
THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Charity number: 1173016

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
UNAUDITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

	Page
Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and bankers	3
Chair's Report	4 - 7
Trustees' report	8 - 18
Trustees' responsibilities statement	18
Independent Examiner's Report	19
Statement of financial activities	20
Balance sheet	21
Notes to the financial statements	22 - 26

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY AND ITS
TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2023**

Trustees	M Adams (Retired 25 October 2022) C Bethel J Clark (Appointed 25 October 2022) N Dennehy M Done V Harper D Ormond (Appointed 25 October 2022) J Ricketts A Shackleton SA Williams SP Williams (Appointed 25 October 2022)
Charity Registered Number	1173016
Officers	
Chair	SA Williams
Vice-chair	N Dennehy
Secretary	C Bethel
Treasurer	SP Williams
Registered Office	13 Ruskin Avenue Kew Richmond TW9 4DR
Independent Examiner	Claire Satow 4 The Avenue Richmond Surrey TW9 2AJ
Bankers	Barclays Bank Plc 9 George Street Richmond TW9 1JU

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

CHAIR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST JULY 2023

I have now completed my first full – and very busy – year as chair of the Kew Society. Over the past twelve months, I have been constantly gaining knowledge about how Kew works – sometimes doesn't work – and how, or if, the Kew Society should be involved. Our charitable remit is quite clear and the focus of much of our work over the past twelve months has been to review what we currently do in order to agree our future priorities.

The purpose of the Trustees' report is to provide an overview of our activities over the period 1st August 2022 – 31st July 2023. Our trustees and other committee members work together to deliver a broad range of activities for the benefit of everyone who lives in, works in, or visits Kew. We aim to make a positive contribution to both our built and green environments and to provide a range of talks, outings and events for our members.

We are fortunate to have a loyal membership, but it is an ageing one – some of our members have been associated with the society for many years – and we have been less successful at attracting younger people. We are increasingly aware that our membership does not truly represent 'Kew now'. An analysis of the addresses of our members indicates that approximately 70% live in a quarter of the roads in Kew... and that we have very few members who live in areas of 'new Kew' including the new developments, or in areas that could be negatively affected by major proposed developments such as the redevelopment of the Kew Retail Park or (although not technically in Kew) the Homebase site.

We are all agreed that we should have a strategy to grow and diversify our membership and a good deal of my time has been spent beginning to lay the foundations for this.

In November – thanks to the generosity of Richard Deverell, the Director of RBGK, we had a 'beginning to think about strategy' awayday in the Pavilion Restaurant in Kew Gardens. Over the space of a few hours – and fuelled by delicious coffee and pastries – we worked in groups to 'stand back' and take time to review the purpose and aims of the Kew Society, define our target audience and to begin to think about how we might change and develop. Our group discussions produced many flip chart pages, which I was able to subsequently distil into a discussion document. The structure and content of this very successful event benefitted from advice from two of our patrons – Sir David Durie and Nick Baird – and the generous time provided by a member, Saima Habib. Following the awayday, we agreed to appoint a strategy group of trustees and committee members, including myself, and we will continue our work after this AGM. The original group has now expanded to include others who we hope will be formally joining the committee after tonight. We have been fortunate to attract several people with substantial experience of strategic development in both corporate and charitable organisations.

One of my greatest challenges during the year has been – pretty successfully – seeking people prepared to stand as trustees or to become co-opted committee members. Four trustees will have served their maximum term by this AGM – our Planning and Environment leads, our Honorary Secretary and the Deputy Chair and Marketing/PR lead. They have all done great work for the charity and have laid sound foundations for their successors.

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Fortunately, a number of excellent candidates put themselves forward and I am very much looking forward to working with the new members of the team. I am still hopeful that – maybe even as a result of tonight – we are soon able to find volunteers to join the team to help us with planning, social media and our membership of the Richmond Heathrow Campaign group.

In addition to seeking individuals that are able to spare the time necessary to take on a (relatively) formal role, I have been building a group of ‘TKS friends’ with particular knowledge or experience that is relevant to our work. It is very reassuring to know that, when we are dealing with complex issues, we know people that will help us with advice and ideas.

In the main body of this report, each trustee has provided an overview of what they and their colleagues have done – and achieved – over the past twelve months. You will see that we deal with a mixture of regular commitments and ‘one off’ projects that are impossible to predict. Life is never dull!

