

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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### Editors

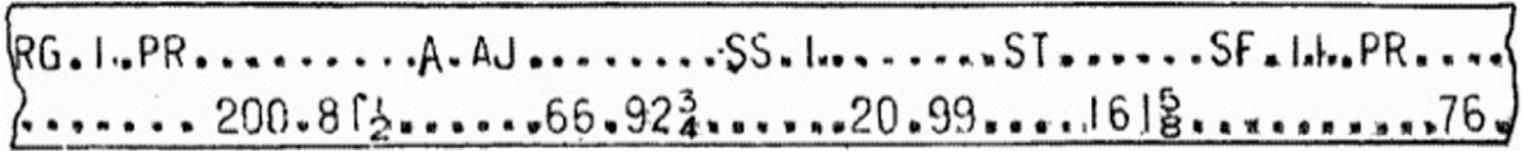
Berkley Driscoll  
Teresa Read



28<sup>th</sup> July 2023







# TickerTape - News in Brief

## Strawberry Hill House

### House Guided Tours - Last Sunday of the month.

#### House Tours

Strawberry Hill House is internationally renowned as one of the best examples of Georgian Gothic architecture. Enjoy a guided tour of Horace Walpole's architectural masterpiece exploring the history, interiors and stories of its residents.

Tours departs at 10am. Booking is essential. If you are a group of 15 persons or more you may be interested in booking a private guided tour for preferential rates. Please e-mail [tours@strawberryhillhouse.org.uk](mailto:tours@strawberryhillhouse.org.uk)

More info and tickets [HERE](#)

### Summer Sounds: The Polka Dots

#### *Pimm's, picnic and toe-tapping tunes*

Enjoy a relaxing summer evening listening to talented and uplifting bands in the beautiful gardens at Strawberry Hill House. What better way to end a busy weekend than to unwind with a glass of bubbly or minty Pimm's with family and friends whilst enjoying a picnic and music tailored to suit the mood. With one band for each month, there's something for everyone.

#### Sunday 6 August 2023 – The Polka Dots

*Take three smooth sassy voices, arrange a collection of toe-tapping original and cover swing songs, add sharp dance routines and on-stage chemistry, and you have The Polka Dots.*

*Whether its 1940s Swing or 1950s Rockabilly, The Polka Dot's are guaranteed to be a crowd-pleaser, bringing glamour, fun and energy to every performance.*

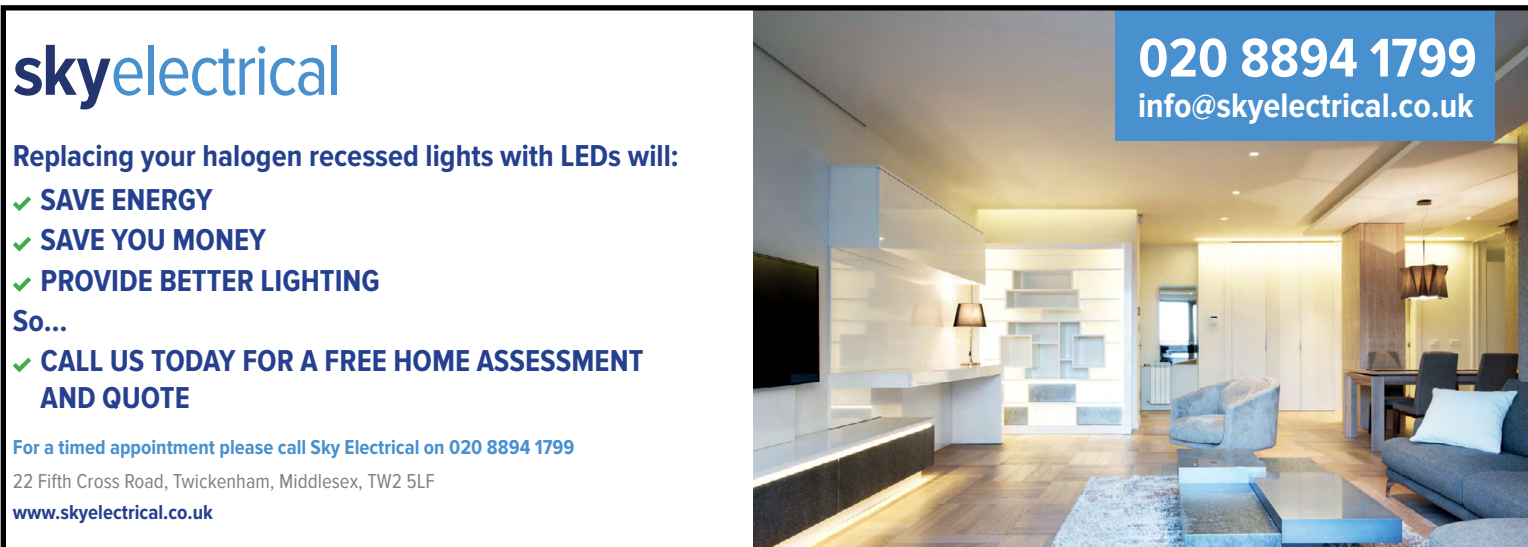
#### Event Details

Time: 4pm - 7.30pm. Gate opens at 3.45pm, with the performance starting at 4.45pm.

4.45pm - 5.30pm – first session / 6pm - 6.45pm – second session

*Come rain or shine, each event will go ahead no matter what the weather, so please come prepared with rain or sun protection. There will be no refunds made in the event of inclement weather.*

More info and tickets [HERE](#)



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# Covid-19

By Teresa Read

## World Health Organization, Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19 - 27 July 2023

Although the public health emergency of international concern for COVID-19 was declared over on 5 May 2023, COVID-19 remains a major threat. WHO continues to urge Member States to maintain, not dismantle, their established COVID-19 infrastructure. It is crucial to sustain surveillance and reporting, variant tracking, early clinical care provision, administration of vaccine boosters to high-risk groups, improvements in ventilation and regular communication.

Currently, reported cases do not accurately represent infection rates due to the reduction in testing and reporting globally.

**At the country level**, the highest numbers of new cases reported within the 28-day period were from the Republic of Korea (593,023), Brazil (48,548), Australia (35,873), Singapore (30,214) and New Zealand (20,329).

The highest numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from Brazil (769), Australia (623), the Russian Federation (336), Peru (218) and the Republic of Korea (199).

**The European Region** reported over 63,000 new cases, a 72% decrease as compared to the previous 28-day period. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Russian Federation (17,698), Italy (13,835) and the United Kingdom (9,211).

The number of new deaths in the Region decreased by 74% as compared to the previous 28-day period, with 907 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Russian Federation (336), Italy (167) and Portugal (56).

## NEWS

**Director General, World Health Organization:** While both COVID-19 and mpox no longer represent global health emergencies, they continue to represent global health threats. As suggested by both Emergency Committees, I formed these review committees to provide standing recommendations for mitigating public health risks over the longer term.

These standing recommendations will provide a legal framework for WHO's work in providing longer-term strategies to support Member States to respond to both diseases.



**The Tree Agency**

darryl parkin

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# The local picture postcard column

By Alan Winter

## Part 207. The Ranelagh Club in Barnes

In last week's column, we looked at the Red Lion public house in Barnes. One of the 100 year-old postcards showed the pub with an entrance to the Ranelagh Club next door. I thought we should look at the Ranelagh club itself as although it closed just before World War 2 it has a very interesting history.

The Ranelagh Club was a polo and golf club located at Barn Elms in Barnes. The Ranelagh Golf Club opened on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1890 and closed in around 1950.

Our first postcard shows the Ranelagh Club entrance next to the Red Lion pub at number 2, Castlenau.



