

On Kew

Kew Out of School Club closure

We were saddened to learn of the closure of the Kew Out of School club at the end of May. Set up with the intention of providing affordable after-school care for Primary school-aged children, the Club has served their link schools of Darell, Kew Riverside and Queen's for over 15 years.

The Club came into being at a time when there were limited childcare options for local parents and flexible working practices were in their infancy. As the Club grew, the Kew Society were pleased to support the Club in increasing their facilities with the planting of a Children's garden in conjunction with Richmond Council's Civic Pride scheme.

We understand that a number of factors ranging from the current economic downturn resulting in reduced bookings to the reduced availability of grant monies have led to this closure. There are a large number of both children and parents in the Kew area who will remember fondly their association with the club: the Club's contribution to local life will be missed.

Committee changes

The Committee bid a fond farewell to Sally Sutton recently. A long-standing member of the Society, Sally stepped into the role of Honorary Secretary in 2006. Since that time, she has been an enthusiastic Committee member, turning her hand easily from taking Minutes to organising events. Sally has decided to take more of a back seat in her support of the Society and we thank her so much for her significant contribution.

The Planning aspect of the Committee has also been recently strengthened with the arrival of Caroline Brock and Martin Taylor. As a Committee of volunteers, we are always pleased to welcome those who are willing to share their skills and experience in support of the Kew area.

Update on the development plans for the former Inland Revenue Sorting office site

Richmond Council's Planning Committee considered an application for development of the former Inland Revenue Sorting Office site, between the National Archives and the Kew Riverside Development, at Ruskin Avenue at its meeting on 24 April. This has been a long running saga with previous applications turned down by the Council and by the Inspector following appeal by the developer. The current proposal, slightly modified to address issues raised by the Council and the Appeals Inspector, is to build 97 flats and a care home for the

elderly. Whilst we would like to see this site developed, Giles Dixon on behalf of the Kew Society spoke against the current proposal for a number of reasons including the inappropriately modern design, the parking impacts and the high density. The Planning Committee turned down the application citing design and parking concerns.

We believe it is very likely that the developer will lodge an appeal (it has 6 months from the date of publication of the Planning Committee's decision to do so). We are working with the Kew Residents' Association and have sought Counsel's advice to start preparing as strong a case as possible for our continued opposition to this scheme should it go to appeal.

Aircraft noise update

As a sponsor of HACAN, we reported in our Autumn 2011 newsletter that Heathrow was due to commence two trial periods of landing aircraft on both runways at the same time. We can advise that the second period is now due to commence on the 1st July and Richmond MP, Zac Goldsmith, has said he will work with the Richmond Heathrow Campaign (RHC) and HACAN, as well as neighbouring MP Mary MacLeod over this matter. He said, "it is vital that we keep an accurate record of the effects of the trial, and that as many residents as possible provide feedback. We will make that as easy as possible, and I will be in touch with all residents in due course."

It is felt that the only feasible option for the future of Heathrow would be to improve use of the existing capacity to facilitate passenger growth, provide needed resilience and allow all night flights to be transferred to the day-time. It is believed this can be achieved within reduced limits on noise, pollution and CO2 emissions. Heathrow connectivity is good and can be retained competitively by prioritising point-to-point destinations using hub transfers in support and not as the priority. What is not an option is a third runway, mixed mode or an increase in the statutory limit of 480,000 Air Transport Movements (ATMs) per year.

Events update

The Orange Tree Theatre opened its doors to the Kew Society one evening in late March. One of Britain's few "Theatres-in-the-round", the visit commenced with a talk by Sam Walters, the UK's longest serving Artistic Director. He took us through from the early days of the Theatre when hopeful audience members would be queuing up the back stairs of the Orange Tree pub to the present time when the Theatre has its own unique home and stages a varied programme. Sam Walters rightly pointed out that live theatre performances are a form of shared audience experience that is becoming rare nowadays.

The talk provided a welcome introduction to the evening that then included the staging of two one-act plays by Martin Crimp. For those who have not experienced "Theatre-in the round", the Orange Tree Theatre is a wonderful local example and well worth a visit.

Our next event took place in the atmospheric wooden surroundings of the Barn Church in Kew in May. Pippa Hayward, a Wine Educator from the Good Wine Shop in Kew led a fascinating evening of wine tasting. Moving easily from good value wines for everyday use to more expensive wines that would be excellent to give as a present, Pippa both informed and entertained us. A kind donation of Neal's Yard cheeses and biscuits formed the basis of some refreshments mid-way through the evening and there was also a quiz available to test everyone knowledge of wine both previously gained and also picked up during the event.

