

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE



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- LBRuT

Editors

Berkley Driscoll
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12th January 2024

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

Transport for London

District line Sunday 14 January

No service between Turnham Green and Richmond. Rail replacement buses will run.

London Overground

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 January

No service between Richmond and Willesden Junction

On Saturday, rail replacement buses will run between Gunnersbury and Willesden Junction. On Sunday, rail replacement buses will run between Richmond and Willesden Junction. This is due to Network Rail works.

South Western Railway

Saturday 13 to Monday 15 January

The lines in the **Staines** area will be **closed all days inclusive from Saturday to Monday** due to maintenance work.

Saturday

- **London Waterloo to Reading** services will be **revised**. These services will be diverted between **Clapham Junction and Virginia Water** and will call additionally at **Surbiton, Weybridge, Addlestone and Chertsey**.
- **London Waterloo to Weybridge via Staines** services will terminate at **Hounslow**.
- **Buses** will run between **Hounslow and Virginia Water via Staines**.
- **London Waterloo to Windsor** services will be diverted after **Twickenham** and will terminate at **Hounslow**.
- Additional services will run between **London Waterloo and Hounslow via Richmond**.
- **Buses** will run between **Hounslow and Windsor via Staines**.

Sunday

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

Monday

- **London Waterloo to Windsor** services will terminate at **Staines**.
- **Buses** will run between **Staines and Windsor**.



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darryl parkin

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The Local Picture Postcard Page Part 231

By Alan Winter

St James Church – Hampton Hill

I thought we would have a look at the origins of St James Church as it has a very interesting and probably unusual history.

Our first postcard shows the church and graveyard as it was in the 1920's. This is followed by one of the interior from the same period and finally an excellent postcard of the Lych Gate.



So, on with its history.

What was to become Hampton Hill was originally the southern corner of Hounslow Heath, used as common land to graze animals. It was a haunt of highwaymen and footpads, with a gibbet for the punishment of these criminals on the corner at the Hampton Hill end of Burton's Road. The Commons Enclosure act of 1811 allowed parts of this heathland to be enclosed and the land, which is now between St James's Church and Hampton Hill High Street, was converted into glebe (land providing income for a clergyman) for the benefit of St Mary's Church, Hampton.

During the early 1860s the Thames Valley Railway Line was extended, the Hampton Water Works were built and the local nursery trade developed. These projects brought an enormous number of rowdy, hard drinking labourers and artisans into an area with terrible conditions, many people living in "*miserable hovels*". They helped to increase the number of public houses in the district to thirteen, these being the scenes of not a few "*public affrays*". The Common, as the area was then called, was described as "*a miserable area inhabited by an even more miserable brand of people*" and the little district chapelry of St James as "*a barn of a church in a wilderness of a parish*". There were no facilities or services in the area and consequently poverty, drunkenness and violence were widespread. The shacks in which these people lived gradually developed into a community on the common and it was described as "*a wilderness with a number of habitations of the most wretched kind, inhabited by a still more wretched class of people*".



The Revd James Burrows, MA, was appointed vicar of St Mary's, Hampton, in 1861. Within a year it was decided that a new church, the District Chapelry of St James, should be built to cope with the appalling situation and serve the scattered village of New Hampton situated a mile or more away on the hill above Hampton. The mother parish of St Mary's gave some of its glebe land for this purpose and a simple church, with a

nave, a chancel and a small vestry room, was built. When it was finished Revd Fitzroy John Fitz Wygram was appointed vicar, and the building was consecrated on December 11th, 1863, by Bishop Tait, Bishop of London.



Revd Fitz Wygram and his wife devoted their lives and much of their fortune in improving the living conditions and prospects of the parishioners. Consequently, matters speedily improved and people started flocking to worship in the little church.

This was the beginning of twenty years of additions and alterations which changed the simple village church into the building we know today. In 1874 a new organ chamber and vestry were added and an organ was purchased by the Vicar for the sum of £150.

The work was again dedicated by the Bishop of London on Friday, July 18th, 1879. All seats in the new aisle were entirely free, while in the rest of the building they were reserved until the commencement of the Psalms.

The year 1887 being Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, it was proposed to commemorate the event by the building of the Tower and Spire, so completing the Church. So, by the enthusiasm and generosity of the parishioners who had found most of the money needed, the church was built in thirty years and with surprising detail. The view from the top, on a clear day, extends as far as Henley, Harrow, Highgate and Boxhill and beyond.

The Churchyard originally comprised only the area which immediately surrounded the church; the cemetery at Hampton still serving the new parish. In the light of the growing population of the new parish this was found to be unpractical and in 1882 the vicar of Hampton gave an acre of land adjoining Park Road to be used as the parish burial ground.

During the Second World War St. James's narrowly escaped destruction when one of our own planes, returning from a raid over Germany, crashed on to No. 63, Park Road, the home of Lady Stanton. The only trace remaining of the incident is the absence of the cross at the top of one of the tower pinnacles, which was removed by the plane's wing-tip - so close was St. James's margin of safety!

Electric lighting was installed in 1905 and the organ was rebuilt in 1913 and again in 1951.

Today **The Parish Church of St James** at 46 St James's Road, Hampton Hill, Middx. TW12 1DQ is in good shape to face its future.

If you have any old postcards sitting in a box or album at home that you are considering 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 I am happy to pay cash for any postcards or photographs that I find of interest. So don't throw old postcards etc. in the skip or recycling bins. Show them to me first!

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Transport and Air Quality Committee

By James Knight

Transport and Air Quality Committee

Tuesday 9th January 2024

This was the first council meeting of 2024 with the first item on the agenda being the Ward Concern raised by Cllr Laura O'Brian about rat-running on the Riversmeads Estate next to Twickenham Golf Course. The Committee agreed to investigate traffic calming measures despite not reaching the newly agreed intervention criterion.

Next up was the **Air Quality Management Plan**. Most areas of the borough were meeting national air quality targets, apart from two locations in the borough. They decided to instruct officers to prepare a report that would adopt the new interim World Health Organisation (WHO) targets for air quality and concentrate on tackling pollution from traffic and aligning policy with the active travel agenda. Cllr Alexander Ehmann warned these would be very hard to meet and would need the assistance of the council partners and that car use would have to be reduced.

The **Hospital Bridge Road segregated cycle lane** for Turing House School was then discussed. 53% of respondents to the council consultation were against having a segregated cycle lane, but the council decided to go ahead anyway on the first section between Percy Road and Springfield Road in Whitton. The scheme will see around half of the car parking removed from the street and a resident asked if the council could consult on a CPZ.

There was then an update on **ULEZ** which had recently been extended to outer London. Cllr Ehmann criticised the Conservative Councils who mounted a legal challenge in the courts saying it was just a waste of money. He said the administration had decided to put what would have been the council's contribution to the court case into additional relief measures such as free car club memberships and money loaded onto Oyster Cards for those who scrapped their non-compliant cars. He then went political and started to criticise the Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate Jonathan Hulley for visiting the anti-ULEZ protest on Chertsey Road in December. He said that it was "appalling" that vehicles were idling and parked up on verges and the honking of horns was "dreadful." The video Jonathan made went viral attracting over a quarter of a million views.

A discussion was held on how bus services could be improved as large areas of the borough have a low PTAL rating (Public Transport Accessibility Levels) and the expected **bus service improvements** before the ULEZ expansion has not materialised. The committee agreed to raise the issue of bus services will be brought up at the next Public Transport Liaison Committee where councillors meet representatives of public transport providers. Unlike most other councils, Richmond holds them in private and does not publish the minutes.