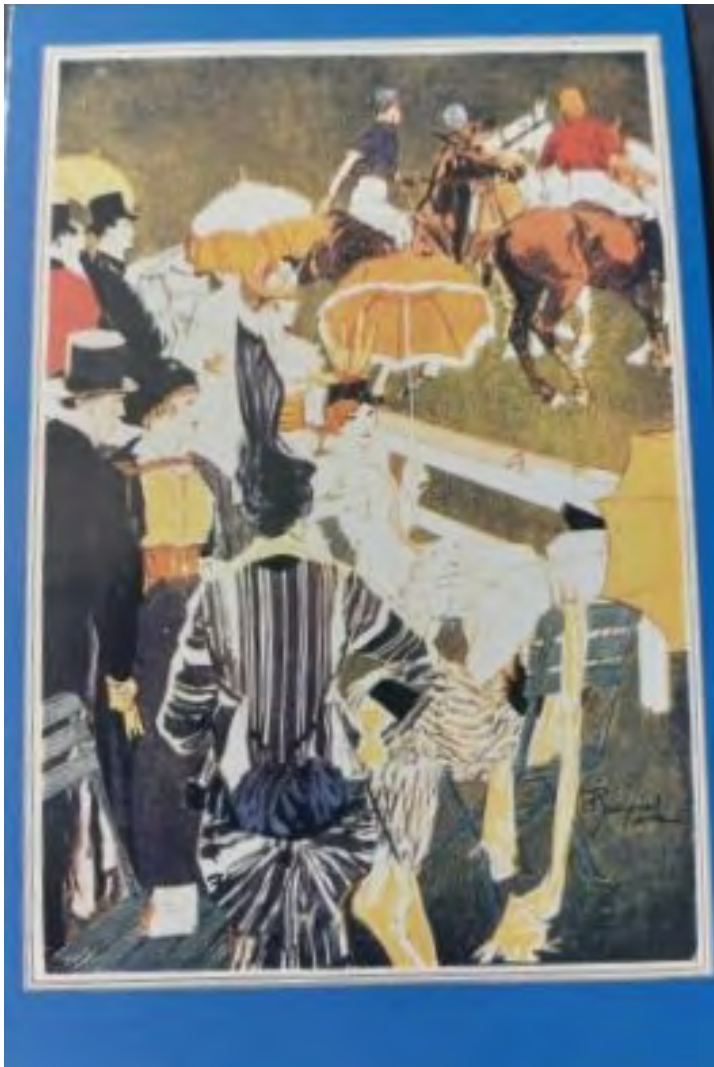
The Polo Club was founded in 1878 as a split-off from the Hurlingham

Club and by 1894 was the largest polo club in the world. The club had approximately 3000 members in 1913, including many prominent military figures and members of different royal families. In 1891, Barn Elms also played host to Queens Park Rangers Football Club before they moved to Shepherds Bush.

On 18 July 1878, the club became the first to host a sports match under floodlights when it played the Hurlingham Club. At its height the Ranelagh Club consisted of a large clubhouse (the inherited manor house of Barn Elms which in earlier times was in the ownership of the Archbishop of Canterbury and then of the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral), four polo grounds, ten croquet lawns, two tennis courts and an 18 hole golf course.

The polo club was eagerly enjoyed by many ladies who were able to enjoy the polo as spectators. The club had an exclusively upper-class membership with fees to match. Our second





postcard shows a group of these elegantly attired ladies with their parasols enjoying the action at the Ranelagh Club. At Ranelagh there was usually the chance of meeting someone new and exciting and so the ladies dressed accordingly.

From the mid-1890s the club hosted an annual ladies' open golf meeting. From 1901 to 1936 the meeting included the International Cup, contested by the Home Nations. There were also two lakes for rowing. Our final postcard shows the entrance to the golf club.

As the 20th century continued, the club's patronage diminished and funds dwindled. It closed shortly before World War II, and the polo grounds were used for allotments under the Dig for Victory scheme. The clubhouse burnt down in 1954. The lake was then drained, and the site converted into playing fields. Trees now cover the area which was previously occupied by the clubhouse and its gardens, and an athletics track resides on top of the drained land, reclaimed from the old lake.

The entire site now constitutes the Barn Elms open space, consisting of two separately-operated sports facilities. There is very little left to be seen of the Ranelagh Club except an ice house and a 300m long driveway entrance off the Lower Richmond Road, which now leads to the council housing of the Ranelagh estate.



I am always looking for old postcards, so if you have any that are sitting unwanted in a drawer, in a box in the loft or the garage or under a bed, do contact me on 07875 578398 or by email to [alanwinter192@hotmail.com](mailto:alanwinter192@hotmail.com)  
I would like to see them and I pay cash!



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Dear Editors,

**Teddington Society and six-storey buildings**

The Teddington Society is right to be concerned about the Council’s new Local Plan to allow six-storey buildings to be approved. The Twickenham Society raised this concern with the Public Inspector at the Public Meeting, which stretched over three weeks in June, to discuss the Compulsory Purchase Order of Twickenham’s Diamond Jubilee Gardens in order to put an overbearing block of private flats on the Wharf Lane side of the site.

I am reproducing a very small part of the Society’s submission, which also raised concerns about rules for building in Conservation areas not being adhered to. The whole submission, along with every other submitted document, can be read on the Council’s dedicated website concerning the Compulsory Purchase Order.

*“And what would ‘the man on the top of the Clapham Omnibus’ think of the Wharf Lane building? Let’s call him Charlie.*

*Charlie had read the Council’s Local Plan, adopted 3rd July 2018. He knew that it said that “tall” buildings would only be appropriate in the Twickenham Station and Twickenham Stadium areas, and “taller” buildings may be appropriate in Twickenham centre. Elsewhere they would be inappropriate.*

*So he then looked up the definition of “tall” and “taller” buildings as defined by the Council.*

*Under 4.2.3 of the Local Plan ‘Taller’ buildings are defined as those being significantly taller than the neighbouring buildings, but less than 18 metres in height (below six storeys); a ‘Tall’ building is defined as a building of 18 metres in height or higher.*

*Charlie stood on the Embankment and looked up at the 21 metre high building towering above him. He knew that at ground level, behind the concrete flood barrier, was what was called the Lower Ground Floor, that housed the plant machinery and bicycle racks for the building. Looking up he could see there was a pub on a level with the Diamond Jubilee Gardens and then above that were four more storeys of private flats – six storeys in total. He noted that the Planning Committee had decided that the Wharf Lane building was only 14.4 metres high, which might have made planning sense to them but not much sense to Charlie”*

If you stand at the top of Wharf Lane and look across the road junction to the building with the clock on it you will get some idea of the height of the proposed new block of flats on the riverside – only the Twickenham Riverside block will be even taller. It will certainly not be just 14.4 metres high as defined by the Council.

“When I use a word,’ Humpty Dumpty said in rather a scornful tone, ‘it means just what I choose it to mean – neither more nor less.’The question is,’ said Alice, ‘whether you can make words mean so many different things.’

With best wishes,  
Sue Hamilton-Miller  
Resident of Twickenham





Dear Tribune,

### Don't do as I do – Don't even do as I say!

At the Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner's public meeting at Richmond Council's HQ, York House, last Monday 24 July, most of the public concern was about antisocial behaviour.

But on arrival we were greeted by a Lime e-scooter blocking York House's own car park driveway right in front of its sign saying: 'Vehicles must park in marked bays at all times'.

The official scooter park was only 20 yards away and half empty.

No doubt, if I had parked like that, I would have received a fine.

If the Council cannot enforce their own rules in their own car park, there's not much hope for the rest of the borough.

Michael Jay  
Hampton.



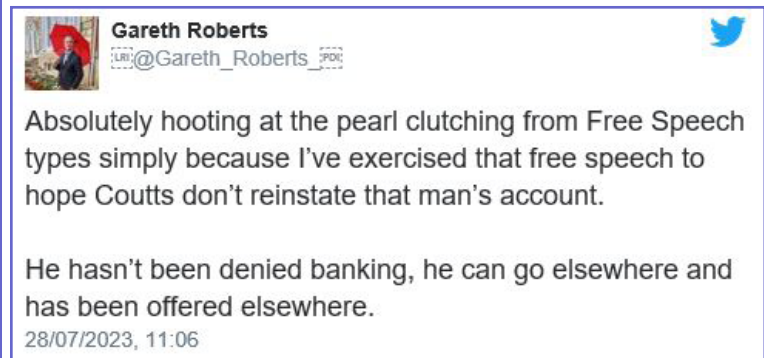


# Comment from Councillor Geoffrey Samuel on the Leader of the Council's recent Tweet

Statement from Hampton North Conservative Councillor Geoffrey Samuel:

"I am appalled that in this country where free speech is a cornerstone of our democracy that Gareth Roberts, Leader of the Liberal Democrats in Richmond-Upon-Thames, believes it is right for anyone to experience appalling discrimination solely on behalf of their political views. This is not North Korea or Communist China. Nigel Farage may not be everyone's cup of tea but in a democracy where he has done nothing illegal, he has a right to a bank account where he meets all the criteria to hold such an account".