To give you an insight into the range of our work over the past year...

Alice Shackleton and John Ricketts have provided consistently high-quality information and advice relevant to our ‘built environment and planning’ remit, which is aimed at maintaining the unique character of this area. This takes a great deal of background work and the ability to balance an acceptance that things cannot always stay the same with trying to ensure that any change is as positive as possible. At our ‘Coronation Drinks’ in May, a retired Richmond councillor said to me ‘When the Kew Society makes a comment, the planning committee really sit up and listen.’ We intend to maintain that reputation.

Over the past year, substantial time has been invested in preparing for our response to the likely planning application to redevelop the Kew Retail Park. Committee members actively participated in a lengthy ‘community consultation’ organised by the architects and we subsequently hosted an event where the architects presented the ‘vision’ for the site which had been influenced and informed by the contributions of local residents and our team.

We have an increasing policy of ‘not reinventing wheels’ and working to develop and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with other local groups by sharing knowledge and expertise. Roger Mason – a hugely respected scientist, and my predecessor in this role – has, for example, advised on the air quality implications likely to result from the development of the Mortlake Brewery site. And, needless to say, he has also applied his knowledge and expertise on behalf of our own members.

Along the same lines – and boosted by the offer of a grant to participate in Richmond Council’s ‘Big Green Week’ – we conceived and organised a ‘green networking’ event to introduce and connect representatives from an impressive diversity of organisations, charities, and volunteer groups relevant to our local green environment. Thanks to the incredibly efficient organising skills exhibited by Venetia Harper – and aided by the beautiful invitation created by Dora Williams, wife of our treasurer – more than 40 people joined us for a Pimm’s on a summer’s evening. Conversation buzzed along, cards and phone numbers were exchanged, and productive connections were made. My task was to ensure that each group was given the opportunity to introduce themselves and their work... all within 2 minutes... a real test of my influencing and time management skills!

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

The success of this event (and the subsequent benefits for The Kew Society) have inspired us to run others to a similar format, including one to link us with the people running other local amenity societies.

Some of our most visible – and most appreciated – activities result in the much-admired planting around the village and the station platforms. Anna Anderson leads a great – and growing – team of volunteer gardeners who work to maintain the beds which we know make a real contribution to the wellbeing of people who live in or visit Kew. Thank you to the whole team – and especial thanks to John and Daphne Turner, who double-handedly look after ‘their garden’ at the junction of High Park Avenue and North Road, providing a little haven on what, not long ago, was neglected land.

During Covid, we all walked – and walked – around the local area, sometimes noticing buildings and less obvious landmarks for the first time. Three of our trustees – Venetia Harper, Claire Bethel and Mary Done – developed (and then brought to fruition) an idea to create a ‘Historical Walk’. The Kew Society was awarded a grant from the council to help with the design and production of what is now a very popular publication, especially appreciated by visitors to the area. We launched the walk and map at an event which attracted some very high profile and appreciative guests, including our MP, the Mayor of Richmond, and the Director of Kew Gardens.

One of our aims is to ‘connect’ members and people across Kew. Before Pam de Goris or I were involved with The Kew Society we – supported by the Kew Community Trust – lead a team of volunteers to host ‘Meet in Kew’, a monthly get-together for anyone who lives or works in Kew. Over the past year, these much-appreciated gatherings have been joint initiatives with The Kew Society and KCT working together for the benefit of the local community.

Which leads me to mention our hugely creative and highly organised Events team, which is led by Mary Done and very ably assisted by Sue May, Jane Hogan and Heather Wakefield. Many of our talks take place in the National Archives and we are very grateful for their generosity in allowing us to use these wonderful facilities – and great staff – at a very modest cost. Over the past year, Mary and her team have masterminded a very interesting – and well received – programme of talks, outings, and social events. For the first time, we are beginning to collaborate with the Avenue Club to organise outings of mutual interest. A visit to Bletchley Park was a real success. Sue May has – again – taken the lead on ensuring that the Kew Society has a public presence at village events where committee members have enjoyed connecting with many members and potential members. One of my most appreciated achievements this year has been relieving Sue of providing storage for our gazebo and equipment by identifying a (very generous) member to lend us space in her garage... she says that it is her way of helping our work. We are very grateful!

