

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE



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Editors

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15th December 2023



TickerTape - News in Brief

Travel

South Western Railway

Sunday 17 December

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

- **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)**.

The lines between **Staines and Windsor** will be **closed all day** due to maintenance work.

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



The Tree Agency

darryl parkin

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The Local Picture Postcard Page Part 227

By Alan Winter

Teddington Railway Station

Teddington railway station is situated in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, in south-west London, and is in Travelcard Zone 6. The station is operated by South-West Trains, as are all trains serving it. It is 13 miles (22.0 km) down the line from London Waterloo.

Our first postcard dates from the early 1920's and shows the station frontage with a horse drawn cab and several smartly uniformed members of the station staff.



The second image is of a 1960's advertising matchbox from the Railway Hotel next door. This from a time when pretty much all pub customers smoked whereas you would struggle to even buy a box of matches in a pub these days.

The last postcard image is from the early 1940's and shows an internal view of the station with



both platforms clearly visible.

So, a railway station... but not just any old railway station. No, this is Teddington Station – which was awarded Grade II listed status by English Heritage in 2012. This means it's now a 'building of special interest which warrants every



effort being made to preserve it'. The reason is its special architectural and historical interest: it's the earliest example of an Italianate villa-style station built by the London and South-Western Railway in the 1860s; and it's also on the Kingston to Twickenham branch line – Britain's first suburban rail network, built to provide a commuter

service to London's expanding south-western suburbs. The Italianate style refers to the central rectangular building, with its arches, large windows and high chimney stacks.

So, there we have it... Teddington Station joins the ranks of Alexandra Palace, the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, the BT-Tower, and the Birmingham Bullring Rotunda. The listing, therefore, isn't necessarily for any building's aesthetic value, but more for its architectural and historical character. (My thanks to Peter Denton for the above two paragraphs.)

The principal station buildings are situated in Victoria Road although access is also available from Station Road. The Station Road entrance is a four-minute walk from Teddington High Street.

There are two platforms joined by a footbridge near the north-western end of the station buildings. This footbridge has a barrier running its length so that it is usable either externally to provide access from Victoria Road to Station Road or internally to provide access between the platforms. A second footbridge exists south-east of the station between a footpath off Victoria Road and the point where Station Road becomes Cromwell Road.

This year (2023) Network Rail were due to install a new lift on each side of the bridge, providing full step-free access to both platforms, and add new lighting and CCTV in and around the lifts.

Several carriages of a train that had stopped at the station were destroyed in an arson attack by suffragettes on 26 April 1913. That's 110 years ago!

The Railway Pub & Dining Rooms is a favourite local pub and restaurant right next to the station. It's always useful to have a pub next to a station, isn't it?

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 local 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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Joy and dismay over Richmond Council's proposed vehicle crossover rules

By James Knight

In their latest blog post, CPRE London has stated they are dismayed at Richmond Council's move to relax vehicle crossover rules, which they say are designed to accommodate more car parking at the expense of the environment.

Their blog states that **garden parking is an environmental disaster** due to; flood management issues (as most permeable paving cannot cope with high rainfall events); the loss of habitat and greenery (with front gardens making up a quarter of total garden space in London); the harm to the climate and health implications (due to encouraging higher car ownership); and the reduction in public rights (as it privatises roadside spaces meaning that sections of pavement or road cannot be used for anything else like tree planting or cycle parking or even car parking).

CPRE London was referring to the 13th November Transport and Air Quality Committee meeting that recommended the width of the garden needed to accommodate parking be reduced from 7.2m to 4.8m; the depth reduced from 6m to 4.8m; the distance from a junction reduced from 15m to 5m; and the parking stress test removed completely.

At the meeting residents from the Counties Estate and the Fulwell Park Estate in Twickenham spoke in favour of relaxing the rules stating the current situation on their respective estates was untenable with people being unable to park near their homes. They were shocked at how the council had, earlier in the year, painted parking bays across scores of unauthorised driveways which meant that people were being blocked in and causing lots of arguments between neighbours. However, other residents spoke against the changes saying it would lead to more flooding, harm biodiversity and there was a need for more safeguards. A disabled rights campaigner said it would also make life harder for wheelchair users as so many cars are now parked overhanging the pavement, forcing wheelchair users into the road.

In the debate that followed, Cllr Alexander Ehmman stated that the main motivation for the change is to deal with the estimated 2,000 households that have converted their front gardens for parking without a formal crossover in place. He believed the council needed to help them do the right thing rather than having overly strict rules that affected some people more than others. He said some of the unauthorised driveways had been there a long time and had become established and it would be hard to justify asking for them to be removed now. He also said it was important to remember that for the first time, there would be a requirement for 10% soft landscaping before a new crossover would be constructed and that would see more greenery, rather than less, in many instances. He said the council also wanted to enable people to charge their electric vehicles off-road so they could benefit from cheaper tariffs.

There were some heated exchanges where Cllr Andree Frieze (Green Party) questioned how the council had selected the dimensions and said there was a certain amount of cherry-picking going on and accused Cllr Alexander Ehmman of patronising her. Cllr James Chard said the agreements signed by owners needed to be checked to ensure they could be enforced against future owners.

As a result of questioning, it was decided to ask officers to report back to the committee about enforcement options to tackle cars overhanging the pavement. There was audible joy from residents from the two estates when the committee agreed to the recommendations to relax the rules, though Cllr Andree Frieze interjected and asked for it to be recorded that she disagreed with the decision. Before the new rules can come into force the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee will need to agree to them too (as they oversee the development control) and then consult on a new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

Dear Tribune

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Delighted as I am to know that Richmond Borough is the happiest in the country, I feel that Be Richmond’s Chief Operating Officer, quoting in last week’s Tribune, should actually visit Richmond before describing the town centre. *“Aside from the beautiful natural assets of parkland and the River Thames with far reaching views into the city, it is a bustling town centre full of a mix of boutiques and big-name stores to be discovered in the lanes and on the High Street”*

Yes, there are a few very nice boutiques in the lanes, but the main high street is a long way from that description - and the only big name store closed a long time ago.

However, there are lots of bright sides. The first thing visitors see when arriving at the station is a derelict rainbow crossing. with peeling paint. If they decide to drive in, having survived the pot holes on the Sheen Road and finally found a parking spot and negotiated the dreaded Ringo - they can avoid the high street and walk across the green to the great selection of restaurants by the river and stroll among the birds, admire the show-off heron etc.

Yes, we’re very lucky to be living in this Borough, but let’s improve the many things that need it and which have been promised for so long.

Keep up this great Tribune and I hope everyone has a happy and healthy Christmas and a good 2024. 🎄

An East Sheen Resident



Conservatives select candidates for the two council by-elections

By James Knight

Local Conservatives have chosen two well-known candidates to fight the upcoming Council by-elections in the wards of Hampton North and Teddington to be held on 18th January 2024.

Nupur Majumdar was chosen to fight Hampton North for the party and **Elizabeth Foster** for Teddington. The selection panel that made the decision were a panel of senior party officials from across the borough.

Both candidates made key promises to work hard to ensure local Conservatives provide effective opposition to the Liberal Democrats along with listening and acting on residents' needs and not ignoring them.

John Davey, chairman of Twickenham Conservative Association said "These two women represent the modern face of our party and their caring, hard work and dedication to their respective communities is clear for all to see. It was a pleasure for us to hear about their plans for Hampton North and Teddington and their selection was unanimous."

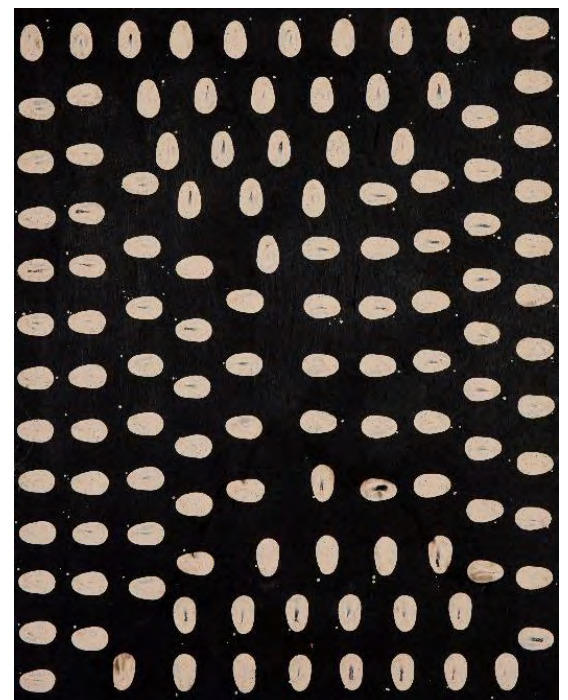
At the time of going to press, no other candidates had been announced.