The next item was the **highway maintenance program** which will see 20 carriageways resurfaced and 31 footways repaired. Regarding HS2 money redirected to fixing roads, Cllr Alexander went back into political mode and said that "any resident mad enough to be listening, we expect to receive a meagre £200,000". The TRT Tribune has investigated this, and the funding is based on the length of roads each borough maintains with Richmond due to receive an extra £6.2 million over the next 11 years with £204,000 allocated for each of the next two years.

Next up was the **Local Implementation Plan** (LIP) indicative funding for 2024/25 from Transport for London with Richmond set to receive £1,023,000 for Safer Corridors and Neighbourhoods, £76,000 for cycle training, £54,000 for cycle parking. The council can also bid for up to £277,000 for bus priority measures and £700,000 for cycle network funding. Tim Lennon from Richmond Cycling Campaign spoke and said the council needed to provide more safe places for cyclists to leave their bikes and not all the funding should be going to cycle hangers. He said there was a need for more located by shops, doctors' surgeries etc. He gave the example of the Sheffield stands outside of Tesco's in Richmond town centre that were damaged and not replaced. Cllr Andrée Frieze asked for more bike stands down Church Street Twickenham and the committee decided to ask officers to report back on options to provide more Sheffield stands across the borough.

There was a brief discussion on the forward plan, to decide when future items on the agenda would be discussed and the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Council fines have-a-go hero

Richmond Council are refusing to back down and cancel a £130 fine they issued to a have-a-go hero who was pursuing a shoplifter.

The incident took place last October outside Sainsbury's Local on Twickenham Green, when Mr Norman Brennan saw a man being chased by a security guard. He followed the suspect in his car to an industrial estate and performed a citizen's arrest. A backpack was also recovered with nine bottles of wine that had been taken from the store without payment.

A few days later Richmond Council sent out a fine in the post for driving down the road the wrong way. Mr Brennan wrote to the council asking them to waive the fine but rejected the appeal saying, 'while I appreciate you were following an alleged shoplifter, you had no legal authority to enter this road.' Mr Norman Brennan told the Mail on Sunday; 'I was staggered by the response from Richmond – cold and dispassionate and lacking any common sense. Surely they could have exercised discretion.'

To make matters worse, despite having all the evidence and a suspect the manager at the store decided not to press charges. As explained at a local Police Liaison Committee meeting in December, the MET now requires businesses that want to press shoplifting charges to fill out reports themselves before an officer is assigned to investigate and this results in most cases being dropped as the staff often don't have the skills or the time to complete themselves.

Mr Brennan is a well-known commentator on policing matters and was an independent candidate for the role of Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner in 2021. He served in the police force for 42 years, has spoken publicly about law and order for 29 years and has spent 16 years campaigning for police and victims having set up the Victims of Crime Trust and the Law & Order Foundation.

In October 2023 the Crime and Policing Minister Chris Philip MP told a fringe meeting at the Conservative Party Conference that 'The wider public do have the power of citizen's arrest and, where it's safe to do so, I would encourage that to be used because if you do just let people walk in, take stuff and walk out without proper challenge, including potentially a physical challenge, then again it will just escalate. While I want the faster and better police response, the police can't be everywhere all the time.'

However, how many people will be willing to do the right thing and stop a thief if public bodies like Richmond Council take such an inflexible approach which results in the highly unsatisfactory situation where the criminal gets away scot-free and the hero ends up with a fine? This sounds like a case where the leader, Cllr Gareth Roberts needs to intervene if he is to retain his credibility on policing matters.

Dear Tribune,

A 'Fine' Way to Treat Good Samaritans.

This week's news that retired police officer Norman Brennan has been fined by Richmond Council for doing the right thing is yet another example of how the 'Best borough in London' treats people.

www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12933887/Retired-policeman-64-fined-pursuing-shoplifter-car-thief-gets-entirely-scot-free.html

Mr Brennan, a former British Transport Police detective, has been honoured numerous times for bravery. Described as one of the best-known voices of British policing, he founded the Victims of Crime Trust whose patrons include Denise Fergus, the mother of murdered toddler James Bulger, and launched Protect the Protectors which successfully campaigned for police to have side-handle batons, body armour, and CS spray.

A hard-hitting campaign by the Mail on Sunday has exposed Britain's shoplifting scandal and called for tougher action, revealing how the crisis costs stores £1 billion a year – for which YOU pay.

Similarly to Mr. Brennan, I recently received two fines from Richmond Council for being a good Samaritan. To save the NHS ambulance service time and money, I drove a profusely bleeding injured neighbour to Teddington hospital where I parked in a quiet side road which had NO road markings and NO visible signs for parking restrictions. On my return, I'd received a parking fine. My appeal to the Council on all the above grounds was bluntly rejected.

The other occasion was near Strawberry Hill station, also on an unmarked road, when I took my wife to hospital for breast cancer surgery. In order to help Richmond Council's professed but unenforced dogma to reduce traffic congestion and pollution, we made a difficult journey by train, bus, and taxi, so as to avoid driving all the way. On our return, I had a parking ticket. The Council refused my appeal with a statement falsely giving a map reference for a sign showing parking restrictions. No such sign exists there.

Maybe the Council's avaricious bullying is to raise money for the recent increases in its councillors' allowances, including its Leader's massive one of 52%, as highlighted recently in the Tribune?

Some time ago, I was passing the Sainsbury's St Clare store when I saw their security guard unsuccessfully struggling with a man on the pavement. I was a special constable at the time but off duty, so, having spent my life training in both classical and modern martial arts in Japan, I stopped my car and easily restrained the thief. I called the police and received a commendation from the police commander for my actions. No doubt, had it been more recently, I would have received a fine for my trouble, just like Mr. Brennan.

British law embodies the principles of *mens rea* and *actus reus* with their assumption of innocence until proven guilty, and the legal defence of *necessity*, all of which are now clearly ignored in the pursuit of money. With the Council showing such lack of compassion, and acting as judge and jury, we should all be grateful we don't still have the death penalty.

So why bother to be good Samaritans only to be treated worse than the criminals who get away with it?

Michael Jay
Hampton

Dear Madam/Sir,

Ed Davey and the Post Office scandal

I have been reviewing relevant information in relation to the Post Office scandal this last week and was shocked to read that Sir Ed Davey, the Liberal Democrat leader, had according to recent press reports, pocketed 275k working as a consultant for the Law Firm employed by the Post Office in its prosecution of the sub-postmasters accused of fraud, when he had been a coalition Minister in charge of post office affairs at the time of the scandal.

He did nothing to stop the persecution of the sub-postmasters. In my view, a key priority of an elected politician is to fight for the interests of your constituents and to say no to injustice, and Sir Ed Davey should have done more for the victims of the Post Office scandal.

Indeed, as a minister, he should have asked the right questions and certainly met victims of the scandal when they first asked to meet him.

Politicians must behave with decency and integrity and no Party is completely innocent of wrongdoing, including the Liberal Democrats.

I stand for decency and integrity in public life, and I want a political system that restores the trust of the public.

And I will fight tooth and nail for the interests of the voters of Twickenham constituency should be I be privileged enough to become their next MP.

Jonathan Hulley
Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Twickenham

Dear Sir,

Richmond upon Thames - one of London's safest boroughs?

I am sure that relatively Richmond upon Thames is one of London's safest boroughs but as a taxpayer in this borough for over fifty years I have witnessed a significant decline.

We will all be aware of the fatal stabbing in Strawberry Hill last week, however on the same night my home was broken into, something unimaginable in the past - how things have changed.

We no longer have the Safer Neighbourhood Team visible on the streets and there is no one who seems to care about the broken and dangerous pavements, potholes in the roads, overflowing gutters, and cyclists and e-scooter users dangerously riding on pavements - and on the roads without night lights.

