



## The Kew Society Newsletter • Winter 2024-25

### Welcome....

to our winter newsletter. We're sure you'll agree that Kew Sparkle was a huge success this year, definitely a highlight in the local calendar and very well-attended. This edition is full of articles about what's going on in Kew, so we hope you enjoy it. Let us know if you have any suggestions for future articles or would like to volunteer to write one!

Some of our members have asked whether there have been any further developments on the Kew Retail Park following Sarah Olney's report on her website in November that plans for redevelopment had been shelved. The developer – St George's – has stated that the Retail Park will remain as a retail space 'for the foreseeable future'. We do not have any further information at present but will keep you posted – keep an eye on our website.

### New look in Station Parade/Approach

*You will have seen the three new outlets that have opened in Station Parade and Station Approach: Trindle Stores, Santa Maria – a new Pizza restaurant, and Orion – a Korean supermarket. We all know about the challenges of setting up a new business and keeping it going in this competitive climate (see Sarah Olney's comments in the Autumn newsletter about making sure you shop or dine locally whenever you can – something we can all do to help our community flourish). So we're delighted to see the premises being used, adding variety to the existing stores on our doorstep. Claire Bethel asked the new proprietors what their hopes were on setting up their new business.*

### **Trindle Stores, 18 Station Parade ([www.trindle-stores.com](http://www.trindle-stores.com)) Owner: Camilla Trindle**

**Can you tell us a little about Trindle Stores – what you are offering? And how are you going to use the large space behind the shop?**

We are a grocery store, coffee shack and soon-to-be garden centre. Our absolute number one priority is to bring the community together; so alongside the garden centre we will be introducing music and art classes for both adults and children as well as sourcing some great people to do talks to the community on gardening and horticulture.

**Are you a family business? Can you tell us a bit about who is running it?**



We are husband and wife and are doing this together! (With the support from our young children – hopefully they'll be watering the plants!)

We are both business people: I have owned a PR company employing 18 staff for 8 years and Scott is a Fashion Photographer.

**Are you local to Kew?**

We are. My (Camilla's) family have been based in Sheen for over 30 years, Scott is from Wandsworth, and we moved to Kew in 2020, already very familiar with the area.

**What are your hopes for the business?**

We'd like this to be a community hub whereby people come and feel safe in a welcoming and cosy atmosphere whilst drinking great coffee

roasted locally in Chiswick. We want customers to find plants and information on gardening that is easy to comprehend and exciting to buy. We'd love people to find brilliant groceries from new independent brands they have never heard of and come to adore, fresh fruit and vegetables they buy regularly and most importantly for people to be proud to support local businesses.

## Santa Maria Restaurant

The new pizzeria is next door to Trindle Stores (see <https://www.santamariapizzeria.com/>) and was opened in mid-January by Angelo and Pasquale.

### Can you tell us how your business started up?

Santa Maria is a small pizzeria established in 2010 (in February we will celebrate our 15th anniversary!) founded by us (Angelo and Pasquale) at a small site in Ealing. A few months later, Santa Maria was in every magazine or blog (mind you, Instagram was launched eight months later and Facebook was still a very young platform, the term social media was still unknown!) for making the best pizza in London. We made an authentic traditional Neapolitan pizza, starting a trend that a few years later became a London staple food!! In 15 years, we have opened further restaurants in Fulham, Fitzrovia and Islington, and moved our Ealing location to a bigger one!



Angelo

### What hours will you be open and what do you offer?

We will be open 11:30am until 10.00pm, later at the weekend. Take-aways and deliveries will be available (even though we prefer serve our pizza, straight from our oven to your table!!).

### Who will be running the business? Can you tell us a little about yourselves – are you local to Kew?

We moved from Naples in the early-2000's and, after exploring most of the area of London, we decided to move for good to West London. So we are (relatively) locals, north of the river (Brentford/Hanwell) but we spend enough time in our favourite spots (Brentford Stadium and Kew Gardens!)