And in case you haven't seen it there is a subsequent post from Roberts:



## Weekend travel information

### National Rail strikes

There are National Rail strikes planned on **Saturday 29 July**, which may affect some District line, London Overground, Elizabeth line and tram services. [Plan ahead](#), [check before you travel](#) and allow extra time to make your journey.

For more information, please visit our [website](#).

### District line

#### Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 July

No service between Earl's Court and Ealing Broadway/Richmond

Use alternative Tube and rail services, or local or replacement bus routes. Replacement buses will run between Earl's Court and Acton Town.



# Is the Leader Representing the Borough?

Teresa Read

Gareth Roberts has been known for many years to be outspoken on social media starting this aspect of his career in the early days of Hampton OnLine.

Currently the Leader of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, with the leadership of the London Assembly in his sights, and a career in Westminster, perhaps Cllr Roberts should look at the Twitter Tips for Members of Parliament as old habits die hard.

It has been recorded in the Tribune that Cllr Roberts, the Leader of the Council, has made fun of residents on Twitter who suffer from public urination as his Council administration fails to provide dedicated public toilets, particularly in areas where there are open spaces in the midst of residential areas.

This week Cllr Roberts seems to have caused a stir among residents, wading in with two left feet, on Twitter, into the Nigel Farage issue.

Nigel Farage has highlighted the issue of banks making decisions about clients' accounts in relation to their personal views. This news must have sent shivers down the spines of many; we expect that our money is safe in banks, but the exposure of Nigel Farage's loss of his bank account does not provide confidence.

So what has the Leader of Richmond Council tweeted:

*Gareth Roberts: I really hope that whatever happens with that odious man's account, that Coutts make sure he's never allowed to bank with them again.*

**Cllr Roberts with ambitions for the leadership of the London Assembly, and with further political power in his sight, would do well to take on board the Top Ten Twitter Tips for UK Members of Parliament:**

**Number 9. Your views aren't your own** If you're a politician your Twitter profile should never say 'Views are my own', 'Personal views', 'Retweets don't indicate an endorsement' or anything similar."

"The fact that you hold public office means that your views will be interpreted by people as representing the views of your position and party. Including this disclaimer doesn't protect you or make people less likely to think this. It can also be dangerous as it can provide you with a false sense of security".

<https://www.parliament.uk/contentassets/358409c9ef7d47f89412becd40f7d8e2/digi096cipr.pdf>

Of course, the Leader of the Council should remember that he represents the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and if he wants to make personal comments he should do so from a dedicated personal account and not confuse his elected position with that of his own views.



Twickenham's best FREE day of live, local music



# BARMY ARMS



## DAVID McGEACHIE STAGE @ the Barmy Arms

1-1.40pm THE HORNETS

Hottest new young band around, classic 60s vibe, great players, a must-see.

2.10-3.00pm DAVE MAC FOUR

Local covers band packing out The 3 Kings every month, very experienced guys playing massive hits.

3.30-4.30pm TJ JOHNSON BAND

TJ has been a top draw at the Twickenham Sunday Jam (at The Shack every Sunday night) for many years but rarely gigs around here, so a rare chance to see him and band in action with classic soul and rock tracks.

5-6.00pm BREAKING BLUES

Brilliant rocking blues band featuring top locals Dainty and Cook on guitar & drums. A must-see after they rocked the Sunday Jam a while back.

6.30-7.30pm THE DEPUTIES  
FEATURING BELINDA CAMPBELL

It was an inspired idea for these long time music biz pros to ask Belinda to front the band a few years back and now she is surely the most loved and most charismatic singer in the area.  
The perfect end-of-gig party band.

Barmy Arms Pub, The Embankment, Twickenham TW1 3DU



020 8891 3676  
info@d-mcg.co.uk



# Pasta La Vista!

## Tortellini, the tearaway tortoise goes on a gothic adventure

**A runaway tortoise has been reunited with her owners after being discovered at Strawberry Hill House, the gothic home once owned by Sir Horace Walpole, author of the world's first gothic novel.**

The roving reptile had been missing for two months before being found spotted on the lawn of the historic villa in West London during a networking event and Pimm's reception hosted by Richmond Age UK.

The 11-year-old pet had last been seen in the Bryson family's garden, before she went missing in May. It is believed the Hermann's tortoise escaped by nipping through a gap in a fence into a next-door neighbour's garden, before crawling back under the fence to go behind the Bryson's shed. Mum of two, Helen Bryson takes up the story: *"There is a fox hole leading into a nearby alley, which Tortellini found her way into and from there made a run for it."*

Despite Helen, husband Matt and their children Daisy and Ollie searching high and low, there was no sign of the tortoise. Eight weeks passed before intrepid Tortellini was finally spotted, when she appeared to be heading straight for the Pimm's Station at the Dementia Friendly function.

Tortellini was carefully picked up and gently put into a cardboard box for safe-keeping, along with some fresh grass and sliced cucumber to nibble on. Meanwhile, Claire Leighton - very much living up to her job title as Strawberry Hill's Community Outreach Manager - immediately set about trying to return the unusual guest with her owners. This involved putting call-outs on social media, plus knocking on doors and ringing the doorbells of nearby houses.

Claire explains: *"One of the people attending the meeting had discovered Tortellini and asked me if we had a tortoise? I said 'No, we don't' and was about to take her home for safe keeping after work, when I decided to go around the neighbourhood with Tortellini and see if anyone was missing or recognised her."*

When Helen opened her front door, she was shellshocked to see Tortellini and the runaway was immediately reunited with the family and her own sister, Pesto, 2-months after going missing.

Claire too was taken aback, when she realised that Helen and Matt are also long-term volunteers at Strawberry Hill. *"It was all rather serendipitous, as Walpole would say!"* she laughed.

This is not the first time that the rascally reptile has escaped, prompting the family to take action to try and prevent further getaways, as Helen explains: *"The garden is now a bit more blocked off, but she is fast and great at climbing! We have lost her many times on adventures over the 11 years, but she always seems to find her way home for cuddles!"*

Now safely back home with Pesto and her owners, Tortellini is being indulged with her favourite snack, cat food, and lots of head tickles.

Claire Leighton said: *"We thought Tortellini was a little bit put out to leave the garden party early but we're so pleased that she's been safely reunited with her family."* To which Helen quipped: *"She has been trying to get back ever since!"* Adding: *"Thank you for bringing our Tortellini home. She had been missing for quite a long time and we had almost given up hope."*

In 2022, another tortoise with a sense of wanderlust made headlines. Elmo's owner Claudia Carter devised an ingenious way to make sure he could be found quickly - a bright yellow helium-filled balloon. *"We tied it around in a bow so he looked cute,"* the Sheffield student said at the time.





# Car dealership acquires Twickenham site with funding from HSBC UK

Twickenham car dealership, Maxfield Kadlubowski has bought a 0.5-acre site with the support of HSBC UK.

Maxfield Kadlubowski has used a £1.85m funding package from HSBC UK to acquire the site in Twickenham that it has leased since inception and used for Mazda New car sales and Volvo aftersales.

The HSBC UK funded acquisition comes as part of the business's growth strategy and will allow Maxfield Kadlubowski to expand the site and install two new ramps, enabling the company to complete an extra 500 Volvo car services per year. This is projected to increase revenue by 20% per cent over the next 12 months.

