

On Kew

Here comes Summer!

With the days lengthening and hopefully continuing to remain warm and sunny, the Kew Society looks forward to supporting the second Kew Music Festival.

Last year, Clare Warren and Catherine Bromley mounted an ambitious project – to bring a variety of music to a range of venues in and around Kew. The first Kew Music Festival was a tremendous success and the Kew Society were proud to sponsor their final concert that was held in St. Anne's church. The audience were treated to a varied programme from the multi-award-winning Kew Wind Orchestra and were also able to enjoy a warm Summer evening on Kew Green during the interval!

This June, we are delighted to continue our link with this welcome local event. The programme has expanded and we are sure that there will be something to suit everyone. A series of Jazz and classical music concerts will be performed and will range from chamber music being brought to life in the drawing room of a Georgian house through to full orchestras playing in some of Kew's distinctive churches. This year, the Kew Society is helping to open the Festival by particularly supporting the first Concert of the series at St. Anne's Church on Friday 17th June. The Concert features the Kew Wind Orchestra, whose programme will include Symphonic Dances from "West Side Story" and Prokofiev's "Romeo and Juliet". **Kew Society members are being offered a discount of £2 per ticket for this concert. Please mention your membership at the time of booking if booking by telephone, or use the concessionary rate if booking on their website.** The Festival is a marvellous addition to the local events calendar and we wish it every success.

We are also delighted to continue our support of the Kew Midsummer Fete that will return to Kew Green in June. Last Summer saw the reinvention of the Fete that has run on Kew Green for many years. The Fete returned to its roots with local people running stalls and local groups providing the entertainment. The Kew Society ran a stall and whether it was the attraction of the tiddlywinks or the lure of the planned Boat Trip, we had a constant stream of interested visitors. This year, we are looking to build on last year's success – please do drop by at our stall on Saturday, 18th June.

Planning update

An application to redevelop the **Inland Revenue site on Ruskin Avenue** with two 5-storey and four 4-storey buildings comprising 97 self-contained flats, plus a 4,645 sq. m care home and 1400 sq.m of commercial use is under review by the Council and is likely to go to the Planning Committee soon.

2 West Park Avenue has a large house and garden and there is an application to redevelop the property with two imposing modern 5 bedroom houses. We are supporting local residents and councillors in resisting this application which is a particularly unfortunate example of garden creep.

275 Sandycombe Road (Tin Building) 11/0609/ful. Another submission has been made for 8 one bedroom flats over a recreation centre, to which we have objected. A decision was due on 20.04.11, but has not been made yet, as the planning officer has been away.

267 Sandycombe Road Car Garage Site 10/3583/ful. An application for B1 space and 5 flats was validated on 08.12.10, to which we objected. A decision is awaited and due soon.

South Avenue. An outline application for a mixed use commercial and residential scheme was validated on 31.08.10, to which we objected. We understand that this application has now been withdrawn.

Just over the river in Brentford, St George has applied for consent to extend the **Kew Bridge** site that is under construction. They want to knock down the **Thameside Centre** which is used for offices and redevelop as flats with some multi-storey buildings close to the riverside –in conflict with the Thames Landscape Strategy which was designed to protect this stretch of the river. The overall development would have 313 flats plus shops and a pub – with only 12 visitor parking spaces for a population of over 600 and Kew Green as the nearest open space. We have serious reservations about this scheme and have objected, as have other local groups and Kew Gardens. To lodge an objection, visit the Hounslow Council website: http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/index/environment_and_planning/planning.htm The application number is 00657/P/P16

Kew Gardens Licence

The Licensing Committee met on 6th April and approved the new licence application, with conditions which can be summarised as follows: maximum 12 large events per year (more than 1,000 attendees), of which six at 8,000 and six at 6,000. Six to be on consecutive days. Traffic management plan to be revised and subject to approval of all relevant authorities. Unlimited private events, max 1,000. Indoor private events to finish by 12 midnight. Outdoor private events and all large events to finish by 10.30 pm. Given the strength of objection, we were surprised that event capacity is more than doubled. We ask members to keep a close eye on this year's concerts in July, which will have an increased capacity of 8,000 and a new traffic management plan in place. If you have any cause for complaint, make sure you contact the following;

- Kew Gardens on the night at 020 8332 5603
- The Council at licensing@richmond.gov.uk
- The local police at kew.snt@met.police.uk or 020 8721 2930 or 07879 433392
- Environmental Health (re noise) on 020 8891 7994 or 07944 038495

Please copy us in at chair@kewsociety.org so we can keep a record.

