

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

## Contents

- TickerTape
- COVID-19
- Local Postcard Page: Hampton Court – The Station and Tram Terminus
- Thames Water Teddington river abstraction proposals
- Letters
- Twickers Foodie
- Win a Pair of Tickets! - Spirit of Christmas
- Choice
- WIZ Tales - Lebanon
- Do you have time?
- Sport

## Contributors

- Alan Winter
- Museum of Richmond
- Alison Jee
- Bruce Lyons
- Mark Aspen
- Royal Parks
- World InfoZone
- Deep Patel
- St Mary's University
- Royal Star & Garter
- RFU
- Brentford FC
- NAO
- Local Government Association
- NPL
- LBRuT

## Editors

Berkley Driscoll  
Teresa Read



20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

T&RT

# TickerTape - News in Brief

## Transport

### Upcoming District line works

From Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 October next week, there will be no District line service between Earl's Court and Ealing Broadway/Kensington (Olympia)/**Richmond**.

During these works, customers are advised to use the Piccadilly line, local or replacement bus services for alternative routes. Replacement bus services will run between Hammersmith and Acton Town. Visit our [Journey Planner](#) for more information.

### London Overground

Sunday 22 October

No service between **Richmond** and Willesden Junction

Use the District line between Richmond and Gunnersbury. Replacement bus services will run between Gunnersbury and Willesden Junction. This is due to Network Rail works.

## International school exchanges with Richmond

Teachers from the Geschwister Scholl Schule in Konstanz were welcomed to York House by the Mayor of Richmond as they took part in their annual exchange with Teddington School.

Around 80 children from Konstanz were in the borough, including pupils from the Ellenrieder Gymnasium in Konstanz who were also here for their annual exchange with Hampton & Lady Eleanor Holles Schools. The Mayor was in Konstanz herself earlier this summer to christen the new car ferry across Lake Constance, 'Richmond.'

The bonds between the two European towns grow ever stronger. For more information, please visit the [Richmond in Europe Association website](#).

## Join the Mayor's Four Seasons Quiz!

Come along to the Mayor of Richmond upon Thames' seasons-themed charity quiz.

Taking place on Friday 27 October from 7pm at Clarendon Hall in York House, the quiz is in aid of the Mayor's charities [SEEN](#) and [Age UK Richmond](#).

The quiz begins at 7.30pm. Guests can enjoy a buffet supper, which will be served at each table. There will also be a paid bar and an exciting raffle.

Teams are up to 8 people. [Buy your tickets online](#)

# Covid 19

By Teresa Read

## **World Health Organization: COVID-19**

**Globally**, as of 4:37pm CEST, 18 October 2023, there have been 771,407,825 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 6,972,152 deaths, reported to WHO. As of 8 October 2023, a total of 13,516,282,548 vaccine doses have been administered.

**In The United Kingdom**, from 3 January 2020 to 4:37pm CEST, 18 October 2023, there have been 24,779,150 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 230,383 deaths, reported to WHO. As of 11 September 2022, a total of 151,248,820 vaccine doses have been administered.

## **Numbers at a glance for the WHO European Region**

276,563,944

### **Confirmed cases**

Last update: 18 October 2023 at 03:37 pm BST

2,251,388

### **Confirmed deaths**

Last update: 18 October 2023 at 03:37 pm BST

## **NEWS**

**The Guardian:** Covid deaths are on the rise again, so what happens?

**New Scientist:** Is England doing enough to stop covid-19 spreading in hospitals?

**World Health Organization:** “What is wrong with me?” Children face a frustrating lack of answers about long COVID

## **Booking a vaccination**

<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services/covid-19-vaccination-services/book-covid-19-vaccination/>

- Click on the “Start Now” button and you will be taken through an easy Click button procedure to book your appointment at a suitable venue.
- Vaccination appointments can be booked on the NHS website or the NHS App. If you do not have access to the internet telephone 119. You can use textphone 18001

The Maple Leaf Pharmacy on Twickenham Green will give both COVID and flu vaccines. If you have problems booking with the NHS website you can phone the Maple Leaf for advice and possibly an appointment on 020 8894 5034



**The Tree Agency**

darryl parkin

The Treehouse  
25 King Edwards Grove  
Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9LY  
Telephone 020 8274 0107  
Mobile 07960 123580  
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www.thetreeagency.co.uk

*The Tree Agency*

# The Local Picture Postcard Page Part 219

By Alan Winter

## Hampton Court – The Station and Tram Terminus

The original Tudor Hampton Court Palace was begun by Cardinal Wolsey in the early 16th century, but it soon attracted the attention of Henry VIII who brought all his six wives here. Surrounded by gorgeous gardens and famous features such as the Maze and the Great Vine, the palace has been the setting for many nationally important events.

Queen Victoria opened the palace to the public in 1838. It has remained a magnet for millions of visitors, drawn to the grandeur, the ghosts and the fabulous art collection.

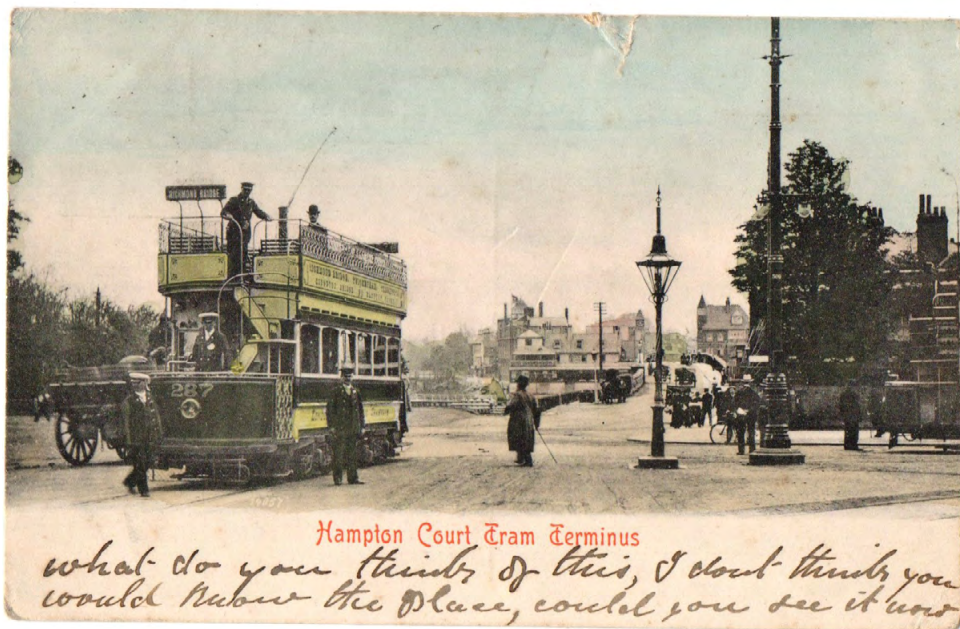
If you are going to invite millions of visitors to a location in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century then you must have some transport to get them there. The timing coincided nicely with the growth of railways although it was another 50 years before trams arrived.

Hampton Court Station is the terminus of the 1.5-mile Hampton Court branch line that has one junction – with the South West Main Line (west of Surbiton). One through station is on the branch, Thames Ditton. The station was built on the island formed between the river Mole and its close distributary, the River Ember. Access was first via a wooden bridge from Creek Road. The branch was opened on 1 February 1849. In its first two years the carriages were pulled by horses.

Regular steam locomotives replaced the horses in the year 1849–1850 tender-first when proceeding down the line (rather than “up” to London), while construction of the first turntable was underway. By 1868 four lines, four platforms, a railway turntable, a coal depot and ancillary buildings comprised a greater version of the site. The peak capacity of this station was between 1912 and 1929 when over 10 tracks fanned out at the site.



In the 1930s the bed of the mouth of the Mole was filled in and the stream combined with the River Ember to construct Hampton Court Way and the Edward Lutyens-designed, re-aligned Hampton Court Bridge.



Hampton Court Tram Terminus

*what do you think of this, I don't think you would know the place, could you see it was*

The first bridge on this site opened in 1753. The third bridge opened in 1865 as a toll bridge and was demolished in the early 1930's. The fourth and current bridge was opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1933 by the then Prince of Wales who later became King Edward Twickenham VIII. He also opened the Chiswick and bridges on the same day, which now carry the A316.

Our first postcard was published by Young and Co of Teddington

just before the first world war and shows a nice full-frontal view of Hampton Court Station.

London United Tramways extended its network from Twickenham to Hampton, Hampton Court, and Teddington in 1903.

The next two postcards show the tram terminus at the foot of the bridge and also date back to the 1904-1908 period.

There has been much media confusion in recent times as to the exact whereabouts of Hampton Court Palace and its grounds. I don't know why because the river is the county boundary and so we can rightly claim Hampton Court as probably Middlesex's grandest building. I cringe when the Gardener's World TV presenters at the annual flower show say "Welcome to Hampton in Surrey" What nonsense!



If you have any old postcards that you would consider parting with, I'd be very interested in arranging to see them. Please contact me on 07875 578398 or by email at [alanwinter192@hotmail.com](mailto:alanwinter192@hotmail.com)

I am happy to pay cash for anything like that which I find of interest. So don't throw old postcards etc. in the skip or recycling bins. Show them to me first!

A date for your diary. Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup>. The West London Postcard Fair takes place at Teddington Baptist Church between. 10.00 and 4.00. Refreshments all day. Some 14 dealers. My tables are by the stage. Come and say hello and bring along any old postcards you wish to dispose of. Thanks, stay safe and well.

# CrusaderTravel

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# Have your say on Thames Water Teddington river abstraction proposals

Richmond Council has stood unanimously against Thames Water's plan to take water from the River Thames at Teddington Weir and divert it to the Lee Valley Reservoirs, replacing it with waste-water from Mogden Sewage Treatment Works.

Thames Water have launched a consultation on initial site options for the Teddington Direct River Abstraction (DRA) project. [Find out more about the project and have your say](#), before Monday 11 December 2023. You can also register to attend a series of [community information events](#).

Speaking at a meeting of the Full Council, Councillor Gareth Roberts, Leader of the Council, said: *"We recognise the urgent need to address the water shortages we will face in decades to come, but this Council will robustly resist any plans which we consider damaging to the river and to our own land, where better solutions are viable. We need the Government to force Thames Water to tell us what the other options are and be more transparent with everyone who has an interest in this."*



Councillor Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee, moved the motion at the Council meeting, saying: *"We take our role as community leaders very seriously. And we heard from our community resoundingly. Swimmers, rowers, anglers and all of those who value their local parks for recreation, exercise and biodiversity as well as all those who enjoy the river have expressed concerns about the potential impact on water quality, including so-called forever chemicals, and the potential impacts of construction on sensitive locations. Others have shared more technical doubts about resilience, and whether this type of scheme can resist silting up at the extraction point. And there are ongoing concerns about Thames Water's priorities in the context of sewage spills and their failure to fix leaks."*

The Council agreed to call on the Government to require Thames Water to re-examine and publish other schemes. The current proposal could impact Ham Lands and Moormead Park in St. Margarets, having a detrimental impact on local wildlife and ecosystems.