### Can you tell us a little about your hopes for the business?

We hope to bring joy to the area through beautiful pizza, and that the community will embrace our dedication and commitment!

### Any further plans?

We are soon going to open a Santa Maria spin-off in the nearby Brentford area.



Pasquale

## Orion Store, Korean supermarket

Orion Store has opened on the site formerly occupied by Oliver's, stocking many varieties of Korean food and space for customers to have a snack or a coffee.



Do go and check them out and let us know what you think. We wish them all well in their new ventures.

## A peak behind the scenes of Kew Village Market: volunteers needed

One of the delights of living in Kew is the monthly artisan market which takes place around the station. We caught up with the Market chair – Sylvia Levi – to find what is going on.

### What were the origins of the Market?

There's been a monthly market since October 2011. The inspiration came from two of Kew's councillors – J-F Burford and David Linnette. Initially there were just over a dozen stalls, now we can have up to fifty stalls. The numbers fluctuate slightly between markets. They were a mixture of crafts, food and street food mainly from local producers. And, with very few exceptions, this is still the case today.

### How did you get involved?

When I retired as an accountant, my husband – who was one of the volunteers – volunteered me as treasurer! I became the chair at the end of lockdown.

### What do you like most about the Market?

It has to be the people. Almost without exception, the stallholders are delightful: they really like the Market! We have wonderful volunteers as well, from a great range of backgrounds, whom it is a joy to be around.

The atmosphere is always good, with live music from local bands. And it's good to see people, and their dogs, catching up with their friends and neighbours.

### How do you think the Market will develop in future?

Because of the constraints of the site, I'm not sure we can grow very much further, which is a pity because there is a long list of people who would like to have stalls. The biggest problem is the lack of volunteers. We are always looking for people to help on the day, but more importantly we need people to help behind the scenes: for example, to find and book stalls and to help with the paperwork. If you can help, please get in touch, thank you.

The Market takes place in Station and Royal Parade on the first Sunday of the month (except January) between 10.00am and 2.00pm.



Sylvia Levi (left) with the then Mayoress and several of the volunteers in December 2023



Beyond the call of duty: Sylvia spreading the word about the Market in Kew Gardens, New York City (a neighbourhood in Queens)

## From Trash to Treasure – Upcycling as a way of reducing waste

As a child, I used to watch my father make furniture out of things others had discarded because they were broken, out of fashion or just unwanted. In fact, our house had a number of chairs and tables stemming from his creativity. So it was only natural that I became a collector of 'stuff' – the odds and sods that no one wants but that I was sure would come in handy one day!

During lockdown, this habit turned out to be useful because, when we were only allowed to go out food shopping in Bahrain, where I lived. I had a houseful of bits and bobs to transform into works of art (well, they were in my opinion!). Turning trash into treasure is an activity I've continued long after pandemic restrictions. And, while there is a limit to the number of things I can hang on my walls, use as garden ornaments or give away as presents, it's great that in some small way I've reduced my waste footprint. Fewer items go into the recycling box and I don't need to buy new – save perhaps for glue and paint.

Currently, I've got a collection of cardboard roll inserts from dog poo bags waiting to be transformed into something, and a pile of clothing price tags itching to be given a new life!

In recent years, upcycling – also known as creative reuse – has become a trend, with numerous pages dedicated to it on social media. So it's not difficult for me to find inspiration. Upcycling is the process of transforming by-products, waste materials and useless or unwanted products into new materials or products perceived to be



Upcycled wooden bowl on reclaimed wood

of greater quality – either in terms of aesthetics (they are works of art) or environmental value (they have diverted a waste stream from landfill, for example). But for me, it's a great way to explore my creative side without the need to spend a fortune!

Would you like to try your hand at upcycling with me? If so, come along to the Kew Eco-Fair at St. Lukes on 22nd March 2025 where TKS will be running an upcycled art activity suitable for all ages and abilities.

More details to follow.



