

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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12th April 2024

T&RT

White Lilac

Photo by Berkley Driscoll

TickerTape - News in Brief

South Western Railway

Engineering Work - Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 April

The lines in the **Hounslow** area will be **closed all weekend** due to maintenance work.

Saturday

- **London Waterloo to Weybridge via Staines** services will be **revised**. These services will be diverted between **Barnes and Feltham** and will call additionally at **Richmond and Twickenham**.
- **Buses** will run between **Barnes and Feltham via Hounslow**.

Sunday

- **London Waterloo to Woking via Staines** services will be **revised**. These services will be diverted between **Barnes and Feltham** and will call additionally at **Richmond and Twickenham**.
- **Buses** will run between **Barnes and Feltham via Hounslow**.
- The afternoon and evening **London Waterloo to Kingston via Hounslow** services will **not** run.
- **Buses** will run between **Barnes and Twickenham via Hounslow (afternoon and evening only)**.

TfL

DISTRICT LINE: Sunday 14 April, no service between Turnham Green and Richmond. There will also be no LONDON OVERGROUND service between Willesden Junction and Richmond. Replacement buses operate.

Replacement buses operate Service DL3: Willesden Junction - Acton Central - South Acton (Acton Lane) - Turnham Green - Chiswick Park - Gunnersbury - Kew Gardens (Kew Royal Botanic Gardens) - Richmond.



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Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 244

By Alan Winter

Do You Remember When?

One of the most interesting elements of postcard collecting is seeing images of places and activities that you know well but that have changed considerably over many years.

Our first postcard this week shows several elements in the middle of Twickenham that I'm sure many of our readers will remember. It shows the junction of York Street and London Road as it was in the late 1920's and very early 1930's. I doubt if many of you can go back 90 odd years but the shape of the junction and many of the buildings on the postcard remain the same today.



So, let's look at it a little closer. If we look towards the upper left of the postcard you will see the Black Dog pub with its iconic statue of a black dog on the roof. (see postcard 2), One of the oldest of the handful of pubs in Twickenham going back at least as far as 1722. The statue was there since Victorian times but has since disappeared. A well-used pub with its two full size snooker tables at the rear throughout the 20th Century. In recent times it has undergone a series of name changes including Twickers, The Hobgoblin, Filthy McNasty and the Grand Union (do you remember those names?) but today the building stands sadly disused.



Look across to what until recently was the Midland Bank (do you remember banks?) and you will see a uniformed police officer directing traffic around the junction (do you remember uniformed police officers?). He is standing next to the underground attended public toilets that operated under the junction for over 50 years. (Do you remember public toilets?)



The 3rd postcard shows the same underground loos decked out for the Queens Coronation in June 1953. (Do you remember that?). I must tell you because few people know this, that Rolling Stone Keith Richards was a schoolboy chorister that day in Westminster Abbey at the Coronation. How about that for a bit of rock miscellany?

Back to our first postcard and we can clearly see the tram lines and overhead cables that help us to date this glimpse of

local history. Trams only operated in Twickenham from 1902 to 1931.

So, I hope that I have shown you some real local history today all around a single postcard that was sold for an old penny before most of us were born.

My search for old postcards continues. I am always looking for old postcards and old photograph albums etc. The postcards can be British or Foreign, black and white or coloured and of places or subjects.

If you have any that are sitting unwanted in a drawer, in a box in the loft or in the garage or under a bed, please contact me on 07875 578398 or alanwinter192@hotmail.com I would like to see them and I pay cash!

The Missing Blue Plaque!

Whoops! The Blue Plaque referred to in last week's local postcard column mysteriously disappeared somewhere in the editing suite, so here it is. We add the relevant Stones meet the Beatles paragraph from last week so you can see that a very important time of rock and roll history is still commemorated at what was the Station Hotel in 1963.

“The Station Hotel directly opposite Richmond station was home to one of the first ever gigs of the Rolling Stones on February 24th 1963. The backroom of the hotel was the home of the Crawdaddy Club at that time and it was there on 14th April 1963 that the Stones first met the Beatles who had come straight from Teddington studios to watch them. After the show the two groups went back to the Chelsea flat shared by Mick Jagger, Brian Jones and Keith Richards. In November of that year the Stones released their second single “I Wanna Be Your Man.” Which was written by Lennon and McCartney. It was their first top ten single. Today the Station Hotel premises are renamed as One Kew Road but the frontage carries a blue plaque style notice commemorating that day over sixty years ago! (see image).”



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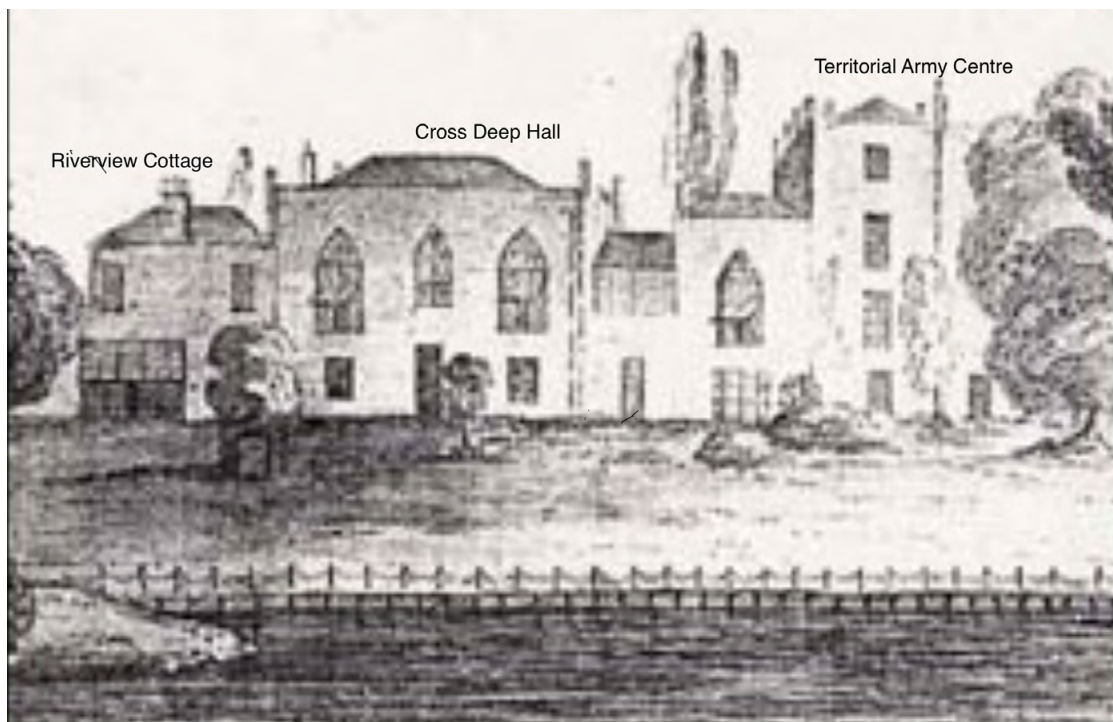


Radnor Gardens

By Michael Nancollas

Today Radnor Gardens allows those people passing by and those enjoying drinks in the Alexander Pope, a nearby hotel, an uninterrupted view of the gardens and river Thames. As a young boy I lived immediately opposite the hotel then known as the Grotto in a delightful

little cottage attached to Cross Deep Hall. It had been bought by my grandfather William Nancollas in 1938. The cottage was attached to the Hall by a party wall and a six-sided tower at the rear. On the Twickenham side of Cross Deep Hall, there was a large red house, which was occupied by the territorial army, and on the Teddington side of Riverview cottage was a rose garden attached to Radnor house. Radnor house stretched along Cross Deep on the river side, down to Bonser Road thus the view of the river that you see today was completely obliterated by buildings.



Radnor house stretched along Cross Deep on the river side, down to Bonser Road thus the view of the river that you see today was completely obliterated by buildings.

In 1940 before I was born the war moved very close to the Cottage when a bomb hit directly on Radnor house just next door, demolishing the building and damaging it beyond repair.



Cross Deep Hall and Riverview Cottage 1828



Riverview Cottage



Riverview Cottage



The Grotto public house now Alexander Pope

My memories of my early life 83 years ago are still quite vivid and I remember the cottage front door was unusual in that a gate stood at street level with about 12 steps going down to the door below street level. The hallway at the back of the house was illuminated with glass bricks at street level. A large lounge at the rear of the house with a glass conservatory made a lovely sun trap with a walled garden to the rear with views along the river and into Radnor Gardens.

The war raged around us as bombs fell on Twickenham. One had killed the ferryman Mr Hammerton. I remember hearing the sticks of bombs in the distance falling and sometimes feeling the blast in the air as they exploded.

On the 19 June 1944 grandmother gave me breakfast and then took me to the post office in Twickenham. I remember having a coffee in a local coffee shop on the way back to the cottage, only to find that a large bomb had fallen upon the grotto pub and partially demolished our house which was never again fit to live in. Rebuilding had been reconsidered by the council, but the application was denied because it would spoil the view that had been opened up by Hitler's bombs. A rather harsh decision I have always thought. We were reallocated requisition property in King Street right next to Twickenham swimming baths, which was at least a benefit for me during my years growing up in Twickenham.