As the local planning authority, Richmond Council could have a say in the project going ahead, but Thames Water have indicated that it would prefer a decision to be made on the proposals via the Nationally Strategic Infrastructure project process, rather than locally. Current timelines indicate planning proposals will be submitted in 2026.

If residents have particular concerns about these proposals, they are advised to speak to their local councillor.

Dear Sir,

**Twickenham Constituency Boundary Changes – Role of Boundaries Commission**

Twickenham residents may be aware that, due to boundary changes, Whitton Ward will no longer be in this parliamentary constituency for the next General Election (it will in future be in the care of the MP for Brentford and Isleworth). This is because of the Boundary Commission review concluded in June 2023.

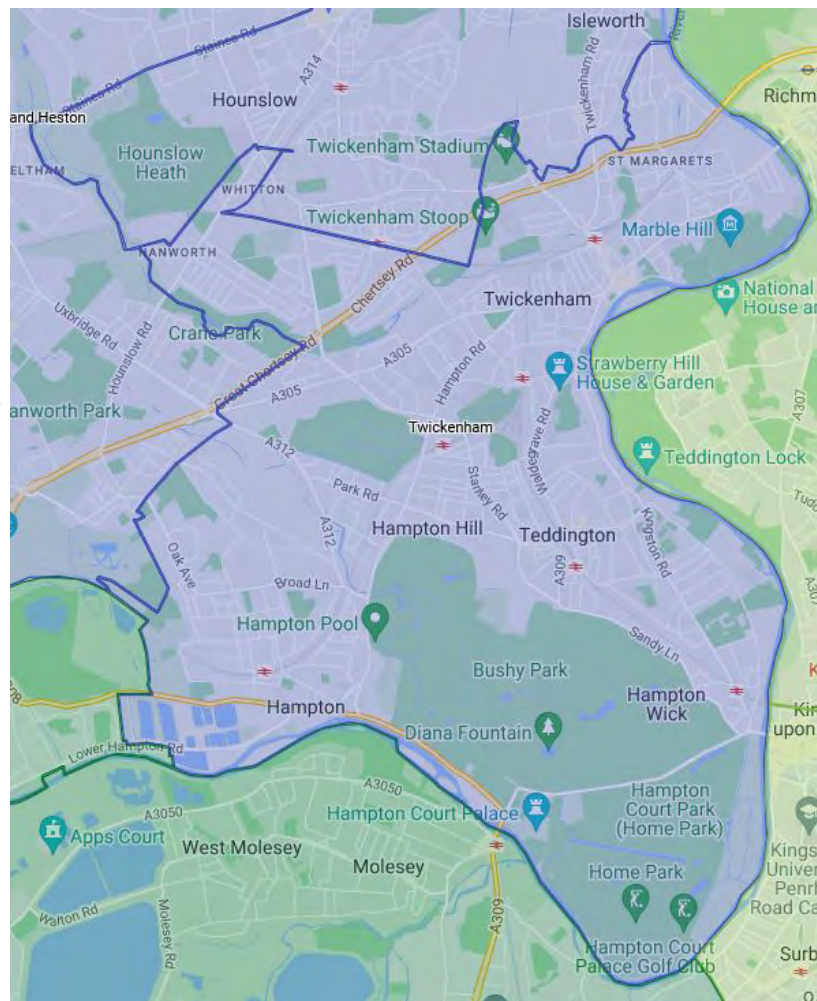
The Commission is a statutory body composed of a High Court Judge (Sir Peter Lane), a senior civil servant (Colin Byrne) and a former solicitor (Sarah Hamilton), nominally chaired by The Speaker, with the help of various Assistant Commissioners. It is independent and impartial, with no input from the Government of the day (except for financial and logistical support). Its remit is to ensure an approximately equal number of voters in each constituency throughout the country, and it is required to make a Report to Parliament every eight years. This Report must be voted through by Parliament before any changes take effect.

The present constituency boundaries have not altered since the 2010 Election, as the changes suggested in 2013 and in 2018 were not voted through Parliament, for various reasons. It is clear that since 2010 there must have been considerable quantitative and qualitative shifts in numbers of voters in different areas: about 90% of all parliamentary constituencies will see boundary changes.

The latest review aims to even out the numbers in each constituency to a calculated median value of 73,393 (range 69,724 – 77,062). The adjustment to the Twickenham constituency means the total number of voters will now be 75,889.

It should be stressed that the changes for Twickenham refer only to the Parliamentary constituency boundaries. Whitton remains within the Borough of Richmond for the purposes of local government.

Jeremy Hamilton-Miller,  
Twickenham





# Stay away from rutting deer, The Royal Parks urges visitors

From September until early November, male deer will roar and clash antlers in a bid to fight off rivals and attract as many females as possible to mate with.

During this time, park visitors are being advised by The Royal Parks charity to be extra vigilant and stay well away from the deer, as the stags are pumped full of testosterone, can weigh over 25 stone and reach speeds of up to 30 miles per hour.

“Visitors will notice a significant change in the deer from mid-September,” explains Bill Swan, Bushy Park’s Assistant Park Manager. “The first obvious change is the sound of deer bellowing in the parks as a warning to their rivals. Soon enough, the dominant male deer will start to round up the females, and fighting with other deer may ensue in a bid to hold onto their harems.



© Adam Masterton AM Nature Photography

“Although this all sounds incredibly exciting and a sight to behold, visitors need to be extremely vigilant, otherwise they could risk severe injury. It’s important to understand that deer may seem relaxed and subdued one minute, and then the next start suddenly chasing and fighting each other. Please don’t risk your safety, and that of children, by getting in the middle of the action. Keep your distance, and bring binoculars if you want a closer look.”

## **During the rut, The Royal Parks is urging people to take responsibility for their own safety by:**

- Keeping to a minimum distance of 50m from the deer. If the male deer seem active, then visitors should stay at least 100m away
- Always keeping dogs on a lead near the deer or walking them elsewhere
- Abiding by the [British Deer Society’s Code of Conduct](#) when photographing deer
- Never getting in between two rutting deer

The mating season also attracts photographers from the length and breadth of the country, and they too are being urged to give the deer respect and space and reminded that the 50 metre rule also applies to them.

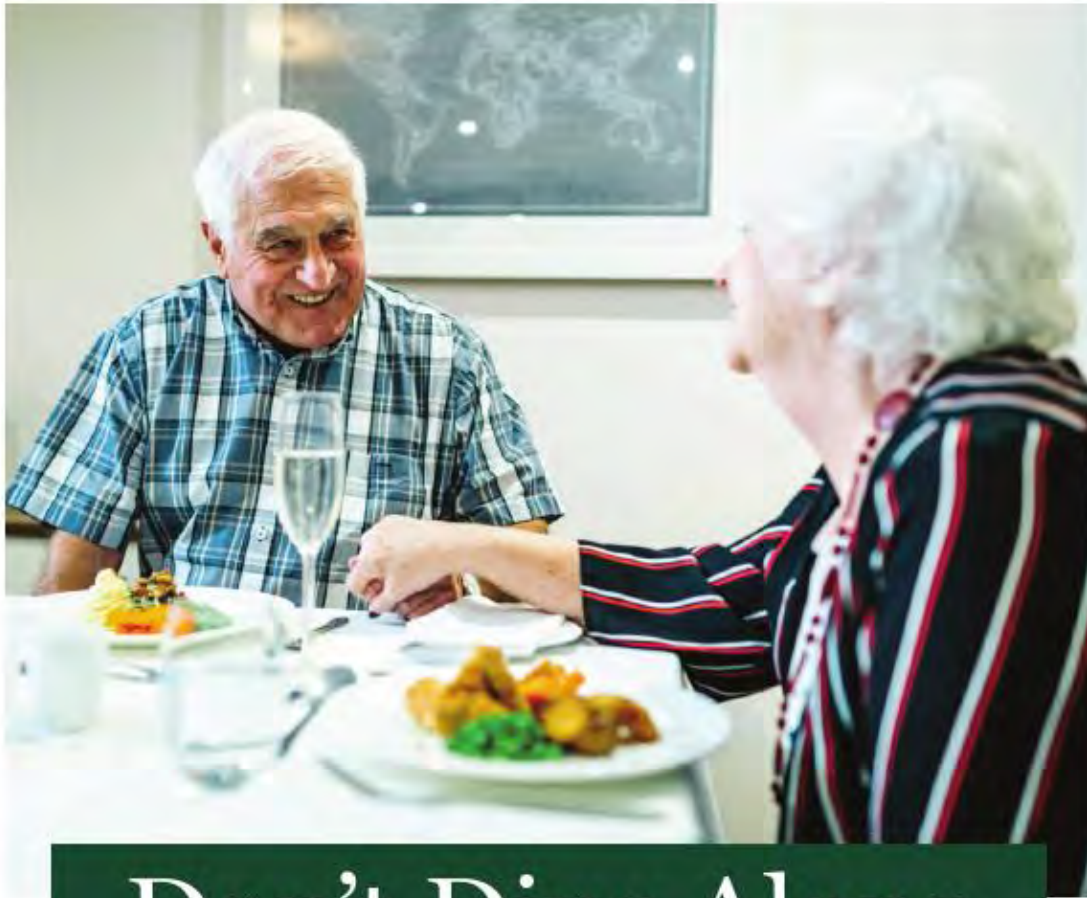
[Volunteer rangers](#), identifiable by their bright orange jackets, will be issuing [safety advice](#) to visitors in both parks, explaining the physical and behavioural changes that the deer are experiencing during the rut and how people can keep themselves and their families safe.

For everything you need to know about the deer rutting season, read the blog: [12 things you should know about the deer rutting season](#).

**To report an injury to a dog or a deer, please contact:**

**Richmond Park:** [0300 061 2200](#) **Bushy Park:** [0300 061 2250](#)





# Don't Dine Alone

Every Tuesday and Thursday • 12.30pm

Enjoy some company and a nutritious meal

**We know meal times can be a  
lonely time for some older people.**

That's why we are inviting local older people to take advantage of our great hospitality and join us for a nutritious lunch at Lynde House Care . To book your lunch call 02088924772

## Lynde House Care Home

Meadowbank, 28 Cambridge Park, Twickenham, TW1 2JB

Tel: 020 8892 4772 • [www.barchester.com](http://www.barchester.com)

**Residential Care • Nursing Care • Respite Breaks**



# Residents urged to report any sightings of Asian hornets

Residents may have read about a confirmed sighting of an Asian hornet in East London recently. Originally from China and the Indian subcontinent, sporadic sightings have been recorded since 2016.

