Twickenham Tribune & Richmond Tribune



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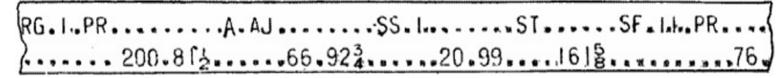
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TickerTape - News in Brief

Rugby at Twickenham Stadium

ENGLAND v NEW ZEALAND

Saturday 2nd November, KO 15:10.

Expected attendance 82,000.

Whitton, London & Rugby Roads close from 13:10-15:10 and from 16:40- around 19:10.

CPZ in force from 11:00-23:00.

Shuttle buses from Hounslow East and Richmond.

South Western Railway

Altered train services due to Rugby at Twickenham Saturday 2 November

London Waterloo - Shepperton

- Between **0911 and 2111**, all **Shepperton to London Waterloo** services are diverted via **Twickenham.**
- Between 1012 and 2212*, all London Waterloo to Shepperton services are diverted via Twickenham. *Between 1112 and 1342, services depart at xx:15/xx:45.

London Waterloo – Reading

- Services will depart earlier from Reading through most of the day (at xx:05 and xx:35).
- Trains departing Reading between 1600 and 2100 will call additionally at Putney and Vauxhall.
- Services will also run later from Richmond to Reading before the match.

London Waterloo – Windsor

Services will depart earlier from Windsor through most of the day (at xx:21 and xx:51).

Tube strikes planned - November 2024

Strikes planned by the RMT for early November have been suspended, However, strikes by ASLEF will still go ahead.

There will be little to no service on London Underground lines on Thursday 7 November and on Tuesday 12 November.



Local Picture Postcard Column - Part 273

Ye White Hart - Barnes

By Alan Winter

The White Hart has been a riverside landmark since it was built in 1899, replacing a pub that had stood since 1662. It is an imposing four-story building with riverside verandas and tables on the towpath in the summer. The pub was completely renovated in 2013.

The ground floor is dominated by the central bar island with its line of chrome Chaplin fonts providing a range of London craft beer from both Meantime and Camden breweries, supported by up to six cask ales from hand pulls. There's a Stags head above the fireplace that uses a gas effect fire. The Terrace Kitchen restaurant is situated on the first floor.

It is a Victorian pub owned by Youngs which overlooks the Thames and is a prominent







The nearest train station is Barnes Bridge. Come out of the station and turn left, follow the river down towards Mortlake. You will find the White Hart on the bank of the River Thames.

Our postcards showing the pub date back about 115 years to just before the first World War.

There are still many inns and pubs in England that sport a sign of the white hart, the fifth most popular name for a pub.

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!



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Labour Budget Reconfirms Winter Fuel Payment Cuts: A Bitter Winter for Twickenham's Elderly

By Jonathan Hulley

Conservative Parliamentary spokesperson, Twickenham

When Chancellor Rachel Reeves announced in July 2024 that she would be axing the winter fuel payment for most pensioners, it left Twickenham's elderly population reeling. This abrupt policy change followed a Labour campaign that had accused the Conservatives of intending to cut the benefit, even as Labour assured pensioners that they would be protected under a Labour government. Once in power, they broke this promise, eroding trust and jeopardising the well-being of many pensioners.

This was presented as a necessary measure to address a so-called deficit in public finances. This justification has been met with



widespread scepticism, particularly as Labour simultaneously approved a £10,000 pay rise for train drivers earning £65,000. This apparent double standard has further weakened Labour's credibility, revealing a disconnect between the values they claim to hold and their conduct in office.

In this week's budget, Labour chose to advance with this controversial means test despite significant public opposition. The result? Over 14,000 pensioners in Twickenham will be directly impacted, losing a crucial benefit at a time when energy prices are rising. Yet, in her speech, Chancellor Reeves chose to sidestep the issue, leaving the hard truth buried within official budget documents—a stark reminder of Labour's lack of transparency.

I recently spoke to Brian, a pensioner from Hampton, who shared his concerns: "By removing the winter fuel payment at a time when fuel, electricity, and food prices are likely to rise, vulnerable pensioners will be put under such strain that some might not survive the coming winter." Brian's sentiment reflects the real-life implications of Labour's decision, underscoring the anxiety and fear among those who face the coming months with less support than they were expecting.

Labour's cuts to winter fuel payments have left Twickenham's elderly population in a precarious position. At a time when inflation and living costs are placing unprecedented strain on households, the loss of this essential benefit could have devastating consequences.

Adding insult to injury, the Liberal Democrats, who once claimed to champion the middle ground, have failed to oppose Labour's cuts to winter fuel payments, opting instead to provide political cover for Labour. In recent years, they have shifted even further left, outflanking Labour in their calls for extravagant spending increases while side-lining the centre ground and middle-class voters who would have to pay substantially more tax to fund this additional expenditure.

The Conservative Party has consistently advocated for sensible, compassionate support that prioritises the well-being of our most vulnerable citizens while maintaining fiscal responsibility. As Labour and the Liberal Democrats continue to push leftwards with policies that sacrifice the interests of everyday Britons for ideological posturing, the Conservatives stand ready to provide the stable, compassionate governance that Twickenham and the country deserve.

Twickenham Green Toilets

Teresa Read

Work is progressing on the high-level lighting on Twickenham Green. Now, it is time to strike while the iron is hot and put some modern public conveniences on the Green.

I have been trying to find a photograph of the old toilets but could not find one I could use. Alan has kindly sent one of his postcards, and he too wondered if toilets will be next.



It makes sense, especially when the Community Toilets at the Cricket Club are not available, or the club house is a no-go area because of rowdy users.

Surely, the Council do not want users of the Green to continue urinating in public???



The new lights on Twickenham Green

Two Local History Talks This Month

Alan Winter, Tribune weekly columnist, local historian, postcard collector and dealer, gives his final two talks of the year on the 14th and 19th this month.

Non-members of both the Richmond Bridge Residents Association and the Twickenham Society are welcome to attend. (small entrance fee).

Richmond Bridge Residents Association

'East Twickenham's History on Postcards'

Thursday 14th November in the main hall at Deer Park School (389, Richmond Road, TW1 2EF). Doors open 7.15pm for a 7.45 pm start. Free to paid-up RiBRA households. Non-members £5. (Donations welcome to help us cover the cost of the venue.) Free drink included.

Please register here so we know how many people to expect.

The Twickenham Society

'A Postcard Tour of Central Twickenham'

Tuesday 19th November in the Twickenham Club, 7 Church Street, Twickenham, at 7.30 p.m. (Members Free, Non-members £4. – Annual Subscription £10)

Stag Brewery inquiry information

From Richmond Council

The Planning Inspectorate's inquiry for the former Stag Brewery will start on Tuesday 5 November 2024.

The inquiry will be in person, with a <u>live stream for viewing online</u>.

- 5 to 8 November York House, Twickenham
- 12 to 15 November York House, Twickenham
- 3 to 6 December Cole court, London Road
- 10 to 13 December York House, Twickenham

Seating is limited for public attendance and will be allocated first come, first served each day. No banners, posters or tannoys will be permitted in the inquiry room.

You can view the <u>inquiry programme</u>.



Next week at Richmond Council

On Monday morning, the **Licencing Sub-Committee** will determine Sainsbury's controversial application to open a new store in Hampton Wick. The Metropolitan Police are objecting, 71 representations have been made, and over 400 people have signed a petition opposing the application, so it's bound to be a lively meeting. The meeting will commence at 10.30 am, at York House.

For full details, please follow the link **HERE**

On Monday evening, the **Transport and Air Quality Committee** will meet to discuss (1) The London Road (Twickenham) Transport study, (2) the Pedestrian Street Scene Enhancement pilot, (3) the Local Implementation Plan funding submission to TFL, (4) Electric Vehicle ChargePoint Programme, (5) Thames Towpath Study, (6) The Quarterly Monitoring Report. The meeting will be held at 7.00 pm at York House, Twickenham.

For full details, please follow the link **HERE**

On Wednesday, the **Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sport Committee** will discuss (1) Richmond Climate and Nature Strategy 2025-2030, a Community Bluescapes update, a review of Fees & Charges, and the Quarterly Monitoring Report highlighting the £1 million plus overspending. Richmond Council plans to hike swimming fees for pensioners by over 50%, with the income used to reduce fees to reduce charges for younger people, those on benefits and asylum seekers. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. at York House, Twickenham.

For full details, please follow the link <u>HERE</u>

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

For further details on how to participate, please follow the link <u>HERE</u>

Remembrance Sunday services taking

place across the borough

Trom Memmoria educate

This year's Remembrance Day services are being held throughout the borough on Sunday 10 November 2024.

There will be a service near to you where you can go to pay your respects to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts.

Most events will consist of a parade of armed forces veterans, civic

dignitaries and religious officials followed by a service and two-minute silence at 11am.