A good turn for Turner's House

A good turn for Turner's House by two RA artists totals over the top estimate at Fine Paintings, Works on Paper and Sculpture Auction on 13th December at Olympia Auctions

The Paintings department at Olympia Auctions was delighted to sell works by sought-after artists Richard Long RA and Peter Blake RA to benefit Turner's House. The artists had donated pictures to raise funds to support the house - which included one painting by Richard Long (lot 36) and six screenprints by Peter Blake (lots 37-42). The total for all seven works came to £9,620 hammer, over the top estimate of £9,000.

Among the contemporary works, Richard Long's 'River Avon Mud Fingerprints' sold well over estimate (estimate: £4,000 - £6,000) raising funds for Turner's House.



*River Avon Mud Fingerprints
Richard Long RA (2014)*

Christmas Concert

Report and pictures by Doug Goodman

A full house awaited the Christmas concert arranged by The Teddington Choral Society at St. Mary's Twickenham last Saturday. With musical director Julian Collins the evening featured a selection of thrilling and dramatic pieces from Handel's Messiah and included a variety of Christmas favourites composed by Morten Lauridsen, Tomas Luis de Victoria and others.

The choir was accompanied by Peter Jaekel on the organ and Phil Culling at the piano.

Future concerts presented by The Teddington Choral Society:

March 23rd Verdi Requiem at All Saints Kingston

6th July All Things French at St. Andrew's Surbiton

December 7th Christmas concert

Contact www.teddingtonchoral.co.uk



Vine Road Community Café, Barnes Common

In need of hot drinks on a chilly winter walk?

Pop into the Vine Road Community Café which is open every Saturday and Sunday in December, 8am to 2pm (shorter hours on Saturday the 16th when it's open 8am to 12 noon).

The cafe is also open on New Year's Day from 9am to 2pm



Bike Marking

Officers will be back at Pembroke Lodge in Richmond Park tomorrow Saturday 16th December offering free bike marking. We will be there between 11:00 and 14:00

Bike Marking

Get your bike marked for free
Pembroke Lodge
Saturday 16th December
11am to 2pm



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BE SAFE



Community BlueScapes launches two new funds

Community BlueScapes has received two pots of funding from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to support local projects focused on reducing flood risk and increasing the ability of local people and the area to adapt to climate change.

The [Community BlueScapes Fund](#) aims to support local projects and initiatives, run by local residents, community groups and businesses, that benefit the community or project area (Beverley Brook Catchment area from Richmond Park to north Barnes) in adapting to extreme weather such as flooding, through £1,000 or £5,000 grants.

The [Ideas Fund](#) has been set up to help ideas to life. Through the Ideas Fund, local people and organisations can suggest projects to reduce flood risk and increase the ability of local people and the area to adapt to climate change. The Community Bluescapes team will shortlist proposed projects and local people will be able to vote for the ones they would like to see.

Applications for the Community BlueScapes Fund will close on 26 January 2024 and applications for the Ideas Fund will close on 15 February 2024.

Full details about both funds and application guidance, including eligibility details and project ideas, can be found on the [Community BlueScapes pages](#).

The team is also hosting drop-in sessions across the project area from now until 24 January to discuss the funds with those who are interested in applying and offer application guidance. View the [full schedule of sessions](#).



The petition opposing the Teddington Direct River Abstraction (DRA) Scheme presented to Parliament

By James Knight

Munra Wilson, the Liberal Democrat MP for Twickenham presented a petition in Parliament on Tuesday (12 December). Signed by 700 people, it called for the Teddington Direct River Abstraction (DRA) scheme to be removed as an option from the Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) citing concerns about the environmental, construction and social impacts.

The text of the petition reads:

The petition of residents of the constituency of Twickenham in London Declares extreme concern regarding Thames Water's proposed scheme to build the Teddington Direct River Abstraction (DRA) project; notes that this would involve extracting up to 75 million litres of water from the River Thames in Teddington and replacing it with treated effluent from Mogden Sewage Treatment works; further notes that this project would involve the construction of tunnels and shafts starting in Isleworth and passing through Twickenham and Ham; further declares the potential risks this presents to local areas, both in terms of the impact on human health, the environment and biodiversity, and in terms of the disruption caused by construction in residential areas, as well as in nature areas in Moormead Park and Ham Lands; further notes the opposition conveyed by local community groups and residents; further declares concern that feedback submitted through Thames Water's initial public consultations has not been adequately reflected in Thames Water's response so far; and further declares that more viable alternatives to the Teddington DRA, with broader public support, have been discarded.

The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons ask the Government to remove the Teddington DRA as an option in the Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP), which is currently under review by DEFRA.

The Water Industry Act 1991 requires water companies in England and Wales to maintain a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) to secure supplies of water for customers and to enhance the environment over a 25-year time horizon. The plans are refreshed every 5 years and need the approval of the water regulator Ofwat. So why has the 2024 round of WRMP updates become so controversial? Official forecasts show that by 2050 there will be a shortfall of 4,000 million litres of water per day between supplies available and the expected demand and that new solutions are needed rather than abstracting more water out of the ground as this would lead to unacceptable environmental damage in many locations.

Munira Wilson has been arguing that the alternative scheme, the River Severn to River Thames Transfer should take its place. However, that is also controversial as environmentalists fear there is a serious risk of the establishment of new invasive species in the Thames such as the quagga mussel; and it also involves pumping water uphill which could have a large carbon footprint. It is also the most expensive which would mean consumers would have to pay higher water charges.

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VOUCHER**

CLOSES 20/12/2023

Allotment holders win the Battle of Syon Park

By Jonathan Haydn-Williams

Allotment holders at a site near to the entrance to Syon Park are celebrating the decision of a planning inspector to reject an appeal by Ralph Percy, the Duke of Northumberland and owner of the Park, against the refusal of Hounslow Council to allow an application for planning permission to build flats on the site. Under the proposal, the income from the new flats would have been used for repairs to Syon House and the allotments would have been relocated elsewhere in the grounds.

The Norman conquest of England may have taken place almost 1,000 years ago (less 43 years to be exact), but there's still nothing an Anglo-Saxon tiller of the soil would like more than to 'get one over' the Norman upper classes, whose 'dastardly', 'Frenchie' speaking forebears came over here in small boats to defeat King Harold's army, grabbed land from the people of England (that's not a typo!) - the Angles, Saxons and Jutes whose ancestors had themselves displaced the previous Romano-British occupiers a few centuries before - and built huge stone castles and cathedrals to show who was now boss.

The first 'de Percy' to set foot on this 'Septic Isle' was a Norman knight who fought for William the Conqueror. He was rewarded with the gift of extensive lands in the north, hence the 'Northumberland' title. Percys played a role in most of the principal events of English history in succeeding centuries, including the Hundred Years War and the Wars of the Roses. One of them was nicknamed 'Harry Hotspur' by the Scots whom he was fighting, later appearing as a character in Shakespearean drama and lending his moniker to a certain north London football club.

A Percy was betrothed to Anne Boleyn, before Henry VIII put his oar in. Another, more ignominiously, was one of Guy Fawkes' co-conspirators. And one mustn't forget Lord Percy Percy, fictional hanger-on to Lord Blackadder and heir to the Duke of Northumberland, who once fell in love with Baldrick, when Blackadder's servant was disguised as a maid.

Norman blood still flows in the veins of the English aristocracy. The Percy family's male line died out a couple of times, but the bloodline and name continued via female branches. Anglo-Saxon antipathy to the Norman usurpers has shown similar resilience. The 17th century 'Leveller' movement castigated the Normans as their oppressors, and creators of the US Constitution referenced how the first settlers had left England to free themselves of the Norman yoke.

Today, the allotment owners of west London can take their place in history, having successfully shaken their rakes and hoes defiantly at the Norman-origin Duke, leaving him to taste defeat at his Ducal estate of Syon Park.