The Asian hornet is smaller than our native hornet with a darker abdomen and distinctive lower yellow legs.

Nests can be found in tall trees in both urban and rural areas as well as garages and sheds, but rarely in holes in walls or in the ground.

Asian hornets pose no greater risk to humans than a bee, but they are a threat to our native honey bee.

Should they become established in the UK, it will become a substantial problem for the honeybee and other pollinators.

To help protect our native honey bees, please submit any sighting on the Asian hornet Watch App available free on Google Play or App Store. The app includes an identification guide for ease.

Alternatively please report any sightings by email at [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk) or through the [online form](#).



# Call for Guests

## Christmas Day Lunch at Elleray Hall Teddington

– Would you like to come?

The Churches in Teddington are again inviting the elderly and those who are alone on Christmas Day to join them for a traditional Christmas meal. We are grateful for financial support for this initiative from the Hampton Fund.

*There will also be entertainment, mince pies and other refreshments plus a chance to join in carols and other activities.*

Transport can be provided for those who need it.

If you would like to attend or volunteer to help then please register by contacting

**Colin and Elizabeth Hicks on 020 8977 8000 or by email [CTTChristmas23@gmail.com](mailto:CTTChristmas23@gmail.com)**

### Call for Volunteers

Help need to ensure that the Christmas Day Lunch at Elleray Hall is a success.

Each year Churches in Teddington invite the elderly and those who are alone on Christmas Day to join them for a traditional Christmas meal. We are grateful for financial support for this initiative from the Hampton Fund.

*There will be mince pies and other refreshments, plus a chance to join in carols and other activities.*

Your help would be much appreciated.

Volunteers are needed to help in many different ways – e.g. to set up on Christmas Eve, prepare and serve food, act as table hosts, entertain the guests, drive people to and from the event, and to clear up on Boxing Day. If you can help in any way, no matter how small, then please register by contacting:

**Colin and Elizabeth Hicks on 020 8977 8000 or by email [CTTChristmas23@gmail.com](mailto:CTTChristmas23@gmail.com)**



**at Elleray Hall**

**11am to 3.30pm**

The Churches in Teddington are again inviting the elderly and those who are alone to join them for a Christmas Day meal. *There will also be entertainment, mince pies and other refreshments plus a chance to join in carols and other activities.* **Transport can be provided if required.**

If you would like to attend or volunteer to help then please contact Colin on 020 8977 8000 or email [CTTChristmas23@gmail.com](mailto:CTTChristmas23@gmail.com)



**at Elleray Hall**

The Churches in Teddington are again inviting the elderly and those who are alone to join them for a Christmas meal. *There will also be entertainment, mince pies and other refreshments plus a chance to join in carols and other activities.*

**We need VOLUNTEERS as drivers, entertainers and help with food preparation, serving and washing up.**

**If you can help in any way, no matter how small, then please contact Colin on 020 8977 8000 or email [CTTChristmas23@gmail.com](mailto:CTTChristmas23@gmail.com)**

**Your help will be much appreciated.**



# Visit our Health Bus and get ‘winter strong’

The ‘Come and have a chat about your health’ bus will visit locations across Richmond with the NHS on hand to offer seasonal vaccinations to eligible residents.

As we enter the autumn and winter months it is important for us to take care of our health and wellbeing. Vaccines offer the best protection against flu and Covid-19.

Health professionals will be on hand to answer any health-related questions and offer advice on how to stay well as the months get colder.

If you have any questions or concerns about the vaccines, you can come along and have a chat, with no pressure to get a jab.

We will also be giving out a free box of Covid-19 testing kits to those who attend if they would like one, while supplies last.

## Health bus schedule

The bus will visit the following locations.

### St Margarets

**Date:** Thursday 31 October, 10am to 3.30pm

**Address:** The Barons, off St Margarets Road, TW1 2LH

### Ham

**Date:** Wednesday 1 November, 8.30am to 3pm

**Address:** 177 Ashburnham Road, Richmond, TW10 7NR

### East Sheen

**Date:** Thursday 9 November, 10am to 3.30pm

**Address:** Sheen Lane car park, SW14 8LP



## Eligibility for vaccines

Covid-19 seasonal booster eligibility:

- All adults aged 65 years and over
- Adults under age 64 years in a clinical risk group
- All frontline health and social care workers
- Adults under age 64 who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
- Adults under age 64 who are carers, and staff working in care homes for older adults

Flu vaccine eligibility:

- All adults aged 65 years and over
- All adults under 65 years of age who have a medical condition
- All pregnant individuals
- People who receive a carer’s allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person
- All adults living with someone who has lowered immunity due to disease or treatment
- All frontline health and social care workers

## Walk-in clinics

You can find details of your nearest walk-in vaccine clinic on the [NHS South West London Integrated Care Board website](#).

LET'S GO  
OUTSIDE AND  
LEARN

# CELEBRATING THE CRANE

Join us to learn more about what is  
happening in the Crane Valley from  
Harrow to Isleworth

Tell us what you think about our plans for  
a Crane Valley Trail

There is something for everyone  
Please come along and have some fun

Storytelling, Drumming Workshops  
Street Art Graffiti, Willow Weaving,  
Autumn Arts & Crafts  
Silent Disco Litter Pick,  
Treasure Hunt and Tug of War

**SATURDAY  
21 OCTOBER 2023**

11.30am  
to  
3.00pm

**VENUE: KNELLER GARDENS, TWICKENHAM**



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:  
INFO@LGOAL.ORG.UK  
FRANCES 020 8401 6837  
MAIRI 07939001731



www.lgoal.org Facebook: LetsGoOutsideandLearn Twitter: @LetOutside CIC Registration number 9435120

# Museum of Richmond

## Ghosts of Richmond Palace

Tuesday 24 to Friday 27 October, 10am to 12noon

Discover the stories of the Ghosts that haunt the remains of Richmond Palace...

First, join us on a ghost walk around the Palace's remains, then head back to the Museum to create your own haunted Palace to take home!

Details and booking [HERE](#)

SPACES STILL AVAILABLE!

### *Ghosts of Richmond Palace family workshop*



Join us for some spooky fun  
this October Half Term!  
<https://bit.ly/MoRFamilies>

# Feldberg Capital completes new deals totalling over 15,000 sq. ft. at Regal House in Twickenham

London, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 - Feldberg Capital GmbH ("Feldberg"), formerly Brunswick Property Partners, acting on behalf of its Akoya venture, has signed new deals totalling over 15,000 sq. ft. at Regal House its newly refurbished sustainable office building in Twickenham.

FACT Worldwide, a provider of due diligence, investigations and digital forensics, has signed a new lease on 15,433 sq. ft. of space on a 10-year-lease, which has seen the existing tenant significantly upsize the amount of space it occupies by around 7,000 sq. ft. Hawk Management Ltd, a work-based training and vocational qualifications company, has also moved into 3,097 sq. ft. of new space on a 5-year-lease.

Acquired for the Akoya neighbourhood workspace vehicle in 2022, Regal House is a landmark office building adjacent to Twickenham station. It has undergone a comprehensive refurbishment with sustainability and wellness at the forefront. The building now offers 30,000 sq. ft. of modern energy efficient workspace, alongside, a new reception and café area.



The refurbishment has been recognised for its sustainable approach, after achieving a SKA Gold rating. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) rating assesses projects against strict sustainability good practice criteria. Chairs and tables at Regal House have been partly crafted with recycled coffee granules and recycled suits, while high stool bases and backs in communal areas have been made using recycled military uniforms.

**Rebecca Hore, Associate Director, at Feldberg Capital, said:** *"We are proud to be transforming Regal House into a modern, high quality office space with ESG at the heart of the design. These lettings, show there is robust demand for the best ESG-led space from rapidly growing businesses in neighbourhood locations. It's wonderful to see FACT expand here, they were a Regal House tenant long before we acquired the building, and their renewed commitment is testament to the quality of the new space."*

**Eddy Leviten, Chief Operating Officer, FACT Worldwide said:** *"We have been calling Regal House our home since 2014 and we are excited to announce our expansion into the newly refurbished space. Regal House is more than just an office space, it is a modern and vibrant hub for business in a location just 20 minutes away from central London. This accessibility is key for our staff and clients and the charm of being close to the restaurants and shops on Twickenham Riverside adds an extra touch of appeal."*

**Crawford Knott, Management Director, Hawk Training said:** *"As an Ofsted 'Outstanding' provider of vocational learning, we are delighted to occupy our new home on the eighth floor of Regal House. In the post-Covid era, it's important for us to have an impressive, environmentally sustainable centre where we can bring colleagues, learners and clients together in person. Regal House has been our base since 2005 and this is without doubt the most impressive space we have occupied."*

The Akoya venture was formed in September 2019 with the aim of creating a £1 billion portfolio of sustainable and convenient workplaces in flourishing neighbourhoods in and around Greater London. It focuses on localism and work-life balance for occupiers, with healthy lifestyles, occupier wellbeing and local communities as some of its key themes.

Regal House features an onsite café, a welcoming concierge reception, secure cycle provisions, and secure onsite parking. With a commitment to providing an unparalleled work environment, this newly refurbished building is poised to set the standard for contemporary workspace design in South West London.



# Twickenham MP weighs in on British engineering innovation

On National Manufacturing Day, September 28, Twickenham MP Munira Wilson met with locally based Easyfairs, the organisers of the UK's largest trade annual trade shows for the laboratory and engineering industries: [Lab Innovations](#) and [Advanced Engineering](#). Munira, also the Liberal Democrat education spokesperson, discussed the need for greater recruitment and education into technical career pathways and how convening industrial communities in one place can unshackle British innovation and commercialisation.

Munira met Alison Willis, divisional managing director, and Simon Farnfield, event director for Lab Innovations and Advanced Engineering, to learn how the shows champion innovation in their industries, drive sustainability, promote cross-sector collaboration and provide key networking opportunities. Munira drew on her own experiences working for the pharmaceutical company Novartis, and the German science and tech company, Merck.

Munira also explored the challenges the UK faces in progressing engineering innovations from the R&D stage, where the country has traditionally excelled, to commercialisation, where it often loses out to greater financial interest from abroad.

“Great Britain is a world leader in research and development but, when it comes to scaling up to the commercial, marketable level, we too often fail to realise the great potential generated by our universities and research facilities,” Munira observed. “The importance of events like these to bring innovators and investors together shouldn’t be understated. If we’re going to take advantage of our brightest engineering minds and their output, it’s vital to provide a forum for discussion and collaboration.”



