

Twickenham & Richmond Tribune



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Age UK

Editors: Berkley Driscoll, Teresa Read

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TickerTape - News in Brief

Kew circular fashion show raises over £3,000

From Mary's Living & Giving Shop in Kew and The Rotary Club of Kew Gardens

[Mary's Living & Giving Shop](#) in Kew for Save the Children and the [Rotary Club of Kew Gardens](#) hosted a community celebration of circular and sustainable fashion to raise money for charity.

On Wednesday 14 May, over 130 guests attended a fashion extravaganza at St Luke's Church in Kew. It featured a curated selection of pre-loved garments donated to Mary's Living & Giving Shop in Kew, and was the shop's first-ever fashion show.

The event was made possible by the dedication of over 40 volunteers, whose enthusiasm and community spirit underscored the strong sense of togetherness in Kew.

Local residents took to the runway, modelling outfits styled around a variety of creative themes, including Highlands & Islands with upcycled tartan and tweed, Clothes that Work at Work, Colour Blocking, Salute to Summer, Festival Funk, and Tulle & Tuxedo.

The show highlighted the diversity and style potential of second-hand fashion available at the shop. Following the catwalk, attendees had the opportunity to purchase looks from the runway, further contributing to the fundraising effort. All proceeds will go towards helping children across the UK and globe have a healthy, happy and safe childhood.



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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The Tree Agency

West London Postcard Fair

Coming up soon on Saturday 14th June at the Baptist Church in Church Street Teddington TW11 8PF. Tens of thousands of postcards on sale covering every country in the world and every subject you can think of.

13 dealers and they also have various ephemera, stamps and coins on sale too.

The fair opens at 10.00, closes at 4.00 and light refreshments are served all day.

If you want to sell any postcards, please come and see me at the stand next to the stage at the bottom of the hall.

Many people spend all day browsing and I have boxes of local postcards covering Twickenham, Teddington, Richmond, Barnes, Kew, The Hamptons and Whitton as well as the rest of London.

From pennies to pounds. See you there!

Alan Winter:

Tel 07875 578398
or email:

alanwinter192@hotmail.com

WEST LONDON POSTCARD FAIR

Including STAMPS, POSTAL HISTORY, COINS and EPHEMERA

**TEDDINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH
CHURCH ROAD, TW11 8PF**

2025 DATES

**SATURDAY 14th JUNE
SATURDAY 11th OCTOBER**

All 10am – 4pm

Admission £2.00

14 DEALERS

REFRESHMENTS

EASY BY RAIL – Teddington (on Kingston loop from Waterloo)

EASY BY BUS – 33, 281, 285, 481, R68 and SL7

EASY BY ROAD – From M3/A316

Enquiries: ALAN WINTER

07875 578398 / alanwinter192@hotmail.com

Small Steps seeking new Chair of Trustees

[Small Steps](#) is looking for a new Chair of Trustees to lead the local charity at this critical and exciting time.

Last year, Small Steps launched a new five-year strategy that builds on past successes while recognising the need to adapt to an ever-changing world. The strategy outlines a clear vision to maximise the charity's impact by reaching as many children and families as possible, both locally and beyond. The new chair will play a vital role in making this vision a reality. Find out more about the [Chair of Trustees role](#).

Applications close on Friday 27 June 2025. Please email SmallStepsRecruitment@gmail.com with your CV and cover letter to apply, or get in touch to find out more. Small Steps is one of the [Mayor's charities](#) for 2025/2026. They support children aged from birth to 5 years who have cerebral palsy or other forms of motor impairment, syndromes or sensory impairment.



EXPLORE HORACE WALPOLES LITTLE GOTHIC CASTLE

**£10 STANDARD ADMISSION TICKETS TO
CELEBRATE RICHMOND'S PARTNERSHIPS
WITH FONTAINEBLEAU & KONSTANZ.**

7th and 8th June | House open 11am -4pm | Garden 9am-4pm



Turn It Off or Cough Up

Council Proposing new fines for motorists

By Jamesd Knight

Richmond Council is pressing ahead with plans to fine drivers who leave their engines idling stationary, a move that critics claim is not simply about air pollution but part of a wider agenda to discourage car use in the borough.

At a recent meeting of the Regulatory Committee, councillors voted to initiate public consultation on a proposed Public Spaces Protection Order, or PSPO, aimed at tackling engine idling. If implemented, the order would enable civil enforcement officers to issue immediate penalties to drivers found with their engines running unnecessarily, without requiring prior engagement with them.

Jason Andrews, the council's Environmental Health Pollution Manager, informed the committee that idling vehicles remain a significant contributor to local emissions. *"A car left idling for five minutes emits over 2,000 litres of pollutants at the tailpipe,"* he said. *"Multiply that across the borough and the numbers become staggering."*

Although the current fixed penalty for idling is £100, this amount is set to increase significantly. Under new powers introduced by the Government's flagship Crime and Policing Bill, the maximum fine for breaches of PSPOs will rise fivefold to £500. The Home Office has framed this move as part of a zero-tolerance crackdown on anti-social behaviour that, in the words of ministers, "erodes the quality of people's lives." Richmond's proposed PSPO, if adopted later this year, would be among the first to operate under this stricter regime.

Critics Warn of Overreach and Wider Agenda

In Hillingdon, where a similar order is already in place, over 2,300 fines were issued for idling last year alone. The pace and scale of enforcement have drawn condemnation from civil liberties campaigners.

"This is a toxic cocktail of extremely broad laws and incentivised officers enforcing them," said Josie Appleton, director of the Manifesto Club. *"A £500 fine is unaffordable for most people. The whole point of an on-the-spot fine is that it is a slap on the wrist, but £500 is not. It is like half a person's pay cheque."*

There are also practical objections. On cold days, many vehicles, particularly hybrids and petrol cars, rely on engine idling to maintain charge in their 12-volt batteries, especially when



heaters, demisters, or infotainment systems are in use. Motorists have cautioned that overly rigid enforcement could penalise those merely trying to operate their vehicles safely and legally.

The debate also touches on a broader transformation in local transport policy. Andrew Forster, former editor of *Local Transport Today*, has noted that many councils now pursue strategies aimed at “*changing travel behaviour*,” which often means not only encouraging cycling and walking but also making driving less attractive through road restrictions and reallocation. This signifies a shift within local government from representing people’s needs to delivering on a predetermined reform agenda.

Many residents argue that Richmond’s approach reflects this broader trend, with the anti-idling measure increasingly seen not as an isolated initiative but as part of a wider campaign in which car ownership is treated less as a practical necessity and more as a social ill.



Consultation Due This Summer

Council officers contest that interpretation. They assert that the plan is a public health initiative rather than an anti-driver campaign. Exemptions will apply for refrigeration vehicles, mechanical faults, and reasonable use, and enforcement is anticipated to be proportionate and informed by feedback from consultations.

That consultation is expected to launch later this summer, with a final report due before the council in October. Whether the measure is ultimately viewed as sensible environmental policy or another blow in the quiet war on motorists may depend on how residents respond.

Teddington RNLI



OPEN DAY

SUNDAY 8 JUNE

12:30-3:30PM

Fairmile House,
30 Twickenham Rd, TW11 8AB



- Duck Race on the Thames
- Local Food & Drink Stalls
- Lifeboat Demonstrations
- Fun Activities for All Ages

Support your local volunteer crew

RHP's Borrowing Bid Exposes Housing Time Bomb

By James Knight

A request from Richmond Housing Partnership (RHP) to ease financial restrictions on its housing stock has raised concerns across the borough, and rightly so. The housing association, which owns what was once Richmond's entire council housing stock, is seeking permission to increase its borrowing capacity by over £400 million in Richmond alone.

However, in doing so, RHP has highlighted a far more serious and urgent issue: the Council's entire legal authority to place families into RHP homes is due to expire in 2030. If that occurs, Richmond could confront a

housing access crisis of historic proportions, one that may culminate in the financial collapse of the council.



A Quiet Clause With Explosive Consequences

The current situation dates back to 2000, when the Council, run by the Liberal Democrats, transferred its housing stock to RHP. It was presented to residents as a means to unlock investment and enhance homes. However, embedded in the deal was a ticking time bomb: a 30-year expiration date on the Council's nomination rights.

Once those rights expire in July 2030, the Council will no longer be able to guarantee that local residents in housing need, such as homeless families or vulnerable individuals, will be housed by RHP. The homes will still exist, but they could be let out on RHP's terms rather than the borough's. This revelation, long hidden in legal detail, is now front and centre, thanks to RHP's latest move: asking the Council to lift constraints on how its stock is valued so it can borrow hundreds of millions more on the back of what were once public assets.

Critics are describing it as a power play, utilising the threat of reduced development as leverage to secure greater financial freedom, all while the borough risks losing its only reliable pipeline of social housing.

The Cost of Losing Control

The financial implications are stark. Without nomination rights, the Council will struggle to fulfil its statutory duties under homelessness law. Families who would once have been placed in social housing could find themselves stuck for months or even years in temporary accommodation often in hostels, hotels, or private lets at exorbitant rents that the council tax payer will have to foot the bill for.

According to internal estimates, the cost of temporary accommodation could spiral to unsustainable levels, draining the Council's General Fund if nomination rights disappear or are

reduced. This could lead to the borough being forced to issue a Section 114 notice: the formal declaration of effective bankruptcy. All because a 30-year-old deal, signed without a permanent safety net, is coming to an end, and current Liberal Democrat leaders appear unwilling or unprepared to confront it.

RHP's Leverage—and the Council's Weak Hand

RHP says it will “use best efforts” to deliver new homes in Richmond if it is allowed to borrow more, but that commitment is conditional, non-binding, and dependent on land, planning, and government grants. Meanwhile, the control the Council still holds, through legal covenants and nomination rights, lasts only five more years.

In that context, RHP's request to revise the Stock Transfer Agreement looks less like a neutral administrative tweak and more like a calculated bid to extract value before the clock runs out. And what happens after 2030? That remains unclear. A vague “partnership conference” is proposed as an alternative to the formal legal framework. But without hard obligations, shared goals can quickly become empty promises. Some councils have seen nomination rights shrink to only 50% of the relets.

Who Holds the Blame?

