

Twickenham & Richmond TRIBUNE

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19th April 2024

T&RT

TickerTape - News in Brief

Holy Trinity Church on Twickenham Green

A Friendship Cafe at Holy Trinity Church on Twickenham Green returns this Thursday morning in a regular slot of 10-30 am - 12 pm. This is a chance to chat and meet new people over tea and cake in a very relaxed space.

South Western Railway

Altered train services between London Waterloo and Reading, London Waterloo and Shepperton, London Waterloo and Windsor, London Waterloo and Chessington South, London Waterloo and Guildford via Cobham **Saturday 20 April.**

- **Reading to London Waterloo** services will be **revised.**
- **London Waterloo to Shepperton** services will be **revised.**
- **London Waterloo to Chessington South** services will be **revised.**
- Additional services will run between **London Waterloo and Twickenham.**

Altered train services and buses replace trains in the Teddington area **Sunday 21 April.**

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

- **London Waterloo to Shepperton** services will be diverted after **New Malden** and will terminate at **Hampton Court**, calling additionally at **Surbiton.**
- **Buses** will run between **New Malden and Shepperton via Kingston.**
- **London Waterloo to London Waterloo via Wimbledon and Kingston** services will be diverted after **New Malden** and will terminate at **Hampton Court**, calling additionally at **Surbiton.**
- **Buses** will run between **New Malden and Twickenham via Kingston.**
- The afternoon and evening **London Waterloo to Kingston via Hounslow** services will terminate at **Hounslow.**
- Some **London Waterloo to Windsor** services will be retimed to leave **London Waterloo earlier** and make additional stops between **London Waterloo and Twickenham.**



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darryl parkin

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Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 245

By Alan Winter

The World's First Photographs

The majority of postcards that have appeared in this column during the last seven years or so have been of a photographic nature rather than an artistic creation.

I thought we could have a look at the origins of photography and when picture postcards were allowed to go through the World's mail systems this week and then next week we can discover three of the earliest Richmond based commercial photographers.

History tells us that the earliest known photograph was of a landscape taken in France in 1827. The oldest known photograph of a human being was also taken in France 1838.

The first colour photograph was taken in 1861, also in France, but these didn't take off in terms of popularity and quantity until the 1970's. Much of the reason for the delay was the complexity of development and subsequently publishing of colour photographs while for the first time more homes had access to cameras.

Black and White and sepia photos really took off in 1854 when the *carte de visite* in the format of a small photograph was patented in Paris by photographer André Adolphe Eugène Disdéri in 1854.

Each photograph was the size of a visiting card, and such photograph cards, in an early form of social media, were commonly traded among friends and their visitors in the 1860s. Albums for the collection and display of cards became a common fixture in Victorian parlours.

In 1859 Disdéri photographed and published Napoleon III in *carte de visite* format (see our first image). The popularity of the C de V card format and its rapid uptake worldwide were due to their relative cheapness, which made portrait photographs accessible to a broader public and prior to the advent of mechanical reproduction of photographs, led to the publication and collection of portraits of prominent persons.

A year later this new *carte de visite* collecting hobby arrived in London.

In England John Jabez Edwin Mayall in Regent Street announced in August 1860 that he had;



...just received the Royal permission to publish a series of portraits which had been previously taken of the Royal family and of several other illustrious personages who have the honour of being intimate friends of her Majesty. These charming portraits are of miniature size; some of them are mounted on cards, and opposite to that of the Queen in the catalogue we find it described as a *carte de visite*. And our second image is of that very photograph of Queen Victoria.

Thirty-four years later photography had advanced to the point where the World's Post Offices got together and gave permission for picture postcards to be sent through the mails where previously only hand written letters and cards were accepted.

Next week we will take a look at three 19th Century photographers who set up commercial businesses in Richmond, mostly based on Cartes de Visites and subsequent enlargements.

My search for old postcards continues. I am always looking for old postcards and old photograph albums etc. The postcards can be British or Foreign, black and white or coloured and of places or subjects. If you have any that are sitting unwanted in a drawer, in a box in the loft or in the garage or under a bed, please contact me on 07875 578398 or alanwinter192@hotmail.com I would like to see them and I pay cash!



World Health Organization

COVID-19 epidemiological update – 12 April 2024

Globally, the number of new weekly cases decreased by 11% during the 28-day period of 4 to 31 March 2024 as compared to the previous 28-day period, with just under 0.3 million new cases reported. The number of new weekly deaths decreased by 41% as compared to the previous 28-day period, with over 4,200 new fatalities reported. As of 31 March 2024, over 775 million confirmed cases and over 7 million deaths have been reported globally. According to estimates obtained from viral loads in wastewater surveillance, clinical detection of cases underestimated the real burden.

As many countries discontinue COVID-19-specific reporting and integrate it into respiratory disease surveillance, WHO will use all available sources to continue monitoring the COVID-19 epidemiological situation, especially data on illness and impact on health systems. COVID-19 remains a major threat, and WHO urges Member States to maintain, not dismantle, their established COVID-19 infrastructure. It is crucial to sustain early warning, surveillance and reporting, variant tracking, early clinical care provision, administration of vaccine to high-risk groups, improvements in ventilation, and regular communication.

At the regional level, the number of newly reported 28-day cases decreased across four of the six WHO regions: the Region of the Americas (-45%), the European Region (-28%), the Eastern Mediterranean Region (-24%) and the South-East Asia Region (-5%); while case numbers increased in two WHO regions: the Western Pacific Region (+54%) and the African Region (+55%). The number of newly reported 28-day deaths decreased across five regions: the African Region (-100%), the Eastern Mediterranean Region (-73%), the Region of the Americas (-42%), the European Region (-42%) and the Western Pacific Region (-28%); while death numbers increased in the South-East Asia Region (+15%).

At the country level, the highest numbers of new 28-day cases were reported from the Russian Federation (94,657 new cases; -12%), New Zealand (78,794 new cases; +301), Australia (22,492 new cases; -26%), Chile (21,050 new cases; -19%) and China (10,697 new cases; +43%). The highest numbers of new 28-day deaths were reported from United States of America (3,189 new deaths; -41%), the Russian Federation (288 new deaths; +20%), Chile (112 new deaths; -12%), Australia (95 new deaths; -56%), China (91 new deaths; +8%), and New Zealand (79 new deaths; +14%).

The European Region reported over 118,000 new cases, a 28% decrease as compared to the previous 28-day period. No country has reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater compared to the previous 28-day period. The highest numbers of new cases were reported from the Russian Federation (94,657 new cases; 64.9 new cases per 100 000; -12%), the United Kingdom (6,103 new cases; 9 new cases per 100 000; -41%) and Greece (3,954 new cases; 36.9 new cases per 10,000; -57%).

The number of new 28-day deaths in the Region decreased by 42% as compared to the previous 28-day period, with 538 new deaths reported. The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from the Russian Federation (288 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; +20%), Italy (67 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -66%) and Greece (38 new deaths; <1 new death per 100 000; -62%).