The Lib Dem education spokesperson also found the efforts made by the showrunners to appeal to students impressive. With a deficit of around 10,000 post-doctoral science and engineering experts needed to fill industry vacancies over the next ten years, investment in the pathways into STEM careers for young people is sorely needed.

“Engaging student visitors, as well those from industry, is important to us as showrunners,” noted Simon. “These are the engineers and designers that will be leading the way over the coming decades, so showing them what they can achieve just makes sense.”

Lab Innovations and Advanced Engineering will bring together the scientific, technological and engineering industries on November 1 and 2, co-located at the NEC, Birmingham. [Register here](#) and see exhibitor lists on the [Lab Innovations](#) and [Advanced Engineering](#) websites.

## THE SOCIAL KITCHEN

I don't know about you, but scrolling through Instagram gives me lots of inspiration for recipes and quick snack ideas. I'm delighted to tell you about a great new cookbook that has captured lots of the very best recipes from these 'influencers': **The Social Kitchen**, published by **Meze Publishing** is £25 for a hardback, packed with inspiration! It celebrates social media's impact on the food scene, offering the most well-loved recipes from influential foodies. Containing 60 recipes, The Social Kitchen is a collation of the internet's favourites laid out in print. Inside, each influencer tells their story, food journey, and accomplishments, followed by three of their favourite recipes (these would be the ones they pin at the top of their feed for you to find first!). The Social Kitchen covers a broad range of tasty recipes by people from all walks of life: professionals, parents, and Instagram-posters to name a few, meaning there's something for everyone in this cookbook. Healthy recipes from weight-loss cook and influencer Becky Walker include Crunchy Cheeseburger Tacos, Sticky Sesame Chicken Noodles, and a Sriracha Honey Beef Bowl, while you can expect deliciously flavourful dishes inspired by a variety of global cuisines from Corina Blum, such as Roasted Cauliflower Curry, Lemony Air Fried Asparagus with Za'atar, and Easy Marinated Griddled Chicken. There are also gluten-free and vegetarian recipes aplenty.



It's a welcome break from your screen, (and a good way to stop getting your phone dirty while following online recipes!) Here are a couple of recipes to give you a taster:

**LAMB PILAF** @NOTSOFARMERSWIFE Prep time: 10 minutes | Cook time: 30 minutes | Serves 4  
*'I have always been a fan of curry dishes and this one is something a little bit different to a standard curry. If you're not a fan of lamb, then worry not, this dish is also delicious with other meats; try beef or chicken mince! If you like a little extra spice, add a chilli in there too.'*

- 200g basmati rice
- 80g green beans, trimmed and cut in half
- 400g lamb mince
- 1 white onion, finely chopped
- 3 cloves of garlic, finely chopped
- 1 tsp ground turmeric
- 1 heaped tbsp curry paste
- 200g baby plum tomatoes, cut in half
- 1 chicken stock pot
- 1 tbsp mango chutney, plus extra to serve
- 100ml water
- Pinch of chilli flakes, to serve (optional)

1. Cook the rice following the packet instructions, adding the green beans halfway through the cooking time for them to



cook together.

2. Cook the mince in a separate pan, breaking it up with a wooden spoon until browned.
3. With lamb mince, I tend not to add any oil.
4. Add the onion, garlic, turmeric and curry paste. Mix together well and cook until the onion is soft.
5. Add the tomatoes, chicken stock pot, mango chutney and water.
6. Cook for 5 to 10 minutes. Add the cooked rice and beans to the dish and mix together well. Serve with another dollop of mango chutney.
7. Add a sprinkle of chilli flakes if you like a little spice!

### **ROCKY ROAD** @ZAKBAKES\_ (INSTAGRAM) | @ZAKBAKES (TIKTOK)

*'I like to decorate my rocky road with a drizzle of melted white chocolate and my favourite chocolates on top. Enjoy!'*

- 250g dark chocolate
- 130g unsalted butter
- 40g golden syrup
- 200g digestive biscuits
- 180g mini marshmallows
- 50g raisins (optional)
- 30g popcorn (optional)

1. Grease and line a 20cm square tin.
2. Put the chocolate, butter and golden syrup in a heatproof bowl and either melt in the microwave in 20 second bursts or over a saucepan of simmering water. Set aside to cool slightly.
3. In a separate bowl, roughly crush up the biscuits. You don't want to over-crush them, as you want some larger and some smaller pieces to help add a variety of textures. Add the marshmallows, as well as the raisins and popcorn (if using), to the bowl with the crushed biscuits. Mix together. (If you don't like raisins or popcorn, you don't have to add them, but feel free to add anything else you would like, such as nuts!)
4. Add most of the (slightly cooled) chocolate mixture and keeping some to the side, stir together well until the ingredients are fully coated in the chocolate mix.
5. Transfer the mixture into the lined tin and compress it down using a spatula or wooden spoon. Add the rest of the chocolate mixture on top – this will help get a nicer top to your rocky road. Put the rocky road in the fridge for about 3 hours until set, then cut into pieces.



## SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

I hate Halloween, so I'm afraid I'm planning to ignore it completely this year. However, there is a spirit I do like (in addition to some quaffable spirits, of course) and that's **The Spirit of Christmas Fair at Olympia** which falls over Halloween this year. And it will soon be upon us folks, not just Halloween and the fair, but Christmas itself. The fair takes place from **30 October - 5 November** and has some 700 independent brands to explore including toys, fashion, homeware, and stylish décor, as well as fine food and drink from award-winning artisans and producers.

New official restaurant partner this year is acclaimed Spanish chef, José Pizarro, who has curated a special Tapas menu showcasing his signature dishes, alongside exclusive creations for the show. Prepare yourself for a Spanish twist on traditional afternoon tea, promising to be an unforgettable experience. These dishes are perfect for sharing with friends or family at the Fair in this new restaurant, 'José Pizarro at Spirit of Christmas'.

2023 sees the return of the popular complimentary, creative Workshops, offering inspiration to visitors who can enjoy a range of interactive sessions including Jemma Cotterrell, The Shoe Loving Stylist on 'How to dress with positivity and confidence this festive season', 'Biscuit decorating' from Honeywell Bakes, and 'Spanish party food inspiration', while in conversation with José Pizarro himself.

Visitors also enjoy complimentary entry into the **Winter Art & Antiques Fair**. Presenting a collection of the finest specialist dealers, offering a wide choice of high-quality, vetted art and antiques spanning centuries. And **Condé Nast Traveller presents the Luxury Travel Fair** that also takes place alongside the Spirit of Christmas Fair from 2-5 November 2023. Offering a collection of the finest bespoke and immersive travel experiences

**Advance Tickets** Visitors can take advantage of frozen or reduced ticket prices this year.

Adult Weekday tickets £22 – Price reduction

Adult Weekend tickets: £23 – Price reduction

Weekend Pass £28.00 – Price freeze

Premium Pass (includes glass of wine): £30.00 – Added value

Unlimited Pass: £31.00 – Price freeze

Child Advance tickets (13-16): From £12.00 – Price reduction

Child (12 and under): Free

For more ticket options and information visit [www.spiritofchristmasfair.co.uk](http://www.spiritofchristmasfair.co.uk)

## Win a Pair of Tickets!

We've got a pair of tickets to the show to offer.

To enter, just email [contact@twickenhamtribune.com](mailto:contact@twickenhamtribune.com)

Telling us which chef is now involved with the show.

Entries close Wednesday 25 November at 12 noon.

The prize is not negotiable and there is no cash alternative. The judges decision is final



Travel has changed! First it was the internet. Then Covid & Lockdown and it all caused massive changes to how we booked travel.

These days we, almost daily, have new customers, mostly finding us through recommendations & from a much wider catchment area than before – often amazed to find a real “on the street” Travel Agent – sometimes we’re surprised to be here still too!

But we are here, and yes, we have adjusted our opening hours a tad to 11.00 thru 19.00, as nowadays we do so much from home as well –but prefer the office environment. Why do we get so many new clients? It can’t just be because we are charming and knowledgeable?? – I think has a lot to with CHOICE.

When you do a booking with an OTA (Online Travel Agent) it’s fine if you know exactly what you want and you know they have it. But overall they offer little choice, don’t have brochures, frequently impossible to get on the phone and once booked (online) practically impossible to make adjustments or even get in touch with them and sometimes impossible to resolve any issues.

On flight only programmes the prices are invariably from, often don’t include taxes – so they look cheap- but taxes these days can be as much as the flight cost part and suddenly, as you push your cursor to book you find there is a booking fee too!

But for travel – all kinds of travel that is we are like a Pandora’s Box. You didn’t know when to go, where you wanted to visit, how much to budget for. You have Dietary needs, Mobility issues? Maybe you wanted a Small Group Tour – Cruise, what sort? 2 centre Villa 1 week beach hotel the next – just try it online!

What we are finding in the New Normal, is that people like a One Stop Travel Agency. “All things to all men” These last three years we have seen these changes with amazing results. The work is more “Labour Intensive” clients need a lot more attention than before, but that makes the work more interesting anyway.

But we are really, truly blessed with our location, quiet street, no traffic noise to disturb the concentration. (Car park at rear) You can come in for a discussion, we can reach a travel plan and you can take some proposals with you to discuss or think about over a coffee in our lovely little street (Church Street) with almost wall to wall restaurants, cafes and pubs, and come back and adjust the plan to suit. Bliss 😊

You can’t do that online – AND you can always reach us – Telephone – Text – Email or visit. Here or even whilst travelling! Just ask our clients, IT IS Y O U R C H O I C E. Happy Travelling.

Here are some lovely pictures from our current travellers in Jordan that they sent to us today by email. We will escort them through their whole trip in these uncertain times, that’s just what we do.



*“A fantastic First day in Jordan.*

*Just to say all is well - airport, hotel, driver and really enjoyed the castle today, Jerash is amazing and spotted these camels on the way back. Feeling much more relaxed now we’re here, everyone is very welcoming.*

*Juliet & Joe”*

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# CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS



## PACKAGE INCLUDES:

WELCOME AMENITIES | BREAKFAST BUFFET  
CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH BUFFET | CHRISTMAS DINNER ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
1X CHRISTMAS PAMPER VOUCHER AT SUNBORN INFINITY SPA (£50)

**Book 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> December, 4 nights £1050**

For 2 guests in a Super Yacht Superior Room

**Book 24<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2 nights £575**

For 2 guests in a Super Yacht Superior Room

Terms and conditions: offer Subject to availability in all outlets  
Bookings can not be combined with other bookings. Reservations must be made directly via phone or email cannot be extended to third party bookings  
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# WIZ Tales: LEBANON

By Teresa Read



This week the BBC reported that Israel has evacuated communities near Lebanon with Aljazeera reporting tension over the current situation with Israel.

