

On Kew

Planning report

The Old Station Works, 119-123 Sandycombe Road. The Society supported local residents who objected to the re-development of this site behind the houses on Sandycombe Road. This application was allowed on appeal and the decision was published on the Council's website on 19 July. Local residents on Sandycombe Road will now have a block of flats at the bottom of their gardens. The appeal was made because the Council had not issued a decision on the application within the required time limit. The Council had made it clear that they would have given consent and this no doubt weighed with the inspector.

Land to rear of 23-24 Courtlands Avenue. Another proposal for building at the back of local gardens, this time three two bedroom houses. The Society objected to the application which has not yet been decided at the time of going to press.

224 Kew Road. The Society supported local residents in objecting to the planned replacement of this house with a five storey block of flats. The application was withdrawn before any decision was made.

These applications involve redevelopment of small plots, often back gardens. The Kew Society is concerned about the cumulative impact of this type of development on the area – an increase in population density, an invasion of privacy and gradual erosion of the character of Kew. The Society is not opposed to every development but we do feel that a more rigorous examination of this type of application by the Council in the broader local context is needed.

Hartington Court, Chiswick. The Society supported the West London River Group and Chiswick residents in opposing an application for extra floors to be built on Hartington Court, a large block of flats which fronts on to the river opposite the St George's estate. This application went to appeal and at the time of writing we are not aware of the decision.

Bus lanes. Representations have been made, pointing out the problems with TFL's proposals to reintroduce the bus lane on Kew Bridge and to install a southbound bus lane on the Mortlake Road just before Chalkers Corner. In each case, the impact would be most likely to slow all the traffic on the South Circular, including the buses.

Road signs. Currently, traffic travelling West out of London on the A4 is signposted to go over Kew Bridge down the Kew Road to get to the M3. There is a movement to get these signs changed and for the signs to direct traffic to use the M4 and M25. If you wish to support this change please contact Jill Wilson-Brown at jillwilson_brown@hotmail.com

Environment report

Kew Towpath Embankment update. The Environment Agency (EA) sent out a questionnaire in February regarding the preferred option (see Spring Newsletter for description). Our reply included suggestions for improved environmental mitigation, and posed questions regarding surfacing, durability, management and maintenance. In April we received a detailed response from Black & Veatch, working on behalf of

the EA. The plans were submitted to the Council in February. If planning permission is granted, fully detailed designs are expected in July 2008 and statutory consultation will begin thereafter. Construction is due to commence in January 2009 and is expected to last for five months.

The Super Drain. According to the Thames Tideway Strategic Study, raw sewage is discharged into the River Thames as often as once a week and it has been estimated that around 20 million cubic metres of sewage will flow into the river every year unless something is done. The Government has given the go ahead for the construction of a 35km tunnel under the Thames, from Hammersmith to East London, where the sewage will be treated. The expected cost is around £2 billion, with at least 15 years needed to deliver the project.

Volunteers needed for Kew 'Green'. We would welcome suggestions for tree and hedge planting in Kew, particularly from schools and those involved with community spaces. We also need volunteers to support our environmental work. This could be anything from a few hours a week to one day per year. We need help with tree planting, letter writing, campaigning and data collection, etc. Please contact us via email (environment@kewsoc.org.uk) via our website, or by post at the address given at the end of this newsletter.

Our Constitution

It was apparent, after last year's AGM, that our Constitution did not properly address the situation where we have an unfilled vacancy among the Officers of the charity. With help from Donna McDonald, we are preparing an amended Constitution and in the process we are reviewing the entire document, to ensure it is robust and able to see us through the years to come. We aim to submit the revised Constitution to the members for a vote at the forthcoming AGM on 3rd October. A draft of the new Constitution is available on our website for review by members.

Website developments

Our website is an effective way to keep our administration costs to a minimum, whilst making life more convenient for our members. The cost of postage alone is limiting the number of mailings we can send out each year. We are now introducing online payment for members, using Paypal. Members are able to buy tickets for events online and pay their annual subscription the same way. Paypal is a secure means of online payment, used successfully by Ebay and by many registered charities. By paying online, you are saving on postage and paper.

