



The Kew Society Newsletter • Summer 2022

Welcome....

to our Summer newsletter. We hope you are enjoying the summer months in Kew and taking advantage of the beautiful weather. It was wonderful to be able to hold the Kew Summer Fete after a two-year gap. Do let us have your feedback on the newsletter, and any suggestions for issues that you would like to see covered.

Platinum Jubilee Street Parties

There were 331 street parties held throughout the borough to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee between 2nd and 5th June, 11 of them in Kew (not counting the unofficial ones of which there were quite a few). The weather was mostly favourable, despite one or two showers to keep party organisers on their toes, and it seems that a good time was had by everyone in Kew. It proved an excellent opportunity to catch up with all our neighbours, including some who we haven't seen much of due to the pandemic, and also to meet and get to know new neighbours in a very convivial atmosphere.



Leyborne Park celebrated with a cake competition!

A Message from your Editor

We have introduced a new feature – a Kew (& district) Diary of Events – on the back page.

We will attempt to keep this up to date, and welcome details from all organisers of events in Kew and/or relevant to Kew Residents.

Kew Midsummer Fête

Saturday 18th June saw literally thousands of people on Kew Green enjoying the first Kew Midsummer Fête in three years, with many varied stalls, a funfair, a wide and eclectic range of live entertainment including the Rock Choir and flamenco dancing, a dog show and delicious food (as evidenced by the very long queues). To all members who took the time to swing by our stand, a huge thank you. We were delighted by the number of people who came to speak to us – attracted by our display on developments around Kew – in particular, the Kew Retail Park (see Planning, below) – and our card game which appealed to younger members of the public (every one a winner)! It proved to be a good opportunity to highlight past and future events plus current issues of interest around the Kew area.



Alice Shackleton, Nora Dennehy and Claire Bethel – three of our trustees – on our stand

The Kew Society Needs You !!

Kew is in a state of constant change... mostly positive, thank goodness... and the Kew Society works hard to influence decision makers to prevent initiatives that could have a detrimental effect on the quality of life for people of all ages living in the area. We are also proactively involved in doing things that benefit the entire community – for example, planting and maintaining the flower beds along the station platform and in the village – and actively contributing to a number of environmental projects. Recently, members of the committee helped ensure that every session of the consultation about the development of the Kew Retail Park site was well attended, and our suggestions for creating something that could be a real asset to the area, rather than another ‘soul-less’ development, appeared to be well received by the architects...we will see!

But we are a small team, and it would be really good to get more members involved. We have lots of ideas about how the Society could (within its charitable remit) develop, and would welcome your ideas too. Getting involved would not necessarily mean becoming a trustee, although we would welcome some additions.

In October, a unique opportunity will arise. We will be looking for someone to join me (Chair), Claire Bethel (Hon Secretary) and Nora Denny (Vice Chair) as an officer of the Kew Society. Whilst the title is “Hon. Treasurer”, all that’s needed is a relatively ordered mind to keep an eye on our funds, which are significantly less than a domestic budget. Admittedly there is a small amount of administration, but this is more than offset by the opportunity to be involved in most, if not all, our initiatives – whilst rarely being responsible for them. There will be a need to produce a set of accounts every 12 months, but there will be others who can help with this. Anyone interested in helping out in this way, please contact me. I would like to build a network of ‘friends’ with interests that could contribute to our current and future projects. It would be great to involve more young people in local environmental initiatives, helping the gardening team or advising on talks and activities. I would really appreciate help from someone with reasonable technical skills to help me establish a range of ‘shared interest’ groups to link members of all ages through What’sApp groups. So far, interest has been expressed in subjects ranging from archaeology to watercolour painting! The groups would link people who would not normally get to know each other, and could be of particular value to those that are new to the area or who find it difficult to get out very much. I am hoping that, once groups are established, they will organise ways for their members to meet. And, speaking of meeting other members, it would be lovely to have a group of

people that could organise more social events... maybe even a monthly lunch or supper club? Or both! As chair, I am involved in everything that the Kew Society does. I joined a very welcoming team, and I am proud to be working with people who really do want to make Kew an even better place for everyone. It would be great if the team could be more diverse and genuinely representative of 'Kew now'. If you would like to find out more about how you could be involved, do drop me a note on chair@kewsociety.org and we will find a good time for a chat.