The bombed buildings that were left behind made a wonderful playground during my formative years, and although I never lived in what is now Radnor Gardens I did have great fun, plundering and climbing in the bombed buildings that remained until their demolition in the 1950s. I can remember the old Grotto pub had a fig tree in the garden, what I now know to be brown turkey figs. An unusual commodity in those days and I remember spreading the rumour that the figs were poisonous and unfit for consumption. Needless to say, I had many delicious mouthfuls of Fig and fruit when bananas were off the menu because of the war. Maybe I should plant a fig there again just in case.

Radnor Garden

As youngsters we used to play in Radnor Gardens, watching the bowls matches, church parades in November, and generally, in the summer we used to play in the cut between the gardens and the Bowling Green, which put the Bowling Green and Willow trees all on an island with two bridges across at low tide, there were many little fish and river creatures that we used to collect in jam jars whilst wading in the muddy channel between the upper gardens and the lower gardens and many a cut foot on broken glass hidden in the mud. So many lovely memories of peace after the war. I also have memories of cellars under cross deep near to Radnor House, but they may now be bricked up. My grandparents were eventually housed in nearby Tower Road so Radnor gardens remained part of my recreation.

I often sit on the seat opposite the Alexander Pope and wonder "what if there hadn't been a bomb".

Work starts on Kneller Hall exterior restoration

Work has commenced to restore the listed facade of Kneller Hall in Whitton. George Mair designed the current building in the neo-Jacobethan style in 1848, replacing the earlier hall built in 1709 for Godfrey Kneller, the celebrated court painter. The application submitted by Dukes Education in September 2022 to convert the building into a new home for Radnor House Upper School (application number 22/3004/FUL) is still being considered by the borough planners.



Come along to Jazz It Up steam train event

The local heritage Hampton Kempton Waterworks Railway is running Jazz It Up sessions on Sunday 14 April at Kempton Park Waterworks.

Session run at 11am to 12.30pm and from 2 to 3.30pm at the venue on Snakey Lane, Feltham, TW13 7ND.

Featuring performances by the Richmond Music Trust's Youth Jazz Band, the steam train event is open to all residents.

The band is formed of students from around Richmond upon Thames and rehearses weekly at Waldegrave School in Twickenham.

Tickets are priced at £4.50 for adults and £2.50 for children.

[Book now](#)

Find out more about [Hampton Kempton Waterworks Railway](#).



Twickenham Regatta May 25th, 2024

From Twickenham Rowing Club

The Twickenham Regatta 2024 is a summer event that shines on Twickenham's calendar and draws thousands of visitors and rowing clubs to this picturesque stretch of the River Thames.

The Regatta was first run 1923, so we are one of the oldest regattas on the river Thames and of course the event runs on one of the most attractive parts of the river. Over the years the event has run between Twickenham and Richmond on several different courses.

This year the course will be 850m upstream from just above Glovers Island to the Ham House car park. This means the course is straight which should give better visibility for spectators as well as umpires and officials and should provide more exciting side-by-side racing for competitors.

Spectators are very welcome to stay and watch the racing and enjoy the refreshments which will be available at the finish near Ham House car park. We hope you all enjoy the day.



Next week at Richmond Council

On Tuesday, the **Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee** will meet to discuss the tendering for the contract to maintain the parks and green spaces in the borough and to approve the Conservation Area appraisal for East Twickenham, which will see some locally listed buildings delisted because their windows have been replaced. The final item on the agenda is to approve the tendering of the litter and fly-tipping enforcement contract. The meeting will start at 7 pm at York House, Twickenham.

On Thursday, the **Audit, Standards and Statutory Accounts Committee** will meet to discuss the Twickenham Riverside Internal Audit Review, which has uncovered some internal governance issues, including missing project management board minutes and risk registers not being appropriately managed. The committee will then discuss the reports on the annual council financial audit, protection against cyber-attacks and an update on fraud prevention. The meeting will start at 7 pm at York House, Twickenham.

How to participate: members of the public who live or work in the borough can submit questions or speak on an item in the agenda. To ask a question, you need to submit your question by 12 noon, two working days in advance. To speak, you must register by noon the working day before the meeting.

For full details, please follow the link [HERE](#)



Twickenham Conservatives

Jonathan Hulley, the Conservative prospective Parliamentary candidate for Twickenham constituency, will be holding a Shadow MP Surgery on **Saturday April 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.

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**All are
Welcome
To attend.**



Extract from the poem *The Barrel-Organ*

With reference to this edition's front cover, here is an extract from a poem by Alfred Noyes c1913

The Barrel-Organ

By Alfred Noyes

Go down to Kew in lilac-time, in lilac-time, in lilac-time;
Go down to Kew in lilac-time (it isn't far from London!)
And you shall wander hand in hand with love in summer's wonderland;
Go down to Kew in lilac-time (it isn't far from London!)

The cherry-trees are seas of bloom and soft perfume and sweet perfume,
The cherry-trees are seas of bloom (and oh, so near to London!)
And there they say, when dawn is high and all the world's a blaze of sky
The cuckoo, though he's very shy, will sing a song for London.

The Dorian nightingale is rare and yet they say you'll hear him there
At Kew, at Kew in lilac-time (and oh, so near to London!)
The linnet and the throstle, too, and after dark the long halloo
And golden-eyed tu-whit, tu-whoo, of owls that ogle London.

For Noah hardly knew a bird of any kind that isn't heard
At Kew, at Kew in lilac-time (and oh, so near to London!)
And when the rose begins to pout and all the chestnut spires are out
You'll hear the rest without a doubt, all chorussing for London:—

*Come down to Kew in lilac-time, in lilac-time, in lilac-time;
Come down to Kew in lilac-time (it isn't far from London!)
And you shall wander hand in hand with love in summer's wonderland;
Come down to Kew in lilac-time (it isn't far from London!)*



Portrait of Alfred Noyes, by
Alexander Bassano, 1922

From *Poems* (1904)

Alfred Noyes CBE 1880–1958

Richmond in Europe 'Togetherness' concert

It was a warm and sunny spring evening on 7th April, when almost 100 people visited beautiful St Mary's Church in Twickenham to celebrate the power of music to transcend boundaries and bring us together, as individuals, in communities and across cultures. The concert, entitled 'Togetherness' was organised by the Richmond in Europe Association. Richard Jaggard, a member of the association, put the programme together with musicians who are associated with the Royal Academy: Regina Gössel, Clara Orif, and Milette Gillow and are native German, French and English speakers respectively, along with the pianist, Jack Redman.

The programme explored the idea of Togetherness over time, in music written over 400 years from John Dowland at the end of the 16th Century to Benjamin Britten and Bob Chilcott at the end of the 20th., as well as across different cultures through, primarily, French, German and English songs and arias. The choice of languages reflects the cultural bonds which underpin the very active relationships which Richmond has with our twin towns of Fontainebleau in France and Konstanz in Germany. The strength of these bonds being a result of the work of Richmond Council together with the Richmond in Europe Association.

The variety of the music and especially the range of emotions brought out in the beautiful singing allowed us, the audience, to consider the nature and complexity of love. As we filed out into that warm spring evening with our emotions stirred, a common feeling was that our spirits had been uplifted by beautiful music and what is good in the world.



Green candidate: sewage dumped into London's rivers is a national scandal

The Green candidate for Mayor of London joined campaigners in South West London to see first hand the damage being caused by poor management of the River Thames



Visiting Teddington Lock this morning, Zoë Garbett spoke to local politicians and campaigners to understand how the local area in Richmond has been impacted.

She used the visit to criticise the policy of privatisation of water under Conservative governments and Labour's unwillingness to do more than posture on the issue. She pledged to do more to hold Thames Water to account.

Zoë Garbett said:

"The state of sewage and water management in London and across the country is a

national scandal. It is unlawful, unhealthy and disastrous for people's safety and wellbeing.

"This is because water companies like Thames Water are owned by big businesses who are more bothered about maximising profits for their shareholders rather than providing a public service.

"For too long the current Mayor of London has played softball with Thames Water. A Green Mayor would ensure our tap water is safeguarded, by working with the public to force Thames Water to take whatever steps they need to. If their profits need to take a hit, so be it."

Alongside a different, grassroots method of handling Thames Water, Zoë also pledges to review river and water management across London.

Nationally, Greens have committed to renationalising water companies, seeing public ownership as key to orientating essential services like water towards people rather than private profits.

Zoë added:

"Whilst companies like Thames Water have been pumping sewage into our rivers, the Conservatives have failed to acknowledge their experimentation with privatisation has failed.

"For decades, money that should have been invested in improving infrastructure has been syphoned off by water company executives and shareholders. Only the Greens have the courage to challenge this and put our health and the health of our local environment before the profits of big businesses."

Zoë Garbett is running for London Mayor alongside a slate of Green candidates for the London Assembly, including London South West candidate Chas Warlow, who was at Teddington Lock alongside Zoe. Chas added: *"I live just five minutes from the Lock and along with many residents I'm very concerned about the state of the river and Thames Water's abstraction plans. Such basic resources and environmental goods like water should not be managed by profit-making businesses."*



Time to champion Sports and the Arts for our young people

Ron Mushiso, Conservative GLA Candidate for South West London

This past week I celebrated a reunion with Richmond rugby club teammates. I then met with my colleagues in the Brentford West ward where we learned that the Watermans theatre was going to be closed. On one hand I was celebrating the opportunities I was given through sports and on the other saddened that a community asset was going to close. An opportunity taken for a future beneficiary and their own reunion. All this reminded me of the transformative power of sports and the arts in shaping young lives. These things are crucial for our communities. Arriving in 1993, I found solace in sports and the arts amidst the challenges of adapting to a new country and overcoming personal trauma.



