



## The Kew Society Newsletter • Summer 2024

### Welcome....

to our summer newsletter. We were delighted, if not a little surprised, to see the artwork by Banksy appear on Kew Green (see below). Next, we are on the lookout for a couple of new people for our Planning team as our current Planning Trustee retires from his role in October and we are urgently in need of someone with the relevant experience and commitment to replace him (see page five). Also, you will see from page four that we are currently looking for someone who can help us with the administration of the Society – do contact Shiona if you would like to know more. Finally, like many of us, I'm sure you were sad to see the closure of The Kew Gardener, which has been a local treasure for many years: we wish Dan well in his new ventures.

### Banksy artwork appears on Kew Green



Many Kew residents were delighted to see that the world-famous artist universally known as 'Banksy' had decided to honour Kew with one of his iconic pictures, as illustrated here. But exactly what IS it ??

Opinions vary: some suggested the picturing of a goat on a precipice represented the human race currently being "on the edge of extinction", while others interpreted the inclusion of the CCTV camera in the artwork (subsequently moved) as showing that even in the most out-of-the-way spaces, there is no privacy. But Banksy himself did not caption the artwork on his Instagram post, so we can each interpret it in our own way.



### Changes to our membership management and rates

We are very grateful for the subscriptions we receive each year to fund, what we hope you agree, is important work on behalf of the local community. Our team is growing and we have lots of plans for the future, which should benefit all of our members. If you are a long-standing member, you will be aware that our subscription rates have remained unchanged for many years. Costs have increased in all areas and the banks are making it increasingly difficult, and time-consuming, to process cash and cheques. All our members are volunteers and so this extra work is a real burden.

From September 1st 2024 our membership rates will be:

- £10 a year for a single member
- £20 a year for a couple or family at the same address (including children under 16 years)

### Changes to methods of payment – move to Direct Debit payments for new members.

From 1st September 2024, new members will be able to join using our direct debit system only – this is in line with many other clubs and organisations.

(If you currently pay by Standing Order, we will ask you to increase the amount you pay, or set up a direct debit before 1st September 2025 to retain all future benefits of membership.)

### Move to Direct Debit for existing members that usually renew by cash, cheque, or one-off card payment

To remain as a member, you will need to change your method of payment. Please go to our secure website: [www.kewsociety.org](http://www.kewsociety.org) and set up a direct debit – this is a very quick process which can be cancelled at any time. We shall automatically advise you before your annual renewal payment is due.

**Janet Clark, Membership Trustee**

## Kew Fete

The annual Kew Fete, held on the green this year on Saturday 22nd June, was – as ever – a great success, with an increasing number of exhibits ranging from the usual stalls to many unusual attractions and a live petting zoo.

It is a fantastic charity fundraising event offering fun for all the family, with a Victorian funfair, live music and talent acts, a friendly dog show, over 100 stalls, a craft marquee, food court, beer tent, tea tent, tug of war, fun inflatables and a charity raffle.



## Clearing out the dead wood!

Two challenges have been tackled by the gardening team in recent months – clearing a hidden corner of the station and restoring one of the grass beds.

If you don't use a wheelchair or a buggy you probably haven't noticed the very neglected green corner between the slope to/from the westbound platform at Kew Gardens station and the station buildings. Several years ago a variety of palms were planted here, and then a sycamore seedling took up residence and grew into a large tree competing with the palms for light and causing the palms to lean outwards. These sharp spikey palm leaves caused a hazard for station users.

Earlier this year TfL removed the sycamore tree, giving the palms the opportunity to grow upwards rather than outwards, so a small team of five intrepid gardeners – led by Geoff Williams – decided to do some spring cleaning to clear out and chop back the vegetation, remove the accumulated rubbish and make this corner look cared for.

Thus, on 3rd July we tackled this challenge armed with thick protective gloves, secateurs and loppers. It was dirty work and required some of us to climb over the railings, and crawl into the darkest corners of this space. There was masses of dead vegetation as well as bottles, plastic and assorted rubbish that had clearly accumulated over several years. Some of us worked on hands and knees (see Alan in the photo) while others climbed a ladder to reach the highest vegetation. We collected nearly 14 large bags of vegetation and rubbish, so this little corner looks much less neglected now.

Our second challenge was restoring the grasses and verbenas at the front of the eastbound platform which were razed to the ground last September, in error, by TfL's contractor.

