

## The Kew Society Newsletter • Summer 2019

### Welcome...

to all of you including all our new members in what is turning out to be a beautiful summer in Kew. It was lovely to see so many people enjoying the Kew Midsummer Fete in June and on such a perfect day – many stopped at our stand to learn about the range of activities we are involved in. Our newsletter shows how busy we have been on many fronts – revitalising the War Memorial on the Green, responding actively to the Heathrow consultation, participating in and chairing the Community Conversation and, last but by no means least, arranging a variety of interesting events. Do come along to the talks on the impact of development in Kew, and on the Heathrow consultation on 22nd and 23rd July respectively to find out more and to have your say.

### A Makeover for the Kew Green War Memorial

The Kew Society's gardening team has been giving the War Memorial on Kew Green a much-needed makeover. The monument, which commemorates the men from Kew who lost their lives fighting in two World Wars, had become overgrown.

Thanks to the hard work of The Kew Society volunteers, the euonymus in the border at the base of the War Memorial has been replaced with lavenders and alliums. Working with Richmond Council and Continental Landscapes, wildflower borders have been planted next to the memorial, with native English wildflowers including the commemorative red poppy.

The garden has been designed to provide an area of contemplative beauty to honour those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

If you would like to join our team of volunteer gardeners please contact [secretary@kewsociety.org](mailto:secretary@kewsociety.org). We'd like to thank Richard Jaggard for all he has done as our Head Gardener over the last year – he is leaving Kew temporarily to complete his BA degree in German literature by studying at the University of Munich for a year. Caroline Brock, our former Chair, has kindly agreed to take over at the helm for the year so watch out for her around the village.



# Heathrow's Masterplan

Heathrow airport has published its "preferred masterplan" for a third runway and launched a 12-week consultation on its proposals.

Heathrow wants the new runway to be built by 2025 and its expansion completed by 2050. In order to achieve these aims, rivers will have to be diverted, roads moved and the M25 re-routed through a tunnel under the new runway. The Richmond Heathrow Campaign (RHC), which is made up of The Kew Society, the Richmond Society and Friends of Richmond Green, is opposed to the expansion because of the impact it will have on local residents and the country as a whole.

The RHC has recently submitted its response to the Government's Aviation Strategy highlighting a number of concerns:

- The RHC believes that the planned expansion is unnecessary because there is sufficient runway capacity at Heathrow and other UK airports to cope with demand until 2050.



## Public Meeting

### HEATHROW EXPANSION & THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Tuesday 23rd July at 7.30pm

Duke Street Church, Duke Street, Richmond, TW9 1DH

- Many of the extra flights will be international transfers and will therefore provide limited benefit to UK businesses.
- The expansion will take away flights from regional airports and increase the North-South economic imbalance.
- The RHC is concerned about Heathrow's intention to concentrate the additional noise from expansion over residents already affected instead of dispersing it over a wider area.
- A third runway will mean that those living in the Richmond area will see their respite period (currently eight hours) halved. The RHC is calling for the respite periods to be retained.
- Air pollution is already high in areas neighbouring the airport. The RHC believes that the additional flights and increased traffic as a result of expansion will lead to deterioration of air quality and be detrimental to human health.
- The RHC has questioned whether expansion at Heathrow is compatible with the targets the Government has set for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The RHC is preparing its response to the "Masterplan" but you can make your views known either by responding online at [aec.heathrowconsultation.com](http://aec.heathrowconsultation.com), by email or post, or by attending one of the consultation events. There will be a consultation event at Richmond Adult Community College on 28th August from 2-8pm. The consultation period runs until 13th September.

# Environment – towpath clearance

An enthusiastic group of our members turned up on a cold and windy morning in April to help clear the towpath between Kew and Chiswick Bridges. Ignoring the force of Storm Hannah, we made a small contribution to opening up the wonderful river views, removing vegetation such as sycamore seedlings and the small amounts of litter we came across. Much work is undertaken to open up lost historic views and to improve our stretch of the river. A special thanks goes to Rebecca Law from the Thames Landscape Strategy.

*A motley crew - just some of the members who turned up to clear the Towpath in April*



# Planning:

The Kew Society's stall at the Kew Fete on 22 June featured information and views of planning matters and the cumulative impact on traffic and pressure on schools and surgeries that developments on the north side of the River Thames and in areas surrounding Kew would have.