Shiona Williams

Richmond local elections round up

The Kew Society held a local election hustings on 28th April to give Kew residents the opportunity to hear from the candidates standing for election in the Kew ward and to raise any concerns they might have about local issues. The hustings was well attended, and candidates answered questions on a wide range of topics including council tax, planning policy, air pollution and recycling.

After the elections on 5th May, the Liberal Democrats remain in control of Richmond Council, winning 48 seats – nine more than in 2018. The Greens were the second largest party in the borough, increasing the number of seats won from four in 2018 to five in 2022.

The Conservatives finished in third place, holding on to one seat, down from eleven in 2018.

The turnout was just over 47% compared to 51% in 2018.

In the Kew Ward, three Liberal Democrats were elected – Alice Bridges-Westcott, Ian Craigie and Clare Vollum.

The full results can be seen on Richmond Council's website:

<https://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/mgElectionResults.aspx?ID=18&V=1&RPID=525343973>



Kew Society Vice Chair (Nora Dennehy, Centre) chairing the Hustings



'High Park Corner'

Gardening

We have been very busy over the last few months!

We ordered and have spread over 30 bags of compost and manure. This was no small feat, and I was delighted with the help we had getting it all into the station. Len – one of the TfL team – was a star and carried many bags onto the platforms: a man having a drink at the *Tap on the Line* and

someone else waiting at the station also joined in to help. It was great to see community spirit in action! We have completed the replanting of the two beds by the Greenhouse Café, using the design provided by Kew Gardens. I'm delighted that the new plants – geraniums, libertia, erigerons and salvias – are all settling in well and that the geraniums and erigerons have been in bloom for the last few weeks.

We've had lots of positive comments from passers-by who are enjoying seeing the planting develop, and I hope that the beds give a botanical welcome to visitors to Kew Gardens as well as being enjoyed by local residents. The gravel bed on the Richmond-bound platform at the station is at its most beautiful in the summer, with a haze of lilac and blue from the nepeta, geraniums and lavender. And these plants are quite drought-tolerant, which is a bonus!

Watering has proved to be a challenge as it was so dry this spring, with hardly any rain in April and quite a few very dry patches since then. The woodland bed at the station has been particularly problematic as we can only water using a watering can, so the ferns and hellebores are having a hard time. We may need to rethink the planting here to adapt to the warming climate. Thank you to the Greenhouse Café and to Chris & Chris Motors for letting us use their water to help keep the plants in the village and in the North Road/High Park Avenue garden alive and well.



Volunteers at Work:
Susan Church, Barbara Radmore,
John Turner and Anna Anderson

Anna Anderson, Head Gardener

Planning

After last year's reports that half of Kew Retail Park (KRP) had been bought by Berkeley Homes, with the other half retained by Marks & Spencer, St George/Berkeley Homes and M&S have launched a series of community consultations which the developers say will help inform the design process, leading to a planning application around June 2023. Approval of the application may take a year or more and construction is expected to take up to 10 years. It will be worked in stages. (For further details, see our email to members in June and our website.)

The developers have not started on the detailed planning process yet, wanting first of all to involve the community in discussions at this very early stage. Planning constraints and commercial realities loom large, of course, but this initial engagement with local residents is to be welcomed.

Richmond Council's draft new Local Plan has identified the site as suitable for substantial residential-led redevelopment, with some commercial use, suitable for up to 7-storey ('tall') buildings in the centre surrounded by a 'mid-rise buffer' of 5-6 storeys. (The Kew Society objected to the 'tall' buildings element of the draft local plan.)