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Council Reports

Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee, 18 April 2024

James Knight

Parks Maintenance / East Twickenham Conservation Area / Litter Enforcement / Committees to hit the road / Teddington lock hydropower

The first item was the new **Parks Maintenance Contract**, introduced by Rebecca Towers, interim head of culture (to provide extra capacity), and David Alistair, the head of culture. Rebecca said the borough managed over 500 hectares of open space, and this was the first time it could let the contract along with Wandsworth Borough. It would be a six-year contract with the option to extend by another six years.

Cllr Chas Warlow (South Richmond) questioned why an all-electric fleet of vehicles was not being mandated. He was told that it was not possible now, but that one consideration would be who offered the greenest fleet. Cllr Zoe McLeod (East Sheen) asked about the notable minority of respondents (8 to 14%) to the parks survey who felt their local park was poor quality. David Alister said the council had a real drive to keep standards high and push them further, with Rebecca adding that comments were often made about the lack of public toilets and the lack of sports pavilions. The committee then agreed the recommendations.

Next up was the **East Twickenham Conservation Area appraisal**, which was introduced by Officer Adam Hutching the spatial planning and design team manager. He said the local planning authority has a duty to designate as conservation areas any areas with special architectural or historic interest. Cllr Julia Neden-Watts said that she had received an email from the chair of the local resident's association, which said their committee had a number of concerns, not least being that the road is not just a collection of shops but a place where several hundred people live. Cllr Warlow asked about the buildings that were recommended to have their buildings of townscape merit should be removed. He asked if they needed planning permission to install double-glazed windows – he was told they had permitted development rights to do this. However, The Twickenham Tribune has researched this point, and planning permission is required as flats do not have the permitted development rights to change windows and this is even quoted on the council's own website

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/conservation_areas_faq

The next item was the **Litter Enforcement Contract**, introduced by Officer Sharon Wright, head of inspection and enforcement. She said the contract aimed to supplement the council staff rather than replace them. She said there wasn't so much of a problem with litter on the streets but around recycling centres and when there are major events. Cllr John Coombs (Heathfield) enquired why the number of fixed penalty notices has suddenly increased in the past year. He was told that was due to an extra officer being recruited and better targeting of where they are deployed. Cllr Coombs asked how the council tackled dumping on private land, mentioning the huge dumping problem in Britannia Lane behind Whitton High Street. Part of the road is public, while other parts are private and owned by a housing association. The reply was that the council has a multi-agency approach and works with third parties to try and tackle the issue. Cllr Elizabeth Grant (Hampton North) was concerned that children could receive fixed penalty

notices for littering. She was told that it was illegal and that only those over eighteen could be fined.

Under the last item, The Forward Plan, it was revealed that the council planned to hold some **committee meetings outside of York House**. The next Environment Committee may be held at Orleans House Gallery if they can move the technology and find a way to accommodate the public. Cllr Coombs said he wanted planning committees for major applications heard in the town hall of the communities affected rather than at York House.

Cllr Warlow asked for the committee to reconsider **the hydropower scheme at Teddington Lock** despite the major flood work scheme taking place at the lock. Cllr Coombs said that a third party should build and run any hydroelectric plant: “My own feeling is, it has to be not the council...there are so many examples around the country of the council saying we’ll do this and they end up bankrupt because they do things so ineptly”. Maybe Cllr Coombs was thinking of Bristol Energy where Richmond’s new chief executive hails from? The previous hydropower scheme had its planning permission overturned by the High Court. Lord Justice Sales, with Lord Justice Beatson, said: “The council has gone badly wrong in its consideration of the planning merits of the application for development in this case.” They had simply failed to identify the project as an “inappropriate development” in a protected area, the judge said. The judge concluded: “Part of the point of the strictness of the policy is to safeguard important open areas from ‘death by a thousand cuts.’”

You can read the paper for the meeting by following the link [HERE](#)

Next week at Richmond Council

On Monday, the **Education and Children’s Services Committee** will meet at 7 p.m. at York House, Twickenham, to discuss educational outcomes, the home-to-school travel policy, and the youth service strategy.

On Tuesday, **the Transport and Air Quality Committee** will meet at 7 p.m. at York House, Twickenham, to discuss a report on cargo bikes and a review of the Transport Strategy Service, which recommends more staff be employed.

On Thursday the **Finance, Policy and Resources Committee** will meet to discuss the Community Fund (Round 5), an £8 million partial refurbishment of the Civic Centre, and additional budget requests. The meeting is at 8 p.m. at York House, Twickenham.

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

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



Twickenham Conservatives

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

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

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

There is no need to make an appointment.

Shadow MP Surgery

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

**All are
Welcome
To attend.**



Tackling Rising Crime

Jonathan Hulley, Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Twickenham

The first duty of government is to keep the people safe.

However, in the eight years since Sadiq Khan has been London Mayor, crime has rocketed. Sexual offences are up 43%, theft is up 31% and robberies are up a staggering 58% since 2016. Residents and business owners in the Twickenham constituency are all being impacted by a worsening crime rate, and we have seen a series of shocking crimes that were once rare in this part of London.

Earlier this week I met Chunu, the owner of Regal Spice, near Twickenham Green. In the early hours of 23 March, the glass front door of his restaurant was smashed in. The burglar stole computer equipment and the cash takings, then shockingly helped himself to drinks before leaving and breaking into the nearby antiques shop.

Chunu reported the burglary to the local police, who nearly a month later, have still not visited the restaurant to take a statement and have not investigated the crime. The criminal remains at large and could strike again at any time.

Chunu told me that in the twenty-two years since opening Regal Spice, he has never felt less safe. He wants to see the police tackling crime and he wants more visible policing in Twickenham.

Under the Sadiq Khan as London Mayor, the police have failed to tackle so-called “minor crimes” like robbery and theft. The mayor has also failed to meet recruitment targets, meaning there are fewer police to protect us than there otherwise would be. On 2 May, we have an opportunity to send Mayor Khan packing and elect **Susan Hall**, who will prioritise tackling robbery and theft.



She believes that it is essential that frontline police officers have the equipment they need to tackle robbery, theft, and other serious crimes like knife crime.

Ron Mushiso, the Conservative Greater London Assembly candidate for South West London (which includes Twickenham) has pledged, if elected on 2 May, to fight for more police recruitment and more visible policing and wants to ensure that all reported crimes are investigated thoroughly.

I'm backing Susan Hall for London Mayor and Ron Mushiso for the London Assembly and I urge you to support them too on May 2nd.

Free minibus service to Richmond Park

This free service will operate for all residents every Monday, Wednesday and Friday until 27 November, from 9.25am to 4.20pm.



The minibus has disabled access, and runs between all the Richmond Park car parks, Ladderstile Gate, Richmond Gate, Pembroke Lodge and Isabella Plantation.

The service starts and finishes at the barrier in Danebury Avenue on the Roehampton Estate and goes out to Ham, Ashburnham Road (371 bus stop), Ham Gate Avenue (near to 65 bus stop), and new for this year, out to Mortlake Station (969 stop) outside the Community Centre.