Television for example became my friend, offering respite from the hardships I faced. Yet, it was through sports, particularly rugby, that I found my stride. Despite being teased for my accent and my initial unfamiliarity with the English language, the playing field became a place of belonging and self-expression.

Charita Thomas was my second foster parent in Chiswick, she was an actress. Her former partner played Rusty in Starlight Express in the West End. I found that being around Charita and her friends in the performing arts to be valuable in learning to express myself. I've witnessed first hand the profound impact of the arts on a people life. As a teacher and a rugby coach, I have seen how these activities including some aspects social media have helped nurture the physical, social emotional resilience of our young people here in South West London. Art and Sports have always provided young people with a sense of community and purpose, fostering skills such as teamwork and goal setting.



In conversations with many of the people I meet on my rounds, I sense time and time again an absence of belonging for our youth. It is not just the youth clubs that we need, but an integration of the sports and arts into existing community initiatives that are managed by councils. By collaborating with local authorities and established clubs and theatres, we can leverage their resources and expertise to reach a wider audience.

One such example is the partnership between Richmond Rugby Club and the community groups. Throughout the pandemic, they provided crucial support to disadvantaged children, offering free meals and donated laptops for online learning. It

was heartening to see such initiatives making a tangible difference in our young people's lives.

Similarly, my recent discussion with theatre director Sam Yates shed light on the transformative power of drama. Beyond building confidence and communication skills, drama teaches empathy—a vital trait in today's self-absorbed world. Institutions like the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond offer summer activities that can be expanded to provide even greater opportunities for youth engagement.

As a London Assembly member, I am committed to holding the next mayor accountable for supporting youth initiatives in sports, arts, and culture. Projects like those at the Orange Tree Theatre and Richmond Rugby Club deserve our full backing, especially as young people navigate the challenges of a post-COVID world. Let's support our arts and sports clubs.

Teddington RNLI confirms two lives saved and 95 launches in 2023

Teddington RNLI Lifeboat Station is calling on members of the public to support the RNLI's Mayday fundraising campaign, after revealing they saved two lives and launched their boats 95 times last year.

With demand for its lifesaving services at a high, the charity is putting out its own 'Mayday' call, urging members of the local community to take part in the [Mayday Mile](#) - taking on the challenge of covering a mile a day for the month of May. All money raised will help to provide the charity's vital lifesaving service, such as the training and equipment that is needed to keep its lifesavers safe, while they risk their own lives to save others.



Lady is rescued from Thames towpath
©RNLI/Grace Palmier

Funds raised will help support the charity's vital lifesaving work, including the provision of important training and kit for the volunteer lifeboat crews who readily risk their own lives to save others whenever the call for help comes in.

An example of the vital support offered by the station was the aid offered last summer to a cyclist who was seriously injured after being knocked off her bicycle by three dogs.

As an ambulance was unable to reach her, Teddington lifeboat crew was called to assist. Having been lifted onto the boat, the rescuee said, *'I knew that I was in the care of skilled, disciplined and well-trained people whose sole purpose for being in the RNLI wasn't money or literally, showboating, but to rescue and care for those in distress.'*

'If you want a superb template for how to do life well - here it is! It isn't what happens to us that matters, so much as how we respond to it. Their response to my need was professional, efficient, compassionate and rapid. I am the grateful recipient of sacrificial living on the part of those RNLI volunteers at Teddington Lifeboat Station. With all my heart, thank you.'

Matt Allchurch, Lifeboat Operations Manager at Teddington RNLI says: *'Summer is the busiest time of year for the RNLI, with thousands of people at risk of getting into danger by the water. Having recently marked the RNLI's 200th anniversary, we're putting out our call for help to raise the funds which will help keep our lifesaving service going today and into the future.'*

'As a charity we rely on the generosity of the public to take part in events like the Mayday Mile and raise the funds that allow us to be there when we're needed most.'

The RNLI's Mayday fundraiser begins on Monday 1 May and will run for the whole month across the UK and Ireland.

Sign up for the Mayday Mile now and find out more at [rnli.org/SupportMayday](https://www.rnli.org/SupportMayday) **Lifeboats**



Dear Editor

Mayor of London Election

In your last edition (no. 387, 5 April 2024) you carried an informative piece from Richmond Council titled, "Everything you need to do to vote in the London elections in May".

Your readers may also wish to know that the Conservative government have changed how the mayor is elected.

Since the first elections for the London mayor in 2000, voting has been by the supplementary vote system. Voters expressed a first and second choice of candidate. If no candidate receives an absolute majority of first choice votes, all but the two leading candidates are eliminated, and the votes of those eliminated redistributed according to their second choice votes to determine the winner.

But the Conservative government have changed the system to a "first past the post" system.

Under the previous system a person could vote for a minor party and use their "second vote" for one of the two main parties.

Under the revised system there are no second choices.

The only way to prevent a Conservative Mayor, if that is what voters want, is to vote Labour.

Yours

Nick Dexter
Twickenham Labour Party

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Book now for the Semele opera

This April, Normansfield Theatre in Teddington will be hosting a fully staged performance of Handel's opera, Semele. The show will be accompanied by a full baroque orchestra.

There are three performances taking place with tickets on sale now.

Friday 19 April - 7.30pm

Saturday 20 April - 6pm

Sunday 21 April - 2.30pm

[Book Semele tickets](#)



Celebrate SEEN's 25th anniversary with a night of dinner and dancing

On Friday 10 May, local charity SEEN is celebrating its 25th Anniversary with an event open to the public at York House in Twickenham.

The evening of fun and feasting is set to take place from 7pm to midnight. In addition to plenty of dancing and delicious food, the festivities will feature live music and an auction with a variety of fantastic items guests will have the opportunity to bid for.



Tickets are priced at £50. Canapes, a three-course meal and wine will be served. All proceeds will go towards SEEN, one of the Mayor's supported charities, which provides a safe space to support those facing unplanned pregnancy and pregnancy loss.

To reserve your spot, [book your ticket now](#).

Established in 1999, [SEEN](#) initially provided support for women and men facing unplanned pregnancy and pregnancy loss. Over the years, the local charity has expanded into other areas including prison work, schools work and befriending.

For more information, contact SEEN at 020 8892 8483 or hello@seen.charity.



Experience skiffing on the River Thames at Teddington

From 20 April, The Skiff Club is running classes and activities for residents who want to learn to row a traditional Thames skiff.

Six-lesson courses for beginners will take place in Trowlock Way, Teddington, TW11 9QY.

Skiffing is open to anyone from the age of 10, regardless of experience. It's a great way to learn a skill, enjoy the river, get some exercise and meet new friends.

Free taster sessions are available every Sunday 9.30am to 2pm. To reserve your spot, contact the organisers on 07932 177735 or captain@theskiffclub.org.uk.

The Skiff Club also host regular rowing activities on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and on spring and summer evenings, with occasional expeditions to other inland waters.

Find out more by visiting [The Skiff Club website](https://www.theskiffclub.org.uk).



Isabella Plantation in Richmond Park

Pause for a moment and imagine strolling through the picturesque Isabella Plantation in Richmond Park!

Keep that thought and click the link for a visual treat that brings your imagination to life:

<https://bit.ly/3xt83Pa>



A Spicy New Venue in Richmond: Rosa's Thai

I have to confess that I'm not that knowledgeable about Thai food. We're very lucky to have a lovely neighbour who is Thai, and every so often she offers a delicious Thai takeaway menu (TW Thai if you're wondering - you can find it on Facebook). When my friend and colleague, Lyndsay, heard that Rosa's Thai was opening in Richmond, she was itching to come with me to the opening evening, as she's a yogini (@lyndsay.kenwright) and just returned from a yoga retreat in Thailand, had been so impressed with the Thai food.



Situated in a prime location on Hill Street, Rosa's Thai is sure to become a mecca for pre and post cinema goers, as well as all manner of other folk who enjoy a good Thai menu and know its reputation.



We were welcomed by Saiphin Moore, Rosa's co-founder. She's quite an amazing business woman; since starting the business in 2008, there are now 40 branches. The first branch was in Spitalfields, and all the food is highly authentic and freshly cooked to order. They use curry pastes from a husband and wife team in Thailand's Huai Yod district, and noodles from a third generation family business.

There was a special menu for opening night and we chose to share Fresh Veggie Summer Rolls and Thai Calamari to start. But before our starters were brought to us, we were given baskets of delicious prawn and pumpkin crackers with sweet chilli sauce to enjoy with a glass of wine.



Our starters were excellent: the Summer Rolls were packed with vegetables and served with a spicy chilli sauce and peanuts. The Calamari were coated with Tom Yum spices and our server suggested we try them prior to squeezing the lime wedge across them. This we did and it certainly gave us a delicious, crunch start to these crispy calamari.



For our mains, Lyndsay had already had a discussion with Saiphin and asked if she could have Prawn Panang. It had a good depth of flavour, the prawns were perfectly cooked and the vegetables tasted very fresh. Lyndsay has tried many Thai curries, and said this was up there with food she had tasted in Thailand and also in Sydney, where there are also plentiful Thai restaurants/eateries.

I noticed the chap at the next table being served a superb plate of food and was told that it was chicken Pad Thai, so I couldn't resist choosing the same, but the prawn version (veg & pulled mushrooms or chicken are other Pad Thai options on the menu). It was really delicious, and I'm drooling at the memory of it as I write this review. It was salty, spicy, with a lovely tamarind kick.