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ON NEW YEAR'S EVE



PACKAGE INCLUDES:

WELCOME AMENITIES | DAILY BREAKFAST BUFFET
1 X INFINITY SPA VOUCHER (£50)
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY PACKAGE FOR 2 (LOCATION NEEDS TO BE PRE BOOKED)
BUBBLY BREAKFAST BUFFET 1ST OF JANUARY

Book 30th December to 2nd January, 3 nights £820

For 2 guests in a Super Yacht Superior Room

Book 31st December to 1st January, 1 night £480

For 2 guests in a Super Yacht Superior Room

Terms & Conditions: Offer subject to availability

Package is subject to availability. Cannot be combined with other bookings. Reservations must be made direct via phone or email and cannot be made via third parties. Pre-payment is required and bookings cannot be cancelled or modified

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Donate to Christmas Day Dinner for care leavers

Local charity Cocoon Care After Care is hoping to raise funds to give young people in the community who grew up in care the best Christmas.

The annual event aims to celebrate young carer leavers, acknowledge their resilience and create positive memories.

All money raised will go towards transport to ensure the guests can be picked up and taken home safely, entertainment throughout the day, presents and the food for the Christmas dinner.

Now in its seventh year, the Christmas Day event is run entirely by volunteers and made possible by the local community.



If you would like to make a donation please visit the [JustGiving page](#).

If you would like to buy a present for a guest you can buy a gift from the [online wish list](#), or shop local at The Hare and The Moon in Twickenham who have a [specially curated gift list](#).

To find out more about the Christmas Day Dinner, please visit the [Cocoon Care After Care website](#).



Expressions of interest open for the 2024 Richmond Voluntary Fund

The Richmond Voluntary Fund is inviting expressions of interest from voluntary and community organisations working in the borough that support children and young people's wellbeing.

The fund is a charitable trust (Registered Charity No. 1186870) that was established in 2019 to receive donations from residents to support initiatives that make a real and lasting difference to the lives of people living in Richmond.



You can [read more about the fund and how to make an expression of interest](#).

Community Christmas Lunch at Twickenham Stadium

On Friday 15th December the RFU hosted a Community Christmas Lunch at Twickenham Stadium. Entertainment was provided by the Rock Choir



Photos by Berkley Driscoll

FOODIE STOCKING FILLER IDEAS

A change from the ubiquitous chocolate orange this year could be a jar of **Bonne Maman's** latest spread. Rich and smooth, **Chocolate & Orange Spread** is made with 39% crushed oranges and orange zest stirred into melted dark chocolate. It's delicious, and available from Waitrose or Sainsburys for around £2 a jar.



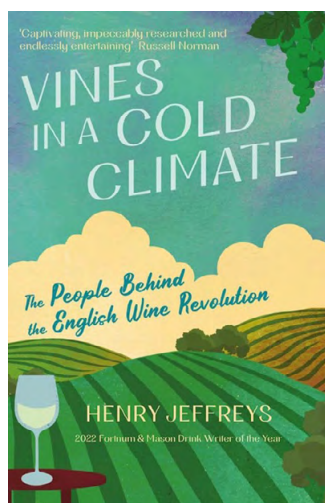
Or try **Joe & Seph's** new **Milk Chocolate Orange Popcorn Bites**. These are a zesty infusion of chocolate orange popcorn pieces nestled in a milk chocolate cup. Available to purchase directly from Joe & Seph's, the 63g pouch will cost just £3.50 [here](#). Or you can buy the milk or dark choc ones from Ocado.

On Christmas morning you'll be wanting a good coffee to set you up for the day. So pop in a pack of **Crosta & Mollica's** new **Caffè Torinese**. Roasted in Italy, it even smells like a proper Italian coffee shop! It's available to purchase exclusively from Waitrose at £3.99.



Or if tea is more to their liking, how about one or two of these gorgeous baubles from **Kew Beyond the Leaf?** Great Taste Award winning loose leaf teas from **Ahmad Tea's** collaboration with Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in a stylish Christmas bauble. Choose from Majestic Breakfast, Splendid Ceylon, and Elegant Earl Grey. 25g loose leaf tea bauble caddy. **RRP £3.99**

Tracklements' new embossed gift jars are vegan and gluten free and make a perfect stocking-filler for food-loving family and friends. Buy all four, or take your pick from: Particularly British Piccalilli, 315g; Caramelised Onion Marmalade, 400g; Cranberry, Port & Orange Sauce, 370g or Christmas Spiced Chutney, 370g, Available from delis and garden centres at around £6.80 a jar or online [here](#)



English wine has seen a remarkable rise in quality and popularity and a fabulous stocking filler for a wine aficionado is **Vines in a Cold Climate**. It tells how a small group of determined people transformed English wine from the butt of jokes, to world class in 30 years. It's about changing climate and technology, but also it's about men and women with vision and determination. It's a fascinating, highly readable story. £16.99 for a hardback and published by Allen & Unwin UK

Putting a bottle of good English sparkling wine with the book makes a lovely Christmas morning find. I'd recommend the **Louis Pommery England Brut**. Featuring Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Pinot Gris, the Louis Pommery England teams worked hard to maintain and improve soil health and biodiversity richness at its Pinglestone, Hampshire, vineyard. Since the creation of the estate, between 2017 and 2022, no herbicides have been used, to protect the water resource. The wine has a freshness and citrus aromas initially. Then notes of white fruit - mainly pear and a touch of peach. It's lovely and available for around £29.99 a bottle from [Ocado](#), [Majestic](#) & [Sainsbury's](#)





Another fun stocking gift is a pack or two from the **Mixologist's Garden** range of convenient freeze-dried fruit garnishes. The Lemon, Lime, Strawberry, Raspberry and Blueberry garnishes mean you don't have to remember to buy, store, prepare and potentially waste, fresh fruit for your festive drinks. With a resealable pack and no need to refrigerate, they're a quick and easy way

to elevate your drinks. Available in selected Asda and Co-op stores (RRP £2.75 per 10g pouch).

Chocolate goodies are an essential part of the stocking filling. **Tony's Chocolonely** has a great range, for all age groups. I rather like this Christmas Tasting pack - ideal for folk like me who can't choose! This company works hard to highlight, and end, modern slavery at chocolate farms. The pack contains 6 small bars in classic flavours £9.99 from Waitrose, the Coop, Ocado, independents and [online](#) from Tony's



A grown up chocolate connoisseur will really appreciate a small, but highly indulgent, gift from Belgian chocolatier **Pierre Marcolini**, who's London shops are in Marylebone, Harrods and Selfridges. I'd suggest treating them to a box of Dark Chocolate Croustillants at £11.90 or this small box of Mini Malline Christmas Flower bites in cashew nut praline with gingerbread truffle at £12.



A 'grate' stocking filler that will prove very useful is the **Microplane Master Series Large Shaver**. With a non-slip rubber foot for comfort and stability, it has an impressive five elongated, ultra-sharp blades for extremely fine shaving. You can effortlessly shave thin slices of Parmesan for salads and pasta, chocolate and coconut for cakes, puddings and ice cream, as well as truffle for chef-style garnishes. You can even create super thin slices of potatoes and sweet potatoes for crisps. RRP £39.95



One of the most useful kitchen items I have is this glazed stoneware baking dish with a bamboo lid, from **KitchenAid**. It's high-quality glazed stoneware for even heat distribution – microwave and oven safe (up to 260°C). This makes it ideal for a wide range of Christmas recipes and for reheating leftovers. What's more, the small size even fits perfectly into the drawer of my air fryer! Combining style and performance, they're good for taking straight from the oven or countertop to the table and then, for storing leftovers in the fridge

using the bamboo lids. Small baker 24.1 x 14.5 x 5 cm RRP £25; Medium baker 31.2 x 18.5 x 6 cm RRP £45 Large baker 38.7 x 23.5 x 7.5 cm RRP £50. You could even fill the large one with a selection of Christmas goodies and use it instead of a stocking. I'm saving up for the whole set! Both this and the large shaver above are available from [hartsofstur.com](#)



Whatever you decide to fill a stocking, or perhaps a pillow slip with, I'm sure it will be well received!

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CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS



PACKAGE INCLUDES:

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For 2 guests in a Super Yacht Superior Room

Terms and conditions: offer Subject to availability in all outlets
Bookings can not be combined with other bookings. Reservations must be made directly via phone or email cannot be extended to third party bookings
Pre payment is required and bookings cannot be cancelled or modified.

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Warm Welcome From The Brown Dog

By Doug Goodman

I was cold and wet and the bus from Twickenham took 45 minutes to get to East Sheen. I longed for somewhere warm and welcoming as I looked for Cross Street in Barnes. I wasn't disappointed. The Brown Dog had warm fires, a welcoming atmosphere and friendly locals. Once known as The Rose of Denmark dating from 1878, the pub, catered for railway workers. It became neglected and in need of modernisation. A few weeks ago its reopening as the Brown Dog was celebrated by locals and a few celebrities amongst whom was Gary Lineker. Tucked away in a residential area the 'new' bistro-style pub provides a place where the local community can meet, parents from the nearby school can chat while children have special kids' tables and a covered outside area where pizzas are cooked at weekends.