The minibus is free and fully accessible with a ramp and steps to aid access. Wheelchair users wishing to use the service should contact jmeays@royalparks.org.uk.

View [more information about this service](#) including a timetable and route map.



Come along to Cambrian Community Gym

Residents over the age of 18 are welcomed to join the Cambrian Community Gym.

The local charity gym features highly qualified and experienced staff providing instruction and advice on exercise programmes, designed to improve fitness and wellbeing.



This friendly exercise facility provides a bespoke service for users of all abilities and ages in an informal and comfortable atmosphere, allowing you to get active on your own terms.

The Cambrian Community Gym can be found at Caplan Court, 1 Grove Road in Richmond, TW10 6SN.

Established in 1989, the Cambrian Centre is a community centre located off Queen's Road in Richmond. It operates as an incorporated charity limited by guarantee.

Find out more about [Cambrian Community Gym](#).

On May 2nd 2024
Vote Ron MUSHISO



Ron Mushiso

FOR HOUNSLOW, RICHMOND AND KINGSTON

THE GLA CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE

MY PRIORITIES:

- **Tackling crime**
- **Building high quality local homes**
- **Rolling back ULEZ**

Email ron@ronmushiso.org

Phone 07568 794007

Twitter/X @RonnieMushiso

I love our corner of London. I came here from Uganda aged 12 and was placed in foster care shortly after. Despite the challenges of growing up in foster homes, London gave me an education and the chance to better myself. Now I am a local teacher and a rugby coach. I see it as my mission to help the next generation of young people.

I care deeply about our wider community having been fostered in Hounslow, Chiswick and Richmond; I feel privileged to have the chance to give back. For the past six years I have served as a Councillor in Hounslow, and I understand the concerns that so many people have at this time. I know what needs to be done.

That's why I am seeking your vote to be your representative and the voice for the whole of South West London at City Hall.

“Sadiq Khan has been in charge here in London for eight long years. He has made our capital less fair and less safe, and we deserve better. I am ready to be your voice for Richmond, Kingston and Hounslow”

Promoted by Amen Bayat of RPNK Conservatives on behalf of Ron Mushiso all at 372, Upper Richmond Road West, London, SW14 7JU.

Why I Am Backing Susan Hall

Ron Mushiso, Conservative GLA Candidate for South West London

Franklin Roosevelt famously said, “We have nothing to fear but fear itself.” Crime in London has escalated during the past 8 years of Mayor Sadiq Khan’s tenure. We have reached a point where criminals seem to be doing as they please, and our young people are having to carry weapons, thinking it is the only way they can protect themselves. This is the legacy of 8 years under Sadiq Khan; fear.



Nationally, burglary rates have decreased across England, yet in London, they have risen. Similarly, while violent crime has decreased across England, it has seen an increase in London. Furthermore, out of 43 police crime commissioners, Sadiq Khan is the only Police and Crime Commissioner to have missed his police recruitment target. Any reasonable observer would conclude that he has failed in his responsibilities to Londoners.

I am backing Susan, because she has been listening and responding to Londoners with pledges that are considered and carefully thought through. She has taken her time for good reason. She told me from the outset, that she did not want to promise anything unless she has sat down and fully costed it. That is a sign of someone that takes the responsibility for taxpayers’ money, with seriousness it demands. We now know plan to combat burglary, theft, and shoplifting.



Susan Hall has committed to allocating an additional £200 million for the Met Police, advocating for a return to Borough Based Policing and ensuring that police officers are integrated within communities. To achieve this, two police bases will be established per borough, tailored to the specific needs of local communities. These operational decisions will be under the purview of the Commissioner.

Susan Hall has recently announced plans to recruit an additional 1500 police officers. She aims to provide frontline officers with access to knife wands to make stop-and-search procedures less invasive.

If I am fortunate enough to secure your vote as a representative on the London Assembly at City Hall, my responsibility Richmond and Twickenham will be to hold the Mayor accountable for her commitments and advocate for initiatives that alleviate the fear of crime in our boroughs.

So, as you contemplate your choice while your pencil hovers over the empty squares on your ballot paper, remember, in this two-horse race, Susan Hall is the only Mayoral candidate capable of preventing another four years of Mayor Sadiq Khan.

The Royal Parks launches spring photography competition

Park visitors are encouraged to photograph the new life that is emerging in the parks this springtime. This can come in many forms - the birth of ducklings, goslings or cygnets in the waterways, the pink cherry blossom, the colourful spring flowers or the fresh new green shoots appearing on trees.



The competition invites budding photographers to take shots that capture new life in all its forms from any Royal Park. Whether these are broad landscapes or macro shots, [The Royal Parks charity](#) wants to see all ideas and angles.

The competition opens on 4 April and closes on 10 May, with winners being announced on the week commencing 3 June 2024.

A Royal Parks spokesperson said:

"This competition is open to everyone, and we can't wait to see the creativity of the entries. We hope that it will inspire London's photographers to take a moment out to observe the natural life flourishing on their doorsteps.

"Every day, we appreciate these beautiful spaces and feel honoured to be part of the charity that strives to care for and protect them for future generations. They are always here for anyone who needs them: a place where people can take a breath of fresh air away from the city hustle and bustle to boost their wellbeing and to support a healthy life."

The launch of the photography competition marks the launch of a new awareness campaign called ['Creating Spaces for Life'](#). The campaign is being piloted on social media channels and across the parks. It raises awareness that The Royal Parks is a charity and highlights the range of work that goes on behind the scenes to care for London's historic green spaces.



April Food And Drink News

With Easter hols finally over, things can revert to 'normal', whatever that is for you! Here are some new products I can recommend:

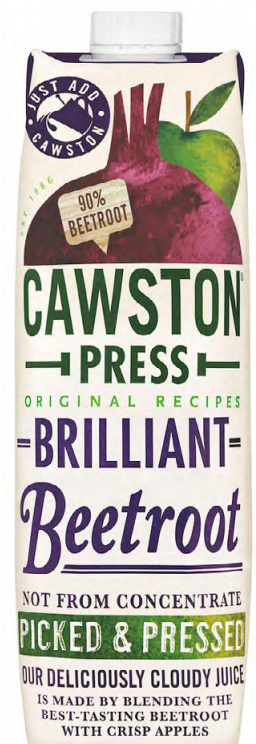
If you're a fan of Dragon's Den, you'll have seen this brilliant company - **Stocked** - gaining investment. I'm so glad they did, as the products are great and so tasty. The whole idea is that you buy a pack of blocks, store in your freezer, to defrost as, and as many, as needed. They're really space saving, and offer a range of delicious meals that take less than five minutes to heat up and transform back into fresh and tasty meals. Each pack of Stocked contains eight blocks, enough to make 2-4 meals; simply heat and eat them as they are, or use them as building blocks for a variety of meals. With dishes inspired by global cuisines (think Italian staples, fresh flavours from Indonesia and versatile Mexican dishes), there's quite an array. Half of Stocked's range is plant based, so plenty for all diets and palates. [Stocked Food](#)



Flavour Hacks pastes from **Belazu** take stress and hassle from prepping fresh ingredients and cut time needed to let flavours develop during the caramelising or roasting process, 'unlocking a world of flavour, instantly'. For example, one spoonful of the Roasted Garlic Flavour Hack adds the bold aromatic flavour of roasted garlic immediately, no peeling, chopping, or prepping. They can be used at any stage, from marinating, stirring in during cooking, as a base, or to help finish a dish. Unlike many other pastes, there is no vinegar in the [Belazu](#) Flavour Hacks range, and no compromise on taste compared to using fresh ingredients. Reducing

fresh ingredients in a recipe is cost efficient, and the pastes have a good shelf life, also helping reduce food waste. Available in Balsamic Sun-dried Tomato; Green Chilli; Roasted Garlic and Caramelised Onion. 130g jar around £3.

