

**THE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
&  
ACCOUNTS**

**Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017**

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## **The Kew Society**

### **Charity Information**

#### **Trustees**

Michael Adams  
Caroline Brock  
Avril Dalglish  
Mary Done  
John Oxley  
Martin Taylor

#### **Principal Address**

32 Alexandra Road  
Kew  
Richmond TW9 2BS

#### **Independent Examiner**

G.L.Turner  
23 Pine Gardens  
Surbiton KT5 8LJ

#### **Bankers**

Barclays Bank Plc  
9 George Street  
Richmond TW9 1JU

#### **Charity Reg. No.**

296591 as an Unincorporated Association  
1173016 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

## **The Kew Society**

### **The Chair's Report**

We have had another very busy year on all fronts as you can see in the Trustees' report. In addition to our on-going activities around planning, events, the environment, and PR and marketing, we completed the project to replant the flower beds at Kew Gardens station. Two years of planning has resulted in what we hope is a makeover residents and visitors alike will enjoy for years to come. We also successfully registered with the Charity Commission to change our status from an Unincorporated Association to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, providing us with added protection in the unlikely event of any legal challenge to the work we do.

Last year I said that amongst our future challenges would be to continue to grow our membership and to increase the number of Trustees. I am very pleased to be able to report that our membership is continuing to grow and that at the end of the financial year we had 713 members – our highest level for some years. We are also increasing the number of Trustees from our current 6 to a new total of 8, including a new Honorary Secretary, Claire Bethel, as Mary Done stands down at the end of her maximum 6 year term of office. Mary has done sterling work for us, not only as Honorary Secretary but also on environmental issues and in organising a very impressive programme of events. It was good to see that Richmond Council accepted our nomination for her to receive their Community Award for all the work she has done for us. I am delighted that Mary has agreed to continue organising our programme of very popular events, though she will no longer be a Trustee. Nora Dennehy who has been helping to raise our profile over the last year through Press and PR activities is also standing for election as a Trustee as is Alice Shackleton who has been helping us on planning.

You will see that we still do not have a Vice Chair but I am hopeful that over the next year, with an expanding Committee, we will find a Trustee to take over my role as Chair at the end of my 6 year term in October 2018.

We continue to have support from non-Trustees, providing a great deal of help in a less formal capacity, including Nicholas Armour as our Newsletter editor, Jane Hogan and Sue May in organising our events, Nick Hutchings who is our Webmaster, supporting our IT needs and mailings to members, Michael Fletcher as membership secretary, Christopher Cannon on planning, and Roger Mason on air pollution issues. Nicholas will be handing over the role of Newsletter Editor this Autumn to Claire Bethel. We are very grateful to Nicholas for all his work for us as Editor over the past few years. We also have some 15 members who are regularly volunteering to look after the station gardens, including John and Daphne Turner who have also transformed the High Park Corner garden.

On our financial position, our annual accounts show a surplus of £2,989, increasing our reserves to £30,717. Our reserves remain well over the £15,000 the Society resolved in 2007 should always be held in reserve and which the Committee confirmed, in an annual review of its Finance policy, was an appropriate amount. We are considering projects we might support to make good use of the reserves, over and above the £15,000.

My thanks go once again to our Patrons, our Trustees, to all our volunteers and members for all their help in continuing to deliver the work of the Kew Society.

Caroline Brock, Chair

## **The Kew Society Trustees' Report for the year ended July 31, 2017**

### **Constitution & Rules for Election**

The Kew Society has for many years been an Unincorporated Association, registered number 296591, governed by a Constitution which was last altered at the 2007 Annual General Meeting. At an Extraordinary General Meeting on 22 March 2017 members passed a resolution to:

- to approve the changes to the constitution of The Kew Society, creating a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- to register The Kew Society as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charity Commission
- to transfer the assets of the present unincorporated association to the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- to close the unincorporated association.

The Kew Society was registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 12 May 2017 with registration number 1173016. Assets have been transferred to the CIO and the unincorporated association will shortly be closed once all administrative issues are finalised.

The Society's Executive Committee, comprising all Trustees, meets eleven times a year. None of the Trustees, nor any persons connected with them, has received any remuneration during the year. The Officers of the Society, consisting of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary are elected annually while other Trustees hold office for a period of three years. Trustees can be re-elected for a further term, subject to a maximum of six years and can then only be re-elected after standing down from the Executive Committee for one year.

