

On Kew

Thames 21

We were pleased to welcome Alice Hall, Programmes Co-ordinator from Thames 21 to open our September committee meeting. Along with some of our membership, we learned that this group arose out of a commitment by a number of volunteers to clean up the foreshore of the Thames. As a registered charity, they have now linked up with Defra to survey the wishes and concerns that people have in respect of the Tidal Thames.

Questions following the presentation enabled the local issue of filling Kew Pond to be raised. This is a practice that has been carried out by a group of volunteers for many years and is now once again under question by the authorities.

AGM

The details of our forthcoming AGM meeting are currently being circulated separately. At present, we are particularly seeking candidates for the positions of both Chair and Vice-Chair of the Society ideally for appointment at the AGM.

These are both interesting and varied posts that provide the incumbents with the opportunity to fully engage with a wide variety of issues that impact the Kew area. As representatives of the Society's membership, they will both be asked for and be able to communicate our views on such diverse areas as potential building developments, local heritage initiatives and environmental issues.

Please send nominations to the Kew Society, 32 Alexandra Road, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2BS

Goodbye – and hello

We say "Goodbye" to Stephen Hopper Director the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew as he leaves for pastures new. We wish him well for the future and thank him for continuing the good relations between the Gardens and the Society during his tenure.

We welcome Richard Deverell as he moves into the post and look forward to working with him in the future.

North West London area hospitals review

We draw members' attention to the consultation that is presently taking place in respect of healthcare provision in the North West London area. 'Shaping a healthier future' is a programme with the aim of improving NHS services for the two million people who live in North West London. As the plans encompass options for the future of the West Middlesex, Charing Cross and Hammersmith hospitals amongst others, you are encouraged to find out

more at www.healthiernorthwestlondon.nhs.uk and consultation@nw.london.nhs.uk ; by calling 0800 881 5209 (freephone); or writing to: FREEPOST SHAPING A HEALTHIER FUTURE CONSULTATION (This must be written in capital letters and on one line. You will not need a stamp.)

Kew Society Planning Policy

Continuing our commitment to strengthen the planning aspect of the Society's work, please find following a draft expression of the Society's updated planning policy. Your comments to planning@kewsociety.org or to the Kew Society, 32 Alexandra Road, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2BS are invited.

Draft revised Planning Policy

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.

The Society carries out these aims by:

- monitoring planning applications that affect Kew, submitting comments as appropriate
- giving evidence during the planning approval process on major developments
- engaging with the London Borough of Richmond Council in the development and implementation of its plans for the area
- commenting on national and local government planning policies.

We aim to take a pro-active approach to planning for the area, engaging constructively with the London Borough of Richmond and other bodies responsible for preservation and development in the area or which affect the area, including Councils adjacent to the Kew ward and the British Airports Authority (BAA).

Planning applications

The main focus of the Society is on major new development sites and buildings of historic/architectural interest. We aim to ensure that developments preserve and enhance the beauty of the area, including architectural designs in keeping with or enhancing the style of neighbouring buildings, attention to green landscaping and sustainability. We take account of Council policies in their Development Management Plans when we make comments on proposed developments.

We look closely at any developments which involve change or intensification of use, loss of public amenities,

loss of green space, loss of garage or off-street parking space, intensification of traffic volumes and any noise impacts. In most cases we do not comment on individual household planning applications unless they have an impact in one or more of these areas.

If we do not comment on a specific planning application, this cannot be taken as a positive endorsement of the plans.

We work constructively with the Council to encourage developments that meet the needs of the community as a whole and maintain the special character of Kew, including its historic legacy of buildings and green spaces and attention to details of the street scene such as signage on retail outlets, street furniture (street lighting, bollards etc.), location and design of facilities (telecommunications, recycling and refuse etc.).

Development Plans

We work with our members to develop a vision for the future of Kew, identifying locations that might be appropriate for redevelopment or improvement. We work with the London Borough of Richmond and others to influence development strategies and plans in accordance with this vision.

Planning policies

We consider and where appropriate respond to public consultations from national and local government on their planning policies which may affect Kew. In making comments we are guided by the policies set out in the London Borough of Richmond's Core Strategy adopted in April 2009 and its more detailed Development Management Plan adopted in November 2011 which covers a sustainable future, protecting local character, meeting people's needs, and detailed generic policies on for example, design quality. Both documents are available at www.richmond.gov.uk.

Heathrow update

As many of you will be aware, Britain's approach to airport provision is presently under general review. Nevertheless, the second trial period of landing aircraft on both runways at Heathrow at the same time continues. We draw your attention to the BAA website that lists the quiet periods scheduled for Kew and ask that you register any plane noise disturbance at these times by calling 0800 344844. Please note that you may call as many times as you like.

Management of Parks

David Allister, Head of Parks and Open Spaces at Richmond Council, hosted a meeting in September for community groups to discuss the Council's proposal to offer the management of sites to the community. At the meeting, he explained how any community group could tender for the management of the space they were connected to. The meeting raised as many questions as it provided answers, but there were a number of groups that showed an interest. These were typically friends groups attached to a particular space. We have a number of such groups in Kew and we suggest these groups contact David Allister at the Council to explore this further. The timetable is quite tight, so do move quickly.

Old Deer Park Report

We reported in our Spring issue that the Kew Society has taken part in the formation of a working group to raise

awareness of the number of leases that are to shortly expire in the Old Deer Park area. With fellow members such as the Friends of Old Deer Park, the Richmond Society and the Friends of Richmond Green a proposed framework for future conservation and enhancement has now been published and is due for presentation to the Crown Estate and Council officers.

Gillian Horne Kew Society webmaster

We are sad to report the untimely passing of our webmaster, Gillian Horne, after a bravely-fought battle with cancer.

Gillian joined the committee in 2008 and quickly became an active and vibrant member. Her unquestionable IT skills have transformed the Society's website over the years and thanks to her characteristic enquiring nature, our e-communication continued to evolve on her watch.

Gillian will be sadly missed by us and many others whose lives she touched.

Events

Summer brought both its variable weather and a series of enjoyable local events. The Society took part in both the Kew Fete and the Kew Horticultural Fair. We distributed information, advice and probably more lollipops than most dentists would approve of! Our guided tour of Strawberry Hill House is to take place shortly, closely followed by our AGM.

We also draw your attention to the forthcoming Richmond Society Heathrow Forum Meeting on Thursday, 20th September that will be held at 7.45pm at the Vestry Hall, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond (Next to the multistorey car park) Coffee will be served from 7.30pm and entrance is £1

Contact us

We are presently seeking some support for the maintenance and updating of our website. If you, or someone you know, would be able to spare some time to assist with this important task please contact the committee as below.

Your Committee

Chairman	Michael Glazebrook	chair@kewsociety.org
Hon. Secretary	Mary Done	secretary@kewsociety.org
Hon Treasurer	Juliet Thompson	treasurer@kewsociety.org
Planning	Giles Dixon Caroline Brock Martin Taylor	planning@kewsociety.org
Environment	Simon Owens	environment@kewsociety.org
Membership	Sue May	membership@kewsociety.org
Website	Sue May	webmaster@kewsociety.org
Events	Teresa Hartley	
Additional members	Rob Sheldon Sally Sutton	
Patrons	David Blomfield MBE Sir Donald Insall CBE Baroness Tonge of Kew	

JOIN NOW by visiting our website

You can write to us at:

The Kew Society, 25 Chelwood Gardens, Kew, TW9 4JG