Over the winter we liaised with TfL about this damage, and the contractor agreed to pay for replacement plants which we planted out in April. I'm very pleased that we were able to get this issue resolved successfully and also that the new grasses and verbenas now look beautiful again.

Come and have a look next time you use the station.



Volunteers from the Gardening Team in action: (from left to right) Fiona, Vasiliki, Geoff, Anna and Alan



Replanting



The Renewed Bed



Anna Anderson – Head Gardener

Alan gets down to work

## The Annual “Open Gardens” event

At the end of May and the beginning of June, various proud owners of beautiful gardens open them up to locals (and others) both for the pleasure of sharing them and to raise money for charity. This year included Marksbury Avenue; and we were able to visit five gardens before taking a well-earned break with tea and cakes in the grounds of The Barn Church.

The five gardens were:

At **No. 26** we found many New Zealand natives. Fruit trees abound with plums, figs, apple, red and black currants, apricots, mulberry, feijoa, loquat and citrus, alongside a delicate chamomile lawn.

Over the road at **No. 59** the garden has evolved largely through own propagation and self-seeding. Shade is provided from a variety of ornamental trees which lead to a lower patio and small vegetable patch.

**No. 60** is a typical town garden where visitors can enjoy a fine display of patio roses, flowering shrubs and climbers including numerous varieties of clematis displayed around a curved lawn.

Next door at **No. 62** is a family garden, created from scratch in 2018 with a brick-edged lawn and yew topiary cones for structure, while

**No. 65** is an even newer garden designed in 2021 with symmetrical lines softened by old favourites plus contemporary grasses, cercis and canas.



**Number 26**



**Number 59**



**Number 60**



**Number 62**



**Number 65**



**Tea at the Barn Church**

## Heathrow update

Richmond Heathrow Campaign (RHC) – chaired by Peter Willan – campaigns for the Kew and Richmond Societies and Friends of Richmond Green against the adverse environmental impacts of Heathrow ([www.richmondheathrowcampaign.org](http://www.richmondheathrowcampaign.org)). RHC annually attends around 12 meetings with Heathrow and 12 with community and other groups and responds to consultations by Heathrow, DfT and CAA. Our current focus is on airspace modernisation, increasing departure heights and time-shifting night flights to the day.

### Airspace Modernisation (ASM):

Cancellation of the Cranford Agreement in 2028/29 means Heathrow will have 24 departure flight paths and 16 arrival flight paths. Heathrow has designed around 150 Initial Options combining these flight paths and will shortlist the options for public consultation – probably in 2025/26. RHC continues to seek as few changes as possible, given that one person's noise gain is probably another's loss. But the end of the Cranford Agreement results for the first time in departures to the east from the northern runway during easterly operations (around 30% of the year). Departures (alternated with the southern runway) may fly to the east near or over Kew and Richmond. Also, night flights may curve in to join the final approach much nearer the airport, which could affect Kew and Richmond. RHC will, of course, challenge any adverse noise impact.

### Departure Heights:

There have been discussions about the airlines changing departure procedures to increase height, but RHC is promoting more effective height controls by Heathrow. Minimum height controls have not kept pace with the introduction of two-engine aircraft, and raising heights by 500 feet or so can reduce noise substantially.

### Night Flights:

The DfT consulted earlier this year on night flights for the 3-year regime starting in October 2025. The regime in effect is being rolled over and unlikely to improve noise. RHC will continue to push for night flights (11.00pm to 7.00am) to be shifted into the day.

### Heathrow Expansion:

Recently, Heathrow made a new 12-month traffic record of 81.5 million passengers. It continues to seek passenger growth from existing capacity but, during Covid, the development of the third runway was paused. The new government has indicated it would support Heathrow expansion but subject to four tests – economic benefits, noise, pollution and climate targets. RHC believes the trajectory on aviation climate targets is failing, and there is increasing recognition of adverse health impacts from noise and pollution, while a third runway would cannibalise demand growth from the rest of the UK.

Finally, we are pleased that Paul Bethel has agreed to act as the Kew Society's new representative for the RHC.

Peter Willan



Photo © Krish Patel

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## Do you enjoy admin? And being at the heart of a team?

At a recent strategy meeting, one of our trustees commented “this feels more like working in a ‘start up’ than being part of a local charity....”

And it's true! For The Kew Society to survive and (we hope) thrive, we know that we need to make ourselves more attractive and relevant to a broad mix of people who live in ‘Kew now’.