### **The Objects and Work of the Society**

The Kew Society is established for the public benefit and its objects have always been to promote high standards of planning and architecture in Kew, to educate the public about the locality, to preserve and enhance the village and to extend and preserve public amenities in the domain.

When planning our activities for the year the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. In particular we aim to meet our objectives by:

- examining planning applications that are submitted for the Kew area, as well as other applications and government proposals that could affect Kew
- organising events for members that give information about Kew and the surrounding areas
- liaising on behalf of members with local councillors, the local planning authority and other local and national voluntary organisations

- providing a community network to facilitate information gathering and promote understanding
- enabling newcomers to Kew to meet other residents and become part of the village life, periodically holding events which help to publicise the Society's presence in the community or which provide information thought to be of interest to its members.

## **Developments, Activities and Achievements**

### **Planning**

The planning sub-committee has had another very busy year looking at a range of issues in Kew and in neighbouring Hounslow. Comments we have made on planning policy documents and all the applications we have commented on, whether to support, object or make general observations – too many to list here - are shown on our website [www.kewsociety.org](http://www.kewsociety.org).

As reported at last year's AGM, we commented on Richmond Council's draft Local Plan which will be going to independent appraisal by the Planning Inspectorate and sign-off this Autumn. One of the issues we raised was the need to strengthen policies on basement developments. We attended and spoke at Richmond Council's Scrutiny Committee review of this particular policy. Council officials set out what they wanted to achieve in the new policy having reviewed policies adopted by other Councils. We hope the Local Plan independent review will ensure the best possible protections for residents are adopted.

We also commented, through the Old Deer Park Group, on a new Supplementary Planning Document for the Old Deer Park within Richmond Council's Richmond Village Plan process.

There continued to be a particular concentration of development applications along Sandycombe Road, including plans to replace the Iron Church (275 Sandycombe Road) with a mix of housing and community use, the re-development of the nearby car lot (267 Sandycombe Road) for housing, an application for change of use at 273a Sandycombe Road, the applications at 1-9 Sandycombe Road to be redeveloped for mixed use as housing and employment space and the change of use and redevelopment of 63 Sandycombe Road (formerly Smith Bros garage). We raised concerns in each case, including over the densities proposed for housing, building heights, the need to include soft landscaping, the impacts on traffic and parking and the need to design-in graffiti deterrence on the rail track side of developments. The redevelopment of the Iron Church site was approved and we helped the Kew Karate Club, which uses the community space, to find new temporary premises locally whilst the building work is undertaken. We spoke at the Appeal Inquiry on 1-9 Sandycombe Road on Richmond Council's Planning Committee decision to turn down one of the applications for this site which went through on Appeal. Two applications for 63 Sandycombe Road to which we objected were refused permission.

Building work was undertaken without planning permission for extensive refurbishment at 9 Station Approach (formerly Ma Cuisine restaurant and now Antipodea). We liaised with local residents affected by the changes, Richmond Council's

planning and enforcement officers, environmental health officers and the licensing committee. Our objections to the retrospective planning application focussed on the proposed opening hours, the new ventilation system creating additional noise and smells for neighbouring properties, the use of the fire escape side alley, loud speakers placed on the exterior front of the building and arrangements for refuse collection.

In Kew Village we also commented on the proposed new piano bar on Kew Plaza (110 North Road) asking for conditions on opening hours, noise and cooking smells.

We continued to keep in touch with the Richmond Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on the painfully slow progress on the signing of contracts for the fit-out costs and agreed rent of the new GP surgery premises for the move of the North Road Surgery to the Taylor Wimpey re-development of the Old Inland Revenue site, now called Emerald Gardens. The Primary Care Commissioning Committee has finally approved funding of the additional rental costs and some of the capital costs of the move of the North Road Surgery to this site with expanded facilities. The North Road Surgery will be liaising with the developers to agree timescales, terms of the lease and other contractual arrangements. The move is expected to be complete in October 2018. We are keeping in touch with the Blueland Group, who worked with the GP practice on the move, to see how the remaining community space will be used. At present “social prescribing” space is being considered on the model of the Bromley-by-Bow Centre.

We commented on a number of applications for telecoms equipment. In general we support the aim to improve connectivity in Kew if equipment is sensitively located. We successfully objected to a new telephone box, incorporating substantial advertising, which would have been placed near Lloyds pharmacy. We did not see a need for the telephone box which would create an unnecessary obstacle on this prime route from the station to the Royal Botanic Gardens.