Upcycled duck made out of broken ornament, table leg and papier mâché

Sarah Clarke, Coordinator on Environment

## Broaden your knowledge of Horticulture and Botany at KMIS

If one of your New Year resolutions is to expand your knowledge of horticulture and botany, then the Kew Mutual Improvement Society (KMIS) at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew could be just what you're looking for!

Founded by Joseph Dalton Hooker in 1871 with the aim of providing students of horticulture and botany with the opportunity to broaden their understanding of a wide range of subjects relating to the profession, today the KMIS is run by Kew Diploma in Horticulture students who curate and present a varied programme of lectures. The programme is open to anyone with a passion for horticulture and botany!

### February

- **3 February.** *A diet of worms: Horticultural heresies, enlightenments and indulgences* with Edward Flint, gardener, consultant and lecturer
- **10 February.** *Beth Chatto's Plants & Gardens: Past, present and future* with Åsa Gregers-Warg, head gardener at Beth Chatto's Plants & Gardens
- **17 February.** Talk 1: *Caring for Scotland's temperate rainforests* with Stephanie LL Kew Apprentice; Talk 2: *Putting the bee in Bryony* with Aneel Odhwani, Apprentice and Carlos Martel, Research Fellow RBG Kew
- **24 February.** *Towards a Honduran fern flora* with David Hill, Honduran fern flora team member

The February talks are shown opposite as an illustration of the variety available.

You can find their 2025 lecture schedule at: <https://tinyurl.com/KMIS-Talks>

All lectures are on Mondays at 6.00pm, £4.00 (regular) £10.00 (fundraising).

**Live:** Lady Lisa Sainsbury Lecture Theatre, Jodrell Gate.

**Online:** Hosted via Microsoft Teams.

## East Side Story

If you live to the east of Kew Gardens Station and the railway line, you have probably walked past the little garden, next to Chris and Chris Motors, and admired the lovely space and maybe wondered when and how it came about. For many years, this was an untidy piece of wasteland, but Diana Hutchings and a few of her neighbours in North Road kept an eye on it, removing litter and trying to make it as neat as possible. Then, in 2011, J-F Burford – one of our local Councillors – got involved and persuaded Richmond Council to transform this space to make a small garden. Continental Landscapes did the construction and planting pro bono, and the garden was originally called Railway Gardens but is now affectionately known by many as 'High Park Corner' !! In 2016, John and Daphne Turner downsized from a house and garden in Plymouth to a flat with a very small garden in Kew. They missed gardening, so they joined The Kew Society gardening team and gradually took on the maintenance of this garden which they continued to do, with help from their children and grandchildren, for about eight years until early 2024. John and Daphne had a relaxed approach to gardening and introduced

plants they particularly liked such as hibiscus, ceanothus and a camelia as well as a variety of spring bulbs. John said the garden was great fun, and they enjoyed meeting new people, including residents from the hostel opposite and lost visitors looking for Kew Gardens. Daphne also enjoyed the positive feedback from passers-by which she said made their efforts feel very worthwhile.

Now, Bharti Hindocha has taken on the lead role in taking the garden into the next phase of its life. Bharti has trained in horticulture and garden design and is bringing a different, more structured approach. She is keen to bring more colour into the garden and wants to plant more annuals in 2025 – gazenias, cosmos, pelargoniums and four o'clock plants. She says the greatest challenge is the poor quality of the soil, which

is very dry and sandy, and she's very grateful to Chris and Chris Motors who provide access to water. Bharti also enjoys interacting with passers-by and gets lots of positive feedback; she is very happy that people enjoy seeing the garden and spending time in it. If you haven't seen this lovely green space, do have a look. Many thanks to Bharti for all her hard work.



**Bharti Hindocha in the North Road garden**

**Anna Anderson, Gardening Lead**

## Kew Road Ha-Ha

Regular users of the Kew Road between Lion Gate at the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Old Deer Park Sports Ground may have noticed that the ditch running along the side of the road has undergone a transformation.