Beetroot's on our radar as the superfood of the moment, as shown through a recent 300% uplift in sales for **Cawston Press' Brilliant Beetroot Pressed Juice**. Full of earthy goodness, Cawston Press Brilliant Beetroot Pressed Juice is a blend of 90% pressed beetroot juice, with crisp pressed apple juice for a rich and hearty refreshment packed full of vitamin C. It's great, and available from most supermarkets, and online [here](#), along with a range of other really good still and sparkling juices in cartons and cans. Around £3 a litre - there're some fabulous recipes on the website too.





The benefits of Apple Cider Vinegar (ACV) are well known, and now there is a delicious way of making sure you're helping your gut health and immunity. **Apeal World's** refreshing range of drinks contain a blend of sparkling water, organic ACV, organic spices and extracts sustainably sourced and combined, creating a drink with all the functional benefits of concentrated ACV – the ACV vinegar hack made delicious. There are now three in the range: newly launched **'Activate'** with Lemon &

Mint; **'Defence'**, with organic ginger and **'Metabolism'** with organic clove, cinnamon and vanilla. They are refreshing and tasty and available from independent health food outlets at £1.99 for a 250ml can.



I've recently discovered some unusual and useful bowls from **Hokan**. These stylish stoneware bowls are oven, microwave, freezer and of course dishwasher friendly, plus, I was delighted to find, they also fit my air fryer drawer! Stoneware is dense pottery fired at high temperatures, making it non-porous and, consequently, odour and stain free. The bowls heat evenly and retain heat efficiently. Cooking and baking with the lid on keeps moisture in and the temperature stable. Removing it allows the top area to crust or brown. They're ideal for everyday use, stackable and pretty stable too, so easy to pop in the fridge with the lid on. The volume of each bowl is determined by its height, with lids the same size, so no searching for the right one. You can use the lids as a side dish too. In a range of sizes and colours, from £24 for the small (400 ml) to £30 (1000 ml) or £80 for a set of all three. Available from [Hokan Bowls](#)



These newly launched **Bites from Häagen-Dazs** are perfect for those times when you fancy a little bit of ice cream, but don't want a whole choc ice. Available in Salted Caramel and also Chocolate flavour, they are a bite size combination of ice cream with a delicious filling, covered in crunchy chocolate coating with roasted chopped almonds. Available in boxes of eight little bites of deliciousness, at around £5 from Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Ocado. For further info visit [Häagen-Dazs](#),

When the weather warms up, I do like a refreshing, cereal breakfast but I also want a healthy, tasty kick start to my day. **SURREAL** is a new range of cereals that offer high protein, zero sugar and also provide a low-carb cereal option. Add to that, they have a nostalgic flavour profile, reminiscent



of childhood breakfasts, but without unhealthy downsides. The cereals contain 13g of plant protein, and are also vegan and gluten-free, so ideal for almost any diet. Available in a range of flavours including: Cocoa; Frosted; Cinnamon; Peanut Butter; Caramelised Biscuit and Cookies & Cream. Around £5 for a 240g box from Sainsbury's, Holland & Barrett, Ocado and Amazon.

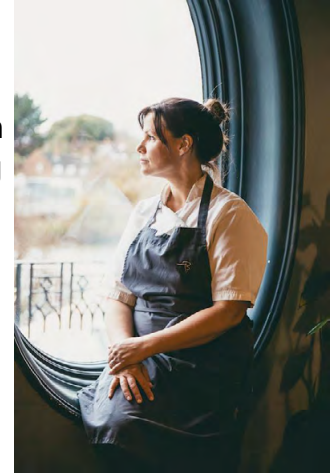
M&S's recent first **'Loved by Customers'** survey has revealed store cupboard essentials that are simply non-negotiable for many. Coming in at number 1, were **M&S Cheese Twists** with



over 43% of the votes and over 5 million boxes sold in 2023. Loved By Customers is now an ongoing campaign to highlight favourite classics and hidden heroes across the **M&S Foodhall**. Others to come are: Most Loved Lunches; Most Loved Desserts and Most Loved Deli Delights. Store cupboard hero products (as seen in photo here) include tomato ketchup; granola; fajita seasoning and smooth peanut butter, to name just a few.

Top Marx! Bingham Riverhouse's Chef

Vanessa Marx has been at Bingham Riverhouse for a couple of years, running the kitchen for the events side of the business. I knew first-hand how good she is, as our daughter was married there last year and everyone raved about the food. South African born Marx has, very sensibly, been handed the whole of this lovely local hotel's catering by owner Samantha Trinder, and she's certainly making her mark. She had some big shoes to fill after Steven Edwards left, but they've been stepped into very well indeed.



Her culinary journey from Port Elizabeth via Cape Town reached great heights: co-founding *Dear Me Food World*, a three-level culinary haven, she went on to earn the Eat Out Rising Star Award, propelling her career into television appearances and guest judging on *Celebrity MasterChef South Africa*. She also successfully launched her own catering and events business before relocating to London. Vanessa is passionate about the healing power of food and its fundamental role in wellness and sustainability: and this shines through in the menu she's created. She's into zero waste and wild and foraged ingredients, with The Riverhouse Restaurant dishes featuring the most consciously sourced produce and ingredients, foraged in harmony with the seasons and local environments. Marx promotes a zero-waste ethos, and the menu highlights wild and foraged ingredients, as well as some of their very own garden-grown botanicals. Innovative low-waste ingredients include coffee-grown oyster mushrooms, cultivated in their urban Rooftop Farm in Wimbledon, using waste ground coffee from the hotel.

The other interesting thing for me, was that two of the dishes I chose are, in fact, vegan, but it was only later that I noticed this.

The menu is divided into sections: Nibbles; Small Plates; Large Plates; Extra Bits and Sweet. The pricing is fair and compares well with many top gastro pubs, but the whole set up at Bingham Riverhouse is far, far superior.

I very much enjoyed the gentle kick of spice in my Jalapeno Negroni (Mezcal, Cocchi red vermouth, jalapeño infused Campari) while my husband had a Lucky Saint alco free lager. We also were persuaded to accompany our drinks with Lamb Bobotie Spring Rolls, served with apple cider chutney - a nice nod to Marx's heritage. These were piping hot, crispy tubes packed with delicate curried meat and fruit and they set the scene for a highly memorable meal.