We commented on the proposals at the Queen’s School for astro-turf playing fields, supporting the need for such facilities, provided that a teacher’s memorial was respected, but asking for conditions to restrict noise for neighbouring residential properties and for a transport policy to discourage car use.

We support regeneration across the Thames in Brentford but are concerned at the density and heights of many developments and the illuminated advertising on some buildings exacerbating light pollution and affecting vistas from Kew in this predominantly low lying area, overloading infrastructures and increasing traffic congestion and consequent air pollution. Alongside Richmond Council, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Historic England, amenity groups in Hounslow and an on-line petition, we objected to the proposed tower blocks, the “Chiswick Curve”, at Chiswick roundabout which would have been 32 storeys at its highest. Hounslow Council turned down this application though the developers have now submitted an appeal. We also raised concerns over a new bus depot for 92 buses and enabling development of 550 residential units at Capital Interchange Way. We continue to keep an eye on what might come forward for development of the Chiswick Curve site, the B&Q site, and at other sites in Hounslow with an impact on Kew, including the proposed relocation of the Watermans Art Centre and redevelopment of its current riverside site and the redevelopment of the Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre site, now in conjunction with the demolished former telephone exchange site.

We continue to monitor the proposed new Brentford Football Club stadium and its very substantial “enabling” residential development where significant changes to the consented scheme are now being mooted.

We also met with the chair of the action group formed to take forward the idea of a new foot and cycle bridge spanning the river between Brentford (Ferry Lane) and the riverside car park at the Royal Botanic Gardens to understand the proposal which is currently being crowd funded and may in due course come forward as a planning application.

## **Events**

We have again run a very full programme of events from parties to tours to talks on the heritage of Kew, as well as two General Election Hustings, jointly with the Richmond Society, one for the By-Election and a second one for the unexpected General Election.

Topics for our very popular talks have included St Anne’s church embroideries and carvings; the conservation work now underway of the Great Pagoda in the Royal Botanic Gardens; an update from Richmond Council on their tree maintenance and planting programme; two talks focussed on the Thames - a Panorama of the Thames and the Thames heritage from Putney to Kew; and an invitation to an event on air pollution organised by Make Air Safe and Clean (MASC) where Professor Roger Mason represents the Kew Society,

We organised a river boat trip and arranged for the sun to shine whilst Jason Debney from the Thames Landscape Strategy described what we were seeing from Richmond to Hampton Court with tales of Arcadia, riverside planting, the wildlife and the work of the Thames Landscape Strategy; several “behind the scenes tours” at the National Archives; a tour of the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, including the Commandant’s Parade; and a guided tour of Kew Palace and the Royal Kitchens.

We also held two parties, one in the Spring and another in the Summer, at the Priory Road Tennis Club and were pleased to see both long-standing and new members there.

To welcome new members, we invited them to come and meet the Committee at a reception hosted by our Chair. This has proved a good way of getting to know people and make new members feel welcome at all our events. Some new members are also getting more actively involved in helping to run the business of the Society.

All our events have been well attended and are attracting new members to join us as well as helping all to know more about their local community.

## **Environment**

The long saga of Heathrow’s third runway proposal has not gone away and we are continuing to work with the Richmond Heathrow Campaign (RHC) to resist expansion.

We invited Network Rail representatives to meet us on site at Kew Gardens station to look at improving security to prevent trespass on the track and to clear up the graffiti on the side of buildings in North Avenue, visible along the rail track from North Road. After a frustratingly long period when Network Rail eventually concluded that the graffiti was not their responsibility but that they would use their contractors to complete the work if

Richmond Council paid for it, the Council agreed to do the work and agree who paid later. Promised security improvements by Network Rail have not been completed and though the graffiti was removed, new graffiti has now appeared. We continue to press them for action.

We have also been discussing with Richmond Council officials and the Royal Botanic Gardens improved way finding from Kew Gardens station to the Gardens with improved signage and possible pavement layout alterations, the latter to be subject to public consultation. We hope this will also deal with the problem of the puddle in front of the station which reappears each time it rains.

At the suggestion of the Kew Residents Association we worked together with them to take another look at how coach parking along the Kew Road could be changed with consequent road safety benefits. We submitted a report with proposals for change to the Royal Botanic Gardens and Richmond Council and have requested a meeting to discuss solutions.