To be honest we didn't need any puds, but in the interests of this review, chose portions of Thai Churros and Chocolate Brownie to share. The piping hot, crispy churros were



dusted in cinnamon sugar and served with a sweet condensed milk sauce for dipping. It tasted almost like a white chocolate sauce and felt highly indulgent. The chocolate brownie was served with coconut ice cream and a tamarind Som Tum sauce on the side. The brownie itself was dense and rich, but neither of us was wildly keen on the addition of the sauce - it was a rather fierce foray into sweet and savoury at the end of a lovely meal.

Rosa's Thai is a great addition to our local foodie scene. It offers excellent value, delicious food and friendly, relaxed service. I can't wait to go back to try Rosa's Signature 'Som Tum' Papaya Salad ("sweet, sour and dangerously addictive with green beans, tomatoes and cashews")

Easy Wins - A Surefire Winner!

Wouldn't it be a sensible idea to have a cookbook that looks at those key ingredients we all use, and delves deeply into each one: capers for example. Well, I have one for you! I don't know about you, but I really love capers, and in **Easy Wins by Anna Jones**, she has a whole chapter on them. She goes into the types available, storage, pairing, favourite uses, where to buy as well, of course, as giving some delicious recipe ideas. These include an ice cream - yes - and also a cocktail using caper brine. Some 12 different ingredients receive Anna's detailed treatment, but there's also a lot more to this wonderful book.

ANNA JONES
Easy Wins



12 flavour hits, 125 delicious recipes, 365 days of good eating



Distilling her 20 years of experience, Anna inspires us how to layer flavour and texture. And there's practical advice on how to season, plus plenty of ideas for invaluable vegetarian swaps, as well as how to reduce waste and use less energy when cooking. Her hero ingredients all last a long time, are relatively affordable and easily available. All the recipes are, as usual, choreographed and carefully thought out so that they take the least time possible. Dotted through the book are recipes from some of her friends and favourite cooks.

Anna Jones is a cook, writer, the voice of modern vegetarian cooking and award-winning author of bestselling *One: Pot, Pan, Planet*; *A Modern Way to Eat*; *A Modern Way to Cook* and *The Modern Cook's Year*. According to Anna: "These simple ingredients, shown a little bit of love and attention, come together to make more than the sum of their parts. This to me is an Easy Win. A little moment of kitchen alchemy that reassures me. Recipes that are reliable sources of joy in a world that is ever-changing".

This Cauliflower Caponata recipe is seriously good - I've cooked it a number of times now and it's a firm favourite.

Cauliflower caponata SERVES 4

- 1kg cauliflower, broken into roughly 4cm florets
- 3 red onions (350g), peeled and cut into eighths
- 3 sticks of celery, cut into 2cm pieces
- extra virgin olive oil
- 3 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 2 x 400g tins plum tomatoes
- 100g stone-in green or black olives, stones removed (I use a mixture of both)
- 3 tablespoons capers
- 50g raisins
- ½ a bunch of parsley (20g), leaves picked
- warm bread, to serve



'Caponata is a masterclass in balancing sweet, sour and salty. It's most often made with aubergine, which you have to fry in lots of olive oil first, making it less of a weeknight situation. This buttery cauliflower version is all done in the oven and to me it's just as good as the aubergine version. It has the texture of a stew and can be eaten warm as an antipasto, as is most common in Italy, or on toast or tossed through pasta.'

Preheat the oven and roast the cauliflower

Preheat the oven to 220°C/200°C fan.

Put a cauliflower, broken into roughly 4cm florets, 3 red onions, peeled and cut into eighths, and 3 sticks of celery, cut into 2cm pieces, into a large, high-sided baking tray with 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil, 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar and a little sea salt and pepper.

Toss to coat, then roast for 25 minutes, until everything is slightly charred and starting to soften. Turn the oven down to 200°C/180°C fan.

Add the rest

Add 2 x 400g tins of plum tomatoes, breaking them in your hands as you do so, along with 100g stone-in green or black olives (stones removed), 3 tablespoons capers and 50g raisins. Give everything a good mix, mashing slightly with a fork, and return to the oven for 40 minutes, or until everything is soft and sticky.

Finish with the vinegar and oil

Once ready, and while the mix is still piping hot, add another tablespoon of vinegar, toss through a handful of parsley leaves and serve. Finish with a very generous dousing of extra virgin olive oil to bring it all together.

Courgettes agrodolce with sticky onions SERVES 2 AS A MAIN, 4 AS A SIDE

- 5 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, plus a little extra to serve
- 4 small or 2 regular courgettes (500g), cut into 1.5cm-thick rounds
- 1 red onion, peeled and thinly sliced
- 4 tablespoons red wine vinegar 1 tablespoon golden caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon dried chilli flakes, plus extra to serve
- 1 clove of garlic, peeled and thinly sliced
- ½ a bunch of mint (15g), leaves picked
- 250g ricotta



'Agrodolce means sweet and sour in Italian. In Italy there are so many ways of using this contrast of flavours to bring out the most in ingredients. Here I've used courgettes, but this technique would work for aubergine, thinly sliced butternut squash or fennel. The hit of vinegar which might feel angry on its own is offset with a little bit of sugar, which mellows the acidity and rounds off the flavour. I've written this recipe to serve 2 people but it can easily be doubled, though you will need to fry the courgettes in a few batches.'

Fry the courgettes

Heat a frying pan over a medium high heat and add 5 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil. Season 500g courgettes cut into 1.5cm-thick rounds with sea salt and fry them for 3-4 minutes on each side or until blistering and golden brown, then remove with a slotted spoon on to a plate.

Cook the onion and add the agrodolce Add 1 thinly sliced red onion to the same pan and lower the heat. Fry for 10 minutes until soft, then add 4 tablespoons red wine vinegar, 1 tablespoon golden caster sugar and 1 teaspoon dried chilli flakes and return the courgette pieces to the pan.

Cook for a few minutes, then taste and season and divide the courgettes and onion between two plates.

Season and finish

Sprinkle over 1 peeled and thinly sliced clove of garlic and a few more dried chilli flakes, tear over the leaves from half a bunch of mint and drizzle with a little olive oil. Season 250g of ricotta with salt and pepper and spoon it next to the courgettes. **Extracted from EASY WINS: 12 flavour hits, 125 delicious recipes, 365 days of good eating by Anna Jones (Published by 4th Estate on 14th March, £28). Photography by Matt Russell.**

Help Your Gut with Fermented Foods

I really enjoy eating fermented foods: kimchi; sauerkraut; yogurt; kefir; miso and sourdough for example. They're made using an age-old process that helps preserve foods and vitamins. They taste great, are good for your digestion, and provide your body with a healthy dose of probiotics - live microorganisms that are crucial to good digestion. While we can, of course, buy excellent ready-made kimchi and sauerkraut, they are surprisingly easy to make at home, yourself, for a fraction of the price.

Home cooks around the world have been pickling and preserving fruit and vegetables for hundreds, if not thousands, of years, to keep perishable ingredients edible for longer, using mouth-watering flavours created by time-honoured processes still popular today. Choosing the correct bottles and jars is not only key to maximising the quality and lifespan of the contents, but can, as I've recently found, make the whole process much easier.



I'd made lots of kimchi before using a standard clip top jar, but had to keep remembering to let it 'burp' to avoid it 'exploding'. But with the help of Kilner®, the iconic British glassware experts since 1842, I now find it so much easier.

Kilner produces a set of two fermentation jars that are fabulous. The silicone valve in the lid releases the gas that builds up during fermentation but also blocks any air from entering the jar, which could cause the food to go mouldy. The set, costing £22.50 comprises: 2 x 1 litre jars, 2 x special glass weights; 2 x stainless steel lids with silicone valves



and a recipe booklet.

It is worth the initial investment as it will last for years. Glass is best for storing / preserving and transporting food and drink. It is made



from natural ingredients so no harmful chemicals or toxins can leak into the food. Glass is BPA free and does not absorb odours, flavours or stains. Not only is glass a healthier option, it is made to last and never for single use. Kilner® helps tackle plastic waste with its ethos of reuse, refill, and recycle.

Here are some images of my recent batch - I'd advise putting the filled jars on sheets of kitchen roll inside a plastic tub or on a plate as the liquid will come out via the silicone valves. Once it stops 'bubbling' i.e. fermenting, you can pop it in the fridge where it will keep for yonks and you can enjoy it with salads, in wraps and sandwiches and a host of other ways.

There are lots of recipes and there's a great one to start with on the Kilner® site [here](#)
Happy fermenting!



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Traveller's Tales 158

More Sites To See In Northern France

Doug Goodman Continues The Tour Of Northern France

After my last feature on Northern France on some of the fascinating places to visit I was asked by one reader of my travel column – probably my only reader – why I had omitted such well-known sites as St. Omer, The Seven Valleys, Hardelot, Montreuil and Le Touquet. The answer is lack of space and because I wanted to devote part two to the region's military history. This time I will describe some of the 'missing' places and mention the military locations from Agincourt to Vauban's 17th and 18th century fortifications. The extensive sites of WW1 and WW2 can wait until next time.



St. Omer Cathedral



St. Omer Park



St. Omer Town Hall

My favourite stopping spot after the 25 mile drive from Calais on the A26 is St Omer. It's an easy drive on motorways direct from the port – turn off at Junction 3. But if you prefer a more scenic route take the D943 via Ardres and avoid the tolls. In St. Omer visit the Musee de L'hotel Sandelin with an impressive collection of fine art, archaeology and decorative art. The town hall dominates the main square where open air cafes serve local specialties and locally-brewed beer. After lunch walk to the nearby gardens which are always colourful and perfect for families to relax in. The Notre Dame Cathedral started in the 13th century and completed 300 year later is one of the most beautiful Gothic monuments in France. Be sure to see the Rubens and astrological clock.

