

# Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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### Editors

Berkley Driscoll  
Teresa Read



23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024

T&RT

# TickerTape - News in Brief

## Council Tax increase

The council is proposing to increase the core Council Tax by 4.99%.

The budget proposals will be discussed at next week's Finance, Policy and Resources Committee meeting (Thursday 29 February), after which the Full Council will consider the proposal on Tuesday 5 March.

## Junior Doctors Strike

Planned strike action by junior doctors is expected to cause major disruption this week – but the NHS is still here for people who need care.

Please use <http://111.nhs.uk>, and in life-threatening emergencies, call 999.



**Junior  
doctors strike**

**Sat 24 Feb - Weds 28 Feb**

**Please use  
111.nhs.uk and  
in emergencies  
call 999**



**The Tree Agency**

**The Tree Agency**  
darryl parkin

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25 King Edwards Grove  
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# Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 237

By Alan Winter

## Hampton Water Treatment Works

Hampton Water Treatment Works are located on the River Thames in Hampton, Middlesex. Built in the second half of the 19th Century to supply London with fresh water, the Waterworks was in the past a significant local employer, and its brick pumphouses dominate the local landscape. The Waterworks are currently owned and operated by Thames Water, occupying a 66 ha site located between the Upper Sunbury Road (A308) and the River Thames. The Waterworks currently has a maximum output of 700 megalitres a day and supplies 30% of London's fresh water. Our postcards this week show:

1. The River and Waterworks from the Surrey Bank. Posted in 1905
2. The Waterworks on the Hampton side. Posted in 1907.
3. The Metropolitan Water Board Light Railway c 1920's

Construction of the Waterworks began in the 1850s as a joint venture between the Grand Junction Waterworks Company, the Southwark and Vauxhall Waterworks Company, and the West Middlesex Waterworks Company, following the passage of the 1852 Metropolis Water Act, which made it unlawful to take drinking water from the tidal Thames below Teddington Lock because of the amount of sewage in the tidal river. The original works were designed by Joseph Quick and J.W. Restler, and initially comprised sand filter beds to remove suspended solids from the river water, and three massive engine pump houses constructed in Gault brick, with large arched windows and decorative balustrades.



The site was expanded in the 1860s with additional filtration, water storage and steam driven pumping plant built. The last engine house on the site was completed in 1900, and with the establishment of filter beds between Belgrade Road and Rose Hill in the early 20th century (drained in the 1990s to become Hampton Green), the Waterworks came to dominate the southern and western sides of Hampton. The various water companies were amalgamated into the Metropolitan Water Board in 1902.



Once complete the Waterworks were among the largest in the world at the time, supplying over 400 megalitres a day and requiring over 100 tons of coal for the pumphouses. Coal was supplied on barges unloaded at Hampton wharf and moved by cart to the Waterworks. Difficulties with this arrangement led to the construction of the Metropolitan Water Board Light Railway in 1915. The Railway connected the wharf to the Waterworks and Kempton Park



pumping station. The Railway also continued to a standard gauge railway siding at Sunbury station, which allowed for coal to be delivered via the London and South Western Shepperton branch line when the river was in flood or operators were on strike.

In the 1930's more efficient turbine pumping engines were being introduced, as well as electric-powered pumps. Coal was also now being moved from the Thames Wharf by conveyor belt to the Hampton pumping stations so a decision was made to dismantle the MWB Railway system after a work life of 32 years. Thames Water took over the site in 1974.

The story does not end there, because in 2003, the Metropolitan Water Board Railway Society was formed to restore and rebuild the railway on, or close to the original MWB track, bed using the original 2ft industrial gauge.

In 2012, volunteers constructed a 2ft narrow-gauge railway 'Loop', giving local families and visitors an opportunity to experience a steam-hauled passenger journey through the urban countryside of South West London. Today, the railway is being constructed, managed, and operated entirely by voluntary effort, and is one of the few operational narrow-gauge railways within the M25.

Restoration work continues and HKWR has embarked on a £1.8 million campaign to rebuild the track as far as Hampton and complete their goal to provide educational opportunities that explain the original purpose of this historic railway.

### **A New Historical Hamptons Facebook Group**

For those of you interested in the history of the Hamptons, a new Facebook group is now up and running covering Hampton, Hampton Hill, Hampton Wick and Hampton Court. The group concentrates on the history of the areas and images are shown from old postcards and photographs. Open to one and all, you can join the group now by searching Facebook for ***Hampton and Hampton Hill History***

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](mailto:alanwinter192@hotmail.com) I am happy to pay cash for any postcards or photographs that I find of interest. So don't throw old postcards etc. in the skip or recycling bins. Show them to me first!

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# World Health Organization

## COVID-19 Epidemiological Update, 16 February 2024

Teresa Read

**At the country level**, the highest numbers of new 28-day cases were reported from Russia (103,302), Singapore (48,580), Malaysia (45,195), Australia (38,698) and Greece (27,110).

The highest numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from the United States of America (6,534), Italy (517), the Russian Federation (509), Greece (310) and Sweden (306).

**The European Region** reported over 252,000 new cases, a 68% decrease as compared to the previous 28-day period. Three of the 62 countries for which data are available reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater, with the highest proportional increases observed in Kazakhstan (459), Azerbaijan (258) and Albania (210). The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Russian Federation (103,032), Greece (27,125) and Italy (26,136).

The number of new 28-day deaths in the Region decreased by 51% as compared to the previous 28-day period, with 2,585 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Italy (599), the Russian Federation (509) and Greece (315).

**WHO is currently tracking several SARS-CoV-2 variants, including:**

- Five variants of interest: XBB.1.5, XBB.1.16, EG.5, BA.2.86 and JN.1
- Three variants under monitoring: XBB, XBB.1.9.1 and XBB.2.3

Globally, JN.1 is the most reported Variant of Interest - now reported by 99 countries.

## Holy Trinity Church Twickenham - Defibrillator

Please spread the word!

We are so pleased to see this defibrillator in place for our special community, but the success of this important equipment depends hugely on members of the public being aware of its presence. A huge well done to Archdeacon Cambridge's School.

To access the Defibrillator, call 999 and the person on the phone will give you the code to access it and talk you through how to use it.



HOLY TRINITY TWICKENHAM



# Next week at Richmond Council

On Tuesday, the **Transport and Air Quality Committee** meet to discuss (1) the 2024/25 budget, (2) North Worple Way traffic study, (3) Parking enforcement contract, (5) Thomson House school street, (6) Q3 quarterly budget monitoring report, (7) forward plan. Note the committee is proposing to **remove the 10% discount** parking residents receive when using their Richmond Card for parking whilst parking permits in Twickenham to increase by 19% with the stated aim to discourage car use – start time: 7 pm, York House.

On Thursday, the **Finance, Policy and Resources Committee** will meet to discuss (1) Richmond community safety plan, (2) Cost of living support update, (3) Richmond sanctuary update, (4) universal credit mitigation, (5) digital strategy update, (6) change programme progress update, (7) annual contract report and procurement update (including social value), (8) Richmond annual equalities report 2024, (9) Q3 quarterly monitoring report, (10) corporate Q3 monitoring report, (11) directorate budget report 2024/25 including fees and charge, (12) revenue budget & council tax 2024/25, (13) Richmond capital programme and funding review, (14) treasury management strategy and capital strategy. Note: they are proposing to **increase their share of the council tax by 4.99%** – start time: 7 pm, York House.

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 day before the meeting.

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

## Council Reports

### Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee

Read the Tribune's report on the Council Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 20th February.

See the report below on pages 9 – 10.

### Council to outsource swimming pool management

Read the Tribune's report on the outsourcing of the management of the council-run swimming pools at Richmond and Teddington, which was discussed at the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee meeting on Tuesday 20th February.

See the report below on pages 12 – 13.