I mentioned at the start of this report that we are beginning to explore ways to try to grow and diversify our membership. Our longstanding membership secretary – Michael Fletcher – took the decision early in the year to retire, and Janet Clark very quickly offered to take on and develop the role, with the intention of making it easier for people to join and easier for her and our treasurer to manage. We expressed our thanks to Michael for all the work on behalf of the charity during a

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

meeting to welcome new members in June. This was another example of our 'productive relationships' which enabled us to borrow the excellent studio facilities and outdoor space at Pensford Field in exchange for sharing space at the village market and publicising the opportunity to become a 'friend' of this special place in the heart of Kew.

Throughout the year, we communicate directly with members in a range of ways, including our newsletter, which we know (especially since we have reverted to printing and distributing hard copies as well as online ones) is much appreciated by many members. Claire Bethel, our Hon. Secretary, whose skills and wisdom will be hugely missed, is also the editor of the newsletter. She is aided in this endeavour by her husband Paul, whose tech abilities also benefit the management of our membership database. Prompted by a member, we now print on recycled paper, and have dispensed with envelopes. 70% are hand delivered.

Nora Dennehy, our Deputy Chair, has continued to lead on all our communications, including social media and is a talented photographer. We will miss her editorial advice... and her photos!

As you will see, our finances are in very good shape, and, as our strategy begins to be implemented, we intend to invest in a number of initiatives of benefit to our members. Steve Williams took over the role of treasurer after the AGM last year and – as well as getting us onto online banking – has brought in considerable knowledge and experience from his work with other charities.

All our accounts must be scrutinised by an independent examiner. We would like to thank Claire Satow for so generously giving her time and expertise to fulfil this requirement.

Our work is all done by volunteers – we enjoy working together, and over the past months, we have all gained genuine satisfaction from 'putting something back' into the area where we all love to live. If you have a little time to spare and would like to contribute to any of our activities, please drop me an email.

I would like to publicly thank our patrons for their continuing support and advice throughout the year.

I have no doubt that during the year 2022 – 2023 we have fulfilled our charitable objectives.

Shiona Williams

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JULY 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements for the period 1st August 2022 to 31st July 2023. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the CIO's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) as revised in March 2018.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The general objective of the charity is to maintain and enhance the area of Kew and the area immediately adjacent.

The Trustees have given due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in accordance with section 17 of the Charities Act 2011.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Incoming resources during the year amounted to £10,206 (2022: £12,117). Resources expended on charitable activities in the year totalled £10,003 (2022: £11,428). Governance costs amounted to Nil (2022: £250).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, and is therefore governed by its Constitution. The Charitable Incorporated Organisation was incorporated and registered as a charity on 12 May 2017 (registered number 1173016).

The Charity's affairs are conducted by the Trustees who meet regularly and have the power to appoint new Trustees at their discretion. New Trustees appointed in this way must put themselves forward for reappointment at the next Annual General Meeting of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Trustees are required to familiarise themselves with the guidance provided to Trustees by the Charity Commission but the charity does not have any formal programme for the induction and training of new Trustees. C Bethel performs the day-to-day affairs at the principal address of the charity: 13 Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DR.

RISK FACTORS

The Trustees have carried out a risk assessment and this is reviewed on a regular basis throughout the year.

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Trustees consider the activities of the charity to be satisfactory during the year. The charity expects further income in the following years to meet the costs of meeting its obligations as a charity. A detailed review of the activities of the charity is available below.

Planning

This year has seen fewer planning applications, both on the domestic front and for major developments. That being the case, it is useful to use this report to explain and reflect on the work of the Planning sub-committee of The Kew Society. The sub-committee's members are Alice Shackleton (Planning Trustee and Lead) and John Ricketts (Planning Trustee). As set out in its constitution the Kew Society aims, through its work on planning, to:

- Preserve the character of Kew
- Enhance features of beauty or of historic or public interest
- Extend and preserve public amenities in Kew or in areas affecting Kew.

We carry out these aims firstly by monitoring planning applications that affect Kew, submitting comments as appropriate. Then, where appropriate, we give evidence during the planning process on major developments and comment on national and local government planning policies.

The planning system is about the use of land and buildings and we on the sub-committee work to take a positive approach where this is appropriate. Examples include supporting changes of use of empty shops to uses which are in demand, eg: physical therapy studios. Then where we decide not to make a formal objection to an application, we sometimes submit a comment to support the officers in, for example, taking steps to preserve mature trees and open landscape by conditions attached to planning permissions.