The Liberal Democrats engineered the original stock transfer in 2000 when Sir David Williams led it. They now run the Council again, but have offered little explanation for how they plan to avoid the disaster their deal set in motion. Some now claim that key powers such as the ability to appoint council-nominated trustees to the RHP board were stripped away by central government.

And there's truth in that: in October 2015, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) reclassified English housing associations as public sector bodies, citing government control over aspects such as board appointments and property sales. This action moved £60 billion of housing association debt onto the national balance sheet.

To reverse the classification and shift the debt back to the private sector, the Conservative government passed the Housing and Planning Act 2016, which included measures to remove local authority influence, including council-appointed board members. The aim was to demonstrate that housing associations operated independently, on paper, at least.

But while this change limited council influence, it's important to note that Richmond's council nominees were always a minority on RHP's board, even before the Act. And it was the 30-year sunset clause, embedded in the original 2000 transfer by Liberal Democrat councillors, that created today's crisis.

Political Accountability

If the worst happens and the Council loses control over social housing, is overwhelmed by homelessness costs, and has to raise taxes or shut services, it won't just be a financial failure. It will be a political one. And residents will be left asking: **how did we end up here and why has today's leadership done so little to fix it?**

The issue is being discussed under item 8 on Monday's Adult Social Services, Health and Housing Committee. Click [Here](#) to see the agenda and the reports.

Terrific trees, groundbreaking new gardens and favourites for all the family: soak up summer at Kew Gardens

This summer, visitors to Kew Gardens are invited to celebrate the majesty of trees, enjoy a plethora of exciting events, and discover new horticultural wonders across the 320-acre UNESCO World Heritage Garden in West London.

A celebration of trees

Kew's summer of trees continues throughout the coming months, with interactive art installation [Of the Oak](#) taking centre stage on Syon Vista until 28 September. Created by internationally acclaimed artist collective Marshmallow Laser Feast, this unique artwork allows visitors to discover the secret life of one of Kew's oldest and most important trees: the Lucombe oak. Accompanying meditation trails and an interactive field guide encourage visitors to connect with some of the most spectacular trees across the Gardens, as well as learn more about the incredible web of species which rely on oak trees for survival.



In the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art until 14 September, [The Power of Trees](#) unravels the majesty of conifers, with the evocative artwork *Horizontal* by Finnish artist Eija-Liisa Ahtila creating an atmospheric portrait of life in the boreal forest. Alongside this, 20 new botanical illustrations by the artists of the Bedgebury National Pinetum Florilegium Society showcase some of the most enigmatic trees from Bedgebury's collection of conifers and celebrate the historic connections between Kew and Bedgebury National Pinetum in its centenary year.

From 26 July families visiting Kew Gardens can enjoy *Oaklore*, an imaginative new experience by acclaimed arts collective Wild Rumpus. *Oaklore* invites young visitors to become 'Oaktivists' – tree guardians, on an interactive, performance-led journey across Kew's arboretum, discovering more about the wonder of trees and the vital role which we all share in protecting them for the future.

Elsewhere across the Gardens, favourites such as the [Treetop Walkway](#), Badger Sett, Log Trail and [Remarkable Trees](#) trail all offer opportunities to explore Kew's 11,000-strong arboretum and learn more about the past, present and future of this incredible collection.

A summer of activity in nature

The family-friendly Joe Wicks Festival returns to Kew Gardens on 6 July. Taking place across four zones, the festival offers a plethora of activities and workshops for visitors of all ages: Joe Wicks himself will lead a series of fitness activities in *ReEnergise*, alongside yoga, pilates and family mindfulness activities hosted by leading experts. In the *ReConnect* zone, visitors can stretch their minds and reflect on an inspiring series of talks from authors and celebrities. The *ReTreat* zone will include meditation workshops delivered by the London Meditation Centre, as well as mobile massage and ice baths. Family fun will be at the heart of the *RePlay* zone, with crafts, play and book readings. Tickets are available now.

Throughout the summer, Kew's popular [Wellbeing in nature](#) series continues, with tai-chi, Pilates, forest bathing, Temperate House yoga and sound baths taking place across the Gardens. [Summer Cycle](#) returns on 7 August, offering a rare chance to experience Kew on two wheels.

New gardens and horticultural highlights

July 2025 sees the opening of the brand-new [Carbon Garden](#). This innovative new space will showcase the essential role plants and fungi play in tackling climate change in a beautiful, permanent new garden. The Carbon Garden aims to reveal the invisible, bringing to life the critical role carbon plays in sustaining life on Earth, communicating the scale of the climate crisis, and sharing the extraordinary potential of plants and fungi to combat it. Through a dry garden, perennial planting, a rain garden and a pavilion created using natural materials, the Carbon Garden will showcase the work of Kew scientists and horticulturists and inspire visitors to become advocates for nature.

Flowering for the first time this summer, Kew's new Wild Rose Garden showcases one of the best collections of wild roses in the world. With over 70 types of wild rose on display, this garden tells the story of the evolution of the much-loved flower and its development in cultivation to become a floral favourite across the world.

Elsewhere, the fragrant **Rose Garden** is the ideal spot to enjoy a balmy midsummer evening, while Kew's Great Broad Walk Borders showcase a spectacular range of colourful summer plants. Cool down in the shady arboretum and enjoy new wildflower meadows and an abundance of wildlife in the Natural Area.

Music and theatre

[Kew the Music](#) is back for 2025, with spectacular sunset concerts taking place from 8 – 13 July 2025. Confirmed to headline are Craig David, The Human League, UB40, DJ Spooky, Alison Moyet and the Gipsy Kings. This week-long festival of summer picnic concerts set within Kew's stunning grounds offers a unique opportunity to enjoy the ambience of the Gardens as the sun goes down.

[Theatre on Kew](#) also returns for the summer, with performances by the Australian Shakespeare Company starting 18 July. This year's productions include family favourites *The Dream Fairies- Adventure to Bubble Land* and *Alice in Wonderland* during the daytime, and Shakespeare's classic *Macbeth* under the stars on select evenings until the end of August.

Experience the magic of outdoor cinema with [Kew the Movies](#) this summer (20-22 June). Pack a picnic, bring a blanket or camping chairs, and settle in for an evening of movie magic beneath the open sky. Films include *Wicked Sing-A-Long* (PG), *Moana 2* and *Bridget Jones' Diary*. A full list can be found [here](#).

Entry for as little as £1

Kew Gardens is open every weekday from 10am – 7pm (last entry 6pm) and until 8pm at weekends (last entry 7pm). Booking in advance online continues to offer the best value. Kew members can benefit from daily entry to the Gardens from 8am, and a £10 ticket is available for 16 – 29-year-olds.

Entry to the Gardens after 4pm is just £10, and a £1 ticket concession is available for recipients of Universal Credit, Pension Credit, other legacy benefits and asylum applicants in receipt of a valid ARC card. £1 ticket buyers may also purchase up to 4 additional guest tickets for £1 per person. A guest can be a child aged 4-15 or another adult/person 16 years or older. [More information can be found at kew.org](#).

At the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, we're dedicated to harnessing the power of plants and fungi to end the extinction crisis and secure a future for all life on Earth. With Kew's world-leading research, global partnerships and beloved gardens – home to the world's most diverse collections of plants and fungi – we're using our trusted voice to shape policy and practice worldwide. As a charity we rely on the critical support of our visitors, not only to sustain the gardens, but to protect global plant and fungal biodiversity for the benefit of our planet and humanity.

Royal
Botanic
Gardens **Kew**

Sir,

Changes to parking and traffic management as part of the Twickenham Riverside regeneration scheme

A letter dated “May 2025” was recently delivered to homes in Central Twickenham, outlining changes to parking and traffic management as part of the Twickenham Riverside regeneration scheme. The timing, over Half Term, and the general heading meant many residents initially overlooked its implications.

Closer inspection reveals that these proposals go far beyond the Riverside itself. They include the removal of parking from local roads, wholesale rearrangement of parking layouts, and a shift of entire stretches of bays to opposite sides of residential streets all apparently enacted using emergency powers, and with no prior consultation with those most affected.

Let me be clear: many residents see real merit in redeveloping the Riverside. Creating a more attractive and accessible public space along the river is a goal worth pursuing. However, the way these associated traffic and parking changes have been handled leaves much to be desired.

These changes will significantly reduce available parking for residents, with no clear evidence that overall capacity will be maintained, let alone improved. Moving bays to the curved side of narrow streets will make roads less safe by increasing vehicle speeds and removing the natural traffic-calming effect of existing layouts. In some cases, cars will be moved dangerously close to people’s homes – just 1.2 metres from front doors and windows – increasing noise, pollution, and risk to property.

A constructive alternative would be to make the Aragon Road multi-storey car park a secure car park so it can remain open 24 hours a day, which could accommodate displaced vehicles without placing further pressure on residential roads.

It is also disappointing that the Council did not provide a printed map of the affected roads in its letter. Many residents, especially older people and those without internet access – have struggled to interpret what is being proposed. That falls well short of the standard of transparency and inclusivity the Council claims to uphold.

Objections and complaints have now been submitted; however, many residents fear that the decisions have already been made and that any consultation will be a formality rather than a genuine dialogue. This would be undemocratic and unacceptable.

I urge fellow residents to review the plans and make their voices heard.

www.richmond.gov.uk/twickenham_zone_d_changes

Concerned Resident
Central Twickenham

News from Holy Trinity, Twickenham Green

Youth Group This Sunday - Year 6 are invited!

We are delighted to welcome year 6 children to youth group this half term. Our older youth group members will undoubtedly be excited to share information on life at secondary school, to help them with the transition in September. Most importantly everyone can enjoy games and food together. Youth Group takes place during term time on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 4.30-6pm in the Green Room. We look forward to welcoming lots of new members to the group.

Final Call -Confirmation Service

On Sunday 6th July, Bishop Emma Ineson will be conducting a service of confirmation at Holy Trinity. Confirmation typically marks the point at which someone starts to receive Holy Communion in the Church of England. If anyone is interested in getting Confirmed, please speak to Rev Simon.