Dear Sir,

## Spending our Pennies

After recent correspondence in the Tribune highlighting the scandalous lack of public toilets in Richmond and Twickenham, I found an article by an eminent doctor about this problem:

*“Conditions that mean we need to go more often, or find it harder to hold on, affect millions of people. I often hear from patients who say their lives are curtailed by the fear they won’t be able to find a toilet when out and about.*

*I assume the authorities bank on the fact there’s always a coffee shop or supermarket they can nip in to, but as we all know, that’s not the case. I find the situation infuriating. I almost feel like telling people to turn up, en masse, to use the loo at their local council offices”*

That’s a good idea. Let’s do it!

The toilets at Richmond and Twickenham stations are good examples as they seem to be closed whenever you need them. If they are not closed for maintenance, they are closed after 8pm - Why? Our bladders don’t switch off after the pub or restaurant, on the way home from work, or while waiting on a freezing platform after 10:00pm for a train that isn’t coming any time soon.....

Wake up, Richmond Council - you are one of the worst offenders.

Instead of wasting money on your massive vanity projects (many of which are pre-election virtue-signalling) how about spending a few pennies on providing something TRULY necessary? It might even earn you some votes.

Yours faithfully

Crossed Legs from Cross Deep  
(Name and address supplied)





# Council Reports

## Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee

By James Knight

**Outsourcing of the management of the council-run swimming pools** at Richmond and Teddington was the first topic on the agenda. This item is covered in a separate article on page 12. There was concern from many public speakers and councillors over this move, and the committee needed a more significant role in appointing the contractor. The chair agreed that an informal report would be circulated to committee members on the contract specification, and the matter would only return to the committee if the committee could not agree. So much for transparency!

The next item discussed was the **Climate Emergency Strategy Action Plan**. The first part of this section was not webcasted due to a mistake made by the council staff. When coverage resumed, a speaker from Habitats and Heritage was speaking. She said almost 50% of Richmond's CO2 emissions come from homes, so we must get homes off heating and cooking on gas, improve insulation, and make wider use of solar energy. The planning system needs to be reviewed to remove barriers to installing heat pumps and external wall insulation in Conservation Areas. She said there was a lot of poor-quality rented accommodation in the borough, with the private rental sector accounting for 25% of the housing stock and the social rental sector accounting for 12%. The council is finding that many energy performance certificates are not accurate, and the council needs to be more active in enforcing standards. Cllr Chris Varley (South Richmond) said his ward had large blocks of flats using oil-powered communal heating systems and requested this be prioritised in the plan.

Martin Baker, a public speaker, said the council passed a resolution to be carbon neutral by 2030 and zero carbon by 2050. Few people understand the true extent of what a zero-carbon policy means. He referenced UK Fires, a research programme sponsored by the UK Government. If the proposals in the report were adopted, it would mean the end of our society as we know it. He said the elites in their private jets would not be affected, but the plebs would see their living standards reduced.

The next speaker was Margarete Murdock, a local architect, who said the council were putting off people installing heat pumps because they required acoustic reports. These reports cost around £900 each, so clients replace them with gas boilers to avoid the cost. Michael de Podesta, a resident, chartered physicist, and climate activist, spoke next. Net Zero is not a political idea but a physics idea, and the world was warming at 0.2 degrees Celsius every decade. To become net zero by 2043, every gas boiler in this borough must be decommissioned. For residents, replacing their gas boilers is the biggest thing they can do to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions, and the council has an essential role to play in facilitating this. He said Richmond Council is actively hostile to heat pumps because of the planning department's requirements.

Cllr Chas Warlow (South Richmond) asked officers to improve communication with residents. The officers said they needed to segment the message to residents, as the barriers they faced differed depending on their living situation. The council is looking to decarbonise its whole estate, prioritising end-of-life boilers. Cllr John Coombs (Heathfield Ward) said that, like many older people in the borough, I'm comfortable off and have a mortgage-free house. However, as the payback time is 20 years plus, he said that I won't get the benefit as I'm likely to be dead and buried by then. So, he would need to be convinced his grandchildren would get a return from higher house prices. Cllr Vardy said the meeting had a theme on residents' challenges in getting permission for heat pumps. He suggested the Policy and Performance Review Board investigate how the council could make it easier, which was agreed unanimously.

Moving onto the **Lead Local Flood Authority Update**, officer Henry Chung introduced the report, saying the plan had been updated due to national policy changes, had more of a community focus, and included tasks for the local authority to tackle local flood risk. Actions being taken include flood resilience works at Strawberry Vale and the Strawberry Hill critical drainage area study, which has proposed installing measures at Strawberry Hill Golf Course and Twickenham Green. The council has secured a £6 million grant to improve flood resilience in the Beverley Brook catchment area. Cllr Zoe McLeod (East Sheen) asked about the items in amber on the plan; the reply was that it meant the council was still working on them instead of indicating risk.

In response to a question on the equalities impact, officers also said they focused their work on flood resilience by looking at the socio-demographic distribution so they could focus on areas where the neediest people live, such as social housing estates. Cllr Vardy asked if the runoff from the front gardens contributed to flooding. Officers said that paving over front gardens was a permitted development and not in their gift, but they were trying to educate residents.

Officer Alex Moreland introduced the next item, the **Quarterly Monitoring Report**. There is an overspend of £765,000, down from £840,000 in quarter two. Cllr Elizabeth Grant (Hampton North) asked about the overspending on street cleaning. Officers said this was down to the wrong type of leaf fall, with a prolonged wet autumn adding to costs. Cllr Warlow asked about the Pools on the Park and Teddington Pool refurbishment money not being spent. Officers said that the programme has now slipped into next year.

The committee then dealt with the **Directorate Revenue Budget Report and the approval of the fees & charges**. As spokesperson for sport, Cllr Vardy said the council were reducing the price of swimming. However, TRT notes that this is not the case for everyone as senior citizens are being hit by rises, with the most notable being the annual swim pass for over the 60s increasing from £200 to £240, an increase of twenty per cent, whilst free swimming is being withdrawn for 4-year-olds. Cllr Warlow said there is a drop in budget for highway operations & street scene, and planning and transport strategy; what is the story there? This was due to the COVID backlog funding for the regulated services partnership ending. Planning fees have also been increased, so the council does not have to provide as much subsidy as before. It was notable the councillors did not look at the fees in detail and just rubber-stamped the increases.

The final item was the **Forward Plan**; the public speaker Martin Baker, asked about the Leisure Strategy item on the Forward Plan. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, the committee passed a resolution asking for a feasibility strategy for a replacement health suite after the Pools in the Park one was closed. He said the resolution was unclear, that the replacement should be at the Pools on the Park site and asked the committee to amend it. He said that users feel that a stitch-up is going on. That feeling was not dissipated by the Chair, who directed officers to give a written response. Cllr Warlow asked for the decision to close the health suite to be referred to the Policy & Performance Review Board as he felt the decision “was lacking in openness and transparency”. He said information was repeatedly withheld, and the council had misapplied the law regarding freedom of information. Cllr Grant, vice chairman of the Policy & Performance Review Board, said the board does not feel it’s their role to carry out a post-mortem on the decision made and that it’s more for the audit committee. The chair, Cllr Neden-Watts, looking and sounding increasingly angry, said that the chairs of the Audit Committee, the Policy & Performance Review Board, and the head of Democratic Services would have to decide who would investigate the separate aspects. She closed the meeting at 10.30, deliberately cutting off Cllr Warlow from responding.

**BBC**  
**RADIO**



# Any Questions?

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Friday 29th March - Doors open at 6:30pm and  
close at 7:30pm. Programme broadcast live  
from 8:00 until 8:50pm.

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# Council to outsource swimming pool management

By James Knight

At last Tuesday's Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee, the room was packed with residents deeply concerned about the council's plans to outsource the management of the two council-run swimming pools. Many speakers feared prices would rise, whilst the community would lose control of their management. Nearly all of them received loud applause after speaking as emotions ran high. Some councillors were concerned that the committee chair was acting beyond her powers and acting as if she were an executive cabinet member.

