

On Kew

Kew Gardens' new Director to talk to Kew Society

We are pleased to announce that Richard Deverell, the recently appointed Director of Kew Gardens, is going to talk to Kew Society members on 28th May, when he will outline his plans for Kew as well as obtain feedback from local residents. This was agreed when our co-chairs met him recently, just before he left on a fund-raising trip to Hong Kong. Although he studied natural sciences at Cambridge, Mr Deverell is not a botanist and joined Kew from the BBC, but he has known Kew Gardens since his childhood and was a trustee for six years between 2003 and 2009. Details of the meeting will be sent to members nearer the time and we look forward to a lively and informative evening.

"All-in-One" survey update

You may remember that a couple of years ago we encouraged all our Newsletter readers to take part in the Kew meeting where the results of the borough-wide "All in One" survey were to be presented and opinion was being sought about improvements that could be made in the local area.

We are pleased to announce that in March, Lynette Lawson-Tyers, who is the dedicated Community Links Officer at Richmond Council for the Kew area, will be meeting the Committee to tell us about the Kew Village Plan. This Plan has been developed by the Council using the results of and feedback about the 'All in One' survey.

We look forward to giving members more information in our next newsletter.

Planning

We invited comments on our draft Planning Policy statement in our last Newsletter. The finalised version is now on our web site. It sets out the criteria we use when deciding how we should approach planning issues. This helps us to ensure we are consistent in our approach and we want to ensure we do represent the views of our members. **So please do read the Planning Policy** and let us know if you think it needs amendment in future and whether you agree that we are acting consistently within our guidelines.

Where we comment on individual applications it is because of the impact on the beauty of the area,

attention to landscaping and sustainability, a change or intensification of use, loss of public amenities, loss of green space, loss of garage or off-street parking, intensification of traffic volumes or noise impacts. We do not comment in all cases but weigh up the issues for the community as a whole. In some cases discussion of applications makes us consider whether our Planning Policy statement is sufficiently clear in explaining our decision making process to you.

The planning applications and local or national government policies we have considered in the last few months are shown under "Planning" on our web site www.kewsociety.org.

Brentford Football Club's plans for a new 20,000 capacity stadium to replace their current 15,000 capacity stadium at Griffin Park are well underway. The substantial new development proposed is on the derelict site adjacent to Lionel Road, next to Kew Bridge Station. It will also house the Community Sports Trust. The stadium will be funded by sale of part of the site for 900 flats, including some blocks of 18 storeys, and a 150 bed hotel. We are focussing on the traffic and parking implications on days when events are held; on the high density housing; and on the visual impact from the river. You can view more of what is proposed, including announcement of days for viewing the proposals yourselves at www.brentfordcommunitystadium.com. The proposals will be submitted as a planning application in the next 3-4 months.

We said in our last Newsletter that we were not opposed to appropriate development of the **old Inland Revenue site near Ruskin Avenue**. We successfully opposed the last planning application, working with Kew Residents' Association (KRA), because it was a gross over-development of the site, unsympathetic to the local environment. No new application has been submitted so far but we have taken the initiative, working with KRA and our local ward Councillors, by responding to a "call for sites" from the Greater London Authority showing this site as appropriate for locally sympathetic development, working within a specified density for housing and community facilities. These might, for example, include a care home and medical premises. We hope in this way to work with any developers at the outset on an appropriate use of this site.

Other local applications. We objected to the proposed re-development of 1-2 South Parade, off Sandycombe Road, the change of use of 30 Cumberland Avenue from residential use to use by Kew College and the development of Ruth House facing the Mortlake Road.

Environment

The Richmond Heathrow Campaign on which we are represented continues to be very active. It is submitting evidence on alternative ways of meeting the demand for aircraft expansion other than more flights, including night-time flights, and a new runway. We believe there may be other solutions which would limit an increase in aircraft noise. The Campaign is pressing for a reduction in the number of flights by encouraging larger aircraft and discouraging smaller planes, improving seat occupancy, better co-ordination with other London airports and encouraging more point-to-point flights rather than transfers. More information is available at www.richmondheathrowcampaign.org. Richmond Council will be holding a referendum in the coming months on the issues of Heathrow expansion and night flights with local hustings on the alternatives to help you form a view before you vote. More information can be found at www.richmond.gov.uk

Kew Green Illustrated

We were pleased to be notified by local resident Anne Abercrombie that she has recently published a book about Kew Green. This charming little book covers the growth of Kew Green in the 19th century with historical information on all the buildings around the Green together with illustrations by the author. It is available for £7.99 at a number of local bookshops. We are always happy to share the news of any book that is produced about the locality.

Police Liaison Group

We are always pleased to extend the ways in which we can support the Kew Community and therefore have been happy to accept the invitation to be a panel member on the Police Liaison Group. This panel includes representatives of various local organisations as well as a selection of Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and has voting rights on the priorities of the Safer Neighbourhood Team. We can advise that any resident is welcome to attend the meetings and the next meeting will be held on the 24th April at 7.30pm at the Coach & Horses, Kew.

Events

2013 started well with our now-traditional 12th Night Party. Held in St. Anne's hall, it was a lovely opportunity to catch up with both friends and news at the end of the festive period.

Our next event presents an opportunity of a different nature. Many of you will be aware and will probably have visited the David Nash exhibition presently at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. We are very pleased to be able to offer a tour of the exhibition with David Nash in person on 26th March. With the sculptor himself guiding us around, the tour will be an excellent means of gaining a unique understanding of his work. Further details of the tour are available separately.

Looking further ahead, we also have walks planned for April and May. On 14th April, local art historian Colin Lomas will provide a valuable insight into the links between the leading Impressionist Camille Pissarro and the local area. Pissarro painted many local scenes during the 1890's and the walk will revisit some of these views. On 18th May, local architectural historian John Moses will bring "Georgian Richmond" into focus with a walk that will include a visit to both Asgill House and the gardens of Trumpeter House. Additional information about these walks is available separately.

Contact us

Your Committee

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JOIN NOW by visiting our website

You can write to us at:

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