The Seven Valleys is the place for escaping from noise and people. This beautiful area has rivers, woodlands, forests and bogs. It attracts walkers, horse riders, canoeists and visitors who want to experience a peaceful bit of French life.



Seven Valleys

BATTLE SITES

Agincourt on the D928 north of Hesdin is where a newly- opened museum brings to life the great battle of 1415 when the army of Henry V soundly beat the French forces. The history books describe Henry's force of around 8,500 soldiers facing 30,000 or even over 100,000 of the enemy. In reality the French had a strength of around 12,000. The battlefield was sloping and muddy which was a disaster for the French knights in heavy armour riding large horses. The British and Welsh archers massacred their foes with their accurate longbow fire. The museum shows life in medieval France with an array of weapons, costumes and state-of-the art presentations. Children will especially enjoy handling the artefacts and trying on the armour. The battleground is a short walk from the museum and well marked out. Moving to the less distant period of the late 17th century military history, the coastal fortress at Ambleteuse is worth stopping to inspect. Built by France's most famous military architect Vauban, it's one of very many castles, mountain fortifications and coastal defences erected around the country's borders. With the sea lapping around the fortress walls and the White Cliffs of Dover just visible on a clear day, the spot is very photogenic.



Agincourt Museum



Agincourt Museum



Vauban Fortress at
Ambleteuse

HARDELOT, MONTREUIL AND LE TOUQUET

At Hardelot, between Boulogne and Le Touquet, you'll come across one of the most attractive and least known chateaux in Northern France. A fortification was established there from 1220 and destroyed in the 17th century by Cardinal Richelieu. In 1848 the ruin was bought by Bristolian Sir John Hare and turned into the beautiful Tudor-revival building you see today. It became a popular spot for English travellers and was visited by Charles Dickens when staying nearby with his mistress. The wide sandy beach is perfect for sand yachting, kite flying and 100 years ago for light aircraft. Montreuil sur Mer is most definitely not on the sea but it was once a busy port until the River Canche silted up. The town's fortifications are outstanding. The Citadelle dates from the 9th century. The bastions and walls are built on a rocky hilltop providing a safe refuge during many sieges. In World War 1 Field Marshal Haig commanded British and Commonwealth forces from here and there's an exhibition in the tunnels tracing events from 1916 to 1919. Wandering through the narrow streets you'll find pretty cottages, brasseries, superb restaurants and the imposing 10th century Sainte-Saulve abbey church. In 1837 Victor Hugo was enjoying a rest in the town on his journey home from Belgium when he observed various people and events which gave him inspiration for the story of 'Les Miserables'. In the summer the play, in the form of a son et lumiere production, is staged eight times.



Chateau at Hardelot



Hardelot Beach

BRITS LOVED LE TOUQUET

In 1882 Le Touquet-Paris-Plage was founded and soon attracted the rich and famous anxious to enjoy sea air, fine restaurants, luxury Belle-Epoque villas and art-deco facades. Wealthy Brits were attracted by the golf courses, tennis, polo and horse racing. Le Touquet has an English feel to it but attracts Parisians in large numbers who have holiday homes in the resort.

Le Touquet experienced its most glamorous period in the 1920s when huge villas and hotels were built to cater to the demands of royalty, politicians, stars of screen and stage and writers, who all wanted to be noticed in France's top spot. And everyone gravitated to the resort's jewel, the art-deco styled Hotel Westminster named after the Duchess of Westminster. Notable guests included Winston Churchill and Edward and Mrs. Simpson. Noel Coward and P.G. Wodehouse liked the resort so much that they bought property there. After nearly 90 years Le Touquet remains as popular as ever with its vast range of hotels, restaurants, shops and sporting activities.



Le Touquet Hotel Westminster



Yachts at Le Touquet

A great way of meeting local people and discovering secret places that only they know about is to join a tour offered by volunteer 'meeters and greeters'. You learn so much on one of these free trips.

Pictures kindly provided by: Fabrice Rambert; A S Flament; Centre Historique Azincourt; Pas de Calais Tourism www.visitpasdecalais.com
More information: St. Omer www.tourisme-saintomer.com Agincourt, www.azincourt1415.com Vauban, www.fortambleteuse.com Seven Valleys, www.valleesdopale.com.fr Montreuil www.tourisme-montreuillois.com
Westminster Hotel www.hotelsbarriere.com Hardelot, www.hardelot-tourisme.com , Le Touquet, www.letouquet.com
Meet the Locals www.greeters62.com

The Cockney Sparrow the 2024 Supporters boat for The Great River Race

By Bruce Lyons

What a SURPRISE The Cockney Sparrow is our boat for the Great River Race. Built on Eel Pie Island in 1976 it must be one of the last boats to be built there and what a boat! It was owned by Dave Darby and his partner and sailed, as it does still now, along the Richmond/Twickenham stretch to Hampton Court.

Dave, famously, at the end of one season took off and flew to Las Vegas & after going to the casino on his first night, on his first pull – so the legend has it, won the Jackpot, they say he got this cheque and \$50,000 a year for life .

Join us (no slot machines on the Cockney Sparrow!) on the 21st September.



THE SUPPORTERS BOAT

Travel the GRR course in the Cockney Sparrow, a traditional river Thames passenger boat built in 1976. The vessel has been regularly updated to meet modern safety and comfort standards but retains its original style.



There is a large open top deck, excellent for viewing, and the saloon has a fully licensed bar serving simple snacks. There are toilet facilities on board.

Please note that there is a 10 minute walk to the embarkation point, Masthouse Terrace Pier, near the Start of the race and because of Environment Agency work on local locks, passengers will disembark at Richmond Landing Stage, a 20 minute walk along the river to the race Finish.

Only 60 lucky supporters can travel on the Cockney Sparrow, but it will have a jolly International atmosphere with Camp Followers from the USA, Spain, Ireland and Holland Along with supporters from all over the UK.



Camellia Heaven in The Church Street Square

By Shona Lyons

Spring 2024



Things are not always as they seem...

By Deep Patel

~Life Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper~

As a shop keeper, some people I see seem like they have everything in life...the house...the car...the career...the clothes...and even the posh gym membership...you know the types right? We are sometimes left thinking that the grass is greener on the other side...we have all been there am I right?



I have spent years observing people in my shop, and without realizing it, I build up an image in my head of how their life must be, what their daily routines must involve, how their houses must be and even what they may be having for tea...but sometimes it's all a front...to mask the truth...I have seen and learnt in my shop that the simple truth is that not everyone is as "happy" as we may think they are.

It's not the car, house, career or shoes that make a person happy. What people seem to lack more than anything else is companionship, someone to talk to, someone to share their happiness and sadness with, someone to reassure them when they are feeling doubtful, someone to remind them of just how wonderful they and indeed how beautiful life is...interaction with another human being...someone to be there...someone to talk to...someone who cares...sometimes that's all a person needs... and that's the only thing they haven't got.

As a shop keeper, I get to interact with many people and make sure that I can be that person for those who come in needing just that...so many that "look like they have everything in life" come to tell me how sad and lonely they are...since I realized this...I make sure that everyone who comes into my shop knows that they do not have to buy anything, but they can just come in for a chat. I am there for them and willing to listen. Many people have come in "just for a chat" and I encourage that, because my shop exists not just for selling newspapers, chocolate digestives and cola, rather as a place where people can come and have a chat or get something off their chest. So next time you see someone with the house, the car, the career, and the suit...remember...things are not always as they seem...whilst having "everything" they may lack having the one thing that truly matters...and sometimes the greatest treasures are indeed the simplest ones that are totally free...

Remember...

"The grass isn't always greener on the other side..."

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

STOP ANTS KINDLY (GOOD KARMA): Sprinkle talcum powder, pure essential peppermint oil, Olbas oil, fine black pepper or white vinegar around places where you don't want them to come (but NOT directly on them) ...they will go without you having to harm them. This works for most insects too! For ANY specific tip to stop any "pest" or insect KINDLY (for good karma/blessings), email me: InsectLoversUnite@gmail.com or join my Facebook page: "INSECT LOVERS UNITE"



Vinegar Tom

by Caryl Churchill

YAT at the Studio, Hampton Hill Theatre until 13th April

Born out of the angry 1970's feminist movement, *Vinegar Tom* uses powerful images of injustice, seen through the lens of a seventeenth century witch-hunt, to exemplify continuing oppression of women.



Directing with sensitivity, Rowan D'Albert rapidly moves the action between twenty-odd scenes. At its opening, the "devil" and his "victim" are discovered supine on a narrow dais, seen under a billowing gauze, creating a dark disturbing mood of foreboding and unease.

The main character is a young village girl Alice, who with her mother Joan (AJ Hill) are accused of witchcraft by their neighbours Jack and Margery (Devanshi Kachhawaha), probably out of spite. Besides which, Joan owns a cat, Vinegar Tom, a dead giveaway to being a witch!



Men are merely described by function, such as doctor, bell-ringer, or witch-finder. A character named "Man" has the first line, "Am I the devil?" to which the answer would seem to be an unequivocal "yes". Clearly, not a good image of the male sex. Indeed, the persecution of the female villagers becomes increasingly harrowing as the play progress.

