV's This Morning. He also stars in the hilarious programmes with Gordon Ramsay and Fred Sirieix. In the book Gino includes his top hacks as well as personal family stories linked to his recipes. There's a range of sections including: Classic Italian; Family Favourites; Ready in 20 and also The Med Diet (under 500 calories). It really is a 'bellissimo' book and will make an excellent present for anyone who loves Italian food and has invested in an air fryer.

Here are a couple of recipes to show you its simplicity.

Gnocchi in pancetta, tomato and parmesan sauce

(Gnocchi in salsa di pomodoro con pancetta e parmigiano)

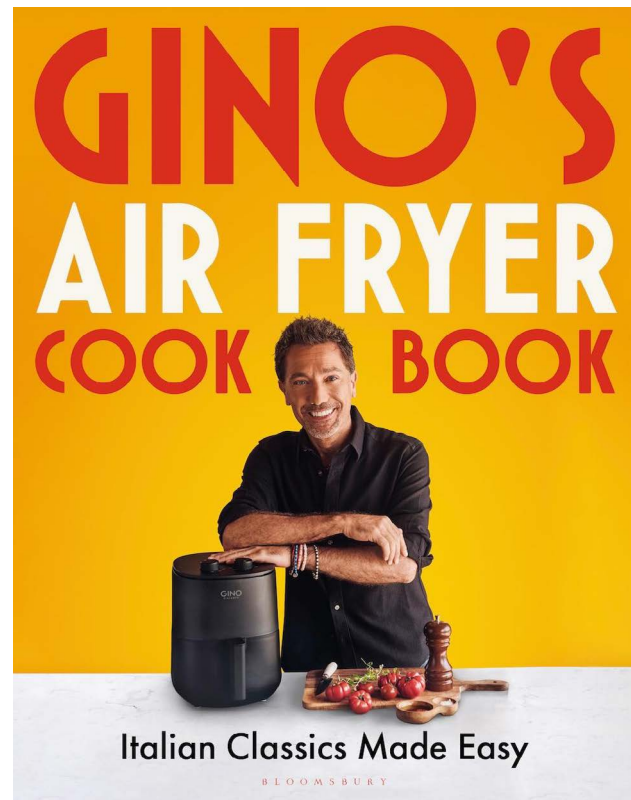
Serves 4

"This is my daughter Mia's favourite way to cook and eat gnocchi and she could make this recipe all by herself when she was just 10 years old, with my supervision of course. Please make sure you buy the best-quality gnocchi you can afford, to get the best results. As soon as they all float to the surface of the boiling water, they are ready to drain. You can substitute the pancetta with chopped courgettes, and the Parmesan with a vegetarian hard cheese, if you prefer."

- 150g pancetta lardons
- 1 large garlic clove, crushed
- 2 x 400g cans of chopped tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons tomato purée
- 10 basil leaves
- 80g finely grated Parmesan cheese
- 800g good-quality shop-bought potato gnocchi
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Preheat the air fryer to 170°C for 3 minutes.

1. Put the pancetta in the air fryer drawer and cook for 7 minutes until crispy, stir in the garlic and cook for another minute.
2. Pour in all the chopped tomatoes and add the tomato purée, basil, half the Parmesan, ½ teaspoon salt and ¼



teaspoon pepper. Mix well using a wooden spoon, increase the air fryer temperature to 190°C and cook for 20 minutes. Stir occasionally.

3. In a large saucepan, bring 3 litres water to the boil with 1 teaspoon salt. Cook the gnocchi according to the packet instructions, then drain, tip the gnocchi into the air fryer drawer over the sauce and mix gently but well.
4. Top with the remaining Parmesan cheese and cook for 10 minutes. Plate up and serve immediately.

Perfect air fryer chocolate fondants

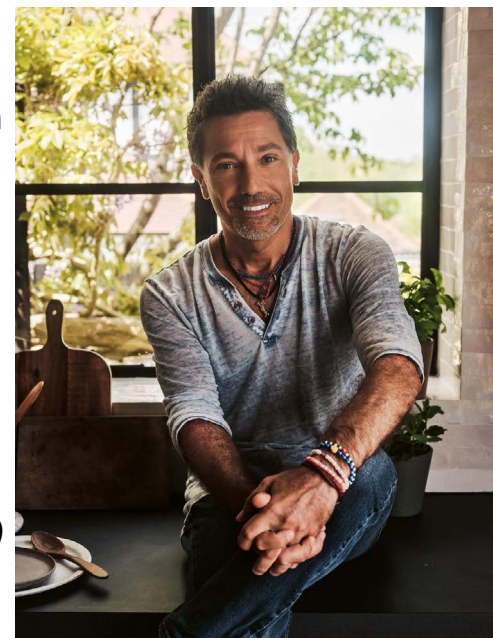
(Tortini caldi ripieni di cioccolato)

Serves 4

“This recipe for little chocolate delights is dedicated to my son Rocco, as it’s his favourite dessert of all time. For all you chocolate lovers out there, it is a must-try. These are fantastic if you are entertaining guests and want to impress, as you can get them ready and cook when needed. They will happily sit at room temperature for two hours, waiting for a hot dessert to order... You’re welcome!”

- 100g butter, cubed, plus more for the moulds
- Cocoa powder, to dust 125g dark chocolate, finely chopped
- 180g caster sugar
- ½ teaspoon fine sea salt
- 3 eggs
- 90g plain flour
- Vanilla ice cream, double cream or mascarpone, to serve

1. Grease 4 × 175ml mini pudding moulds with butter and dust with cocoa powder, tipping away any excess.
2. Place a saucepan of water over a medium heat and bring to a simmer. Place a heatproof bowl on top, ensuring it doesn’t touch the water, then gently melt the chocolate and cubed butter together until smooth (you can also melt them in a microwave if you prefer). Use a plastic spatula to stir and combine.
3. Take off the heat, stir in the sugar and salt and allow to cool slightly. Whisk in the eggs one by one with an electric whisk on a medium-low speed. Mix in the flour on a low speed until smooth.
4. Equally pour the chocolate mix into the prepared moulds. They can stand at room temperature for 2 hours at this stage.
5. Preheat the air fryer to 170°C for 3 minutes.
6. Place the fondants in the air fryer and bake for 11 minutes. Remove and leave to stand for 2 minutes.
7. Carefully run a knife around the edges to loosen, then turn out onto dessert plates. Serve with a generous dollop of vanilla ice cream, double cream – or my personal favourite – mascarpone.



Extracted from *Gino's Air Fryer Cookbook: Italian Classics Made Easy* by Gino D'Acampo. Published by Bloomsbury on 24th October (Hardback £22)
Photography credit: Haarala Hamilton.

Tucking In at Rosa's Thai in Kingston

I love Thai food, and I'm lucky enough to have a Thai neighbour who is a fabulous cook. Not surprisingly, when I had the chance to check out the new **Rosa's Thai** branch in Kingston (close to the Rose Theatre btw, if you fancy a nosh before or after a performance) I invited Jiew to come along with me and help critique the menu.



What I hadn't realised, was that there is a really brilliant offer on weekday lunchtimes where there is a special **The Thai 12** menu with eight different Thai dishes available at a special price of £12 each. The portion sizes are very generous too, which we discovered while chatting with the folk at the next table, who were enjoying their lunch.

Jiew suggested a number of dishes that we should try, to best appraise me of the range of Thai food style, so we started with an assortment of starters that I learnt are classic Thai street food dishes: **Prawn Doughnuts, Green Papaya Salad and Grilled Pork Skewers**. Jiew said that these are ubiquitous in Thailand and often served with sticky rice too. The salad had a delightfully refreshing dressing with strong elements of fish sauce, lime juice and ginger, and was served with cashew nuts - apparently it's more usual to have peanuts but the rather more luxurious cashews were great.