Remembrance events

The remembrance events across the borough this year are as follows:

Richmond

- **Date**: Sunday 10 November
- Time: Parade begins at 10.15am, service at 10.40am, wreath laying at 11am
- **Location**: Parade start in Old Deer Park and will process to Whittaker Avenue, where a service will be held at the War Memorial
- Attended by: The Mayor, Councillor Richard Pyne

Twickenham

- Date: Sunday 10 November
- **Time**: Service begins at 10.45am
- **Location**: Parade will start at The Embankment and will process to the War Memorial in Radnor Gardens, Cross Deep, Twickenham, TW1 4RB.
- Attended by: The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Kuldev Sehra

Hampton

- Date: Sunday 10 November
- Time: Parade begins at 12pm
- Location: Hampton Methodist Church in Percy Road, Hampton, TW12 2JT
- Attended by: Councillor Gareth Roberts

East Sheen

- Date: Sunday 10 November
- **Time**: Assembly at 10.30am
- Location: March begins at Sheen Lane Centre Car Park, East Sheen, SW14 8LP
- Attended by: Councillor Tony Paterson

Barnes

- Date: Sunday 10 November
- Time: 10.55am
- Location: St Mary's Church, Church Road, Barnes, SW13 9HL
- Attended by: Councillor Andy Hale

Ham

- Date: Sunday 10 November
- Time: Parish Communion at 10am, procession at approximately 10:45am
- Location: St Andrew's Church, Church Road, Ham Common, Richmond, TW10 5HG
- Attended by: Councillor Andree Frieze

Petersham

• **Date**: Sunday 10 November

• **Time**: 10am

• **Location**: St Peter's Church, Church Lane, off Petersham Road, Richmond, London, TW10

• Attended by: Councillor Penny Frost

East Twickenham

• Date: Sunday 10 November

• Time: 9am

Location: St Stephen's Church, Richmond Road, East Twickenham, TW1 2PD

• Attended by: Councillor Katie Mansfield

Whitton

• Date: Sunday 10 November

Time: 10.45am

 Location: Whitton War Memorial, St Philip & James Church, 73 Hounslow Rd, Whitton, TW2 7BY

• Attended by: Councillor John Coombs

Hampton Hill

• Date: Sunday 10 November

• **Time**: 9.30am

• Location: St James' Church, St James's Rd, Hampton Hill, Hampton

• Attended by: Councillor Jonathan Cardy

Hampton Wick

• Date: Sunday 10 November

Time: 10.30am

 Location: Procession begins at Foresters Arms, 45 High Street, Hampton Wick, London, KT1 4DG

• Attended by: Councillor Robin Brown

Teddington

• Date: Sunday 10 November

Time: 10:15am

• **Location**: Parade starts and proceeds along the High Street and Broad Street, 10.30am arrive at the Memorial in Hampton Rd, the service will start at 10.50am

Attended by: Councillor Richard Baker



Council Reports: Education and Children's Services Committee

By James Knight

The Education and Children's Services Committee meeting on 24 October, chaired by Councillor Penny Frost, addressed significant issues impacting children's services. Key discussions included complaint handling, contract extensions, and budget overruns.

Annual Statutory Complaints Report:

Ian Dodds, Executive Director of Children's Services, and Nancy Parisa provided an overview of the Achieving for Children (AfC) 2023-2024 Annual Complaints Report. This report detailed the year's complaints: 29 statutory complaints (primarily concerning social care issues) and 40 corporate complaints (pertaining to education and SEND services). Improvements in response times were noted.

Questions from committee members highlighted concerns about complaint frequency relative to the case volume managed by AfC. Dodds explained that while the volume of complaints remained low in relation to the cases handled, efforts had been made to refine communication protocols, mainly to streamline communication frequency and clarify response expectations.

While Dodds commended the council's improved timeliness in addressing complaints, questions from Councillors Humphreys and Wilson underscored broader concerns. They questioned the effectiveness of recent initiatives and demanded greater accountability, particularly regarding the council's relationship with the Integrated Care Board, whose delays often exacerbate service challenges.

Persistent Issues with Case Management: A recurring theme was the committee's ongoing struggle with communication standards within social care. Despite efforts to implement more structured communication protocols, mismanagement was frequently mentioned. The council's focus on "expectation management" rather than tangible improvements in response times raised questions.

The discussion painted a picture of an overburdened and understaffed service struggling to cope with complex family situations worsened by staff shortages and a lack of interdepartmental cooperation, which is ultimately the responsibility of Councillor Frost.

Dodds acknowledged that many families continue to feel let down by the council's response times and communication methods, pointing to the work tasked to the Policy and Performance Review Board. However, such initiatives appear to be yet another layer of bureaucracy rather than a solution to the persistent issues faced by families.

Achieving for Children (AfC) Contract Extension:

The committee discussed extending AfC's council's focus on "expectation management" rather

than tangible improvements. Evans and Claire O'Connor outlined a review that confirmed that maintaining AfC as the service provider is the most beneficial route.

Councillors expressed concerns about a lack of flexibility in the extension terms and a formal review mechanism to hold AfC accountable over the next five years. Councillor Wilson questioned the extension's rigidity and suggested that Richmond exit the contract and combine the services with Wandsworth.

Councillor Crookdake said the paper was "woefully inadequate" considering over £100 million was at stake. Despite these concerns, the committee ultimately rubber-stamped the extension, citing cost constraints and the difficulty of procuring alternative providers as justifications for its decision. Still, the committee's vote felt more like a concession to inevitability than a vote of confidence in AfC's performance.

Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 2.

Rachel Howard presented the Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring Report. Despite a reported general fund underspend, the Dedicated Schools Grant faced an overspend (£2.8 million) primarily attributed to SEND provisions, increasing the financial strain on services. Questions focused on the looming absence of Safety Valve funding, which has been crucial for maintaining the council's budget stability.

Dodds was candid about the consequences of losing this funding, forecasting an inevitable increase in overspending unless significant structural changes occur. The shortfall, he noted, could severely impact frontline services, especially given the post-COVID complexities of cases and the escalating demands from families in need.

Digital Transformation Progress and AI Implementation:

A progress update on digital transformation within children's services underscored the success of automation and artificial intelligence (AI) in easing workloads. Matthew Bond noted that AI had notably increased processing efficiency for safeguarding referrals, with AI processing referrals from the police and writing up action points from case meetings. However, councillors voiced concerns over AI reliability, the potential for errors, and generative AI making things up. Bond assured that current AI applications were restricted to non-public-facing processes, emphasising ongoing risk management.

Last night's meeting was a stark reminder of the council's creaking public services, especially concerning vulnerable children. The renewal of the Achieving for Children Contract also brought the limitations of the committee system to the foreground, as they have just become a forum that mainly shares information and rubberstamp decisions already made. They are creating a situation where committee chairs are effectively cabinet members making executive decisions but without scrutiny committees to act as a check & balance.

Walking on fire's not 'mission impossible' this November

Skylarks Charity is inviting people to join their November fundraising firewalk on Saturday 16 November in Hounslow. This unique event is a fantastic challenge while making a positive impact on the lives of children and young people with additional needs in the local community.

For over 18 years, Skylarks Charity has empowered young people through activities and support, benefiting thousands of families with children who have additional needs and disabilities.



The independent charity relies on donations and fundraising to exist and this event is aiming to raise funds which will go directly towards making a real difference to people who depend on Skylarks support. The charity delivers weekly activities and therapeutic services for young people with additional needs, along with resources, workshops, benefits advice and peer support for parents and carers.

Firewalking is an ancient tradition and a powerful rite of passage in many cultures. Participants will walk barefoot over coals reaching up to 550 degrees Celsius, but with a thorough 90-minute training session, they'll feel confident and inspired.

This event is led by Chris Jones, a certified firewalking instructor and filmmaker currently directing Mission: Impossible 8, this safe and empowering experience will draw on Chris's expertise, having guided thousands through this incredible challenge.

Aaron Guiver, Managing Director at Skylarks, highlighted the importance of the event: "Our services at Skylarks Charity are often described as life-changing and the firewalk is no exception.

"Whether you're seeking a personal challenge, a bonding experience with friends, or an exciting teambuilding event, our Skylarks Firewalk presents a unique opportunity to push your limits while making a meaningful impact.

"For many, walking over hot coals is a bucket list experience and every step taken during the Firewalk directly supports vital services for children and young people with additional needs.

"We are incredibly grateful for those who donate to our charity, helping us to make a difference and create possibilities."

For more information including signing up, please contact fundraising@skylarks.charity

Skylarks

Kettner Concerts in Twickenham

Unheard Harmonies Lydia Hillerudh (cello), Cristian Sandrin (piano) Saturday 16 November 6.00pm, St Mary's Church, Twickenham

£15 General Admission, £10 Concessions (Students and Under 18s)

Programme:

- Rebecca Clarke Sonata for Cello (Viola) and piano
- Vaughan Williams Six Studies in English Folk Song
- L. van Beethoven Seven Variations on a Theme from Mozart's Magic Flute 'Bei M\u00e4nnern weiche Liebe f\u00fchlen, WoO46
- Dora Pejačević Sonata for Cello and Piano

Our outstanding young artists have joined forces to perform sonatas by two unjustly neglected Edwardian women composers alongside lesser-known works by Beethoven and Vaughan Williams, the Seven Variations on Mozart's Marriage of Figaro and Six Studies in English Folk Song respectively. All the compositions are hidden gems of the cello and piano repertoire that deserve a wider audience. Join us to celebrate a programme of musical revelations.