## **Projects**

We completed our project to improve the 4 flower beds at Kew Gardens station with new planting, working with Energy Garden, Transport for London, the Royal Botanic Gardens and Richmond Council. 1500 plants were planted in November and we have a team of Kew Society volunteers undertaking weekly maintenance as well as some on-going support from Energy Garden.

## **Marketing, press and PR**

Nora Dennehy, standing to become a Trustee this year, has helped to raise our profile in the press and through social media. We held a press launch to celebrate our achievements in replanting at Kew Gardens station with Zac Goldsmith MP, Mark Wild, the Managing Director of Transport for London, Councillor Benedict Dias, the Deputy Mayor of Richmond and Councillor Susan Chappell who agreed our Civic Pride fund award for the project, Richard Barley, Director of Horticulture at the Botanic Gardens and Suzie Jewell, the landscape designer who did the planting plan for us, as well as representatives of Energy Garden and Groundwork London, including those who did the initial planting together with our own Kew Society gardening volunteers.

We entered the station planting project, together with the revamp of the High Park Corner garden by members John and Daphne Turner, at the corner of North Road and High Park Avenue, and the planting in the bench/planter outside the Kew Greenhouse Café which we are maintaining, for the Richmond in Bloom competition.

Our website continues to play a key role in keeping members up to date with what we are doing and to attract new members. The number of web site visits has increased by over 20% during the year as we continue to use this method of publicizing our activities and events. The list of members who receive news from the Society by email has also grown, but not by as much as we would like. We would encourage those members who have not yet advised us of their email address to do so. It really helps to keep our administrative costs down and provides a much more timely method of keeping in touch.

Our membership numbers are increasing through a combination of more visible community projects, more events, and our presence at the Kew Fete and the Kew Horticultural Show on Kew Green, and at the Kew Village Market. We are now also working with local estate agents to invite those moving into/in Kew, whether renting or buying, to become members of the Society.

Background technical support for our website continues to be provided by Paul Firby at The Design Forum.net.

We continue to publish our Newsletter, edited by Nicholas Armour who is stepping down this Autumn. Claire Bethel is taking over this role. We also email our members with news from time to time with help from Nick Hutchings and Sue May.

## **Governance**

Thanks to the work led by our Treasurer, Mike Adams, supported by a sub-committee comprising Avril Dalglish, Sir David Durie, and Donna McDonald, we have successfully registered to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) following agreement to this at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 22 March.

As our activities have expanded to include some more active events such as gardening at the station, we have developed risk assessments and advised those participating of dos and don'ts to keep themselves safe and also of the restrictions in our insurance cover for accidents for those over the age of 80.

The Chair and Executive Committee believe that they have met the criteria inherited and listed in the Objects of the Society and that the above is evidence of Developments, Activities and Achievements.

## **The Financial Position**

Subscriptions received from members, donations, Gift Aid, and surpluses on events constitute the bulk of the Society's income.

The statement of financial activities shows a surplus for the year of £2,989 on the General Fund increasing its accumulated surplus to £30,717.

## **Reserves Policy**

The policy of the Society is to maintain, subject to available funds, an amount as part of general reserves to provide for items such as legal fees and other costs incurred in carrying out two of its purposes: "To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit" and "To secure the preservation, protection, development, improvement and enhancement of features of beauty or historic or public interest in or affecting the area of benefit". The Trustees have decided to set this amount at £15,000.

Approved by the Executive Committee and signed on its behalf by:

Caroline Brock  
Chair

Mike Adams  
Honorary Treasurer

Dated: October 2017

## **The Kew Society**

### **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Kew Society**

I report on the accounts for the year ended July 31, 2017.

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Geoffrey Turner AFA, MIAB, MCMI.  
23 Pine Gardens  
Surbiton KT5 8L

Dated October 2017

# The Kew Society

## Statement of financial activities for the year to July 31, 2017

	Note	TOTAL 2017 £	TOTAL 2016 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>			
Subscriptions		4,974	4,606
Donations		814	855
Interest receivable		80	110
Surplus on self-funded events		3,108	617
Gift Aid		1,463	1,174
Sundry		0	43
		<b>10,439</b>	<b>7,405</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>			
Planning and appeals		27	169
Unfunded events / Society Activities		1,121	144
Printing and stationery		1,634	2,325
Postage		432	195
Donations and subscriptions	8	3,222	625
Insurance		265	252
Deficit on events		0	387
Sundry expenses		749	1,503
		<b>7,450</b>	<b>5,600</b>
		<b>2,989</b>	<b>1,805</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>			
Fund balances brought forward at August 1		27,728	25,923
<b>Fund balances carried forward at July 31</b>		<b>30,717</b>	<b>27,728</b>