The doughnuts were light and deliciously 'prawny' and the pork skewers had been marinated in honey and soy so infused with flavour. They were served with a tamarind dip.

Jiew was keen for us to taste a good range of her native fare and so we tried **Chicken Penang Curry** (one of the most popular dishes in Thailand). It's based on the trademark balance of salty, sweet and spicy with lime leaves, krachai and Thai aubergine. It was very good - tasty, slightly on the spicy side for me, and with a generous amount of sauce.

And we had to have a taste of Rosa's legendary **Pad Thai** with prawns. This is Thailand's national dish and Saiphin, Rosa's co-founder, has perfected her special tamarind sauce. It was served with chopped peanuts and a wedge of fresh lime to squeeze over. It was fabulous, served with thin noodles, which are more authentic than the flat ones, according to Jiew.

From the 'smaller' portions of the special lunch menu we had **Stir-fried Aubergine with rice** and **Chicken Rice**. The aubergine was a star of the show in my opinion - chunks of aubergine in a light batter, stir fried with yellow bean sauce, chilli, soy and Thai basil. It was really wonderful. The other lunch portion was **Chicken Rice** - another classic with poached chicken, served with a light broth, sliced cucumber and a sauce made from ginger, garlic, chilli and fermented bean paste. I really liked this - it was elegant in its simplicity, but the spicy sauce brought the whole dish together - and to life. Jiew gave this a big 'thumbs up'.



Not surprisingly, we didn't finish all our main courses, but we had a great selection of leftovers to have packed away for taking home to enjoy later.

It was so interesting for me to dine with someone who really knows what she's talking about with Thai food and felt that Rosa's Thai is a great place to discover it.

The special lunch menu is also available in the Richmond branch every weekday (except bank holidays) so now I know where to meet friends for a really tasty, great value lunch.

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Traveller's Tales 168

Travel On Show

Doug Goodman Visits Two Travel Shows

Two travel shows this week have been attracting visitors to London: World Travel Market at the Excel Centre in Docklands and the Luxury Travel Fair at Olympia. World Travel Market, or WTM as it's known, is one of the world's most important travel exhibitions but it's not open to the public- only to those working in the travel business. The other, held at Olympia, the Luxury Travel Fair is for anyone seeking ideas and information for their future holidays.



Spain at World Travel Market



Palma Mallorca



Indonesia

JUST OFF TO EUROPE AND THEN INDIA

WTM brings together travel professionals from around the world and attracts many thousands of exhibitors, buyers, travel agents, holiday companies, hotels, transportation suppliers, press and anyone involved in promoting or selling travel. It's a vast, colourful show lasting four days with elaborate stands and lavish hospitality. Many of the stands are spectacular with representatives in every field of travel planning to meet friends, gain contracts and expand their activities. Around 4,000 companies and organisations attend WTM and many send their top people. Ministers give press conferences, company presidents present their plans and TV crews beam coverage around the world. Hospitality is abundant and WTM is a key meeting place for the travel trade. Many destinations have staff in national dress to help showcase the best of their country's tourist events.



Sharjah



Karnataka



Cuba

The show is crowded and noisy with fascinating conversations being overheard as visitors rush to meetings: 'see you in Belgium for a beer', 'just off to Karnataka for a meeting', 'must rush to Sharjah to hear His Excellency speak', 'Where on earth is Palma'. Several places offer local specialties of food and drink, with Bulgaria attracting visitors to a tutored wine tasting session. In many ways it's a pity, but understandable, that WTM is not open to the public as the opportunity to talk directly to the hotel, airline, destination and specialist advisors would be extremely valuable. However there are opportunities for those not involved in the travel

business to gain first – hand information. That’s at The Luxury Travel Fair ending tomorrow Sunday and at Destinations next year. The small exclusive travel fair at Olympia this week gave visitors the opportunity to discuss holiday plans with 50 travel organisations representing cruising, adventure travel and off-beat explorations. Talks by experts were held each day.



Georgia



Bulgaria

DESTINATIONS

Destinations is the biggest UK travel show open to the public. Held at Olympia from 30th January to 2nd of February with 600 travel brands and 90 tourist boards to give you information, literature and the chance to win a holiday. After 30 years of Destinations the organisers know how to keep visitors fully occupied. Guest speakers will include Sir Trevor McDonald, Ray Mears and Simon Calder Tickets can be booked now.



Luxury Travel Fair



Luxury Travel Fair



The taste of Bulgaria

WINE TIME

At World Travel Market the chance to taste some delicious wines from Bulgaria was too good to miss. With expert Ivaylo Katerski from Wine and Food Tours in Bulgaria I was introduced to five varieties from the country. Vines have been grown in Bulgaria for 4000 years so you can expect some superb wine. Bulgaria was a huge exporter to the UK until wines from the New World gained great popularity. Today it’s quite difficult to find Bulgarian wine here but if you do be assured that it has been produced by gifted and creative winemakers. It celebrates its rich and ancient heritage in the distinctive and different tastes shaped by the country’s varied climate. I started the tasting with a refreshing, sparkling wine called ‘Pet Nat’, followed by a light, dry white from the Thracian Valley called ‘Why Not’. A Riesling and two dark, fruity reds concluded the session. The red, titled Melnik 55, using the indigenous Melnik grape, reminded me of a fine Rhone wine. The tastes brought back memories of a drive from Sofia to The Black Sea through vast areas covered with vines with a few stops for sampling and buying. Traditional dishes from the Thracian region are superb accompanied by Bulgarian wine.

Information: Destinations 2025: www.destinationsshow.com Wine and food tours in Bulgaria www.via-vino.com UK suppliers of Bulgarian wines: www.thejollymerchants.co.uk

Venice

by Shona Lyons of Crusader Travel



Some years ago I took my parents on a family familiarization short break to Venice. It was lots of fun and we all really enjoyed being in such a beautiful place.

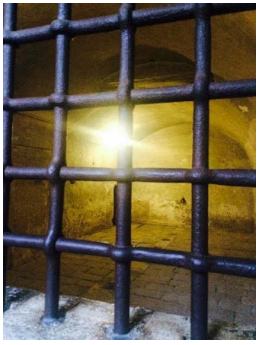
It is not too expensive to go for a few days, with flights from Heathrow or Gatwick, but ATOL protected packages from Gatwick, are I would say are cheaper. The flight is a mere 2 hours, and you can avoid pre paying the expensive water taxis if you are on a budget, you can just buy a return ticket from inside the airport / ferry terminal and the public water taxis leave from the jetty below and you can save a few hundred pounds that way, I would be happy to explain how you can do this!



We loved where we stayed, it was just a good 3* family run hotel, in Sestriere San Marco, just 300 meters from the main square of San Marco, my room overlooked the main street, but my parents' room was quieter, and on the top floor. The area is very nice, with high end shops and hotels, Teatro Le Fenice opera house is just behind, and the ferry stop about 200 meters away, again through really beautiful little lanes.

We crammed in quite a few excursions as we were just there a few days and wanted to make the most of it, we went about this time, in the first week of November. It did rain but just lightly, one day and it did flood a bit but not very much, definitely not too much to write home about and it did not inconvenience us at all.

We made a tour of the Doges Palace which really is fascinating, and even walked over the bridge of sighs, so named as this is the little bridge that led prisoners from the court house to the prisons (in the Doges Palace) and on this little bridge that divided the court house to the prisons, they had their last brief glimpse of Venice. We saw the amazing frescos there, of famous Renaissance artists Tintoretto and Veronese, and saw how risqué some of the paintings were and why Venice and the artists that depicted these religious scenes were criticized by the Pope as these beautiful paintings capture the hedonism of the time, with society relishing in its newfound riches. Indeed, their work reflected the joy, happiness and decadence that was alive and well during this epoch, but which were also revolutionary and even considered blasphemous at the time.