Cellist Lydia Hillerudh was born into a musical family in Stockholm, Sweden - she is in fact the oldest out of seven sisters who all grew up playing the cello. In 2022, she was awarded the coveted Swedish music award for string players, the Jä rnå ker prize. Lydia is currently active in the UK and Sweden, mainly as a chamber musician and soloist. Recent highlights have included performing concertos by Schumann and Elgar with Henley Symphony Orchestra and Wyatt Sinfonia, and performing chamber music at festivals such as Kempten, Ashwell, Buxton, Islington, Dartington and Romsey. As an orchestral principal and co-principal, she regularly guests chamber orchestras such as Swedish Chamber Orchestra, Musica Vitae and Vä sterå s Sinfonietta. She has a particular interest in music that is rarely performed, whether that is contemporary music or forgotten gems from the past, and enjoys bringing these pieces into her repertoire. Lydia is featured on several discs of contemporary chamber music: 'Lunaris', music by Jonathan OV stlund, 'Translations', music by Peter Dickinson and 'In Passing', music by Giles Easterbrook (with the Tritium Trio). Lydia is a sought-after teacher, and teaches cello, chamber music and orchestra at the music school Lilla Akademien in Stockholm, Sweden. In addition to her teaching, she is also an avid arranger and her arrangement for string orchestras and ensembles have been performed all over the UK and Scandinavia. Lydia studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Mats Lidströ m and Robert Cohen, and was also awarded a Chamber Music Fellowship at the Academy with the Tritium Trio after graduating.

Cristian Sandrin is a London-based pianist of Romanian heritage. Born into a family of musicians, he has been surrounded by classical music all his life, making his debut at the historic Romanian Atheneum Concert Hall in Bucharest at the age of 13. At 19 he was accepted into the Royal Academy of Music, London, where he studied under professors Diana Ketler and Christopher Elton, before making his solo debut at the Wigmore Hall in 2017. He has won many awards, including the Roslyn Tureck Special Prize for the best inter- pretation of Bach at the 2019 International Piano Competition in Albuquerque NM. Critics on both sides of the Atlantic have praised him for his immaculate technique, crystalline clarity and mature inter- pretations. He has recently had his Konzerthaus Berlin solo debut and LSO St Luke's in London. His debut Cd "Correspondances" (Antarctica Label) has been praised by the BBC Music Magazine and has been voted as the Recording of the Month by the Piano News magazine in Germany, featuring on radio stations across Europe: Radio France Musique, RAI Tre, Bayerische Rundfunk, Rundfunk Berlin, Radio Romania Muzical. In 2025 Cristian prepares exciting debuts at St John Smith Square in London, Beethovenhaus in Bonn and Serate Musicali in Milan.

Book HERE



New name for Ham community centre

From Richmond Council

We are delighted to reveal that the new community centre, part of the £7m regeneration of Ham Close, will be called The Hive. The name was chosen with the involvement of our community.

This name was chosen thanks to the participation of over 1200 local people, with a significant portion being young people from local schools. The voting highlights the importance of involving community in shaping a more vibrant environment.



The Hive was shortlisted by members and young people from Ham Youth Club from a long list curated by young people and community groups in Ham. Capturing the centre's purpose, the name showcases the spirit of what we aim to achieve - a bustling hub of activity, bringing people together and serving the community.

This project is a testament to what can be achieved when collaborating with residents and partners, as we worked closely with Achieving for

Children (AfC), ensuring that the voices of young people were fully represented by the name of the new space. The partnership has been key in creating a space that reflects the ambitions and the needs of the local community, showcasing our commitment to investing in a brighter future for Ham.

The new community centre will replace the existing Ham Youth Centre. It will be managed by AfC and will offer tuition and an alternative curriculum programme for school students who are struggling with mainstream education during the day and then youth club activities after 3pm. It will also provide a variety of activities for teenagers including arts, sport, music and ICT. This approach will ensure that the centre caters to a wide range of needs, providing a supportive environment for learning and development. The Hive will additionally be available for use by the local community outside of the youth club operating hours and will be considered as a future Family Hub, providing the opportunity for it to serve as a versatile and inclusive space for all.

The Ham Close regeneration project represents a major investment in the community, with nearly £7 million committed by the Council to improve community facilities. This significant financial commitment demonstrates the Council's dedication to improving community infrastructure and services. It forms part of a larger redevelopment of Ham Close working in partnership with Richmond Housing Partnership (RHP). The ambitious plan includes the provision of 452 new homes, all existing social/affordable housing will be re-provided with an additional 78 affordable housing homes. This initiative aims to rejuvenate the area, providing high-quality housing and state-of-the-art community spaces for all residents.

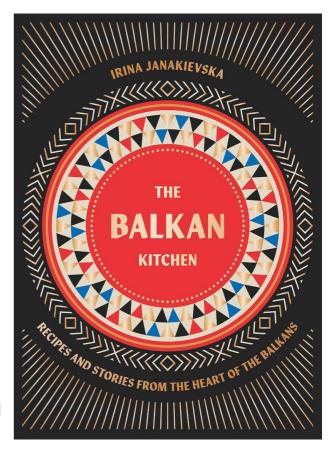
You can learn more about the Ham Close regeneration scheme.

Twickers Foodie - By Alison Jee

A Taste of the Balkans with The Balkan Kitchen

If, like me, you know rather little about the food of the former Yugoslavia, this fabulous new cookbook from **Irina Janakievska** is perfect. An incredible culinary and cultural journey *The Balkan Kitchen* is filled with stunning recipes that speak of the vast and varied cuisine of a region overshadowed by conflict in recent years. The book includes simple, but flavour-packed, dishes from North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Vojvodina, Montenegro, Croatia, Slovenia and Kosovo.

From Aubergine in Walnut Sauce and Stuffed and Baked Peppers, to classic recipes including Sarajevo-style Burek, Cevapi and Chicken Paprikash, and of course sweet treats such as Bled Cream Cake, Chocolate Baklava and Slatko, the food is as vibrant and joyful as the stunning location photography and evocative essays. With cultural anecdotes, history and personal stories, The Balkan Kitchen is a book that will inspire you and delight those you cook for. It's a love letter to Balkan cuisine – one of the most underexplored gastronomic crossroads in the world. It's published by **Hardie Grant** at £27 for a beautifully photographed hardback.



Irina Janakievska is a food writer and recipe developer with a Balkan heart, a Middle Eastern palate and British curiosity. She was born in what is now North Macedonia, grew up in Kuwait, and now lives and works in London. Irina left a successful career in corporate and finance law to follow her passion for sharing her love of Balkan cuisine, the Balkans and its people. She completed the Essential Cooking Certificate at Leiths before working as a recipe developer in the Ottolenghi Test Kitchen and has also contributed to a range of media. The Balkan Kitchen was shortlisted for the Jane Grigson Trust Award in 2023.

Here is a lovely warming recipe to introduce you to Balkan cuisine and tempt you to buy a copy of the book.

Tavče Gravče

(serves 4-6)

"Tava is the Turkish word for a baking dish or frying pan and grav means beans in Macedonian, hence the diminutive name of tavče gravče. These are thought of as the national dish of North Macedonia, though of course there are regional variations, for example in Serbia, where they are known as prebranac. Unlike prebranac, tavče gravče is flavoured with mint, and in my family we go overboard with it. The best beans for this come from Tetovo and the surrounding area and are known as Tetovo beans or Tetovac. The zaprška (a kind of Balkan roux) is best thickened with the bean cooking liquid and some of the crushed beans, though some people prefer to use flour. The beans are traditionally baked and served in an oval, unglazed earthenware pot. This dish can be vegan – simply top it with peppers or tomatoes – or you can add meat (typically slanina or smoked pork ribs for a Serbian-style prebranac) or sausages. My family's favoured addition is Macedonian-style sujuk, a spicy, paprika-infused sausage, which is longer and thinner and closer to a Spanish chorizo than a Bosnian or Turkish-style sujuk. This is why I have recommended using chorizo."

- 500 g (1 lb 2 oz/21/2 cups) dried Tetovo beans (or cannellini beans)
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda (baking soda)
- 3 litres (1011/2 fl oz/121/2 cups) water
- 1 onion, quartered
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2-3 bay leaves
- 2 tablespoons dried mint
- 10 g (1/2 oz) fresh mint, leaves picked

FOR THE ZAPRŠKA

- 3 tablespoons olive or sunflower oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt flakes
- 3 tablespoons sweet paprika
- 1 teaspoon vegetable bouillon powder

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

1-2 long dried or fresh long red peppers, such as Vezenki or Pirot peppers (or Romano peppers) 4 cooking chorizo sausages (about 250 g/9 oz total), sliced in half lengthwise and skin scored diagonally 1 tomato, sliced

METHOD

The day before you want to cook the beans, put them into a large, heavy-based saucepan along with the bicarb and cover with 3 litres (1011/2 fl oz/ 121/2 cups) cold water. Cover and soak for 8 hours, or overnight.

The next day, drain and replace the water, then place the saucepan over a medium-high heat and bring to the boil. Boil for 10-15 minutes, after which time you should have a lot of froth and scum on the top. Drain the beans again and rinse them under running water. Return them to the saucepan, cover with the 3 litres (1011/2 fl oz/121/2 cups) fresh water and bring to the boil again. Add the onion, black pepper and bay leaves, reduce the heat to medium and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 45-60 minutes, or until the beans are soft and cooked through but still retaining their shape. Transfer the beans to a 24×30 cm ($91/2 \times 12$ inch) baking dish scooping out 150 ml (5 fl oz/scant 2/3 cup) of the liquid and a few beans for the zaprška. Remove and discard the bay leaves. Remove the onion, finely chop it and return it to the dish.

Preheat the oven to 170°C fan (375°F).

To make the zaprška, heat the oil in a frying pan over a medium-high heat. Add the onion and salt and fry for 10-12 minutes until soft and translucent. Reduce the heat, then add the paprika and cook for a minute. Add the bouillon and the beans and cooking liquid, then use a fork to gently crush the beans and mix everything together. Pour the zaprška into the beans and add the dried and fresh mint, then stir well to combine. Transfer to the oven and bake for 45-60 minutes, or until the beans are set but there is still some liquid and an even crust on top. At this point you can either serve the beans as they are, or add any of the optional extras, nestling the pepper or sausages among the beans or arranging the tomato slices on top.