General Manager David with Lauren



Lauren and Valerie

General Manager David said the The Brown Dog focussed on the needs of the local community and had already become a popular meeting spot. It's certainly a treasure in Barnes with a wide selection of wines, beers and spirits. A popular red wine – Quinta da Pedra Alta- comes from a Portuguese vineyard owned by a local resident. Consumed from an unusual shaped glass set upon a scrubbed wooden table the wine looked and tasted delicious. Over 40 wines are available with the house Chenin Blanc at £26 a

bottle. Camden Beer at £6.30 a pint is in great demand but the beer I particularly enjoyed was Stiegl. One of Austria's oldest beers it's served in a chilled stein.

Although I didn't eat at the pub the menu looked enticing and I'll definitely return for a lunch or dinner. Jack, the chef was appointed to launch the new menu. Welsh Lamb, direct from Daphne in north Wales, meat, fish, vegetarian and vegan dishes will cater for all tastes and a typical dinner will cost around £35 without wine. The emphasis is on quality with a changing seasonal menu. Seven weeks into the life of The Brown Dog everything is working well with a regular clientele. David wishes to thank all the local customers for their support and invites Twickenham residents to drop in. Booking for dinner is advised. contact 020 8392 2200 for reservations. www.thebrowndog.co.uk

Boots chemist in Whitton to close

Boots the chemist store has recently announced their Whitton branch is to close with the last day of trading will be the 13th of January 2024. There are two other pharmacies in Whitton High Street, however, there are concerns they will not be able to absorb the increased demand.

Sarah, a resident from Cypress Avenue said there were often long queues in all the pharmacies in Whitton, and she didn't want to be queueing in the street like they were in Hampton after Boots closed two branches there. Simon, from Prospect Crescent, said that he thought the law needed to be changed so that pharmacies needed to be offered to other operators as a going concern rather than just closing leaving a gap in provision for others to sort out.

This closure is part of the Boots store "consolidation program" announced in June where Boots announced plans to close 300 of their 2,200 British stores that were within a 10-minute drive of another store.

History of Boots

John Boot opened his first herbalist shop, the **British & American Botanic Establishment** in 1849. The shop was in Goose Gate in the poor lace-making centre of Nottingham. He was a Wesleyan lay preacher and like many nonconformists was influenced by the ideas of herbal medicine. After John Boot died in 1860, **Jesse Boot**, aged 10, facing destitution helped his mother continue to run the family herbalist shop and he became a partner at age 21.

Two overlapping types of herbalism influenced the Boot family; the 'British' one promoted by John Wesleyan and the more radical Thomsonian strand. John Wesleyan's *Primitive physic* drew on folk medicine and orthodox practice and promoted a simple way of life, exercise, temperance, and traditional herbal remedies aimed at giving the poor access to medical treatment. He also preached against the sin of pride that put doctors on a pedestal.

The second 'American' strand gained popularity in the late 1840s when the American Thomsonian system was introduced into Britain by the appropriately named Albert Coffin, a name that delighted his opponents. The movement was named after Samuel Thomson (1769-1843) who believed that he alone had unlocked the secrets of healing and health with a completely new system of system for using medicinal plants based on the concept that the loss of internal heat caused disease and replenishing that heat was the only way to regain health. This was achieved using purgatives and gruelling treatment regimens that involved hot and cold baths etc.

Both strands challenged the medical establishment, and their aims were both medical and social and were similar to other working-class political movements of their time that challenged the settled order of society. However, with the introduction of medical registration and the passing of pharmacy acts the influence of botanical medicine waned.



By the mid-1870s patent medicines were growing due to the growth in advertising and botanical remedies were in decline. The problem was that most of Boot's customers were unable to afford them. Driven by his Methodist beliefs in social justice he took up the mantle of "Trade Reformer" and adopted new techniques used by other industries and applied them to healthcare. The company traded only in cash, brought in bulk, and started to use large-scale production techniques that enabled it to undercut the charges made by other outlets.

In 1883 they incorporated and then in 1884 Boots took advantage of the change in the law and employed their first pharmacist. They dispensed prescriptions at half the normal charge refusing to participate in local price-fixing arrangements. The success of this approach prompted them to expand out of Nottingham, first to Lincoln, then Sheffield. In 1884 there were 3 stores, by 1893 this rose to 33, by 1900 nearly 200 and then hitting 560 in 1914.

The controlling interest in the company was sold to the American United Drug Company in 1920 as Jesse Boot feared their chain of Rexall pharmacies was poised to dominate the UK market forcing them out of business. Over the next 13 years, the American owners restructured the company; they professionalised the management so that decision-making was not in the hands of one person like it had been when a family firm and introduced the style of management familiar in modern corporate firms today with boards overseeing the company and responsibilities delegated to professional managers in distinct business units.

The American owners had sold 25% of the company on the London Stock Exchange in 1923 and this was the move that allowed the company to become British-controlled again, as there were once again British investors holding stock. The American parent company was bought by the larger Drug Inc which decided to sell Boots due to the impact of the Great Depression and the impact of antitrust laws that meant large coalomates fell out of favour with investors. The money required was raised by Tobacco Securities Trust (TST), a subsidiary of British American Tobacco that controversially manoeuvred around the embargo on foreign share issues during a sterling crisis after the French Government defaulted on its WWI war debt to America.

The new British owners of the company appointed Jesse Boot's son, **John Boot**, to head the company, and they were able to benefit from the new American system of management and industrial techniques they had acquired under their former owners. New factory facilities were built, and they started to expand overseas. The company also became associated with ground-breaking industrial welfare investing in recreation and educational opportunities for staff. In 1934 Boots was the first large-scale company to introduce the five-day working week which changed the landscape of British employment history forever.

Fast forward to 2006 Boots merged with Alliance Unichem to form Alliance Boots plc, in 2007 it was brought out by New York based private equity firm KKR who moved the company's headquarters to Switzerland for tax reasons. In 2012 Walgreens purchased 45% of the shares and then exercised an option to buy the rest in 2014 to form Walgreens Boots Alliance which is based in Deerfield, Illinois.

Over the past two years, the parent company has tried to dispose of its UK business and has been exploring either a private equity sale or a stock market listing. The pension scheme was transferred to Legal & General in November 2023, removing risk from the company that will help ease the sale. So in the immediate future, one of the most familiar UK high-street brands may once again be in British ownership, if not in Whitton High Street.

Re-deployable camera for Twickenham

The re-deployable camera for King Street and Church Street is up and running. Thanks to the good work between LBRUT and riverside SNT, this will aid officers greatly and should deter crime in these hotspots.



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**



Marble Hill House Free family entertainment

Looking for some free entertainment for all the family to enjoy this weekend?

Join us at 11am on 16 Dec for free Christmas arts and crafts.



**ENGLISH
HERITAGE**



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Photos from the book: *World InfoZone – WIZ Around the World*
Published 2023



CHRISTMAS AT MEET & DEEP...

By Deep Patel

~ Through The Eyes of a Twickenham Shop Keeper ~



Ahhhh Christmas...the highlight of the year at our shop, Meet & Deep Newsagents...why though?...So many people LOVE Christmas...and why not? The twinkling of fairy lights adorning our homes, the warm, golden glow of winter-spice candles gently purifying the air, hearty, whole meals to bring us comfort on cold nights and the odd guilt-free mince pie with the excuse “Well it is Christmas after all...”

Well, in all this, it is easy to forget that not everyone has someone to be with, or indeed somewhere to go for Christmas...but this is the reality...

At Meet & Deep Newsagents we know this as many tell us about this, so a while back, my parents Pallu (mum) and Shashi (dad) decided to give up their ONLY one day off a year to open their shop doors to the community providing a place for EVERYONE to celebrate Christmas...in our shop! Yes it may sound crazy...a party in a shop on Christmas day? Well, call us crazy (not to our faces please) but that is EXACTLY what we do...and we have been for many years!!!