To start, I had Caramelised Celeriac, with coconut raita, spiced coconut butter, and roasted pumpkin seeds. This was beautifully presented, absolutely delicious, and I would urge any vegan diner to make a beeline for it. The coconut yogurt complemented the celeriac perfectly, and the pumpkin seeds added texture and flavour. My husband had the Confit duck salad, maple glazed quince, walnut, radicchio - and declared it excellent. The contrast of textures with the quince and the walnuts added interest and It would also make a great light lunch dish.



It was a cold and wet evening, and before I had a chance to say I fancied the Wild Boar 'bourgignon', pancetta and mushroom barley risotto, it was announced by my husband to be his choice of main course. Of course we can't have the same dishes when reviewing, so I chose the Brixham Fish market catch - which happened to be Sea Bream - served with lemon beurre blanc and samphire.

Actually, I was so pleased I did choose this: it was again served piping hot, with crispy skin seasoned to perfection. I don't normally like fish skin, but this was so good I found myself eating it all, and really enjoying it. We shared a portion of sweet potato fries and buttered winter greens. The greens were another triumph: al dente, sugar snap peas, variegated kale and lots of butter. It clearly demonstrates the skill of a great chef to make a side dish such a hero component.

My husband's wild boar looked great and was in a delicious, rich, but not thick, sauce. The risotto was a different and very tasty accompaniment. The whole dish was very cleverly composed and executed.



I'm not normally much of a dessert fan, but reader, the ones we tried at Bingham Riverhouse were seriously good. Kentish cobnut & olive oil cake, grapefruit, olive meringue was a triumph - some sweetness from the coconut and meringue, beautifully balanced with the citrus notes from the grapefruit.

The other dessert we shared was Cacao torte, reishi mushroom, cranberry sorbet, maca date caramel. Well, what can I say? It wasn't sweet, but it was rich and deeply chocolatey with the tartness of the sorbet giving a fabulous contrast and offsetting the richness. It was chocoholic heaven for anyone, like me, who loves dark, quality chocolate. It was superb, and again, I was surprised to discover that it was vegan.

Roibos tea jellies accompanied our coffee - another clever South African touch. They weren't too sweet, just delicately fruity and amazingly good.



We're very lucky to have such a fabulous restaurant in Richmond - one with views of the river, charming decor and top notch food. The relaxed, almost laid-back, vibe is a refreshing change of gear and one being much appreciated by the other diners. A family at the next table was dining there with a very well behaved newborn and his grandparents. They were so impressed that immediately they reserved a table to come back the following night. And we're already planning our next visit.



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So God hates me?

By Deep Patel

~Life Through the Eyes of a Twickenham Shopkeeper~

It was a quite weekday afternoon at Meet & Deep Newsagents and I was sitting behind the counter catching up on paper work when I noticed a tall smartly dressed man waiting at the counter for me to look up and serve him. I immediately apologised and explained that I was engrossed in the paperwork I needed to finish, he smiled and said “don’t worry, that’s life” and he was very calm. I then noticed his black shirt had no collars and there was a white band in the middle...he was a vicar...

I don’t know why, but at that moment I felt worse somehow for keeping him waiting...I apologised again (I guess I was worried that I had made him late to a service or something)...after I had served him, I said “oh you’re a vicar?” that’s nice, I like to pray too (then I realized how ridiculous I must have sounded). He calmly replied “oh, that’s nice” ... then I started talking about how I am very “multi-faith” and I pray at a temple, church, mosque or any other place of worship...I told him how I believe in ALL these forms of divine energy and feel all should be celebrated. He was silently listening and not saying anything back...

I went on to say how some Mormons visited me for weeks in the shop and asked me if I would pray with them...I said “what here, in the shop?” to which they said “yes, that would be lovely”... so I agreed...I prayed with them, I told them I would not be able to commit to them though as I am truly multi-faith and cannot choose one path only whilst disregarding all others...they seemed disappointed with me, but I felt it right that they knew as I didn’t want to lead them on.

I kept talking to the vicar and he was silently listening...I told him how I would be just as happy to pray with a Muslim, just as I would be happy to pray with a Christian, Sikh or Buddhist...but I found sometimes being multi-faith myself meant that whilst trying to be open to all, I was inadvertently somehow upsetting all...as all wanted me to commit to their way only ignoring other ways...the vicar didn’t say much but just listened. I felt he was losing interest as he was perhaps also against my multi-faith stance...so I stopped talking and he turned away from me to leave my shop.

Just as the vicar turned away from me to prepare to leave my store, I said “God probably doesn’t like me as I choose to follow all faiths”...the vicar stopped and turned to me...looked at me for a few seconds, then looked away and continued towards the door of my shop to leave...without saying a word back...I thought, oh well, he hates me too now...just then, the vicar turned back again and walked towards me...and he said “you are right, God probably doesn’t like you” (I suddenly felt quite sad) but then he finished his sentence to say “Yes you are right, God probably doesn’t LIKE you...he probably LOVES you, because whilst so many other people try to DIVIDE him amongst their faiths, you are trying to UNITE his glory and see him as ONE...” he smiled and said “God bless you for what you do” and left my shop...

Remember...

“All may be different...but all are one”

MY CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK...

STOP ANTS KINDLY (GOOD KARMA): Sprinkle talcum powder, pure essential peppermint oil, Olbas oil, fine black pepper or white vinegar around places where you don’t want them to come (but NOT directly on them)...they will go without you having to harm them. This works for most insects too!

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





Aida

by Giuseppe Verdi, libretto by Antonio Ghislanzoni
Kentish Opera at The Stag, Sevenoaks until 20th April

Verdi's opera is a hugely demanding piece that makes exorbitant demands on any opera company, with its frequent scene changes, dance interludes, and costumes, even if, these days, there is a feeling that elephants are not actually required.

So it is something to celebrate that Kentish Opera were able to put on *Aida* at all in a cinema in Sevenoaks, even one with an orchestra pit. As if that wasn't challenge enough, their Radames (Roberto Abate) succumbed to a chest infection, although he still mimed the part while Jonathan Cooke saved the show from the side of the stage.



It was, to be honest, a rather old fashioned production, with sets (Harry Stevenson, and Debi Austin) and costumes (Carol Stevenson and Susanna Elvy) reminiscent of a Ladybird Book representation of Ancient Egypt. That said, well-used projections included a pyramid against a blue sky and an elaborately painted temple interior; and the costumes were lavish. I began to understand why opera houses tend these days to avoid an ancient Egyptian setting, preferring something set in the era of composition or, as at the Royal Opera House at present, a Korean dictatorship!

Here in Sevenoaks, extras fanned Amneris (Felicity Buckland) with white feathers on sticks, while she lounged on a chaise-longue channelling Princess Margaret in a bad mood, and remaining resolutely undiverted by the moppets dancing for her pleasure; but convincing as Ancient Egypt it was not.