Developments in the planning pipeline include Brentford Stadium enabling works whose lift shafts are now rising, highly visible from Kew Bridge and looking north from the houses and other buildings on Kew Green; the proposal to replace the Watermans Art Centre with a 7 storey block of flats overlooking Kew Palace; the Citroen site behind the Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre; the 1-4 Capital Interchange Way site, and the Chiswick Curve. The Watermans Art Centre, Citroen site and the Chiswick Curve plans have been called in by the Secretary of State and there are to be public inquiries early next year for the Watermans and Citroen sites. Members will recall the

## Caring for Kew - the impact of Development.

### FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR WORK ON PLANNING

Monday 22nd July at 6.15pm

**Kew Community Centre, St Luke's in the Avenue.**

**Speakers: Peter Eversden, Chairman of the London Forum.**

**From The Kew Society's planning committee, John Ricketts will speak on matters north of the river and Alice Shackleton on south of the river.**

prominent role the Society took in the public inquiry on the Chiswick Curve (decision awaited from the Secretary of State).

South of the River, several major developments are being considered which will impact on Kew, including an application for flats for older people with care facilities at the Biothane site which encroaches on Metropolitan Open Land. This is still being assessed by planning officials. The Homebase Manor Road development of 4-9 storey blocks of flats was recommended for refusal by the Council on 3 July and must now be referred to the Mayor of London who can decide to allow the Council decision to stand or can take over the application and decide himself. The Mayor's

planning team has already written to approve the application, acknowledging that it is more appropriate for an urban setting. The Kew Society responded to all these planning applications, opposing various proposals by the developers.

# Events

The Kew Society Events 2019 are coming thick and fast. These provide great opportunities to chat, meet new neighbours, friends and residents, and crank up your local knowledge about Kew, its village and riverside.

Events in the past few months included:

- A dynamic double-act with Jack Andrews and Sophie Jones presenting 'Marianne North – A World in One Room'. This included readings from Marianne's diary about her life, experiences and travels.
- A fascinating presentation by Edward Mayer of the Swift Conservation Society about 'The Swift – A Bird You Can Help'.
- Stands at the May Kew Market and the Kew Midsummer Fete provided great opportunities to meet existing and prospective members and tell them about the latest Kew Society projects and events.
- Tours of the Queen's Garden behind Kew Palace.
- A boat trip from Richmond to Hampton Court with Jason Debney, Co-ordinator, the Thames Landscape Strategy, providing additional commentary about their work and planting linked to the river route.

We have some great events coming up. Watch for details on The Kew Society website. Please do come along and support us.



*Some of our members enjoying our riverboat trip to Hampton Court*

# The Kew Society – our team:

In our last edition, we informed our readers about the trustees who sit on the Committee. We thought you would like to know about the other members of the Committee and the people who do so much for the Kew Society.....



- Sue May and Jane Hogan, in conjunction with Mary Done, run the Events Team – coming up with ideas for a wide range of events for members to enjoy, helping to organise ticketing, venues, tours, guides, catering.....the list is endless,

and their help is invaluable. Sue served on The Kew Society Committee for several years. Many of you will know Jane as a well-loved teacher from The Queen's School. Both have lived in Kew for many years.



- Stephen Speak was co-opted to the committee in October after six years serving as a councillor for North Richmond and having held Council Cabinet responsibility for Transport; Community Safety; and Finance. The Kew Society nominated him to the London Forum (the representative body for London's civic societies) and he was subsequently elected Treasurer. Stephen moved to



Kew over 30 years ago and previously served as The Kew Society's Treasurer from 1997-2003 and also as our very first webmaster!

- Nick Hutchings has sat on the Committee and been The Kew Society's webmaster for four years having lived in Kew for 44 years. His whole career has been spent working in and around IT – his first job was with IBM in Gunnersbury.



- Gillian Risso-Gill joined the Planning team on the Committee in October 2018, having moved to Kew in 2017 from West Hampstead where she was a councillor on Camden Council for 4 years. Gillian worked as an HR consultant for many years and has two adult children.



- Michael Fletcher is a retired Solicitor and has lived in Kew since buying his first flat in Branstone Road in 1968, and has been in Marksbury Avenue for the last 11 years. Born in Lancashire, fell walking in Cumbria has been a lifelong pastime. He has been our trusty Membership Secretary for the last 3 years. He and his wife, Clarissa, recently opened their beautiful garden as part of the National Open Gardens Scheme. He is actively involved in, and is one of the founders of, the Friends of North Sheen Rec.

## Contact us

### Your Committee

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### Patrons:

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**JOIN NOW by visiting our website:**  
[www.kewsociety.org](http://www.kewsociety.org)

Charity number: 1173016

**You can write to us at:**

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