However, we get what we deserve. After all, we elect councillors to sort out even the most basic problems but some of them are too concerned with politics instead of doing the job for which they are paid, and as we have seen, quite handsomely. Next time we vote we should look at what these people have done for us and whether they deserve such financial rewards, especially as some, especially the senior ones, may be using their position to go up the political ladder.

Name and address supplied

VOTE

Teddington



■ Elizabeth Foster

On Thursday January 18th 2024 In TEDDINGTON

If Elizabeth was a stick of rock, she would have Teddington written through the middle.

Passionate about politics, Belfast-born Elizabeth has been involved in many political campaigns both locally and nationally for the Conservatives.

As an adopted Teddingtonian - of 45 years' standing - Elizabeth is a devoted follower of JFK's dictum: "Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country."

Giving back is in Elizabeth's DNA which is why she is so involved in the Teddington community.

Actions not words see

Elizabeth as the tireless Trustee of many local charities, a dedicated driver with Teddington and Hampton Wick Voluntary Care, a committed carer helping adults with learning disabilities and as an active member of The Teddington Society.

Having sold poppies for the Royal British Legion for 35 years running Elizabeth recently received a well-deserved 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for such service.

She will work diligently to ensure your views are properly represented on the Council.



■ Vote for Elizabeth in Teddington and she'll fight for what residents really want

Vote Conservative

The World of Boris Pasternak

Piano recital showcasing the little known compositions of author **Boris Pasternak at St Mary's Church, Twickenham on Sunday 28th January**

Pianist Hannah-Elizabeth Teoh performs the only surviving compositions of Boris Pasternak, author of Dr Zhivago, alongside works by Scriabin, Rachmaninoff and Chopin.

Celebrated as the Nobel Prize awarded author of Dr Zhivago and one of Russia's most beloved poets, Boris Pasternak's first love was music. Raised amongst the Russian elite, his mother was a renowned concert pianist, and Scriabin and Rachmaninoff were regular household visitors. As a teenager Pasternak was an accomplished pianist with aspirations to become a composer; this concert provides a rare opportunity to hear his only surviving works.

PROGRAMME:

Boris Pasternak: Prelude No. 2 in G-sharp minor

Scriabin: Mazurka Op. 3 No. 6 in C-sharp minor

Scriabin: Prelude Op.11, No.15 in D-flat major

Boris Pasternak: Prelude No. 1 in E-flat minor

Scriabin: Etude Op. 42, No. 5 in C-sharp minor

Boris Pasternak: Piano Sonata in B minor

Chopin: Fantaisie in F minor, Op. 49

- Interval -

Rachmaninoff: *Morceaux de salon*, Op. 10:

.- Waltz in A Major

- Romance in F minor

Scriabin: Piano Sonata No. 3 in F-sharp minor, Op. 23

New Zealand born **Hannah-Elizabeth Teoh** studied at the Royal Academy of Music, the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris and the Royal College of Music, and has won numerous awards including the Harold Samuel Prize, the Florence Murray Award, the Lesley Holland Scholarship and the Ivy Corkill Recital Award.

As a concerto soloist she has performed around the world, including a premiere recording of Ross Harris' Concertina for Piano and Orchestra with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, and most recently making her Italian debut with the Master Orchestra in Brescia playing Saint-Saëns' second piano concerto. Supporting her musical life, Hannah-Elizabeth draws inspiration from literature and art and has a Masters in Philosophy from Birkbeck University.



Time & Location

28 Jan 2024, 17:30 – 19:30

Twickenham, Church St, Twickenham TW1 3NJ, UK

Find more details and booking [HERE](#)

Break In At The Twickenham And Richmond Tribune

The “burglars” entered at 21.17 on Tuesday 9th January via the front door leaving at 21.49. Investigations have shown that the Lounge, Landing, Bedrooms and Study were entered; this information was obtained following an inspection by the organization that monitors the alarm system. The alarm continued throughout the break-in.

The intruders were well prepared. An Enforcer was used to break down the door.

It seems, so far, that nothing was taken but Tribune files in the office were rifled, and doors of rooms and cupboards opened.

The police are perplexed; they said this was not the usual break-in and had not seen anything like this in 20 years of service; everything had been undisturbed apart from a box of files and the front door.



Enforcer

Social Media Watch

By James Knight

This week on X (formally Twitter) Richmond Council **leader Cllr Gareth Roberts** got into a spat over criticism of **Sir Edward Davey's** parliamentary no-show and was promptly blocked. Cllr Roberts did not take kindly to this and snapped back that she cannot “accept even lightest criticism.” The irony is that Cllr Roberts pre-emptively blocks any resident from replying to his tweets unless they are one of his pre-approved followers.

For readers who have been out of the country the past week Sir Edward Davey, the Leader of the Liberal Democrats has been widely condemned for dodging parliamentary scrutiny for his role in the Post Office Scandal and has been facing calls to hand back his knighthood. The Post Office scandal rocketed up the agenda after the ITV drama Mr Bates vs The Post Office was broadcast on New Year's Day. Sir Edward was the Post Office Minister between 2010 - 2012 and was subsequently paid £275,000 as an adviser to the legal firm that defended the Post Office against claims of wrongful prosecution. Sir Edward claimed his care arrangements for his disabled son broke down which meant he could not attend the debate.

The Kingston Independent Residents Group are considering putting up a candidate against Sir Edward at the next general election in the mould of Martin Bell. New Maldon **Councillor Yvonne Tracey** and a former deputy post mistress said it was “...it's incumbent on those seeking justice for our sub-postmasters to stand against Ed.”

This is likely to have ramifications for Sarah Olney MP and Munira Wilson MP as both are reliant upon activists from outside the area campaigning on their behalf at General Elections. If a ‘white suit’ candidate is fighting the party leader's seat this outside help is likely to be redirected to his constituency at the expense of theirs.

Double Trouble for Local Motorists

Report and pictures by Doug Goodman

Two problems inconvenienced motorists in Twickenham this week. High tides on the Thames at Twickenham riverside caused minor flooding and the sewer works near the station were responsible for delays and diversions. But while the encroaching river water did little except cause a tidal wave and great entertainment for swans, the road closures by the Albany pub have much longer-term implications. Until June the area from Station Road and St. Mary's Terrace will be closed to traffic. This will mean delays for school traffic as well as for drivers taking a back street route to avoid congestion in Heath Road.



High Tide at the Riverside

Thames Water has provided local residents with detailed plans of the work which will take place in three phases running from 5th January to 11th June. For a significant period drivers will not be able to drive past The Albany when turning left or right from London Road. At the same time drivers trying to reach London Road from Station Road will find their way closed. Pedestrian access is not impeded. The work is to divert a main sewer to prepare for the development of Station Yard.



Closed to through Traffic

Celebrate local heroes by nominating them for the Community Heroes Awards

Do you know of an inspiring person, organisation or business that has made Richmond upon Thames and their local community a better place? Help recognise them for the value they add to the borough by nominating them for the 2023 Community Heroes Awards!

The awards programme is a chance to celebrate and thank the people in Richmond upon Thames who are so willing to go above and beyond to improve people's lives and their communities, without expecting anything in return.

There are 10 award categories to nominate within, which all recognise those who have stepped up in a big way to care for the most vulnerable among us, build safer, stronger and fairer communities for their neighbours or put in the hours to make the borough a better place to be.



The categories are:

- Business Contribution in The Community
- Community Group of the Year
- Community Project of the Year
- Communities Together
- Environmental Award
- Helping hands
- Lifetime achievement
- Outstanding volunteer
- Trustee of the year
- Young Person Achievement

If you know someone who you consider to be a hero to your community, [submit your nomination](#) via a short online form by Monday 26 February 2024. You are more than welcome to submit more than one nomination. Nominees should be nominated for their work in a voluntary capacity only.