The chorus sang most impressively and the second act finale had real conviction with Verdi's priests sounding rather more malevolent than they looked. Even if the orchestra sounded rather like they were on well remastered 78s, they were always together – testament to the fact that everyone was extremely well rehearsed by Musical Director Robyn Sevastos. *Aida* ideally needs a more powerful and sweeter voice than Katherine Blumenthal's. The best of the singers was Lexie Wisniewska as High Priestess, although in the least demanding role.



Read Patrick Shorrock's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/04/19/aida-ko

Photography by Alice Blogg

Shakespeare's OTHELLO at the Mary Wallace Theatre

“Beware, my lord, of jealousy - it is the green-eyed monster...” But Iago has already sewn the seeds of suspicion in Othello's mind and the inevitable path to chaos is laid.

The Richmond Shakespeare Society's thrilling production of Shakespeare's exploration of jealousy, betrayal and racism.

OTHELLO opens at the Mary Wallace Theatre, Twickenham on April 20th and plays until the 27th.



Limited availability.

Booking at www.richmondshakespeare.org.uk

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



Boost Garden Butterfly Numbers by up to 93% with One Simple Step, New Study Reveals

Letting parts of your garden grow wild with long grass can increase butterfly numbers by up to 93% and attract a wider range of species, according to new research from leading wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation.

The study, published in the journal *Science of the Total Environment*, provides the first scientific evidence that having long grass in your garden increases butterfly abundance and diversity. Creating such wild spaces may help to reverse the decline of these beautiful insects.

Undertaken by Butterfly Conservation scientists Dr Lisbeth Hordley and Dr Richard Fox, the research analysed butterfly sightings from more than 600 gardens across the UK, collected by members of the public over six years through the charity's Garden Butterfly Survey. The results show that gardens with long grass had a significantly higher number of butterflies recorded, with a greater variety of species, than those without.



Comma (c) Mark Searle



Peacock (c) Andrew Cooper



Red Admiral (c) Mark Searle

Importantly, the biggest benefits of these wild spaces were found in urban areas and intensively farmed landscapes. In highly arable areas, gardens with long grass saw up to 93% more butterflies, and those in urban areas showed an increase of 18%.

The potential to provide wild spaces for butterflies and moths to thrive is huge. Gardens make up more than 728,000 hectares in Great Britain - the equivalent of over a million football pitches. If each of these gardens had a space that was allowed to go a little wild, with grass growing long, it would make a huge difference for butterflies and moths, providing spaces for them to feed, breed and shelter.

While the research specifically studied gardens, the benefits to butterflies of long grass and wild spaces are likely to extend beyond the garden gate. Public green spaces such as parks, school grounds, allotments, and road verges, could also provide vital spaces for wildlife, and enable more people to see more butterflies if allowed to go a little wild.

Dr Richard Fox, Head of Science at Butterfly Conservation and co-author of the study, said: *"Nature is in crisis; 80% of butterflies have declined since the 1970s, so we need to take action now"*

to protect them. We wanted to be able to give tried and tested gardening advice that will benefit butterflies as we know lots of people want to help. This study proves, for the first time, that allowing a patch of grass to grow long will attract more butterflies into your garden.”

The study also found that the presence of flowering ivy in gardens increased the number of certain butterfly species, such as the Holly Blue, Red Admiral and Comma, which use ivy as a breeding habitat or nectar source.



Holly Blue (c) Iain H Leach



Marbled White (c) Andrew Cooper

Butterfly Conservation is calling for everyone to create their own Wild Space, no matter how big or small, to help butterflies survive and thrive. Through its Wild Spaces programme, the charity aims to transform 100,000 areas across the UK to help support butterfly populations.



Small Tortoiseshell (c) Bob Eade

Dr Fox added: “The simple act of creating wild spaces by allowing a patch of grass to grow long, or a border edge to go wild is free and easy to do, and can significantly boost butterfly numbers, especially in urban and agricultural settings where they are most under pressure. The benefits of each individual wild space are small, but if thousands of people get involved the boost to butterflies could be huge.

“Whether you have a large garden, a small patch of grass, a community or school space, or a balcony or window box, anyone, anywhere can help. We hope that our Wild Spaces programme will inspire people across the UK to take action and help to create a national network of butterfly-friendly habitats.”

Wild Spaces can be created by anyone, anywhere – from gardens to shared community spaces, balconies, terraces, or patios. No matter the size or location, every Wild Space can contribute to the recovery of butterfly populations and support biodiversity.

To create your own Wild Space visit www.wild-spaces.co.uk



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

St Mary's University

St Mary's Business Faculty Offers Free Entrepreneurial Finance Workshop to Local Community

Senior Lecturer Marios Konstantinidis from the Faculty of Business and Law at St Mary's will be holding a free Entrepreneurial Finance workshop for local entrepreneurs and small businesses.



College London, an MSc in Finance from the University of Baltimore, and is a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute and the Higher Education Academy.

Speaking on the upcoming workshop, Marios said, "For anyone thinking of embarking on their entrepreneurial journey, or have a small business that they want to grow, this workshop will help you understand the essentials of entrepreneurial finance. This includes sources of finance available, how to prepare a financial plan, and working with different types of investors."

Academics from the [Faculty of Business and Law](#) at St Mary's University, Twickenham (SMU) will be holding weekly Business Advice Clinic workshops and sessions for local entrepreneurs and small businesses.

If you are interested in attending the Entrepreneurial Finance workshop, you must register in advance using [this Eventbrite link](#). Please also submit any questions at least three days in advance of the workshop on the Eventbrite page.

The Business Advice Clinic is held every Wednesday from 12-1pm, at Patch in Twickenham. The final session will be held on Tuesday 14th May instead of Wednesday.

The full schedule for the Business Advice Clinic can be found below:

April

- Wednesday 10th: Creating and implementing a business plan
- Wednesday 17th: Understanding your market - conducting market research
- Wednesday 24th: Entrepreneurial finance

The next Business Advice Clinic session is on Wednesday 24th April 12-1pm, and will be a free workshop on Entrepreneurial Finance, led by Business Senior Lecturer at SMU Marios Konstantinidis.

May

- Wednesday 1st: Crowdfunding for start-ups
- Wednesday 8th: Marketing for start-ups (run in collaboration with CPG Executive Consulting)
- Tuesday 14th: How to digitise your business.

Marios is a Senior Lecturer and the Subject Head of Management Online at SMU. He has 17 years experience working in corporate finance, and his current research and teaching interests include SME entrepreneurship and innovation strategy, digital entrepreneurship, and global education trends.

Marios also holds an MBA from Imperial



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

STEM Students Learn from Industry Experts

During Careers Week in March, our Science, Engineering, Maths and Technology (STEM) department organised talks from doctors, medical students and NHS staff, for students interested in pursuing medical pathways.



Guest speakers included, Dr Nikita Soni, currently working at St George's University Hospital in south London, Divyaa Puri, a second year Biomedical Science student also at St George's and Honey Tandon, a Practice Manager at a GP surgery in Hounslow, who has also recently released a podcast with Primary Care UK. All speakers presented their chosen study paths and career journeys and were able to offer our students advice as well as answering any questions.



