



The Kew Society Newsletter • Spring 2017

Welcome...

and what a Spring it has been, with unparalleled colours. So gardens first but do make sure to read right to the end where our Treasurer has important updates following our Extraordinary General Meeting in March.

Kew Gardens Station Planting



All the hard work put into the open areas at Kew Gardens Station by Kew Society members is now paying off. Since February when the hellebores on the eastbound platform came into flower, the open areas that were previously overgrown with grass and weeds have been transformed. Now it's the geraniums, rock roses, rosemary and catmint in the Mediterranean gravel garden on the westbound side that are in full bloom. The beds will be officially unveiled in July and featured in the next edition of London Transport's in house magazine.

We've received a lot of positive feedback about the project but the sunshine has brought out weeds as well as flowers. So we urgently need more volunteers

to help us with weeding and watering. If you would like to be involved please contact us at chair@kewsociety.org so that we can help keep the station as a worthy gateway to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Our thanks go to Bloomfield Executive Cars for letting us use their hose and water.

We have entered the Station planting project and nearby planting areas being looked after by Kew Society members, including the North Road Triangle garden at the corner of High Park Avenue and North Road for the **Richmond in Bloom Awards**. Judging will take place at the beginning of July.



Heathrow

Action to fight the expansion of Heathrow continues. The Richmond Heathrow Campaign (RHC) submitted comments to the Parliamentary Transport Select Committee looking at the Government's preferred solution for expansion of aviation capacity – Heathrow – in the Airports National Policy Statement now out for consultation. The RHC will respond to the Government on the Statement and other consultations in the coming weeks and months.

Peter Willan, Chair of the RHC, has devised a modelling tool which will enable the noise impact on local communities of new flight paths to be assessed.

The Campaign also responded to the consultation by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on the economic regulation of the new runway and capacity expansion at Heathrow.

There will be a further CAA consultation in June and a final report in November. The regulation aims to protect the interests of the current and future users of Heathrow (passengers and freight owners) from exploitation of the market dominance by Heathrow which would result from the proposed expansion, in so far as protection is not otherwise provided by competition and other laws. The CAA's intervention can be through restrictions, for example on charges, or through incentives and penalties. The consultation just closed was on the principles the CAA will apply to regulation.

The RHC is part of the newly formed No Third Runway coalition which brings together the resources of the various groups that have sprung up to fight Heathrow expansion.

Planning and Environment Update

We have continued to press for action by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on the move of the **North Road Surgery** to Emerald Gardens. Following a meeting with all parties (the developer, the District Valuer, the North Road practice, the CCG and Richmond Council), the developer and the District Valuer had further discussions on costs. A paper went to the Primary Care Commissioning Committee on Tuesday 25th April. Because of commercial sensitivities this went to the non-public part of the meeting. Frustratingly, the CCG is not now able to tell us more until after the General Election. The CCG have confirmed they will fund the revenue consequences of the move but funding the capital costs was still being pursued.

Richmond Council have told us of a new approach for spending the **Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy** paid by developers to the Council. Most will go on developments identified by the Council but a percentage will be set aside for suggestions by the local community. Schemes can be jointly funded with the community or solely funded by the Council. We expect bids to be invited twice a year. Although funds will be distributed borough wide, there will be a weighting towards Kew because of the large development at Emerald Gardens. We will be considering what bids to make to enhance Kew. Watch out for more news on bid invitations on Richmond Council's website.

The Council have been reviewing and updating their **Local Plan**. Once approved by the Secretary of State, it will be independently assessed by the Planning Inspectorate before final sign-off in 2018. The Plan is very important as it sets out a 15-year strategic vision as well as the policies against which all local planning applications are considered. The Plan identifies where the main developments will take place – the main large redevelopments in the pipeline for us are Kew Biothane

and Sainsbury's on Lower Richmond Road - and how places will change or be protected from change. We made a number of comments, focusing on the need for a clearer policy on basement development, an issue other local London Councils are looking at. We also raised the issue of basements with the Council's Scrutiny Panel. You can see the consultation, including a summary of our comments, at <http://bit.ly/2qt5p7d>

Many local residents attended a public meeting last year on the planning application submitted to Hounslow Council for **Chiswick Curve**, the 31 and 24 storey tower blocks at a site opposite B&Q on Chiswick roundabout. We objected to the application which would have dominated the skyline for miles around. Hounslow Council turned the application down but we continue to work with community groups across the river to oppose applications for high rise buildings which affect historic vistas and increase traffic congestion and air pollution.