THE GREEN POP UP CAFE

THURSDAYS

10.30-12.00



The Green Room
Holy Trinity Twickenham
Twickenham Green
TW2 5TS



A community space where
everyone is welcome to pop in
for refreshments, friendly chat and activities



HOLY TRINITY TWICKENHAM

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames – Twickenham Riverside Parking

The Council: We are making a number of changes to the Central Twickenham Controlled Parking Zone (Zone D). These are in connection with the removal of all parking spaces around the Twickenham Riverside development site at the Embankment, between Wharf Lane and Water Lane.

The changes comprise:

- The creation of new parking spaces across the zone
- The re-designation of certain parking spaces for wider use by permit holders
- The installation of new double yellow lines to improve access and sight lines at certain locations

Consultation

View Consultation Letter to Residents [HERE](#)

Representations and/or comments should be made by email to parkingpolicy@richmond.gov.uk, or in writing to:

The Head of Engineering (Traffic and Parking Policy)
Civic Centre
44 York Street
Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1 3BZ

When writing, please quote 'Twickenham Riverside Regeneration' in the title.

Note: Read the letter in the Tribune on Page 13 from *Concerned Resident*

Read Responses by Residents from the 2020 consultation [HERE](#)

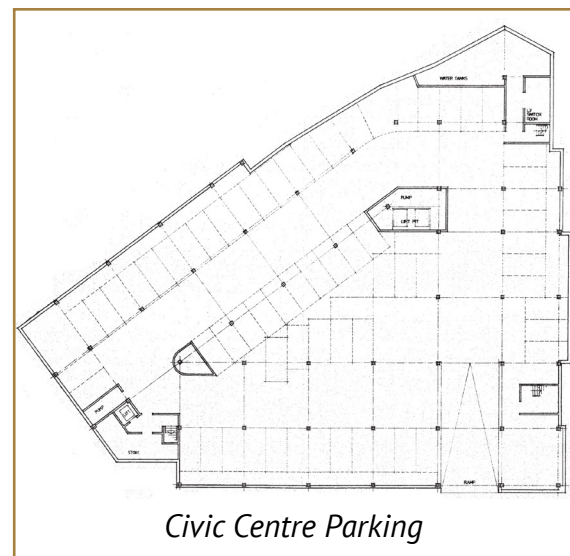
Civic Centre Underground Car Park

There are 66 underground parking spaces belonging to the nearby Civic Centre which are free when the council officers go home and at weekends. When the Civic Centre built the staff car park it was said that it could be available for the use of residents when the Council was closed, reported in the Tribune in edition 34.

Civic Centre Planning Permission: View the planning permission [HERE](#)

64 parking spaces shall be provided in the basement. For Council purposes during normal office hours and shall not be used for any other purpose other than motor vehicles.

80 spaces to be retained in Arragon Road multi-storey car park retained for Council staff during working hours. 1st May 1987



Previous Tribune Articles

Edition 34 published on 30th June 2017

The Council is now considering the use of 25 spaces in the Civic Centre underground car park, as previously proposed by the Twickenham Tribune

Edition 136 14th June 2019

On Thursday the Twickenham Riverside Stakeholders' Group met to hear about the Council's proposals for removing 78 parking spaces from the Embankment between Water Lane and Wharf Lane. The Council is now considering the use of 25 spaces in the Civic Centre underground car park, as previously mentioned by the Twickenham Tribune

Edition 152 reported that it was understood that originally this car park (the Civic Centre car park) was intended to share spaces with residents at weekends and out-of-office hours. During discussions of this situation a senior councillor said that use of the underground car park out of office hours could create a security risk.

Barn Elms running track revamped into premier community sports hub

From Richmond Council

A major upgrade of the much-loved running track at Barn Elms in Barnes is now complete – backed by the Barn Elms Sports Trust, Sport England, and a £100,000 investment by Richmond Council to support sport and active lifestyles across the borough.

The refurbishment, which began in 2023, included the installation of a modern Polytan surface, replacing the track's original base laid 30 years ago.

Alongside the resurfaced track, the site now offers improved facilities for high jump, long jump, javelin and shot-put – ensuring it can host a wide range of athletic events.

Since opening to the public late last year, the track has already seen strong take-up from local schools, clubs and community groups. This summer alone, it will play host to 23 major school sports days – underlining its importance as a hub for youth and grassroots sport on the east side of the borough.



Councillor Alan Juriansz, Vice-Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee and Lead Member for Sport, said:

“This is a proud moment for the local community and a great example of what happens when we invest in the spaces that help people stay active and connected.

“Whether it’s a child discovering athletics for the first time, or a resident training for a charity run, Barn Elms is now better equipped than ever to support our residents’ health and wellbeing,” he said.

The investment forms part of Richmond Council’s wider commitment to improving leisure and sports facilities, as set out in its Leisure Strategy, Richmond Moves for a Healthier Borough, launched last year.

“We’re determined to ensure every part of our borough has access to quality sports facilities – and this project shows that commitment in action,” added Councillor Juriansz.

You can find out more about how the Council is supporting active lifestyles and investing in local leisure spaces through its [Leisure Strategy, Richmond Moves for a Healthier Borough \(2024–29\)](#).

Next week at Richmond Council

On Monday 9th June, the **Adult Social Services, Health and Housing Committee** will meet to discuss (1) the £5.45 million overspend, (2) end of year performance report, (3) request by RHP to vary the stock transfer agreement so they can borrow more money, (4) tenants champion annual report, (5) transforming adult social care programme that aims to reduce the budget by £855,000, (6) affordable housing update, checking standards of temporary accommodation, (7) joint health overview and scrutiny update, (8) committee work programme. The meeting starts at 7 pm, York House, Twickenham. For details, click [HERE](#)

Tuesday night sees the **Transport and Air Quality Committee** meet to discuss the following items (1) review the school street next to Heathfield School, (2) an update on long-term traffic engineering schemes such as cycle dedicated cycle lanes and the Richmond Pedestrianisation (3) bus service review, (4) budget report including the £409,000 underspend, (5) end of year performance report. The meeting starts at 7 pm, York House, Twickenham. For details, click [HERE](#)

On Thursday, the **Education and Children's Services Committee** will meet to discuss: (1) the update on the NHS independent review of children's and young people's mental health services and the aim to save £100,000 this year and £200,000 in future years by transferring children's mental health services from Achieving for Children to a new single provider; (2) the annual review of the children's and young people's plan; (3) the home to school travel assistance policy; (4) the end-of-year performance review; (5) the budget report; (6) the committee work programme. For details, click [HERE](#)

For guidance on how to **participate** at different types of council meetings, such as speaking or asking written or verbal questions, please click [HERE](#)



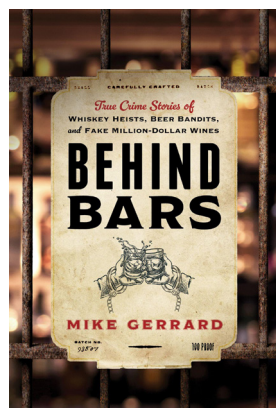
Foodie Gifts for Foodie Fathers

I know the shops will be full of gift ideas for Fathers' Day (Sunday 15 June this year) but I thought I'd give you some reasonably priced suggestions to make life easier:

On the book front, a couple of suggestions...for the man who likes to be in charge of the barbecue (and let's face it, there are lots of them!) This book - **A Kiss of Smoke** is by Jackie Weight, the only Brit ever to win the World Barbecue Championship (the Jack Daniels Trophy) and a perfect gift. The book comprises many of Jackie's favourite recipes and tips on getting the best from your barbecue. Her website bbqworkshop.co.uk sells a number of other barbecue items, including her special meat rubs (which are delicious)



Behind Bars is packed with fascinating stories about what happens when alcohol meets crime, from illicit stills in the Scottish Highlands to moonshine in the US and lots more. It highlights the most bizarre - and expensive - alcohol related crimes, while revealing the inside world of spirits. It will certainly whet his curiosity! Available for around £15 from bookshops and of course, Amazon.



If he's travelling to work and/or into fitness, he'll need to carry a water bottle. This **CITY COOL Water Filter Bottle** — a sleek, double-walled design that keeps water chilled for up to 24 hours - is perfect. Built for durability and daily use, it features AQUAPHOR's advanced ion-exchange, activated carbon filter made from renewable coconut husks. Thoughtful details like a non-slip silicone grip, leak-proof lid, and smooth, tactile finish make CITY COOL as functional as it is stylish. The new collection is available in a palette of colours — Sky Blue, Mineral Red, Rose Pink, Carbon Black, and Fresh Teal — combining high-performance filtration with style. £20 from John Lewis and other retailers.



How about sending him a specially iced cookie? This You're The Best Trophy Letterbox Iced Cookie from **Baked by Steph** is the perfect way to do it with flair. This hand-iced cookie gift is crafted from a buttery vanilla biscuit base topped with vibrant royal icing, making it as tasty as it is thoughtful. Handmade, packed with care, and delivered right to their door, £12 from bakedbysteph.co.uk

If he's a wine fan, treat him to something extra special with this **Codorniu Organic Chardonnay** - a vibrant Spanish white crafted from organically grown Chardonnay grapes. It offers fresh aromas of citrus and tropical fruits, complemented by subtle herbal notes. On the palate, it delivers a crisp, balanced profile with a clean finish. It pairs well with seafood, grilled vegetables, or light poultry dishes, making it a refreshing and thoughtful Father's Day gift. £11 a bottle from Amazon



Or if red is more to his taste, this **Calvet Prestige Bordeaux Merlot Cabernet Sauvignon** (£8.50, Tesco) offers delicate flavours and a well-balanced palate. Calvet Prestige embodies all the expertise and reputation of Maison Calvet. Named in honour of the very select "Diplôme du Prestige de la France" received by the latter in 1958, this Merlot-Cabernet Sauvignon pairs very well with Bordeaux specialities such as duck confit, truffles or meat in sauce



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Historic Queen's Hall on Twickenham Riverside

An Assurance from the Conservation Officer of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to Protect Queen's Hall on Twickenham Riverside:

"I can assure you that the Council will continue to be vigilant in using its planning powers to protect this building (Queen's Hall on Twickenham Riverside) which is historically important and which we consider to be a local landmark. It will become even more important as part of the backdrop to the new open space on the Riverside site.

The Council will continue to press the owners to bring forward a suitable scheme.