There were many public speakers; Philippa Edmunds, Pools on the Park swim rep, asked for the concessions to be retained. She said it needs to be professionally managed and marketed. It made around a million pounds profit annually when it was previously outsourced. Adrian Bradley asked for the outside pool to be opened 365 days a year, like Hampton's open-air pool, from 6 am to 9 pm. She must drive to Hampton Pool to swim outside due to restrictive hours at Pools in the Park.

Christopher Milton-Friend remembers swimming at the open-air pool in Twickenham, "which was great". 60 years on, all that remains is the concrete diving board and the brick outline of the former pool. "A reminder to us all the problems that local government decisions can make". Richmond Ice Rink was a similar council decision, with absolute assurances that it would be rebuilt. I am wary of the council's decision to make a major change to such an important public facility. There needs to be a clear and transparent disclosure of how Pools on the Park will be operated and what say the local community will have. There should be a guarantee it will remain an affordable public amenity.

Martin Baker said he supported outsourcing the management because, in his experience over the past four or five years, the council does not have the expertise to run it. Wendy Merchant said that she caught lymes disease from a tick in Richmond Park and found the former health suite at Richmond Park was very helpful in her rehabilitation. Kelvin Cheadle, a former director of Kingston Hospital, said that public health is in a crisis. He said that the council and the hospital were responsible for not putting pressure on each other by our individual actions. There is no point in doing this if it puts cost and pressure on the hospital up the road. He was concerned that the new operator could try to reduce losses by cutting costs, increasing prices and impacting users. The last public speaker was Conor O'Neil, who said that once the facility is outsourced, it will be run for profit rather than for the community. He said that when the council consulted on the future of the health spa, 78% of people voted to keep it open, but the council closed it anyway.

Cllr James Chard (Twickenham Riverside) spoke as an interested Councillor. He said he was broadly in favour of the recommendations in the paper but wanted the contract specification to go back to the committee for approval before going out to tender. Cllr Richard Bennett (South Twickenham) said the danger with doing a joint procurement with Wandsworth is that we will be the junior partner and unable to assert ourselves. The committee agreed for the two councillors to join the committee for the duration of this item.

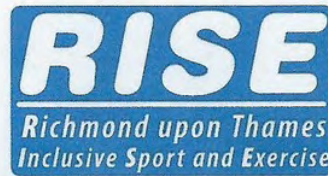
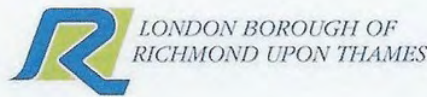
Officer Matthew Eady replied to the speakers; he said; the contract will require the holder to continue to invest in the facilities; the main investments in the structure will stay with the council; most of the outsourced contractors are now charitable trusts and not private companies; they get few referrals from GPs for free swim passes, there is a Swim England review of the programming; the council are looking to reduce prices for swimming at their pools; the council agree better marketing is needed; the council is investing to make the pools more energy efficient and work should be done by the time the contract is agreed; a large part of the savings are made through structural savings such as a charitable trust would save around £100,000 on business rates; the contract specification are contract documents from Sport England and then tweaked for local considerations; the council will want to specify health outcomes; our red lines will be pricing, health, accessibility and concessionary access, opening hours; the timescale is 12-18 months and lots of the work has already been done; there will be a separate specification from Wandsworth despite a joint contract.

Cllr Chris Vardy (South Richmond) said there should be user representation, and the specification should come back to the committee rather than just approving the final contract award. The officer said he couldn't bring the matter back to the committee unless it was a closed session due to confidentiality and would slow the process. Cllr Bennett reminded the committee that the council has a committee structure, and the committees are meant to be decision-making and scrutiny in terms of their focus. He said there was a drift back to cabinet-style governance, with only the chair talking to senior directors – that's not really what our constitution is about. We should have a definite role for the committee, he said. Cllr Chard, increasingly acting like an opposition councillor in recent months, agreed with Cllr Bennett. He added that they wanted the specification published and agreed upon by the committee. Paul Chadwick, Director of Environment and Community Services, said the committee is asking for extraordinary involvement in awarding the contract.

Cllr Fiona Sacks (Barnes) was concerned and wanted the terms and conditions of existing staff protected and assurances they would not be edged out because replacement staff would cost them less. Officers said that due to the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) regulations (commonly known as TUPE), the terms and conditions of existing staff would be protected. He said the real savings will come from the contractor not having to pay enhanced sickness, on-costs, and pension payments like the council currently pays staff. For example, the council pays 8-10% of salary into pension. In contrast, the industry average for the employer is only to be paid 4%, so immediately, there is a 10% cost saving for each new staff member. Cllr Sacks then asked if they would be paid the London Living Wage (£13.15). The officer replied, "Absolutely,"

Cllr Warlow said he thought the decision was being rushed to fit in with Wandsworth and the joint procurement process. He questions why the decision cannot wait until Leisure Strategy has been agreed by the committee. The chair thought that bringing back the specification to the committee, which could be a thousand-page document, would not be sensible and delay the process. After a certain amount of wrangling, the committee agreed to an informal report to be circulated to committee members with a deadline to reply if they were in favour or not. The matter would return to the committee if the majority were not in favour.

Whilst it is unclear who the contract will end up running both swimming pools, the authority Cllr Neaden-Watts has over her committee was draining away before our eyes. If she is not too careful, it won't be just the management at the swimming pools that find themselves replaced.



# ALL ABILITY CYCLING



Join in one of our free All Ability Cycling Sessions this spring. After being shown how to use the cycles, we are offering the chance for a short ride to explore the park and linked green spaces.

Bikeworks will bring a range of adapted cycles, including single/tandem tricycles, side-by-side cycles for two or more people, wheelchair platform cycles and go-kart style recumbent cycles, designed for people with learning, physical and/or sensory disabilities to enjoy cycling. The sessions are suitable for anyone who wants to cycle in a park. Look out for more dates in April.

## KNELLER GARDENS

Meadway  
Twickenham  
TW2 6PH  
Meet by the pavilion

## WHEN

We will be in the park from  
10.30-12.30 on:  
28<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and  
27<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## BOOK A 30 MINUTE SESSION

Contact us to book a session:  
Frances

[outdoor.learning@outlook.com](mailto:outdoor.learning@outlook.com)

Lizzy

[rise@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:rise@richmond.gov.uk)

More information:

[parks@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:parks@richmond.gov.uk)

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# Calling all budding bee spotters: The Queen Bees need you!

The Royal Parks charity has put out a call to all visitors to help capture the first sightings of the Queen Bumblebees, which are expected to come out of hibernation weeks earlier than normal due to climate change.

Between 21 February and 1 March, The Royal Parks is asking its park visitors to take a clear photo of any bee they see and submit them online, noting the name of the Royal Park they were spotted in. Wildlife experts will then identify the species and confirm if the photo is of a Queen Bumblebee.

The Royal Parks monitors the arrival of the Queen Bumblebees, which are bigger and fluffier than regular bees, to ensure the parks are nectar rich. The information is used to shape planting species choices for the following year. Queen Bumblebees typically emerge in spring towards the end of March with their waking signalled by a rise in temperature. A waking Queen Bee will have used up all her nectar stores surviving the winter and will immediately fly the nest seeking nectar rich flowers to get her through spring. Unfortunately, in late February, many flowers won't have bloomed which is why it is vital to know when she is emerging.



Last winter, over 65,000 early spring bulbs were planted by volunteers ready for the Queens' arrival and The Royal Parks is once again turning to the public to enlist as many eyes on the ground as possible to capture their emergence.

Alister Hayes Head of Programmes, Volunteering and Conservation at The Royal Parks, said:

*"Bee conservation is vital, but the Queen Bumblebee is particularly important as she is responsible for building a colony of around 400 bumblebees a year. Our dedicated biodiversity team have already spotted Queen Bumblebees in January. This is incredibly early. If temperatures continue to rise, then we need to adapt to ensure our planting arrangements can support the wildlife in our parks. We'd welcome as many pictures as possible but please remember not to disturb the bees in the process."*

To get involved, make a beeline to the Royal Parks website:

[www.royalparks.org.uk/queenbees](http://www.royalparks.org.uk/queenbees)

The Royal Parks has introduced a team dedicated to conservation and education through similar citizen science opportunities. The '[Help Nature Thrive](#)' team is made possible thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery.