We submitted our objections to the development which would replace the now empty low rise commercial building at **1-9 Sandycombe Road** with a mix of flats and commercial space. The Council turned down the application but the developer then appealed the decision and asked for a Public Inquiry. We spoke at the Appeal Inquiry and answered questions from the developer's barrister, making the case for a more appropriate development to fit with the low rise nature of the surrounding residential buildings. A final decision by the Appeal Inspector will be made soon.

The application for demolition of the historic **iron church** at 275 Sandycombe Road and creation of a community facility and 6 flats has been approved by Richmond Council's Planning Committee with a number of conditions. We had objected on grounds that the current building, listed locally as a Building of Townscape Merit, should only be demolished if the

community facilities were of a particularly high standard.

We have been working with local residents, and Richmond Council's planning department, planning enforcement team, licensing officers and environmental health department to require compliance with legal obligations for the redevelopment work undertaken by the owners of **Antipodea**

in Kew Village. We attended site visits with residents and the environmental health officer from Richmond Council. Planning permission has still not been granted.

We update our website regularly with all the latest news on planning which continues to be a very busy area for us. <http://kewsociety.org/planning/>

Events

Looking back

We shook off the cobwebs in January with a wonderful early morning tour of the Houses of Parliament, followed by an informal cuppa with Sarah Olney, MP. We hope to run a further tour of Parliament in the autumn.

Craig Ruddick, Arboriculture Manager for Richmond and Wandsworth Councils, provided his follow-up talk in February on 'Local Trees and Planting Plans' with a focus on the 'Tree of Heaven' (*Ailanthus altissima*). He offered general guidance, as well as responding to individual queries about tree planting, maintenance and diseases: see the website. Planting of new trees continues in Kew and people are encouraged to water them during dry spells.

The Kew Society February Social at Priory Park Tennis Club provided a fun evening with all the right ingredients for a party – paying bar, canapés, picture quiz and a chance to meet up with old friends and new neighbours. Thanks go to Caroline Blomfield, Jane Hogan and Sue May for providing some challenging photographs for the quiz!

In March, a full house watched an intriguing presentation by John Inglis and Jill Sanders on 'The Panorama of The Thames – A Riverside View of Georgian London', showing the changes which have taken place along the riverside from 1829 to the present day. Do look at the linked website <http://bit.ly/2qu14Ru> The book makes a wonderful "what can I get someone" present. The Kew Society contributed financially to the project which continues to document how much, and how little, the riverside has changed over the past two centuries. Kew is located where it is due to its royal connections, the river and close location to hunting grounds.

'Behind the Scenes' tours at The National Archives were fully booked in March and April, with another planned for 16th June.

Our presence at the April Kew Market "Charity Stall" provided an opportunity to engage with existing Members and inform prospective new members about the projects and events covered by The Kew Society. What we do is important to the local community and residents and it is a good opportunity to understand what matters to people.

Simon Inglis, author, historian and editor of the English Heritage series 'Played in Britain', gave a unique overview in early May on 'Putney to Kew – Charting the heritage of the world's most historic watercourse'.

Simon's publication 'Played in London' makes a fascinating read and a suitable gift for those who love sport, history and a good book.

Coming up

Friday **2nd June** – Tour of Kew Palace and Royal Kitchens, 6.30-8.30p.m.

Kew Palace, also known as The Dutch House, was built in 1631 for a Flemish merchant, Samuel Fortrey, and his wife, Catherine de Laffeur. Their initials remain carved over the entrance to Kew Palace. The house was leased by Queen Caroline and later bought by George III who spent happy summers at Kew Palace with his wife, Queen Charlotte, and their 15 children. It was an important refuge during his infamous episodes of 'madness'. After Queen Charlotte died in 1818, Kew Palace was closed up. It was acquired by RBG Kew 80 years later and opened to the public for the first time. The Royal Kitchens, next to the Palace, are preserved from the time of Queen Charlotte's death in 1818, giving an insight into Georgian culinary life and the servants who worked there. We will finish our tours by raising a glass to royal toasts, hosts and maybe ghosts!