In marked contrast to the unremitting scenes of female subjugation, the introduction of a number of songs with contemporary lyrics, performed in today's dress, give a modern sideways glance at the narrative, but the final scene is a total surprise. The "Hammer of Witches", German professors of theology, dressed in music-hall top hat and tails, sing *Evil Woman*, preceded by an epilogue in which they explain why witches are female. So, there's a bit of controversy!

Standout performances include Meaghan Baxter's Alice, the innocent girl still holding onto her dreams, and Robyn Marriot's Ellen, the "cunning woman" apothecary. Versatile Gio Nickson covers four roles, including the Devil and the Witchfinder, and Alfie Kennedy makes an excellent accuser as Jack. However, it is their final and unexpected "song and dance" routine that lingers with me.



Vinegar Tom is a stark reminder of a darker past which, for many women, was filled with fear and intimidation; a powerful and provocative production that is deeply moving.

Read Steve Mackrell's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/04/11/vinegar-tom

Photography by Jonathan Constant



Art

by Yasmina Reza

OHADS at the Studio, Hampton Hill Theatre

An articulate comedy about three long-term friends, *Art* is very much an actor's play. Ostensibly about a painting, the real theme is the frailty of friendship.

Serge has purchased an expensive painting, a large white canvas with a few faint diagonal lines. When he invites his friend Marc to admire it, their vastly different tastes in art become increasingly apparent. Battle lines are drawn once Marc dismisses the painting as "a piece of white shit", whence all pretence of civilised communication is laid bare. When their civilised views, modernist versus traditionalist, degenerate into anger, they turn to a mutual friend, Yan, to mediate.



Director Harry Medawar has again chosen a challenging play. Absorbingly funny, yet thought-provoking, *Art* is full of non-stop crossfire in witty, intelligent language. The inspired choice of casting lifts the production to new heights.



Vaughan Pierce, as Serge, creates a self-assured and enthusiastic character who encourages us to believe in his emotional attachment to a blank white canvas. Pierce's performance contrasts this enthusiasm with a vulnerability that ultimately allows sympathy for the possible foolishness of the purchase.

Marc, Serge's "enemy of modernisation", is played by Nigel Cole, whose initial reaction of incredulity at his friend's naivety is brilliantly observed. Cole's well-judged ability to portray the slow build-up of rage is exemplary until, ultimately unable to maintain a veneer of politeness, his intelligent sophistication gives way to a breathtaking outburst of uncontrollable anger.

Yvan's well-meaning intervention attempts to restore tolerance and harmony, but only succeeds in pouring fuel on the fire. Peter Easterbrook's easy-going performance includes a magnificently delivered, and applause provoking, soliloquy.

The play provides a magnificent canvas on which to explore the merits and perhaps futility of art. We all view art differently, according to our individual imagination. There is no right or wrong opinion; more important is the exchange of ideas.

Maybe paintings can divide opinion in much the same way that plays can divide opinions of theatre audiences. Everyone's interpretation uses a different individual judgement. If interpreting a painting can give rise to much pretentious claptrap, perhaps the same could even be said about theatre reviews?!!

Read Steve Mackrell's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/02/28/art-ohads-sm

Photography by Cottonbro Studio and OHADS



1 Tent 4 Girls

by Amber Charlie Conroy and Rosalie Roger-Lacan

Talkers and Doers at the New Wimbledon Theatre Studio until 13th April

Four actors have cramp-defying discipline, as they freeze in tableau as the house opens. There is much empathetic willing the time away until the show goes up. In the *1 Tent 4 Girls* plot, their character were to freeze in a different sense, as they camp out in a tent with no guys, in several senses.



The twenty-something girls come vibrantly up-front to life. Laden with walking boots and punishing rucksacks, they had laboriously arrived in Wales to camp at the presciently named Worm Field. With appalling weather, and a long hike to the very basic campsite, things could only go one way. And there is a limit to how much one can whistle to keep the spirits up on a journey to Hell.



Ciara Hughes has a bold stage presence as Sam from Hackney, determined to enjoy the experience, although having issues with the overlord Lily. Aggressive and brittle, Lily has an intriguing underlying subtext. She is convincingly played by Evie Cooper, who also has a terrific singing voice.

Arty Rosa, sleep deprived, delicate (perhaps) ... and a poet, is played beautifully by Alice Bebber. Ruby, the organiser of this trip, and Lily's lover, tries to balance being diplomatic, whilst being deeply infatuated with her new girlfriend. Bethan Owen's performance in the role of Lily is highly watchable.

As they all teeter on hysteria and nervous energy, skilful direction by the writers moves the plot relentlessly on towards an inevitable climax. There are terrific performances all round, if loud ones, an attribute that includes the rain soundtrack, part of Ella Hakin's studied stormy lighting and sound design.

1 Tent 4 Girls was a justifiable sell out when the Bristol-based company premiered it in Edinburgh last year. It is really worth a look under the canvas.

No guys to trip over, so get yer walking boots on!

Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/04/12/tent-4-girls

Photography courtesy of Movers and Shakers

Shakespeare's OTHELLO at the Mary Wallace Theatre

"Beware, my lord, of jealousy - it is the green-eyed monster..." But Iago has already sewn the seeds of suspicion in Othello's mind and the inevitable path to chaos is set. The Richmond Shakespeare Society's thrilling production of Shakespeare's OTHELLO opens at the Mary Wallace Theatre, Twickenham on April 20th and plays until the 27th. Limited availability.

Booking at www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk

The Mary Wallace Theatre is situated on Twickenham's Embankment, close to St Mary's Church.

RSS
RICHMOND SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY

"I am not what I am"

by William Shakespeare

OTHELLO

SATURDAY 20-SATURDAY 27 APRIL 2024
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richmondshakespeare.org.uk

GUIDANCE | Othello explores adult themes and includes depictions of violence

ARTS RICHMOND
Richmond Shakespeare Society is affiliated to Arts Richmond and this production is entered for the Swan Awards for Drama and Musicals

St Mary's University

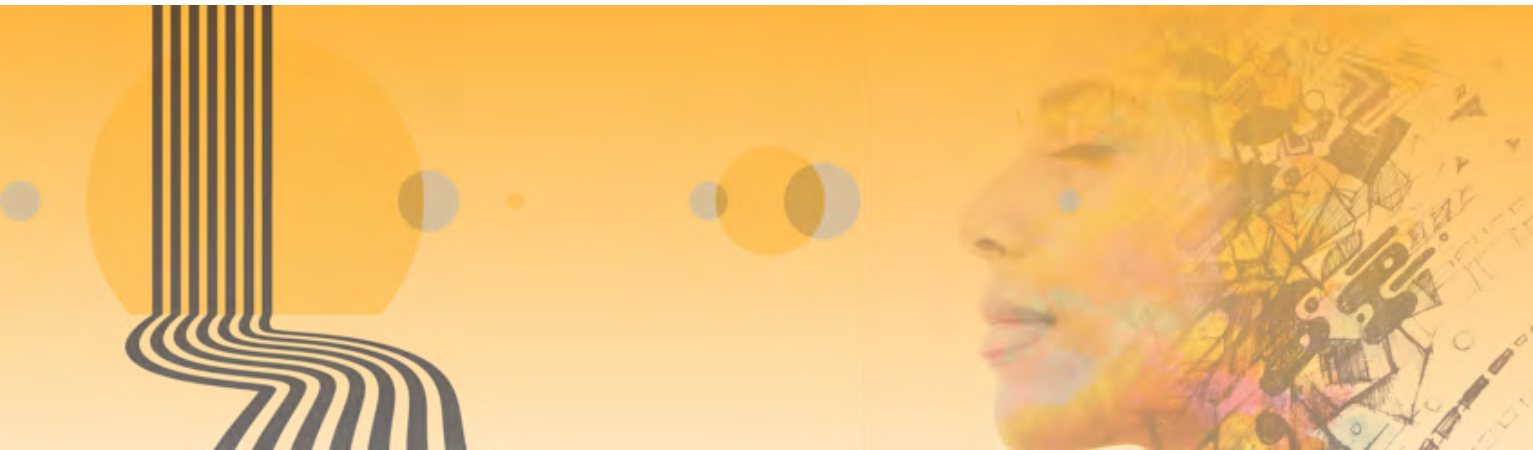
St Mary's University to Hold Inaugural Festival of Creativity

The School of Liberal and Creative Arts at St Mary's University is holding its inaugural Festival of Creativity between Saturday 20th April and Monday 5th May across the Borough of Richmond.

[The School of Liberal and Creative Arts](#) at St Mary's University, Twickenham, is holding its inaugural [Festival of Creativity](#) between Saturday 20th April and Monday 5th May.

cultural, creative, and heritage organisations, making sure they're aware of the wonderful talent pool that we have at St Mary's, whilst simultaneously developing key partnerships that we might draw on for advice, consultancy, and support in the future."

The University, which will be celebrating its 175th anniversary in 2025, offers degree programmes that span creative arts, including Acting BA, Liberal Arts BA, Film BA, and



The Festival of Creativity is an opportunity for students and academic staff in the School of Liberal and Creative Arts to showcase their work and expertise, through 50 separate events held both on campus and in cultural and creative venues across the Borough of Richmond.

The Festival has been curated by a collaborative staff and student team at St Mary's, with events including film screenings, live performances, installations, music, debate, exhibitions, new research, literature, local heritage, digital futures, journalism, and photography.