Cook for a further 10–15 minutes (if adding the pepper or tomatoes) or until the sausages are cooked (if adding chorizo).

Serve warm.

Twickers Foodie - By Alison Jee

Kitchen Equipment Update

I think this time of year is perfect for having a bit of a clear out of all the bits and bobs accumulated over the summer in preparation for winter and the festive season. It's quite therapeutic sorting the products that you bought, thinking they'd be useful (the pasta maker was prime one for me!). But also, the most regularly used products often tend to wear out, so it's a good time to see what might need replacing in the not-too-distant future. Here are some new products that I've discovered in the last few months.

My sandwich toaster has long been relegated to the charity shop, and I'd resorted to using one of those special toaster bags, which aren't ideal. But the new **Mico Microwave Toastie Maker** from **Morphy Richards** preps perfect toasties in the microwave, in minutes with minimal mess. With two, separate, non-stick grill plates that clip together, it's so easy. Advanced Heatwave Technology means the two sandwich plates toast evenly on both sides at once, mimicking conventional oven cooking, with no need for pre-heating, so not only energy-saving, but meals are ready within minutes. It's easy to clean; the soft touch silicone, non-slip, orange exterior is fully removable from the grill plates and



dishwasher safe. Measuring 17.5cm x 14.5cm x 4.5cm and weighing just 400g, the Mico takes very little space. £35 rrp and available from Amazon, The Range, B&Q and other retailers.



When whipping up a Caesar, French or Thousand Island dressing, or want to make your own oil infusion, this handy new salad dressing maker from Kilner® combines ingredients so easily. The internal coiled spring blends herbs, spices, oils and sauces, giving your creation maximum flavour. Made from glass for easy viewing of the contents, it also features a built-in spout for easy pouring, and millilitre measurements on the side. Unlike other dressing makers which can be hard to clean, the Kilner® Salad Dressing Maker can be put in the dishwasher for easy thorough cleaning between uses. Around £7 from a number of retailers including Harts of Stur or www.kilnerjar.co.uk/stockists

Clean Living pioneers sustainable cleaning solutions and is leading

the charge against toxic chlorine-based domestic cleaning products, offering healthier, microbial-based alternatives. Clean living offers reusable aluminium

bottles to reduce the plastic in many cleaning products. Unlike traditional cleaning agents with harsh, toxic chemicals, it uses plant-derived ingredients and naturally occurring bacteria that are non-toxic and biodegradable. These probiotic cleaners maintain the balance of beneficial bacteria in our homes, promoting a healthier and safer home. Clean Living's range includes starter kits for various areas of the home (£12.40), a home fragrance range (starting at £11.99), a sports range (£12.40), and the comprehensive Eco-Friendly Complete Cleaning Kit (£54.99 worth £118.70).





Another new addition to the **Kilner**® Create & Make collection, this brilliant new grinder stores and grinds all manner of dried ingredients from staples such as rock salt and peppercorns, through to seeds, whole spices and herbs, allowing you to experiment with new flavours. No need to buy ready made spice mixes any more - you can play around with your seasonings. With this **Seasoning Grinder**, you can create blends and rubs to pair with different foods, in just a few simple steps. The hand operated grinding mechanism with stainless steel and ceramic parts, has adjustable settings to control the coarseness of the mixture, giving flexibility over the consistency of your rub. Once you've made as much seasoning as you need, you can keep it fresh in the airtight 250ml glass Kilner® jar with lid. Around £15 from Amazon and other retailers such as Harts of Stur.

When it comes to grating anything, I think the **Microplane** name is

hero. They stay sharp, can be popped into the dishwasher after use, and don't take up much drawer space either. The **Microplane Professional Series** includes SIX blades and features a robust, high quality stainless-steel frame and blade, with a stylish matt chrome finish for the handle. The superb sharpness of the blades is achieved by photo etched technology, pioneered by Microplane. The blades and teeth behave like sharp knives to cut effortlessly, and precisely without ripping or tearing and releasing the natural aroma of ingredients. Stainless steel is the preferred choice of professional chefs as it doesn't absorb odours or flavour. For all culinary experiences, there are SIX different blade styles to choose from for specific, grating and slicing results. I'd recommend any of them, but maybe treat yourself to the finest and the extra coarse so that you have a 'great grating' scope. Around £36.95 from stockists including John Lewis and Borough Kitchen





It's that time of year when my trusty old **Morphy Richards** soup maker and slow cooker both come into their own. The time saving and ease of use with my soup maker, and the energy saving of the slow cooker are second to none. If you're thinking of buying either, (or both) Morphy Richards is running a Black Friday promotion online until **4 December**, so now's the time to invest.

The Soup Maker's simple one-touch functions and dual programmes offer 'smooth' and 'chunky' soup consistency. Just throw in the ingredients, switch on and leave.

Sear & Stew 6.5L Hinged Lid Slow

Cooker has 6.5L capacity, for upwards of 10 starters or 8 main dishes. Sear meat and sauté vegetables directly on the stove and the transitions from hob to cooker with cool touch handles. Three heat settings allow browning, searing and slow cooking all in one pot . The removable hinged lid makes stirring easier and serving easier. After cooking the lid detaches from the shatterproof cooking pot and both are dishwasher safe for easy cleaning. www.morphyrichards.co.uk





Tunisia

By Shona Lyons of Crusader Travel

In 2010 Thomas Cook was still one of the major players in the package holiday market, and they had just started chartering flights to Enfidha. This then was a newly constructed airport, finished in December 2009. The airport is 100km south of Tunis and was the perfect solution for charter flights to the hotels that are mostly located on the North East Coast & Thomas Cook saw this as a great opportunity to add a new cheap and exotic destination to their repertoire, just a mere 3 hours flight from London Gatwick. There were some other players in the market at this time as well, specializing in this destination, & in 2010 I went on a fam trip organized by the tourist board to introduce travel agents to the different tour operators, hotels and the renaissance of travel to this country.

I had always loved Morocco, its North African cousin, so I was intrigued and accepted the invite. I remember the hotels being of a good standard, all beach front on the whole, almost all were sold as All-Inclusive. Their 5* rating was quite a bit lower though on what an English person would expect of 5*, more a good 3 to 4* really in English standards.



It has a really interesting culture and history and we were taken to the cave dwellings of Matmata and a pretty artists village close to Tunis called Sidi Bou Said. We even flew to Djerba, which was interesting for me as the Jewish community of Djerba, Tunisia is one of the last remaining Jewish communities in the Arab world. The community is centred around the El Ghriba Synagogue, a 2,500-year-old place of worship that's a site of Jewish pilgrimage, as they say it was built incorporating parts of the destroyed First Temple in Jerusalem by Emperor Nebuchadnezzar II in 586 B.C. when exiled jews moved there. I was told that Star Wars was filmed in the oasis towns such as Nefta, where the ancient dwellings were built low into the desert floor to stay cool. A room in a cave network in Matama stood in for some of the interiors of Luke's childhood home for example.

I remember lots of blues and whites, white sandy beaches and beautiful colours & light. Did you know some of Paul Klee's most famous and most beautiful paintings come from a visit he paid to this county in 1914? All abstract landscapes in a poetry of light and colour.





I didn't find so much of the beautiful crafts and ancient medinas that I loved so much in Morocco, and maybe even not so much of the ancestral craft of hospitality that is integral to Morocco, but it is a county intriguing in its own right. I was very pleased to have got off my chair and accepted the invitation to visit & if you are looking for a little winter sun in November at a very good price, I would urge you to go there too. We are finding holidays to this destination in November from about £500 per person, please call for details on 0208744 0474.





Curry scoffing and fireworks?

By Deep Patel ~Life through the eyes of a Twickenham shopkeeper~



The nights are getting darker earlier...we've all noticed it this past week...there's no denying it, it gets to 5pm and I feel like closing my shop and going straight to bed...but there is a way I can bring a bit of light into my life at this time of year...Diwali... "it's the festival of light"...so what is it all about then, is it just about bashing out a load of fireworks and Indian people cooking ridiculous amounts of curry to share with their loved ones? Well yes, in part...but there is a bit more to this ten thousand year old festival than that... ten thousand years ago the Hindu God Lord Rama arrived back home triumphant from his battle with the almighty demon Ravana. Have a guess what all the locals did as he arrived back to his home town? The locals lit oil lamps and placed them outside their front doors to welcome him home to symbolise light overcoming darkness, good overcoming evil and knowledge overcoming ego...more than just curry scoffing and fireworks!

People will also see red "swastikas" drawn at the doors of many Hindu households across Twickenham (and the world!) I've drawn them at the door of the shop too and many customers ask me why with some thinking it's a symbol invented by Hitler during the war...the Swastika symbol was used during the war in Germany to mean something quite the opposite of what it actually means...The Swastika is actually a symbol of peace, divine-wealth and prosperity. We draw them at Diwali to welcome Gods blessings into our homes. You don't have to be Hindu to benefit from this festival. Diwali teaches us that there can be no life without struggles, but for those who persevere, with good intent and faith whilst performing acts of kindness without expectation, good karma will come back and things will get better...because no matter how long and dark a night may seem...the sun always rises again each morning...in a nut shell...that is what Diwali is all about...it reminds us that no matter how bad something may look, we can always make it good again somehow...