**Litter picking at the Ha-Ha**

Thanks to an ongoing project led by Habitats and Heritage ([www.habitatsandheritage.org.uk](http://www.habitatsandheritage.org.uk)), overgrown trees, brambles, invasive species and all manner of rubbish have been cleared to reveal the brickwork of the historic ha-ha, thought to date back to the mid-18th century.

The Kew Road ha-ha conservation and restoration project is designed

to gain a better understanding of its history and relationship with the wider landscape, including the part it played in George III and Queen Charlotte's royal residence at Richmond. A parallel aim is to establish a wildlife corridor that supports native species, such as hedgehogs, butterflies and beetles throughout the year. With plans for an educational trail, the ha-ha is set to become a fascinating site of local historic interest and nature conservation. A recent ha-ha conservation activity was led by Paul Jennings – CEO of Habitats and Heritage. 15 volunteers litter-picked and planted 2,000 bulbs which, all being well, by 2026 will provide a riot of colour for onlookers and a feast for wildlife from February through to October. We are delighted that Jess Vining – Heritage Projects Officer at Habitats and Heritage – will be giving a talk to The Kew Society in the Spring about the ha-ha project. Keep an eye out for our announcements!



**Bulb planting at the Ha-Ha**

**Sarah Clarke, Coordinator on Environment**

Our volunteer gardeners, led by Head Gardener Anna Anderson, are taking a well-earned break over the winter. But work at Kew Gardens station continues with our partner Energy Garden, who will be running a small renovation project in February or March on the west bound platform garden. To help us to keep costs to a minimum, do you have a spare wooden railway sleeper left over from a landscaping project? Or perhaps you know of someone who would be willing to donate one or two to the project? We'll need six to eight sleepers to replace some that are rotten.

Message [environment@kewsociety.org](mailto:environment@kewsociety.org) and we'll be in touch.

## Heathrow Update: night flights and the effects of aviation on the environment

Rightmove – the UK’s largest online estate agent – publishes an annual list of the “happiest places to live in Great Britain”, based on a survey of about 35,000 people from all over the country. Richmond upon Thames topped the list in 2023 and came top again in the recent Times 2024 survey, results we fully applaud.

Nevertheless, there are some undesirable aspects to living in our beautiful area! For Kew residents, one – especially during night-time hours – is aircraft noise, as planes pass overhead on their flight paths into Heathrow. The Department for Transport (DfT) sets quotas on flights arriving and departing from airports like Heathrow. The current Night Quota Period (NQP) is 3,250 flights during the summer period and 2,550 during the winter season. Following a consultation in February 2024, DfT has announced that there will be no changes to the current night-flight regime for Heathrow for the period October 2025 – October 2028.



© Skyler Smith

In practical terms this means that many Kew residents will continue to be woken by the 14 scheduled flights arriving at Heathrow between 4.00am and 6.00am every morning, and by many more flights arriving between 6.00am and 7.00am. The Richmond Heathrow Campaign, of which The Kew Society is a member, has argued strongly that all these flights should be moved to daytime arrivals; and we will continue to press Heathrow for further action to reduce the high incidence of over-flying aircraft, especially at night.

The DfT decided against any changes on the grounds that they are waiting for the ‘Aviation Night Noise Effects Study’ to report – this despite the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) having already published a large body of evidence from many scientific reports that aviation noise disturbs sleep and has adverse effects on human health, with particular reference to children’s health and well-being.

RM and PB, with Peter Willan – chair of the Richmond Heathrow Campaign (RHC) – also recently responded to a consultation by the CAA on how they should in future report on the effects of aviation on environmental matters, including climate change, air pollution and noise. We stressed that data on this should be published for individual large airports such as Heathrow, rather than for the whole country or regions of it. Reporting by airport would allow identifying those which are causing environmental damage and action to be taken to remedy this.