The developer has indicated that the scheme could involve up to 1,200 residential units, almost all flats, though we have no details yet on the density of the blocks. Parking for M&S and for some residents would be almost entirely underground. Working within these parameters, architects JTP led the well-attended Community Planning Weekend at the National Archives on 24-25 June. Each daily session included a Dialogue Workshop which gathered a wide range of ideas from attendees under the headings of 'Issues' (polite but no-one held back!), 'Dreams' (what would we like to see) and 'Solutions'

(how do we get there), as well as an architect-led walk around the site.

Then followed Hands-On Planning groups on topics such as 'The Bigger Picture' (how the new development can fit in to the wider area), 'Getting About', 'Landscape & Open Space', the 'Village Community', 'Sustainability' and the '20-Minute Neighbourhood'.

JTP will work through the ideas gathered and will present their initial Vision for the new development at a Report Back session at the Archives on 5th July. They envisage ongoing discussions with the local community, with the next steps likely to include drawing up preliminary plans for further discussion with the local community (see 'Stop Press' on the back page. Turning to Homebase, Manor Road: after a long period of

silence, GLA planners have now recommended to the Mayor that he give final approval to the further revised development. We have joined others in writing to the Secretary of State to reinforce our earlier requests that he call the scheme in and take over decision-making from the Mayor in the hope that he will overturn the Mayor's decision. Both the previous Secretary of State (Robert Jenrick) and the current postholder (Michael Gove) have turned down our previous requests on the grounds that this should be a local decision, whereas the GLA overruled the local decision of Richmond Council to refuse the scheme! A slightly-revised application for the Mortlake Brewery redevelopment (roughly the same number of units as the KRP) has been submitted, with a decision expected by Richmond Council on 11th July. Along with many others we resubmitted our objections to the Council.

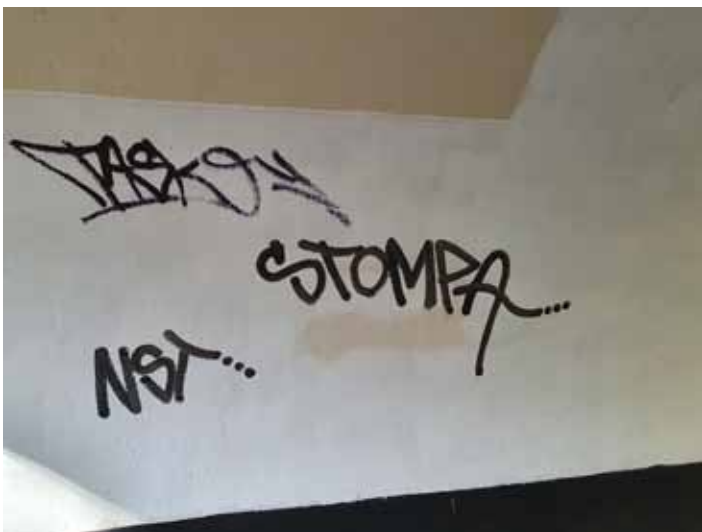


Consultation event at The National Archives on Saturday 25th June

Alice Shackleton, Planning

Tackling graffiti in Kew – you can help

We are all used to seeing graffiti in the Village – and wishing we weren't! The best way to limit graffiti around Kew is to report it with photographs and/or to report the vandals in action. Eventually the



Grffiti under Kew Railway Bridge
quick and easy to do.

Richmond Council is very responsive to clearing racist or offensive graffiti within their policy guideline of one day. Recently the Council has become much better at clearing other graffiti, although not necessarily meeting their guideline of within 5 days.

The Council will pass on graffiti complaints to TfL (Transport for London) which has responsibility for the

perpetrators will realise that graffiti is not tolerated in Kew.

It is difficult to catch the vandals in the act, but if you do, Lorraine Childs – Police Community Support Officer for Kew – requests that you take a photo and note the time. She also asks that you immediately notify the police by dialling 101 or 020 8721 2930. Just reporting the crime helps the police to build a picture of when and where the vandals are operating, and this assists in catching them.

In general, the more often graffiti gets reported the quicker the Council will clear it. Ideally, take a photograph with your mobile phone and report via www.richmond.gov.uk/report_graffiti. It is very

A205 and the A316 (which includes Kew Bridge and Chiswick Bridge plus the underpass of Chiswick Bridge), or you can report it direct to TfL: <https://tfl.gov.uk/help-and-contact/report-criminal-damage-or-antisocial-behaviour>.

