The Kew Society Newsletter • Autumn 2015

Welcome...

back to the delights of autumnal Kew, still green at the time of writing after a summer of sun and rain. The Kew Horticultural Society Show (at which we had a stall) seems to mark the September return to work and normality. The appearance of rugby balls around our neighbourhood reminds us that there will be exceptional delights and disruptions this autumn as the fans gather round to spur on those winning best men. Meanwhile, we are also getting ready for our Kew Society Annual General Meeting on 14th October at the National Archives – details below. Most residents of Kew must be regular visitors to the Royal Botanical Gardens but how many of us know much about the National Archives? Here is an easy chance to find out more while enjoying the company of our fellow members of the Society who also care about all that Kew has to offer. As you do care, don't forget that there are all sorts of ways, big and small, focussed and general, in which you can help show that care. For example, you can encourage your neighbours to join the Society, help out with events, bring your specialist expertise to bear or even become a Trustee. Just get in touch with any Committee member – and there is no need to wait until the AGM to do so. Names and email addresses are on the back page.

Kew Plaza Map

On 24th June we unveiled the new map for visitors which we have been working on with the National Archives, their contractors, Bouygues who generously re-furbished the structure holding the map pro bono, the Royal Botanic Gardens, the Kew Residents Association and Richmond Council. We hope it will help visitors to find the Royal Botanic Gardens, the National Archives, the Crematorium, Kew Green and the River more easily. It will not solve all the problems but is a start. We are continuing to work with the Council on improving signage from the station.

The Kew Traders Association told us "The new map is a massive improvement on the old one – crisp and clear. Visitors to Kew often come into the shops in our Village to ask for directions. Whilst it's nice to see them, so many lost visitors says a lot about why we needed this new map on Kew Plaza. Improved signage on the other side of the station would help too."

We are lucky to have world renowned sites which attract visitors from all over the world. We hope visitors as well as residents will like the new design and we will continue to work on more improvements

The new map is unveiled

Heathrow Expansion Latest News

Here are two dates for your diary:

- Thursday 8th October: the Richmond Society's Forum meeting at 19.45 at the Duke Street Church, Richmond will focus on Heathrow expansion. Come along to hear the latest update and ask questions of the Richmond Heathrow Campaign (RHC). The cost is a £2.00 donation to the Richmond Society. Doors open at 19.15 with hot and cold drinks.
- Saturday 10th October at 11.00 in central London: a newly formed "Coalition against Heathrow expansion," including the RHC, is holding a No Heathrow 3rd Runway Protest. Please hold the date to come along if you are opposed to Heathrow expansion. The venue will be publicised soon.

The Airports Commission final report to Government favoured Heathrow expansion on economic grounds but did not rule out Gatwick. There were a number of caveats in the recommendation, including the need to comply with legally binding air quality standards currently not being met. Take a look at our website www.kewsociety.org for direct links to the Commission's report and the response by the RHC.

Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee is holding an inquiry "into the implications of the recommendation for Government's commitment on carbon emissions, air quality and noise should the recommendation of a third runway at Heathrow be adopted". The RHC is submitting evidence, by the deadline of 3rd September. It will build on evidence already assembled in its new website www.rhcfacts.org which is being updated now with the final data from the Commission, though these data do not change the summary conclusions reached. The RHC wrote to all MPs with these facts just before publication of the Commission's report. The web site enables decision makers to drill down to the supporting evidence – do take a look yourself.

A new Cabinet sub-committee has also been formed, chaired by the Prime Minister (the Economic Affairs (Airports) sub-Committee), to "consider matters relating to airport capacity in the South East of England in the light of the Airports Commission's report". The RHC is looking at what evidence to submit to Cabinet Office for the Committee to consider.

Do keep checking our website www.kewsociety.org for all the latest news.

Brentford Football Stadium

The Public Inquiry into the Compulsory Purchase Order for Brentford Football Club forcibly to acquire the remainder of the site opened on Tuesday 8th September, running into the following week. The detailed programme and further information about the hearing, held at Brentford Free Church, Boston Manor Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 8DW, can be found at: http://www.hwa.uk.com/projects/london-borough-of-hounslow-lionel-road-south-cpo-2014/.

Sadly, the Committee had to conclude that the Society's resources were inadequate to meet the full costs of engaging Counsel and three expert witnesses formally to appear on the Society's behalf but our original objection remains regarding the "enabling development" and its traffic and pollution consequences. We have informed the Inspector that, where their case matches ours, we support the objection of the major remaining landowner. Members of the Committee are attending parts of the Inquiry, alongside other Community Groups north of the River.