It all began with just a few people popping in on Christmas day to say “happy Christmas” and now...the highlight of our shop year where it’s a full blown Christmas party with disco lights, Christmas party songs blaring out, a family of shop-keepers dressed in full Christmas fancy-dress and my mum making 300 samosas (yes 300) alongside my dad’s 100 year old great,

great grandmothers secret blend of masala-chai being poured out to everyone who attends... along with many other tasty goodies, cakes, chocolates, mince pies, snacks all completely free and ABOVE ALL...oodles and oodles of pure Christmas-cheer...Our party is not only for those who may be alone...oh no...it's for EVERYONE, the whole local community, families and friends included, if you are alive, you are invited...a place where ANYONE can come and just be with others in the community, regardless of genders, ethnicities or what you believe...simply to share LOVE and celebrate...LIFE...after all...that is what Christmas is about anyway! Dogs are welcome too (yes we will have treats for them too). There is only ONE rule that EVERYONE who comes must agree to...EVERYONE who comes will get a hug from us and must eat some of the snacks we offer!!! NO EXCUSES!!! You will get to choose which member of my family you wish to hug...my mum is usually the member of the family chosen the most for hugs by customers (I don't blame them, she does give great hugs)...but equally I will be happy to give a hug to anyone who may request it too!!! Don't be shy...It is Christmas after all!!!

MEET & DEEP NEWS COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

CHRISTMAS DAY, 12pm-3pm!!!

So whatever you are doing on Christmas day...take a few minutes to pop along to Meet & Deep Newsagents (34 Hampton Road, Twickenham, TW2 5QB) and join us for a Christmas...to celebrate togetherness...to celebrate community spirit...to celebrate Twickenham...to celebrate love...to celebrate the miracle that is...LIFE... Xx

For those readers who cannot physically attend, for the FIRST time ever...we are hosting a LIVE show telecast on our YouTube channel "Meet & Deep Newsagents" at 1pm...we will have an interactive quiz for all viewers at home to join in with and win chocolate, and other fun games to watch and take part in too, from the comfort of your own living room...be SURE to tune in... 1pm... Christmas day!



Remember...

"It can't be Christmas if there are no samosas or masala-chai..."

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

STOP RATS KINDLY (GOOD KARMA): Place bowls of white vinegar around places where you don't want them to come...they will go without you having to harm them. Use electronic plug in deterrents with good reviews to stop them coming as well as live capture traps to release them far from homes in a wooded area...poison makes them cruelly internally bleed to death over a period of 4 or 5 days...

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



Whisky Galore

by Compton Mackenzie, adapted by Philip Goulding

Richmond Shakespeare Society at the Mary Wallace Theatre, Twickenham until 16th December

Staging *Whisky Galore* presents challenges. In the 1950's, a group of ladies, the Pallas Players, are touring the country with their version, set during the Second World War, of the celebrated Scottish novel. So, we are in "play within a play", with much stylised acting, involving much cross-dressing and manly poses from an intentional female cast. It is a whimsical farce depicting a wartime provincial touring production; over-enthusiastic actors playing a range of overdrawn cardboard caricatures. It's physical theatre, and a difficult feat to pull off, but the cast never flagged in their non-stop energy and their dogged pursuit of laughter.



This was an ensemble piece involving seven female actors playing thirty different male and female characters, under the direction of Fiona Poole. An ensemble production, with actors reliant on each other, this was a production of equals (but rather unequal on Scottish accents) with excellent character acting.

The most eye-catching performance was delivered by Heloise Plumley, playing a vast array of oddball male and female characters. With her facial contortions, continually darting eyes and limbs in perpetual motion, she commanded the stage whenever she appeared, and her Mr. Brown, the tweed merchant, was particularly comical. Lily Tomlinson's caricature of the Sergeant Major was especially well-observed, capturing pompous jauntiness and flirtatiousness. Caroline Whillans was authoritative as the earnest actor-manager of the Pallas Players, and as a very amusing Catholic priest, Father McAllister.

Technical support from Marc Pearce's projections of the stricken ship were simple but amusing. Costumes, by John Gilbert, digging deep into his bottomless bag of false beards and wigs, were plentiful, colourful and funny.

Transition from novel to stage creates pitfalls. Having so many parts played by so few actors, whilst giving rise to comedy, also brings difficulties in following the plot. Indeed, come the second act, tedium was beginning to settle in. Nonetheless, the redeeming aspect was watching a bright lively cast who really got into the spirit of the evening.



Read Steve Mackrell's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/12/12/p-whisky-galore

Photography by Pete Messum



Cinderella

by Alan McHugh, additional material by Pete Firman and Matt Slack
 Crossroads Pantomimes at the New Wimbledon Theatre until 7th January

Take spectacular costumes and scenery, lighting and pyrotechnics. Add the glitter and glamour of familiar household stars. This is *Cinderella*, a fab-u-lously *Strictly* themed panto. Craig Revel Horwood takes centre stage with his trademark terse and acerbic attitude. His glorious singing of seventies' classics is a treat. The Latin dance moves would evoke a loud "Ten", particularly in the dance-off with Buttons when the show's pace picks up, and then at the ball, where his never-ending legs and slinky snake hips are witnessed in all their glory.



The stepmother and stepsisters are the villains of the piece, but this production let Revel Horwood glimmer in glamour as the sole dame, with the ugly sisters, Tess and Claudia, comically portrayed by Catherine Morris and Leanne Jones. None of the trio, however, really oozes evilness, and they only get a trickling of boos. However, smutty innuendos and jokes about current affairs are thankfully in short supply.



The audience absolutely love well-known magician Pete Firman's portrayal of the cheeky but loveable Buttons. He combines amazing magic trickery with superb comedic timing, as well as interacting gently with adorable pint-sized children in the audience sing-a-long.

Firman shares a memorable scene of physical comedy with Cassie Compton's fairy-tale Cinderella and Solomon Davy's clean cut and earnest Prince Charming, elbowing into on their romantic moment of love at first sight. All performers channel their powerful singing into eighties' love ballad *Everything I Do*, despite this culminating with an undeserved wedgie!

Daniel Norford's Dandini joins the ensemble in some of their routines. Tap-dancing polar bears and disco-dancing lords and ladies boogie at the ball, under beautiful candelabras and sparkling stars, to Michael Bradley's live orchestra.

Alison Jiear's Fairy Godmother saves the day, transforming a bevy of wonderful tap-dancing pumpkins into the spectacular effect of the enchanted coach and white horses transporting Cinders magically across the stalls in real falling snow, evoking gasps of amazement at the fairy tale atmosphere of "The Fairy Godmother of All Pantos".



Read Thea Diamond's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/12/13/cinderella-nwt

Photography by Craig Sugden



Treasure Island

by James Rushbrooke, after R.L. Stevenson

The Questors at the Judi Dench Playhouse, Ealing until 31st December

Billy Bones mentions the tale of Davey Jones, from Brixton, against the tinkling guitars of *Life On Mars*, and the style is set. Clearly, this *Treasure Island* is packed with more contemporary cultural references than the classic tale of piracy. Sure enough, as the Dame, Peggy Legge, reveals the Admiral Benbow Inn, a motley multi-generational crew of sailors launch into a version of the disco classic *In The Navy*.

We are quickly introduced to Jim Hawkins, Peggy's adopted son in this version, and to Peggy's ten year old daughter Rosie, who are charmingly played by young Questors. When the terrifying Blind Pugh appears to give Billy Bones the "Black Spot", the tone quickly grows very dark, and Bones coaxes an entire show's worth of booing from the audience.



Deciding to follow Billy's map to uncover buried treasure, the pantomime reverts to the source novel, as Trelawney hires a crew that includes Long John Silver and Isobel Hands; but here Doctor Livesey is Holly, Squire Trelawney's daughter and Jim Hawkin's love interest. Holly is a 21st century strong female character ... and wears her fake moustache with panache.

Pirates Bates and Staines make a great double act, surrounded by the rest of the young Pirate Gang. For a group of bloodthirsty buccaneers, the pirates are all great fun. (But whom should we cheer or boo?) In a wonderful fantasy sequence Davey Jones (aka Ziggy Starfish) captures Rosie and Jim, essentially an excuse for a David Bowie medley full of undersea puppets. Songs, attacked with gusto under the musical direction of Dave Roberts, are a feature of this production, most rewritten with wry nautical-themed lyrics by Helen Cooper. No spoilers, but most are by performers who begin with B!

The humour extends to sound effects, quacking ducks and TARDIS bell. For the lively closing musical numbers, the lighting lets rip, ensuring the children are literally bouncing in their seats with excitement. Director Howard Shepherdson's highly ambitious *Treasure Island*, highlighted by wonderful costumes, and a lavish and entertainingly cartoonish set, is full of fun for the entire family.