The curator of the Festival Mark Griffin said, "Working on the Festival has enabled us to reach out and make new contacts with local

Creative and Professional Writing BA. St Mary's (SMU) aims to fully prepare its students for a successful career within the arts, and for them to join the 98% of SMU graduates who are in employment, vocation, or further study within 15 months of graduation (HESA, 2023).

Find out more about the Festival of Creativity, including ticketing and timetable information, at www.stmarys.ac.uk/fetta/school-of-liberal-and-creative-arts/festival-of-creativity/home.aspx



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Level 2 Media Student Wins Jack Petchey Award

One of our Level 2 Creative Media Production & Technology students, Dora Batalona, has won a Jack Petchey award for being an outstanding student at Richmond upon Thames College.

The Jack Petchey Achievement Award Scheme recognises the positive contributions, efforts and endeavours of young people aged 11-25 across London and Essex. These achievements include being a great role model, volunteering, overcoming personal challenges and supporting others over and above expectations.



Each term exceptional students are nominated by their classmates to win a Jack Petchey award. The winner receives a £300 grant, which can be used for anything that will benefit the class. Previous winners have used the money for educational trips, subject equipment and talks from industry experts.

Dora was nominated and praised by her peers for being very hard working and an incredibly caring person. She is known for being respectful and a team player.

Dora also brings energy to the class and is seen as helpful and always interested in others.

Dora's tutor, Gordon Chin-Martin said of her performance and achievement:

“Dora is a very worthy winner of this Jack Petchey Award. From day one, she has been helpful, kind, and willing to help. She is approachable to both her peers and staff alike, and has time to listen, explain, and support everyone with both personal and academic challenges. She treats her peers with respect and embodies a genuine ‘can do’ attitude with the group. Dora is a real asset to the course and the College too - I sincerely wish her well with this well-deserved commendation.”

Huge congratulations, Dora!

[Learn more about our courses and studying at RuTC here.](#)



Experience and Buy Europe's Finest Portrait Paintings

The only portrait painting exhibition curated by world-leading portrait painters

If you are interested in the painted portrait, there is one, annual portrait painting exhibition which is a must visit. [The Royal Society of Portrait Painters' Annual Exhibition](#) is now in its 133rd year and is held at the prestigious Mall Galleries on London's The Mall, home to the Federation of British Artists, a visual arts charity supporting artists since 1961. The exhibition is unique in that its collection of painted and drawn portraits, from a national and international submission, is selected not by the art establishment, by celebrities or media moguls, but by world-renowned professional portrait painters. With peer-reviewed paintings chosen through the discerning eye and instinctive sensitivity of other artists, the exhibition arguably showcases the very best painted portraits in Europe – both by established portraiture artists and by the most exciting up-and-coming talent. It is one of the world's greatest forums for portraiture featuring a broad collection of stylistic and intellectual approaches.

With much of the work shown available for sale, and with exhibiting portrait painters available for commission through the society's [Portrait Commission service](#), the show also presents an opportunity to buy portrait masterpieces of the future.



The Royal Society of Portrait Painters' Annual Exhibition is a prestigious and historic show (the first being held in 1891,) which is the largest and most significant celebration of contemporary portrait painting in Europe. The exhibition features around 230 beautiful painted portraits which have been expertly curated by artist members of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters (RP). The Society looks to uphold the values and practices of its long and distinguished history, but at the same time, it seeks to explore and develop new artistic models and perspectives. Selection for the RP's Annual Exhibition is highly prized (exhibiting artists are in the running for awards worth £40,000,) with artists submitting portraits from across the world. The Society presents the following prizes and awards annually:

- The William Lock Portrait Prize – one artist will win £20,000 for the most timeless portrait with a real feeling for paint and its aesthetic potential.
- The Ondaatje Prize for Portraiture

- The de Laszlo Foundation Award
- The RP Prize for the Best Small Portrait
- The Raw Umber Studios Prize
- The Smallwood Architects Prize for Contextual Portraiture

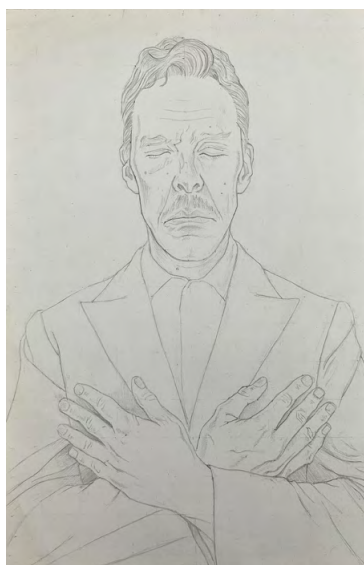
This year, the awards shortlist will be announced on Thursday 9th May 2024 (the opening day of the show,) with winners announced on Thursday 16th May 2024.

President of The Royal Society of Portrait Painters, painter Anthony Connolly PRP, said; *“No year is ever the same but there is something reassuringly constant about the RP show. Don’t conflate constancy with anything ordinary, however. You will see fresh and sometimes surprising work by painters you know well, and you’ll see portraits by artists who are new to you. Some will be appearing for the first time in a major international show. The RP Annual Exhibition is, more than ever, a welcoming space for both established and emerging talent.”*



Winconek-Oliver
Chasing perfection through colour
(portrait of Michael Harding)

Visitors to the Annual Exhibition can buy many of the portraits on display (both in person and online) but, perhaps more interestingly, can commission their own. This means the show provides a showcase of both established RP members and Europe’s most exciting and up-and-coming portraiture artists, giving visitors a unique overview of a broad range of styles and interpretations. A representative from the [RP’s commissioning service](#) will be at the Annual Exhibition for one-to-one consultations, and the service is also available online.



Wesley-Emma
Benedict Cumberbatch
as Henry Sugar



Adams-Alastair
Sir Alastair Cook CBE



Stern-Varvara
Sisters Secrets

Red Roses Team to Play Scotland

Amy Cokayne will return to the international stage for the first time in 12 months when she starts for the Red Roses against Scotland in Round 3 of the Guinness Women's Six Nations.



The Leicester Tigers hooker, who made two Premiership Women's Rugby appearances last month, scored twice against Saturday's hosts in last year's tournament.

She is one of two changes in the forwards from the Round 2 win over Wales with lock Abbie Ward promoted to the starting XV while the backline is unchanged.

Zoe Aldcroft switches to blindside flanker and will captain the side.

Head Coach John Mitchell said:

"The fallow week presented a moment to reflect on the opening rounds and grow the elements of our game.

"Our learnings all build towards evolving our performance. We are looking forward to building on this and taking another step forward together against Scotland this weekend."

Red Roses team to take on Scotland

15 Ellie Kildunne (Harlequins, 40 caps)
14 Abby Dow (Trailfinders Women, 42 caps)
13 Megan Jones (Leicester Tigers, 18 caps)
12 Tatyana Heard (Gloucester-Hartpury, 19 caps)
11 Jess Breach (Saracens, 35 caps)
10 Holly Aitchison (Bristol Bears, 27 caps)
9 Natasha Hunt (Gloucester-Hartpury, 69 caps)

1 Hannah Botterman (Bristol Bears, 44 caps)
2 Amy Cokayne (Leicester Tigers, 72 caps)
3 Maud Muir (Gloucester-Hartpury, 27 caps)
4 Rosie Galligan (Saracens, 15 caps)
5 Abbie Ward (Bristol Bears, 63 caps)
6 Zoe Aldcroft (Gloucester-Hartpury, 50 caps) - captain
7 Sadia Kabeya (Loughborough Lightning, 15 caps)
8 Alex Matthews (Gloucester-Hartpury, 63 caps)

Replacements

16 Connie Powell (Harlequins, 16 caps)
17 Mackenzie Carson (Gloucester-Hartpury, 12 caps)
18 Kelsey Clifford (Saracens, 5 caps)
19 Maddie Feaunati (Exeter Chiefs, 2 caps)

20 Marlie Packer (Saracens, 101 caps)
21 Lucy Packer (Harlequins, 18 caps)
22 Zoe Harrison (Saracens, 48 caps)
23 Sydney Gregson (Saracens, 4 caps)

Match Preview: Brentford v Sheffield United

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

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford welcome Sheffield United to Gtech Community Stadium on Saturday in a 3pm kick-off. Following three successive draws, Thomas Frank's side sit 15th in the Premier League table on 29 points. The Blades battled to a 2-2 draw with Chelsea last time out and are nine points from safety in 20th.

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of the Bees' next test.

Pre-match analysis

Stephen Gillett, Playmaker Stats: Defences likely to be stretched by dangerous strike partnerships.

Revenge may be best served cold, but a sunny afternoon in west London would do the job just fine for a Brentford side looking to avenge a December defeat to Sheffield United at Gtech Community Stadium this Saturday.

An outstanding strike from the Blades' James McAtee proved the difference between the

two sides in that encounter, which marked Chris Wilder's first win following his reappointment as United manager a matter of days beforehand.

Regularly finding the net has not been a problem for Brentford this season, but the Blades shut out the Bees that day and they are one of only six teams to keep a league clean sheet against Thomas Frank's side this season, the others being Arsenal, Liverpool, Man City, Brighton and Newcastle.

There were mitigating circumstances behind Brentford's blank at Bramall Lane, the Bees shorn of nine players including the suspended Ivan Toney and the injured Bryan Mbeumo, ruled out by a badly twisted ankle he had sustained in the Bees' previous game against Brighton.

Although the latter made a scoring return to the Bees' starting line-up in last weekend's rollercoaster 3-3 draw at Aston Villa, Toney was only introduced as a substitute due to a niggling muscle injury - which remarkably means a strike duo with 122 goals between them for Brentford haven't started a game together since 6 May 2023.