An awards ceremony for shortlisted candidates will be held on Thursday 16 May 2024.

See a [full list of the award categories and criteria, and examples of previous winners](#).

Hampton North

VOTE



On Thursday January 18th 2024 In HAMPTON NORTH



■ Nupur Majumdar

As a young girl in India, I loved playing football with the local boys. People often scolded me and told me I would grow up to be a loose woman because of that! I didn't by the way: I am happily married with two children! But I was not afraid of breaking down gender stereotypes for equal opportunity. And today when we cheer for our 'Lionesses', I feel happy and proud to be a woman.

I graduated from Delhi University in History and there I got my first taste of politics as a youth activist. While I was volunteering and teaching disadvantaged children in India, I was learning the meaning of community service. This flame continues to burn inside me and has brought me into local politics at home in Hampton North.

After graduation, I came to the UK with just one suitcase but a big bag of dreams. I completed my MBA at the University of Strathclyde and also earned a Diploma in Business Studies from London Business School. Then I worked in various multi-national corporations in the aviation and oil industry where I held multiple senior operational roles. With my work experience, I harnessed my leadership skills and then started multiple businesses. Now I run a successful hospitality company and an aviation consultancy firm. Britain gives the opportunity to migrants to fulfil their dreams, and my success story can be shared with our empowering community and young people. It's a story of Hope!!

I was not born in a traditional Conservative family. I chose to be one based on my life's experiences because the Conservative Party fuels aspirations and values diversity and inclusion. Now I am eagerly waiting for you to believe in me and I will be honoured to proudly represent YOU!!

Find out about my plans for Hampton North—visit www.twickenhamconservatives.com



■ Vote for Nupur in Hampton North and keep Councillor Geoffrey Samuel's legacy alive.

Vote Conservative

Promoted by Hilary Smith on behalf of Nupur Majumdar, both of 90, York Road, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 8N.

Helping Pierre to find his happy place

By Shona Lyons



A few days ago I passed Pierre on my way to work, and I must admit I had not seen him that way before. He was unable to talk, unable to articulate himself, his face was red and he looked as if he was in a great deal of emotional pain. I tried to talk to him but he just told me he would talk to me later. Then he came into our office and he was agitated and telling us that he had problems with his landlords, they were evicting him because he had infringed their very draconian rules (like not using the toilet for god sake! And going back into his shop past 6pm! Or popping in when he shouldn't on a Sunday or Monday when he wasn't allowed) he infringed these rules maybe 3 times and he was told that he was being evicted.

His shop on Church Street as you can see from these pictures, has been Pierre's very happy place, even living under these difficult conditions. He is loved by pretty much every normal person, he is a bit eccentric in a very lovable way, wearing ridiculously funny aprons & head gear, and speaking his mind. He is just Pierre, with a good sense of humour and a very down to earth, easy going manner. He feeds all the neighbourhood dogs with his biltong, amuses everyone's kids who he loves, and sells biltong, sausages, meat and specialities from South Africa and every time I walk past pretty much, thrusts a big box of South African rooibos tea in my hand because it was practically the only tea my mum could drink when she was ill and he always gave me boxes for her as he has a very generous giving spirit.

His dad who he was very close to, died recently & suddenly from a stroke and he just felt that everything was over. All he had built up, his good connections with this community, the love he had also put into his shop, as well as his savings doing it up and getting it painted and fitted out with lots of really nice South African tribal art etc, was finished and he just didn't have the strength to pick himself up again.

I came to work again yesterday and saw him sitting outside Barclays very upset. A fellow trader told me he had cut his wrist. He was obviously very distressed. I didn't see him again that day and had passed his shop and saw a messy note that he had scrawled letting people know he wouldn't be there that day. You see he is so nice, even in his distress he wanted to tell his customer -friends he wasn't there. Then later in the day about 12 midday I had a terrible video message on what's app from Pierre, saying he didn't want to live anymore. He had nothing to live for. He had lost his shop, his dad and had nothing left.

I know that I have been in dark places myself, and I am sure a lot of people have. Feeling that you have no one to turn to, problems that you can't deal with, no way out of a very difficult situation. I could totally empathise with Pierre. The thought of Pierre taking his life was just unbearable. I lost my mum recently & her death is incredibly painful. The thought of Pierre ending his life was just too much to bear. I felt I just had to do something & find him. I tried to text Pierre but he didn't answer, so I called him but he didn't answer. I called the police a few times but they said they couldn't help so then I put his video up on face book and twitter appealing for help to locate him. Then later that evening I remembered that I had his landlord's email and contacted his landlord and found that he had in fact returned home. Someone else in Church Street had his address, had seen the video I posted and also sent the police round to talk to him.

I think he understands now that we all love him and want to try and help him. I think the posts I put on face book alerted a lot of people about his predicament and he has had a lot more support and that is helping him feel he can cope again and with help, find a solution to his problems. The best thing was walking up Water Lane this morning and seeing Pierre with one of his suppliers looking at the empty shop in Water Lane. and seeing that he wasn't alone now with his problems and people understood and are trying to help. I have set up a Go Fund me Page and so far we are close to £2,000. I hope to be able to raise about £10,000 to put towards him being able to kit out a new shop, a place where Pierre can be himself and happy again.

Visit the GoFundMe page below:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-pierre-find-his-happy-place?utm_medium=copy_link_all&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_cp%2Bshare-sheet



Twickenham Conservatives

Jonathan Hulley, the Conservative prospective Parliamentary candidate for Twickenham constituency, will be holding a Shadow MP Surgery on **Saturday January 20th from 10am to 12noon.**

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

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

There is no need to make an appointment.

Shadow MP Surgery

Promoted by
Jonathan Hulley
of 90 York Road
Teddington
TW11 8SN.

**All are
Welcome
To attend.**



New year, new good intentions

This year, find out how you could volunteer with help from the friendly Richmond Volunteer Service.

If you've been thinking about making positive changes, helping others is something that could fit the bill, for both you and those that you assist.

Whether you want to use your existing skills or do something completely different, [Richmond CVS](#) is bound to have something of interest, that also fits with your time, amongst the huge range of local charities and good causes.

Some of the latest opportunities you may find in the Richmond CVS newsletter include those with animals, young people, finance, teaching, comms, cookery, office admin, retail, the environment, sport and more.

If you'd like to get the newsletter directly into your inbox, you can [register with the Volunteer Service](#) and receive a monthly read of new suggestions.

The team are ready to offer ideas and support in-person as you search for a new volunteer role.

As well as browsing their database, this month you can meet up with them in Teddington and Twickenham, or you can arrange an individual appointment. There's no pressure, it's just a great informal way to find out more and get started.

If your curiosity has been piqued, make a date to drop in, send an email on volunteer@richmondcv.org.uk or give the team a call on 020 8843 7940.



Ham & Petersham SOS seek new trustees

Ham & Petersham SOS (HAPSOS) is a small charity that provides activities, events, transport and practical help to older and those with disabilities in Ham and Petersham.

This year, HAPSOS wants to recruit more local people to its board of trustees.

Join them in making a meaningful difference in the lives of elderly and vulnerable adults in the area.

They are seeking committed individuals from diverse backgrounds to serve as trustees. Two of the trustees explain what it means to them.

‘After a demanding career in finance, I saw becoming a HAPSOS trustee in 2023 as a great opportunity to give something back to the local community and meet regularly with a diverse group of other volunteers to help the elderly and vulnerable.