In addition, the acquisition of the site will create two new car technician job opportunities.

**Prakash Muthiah, Director at Maxfield Kadlubowski, said:** "We're delighted to now own our site as we continue to grow and expand our business in Twickenham. As a new customer to HSBC UK, the support has been invaluable and we're looking forward to continuing our relationship together."

**Amit Tomar, Senior Commercial Manager at HSBC UK, commented:** "Maxfield Kadlubowski is a well-established car dealership and we're pleased to be supporting them as they acquire their site in Twickenham, which will reinforce the company's commitment to South West London."

Established in 2001, Maxfield Kadlubowski is a master car dealership for new and used cars, with a workshop to complete car services and repairs for Volvos.





# Station change proposals

South Western Railway is proposing changes to the way we provide customer service and sell tickets at our stations.

This proposal forms part of plans to modernise the railway and bring it more in line with modern consumer expectations.

To modernise our retailing offer, we are proposing to transition our station colleagues to new multi-skilled roles with a clear focus on helping our customers. Our proposals will create a single team on each station, working together to help customers with different aspects of their journeys from journey planning to ticket purchasing.

In particular, all station colleagues above our apprentices will be trained to support customers with their retail choices, and by bringing them out of the ticket offices and into the stations, they will provide more visible and personal help to our customers.

Ultimately, by working together at stations as a single team, there will be more colleagues available to help customers with their retail choices.

South Western Railway is proposing to close all of our ticket offices. Customers will still be able to access the same products and services as they do today through South Western Railway's website, our mobile app, contactless payment, pay as you go, at our customer contact centre, or at the station.

We will continue to meet all our commitments on providing accessibility for passengers, including passengers with reduced mobility and people requiring in-person assistance.

## Have your say

Customer experience is incredibly important to us, and we want to ensure that any changes we make provide an improved experience for our customers. From today, South Western Railway customers are invited to respond to a consultation on the proposals. Details of how to do so are outlined below.

*If you would like to comment on these proposals contact either Transport Focus or London TravelWatch, the independent transport user watchdogs, by **Friday 1 September** using the details below:*

*To respond to the consultation, customers will need to contact the relevant watchdog. Information about which transport watchdog oversees your station can be found in the Station Change Proposal [here](#) (PDF, 3.1Mb).*

**Email:** [TicketOffice.SWR@transportfocus.org.uk](mailto:TicketOffice.SWR@transportfocus.org.uk)

**Freepost:** RTEH-XAGE-BYKZ, Transport Focus, PO Box 5594, Southend on Sea, SS1 9PZ

For more information about how to have your say see [www.transportfocus.org.uk](http://www.transportfocus.org.uk)





# HAMPTON NORTH WARD

Councillor Geoffrey Samuel

## VERGES

The state of the Verges has been the principal issue raised with me by residents this month. After the council introduced a new policy of encouraging biodiversity and wildlife by leaving the verges uncut we conducted a survey of Hampton North residents which produced 35% for the new approach and 65% against. The Council had not consulted residents before implementing its new policy. Residents have recently sent me details of evidence given to an House of Lords Committee by Alan Titchmarsh in which he said that 'rewilded gardens [were] catastrophic for wildlife and reduced biodiversity' I await a response from our Head of Parks but the responsible Councillor responds that verges are different from gardens. Among the comments from residents are a number of points: in some cases the grass has grown so high that sight lines are affected: the long grass promotes mosquitoes, ticks and fleas: fear of grass fires in a very hot spell – remembering that there was a fire on our David Lloyd Golf Course last year: the inability of responsible dog-owners to retrieve faeces from long grass. Before pursuing this further with the Council I would like to hear from more residents about the issue – especially the minority who support the new policy.

## OAK AVENUE – a further report

The Council has been reviewing Oak Avenue following a Borough-wide check to consider 'intervention' where average speeds were seen to be above 24mph. The current data show that this does not apply to Oak Avenue and that there are very few collisions. However traffic volumes are very high. Last year I supported a petition which requested a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of **Old Farm Road-South Road**

Pedestrian surveys showed 30 pedestrians crossing per hour in this section. The Council is therefore considering a crossing just south of **Langridge Mews**- some 130 metres from the **Victors Drive** crossing. I have, of course, supported the proposal to undertake a formal consultation – provided that the responses are fully considered and discussed with the ward councillors. If you are consulted, please respond! But if you are concerned but not involved in the consultation, please let me know so that I can ensure that your views are also taken into account

## DIGITAL EXCLUSION

I have received a good response to this item in the last Newsletter. Responses include from one resident faced with a parking meter that required a mobile phone "I am still able to drive a car and am very thankful to have this bit of independence... I feel discriminated against." Another "Please try to stop the spread of non-cash parking meters". And "If this is the way] the Council] is going I will probably not be going out often". I am very pleased that in a personal letter to me the Equalities Commission wrote "We are currently scoping options to tackle digital exclusion for people with protected characteristics, especially older people". I raised this at the last Council meeting. I have also complained and my complaint to South Western railway about the closure of Ticket Offices has been escalated to the highest level. I await a



response from the Minister I contacted.

## **ELECTRICAL CHARGING POINTS**

During the last Municipal Year the Council did not instal even one charging point --which makes its pledge of 525 this year very demanding as I indicated at the Council meeting. However in response to e-mails from residents in **Longford Close** I put their request to the Council and am pleased that three have now been installed there.

## **HAMPTON SQUARE**

How do you find the state of the recycling area? Is there any improvement? Residents are also concerned that some commuters are leaving their cars in the car park all day and then catching a bus. As far as The White House is concerned I still have no indication of whether – if at all – the café will be fully functional.

## **SHORTER ITEMS**

- The covering which provided shelter for the Garden Court Bus Stop in **Hanworth Road** was involved in the recent incident and I have asked our GLA member to obtain an assurance from TfL that it will soon be replaced.
- I spoke about the curse of Lime Bikes obstructing our pavements at the Council meeting but did not receive the assurances I sought.
- I reported last month that a resident in **Broad Lane** asked for and received a replacement for his damaged Green Waste bin but when he asked for the old bin to be collected was told to cut it up himself and put it in the Refuse. I arranged for it to be collected.
- I have asked for repairs to the path which runs between the garages in **Byron Close and the rear of Browning Close**
- Unfortunately I have still be unable to make proper contact with the Housing Association Inquilab which has some properties in the Ward
- I have confirmed to a resident that the Council no longer provides free parking for those with electric cars although the charge is reduced by 50%
- Residents in **Ringwood Way** who have long been seeking parking controls at the junction with the lay-by road have been told that the Council – which often takes the initiative in such cases – will consider their request only in response to a petition.
- Some residents have been upset at the current degree of aircraft noise: let me know if that is your experience.

**The Newsletter: a shorter edition will be circulated in the last few days of August.**

*As always I will follow up every matter reported to me on [gjshn@btinternet.com](mailto:gjshn@btinternet.com) and may forward your letter/e-mail to officers unless you instruct me not to. **Please use this e-mail address only***



# Leader of the Council responds to South Western Railway station change proposals

Councillor Gareth Roberts has responded to South Western Railway's consultation into the planned closure all of their rail ticket offices. The consultation has been extended to 1 September 2023.

Cllr Roberts, Leader of the Council, said: "In my capacity as Leader of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames I wish to register not only my personal objection, but the collective objection of the Council as a whole, as well as the residents of Richmond upon Thames, to the proposals outlined in the ticket office closure consultation.

"While understanding the need of rail operating companies to deliver an efficient service, and while being mindful of the financial imperatives driving this programme, it is impossible to view the proposals as anything other than a serious degradation of service for passengers.

"At stations such as Hampton we will see the manning of the station reduced from nearly twelve hours a day Monday to Friday, to just four hours a day over the same period, excluding Monday. Weekend operating hours will be reduced on Saturday from approximately ten hours' staffing to just four hours' staffing. Sunday, which currently has a six hour staffing window, will have no staffing at all.