In terms of community action my only suggestion is that you may wish to write to the owners stressing the historical importance of the building and the local support for ensuring any applications will be sympathetic to the character of the building and the adjacent conservation area."

Conservation Officer, Urban Design Team, London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames, 2012

QUEEN'S HALL from the Richmond Environmental Information Centre (REIC) HLF history project in 2012: [Memories of Twickenham Riverside](#)

The book "*Richmond House and its inhabitants*" REIC (with thanks to Sue Hamilton-Miller and Professor Jeremy Hamilton-Miller) See below for details of the book

Queen's Hall

By Jeremy Hamilton-Miller (from the Memories of Twickenham Riverside HLF project)

"Queen's Hall forms the remnant of a building that formerly housed Twickenham Town Hall and the Public Library. Construction, privately financed by the well-known local property developer Charles Freake, was started in 1876 and completed the following year. Earlier venues to serve the purposes of a town hall had proved less than satisfactory: the Twickenham Lecture Hall in Heath Road (built 1864) survived only three years, and the converted Montpelier Proprietary Chapel was regarded as not in a central enough location.

Originally, the Town Hall was no. 8 King Street (Goad map 1907), but at that time buildings were numbered consecutively from the Water Lane end, instead of, as later (and now), the South side having odd numbers, the North side evens. The building now fronting the Queen's Hall (Bu'sen – see below) is no. 9 King Steet.



Queen's Hall seen from Diamond Jubilee Gardens

The opening of the Town Hall was a much-anticipated event, as there was a great perceived desire locally for a good hall for public meetings. It was, however, rather low key, being described as "the semi-official inauguration".

The Town Hall was originally intended as purpose-built offices for the Local Board (formed in 1868), and Mr Freake allowed the Board free use. In 1896 the successor to the Board, the Urban District

Council, leased the building. The small rooms in the front were converted in 1882/3 to the Library, which subsequently moved to Garfield Road in 1902. The auditorium at the rear, The Queen's Hall, was used for meetings, early film shows and amateur dramatics. The first meeting there was in July 1877, when there was a gathering of the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Masons. Usage of the Hall seems to have got off to a slow start, as the local paper in January 1878 bemoaned the lack of use, but this changed after a short while (see below).

The Queen's Hall was used for concerts, and there is evidence that, among many others, the violinist André Mangeot and the trumpeter Thomas Harper performed there. Trawling through the 1888 *Richmond & Twickenham Times* and the 1889 *Thames Valley Times* indicates the wide variety of functions that took place in the Hall; besides the weekly meeting of the Local Board, these included: The Nubian Minstrels, The Police Minstrels, The Ebony Minstrels, "Penny Entertainments", the AGM of The Twickenham Horticultural Society, The Twickenham Choral Society, Frank Figg's Concerts, held at Saturday evenings, a "Bazaar of Useful and Fancy Articles", the Twickenham and District Hearth and Home Benefit Building Society, various amateur dramatic performances, the Twickenham Glee and Madrigal Society, the Church of England Temperance Society (of which Mrs Twining was President), the ball of Twickenham Rowing Club, the Thames Valley Orchestral Society, the Independent Order of Good Templars and the Twickenham Habitation of the Primrose League.

Special mention in 1888 must go to the celebration of Alexander Pope's bicentenary: following several meetings there of the Pope Commemoration Committee, the Hall was used as a special Loan Museum. The event was celebrated by a special supplement, with illustrations, of the local newspaper (July). In 1889 there was much excitement at the visit of the Comtesse de Paris to attend a Bazaar and Sale of Work in the Hall, after which there was a demonstration of Edison's phonograph.

The Queen's Hall is probably best remembered for the stage debut of Lillie Langtry, the Prince of Wales' former mistress. This took place on November 19th 1881, on an evening described in the local Press as a "Grand Dramatic Performance – a brilliant success". Many notable dignitaries attended, including members of the Twining family (Dial House), Mr and Mrs GG MacKintosh (Richmond House), Mr H Labouchere MP (Popes Villa) and Oscar Wilde. The event was to raise money for St John's Hospital and was under the patronage of The Duchess of Tek; it consisted of two plays performed by amateurs, the second of which, a comedietta entitled *A Fair Encounter*, featured Mrs Labouchere and, in her first acting role, the latter's protégée, Lillie Langtry. She received rave reviews in the local Press as well as in *The World* and *Truth*, although most of the plaudits were reserved for the acting skills of Mrs Labouchere. [author's note: the adulatory tone is hardly surprising, as the latter two journals were wholly controlled by Mr Labouchere]. It is remarkable that it was only one month after this that Lillie made her debut as a professional actress in London.

The Town Hall and Queens Hall continued to be used in much the same way until the mid-1920s, when it became apparent that the existing building was too small. In 1922 the last inhabitant of Richmond House (that adjoined the Town Hall), Mrs MacKintosh, died, and the house was put up for auction. It appeared to some that the ideal solution would be to convert Richmond House into the new town hall, so the Board resolved to buy it; however, a Richmond Councillor and entrepreneur, Joseph Mears, outbid Twickenham. There then ensued much debate as to whether Richmond House or York House (that had also just come onto the market) would be more suitable as a town hall. Eventually, the York House option was taken and Richmond House (somewhat grudgingly) bought from Mr Mears and demolished, later to become the site of Twickenham Swimming Baths. The front part of the Town Hall was demolished in 1926 as part of the widening of King Street, when Twickenham had been given Borough status, but Queens Hall remained intact.

Kelly's Directory for 1926 and 1927 still lists no.8 King Street (South side) as being the Town Hall for Twickenham Urban District Council, but in 1928 it is referred to as the Old Town Hall, and it is unoccupied. King Street was renumbered in 1929, no. 8 becoming no.9. In 1930 the Council sold

the Old Town Hall + Queens Hall site and other neighbouring properties to D.Morris and Sons Ltd., who let out premises on 25-year leases. It becomes clear that some property remained in front of the Hall after the demolition, as there are records of occupation of no. 9 King Street (and sometimes also no. 9a) after 1931. The Hall became a venue for dance: between 1932 and 1939 there is a “dance hall proprietor” (R.Palmer) living at no. 9, and in 1940 a company called Danse-de-Luxe Ltd took over. However, the latter went into voluntary liquidation in 1942 (London Gazette).

Bushy Park became the headquarters (named Camp Griffiss) for the US Air Force during World War II, and at the time of the run-up to the D Day invasion of France (6 June 1944) there were also large number of American soldiers in Richmond and neighbouring districts, as the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF), with General Dwight Eisenhower in command, was also based there. During this period there were dances held at the Hall for the benefit of the GIs.

In 1946 the Hall was listed in the Rate Book as “derelict”, and it does not appear to have been used again until 1954 (it was unoccupied in 1953), when The Court School of Dancing moved in. This was a large organization with at least a dozen other branches, whose principal was Courtenay Castle, author of books such as *Learn to Dance* (1965) and *Better Dancing* (1967). “C. Castle of Reigate” is noted as the owner in the 1956 Rate Book, so he must have bought the freehold. The school offered nightly ballroom classes; single lessons five shillings or a course of five for one guinea (£1.05). The school evidently did well, eventually moving out in 1985. From that time until the present the lease of the Queens Hall has been held by the Bu’sen Martial Arts School; a thriving organization run by Frank Perry who taught karate, judo, ju-jitsu and tai chi.

At some stage after 1985 the freehold of the Hall, as well as the rest of the South side of King Street (nos 1 – 33), was bought by the property arm of Dawnay, Day (who in 2001 submitted a planning application to develop the derelict old Pool site). However, that Company experienced financial problems in 2008, and their main creditor, Norwich Union (now Aviva) sold the site in 2009 to Omaha Nominees Ltd.

Queen’s Hall is a tall rectangular brick building with a double pitched roof; it is simple but impressive. Two storey extensions have been added to the elevation at the back of the Hall.

The entrance from King Street has the words “Queen’s Hall” on the tiled floor. A fully working Victorian air ventilation system, behind a decorative metal grille, runs around the hall and foyer areas. The original stage is at the side of the hall and the hall has a sprung floor.”

A false ceiling in the main hall hides a decorative painted plaster motif of a horse-drawn chariot and chandeliers hang from the high ceiling – written in 2012



Decorative painted plaster motif of a horse-drawn chariot

Thanks to Sue and Jeremy Hamilton-Miller for their work on the REIC Heritage Lottery Funded project Memories of Twickenham Riverside