# West Twickenham - Rivermeads Avenue

Residents of Rivermeads Avenue, Twickenham! Your local neighbourhood officers will be on your road on Sunday 25th February from 11 am to answer your questions and speak to you about crime in your local area. Hope to see you there!

## **STREET BRIEFING RIVERMEADS AVENUE**

**Come and see us on  
Sunday 25th Feb at 11 am**



## Night-time road closures planned for George Street, Richmond

George Street in Richmond will be closed overnight on Saturday 16 March and Sunday 17 March 2024 for crane operations.

The closures will take place from 8pm to 4.30am. The road will be fully closed to ensure the safety of those taking part in the works. Local traffic and buses will be on diversion during this time. Access will be maintained for emergency services vehicles and personnel.

If you have any comment, queries or objections relating to these works and the associated road closure, please contact Sheen Lane Developments on 020 3598 2398 or at [hfoxall@sheenlane.co.uk](mailto:hfoxall@sheenlane.co.uk).



Sign up to the [roadworks mailing list](#) to receive the council's weekly bulletin of all the scheduled works taking place in the borough, as well as notifications of any emergency works.



## FAB FABER

In an old Victorian building, on a corner just along from Hammersmith Bus and Tube station, is **Faber**, a relatively new fish restaurant, with appropriately-named executive chef **Ollie Bass** (ex Quo Vadis and Sessions Art Club) at the stove.

The interior is fresh and airy with marble topped tables, and a clever banquette seating arrangement around the perimeter has a fabric covering that helps absorb noise.



Apparently, the idea of Faber started during lockdown, when co-founders Matt and Anthony were delivering shellfish, seafood, and cocktails on their bikes in East London, and they then transformed The Victoria Mile End into an East London pub that's big on fish.

A strong focus is on sustainability, with ingredients mainly sourced from UK coastal towns, much of it along the south coast. Even the bread is from Cornwall.

The a la carte menu changes regularly, to highlight the very best of the catches from our British waters, and there's a giant blackboard with the daily specials. The menu is a kind of 'fishy tapas' one, with lots of small sharing dishes.

While we perused the printed menu and the blackboard, I enjoyed a **Lantic Negroni**. This was made using Cornish coastal foraged botanicals, Lantic gin, Lillet and bitter bianco. It came in a glass absolutely packed with ice cubes, which rather hindered my enjoyment of this excellent cocktail. They should invest in some giant cubes, or straws. My husband chose, and enjoyed, a **Duration Hazy Pale Ale**. We were brought some great Coombeshead farm sourdough bread.



Our lovely waiter, Dan, suggested a selection of dishes for us to share to start: Cod cheek skewer with tartar sauce; Chalkstream trout tartare with soy, keta caviar and nori; Burrata with sea vegetable salad and dulse breadcrumbs, and scallop with lovage, cauliflower and pastis.

The trout was beautifully balanced, with a hint of spice and soy. There were three cuts of trout - belly, fillet and caviar and it was atop a tasty horseradish cream. It was a wonderful start to our meal. The scallops were divine: seriously good - very delicately flavoured and on a bed of cauliflower with a lovage dressing. I wasn't aware of the pastis particularly, but the dish was very good indeed and the bread came in very handy for cleaning the last dregs of sauce from the plate.

The burrata, while beautifully presented, should, I think, have been our first dish to try. After the wonderful taste sensations we had been enjoying, it seemed somewhat bland in comparison, and needed another element to give the dish more 'punch'. But had we started with it, we'd have thoroughly enjoyed it.

The cod cheek skewers were smoky, tender and very tasty indeed. They were served with crispy fried capers on top on a bed of homemade tartar sauce. All the dishes were well executed and there is obviously a highly talented team in the kitchen.



I'd chosen the langoustine from the daily board for my main course. They were served with chilli oil and rosemary and were deliciously sweet. But there were just three, and seemed very pricey for the tiny amount when extracted from the shell and legs. My husband fared better - he chose the Cornish pollock fillet with parsnip veloute, January king cabbage, anchovy and parsley sauce. It was a magnificent portion, and I managed to steal a small taste - only to give me serious food envy. And his serving of chips that accompanied it...well, they were divine. Dan explained that they do, in fact, take days to make, as there are so many stages to create such chip perfection.



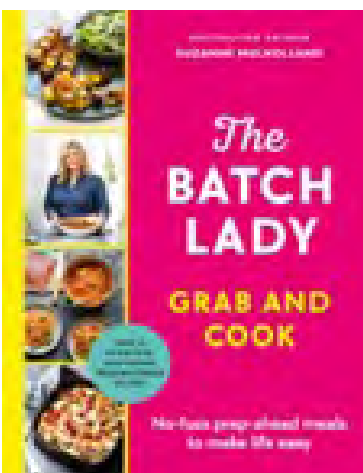
I had enjoyed plenty of food though, and when the dessert menu was offered, declined a pud. My husband chose the honey tart, served with creme fraiche. I had a tiny taste and it was really good - such depth of great flavoured honey, without being overly sweet. I opted for an espresso martini to enjoy while he had his tart (and the sugar kelp Old Fashioned which Dan had persuaded him to have with it).

The wine list is carefully curated, with mainly British wines and spirits, and a few European wines, but nothing New World, as this would obviously affect the ethos of sustainability. The wines are perhaps on the pricey side, but there is an excellent range by the glass and also carafe. We were very taken with Faber - you could say we were totally 'hooked'. I just hope they look to expand into Richmond or Twickenham, but it's actually really easy to get to on the underground or the bus.

# Twickers Foodie – By Alison Jee

Make Life Simpler with the help of The Batch Lady

**Susanne Mulholland** is 'The Batch Lady'. She cleverly takes the hassle out of mealtimes with recipes and tips on prepping meals in advance, in batches. Her latest book **Grab and Cook** features 100 easy recipes, each one taking less than 15 minutes to prepare (and many only taking five). They can be cooked immediately, or popped in the freezer for an easy meal, when needed. They cover a range of appliances and cooking methods, from pressure cookers to air fryers, helping you get ahead and batch cook meals in advance. Susanne also gives all the tips you need on freezing and storing your food, making it a breeze to reheat cleverly prepared, delicious meals.



These prep ahead recipes mean you are making your own homemade ready meals, rather than overspending on highly processed ones from the supermarket. **Grab and Cook** recipes use all raw ingredients and there is no prior cooking involved before freezing: you're simply preparing the meal, then freezing it, for a fridge or freezer full of delicious homemade 'ready meals'. By using environmentally friendly, reusable freezer bags, filled with pre-chopped raw ingredients, Suzanne is changing how we scratch cook, helping those without time, confidence or inclination, still to have healthy, quality home cooked meals whenever needed.

In **Grab and Cook** you'll find breakfast and brunch recipes (*Raspberry, white chocolate and pecan brioche bake*), light bites and lunches (*Feta & spinach filo swirls*), weeknight meals, Fakeaways (*Satay Chicken Curry*) as well as meals for family and friends, easy bakes (*Chocolate chip stuffed cookies*), and desserts (*Hot Nutella Pots*). The Batch Lady also includes practical advice on managing and organising your freezer and kitchen, plus tips to empower children in the kitchen with suitable recipes for them to cook. She guides you through meal planning for the week, so you get ahead and in control, not only of your meals, but of your food shopping and budget.

Here's a recipe from the book for you to try:

## **CREAMY SAUSAGE & CANNELLINI BEAN ONE-POT**      **Prep:** 5 minutes **Serves:** 4

*"I love an easy sausage one-pot, and this one ticks all the boxes. This recipe uses cannellini beans, but they can easily be swapped for chickpeas or butter beans if you prefer."* **TIP:** You can make this vegetarian with veggie sausages, a vegetarian Parmesan substitute and a vegetable stock cube.

