

On Kew

A Happy 2010 to all our members.

It has been a very cold winter indeed, but that hasn't stopped us keeping busy with meetings and events.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

We welcome our new Executive Committee member Ben Knight, a talented architect. Ben is a partner at de Metz Forbes Knight Architects in Hampstead and has wide experience of working with existing and listed buildings for both commercial and private clients. Sadly we also have one farewell – Peter Urey who was an active member specialising in Planning. We thank Peter for all his support and wish him well with his new venture.

Congratulations to Committee Member, Ulrike Bulle, who had a baby in September. Ulrike now has more support in Lloyds of Kew Booksellers (the shop with a tree in the middle of it) so it is now open most days.

Dennis Woodman

You may have heard the sad news that Dennis Woodman died on Christmas day. He had been suffering from a brain tumour. Dennis was a valuable member of our Committee for many years and also a strong voice in the Kew community, supporting many local charities and good causes. We understand that his family will arrange a memorial service in late Spring – details to follow. Our condolences go out to his family and loved ones.

ENVIRONMENT

The Council is aiming to promote Kew Green for the Green Flag Award Scheme and as this requires local community support, we are involved in the proposals. Partly because of this, there are plans for a new group – Friends of Kew Green – within the Kew Society, whose main objective would be to ensure that Kew Green is available as a quiet open space for the whole community and to protect it against over-commercialisation and use as a sports ground (other than cricket). Anyone interested in participating in setting up such a group should contact Giles Dixon – giles@gilesdixon.com.

Greener upon Thames

The Greener upon Thames campaign against plastic bags keeps growing. We have received a grant from the National Lottery and the campaign now covers six locations across two boroughs. More than 20 schools and 400 shops support the campaign and we have over 1,000 signatures on our petition to the government. A party for all our supporters was held at the Bingham Hotel in January, with guest speakers including Susan Kramer, Zac Goldsmith and Serge Lourie. For more details, visit www.greeneruponthames.org

Heathrow

Both the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats have vowed to stop a third runway if they get into power. The maintenance of

runway alternation is also a critical issue and we suspect this will come under more pressure if a third runway does not go ahead. The Richmond Heathrow Campaign continues to keep a close eye on developments.

Kew Pier

The renovation of the towpath at Kew Pier is almost complete and we are hoping that the pier owners will now commence work on the pier itself. This has been an excellent project involving a number of local groups and the council working together.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is being reintroduced. It will be run in Kew by our local police force, the Kew Safer Neighbourhood Team. If you are interested in being a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for your street or area, we would encourage you to do so. Please contact Sgt Webb and his team on timothy.webb@met.police.uk

ADMINISTRATION

Subscriptions

As you know subscriptions increased from 1st September 2009. It has been a nuisance for members having to do the paperwork. Thank you for your patience! There are still around 40 members who have not updated their standing order details. Can those members please return their forms to Juliet Thompson urgently at 9 Lichfield Road, Kew TW9 3JR. Thank you!

The percentage of members accepting documentation from us by email is growing which reduces our sizeable postage bills. Do consider this! Just send a request by email to Felice Oxborrow (address below).

PLANNING

Although in our last Newsletter we remarked that the recession did not seem to be deterring developers, this is still true to some extent but at least one big local project is on hold – Barratts have indicated that there has to be a 10% recovery in the market for the Brentford Community Stadium to be viable. This scheme would involve two 24+ storey tower blocks just north of Kew Bridge station as well as a large new football stadium. It certainly appears to be an overdevelopment in an already overcrowded area with poor access.

St. George's planned redevelopment of the Kew Bridge site went to the Hounslow Planning Committee in the autumn but a decision was deferred. Local groups including The Kew Society continue to oppose the scheme. Meanwhile the site remains occupied by a tented brigade of self-proclaimed eco-warriors.

Proposals for redevelopment of the old Inland Revenue office on Ruskin Avenue were vigorously opposed by local residents and ourselves and the application was recently turned down by the Council. No doubt the developers will be back with some modified designs.

The Sandycombe Road Car Garage site has been purchased by a private developer and we have had a consultation meeting with their architect, David Clarke. A pre-application submission to LBRUT was made for 6 flats with underground parking. We are hoping to have a second consultation meeting soon.