We are also pressing the CAA for data to be published on the loss of tranquillity owing to overflying places near major airports like Richmond Park and The Royal Botanic Gardens. There are increasing concerns about the general level of mental wellbeing in the community; depriving that community of the tranquillity so often needed to unwind can only be detrimental, to say nothing of the impact on the air quality for those seeking to achieve a healthy lifestyle.

For further information on the various generally negative effects of aviation on the environment, see <https://tinyurl.com/Heathrow-Noise>

Roger Mason & Paul Bethel

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## Update on Pensford Field

Most of our members will be aware of the continuing uncertainty concerning the future environmental management of Pensford Field. Pensford Field Environmental Trust (PFET), which has managed the site for almost three decades, has been given a year’s notice by the council before the lease – which was due to expire in 2028, so is being cut short by several years – will be transferred to another charity: Dose of Nature (DoN). DoN was founded about five years ago and has, with permission from PFET, operated from this council-owned site.

The Kew Society is working with both charities with the aim of influencing an outcome which ensures environmental stewardship of this much-loved green space, community access and specialist ‘nature-based’ mental health provision in the heart of Kew.

Representatives of both charities and a Kew Society trustee attended a meeting chaired by Gareth Roberts – leader of the council – on 29th November to discuss the situation and agree what actions need to be taken before any transfer of the lease.

Following the meeting, a joint statement was agreed by all parties:

**Joint Statement:**

The meeting was constructive in nature and discussed both the detail and the generality of the emerging Heads of Terms and Lease Arrangements under which DoN would assume management of Pensford Field. The meeting considered a range of conditions and requests put forward by PFET relating to the emerging heads of terms and lease, and the majority were accepted in full by DoN and some accepted in principle subject to further review and clarification.

The council advised that the lease and heads of terms would be based on the current lease, with specific safeguards and protections included to protect rights of access and focus on nature conservation. The council intends that there would be close involvement by the council to monitor progress and offer assistance as required. The council proposes that the initial lease awarded to DoN would be for 10 years with a break clause, within sole control of the council, to be considered at two years. Further, a period of engagement 18 months after commencement of the contract would be entered into to ensure various undertakings in relation to conservation and community use were being met.

It was agreed that council officers would be given space, subsequent to the meeting, to produce the lease and heads of terms which would be shared, in draft form, with those present. It was further agreed that once the draft was finalised then a process of engagement would be undertaken.

The meeting concluded with broad acceptance of the plan for engagement and timescales for the next steps. A commitment was given to provide a response to the complaint made by PFET on 16th October seeking a reversal of the council's decision and consultation with the community.

**Following the meeting:**

Although PFET Trustees agreed to the content of the statement above, they continue to vigorously oppose the decision to transfer the lease to DoN, which they believe to be unlawful.

For more information visit the websites of both charities: [www.pensfordfield.co.uk](http://www.pensfordfield.co.uk) and [www.doseofnature.org.uk](http://www.doseofnature.org.uk)

Shiona Williams

**The Kew Supper Club**

The Kew Supper Club was born in 2022 when Elizabeth Butler and Madeleine Wilson, who'd already loved working together at Elizabeth's deli – Antrobus & Butler – decided to take things up a notch.

Their idea? To bring Elizabeth's delicious dishes to the Kew community in a fresh, fun way while creating opportunities for people to connect.



Ready & Waiting

the Kew Supper Club and whether he would recommend it:

"Some time ago, a friend suggested that my wife and I might enjoy visiting the Kew Supper Club, where they focus on preparing interesting cuisine from different parts of the world. Although we live a couple of miles away in Teddington, we were assured we would receive a warm welcome. Kew Supper Club events are held in a relaxed environment in what was once a cafe/shop next to the exclusive classic car showrooms of DD Classics, a location guaranteed to deliver pre-supper visual treats for any petrol-head. We have so far managed to attend three Kew Supper Club evenings,

**The menu?** Always something different and exciting, inspired by Elizabeth's diverse culinary experiences, from local UK flavours to international influences. Every event feels like a special, intimate gathering – perfect for sharing good food, good conversation and meeting some like-minded locals.