BBC: 20 October 2023. Residents leave as tension grows at Israel-Lebanon border

Lebanon is one of the countries bordering Israel. Beirut is the capital city and a major port. Tripoli is Lebanon's second largest city. Byblos, now Jbail, is one of the world's oldest cities, and has been inhabited since Neolithic times.



Beirut Skyline



UN in Beirut



Zahlé, Beqaa Governorate



The souk at Byblos



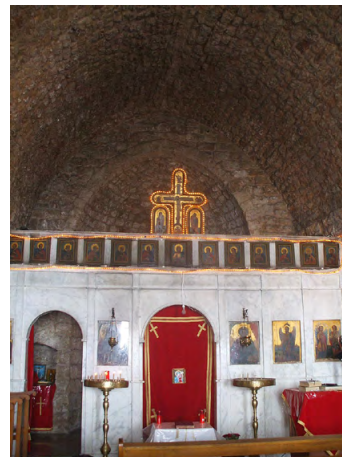
Scenery from Al Rihan village



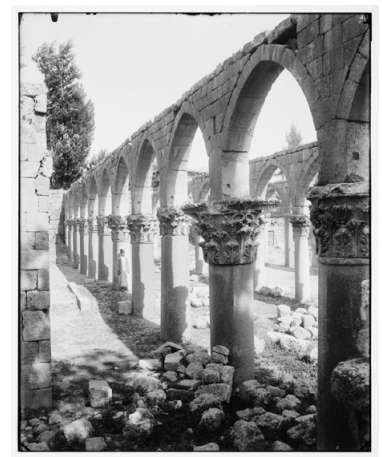
Medieval Church of St. John in Byblos



L-Shaped Temple (Sanctuary of El or Resheph), Byblos



Our Lady of the Seas in Batroun



Ruins of Mosque, Baalbek

Lebanon More photographs and information: <https://worldinfozone.com/gallery.php?country=Lebanon>

# Do you have time?

By Deep Patel

~ Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

People are always short of time these days and in a rush don't you find? I see it more and more often in my shop, rushing for a bus, rushing to school, rushing to get home or rushing...just because they think they have to?

I don't know what our obsession is with doing everything quick, but people are definitely rushing more these days than ever before...perhaps we try to cram too much into our lives these days? Perhaps we are just not as content as we used to be, or perhaps we just always want more and live life in a constant state of wanting and getting more...more out of life...more knowledge, more pleasure, more experiences, more "things"? Well that's all well and good, but when is it enough? Or will it ever be enough?



Well I have been speaking to customers in my shop this past week about exactly that and found myself also under the influence of this need to rush...I was serving customers faster and talking to them less (some of my customers may say that's a good thing I'm sure) but I was getting to the point whereby I wasn't even asking customers how their day had been or how they were because I was too focused on getting the next task on my list done (ordering stock, writing out invoices, calling suppliers etc)...for those of you whom know me, that's very unlike me...so why was I behaving in this way? Well, what does a good shop-keeper do? He blames his customers...so that is what I am going to do...I think the customers rushing around have rubbed off on me...hence we are all rushing around and most of us perhaps don't even know why and before you know it we end up with the whole of Twickenham filled with hoards of people running around like headless chickens...ok maybe I got a bit carried away at the end there, but you get my point...

I think it's actually because we all want so much more from life these days, gone are the days where we would be satisfied with the simple things in life...a hot meal...a good film and a basic wage...now that we want more, we are continuously striving to achieve more, however there are still the same amount of hours in the day...so what's the solution? Well, the solution is to not dwell on the things we don't have in our lives, but to remind ourselves daily of the things we DO have...and to know that what we have is probably more than what some people have, and sometimes, doing LESS is actually MORE...because you were not made to be a super-human robot, you were born to be a human, and like all humans...you need to rest...chill-out time and just relax from the stresses of the over-complicated modern life that we imprison ourselves in...do this and remember life is not always about more...sometimes it's less that creates the most happiness...

**Remember...**

***“Sometimes LESS is MORE...”***

## MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP

### **STOP MICE, SQUIRRELS, RATS and FOXES KINDLY (GOOD KARMA):**

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

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





## Cinderella

By Gioachino Rossini, libretto by Jacopo Ferretti

English Touring Opera at the Hackney Empire and on tour until 15<sup>th</sup> November

*Cinderella* is a story that keeps reinventing itself. It started with the ancient Greeks, has found its way into a thousand folk tales and, via Charles Perrault and the Brothers Grimm, to the familiar panto story. So Cinderella is quite a venerable lady, but never old. ETO's reinvention of Rossini's *La Cenerentola*, his reinvention of the *Cinderella* story, is ... inventive.

However, director Jenny Ogilvie's crisp, sparkling and thoroughly enjoyable production extends the reinvention.



The Prince's mentor Alidoro (sonorous bass Edward Hawkins) is seen as a museum curator, now "cancelled" and being ousted from his post together with a number of the exhibits. The symbolism says that the circumstances of Cinderella's world will change. Dynamic metaphor continues into the action and, although it pulls the concentration from the overture, it does add an intriguing dimension to the opera.

Basia Bińkowska's sharply drawn set, luminously lit by Charlie Morgan Jones, reinforces the [distinctive style for the company's season](#). Packing cases and crates come and go as they are trucked on and off stage, including as performers' entrance and exits. Again, we have an allegory of change. The cases could be Alidoro's trick illusionist cabinets.

Putting these cryptic mind-games aside, Ogilvie tells the story directly, with an energy, fluency and a balletic style that owes much to her experience as a movement choreographer. Vocally, convoluted patter contrasts with rich lyricism. This production canters along like G&S on a caffeine hit. Although entwined with sadness and triumph, it packs in a lot of fun.

The eponymous Cinderella is a role made for [Esme Bronwen-Smith](#). The refined radiance of her outstanding mezzo voice elicits full expression of Cinderella's wistful song about a king, who marries a lowly girl, one of three sisters.

A memorable production, ETO's *Cinderella* sets the story out directly and entertainingly, within an enigmatic and eclectic setting. A reinvention of a reinvention, it works brilliantly.



Read Mark Aspen's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/10/08/cinderella-eto](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/10/08/cinderella-eto)

Photography by Richard Hubert Smith

## A View from the Bridge

by Arthur Miller

Headlong at the Chichester Festival Theatre until 28<sup>th</sup> October and then the Rose Theatre Kingston until 11<sup>th</sup> November

The Young Vic's sensational production of *View from the Bridge* at in 2014 set a benchmark. So the question prompted by this revival is: can this play survive in a more ordinary production?

Originally a one act play in verse, it was latter rewritten in two acts in prose. Docker Eddie and Beatrice have brought up their orphaned niece Catherine. Eddie has hidden desires for Catherine and is angry when she takes up with Rodolfo, a cousin who is an illegal Sicilian immigrant. The lawyer, Alfieri tells us that it is all going to end horribly; not that it is necessary to point this out ... but the death is not the one that I was expecting.



Eddie is usually seen as a force of nature with superhuman charisma, uncorrupted masculinity at bay, but Jonathan Slinger plays him as a lot more ordinary than that: less scary and more credible. This lowers the dramatic voltage, which will be a disappointment to collectors of 'big' stage performances, but is, I suspect, more true to life.

Here are crazy notions of honour that seem all too derived from a Verdi opera. Eddie finds it all too easy to ignore the good sense of his wife Beatrice (Kirsty Bushell) who is anything but a downtrodden cypher.

Director Holly Race Roughan tries to impose some modern theatricality on the proceedings, although the production doesn't always rise above modish window dressing. There is a fine shiny black set from Moi Tran, with the place name Red Hook in red neon at the back of the stage. There is a hint of deep waters, with something nasty lurking underneath the infinity pool. Rodolfo (Luke Newberry) suggests an alternative version of masculinity to Eddie's, which is willing to indulge in pleasure, admit to an interest in music, and have potential for empathy.



The ending is wrenching and bloodstained – this is not a feel good evening – but does provide food for thought.

Read Patrick Shorrock's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/10/14/view-bridge-cft](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/10/14/view-bridge-cft)

Photography by The Other Richard

# Shakespeare's R&J

by Joe Calarco

Reading Rep Theatre until 4<sup>th</sup> November

Shakespeare's classic story of *Romeo and Juliet* is well known by audiences; however, this adaptation brings a sense of the contemporary. The four male characters, students at a strict school, discover the play text and re-enact its narrative, interweaving the classic love story with the discovery of desire between two of the teenagers. Paul Stacey's staging captures the sense of excitement and potential danger of this match by placing the teenagers within a school system that has strict rules and expectations.



Anna Kelsey's set design complements this rigid atmosphere with the clean, straight lines of the set mirroring the strictness of the institution. Equally pleasing is the raised nature of the centrally platform, giving a clear division between the world of the play the students are enacting, and their reality. At times all characters are fully immersed together, but there are some moments where one or two characters are observing the others 'at play', judging or noticing the action unfold and in the case of the students playing *Romeo and Juliet*, the lines blurring between fantasy and reality.



The opening movement sets up the world of the students, and the potential negative consequences of their actions and developing infatuations, are punctuated through the thunder and lightning rumbling above their 'play'. The interplay of the barriers faced by *Romeo and Juliet* due to the hatred between their families, and the two teenagers concern about demonstrating their true

feelings was carefully balanced in the production.

The cast work seamlessly together, moving deftly between characters that at first are exaggerated and playful, but become earnest and solemn as the narrative increases in intensity. Their intimate moments overlap the fictional love story with their own and the doubling of the narratives are well paced and acted to define where the 'play' ends and their realities seep in.



*Shakespeare's R&J* is a timely, thoughtful, and moving adaptation that casts new light on the traditional love story.

Read Sam Martin's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/10/18/shakesp-rj](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/10/18/shakesp-rj)

Photography by Harry Elletson

# Apologia

by Alexi Kaye Campbell

PTC at the Putney Arts Theatre until 23<sup>rd</sup> October

Take a seat to join a family reunion dinner ... of sorts.

A simple setting, a large table and hidden kitchen is home to the whole performance. *Apologia* is a familial case study, drawing on the ensemble cast to straddle the fine line between comedy and tragedy, routinely swinging from amusing bickering to intense outpouring.



*Apologia* is unapologetically at its best when the stage is filled with the cast. The meeting of the family and friends of hitherto absent matriarch Kristin culminates in an argumentative crescendo that stands out as the highlight of the performance. The chemistry is portioned in a series of overlapping dialogues, literally being dined out on.