"This picture is replicated, with minor variations, across the majority of the network of stations covering the borough. Only Richmond and Twickenham will see an upgrade in terms of staffing hours, however it remains to be seen how having staff members roaming the entirety of the station will be an improvement over the presence of an easily identifiable staff member in a fixed location.

"This massive reduction of staffing hours at the majority of our Category 3 stations will, as I have said, mark a serious degradation of service for passengers travelling to and from these stations. It would be fair to assume that, given the choice of a staffed ticket office for 12 hours, versus a roaming station attendant for just four hours, the majority would choose the former.

"I am also mindful of the fact that these proposals have been roundly condemned by various organisations, not least our local disability charity RUILS. I echo the concerns which have been raised by these groups. I would also question the wisdom of such wholesale reductions of staffing hours given the proposals to remove guards from trains. If there are no guards and no station staff, how will those with accessibility needs have the confidence to travel by train in the future?

"I urge those who will have the ultimate decision-making authority in relation to these proposals to reject them in their entirety. Even the improvements at our Category 2 stations are not sufficient to warrant the sacrifices at our Category 3 stations.

"Until such time as a proposal comes forward which will guarantee staffing hours, which are at least similar to their current levels, or offer an improvement to those hours, across the entirety of stations covering the borough then I, this Council and the majority of residents will be unable to offer our support."

View [South Western Railway's Station Change Proposal](#) for more information and have your say before Friday 1 September.



## FESTIVAL & RESTAURANT UPDATE

You might like to make a diary note on a couple of top-notch festivals that are on the horizon:

### August 26-28: The Hampton Court Palace Food Festival

The [Hampton Court Palace Food Festival](#) is a great event, held in the beautiful grounds of Henry VIII's former home. It's back this year for its tenth anniversary and it brings together artisan and boutique food and drink businesses. There'll be street food from all around the world, pop up bars, lawn games and bandstand music. Everything from posh pastries to street food, alcoholic offerings and much, much more.



Visitors can check out a range of ingredients from honeys and oils to margarita seasoning and BBQ rubs. There'll be street food from Soho's famous [10 Greek Street](#) and vegan macarons from [Butterwicks](#), artisan ice creams, authentic basque cheesecakes and pastel de natas for those with a sweet tooth, plus drink brands like [The London Vermouth Company](#) and [Sollasa Drinks](#).

Local distillery and spirit rebels [Bone Idyll](#) will be teaching visitors how to shake up a storm during their drinks masterclasses running throughout the festival. Adults and children alike can enjoy wooden fete games on the lawn and relax in the sunshine, listen to toe-tapping tunes at the bandstand, and catch a carriage ride with Shire horses. There'll be fun activities like face-painting for the little ones, too. There's something for everyone and I can't think of a better way to enjoy a bank holiday weekend locally.

Hampton Court Palace admission tickets include free entry to the Food Festival, while Historic Royal Palaces members can also enjoy free entry. Visitors can treat themselves to a VIP upgrade, with the package including access to the VIP tent and tea and coffee bar, an exclusive shopping bag, complimentary breakfast pastries, and a free bar serving beer, wine, and prosecco from 12pm to 5pm.



Tickets are available now at [Hampton Court Palace Food Festival](#)

### 1-3 September: Pub in the Park, Chiswick House

Chiswick House and Gardens is being transformed into a foodie wonderland again as [Pub in the Park Chiswick](#) returns. Festival goers can expect award-winning chef hosts, a range of pubs and restaurants plus music for all to enjoy. Two chefs not seen before at Pub in the Park





Chiswick will be hosting: Chef and TV presenter **Andi Oliver** launches the festival on Friday. She's followed by Geordie chef **Si King from The Hairy Bikers**, on Saturday, and Michelin starred chef **Tom Kerridge** will host Sunday. Festival goers can expect exclusive Q&A's and live demos from the trio of hosts. And other chefs and experts will be hosting the chef and music stages. **Andy Clarke** will be bringing the vibes to the main stage, and award-winning food writer, cook and presenter, **Jo Pratt**, compering on the chef demo stage. If open flame cooking is your thing, **DJ BBQ & T Bone**

**Chops** will be showing you how it's done on the Firepit.

British and Afghan BBQ fusion from **Cue Point**, British pub food from Great British Bake-Off winner Candice Brown's **The Green Man** and returning culinary talents from Tom Kerridge's two Michelin-starred **The Hand & Flowers**, **Atul Kochhar Restaurants** and **Cubitt House**.

And there'll be live gigs from some huge names in music. The legendary **Ronan Keating** will be headlining Friday night, supported by the godfather of party bangers, **DJ Judge Jules**. Throwback English pop band **The Hoosiers** will be bringing the good times on Saturday afternoon. For Saturday evening, the platinum-selling group **McFly** is set to take to the Pub in the Park stage by storm, joined by **General Levy**. On Sunday the revered English rock band **Squeeze**, musical duo **Simon & Oscar from Ocean Colour Scene** and **Mother Pukka** will be bringing the vibes all afternoon.



There are also some new ticket packages this year, so check them out [here](#)

## Restaurant News

### Napoli on the Road comes to Richmond

Now, if you're a pizza fan, you'll be very interested to know that Red Lion Street in Richmond has another pizza restaurant: Neapolitan pizzeria, [Napoli on the Road](#). It's the second branch - the original site is in Devonshire Road in Chiswick - specialising in seasonal spins on the classic dish. Head chef and founder Michele Pascarella has recently been awarded Pizza Maker of the Year 2023 and started his business by wandering around with his three-wheeler Ape Piaggio making wood fire pizzas all over London.



The seasonal approach is what sets this pizzeria apart, and there is an ever changing menu to reflect the bounty of each season. An open kitchen concept allows guests to witness the pizzaiolos as they hand-stretch the dough and assemble each pizza. Pizzas range from £10.95 to £18.95, with vegan options as well. Wine is from £24.50 a bottle and £5 for 125ml glass.

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# Traveller's tales 150

## Vermeer is near

Doug Goodman visits Amsterdam's art show of the century



The best had been saved until the end of the week-long Dutch canal cruise on Spirit of the Rhine. We had started in Amsterdam and sailed to Rotterdam to visit art galleries in The Hague, Delft and Utrecht. The trip had been a one-off arts cruise arranged by Saga to give visitors the chance to see the much publicised Vermeer exhibition. Before returning to Amsterdam, in the major galleries, we had seen works by Modriaan, Rembrandt, Hals, Van Gogh and in The Prinsenhof museum an exhibition celebrating the life and work of Johannes Vermeer. His painting of The Girl with a Pearl Earring had just been returned to its home in the Maurithuis Museum in The Hague after residing in Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum. The Maurithuis, in the heart of historic Hague, is a world-class gallery with a magnificent collection of famous Dutch Master and 17th century Flemish art. In The Van Gough Museum in Amsterdam the life of the painter was portrayed in great detail and his fight against mental illness explained. This collection has over 200 paintings, 500 drawings and 700 letters by Vincent Van Gogh. He wasn't particularly well liked in his lifetime and sold only two paintings. The museum is the most popular in Amsterdam with over two million visitors annually. I looked for a mention of his time in London and the plaque on a house in Isleworth where he lived for a short while. You might think that seven days of almost continuous viewing of works of art could have overloaded many of the cruise passengers. But there was no sign of having seen enough and on the evening before taking the tour to the Vermeer exhibition there was a feeling of great excitement as guests enjoyed a delicious dinner.



Girl with a Pearl Earring



View of Delft



The Little Street

### Vermeer in the Rijksmuseum

It was of course a very popular and consequently crowded exhibition. Most visitors wanted to spend time studying the paintings while others seemed content to take a quick photo and move on. No doubt the snappers later found the heavy catalogue essential in identifying the pictures. There was no pressure to hurry and the ever-polite Dutch made room for the



children and the less-mobile. The paintings were well exhibited with plenty of wall space between them and of great importance were the many seats scattered around the rooms. Of the 37 known works by Vermeer 28 were on show in the Rijksmuseum. While most paintings show interiors: light streaming through windows, tiled floors and people in various poses and occupations, my favourites were the View of Delft and The Little Street.