**Want to know more?** Keep an eye on their events by following them on Facebook (Kew Supper Club) or Instagram (@antrobusandbutler). For more info or to book a spot, drop them a line at [kewsupperclub102@gmail.com](mailto:kewsupperclub102@gmail.com).

We asked a diner at a recent dinner for his views on what he likes about



And we're off

## KEW DIARY 2025

Now to 2 March	Peru Orchids	Kew Gardens
Now to 23 March	Expressions in Blue Exhibition: Monumental Porcelain	Kew Gardens
2nd February	Kew Village Market	Station Parade
5th February	Jazz Evening in Mamma Mia, 459 Upper Richmond Road West, SW14 7PR at 7.00pm	Kew Rotary Club*
<b>6th February</b>	<b>Meet in Kew at Kew Community Centre</b>	<b>The Kew Society and Kew Community Trust</b>
21st February	Kew Supper Club	kewsupperclub102@gmail.com*
<b>26th February</b>	<b>“Behind the Scenes at Expressions in Blue” by Ceramicist Felicity Aylieff in the National Archives at 7.00pm</b>	<b>The Kew Society</b>
2nd March	Kew Village Market	Station Parade
<b>6th March</b>	<b>Meet in Kew at Kew Community Centre</b>	<b>The Kew Society and Kew Community Trust</b>
22nd March	Kew Eco-Fair at St. Luke’s Church	see ‘Upcycling Article’ on Page 3

\* Reservations Required for these events

each of which has been memorable for its hospitality, superb food and immensely stimulating company. After each event we have left with a warm glow that comes not just from eating delicious food, but from the fellowship of dining side by side at refectory style tables with diverse and interesting people. It was reminiscent of Floyd’s 1970’s Bistro in Clifton, Bristol, where as a student you could eat a great meal sitting alongside a wide range of interesting fellow diners.

During our three visits to the Kew Supper Club, we have met an accountant who had survived being held hostage on a hijacked plane, a literary couple who grew rhubarb in their flower beds and a Richmond man who built a Scottish Castle in China and won awards for his Chinese wines. Stories so off the scale, you simply could not make them up! For a unique and stimulating evening where you can enjoy excellent tasty food in great company, look no further than the Kew Supper Club.”

Dr. Michael R. Taylor

## STOP PRESS

1. The Public Inquiry into the planning applications for the redevelopment of the Mortlake Brewery, which took place over 15 days in November and December 2024, concluded on 12th December. A decision by the Planning Inspector is expected in March this year.

John Ricketts, Planning

2. We’re looking for a dynamic Communications Lead to take over the reins as our current lead steps down at Easter. If you’re skilled at generating and communicating ideas and have experience of social media and website updates, we’d love to hear from you! Please contact Shiona (chair@kewsociety.org) for a chat about this exciting opportunity.

If Hand-Delivered:

For Address Label

## Contact Us

## Your Committee includes:

Chair	Shiona Williams	chair@kewsociety.org
Vice-Chair	Trevor Whittaker	
Hon. Secretary	Diana Ormond	secretary@kewsociety.org
Hon. Treasurer	Steve Williams	treasurer@kewsociety.org
Membership Secretary	Janet Clark	membership@kewsociety.org
Press/Website/ Communications	Russel Hayes	russel@family-hayes.co.uk
Social Media Coordinator	Karina Garcia	karina.garcia@kewsociety.org
<b>Planning</b>	<b>VACANT</b>	<b>[ planning@kewsociety.org ]</b>
Environment Lead	Sarah Clarke	environment@kewsociety.org
Events	Bettina Kaemmerer	events@kewsociety.org
Gardening	Anna Anderson	gardening@kewsociety.org
Newsletter Editor	Claire Bethel	editor@kewsociety.org

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Charity Number: 1173016

## You can write to us at:

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



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