# The Kew Society

## Balance Sheet as at July 31, 2017

	Note	TOTAL 2017 £	TOTAL 2016 £
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash at bank		29,485	25,636
Debtors & prepayments	9	2,053	3,040
Stocks		0	0
		<u>31,538</u>	<u>28,676</u>
Creditors due within one year	10	667	406
Net current assets (liabilities)		<u>30,871</u>	<u>28,270</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>30,871</u>	<u>28,270</u>
Creditors due after more than one year	10	154	542
Provisions for liabilities and charges		0	0
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>30,717</u>	<u>27,728</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>			
Accumulated fund balance		<u>30,717</u>	<u>27,728</u>

Approved by the Trustees on  
5 September 2017  
and signed on their behalf by

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Caroline Brock

Michael Adams

# **The Kew Society**

## **Notes to the Accounts**

### **1. Accounting Policies**

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice ("SORP") covering Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised 2005), and with applicable accounting policies under the historical cost convention.

### **2. Income**

Donations are accounted for on receipt. Subscription income is accounted for on an accruals basis. Interest from bank accounts and the COIF Charities Deposit account are disclosed on receipt.

Gift Aid claims are recognised for the period to which they relate, which is a change from the previous period. The effect of this change is summarised in Note 6 below.

### **3. Expenditure**

Expenditure is accounted for on the accruals basis.

### **4. Fund Accounting**

The General Fund is an unrestricted fund for use at the Society's discretion.

### **5. Stocks**

Stocks of publicity articles are valued at the lower of cost and market value.

# The Kew Society

## Notes to the Accounts

### 6. Prior Year Adjustment

In prior years the amount due in respect of Gift Aid was recognised when the claim was accepted by HM Revenue & Customs. Whilst this was a prudent approach, the result was that the benefit of the Gift Aid was not recognised in the results for the year to which it related. As the probability that the claim would be rejected is low, it has been decided that a better understanding of the Society's finances would be provided by taking the benefit of the Gift Aid in the year to which it relates. The following adjustments have been effected.

	<b>Closing Fund Balances £</b>	<b>Closing Debtors &amp; Prepayments £</b>
As previously reported at 31 July 2016	<b>26,179</b>	<b>1,491</b>
Gift Aid relating to 2015/16 previously not recognised	<b>1,174</b>	<b>1,174</b>
Civic Voice prepayment previously not recognised	<b>375</b>	<b>375</b>
Restated balances as at 31 July 2016	<u><b>27,728</b></u>	<u><b>3,040</b></u>
As previously reported at 31 July 2015	<b>24,397</b>	
Gift Aid relating to 2014/15 previously not recognised	<b>1,151</b>	
Civic Voice prepayment not previously recognised	<b>375</b>	
Restated Fund balance as at 31 July 2015	<u><b>25,923</b></u>	

### 7. Surplus/Deficit for the year

This is stated after charging Independent Examiner's remuneration of £150.00 (2016: £125)

## The Kew Society

### Notes to the Accounts (continued)

#### 8. Grants, Donations and Subscriptions Paid

	<b>TOTAL 2017 £</b>	<b>TOTAL 2016 £</b>
Civic Voice & London Forum	545	545
HACAN (Subscription)	45	45
St Anne's Church	65	0
Museum of Richmond	2,057	0
West London River Group	20	0
Thames Landscape Strategy	200	35
Historic Royal Palaces	140	0
Panorama of the Thames	150	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,222</b>	<b>625</b>

#### 9. Debtors and Prepayments

	<b>TOTAL 2017 £</b>	<b>TOTAL 2016 £</b>
Sundry debtors - Gift Aid	1,463	1,174
- other	15	0
Prepayments	575	1,866
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,053</b>	<b>3,040</b>

# The Kew Society

## Notes to the Accounts (continued)

### 10. Creditors & Accruals

	<b>TOTAL 2017 £</b>	<b>TOTAL 2016 £</b>
Subscriptions paid in advance:		
Due within 12 months	<b>522</b>	<b>406</b>
Other creditors	<b>145</b>	<b>0</b>
Accrued expenses	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<hr/> <b>667</b>	<hr/> <b>406</b>
Subscriptions paid in advance:		
Due after more than 12 months	<b>154</b>	<b>542</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<hr/> <b>821</b>	<hr/> <b>948</b>