The Procuress



Christ in the House of Mary and Martha



The Milk Maid

The View was painted in 1660 and shows Delft from the south. This dramatic morning picture is divided into four horizontal sections showing the quay, the water, the town and the billowing clouds, which seem to move across the canvas. There's so much intricate detail in the picture constructed so meticulously. Grains of sand mixed in with some of the paint have produced a beautiful texture.

The Little Street painted in 1657 is Vermeer's only surviving Delft street scene. His detailed and evocative picture of the city's back streets has not been accurately placed and is believed to be a bringing together of his favourite architectural spots near the market square.



Girl with Red Hat



Amsterdam Canal View

When the exhibition ended in June Vermeer's pictures were returned to their original homes and probably will never be exhibited all in one place again. For the 180 guests on Saga's arts cruise it had been a memorable trip.

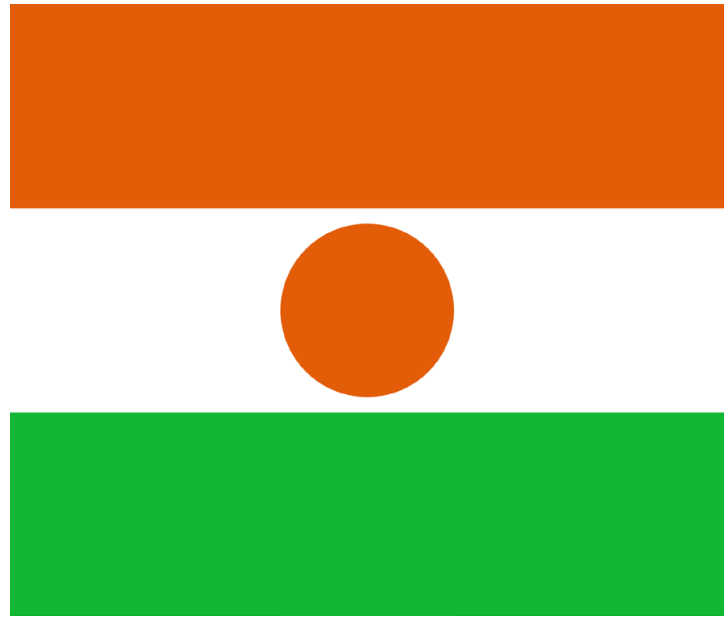


## Niger - Wagner in Africa

Wagner leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin, reported to have recently attended the St Petersburg Russia-Africa Economic and Humanitarian Forum (along with Vladimir Putin), offered his army's services on Friday to the head of Niger's presidential guard.

Abdourahmane Tchiani, head of Niger's presidential guard, is now the head of the transitional government following a military coup.

Earlier this month Prigozhin told his army in Belarus to "Prepare for Africa".



Information and photographs of Niger: <https://worldinfozone.com/facts.php?country=Niger>

# THINK IT...SAY IT...

By Deep Patel

~ Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

We've all done it haven't we? You know what I am talking about right?...Or at least you will do by the time you have finished reading this week's article...those times where you either wish that you had said something you were thinking of at the time that you were thinking it...or the opposite, where you wish you hadn't said it at all...either way...we've all been there...some of us more than others perhaps, but we have all been there...and I don't know about you...but for me...it's never been a comfortable experience to say the least...



They say "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me"...but they can can't they?...words can be sharper than a sword or softer than a pillow...words can be the jewelry that adorns us or the weapon that destroys us...either way...words are extremely powerful, and when used correctly, can make life wonderful, however when used incorrectly, can make life a living hell...So where am I going with this article I hear you ask?

Well, this week in my shop it became apparent to me just how powerful words can be...words that my customers say to me as well as words that I say back...

The main problem I have I find is knowing when to say something...and when to keep my mouth shut...staying quiet could mean the person misses a compliment that may have made their day, particularly if they were having a challenging day... but saying something may cause offence or trouble of another kind...

It happens a lot to me on a daily basis...I will be serving a customer, and I will notice something about them, perhaps a nice shirt, or new hair style...I don't say anything as I don't want to seem flirty or overly fake, or like I am buttering them up...but then the next day learn the person in question was having a really bad day and maybe my words would have lifted them just when they needed it? Sometimes it can work the other way of course, when you say something, the person takes offence and you wonder why you said it in the first place... So what did I learn...? Well, I learnt the best way to remember what is good to do is to remind yourself that if it is something nice you want to say to somebody, a compliment, or praise or to let them know how much you appreciate them, follow the "think it...say it" rule...as life is too short to hold back compliments...you never know how much your words may mean to the person you say them to...a few seconds out of your day to tell them how lovely their perfume smells, or how they have a lovely aura may make their entire day...I want to thank the lady who came into my shop this week to tell me how much she enjoyed reading my articles here each week...you inspired me to write this very article because of the kind words you said to me...think it... say it...When we have something nice to say, don't hold back...say it...if one candle is used to light many others...the room in total sum gets so much brighter...be the candle the lights many more in a world that so desperately needs it...

## **Remember...**

***"Think it...Say it...because life is too short to hold back kindness..."***

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

**STOP ANY INSECT KINDLY (GOOD KARMA):** Sprinkle pure essential peppermint oil, Olbas oil, fine black pepper or white vinegar around places where you don't want them to come (but NOT directly on them)...they will go without you having to harm them. For ANY specific tip to stop any "pest" or insect KINDLY (for good karma/ blessings), email me: [thedeepatel@gmail.com](mailto:thedeepatel@gmail.com) or join my Facebook page: "KIND WORLD"



## Itch

by Jonathan Dove, libretto by Alasdair Middleton  
Opera Holland Park, Kensington, until 4<sup>th</sup> August

Despite the icy rain, *Itch* elicits warm cheers from its audience at Holland Park's open-air theatre, where their enthusiasm shows that this [new work by Jonathan Dove](#) is something really rather special.

Initially, the music sounds quite uncompromising, then gradually your ears adjust to its repetitions, reminiscent of Janacek, which weave pleasingly together. The City of London Sinfonia makes the most of the kaleidoscopic colours in the score, which manages to be contemporary whilst hitting the emotional jackpot in the way that the best operas do.



Based on Simon Mayo's *Itch* novels for young adults, the libretto may be a bit unsubtle, with its cardboard villains and green moralising, but it is excellent raw material for opera. Rebecca Bottone as the CEO of a greenwashing multinational, willing to resort to theft and child kidnapping to boost her profits, launches dazzling coloratura fireworks, rivalling the Queen of the Night's. Countertenor ethereality from James Laing, as the hippy surfer Cake, sets off the plot by finding some radioactive rocks, a potential source of green fuel ... that could destroy the planet. Victoria Simmonds' teacher provides a visionary glimpse of Gaia compensating for human errors, while Eric Greene is wonderfully moving when he rescues his son Itch from a watery death in a mine, as he urges him back to life. These operatic ingredients, inventively deployed, provide a musical banquet that isn't short on fun and completely lacks pomposity.

Stephen Barlow's well-judged production delivers effective dramatic impact. The imaginative projections take us everywhere instantly: a laboratory class; a city by night; a kidnapper's car; the depths of a tin mine; a beautiful beach ... and to the Periodic Table, its chemical symbols in witty scrabble games.

Adult singers play the children in a way that avoids implausible over-cuteness. Adam Temple-Smith as Itch moves utterly convincingly from naïve enthusiasm about acquiring a collection of all the elements, to an awareness that he has to let go of something rare and precious no matter the cost to himself.



Read Patrick Shorrock's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/07/27/itch](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/07/27/itch)

Photography courtesy of OHP productions.



# Mozart's Constanze

devised by Thomas Guthrie

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

A sensitive and subtle piece, *Mozart's Constanze* opens West Green's season with a superb semi-staged recital and dance pairing of real emotional impact.