Everyone left undoubtedly more knowledgeable about the world of wine and the profits from the evening went towards supporting the Barn Church, one of the distinctive features of the Kew area.

Our next event is a guided tour of Strawberry Hill House in September. Details of this event are available separately.

Launch of the Friends of Pensford Field

As long-time supporters of this hidden area of natural beauty, we were delighted to learn that the Trustees of the Pensford Field Environmental Trust have taken the decision to launch the Friends of Pensford Field.

The Friends scheme was launched at a Coffee Morning on Tuesday the 12th June by Zac Goldsmith, our local MP and keen supporter of environmental issues. For more information, please e-mail Mary Smith at info@pensfordfield.co.uk

Asian Longhorn beetle threat

It was recently confirmed by government plant health agencies responsible for tree health in England and Wales that there has been an outbreak of the Asian longhorn or starry sky beetle (*Anaplophora glabripennis*) in the vicinity of Tunbridge Wells in Kent.

Whilst no signs have been found at Wakehurst Place or Kew Gardens we all need to be especially vigilant for any signs of this beetle, both on site and in the local area. The beetle is known to affect a wide range of hosts - including poplar, horse chestnut, maple, sycamore, willow, ash, birch, elm, plane, rowan, cherry and apple.

Signs of infestation of wood would include: presence of the adult beetle which is shiny black with white markings; emergence holes up to 1cm in diameter; oozing sap from the trunk of a tree; or trees that suddenly start to show signs of poor health - including dead branches and suddenly discolouring and dying foliage. Helpful photos showing what to look out for can be found on a US federal website and the FERA website. If you spot any of these signs, you are urged to act immediately.

All the fun of the Fete

Kew's best family day out - the Kew Midsummer Fete - will be on Saturday 16th June from 11am to 6pm on Kew Green. Come and visit our stall and the attractions which range from vintage fairground rides, a dog show, live

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bands and events throughout the day to delicious food and drink on sale. There'll be a craft marquee and over 100 stalls selling everything from hand-made jewellery to home-made jam. Entry is free and all the fete profits are donated to local good causes. See www.kewfete.org to find out more.

Marble Hill Society celebrations

We're pleased to announce that our sister Society, the Marble Hill Society are holding a party and four talks to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of their foundation.

A Summer Party is being held on Sunday, 8th July at 7.30pm for 8.00pm. There will be a special concert with students from the Trinity College of Music and it is hoped that some leading figures from English Heritage will join this event. Tickets for the party will be £15 and further details may be found on their website www.marblehillsociety.org.uk

More information is also available on the website on the four Talks. Bamber Gascoigne, the distinguished writer and broadcaster and also a local resident, has agreed to give the first talk on a subject close to his own heart namely the history of Richmond as seen in prints. Tracy Borman has very kindly agreed to give three further talks, two of which have an appropriate royalist theme as this is the Diamond Jubilee year. The third Talk relates to Henrietta Howard. Tracy is a member of the Marble Hill Society committee and you may find more about her career from her website, www.tracyborman.co.uk.

Richmond Society news

We are now exchanging our newsletters with the Richmond Society, allowing members to learn more about what is happening locally. You can read the Richmond Society newsletter on their website by following the link <http://www.richmondsociety.co.uk/Newsletter230.pdf>

Contact us

We are presently seeking some support for the maintenance and updating of our website. If you, or someone you know, would be able to spare some time to assist with this important task please contact the committee as below.

Your Committee

Chairman	Michael Glazebrook	chair@kewsociety.org
Hon. Secretary	Mary Done	secretary@kewsociety.org
Hon Treasurer	Juliet Thompson	treasurer@kewsociety.org
Planning	Giles Dixon Caroline Brock Martin Taylor	planning@kewsociety.org
Environment	Simon Owens	environment@kewsociety.org
Membership	Sue May	membership@kewsociety.org
Website	Gillian Horne	webmaster@kewsociety.org
Events	Teresa Hartley	
Patrons	David Blomfield MBE Sir Donald Insall CBE Baroness Tonge of Kew	

JOIN NOW by visiting our website

You can write to us at:

The Kew Society, 25 Chelwood Gardens, Kew, TW9 4JG

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