We also took a small public ferry to the islands of Murano, Burano and Torcello – it was called the three islands tour and was really relaxing & interesting, a glass making demonstration was included in one of the workshops and shops of Murano, where world-class glasses, bowls and sculptures are made and we also went to Burano where all the houses are painted in bright pastel colours, we were told, so that Venetian Fisherman could easily find their homes in the fog and where they were famous for making lace, I heard that the craftspeople were not really allowed to leave and were fined if they did. Lastly we went to Torcello which we were told was actually the central island of Venice in the 6th and 7th centuries. It is located about 10 km north of Venice, & once a centre of power in the Venetian Lagoon. Practically deserted now, the island boasts two main attractions: the Museum of Torcello and the Venetian-Byzantine Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta founded in the 7th Century which was Venice 's first cathedral. It was raining a bit when we got there but we still really enjoyed it, and then got taken back to the main island of Venice in time for supper.



The last day, we went from one end of Venice to the other, it is very easy to navigate Venice Island as it really is not large, we crossed lots of bridges as our mission was to go and see the ghetto. It is interesting as you go from the more prosperous areas of Venice and go into a kind of hinterland, where the cafes are more shabby and the houses neglected. I have a suspicion that this was how it was also pre World War 2, but I think then the ghetto was probably very crowded as it was the land where the Jewish population fleeing persecution in other parts of Europe, came to live and work, building up rather than out as space was limited. It is enclosed by gates that were closed in the evenings, you can read more of the very interesting history here: <https://www.ghettovenezia.com/en/the-history/> The Ghetto took its name from the metal foundries in this part of Venice just outside the gates it is said.

We had a great time, kept ourselves very busy and enjoyed every minute of our trip. If you would like to travel to this island as well, you can do so quite inexpensively, it all depends on your budget, as there are many modest 3* up to more deluxe 5* hotels to choose from. I tailor-made this trip to suit our interests, but there are so many amazing other things to see and do in Venice, just call into Crusader Travel at 58 Church Street and we can happily tell you more over a hot drink, show you some brochures and email or print out for you a variety of quotes. 😊

Are you being fair?

By Deep Patel

~Life through the eyes of a Twickenham shopkeeper~

Being a shopkeeper, I get to see it all...and I really do mean it all, I am sometimes witness to peoples happiest moments as well as their saddest, such as a customer receiving a call telling them they have got that new job that they really wanted or that call telling them that their cat has just sadly been hit by a car. Whatever it is, everything seems to happen when people are in my shop, at the counter just about to pay for their afternoon chocolate fix or that weekend bottle of wine. Either way, whatever it is, I hear it all...

One thing that I find most uncomfortable is when a couple begins to argue at my counter...I am not talking about a few negative words here and there, I mean a full blown argument...right there... in front of my counter...just before turning their attention to me to pay for their KitKat bar...believe you me, it's not fun...and it happens more often than you would think...what to do? I just gently (and nervously) smile and pretend that I have heard nothing when it is so incredibly obvious that I have...

This past week, I don't know what it is, but I have seen an increase in such arguments between friends, couples, siblings and others when they are about to pay for their shopping at my shop counter...could it be the darker and earlier evenings or colder weather causing Twickenham folk to be a little bit more on edge or a little bit less tolerant of each other, or could it be the new aftershave I have been wearing in the shop (hopefully not the latter)...

One thing that I have noticed is that I find it INCREDIBLY difficult not to get involved or give my opinion (not a good idea let me tell you) but I just can't help it, I am very much a person of justice and righteousness and cannot stand injustice on any accounts...so I end up talking back and giving my opinion (but silently in my mind of course...I do value my life)...over the period of many years as a shopkeeper in Twickenham, hearing many arguments at my counter, between many different people, I have come to realize that things are not always what they seem...you see the one who shouts the loudest is not always right too. Sometimes, the one who is right knows that they are right but they don't argue back, but not because they are wrong, but rather because they value the relationship that they have with the person that they are having an argument with more than they value "being right"...that is very clear in many of the arguments that I have witnessed between people at my shop counter...other times people don't argue back I've noticed because they are the type of people who just believe "life is too short"...either way, both parties leave my shop hurt, angry and frustrated, I feel that energy lingering in my shop for quite some time after as I find myself thinking, if only people didn't get to that stage where they had to argue so much, and if only they instead chose to ponder for a moment and think things through a bit more instead of just shout at each other...maybe life would be better for everybody...blame is itself something that I notice people are too quick to do, they like to blame the other as it means they have "won" somehow then.

Earlier this week, whilst I was reflecting on the very concept of blame, an elderly lady in my shop asked me what I was thinking about (she must have seen the discomfort on my face). When I explained to her that I was thinking about all the arguments between people that I witness in my shop each week, and how so many blame each other, she explained to me something that I will never forget for the rest of my life...she asked me to violently point at her...(I thought she was losing her mind but politely obliged and did it anyway). Then she told me to "freeze" my pointing hand right there and observe it (at this point I definitely thought that the elderly lady was losing it...yet as a polite shop keeper, I followed her instructions). She made me wait with my hand pointing at her in that position in silence for a whole minute (I now definitely thought she had lost her mind, but politely obliged still to follow her instructions). She then said "there, do you see it now" and started to smile at me...I was beginning to get freaked out at what she was smiling about...I let out a little nervous laugh and said "oh yes I see" hoping that would be the end of that uncomfortable experience...but she knew I didn't see what

she was getting at and said “you don’t see it do you?” at which point I came clean and told her I had absolutely no clue what she was going on about...she laughed again and said “look at the fingers of your hand as you point at me...which direction are they pointing in”...I told her ...as this was about blame...it was meaning I was blaming her obviously with my pointing finger at her...She then agreed and said “yes one of your fingers is pointing at me, but who are your other three fingers pointing at?”... then the penny dropped and I got it finally...what she was saying was that people are often so quick to blame others and “point the finger” but in doing so, they forget that whenever they point a finger at someone else, the other three of their fingers are pointing back at them...so the elderly woman in my shop went on to explain to me, that whenever I find myself blaming someone else and “pointing my finger at them” during a heated argument, always remember that “it takes two to tango” and that “there is no smoke without fire” and to remind myself that for that one finger I point at them in blame, there are a further 3 pointing back at me...so the moral is, before blaming someone else with that one finger, think and reflect THREE TIMES on how the other three fingers are pointing back at me and on how the situation that I am angry about could also have been my fault too...so this week I want to ask all the lovely folk of Twickenham (and beyond) to remember, before blaming and pointing the finger at someone else, remember that we are all accountable in some way for the situations that we are in, we also play a part in them, and when we point the finger of blame towards someone, our own other three fingers are pointing back at us too, so always consider our part in any given situation three times over before we even consider blaming someone else... and yes...I promise you all... if we together do this, we will all help make the world a better place for everyone.



Remember...

“When you point one finger at someone, your other three fingers will be pointing back at you...”

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

STOP FOXES, RATS, MICE & SQUIRRELS KINDLY (GOOD KARMA):

Place empty bowls filled with white vinegar around places where you don’t want them to come...they will go without you having to harm them...use humane mouse & rat traps and release them back in our parkland areas. Use electronic plug-in deterrent with good reviews around your house to stop them coming (the smell of white vinegar also stops ants kindly).