Kristin variously has hostile engagements with her son Simon's partner, Claire; terse exchanges with another son Peter; and curt rebuffs of enthusiastic approaches from his partner Trudi. Adding to the mix is Hugh, Kristin's long-time activist collaborator, who takes 'fan's favourite' for a series of witty remarks that punctuate, with genuine sweetness, the acidity of the unfurling family anger (including a riff on a dodgy black bean sauce, misguidedly eaten). We seesaw repeatedly between laughter and bitterness.

At its centre, *Apologia* thoroughly delves into complex familial dynamics, the passage of time, and the consequences of past choices. The one-to-one dialogue between the troubled second son Simon and his mother, thrown together to dine, sheds light on the underlying tensions and unspoken emotions beneath the surface.

*Apologia's* exploration of complex family relationships and the consequences of what-ifs is thought-provoking, yet is made accessible by subtle put-downs, which resonate with the audience. The lasting quandary is whether this portrayal is a family with a working model of dysfunction or with a failing model of function, a question far too deep to resolve.



Read Brent Muirhouse's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/10/19/apologia-ptc](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/10/19/apologia-ptc)

Photography by Steve Lippitt

# Rock'N'Roll War Stories

by Allan Jones

True Stories at the OSO Arts Centre, Barnes

Here is a man who held the key to the golden era of rock n' roll, a deceptively unassuming man in his seventh decade, and author of two memoirs, he has met everybody and everyone in the biz. Hosted by True Stories' vibrant Duncan Steer, we were introduced to the legendary editor of *Melody Maker*, Allan Jones

A young rookie at this iconic music newspaper in 1974, skinny with long blonde hair, he was immediately sent out to interview Elton John, who was promoting his new album *Caribou*. Despite Jones not hearing the LP before, he still shared five bottles of champagne with the pop star at eleven o'clock in the morning ... 'It would have been rude to say "No"!' This was the kind of tidal wave we were treated to, and just his discipline of getting on that typewriter that same afternoon and meeting his deadline was awe-inspiring.

Jones recorded everything in interviews except when he joined a band on tour, then it was paper and pen, and he never missed a deadline in his entire career.

The most volatile rock star Jones had ever interviewed was the fiery Lou Reed, who systematically abused every journalist, but they ended up sharing a bottle of Johnny Walker Red. Once again the deadline was efficiently met. This line of business was not for the weak livered!

John Anderson, the lead singer of Yes, Ian Anderson of Jethro Tull, and Peter Gabriel had a huge sense of entitlement, but Jones could not stomach The Beatles. At a lunch held for in a Greek restaurant in Soho, Jones found himself next to Ringo Starr. As with Greek tradition, he was required to break a plate over his neighbour's head. Jones immediately thought of *Octopus' Garden* and smashed it over the Fab Four member's head with relish!

Allan Jones moved on to edit the classy *Uncut* magazine in 1997, and the *Melody Maker* entered a serious decline, finally hanging up its hat in December 2000. It was a very sad end to a glorious publication.

Read Heather Moulson's review at [www.markaspen.com/2023/10/20/rnr-war](http://www.markaspen.com/2023/10/20/rnr-war)

Photography by HM



# St Mary's University

## St Mary's University Delegation Meets Pope Francis on Anti-Slavery Day

To mark Anti-Slavery Day, a delegation from St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU), visited the Holy See on 18 October and greeted Pope Francis at the end of the weekly General Audience, alongside His Majesty's Ambassador Chris Trott. SMU Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran and Dr Carole Murphy, Director of SMU's Bakhita Centre for Research on Slavery, Exploitation and Abuse, attended the General Audience in St Peter's Square to highlight the work of the university in researching and combatting modern slavery.



At the end of the Audience, SMU presented the Pontiff with artwork created by residents of Caritas Bakhita House, London, a safe house for women who have been trafficked, enslaved, and exploited. The artwork was used as the cover of the book *Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking: the Victim Journey*, edited by Carole Murphy and Runa Lazzarino, a copy of which was also presented to Pope Francis.

The visit, organised by the British Embassy to the Holy See, includes a panel event entitled 'Education to tackle modern slavery and empower survivors' in the afternoon of 18 October. Hosted by the British Embassy and Talitha Kum, the anti-trafficking network of women religious, the event will feature addresses from women religious working on the ground in Africa and Europe. Dr Carole Murphy will deliver the event's keynote address prior to a panel discussion.

His Excellency Christopher Trott said: *"The visit of St Mary's University is an opportunity to highlight the vital role of education in empowering human trafficking survivors and people with lived experience of modern slavery. It also shows the role of education research centres in informing policy-making and building partnerships."*

*"Everyone, everywhere should live without fear of violence and exploitation and should be supported to reach their full potential. The UK is committed to ending modern slavery and all forms of human trafficking, including forced labour in supply chains and child labour. I commend the work of Talitha Kum and the Catholic networks, who are a trusted local presence in their communities, giving voice to the most vulnerable."*

St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran added: *"It is a great honour to represent St Mary's with Dr Murphy at the General Audience. As a Catholic university, St Mary's is committed to addressing injustice and inequality through academic research and advocacy, by breaking down the barriers to higher education, and in equipping our young people with the ethical foundation and skills needed to make a positive impact on wider society upon graduation."*

*"This visit has provided a platform to raise awareness of our mission and the work of teams at the University. This includes the vital work of the Bakhita Centre, our work to research the impact of education access on marginalised and displaced children and young adults, and our mission to widen access to education, particularly amongst care experienced young people."*

As part of their visit, the delegation also held meetings at the Dicastery for Culture and Education and the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

Photo credit: Vatican Media



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London



# TEDDINGTON SOCIETY EVENTS

(All events open to members and non-members)

## COFFEE MORNINGS

A relaxed social event from 10.00 to 12.00 at Shambles Restaurant in the High Street. Chat, reminisce, meet old friends, make new ones. All the coffee (or tea) you can drink and mouth-watering Italian pastries. Everyone pays their own £8.80 to Shambles – terrific value for money.



Next date: **Tuesday 14th November**

## HORTICULTURAL EVENTS



### “What makes a good garden?”.

Following our very successful first talk, **Edward Flint** delivers the next. Edward has a wealth of experience having taught and lectured on gardens and gardening, including for the English Gardening School. He has been head gardener at a family garden for the past 25 years.

**8 pm on 5 December 2023** at the Constitution Club, 5 Stanley Road, Teddington, TW11 8TP from to 10 pm. **£5 Entry**

## GAMES EVENINGS

A huge variety of games – cards, dice, board games, strategy games, dominoes, rummikub, mhing, - the list goes on. Or even bring your own.




**NO CHARGE** – just enjoy the evening with like-minded players in the Constitution Club, 5 Stanley Road, Teddington, TW11 8TP

From 19.00 to 22.30. Refreshments available from the bar.

Next dates: **Wed 25th October**      **Wed 22nd November**

**Wed 24 January 2024**      **Wed 28 February 2024**



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*More details of all events at*  
[www.teddingtonsociety.org.uk](http://www.teddingtonsociety.org.uk)



Registered Charity No.802026

# Friends and family gather to wish Bet a happy 100th birthday

A Royal Star & Garter resident has celebrated her 100th birthday.

Bet Smith-Kempson enjoyed a party at the Surbiton Home on the eve of her birthday, before going to her daughter's house for a friends-and-family gathering on her big day on 14 October.

Royal Star & Garter provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their partners living with disability or dementia. The charity also has Homes in Solihull and High Wycombe.

Bet was born in 1923, and though she wanted to serve in the Armed Forces during WWII, she had to remain at home to care for her sick mother. Determined to play her part in another way, Bet worked in the accounts section of a munitions factory, which produced parachutes and other products vital for the war effort.



Following the conflict, Bet worked in the accounts section at Twickenham Film Studios, where she met a long list of A-list stars, including Elizabeth Taylor.

Bet, who is due to become a great-grandmother for the first time in December, enjoyed a pre-birthday party at Royal Star & Garter. Family, residents and staff gathered on Friday 13 October to celebrate Bet's big day, accompanied by crooner Ray Lowe. The following day, she had a family get-together at her daughter Carolyn's home.

Bet, whose husband served in the Navy, has been a resident at Royal Star & Garter since 2018, and said: "I had a lovely time on my birthday." Praising Royal Star & Garter, she added: "I love it here. You have your own private place which feels like home, and yet you are here with a lot of other people. I like people around me and being kept active."

Son Graham said: "Mum had an amazing 100th birthday. She enjoyed her party at Royal Star & Garter with one of her favourite singers, and had a lovely afternoon at my sister's house. We can't thank Royal Star & Garter enough for all they do for Mum."

Royal Star & Garter in Surbiton is welcoming new residents. For more information on this, or to work at the Home, go to [www.starandgarter.org/surbiton](http://www.starandgarter.org/surbiton)



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THE  
MAYOR'S QUIZ

# The Seasons

**FRIDAY 27TH OCT 2023**  
**FROM 7PM - QUIZ STARTS AT 7.30PM**

Tickets are £20.00, which includes a delicious buffet supper.  
There is a raffle, and a cash bar, throughout the evening.

The quiz shall start promptly at 7.30pm at York House,  
Clarendon Hall, Twickenham, TW1 3AA.

Maximum of 8 people per table. No minimum, we can always find you a team.

THE MAYOR'S CHARITIES TWO YEAR ARE BEGAN

# Rugby World Cup 2023 – England Team to Play South Africa

England men's head coach Steve Borthwick has named his team to play South Africa in the semi-finals of the Rugby World Cup 2023 at Stade de France (kick-off 9pm CEST, 8pm BST live on ITV Sport) on Saturday.



Owen Farrell will captain a starting XV with three changes to the side that defeated Fiji 30-24 in Sunday's quarter-final in Marseille.

In the front row, Joe Marler returns to the loosehead and packs down with Jamie George at hooker and Dan Cole at tighthead. At lock, Maro Itoje partners George Martin, who starts his second game of the Rugby World Cup. An unchanged back row sees vice-captain Courtney Lawes on the blindside flank, Tom Curry at openside and Ben Earl wear the No.8 shirt.

In the half-back berths, Alex Mitchell continues his partnership with last Sunday's Mastercard player-of-the-match Farrell. In midfield, Manu Tuilagi is named at inside centre, with Joe Marchant at 13. In the back three, Elliot Daly continues on the left wing, with Jonny May on the right and Freddie Steward returns to the starting XV at full-back.

Hooker Theo Dan, props Ellis Genge (vice-captain) and Kyle Sinckler, together with Ollie Chessum, Billy Vunipola, Danny Care, George Ford (vice-captain) and Ollie Lawrence, make up a strong and experienced replacements bench.