The chance to be part of the management and future success of HAPSOS has already proven to be extremely satisfying as well as enabling me to develop some new skills in strategy, leadership and teamwork.’

‘I started volunteering for HAPSOS in 2014 having recently retired from a career in teaching. I was keen to get more involved with my local community once that time allowed.

It has been a pleasure to be part of a team that helps shape the future of HAPSOS and ensures that the charity is both well run and is always looking to the future.’

If you would like to find out more information about joining Ham & Petersham SOS, please contact Karen King at organiser@hamandpetershamsos.co.uk.

<https://hamandpetershamsos.co.uk/>



The Teddington Society



**Want to know what we do and
how we represent our community?**

Local
Planning

Social
Events

Local
History

Horticulture

Environment

Roads
& Transport

Riverside &
Open Spaces

Come & Meet the Committee

Share your views and ideas

FREE drop-in event – ALL welcome

11 am – 1 pm Saturday January 20th

St Mary's Parish Hall, TW11 9HF

visit: www.teddingtonsociety.org.uk



Big hitters on the campaign trail

Dr Ben Spencer MP, Deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, and **Susan Hall AM**, the Conservative Candidate for the Mayor of London spent the day campaigning in the January double by-election.

Susan visited Teddington to support the party's Teddington by-election candidate **Elizabeth Foster**. Elizabeth wants to save Elleray Hall from demolition and is campaigning for a new youth facility in Teddington. They spent the morning speaking to residents about Sadiq Khan's record at Teddington Station and across the ward. He 'had let outer London down with his unfair ULEZ expansion tax grab & lack of transport provision,' said Susan. The action day saw the whole ward leafleted and hundreds of residents canvassed.



In the afternoon Susan visited Hampton North to support their Hampton North candidate **Nupur Majumdar**. She was joined by **Jonathan Hulley** the Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for the Twickenham Constituency and **Ron Mushiso** the Conservative South West London candidate in the upcoming London Assembly elections. Nupur is



campaigning for a new pharmacy in Hampton North; wants to tackle the problem of potholes on our roads and work with housing providers to improve the living conditions of families living in rented accommodation in Hampton North.

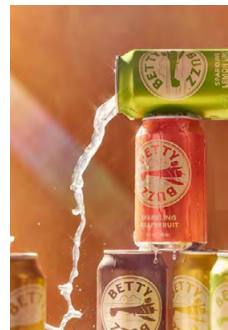
At a lunchtime meeting, she gave a short speech that focused on the record of the current Mayor on crime and said, 'It cannot be allowed to spiral for 4 more years.' Jonathan Hulley said that Nupur Majumdar was a fantastic local candidate, a community champion with the right campaigning credentials to

carry on the legacy of the late **Geoffrey Samuel**. The assembled activists continued to knock on doors and delivered thousands of leaflets.

DRY (OR MAYBE RATHER WET) JANUARY?

Well, here we go again; the worst month of the year, in my opinion, and we are being encouraged to stop drinking! I don't know about you, but with the scenes of flooding across the country, the miserable cold and wet weather we've been having, it seems a tad harsh to give up that occasional drink! Anyway, I've been checking out a few alcohol alternatives for those who feel up to giving up for a month... or longer:

Maybe starting with a hot drink in this weather is a good alternative? **Bird & Blend**, an independent tea company, suggests spreading happiness and reimagining tea with health and wellness at the forefront. Its 2024 health, wellness and dry January range boasts wellbeing flavours such as; Lemon & Ginger, Moondrop Dreams, Cold Weather Warrior, The Digester and a whole range of Matcha flavours – all aiming to aid relaxation, sleep, support the immune system or digestion and gut health too. At various prices, available to buy online [here](#)



Hollywood actor, Blake Lively's **Betty Buzz** range of new, great tasting premium soft drinks, recently launched in the UK, are a good Dry Jan solution. The Betty Buzz range includes Sparkling Lemon Lime, Ginger Beer and Sparkling Grapefruit. With 40+ awards and counting since launch, I'm told that **Betty Buzz** mixers are already one of the hottest products on the US alcohol-free market. From £2.50 per 266 ml bottle from Whole Foods Market and as a multiple pack from [Amazon](#) - 24 x 150ml cans from £29.99

Sometimes one wants something completely different, and I'm pleased to report that I've discovered an unusual range of aperitifs from **Drinks Kitchen**. There are three core products: **Orange Cinchona** (woody notes from cinchona & fruity orange followed by more zesty peel and herbaceous notes of quassia & oregano and a gentle bittersweet finish) Spiced **Rhubarb** (with aromatic juniper and ginger, and gentle chilli heat on the finish) and **Herb Verde** (an initial burst of refreshing mint with the pea pod notes of gentian, followed by more subtle herby notes of rosemary & thyme). Plus a limited edition **Grapefruit Piquante**. They are really good, and have won stacks of Great Taste Awards. Each 950ml bottle makes 38 drinks or up to 7.6L of finished drink. £27 per 950ml bottle or £18 for a 475ml. Available online [here](#)



I was pleased to discover a couple of new alternatives to spirits at food festivals last summer. **WaveLength Drinks**. Created by brewers in North Cornwall, the drinks have a 4-6 week innovative production process, then the liquid is double fermented for 30 days to achieve a premium non-alcoholic drink. There are currently two varieties: **Ruby Aperitif** (with grapefruit peel, orange peel, hibiscus, pink peppercorns and lavender) and **Amber Digestif** (with ginger, lapland, vanilla, clove, cold smoked with a long, warming finish). They are both good, but I particularly like Amber. £20 per bottle online [here](#)

Another excellent aperitif discovered at a food festival is **Feragaia**, distilled in Fife, at Scotland's first 0.0% abv distillery. It's crafted from 14 land and sea botanicals, with the bonus of a long finish of pink peppercorn, and it's very refreshing and versatile. It's delicious served with ginger ale, or with grapefruit juice for an alcohol free Paloma. You can buy a 70cl bottle for £26.35 (also at Master of Malt and Not on the High Street) and in ready mixed cans [here](#)





I've talked before about the great range of aperitifs from **Pentire**, and the company now has a delicious ready mixed alcohol-free Margarita. A healthy riff on the classic Margarita, coastal botanicals, with lime, agave, sea salt and a dash of Mexican chilli, create a zingy, ready to drink, cocktail. Available in two sizes: 20cl bottle serves 2 and a 50cl bottle serves 5 online [here](#). For the ultimate enjoyment, pour 100 ml into a rocks glass over ice and garnish with a lime wedge and a slice of chilli. You can also salt the rim if you like your Margaritas that way. The company also donates to selected sea conservation charities such as Blue Marine Foundation.

If ready mixed cocktails (and in particular an Espresso Martini) are your 'thing' then you don't need to stint on flavour. Try the range of the

world's first nitro non-alcoholic cocktails from **Mocktails**, The Official Cocktails of Dry January. Mocktails offers a range of mixology inspired flavours: the *Karma Sucra Mockapolitan*; *The Vida Loca Mockarita*; *Sevilla Red Sansgria*; *Scottish Lemonade Mockscow Mule* and *Espresso0% Martini*. You can find Mocktails online at [Amazon](#), and directly on the Mocktails website at £30 for 12 cans.



Tanqueray Flor de Sevilla gin and its 0.0% Alcohol-Free spirit version are inspired by Charles Tanqueray's Andalusian adventures, that took him into the orange groves of Seville in the 1860's. The 0.0% also manages to balance the uniquely bittersweet and zesty taste of Sevillian oranges with orange blossoms, and the complexity of the core botanicals from Tanqueray London Dry. It's readily available and well priced at around £15 a bottle.