TfL has also been more responsive of late, although graffiti on the underpass of Chiswick Bridge remains a major problem as this requires expensive, specialist cleaning.

Sadly, Network Rail upon whom we rely for clearing graffiti along the railway line beside North Road and the overhead bridge across the A205 has not done so for some years now, nor has it introduced effective preventative measures to deter vandals gaining access to the tracks.

Aside from Network Rail, the graffiti issue in Kew seems to be slowly, slowly improving, but your actions can help to speed up the process.

Venetia Harper

Events

May 2022 events started with a guided walk of Home Park and Wet Meadows. With Hampton Court Palace in the distance, we were privileged to step away from public paths and through a narrow doorway in the stables to view Her Majesty's horses grazing in the paddocks alongside Home Park. We were also treated to a fascinating insight into the excellent work being done by the Thames Landscape Strategy team, under the umbrella of *Arcadian Thames*, to protect the existing landscape.

This was followed by a marvellous early evening walk in the depths of Kew Gardens led by Kevin



Talking all about trees



Home Park & Wet Meadows

Martin, once one of the 'Tree Gang' but now Head of Tree Collections at Kew. His knowledge and plans for the future of Kew's Arboretum proved to be a fascinating insight into the life and messaging of trees – Go hug that tree! – it may not have a central nervous system, muscles or a brain, but it does have immense powers, and the ability to respond rapidly to changes in the environment.

More details about the above events can be found on the Kew Society website www.kewsociety.org and on our Kew Village noticeboard. If you have interesting ideas for future events, we'd love to hear about them. Please email them to events@kewsociety.org or marydone2@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you.

Mary, Jane and Sue (Events team)

Kew residents take in Ukrainian refugees

Around 20 residents of Kew have opened their homes to Ukrainian refugees through the Government's 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme (there are some 1000 in Richmond as a whole). The scheme opened in March, soon after the invasion of Ukraine on 24th February. We interviewed three host families, all members of the Kew Society, to ask them what had encouraged them to apply for the scheme, how they had gone about it and how their guests were settling into Kew.

First, we met **Sally and Ian Durant** who, like everyone else, were shocked by what was happening



Sally Durant

Sally & Ian then took them to the Ukrainian Centre (the *Prosperity Café & Restaurant*) in Twickenham, opposite the Civic Centre), where the owner made them welcome. The *Prosperity* has served as a collection centre for receiving donations, and as a base for Ukrainians in the area.

We asked about their first impressions of Kew. They loved places like Kew Gardens and found the neighbours friendly and helpful; quite early on, when Sally and Ian were away, neighbours took them to Kew Gardens and also gave them Easter eggs. Their friends have donated clothes, money and even Oyster cards to help them settle in.

Finally, we asked for advice for other families considering taking in refugees. Sally feels that the lay-out of your house is an important factor – and thinking through how it's going to affect you having people living with you: sharing the kitchen, for example.

Our next meeting was with **Diana Ormond**, who told us that, as she lived alone but has two spare bedrooms, she thought "Why Not?". To avoid being outnumbered, she opted for just one guest – Tetiana, age 31 – whom she met via a Facebook group.

Tetiana is a single person from Kharkiv, but this wasn't her first visit to the UK: she'd worked two years ago in Scotland, picking strawberries, and last year worked for a Moldovan building company for whom she's now working again: in fact, they had arranged for a minibus to pick her and several other Ukrainian people up in Kharkiv, and bring them to the UK. It took three days, with passengers sleeping on the bus. She and her colleagues clean new-build houses, so she goes off with her hard hat and picks up a minibus in Hounslow early each morning.

Tetiana's English is excellent, as she taught English in Ukraine. Her mother remains in a village outside Kharkiv. Tanya speaks to her most days and hopes that she is safe.