For ANY specific tip to stop any “pest” or insect KINDLY (for good karma/blessings), email me:

thedeepatel@gmail.com or join my Facebook page: “INSECT LOVERS UNITE”

The Earthshot Prize 2024

Teresa Read

WINNER:

REVIVE OUR OCEANS

Global, co-chaired by Costa Rica, France and the United Kingdom

High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People

HAC aims to push government to commit and act to protect 30% of the world's land and oceans by 2030

PROTECT AND RESTORE NATURE

Kazakhstan

Altyn Dala Conservation Initiative

Altyn Dala's long-term goal is to restore a fully functional Steppe grassland ecosystem in Kazakhstan. Enhancing biodiversity is key, and in June 2024, they reintroduced seven Przewalski's Wild Horses to the steppe after an absence of 200 years.

CLEAN OUR AIR

Ghana, Uganda

GAYO, Green Africa Youth Organization

GAYO drives behavioural change, across Africa, to help communities clean up waste, create jobs and build infrastructure to support waste management.

BUILD A WASTE FREE WORLD

Kenya, Uganda

Keep IT Cool

Keep IT Cool (KIC) provides sustainable refrigeration and smart distribution solutions for small farmers and fishers.

FIX OUR CLIMATE

USA

Advanced Thermovoltaic Systems

ATS offers a simple solution to transform industrial waste heat into electricity for use in hard to abate industries, potentially saving gigatonnes of CO₂.

THE EARTHSHOT PRIZE 2024 <https://earthshotprize.org/>



THE
EARTHSHOT
PRIZE

Oklahoma!

by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II
 TOPS Theatre Company at Hampton Hill Theatre

“Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin’” and “People Will Say We’re in Love”, these much-loved tunes blend with a compelling American frontier storyline in *Oklahoma!* TOPS’ production, directed by Dan Stark, showcased impressive choreography, an engaging ensemble, and a delightful live band, delivering an entertaining and memorable show.

Laurey Williams lives on the family’s farm with her Aunt Eller. Her love-rivals, malcontent farm hand, Jud Fry and carefree cowboy, Curly McLain are in pursuit of the beautiful Laurey. Although she enjoys the simple existence, she pines for love and excitement, but by attracting their attention she gets all of this ... and a whole lot more!



The simple but highly effective set comprised the veranda of the homestead farm, and a pile of hay-bales. A projected scene of rolling cornfields, with lighting that changed both delicately and dramatically throughout the play, helped set the mood.



The ensemble were superb. From the many children who frequently scurried on and off and who brought so much life to each scene, to the more seasoned chorus members, they were truly a tremendous collective, alert and focussed. The spectacular dance routines just kept coming, each one, choreographed Gaby Law executed to perfection, and bringing a real ensemble feel to the piece.

Musical director, Daniel Looseley took his musicians on a wonderful musical journey. As well as many well-known songs, *Oklahoma!* also has an under-score which runs throughout, and brings life to scene changes.

Jen Shaw-Powell was made for this role of Aunt Eller, the town’s matriarch, stern when yet empathetic and kind as well. Her singing was an absolute treat and matched her portrayal.

Harriet Law excelled as her niece Laurey. With an angelic voice and acting and dancing skills to match, she created a believable and endearing Laurey in her love-hate relationship with Curly. Griffin Godsick’s rich baritone perfectly suited the gentle, carefree style of Curly.

Completing the love triangle, Dan Stark gave an understated performance as the troubled Jud, identifying with his lonely nature and generating empathy towards him.

Every cast member shone brightly, creating a joyful atmosphere that had the audience cheering. Overall, this talented production was a resounding success and a heartfelt celebration camaraderie.

Read David Stephens’ review at www.markaspen.com/2024/10/31/oklahoma-tops

Photography courtesy of TOPS

The Ghost Hunter

by Stewart Pringle

OHADS at The Bell, Hampton

Do you believe in ghosts? The room is long and narrow, intimately lit by candlelight, and in walks a rather world-weary man with a cane, black hat and topcoat. He empties some books out of a carrier bag, sits, and starts to address us directly.

He is alone and it is then clear we're in the genre of the one-man show, the world of potentially a single perspective, and less opportunity for argument and dramatic conflict. The actor must have the authority to hold the stage and have the skill to command attention. Here, the task of playing Richard Barraclough, the lone *Ghost Hunter*, is taken on by Andy Smith who rises magnificently to the challenge.



After telling a few macabre anecdotes, it transpires that Barraclough is actually a money-making tourist guide, steeped in the local history and superstitions of the old city of York. His are the tales of headless women and restless poltergeists, of mass murders and grinding poverty. We are taken on a journey of horror with Viking invasions, massacres, plagues, malnutrition and gangrene.



Andy Smith's performance weaves between the friendly raconteur seducing the audience with his smooth charm, to a macabre storyteller with chilling tales of foul and evil deeds. Aided with an array of facial expressions and mannerisms, his strong diction cuts through the room with venom, and we become transfixed with his wild horror stories, spiced with throwaways like "the headless woman who can't speak for herself". Then there are the significant pauses and the even longer significant pauses.

Then, in parallel, there is the story of the present-day Barraclough. We hear of the failed actor, competition with other tourist guides, a broken romance, and ... dealing with irritating school children.

Director Harry Medawar creates a steady pace with a slow build allowing us to concentrate on the storytelling without distraction. The actor has a pint of ale and his personality to rely on, and here the floor belongs to Andy Smith who breathes life into the script and takes complete ownership of the room. *The Ghost Hunter* is a little gem of a play, especially appropriate for a crisp evening at Halloween, and this is, without doubt, an excellent production.

Read Steve Mackrell's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/11/02/ghost-hunter

Photography courtesy of OHADS

While The Sun Shines

RSS Open Auditions November 11th

In Terence Rattigan's charming, light-hearted comedy, Lady Elanor Randall is due to marry the earl of Harpenden when she finds herself being romanced by two other suitors - a Frenchman and an American lieutenant. Add an ex-girlfriend of the groom into the mix and we have all the ingredients for a delightful evening of complex comedy.

The Mary Wallace Theatre will be presenting Terence Rattigan's 1943 comedy in March 2025 and will be holding OPEN AUDITIONS at the theatre on the evening of November 11th, with a prior reading on November 4th, both at 7.45pm. Auditions are open to all, and you are welcome to read for a role, or become involved in the backstage organisation of the production.

The Mary Wallace Theatre is situated on Twickenham's Embankment, close to the Barmy Arms. For further information visit richmondshakespeare.org.uk



The Landmark Arts Centre's Sparkle Festive Fair returns

From Landmark Arts Centre

If you are looking to kick off your Christmas shopping, this one is for you! The fair is a weekend showcase of high-quality fine art pieces running from Friday 15 to Sunday 17 November 2024.

At the fair, you'll find local artists and makers displaying their stunning art and craft gifts. The art works range from ceramics, jewellery, homewares, prints, candles, soaps, small-batch spirits, local craft beers and more.

Event details:

- **Dates:** Friday 15, Saturday 16, and Sunday 17 November
- **Times:** 4 to 8.30pm (15 November) and 10am to 5pm (16 and 17 November)
- **Location:** Landmark Arts Centre, TW11 9NN



[Book tickets for the Sparkle Festive Fair](#)

For more information please email info@landmarkartscentre.org or call 020 8977 7558.

London restaurants awarded share of £220,000 as part of American Express-backed grant programme

London, 22nd October: Fourteen independent restaurants in London have been awarded a share of £220,000 as part of the American Express Backing International Small Restaurants grant programme.

Now in its third year in the UK, the programme is run by the International Downtown Association (IDA) Foundation in partnership with the Association of Town & City Management (ATCM) and backed by American Express. In 2024, a total of 20 small and independently owned restaurants in London and Manchester have received grants.