Our team has been growing – 25+ and counting – and we are developing plans for a number of activities that we hope will be enjoyed by people of all ages.

For example, we are creating a ‘Connecting the Community’ group to organise and run a diversity of activities and events... and we need a real team player to keep us (especially me) organised!

Could you spare a few hours each week to help us? We use Google Workspace, and it would be immensely helpful to have a capable person who would enjoy being part of the charity to organise meetings and social events, write Minutes, keep files up to date, help with member communications... and generally support the committee. Please drop me a note on [chair@kewsociety.org](mailto:chair@kewsociety.org) to find out more.

Shiona Williams

## Access for all in Kew

Imagine you've just arrived by train at Kew Gardens Station on the westbound platform with a child in a pushchair, a youngster skipping by your side, an elderly relative using a walking stick and all the paraphernalia you need for an enjoyable day out at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Like countless visitors before you, you might be disappointed to discover that to get to the other side of the station your choices are:

- (a) Rejoin the train, head to Richmond, switch platforms and return by train to Kew Gardens or catch the number 65 bus direct to Victoria Gate on Kew Road.
- (b) Walk approximately 500m over the road bridge via a bumpy pavement, narrowed by large trees
- (c) Carry your child, pushchair and bags up and down the station steps, while supporting your elderly relative.

If only a small number of the close to 2,000,000 people who visited the Royal Botanic Gardens in 2023\* faced the above scenario, it's clear that we're not offering an accessible welcome to Kew Village. Add in visitors to The National Archives, hotel guests and their luggage, an ageing local population, residents and visitors with special needs, and it is clear that the goal of step-free access between platforms ought to be a priority. Indeed, for several years, The Kew Society – along with other local groups – has been championing this cause. Unfortunately, as at Spring 2024, Kew Station's application for a lift has been rejected.

But ensuring Kew is accessible is not just about step-free platform access. If we have as an aim to encourage residents and visitors across Kew to use the many local shops and amenities on offer and make fewer car journeys to benefit our environment, then we need to ensure that paths are accessible to all. This means, for example:

- Encouraging people to park their bikes so that they don't block pavements,
- Keeping garden hedges trimmed back to provide a clear path,
- Tidying up recycling boxes on refuse collection day,
- Reporting raised paving stones, piles of wet leaves and blocked drains,
- Providing places for people to sit along the way.

As far as the last point is concerned, a number of businesses in Kew support SIT STOP. If you see a SIT STOP logo in a window, it means that you can ask to sit down without the need to use their services or to buy something. Could your business in Kew be a SIT STOP location? Find out more about this unique project at [www.sitstop.co.uk](http://www.sitstop.co.uk).

We are all aware that at any age we can find ourselves struggling to get around. What's your experience? Do you have concerns about access across Kew? What solutions would you like to see? Let us know! #kewaccessforall



**Dr. Sarah Clarke – Lead on Protecting the Environment**

\*from Association of Leading Visitor Attractions latest visitor figures which ranks The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew 13th in the list of Leading Visitor Attractions in the UK.

## Could you influence the future of Kew?

Kew is a special place – full of green spaces, conservation areas and interesting buildings. The Kew Society is committed to encouraging high standards of planning and architecture in the area; and to continue doing this we need to recruit a new Planning Trustee to take the lead on this important element of our work.

Shiona asked our current Planning Trustee – John Ricketts (a former banker in the City of London) – who has to retire from this post in October having served his maximum term, about what had attracted him to take on this responsibility, the skills required, and the satisfaction gained from his time in the role.

Always interested in historic buildings, he was inspired by the 2015 campaign led by Dan Cruikshank and the Spitalfields Trust against the demolition of some fine historic buildings near Bishopsgate. He quickly learned that 'just objecting' was not enough: arguments had to be informed by relevant planning regulations and presented in a logical and thoughtful way. He was hooked.

A few years later, he joined The Kew Society as a Planning Trustee where he was mentored by Alice Shackleton – a highly regarded property lawyer – who retired from her position as lead Planning Trustee last year. Both John and Alice would be happy to help any new trustee to learn the ropes.

As a principle, we do not usually get involved in domestic planning applications unless the proposals involve a harmful impact on the amenity of neighbouring residents or contravene planning regulations. Our new Planning

Trustee will undoubtedly have the opportunity to influence plans for the Kew Retail Park site – the last remaining large area of land available for development in the local area – when discussions recommence. To ensure that the views of our members are well represented, we need an appropriate member on our team.