They found the visa application process straightforward. Diana did all the paperwork, which took around five hours. The visa came through in about three weeks, and Tetiana has been here for five weeks. Diana had an inspection visit a week before Tetiana arrived; and apart from being asked to install new smoke alarms, all was well.

in Ukraine and felt so sorry for the Ukrainians who were subjected to this terrible war. So, when they heard about all the Polish people taking in refugees and that the British government were setting up a similar scheme, they felt moved by the images and wanted to do something to help.

They registered on the government website, but then they heard about a platform called EU4UA (www.eu4ua.org) – a website that matches refugee needs with the availability of homes across Europe. The website is simple: one just had to describe the accommodation and give the maximum number of people who can be accommodated, post photos of the bedrooms, and then wait for people to get in touch.

And that's how they met Nadia and Katya – both in their thirties. Katya is from the countryside just outside of Odessa. When the war started, she fled to Lviv in the West of Ukraine. And Nadia was in Kyiv with her partner; but when he was conscripted and went off to be trained, she moved to Lviv as well to escape the bombardments in Kyiv.

The two of them are friends: Nadia has got two children aged 12 and 14, and very sadly recently lost her partner who was killed in the fighting. On arrival, they were given their "welcome money".

So how was the settling-in process? Diana says that's been fine, although Tetiana works Monday to Thursday so she's out of the house a lot and is currently applying for a new job. Diana has lent her a bicycle so she goes off cycling; she also enjoys cooking. They don't eat together – Tetiana has irregular eating times – but she cooks vast pots of borscht!

Finally, we met **Teresa Hartley and Tanya**. Teresa also had a spare room and wanted to help. She told us there's a site called Opora (<https://opora.uk/>) where she registered with details of what's on offer, and people looking for somewhere to live get in touch. That's how she found Tanya, who comes from near Lviv and, although Lviv has been relatively safe, Teresa thinks the stress of not being able to do her job properly was weighing heavily on her. She was also an English teacher at a school, teaching 6-year to 16-year olds – but was having to do most of it on Zoom ever since the war broke out.

Every night, once the sirens started, she and her family picked up their pillows and took them into the corridor of their block of flats to sleep, as it's safer in the corridor, away from the windows. She is single and it is quite usual in Ukraine not to

leave home unless one has a partner or a job elsewhere, so she has lived with her family since birth. Tanya is in her thirties. She has been to the UK twice before, accompanying school parties to Chester and Edinburgh. She has been on holiday to at least 10 different countries.

To get here, Tanya had to apply for a visa and find a sponsor. After two long Zoom calls with Teresa, Tanya applied for and got her visa. To get here, she had an 11-hour bus ride from her hometown to the border of Poland; she then had to wait for a couple of hours before taking another bus to Krakow Airport. After a four-hour delay, she flew to Luton, where Teresa collected her, so she had been travelling for 28 hours. The day she arrived, they went to Richmond Council who gave her £200 in cash; the Red Cross gave Tanya a six-month free SIM card so she can use her mobile.

She doesn't get any more funding until she can get Universal Credit, and she can't get Universal Credit until she's had several interviews at the job centre which are taking a while to organise: Teresa thinks she's finally got a fifth interview arranged after which she might get it, but only if she has found work by then. And, although she has a letter from the Home Office saying she has the right to work or study for up to six months, no-one will take her on until she's got a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) which will allow her to remain for three years. However, getting that has been an absolute nightmare: Tanya had to wait weeks and go to London for an appointment before finally getting her BRP.

Hosts are also supposed to be paid £350 each month by the Council, which Teresa is apparently yet to receive. The money is meant to be a 'thank you' for taking refugees in rather than the Government having to rely on more expensive ways of securing housing. Hosts are not expected to provide food or finance their other needs from this: the refugees are supposed to buy their own. Some are catering for themselves and buying their own food, presumably with savings they have brought with them until they qualify for benefits. There's a WhatsApp group with around 180 families in Richmond, where one subject of discussion is what they're all doing about food! However, Teresa buys the food and they take it in turns to cook for each other and eat together.

As Tanya's teaching qualifications aren't accepted in the UK, she's enrolled for an English as a Second



Diana Ormond

Language (ESOL) course. She has had five interviews for jobs and is waiting to see if she has been successful.