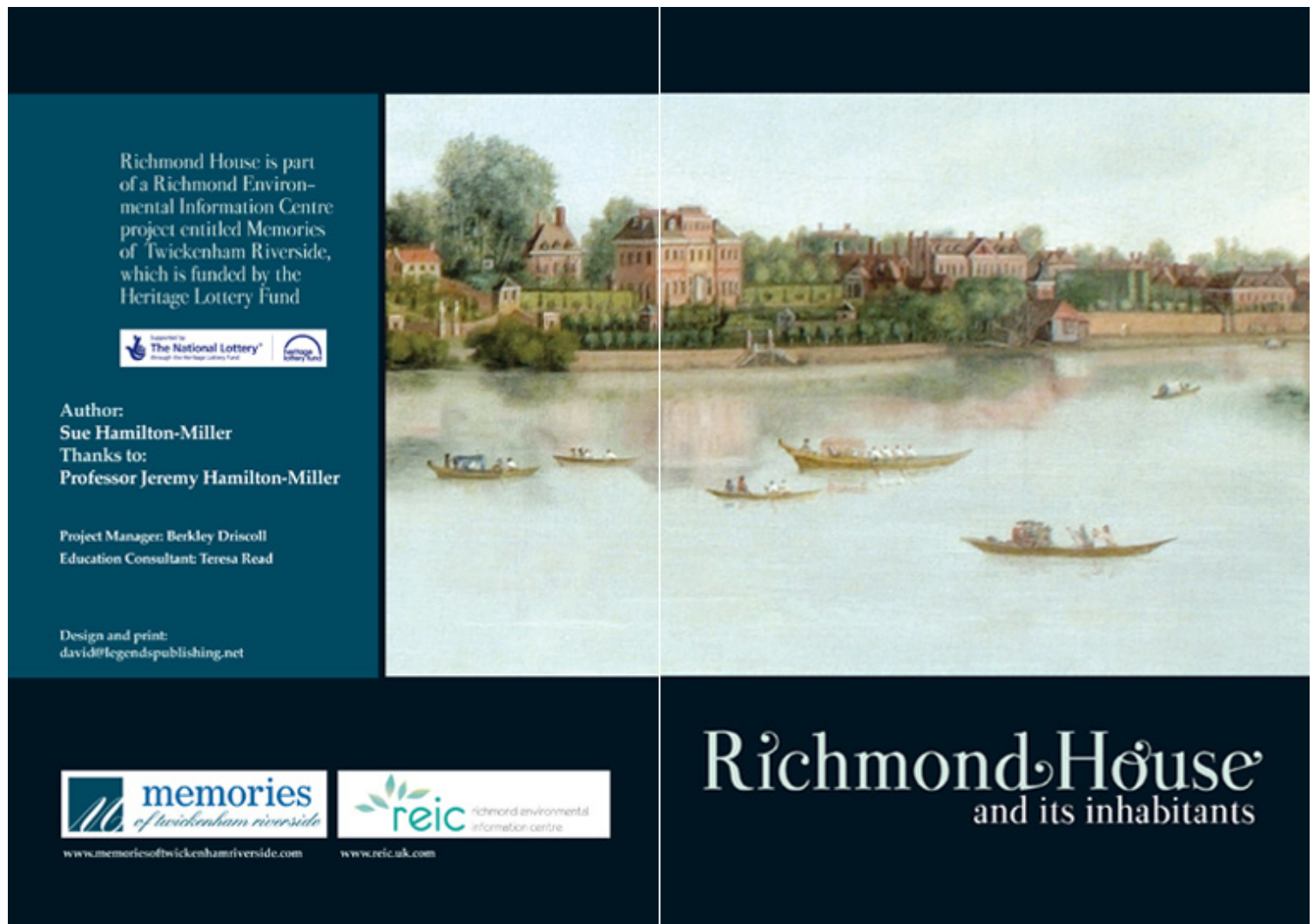
On Sunday 1st June Busen held a farewell gathering at Queen’s Hall, and have moved to their new home in Stanley Road, Teddington. Planning permission has been granted to [develop](#) the hall.

Richmond House and its inhabitants

A book by Jeremy and Sue Hamilton-Miller

As part of the Memories project a 40-page booklet, ***Richmond House and its inhabitants***, was published. This provides a fascinating insight into the rich history of the house and includes extensive primary research.

We think that you will agree, having had a glimpse of the high calibre and stature of its inhabitants, Richmond House deserves to take its place amongst the other famous houses along the banks of the Thames, such as Marble Hill House, York House and Strawberry Hill House, at least in historical terms.



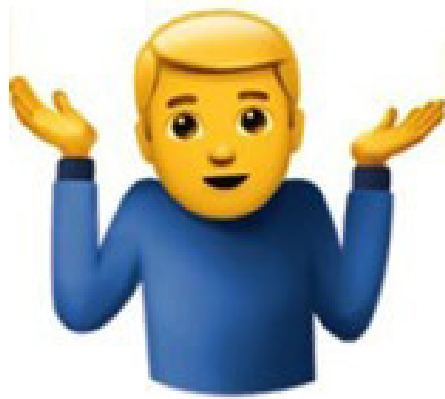
Nearly 100 years ago an important house in the centre of Twickenham was pulled down. Part of the ground was used to widen King Street (the main road running through Twickenham) and a private developer built a line of shops with flats above. A swimming pool and roads took up the rest of the site and the house and its history disappeared from people's memories, apart from a few references to it on the Twickenham Museum website. The house was called Richmond House and it was situated on 4 acres on the banks of the Thames opposite Eel Pie Island and between King Street, Water Lane and Wharf Lane in Twickenham.

View the book Richmond House and its inhabitants [HERE](#)

Why Wait?

By Deep Patel

~Life through the eyes of a Twickenham shopkeeper~



The best way to describe my shop is seeing it as a microcosm of the entire world in all its glory...As a shopkeeper, I have the pleasure of serving people from every walk of life, from the school lollypop man to the local vicar, everyone is welcome at Meet & Deep Newsagents. Last week I had the pleasure of serving a gentleman who did something for a living that I had always been curious about, he ran a funeral business. I know it's not the most enjoyable subject to talk about, but I was curious to find out more about his daily routine and ask him some questions too (although all he was interested in I think was buying a Mars bar and leaving)... I still wanted to know more... After talking about the increase in price of chocolate bars whilst the companies that produced them had made them smaller at the same time, I mustered up the courage to finally ask him...I said "what on earth made you want to spend your life dealing with death?" and he answered back saying "what on earth made you want to spend your life selling sweets on a daily basis?". So I told him "I decided to spend my life selling sweets so that I could provide a service that makes other people's lives better"...he then replied to me "and I decided to spend my life dealing with death so that I could provide a service that makes others ends better"...he had a point...we were not really that different to each other...but it was what he said next that really made me think...

When I asked the funeral director how his day went, he replied it had been disappointing. I sympathised with him and said "I understand, it must be disappointing talking to people about death every day" ...he answered back "not at all, death is a natural part of life and the only thing that is promised to us all the moment we are born", so I asked him why he was so disappointed that day. He said that he was not so disappointed about the fact that he had to deal with death daily, but more so at the behaviour of the families and friends of those who had passed away. I was intrigued yet wary that the after school rush was about to start and I didn't want to hold up the funeral director either... but I had to ask what he meant about the "disappointing behaviour of the families and friends of those who had passed away"...I wondered if he meant things like family arguments over inheritance and similar, so I asked him.

The funeral director told me that when he sees the families of those that have passed away (to set the funeral arrangements) he very often notices the amount of money that the friends and families of the deceased are willing to spend on lavish floral arrangements, glossy funeral programs, luxury canvas portraits and solid mahogany polished wood coffins all because they "loved" the person who had passed away so much...he went on to further say that he was also disappointed at the praise and kind words that so many of the family and friends of the person who had passed away spoke of...that bit left me confused...why would he be disappointed about the kind words and praise given by the family and friends of the person who had passed away?

Noticing that the funeral director was not in a rush and that I had ten more minutes until the after school children crowded up my shop, I took advantage of this “spare time” and asked the funeral director to explain further to me why he felt that way. He made an excellent and very much valid point...he said “when the person dies, so many people rush to pay for the most expensive and elaborate floral wreaths, yet when the person who passed away was alive, none of those giving flowers for the coffin even called the person to say “hello” or check up on them. The funeral director continued to say how the person who passed away would have been so much happier if in place of the posh floral coffin-topper arrangements, they instead received a nice bunch of flowers to place in a vase on their coffee table once a month whilst they were alive...how much more happier they would have been... he also remarked on the choice of spending an extra few thousand pounds on a solid mahogany wood coffin and how much more happier the person who had passed away would have been if their family instead took them out for dinner or on holiday more often when they were alive, rather than wasting money on a solid mahogany wood coffin when the person had already passed away...finally the funeral director commented on the amount of time that family of the person who had passed away spent looking through posts on social media to source photos to use to produce a multi-page, glossy funeral program and order of events booklet whilst when the person who passed away was alive, no one bothered to visit them and take a photograph or “selfie” with them, how much more that would have made the person who passed away happy, much more so than a glossy multi-page leaflet printed after they had passed away.

All this got me thinking that maybe it's about time that we changed this process a little bit and instead of spending so much money and time to celebrate a person after they have passed away, we could use that money and time to celebrate them whilst they are still alive and with us?...instead of buying thousands of pounds of flowers to adorn a coffin when a person has passed away, to buy a little bunch of flowers every few weeks for the person to brighten their day and bring them joy whilst they are alive. Instead of a glossy, posh multi-page booklet for the funeral program, to take some nice photos with that person to print, frame and gift them to look at each day and make them smile whilst they are still alive...for as always...it is what we do today...what we do now that matters the most...you are the author of your story...so make it a good one?

Remember...

“Dance before the music is over...live before your life is over...”

Thank you for reading my article, if you would like to contact me do email thedeepatel@gmail.com or pop into Meet & Deep Newsagents on Hampton Road in Twickenham and say hello! I would love to see you 😊

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

STOP SLUGS KINDLY...

Buy a roll of pure copper mesh online (a little roll which is only 4 inches high!) or from Meet & Deep Newsagents and put bamboo canes around your vegetable patch and trail it around the bottom to create a mini fence...it will stop slugs getting to your plants completely without harming them! Remember to pick off and relocate any slugs that are already in the soil or on leaves there before hand or you may end up locking them in! This copper mesh is much more effective than copper tape (which you may have tried in the past).

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

Little Women

by Anne Marie Casey, adapted from the novel by Louisa May Alcott

Belgrade Theatre Productions at Richmond Theatre until 7th June, then on tour until 1st November

As a child, I could never quite work out which sister I wanted to be or was most like. I wanted to be part of the March family, sitting by the Christmas tree and acting in Jo's stories, but this amazing adaptation made me feel part of this fantasy.

Set in the American civil war, this *Little Women* doesn't merely focus on Jo, but allows each sister to have her own wants, desires and obstacles. Each actress understands her character's individuality and personal growth from

naïve and cheeky child to wiser and accomplished young woman. One of the hardest roles is Beth, who could be seen as an overly weak wallflower. But Catherine Chal's Beth knows her own voice, yet is quiet and caring. Her impactful depiction of Beth's final moments, as she risks her own life for a sick baby, truly tugs the heartstrings. Meg's leadership as the eldest daughter, and her want for love and stability is effortlessly embodied by Jade Kennedy. Imogen Elliott perfectly portrays Amy's elegance, confidence and irritability as the baby sister, working wonderfully against Grace Molony's wild and whimsical Jo, setting the scene for comedic conflicts between the two sisters.



Their resilient Marmee is played with engrossing compassion by Ellie Pawsey, while Belinda Lang takes centre stage as the overbearing dowager Aunt March. Cillian Lenaghan's Laurie goes from cheeky child to troubled heartbroken youth to worldly young man. Jack Ashton, as tutor John Brooke and as Professor Bhaer, subtly differentiates between the principled and gentlemanly natures each embodies.