Small, independent restaurants play a valuable role in local communities and high streets. Grant recipients will each use the £11,000 funding to help them continue to thrive, through making essential upgrades to their venues, from kitchen operations, improved marketing, to enhancing the dining experience.

One of the recipients is Shiuli Restaurant in Twickenham, a contemporary Indian eatery known for its healthy, balanced menu and relaxed atmosphere. Woman co-owned, Shiuli Restaurant emphasises sustainability and locally sourced ingredients. With the grant, the restaurant will enhance its online presence, invest in SEO, and add a blast chiller to support its growing takeaway business.

The London-based grant recipients are:

- The Alma, Sidcup
- Ariana II, Kilburn
- Bonnington Cafe, Vauxhall
- Cafe Terrace, Caledonian Road
- Dudley's, Walthamstow
- Flat Earth Pizzas, Bethnal Green
- Kashmir Restaurant, Putney
- Moyolondon, Hendon
- The Oitij-Jo Kitchen, Poplar
- Platform Café, Brixton
- Sambal Shiok, Highbury & Islington
- Sophe Café, Highbury & Islington
- Symposium, Mile End
- **Shiuli Restaurant, Twickenham**

One of the recipients, Flat Earth Pizzas in Bethnal Green, London have invested the grant in streamlining their restaurant's operation to help drive their continued growth. Co-owner Rich Baker said: *"This grant has allowed us to purchase new equipment, including a larger pizza oven that has already had a huge impact on the service we provide to our guests. Being able to make such an essential upgrade will allow us to deliver a slicker service, generate more revenue and has had a huge impact on our team."*

Dan Edelman, General Manager, UK Merchant Services at American Express, said: *"We're delighted to once again support some of the country's independently owned restaurants, and are particularly proud to have expanded the grant programme to Manchester. These venues bring vibrancy to our high streets and local communities, and American Express remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting them to thrive."*

David Downey, Executive Director, IDA Foundation, added: *"We are thrilled to announce the third cohort of restaurants selected for the Backing International Small Restaurants programme. This year, we've expanded our reach to nine cities globally through the continued generosity of American Express. We are proud to empower these extraordinary restaurants to thrive and strengthen the fabric of their neighbourhoods."*

Globally, the programme has more than doubled the annual grant funding to \$1 million, up from \$435,000 last year, and expanded its support to restaurants in nine cities around the world. In 2024, 70 small and independently owned restaurants have received grants, with this year's programme reaching four new cities – Manchester, Melbourne, Montreal, and Osaka – in addition to London, Mexico City, Sydney, Tokyo, and Toronto.

The Backing International Small Restaurants programme is part of American Express' 'Backing Small' initiative, focused on providing financial support and resources to help small businesses address critical needs.

St Mary's University

St Mary's Announces Founding Dean of School of Medicine Appointment

Prof Sonia Kumar has been appointed as the Founding Executive Dean of Medicine at St Mary's University, London (SMU).

Prof Sonia Kumar has been appointed as the Founding Executive Dean of Medicine at St Mary's University, London (SMU).



Prof Kumar joins St Mary's from the University of Leeds where Sonia is Associate Dean of Community-Engagement and Professor of Medical Education. Sonia has over two decades experience as a GP and educationalist, specialising in community-based health and education for the benefit of society.

Prior to joining the University of Leeds, Prof Kumar had an award-winning tenure as the Director of Undergraduate Primary Care Education at Imperial College London, including the prestigious Presidents Medal for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching Excellence at



Imperial and the CATE collaborative team award from AdvanceHE.

Speaking of her appointment, St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Prof Anthony McClaran said, *"We are delighted that Prof Kumar will be joining us here at St Mary's as the Founding Executive Dean of Medicine. This is an exciting initiative and strategic priority for the University, which is aligned to our mission to be a forward-thinking university tackling the challenges of the 21st century."*

Prof Sonia Kumar said, *"I feel hugely honoured to take on this founding role to lead the new School of Medicine. I am immensely proud and privileged to be part of this significant moment in St Mary's history, bringing my shared values, vision and experience to serve our colleagues, students and most importantly our society."*

The School of Medicine at St Mary's, which will welcome its first cohort in September 2026, will train students to be complete doctors, integrating medical expertise, compassionate care, and ethical practice. Students will be taught the latest medical curriculum in bespoke new facilities, utilising the latest medical technology and diverse placements.

Prof Kumar is a Professor of Medical Education and a Visiting Professor at Imperial College London and SBV Pondicherry in India. Sonia has published and presented widely, has transdisciplinary local, national, and global networks, and provided consultancy through the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office to UNAM in Mexico. She joins St Mary's in January 2025.



**St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London**

Barnes Safer Neighbourhoods Team

Crime Update November 2024

For the past four weeks, where has it happened?



Burglary X11

- Burglary of unconnected building, 26/10-27/10, 23:55-00:00 hours, Trinity Church Road, SW13.
- Burglary of unconnected building, 29/10, 02:13 hours, Wyatt Drive, SW13.
- Burglary of unconnected building, 9/10-10/10, 22:00-14:00 hours, Elm Grove Road, SW13.
- Attempted burglary, 4/10, 16:06 hours, Castelnau, SW13.
- Attempted burglary, 8/10, 08:34 hours, Wyatt Drive, SW13.
- Commercial burglary, 9/10, 05:53 hours, Castelnau, SW13.
- Commercial burglary, 6/10, 19:30-19:38 hours, Lonsdale Road, SW13.
- Residential burglary, 31/10, 00:00 hours, Devereux Lane, SW13.
- Residential burglary, 11/10, 20:00-22:00 hours, St Edmunds Square, SW13.
- Residential burglary, 11/10-12/10, 13:00-09:30 hours, Riverview Gardens, SW13.
- Residential burglary, 23/10, 17:35 hours, Boileau Road, SW13.

Vehicle Crime X3

- Theft from motor vehicle, 4/10, 19:00-21:20 hours, Ranelagh Avenue, SW13.
- Theft from motor vehicle, 20/10, 01:00-08:00 hours, Washington Road, SW13.
- Theft from motor vehicle, 21/10-22/10, 19:30-08:15 hours, Riverview Gardens, SW13.

Criminal Damage X2

- Criminal damage to other property where value of damage is under £500, 20/10, 21:05 hours, Walnut Tree close, SW13.
- Criminal damage to other property where value of that damage is £500 or over and under £5000, 21:47 hours, Harrods Village, SW13.

Robbery: 1

- Robbery, 19/10, 16:56 hours, St Hildas Road, SW13.

Violent Offences X4

- Assault without injury, common assault & battery, 25/10, 13:50-14:00 hours, Boileau Road, SW13.
- Assault without injury, common assault & battery, 6/10, 13:55 hours, Barnes Avenue, SW13.
- Assault without injury, common assault & battery, 13/10, 09:17 hours, Nowell Road, SW13.
- Assault without injury, common assault & battery, 13/10, 20:33 hours, St Anns Road, SW13.

Drugs X1

- Unlawful importation of a controlled drug, seized by UKBF, 16/10, 00:01 hours, Washington Road, SW13.

Officers covering Barnes

PS Michael Hirsch / PC Darren Meakins / PC May Moody / PCSO Matthew Morbey

The next Police Liaison Group Meeting will commence on Wednesday the 4th of December, 7pm at the Day Centre on Barnes Green, SW13 9HE. Any questions please email myself or the PLG chair: bplgchair@gmail.com Lastly a reminder our office number has recently changed if you need to speak with a member of SNT the number now is 020-78072014.

Or you can send us an email to; Barnes@met.police.uk
(Feel free to copy and paste the email and add us as a contact)

Age UK Launches Its Christmas Campaign To Help Change The Lives Of Lonely Older People

Age UK has launched its Christmas campaign, *Together, we're not alone*, and is calling on support and donations to help those facing the festive period by themselves.