Teresa Hartley and Tanya

Next, we asked how the settling-in process was going. Tanya loves Kew: she nearly went to stay with a family who have a farm in Wales, but Teresa had explained to her that she would be less likely to find work on a farm in Wales than in Kew. Tanya is really impressed by the area which she describes as picturesque and peaceful. She's also really impressed by how helpful people are here.

Finally, we enquired if she had plans to return or, alternatively, bring her family over. She replied "no", because her grandmother is 93 and they just couldn't possibly get her out. Although her parents are in their late 60s, they're both qualified engineers who are still working because, although very precarious, life is still going on in their home town.

Twenty years of RNLI Search and Rescue on the Thames

We thought our members would be interested to find out more about the work of the RNLI who are very much in evidence on the River Thames so we asked David Clarke, their Press Officer, to tell us a little about their work.

The RNLI lifeboat based at Chiswick Pier has been providing search and rescue on the Thames between Richmond and Chelsea since January 2002. In 2001, the judge in the inquiry into the tragic sinking of the *Marchioness* – where 51 people drowned – recommended that the tidal Thames needed a dedicated search and rescue service. The RNLI stepped in and established four lifeboat stations on the Thames. No-one anticipated just how busy the Thames stations would be: in 20 years, 4,308 people have been rescued and 622 lives saved.

For the Chiswick crews there are many memorable and many tragic incidents from the last 20 years. Some that stand out include:

- Rescue of 60 Oxford & Cambridge Boat-Race spectators cut off by the tide during the 2015 race, broadcast on BBC news.
- A protester who stopped the 2012 Boat Race just by the lifeboat station; then 20 minutes later, a crew administered advanced first aid to the collapsed Bowman on the Oxford boat.
- Safe recovery of mother and baby from the water in Isleworth in 2008.
- Revival of collapsed veteran rower with no pulse in 2009.
- Whale incidents in 2006 and 2021.
- Rescue of 50 racing rowers whose boats sank during one stormy weekend in 2007.
- Recovery of broken-down passenger vessel with 122 passengers in 2013.

Chiswick RNLI station manager Wayne Bellamy has been running the station since its inception. He commented: "Following the inquiry into the *Marchioness* tragedy it was clear that a dedicated search and rescue service on the tidal Thames was needed. Over the last 20 years, the number of call-outs shows how essential this service is".

Chiswick RNLI lifeboat station is the second-busiest in the UK and Ireland. Since The RNLI Search and Rescue Service on the Thames started in 2002, Chiswick Lifeboat has attended over 3,500 incidents and rescued 1,828 people. Our contribution shows that the upper tideway is not the quieter stretch some thought it would be. However, that isn't really surprising, as the patch is equivalent to 25 miles of busy coastline, with several million people living close by.

In the upper tideway the “shouts” (RNLI term for a call-out) split roughly into three categories: incidents involving people on bridges, people in difficulty on the water such as rowers, leisure craft and broken down vessels, and people who never intended to go in the water. This latter category includes people falling off the river wall and getting injured and, notably in Kew, people following their dogs into the water. The river wall along the towpath in Kew has many sheer sections where dogs can find it difficult to get back up to



Tower crew onboard their E class lifeboat, Hurley Burly E-07, on the River Thames

their owners. There have been a number of incidents when dog owners have been pulled out of the water where the towpath runs alongside Kew Gardens. We always advise owners to stay on the riverbank and get assistance by calling 999 and asking for the London Coastguard, who can request the launch of the lifeboat. This is much faster than asking for the police or fire brigade: the lifeboat can reach Kew Bridge from Chiswick in five minutes.

Chiswick lifeboat station is one of three Thames stations which have a duty crew of four on standby 24/7, with a launch time of 90 seconds and arrival on scene within 15 minutes – though the typical time is usually much less than this. This is possible only thanks to the dedication of full-time crew and a panel of over 60 volunteers working 12-hour shifts. We have a close working relationship with the Port of London Authority and the other blue-light services on the river, and work seamlessly together on major incidents.