Members and residents occasionally ask our advice. For example, a member alerted us to an apparent breach of planning by the installation of solar panels on the front roof slope of a home in a local Conservation Area. In that case, the preservation of the historic features of the roofs seemed to be outweighed by the need for energy efficiency additions; hence the Council allowed this. Separately, owners of a listed building on Kew Green asked us to visit when they encountered objections, including TKS's, to planned work. We were able to discuss this with them, leading to a revised application that removed the detrimental proposals.

Part of the planning process and our approach to applications, as will be apparent, involves balancing various interests: for example, heritage issues, environmental proposals and amenity of neighbours, amongst these.

As a rule, we do not comment on straightforward domestic applications by residents but may occasionally do so if they involve matters of planning policy, or potential harm to heritage assets or open spaces.

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

We liaise with other amenity societies and groups, such as the Old Deer Park Working Group of which we are a member and the various community groups involved in the Stag Brewery applications. So we are involved through these with a wider geographical area but focus on matters that affect Kew and neighbouring areas. In particular, we are concerned to protect Royal Botanic Gardens Kew against major developments in Kew or north of the River Thames that would adversely affect the unique character and World Heritage Site status of RBGK.

We were invited by the London Forum of Civic and Amenity Societies to give a presentation In January to the Forum's open meeting on Early Community Engagement. John Ricketts gave the presentation on our experience with the collaborative planning process in the Kew Retail Park proposals led by JTP, the community engagement architects for the developers. This concluded that promises did not necessarily turn into results.

We also consider in detail documents for public consultation and respond to these.

Turning now to applications during the year, there were no new large-scale developments announced which would affect Kew. The current status of large projects previously reported is as follows:

Kew Retail Park: Please refer to last year's Report for the details. In essence, there has been no news these past 12 months on plans for this site. The last public communication by JTP Architects on behalf of the developers, St George, and Marks and Spencer was in September last year, when The Kew Society organised a Q&A session at the National Archives with JTP, who subsequently organised a walk-about on the site with a follow-up discussion.

Mortlake (Stag) Brewery: The final revised planning application was approved by Richmond Council's planning committee on 19th July 2023 and was due to be referred to the Mayor of London for his decision. The Kew Society joined other local amenity societies in writing to the Mayor asking him to reject the scheme as proposed, on grounds principally of the large amount of extra traffic and therefore pollution it would undoubtedly generate. However, at the end of July the Secretary of State announced that all buildings over 18 metres in height will need a second means of escape. As a result, the applicants decided to make revisions to the planning application to meet this requirement, prior to the application being referred to the Mayor. These revisions will be the subject of further consultations and referral back to the Council's planning committee.

Homebase, Manor Road: A formal decision is still awaited by the Mayor of London, nearly three years after the Public Hearing at which he indicated approval of the scheme. We have consistently opposed this development and have written to the Secretary of State asking him to call the scheme in for his determination, given the large number of important issues raised. When we heard back that the Secretary of State had declined to intervene in the decision we asked for the reason, given he had decided to call in a similar nearby planning application (the Tesco/Homebase scheme on Syon Lane) which raised very similar issues of building height, density etc. We did not receive a reasoned explanation for his decision.

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

North of the River:

Tesco/Homebase, Syon Lane: The Kew Society supported the objections submitted by Royal Botanic Gardens Kew to this scheme on the grounds of its adverse impact on the view from Kew Gardens, particularly from the Syon Vista. This now falls to the Secretary of State for decision which is currently expected in November this year.

Holly House, Chiswick Roundabout:

This 24-storey successor scheme to the rejected 32-storey Chiswick Curve development was approved by Hounslow Council's planning committee in January 2023. Along with many other organisations and individuals, we had objected to this planning application as being far too bulky for its location and for its effect on RBGK and Kew.

Redevelopment of the Sega building site, Great West Road: This has not yet been submitted as a planning application but is expected to be on a similar scale to the Kew Retail Park and the Mortlake Brewery developments. The Planning Trustees attended a presentation on the initial design in September 2022 and the plans were the subject of a public consultation in March 2023. The developers have modified the proposals in light of representations of its effect on RBGK.

Smaller Developments in Kew

Examples of what we have done during the year:

85 Kew Green (nursery school, formerly ASK restaurant) The school sought retrospective approval for illuminated roundels more than once. TKS objected on each occasion on grounds that the signs were completely out of character for the Conservation Area. A second application was refused in May 2023 but almost immediately a further application, with some modification, was lodged. This in turn was refused in July 2023.