*"After an excellent few days preparation in Paris, we look forward to the challenge of playing the World Champions and number one ranked team in the world," said Borthwick.*

*"Through this tournament the team has progressed, with the players repeatedly finding a way to win, sometimes in challenging circumstances. We will once again need to be at our very best this weekend as we face an excellent team in South Africa.*

*"There is no doubt the players will truly relish the challenge of knockout rugby under the lights in Paris. These players will, as they have done in every game of this tournament, give absolutely everything in the semi-final to get the result we want.*

*"I also know that our supporters will once again be there in their thousands, playing their part in backing the team with a full voice. To all those who have travelled and to all those lending their support and encouragement from home, I say 'thank you.'"*

## ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA

Saturday 21 October 2023, Stade de France, Kick-off: 9pm (CEST)

- 15. Freddie Steward (Leicester Tigers, 29 caps)
- 14. Jonny May (Gloucester Rugby, 77 caps)
- 13. Joe Marchant (Stade Francais, 24 caps)
- 12. Manu Tuilagi (Sale Sharks, 57 caps)
- 11. Elliot Daly (Saracens, 63 caps)
- 10. Owen Farrell – captain (Saracens, 110 caps)
- 9. Alex Mitchell (Northampton Saints, 10 caps)

### Replacements:

- 16. Theo Dan (Saracens, 6 caps)
- 17. Ellis Genge – vice-captain (Bristol Bears, 56 caps)
- 18. Kyle Sinckler (Bristol Bears, 67 caps)
- 19. Ollie Chessum (Leicester Tigers, 16 caps)

- 1. Joe Marler (Harlequins, 87 caps)
- 2. Jamie George (Saracens, 83 caps)
- 3. Dan Cole (Leicester Tigers, 105 caps)
- 4. Maro Itoje (Saracens, 74 caps)
- 5. George Martin (Leicester Tigers, 8 caps)
- 6. Courtney Lawes – vice-captain (Northampton Saints, 104 caps)
- 7. Tom Curry (Sale Sharks, 48 caps)
- 8. Ben Earl (Saracens, 23 caps)

- 20. Billy Vunipola (Saracens, 74 caps)
- 21. Danny Care (Harlequins, 94 caps)
- 22. George Ford – vice-captain (Sale Sharks, 89 caps)
- 23. Ollie Lawrence (Bath Rugby, 19 caps)

# England Rugby World Cup Winner Jason Robinson:

“We cannot go and play conservative; we must throw caution to the wind and try stuff and take them on.”

ENGLAND’S best chance of winning against South Africa is “throwing caution to the wind” and “going for it”, according to Jason Robinson.

Robinson famously scored England’s only try in their World Cup victory over Australia in 2003.

And although Robinson believes we are huge underdogs, he thinks if England “mix things up” they can beat the odds.

Speaking in an interview with [growth consultancy](#), Champions (UK) plc, Jason, 49, said: “We are certainly going into this as underdogs. South Africa was my choice to win the tournament outright.

“If you look at their team and the physicality they have got, it’s huge. Probably more than any other team in the competition.

“I think what makes them even stronger is their backline which can cause so much damage. The half-backs have all the skills in the world alongside some tough centres and some outstanding wingers who can make something out of nothing so it will be a huge ask for England.

“But England will have a lot more confidence than they did when they first came into the tournament, being the only northern hemisphere team in the semi-finals is a big achievement.

“I think last week’s game against Fiji was a big one as they were under a lot of pressure as Fiji beat them 6 weeks ago, so that was a big win.

“These games, despite not being favourites, are one off games and anything can happen on the day.

“England have some great players and those who played in the 2019 final will want to put that wrong, right.”

Outlining how he thinks England can give themselves the best chance of overcoming the challenge of South Africa he continued: “We must play the opposite way we did in the 2019 final.

“When you play against South Africa you know it’s going to be hugely physical, but you can’t get sucked into a physical game.

“In 2019 we did that; we had a massive win against New Zealand in the semis and we went into the final and we forgot how to play and played into their hands by just trying to take them on physically.

“We cannot go and play conservative; we must throw caution to the wind and try stuff and take them on and chip over the top and put some moves on in the wider channels and try and create something. This is going to be England’s biggest game in a long, long time so I must go in with confidence and go for it. Leave it all out there.”

Explaining how he thinks the game will go he admitted: “I think the way South Africa are playing they will win. I’m not sure England will have enough to test them. But this is why we love sport, I also thought Ireland were going to win and Wales were going to beat Argentina and that wasn’t the case so anything can happen.

“We saw Fiji beating Australia, so it doesn’t always go to form and hopefully England have had a good week and are rested up.

“Every team, as strong as they are, always has a weakness. With a bit of luck England could do it and I’ll be rooting for them.”

Outlining how the players will be preparing for the game he said:

“This week is more mental than physical.

“As you go further in the tournament the pressure gets bigger. A semi-final is bigger than a quarter final and a final is bigger than the semis so it’s about making sure mentally you are just steady.

“Confidence doesn’t just come in ability; it comes in how your mindset is and going into this game if I was a winger, I’d be looking at the opposite winger I’m playing against and I’d be thinking ‘I’m going to be getting the better of you today’.

“Everybody’s looking at how good South Africa is and what they are doing but for me it would be a case of having a mindset of ‘I need to nullify and be better than my opposite number’.

“There are a lot of outside distractions. The key is to just have this focus now and not to get distracted.”

# Match Preview: Brentford v Burnley

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of Brentford's Premier League game against Burnley

Written by Brentford Football Club

**Following back-to-back away fixtures and the October international break, Brentford return to Gtech Community Stadium for the first time in more than three weeks on Saturday.**

Thomas Frank's side are 15th in the Premier League table having taken seven points from eight games, while visitors Burnley are three places and three points worse off.

The match kicks off at 3pm and will not be televised live in the UK. [Head to our match centre for minute-by-minute updates.](#)

## Pre-match Analysis

Alex Lawes, Playmaker Stats: Brentford's aerial prowess could prove key against Burnley

After switching from Burnley to Brentford in the summer of 2022, former Clarets captain Ben Mee described his new head coach Thomas Frank as 'special' and outlined how interesting it was to learn a new style of football under the Dane in west London.

What is interesting now is how the style of football Mee played during his time at Turf Moor has rapidly changed over recent seasons.

In their 2021/22 relegation season in the Premier League, Burnley averaged the joint-lowest possession (39 per cent) in the division.

However, the arrival of Vincent Kompany turned those stats on their head and, implementing a far more progressive and proactive style under the Belgian, Burnley won the Championship enjoying 64.6 per cent of the ball on average.

Now back in the top flight, Burnley average 48.6 per cent possession so far this season, as the Clarets look to establish themselves in the big time, despite a relative shortage of resources and experience.

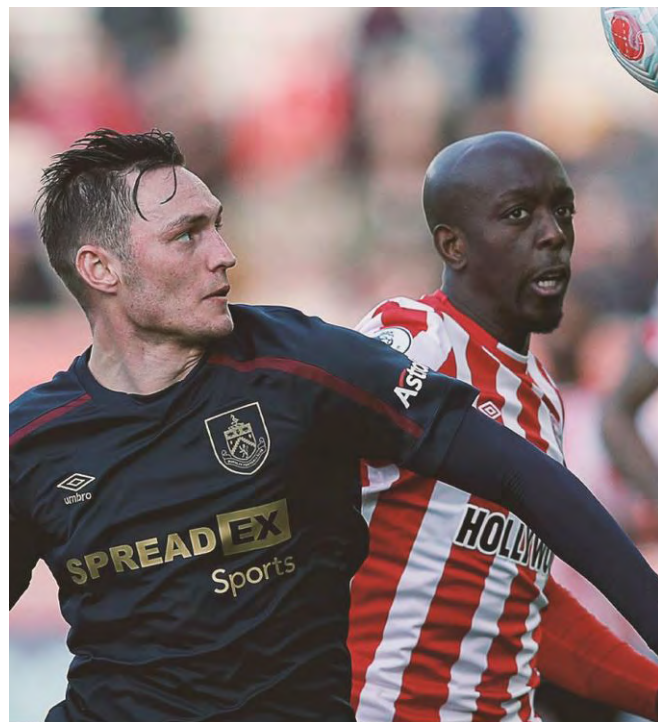
Burnley may be a very different side to the one relegated in 2022, but there remains an issue with potency and creation in attacking areas. For example, the Clarets averaged 10.7 shots per game a couple of seasons ago and, despite the major evolution in their style between both boxes, they average just 10.6 this season.

In many ways, Brentford have offered a blueprint for how to be effective without the ball since the Bees' promotion to the Premier League, Frank's side averaging 43.3 per cent of the ball last year - the fifth-lowest possession share in the division.

Brentford's pragmatism and adaptability has made them difficult to beat, and that trait remains - the Bees having drawn more games (4) than any team in the Premier League so far this season.

However, wins have been hard to come by and Brentford's impressive ability from set-pieces and their ability to be direct in open play could be key against Burnley.

No team scored more Premier League goals from dead-balls, including penalties, than the Bees (23) last season and they also averaged 17.6 successful aerial duels in offensive areas - the best rate in the entire league.



Brentford's prowess in the air is clearly a strength they will look to utilise against a Burnley side that conceded nearly 30 per cent of their goals from set-pieces last season. This time around, the Clarets have already conceded three goals from set-pieces in eight Premier League games, while Brentford have had more shots per game from offensive set-pieces (5.3) than any team in the division.

Both sides have managed just a single victory apiece this season but, on the face of it, there appears to be more to come from both clubs.

While Burnley look to fine-tune the methodology that brought them such success in the Championship, Brentford are adding a more possession-based string to their bow - and Saturday's clash will help both sides gauge their progress this season.

## **Scout Report**

Burnley maintain principles following Premier League promotion

Relegation from the Premier League often brings about change. Things do not go to plan in the top flight, so a hard reset is often the answer and, even then, achieving the desired collective ambition is nowhere near guaranteed – just ask Stoke City fans.

Despite a few highs that brought ultimately false hope, Burnley went down pretty miserably in May 2022, with the third-lowest points total they had registered in any of their eight seasons in the division.

Managerial stalwart Sean Dyche had departed by this point, so, regardless, the dawning of a new era was imminent.

In June, the latest chapter in the Clarets' long history began, when Vincent Kompany was named as the club's new manager. It seemed to be quite the coup, given the Belgian – a four-time Premier League-winning captain with Manchester City – had just steered Anderlecht to third place in the Jupiler Pro League and a place in the Europa Conference League.

Kompany revealed he had received other offers, but he was enticed by the potential at Turf Moor.

"I see a plan and I see good people," he said. "I want to work with people that are already at Burnley, I'm allowed to bring good people with me as well. Together, we don't have to change everything. I've chosen this project because I know that, after a difficult start, will come an incredible future."