We have – and want to maintain – an enviable reputation for ‘making the planning officers at Richmond Council sit up and listen’ when we submit a response to an application. We have very positive relationships with neighbouring groups, and working closely with other interesting and like-minded people can be a very enjoyable aspect of the role. Reviewing planning applications can – I am assured – be immensely rewarding for anyone interested in the history of Kew and its buildings. The information gained from such research can provide vital context about the appropriateness of any proposed changes.

Do contact me on [chair@kewsociety.org](mailto:chair@kewsociety.org) before the end of September to find out more.



Shiona Williams, Chair      John Ricketts by the Retail Park

## Planning

Nothing of major significance to report on the domestic planning application front, which we review but generally leave to the Richmond Council planning officer to decide upon without any comment from The Kew Society, unless there are major issues which contravene planning regulations.

There have been no planning applications in Kew over the summer period involving new large-scale development. There has been no further news on the proposed Kew Retail Park redevelopment, making it over two years since we were presented with the initial plans for the site. This is essentially the last major site earmarked in the Richmond Local Plan for redevelopment in the Kew area.

We understand that work is shortly to start at the nearby Kew Biothane Site on Melliss Avenue, adjacent to the Kew Riverside estate. In 2020, planning approval was given for luxury flats on the site but, after three years of inactivity, the site was sold in 2024 to luxury retirement specialist Elysian Residences, who (according to their website) intend to use the existing planning approval to build 88 waterside apartments by 2027. We understand that Kew Riverside residents have recently been informed by the company that a survey of the condition of Melliss Avenue and groundwork investigations will begin shortly, in advance of full site mobilisation next year, and that they recognise the importance of communicating fully with the local community.

A date is still awaited, probably some time in November, for the Planning Inspectorate’s public inquiry into the proposed redevelopment of the Mortlake Brewery site. The inquiry had been planned to start in May 2024, but had to be postponed due to the unavailability of the planning inspector.

The Homebase, Manor Road redevelopment was finally approved by the Mayor of London in May 2024. North Richmond ward councillors asked Richmond Council to seek legal advice on whether the Mayor’s decision – made in the wake of a consultation process which was widely recognised to be flawed – could be challenged by judicial review (such a review could address the process that led to the decision not the decision itself). We understand the councillors have now been informed that although the Mayor’s public consultations on the proposals were indeed flawed, there was not enough evidence to show that he would have made a different decision if they had been administered correctly, therefore the Council is unable to mount a legal challenge. Richmond Council is responsible for ensuring that the developer – Avanton – adheres to the relevant planning regulations when construction commences, for example by submitting and adhering to a viable Construction Management Plan for the site – and the councillors will be keeping a close eye on this. There have been rumours that Avanton may on-sell the site which now has planning permission, but we have no further details on this.

North of the river in Hounslow, the planning application to redevelop the Sega site behind the Brentford Stadium, which we reported on earlier this year, still awaits a decision. Plans have been announced for the large-scale redevelopment of the 13.4 acre GSK site adjacent to the Great West Road involving a major mixed-use scheme including flats and commercial space. Initial consultations were held at the end of June, but these plans are at a very early stage and we have not seen meaningful information on the massing or heights of the proposed new buildings, which might impact on historic views from Kew Gardens and the Arcadian Thames. This may be one of the largest ever developments in the Brentford area.

Lastly, it's perhaps worth noting that, whilst the new Labour Government has announced plans to reduce the overall target for new housing in the London area by 20,000 (or 20%) per annum as part of their proposed overhaul of the planning system, the target for Richmond Council has – we understand – actually been increased from 2,187 to 2,238 p.a., whilst targets for Hounslow Council have been reduced by 41% (from 3,368 to 1,991). If plans for Kew Retail Park, Homebase Manor Road, Mortlake Brewery and the old Barnes Hospital site go ahead as currently envisaged, they would cumulatively provide close to 3,000 residential units – but this would be some time in the future given the scale of the developments.

**John Ricketts, Lead – Planning Subcommittee**

## The Kew Society and social media

When The Kew Society was founded over 100 years ago, news relating to the village would have been shared through print media, town hall gatherings, letters, and gossip over the garden wall. Today's multi-platform, largely instantaneous, media landscape could not be more different, with information shared in a flash via smart phones and vast quantities of data distilled into soundbites, videos and instant messages.