- 1 cup (115g) frozen diced onions
- 2 tsp frozen chopped garlic
- 2 cups (350g) frozen mixed chopped peppers
- 1 x 400g tin of cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 tsp smoked paprika

- 1 tsp dried oregano
- scant 1 cup (200g) cream cheese
- 3/4 cup (60g) grated Parmesan
- 1 chicken stock cube, crumbled
- 8 pork sausages
- To cook:
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 2 cups (500ml) boiling water



### IF MAKING AHEAD TO FREEZE:

1. Put the onions, garlic, peppers, cannellini beans, smoked paprika, oregano, cream cheese, Parmesan and crumbled stock cube into a large freezer bag, mix together and freeze flat.
2. Keep the sausages in their packet, or put in a smaller freezer bag, and freeze alongside the bag of sauce.

**HOB:** Remove from the freezer and leave to fully defrost. Put a tablespoon of olive oil into a large casserole dish and place on a medium heat. Add the pork sausages and brown them all over. Add the contents of the freezer bag, stir well, then pour over the boiling water. Bring to the boil, then reduce to a simmer and cook for 20 minutes.

**SLOW COOKER:** Remove from the freezer and leave to fully defrost. Turn the slow cooker to the sauté setting and add a tablespoon of olive oil. Add the pork sausages and brown them all over. Add the contents of the freezer bag, stir well, then pour over the boiling water. Pop the lid on and cook for 3 hours on high, or 6 hours on low.

**PRESSURE COOKER:** Remove from the freezer and leave to fully defrost. Turn the pressure cooker to sauté and add a tablespoon of olive oil. Add the pork sausages and brown them all over. Once browned, add the contents of the freezer bag and pour over the boiling water. Give it a good mix, then seal the lid and cook for 9 minutes. Once cooked, allow the steam to quickly release.

### IF COOKING NOW:

**HOB:** Put a tablespoon of olive oil into a large casserole dish and place on a medium heat. Add the pork sausages and brown them all over, then add the rest of the ingredients. Pour over the boiling water and stir well. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat to a simmer and cook for 20 minutes.

**SLOW COOKER:** Turn the slow cooker to the sauté setting and add a tablespoon of olive oil. Add the pork sausages and brown all over. Once browned, add the rest of the ingredients. Pour over the boiling water and stir well. Pop the lid on and cook for 3 hours on high, or 6 hours on low.

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Extracted from **The Batch Lady Grab and Cook** by Suzanne Mulholland (Ebury Press, £22). Photography by Andrew Hayes-Watkins.



# HAMPTON CHORAL SOCIETY

## Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle

**Musical Director - Richard Harker  
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**Saturday 23 March 2024 - 7.30pm**

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**On the door: contactless, card, cheque, cash  
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Charity Number 261788

# SPRING SHOOTS!

By Bruce Lyons of Crusader Travel 58 Church Street, Twickenham

Great News Today - Energy prices are falling! Twickenham's Insect Hotel has been boarded up – ominous signs the council is about to embark on their Swimming Pool Site Extravaganza, Shona is getting her Cello Tuned !!! Taylor Swift has ousted the Welsh Rugby team from their home stadium – so “The Cabbage Patch” will get a fab match this Summer & Wales will play in Twickenham! 22 June South Africa V Wales at Twickenham.



The Blooming Lovely Church Street Square is bursting out all over, not exactly the Chelsea Flower Show, but it will cheer you up, Camelias, Daffodils, Crocuses and even some Tulips. However, if you want a Spring Extravaganza Leger have just a few places left on their Spring 4- & 5-day tours Dutch Bulb fields and Amsterdam. All dates include Coach Travel, with local Twickenham pickups, 3\* Hotels in Amsterdam on B & B, visits to The Hague, Delft and of course the Keukenhof Gardens March & April dates, extremely limited.

Call us for more details on 020 8744 0474  
[info@crusadertravel.com](mailto:info@crusadertravel.com)



# THE DAFFS ARE HERE...

By Deep Patel

~ Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper ~

What is yellow and green and likes to be early? Daffodils! These guys seem to be super early this year? I mean they have been out all around Twickenham from the start of February?! I mean, isn't it meant to be March that they pop up? To tell us it's Spring? What can this mean...I think it means that Spring is coming earlier this year...this week, customers in my shop have been talking about this...



A teenage customer in my shop told me she hates daffodils, I asked why as they aren't bad...she told me they make her nervous...I then thought perhaps she has a phobia...unsure of whether I should ask more, I decided to be brave and ask...she said they make her nervous as they remind her that exams are approaching...as each year when she sees them, exams are always approaching due to the way that the academic calendars are planned.

Another woman came into the shop and said she always buys herself a bunch of daffodils to cheer herself up and that they reminded her that better times were on the way...a real symbol of hope and a true promise of positivity. What else did this humble flower remind my customers of?

Well one of my favourite answers was when one mature gentleman came to my shop and said a daffodil symbolises, birth, death, rebirth...the entire circle of life...forcing its way through the hard icy ground to tower above the grass and burst into pretty yellow trumpets announcing the end of winter and start of Spring...and after the message has been given, the humble daffodil collapses onto itself and renews the soil with its leaves and takes a rest, ready to reappear the following Spring...year...after year...after year...

That afternoon, it occurred to me that the daffodil is therefore a perfect symbol of life... death... rebirth... resilience...faith...and hope...in a way, the underlying themes discussed by all the major religions of the world...

So next time you see a daffodil, remember...to know a daffodil...is to know life...

***Remember...***

***“Never give up, because even during the darkest of moments...the daffodil blooms”***

## **CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK:**

FOR ANY HOME OR GARDEN “PEST”...

Sprinkle talcum powder, essential peppermint oil or white vinegar around where they come (but not directly on them) and they will stop without having to harm or kill them...you will get blessings in your life or have good karma for choosing a kind way too! This remedy also works to deter virtually any insect without harming them...like it & share it! For more tips, email: [InsectLoversUnite@gmail.com](mailto:InsectLoversUnite@gmail.com) or join my Facebook group: “Insect Lovers Unite” Thank you!

## The Nethernauts

by Tom Kane

Morvern Productions at the White Bear, Kennington, until the 24<sup>th</sup> February

Part of the *Liminal Cycle* of fantasy plays, *The Nethernauts* is set at a conference in Greece in 2008, during the financial crash. A row breaks out about the absence of the speaker Anthony Essential, CEO of a *Fortune 500* company, before the young rookie businessman Wristwatch is shoved into the spotlight. Wristwatch fills in stockholders with the news that their wealth is no more. Moreover, there is rioting in the streets. It's a grim situation all round.



Essential is finally located, having passed out on a beach: he is literally and figuratively washed up. The two men are reunited, but their banter evidence of a rocky friendship. The bad news includes that a hostile takeover of their company has only favoured graduates. Loyal employees with valuable experience, such as Essential, have been cast aside. Did Essential throws himself off of the cliff?



Save for an impressive cave and a lectern, the stage is bare; while effective lighting by Euan Davies, and disturbing sound by Luke Brady, notch up the atmosphere.

Noah Marullo plays Wristwatch with vibrancy, charm and pathos. Essential is an abrasive character, aggressive and boorish. Tom Kane plays him, shades of Ricky Gervais, as genuine at heart, but sad.



The unnerving and effective presence of a mysterious creature in a gold mask crawls across the stage to gather hallowed objects from a chalk circle. Essential has entered Limbo, a harsh and unforgiving underworld, and encountered Bits (Katie Georgiou) and Pieces (Siân Davis), two women scavengers from a group known as the Nethernauts.

Undeterred, Essential puts ambitious plans to the women; ambitious that is until a strong encounter unravels all. The executive world and the sub-world meet head on.

