



The Kew Society Newsletter • Summer 2018

Welcome...

It's been a busy few months for Kew and for the Kew Society since our last newsletter with Kew much in the national and international news following the highly successful reopening of the stunning Temperate House in May and the reopening of the Pagoda in July. The Planning Team has been busy participating in the Chiswick Curve Inquiry but our current Chair, her successor, Professor Roger Mason and Richard Jaggard also found time to meet our three new Kew

Ward Councillors - Councillor J-F Burford, Councillor Lotte Campanale and Councillor Ian Craigie - and Councillor Richard Warren for North Richmond who, between them, cover Kew. The Kew Society is looking forward to working with them constructively as we did with their predecessors.

Restoration of the Pagoda

The Great Pagoda within the Royal Botanic Gardens has been beautifully restored to its former glory. The meticulous work has been overseen by the Historic Royal Palaces with Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. The total project cost £5.5m.

The eight new dragons on the ground level are carved from African Cedar wood, with dragons higher up incorporating 3D printing techniques. The Kew Society sponsored one of the flight of 80 dragons, one of the original features of the Pagoda. Our dragon is on level 5, position 6 and, appropriately we think given our concerns for the heritage of Kew, faces the historic King's Observatory.

The Great Pagoda was designed by Sir William Chambers and completed in 1762 for Princess Augusta, the founder of the gardens. The 163ft tall building is believed to have been Princess Augusta's project paid for from her privy purse. It offered one of the earliest and finest bird's eye views of London.

Inside, a new exhibition reveals why the Great Pagoda was built and how the Royal Family used this largest and most ambitious folly as part of a 'royal circuit' of sixteen structures displaying architectural styles from around the world.

Between 13th July and 30th September, you can climb 253 steps to the top of the Great Pagoda to get spectacular views across Kew Gardens and London.



Richmond in Bloom

The Kew Society entered the Best Village in Bloom in the Richmond in Bloom competition following our success last year when we won the Schooling Cup for Best Village and a Silver Gilt award. Although we cannot win the cup twice in a row, we are hoping that this year, we might win a Gold Award. Taking on board the feedback we received last year, we extended our entry beyond the station area to include the Kew Gardener shop front, the Neighbourhood Cafe Yukari on Kew Plaza, the 'Pocket Park' at the National Archives, and Kew Green, particularly the Kew Cricket Club and Kew Pond.



The judges viewed our entry in July shown round by our Chair, Caroline Brock. We are grateful to the Shoe Station for their flower-laden tricycle and to Canopy for their floral window display. The judges viewed the flower beds on Kew Station, with the Mediterranean bed looking particularly good, the extension since last year along the sloping bank facing North Road, and our latest planting on the Plaza. The judges then met two of our volunteers, John and Daphne Turner, who have worked so hard to improve the High Park Rise Garden.

They then walked to the National Archives where the judges were shown what has been done in the 'Pocket Park', including the ecological and environmental role of the park and water features. The final stop was Kew Green where the judges were shown the management by volunteers of the historic Kew Pond and the Kew Cricket Club, adorned with new hanging baskets.

Our thanks go to all our volunteers who help with the gardening, Chris and Chris Motors for continuing to let us use their water supply, the Kew Gardener's card shop on Kew Plaza for their water, and all who contributed to this year's entry. The results will be announced at an event on 25th September. More volunteers are always welcome.

Heathrow

Parliament voted for the Government's National Policy Statement on Heathrow despite all the evidence that a third runway at Heathrow is a costly mistake. The evidence is on the Richmond Heathrow Campaign (RHC) website: <http://www.richmondheathrowcampaign.org/>.

We will continue the fight against expansion and for a night time flights ban, no increase in flights in the "shoulder periods", no loss of respite, no increase in noise for those already exposed, a

cap on flight numbers and passengers, adequate compensation for communities, and no increase in noise and other pollutants affecting the Royal Botanic Gardens. We will continue to campaign for noise limits to be placed on a legal footing, based on World Health Organisation standards.

Planning and Environment Update

Major planning activity continues on sites in Brentford running from Kew Bridge Station up to Chiswick roundabout. The most prominent of these is the Chiswick Curve, the 32 storey, 120 metre tower block proposed for a 0.28 hectare site on Chiswick Roundabout. This scheme, whose rejection last year by London Borough of Hounslow (LBH) was appealed by the developer, is the subject of a public inquiry which commenced on 12th June. Martin Taylor gave evidence for the Kew Society with a rigorous analysis prepared by Roger Mason of pollution levels in the area, currently already above legal limits, which can only get worse with the proposed scheme. All objecting parties agreed that a building of this scale, mass and design was totally inappropriate for this site and would cause substantial harm to the setting of local heritage assets, including Kew Gardens and Kew Green. Closing submissions were on 6th July and a decision by the Secretary of State is expected later in the year.