Read Andrew Lawston's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/12/09/treasure-isld-q

Photography by Carla Marker



The Secret Garden

by Louise Haddington, adapted from the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett
Take Note Theatre at the Theatre at the Tabard, Chiswick until 31st December

A garden should be a place of wonder, and Hazel Owen's sensitively designed set holds that feel of poetry demanded by this piece.

The characters in Burnett's 1911 novel carry pain before they discover joy. *The Secret Garden* tells the story of the unhappy and lonely ten year old Mary Lennox, recently arrived from India to become a ward to an indifferent rich uncle. The little girl is skilfully played by Daisy Rae, with talent and conviction, as an unloved, but privileged child. It takes the maid Martha Sowerby to peel away Mary's hard emotional layers. Mari Luz Cervantes, in this role (and in an authentic Yorkshire accent) depicts the young servant's compassion. Freya Alderson as Mrs Medlock strikes the balance of a housekeeper's gruff kindness with a strict demeanour.



Richard Lounds doubles as gardener Ben Weatherstaff, an enticing presence, and as the cold uncle, Archibald Craven. Dressed in a luxurious long coat, Craven carries a sad glamour as a bitter, grieving widower in Lounds' highly watchable performance.

Martha's twelve year old brother Dickon exudes Northern grit and pure kindness, extending his friendship to the lonely Mary, who, unlike her new friend, has had everything except love. Jordan Rising fell naturally into the role of Dickson,

while Sam McHale as Colin, Craven's sickly neglected son, conveys his vital message with poignancy and humour.

Exquisite and authentic costumes, designed by Alice McNicholas, enhance the ambience. Realistic puppetry is beautifully executed by members of the cast. Josh Armitage's puppets, carry real presence without being intrusive.

The secret garden of the title is revealed in a soft gentle green hue through the French doors, in Nat Green's moody and atmospheric lighting design, and the tense and tender sound created by Nick Gilbert. Mary wandering through the garden is an unforgettable moment.

Directed in detail by Simon Reilly, *The Secret Garden* is an affecting, nostalgic piece, ideal for the mood of Christmas.



Read Heather Moulson's review at www.markaspen.com/2023/12/14/secret-gdn-tab

Photography by Charles Flint

Robin Hood

the Pantomime

The Exchange Players present Robin Hood the Pantomime

An original old fashioned yet modern entertainment suitable for all ages! This is an affordable in-house production featuring

talented professional and local performers alongside children from Twickenham Youth Theatre. From the pen of acclaimed local playwright, Loz Keal, comes this fast-paced, fun-filled panto that has everything you expect – sing-along-songs, loads of audience participation and so many groan-worthy gags that your sides will ache!

Robin Hood, the pantomime:

18th to 22nd December Evenings at 6pm

21st & 22nd December Matinees at 2pm

Relaxed Performance – Tuesday 19th December at 6pm

A Whimsical Tale

Act 1

Nottingham, England, 1191... The wicked Sheriff, with the help his daft hench-people Hazel and Holly, is overtaxing everyone causing a cost-of-living crisis! Enter Robin Hood, his mum Dame Gwen, and his silly brother Little John; Robin has a plan - amass a random band of Merry-People who'll rob from the rich and give to the poor... enter Friar Tuck, Alana Dale and Will Bright-Red. Whilst all this is happening Robin meets feisty Marian and they fall for each other; when the Sheriff finds out, he has Marian arrested...



Act 2

Robin and his Merry-People free Marian and a chase ensues... Our heroes escape, only to find themselves lost in the dark forest where they meet a bear! The Sheriff decides to hold an archery competition to catch Robin once and for all. The Forest Fairy uses magic to disguise Robin, who makes it to the final of the tournament along with the Sheriff. Hazel and Holly actually get something right for once

and manage to give Robin a sleeping draught just before he fires his last arrow...

Will Robin win the tournament?

Will the wicked Sheriff and his hench-people be beaten?

Will Marian and Robin live happily ever after?

There's only one way to find out

Tickets can be purchased from - www.exchangetwickenham.co.uk

Alternatively call – 020 8240 2399

THE EXCHANGE PLAYERS

FAMILY OF 4 TICKET only £52.50

Robin Hood

the Pantomime

by Loz Keal

December '23

Matinees	Evenings
21st & 22nd	18th - 22nd
2:00pm	6:00pm

WWW.EXCHANGETWICKENHAM.CO.UK

RuTC Partners with RIBA

Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC) is proud to be partnering with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) to help enrich our students' studies and provide industry exposure and experience.

RuTC Architecture tutor, Tim Pond met Joshua Brooks, Learning Manager at RIBA, at one of their outreach events this term, where Tim was able to showcase the quality of our students' work. RIBA have since formally partnered with our A Level Architecture course, seeing it as RIBA part 0. They have also been offering participation in an extended project qualification at The London School of Architecture and a Youth Forum, which takes students on exciting trips once a month, on a Saturday.

As part of this partnership, part two architect at The London School of Architecture, Jahba Anan is creating a construction onsite at RuTC to fulfil the final project part of her course, with help from some of our students. After discussion with staff members and teams across the college, it has been decided that an internal structure that students can make good use of on a daily basis would work best. Together with the Student Services, Learning Resource and Estates departments, it



has been agreed that a moveable Sanctuary Pod will be constructed on the ground floor of the college building. A place where students can take some time out to read, reflect and relax. This will be the same colour wood as current furnishings to match aesthetics and will be able to be easily transported to other areas of the building, e.g. the Learning Resource Centre.

The project is aimed at first year Architecture students, a group of Carpentry students and Electrical students for lighting and sound, to work together to create and assemble this piece in the spring of 2024.

This is an incredibly exciting project for our students to be a part of, to gain hands-on project experience and the chance to work in a team with external contacts.

[Learn more about RIBA here.](#)

In other Architecture news, second year A Level students visited Durley Chine Eco Hub in mid-November. A new development helping to deliver a step-change in the reduction of waste and elimination of single-use packaging along Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole's beautiful seafront.

Here they met Andrew from Bournemouth Council and Mike from Footprint Architects to understand why and how the Hub was commissioned and what eco evolutions the architects used.

Our students found the trip incredibly interesting and educational, and thoroughly enjoyed learning outside of the classroom.

[Find out more about the project here.](#)



St Mary's University

St Mary's Football Placement Students Take Part in Ultimate Player Experience at SL Benfica

Students at St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) travelled to Lisbon in partnership with Mango Football Club to deliver an Ultimate Player Experience at SL Benfica, home to the two-times European Cup Champions and most successful club in Portugal.

Eight students from SMU travelled to Benfica for a week in November to run an Ultimate Player Experience on behalf of Mango Football Club. Mango FC provides opportunities for youth football players to experience what life as a professional football player is like.



The SMU students were given the opportunity to provide a range of player support within an elite environment across the sports science, performance analysis, coaching and physiotherapy disciplines. Students were further supported by professional license coaches and experts within the professional game.

Students Kwame Agyapong Adjem and Mohammed Moaouia delivered sports science support for the football testing programme, gathering data around physical performance. Dominika Netschova and Adam Straw coached the players alongside ex-Premier League and National Team coaches Kit Symonds and David Howells, while Tom Stevenson and Gabby De Lord ran a performance analysis support programme during training and matches. Chloe Dodd and Alex Andrews provided physio support throughout.

St Mary's Senior Lecturer in Performance Analysis

Patrick Oxenham, who set up and delivered the project, said, "I have played a leading role in securing partnerships and opportunities for students at elite level football clubs within London, however I am really passionate about extending those opportunities wider to ensure our football footprint at St Mary's continues to grow.

"To be able to support the development of our students and connect them to one of the biggest clubs in Europe is fantastic to see. I want to thank all eight students as well as Michael Ayres, Associate Professor in Coaching & Development at SMU in all their hard work, planning and delivery to ensure a successful experience in Lisbon."

Sports Science student Kwame said, "It was a great experience out in Lisbon, the week provided me with an opportunity to experience what applied sports science support looks like and develop my skills in this area."

MSc Physiotherapy student Alex said, "Thank you to Patrick for organising the week, it was a fantastic experience to deliver out of SL Benfica's training ground. It has provided me with an opportunity to deliver physio support in football, something I have not done before."

Due to the success of the project, St Mary's will be looking to partner again with Mango Football to deliver more Ultimate Player Experiences in the future. 2024 will see SMU visit Inter Milan, Roma, Tottenham Hotspur, Philadelphia Union, and Malaysia.

Any SMU students studying coaching, performance analysis, sports science and physio who want to get involved in future projects can email project lead Patrick Oxenham (patrick.oxenham@stmarys.ac.uk) with their interest.