Kompany was a man of his word. When the Championship season got underway, it was clear the days of a 4-4-2 formation and long-ball football, which had served Dyche so well previously, were gone. In came an exciting brand of football that had passing and possession at its very core.

The drastic rebrand was in place, and any fans worried Burnley would not be able to bounce back at the first time of asking last season, in hindsight, need not have wasted their energy.

It took two months or so to iron out all the creases, but by the end of October last year, they climbed to the top of the division and never dropped away, becoming the first team to break the 100-point barrier in nine years on their way to the title.

There was another reset once promotion was confirmed, with Kompany adding 13 players to his squad on a permanent basis and two on loan. All bar two of the 15 were under the age of 25, keeping youth at the forefront of his approach.

They were not seen as prime contenders for relegation before the season got going, with much of the focus on fellow newly promoted sides Sheffield United and Luton Town. But their results so far have done nothing to steer them away from the bottom three, where they have been since the start.

In their defence, the opening fixtures at home could hardly have been less favourable. Kompany's men have played Manchester City, Aston Villa, Tottenham Hotspur, Manchester United and Chelsea at Turf Moor already and lost each game, scoring just four goals and conceding 16. They have had to adapt their free-flowing style of play in order to try and compete a level above again.

"I wish there was a magic wand to solve everything, but it's a lot of work on the training ground to get the basics right," the Clarets boss said after the 4-1 defeat to Chelsea prior to the October international break.

Fortunately for him, there has been more luck in away games, which has ensured the morale has not fallen away completely. Burnley drew 1-1 at Nottingham Forest just over a month ago and, more recently, battled to a 2-1 win over Luton in the fixture that had to be re-arranged due to improvement works at Kenilworth Road.

They are in the fourth round of the Carabao Cup, too, after wins away to Forest and League Two Salford City.

Burnley's next three league games see them pitted against Brentford and Bournemouth – teams three points above them and one below them respectively - and Crystal Palace, who they are unbeaten in five meetings against.

There is potential to kickstart their campaign in the next few weeks – and you can bet Kompany has been searching high and low for that wand over the last fortnight to make sure they take advantage.

### **In the Dugout**

Vincent Kompany

Vincent Kompany started his playing career at Anderlecht, in his native Belgium, as a teenager in 2000.

He progressed through the youth ranks at the Constant Vanden Stock Stadium to the first team, where he was part of the sides that won the Belgian First Division in 2003/04 under Hugo Broos, and 2005/06 under Ariel Jacobs.

Top European clubs had already shown an interest in the defender during this early part of his career, but it wasn't until the summer of 2006 that he moved on to Hamburg of the Bundesliga for €10 million. An Achilles injury cut short his first season in Germany, but he managed 37 appearances in all competitions in 2007/08 and added a UEFA Intertoto Cup winner's medal to his growing list of achievements.

In August 2008, Kompany signed for Manchester City, one month before Sheikh Mansour's purchase of the club was completed.

He became an integral part of the revolution at the Etihad Stadium. In the summer of 2011, he was named club captain and he would go on to lift four Premier League titles, four Carabao Cups, two FA Cups and two Community Shields, along with multiple personal accolades.

The later years of his time at the club were heavily disrupted by injury and he managed a total of only 59 Premier League appearances from the 2015/16 to the 2018/19 campaign. During the final weeks of the latter, he scored one of the division's great goals, with a thumping drive against Leicester City that teed up City's title win days later.

Later in May 2019, it was announced he would make a fairytale return to Anderlecht as player-manager, but he stepped down to focus on playing after a dismal start and then took up the role on a permanent basis the following year after confirming his retirement after 17 years and more than 500 appearances.

He spent two years in the role, before returning to England to take over at Burnley on a long-term deal and is now the youngest manager in the Premier League at 37.



# Investigation into Homes for Ukraine

The British public's generosity enabled the government to move at speed to temporarily support Ukrainians seeking refuge from war, successfully supporting 131,000 Ukrainians arriving into the UK since March 2022 with £2.1bn in funding, according to a new National Audit Office (NAO) report.

The Government gave early consideration to the risks of the scheme and put in place structures to manage them from the outset, but there are still challenges to overcome, including the risk of homelessness as sponsorships end.

The Homes for Ukraine scheme is jointly run by the Home Office (HO) and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

The visas for the first Ukrainians to arrive under the scheme will expire in Spring 2025, and it is unclear whether government intends to extend existing three-year visas, the UK's independent public spending watchdog reports.

At the end of September 2023, the government had provided £2.1 billion in funding the scheme, the majority through tariff payments to Local Authorities and thank you payments to sponsors, and DLUHC continues to provide funding for new arrivals. The government has provided £1.1bn in tariff funding to local authorities to support Ukrainians and help them to integrate. This one-off payment per individual was set at £10,500, but was reduced to £5,900 for all arrivals after 31 December 2022.



This money is not ringfenced as DLUHC wanted local authorities to have discretion in how best to support Ukrainians locally. Some local authorities told the NAO that they are holding amounts in reserve in case of further pressures, as it is not clear whether central government will continue to provide funding.

'Thank you' payments of £350 a month in year one and £500 a month in year two are paid to sponsors hosting Ukrainian refugees, but these are due to finish one year before visas expire. Just under 74,000 sponsors have applied to host Ukrainians under the scheme. Unless sponsors are willing to host Ukrainians without those payments, Ukrainians on the scheme will need other housing solutions.

DLUHC and the Home Office recognised safeguarding risks from the outset, and established checks by way of mitigation. Few safeguarding issues have been identified, although data remains incomplete. DLUHC does not hold accurate data on how many guests arrived before checks were completed.

Homelessness data is incomplete, but up until 31 August 2023, 4,890 households (8% of total estimated households that had arrived on the scheme in England at that time) have been assessed by a local authority as being at risk of homelessness or being homeless. This likely understates the true picture, as approximately one third of local authorities are not providing homelessness data to DLUHC and the risk of homelessness is likely to increase, as sponsorships end. DLUHC does not have accurate

data regarding the numbers of Ukrainians who have become homeless following their sponsorship ending (see Notes to Editors). Local authorities have taken a range of actions to protect people from becoming homeless, including sponsor rematching and support to move into rented accommodation, and many will have been provided temporary accommodation in the interim.

In December 2022 DLUHC announced £650 million of additional funding to local authorities in recognition of the increased risk of homelessness: a Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) of £500 million to acquire housing stock, predominantly for Ukrainians; and, an additional £150 million for homelessness prevention across the UK. Local authorities must spend any money allocated under the LAHF and homelessness prevention before the end of March 2024. Local authorities have acquired 905 additional homes, and DLUHC are currently forecasting that they will acquire a total of 3,365 by the end of 2023-24, with 2,880 expected to be used to house Ukrainians.

By end of July 2023, the Home Office had processed over 182,000 visa applications from Ukrainians, of which 77% were processed within 15 working days, though rates have slowed for more recent applicants. The Home Office was unable to process visas as quickly as it desired at the start of the scheme when Ukrainians were fleeing the war. The department took action to improve processing times by reprioritising visa caseworkers and bringing in 554 staff from other departments.

Since June 2022, the turnaround times have largely taken longer: the number of applications which took, or will take, over 15 working days to process increased from 19% of applications submitted in June 2022 to 63% in July 2023. There were 4,352 applications which were being processed as of 11 September 2023.

In order to set the scheme up quickly, DLUHC accepted an offer from Palantir to provide the IT system it required to administer the scheme for free for 6 months. This enabled the department to quickly get the scheme up and running, but the speed of the deployment meant that it had not carried out the usual testing before it went live, and some local authorities found it confusing to use. Following the initial six-month period, DLUHC directly awarded a 12-month contract in September 2022 worth £4.5 million. DLUHC and Palantir have since resolved many of the initial problems with the system, but DLUHC has not mandated that local authorities use it, and consequently DLUHC recognises it does not have complete data on some aspects of the scheme.

DLUHC stated that it had prioritised delivery over finding an optimal value provider but acknowledged it should plan to move away from Palantir given DLUHC perceived that the costs could be higher than other solutions. In early 2023, DLUHC investigated migrating to an alternative platform, but decided against that on the basis it may cost more due to the start up costs of a new supplier, risks to implementing it on time and potential quality issues.

In September 2023, DLUHC extended the contract with Palantir for a further 12-months at a cost of £5.5 million.

**Gareth Davies, the head of the NAO, said:**

“The Government worked quickly to help Ukrainians fleeing conflict, enabled by the generosity of the British people who opened their homes.

“The Government will soon need to take important decisions about the future of the scheme, including whether to extend visas beyond three years, and whether to extend funding for local authorities and sponsors, which currently finishes before visas expire. It will also need to carefully monitor key risks, such as safeguarding, and the threat of homelessness as sponsorships end.”



National Audit Office



# LGA responds to NAO report on Homes for Ukraine

Responding to the National Audit Office's new report, Homes for Ukraine, Cllr Kevin Bentley, Senior Vice-Chairman of the Local Government Association said:

"Councils are doing an excellent job of working with local people and partners to keep 189,600 Ukrainian refugees safe and supported across the UK.

"However, it remains a huge concern that there is no funding for councils beyond the first year and no funding for the 54,900 people that arrived via the family visa route.

"There are also serious concerns around the growing number of Ukrainians presenting as homeless, particularly those families facing the uncertainty of temporary accommodation.

"We want to work with government to review and confirm funding to ensure all families are helped to find permanent homes, jobs and schools and how best to support new and existing sponsors to open up their homes.

"This is alongside the need for urgent and joint solutions to pressing housing needs, given the growing demand from across all the schemes that welcome new arrivals to the UK, as well as broader increases in homelessness and housing pressures locally."



## NPL and the University of Manchester announce joint facility

NPL and the University of Manchester have launched their new joint facility, the Scattering Scanning Nearfield Optical Microscopy (s-SNOM).

The facility is hosted at the University of Manchester and will allow both organisations to engage with UK industry by offering nanoscale, non-contact, non-destructive, multi-functional optoelectronic characterisation at near infrared and visible wavelengths across a wide temperature range.

This capability is crucial as it provides detailed nanoscale information, essential for enhancing or enabling quantum technologies that depend on various low-dimensional and nanoengineered materials and their optoelectronic properties.

Through the facility, NPL and the University of Manchester will be providing UK industry with a strategic competitive edge in nano-optoelectronics and nano-photonics enabled quantum technologies. These technologies are anticipated to be vital for digital infrastructure, healthcare, energy and the environment, and the UK's security and resilience in the coming decade.

The facility further strengthens the two organisations' long-term partnership which was solidified by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in 2021.



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