As a charity seeking to engage with our community, influence planning decisions, protect our environment and improve our green spaces, it is essential that we use all media channels to deepen and broaden our impact. This means embracing social media while maintaining traditional formats.

As The Kew Society's new Social Media coordinator, I plan to use social media to:

- Increase awareness of The Kew Society's mission and vision for the community and, by doing so, expand our membership base and ensure we attract a wider audience within all areas of Kew;
- By leveraging the most popular social media platforms – for example, Instagram & Facebook – drive informal awareness of The Kew Society, promote events and activities organised by the group and capture feedback from existing and potential members.

Please follow us on Instagram @kewsociety and Facebook: The Kew Society to find out what's happening. And why not tag us – #kewsociety – on your Kew relevant posts? If you spot me at a Kew Society event, let's take a selfie!



**Karina Garcia**

## Surveying the birds in Kew Gardens

As a volunteer at Kew Gardens, I have one of the most interesting jobs! I carry out a general bird survey every three to four weeks, starting early in the morning, following the same route and making a record of what I see or hear in seven different areas of the Gardens. One of the highlights of the year is the early spring when I and other volunteers inspect the 20+ nesting boxes. The nesting boxes are thoroughly cleaned in the winter to remove old nesting material and the odd startled spider.

Blue and great tits love these simple cement compound boxes and start making their beautifully cosy moss and feather-lined nests in March. They lay between 6-10 tiny eggs in April and May when their food supply of small green caterpillars is at its most plentiful. Eggs are laid daily, usually in the morning, and incubation starts once the last egg has been laid. After about 15 days, the chicks emerge followed by a frenzy of feeding activity for the next three weeks before the chicks fledge and the nesting boxes are abandoned for another year.

We carefully inspect the boxes regularly over this period to see if the nest is occupied, count the number of eggs & chicks and hopefully a successful progression into adulthood – all over in 5-6 weeks!



**Geoff Williams**

## Interview with the Reverend Melanie Harrington

*The Reverend Dr. Melanie Harrington-Haynes is the vicar of St. Luke's Church and St. Philip & All Saints (The Barn Church) in Kew. Installed as Vicar in June 2021, she was previously an Assistant Curate in Lichfield. She completed her ordination training at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, and Oxford university. Prior to ordination, she completed a PhD in Early Modern History at Cambridge University and worked as an academic. Melanie is the Kingston Episcopal Area Adviser for Women's Ministry and a Vocations Adviser for Southwark Diocese. She lives in Kew with her children, husband, cat and dog. She was interviewed by Claire Bethel.*



You have been in Kew now for three years or so, having taken up your new position in the middle of the pandemic. What made you apply for this position and what were your initial impressions of Kew?

As clergy, when we think about applying for posts we try to discern if it is where we believe God is calling us to be and to minister. I felt this strongly when exploring the role of Vicar at both churches, and still feel it strongly today. I knew Kew quite well as I'd done a fair amount of research for my PhD at The National Archives, and I was thrilled to be coming here. The people of Kew have been friendly and approachable from the start!

What have been the highlights of your Ministry here? And what challenges have you faced since coming to Kew?

Coming out of the pandemic, all churches have faced challenges, financially and in terms of numbers attending. We've emerged from a time when churches were closed (so we did church outside of the buildings) to slowly trying to return to services alongside national Covid guidelines, and now into a new normal. It was a challenging time to start a first incumbency, but also a positive one – being able to journey with the churches through that time of change and think together about how church should look post-pandemic. The highlight of my ministry has been getting to know the people of Kew: in our churches, around Kew, and in local schools. A real highlight has been my work in The King's Primary School, where I regularly lead assemblies and serve on the governing board.

What are your priorities?

My priorities are to make sure that St Luke's and the Barn Church continue to grow, are places of relevance, community, love, and hope for the people of Kew, whether they are regular churchgoers or not. Churches are for communities. Yes, they spread the good news of God's love, but they also help us build community better: working together for things we feel passionately about, caring for each other, and being places of learning for people of all ages and stages of life.

## Recycling update

Have you seen Richmond Council's latest Recycling, Reuse and Waste Reduction update? There's a comprehensive list of what can be recycled or reused in the Borough at [https://www.richmond.gov.uk/where\\_to\\_recycle\\_your\\_items](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/where_to_recycle_your_items).