32 Haverfield Gardens

The original application, to demolish garages and a bungalow and build five houses, attracted significant numbers of objections. TKS submitted an objection based on the height of the buildings and their impact on the view from Haverfield Gardens. The application was refused and a further application took account of our views and lessened the height by including a basement in the frontage to the road. This application was approved.

77 North Road (previously the North Road Surgery) : TKS had objected to applications for conversion of the surgery to a day nursery on grounds of the inappropriate numbers of children and staff who would attend and the effects on neighbour amenity. A further application was approved, subject to numerous conditions which dealt with amenity of residents, in March.

Salem Baptist Church, Windsor Road: This is example of an application which we monitored but did not comment on: to approve the change of use to a flexible community facility and a swimming school. This was approved in December 2022.

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Consultations

Richmond Council: Publication Draft Local Plan 2022

In the first stage of the new local plan last year we opposed the height designations for Kew Retail Park, arguing that buildings should not exceed five storeys. The second stage this year focused on compliance matters and we decided that comment was unnecessary.

Revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework: We keep this under review, as well as proposed changes to planning guidance.

Environment

Over the last year the environment brief, led by Venetia Harper, has continued to evolve and she has been ably supported by an expanding team. Some of their activities are reported below.

Roger Mason continues to provide expert advice and respond on behalf of TKS to both local and national consultations on a variety of matters as well as writing reports for the TKS newsletter. In particular, Roger submitted TKS response to Thames Water Resources Management Plan 2024. After research and a site visit to Mogden Sewage Works he decided to focus on three main areas of concern to local people: (i) the Teddington Direct River Abstraction scheme, (ii) reducing leaks and (iii) the environment and the discharge of raw sewage into the river. (See the Kew Society web page for the response.)

Following the Council's Air Quality Report for 2022, Roger carried out a review of their roadside nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) measurements at 8 locations on Mortlake Road, Kew Road and the Lower Mortlake Road (A316). This compared the latest data for 2021 with that for the years 2015-2020. This revealed that there has been a marked reduction (about 40%) in the annual mean NO₂ concentration in recent years and that these roads are now legally compliant for the pollutant. However, Chalker's Corner remains in excess of the UK legal maximum concentration for NO₂ (see the Kew Society Newsletter, Autumn 2022 issue, for full report). He also provided the Mortlake Brewery Consultation Group with series of charts and graphs analysing the traffic and air quality at the brewery site and nearby locations to aid their response to the revised planning application for the Brewery.

We also encouraged members to support the Kew Green Residents Association's request for the extension of the railings around Kew Green by responding to the Council consultation. This was completed in June and this summer saw considerably fewer unauthorised attempts to set up encampments on the Green.

Maggie Mason came on board last September and, supported by Habitats & Heritage, she is aiming to turn small plots of Council wasteland into 'green hubs'. Already, with the help of two enthusiastic local residents, the derelict flowerbeds on the corner of Sandycombe Road and Victoria Cottages are being transformed initially with spring bulbs and, more recently, the beds received compost and were planted up with drought-tolerant plants (provided by Habitats and Heritage). Along with the local residents, we hope for further improvements to this public space.

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Gardening

Our team of volunteer gardeners, led by Anna Anderson, Head Gardener, maintains gardens which have been planted around Kew, these include: beds at Kew Gardens station, the triangular planter and the rectangular bed in Kew village by the Greenhouse Café, the garden at the junction of North Road and High Park Avenue, planting on Kew Plaza and at St Anne's church on Kew Green.

We have been fortunate that this summer was a more 'normal' British summer than last year, though of course the longer-term trend is for hotter summers and more extreme and unpredictable weather. Our plants benefitted from cooler temperatures and from more rainfall than in 2022 however there were several casualties from the week-long spell of icy weather last December. As the climate heats up, and the weather becomes more unpredictable this will make gardening more challenging.

Kew Gardens station platforms

The beds here were originally planted some seven years ago and the planting is still going strong. Two of the echiums we planted last year near little Torelli survived the spell of freezing weather before Christmas and will have seeded the ground so we should have a continuing supply of echiums for future years. Echiums are biennials so we also planted some more echium plants in the spring and these should flower next year while we wait for the seedlings to mature and flower in 2025. Pollinators love echium flowers and it's good to provide a source of food for the insects as well as a display of flowers for us humans.