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Green Santa to set sail on the River Thames

Uber Boat by Thames Clippers launches UK's first floating eco-friendly Santa pop up

Less than a quarter (23 per cent) of Brits are aware that Father Christmas's iconic clothing was originally green, according to new research from Uber Boat by Thames Clippers. And with over half of consumers feeling that having an eco-friendly choice is important when it comes to planning Christmas activities and days out (48 per cent), travel (50 per cent) and gifts (54 per cent) this year, Uber Boat by Thames Clippers is bringing back a traditional emerald-suited Santa to the river this festive season for the UK's greenest Santa pop up.

With consumers in the capital revealed as the most eco-conscious in the UK when it comes to buying Christmas presents*, London's most sustainable Santa will greet passengers and distribute eco-friendly gifts on board one of Uber Boat by Thames Clippers' hybrid vessels.

The first Green Santa sailing departs North Greenwich Pier at 15:13, and travels westward to Battersea Power Station, calling at piers throughout the capital including:

- Canary Wharf at 15:33
- Tower Pier at 15:44
- London Bridge City at 15:48
- Bankside at 15:53
- Embankment Pier at 16:03
- Millbank Pier at 16:13

The second Green Santa sailing departs Battersea Power Station Pier at 17:30 and travels eastward to North Greenwich Pier, calling at piers including:

- Embankment Pier at 17:48
- Bankside at 17:57
- London Bridge City at 18:02
- Tower Pier at 18:06
- Canary Wharf Pier at 18:17



Meeting Santa with Uber Boat by Thames Clippers is free with the price of a ticket, and children will receive an eco gift. As well as celebrating with Santa, passengers will see iconic landmarks from the Houses of Parliament, to Tower Bridge and Greenwich Palace in breathtaking illuminated glory – all from the comfort of one of the greenest passenger ferries on the Thames.

Despite the famous red coat and hat being synonymous with our idea of St. Nick, up until the late 19th century he was more commonly depicted in green robes. The green outfit that was familiar to Victorian children was related to the pagan origins of the winter celebration, and the green shoots of spring that can be found in even harsh winters. We have American cartoonists, Nordic traditions, and advertising to thank for today's red portrayal.

Celestial Clipper follows the launch of Earth Clipper earlier this year, and precedes the hybrid Mars Clipper, expected in 2024. Like Earth Clipper, Celestial will operate only on electric power in central London and recharge while using biofuelled power outside of the centre. Hybrid high speed passenger ferries give an almost 90 per cent reduction in CO2e compared with vessels ran solely on conventional marine diesel.

Tickets for a central-zone one way sailing start at £8.60 when paid for online, via app, or by tapping-in. With a Family River Roamer, kids up to 15 sail for free and the family enjoys unlimited hop-on, hop-off travel throughout the day. An All Zones Family River Roamer costs just £42.40 and is valid for 2 adults and up to 3 children.

Celestial Clipper will join regular river boat services alongside Uber Boat by Thames Clippers' 18 other high-speed catamarans, serving London's commuters and visitors at the 24 piers from Putney in the west to Barking Riverside in the east.

For further information on the Sail with Green Santa sailings, and to book tickets, visit:

thamesclippers.com/sailingsanta

ARTS RICHMOND PRESENTS



THE DIANA

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PRIZE FOR DRAWING FROM OBSERVATION



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4th - 17th March 2024



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Holy Trinity Twickenham

What's on

Sunday 17 December 2023

“The Benedictus”

The Third Sunday of Advent

Luke 1 (67-80)

This Sunday we welcome you for the following services:

9am - Holy Communion

10.30am - Holy Communion

Socials are Back

We're really pleased that our men's and women's socials will be making a return in 2024. These are an opportunity to meet up over some food and drinks, and enjoy some time together. If you have experienced problems emailing the socials@ email address, please do try again this week now that the settings have been corrected to allow everyone to send emails to the address! Upcoming events:

Youth Social - THIS SUNDAY 17th December

Young people in Yrs 7-13 are invited for games, food and fellowship at the vicarage from 4-6pm this Sunday 17th December. Email vicar@httchurch.org if you have a young person who would like to attend, or just turn up on the day.

Men's Social - Tuesday 9th January (Date change)

“They came from the east, and returned by another route.”

Join us as we retrace the journey of the wise men by going for a curry and a pint. We are hoping to make a booking at a local restaurant by the end of December, so please register your interest by Monday 18th December at socials@httchurch.org or speak to Jon.

Women's Social - Tuesday 16th January

It was a long journey for the wise men, which will continue with a meal and drinks for the women at a local restaurant on Tuesday 16th January. If you're interested in attending or would like more information please email socials@httchurch.org or speak to Fleur.

Food Bank Donation Point

The Vicarage (1 Vicarage Road) is now a food bank donation point. There will be 2 large tubs left outside of the vicarage between 7am and 8pm every day. This is to enable ongoing support for local foodbanks throughout the year. [Please click here to see an up-to-date list of the items most in need.](#)

<https://httchurch.org/>



HOLY TRINITY TWICKENHAM

Match Preview: Brentford v Aston Villa

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

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford host Aston Villa this Sunday (2pm kick-off) with Unai Emery's side currently riding the crest of a wave.

Back-to-back 1-0 wins over Arsenal and Manchester City have moved the Midlanders up to third in the Premier League table and, for the first time in a long time, Villa are regarded by many as potential title contenders.

The Bees head into the weekend in 11th following a 1-0 loss at Sheffield United last time out.

Pre-match Analysis

Brentford must be wary of returning Watkins

The foundation for Aston Villa's fantastic surge of late has undoubtedly been their home form and the Villans are currently on a staggering 15-game winning streak on their own patch.

Eight wins from eight home games tells its own story in the Premier League this season, and 24 of their 35 points this term have been won at Villa Park.

Sunday's game will see striker Ollie Watkins return to his old club in what will be only his second visit to Brentford as an opposing player. Now 27, the England international drew 1-1 against the Bees in Villa's Premier League visit to Gtech Community Stadium last April.



Head to Head		
23	Goals	35
22	Goals Conceded	20
162	Shots	169
48%	Possession	52%
0	Red Cards	0
34	Yellow Cards	41



Since leaving west London in September 2020, Watkins has developed into one of the top flight's most lethal finishers and his evolution under Emery has been impressive.

Spearheading the Premier League's third-most potent attack, Watkins has fired home eight goals and supplied six assists so far this season to be the most productive English player in the division.

In fact, only Man City's bionic Erling Haaland (14G, 4A) and Liverpool's Mo Salah (11G, 7A) have been directly involved in more Premier League goals than Watkins, who is second only to the aforementioned Norwegian when it comes to attempted shots on goal this season.

Thomas Frank's Bees should brace themselves for a fast start from their visitors on Sunday, as Villa have scored more goals (13) within the first 30 minutes of games than any team in the Premier League so far this season.

Notably, Villa are also the only top flight team yet to concede a goal in the 15 minutes before the interval (31-45 minutes).

While Brentford often target opponents from close range, a feature of Villa's game so far this season has been their sharp shooting from distance: no team has scored more Premier League goals from outside the box than the Villans (6) in 2023/24.

Defensively strong, Villa are excellent in transition and yet to concede on the counter attack this season. Further, only Man City and Arsenal (both 8.3) have limited their opposition to fewer shots per game this season than Villa (10.6).

Brentford will look for chinks in their in-form opponents' armour this Sunday, however, and Villa's away form is fallible.

Emery's side have only scored 10 of their 35 Premier League goals (29 per cent) on their travels and they have also shipped 15 goals on the road leaving them with an away goal difference of -5.

With Brentford traditionally strong at the Gtech, it promises to be a tactically intriguing tussle with Watkins' return adding further spice to an already tasty encounter.

Scout Report

Emery inspires remarkable revival at Villa Park

It seems unthinkable now but, during the opening months of last season, it is fair to say Aston Villa were spiralling.

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

There was a slight improvement in the month that followed but, on 20 October, Villa suffered their sixth defeat of the season when they were comprehensively beaten 3-0 by Fulham at Craven Cottage. "The performance was miles away from what I want, expect and stand for," said an understandably downcast Gerrard. "Football is in my DNA, quitting certainly isn't. We'll see what happens moving forward."

The next day he was sacked after less than a year in charge. Two days after that, Unai Emery was appointed after Aston Villa reportedly paid more than £5 million to release the Spaniard from his contract at Villarreal.

It was not until 1 November that he officially took over and, in the meantime, caretaker manager Aaron Danks oversaw a 4-0 win over Brentford and a 4-0 defeat at Newcastle.