The Citroen site scheme for five tall towers just to the north of the Brentford Leisure Centre, turned down by LBH and objected to by the Kew Society, was called in by the Mayor of London, who has scheduled a hearing on 20th July when we will speak against the scheme. The developer has submitted some revised proposals, including increasing the height of one of the storeys by 2 floors.

Some amendments increasing the number of flats have been proposed for the Brentford Football Stadium scheme but these fail to address the objections originally raised by the Kew Society, on grounds of the adverse impact of the numerous tower blocks on nearby heritage assets, and their significant traffic and pollution consequences.

These are common themes across the Brentford schemes, which we have criticised: the absence of an integrated plan to consider the consequences of all the proposed developments on an aggregate basis.

South of the river, proposals for a 20m antenna in North Road have met with objections from local residents on grounds of size and health impact. Local mobile phone coverage does need improvement and, whilst we have objected to this location, we have offered to meet with Richmond Council to discuss alternatives.

Lastly, the Richmond Local Plan was approved on 3rd July.

Events

As always, the Kew Society Events team wants to say thank you to everyone supporting our events these are fun and informative, offering an opportunity to meet neighbours and new residents, and learn more about the local area. Recent events include:

A film and talk by the Friends of Richmond Park, 'Richmond Park - National Nature Reserve'. We are delighted that this charming film, narrated by Sir David Attenborough, won the best 'Longform' film in the 2018 Charity Film Awards beating 84 competitors.

A guided tour in May of Kew Palace and the Royal Kitchens. It was wonderful to get a better understanding of the family life of George III and Queen Charlotte who loved Kew.

We hosted a well-attended, lively Hustings prior to the local Council elections.

A fascinating House and Garden Tour of Chiswick House followed in June - our guides were excellent and we had a marvellous, relaxing day out.

Kew's super hot Summer Fair took place in June - it was a pleasure to welcome existing and potential new members, chat about the current and future activities of the Kew Society and encourage punters to our "you can't lose" card game. The lure of sticky sweets and oranges continues to be a huge draw for all ages.

Coming up:

Sunday 12th August afternoon - two timed tours of Turner's House in Twickenham.

Saturday 8th September morning - a guided tour of Westminster Abbey plus a chance to visit the recently opened Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries.

Monday 22nd October evening - AGM including a talk by Paul Davies, Operations Director, the National Archives "The Changing Face of Kew". This will also be a chance to thank our outgoing Chair, Caroline Brock, and welcome Roger Mason who is standing for election as the new Chair.

Members of the Kew Society enjoying a tour of Chiswick House and Gardens



St Anne's Church, Kew Green

Continuing our series of articles on places of local interest, local historian and member of The Kew Society, John Moses, gives us the history of the beautiful St Anne's Church on Kew Green.



St. Anne's Church - 1760

2014 marked the Tercentenary of the consecration of St. Anne's and this is celebrated by a font designed by a local artist, Sue Mason, at the entrance. In 1710, local residents had petitioned Queen Anne for permission to build a chapel-of-ease, as Kew was within the royal manor of Richmond. The Queen not only consented, but also gave £100 towards the overall cost of £500. The chapel, which was within the parish of Kingston, was consecrated in 1714 and it was only in 1788 that Kew became a separate parish. The chapel was so small that it could easily fit inside the present church, but was enlarged in stages. In 1770, Joshua Kirby extended the north and south aisles. Then in 1805, Robert Browne put in a gallery at the west end of the church for the royal family, as George III and his family had regularly been using Kew as a country

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retreat. In 1722, Thomas Hardwick put in two galleries where the chancel is now.

Fifteen years later, William IV paid for the new west front and also for an additional bay on the west of the church, instructing the royal architect, Sir Jeffrey Wyattville to carry out the work. In 1850 the Duke of Cambridge, youngest son of George III, died and a mausoleum was built for his coffin, but in 1930 Queen Mary ordered his coffin to be re-interred in the royal mausoleum at Windsor. The last major change was in 1884 to meet the growing population in Kew. The Church Wardens asked the architect Henry Stock to carry out the work and he extended the church eastwards by a further bay and also added a chancel, removing the galleries installed by Hardwick. In 1979, the new Parish Rooms were built.

St. Anne's is famous for its pew covers. In 1962, George and Kathleen Cassidy set up a Tapestry guild in Kew for the purpose of creating covers for the pew cushions and from 1969 another resident, Margery Charles, ran the guild and saw it through to completion. There are a number of plaques on the walls as memorials to the many illustrious parishioners including the Engleheart family, Lady Capel and the first two directors of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sir William Hooker and his son, Sir Joseph Hooker. Five distinguished artists, Thomas Gainsborough, Jeremiah Meyer, Joshua Kirby, Zoffany and Francis Bauer, are buried in the churchyard. Sir William and Joseph Hooker are also buried here, on the east side.



St Anne's Church - Present

Contact us

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