You can now use our website for:

- Subscribing to receive the newsletter by email
- Buying event tickets
- Paying your annual subscription
- Keeping up with the latest news and events, including events by other local organisations

To subscribe to our email mailing list, you must tell us your email address, by emailing your name and address to membership@kewsoc.org.uk

For those members who do not have internet access, we will continue to send you this newsletter and other mailings by post. Any annual subscriptions paid by standing order will continue unchanged.

Events report:

Garden openings

The Kew Society has supported two community gardens in Kew and we were delighted to attend their official openings.

The children's garden at the Barn Church was opened by Serge Lourie, Leader of the Council, on 30th March. The garden will be used by the Barn Nursery School and the Kew Out of School Club. The project was funded jointly by Richmond Council and the Kew Society.



Left to right: Serge Lourie; Rev Peter Hart; Richard Ferriday, Kew Out of School Club; Michael Glazebrook; Pauline Taylor, Barn Nursery

The Kew Community Trust garden at St Luke's on the Avenue was opened by the Deputy Mayor, Helen Lee Parsons on 15th June. This will be used by the Avenue Club members and other users of the community centre. The project was funded by the Kew Society.



Left to right: Michael Glazebrook; Helen Lee Parsons, Deputy Mayor; Kamal Sarwal, Avenue Club; Sally Durant, Kew Community Trust

Plaques were planted at both gardens as a permanent reminder of your generosity.

Kew Park Rangers Barbeque and Auction

KPR held their annual barbeque and award ceremony on Kew Green on 8th June. As always, the event was very popular. This year, a new award, the Kew Society Shield, was presented to the team showing the most fair play. An auction was held on 16th June to raise funds for the new pavilion and we donated two tickets to our House of Lords Tea Party.

Picnic at Kew Gardens

The picnic at the Royal Botanic Gardens, on Sunday 8th July, was a great success. Unbelievably, the weather was kind to us and 160 members and their friends relaxed under a sunny sky. The pagoda was opened up for us to enjoy an excellent view, which stretches to central London. The pagoda is expected to remain closed to the public until 2009 at the earliest, so perhaps we will be doing this again next year.

Forthcoming Events:

Frederick Day Sunday 2nd September

Frederick Day looks to be the biggest event ever organised by the Kew Society. Frederick, Prince of Wales, born three hundred years ago in 1707, is the forgotten prince. He never became king, as he died before his father, George II. He spent a lot of his life in Kew.

We have joined forces with Historic Royal Palaces, the Royal Botanic Gardens and Kew Cricket Club to bring Kew a day to remember. The day will start with a Georgian cricket match, in period costume. Kew Green will have a funfair, Georgian dancers, Commedia dell'Arte and a traditional Georgian meal will be available, including an organic hog roast. Kew Palace will be conducting special Frederick tours, including a private viewing after the palace closes. In the evening there will be a concert of Georgian music at St Anne's church.

Tickets will be sold in advance for the private viewing of Kew Palace and the concert at St Anne's. Demand will be high and we are giving our members a priority period for bookings. After the priority period, we will sell tickets to the public.

The event requires considerable manpower and we are in desperate need of volunteers to help in the planning and on the day. Please contact Michael Glazebrook on 020 8940 0604 if you are able to help in any way.

Proceeds from the day will go to St Anne's Church Tercentenary Fund, Queen Charlotte's Cottage and other local good causes determined by the Kew Society.

Historic Walk by David Blomfield

David Blomfield will be conducting a historic walk for members on **Sunday 23rd September**. David is one of Kew's most knowledgeable historians, having written two books on our local history.

Professor Hopper Lecture and AGM

The lecture by Professor Stephen Hopper, the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, has now been confirmed for **Wednesday 3rd October** at the Jodrell Lecture Theatre. We will combine the evening with our AGM followed by a finger buffet.

Afternoon Tea at the House of Lords

Baroness Jenny Tonge has very kindly agreed to host another trip to the House of Lords this winter. The visit will be on **Tuesday 27th November**.

Your Committee

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You can write to us at: The Kew Society, 181 Sandycroft Road, Kew TW9 2EN