

# On Kew

## Richmond Park – but not as you know it

Our AGM was held this year in the Barn Church. Our outgoing Chairman, Michael Glazebrook, led us through the Agenda and Juliet Thompson, Treasurer presented the accounts. If you were unable to attend the meeting and wish to receive a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts, please either visit our website [www.kewsociety.org](http://www.kewsociety.org) or write to us at the Kew Society, 32 Alexandra Road, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2BS.

The committee are seeing some changes this year with the appointments of Caroline Brock, Teresa Hartley and Martin Taylor and the departures, in addition to Michael Glazebrook, of Simon Owen, Rob Sheldon, and Sally Sutton. Michael has completed the maximum six-year term under our constitution as Chairman and it was formally noted how his unflinching enthusiasm and professional expertise has raised the profile of the Society in a number of key areas. Our thanks go to Michael, Simon, Rob and Sally for their much-appreciated contribution to the running of the Society. Our webmaster, Gillian Horne, was also remembered. As an interim measure, Giles Dixon and Juliet Thompson have now jointly assumed responsibility as co-Chairs.

After the AGM, members and their guests received a talk from Max Lankester on the history, natural beauty and future of Richmond Park. Many of us feel a great familiarity with the Park, whether it's driving through and looking at the deer or walking around such well-known spots as Pen Ponds and Isabella Plantation. However, it was most interesting to learn that but for such events as King Charles II erecting a wall we might not have the Royal Park to enjoy that we have today. Max also talked about the wide variety of flora and fauna to be found in the Park – the deer are the tip of the iceberg! The talk ended with how the Park undoubtedly has an illustrious past and with the able support of the Friends of Richmond Park it clearly has a bright future. Members and their guests then enjoyed a delicious buffet Supper – a fitting end to a very enjoyable evening.

As a final note, Mary has now produced the draft Minutes of the meeting and they can be found on our website or a hard copy obtained by writing to at the Kew Society, 32 Alexandra Road, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2BS.

## Planning issues update

Those of you who were able to come to this year's Annual General Meeting will know that the considerable effort we put into opposing the proposed development of housing, a care home and offices at the old Inland Revenue site near **Ruskin Avenue** was successful. The time limit for the developer to lodge an appeal against the Council's decision has now passed. No doubt a new application will be made at some point. We are keeping an eye on this, together with the Kew Residents' Association. We do not oppose some development on the site provided that it is in keeping with the environment of Kew and is not, as was the last application, a gross over-development of the site.

Plans to redevelop the **Brentford Football Club** site at **Lionel Road** are again being considered. We are represented on a consultative group- the Lionel Road Group - to consider revised proposals for the redevelopment of the site. Whilst this is not within Kew Ward, a large scale development here could have traffic issues for Kew. The previous proposals, which did not go ahead, were for a new 15,000 seat stadium, new leisure centre and two 25 storey blocks of flats.

**Aircraft noise** continues to be a concern and we are working with the Richmond Society and the Friends of Richmond Green within the Richmond Heathrow Campaign to influence plans for development or changes in runway use. Giles and Martin attended a crowded meeting in Richmond with Heathrow Airport in Richmond hosted by Zac Goldsmith on 21st November.

As some of you will know, Crown Estate Leases in the **Old Deer Park** are due to end from April 2016. We are also working with the Richmond Society, the Friends of the Old Deer Park, the Friends of Richmond Green and the St Margaret's Estate Residents' Association within the Old Deer Park Working Group to represent views on the future of the park, preserving its use as a community sports and recreational facility.

We comment on national and local government policies which may have an impact on Kew and we also keep an eye on applications for development or change of use to buildings as well as parking and traffic issues. We are now putting information about these on our web site for all to see. When we raise an objection or support a development we are guided by **our Planning Policy** which is now also published on our web site. Members comments via our website on our policies are always welcome.

## Help shape the future of Kew

The Kew Society needs more Committee Members – in particular we need more people willing to participate in:

- initiating and organising events (talks, visits etc.)
- environmental issues
- increasing membership of the Society

We also need individuals willing to take over as Chair and/or Deputy Chair.

The Kew Society is a member and has a representative at meetings of the Richmond Heathrow Campaign and the Old Deer Park Group. We also participate in the Thames Landscape Strategy and West London River Group.

If anyone has an interest in participating in the Committee and/or in any of these local groups or if you know of others who are/might be interested, please email [chair@kewsociety.org](mailto:chair@kewsociety.org) or phone Giles Dixon (020 8241 1059) for further information.

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## Kew Pond

As regular readers of this newsletter know, the Society retains strong links with the volunteers who look after the ancient Kew Pond on Kew Green.

The casual passer-by may not realise that the Pond of today was originally fed by a creek from the tidal Thames - it is thought to be the "fishery" referred to in Charters of 1205 and 1243. It may even date from a grant made in 996 by the Saxon King Ethelred to the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Winchester.

Nowadays it is filled from the river on very high tides using a system of flaps and valves operated by local volunteers. It is owned by the Crown but vested in Richmond Council for care and maintenance. If you would like to join the volunteers in maintaining this local treasure, please contact Bridget Wait at 40 Kew Green, Kew TW9 3AZ or on 020-8948-1911 or using [bridgetwait276@btinternet.com](mailto:bridgetwait276@btinternet.com)

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## Blooming Kew – help wanted

Many of you will have noticed the beautiful floral collars that adorn the lamp columns around Kew village and make the village a more welcoming place. The Society has been amongst those local businesses and organisations that sponsor these collars as part of the on-going Richmond Borough in Bloom programme. The "Kew" part of the programme is presently overseen by Richard Ward and he is looking for a volunteer or volunteers to work alongside him with a view to assuming the duties involved. Organising this project is not onerous and gives the organiser/s the opportunity to meet and engage with a wide variety of organisations and businesses. If you interested in finding out more, please contact Richard Ward on 020 8878 6696 or [Wienaw@aol.com](mailto:Wienaw@aol.com)

## Events

Our visit to **Strawberry Hill House** took place in a late burst of Autumn sunshine. A unique building from the outside, its very individual character is also in evidence throughout its interior. The small size of many of the spaces inside the house necessitated our party being split into two and then conducted around by two very knowledgeable guides. If you weren't able to visit Strawberry Hill House with us and enjoy visiting places where the owners' fantastic imagination has been translated into gothic towers and themed rooms, then do consider paying Strawberry Hill House a visit.

Our visit ended with some of us enjoying Lunch at its café. Situated along the ground level of one side of the building, the café has lovely views out onto the grounds and a varied menu of dishes that are both good value and delicious.

Looking forward, in January we will be holding our annual **Twelfth Night drinks**. Always a popular end to the Festive season, a warm welcome will be waiting. Full details of this event are available separately.

Events are planned for further into 2013 including a tour of David Nash's sculpture in Kew Gardens with David Nash in March. More information about them will be following in the New Year.

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## Contact us

### Your Committee

Co-chairman	Giles Dixon & Juliet Thompson	<a href="mailto:chair@kewsociety.org">chair@kewsociety.org</a>
Hon. Secretary	Mary Done	<a href="mailto:secretary@kewsociety.org">secretary@kewsociety.org</a>
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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, 32 Alexandra Road, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2BS