We also planted colourful pink and scarlet pelargoniums in the bed under the bridge facing West Park Road and these worked well in this tricky location.

The grass bed on the Gunnersbury bound platform has done really well this year. The verbenas seem to do much better on this platform than on the other one, plants can be very capricious.

Several of the cherry trees have died through a combination of old age and climate/water stress. We will need to work with TfL to try to get these replaced.

Kew village beds

In the raised bed most of the salvias and several of the geraniums didn't survive the winter and had to be replaced. We decided to replace the salvias with a different, more compact, variety than the Amistad we had last year, and the Rockin' Deep Purple salvias have done very well. We will be taking extra precautions this autumn to protect their bases with extra mulch so they don't get killed off by the cold.

The beds have provided a succession of colour through most of the year with daffodils and muscari in early spring, followed by lilac alliums and white libertia and then lilac geraniums and purple salvias accompanied by white erigerons. We always get positive comments from passers-by who really enjoy seeing the planting.

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

In May, the Kew Traders put up a colourful gazebo decked with flowers in the raised bed to mark the coronation of King Charles III, this provided a lovely decorative feature for the coronation weekend.

North Road garden

The North Road garden continues to provide a colourful haven, with an eclectic mix of plants, next to Chris and Chris Motors. It is looked after by various members of the Turner family, spanning three generations, led by John and directed by Daphne.

Kew Plaza

We improved the planting around the trees in the Plaza, using similar plants to those in the village. The salvia Amistads have done very well but next year we will add some more impactful plants, taking inspiration from the new drought tolerant sections of the Broadwalk in Kew Gardens.

St Anne's and the War Memorial

The wildflower planting in these areas has been very disappointing. Some wildflowers germinated in the bed in the churchyard but nothing grew around the war memorial, probably because it was seeded too late. The environment committee is now exploring different ways of supporting the church and local residents with planting.

Volunteers

A concerted effort to recruit new gardeners has been successful in increasing the size of the gardening team which is really positive and we now have about a dozen people who garden regularly. This doesn't mean everyone gardens every week, as several people travel through work or visit family abroad, but people go away and come back when they are in the country. Most gardening still takes place on weekdays but we now also have a small weekend team. The team is friendly and enthusiastic and that helps to make gardening an enjoyable experience for everyone. Positive feedback from passers-by also helps everyone to feel that their efforts are appreciated and really do make a difference.

Energy Garden

We have been helped throughout the year by Energy Garden who work with local groups around London to garden at train stations. This year they helped us to get rid of over 60 bags of woody garden waste and built three compost bins so that we can manage our green waste better. We are now learning about turning this waste so that it decomposes into usable compost. Callum, our link at Energy Garden, also works as part of the gardening team most weeks.

Watering

Watering is an important part of our work We are grateful for the help we have had from the Kew Greenhouse Café, Chris and Chris Motors, the Pagoda Café and Little Torelli in giving us access to water and help in watering. This has been particularly important for small beds which dry out quickly.

Thank you

Thank you to the gardeners who have done a fantastic job throughout the year, thank you to Energy Garden and to the cafes providing water and thank you to the staff at Kew Gardens station who are always helpful and make sure we can garden safely while the station is also being used by passengers.

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Events

The Kew Society Events Team is currently Mary Done, Sue May, Jane Hogan and Heather Wakefield. In the past year, events have included:

Guided trips to Frogmore House and Gardens; tours of The King's Observatory; two 'City of London – A Stroll Through Time' walks with Helen Bartolome, a tour of the 'Poppy Factory' in Richmond; a 'Draw off of the River Thames' walk along the Richmond foreshore to understand more about the work of the Thames Landscape Strategy and The Arcadian Thames.

Following interesting tours of the National Theatre, the National Archives provided Curator tours of their 'Treason; People, Power & Plot' exhibition as well as giving us a presence during their Local History weekends. We also remember the joyous evening where we raised a glass for the Loyal Toast prior to the Coronation of HM King Charles III.

Celia Holman from the Eel Pie Island Museum provided a jolly Arcadian Thames walk – followed by time at the Museum remembering our rock'n'roll past.

A walk in Kew Gardens with Kevin Martin, Head of Trees, helped us understand more about how trees communicate and how clever they are.

Joining forces with The Avenue Club, we had a fascinating tour around Bletchley Park – the principal centre of Allied code-breaking during WW2. History was brought alive. Hopefully, many will take the offer of a repeat visit.