Studiously directed by James Barlow, *The Nethernauts* is an intelligent piece that writer Tom Kane describes as “using frameworks from world mythological epics and the history of economics”. That’s an idea that takes a little unpacking.

Read Heather Moulson’s review at [www.markaspen.com/2024/02/17/nethernauts](http://www.markaspen.com/2024/02/17/nethernauts)

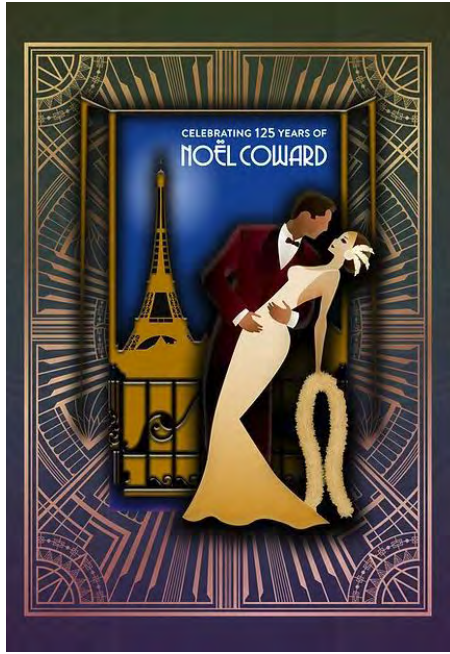
Photography by Lance Penez



# QUITE A YEAR FOR COWARD!

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF  
**NOËL COWARD**

From March 16<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> the Richmond Shakespeare Society will be presenting Noel Coward's classic comedy PRIVATE LIVES as part of a celebration to mark the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the author's birth.



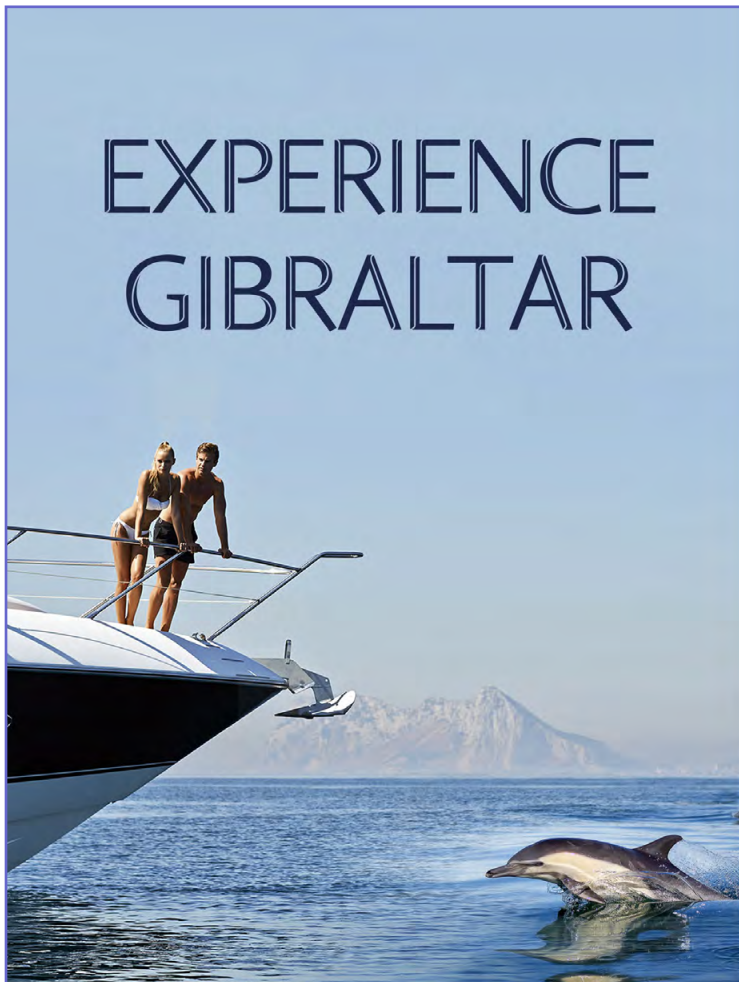
Elyot and Amanda, divorced but providentially thrown together in the French Riviera, succumb to their undiminished need for each other and, in defiance of all social conventions, abandon their new partners and flee together to Paris. Once there their short idyll is interrupted by a recurring pattern of sniping and recrimination and, ultimately, the arrival of their aggrieved partners.

For sophistication, humour, romance, tenderness and razor-sharp wit, PRIVATE LIVES has never been equalled since its first production starring Coward and Gertrude Lawrence in 1930.

With Teddington Theatre Club presenting readings of TONIGHT at 8.30 and the Orange Tree Theatre producing SUITE in THREE KEYS, both later in the year, it is proving to be quite a year for author, actor, playwright, poet, composer, lyricist, director,

producer and consummate master-of-the-theatre Sir Noel Coward.

Booking for PRIVATE LIVES at the Mary Wallace Theatre on -  
[www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk](http://www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk)



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# Royal Parks temporary path closures

## Richmond Park - temporary closure of the Tamsin Trail

Please note that there will be a temporary closure of the Tamsin Trail **between Monday 26 February and Friday 1 March** for restoration works to be undertaken to resurface the pathway. This will affect the Kingston to Ham stretch of the trail.

A second closure will follow shortly after to complete the work, with this likely to be within the next couple of weeks – weather dependent.

### TAMSIN TRAIL TEMPORARY DIVERSION

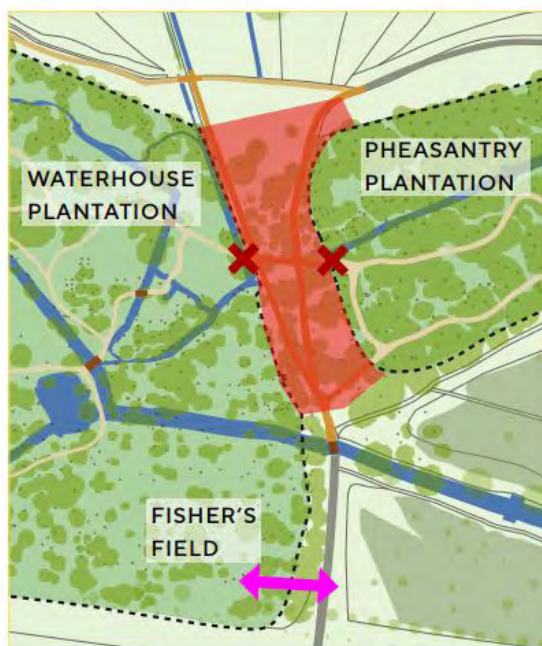
Mon 26th February - Fri 1st March



## Bushy Park – Ash Walk closed

Please be aware that **from Monday 26 February** Ash Walk will be temporarily closed for a period of three weeks due to construction works taking place.

There will be no access through this area of the park during these works.



### LEGEND

-  Ash Walk closed for construction works
-  No access via Ash Walk gates
-  Access into the Waterhouse Plantation through the pedestrian gate at Fisher's Field



# HRUC Celebrates National Apprenticeship Week

Throughout the week from 5th to 11th February, Richmond upon Thames College (RuTC), along with colleges around the country, celebrated National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) 2024.



National Apprenticeship Week brings together those that are passionate about apprenticeships and is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of apprentices and the institutions that support them, noting the positive impact they make to communities, organisations and individuals.

NAW 2024 was the 17th annual celebration of apprenticeships and the theme this year was 'Skills for Life'. On each day throughout the week, students at RuTC were given the opportunity to learn more about different aspects of apprenticeships, the themes included 'Employer Tuesday,' 'Apprentice Wednesday' and 'Celebration Friday'.

On Tuesday 6th February, RuTC hosted an employers' breakfast event in partnership with Richmond Chamber of Commerce, inviting our apprentices' employers along with other guests into the college to learn more about the programme, its successes and explore the many benefits of apprenticeships.