Ruari Murchison's design includes an effective set and period-perfect costumes. Amongst tall tree trunks, the simple room, with piano, writing desk and twinkling Christmas tree, brings a warm cosiness. Dancing, singing and music, by Mathew Bugg and movement coordinator Mike Ashcroft, and Mike Robertson's lighting, encapsulate drama and emotion with visually spectacular scenes, such as Amy falling through the ice and Beth's spirit leaving the stage.



Little Women is no boring retelling of a classic, but a stand-out adaption of a much-loved tale ... truly chance to be truly part of the March family.

Read Viola Selby's review at www.markaspen.com/2025/06/04/little-women

Photography by Nobby Clark

In Praise of Love

by Terence Rattigan

OT Productions at the Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond until 5th July

In Praise of Love was inspired by Rex Harrison's decision not to inform his wife of her own terminal cancer diagnosis. Rattigan himself had been diagnosed with leukaemia, and the spectre of death is an ever-present leitmotiv, haunting the script.

Sebastian and Lydia Cruttwell's London home has scattered books, a chess set and well-used drinks table. It is 1973, straddling active memories of World War and the swirling uncertainties of Cold War. Both were wartime intelligence operatives, masters of concealment and obfuscation, hiding truths from friends, family ... and each other



Lydia, an Estonian, was active in the wartime resistance, and suffered under both Nazi and Communist occupation. Sebastian is an acerbic, arrogant literary critic, a self-proclaimed Marxist who cannot even pour his own drinks, but convinced of his opinions on everything.



Lydia is spinning several plates, indulging the fractious Sebastian, managing the disintegrating relationship between him and their son Joey, and rekindling her relationship with Mark Walters, a successful American author of mass-market fiction. Mark carries a torch for Lydia, whilst also maintaining a genuine friendship with Sebastian.

These emotional and practical complications are eclipsed by the devastating news that Lydia has an incurable, terminal illness. Thus, the scene is set for a series of escalating deception, as they build a carapace of disinformation to avoid facing the dreadful finality of reality.

Dominic Rowan's Sebastian is lazy, arrogant and corrosive, yet never completely unlikeable. He delivers many laughs, even if they arise from pomposity and irascibility. Claire Price is superb as Lydia, giving her a dignified yet steely core, revealing her tenacity, tenderness and perceptiveness. Her performance is nuanced, yet quietly powerful.

Daniel Ableson's Mark Walters is an amiable and grounded figure, fully aware of his pivotal position as a balanced listener and support function for both Sebastian and Lydia. Joe Edgar portrays Joey's love for his mother and exasperation with his father, with honesty and candour, never falling into angry young man caricature ... even though he has plenty to be angry about!

Directed by Amelia Sears, *In Praise of Love* is a deeply moving drama that subtly builds an unbearable pathos as layers of concealment and dissimulation are peeled away from Sebastian and Lydia's relationship to reveal the full measure of each's unspoken love for the other, and the pain of inevitable loss.



Read Harry Zimmerman's review at www.markaspen.com/2025/06/04/praise-love

Photography by Ellie Kurttz

Mrs T Foresees

by Gaił Matthews

CoPilot Productions at The Lion and Unicorn Theatre, Kentish Town until 7th June

A lone figure, haunting and intriguing, Molly Tolpuddle comes to life as the house lights darken. Around her, Lewis, Franny and Pinky could easily be mistaken for ghosts, but they are inmates at the Yarra Bend lunatic asylum in Victoria, Australia. Chilling at first, they become the effective chorus for recounting the fractured past of Molly Tolpuddle, Mrs T. Filthy and unkempt, as inmates were in 1887, the trio prompt, cajole and mock Molly as her story unwinds.

Dark humour and pathos seep out to spread around generously in *Mrs T Foresees*. Directed by the author Gaił Matthews, the simple dark set is used thoughtfully to set off Molly's swift movements and the chorus's haunting body language.

Dottie Lubienska's Franny is a strong presence as her story unfolds towards the end. Lewis played by Michal Nowak, is monumental (but a little loud) and clearly skilled. Pinky is a great leveller in the trio and Tom Barnes, in role, is a real talent. All three are highly watchable.



The character and story of Mrs T is vaguely true, and certainly tragic. The young Molly Tolpuddle had emigrated to Australia from Ireland in 1849. She married, had children, then later became a medium and clairvoyant, but became a notorious figure as she had a gift for seeing the future. Punters were alarmed at MrsT's accurate insight, so much so that she was eventually certified as insane.

The narrative of the play takes an interesting look at psychic powers, but scenes tend to meander. The séance at the end of the first act, although nicely humorous, becomes somewhat bewildering. Carol Tagg plays Mrs T as

consistently charming and articulate, yet earthy and tragic, and carries off this demanding part smoothly. Appearing in every scene, Tagg has an empathy with her character and she emerges as a likeable figure.

Set into chapters from prologue to epilogue, *Mrs T Foresees* is intelligently written and directed. Although dealt with sensitively, issues such as sexual assault, genocide and death, are disturbing, but it tells an enigmatic and powerfully dark story with great skill.

Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2025/06/05/mrs-t-fore

Photography by Tara Basi



Joseph K and the Cost of Living

by Emily White after Franz Kafka

Richmond Shakespeare Society at the Mary Wallace Theatre, Twickenham until 7th June

Kafka's *The Trial*, written in 1914, is both complex and philosophical. Josef K, an unassuming bank worker, is arrested by some unknown agency for some unspecified crime and subsequently prosecuted by some remote authority. Creating a dystopian vision, it explores the control of society by a totalitarian state.

Joseph K and the Cost of Living uses eleven actors playing thirty roles to translate this to the stage: a huge challenge, but Maxina Cornwell successfully creates a vivid and frightening world. Her direction is razor sharp and the acting scarily convincing, immersing us in a world of social, cultural and ideological challenges.



An extremely engrossing piece of physical theatre, it is full of constant movement and dynamic sound. The opening dumb scene sees the stage flooded with constant action, a choreography of commuters crowded together, travelling to work or busily engrossed in manic office routines.

The key dramatic device is the division of Kafka's protagonist Josef K into four successively different characters, denoted simply as K1 to K4. But, cutting the hero into four separate characters seems only to complicate not illuminate. Of the four successive Josephs, Dominic Upton's impressive K1 is emotionally and physically intense. Krishan Miller-Pullen's elegant and feline K2 wears vivid red skirt and skyscraper heels. Other standout performances includes John Mortley's

bedridden corrupt lawyer Huld, and Susan Reoch as Block, his submissive client. Elewisa Kuusi, K4, excels in the ebullient role of portrait painter Titorelli.

Especially enjoyable scenes included a raucous birthday party with a surprise stripper, the cathedral with Mark Cavendish playing the earnest Chaplain, the intimate tango, and the courtroom (with audience participation).

The set, by Junis Olmscheid, is simple. Its wall, decorated with intertwining cogs, becomes a canvas for projected rose windows and, amazingly, a live feed during the courtroom scene. This visual wizardry is mastered by Marc Pearce, using techniques which must be on the cusp of AI technology.

This is a quirky play, with excellent production values and a spectacularly energetic ensemble, in an adventurous, innovative physical extravaganza. Welcome to the world of misinformation: as one character says in Orwellian undertones, "data is knowledge and knowledge is power."



Read Steve Mackrell's review at www.markaspen.com/2025/06/06/joseph-k-cost

Photography by Simone Best



HAMPTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday 21 June 2025, 7.30pm

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John Rutter

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Ralph Vaughan Williams

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Charity Number 261788

Celebrate creativity with Arts Richmond this summer

From Arts Richmond

Explore and engage with the borough's vibrant artistic scene through the Art House Open Studios Festival and the Arts Richmond Artist of the Year Competition 2025.

Art House Open Studios Festival

This June, local charity Arts Richmond is once again coordinating Richmond's free Art House Open Studios Festival to showcase creative spaces of artists, designers and makers from across the borough.

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



Cllr John Coombs, Arts Richmond spokesperson, says: *"We're delighted to be able to bring this festival to life across the borough for another year. It is beneficial for both residents of the borough as well as visitors who can explore what Richmond has to offer; it's an inclusive event for the whole community, and you can discover a wealth of creativity on your doorstep."*

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

- **Date:** 14 to 15 June and 21 to 22 June 2025
- **Time:** 11am to 5pm

The event will take place at various venues.

Find out more about the [Art House Open Studios Festival](#).



Sounds of the Subaquatic

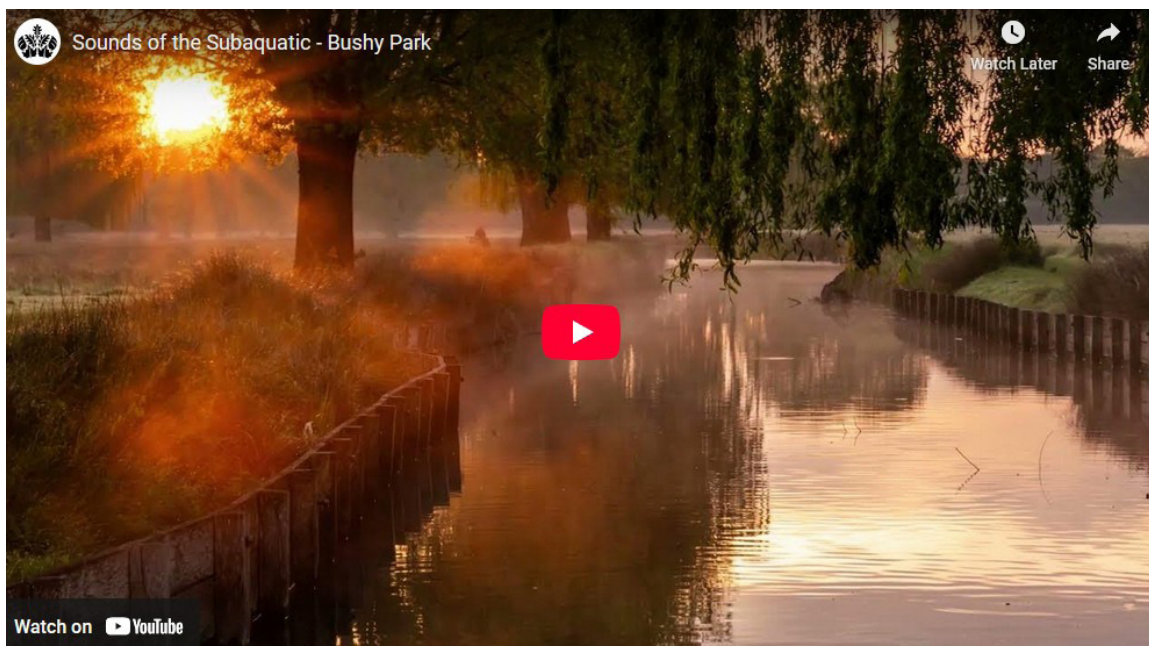
From The Royal Parks



The Royal Parks' Sounds of the Subaquatic is a sound art project utilising sound and audio to understand and curate the landscapes of the parks, our wildlife habitats and the species that live and forage there. The project is part of The Royal Parks' [Help Nature Thrive](#) programme, which is made possible by players of [People's Postcode Lottery](#).