I will be praying for every customer that I see in hope that this Diwali is truly blessed with love, prosperity...and light.

Remember...

"Don't hide in the shadows...life is too short for that... step forward and be the light that you wish to see in the world..."

CREATURE-KINDNESS TIP OF THE WEEK... STOP ANY INSECT KINDLY (GOOD KARMA):

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





Arden of Faversham

by William Shakespeare (?) et al Richmond Shakespeare Society at the Mary Wallace Theatre until 2nd November

The domestic tragedy, *Arden of Faversham* is based on a true story involving Alice Arden, who intends to murder her husband so she can elope with her lower-class steward lover. Director Gerald Baker has set the action in late Victorian rather than Elizabethan times, and indeed the play is not period

dependent.

The production is relentlessly bleak, with hardly any lighter moments. It moves with good pacing, but has little attack. Fleur de Henrie Pearce as Alice Arden gives a muted performance, and Alice does not come across as positive enough to have a passionate desire for revenge on her husband. Matthew Tyrrell, as her lover Mosby, is vocally powerful, giving a balance problem in their scenes together.

The role of Arden is not well written, making difficult to believe in him or sympathise with him. The actor thus

has a hard time, but Simon Bartlett makes a valiant attempt.





However, the star part is Nicola Doble as the villain Black Will. She erupts onto the stage with tremendous attack, and her energy is infectious. Sadly, Shakebag, her sidekick, lacks her vigour, so they never really become the needed double-act.

There is some comedy in this play, but one doesn't sense it. However bleak Shakespeare's tragedies are, there are always some comic interludes, witness Osric in *Hamlet* or the Clown who gives Cleopatra the asp. There are many places in *Arden of Faversham* which could be presented with some light-heartedness, which would make the final dénouement more dramatic. Perhaps this is reason to reject the idea of Shakespeare as one of the authors. I saw very little of him.

Other performances to note must surely include Fran Billington cross-cast as Franklin. She radiates calm and common sense in a world where it is fast disappearing. Stephan Mirre as Michael also makes a good job of a part which does not provide overmuch material, although it enables him to appeal to the audience, which he certainly does.

The origins of the play are shrouded in mystery, and if this is part of Baker's adaptation, I take my hat off to him. But, but like the play, it is still a mystery.

Read Salieri's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/10/28/arden

Photography by Simone Best

CLASS OF ITS OWN



History Boys by Alan Bennett

Theatre Royal Bath at Richmond Theatre until 2nd November

Controversial, yes; much-loved, yes; but now celebrating its 20th Anniversary. Sean Linnen's refreshingly creative direction gives *History Boys* a youthful energy, taking us with the cast back to our sixth-form selves.

Bennett's nostalgia is enhanced by the use of a cappella 80s songs to transition between scenes, making the story flow smoothly. The effective movement choreography of Chi-San Howard adds perfect pace. The mastery of Russell Ditchfield as composer and sound designer and Eamonn O'Dwyer's musical direction transports us back to the 80s. Grace Smart's period-accurate costumes and simple yet effective single-set design creates a feel of two worlds: the classroom and everything else, highlighting the closeness of the characters.



The story centres on a group of history students at a grammar school in Sheffield, and just like any classroom there is a wealth of characters, who all share a deep mutual connections. This chemistry is created by each actor's perfect portrayal of very diverse characters. Energy bounces between them.



Ned Costello plays the sensitive Rudge as seemingly unphased, creating a far more complex character than first perceived. Lewis Cornay, with mesmerising singing, encapsulates Posner's inner struggles, his vulnerability and innocence; whilst Archie Christoph-Allen's Dakin oozes confidence, even with a youthful naivety. Yazdan Qafouri eloquently narrates Scripps' religion conviction, and also shows his skills as a talented pianist.

Their headmaster, preoccupied with the school's image, is played by Milo Twomey in a most realistic representation of a stressed headmaster. With his staff he is doing all he can to get his students into Oxbridge. Three teachers each have different approaches to teaching, bringing both comedic clashes and thought-provoking conversations.

Irwin's snooty yet passionate classroom persona, hiding a repressed and nervous nature, is effortlessly personified by Bill Milner. In contrast is the eccentric, seemingly popular teacher Hector. Simon Rouse conveys, in a sensitive and emotive manner, a complex character conflicted by his own sexuality and feelings of failure. A favourite has to be Mrs Lintott. Through Gillian Bevan's assuring presence and her natural dry wit, Lintott becomes the maternal voice of reason and an inspiration to the others.

Linnen's History Boys keeps Bennett's work relevant, but also highly entertaining and deeply moving. A must for Bennett lovers and newbies!

Read Viola Selby's review at www.markaspen.com/2024/10/30/history-boys

Photography by Marc Brenner

White Rabbit Red Rabbit

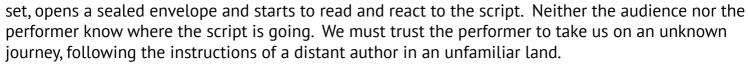
by Nassim Soleimanpour The Questors at the Studio, Ealing until 2nd November

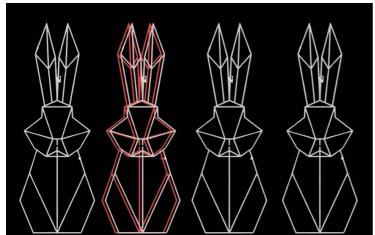
Maybe it is experimental theatre, but if you can get still get a ticket to Soleimanpour's extraordinary

White Rabbit Red Rabbit then go.

Questors' small studio is a perfect setting for a play which relies so much on the exchange of energy and understanding between the actor and audience. The minimalist set, a few stacked boxes, a ladder painted on a black backdrop give no clue as to what will follow. But the solemn and scary sound effects add to the tension seeded by prepublicity which stresses the potentially disturbing nature of the script, emphasised in the theatre by creative director Becky Hartnup.

A performer arrives on stage with no script, no direction and an unfamiliar set. He enters the





The performer must trust the audience to empathise with him as he explores the script in real time, and to convince them to empathise with the author, whose reality he is exploring. The performer chosen each night comes to the script completely anew, not knowing what happens in the play. The dynamic with the audience is fundamentally changed.

On press night the performer was James Burgess, who initially took a light-hearted approach to the script, sharing with the audience his alternate

confusion and understanding of the beautifully written, almost poetic, but surreal script. This approach helped as the script developed its disturbing themes. Although no-one walked out, a few hands tightened at various points throughout. The dark moments were leavened by some seriously surreal well-played humour. But make no mistake, captivating and exciting as this performance was, its messages were profound, thought -provoking and important.

Nassim Soleimanpour wrote this when a young man, unable to leave Iran, but who found an original and effective way to reach out to the world he could not visit. Congratulations to Ouestors and the performers for successfully taking on this high wire act of theatre.

Reda Polly Davies' review at www.markaspen.com/2024/10/30/white-red-rabbit

Photography courtesy of Ouestors





Kettner Concerts in Twickenham



Unheard Harmonies

a piano and cello recital

LYDIA HILLERUDH (cello), CRISTIAN SANDRIN (piano) Saturday, November 16, 2024 6pm

Tonight our outstanding young artists have joined forces to perform sonatas by two unjustly neglected Edwardian women composers alongside lesser-known works by Beethoven and Vaughan Williams, the Seven Variations on Mozart's Marriage of Figaro, and Six Studies in English Folk Song respectively. All the compositions are hidden gems of the cello and piano repertoire that deserve a wider audience. Join us to celebrate a programme of musical revelations.

Rebecca Clarke • Vaughan Williams • Beethoven • Dora Pejačević



Look after the Kew Road ditch and discover its history

This November, residents are invited to join Habitats & Heritage in planting bulbs and clearing rubbish at the Kew Road ditch. There will also be a free tour to introduce the area's history and explain the local charity's project to preserve the Kew Road Ha-ha.

Bulb planting and conservation session

If you love nature and the outdoors, this one is for you! The volunteering session aims to plant native English flower bulbs along the length of the Kew Road Ha-ha, adding a splash of colour in spring and supporting early bumblebees as they forage for nectar. Volunteers will also clear some of the bramble from the ditch to allow the archaeology work to take place in spring. Please wear layered clothing, robust footwear, bring your waterproofs and a drink.

Date: Saturday 16 November 2024

• **Time**: 10am to 12.30pm

Location: Old Deer Parks Sports Grounds, 187 Kew Road, Richmond, TW9 2AZ

Register now

Guided tour and Q&A session

Residents are also invited to join the local charity for an insightful tour of the historic Kew Road ditch. The Habitats & Heritage team will guide you through its fascinating history and share exciting details about what they aim to discover as the project progresses.

Date: Saturday 23 November 2024

Time: 10am to 12pm

 Location: Meet outside the Old Deer Park Sports Grounds bar, 187 Kew Road, Richmond, TW9 2AZ

Visit the Habitats & Heritage website to find out more about the information event.





St Mary's University

St Mary's University Announces Plans to Open School of Medicine

St Mary's University, London (SMU) has announced plans to open a new School of Medicine on its Strawberry Hill Campus in Twickenham.

St Mary's University, London (SMU) has announced plans to open a new School of Medicine on its Strawberry Hill Campus in Twickenham.

The announcement comes after the General Medical Council (GMC) provided assurance that St Mary's is currently on track and making good progress towards required standards for medical education. The University will initially be recruiting international students and plans to welcome its first cohort in September 2026.