The event was a huge success, with many esteemed attendees, including the Mayor of Richmond - Councillor Suzette Nicholson, HRUC Group Principal and CEO - Keith Smith, Chief Executive of Richmond Chamber of Commerce - Anne Newton. Former RuTC apprentice, Mateusz Spicha, spoke about his experience working at the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability and his road to receiving a distinction award as a final grade.



Guests also heard from RuTC Principal, Gavin Hughes, on the offerings for apprentices at RuTC and updates on the progress of our new STEM building, which will be ready for our 2024 intake of apprentices.

Other activities included a number of workshops for current RuTC students about the opportunities and benefits of progressing into the world of work as an apprentice.

[Learn more about our apprenticeship programme and how to apply here.](#)



# England Team to play Scotland



England men's head coach Steve Borthwick has named his team to play Scotland at Murrayfield Stadium on Saturday 24th February for the Calcutta Cup (kick-off 4.45pm GMT live on BBC1).

Jamie George will captain a side which has five changes to the starting XV who defeated Wales at Twickenham Stadium in round two of the 2024 Guinness Six Nations with Ellis Genge, Dan Cole, Ollie Lawrence, George Furbank and Danny Care all included.

The 142nd meeting between England and Scotland sees hooker George pack down with vice-captain Genge on the loosehead and Cole at tighthead; the two props winning their first starts of the Championship.

At lock, vice-captain Maro Itoje is paired with Ollie Chessum. The back row sees Ethan Roots win his third cap at blindside flanker, with Sam Underhill on the openside and Ben Earl – named Guinness player of the match against Wales – at No.8.

Scrum-half Care links up with vice-captain George Ford at 10. In midfield, inside centre Lawrence returns after injury to start his first game of the tournament alongside Henry Slade at 13. In the back three, Elliot Daly is named on the left wing, with Tommy Freeman on the right and Furbank is selected at full-back to win his seventh England cap.

Amongst the replacements, George Martin returns to an England 23 for the first time since the 2023 Rugby World Cup semi-final against South Africa in Paris, having recovered from injury. The lock takes his place on the bench alongside Theo Dan, Joe Marler, Will Stuart, Chandler Cunningham-South, Ben Spencer, Fin Smith and Immanuel Feyi-Waboso.

*"We're pleased with the start we've made to our Guinness Six Nations campaign but know that a difficult test awaits us in Edinburgh against an in-form Scotland team,"* said Borthwick.

*"The atmosphere is always special for any Calcutta Cup match and I'm sure this weekend's game at Murrayfield will be no different. This group of players are looking forward to the challenge on Saturday and to creating some very special memories."*

## SCOTLAND v ENGLAND

Saturday 24th February 2024, Murrayfield Stadium, Kick-off: 4.45pm (GMT)

15. George Furbank (Northampton Saints, 6 caps)
14. Tommy Freeman (Northampton Saints, 5 caps)
13. Henry Slade (Exeter Chiefs, 59 caps)
12. Ollie Lawrence (Bath Rugby, 21 caps)
11. Elliot Daly (Saracens, 66 caps)
10. George Ford (Sale Sharks, 93 caps) – vice captain
9. Danny Care (Harlequins, 98 caps)

### Replacements:

16. Theo Dan (Saracens, 9 caps)
17. Joe Marler (Harlequins, 90 caps)
18. Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 35 caps)
19. George Martin (Leicester Tigers, 9 caps)

1. Ellis Genge (Bristol Bears, 59 caps) – vice captain
2. Jamie George (Saracens, 87 caps) – captain
3. Dan Cole (Leicester Tigers, 109 caps)
4. Maro Itoje (Saracens, 78 caps) – vice captain
5. Ollie Chessum (Leicester Tigers, 20 caps)
6. Ethan Roots (Exeter Chiefs, 2 caps)
7. Sam Underhill (Bath Rugby, 32 caps)
8. Ben Earl (Saracens, 27 caps)

20. Chandler Cunningham-South (Harlequins, 2 caps)
21. Ben Spencer (Bath Rugby, 4 caps)
22. Fin Smith (Northampton Saints, 1 cap)
23. Immanuel Feyi-Waboso (Exeter Chiefs, 1 cap)

# England Men's A Team to face Portugal named

A strong matchday 23 has been announced for England Men's A's fixture versus Portugal, with Bath Rugby lock Charlie Ewels named as captain. The A side takes on Portugal in the long-awaited fixture at Leicester Tigers Stadium this Sunday 25 February, kicking-off at 13:00 GMT and will be streamed live on England Rugby social media channels.

The starting XV includes five players already capped by England, including Bath Rugby's Ewels who has made 30 appearances for the Senior Men's side after his first Saxons appearance in 2016. Of the matchday 23, 17 of the cohort have come through the men's pathway system with caps at either U18 or U20 age-grade level.

Harlequins back Oscar Beard is another addition to George Skivington's England Men's A setup ahead of this Sunday's clash, linking up with clubmates Fin Baxter, Sam Riley and Cadan Murley at Loughborough University this week. Beard goes into the starting XV, partnering Max Ojomoh in midfield, with the pair both having been involved with the senior squad last week.

The squad, which features some of the biggest names from around the Gallagher Premiership, has been training in the East Midlands this week under the leadership of head coach George Skivington, attack coach Sam Vesty and defence coach Dom Waldouck. The coaching trio selected the matchday 23 in consultation with England senior men's head coach Steve Borthwick and RFU Executive Director of Performance Rugby Conor O'Shea. Os Lobos will face England following an impressive showing in last year's Rugby World Cup, which included a draw against Georgia followed by a first-ever tournament win over quarter-finalists Fiji.

Fans attending the fixture in Leicester will have the opportunity to watch the future stars of the England Men's senior team in action. Tickets are still on sale for Sunday's clash, priced from just £17.50 for adults and can be purchased [here](#).

England Men's A head coach, George Skivington, said: *"It's been great to get together with the group this week at Loughborough and I've been really impressed by the high standards they've shown. We've put the boys through a challenging programme that has tested them to the intense rigor that Portugal will arrive with on Sunday. Our visitors are in the midst of the Rugby Europe Championship and will no doubt be using Sunday as an opportunity to experiment, but their strength as a union has been evident recently. They will certainly provide a stern test for us, but it's a test that the players, Dom, Sam and I are relishing. I am really excited to see the side take to the field against Portugal on Sunday. I really believe we have assembled a squad that possesses some of the most exciting developing talent the Gallagher Premiership has to offer, and I'm sure they'll put on a show for the fans in Leicester."*

England Men's A team to face Portugal (includes current club, community club and senior caps)

15 Josh Hodge (Exeter Chiefs, Vale of Lune RUFC)	1 Fin Baxter (Harlequins, Cobham RFC)
14 Cadan Murley (Harlequins, Wadebridge Camels RFC)	2 Jamie Blamire (Newcastle Falcons, Seaton Rangers ARLFC, 7 caps)
13 Oscar Beard (Harlequins, Farnham RUFC)	3 Joe Heyes (Leicester Tigers, Nottingham Moderns RFC & Newark RFC, 7 caps)
12 Max Ojomoh (Bath Rugby, Chippenham RFC)	4 Rusiate Tuima (Exeter Chiefs, Devonport Services RFC)
11 Will Muir (Bath Rugby, Guisborough RUFC)	5 Charlie Ewels (c) (Bath Rugby, Bournemouth Rugby, 30 caps)
10 Charlie Atkinson (Gloucester Rugby, Oxford RFC)	6 Tom Pearson (Northampton Saints, Bromyard Rugby Club, 1 cap)
9 Harry Randall (Bristol Bears, Tycroes RFC, 6 caps)	7 Guy Pepper (Newcastle Falcons, Barnard Castle Rugby Club)
	8 Alfie Barbeary (Bath Rugby, Banbury RUFC)

## Replacements

16 Sam Riley (Harlequins, Chobham RFC)	20 Greg Fisilau (Exeter Chiefs, Devonport Services RFC)
17 Tarek Haffar (Northampton Saints, Grasshoppers RFC)	21 Caolan Englefield (Gloucester Rugby, Old Rutlishians Rugby)
18 Josh Iosefa-Scott (Exeter Chiefs, Melville Rugby)	22 Jamie Shillcock (Leicester Tigers, Southam RUFC)
19 Ben Bamber (Sale Sharks, Langworthy Reds ARLFC)	23 Oliver Hartley (Saracens, Hammersmith and Fulham Rugby Club)



# Match Preview: West Ham v Brentford

**Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of Brentford's Premier League game against West Ham United on Monday night, which will be broadcast live on Sky Sports (8pm kick-off)**

Written by Brentford Football Club

**Brentford take on West Ham United at London Stadium on Monday night, live on Sky Sports (8pm kick-off).**

The Bees completed a league double over the Hammers last season, winning both games 2-0. Thomas Frank's side also recorded a 3-2 victory over West Ham at Gtech Community Stadium earlier this term.