Monday **5th June** – General Election Hustings, Duke St Church, Duke St., Richmond 7.30 p.m. A joint event with The Richmond Society and your chance to hear the local Parliamentary candidates' views and answers to questions.

Friday **16th June** – Another National Archives 'Behind the Scenes' tour. With advance notice, and agreement from the archivists, it should be possible to have particular items of interest on display on the day of your visit.

Saturday **17th June** – Kew Summer Fair. We look forward to meeting our friends and neighbours at The Kew Society stand. Come along and learn about our latest projects and upcoming events. This year, in line with national Civic Day and to celebrate our local area, see whether you can identify locations in Kew from the display of photographs on our stand.

Saturday **29th July** – Summer Social, Priory Park Tennis Club. Members are invited to our Summer Party, details shortly. Fingers crossed for a beautiful, sunny evening!

Sunday **13th August** – early morning (10am) tour of the London Wetland Centre with a Wetland Centre Guide (also a Kew Society member).

Events

Saturday **26 August** – Kew Horticultural Show. Again, come along to meet us at The Kew Society stand and have a go at our 'win nearly every time' cards competition!

In **September**, Paul Davies, Operations Director of The National Archives, has agreed to talk on the history of The National Archives building/land: 'Crown Lands in Kew – The Public Record Office and beyond'. Details to follow.

Wednesday **25th October** evening - The Kew Society AGM. Venue – The National Archives.

Wednesday **1st November** evening - The Royal Laundry talk by Lucinda Ganderton.

Monday **12th February 2018** - The Kew Society is co-hosting a talk (free to Kew Society or Richmond Local History Society members) at Duke Street Church. Val Bott – Brentford & Chiswick History Society – will talk about the Greenings of Brentford End, Isleworth, a family of nursery gardeners who held royal contracts in the 18th century, in London, Windsor, Hampton Court and Richmond.

The above is just a selection of Kew Society events linked to the Kew area. We hope they give you the chance to meet other local residents and Kew Society members, while learning more about where you live and enjoying yourself.

Update from the Treasurer

Following the Extraordinary General Meeting on 22nd March, we are now well on our way to completing our submission to the Charity Commission to support the registration of The Kew Society as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Currently our submission runs to just over 20 pages!

Fortunately, everyone is being very helpful and our Bankers (Barclays) tell us that the standing orders will transfer across, our insurers (Lockton) tell us that our insurance will transfer across and HMRC tell us that the Gift Aid declarations should transfer across.

Whilst everyone's membership will transfer across to the new entity, we will maintain the Unincorporated Association – the current entity – as a dormant entity for a short while, just in case. (HMRC have advised us to do this as well.)

With another tax year over, for those that have made Gift Aid Declarations in favour of the Kew Society, don't forget to take advantage of this when completing your tax return. I have written to a number of members where we have no declaration on file and to thank those who have completed new Declarations for us. For those members unable to complete a Declaration in the past but who are now able to, please ask me for our standard Declaration to complete.

For those of you reading this who are not members, many of our events are open to non-members but at a slightly higher admission fee. If you attend one of these events and join at the event, we would reduce the admission fee to the one for a member!

We have just renewed our insurance which covers us for all the activities that we undertake as a Society. We are now adopting best practice as advised by the Charity Commission and drawing up a series of "Risk Assessments" relating to specific activities, for example for our volunteer gardeners who have been given a list of "do's" and "don'ts" when gardening based on the assessment. We are subject to certain restrictions in respect of members aged over 80. As we do not maintain records of members' ages, could those over 80 please tell Caroline Brock or me: treasurer@kewsociety.org - many thanks.

Contact us

Your Committee

Chair	Caroline Brock	chair@kewsociety.org
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Hon. Secretary	Mary Done	secretary@kewsociety.org
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	Baroness Tonge of Kew	
	Sir David Durie KCMG	
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JOIN NOW by visiting our website:
www.kewsociety.org

Charity number: 296591

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