By putting the right recyclable item in the correct location, you're helping to divert waste from landfill. And remember, one person's junk might be another person's treasure, so why not ask your neighbours before you take your unwanted items to Townmead Road Reuse and Recycling Centre? You never know what it could be upcycled into !!

## Exploring the electric bike revolution in Kew – postscript

You may remember in our last edition, Trevor Whittaker, set out the pros and cons of hiring electric bikes in and around Kew. As an addendum to this, he wanted to draw to readers' attention to the fact that it's much cheaper to buy a Lime Pass than to hire per ride, and these can come with discounts too. For example, looking at the app today, a Lime Pass would currently cost:

- 30 mins - £3.99 (must use in 1 day)
- 60 mins - £6.99 (must use in 3 days)
- 200 mins £18.99 (must use in 7 days)

This compares with a standard rate of £1.00 to unlock the bike and then 29p per minute (was 20p/mile at time of his original article).



## EVENTS

Over the past summer months, the Events team has been putting the finishing touches to our final programme, running up to the TKS AGM in October.

It was great to see current and prospective Kew Society members at the successful Kew Summer Fete in June and the August Kew Horticultural Show – a gentle traditional event located on Kew Green – although competition in the tent remains high every year and this year was no exception!

We had an uplifting and informative talk by Nick Ovenden updating us about his ongoing work in the Amazon rainforest.

On June 1st Benjamin Franklin House teamed up with the National Archives, Kew Society and DAR to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the passing of the four acts known collectively as the Coercive or Intolerable Acts. The acts were in response to the Boston Tea Party and their severe measures pushed the colonies a big step closer to revolution.

July and August have been enhanced by excellent guided tours of Syon House and Landscape and a tour of the Handel/Hendrix House located near Bond Street.

It was very depressing to view how Syon's beautiful and historic Great Conservatory now has Brentford buildings looming up to the skyline, spoiling the view.

August ends with a guided tree walk by Kew's Head of Trees, and we head into early September with tours of The King's Observatory in the Old Deer Park.

We then come to the final three events from the current Events team:

1. A splendid talk from the highly entertaining Celia Holman - 'Arcadian Thames - a stroll along Twickenham's heritage riverside'
2. A second Walking Tour around the Farringdon area by our brilliant Blue Badge Guide and member, Helen Bartolome
3. The October 2024 AGM which will be followed by a talk from Jason Debney, Co-ordinator, Thames Landscape Strategy.

All that is left to say is thanks from The Events team for your continued support and hope you will welcome Bettina to provide future activities and enjoyment under the Events umbrella.



Speakers with the Events Team at the Coercive Acts event



Visit to Denbies Vineyard in July

Mary Done

## The Events Team – looking back

At the 2024 TKS AGM, the current Events team – Mary Done, Jane Hogan, Sue May and Heather Wakefield – is required to step down after many exciting and invigorating years working on Kew Society events. We can't pass on enough thanks to all the supporters and friends who have attended many of our events and attractions – after more than 12 years, the team is extremely proud of what has been achieved. In honesty, we have had fun – usually over a glass of wine or mug of tea – planning each year's varied offerings – fondly remembering hurdles sometimes faced, but overcome! For the Events team, 'Well Done' is far better than 'Well Said' .... actions speak louder etc ..... in other words, sometimes one has to take a chance and stick with it.

Good luck to the Events team taking over – new faces and ideas are welcome to ensure The Kew Society leaps to the next stage, growing in numbers and influence. We are around to help – we've bought the T-shirt – even



**Sue, Jane, Heather & Mary**

if we won't be wearing it any more.

A taster of events that have taken place over the years is available to download at <https://bit.ly/4fYPE8o>

Rounding off – there's no 'l' in the word "team", although there is one in "retirement" – let's hope that once the Events team steps down we will not be as useless as the 'g' in 'Lasagne'.

We will be delighted to meet all Kew Society friends at future events which we are looking forward to attending.

Thanks again – it has been a real pleasure ..... Best....

**Mary, Sue, Jane and Heather XX**

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### **Pensford Field Friends' Tea Party: Sunday 15th September 2024 3pm-4.30pm**

If you are not already a Friend of Pensford Field, then it is not too late to join ahead of our annual tea party by following the link below . At £5.00 per person per annum, you probably could not buy a cup of tea and cake for less! You can pay on the gate but ideally you can set up a standing order ahead of the event.