Before the Easter break, we also ran an online webinar with Diva Jain, from Cancer Research UK, who works in research engagement for the established charity. Diva has a research background in Medical Genetics and Biochemistry and has also worked on international cancer clinical trials. With her varied background within the industry, she was able to discuss many career opportunities with our students.

These talks were very well received by attendees and gave our STEM learners a real insight into the possible study routes and future job prospects available.



**Richmond upon
Thames College**

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

Red Roses Team to Play Ireland

John Mitchell has made two changes to his Red Roses starting XV to take on Ireland at Twickenham Stadium in the Guinness Women's Six Nations.

Captain Marlie Packer is back in the seven jersey, meaning a switch from back row to lock for Zoe Aldcroft, while Lark Atkin-Davies returns at hooker.

The backline remains the same for the third match in a row with the back three of Jess Breach Abby Dow and Ellie Kildunne scoring five of England's eight tries in the 46-0 victory over Scotland last time out.

Seventeen of the 23 were involved in last year's Grand Slam-deciding Twickenham clash with France.

Over 46,500 supporters will be in attendance for the Round 4 match against former England assistant coach Scott Bemand's side.

Head coach Mitchell said:

"We are excited for the opportunity of another crack at Twickenham in front of our awesome fans. We want to continue to get better in our game and make the most of the experience to benefit us in the future."

Red Roses team to take on Ireland

15 Ellie Kildunne (Harlequins, 41 caps)

14 Abby Dow (Trailfinders Women, 43 caps)

13 Megan Jones (Leicester Tigers, 19 caps)

12 Tatyana Heard (Gloucester-Hartpury, 20 caps)

11 Jess Breach (Saracens, 36 caps)

10 Holly Aitchison (Bristol Bears, 28 caps)

9 Natasha Hunt (Gloucester-Hartpury, 70 caps)

1 Hannah Botterman (Bristol Bears, 45 caps)

2 Lark Atkin-Davies (Bristol Bears, 56 caps)

3 Maud Muir (Gloucester-Hartpury, 28 caps)

4 Zoe Aldcroft (Gloucester-Hartpury, 51 caps)

5 Rosie Galligan (Saracens, 16 caps)

6 Sadia Kabeya (Loughborough Lightning, 16 caps)

7 Marlie Packer (Saracens, 102 caps) - captain

8 Alex Matthews (Gloucester-Hartpury, 65 caps)

Replacements

16 Connie Powell (Harlequins, 17 caps)

17 Mackenzie Carson (Gloucester-Hartpury, 13 caps)

18 Kelsey Clifford (Saracens, 6 caps)

19 Morwenna Talling (Sale Sharks, 11 caps)

20 Maddie Feaunati (Exeter Chiefs, 3 caps)

21 Lucy Packer (Harlequins, 19 caps)

22 Emily Scarratt (Loughborough Lightning, 109 caps)

23 Sydney Gregson (Saracens, 5 caps)



RFU

Match Preview: Luton Town v Brentford

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

Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford's Premier League run-in continues with a trip to Luton Town on Saturday (3pm kick-off).

A 2-0 victory over Sheffield United last time out lifted Thomas Frank's side to 15th, while the Hatters sit 18th, one point behind Nottingham Forest on the other side of the dotted line.

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead the meeting at Kenilworth Road.

Pre-match Analysis

Richard Cole, Playmaker Stats: Expect goals at Kenilworth Road

Brentford have the chance to make it two wins in a row against Luton Town on Saturday after breaking their winless streak last time out against Sheffield United.

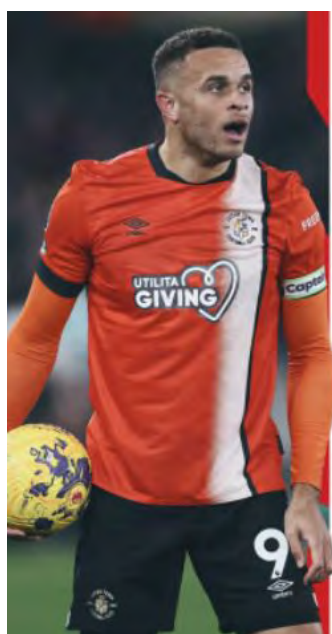
Mikkel Damsgaard's surging run forced Ollie Arblaster into diverting the ball into his own net to open the scoring for the Bees before Frank Onyeka came off the bench to quickly seal the win in stoppage-time with his first-ever for the club ([a goal that was assisted by the returning Kevin Schade](#)).

Those three points were long overdue and just rewards for the recent improved performances. Ivan Toney missed the game having only been on the bench due to fitness but [should be ready for this weekend's clash](#).

Now, Thomas Frank's side have a great chance to build on that as they take on Luton who will be nursing their wounds from a bruising 5-1 defeat against Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium last time out.

Remarkably, should Brentford win against the Hatters it would be the only time they have recorded back-to-back wins this season apart from a trio of victories back in October until November when the Bees defeated Burnley, Chelsea and West Ham United.

No doubt Luton fans could relate to Brentford supporters' frustrations during that nine-game winless run which ended on Saturday. The Hatters themselves went 11 games without a victory in all competitions between February and early April – a duck that was only broken a few weeks ago with a 2-1 home win over Bournemouth.



Head to Head

	Comparisons	
46	Goals	47
70	Goals Conceded	58
256	Shots	307
41%	Possession	44%
60	Yellow Cards	78
0	Red Cards	2



Looking ahead to the weekend, one thing that seems very likely is that we should see goals.

There have been 116 Premier League goals scored in Luton's games so far this season (46 by Luton, 70 by the opposition). Only two other teams can give you better value for money in the league when it comes to goals: Newcastle United (121, 69F 52A) and Aston Villa (117, 68F 49A).

Indeed, we've generally seen the best of Luton at home this season. Four of the Hatters' six victories this season have come at Kenilworth Road and they've scored more home league goals (24) than Bournemouth, Wolves and Manchester United (all on 23).

However, Luton are just as likely to concede at home as well. There have been 27 goals scored by opponents at Kenilworth Road so far this season – only Sheffield United (47), Burnley (37) and perhaps surprisingly Brentford (30) have conceded more at home.

What will make this a particularly difficult day for Brentford is that for Luton these final games of the season are like five successive cup finals as they look to secure their Premier League survival.

Ross Barkley, who has arguably been Luton's best player this season, claimed that the vital final five games for his side (Brentford, Wolves, Everton, West Ham and Fulham) are all "winnable" and it's up to the Bees to prove him wrong to keep the momentum going.

Scout Report

Luton in fight for Premier League survival with five games left to play

"I can't take Luton seriously and I see them down by Christmas," wrote BBC pundit Garth Crooks, shortly after the Hatters' 2-1 defeat to West Ham in their first Premier League home game last year.

Those 12 words, understandably, drew plenty of criticism on social media. They also threw fuel on the Hatters' fire. There's no doubt that post on X will have been bookmarked by the club's social media team.