Free wine (well almost!)

We are pleased to be continuing our referral scheme in conjunction with the Good Wine Shop! For every new member that you introduce in 2011, who subscribes by Standing Order – we will give you a £5 wine voucher that is redeemable at the Good Wine Shop in Kew. To take up this offer, please make sure that your name is included on their application form, which can be downloaded from our website. Alternatively, please contact Sue May, our Membership Secretary, at 60a Leyborne Park, Kew TW9 3HA for hard-copy application forms.

Sue has also prepared a new leaflet about the Society as part of our campaign to boost our membership numbers. We are currently distributing these road by road to people who may not be aware of the Society and what we do. If you could spare some time to assist with this delivery, perhaps to your road or a road near you, please contact Sue at membership@kewsociety.org or again at 60a Leyborne Park as above.

Richmond Borough “All in One” Meetings

We have been contacted by Elinor Ridgeway from Richmond Council, who is keen to inform residents about a series of “All in One” meetings which are to be held around the borough in the coming weeks. These meetings follow the borough wide survey which happened last year. The meetings present the results and allow you to make suggestions about how our borough can be improved. The Kew meeting is on 11 June, as we have already noted in our “Events in Kew” calendar on our website..

Elinor writes:

[All in One – have your say about your local area](#)

Last year, over 13,500 local people took the opportunity to have their say about their local areas through the survey run by Richmond Council. That represents 17% of households spread evenly across the borough.

First results from the survey, show that 92 per cent of local people have said they were happy with their local area – however they did highlight a number of areas that need improving.

We have now fully analysed all the results and are beginning to understand what people want for their local area and villages. To help with the next stage, the Council has organised a series of local area planning events across the borough over the next few months where people will be able to get together to decide what they want for their local area.

If you would like to have your say about the area where you live, please come along to your nearest event.

For more information and to see the schedule of events, go to: http://www.richmond.gov.uk/all_in_one

The attached leaflet also gives some information about these meetings.

http://www.kewsociety.org/sites/kewsociety.org/files/all_in_one_a5_leaflet_villages_kew_aw.pdf

Ham Polo

We have some places remaining for our forthcoming evening event on Tuesday 5th July at the Ham Polo Club, the last surviving London Polo club, just 8 miles from Hyde Park Corner. There will be an explanation of the play, canapés and wine, and matches to watch. If you would be interested in attending, please see full details either on our website or on the enclosed flyer.

National Trust and English Heritage – free day passes

You may be aware that the Kew Society is a member of Civic Voice. This is the national charity for the civic movement in England. As a member, we are pleased to let you know about two valuable benefits that our membership in turn can enjoy.

A free National Trust day pass is available to our members and is obtainable by using the following link www.civicvoice.org.uk/nationaltrustcivicvoiceoffer. In the event that you are already a National Trust member, this pass can be given to a friend or relative.

A free English Heritage day pass is also available to our members and is obtainable by using the following link <http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/englishheritagepassoffer>. This pass is not transferable.

As an alternative, either or both passes can be obtained by request with a stamped addressed envelope sent to Civic Voice, Unit 101, 82 Wood Street, The Tea Factory, Liverpool L1 4DQ.

Late news.....

St James Group Ltd are currently presenting proposals for the development of part of the former Thames Water site on Kew Bridge Road, adjacent to the Kew Bridge Steam Museum. They are advising that they will also be seeking to help secure the sustainable future operation of the Kew Bridge Steam Museum as part of their plans. We will be reviewing this information

We will be running a stall in the forthcoming Kew Horticultural Summer Show on Saturday, 27th August. Do come along and support this enjoyable local event – we look forward to seeing you there

Contact Us

We do welcome your comments and your involvement.

We are still seeking an Honorary Secretary and would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in taking on this role.

Your Committee

Chairman	Michael Glazebrook	chair@kewsociety.org
Vice Chairman	Barney Smith	
Hon Treasurer	Juliet Thompson	treasurer@kewsociety.org
Planning	Giles Dixon and Ben Knight	planning@kewsociety.org
Environment	Simon Owens	environment@kewsociety.org
Membership	Sue May	membership@kewsociety.org
Website	Gillian Horne	webmaster@kewsociety.org
Events	Sally Sutton	secretary@kewsociety.org
Other members	Rob Sheldon, Ulrike Bulle	
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