If a liqueur is what's wanted, then try the **Giffard 0.0%** liqueur range. The Elderflower one is delicious, and has a host of other uses in desserts and cocktails too. Try a spritz, with low or no alcohol sparkling wine. Available online [here](#) from The Whisky Exchange for £12.50 a bottle.



And now to **Mother Root**, a ginger switchel. The company takes

inspiration from age-old methods of aperitif wine making: maceration, blending and sweetening for balance. But rather than using wine, it uses benefit-rich apple cider vinegar and fresh, natural ingredients. This fiery and fresh mix of zingy ginger, zippy apple cider vinegar, mellow blossom honey and a lick of chilli heat is best served chilled over lots of ice with soda or sparkling water. You only need to use a small amount for each drink and with 20 servings in a 480 ml bottle, it's good value at £24 from [Mother Root](#) direct, Master of Malt or Amazon



And finally, if you're up in London and doing Dry Jan, or are simply someone who doesn't drink alcohol, did you know that there is a specialist 'lo and no' bar, tasting room and shop in Covent Garden? **Club Soda** is in Drury Lane, and it's a great place to discover - and try - lots of different alcohol free and low alcohol drinks, before ordering your favourite. More info and a host of online drinks to buy [here](#)



The Pursuit of Happiness...

By Dee Patel

~Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

Ahhh mid-January...Christmas is over...new year is done...a good time to reflect...refocus and think about what actually REALLY matters to us perhaps?...

There won't be one person reading this article that hasn't at some point in their lives felt that their life is the worst it could possibly be... However, what really makes a good life?...it's not the things we own or how much we have in our bank (although I too used to think this was the case)...it's not the size of our house or how fast our car is or even the speed of your broadband internet (although there are few things that are more frustrating than slow internet)...so I have been talking to customers in my shop this past week about this and wanted to write a bit about what I drew from it all to share with you all here...

So what really is "happiness"? Happiness is having a roof over your head...happiness is having fresh water to drink...happiness is having food on your table...happiness is having a table... happiness is having friends to talk to...happiness is having a bed to sleep in...happiness is having lungs that can breathe and a heart that beats...happiness is smelling a rose...happiness is feeling the sunlight on your face...happiness is having eyes that can see the beauty of this world...happiness is telling those you love just how much you love them...

So happiness is indeed multi-faceted and when we see it the way many of my customers did, it's actually mostly free and they are all things we already have in life perhaps too...so then why do we spend half our lives worrying and stressed when actually we all have so much to be grateful and happy about?

On a personal level, our own parents are the ones whom often love us most...more than anyone else...it is because of them any of us are here reading this article in the first place is it not?

So for me, my happiness is seeing THEM happy...there is perhaps no joy as great as that of seeing those who love you the most being happy... So for me happiness is enjoying the smile on your mothers face, happiness is hearing the joy in your fathers laughter... (below are my parents, Shashi & Pallu, their smiles make me happy...because it is only when the roses are there that I can enjoy the fragrance...they are my roses).

I also think it is important to remember YOU...Happiness is seeing the reflection of your own face smiling back at you in the mirror, because the one you have to appreciate most before you can even begin to love and appreciate another is yourself... happiness is opening your eyes each morning knowing that you have been given another day and another chance to make things work...to know that no matter how "bad" you feel your life is, there is always something to be grateful about...and remembering that just as the sun rises again after even the darkest of nights, everyday is a new chance and that every new day is the first day of the rest of your life...let's make 2024 a HAPPY one for everyone.



Remember...

***“Being happy is not looking for more...
it is being grateful for the things you already have...”***

WINTER GENERAL CREATURE-KINDNESS TIPS:

As I always say, the true key to our own happiness lies in the happiness of others...be they big or small life forms...

If you see a bird or any wildlife suffering at a roadside, throw over a towel or jacket over it and take to a local wildlife centre (pigeons are best reported to London Wildlife Protection as other places may put them to sleep without giving a chance. Squirrels, parakeets, even mice injured by cats can be helped). If you have rodent issues, consider humane live capture traps and release them in parklands. Try electronic high-frequency sound deterrents (check online for ones with good reviews and ones that are safe for your pets). Put empty jam jar lids filled with white vinegar to stop rodents without harming them (this also works for foxes and squirrels) Use a phone torch and leaf to picking up a slug off a pavement with a leaf and moving it over a wall (they feel pain too). Don't jet wash or sweep your garden patio too often as there are many tiny almost invisible hence I say gently lift the pots if you need to move them rather than dragging them to avoid crushing little lives). Sprinkle talcum powder/white vinegar where ants come (not on them) to stop them kindly. Join my Facebook group “Insect Lovers Unite” or email me on thedeepatel@gmail.com. The good karma will come!

The Unfriend

by Steven Moffat

Playful Productions at Wyndham's Theatre, West End until 9th March

If you are nice, civil and very English, you'll understand the unfolding predicament in which Peter and Debbie find themselves in *The Unfriend*. On a cruise, they meet Elsa Krakowski from Denver. Holiday friendships are usually ephemeral, but ebullient Elsa is insistent, incessant and persistent and e-mails are exchanged. But, when they return home to their semi in suburbia, Debbie googles a Denver news item about the, albeit unsubstantiated, rumours about the serial "Killer at Large", Elisa Jean Krakowski.

However, Elisa has already invited herself to stay with them and their two teenage children!



Hence, we have the spring-loaded funny and furious plot of *The Unfriend*. Television talent is transferred to theatre from the co-creators of TV's *Sherlock*. Steven Moffat is a BAFTA winning writer, but *The Unfriend* is his first stage play, while the actor Mark Gatiss makes his debut as a director.

The arrival of Elisa is sudden. She is there at the front door! She had been planning to first stay with Barnaby, a widower whom she had also just met on the cruise ship. Now, she has come directly from Heathrow, because he has suddenly died!



The play is a wonderful character study, an exposition of the crippling effects of niceness. Debbie and Peter are rabbits caught in the headlights of their own politeness. Ironically their dithering negativity is no match against Elsa's confidence. When they try to be assertive, they are not so sure. Is Denver on a witch hunt for someone they see as a busybody? Is Elsa a kind soul trying to do good, as she sees it? Or is she a murd... no, no, that's unthinkable.

Amongst the quick-fire quips, there are many incisive insights that really ring true. Guardian

reader Peter says, “I don’t know what to think until I read about it.” Celebrated comedian Lee Mack electrifies the role, his body language almost exaggerating the excruciating embarrassment of a man caught out by trying too hard not to be caught out. Sarah Alexander has the difficult role of his wife Debbie, a mum, protective of her children and trying to keep her husband from making a fool of himself as he attempts to defend the family against perceived threats.

The enigmatic Elsa is a gift of a role, and Frances Barber makes the most of it, playing it big, as it deserves. She interprets with insight both Elsa’s acerbic charm, if that is not too much of an oxymoron, and equally her manipulative, yet would be benevolent, nature. Barber also knows how to pitch Elsa’s non-sequiturs.

The two teenagers are acted with precision, painting pictures of awkward adolescent mulishness. Maddie Holliday plays the stropky daughter Rosie, and Jem Matthews, the lairy video-game obsessed son, Alex. Debbie and Peter may be worried sick about Elsa, but they not only quickly become great friends, but Elsa manages to bring out the very best in the two youngsters. They become loving, helpful, active and positive.

Moreover, Elsa becomes quite a hit in the neighbourhood. Even the local bobby, PC Junkin, has become quite besotted with Elsa, and settled into the house in her behest. The trouble is, he has been sent around to inquire about the unexpected death of Barnaby. Then there is the lugubrious man from next door, The Neighbour: Peter never bother to find out his name. He has been waging a low-level war of attrition about the rebuilding of their garden wall.



