



# THE RICHMOND SOCIETY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010

Issue 221



**One of the newly cleared memorials in Richmond Old Burial Ground**

Volunteers are still needed to join the group which is cleaning and recording the old graves, and has now photographed and transcribed the inscriptions on 350 of them. Anyone interested in helping with this project should contact John Govett on 020 8940 2876 or email [jgovett@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jgovett@blueyonder.co.uk)

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## From the Chairman

While Richmond did indeed look glorious in the snow for a few days in January, I dare say we are all getting rather depressed with the continuing cold weather and looking forward to the arrival of spring. With the better weather however comes the risk of the growing menace of anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol abuse that now affects the town centre and the Green. We have been a little alarmed at some recent cases where licensing restrictions have been relaxed unduly in our view. In the recent *Revolution* application, we were not allowed to make our representation in what we regarded as an important case. Peter Willan describes the issues in detail later but we will be focusing our February Forum meeting on this, so do come along if you are concerned.

On a happier note, I am pleased to say that, with the help of a grant from the Richmond Civic Trust, we are funding the extension of the *To the River* project to include the Richmond riverside [which is missing at present]. This is a web-based photographic panorama covering all the landmark buildings along the riverside with accompanying text. You can view what is currently available on [www.totheriver.co.uk](http://www.totheriver.co.uk).

The London's Arcadia Project at Richmond has now been completed and Jason Debney and his team at Thames Landscape Strategy, while continuing to help maintain the impressive improvements they have achieved, will be concentrating their new initiatives on other stretches of the Thames. Initiatives like these make us realise the importance of community-based projects in bringing us all together. Roll on the spring!!

**Alan Saunders**  
**020 8948 0198**

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### ***Special Event for Richmond Society members only! Thursday 20 May 2010 6.30 to 9pm*** **GLOBAL UNIVERSITY HAS LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

You might be forgiven for expecting Richmond, The American International University at the top of Richmond Hill to have little in common with the local community. In his talk the President, Dr Ian Newbould, will introduce the Society and its members to the University and, in doing so, reveal the links it has forged within the community.

The evening will begin with a short tour of the campus, followed by the talk. The imposing neo-gothic architecture dates back to 1843 when Richmond College was founded; a variety of trees form a perfect frame for the enchanting gardens on this six-acre site. The event will end with a drinks reception.

**Meet at 6.30pm** Main Reception, Richmond, The American International University, Queens Road, Richmond TW10 6JP (opposite the *Lass of Richmond Hill* at the top of Queens Road) There is **limited parking** in the University grounds. If you have spare capacity please offer a lift to others. **Bus 371** stops outside. For further details contact Janice Kay 07710 284819

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### **A Celebration of the Working Life of the River Thames**

*Arranged by the Environment Trust for Richmond upon Thames*

at Christ's School, Queens Road, Richmond on **Thursday 25th March 2010**

Starting at **6.30pm** with a **drinks reception hosted by Bamber Gascoigne and exhibition** of the work of Thames-related organisations, artists and photographers, and followed by **presentations** by **Ken Dwan** of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen, local boat builder **Mark Edwards** and **James Wisdom** of Thames Explorer Trust. More information and tickets at £15 from Hazel Bull. E: [thames@environmenttrust.co.uk](mailto:thames@environmenttrust.co.uk) T: 020 8997 9804

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**Kew en Fete** Kew Green has a long and happy history of summer fairs, which will be revived this year with a traditional **Kew Fete on Saturday 19 June**. Organisations or craftspeople interested in booking a stall contact Pippa Duncan **pippa@kewfete.org**

This is the quiet time of year and it is no surprise that little of moment has occurred since the winter newsletter. However there are important decisions in the pipeline which will require all the skill and diplomacy of the Development and Control Department on which we rely so much for our current and future wellbeing.

In times past, attempts have been made to widen Petersham Road in the vicinity of Compass Hill and beyond, towards Petersham. This has resulted in a number of properties in that area being acquired by the Council, amongst them the **Bingham Hotel**. A recent Cabinet decision was taken to dispose of the freehold interest, a 71-year tail end of a 99-year lease already being in existence. The Society made representations to the Cabinet on the basis that there were a number of breaches outstanding on the building, pointing out that the Council would remain in a stronger position as landlord, in ensuring rectification prior to disposal. Cabinet felt that this argument did not have merit and assured the Society that the matters referred to were well advanced with Enforcement and would not be allowed to fall. As a consequence this disposal has now gone ahead, interestingly enough at a price which remains confidential, despite its being a disposal of public property. We do however remain convinced that the necessary enforcement action will be taken on this important listed building, much to the benefit of the town.