Talks have included a fascinating insight by Conor Jameson into the "W. H. Hudson Story"; an update from Craig Ruddick, LBRuT Head of Arboriculture on 'Street Trees in Kew' and a talk by Nick Ovenden on his ground-breaking work in the Amazonian rainforest.

Our last AGM audience was enthralled listening to Lord Darroch talk about "The Ukraine Crisis: Why Putin invaded, why he is failing, what happens next".

Other talks included Lucinda Ganderton illustrated talk on 'The Time Traveller's Guide to Richmond and Kew in 1937' offering an insight into the past and present look and history of the local area.

Lucy Ward, author of 'The Empress and the English Doctor', provided a story of science, courage and leadership – outlining remarkable links to Kew's Georgian monarchs.

We regularly have a presence at the Kew Village Market, the Kew Summer Fair and the Horticultural Society Summer Show. These events provide a great opportunity to chat to existing and potential new members and learn what is important to locals.

Events provide opportunities for Members to get to know others, make friends and learn more about the area. We aim when possible to ensure surplus ticket money is donated back to a specific project linked to speakers..... so please do come along and support us.

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Communications and Membership

The Trustees are pleased to report that our membership currently numbers 830 compared to 818 at the time of the 2022 AGM – 562 couples/households and 268 individuals. 97 new members have joined during the year. We have lost some members because, sadly, a number have died during the past year and others have moved away from the area. A small number have decided not to renew membership.

Kew Fair, the village market and Kew Horticultural Show and the well-attended lectures have been a good way to recruit new members, but we are always looking to recruit more, especially in the parts of Kew where we are not well-represented. At present, the majority live in a relatively small number of roads. We are exploring ways to increase our membership, and to streamline the application process. Younger members and families would be especially welcome.

We maintain regular communications with members in a variety of other ways including:

Nora Dennehy (Trustee Press & PR) continues to promote awareness of the work the Kew Society is doing through social media platforms, liaising with local news outlets and other local organisations. Our following on social media has continued to grow this year and is an important vehicle for promoting the society's work to a wider audience. We now have 1,113 followers on Instagram, 940 on Twitter/X and 959 on Facebook. A campaign to recruit more gardeners has been very successful and has resulted in a number of people joining our gardening team.

- The Kew Society newsletter (Claire Bethel, Trustee and Editor, assisted by Paul Bethel). We have produced quarterly newsletters which cover a variety of issues to inform our members about our own activities but also include articles of general interest. For example, we have included features on the successful launch of our Circular Walk in September last year; interviews with Jeff James, the CEO and Keeper of The National Archives and with the (then) Mayor, Councillor Julia Cambridge; articles on air quality and climate change, our local Neighbourhood Watch scheme, and a helpful series of articles on recycling. At members' suggestions, we started to issuing hard copies of the newsletter to all members who wanted one to make it more accessible and, to minimise the environmental impact of doing so, produced them on recycled paper. We also now hand deliver the majority of newsletters without envelopes.
- The Kew Society notes to members (Shiona Williams, Chair, assisted by Nick Hutchings, Webmaster): these have continued to inform members of items of interest locally.

A thank you to our Patrons

Throughout the year, we have valued the support and advice by our Patrons.

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Trustees have reviewed the Charity's need for reserves in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

Unrestricted funds are needed to provide funds which can be designated to specific projects to enable these projects to be undertaken and to cover administration and support costs without which the charity could not function. The Trustees consider it prudent that unrestricted reserves should be sufficient to cover a minimum of one year's administration and support costs and to ensure that sufficient funds are maintained to enable the Trustees to fund known future commitments. The level of reserves are monitored and reviewed by the Trustees on an annual basis.

Restricted funds equal to approximately two years' incoming resources have been set aside so as to be able to engage professional advice on planning matters in a timely manner.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The future plan of the Charity is to continue to maintain and enhance the area of Kew and the area immediately adjacent.

ASSET COVER FOR FUNDS

Note 11 sets out an analysis of the assets attributable to the various funds.

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The Charities Act 2011 requires the Trustees to prepare a statement of accounts for each financial year. Under The Charities Act 2011 the Trustees must not approve the statement of accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation for that period. In preparing the statement of account, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charitable Incorporated Organisation will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charitable Incorporated Organisation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation and enable them to ensure that the statement of accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 11 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

SA Williams
Trustee & Chair

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE
PREPARATION OF THE UNAUDITED STATUTORY FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS OF THE KEW SOCIETY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2023**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 July 2023.