Under all its knockabout fun, *The Unfriend* is an inventive and insightful examination of human psychology. It takes us on a clever journey towards thinking, “Well, that’s alright then” ... until its very end.

Embarrassment is a great moderator: “I’d rather die than be impolite”. But would you?

Read Mark Aspen’s review (and own experiences) at www.markaspen.com/2024/01/11/unfriend

Photography by Manuel Harlan

AT THE MARY WALLACE THEATRE

January 20th-27th

Shakespeare's MEASURE for MEASURE The Bard's most enigmatic portrayal of blackmail lust, seduction and the abuse of power. Evenings at 7.45pm. - 3pm Matinee Sunday Jan 21st

January 29th at 7.45pm

OPEN AUDITIONS for our April production of OTHELLO in which the role of Othello will be played by an actor of colour. A great general brought low by a vengeful malcontent and his own jealousy.

For ticket bookings see - richmondshakespeare.org.uk - and for information about either production please contact - secretary@rss-mwt.org.uk

The Mary Wallace Theatre is situated on Twickenham's Embankment, between St Mary's Church and the Barmy Arms.

<https://www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk/>



Julian Collings, *Musical Director*

Lisa Swayne, *Soprano*
Beth Moxon, *Mezzo Soprano*
John Findon, *Tenor*
Edmund Danon, *Baritone*
Phil Culling, *Piano*

All Saints Church
14-16 Market Place,
Kingston upon Thames KT1 1JP

Bookings: £15 (under 16s free)
Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.co.uk
(Search for Teddington Choral Society)

Verdi REQUIEM

Saturday 23rd March, 2024
at 7:30pm

Doors open at 7pm

For further information visit:
www.teddingtonchoral.co.uk

TCS REG. CHARITY NO. 299421



Represent Richmond in the TCS Mini London Marathon 2024

If you are aged between 11 and 17 years, live or go to school in the borough and would like to take part in the TCS Mini London Marathon along part of the TCS London Marathon course, then you can apply to be part of our team.

The TCS Mini London Marathon 2024 takes place on Saturday 20 April 2024. We are looking for athletes to represent the borough in the Championship event which gives the UK's most promising young athletes the chance to compete against the best new talent in British road running.



The age categories for the TCS Mini London Marathon 2024 are:

- Under 13 - born between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2012
- Under 15 - born between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2010
- Under 17 - born between 1 September 2006 and 31 August 2008

Trialists will need to complete the Richmond Mini Marathon Online form and take part in a 5k parkrun event between Saturday 6 January and Saturday 23 March. We will take athletes' fastest time between and including these two dates.

[Find out more and sign up](#)



A seen CHARITY FUNDRAISER

REACHING NEW LIMITS

...WITH LISA LLOYD
AND PAUL GOLDSTEIN

21 mile solo Channel swim

An evening of
inspirational talks
from two local
adventurers

Thurs 25th Jan 2024
7:30-9:30pm
Winchester Hall,
Turks Head,
Twickenham



Tickets £9
Click here
to book

www.seen.charity

Over 15 marathons & Kilimanjaro ascent



St Mary's University

St Mary's Launches Suite of LLMs

St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) has launched a suite of four LLMs, including new postgraduate degrees in Law (Conversion) LLM, Legal Professional Practice LLM with SQE, and Human Rights LLM.



These three new LLMs join the successful International Business Law LLM, which gives students the opportunity to study in Paris for a semester at the Institut Catholique de Paris.

Students can apply now to enrol onto one of the LLMs, starting in September 2024, with the option to study full or part-time.

LLMs are a one-year postgraduate law degree designed for students seeking international experience or specialist knowledge in an area of law.

[The Law \(Conversion\) LLM](#) is a fast-track law qualification for non-law graduates who either want to become a solicitor or barrister, or want to work within the justice, social, or consumer sectors and want to expand their knowledge.

[The Legal Professional Practice LLM with SQE](#) prepares students directly for the Solicitors Qualifying Exam (SQE) while earning a master's degree at the same time. The course focuses on building practical skills and essential knowledge while preparing for life as a practising solicitor. This LLM is delivered in partnership with [The College of Legal Practice](#), providing an additional

dimension to the programme and student experience as a whole.

[The Human Rights LLM](#) is suitable for both law and non-law graduates, and examines power and inequality through a hands-on approach to human rights. Students will analyse current issues, investigate systems, and challenge injustices whilst building practical skills.

[The International Business Law LLM](#) suits all law graduates, even if they have not studied English law before. The course covers contemporary systems and issues within international trade, law, and globalisation through a hands-on approach such as visits to law firms and a moot court.

Speaking of the launch, Head of Law School Prof Liz Smart said, "The School of Law and Society at SMU is delighted to launch a new exciting suite of LLMs across its expanded portfolio which are fresh and relevant in the modern world, spanning contemporary societal issues and professional practice with a range of volunteering and placement opportunities.

"This is the perfect opportunity for aspirational graduates to maximise their potential and expand their horizons supported by a vibrant academic community dedicated to providing a stellar student experience."

An online webinar introducing the School of Law LLMs will take place on Thursday 18th January, 4-5pm. Places on this webinar can be [booked now](#).

Find out more about the different LLM postgraduate courses on offer and apply today at www.stmarys.ac.uk/llm



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

RuTC Celebrate Staff Achievements at Awards Ceremony

At the end of our winter term, Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) held a Christmas lunch and staff awards ceremony, to thank and celebrate staff throughout the college for their hard work and achievements.



Students finished at midday on the final day of term, after which a Christmas lunch was served in the college canteen for all members of staff. The space was decorated with balloons and festive table decorations, bringing a celebratory atmosphere to the day. Entertainment was provided by our music lecturers, who performed festive songs on piano, guitar and saxophone. A raffle also took place, with prizes delivered from Caterlink, our partner catering company. These included free coffee and free lunches for a week for the winners.

Staff then headed to the Auditorium for the awards presentation. This was hosted by RuTC Principal, Gavin Hughes, and was attended by HRUC CEO, Keith Smith, who gave a congratulatory and uplifting speech. All staff across the college had the chance to nominate potential award winners in the run up to the event, recognizing the work of colleagues. There was a fantastic atmosphere during the ceremony, with lots of cheering and support for staff accomplishments.

The winners of the day included Performing Arts lecturer, Jane Swift, for Teacher of the Year, Head of Marketing, Clare Tear, who won the Support Staff Manager award and the reception team of Nicola Ross and Victoria Davies for Support Staff Members of the Year. Head of Estates, Mark Brough was chosen as the winner of the Principal's award, for embodying everything we aspire to be at HRUC. Long-serving members of staff, who have worked at the college for over ten years, were also presented with length of service awards at the ceremony. It was a hugely successful celebration and a wonderful way to end the term on a high note.



Date for Manchester City away confirmed

Brentford's game away at Premier League champions Manchester City will be played on Tuesday 20 February, 7.30pm kick-off; the clash was originally set to be played on 23 December 2023 but was postponed due to Pep Guardiola's side's involvement in the Club World Cup

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford's game away at Premier League champions Manchester City will be played on Tuesday 20 February, 7.30pm kick-off.

The match, which was originally set to be played on 23 December 2023, was postponed due to Pep Guardiola's side's involvement in the Club World Cup in Saudi Arabia.

The Bees' last visit to the Etihad Stadium was a memorable one, as [Ivan Toney scored a last-gasp winner to secure a 2-1 victory.](#)



The centre-forward put the west Londoners ahead in the first half, before Phil Foden equalised just before the break.

But Toney's 98th-minute strike was enough to take all three points home from Manchester just before the break for the 2022 World Cup, and was the first of two victories over City in the Premier League last season.