Our last newsletter referred to the Society's contention that additional powers, known as **Article 4 directions**, should be considered by the Borough in a number of conservation areas where individual householder actions, not ordinarily needing planning permission, were gradually but continually undermining and devaluing the quality of the townscape. It is interesting to note that a number of London boroughs have recently recognised the same problems arising and have already taken steps to introduce such powers in order to give themselves the ability to protect their own heritage, and it is hoped that Richmond, who have many more responsibilities over several thousand buildings of Townscape Merit and some 1,100 listed buildings, will do the same. We intend to make specific recommendations to the Development and Control Department in the first quarter of this year. Specifically on that score it is heartening to see an application at **9 Hill Rise** for the removal of already-existing PVC windows and their replacement with traditional sliding-sash timber windows – with the now obligatory double glazing.

Also we feel that congratulations are due to the Planning Department for refusing permission to **BT** for a particularly grotesque and invasive **plastic advertising sign** over their premises in The Quadrant. All too often national chains are permitted to hide behind their universal corporate logo to banalise and brutalise every High Street.

The **Legible London Project** has now gone ahead and a number of 9' high steel and plastic signboards are to be found around the town. The two members of our committee who represented the town's interest to the Project had felt that their suggestions, which largely centred on the premise that what was good for Central London was not necessarily good for Richmond and that neither the design nor the material used were apt for this setting, had been systematically swept aside, leaving them no alternative but to resign in protest. We will see how the signs work out.

**Licensing** In 2005 the town's premises were re-licensed under the Licensing Act 2003. Closing times increased on average to 12:33am. This 16% step change added to the gradual but significant 50% increase in alcohol capacity over the previous ten years. Over the subsequent four years to 2010 there have been 22 variations or new licences granted, in spite of the Cumulative Impact Policy.

The Richmond Society in conjunction with The Friends of Richmond Green has been involved in all 32 applications over the last four years. Three applications were withdrawn and seven refused by the Council. Of the 22 approvals, three were minor changes to premises layout and in five cases we negotiated satisfactory outcomes.

Of the remaining 14 licences granted, six were off-sales. It is surprising the Police and Council have seen fit to allow so much additional off-sales capacity when the evidence is of high levels of asb in the town's streets and open spaces. There have been three extensions of hours, which is again surprising, given the strong evidence that the number of incidents per person increases as the night progresses. **While we have successfully sought conditions and reductions in the scope of these 14 licences, risks remain and the town's asb remains too high and continues to increase.**

We are currently reviewing the effectiveness of the regulatory control. Of concern are a number of legal issues and in particular a so-called "Thwaites" case regularly applied by the Council in support of approval. We are examining the appropriateness of "Thwaites" in a Cumulative Impact Zone and where only a small part of the relevant evidence is that recorded by the police.

Crime recorded by the Police represents only about 5% of the asb. The Police object to only 20% of the applications and, due to "Thwaites", the licensing panel are reluctant to refuse an application unless the Police object. This under-estimates the significance of the 95% of incidents not recorded by the Police but instead documented by the Make Report on asb and provided in the 330 letters from residents and the two Societies over the last four years.

Recent applications by **Tea Box, Londis and Revolution** have all been approved, but the Council refused to remove the condition for alcohol to be sold only with food at **M&S (station)**. The Revolution case is of great concern, not only because the terminal hour was extended to 1:30am, but because the Society was not allowed to present its case on technical grounds - the panel in our view misinterpreted the facts and ignored our Counsel's legal Advice.

**Make Report 2009** is an independent observational study on Richmond's licensed economy. It follows similar reports (the Erskine reports) in 2005 and 2007. The observations were taken at seven locations over four evenings in April 2009 between the hours of 8pm and 3am the following day.

**The important conclusion is that not only are the approximate 1,000 incidents over four days far too many but rowdiness increased around 85% and vomiting and urinating by around 45%, comparing 2009 results with 2007.** Some incidents may

be trivial but cumulatively the impact night after night and throughout the town, the Riverside and The Green damages the quality of life of residents and visitors.

**Music** The Government has announced plans to exempt live music performances for 100 people or less from the requirement to be licensed. The exemption applies to performances indoors and between 8am and 11pm. The Society has raised concerns in the consultation on the grounds that the Environment laws alone are incapable of adequately protecting residents.

**Forum meeting** The Society would like to involve its members and the public in discussion on the issues of asb and licensing in the town at a **Forum Meeting on 18 February** to be held jointly with The Friends of Richmond Green [see the back page]. It will help us formulate proposals to the Council and Police and we hope you will be there for this important topic. ■ ■

## Torben Petersen 1923 - 2009

A Tribute by  
Neil Maybin

At the end of last November we were very saddened to hear of the passing of Torben Petersen, who served on the Richmond Society's Executive from the late 1990s to 2004.

Originally from Denmark, Torben was sent to Bedales for a year in 1939 to learn to speak English fluently. It was there that he met his future wife Bidy, though it was not until 1968 that they married and moved to Richmond.