Loneliness can become more common as we get older due to life changes such as the bereavement of a partner, increased mobility issues or health complications. Many also feel the need to sacrifice their social spending to be able to afford the rising cost of household bills, especially following the loss of the Winter Fuel Payment.

Last year, Age UK found that nearly 1.4 million older people said they felt more isolated at Christmas than any other time of the year, while a similar number told Age UK that they would be eating dinner alone on Christmas Day.

However, Age UK's research also shows that change is possible, with nearly a quarter of those over 65 (3.1 million) agreeing that just a phone call or a visit from a loved one, friend or neighbour would make Christmas easier for them.

That's why donating to Age UK's *Together, we're not alone* campaign is so important. Funds raised will help the Charity to continue its vital work in tackling loneliness amongst older people, by supporting its free, national services, including its Telephone Friendship Service, The Silver Line Helpline and Advice Line, all of which are crucial for those who have no one else to turn to.

Age UK Telephone Friendship Service user, Ted, 89, first began to experience loneliness when his wife of 67 years developed dementia. She was moved into a care home and sadly passed away a couple of years ago: "When Jess went, it was so lonely. She was my life. We did everything together. I miss being able to go into a room and give her a little cuddle and a kiss."

"Age UK is so important. If I've got a problem, I know I can phone them up and they will be there for me. I look forward to the call with my Telephone Friend, Lisa, every week. If I'm feeling down, she takes me out of myself. I organise my dinner around it so we can have a good chat. It's a lifeline really."

Dame Judi Dench, Age UK ambassador, said: "The idea of being completely alone and isolated at a time when so many people are coming together with their nearest and dearest breaks my heart. No older person should feel like they don't have anybody to talk to which is why I'm supporting Age UK's 'Together, we're not alone' campaign. Please donate to Age UK if you can this Christmas. Your donations will truly help to change lives!"

Age UK can't be there without the public's support, which is why the Charity is asking everybody to donate what they can this Christmas. Together, the Charity promises to help change the lives of older people. Together, we're not alone.

To donate, please visit: www.ageuk.org.uk/christmasappeal. Age UK has also launched a new Loneliness Guide which features the Charity's latest information and advice on the subject as well as bringing together lived experiences from different focus groups.

This can be found here: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/loneliness-guide/>.



World Health Organization

COVID-19 Epidemiological Update 6 November 2024

Teresa Read

At the country level

The highest numbers of new 28-day cases were reported from the Russian Federation (135,344; +41%), Poland (36,669; +1%), Czechia (28,784; +218%), Greece (19,408; +8%) and the United Kingdom (14,597; +62%).

The highest numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from the United States of America (3,657; -26%), Sweden (200; -3%), the Russian Federation (138; +23%), Greece (105; -27%), Czechia (87; +181%) and Denmark (57; -7%).

The European Region

The SARS-CoV-2 weekly percent test positivity from sentinel sites in the European Region changed from 14.4% to 10.4% across 34 countries who reported at least once during the four-week period.

Four countries reported an increase of more than 2.5% in percent test positivity during the four-week reporting period: Switzerland (from 13.3% to 30.8%), Slovenia (from 10% to 18.2%), Germany (from 16.4% to 21.8%) and Norway (from 9.1% to 12.4%).

Fourteen countries showed elevated SARS-CoV-2 activity (10% or more) in the final week: Slovakia (75%), Poland (50%), Switzerland (31%), Hungary (28%), Germany (22%), Lithuania (19%), Slovenia (18%), Netherlands (18%), Luxembourg (17%), Greece (16%), Armenia (13%), Czechia (12%), Norway (12%), and Estonia (11%).

During the reporting period, the weekly average number of specimens tested was 2,605. The European Region reported over 312,000 new cases, a 21% increase as compared to the previous 28-day period.

Fourteen (23%) of the 61 countries for which data are available reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with the highest proportional increases observed in Armenia (219 vs 39 new cases; >100%), followed by Austria (225 vs 61 new cases; >100%), Slovakia (3,236 vs 993 new cases; >100%), Czechia (28,784 vs 9 050 new cases; >100%) and Hungary (3,108 vs 1 179 new cases; >100%), among others.

The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Russian Federation (135,344), Poland (36,669) and Czechia (28,784). The number of new 28-day deaths in the Region decreased by 10% as compared to the previous 28-day period, with 803 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Sweden (200), the Russian Federation (138) and Greece (105).

England team to play Australia

England men's head coach Steve Borthwick has announced his team to face Australia at Allianz Stadium, Twickenham on Saturday 9 November (kick-off 3.10pm, live on TNT Sports).



Jamie George will captain England, supported by vice-captains Maro Itoje, Ben Earl, Ellis Genge, and George Ford.

In the front row, George starts at hooker, with Genge at loosehead prop and Will Stuart at tighthead. Itoje pairs with George Martin in the second row, while the back row features Chandler Cunningham-South on the blindside flank, Tom Curry at openside, and Earl at No. 8.

Ben Spencer starts at scrum-half, with Marcus Smith at fly-half. In the midfield, the centre partnership has been switched for this weekend's match, with Henry Slade starting at inside centre and Ollie Lawrence at 13.

The back three features Immanuel Feyi-Waboso on the right wing, Tommy Freeman on the left, and George Furbank at full-back, completing the starting lineup.

There are two changes to the replacements' bench from last Saturday's game against New Zealand, with Luke Cowan-Dickie and Ollie Sleightholme set to make their first appearances of the Autumn Nations Series. They join Fin Baxter, Dan Cole, Nick Isiekwe, Alex Dombrandt, Harry Randall and George Ford among the replacements.

"Facing Australia is always a massive challenge, and we'll work diligently this week to ensure we're physically and tactically prepared to take on the Wallabies," said Borthwick.

"The passion and energy from the crowd at Allianz Stadium last weekend was absolutely brilliant, from the opening whistle to the final moments, and we can't wait to be back at home this Saturday."

ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

Saturday 9 November 2024

Allianz Stadium, Twickenham, Kick-off: 3.10pm (GMT)

- 15. George Furbank (Northampton Saints, 12 caps)
- 14. Immanuel Feyi-Waboso (Exeter Chiefs, 7 caps)
- 13. Ollie Lawrence (Bath Rugby, 28 caps)
- 12. Henry Slade (Exeter Chiefs, 66 caps)
- 11. Tommy Freeman (Northampton Saints, 12 caps)
- 10. Marcus Smith (Harlequins, 36 caps)
- 9. Ben Spencer (Bath Rugby, 7 caps)

Replacements:

- 16. Luke Cowan-Dickie (Sale Sharks, 41 caps)
- 17. Fin Baxter (Harlequins, 3 caps)
- 18. Dan Cole (Leicester Tigers, 116 caps)
- 19. Nick Isiekwe (Saracens, 12 caps)

- 1. Ellis Genge (Bristol Bears, 63 caps) – vice-captain
- 2. Jamie George (Saracens, 94 caps) – captain
- 3. Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 42 caps)
- 4. Maro Itoje (Saracens, 85 caps) – vice-captain
- 5. George Martin (Leicester Tigers, 16 caps)
- 6. Chandler Cunningham-South (Harlequins, 8 caps)
- 7. Tom Curry (Sale Sharks, 54 caps)
- 8. Ben Earl (Saracens, 34 caps) – vice-captain

- 20. Alex Dombrandt (Harlequins, 18 caps)
- 21. Harry Randall (Bristol Bears, 8 caps)
- 22. George Ford (Sale Sharks, 97 caps) – vice captain
- 23. Ollie Sleightholme (Northampton Saints, 2 caps)

England Men A Confirm Wider Squad To Face Australia A

A 24-player England Men A wider squad has been named in preparation for the visit of Australia A to the Twickenham Stoop on Sunday 17th November (14:00 GMT kick-off), with tickets available [here](#).