In 2023 we were delighted to welcome students, lecturers and visiting artists from the [Guildhall School of Music and Drama](#), who have been undertaking a composition projects to bring our underwater habitats alive for visitors. Under the guidance of composer and sound artist Dr Emily Peasgood the students recorded the weird and wonderful sounds of our ponds and lakes and produced site-specific compositions of the underwater scenes.

Listen to compositions by the students and visiting artists below (*click image*):



See (hear!) more [HERE](#)

St Mary's University

St Mary's University to Host BMC Record Breaker Meet as part of 175 Anniversary Celebrations

St Mary's University, Twickenham, will be celebrating its athletic legacy as part its 175th Anniversary commemorations with a British Milers Club (BMC) Record Breaker event on **Wednesday 18 June**.

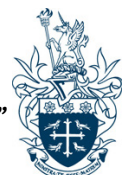
St Mary's own Endurance Performance Centre (EPC) which is an England Athletics Talent Hub. The Centre has supported the development of more than 50 senior GB internationals, many of which have competed

and won medals at Olympic Games and World Championships. The current crop of talented athletes includes Thomas Randolph, bronze medallist at the 2021 European Athletics U23 Championship, and Joe Wigfield, British University's and College Sports (BUCS) 2020 Cross Country Champion.

Spectators are invited to attend this free, community friendly event from 7pm, where refreshments from the 1850 bar and a BBQ will be available.

St Mary's University and the EPC has a strong legacy in endurance running and has supported careers of world class runners including Sir Mo Farah, Beth Potter, Jo Pavey, Adelle Tracey, Charlotte Purdue and Steph Twell. EPC alumni and Olympic athletes will be attending to support the event, including Ross Murray and Andy Vernon.

Andrew Reid-Smith, Head of Sport at St Mary's said, *"As we celebrate 175 years of academic and athletic excellence, this special event reflects our commitment to supporting developing and talented athletes, and we're looking forward to welcoming the community to see a special night of athletics. We would like to thank our brilliant sponsors More Space, Athlete Mannies and Nannies, and Purdue Performance for supporting the event and providing the cash prizes."*



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London



St Mary's University, Twickenham, will be celebrating its athletic legacy as part its 175th Anniversary commemorations with a [British Milers Club](#) (BMC) Record Breaker event on Wednesday 18 June.

The event is taking place on the Sir Mo Farah Athletics Track. At 5:45pm children from local Primary schools will kick the evening off, and from 7pm, there will be a series of senior races organised in partnership with the BMC, the premier club for middle-distance running in the UK.

Good fields of athletes from around the country will compete in 800m to 3000m events, with many aiming to achieve personal best times. There will be cash prizes in the men's and women's 800m and 1500m A races, provided by the generous sponsorship of [More Space](#), [Athletes Mannies and Nannies](#), and [Purdue Performance](#).

The event will also include talent from

Delegates from the South African Department of Higher Education and Training Visit Richmond upon Thames College

It was an honour to host visitors from the South African Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) at Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) in May.

The South African Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Mimmy Gondwe, led the delegation who travelled to London to attend the Education World Forum (EWF). EWF is the world's largest annual gathering of education leaders and skills ministers. This year the theme of the conference was: "From stability to growth; building stronger, better, bolder, education together."

During their trip, they also had the opportunity to visit RuTC college facilities and speak with our senior management team, seeking to gain first-hand insights into how further education colleges operate in the UK.

The visit to the college provided valuable lessons and insights on how close collaboration between vocational training colleges and industries, can ensure that young people are equipped with skills that are in demand and needed by the economy.

Dr Gondwe commented on the visit:

"In South Africa, TVETs and community colleges are often the second or third choice for students, and I think this is due to the fact that universities obtain a lion's share of our budget. Many students still wish to enrol at universities instead of technical colleges and our community colleges. Therefore, I think we need to ensure that TVETs provide future skills that will contribute to economic growth and job creation, such as robotics, AI, and coding."



**Richmond upon
Thames College**





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OPEN DAY



2025

SUNDAY

29TH JUNE

11AM - 3PM

FREE ENTRY

*For all ages & abilities!
Parent and/or guardian must be present at all
times for all under 16's participating.*

A volunteer led members club where everyone has a passion for the water! Come along, get involved & most of all have fun!



**COME AND TRY DINGHY SAILING & PADDLEBOARDING
MEET THE MEMBERS AND EXPLORE
THE CLUB'S TRAINING, CRUISING,
YACHTING & OUR MEMBERSHIP**

*Buoyancy aids provided & wear clothes you don't mind getting wet!
Snacks & drinks available for sale.*



Visiting Times for the Public: Sun 12 - 4pm and Wed & Fri 8-11pm.
More information: www.twickenhamyc.co.uk



Princess Alice Hospice Summer Fete and Dog Show

The Princess Alice Hospice Summer Fete and Dog Show is back on Sunday 15 June at Sandown Park Racecourse. The Fete will run between 12:30pm and 4pm, entry is £3, with under 5s and four-legged friends going free!

The ever-popular Dog Show will also be back, with several categories, from best trick to best bad fur day, to allow every pup to shine. Advance online sign-ups and all other details on the website, www.pah.org.uk/fete. Categories sell out quickly, so register online in advance to avoid disappointment.

The poster features a vibrant pink header with the event title. Below it, a string of colorful banners lists activities: Live Music, Fun & Games, Fine Foods, Dog Show, and Artisan Stalls. A large yellow sun in the center contains the date and time. The background shows a green field with a red-and-white striped awning, a guitar on a stand, and a dog. A QR code is labeled 'Scan Me'. The bottom section includes the venue name, entry details, website, social media icons, sponsors, and the hospice logo.

**Princess Alice Hospice
Summer Fete
& Dog Show**

Live Music | Fun & Games | Fine Foods | Dog Show | Artisan Stalls

Sunday 15 June
12:30pm - 4:00pm

Sandown Park Racecourse

Fete is £3 entry (Under 5s FREE)
Dog Show competitors – advance online registration
£5 per category (£7 on the day).

www.pah.org.uk/fete

Sponsored by: Sandown Park RACECOURSE, savills, LOVEDAY ESHER, Bruce's Unleashing Happiness

Princess Alice Hospice

© 2025 Princess Alice Hospice. Registered charity no. 1010930 and a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales no. 1589116. FR REGULATORY

A brilliant community and family day for all, the fete also raises essential funds to allow Princess Alice Hospice to continue to give free outstanding, compassionate care to local people and their families at the hardest of times. It costs over £11.5 million pounds each year to provide these crucial services and the Hospice relies on donations and community fundraising events like this.

You are promised a day of street food, live entertainment, a fire engine and mini golf and plenty of parking on site for a stress-free and seamless family day out. For any further information, please visit: www.pah.org.uk/fete



England Rugby players recognised at The Rugby Awards for 2024-25 season

Tuesday's 'The Rugby Awards' saw a number of England Rugby players rewarded for their performances during the 2024-25 season.

The England Men's player of the season award went to Tommy Freeman following his impressive try-scoring feats during the 2025 Guinness Men's Six Nations. Zoe Aldcroft won the England Women's player of the season after leading the Red Roses to a seventh successive Six Nations title.

Fellow Red Rose [Meg Jones](#) received the award for PWR player of the season in recognition of her outstanding performances for Leicester Tigers Women, after a difficult year personally where she lost both her parents.

"Rugby is my saving grace," said Jones. "A lot of people that play the game, it is such an important part of our lives and it definitely helped me through some tough times. "Being surrounded by some amazing women and amazing support helps you through it. The game's given me a lot and I forever feel indebted to it."

Freeman's England teammate [Ellis Genge](#) was named community player of the season after the Bristol Bears prop launched the Genge Fund to support youth charities across Bristol.



He said: *"I get a lot of kids who reach out and share their journey with me. So I thought instead of sitting around and deleting those messages, I would do something about it. I hadn't really thought about it too much but weirdly as you get older, you sort of understand that the better you play and the more important you become in the game, the bigger impact you can have."*

[Henry Pollock](#) and Millie David were recognised as the breakthrough players of the season for the Gallagher Premiership and Premiership Women's Rugby respectively.

Pollock has enjoyed a meteoric rise since winning the World Rugby U20 Championship last season and scored twice on his senior England debut against Wales. David was a prolific try scorer for Bristol Bears Women, scoring 16 tries to be named PWR top try scorer alongside Saracens and Red Roses hooker [May Campbell](#).

Bristol Bears wing Gabriel Ibitoye and Leicester Tigers wing Ollie Hassell-Collins shared the Premiership top try scorer award, with 13 tries apiece as they helped their respective sides to the play-offs.



End-of-season analysis: The incredible numbers behind Brentford's prolific attack

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford's 2024/25 Premier League season has come to an end, and Playmaker's final word on what has been a brilliant campaign has been neatly bundled into a series of stat summaries; the first of these focuses on the west Londoners' explosive frontline - Bryan Mbeumo, Yoane Wissa, Kevin Schade and Mikkel Damsgaard - and their form in front of goal

The paint is drying on Brentford's polished 2024/25 Premier League campaign, and Playmaker's final word on a prolific and exciting season has been neatly bundled into a series of stat summaries; the first of which focuses on the west Londoners' explosive form in front of goal.