The Trustees are delighted to welcome Peter, Lord Henty of Richmond Hill and recently appointed Minister of

State for Rail, Department of Transport. He has been the Chair of Network Rail since 2015 and was previously the Commissioner for Transport for London for 9½ years. He joined London Transport as a graduate trainee in 1975; on the establishment of the London Mayoralty, he served under Mayors Ken Livingstone and Boris Johnson. He and his wife Sue live in Richmond, and he supports various charities, including *Habitats and Heritage* (which cares for the natural and historic environment in south and west London), often by driving one of his two iconic London Routemaster buses.

So please join us to hear from Peter about his career and the critical role of public transport services. **Don't Tell Smith** will be playing relaxed afternoon jazz and there will, of course, be some delicious tea and cakes.

To give us an idea of numbers, please email [info@pensfordfield.co.uk](mailto:info@pensfordfield.co.uk) to let us know you are coming.

And for any readers who are not yet Friends of Pensford Field, an Application Form can be downloaded at

<https://tinyurl.com/Pensford-Field>



Swans in the pond of The National Archives



And the pond in Kew Riverside



## Annual General Meeting of The Kew Society

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 7.00 pm. Doors open at 6.45pm

Venue: The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey

After the formal business of the AGM there will be a short break for refreshments before a talk by our guest speaker Jason Debney, Co-ordinator, Thames Landscape Strategy (TLS)



The Thames is changing - flood risk is increasing, and measures need to be put in place to set out how London will be protected in the future. To inform this work, the Thames Landscape Strategy has been funded to update its 100-vision for the Thames (alongside an update of the Thames Strategy Kew to Chelsea and the Thames Strategy East) in a new initiative called the Joint Thames Strategy.

Jason returns to update us on TLS projects including measures to make the floodplain resilient to climate change whilst retaining the character that is special to our stretch of the river.

We look forward to welcoming our members to the AGM.

## KEW DIARY 2024

1st September	Our Songs, Your Songs (Jazz)	Café Yukari
<b>4th September</b>	<b>Tour of The King's Observatory, Old Deer Park</b>	<b>The Kew Society</b>
6th September	First Friday Lunch at Kew Community Centre in The Avenue	Kew Community Trust
6th September	Mon Amour Takarazuka (Japanese Chanson)	Café Yukari
15th September	Jazz Concert - Sarah Vaughan Songs	Café Yukari
20th September	Classical Concert	Café Yukari
<b>25th September</b>	<b>“Poets and Princes, Naked Ladies and Rock Gods”</b> <b>– an illustrated talk about the Arcadian Thames by Celia Holman</b>	<b>The Kew Society</b>
29th September	Jazz Concert, with Mood Indigo	Café Yukari
<b>3rd October</b>	<b>Meet in Kew at Kew Community Centre</b>	<b>The Kew Society &amp; Kew Community Trust</b>
4th October	First Friday Lunch at Kew Community Centre in The Avenue	Kew Community Trust
6th October	Our Songs, Your Songs (Jazz)	Café Yukari
<b>8th October</b>	<b>Helen Bartolome walking tour around Farringdon area</b> <b>(repeated from Spring 2024)</b>	<b>The Kew Society</b>
11th October	KCT Quiz Night	Kew Community Trust
13th October	Danielle Teal (Jazz)	Café Yukari
<b>16th October</b>	<b>AGM + talk by Jason Debney, Co-ordinator</b> <b>Thames Landscape Strategy, at The National Archives</b>	<b>The Kew Society</b>
27th October	Jazz Concert, with Mood Indigo	Café Yukari
1st November	First Friday Lunch at Kew Community Centre in The Avenue	Kew Community Trust
3rd November	Our Songs, Your Songs (Jazz)	Café Yukari
<b>7th November</b>	<b>Meet in Kew at Kew Community Centre</b>	<b>The Kew Society &amp; Kew Community Trust</b>
24th November	Jazz Concert	Café Yukari

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



Our latest pillar-box topper !!



### Contact Us

#### Your Committee includes:

Chair	Shiona Williams	chair@kewsociety.org
Vice-Chair	Trevor Whittaker	
Hon. Secretary	Diana Ormond	secretary@kewsociety.org
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#### Patrons

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

#### JOIN NOW by visiting our website:

[www.kewsociety.org](http://www.kewsociety.org)

Charity Number: 1173016

#### You can write to us at:

The Kew Society, 90 Forest Road, KEW, Surrey, TW9 3BZ