However, with England international Toney reportedly now fighting fit, the welcome reunion of two key players is pencilled in for this Saturday against the Blades... a whopping 343 days after they last started alongside one another in a 1-0 away defeat at Liverpool.



Head to Head

	Comparisons	
45	Goals	30
58	Goals Conceded	82
298	Shots	200
44%	Possession	34%
75	Yellow Cards	88
2	Red Cards	4



Mbeumo's fantastic right-foot volley against the Villans last weekend was his 50th across all competitions for Brentford and the Cameroon international's power, pace and creativity will boost an attack that is now at full strength for the first time this season.

With Toney as a target and Mbeumo as a runner, Brentford will pose the Blades a considerable threat on the counter - the latter's four goals on the break for the Bees last season only bettered by Mohamed Salah (5) - and the Bees' offensive improvements in open play this term bode well against a team who have shipped 66 (of 82) Premier League goals from 'live' situations this season.

However, after a 6-0 thumping at the hands of Arsenal in March, Wilder's side have turned in competitive displays in draws with Bournemouth, Fulham and Chelsea, and a 3-1 loss at Liverpool in which they were undone by a couple of late goals.

At the sharp end of the Blades' recent improvement has been a burgeoning strike partnership of their own between Oli McBurnie and Villarreal loanee Ben Brereton Díaz.

Fresh from a late equaliser against Chelsea last weekend, McBurnie has six Premier League goals and three assists to his name this season and the Scot also ranks sixth in the top flight for aerial duels won.

Alongside McBurnie, Brereton Díaz has made a significant impact since his loan move from La Liga: netting four goals in seven games since his arrival in January - his goals-per-game ratio of 0.57 only bettered by Erling Haaland (0.76), Salah (0.68), Alexander Isak (0.65), Cole Palmer (0.59) and Ollie Watkins (0.58) this season in the Premier League.

With Brentford set to unleash Toney and Mbeumo, and McBurnie and Brereton-Diaz in good form, defences seem likely to be stretched this Saturday!

Scout Report

Blades showing fighting spirit during final weeks of challenging season.

It has not been a fun season for fans in the Steel City.

While Sheffield Wednesday have been fighting for their lives in the Championship, Sheffield United have been battling to keep their place in the Premier League from the very first week.

It took four games for the Blades to record their first point of the season and it was 11 before they had their first win on the board, following a run of nine defeats in the first 10, which included the 8-0 reverse at home to Newcastle United - the heaviest league defeat in club history.

By the time Paul Heckingbottom was sacked on 5 December - three days after a 5-0 loss at Burnley - they were rock bottom on five points, already four points adrift of safety.

The writing was on the wall - even some six months before the end of the season - and a firefighting job was needed. Enter cult hero former player and manager Chris Wilder, who had only left 20 months earlier.

"When this club comes calling, it is not something you pass up," he said. "We find ourselves in a difficult position, I understand that, but I think I can make a difference."

True to his word, he delivered a difference immediately, with James McAtee's first-half goal securing

the Blades' second win of the season at home to Brentford on 9 December.

But even with so much of the season still in front of them, that rare win did not prove to be the catalyst some might have hoped it would be and it was two months before they picked up their next victory against Luton at Kenilworth Road on 10 February.

As a result, United found themselves bottom of the table on Christmas Day. Notoriously, only four teams in Premier League history - West Bromwich Albion in 2004/05, Sunderland in 2013/14, Leicester City in 2014/15 and Wolverhampton Wanderers last season - have occupied that dreaded position and stayed up.

They have showed fight in recent weeks by coming from behind to hold Bournemouth to a 2-2 draw and taking a 3-1 lead at home to Fulham, despite an eventual 3-3 draw. United lost 3-1 at Liverpool on 4 April and battled to a 2-2 draw with Chelsea last time out thanks to Oli McBurnie's stoppage-time goal.

As *BBC Radio Sheffield's* Andy Giddings told us, this team will not throw the towel in despite a nine-point gap to safety looking like an uphill battle.

In the Dugout

Chris Wilder

Chris Wilder the player - a right-back by trade - started out at his beloved Sheffield United after leaving Southampton in 1986 and, alongside Brentford legend Bob Booker, was part of the Blades squad that achieved promotion from the Third Division to the First between 1988 and 1990.

He would later play mostly in the First and Second Divisions for Rotherham United, Notts County and Bradford City, before retiring at Halifax Town in 2000/01.

In October 2001, Wilder started out in management at Alfreton Town, before six years back at Halifax and another five years at Oxford United, who he led out of the Conference in 2010.

In January 2014, he took over at Northampton Town and, in his second season at Sixfields, won League Two with the Cobblers.

By far his most notable work, however, came in the five years he spent back at Sheffield United. The boyhood Blade led the club to the Championship, after a six-season exile, in his first season in charge (2016/17) and, in 2018/19, Wilder and his overlapping centre-backs took United back to the Premier League. It was fairytale stuff.

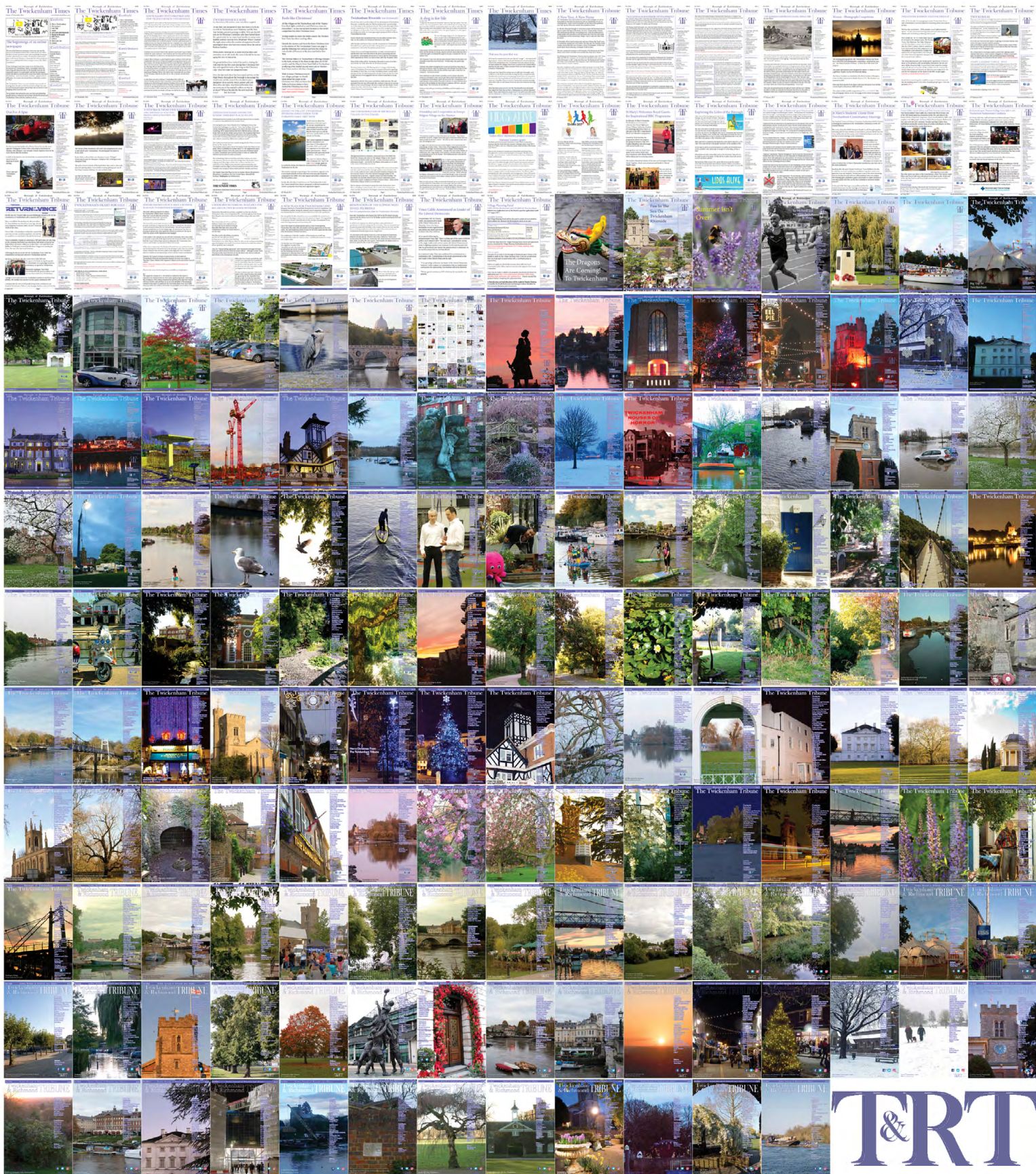
But there was to be no happy ending as, with Sheffield United bottom of the Premier League, he departed in March 2021, shortly before relegation out of the top flight was confirmed.

In November 2021, Wilder returned to management by taking over from Neil Warnock at Middlesbrough. Boro were 14th in the Championship when he was appointed, and although he transformed their fortunes, four defeats in their final eight league games saw them miss out on the play-offs by five points. They struggled to get going at the start of last season, which led to his sacking on 3 October.

His most recent role was at Watford, who he took charge of for the final 11 Championship games of last term, following Slaven Bilić's sacking. His short-term deal came to an end after a final day win over Stoke and he was out of work for just six months before making a heartily welcomed return to Bramall Lane on 5 December.



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