Speaking of the news, St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Professor Anthony McClaran said, "The launch of a School of Medicine is a cornerstone of the University's plan for strategic growth and is in keeping with our tradition of delivering a sustained, positive impact on society.

"The school will not only contribute to the workforce development demands in the UK for more doctors and medical professionals, but it will also train global professionals able to work anywhere in the world. Our approach to developing the whole person during students' time at SMU will mean medics of the future will leave this University with the technical and personal skills they need to deliver truly holistic, compassionate, patient-centred care."

Interim Founding Dean of the School of Medical Professor Michael Bewick added, "Complemented by the existing successful Allied Health and Sports Science provision, St Mary's is the natural place to establish a forward-thinking centre of medical training. I am delighted we are making consistent steps forward in making this ambition a reality."

In a further development, SMU has also signed a new curriculum partnership with the University of Central Lancashire. The partnership will see SMU use the University of Central Lancashire's Bachelor Medicine Bachelor Surgery (MBBS) curriculum in the development of the School of Medicine and their commitment as SMU's

contingency partner throughout the GMC accreditation process.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Health and Campus Development) Professor Cathy Jackson was the Founding Head of the University of Central Lancashire's Medical School. She joined the institution in 2014 to set up the university's medical school and led the team through to full accreditation of the programme by the General Medical Council.

Professor Jackson said, "Opening a brand-new medical school will present St Mary's University with the ability to teach the next generation of professionals in a modern way.

"When the University of Central Lancashire opened its new medical school, my team had the unique opportunity of writing a curriculum from scratch that would be fit for the long-term future.

"The University of Central Lancashire's Medical School will now support St Mary's new medical school as it's contingent partner as it progresses through all the stages to full GMC accreditation, and I'm delighted they'll now deliver the curriculum we created to their new cohort of students."

The School of Medicine at St Mary's University will benefit from the latest technology, new facilities, and advanced teaching practices, building on its proven history of teaching excellence and student satisfaction. SMU is currently placed in the Top 10 nationally for student experience and the Top 5 nationally for teaching quality in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024.

The GMC oversees both undergraduate and postgraduate medical education and training in the UK. Any institution looking to establish a new medical school or training programme must demonstrate that it meets the GMC's standards by being subject to an extensive period of quality assurance. SMU is pleased to have been granted permission to move to the next phase of its School of Medicine and the University will be submitting further evidence to GMC as it works towards the final timetable.

Find out more about the School of Medicine.

Watch Prof Anthony McClaran and Prof Michael Bewick discuss the St Mary's School of Medicine.





COME & BAG A BARGAIN!

Clothes, shoes, bags, toys, puzzles bric a brac and more!!

SATURDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2024

AND

SATURDAY 9th NOVEMBER

10am - 2 pm

ENTRY £2 per ADULT

Teas, coffees, and cakes available

2nd Teddington Scout Hut, Fortescue Ave, Twickenham TW2 5LS
(Next to furniture scheme)

Early opening Friday 1st November 2024 6pm-8pm Entry £5 per adult

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO PARKING AT THE SCOUT HUT

South Western Railway offers free travel to Armed Forces personnel and veterans for Remembrance Sunday

South Western Railway (SWR) is once again offering serving military personnel and veterans attending any local Remembrance Sunday events on Sunday 10 November the opportunity to travel for free on all its services.

This includes travel to Waterloo for the National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph on either Saturday 9 or Sunday 10 November, returning on Sunday 10 November. The Submariners' Remembrance Service on Sunday 3 November is also included in the offer, with travel to Waterloo allowed on either Saturday 2 or Sunday 3 November, returning on Sunday 3 November.



The offer of free travel, which is funded by the Department for Transport, is available to anyone who is travelling in uniform or able to show an appropriate form of identification and is applicable throughout Great Britain.

SWR is also happy to support volunteers collecting for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, with free travel to and from the capital to attend London Poppy Day events on Thursday 31 October. Anyone with a Royal British Legion collector's ID can travel for free on SWR services to

Waterloo on Wednesday 30 or Thursday 31 October, returning on the Thursday or Friday 1 November.

Customers should note that there will be engineering works taking place at various locations on the SWR network in South West London, Surrey, and Hampshire on Sunday 3 and Sunday 10 November.

Peter Williams, Customer and Commercial Director for South Western Railway, said:

"Remembrance Sunday is an important opportunity for people across the country to reflect on the sacrifices made by generations of service personnel.

"Alongside the rest of the railway industry, we are pleased to honour this sacrifice by offering free travel to active personnel and veterans attending Remembrance Sunday and London Poppy Day events.

"This initiative is especially meaningful to us, as many of our SWR colleagues have a proud background in the armed forces."

SWR has signed the Armed Forces Covenant, holds the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award, and has an active Armed Forces Network of colleagues who have served.

Earlier this year, SWR ran a network wide awareness <u>campaign</u> to support one of its official charity partners, Scotty's Little Soldiers, which helps bereaved military



John Lewis Partnership recruiting record 12,500 seasonal roles

The John Lewis Partnership (JLP) is recruiting a record 12,500 temporary roles across the country - 4,100 more jobs compared to last year - as customer numbers hit record levels and it doubles down on its commitment to customer experience.

The roles, comprising those in Waitrose and John Lewis shops as well as its distribution network, will provide support during the Partnership's 'golden quarter' - with the build up to Black Friday and Christmas, as well as January's John Lewis Winter Sale, marking its biggest trading period of the year.

Waitrose will start recruiting for 7,700 seasonal roles across more than 300 shops in the coming weeks, including supermarket assistants, night shift workers and customer delivery drivers. Recruitment for 2,000 temporary roles for its 34 John Lewis stores is already underway and such has been the level of interest only a small number of vacancies remain. In addition, the Partnership is now recruiting 2,800 roles in its supply chain through the recruitment agencies it works with, including warehouse workers and drivers to support the expected increase in Waitrose.com and John Lewis. com orders.



Seasonal shop roles are live at jlpjobs.com/Christmas. Successful candidates will receive a competitive salary, training and potential development opportunities as well as flexible and blended working. Details on how to apply for supply chain roles through its recruitment agencies can be found here.

JLP has made significant investment in its processes and technology to ensure more Partners are there for customers when they need them - headsets alone have freed up around 500k Partner hours across John Lewis stores this year. Both Waitrose and John Lewis attracted record customer numbers in the first half of the year with customer satisfaction scores also improving. John Lewis ranked in the top three companies for customer service in the UK in the most recent UK

Customer Satisfaction Index and Waitrose jumped from 71st to 4th, ranking number one for a food retailer.

Excitement is already building amongst customers with volumes of the Waitrose Christmas range, which comprises more than 550 products including 175 new products for 2024, up 25 per cent compared to last year and sales of decorations at the ever-popular John Lewis Christmas Shop already up 20%. On-demand groceries and the return of the Never Knowingly Undersold John Lewis brand promise are expected to play a key role in customers shopping this year in what is always a highly anticipated season for the two brands. Average weekly sales through partnerships including Deliveroo, Uber and Just Eat are already up 140% on last year, whilst Never Knowingly Undersold has already generated an average of 91,000 extra visits to JohnLewis.com a day since last month's launch.

Charlotte Lock, Customer Director at the John Lewis Partnership, said

"Whether making sure you're choosing the right headphones or wanting inspirational food ideas for entertaining, we know customers value the independent, trusted advice they get from our Partners and that friendly, personal touch. Our Partners have always been at the heart of what sets us apart - we're thrilled by the interest the roles have already received and that people want to be part of the excitement that surrounds our two brands at Christmas."

About the John Lewis Partnership

The <u>John Lewis Partnership</u> owns and operates two of Britain's best-loved retail brands - John Lewis and Waitrose. Started as a radical experiment over a century ago, the Partnership is now the largest employee-owned business in the UK, with 70,000 employees who are all Partners in the business. The Partnership is purpose-driven, existing to create a fairer and more sustainable future for our Partners, customers, suppliers and communities. Our Purpose not only inspires our principles, drives our decisions and acts as our guide to be a force for good, it steers us to do things differently and better - all in service of creating a happier world for everyone and everything we touch.

John Lewis operates 34 shops across the UK as well as johnlewis.com. Waitrose has 314 shops in England, Scotland, Wales and the Channel Islands, including 59 convenience branches, and another 27 shops at Welcome Break locations. The retailer's omnichannel business includes the online grocery service, Waitrose.com, as well as specialist online shops including waitrosecellar.com for wine and waitroseflorist.com for plants and flowers.

Brentford to offer 20% off Away Ticket Travel with I Came By Train

Brentford fans can now get 20 per cent off train tickets to away fixtures outside of London through the club's collaboration with climate change movement I came by train

Brentford FC is teaming up with 'I came by train', supported by Trainline, to give 20 per cent off all train tickets for away match travel.

Fans travelling to our away fixtures outside of London will be able to save money on a single or return ticket after securing their match ticket.

The collaboration with I came by train aims to encourage Brentford fans to take up a more sustainable method of transport to games. It also offers supporters an affordable option when planning their travel to see the Bees play in the Premier League away from home.

Away fixture eligible for 20 per cent train ticket discount	Date*
Everton v Brentford FC	23 November
Aston Villa v Brentford FC	4 December
Brighton and Hove Albion v Brentford FC	27 December
Southampton v Brentford FC	4 January
Leicester City v Brentford FC	22 February
Bournemouth v Brentford FC	15 March
Newcastle United v Brentford FC	2 April
Nottingham Forest v Brentford FC	26 April
lpswich Town v Brentford FC	10 May
Wolverhampton Wanderers v Brentford FC	25 May

*Fixture dates are subject to change

The 20 per cent discount on train tickets can also be redeemed in conjunction with a railcard.