The squad includes seven previously capped senior men's internationals: Joe Heyes (Leicester Tigers), Fraser Dingwall, Curtis Langdon and Tom Pearson (all Northampton Saints); Ted Hill (Bath Rugby), Tom Roebuck (Sale Sharks) and Tom Willis (Saracens).

Northampton Saints centre Fraser Dingwall has been selected as the side's captain for the second England A fixture since the team's return from an eight-year hiatus. Dingwall has won two caps for the senior men's side under head coach Steve Borthwick and lifted the Gallagher Premiership title in June with his club.

Recent World Rugby U20 Championship victors Afolabi Fasogbon (Gloucester Rugby), Henry Pollock (Northampton Saints) and Vilikesa Sela (Bath Rugby), as well as 2024 U20 Six Nations winner Archie McParland (Northampton Saints), are incorporated into the fold. 23 of the selected 24 players have been previously capped at age-grade level in the England Rugby Men's Pathway.

The selection of the wider squad and matchday 23 is a cooperative approach made in consultation with head coach Mark Mapletoft and determined by senior men's head coach, Steve Borthwick, and RFU Executive Director of Performance Rugby, Conor O'Shea.

The former Men A and senior men's international Mapletoft takes the reins of the A programme for November alongside U20 Men assistant coach Andy Titterrell and scrum coach Nathan Catt after they led the U20 Men to a 'double' Six Nations and World Rugby U20 Championship victory in 2024. Lee Blackett of Bath Rugby and Exeter Chiefs' Haydn Thomas join the coaching ticket as attack and defence coaches, respectively, with Thomas also involved in the England U20 Men's recent silverware as defensive coordinator.

The squad will assemble at the Hazelwood Centre next Tuesday (12th) to begin preparations for the fixture later that week, where they will be joined by selected players presently training with the senior squad. The coaching staff will be supported by the key pathway and Red Roses Strength & Conditioning, Medical and Operational staff for the game.

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) can also confirm that Premier Sports 1 will broadcast the fixture, with coverage commencing at 13:45 GMT on Sunday 17th November.

Mark Mapletoft said: *"The coaching staff and I are incredibly excited to reveal this squad after extensive collaborative work and are looking forward to working with some familiar and new faces alike."*

“Next week presents a platform for a selection of some of the best Premiership talent to express themselves further whilst representing their country, some of those being U20 players me and the pathway staff have worked with very recently. It bridges from the pathway and into senior contention through vital gametime in an England jersey.

“An England A matchweek is a short turnaround; the key for us is to instill a chemistry through extensive preparation, knowledge sharing and a diligent team culture ahead of a very competitive opportunity in front of an energetic home support.”

Tickets start from only £25 for adults & £15 for kids (U16) for England Men A's meeting against Australia A. Click [here](#) to secure your place at the Twickenham Stoop.

England Men A wider squad to face Australia A (includes club and senior caps)

Forwards

Joe Batley (Bristol Bears)
Afolabi Fasogbon (Gloucester Rugby)
Greg Fisilau (Exeter Chiefs)
Joe Heyes (Leicester Tigers, 7 caps)
Ted Hill (Bath Rugby, 2 caps)
Emmanuel Iyogun (Northampton Saints)

Nathan Jibulu (Harlequins)
Curtis Langdon (Northampton Saints, 2 caps)
Gabriel Oghre (Bristol Bears)
Tom Pearson (Northampton Saints, 1 cap)
Henry Pollock (Northampton Saints)
Vilikesa Sela (Bath Rugby)
Tom Willis (Saracens, 1 cap)

Backs

Charlie Atkinson (Gloucester Rugby)
Oscar Beard (Harlequins)
Joe Carpenter (Sale Sharks)
Fraser Dingwall (c) (Northampton Saints, 2 caps)
Gabriel Ibitoye (Bristol Bears)

Archie McParland (Northampton Saints)
Cadan Murley (Harlequins)
Max Ojomoh (Bath Rugby)
Will Porter (Harlequins)
Tom Roebuck (Sale Sharks, 1 cap)
Jamie Shillcock (Leicester Tigers)

England Men A coaching staff for Australia A fixture

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

England Men A confirmed 2024/25 fixtures

Sunday 17th November 2024 – England A vs. Australia A – Twickenham Stoop, 14:00 GMT kick-off (Live on Premier Sports 1, tickets available [here](#))

Sunday 23rd February 2025 – England A vs. Ireland A – Ashton Gate, 13:00 GMT kick-off (Tickets available [here](#))



Match Preview: Brentford v Bournemouth

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of Brentford's Premier League game against Bournemouth at Gtech Community Stadium on Saturday (3pm kick-off GMT)

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford welcome Bournemouth to Gtech Community Stadium on Saturday in the Premier League (3pm kick-off GMT).

The Bees are looking to preserve their unbeaten home record, while Andoni Iraola's Cherries beat champions Manchester City last time out.

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of the meeting in west London.

Tickets for Brentford's game against Bournemouth are still available. [Secure your seat here.](#)

Pre-match analysis

Alex Lawes, Playmaker Stats: Goals on the agenda at the Gtech

Two of the Premier League's most entertaining teams from the opening few months of the 2024/25 campaign meet at Gtech Community Stadium this weekend.

Brentford have the best home record in the Premier League after their opening five matches, with four victories and a draw in those games, sitting above Manchester City in the home form table on goals scored.



The Bees have beaten Crystal Palace, Southampton, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Ipswich Town in west London this season and only dropped points to West Ham United.

They have a dominance and proactivity at the Gtech that hasn't necessarily been found on the road this year, where they have suffered five defeats out of five.

However, there is mitigation against that with Brentford having played away at Anfield, Etihad Stadium, Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and Old Trafford, as well as their [recent derby at Craven Cottage against Fulham](#) in a game in which they led until the very closing stages before Harry Wilson's late brace.

Bournemouth, on the other hand, have perhaps thrived against the very best teams in the division, with recent home wins against Arsenal and Manchester City sandwiching a point at Villa Park against Aston Villa.

Both sides have been given tough fixture lists to kick off their season, but both sides have begun quite well with promising signs as we move forward with the campaign; the two teams have combined for 32 goals in 10 matches so far.

Brentford will hope their home advantage shines through, especially given the fact that all but one of the Cherries' four wins this season have come down at the Vitality Stadium.

There is the possibility for fun and chaos for a neutral, though, too, with six of Bournemouth's 10 matches featuring both teams scoring in the game and nine of the Bees' 10 being the same.

As for the underlying data, both of these sides' entertaining styles of football have been backed up by that, too. Brentford have been forecasted to have scored 18.54 goals, so they have a slight overperformance by 0.46, whilst Bournemouth should have notched 18.36 - an underperformance of 5.36.

The eye test and general results would suggest this should be quite an entertaining encounter, but that has also been born out in the deeper statistics, too.

One key difference, though, would be that Bournemouth take a lot of shots, with 152 being the fourth most in the league, whilst Brentford are down in 16th for that stat with just 111 so far this season.

Given that Brentford have scored more and have a higher xG, too, that would highlight a tactical and technical efficiency that should be the envy of most teams within the Brentford set-up.

Scout Report

Dan Long, Sky Sports: Arsenal and Man City wins see Bournemouth eyeing top-half finish



With a new man at the helm - and after a season where they finished only five points above the relegation zone - Bournemouth were predicted to have a rocky season in 2023/24. Many had their card marked as one of the favourites to make a swift return to the Championship.