There is no doubt this season has been tough for Luton, but they will have been expecting it. Fair enough, barring a few exceptions, they do not have a team filled with the glitz and glamour of the majority of their distinguished peers, but their grit and spirit has meant they've never been cut adrift. The words of many will have been swallowed.

In fact, on Christmas Day, Rob Edwards' side were 18th in the Premier League, with a game in hand, after picking up 12 points from their first 17.

They had beaten Everton, Crystal Palace and Newcastle and drawn with Wolves, Nottingham Forest and Liverpool. But they had also given Manchester United, Arsenal and Manchester City a run for their money, losing to each by a margin of just one goal.

"It gets tougher, but these are the games that we wanted. This gives us belief. We have to take that belief," said Edwards after the gripping 4-3 reverse against the Gunners on 5 December.

The Hatters lost just once in a run of six between 23 December and 3 February and found themselves as high as 16th as a result, seven points above Burnley and 10 above Sheffield United.

A 4-4 draw at Newcastle will live long in the memory, while that streak also featured a match that will go down as one of the highlights of the season: beating Brighton 4-0 under the lights at Kenilworth

Road. Elijah Adebayo had them in front inside one minute, Chiedozie Ogbene added a second inside three, before Adebayo struck twice more to complete his hat-trick. It was simply magical. They made it look easy that night.

They have only won one game since then, with six points from their last 12, but there is still so much room for optimism going into the final month of the campaign.

Points deductions for Everton and Nottingham Forest mean, with five games left to play, Luton are one point from safety and they only have one team currently in the top half of the table still to face (West Ham on 11 May).

Edwards remained buoyant despite the 5-1 loss to leaders Manchester City last time out. “We now have five huge games where we can get ourselves out of it. We almost have to write this off,” he said.

“We want to come to places like this and we want to come next year. We are in with a good chance of doing that. It’s learning from it and taking some of the positives.”

At the time of writing, the Hatters are third favourites for an immediate return to the Championship. It’s been the case for the majority of the season, but this club are used to adversity. They’ve beaten the odds before and you can be certain they will do everything to try and beat them again.

In the Dugout

Rob Edwards

Former Wales international Rob Edwards played the final game of a career hampered by injury on 2 March 2013, aged just 30.

In the 11 years since, has been on an exciting journey in the world of coaching and is leading a Premier League team in his own right perhaps even sooner than he might have ever anticipated.

Edwards made inroads at Wolves – for whom he had played from 2004 to 2008 – working with the youth teams initially, before moving up to work with the first team, even leading them in two Championship games after Walter Zenga’s short tenure came to an end in 2016.

In the summer of 2017, he left Molineux to take over at Telford United in the National League North and, after one season, returned to lead Wolves Under-23s into the Premier League 2 Division 1 after a successful 2018/19 campaign.

Those efforts led to Edwards being headhunted by England and, in the national team set-up, he worked as England U20s assistant and then U16s head coach, coaching players such as Liverpool’s Bobby Clark and Sunderland’s Jobe Bellingham.

He guided Forest Green Rovers to the Sky Bet League Two title in 2021/22 - his only season in Nailsworth – before moving on to Watford, where he was given just 10 Championship games before being sacked in September 2022 after delivering only three wins in that time.

Less than two months later, he joined Luton - Watford’s arch rivals – and the rest is history.





Barnes and Mortlake & Barnes Common

March 2024

MESSAGE FROM YOUR LOCAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM (SNT)

March has been a busy month across the wards, with a number of public events taking place. These have provided residents the opportunity to speak directly to officers and share their views and concerns, we thank members of the community for their openness and engagement. Our continued efforts to increase visible patrols was also strengthened by support from Volunteer Police Officers, with a lot of positive feedback from members of the community. We continue to encourage residents to report any and all criminality or Anti-Social Behaviour via the appropriate channels. The more information we receive, the better equipped we are to try and help keep Mortlake and Barnes two of the safest areas in the Met.



Barnes held their latest Police Liaison Group (PLG) meeting at Rose House, Barnes High Street. During the meeting a number of issues were raised and the following ward priorities were agreed with between the police and residents;

- Violent Crime (Including ASB and Drug Related Crime)
- Burglary
- Vehicle Crime

LOCAL NEWS

The New Met for London event was held at the Wetlands Centre, Barnes. In attendance were a number of residents as well as Senior officers from the South West BCU. The theme of the event was ASB, a number of matters were discussed with lots of positive interaction between police and members of the community.

Contact your local police:

☎ 020 7161 8042

✉ Barnes@met.police.uk
Mortlake&BarnesCommon@met.police.uk

🐦 @MPSBarnes
@MPSMortlake

Call **101** to report a crime, get advice or raise local issues.
In an emergency call 999.



RESPONDING TO YOUR CONCERNS - YOU SAID, WE DID

Barnes

Ward officers were supported by a number of volunteer police officers to conduct high visibility patrols in the Barnes ward. This was in response to recent concerns raised regarding ASB and drug use in and around Barnes Green. Officers conducted paired patrols around the green and surrounding streets, before moving up to Lonsdale Road and Hammersmith Bridge to conduct reassurance patrols around school finish times. The operation has been well received by members of the community, SNT will be looking at more opportunities to utilise the assistance of the volunteer constables in the near future and we thank them for giving up their time.

Mortlake

Concerns had been raised by residents from Cherstey Court relating to an address linked heavily to ASB, the address in question was also subject to a fire which had displaced the occupant. Officers have worked closely with Richmond Housing Partnership and the councils' Community Safety Officer, resulting in the occupant in question being moved to an address out of the area. Officers continue to work in partnership with RHP to deal with other problematic addresses in order to try and reduce ASB and criminality in the area.



Barnes

Officers have been conducting pop up contact sessions at various locations across the wards, most recently in Kingsway where they were also joined by local Councillors. The team continue to conduct these sessions on a weekly basis, locations and dates will be made available through the Met Police Website, as well as the Whatsapp Channels. We look forward to seeing you at future sessions!



GOOD NEWS STORIES

Eagle-Eyed Officer

Whilst travelling home from work, having just completed his shift, PC Humphrey spotted one of Mortlake and Barnes' prolific offenders in the vicinity of Chertsey Court. It just so happened that this person was also wanted for a robbery. PC Humphrey used his quick thinking to contact officers from East Sheen SNT who were on duty, who duly came and picked up the male and delivered him to custody!

Knife-point robber nabbed!

Officers from Emergency Response Team were called to the Barnes area following reports of a knife-point robbery. Having located the victim and being provided with a description of the suspect and a direction of travel, officers were able to locate and arrest the suspect and retrieve a lock knife which had been discarded.

Whatsapp Channels

Just a reminder that each ward now has its own dedicated Whatsapp Channel. These channels are used to keep residents up to date with relevant news as well as details of upcoming events.

If you would like to become part of the channel and be kept in the loop, just scan the code relating to the ward you wish to join and you will be taken straight to the respective channel.

MPS Mortlake & Barnes Common



MPS Barnes



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