RECENT EVENTS

Kew at War

On 10th September, The Kew Society was involved, together with The National Archives and the Richmond Local History Society, in the unveiling of a splendid illustrated plaque recording Kew's history in WWII when American soldiers, based in barracks at the site of the National Archives, prepared maps for D-Day. When they departed Italian and German prisoners of war were posted there, waiting for their repatriation. Following in the Yanks' footsteps they used this time to meet – and sometimes marry – the local girls! Madam Mayor graced the occasion and a reception afterwards was joyous as people from all parts of the world, especially the United States, mingled and found long-lost friends. David Blomfield and Chris May gave an excellent and amusing talk. The daughter of one of the Italian POWs and the son of one of the American soldiers joined in the ceremony of unveiling the plaque. Special thanks to Donna MacDonald, who spent two years ensuring this unique occasion could take place.

AGM 22nd October

Our AGM at The Jodrell Lecture Theatre (courtesy of the Royal Botanic Gardens) was well attended. Our chairman, Michael Glazebrook, urged members to support the Kew shops, all of which have been hit by the recession. He represents the Kew Society on various committees, especially the Richmond Heathrow Campaign – see above.

The AGM was followed by a very special speaker – Laura Ponsonby who knows so much about the Victorian artist and intrepid traveller, Marianne North. Many of you will know the Marianne North Gallery in Kew Gardens, which has just been renovated. Laura gave a fascinating account of Marianne North's life as she went to parts of the world where single ladies who painted were very rare. She made friends everywhere and painted dramatic rare trees, shrubs and flowers in oils. The lecture, both informative and humorous, was a memorable occasion.

All present also appreciated a short talk from Sgt Tim Webb, leader of the Kew Safer Neighbourhood Team. Our residents now know of his plans and can recognise him in the streets.

Kew Sparkle 4th December

We set up our traditional candy floss stall and Ulrike kindly organised for a repeat of her popular photo quiz. Congratulations to our quiz winners. First prize of a hamper from Oliver's went to Nick & Diana Hutchings. Second Prize of a book & voucher from Lloyd's of Kew went to Harriette Marshall. Third prize of a bottle of wine donated by the chairman went to Harriet & Stephen Enthoven.

Twelfth Night Party 6th January

Now establishing itself as a tradition, our Twelfth Night celebrations were more popular than ever, with over 100 members and their friends attending, in spite of the snow and ice outside. St Anne's Church Hall is an excellent venue, the canapés were delicious and the wine flowed.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Our 2010 Social Calendar is taking shape and will include:

April, 2010 Election Special. In the run up to the elections we are organising our own Kew "Question Time", where Kew residents will have the chance to question all the candidates for Kew Ward Councillor on the local issues of most concern.

May, 2010 A trip to Chiswick House, with a guided tour by John Moses, a prominent local historian.

June, 2010 Two new and rather special events! **A Kew Music Festival** is planned from 19th to 27th June. Two local musicians, Clare Warren and Catherine Bromley, are organising the festival, which will focus on the impressive range of musical talent in this part of London, and include performances by the Kew Sinfonia and Kew Wind Orchestra. A Schools Operatic Evening in St Anne's Church is planned, plus concerts in Kew Gardens and Kew Palace as well as chamber music in some local homes and gardens and weekend concerts in the Church.

2010 is the 250th anniversary of the accession of George III and music from that period – when the Royal Family were active patrons of music – will feature in the programme, as well as some jazz in local pubs. The Kew Society will be sponsoring one of the events. Members who wish to offer support for the Festival are asked to contact our Committee member Giles Dixon who is liaising with the organisers.

On 19th June, there will be a **Kew Midsummer Fete** on Kew Green, organised by local people, for local people. Expect to see art and craft stalls, local musical talent, a dog show and many other attractions in a village atmosphere.

September, 2010 Our popular **Annual Bridge Drive** at St Luke's in The Avenue. Bring friends of all standards – we hope to have our splendid Director, Mark Hopkins, who ensures it is a great evening.

September, 2010 A proposed **Boat Trip** to celebrate the renovation of Kew Pier.

Your Committee

Chairman	Michael Glazebrook	chair@kewsociety.org
Vice Chairman	Barney Smith	
Hon Treasurer	Juliet Thompson	treasurer@kewsociety.org
Planning	Giles Dixon and Ben Knight	planning@kewsociety.org
Environment	Simon Owens	environment@kewsociety.org
Membership	Felice Oxborrow	membership@kewsociety.org
Website	Gillian Horne	webmaster@kewsociety.org
Hon Secretary	Sally Sutton	secretary@kewsociety.org
Other members	Rob Sheldon, Ulrike Bulle	
Patrons	David Blomfield MBE Donald Insall CBE Baroness Tonge of Kew	

JOIN NOW by visiting our website

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