The arrival of serial winner Emery lifted the mood around the place to no end, not least because he won his first two games in charge. With the World Cup break in which to fully implement his methods, after it, Villa thrived - well, after three wins, one draw and three defeats at the start of the year.

Villa won 10 of their final 15 Premier League games and, all of a sudden, broke into European contention. A draw with Liverpool in the penultimate game of the season lifted them to seventh, with a win over Brighton on the final day securing a place in the Europa Conference League play-off round. Emery had inspired a stunning recovery.

To say they have carried the momentum into this term would be a vast understatement.

In the Europa Conference League, they thumped Hibernian 8-0 on aggregate to earn a place in the group stage, and they have qualified for the knockouts already, following four-straight wins that followed a narrow 3-2 defeat away at Legia Warsaw on the opening matchday in September.

Back home in the Premier League, Emery's men have done nothing short of an incredible job to date. They have picked up 35 of the 48 points on offer so far to climb up to third ahead of Sunday's match, having seen off Arsenal and Manchester City in their last two matches.

They are priced 16/1 for the title at the time of writing, but Emery is keeping schtum on those prospects. "I will speak again when we are in game 30, 32 and, if we are in the same position as now, then maybe I can speak about it," he said after the win against former club Arsenal.

But it is hard to argue against the fact Aston Villa have already passed a big test in beating three of the other four teams currently sitting in the top five - and how refreshing it is that there is not only a wide-open title race, but an outsider very much in the mix as the winter break approaches.

In the Dugout

Unai Emery

Having taken charge of more than 970 matches in 19 years, Unai Emery is one of the most experienced managers currently working in the Premier League.

After a career as a midfielder, mostly playing in the second tier of Spanish football, Emery had a pretty quick transition into management, having suffered a serious knee injury in his early 30s.

He helped the now-defunct Lorca Deportiva to promotion in 2004/05 and got Almeria into La Liga for the first time in 2006/07, before an incredible eighth-place finish the following campaign.

In 2008, his exploits saw him move on to Valencia, whom he guided to three straight third-place finishes from 2010 to 2012, before a forgettable six-month spell in Russia with Spartak Moscow.

Emery returned to Spain in January 2013 and went on to guide Sevilla to three successive Europa League titles.

Two years and seven trophies with Paris Saint-Germain followed, with Emery then trusted by the Arsenal board to become the successor to Arsène Wenger, which was, to an extent, a poisoned chalice.

Emery guided the Gunners to the final in 2019, where they were beaten by Chelsea in Baku, Azerbaijan, but he was unable to help them finish higher than fifth for the first time in four seasons.

Emery was sacked after 18 months at Emirates Stadium in November 2019 and appointed by Villarreal in July 2020, with - you've guessed it - a fourth Europa League triumph following 10 months later, by way of a penalty shootout win over Manchester United in Gdansk, Poland.

The 52-year-old then turned down an approach by Newcastle United in November 2021, but came back to England to replace Steven Gerrard at Villa Park in October 2022.



West London Christmas bus misery as strikes intensify

Christmas bus strikes in West London will now begin a day earlier following an insulting new offer from RATP-owned London Transit, Unite, the UK's leading union, said today (Monday).

Strikes by the 350 drivers and engineers will now begin on **21 December**, as well as on **22 and 23 December**, as previously scheduled. Industrial action will intensify if the dispute is not resolved.

The workers are striking after they rejected a 6.8 per cent pay offer. This is a significant real terms pay cut as the real rate of inflation, (RPI), stood at 11.4 per cent when the pay increase was supposed to be applied in April.

The dispute is also over the company's attempt to reduce terms and conditions, including removing a longstanding £500 meal relief payment and attacking arrangements for how workers take days off in lieu.

The company's latest offer only included extremely minor changes that did not include an increase in hourly pay.

Furthering bad feeling at the company is the fact that it takes workers seven years to reach the full rate of pay, even though at most other bus companies it only takes three years of service.

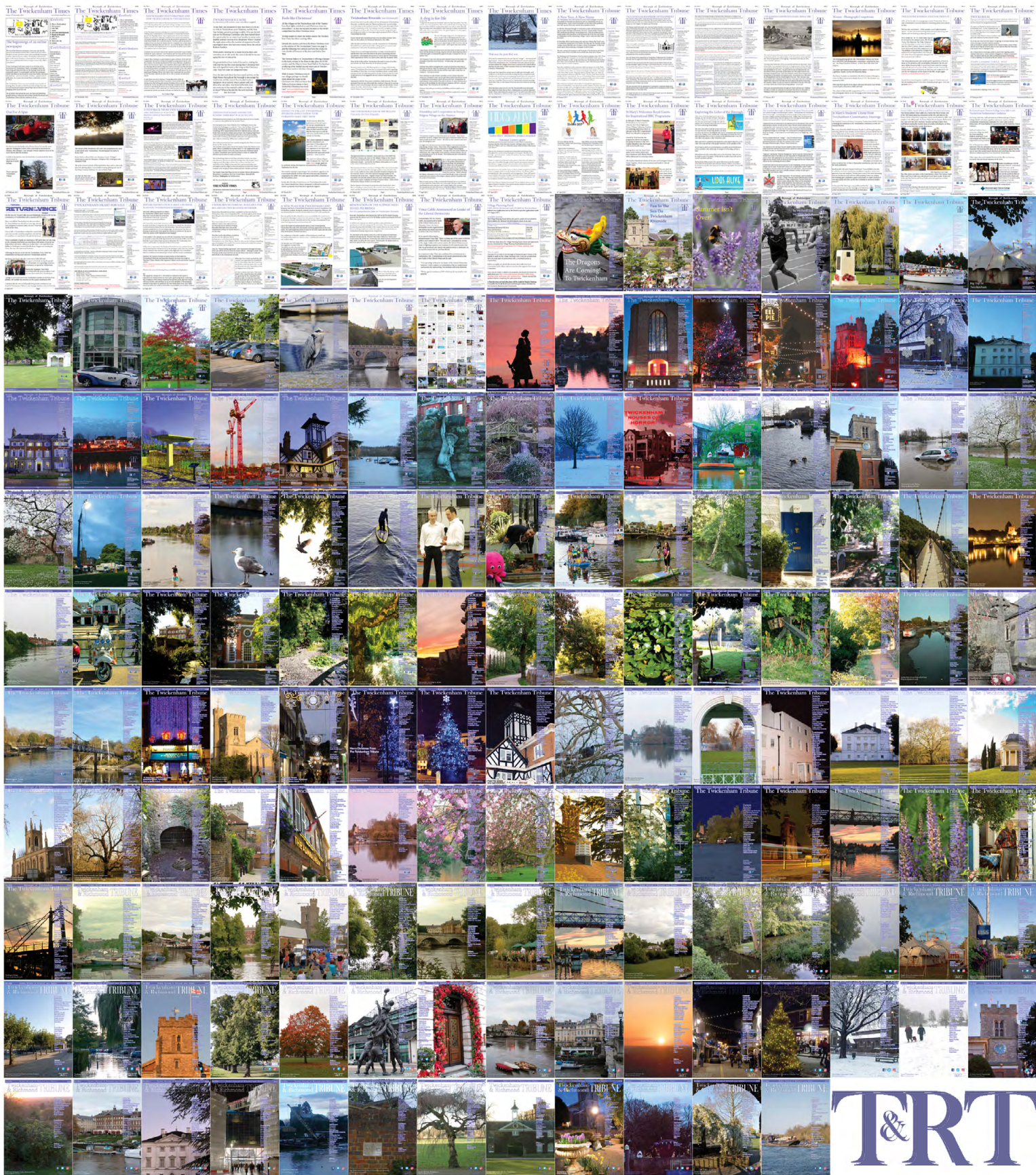
Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said: ***"RATP is a huge multinational firm and can afford to put forward a fair pay rise and drop its attack on these workers' terms and conditions. Instead, it is making this dispute worse by insulting the workforce with completely unacceptable offers. Unite will not stand for attacks on our members jobs, pay or conditions and the workers at London Transit have the total support of their union."***

The workers are based at the Westbourne Park Garage and the strikes will impact the 13, 23, 28, 218, 295, 414, 452 and N28 routes.

Unite regional officer Michelle Braveboy said: ***"RATP is causing Christmas misery to its passengers by its refusal to pay its workers reasonably. Unite stands ready to enter into renewed talks at any time to end this dispute, but RATP must come back with a deal our members can accept."***



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