Brentford lost 1-0 to Manchester City last time out, while West Ham's poor form continued with a 2-0 defeat at Nottingham Forest.

## PRE-MATCH ANALYSIS

Alex Lawes, Playmaker Stats: Brentford's speed of attack can hurt Hammers

Despite Brentford losing four out of their last five games, they have come against Liverpool, Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester City (twice) in that time, and the west Londoners have shown real signs of competitiveness in all of those matches.

And, ahead of their London derby with West Ham United at the London Stadium on Monday, the Bees will be confident that they can exploit the Hammers' poor form.



## Head to Head

	Comparisons	
36	Goals	35
44	Goals Conceded	44
205	Shots	232
41%	Possession	45%
56	Yellow Cards	56
3	Red Cards	1



A tactical plan and style that has characterised Brentford's time in the top flight has been their pragmatism and ability to be direct, naturally exploiting an area of the game that most teams in the Premier League do not come up against regularly.

West Ham have found it difficult to transition from defence to attack with much speed and effectiveness consistently so far this season - especially when playing at home. 45 per cent of the passes that they play when at home come in the middle third of the pitch, perhaps as a result of the abundance of central midfielders that David Moyes is having to fit into his starting XI.

In contrast, when on the road, Brentford only play 38 per cent of their passes in the middle third with an emphasis on getting forward as quickly as possible to exploit space.

Given that West Ham appear to be stuck between gameplans at the moment with a squad that lacks a clear identity and overarching tactical principle, there is likely going to be space on the counter for Brentford to exploit.

West Ham have scored just nine goals from open play at home this season, with Brentford managing seven from open play away from home. Given that, and the lack of form or impetus from the hosts, it could be a cagey affair, but that should well suit Brentford, who have a defensive resilience that means they are rarely blown

away, combined with a consistent threat going forward.

In a game likely to be decided by a fine margin or even a set-piece, the return and form of Ivan Toney and his aerial threat could be crucial. The centre-forward is averaging 3.3 aerial duels won per game at the moment, with only the injured Ethan Pinnock managing more in the Brentford squad.

And Toney will look to pull on the likes of Kurt Zouma or potentially Nayef Ageurd who lose 3.2 aerial duels per game between them thus far this season.

## SCOUT REPORT

West Ham could make more history despite rocky start to 2024

Things started to turn for West Ham United after their defeat to Brentford at the start of November.

David Moyes himself had called their fast start – which consisted of three wins and a draw in their first four - “incredibly satisfying” and things were looking pretty rosy after a difficult league campaign in 2022/23, before a run of five defeats in seven saw them slide pretty rapidly into mid-table.

The language changed after they gave away a 2-1 lead to lose 3-2 at the Gtech. “We’ve not dealt with things which, as a player, I would have been disgusted with myself for not being able to deal with them much better,” Moyes said.

“The first goal [Neal Maupay’s first since returning to Brentford on loan] is Keystone Cops, it really is.”

West Ham fans’ expectations have naturally been elevated since the European journey they have enjoyed over the past two seasons, but the boos that were heard after the 1-0 defeat to Everton in the game prior subsided when a thoroughly positive run followed until the end of 2023.

West Ham dropped only five of the next 24 points on offer and beat Arsenal, Manchester United and Tottenham as they climbed back to the top six almost as quickly as they had fallen away a few months earlier.

“It’s amazing for us to be in and around that at the moment,” Moyes commented. His side had already booked a place in the last 16 of the Europa League by this point as well, with success on the continent providing the distraction that proved to be so important last term.

In January, the Hammers were one of the few clubs to complete transfer deals of any kind. Pablo Fornals left for Real Betis after five seasons and more than 200 appearances, while Thilo Kehrer and Saïd Benrahma departed on loan deals until the end of the season to Monaco and Lyon respectively.

They also strengthened their midfield options by temporarily rescuing Calvin Phillips from what has been a pretty miserable time at Manchester City. The 28-year-old has managed to retain his England place while on the books at the Etihad, but started just once in all competitions this term and played 31 times across the past two seasons since joining from Leeds.

It has not gone much better for him in east London, though. He gifted Bournemouth their equaliser on his debut and was benched for the return games against Arsenal and Manchester United, before two bookings inside three minutes against Nottingham Forest last time out ruled him out of the Brentford game with suspension.



His struggles pretty much sum up how things are going for the team, who once again find themselves traversing a rocky path going into the final three months of the season.

Including the FA Cup third-round exit at the hands of Bristol City, West Ham are without a win in eight games and just a fortnight ago, Arsenal got their revenge with a 6-0 win at the London Stadium – the Hammers' heaviest home defeat in Premier League history.

Unsurprisingly, there have been renewed calls for Moyes' head since, but he has not cowed to the apparent pressure. "Maybe there would be managers who excite them more, but the one sitting here wins more. We must not forget there were good times not so long ago," he said after the aforementioned Forest defeat.

[As Will Pugh, Sun Sport journalist and co-founder of the We Are West Ham podcast, tells us](#), all is not lost. There may be a divide in the fanbase over David Moyes' future at the club, yet there is still so much to play for and this could still fathomably turn out to be one of the best seasons in the history of West Ham United.

## IN THE DUGOUT

David Moyes

Like the majority of his managerial colleagues in the Premier League, David Moyes had a long and successful playing career before turning his hand to coaching.

He started at Celtic as a professional in 1980 - where he won the Scottish Premiership in 1981/82 - and went on to play for Cambridge United, Bristol City, Shrewsbury, Dunfermline Athletic, Hamilton and Preston.

He was part of the North End squad that won the Third Division in 1995/96 and he retired at the age of 35, having played his last game in February 1998.

By this point, he had been appointed Preston manager, a role for which he was well-equipped, having started taking his coaches badges in his early 20s.

Just over four years later, in March 2002, he was approached by Everton and soon swapped Division Two for the Premiership.

During his nine-year spell on Merseyside, Moyes brought a 16-year-old Wayne Rooney into the first team and into the eyes of the world and, from 2006/07 and 2012/13, steered the Toffees to seven straight top-eight finishes, as well as reaching the 2008/09 FA Cup final, which they lost 2-1 to Chelsea.

In the summer of 2013, he was given the unenviable task of replacing Sir Alex Ferguson and Manchester United, but lasted less than a year of the six-year deal he signed and was sacked in April 2014.

A year in La Liga with Real Sociedad followed, where he won only 12 of his 42 games in charge, before he returned to England with Sunderland. It was just eight victories from 43 matches there, with his spell ending in the Black Cats' relegation after a decade in the top flight.

Moyes was handed a six-month deal to take over at West Ham in November 2017 and tasked with securing survival after the sacking of Slaven Bilić, which he did. However, his contract was not extended in the summer and he departed the London Stadium after 31 games and a 29 per cent win ratio.

The Scot returned to east London in December 2019 and has been in charge ever since, winning the Europa Conference League last season.

The 60-year-old is one of a select group of managers who have reached 1,000 games in management and one of an even smaller group to still be adding to their tally.





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