England Men's A Coaching Staff for Portugal Fixture Confirmed

George Skivington will head up an all-Gallagher Premiership line-up of coaching staff to lead England Men's A against Portugal this February.

The A side return after an eight-year absence for an encounter with Os Lobos at Leicester Tigers Stadium on Sunday 25 February, kicking-off at 13:00 GMT.

Skivington will be joined in the dugout by fellow Gloucester Rugby coach Dom Waldouck, who will lead on defence, whilst Northampton Saints' Sam Vesty will be in charge of England's attack.

Having retired from a successful playing career with Wasps in 2016, Skivington moved into coaching, firstly with Samoa in 2015 before working at London Irish as an assistant coach between 2016 and 2020. He was later appointed head coach at Gloucester Rugby in 2020.

The 41-year-old is no stranger to the England A team environment having captained the side on a number of occasions. He lifted the Churchill Cup in 2010, having also played in a 66-0 win over Portugal for the team in 2009.

Dom Waldouck accompanied Skivington in that convincing victory, scoring a try in the only previous meeting of the nations 15 years ago at Sedgley Park. The 36-year-old also has playing experience with the England U20 Men's team.

Former centre Waldouck has been a part of the coaching group at Kingsholm since Skivington's appointment four seasons ago and previously lifted the Heineken Cup and Premiership title as a Wasps player.

Sam Vesty, the current head coach of Northampton Saints, will lead the A side's attack. Vesty's Saints are currently top of the Gallagher Premiership table and the coach will hope to bring with him the attacking threat that has seen Saints top the Premiership's try-scoring charts for the last two seasons.

The 42-year-old knows Leicester well having played for Leicester Tigers 164 times, becoming the fourth member of his family to play for the club before moving to Bath Rugby where he made a further 64 appearances. The utility back retired in 2013 before taking on a coaching role at Worcester Warriors. Whilst at Sixways, Vesty was appointed skills coach for England's two-Test tour of Argentina. In 2018, he was named Northampton Saints attack coach before taking on the role of head coach in 2022.

The coaching team was chosen in consultation alongside Premiership Rugby, with the selection of the first matchday 23 since 2016 to be determined by senior men's head coach, Steve Borthwick, in due course.

Portugal will provide a stern test for England Men's A team after a strong showing in last year's Rugby World Cup, which included a draw against Georgia followed by a maiden tournament win over quarter-finalists Fiji.

Speaking ahead of the announcement, George Skivington voiced his delight in being confirmed as the England Men's A head coach.

"It's a massive honour to be asked by Conor (O'Shea) and Steve (Borthwick) to lead the England Men's A team next month. I recognise the trust they have placed in me with this opportunity, and I look forward to linking up with the coaching group and the squad in February.

"I'm delighted that Dom Waldouck will be joining me as defence coach. His passion for the game and dedication to his craft makes him an exciting young coach who I think will develop to be one of the best in the country.

"The England Men's A team will serve as a good opportunity for young English players on the cusp of international honours to show what they're about."

Sam Vesty said: *"It's always a privilege and an honour to be asked to help support England, to wear a Red Rose on your chest and to compete at a high level, so I can't wait to get started.*

"It's a great opportunity for me to work with some of the best young talent in the country. We'll be encouraging these players to go out and play what's in front of them, getting their eyes up and putting their best foot forward – both in terms of playing well in the game against Portugal, but also hopefully progressing on to further honours with England.

"It's a great learning and development opportunity as well for me to experience a different environment, working with different players and coaches, and I'll head into camp with a really open mind."

RFU Executive Director of Performance Rugby Conor O'Shea said: "On behalf of the RFU, I'd like to thank both Gloucester and Northampton, alongside Premiership Rugby, for their collaboration and effort in assembling what is a very exciting coaching panel ahead of our Men's A fixture against Portugal next month.

"We're fortunate to possess a coaching staff boasting a wealth of experience in the game that totals decades and will be a fantastic match for the appropriate challenge of Os Lobos.

"Each member of the coaching staff was picked with the consideration of their ability to develop young players and bringing international talent to the top of English rugby.

"This fixture, as well as the England Men's A games to come, aims to elevate that platform and build a consistent pathway for young English players into the senior level of the game in this country."

Tickets to England A's match-up with Portugal this February are available to purchase [here](#).



Radisson Hotel Group expands its portfolio with Radisson RED Twickenham

Radisson Hotel Group announces the expansion of its presence in the UK with the creation of *Radisson RED Twickenham*. Situated at Twickenham Stadium. The hotel is set to open in 2024, with a full rebrand to Radisson RED in 2025.

Twickenham Stadium is one of the world's largest rugby stadiums and the home of England Rugby. Located in West London, the iconic venue hosts numerous international rugby matches, concerts, and other events throughout the year.

Radisson RED Twickenham will undergo a full refurbishment, with the renovation of all the bedrooms and public spaces, to incorporate the unique and distinctive vibrant design, familiar with the Radisson RED brand.

The hotel will accommodate 150 spacious bedrooms along with a large lobby and lounge bar, creating a stylish, welcoming social environment for residents in the Borough of Richmond upon Thames and a perfect meeting place for visitors to the stadium. The hotel will be home to a new destination restaurant, serving up a delicious dining experience for the local community. The cutting-edge design of the Radisson RED brand will be prominent throughout, making a bold statement with its signature look.

There are extensive conference and events facilities on offer at Twickenham Stadium, with flexible space for conferences, exhibitions, and celebrations. Guests will also benefit from access to the adjacent health club, including a swimming pool, climbing wall, gym with multiple studios and a kid's creche.

The areas of Twickenham and Richmond are popular with business travellers and tourists alike. Richmond Park, Bushy Park, The Royal Botanic Kew Gardens, and Hampton Court Palace attract millions of visitors to the area each year. Richmond is also the location for filming the Emmy Award-winning TV series *Ted Lasso*. Additionally, there are several multinational blue-chip corporate offices and business parks in the vicinity. Twickenham is also home to several universities, including St Mary's University and The University of Roehampton.

Radisson RED Twickenham is perfectly placed at Twickenham Stadium, with an excellent infrastructure and accessibility into London city centre via road and rail. For international visitors, Heathrow Airport, one of the world's busiest airports, is less than 30 minutes away by car.

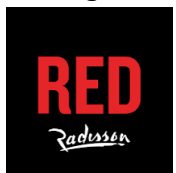
Adela Cristea, Vice President, Business Development UK, Ireland & Nordics at Radisson Hotel Group, said: *"We are thrilled to work with the Rugby Football Union on this hugely exciting project at this world class stadium. Our Radisson RED presence is ever growing in the UK, and London Twickenham is the ideal location for further expansion. We are looking forward to introducing the vibrancy of our upbeat Radisson RED brand to the local community."*

Mark Lynch, Executive Director of Venue at the RFU said: *"This is the start of a strong working relationship between the RFU and Radisson. The plans in place are exciting and we can't wait for future guests to experience what the hotel has to offer. I'd like to thank Radisson for their seamless help in getting to this point and look forward to working with them closely."*

In the interim, the property will be affiliated to the RHG systems as a Radisson Individuals Hotel.

Radisson RED is a brand which incorporates art, music, and fashion into its service to offer an unforgettable stay to all guests. The Radisson RED brand has a presence in other UK locations, including the multi-award-winning Radisson RED Glasgow, the flagship Radisson RED Liverpool, and the new Radisson RED Edinburgh Airport and Radisson RED Huddersfield, which are due to open in the next couple of years.

Radisson Hotel Group has over 70 hotels with over 16,000 bedrooms across its UK and Ireland portfolio with 10 properties and 1,600 rooms in the pipeline.



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