The collaboration, running for the remainder of the season, follows the positive response received to the trial we ran for our fixtures against Manchester City and Manchester United earlier this year.

'I came by train', supported by Trainline, is a collective movement helping to fight climate change. According to the campaign, taking the train creates 67 per cent less carbon dioxide than driving.

Brentford FC's sustainability manager, James Beale said: "We're pleased to be the first Premier League football club to be working with I came by train and Trainline on this positive initiative.

"Making our club more sustainable goes beyond what we do at our stadium, it's also about the travel choices we all make. How fans travel can have a big impact on our carbon footprint. We're hopeful that this initiative makes it easier and cheaper for fans to make a better choice on travel for the environment".

"We encourage Brentford fans to take up the offer this season and provide their invaluable support for the Bees away from home."

Natalie Marques, I came by train's head of sustainability, said: "Around 55% of football fans travel to matches by car, and as a nation, the most impactful thing we can do to reduce our carbon emissions is change the way we travel. Swapping just one journey from the car to the train can have a significant effect on the environment. By partnering with Brentford to offer the fans this exclusive discount for away matches, we can help them secure great value travel and reduce their carbon footprint, all whilst supporting their team away from home."

Fans can take advantage of the offer by purchasing a Brentford FC away ticket. You will then receive confirmation of the purchase, along with a quick three-question survey asking you about how you travel to games. Upon completion of the survey, you will be sent a special 20 per cent off code to redeem when buying a train ticket to selected train stations.

The offer is available to use now for our away fixture against Everton at Goodison Park on 23 November.



England Team To Play New Zealand

England men's head coach Steve Borthwick has named his team to play New Zealand at Allianz Stadium, Twickenham on Saturday 2 November (kick-off 3.10pm, live on TNT Sports).



Jamie George will lead England as captain, supported by four vice-captains: Maro Itoje, Ben Earl, Ellis Genge and George Ford.

In the front row, George is named at hooker alongside Genge at loosehead prop and Will Stuart at tighthead. At lock, Itoje partners George Martin. The back row sees Chandler Cunningham-South on the blindside flank, with Tom Curry at openside and Earl at No.8.

In the half-back positions, scrum-half Ben Spencer is paired with Marcus Smith at 10. The midfield sees Ollie Lawrence named at inside centre with Henry Slade at 13.

In the back three, Immanuel Feyi-Waboso starts on the right wing, with Tommy Freeman on the left and George Furbank selected at full-back to complete the starting lineup.

Theo Dan, Fin Baxter, Dan Cole, Nick Isiekwe, Ben Curry, Alex Dombrandt, Harry Randall, and George Ford take their places on a 6-2 split bench.

"We're excited for the challenge of playing against one of the best teams in world rugby," said Borthwick.

"We'll need to be accurate, keep our discipline, and maintain a level of intensity throughout the match, from the first whistle to the final moment.

"With just two games at Allianz Stadium in our last 15, it's fantastic to be returning to play in front of our home crowd again. The energy and passion of our supporters always gives the team an extra lift."

England v New Zealand

Saturday 2 November 2024: Allianz Stadium, Twickenham Kick-off: 3.10pm (GMT)

- 15. George Furbank (Northampton Saints, 11 caps)
- 14. Immanuel Feyi-Waboso (Exeter Chiefs, 6 caps)
- 13. Henry Slade (Exeter Chiefs, 65 caps)
- 12. Ollie Lawrence (Bath Rugby, 27 caps)
- 11. Tommy Freeman (Northampton Saints, 11 caps)
- 10. Marcus Smith (Harlequins, 35 caps)
- 9. Ben Spencer (Bath Rugby, 6 caps)

Replacements:

- 16. Theo Dan (Saracens, 14 caps)
- 17. Fin Baxter (Harlequins, 2 caps)
- 18. Dan Cole (Leicester Tigers, 115 caps)
- 19. Nick Isiekwe (Saracens, 11 caps)

- 1. Ellis Genge (Bristol Bears, 62 caps) vice-captain
- 2. Jamie George (Saracens, 93 caps) captain
- 3. Will Stuart (Bath Rugby, 41 caps)
- 4. Maro Itoje (Saracens, 84 caps) vice-captain
- 5. George Martin (Leicester Tigers, 15 caps)
- 6. Chandler Cunningham-South (Harlequins, 7 caps)
- 7. Tom Curry (Sale Sharks, 53 caps)
- 8. Ben Earl (Saracens, 33 caps) vice-captain
- 20. Ben Curry (Sale Sharks, 5 caps)
- 21. Alex Dombrandt (Harlequins, 17 caps)
- 22. Harry Randall (Bristol Bears, 7 caps)
- 23. George Ford (Sale Sharks, 96 caps) vice captain

Match Preview: Fulham v Brentford

Analysis, team news, match officials and more. Here's everything you need to know ahead of Brentford's Premier League game against Fulham at Craven Cottage on Monday (8pm kick-off GMT) Written by Brentford Football Club

Brentford return to Premier League action on Monday evening (8pm kick-off) when they travel to Fulham for a west London derby in Gameweek 10.

The Bees make the short trip to Craven Cottage following a 4-3 win over Ipswich Town last weekend and defeating Sheffield Wednesday on penalties in the Carabao Cup fourth round on Tuesday.

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

Pre-match analysis

Richard Cole, Playmaker Stats: Fulham pose a big threat from balls into the box

Brentford face a difficult Monday night game at Craven Cottage against a Fulham team who have the potential to cause the Bees' backline some problems.

Marco Silva's team are 10th in the table, just a point behind Brentford, but they would have been higher if it wasn't for conceding a 94th-minute equaliser away to Everton last Saturday.

That's the third time the Cottagers have dropped points late on this season, having also shipped a 95th-minute equaliser to West Ham in September and an 86th-minute winner against Manchester United on the opening day of the season.

A team that often starts as fast as Brentford may want to keep a little extra in the tank on Monday.



The late kick-off is likely to test the Brentford backline with Ethan Pinnock and Ben Collins – if selected as Thomas Frank's centre-back pairing again - needing to be wary of the threat of the opposition's crosses.

Fulham have had more accurate crosses (57) than any other team in the Premier League this season (Brentford are fourth with 48 for reference). And there are two likely sources of crosses that Brentford need to limit; Andreas Pereira and Antonee Robinson.

Pereira, who is a slight doubt after being substituted at the weekend, has contributed 60 crosses in the league this season with only Everton's Dwight McNeil (61) sending in more. The Brazilian is a big source of Fulham's creativity having made 26 key passes this campaign (behind only Arsenal's Bukayo Saka, 27) and ranks fourth for shot-creating actions (45).

Meanwhile, Robinson has earned plaudits for his performances this season and the American has some impressive numbers. As well as being a threat from his balls into the box, Robinson will be looking to stifle the in-form Bryan Mbeumo.

Robinson has attempted 32 tackles this season (ranking him joint third in the league) and won 21 of those with Daniel Muñoz the one player to attempt more (23).

Mbeumo will certainly have opportunities to test his skills against a player who has stopped dribblers 17 times

so far (Chelsea's Moisés Caicedo is the only player to beat that by doing it on 21 occasions).

All those crosses of Fulham aren't just to ping it in the box and see what happens. They're often able to get shots away. Indeed, just three teams, Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal, and Manchester City, average more shots per game (17.8).

Raúl Jiménez has four goals in his last six Premier League appearances and boasts an impressive goals per 90 minutes ratio of 0.60 – the same as Mohamed Salah.

When it gets to the latter stages of the game, Rodrigo Muniz is often deployed from the bench. The Brazilian scored as a substitute against City in early October and is keen to get involved even with limited minutes. In fact, only Erling Haaland averages more shots per 90 (2.78) than Muniz (1.85), with Jiménez ranking fourth (1.74).

Of course, if Muniz is causing problems late on against Brentford, the Bees will know that the Cottagers are also potentially vulnerable.

A game bookended by early and late goals seems a distinct possibility!

Scout report

Dan Long, Sky Sports: Fulham enjoying best start to Premier League season in over a decade



In 2018/19, Fulham returned to the Premier League after four seasons away and were immediately relegated. In 2020/21, they got back to the top flight again and were immediately relegated. In 2022/23, they returned for a third time and it's been so far, so good.

In Marco Silva's first season in charge, they finished 10th – their highest finish in a decade – and last term, they finished 13th. It wasn't quite as spectacular, but they got by. Finishing

21 points above the relegation zone and 16 below the top six is the definition of comfort in this division.

Some had feared they might not have the capability to do so following the sale of frontman Aleksandar Mitrović to Saudi Pro League side Al Hilal. The Serbian striker had been an integral part of the Cottagers' squad for six seasons and established himself as the seventh-highest scorer in the club's history with 111 goals.

But a reported fee of £50 million for a player then in the final year of his 20s was absolutely not to be sniffed at.

Rodrigo Muniz came to the fore as an eye-catching Mitrović replacement, with a run of eight goals in as many games throughout February and March.

Successive 5-0 home wins over Nottingham Forest and West Ham over a four-day period in December were memorable, too, as were victories over Manchester United, Arsenal and Tottenham.

There was also a run to the Carabao Cup semi-final for the first time ever, where they were beaten by eventual winners Liverpool.

"The season, as a whole, is definitely a successful season," said Marco Silva after the final day win at relegated Luton. "In terms of points, we have five less than last season but overall it has been a very good season for us. I had the feeling that we could go a bit higher."