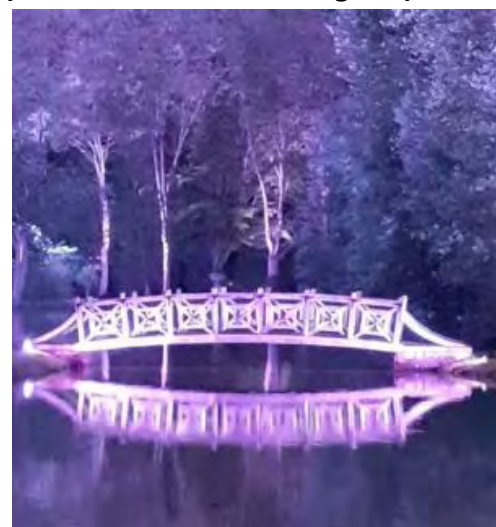
Constanze Weber, who at the age of 20 became Frau Mozart, has had a bad press. From Pushkin, in his [verse drama \*Mozart and Salieri\*](#), written during her lifetime, up until Peter Shaffer's [1979 play](#) and Miloš Forman's film *Amadeus*, Constanze is portrayed as a crude and immature air-head. *Mozart's Constanze* sets the record straight with a portrait that shows her as intelligent and talented, practical and, true to her name, faithful. Constanze tells her own story by way of Mozart's music, opera arias, and vocal solos.



Soprano Luci Briginshaw plays Constanze with entrancing elegance and passionate empathy.

Her inspired acting is complemented by six dancers whose fluid contemporary style expresses the emotions of Constanze, physically enhancing the implications of the sung words as her autobiography unfolds. They provide a narrative to the story, woven into the action yet not obtruding on it. The wow factor is that these dancers are also accomplished puppeteers.

Mozart's presence is as a body puppet manipulated by the dancers. He is highlighted, against the almost totally black and white design, by the red frock-jacket of contemporary portraits. Although the white puppet is fairly featureless, the puppetry brings it vividly to life. This Mozart is a real person; a papier-mâché heart beats. His death then is quite shocking, as midst the aria *Vorrei spiegarvi*, the puppet suddenly falls apart, then an oboe solo, and silence. It is a touching moment, serendipitously enhanced by the breeze across the lake bringing the scent of flowers, as the sun sets.



Direction and choreography by Thomas Guthrie and Maria da Luz creates a seamless whole of music, dance, and wonderful singing, infused in the magically lit gardens.

In Briginshaw's beautiful rendering of *Et incarnatus est*, we see the reincarnation of Mozart in Constanze's rescuing of his manuscripts. *Mozart's Constanze* paints a portrait of a remarkable woman, and as the dancers perform with poi-ribbons during a final *Exsultate Jubilate*, we see a life of triumph.

Read Mark Aspen's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/07/22/mozt-constanze](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/07/22/mozt-constanze)

Photography courtesy of Zaverthal Collection and WGHO



# National Play Day

Come and celebrate National Play Day with the children's centres, English Heritage and Marble Hill Playcentres



## Wednesday 2 August 2023

11am to 3pm

Marble Hill House, Richmond Road, Twickenham TW1 2NL

### A fun packed day for all the family...

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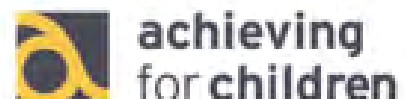
<https://marblehillplaycentres.com>

### Call for more details

T: 020 8734 3400

### Bring a picnic

Travel by public transport is advised



# Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge Colleges (HRUC) achieve Chartered Status in Further Education

Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge Colleges (HRUC) has been awarded Chartered Status securing membership to the prestigious Chartered Institution for Further Education (CIFE).

The award is an acknowledgement of the outstanding work taking place across the three colleges in west and south London driving skills and helping to meet the future needs of its 16,000 learners, and employers.

CIFE was established to highlight the excellence of further education and skills across the UK. As well as being the only FE-related organisation with Royal Assent to provide chartered status, the CIFE works alongside industry to shape and influence the national skills system ensuring that skills providers are recognised as the key drivers of economic growth and development within their local communities. As a membership body for FE organisations with exceptional standards, CIFE works alongside industry to influence and shape the national skills system, it also promotes collaboration and the sharing of good practice.



CIFE works alongside industry to influence and shape the national skills system, it also promotes collaboration and the sharing of good practice.

HRUC was officially recognised as a member of The Chartered Institution for Further Education at a prestigious Admissions Ceremony held at The Apothecaries Hall in London. To celebrate the proud moment on behalf of HRUC, Keith Smith, CEO, attended the ceremony with Nick Davies, HRUC's Chair of Governors, Deputy CEO Dylan McTaggart, Senior Leaders Shane Woodhatch and Peregrine Perrott FloD, FLPI, FIKE, College Principals Jo Withers and Gavin Hughes, one of our key employer partners Poorvi Patel from Heathrow and representatives from our health and social care provision, Section Manager Rose Etim-Ibom alongside one of students - Harry Haynes.

After the ceremony Keith said:

“I am thrilled that HRUC (Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge Colleges) has been invited to join the Chartered Institute for Further Education. This is a proud moment for our students and our staff as the institute works under a Royal Charter and exists to promote the very best in FE. We are one of 25 organisations and colleges with chartered membership and this will open up further opportunities for professional development for our staff, enabling them to continue to provide our students with the very best educational experience.

“One of our core values is around high expectations and being great in everything we do and the Chartered Status is a proud reflection of the amazing work that goes on across our college group at Harrow College, Richmond upon Thames College, Uxbridge College, West London Institute of Technology and HRUC Apprenticeships & Skills. We are delighted to be officially recognised as members of the Chartered Institute for Further Education and this demonstrates our continued commitment to a sector that really does change lives.”





# Warning issued about chargers amid spate of fires caused by e-scooter explosions

Giuseppe Capanna of charity Electrical Safety First said the fire brigade are called out to an e-scooter fire every two days

PEOPLE should be wary of using universal chargers for electric scooters which are to blame for an increasing number of battery explosions, the charity Electrical Safety First has warned.

Spokesman Giuseppe Capanna told [GB News](#): “Manufacturers of e-bikes, scooters and their batteries, are allowed to self-certify these products and just declare that they’re safe and put them on the market.



“What we’re finding is that lots of these products haven’t been through safety testing and that’s when these dangerous products are getting into people’s homes.

“What we want to see is mandatory third-party approval of these products, like has just happened in New York. New York has just introduced new legislation because they’ve had lots and lots of these e-bike and e-scooter fires to make sure that any manufacturers that are selling these products have to get them tested before they can put them on the market.”

In a discussion with Andrew Pierce and Dawn Neesom, he continued: “There are too many bad operators, there are not enough reputable manufacturers that are following the rules and doing the proper testing, which is why we need to see some tighter controls so that we can start to like weed out these bad operators and make sure that only tested products get onto the market.

“If you’ve already got an e-bike or a scooter there’s a few things you can do to try and help keep yourself safe.

“One is don’t charge your bike or a scooter in a hallway or in an escape room where it could stop you getting out of the building if something goes wrong. Don’t charge it overnight, if you can avoid that.

“If you can’t avoid charging overnight, make sure you’ve got working smoke alarms so that it can give you some advanced warning and let you get out of the property if something goes wrong.”

He added: “The other thing is it’s quite important that if you’re charging your e-bike or e-scooter, only use the charger that came with it. And if you need to replace it go back to the original manufacturer to get a replacement charger.

Don’t use one of these universal chargers because we found from online marketplaces over 60 of these universal chargers that hadn’t had any safety testing carried out and they were dangerous, because you’re using the wrong charger, that’s when you get the risk of it being overcharged and the battery going into ‘thermal runaway’.”



**BRITAIN'S NEWS CHANNEL**

# Match Preview: Aston Villa v Brentford

Including pre-match analysis with Aston Villa correspondent John Townley and a statistical deep dive with Playmaker's Alex Lawes, we've got you covered ahead of Brentford's final game of the Premier League Summer Series

Written by Brentford Football Club

Aston Villa are the opponents for Brentford's final game of the Premier League Summer Series on Sunday 30 July (12pm kick-off EDT/5pm GMT).

The Bees will be looking to end their time in the USA on a high at FedExField, Maryland, having been edged out by Fulham and Brighton and Hove Albion in their previous two fixtures.