We still await the outcome of our application to the Information Commissioner for the full release of the confidential development appraisals used by the London Borough of Hounslow and the football club to justify the planning consent for the 910 tower block flats and hotel, the profits from which are said to be needed to fund the stadium. The football club's owner appears also to own another club in Denmark.

Multiple reserved matters planning applications have recently been made by the club and its development partner, Willmott Dixon, to Hounslow Council regarding the detailed design of the enabling development.

Town Planning

The Society's representations in respect of many planning matters can appear negative but we were pleased recently to be able to make representations in favour of the application by the Village Bookshop owner to reface the shop's side elevation. That application has subsequently been approved.

Old Inland Revenue Site

Formal planning approval for the re-development of this site was given on 22nd May following finalisation of the Section 106 agreement which contains the requirement for the GP surgery. For those who could not get to the public exhibition organised by Taylor Wimpey you can view the display boards they prepared at https://www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/proposed-developments/england/london/richmond/bessant-drive. Discussions are on-going with NHS England for the fit-out costs of the new GP surgery as part of the scheme. This will provide expanded accommodation for the current North Road surgery which has specified their requirements at the new site. (The surgery needs to move from its current location as its lease expires). We are keeping in touch with Richmond Council and with Taylor Wimpey on progress.

Events

June proved to be an exciting month for the Events team. Our stand at The Kew Midsummer Fete on Saturday 20th looked splendid and attracted much attention with winning photographs from our 'Eye on Kew' competition on display. A panel of local, professional judges had selected prize winners and the standard was high. The competition had been promoted to local schools and Krishnan Guru-Murthy. Channel 4 News Reporter, did a splendid job awarding the prizes at the Fete.

Eve Abbott receiving her prize from Krishnan Guru-Murthy

The following week we ran a very successful joint picnic party with Pensford Field. The fun evening of music and entertainment raised over £1,000, which went to help towards repairing the Pensford Field studio roof – Pensford Field is a hidden jewel within Kew and much loved by local families and wildlife!

Glorious weather enhanced the storytelling, music, ice cream and Pimms on offer.

All in a row for a picnic

With such happy thoughts in mind, a second wine tasting four-week course run by The Good Wine Shop commenced in June and focused on Classic Regions of Europe. These evenings were greatly enjoyed by all and Wine Educator, Pippa Hayward, oversaw the course once again.

The wine tasting course in full flow at The Good Wine Shop!

We hope you were able to pop along to our stand at the Kew Horticultural Society Show on 5th September. We always love to have a chat with Members or anybody who is interested in the Kew area. Your ideas and comments are most welcome, indeed essential to continuing improvement! If you tried your luck with our mystery game, we hope you enjoyed it.

AGM

The National Archives

We are delighted to have the opportunity to hold our 2015 AGM at The National Archives on Wednesday 14th October. Doors open at 18.30; the AGM runs from 18.45 to 19.30; then there will be a talk from our guest speaker, William Spencer, Principal Military Specialist at the National Archives. We are looking forward to hearing William speak about Kew and the First World War, covering memorials and personal stories of people living in Kew at the time.

Refreshments will be available from 20.30 with an opportunity to chat more informally to our speaker and to Kew Society Committee members.

Please use the enclosed form to obtain a ticket or for a much quicker route, book on line at www.kewsociety.org/events

Poppy Factory Tour - **Thursday 3rd December 2015**, 10.30 hrs.

Tickets will shortly be available for a visit and guided tour around The Poppy Factory in Richmond. The tour will take up to 2 hours.

Watch out for details of our Spring Party scheduled for **Tuesday 1st March 2016**. This will give a wonderful chance to meet other Members and welcome potential Members and their families and to have some fun along the way. Details to be announced..

Other events planned for 2016 feature local walks, tours and talks – to include a 'Hogarth Walk". We do hope you can make time to support these events. It's a great way to learn more about the local area, meet new friends, put names to faces or just enjoy something different.

If you feel you'd be able to help with planning events in any way – just get in touch! All events will be posted in the Events area of The Kew Society website – www.kewsociety.org

Work on Kew's riverside

Watch out for further details for an autumn come-along-and-work-outside afternoon when we can all get down and dirty (as well as adding something extra to the riverside area).

And finally....

- Our community in Kew is stronger and more effective when it speaks as a caring community. So do take part in the Society's activities and encourage your friends to do so too. Do come to the AGM. Do see if there are ways you can help out. And do make the most of what Kew has to offer. Who was it who said 'use it or lose it'?
- Enjoy the rugby – and everything else the autumn has to offer!

Contact us
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JOIN NOW by visiting our website: www.kewsociety.org

You can write to us at:
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