The familiar fears they might struggle to compete returned after Tosin Adarabioyo left for west London neighbours Chelsea, Bobby De Cordova-Reid joined Leicester and star man João Palhinha finally made his protracted move to Bayern Munich for a reported fee in excess of £40 million.

But the Cottagers' recruitment team helped them to avoid a major dip in morale off the pitch. They secured the return of Ryan Sessegnon on a free from Tottenham and brought Emile Smith Rowe in from Arsenal permanently, with Reiss Nelson joining on loan.

Centre-back Jorge Cuenca arrived from Villarreal, with Sander Berge and Joachim Andersen following. Any fears soon disintegrated.

Ahead of Gameweek 10, they sit slap-bang in the middle of the table after a reasonable start. They have played nine, won three, drawn three, lost three; scored 12 and conceded 12.

It was a late Joshua Zirkzee goal that got Manchester United out of jail on the opening day, while against both Man City and Aston Villa, Fulham scored first, but failed to hold onto their leads.

They edged in front against West Ham and, most recently, Everton, but were forced to settle for draws in both. It has been frustrating, but not too costly, thankfully for them.

In fact, the 12 points they have picked up already is their best return after the first 12 games in the Premier League since 2012/13, when they picked up 14, so the fact they feel somewhat disappointed can only be positive.

In the dugout

Marco Silva

Marco Silva passed 13 years in management in September and has now taken charge of almost 500 matches in Portugal, Greece and the UK.

After a playing career as a right-back in his home country, the Portuguese was appointed director of football at Estoril in 2011, but was quickly thrust into his first role as leading man when the club endured an unfavourable start to the campaign and Vinicius Eutrópio was sacked.

Silva managed to turn the club's fortunes around, winning the Liga de Honra – Portugal's second tier - and cementing a return to the Primeira Liga after a seven-year exile.

In 2014, Silva signed a four-year deal at Sporting CP and went on to win the Taca de Portugal, but he lasted just days over a year in charge.

Shortly after the cup win, the club produced a 400-page document where they detailed the reasoning for his dismissal, with one section claiming his failure to wear a club suit during a match partly justified the decision.

A title-winning season at Olympiacos came next, before he took on a fire-fighting job at relegation-threatened Hull in January 2017. Silva galvanised a Tigers team that included Harry Maguire and Andy Robertson, but ultimately could not prevent the club from dropping back into the Championship and he resigned just under five months later.

That preceded time at Watford and Everton, before he joined Fulham in July 2021. He won the Championship title with the club in 2021/22, before guiding them to their first top half Premier League finish since 2011/12 in 2022/23.

He reached 150 games in charge in October and is currently the 10th longest serving manager in the top four divisions of English football.



Data reveals the Premier League's most attractive teams: Brentford ranks ninth

A new study has revealed the most attractive Premier League teams.

Indian iGaming site <u>Gamblino</u> analysed player images from the official Premier League site using an AI attractiveness test tool; the players were scored out of 10 which contributed to a final team score. Those with the highest scores have been deemed the most attractive teams in the Premier League.

In first place is **Tottenham Hotspur**, with an attractiveness score of 6.96. Their most attractive player is Radu Drăguşin, who also placed eighth highest among the individual players ranking, scoring 8.07.

Nottingham Forest and **Arsenal** are in joint second place, with an attractiveness score of 6.95. Alex Moreno is Nottingham Forest's most attractive player, with an individual score of 7.94.

Arsenal also boasts two players who made the top five most attractive players, with Declan Rice being the number one most attractive player overall, scoring 8.57, and Jorginho taking fourth place with a score of 8.24.

Rank	Team Name	Attractiveness Score
1	Tottenham Hotspur	6.96
= 2	Nottingham Forest	6.95
= 2	Arsenal	6.95
3	Bournemouth	6.91
4	Manchester United	6.83
5	Wolverhampton Wanderers	6.82
6	West Ham United	6.81
= 7	Newcastle United	6.76
= 7	Chelsea	6.76
8	Southampton	6.75
9	Brentford	6.74
10	Liverpool	6.73

Taking third place is **Bournemouth**, with an attractiveness score of 6.91. Philip Billing and Lewis Cook are the highest-scored players for Bournemouth; Billing scored 8.22, and Cook followed closely with 8.07.

Manchester United is in fourth place, with an attractiveness score of 6.83. Their most attractive player is Mason Mount, with an individual score of 7.57.

Fifth place is claimed by **Wolverhampton Wanderers**, with an attractiveness score of 6.82. João Gomes is Wolverhampton's most attractive player, and seventh overall, with an attractiveness score of 8.16.

West Ham United is in sixth place, with an attractiveness score of 6.81. Carlos Soler has an individual score of 7.89, making him the team's most attractive player.

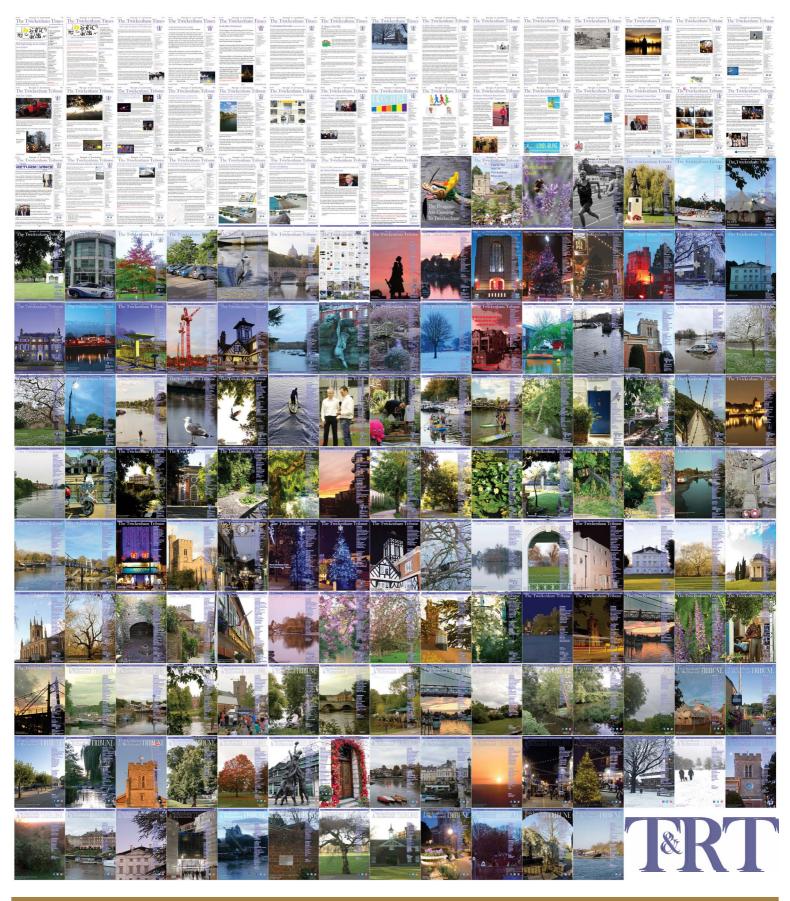
In joint seventh place are **Newcastle United** and **Chelsea**, with an attractiveness score of 6.76. Joelinton is the most attractive player for Newcastle, scoring 8.23, and João Félix takes the title of most attractive player for Chelsea with a score of 7.72.

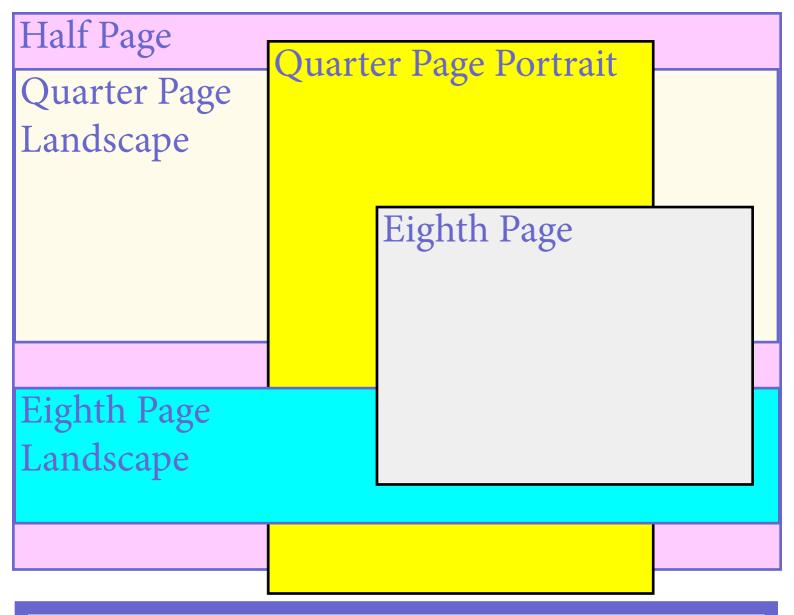
Southampton is in eighth place, with an attractiveness score of 6.75. Ryan Manning takes the title of most attractive player for Southampton, and third most attractive player overall, scoring 8.31.

Taking ninth place is **Brentford**, with an attractiveness score of 6.74. Mikkel Damsgaard scored 7.49 and Vitaly Janelt scored 7.44, making them the most attractive players for Brentford.

Lastly, in tenth place is **Liverpool**, with an attractiveness score of 6.73. Ibrahima Konaté is the most attractive player for Liverpool, with an individual score of 7.68.

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