For the first three months, it looked as though those predictions would turn out to be correct, with the Cherries sat 18th just over a

year ago, on 4 November, after a 6-1 humbling away at Man City and with just one win under their belts.

It proved to be the kick up the backside they needed and led to a run of six wins and one draw in the next seven, which propelled them to the cusp of the top half. The start of the year was a tad rough, but Andoni Iraola's men regained stability.

Despite the fact they closed the season with three straight defeats - to Arsenal, Brentford and Chelsea - they had already matched their records for most wins in a Premier League season (13) and fewest defeats (16), as well as recording their joint-second highest finish (12th) and, most notably, achieving a new record Premier League points tally of 48.

Dominic Solanke's 21-goal haul played a key role in the Cherries' success last term - and it was only a matter of time before he moved on as a result. On 10 August, he joined Tottenham as the long-awaited replacement for Harry Kane for a reported fee of £55 million, which represented a healthy profit of around £38 million, five years after he was signed from Liverpool.

It's not too much of a stretch to say his presence has not been hugely missed, given how well Bournemouth have started the season.

They drew the first two against Nottingham Forest and Newcastle, then stunned Everton before the September international break. Sean Dyche's side were leading 2-0 after 86 minutes at Goodison Park, but by the sixth minute of injury time, they trailed 3-2 after goals from Antoine Semenyo, Lewis Cook and Luis Sinisterra.

Defeats to Chelsea and Liverpool followed, but since the end of September, Iraola's side have been on a climb that has taken them to eighth going into matchday 11. They beat Southampton and Arsenal, and drew with Aston Villa but, most impressively, beat Man City 2-1 last time out – and deservedly so.

"Apart from the result, I'm very proud of the performance," said Iraola after that victory last weekend.

"To beat them deservedly is even more difficult and even if we suffered until the end, I think we deserved this one. I've lost so many times against [Pep Guardiola], so you have to enjoy when the day arrives!"

That result means Bournemouth have picked up an average of 1.5 points per game so far this season, which is markedly more than the 1.26 they averaged in 2023/24. There are roughly three-quarters of the season left to play, of course, but if they maintain or better that average, they will be looking at shattering their points record again and achieving a historic first-ever top-half finish.

In the Dugout

Andoni Iraola

A right-back by trade during his playing days, Andoni Iraola came through the ranks at Athletic Bilbao.

He made his debut during the 2003/04 La Liga season, following two years in the Segunda Division with Bilbao's B team and a year with Basconia – effectively the club's C team – before that.

Over the 10 seasons that followed his debut year, Iraola astonishingly missed only 26 league games, during which time he was part of the squad that finished as runners-up in the Copa del Rey twice, once in the Europa League and once in the Spanish Super Cup. Between 2008 and 2011, he earned seven senior caps for Spain.

He featured considerably less during 2014/15 - his final season at San Mames – but captained Lehoiak in his final game for the club, in a third Copa del Rey final defeat, this time against Barcelona.

Iraola then signed for New York City of the MLS, where he spent 17 months, before retiring in November 2016.

Just over 18 months later, he was handed his first managerial role with AEK Larnaca, but lasted only until January 2019 after winning 12 of his 29 matches in charge of the Cypriot First Division club.

That summer, he joined CD Mirandés where, in his only season at the club, he masterminded a run to the semi-final of the Copa del Rey for only the second time in the club's history.

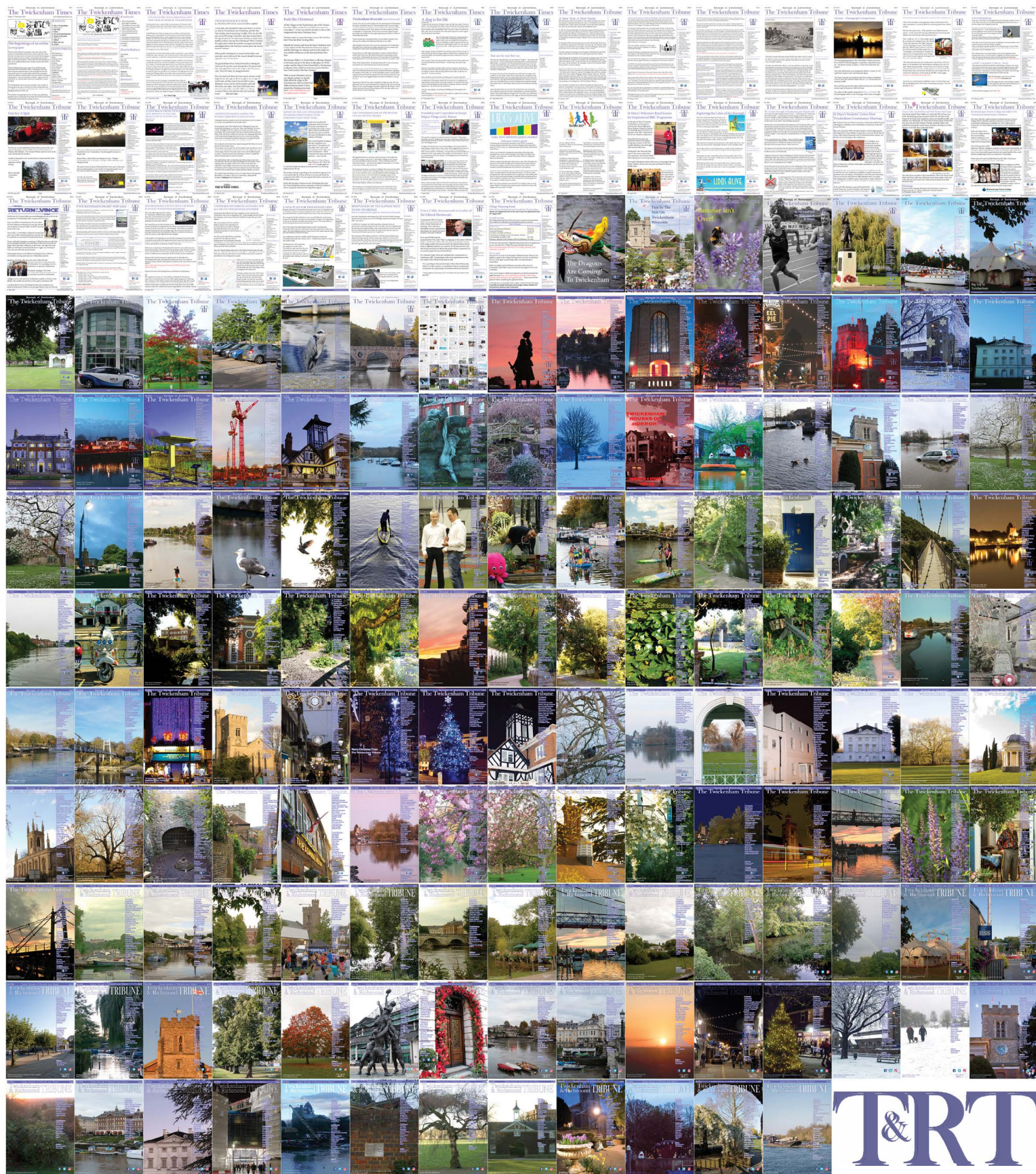
In August 2020, he took over at Rayo Vallecano, whom he led to promotion from the Segunda Division in his first season in charge.

Los Franjirrojos finished 12th in their first season back in La Liga and 11th last term, which led to an approach from Leeds United last February, which was rebuffed by the club's board.

However, he left at the end of the campaign when his contract expired and joined Bournemouth in June 2023. The 42-year-old signed a new contract in May, which will keep him at the Vitality Stadium until the summer of 2026.



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