Rather remarkably, in hindsight, there were question marks surrounding Brentford as an attacking force in the Premier League going into the season.

England international Ivan Toney had moved on to Al-Ahli last summer, and his intended replacement [Igor Thiago](#) suffered a meniscus injury in pre-season to throw an unexpected spanner in the works.

Undeterred, head coach Thomas Frank crafted an attacking shape that played to his side's strengths, and Brentford incredibly finished the season as the joint-fifth most prolific team in the top flight (only Newcastle United, Arsenal, Manchester City and champions Liverpool outscored them).

The trio of [Bryan Mbeumo](#), Yoane Wissa and Kevin Schade took the division by storm, as the Bees plundered a club record tally of 66 Premier League goals - with the mercurial [Mikkel Damsgaard](#) supplying the bullets behind them.

Before we dive into the stats of that exciting Brentford quartet, let's review some of the Bees' best attacking numbers from 2024/25.

High-quality chance creation; ruthless finishing

Brentford's bumper goal haul last season saw them lead several attacking metrics, underscoring their smart and clinical approach in the final third.

That said, Brentford's shooting data last season looks distinctly unremarkable at first glance. The Bees ranked 15th in the division for shots taken (434) and shots-per-90 (11.4).



Frank's side actually fired off 36 fewer shots overall than they did in the 2023/24 season, when they scored a dozen fewer goals (54).

The key difference between 2024/25 and its predecessor, however, was how accurate and ruthless Brentford were in their opponents' box.

An outstanding stat in this regard relates to the Bees' shot-on-target percentage of 40 per cent in the Premier League last season, which was by far the best in the division.

To give this some context, Manchester United actually took 90 shots more (524) than Brentford (434) last season, but while the Red Devils only hit the target with 168 of their efforts, Frank's side (173 on target) were far more accurate and ultimately ended the campaign with 24 more goals than Ruben Amorim's men (42).

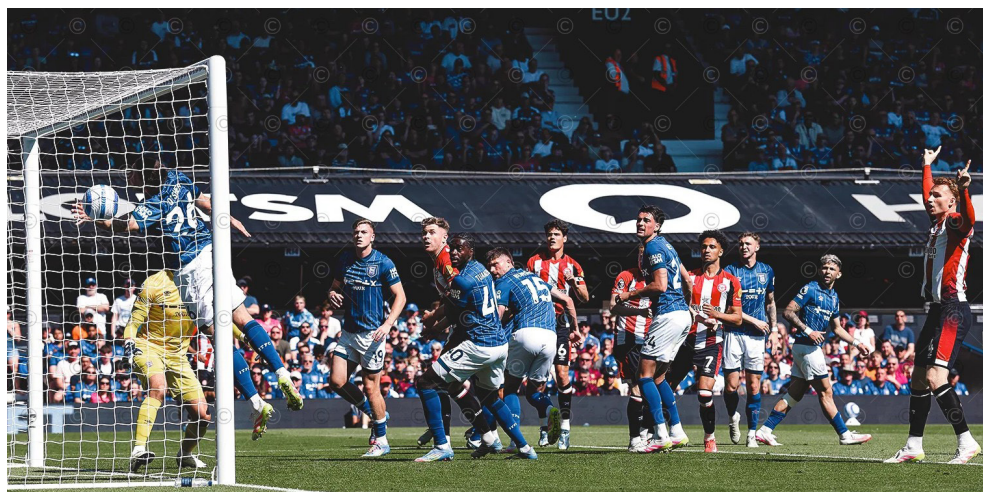
The Bees took their shots closer to goal (14.9 yards) on average than any team in the top tier and only three teams in the Premier League (Nottingham Forest, Wolves and Arsenal) outperformed their expected goals by more than Brentford (+6.0), whose aerial prowess saw them score the most headers (14) in the division.

Now, as promised, let's hone in on the individuals who spearheaded Brentford's groundbreaking season.

Kevin Schade

As the season progressed, Brentford's formidable attacking duo of Mbeumo and Wissa morphed into a free-scoring trio as German international [Schade](#) gatecrashed the party.

In fact, the Bees were one of only four teams to see three players each reach 10+ Premier League goals last season, alongside Liverpool (Mohamed Salah, Luis Díaz and Cody Gakpo), Brighton (João Pedro, Danny Welbeck and Kaoru Mitoma) and Bournemouth (Justin Kluivert, Antoine Semenyo and Evanilson).



The jet-heeled forward had to wait to open his account but, after netting in a Carabao Cup win over Sheffield Wednesday in October, the 23-year-old made the Premier League sit up and take notice with a hat-trick against Leicester the following month.

Schade's electric display against the Foxes saw him also bag an assist to join an exclusive group of players to rack up four goal involvements in a single Premier League game in 2024/25 (plus Chelsea's Cole Palmer (two), Salah and Kluivert).

The former Freiburg forward's exceptional ability in the air saw him rank 14th for headers won across the entire Premier League and, in fact, Raúl Jiménez, Paul Onuachu and Chris Wood were the only forwards to win more aerial duels than the Brentford flyer (90) last season.

Fantastic at attacking the ball in the box, Schade was clinical in his finishing (with a goals-per-shot ratio of 0.20) and offered genuine cutting edge from open play: all but one of his 11 top-flight goals last term came from live situations.

Yoane Wissa

[Wissa's](#) formidable strike partnership with Mbeumo was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the season, and the duo's [strong bond on and off the pitch](#) was clear for all to see.

Mbeumo (20) may have finished a goal ahead of Wissa (19) in the Premier League goal charts but, if you factor out goals from the penalty spot, only Liverpool's runaway Player of the Season Salah (20) outscored Wissa (19).



Head coach Frank has often touched upon the importance of his team adding layers to their game - and Wissa has certainly been a keen student in this regard.

After netting a dozen goals in the 2023/24 season from open play, the DR Congo international remained electric from fluid attacking situations while developing an uncanny knack of being in the right place at the right time in set-piece scenarios.

In fact, Wissa (six) scored more Premier League goals from free-kicks, corners and throw-ins than any other player last term, with his poacher's instincts underlined by the fact that only Newcastle's Alexander Isak (eight) notched more goals inside the six-yard box than Brentford's 28-year-old (seven).

Sharp, tenacious and ruthless in front of goal, Wissa ranked in the top five players in the division for shots on target (41), and his ability to sniff out chances and make them count was essential to Brentford's ground-breaking goal tally.

Mikkel Damsgaard

[Voted Brentford's Supporters' Player of the Year and Players' Player of the Year](#), Damsgaard enjoyed a glorious 2024/25 season to vanquish any frustrations he may have harboured in relation to his slow-burning start to life in TW8.

After only 1816 minutes of Premier League game time during his first two seasons in west London, Damsgaard clocked up just shy of 3000 top-flight minutes last term, and notably featured in every game the Bees played across all competitions.



A mercurial presence in Brentford's midfield, the Dane's ability to receive the ball under pressure and thread passes in the final third provided the Bees with a weapon they had arguably lacked since their Premier League adventure began - and the 24-year-old posted some phenomenal stats.

Only three players (Salah, Jacob Murphy and Anthony Elanga) racked up more Premier League assists than Damsgaard (10), who laid on four goals via through-balls - more than any other player in the division - and the 24-year-old also ranked joint-seventh in the top tier for key passes (63).

Also in the top 20 of top-flight players for successful dribbles, with 50, Damsgaard's numbers shed light on the deceptive intensity in his work off the ball.

The Dane won more tackles (83) than any Brentford player in 2024/25, a Premier League high 27 of them in the attacking third, and Damsgaard also topped the charts for the Bees for passes blocked (37).

Bryan Mbeumo

At just 25, Mbeumo stepped confidently out of Toney's shadow, firing 20 Premier League goals for the first time in his career, thereby joining his old strike partner as one of only two Brentford players ever to reach that milestone.

The Cameroon international (20 goals and seven assists) finished the season as the third-most productive player in the Premier League, behind only Salah and Isak, and the sheer quality of his finishing was highlighted by his over-performance of +6.79 against his expected goals data.

In xG terms, Mbeumo should, by rights, have scored only 13.21 goals last season!



Mbeumo offers so much more than goals, however, and the winger ranked fifth in the top tier for key passes made, with 70, while also ranking narrowly outside the Premier League top 10 for successful dribbles (52).

There are few better out balls in the Premier League than Mbeumo, which is illustrated by the fact that only Salah (488) received more progressive passes than the Brentford man (351) last season and only the Premier League Player of the Year, Kai Havertz, and Ipswich Town's Liam Delap scored more goals via counter attacks than Mbeumo (three) last term.

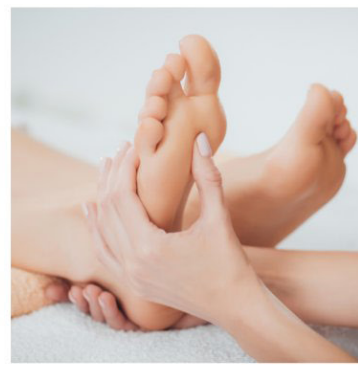
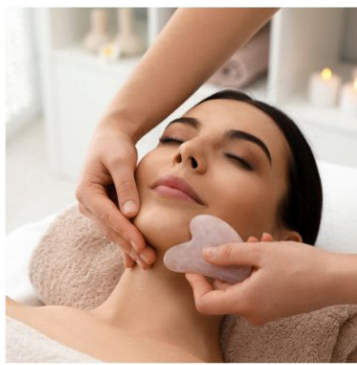
What a season he and his attacking team-mates enjoyed.



CARERS PAMPERING DAY

TUESDAY 10 JUNE, 11AM - 3PM

AT HAMPTON INSPIRED HUB, TW12 2JA



**Are you an unpaid carer of someone living with dementia?
Do you live in the borough of Richmond Upon Thames?**

Unpaid carers play a crucial yet often unrecognised role and can lead to exhaustion and burnout. We want to celebrate the invaluable contribution you make and offer you time and space to prioritise your wellbeing. Please come and join us at this event, book a free treatment, meet other carers whilst enjoying some food and experience the relaxation of a sound bath.

Staff will be available on site to look after the person you care for whilst you have your treatment.

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- REIKI/ ROSE QUARTZ FACIAL
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- 1.30PM SOUND BATH
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