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.

Claire Satow, Chartered Accountant
4 The Avenue
Richmond
Surrey
TW9 2AJ

September
2023

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating Income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2023

	Note	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
INCOME FROM					
Membership subscriptions and donations	2		6,824	6,824	7,073
Other income	3	300	3,082	3,382	5,044
TOTAL INCOME		300	9,906	10,206	12,117
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	4	-	10,003	10,003	11,428
Governance costs	5	-	-	-	250
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		-	10,003	10,003	11,678
NET INCOME BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		300	(97)	203	439
Transfers between funds		(300)	300	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		-	203	203	439
Total funds brought forward		15,000	17,645	32,645	32,206
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		15,000	17,848	32,848	32,645

The notes on pages 8 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 JULY 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	7	1,555	4,791
Stock of postage stamps		936	450
Cash at bank and in hand		31,285	29,505
		33,776	34,746
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	8	(720)	(1,911)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		33,056	32,835
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	9	(208)	(190)
NET ASSETS		32,848	32,645
CHARITY FUNDS			
Restricted funds	10	15,000	15,000
Unrestricted funds	10	17,848	17,645
TOTAL FUNDS		32,848	32,645

The Trustees consider that the charity is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") and members have not required the charity to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 11 September 2023 and signed on their behalf, by:

SA Williams
Trustee & Chair

The notes on pages 8 to 12 form part of these financial statements

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Kew Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

1.2 Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue, and so the going concern basis of accounting has been adopted.

1.3 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are available only for the purposes for which they have been created.

1.4 Income

Income from membership subscriptions and donations is included in the statement of financial activities when these are receivable, except as follows:

When members and donors specify that fees and donations given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods.

When donors impose conditions, which have to be fulfilled before the Trustees become entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the pre-conditions for use have been met.

All other incoming resources are included in the Statement of financial activities when the charity has entitlement to the funds, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure on charitable activities and governance costs are accounted for on an accruals basis.

1.6 Taxation

No provision for taxation is included in the accounts as the Charity is entitled to exemption from tax.

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.7 Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Membership subscriptions	-	6,362	6,362	6,368
Donations	-	462	462	705
Total	-	6,824	6,824	7,073

3. OTHER INCOME

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Gift Aid		1,409	1,409	1,379
Surplus on self funded events		1,321	1,321	923
Local Fund grant		-	-	2,677
Interest	300	352	652	65
Total	300	3,082	3,382	5,044

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2023

4. EXPENDITURE BY CHARITABLE ACTIVITY

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations		1,730	1,730	1,398
Memberships subscriptions		185	185	145
Printing and stationary		1,589	1,589	1,757
Society unfunded events		1,804	1,804	979
Gardening		891	891	1,501
Postage		976	976	932
Insurance		198	198	198
Website		146	146	120
Circular Walk		3,378	3,378	3,217
Bank charges		20	20	11
Sundry		86	86	170
Provision for renewal of Plaza Noticeboard		(1,000)	(1,000)	1,000
Total	-	10,003	10,003	11,428

5. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Fees of independent Examiner	-	-	-	250
Total	-	-	-	250

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration from the Charity during the year.

There were no employees during the year.

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2023

7. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gift Aid	1,408	1,379
Other debtors and prepayments	147	3,412
Total	<u>1,555</u>	<u>4,791</u>

8. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Subscriptions paid in advance	194	202
Other creditors	526	709
Provision for renewal of Plaza Noticeboard	-	1,000
Total	<u>720</u>	<u>1,911</u>

9. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Subscriptions paid in advance	<u>208</u>	<u>190</u>
Total	<u>208</u>	<u>190</u>

THE KEW SOCIETY
(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY 2023

10. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Brought forward	15,000	17,645	32,645	32,206
Surplus/(Loss) for the year	300	(97)	203	439
Transfer between funds	(300)	300	-	-
Carried forward	15,000	17,848	32,848	32,645

There were no movements on restricted funds during the year ended 31 July 2022.

11. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Current assets	15,000	18,776	33,776	34,746
Creditors due with one year	-	(720)	(720)	(1,911)
Creditors due after more than one year	-	(208)	(208)	(190)
Total	15,000	17,848	32,848	32,645