When they see the scale of life-saving activity of the Thames RNLI Lifeboats, people are often surprised to hear that the life-saving service run by the RNLI is entirely funded by public donations: we are very grateful for all the local and national support that makes it all possible.

Alongside the operational side, the RNLI reaches out to the community with education and fund-raising volunteers. Local fundraising is getting underway again after the pandemic, and new volunteers to help run and organise events are always welcome.

Contact information is on our website: www.chiswicklifeboat.org.uk.

The education team visits schools and hosts visits to the station, where the duty crew demonstrate the capabilities of their craft. We also give many talks to local groups: in Kew, these have included the Avenue Club and Kew WI.

The first lifeboat on the upper tideway was *Chelsea Pensioner*. The lifeboat was taken to Chelsea Hospital for a formal naming ceremony in July 2002.



Chelsea pensioners in their regalia

Twenty years later, 12 Chiswick crew, including five from the naming ceremony 20 years ago, joined Chelsea pensioners in their striking red coats. They gathered in the magnificent room designed by Christopher Wren, under the watchful eyes of King Charles I, King Charles II and King James II, in Peter Lely's portraits.

RNLI Chief Executive Mark Dowie presented the retired lifeboat's name-board to the Governor of the Chelsea Pensioners – General Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE DL. They both emphasised the long partnership between the RNLI and Chelsea Hospital. Chelsea pensioners have raised huge sums over many years for the RNLI on Lifeboat Day, at boat shows and many other events. General Bradshaw said his thinking was that the name-board was on loan, and one day he expected that there would be another RNLI lifeboat named *Chelsea Pensioner*, with the help of funds raised by current and future Chelsea Pensioners. Wayne Bellamy thanked the General for his warm words and added "It is a great privilege to return to this historic location and continue the close relationship between the RNLI and the Chelsea Pensioners".



The 2002 Naming Ceremony

David Clarke, Lifeboat Press Officer, Chiswick RNLI



Celebrating 20 years of service

KEW DIARY

News of forthcoming events in and around Kew

2022

| Date | Details | Organiser |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| August Sundays | St. Anne's Summer Concert | St. Anne's Church |
| 27th August | Kew Horticultural Show | K.H. Society |
| 1st September | Meet in Kew | Kew Community Centre |
| 4th September | Kew Village Market | General |
| 12th Sept | WH Hudson Talk in The National Archives | Kew Society |
| September | Tour of The King's Observatory | Kew Society |
| September | Kew Street Tree Presentation | LBRuT |
| 25th Oct | Kew Society AGM in The National Archives | Kew Society |
| 3rd Nov | Guided Tour of the Poppy Factory | Kew Society |
| 2nd Dec | Kew Sparkle | Claire Cree & Sally Jackson |

Other events will be shown here as and when they are announced.

For full details of Kew Society events, see our website: details below

STOP PRESS: Update on Kew Retail Park 'Report Back' Session

JTP, architects for the Kew Retail Park (KRP) development, presented their Report Back on 5 July following the "community planning weekend" on 24-25 June.

The report with themes that emerged from the weekend and summaries of research and thoughts, can be found on this link:

<https://www.jtp.co.uk/projects/kewretailpark>

It includes the "Vision" shown also on an illustrative Vision Masterplan.

M & S will relocate to the north; "Kew Meadow Gardens" would feature a "necklace" of green uses along an extended green space running north to south by Kew Meadow Path.

Details such as height of buildings is not yet shown.

Next steps include:

- engagement with local schools
- a community working group discussing spaces
- report to Kew Society members
- update late 2022; continuing engagement with community and planners
- planning application next summer.

We'll keep our website updated with any further developments.

Contact Us

Your Committee includes:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
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| Hon. Secretary & Newsletter Editor | Claire Bethel | secretary@kewsociety.org |
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Patrons

Nick Baird CMG CVO
Sir David Durie KCMG
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Sir Donald Insall CBE

JOIN NOW by visiting our website:

www.kewsociety.org

Charity Number: 1173016

You can write to us at:

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