## The Opposition

Emery appointment sparks change at Villa Park

During the opening months of last season, it's fair to say Aston Villa were spiralling.

Steven Gerrard helped them maintain a solid mid-table position after taking over from Dean Smith in November 2021, but at the start of September last year, his side were second bottom after four defeats from their opening five Premier League games.

"I'll continue to try and lead this team forward in the best way I can until I'm told differently," he said after the 2-1 defeat to Arsenal on 31 August. "But, in terms of being concerned with how the table looks, of course I am. I'm a human being."

Villa went unbeaten in the next four games, but then lost to Chelsea and Fulham and only scored three goals across that six-game sequence. There was little sign of improvement and the fanbase was growing restless, so, on 21 October, Gerrard was sacked.

Everything changed when Unai Emery took over.

The Spaniard was appointed as Gerrard's successor three days after his departure, but his work permit did not allow him to take over officially until 1 November, meaning he had only two games before the start of the break for the World Cup in Qatar.

Caretaker Aaron Danks took charge in the interim, overseeing a 4-0 win over Brentford and a defeat by the same scoreline at Newcastle.

The first game of the Emery era set the tone - a 3-1 win over Manchester United at Villa Park. It was the first time Villa had beaten United on home soil in 27 years; Emery described it as "a special day", but just "the first step". The second - a 2-1 win over Brighton - was only their fifth Premier League win of 2022.





A return to domestic action brought a mixed bag of results: four defeats, three wins, one draw. Towards the end of February, Villa sat 11th in the table after a 4-2 defeat at home to Arsenal, a game during which they had twice taken the lead. Emery's response was frank: "Very disappointed, very frustrated, and embarrassing to lose as much as 4-2 at home in front of our own supporters."

It was a turning point. In the final 15 games of the season, Villa won 10 times. In April, they broke into European contention, which was remarkable given the way they started the season. A draw with Liverpool in the penultimate game of the season lifted them to seventh and a final day win over Brighton secured a place in the Europa Conference League play-off round after their best finish since 2009/10.

With European competition on the menu again, some impressive signings onboard and the momentum of last term in the not-too-distant past, Aston Villa will be a side to watch this season.

## **In the Dugout**

Unai Emery

Having managed more than 950 matches in 18-and-a-half years, Unai Emery is one of the most experienced managers currently working in the Premier League.

A midfielder in his playing days, Emery's career ended in late 2004, when he was offered the chance to take over as manager of Lorca Deportivo, for whom he had signed from Leganes a year earlier.



After two years at the now-defunct club, he took the reins at Almeria and then, in May 2008, joined Valencia and guided them to three successive third-place finishes in La Liga in 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12.

The Spaniard moved to Russia to coach Spartak Moscow next, but his tenure at Otkritie Arena lasted all of six months and he was back in La Liga in January 2013, when he was appointed as Sevilla boss. His time in charge of Los Nervionenses will be best remembered for the incredible feat of winning the Europa League three times in a row between 2014 and 2016.

After three-and-a-half years, in June 2016, Emery opted to move on again, this time to France with Paris Saint-Germain. His time at Parc des Princes was laden with silverware: one Ligue 1 title, two Coupe de France, two Coupe de la Ligue and two Trophee des Champions.

With a year left on his contract at PSG, he announced his intention to leave and was later announced as the successor to long-serving Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger.

The highlight of Emery's time in north London was reaching the 2018/19 Europa League final - though the Gunners were beaten 4-1 by Chelsea - and he was sacked in November 2019 after less than 18 months in charge. He returned to Spain once again and re-established himself as the undisputed king of the Europa League after a fourth triumph with Villarreal in 2021.

He was approached by Newcastle shortly after their takeover in late 2021, but rebuffed their advances. He said:

“I am grateful for the interest of a great club, but even more grateful to be here. Villarreal is my home and I am 100 per cent committed.” He remained in charge of El Submarine Amarillo until October 2022, when Aston Villa met a reported £5.2 million buyout clause to bring him to the Premier League for a second time.

## Pre-match analysis

Alex Lawes, Playmaker Stats: Adaptability at the heart of both sides' success

The third match of Brentford's Premier League Summer Series promises to be a tactically fascinating battle against Unai Emery's Aston Villa.

Under the Spaniard, Villa were one of the best sides in the Premier League for almost two thirds of the campaign last season and, in fact, only Man City (53) have collected more points than the Villans (43) since the turn of the year.

Fresh from clinching seventh and a Europa Conference League spot last season, the Midlanders have a spring in their step and Sunday's clash with the Bees at the FedExField in Maryland will pit two top tacticians against one another.

Both teams are shaped by the pragmatism and intelligence of their respective coaches and Emery v Frank, in many ways, tops the bill.

Aside from Villa's impressive results under him, Emery's in-game tweaking and ability to tailor tactics to specific opposition have been clear strengths, which comes as no surprise given his cup runs in the past with Sevilla, Villarreal and even Arsenal.

Frank possesses a comparable adaptability, which was perfectly captured by Brentford's final 10 games of last season: the Bees deploying a 3-5-2 system for five of those matches, but adopting a 4-3-3 for the other five games.

The pragmatism and defensive organisation instilled by both coaches sees both sides excel at knocking opponents out of their stride, nullifying their strengths and exploiting any weaknesses.

Both sides possess an impressive ability to be defensively compact and launch lightning fast counter attacks. Brentford scored six Premier League goals on the break in 2022/23, with Villa just one behind with five.

One huge positive for the Bees last season was that they were the only team not to concede a Premier League goal on the counter attack, so Villa and Emery have a tough nut to crack in that regard.

The game could well be a cagey affair going on both teams' defensive prowess. Only the top four teams in the Premier League in 2022/23 boasted better defensive records last season than Brentford and Villa (who conceded 46 goals apiece).

However, the Bees' strength from dead-ball situations could potentially come into play against a team who shipped 14 goals from set-pieces last term, the third-most in the league.

Brentford have a habit of scoring at the back post from flick-ons and they are a clear threat from close range: averaging 1.6 shots per game inside the six-yard box, as opposed to Villa's 0.8 last season.

Unlike Brentford's previous match against Brighton, when the teams shared off-field similarities but contrasted on the pitch, the exact opposite could be true for the Bees and Sunday's opponents.

Both Brentford and Villa display a similar willingness to counter attack or counteract their opponent and Sunday's clash should be an absorbing contest.





# Red roses to play Canada at Stonex Stadium, London

The Red Roses' second match of their two-Test series with Canada Women in September will be played at Saracens' StoneX Stadium.

Taking place on Saturday, 30 September (KO 15:00) the fixture will conclude the side's preparations for the inaugural WXV tournament to be held in New Zealand this autumn.

StoneX Stadium last hosted a Red Roses match in November 2018 with the world's most-capped women's player, Sarah Hunter, on the scoresheet in a 57-5 victory over USA.

Now England Women transition coach, Hunter commented:

"StoneX Stadium has fantastic facilities and is a great venue to play rugby.

"The passion and appetite for women's rugby in this country has vastly grown since our last match at Saracens. We hope that growth will continue in front of a big north London crowd against strong opposition."

Lucy Wray, Saracens Chief Executive, added:

"Everyone at Saracens is incredibly excited to host a Red Roses international match at StoneX Stadium.

"It will be amazing to see our own Red Roses representing their country against Canada, where Saracens are also represented by our recent signings Emma Taylor, McKinley Hunt and Sophie de Goede.

"This is such a fantastic opportunity for all the Sarries fans and our partner clubs and schools to come and watch such brilliantly talented players up close."

[Priority Tickets](#) for the fixture at StoneX Stadium are now available to O2 and Virgin Media customers before going on general sale on Friday, 28 July.

Tickets for the Red Roses' first match of the two-Test series against Canada at Exeter Chiefs' Sandy Park (Saturday, 23 September (KO 14:30)) are currently on [general sale](#) on the England Rugby website.



**SCAM**

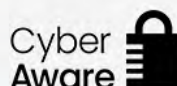
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