Once war had broken out he was unable to return home and was cut off from his family for several years. He studied civil engineering at Imperial College and worked for several companies before joining Percy Bilton Ltd in 1951. He spent the rest of his career there, retiring as Divisional Director in 1981.

In his retirement, Torben applied his experience and expertise to Richmond. His most lasting achievement here can be seen on our streets. In the early 1990s the arrival of Cable TV had left many incomplete and badly executed repairs and patches to roads and pavements, which themselves had often been poorly constructed in the first place. His persistence and attention to detail on this issue perhaps made him the bane of the Council's Highways and Transport department and indeed some of their contractors. However he also engaged the Richmond Society to help in this campaign, and over time the quality of work improved substantially. The current generally high standard of paving in Richmond today is a direct result of his efforts.

Following this, he joined the Richmond Society's Executive Committee, where his advice on infrastructure projects was much valued by the residents of Sheen Park and Townshend Terrace during the Crossrail controversy. He also worked to reduce graffiti and litter, and to protect trees in conservation areas. And latterly he took an interest in the expansion of Heathrow, where he was able to provide a civil engineer's perspective to the Richmond Heathrow Campaign.

Torben was a great source of strength and knowledge to the Committee. A consummate professional, he could be tough and tenacious in his campaigning but was unfailingly polite and helpful to everyone. Torben realised the importance of many issues – sometimes almost as a lone voice – and his persistence paid off. Richmond and the Richmond Society has lost a great friend and a true gentleman. All those who knew him will treasure his memory. ■ ■



# THIRTY YEARS OF THE RICHMOND SOCIETY HERITAGE WALKS

By the Walks Organiser and Leader since 1980

**Paul Velluet**

Last summer's series of Heritage Walks proved a great success, attracting up to forty members and others for each walk – an all-time record for any series across the years we have presented the walks as a key part of the Society's programme. In addition, our inclusion of a number of new themes and valued assistance from new guides contributed to making the series a worthy celebration of thirty years.

We were fortunate in the experts we had to guide our walks. On a beautiful May evening **Jason Debney**, Co-ordinator of the Thames Landscape Strategy, led us along the river to Ham focusing on the most recent progress in the realisation of the *Arcadia* project; **Luca Benedetto** led a walk on a similarly lovely evening in June on the theme of Turner in Twickenham and Richmond, which took us from Turner's House in St Margarets across the river by ferry to the Petersham Meadows and The Terrace on Richmond Hill. Earlier in June **Phillippa Heath**, Education Officer with the Museum of Richmond, was our guide in a walk and visits organised jointly with the Museum on the theme of Tudor Richmond, marking the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the accession of King Henry VIII, which took us from the Museum of Richmond to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century tower of the Parish Church via the surviving parts of Henry VII's Palace. Local historian **Jean Allsopp** was our guide to the delights of the historic St Peter's Church, Petersham, the destination for our last walk in the series. Other walks in the series drew on the themes of *Blue Plaques in Richmond*, *A summer walk in Richmond Park* and *Art Deco Richmond and East Twickenham*, when we had the opportunity of making an unscheduled visit to the beautifully modernised and refurbished interior of the First Church of Christ Scientist in the Sheen Road.

As always, each walk ended at a local pub, offering scope for lively conversation until the late evening about the places visited and current local conservation and development issues. Once again, *The Marlborough* on Friars Stile Road, *The Dysart Arms* in Petersham, *The Waterman's Arms* in Water Lane, *The Roebuck* on The Terrace, and *The Lass of Richmond Hill* provided suitable venues for adjournment.

Some of our regulars might recall that we started the Heritage Walks in 1980 with eight walks on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings in July, August, September and October; very much on a trial basis – partly in order to fill the anomalous gap in the Society's programme of events that then extended between the end of April and the beginning of September, and partly to build on the success of the two guided walks around Richmond which we had contributed to the programme of the May Fair held earlier that summer.

The Heritage Walks were devised with a three-fold purpose. Firstly, to foster and develop an appreciation and understanding of Richmond's unique character; secondly, to create an awareness and recognition of the various pressures for irreversible and adverse change in both the fabric and function of the town, and thirdly, to stimulate and encourage an interest in and concern for the effective preservation and enhancement of Richmond's surviving features and qualities.

Thankfully, whilst the threats of major losses and adverse change in the town's character are very much less today than in 1980, the Heritage Walks continue to provide an opportunity to focus attention and promote discussion about some of those less known, but nonetheless valuable, features and characteristics of the town that may be at risk of disappearing or adverse change in coming years.

The first walk this year will be on Wednesday 5 May when the theme will be *The pubs of Richmond – Past, present and the future?* The detailed programme is still being planned but I can confirm that the walk on the evening of Wednesday 16 June will be on the theme of *The Suffragettes in Richmond* and is being organised in collaboration with the Museum of Richmond to coincide with the proposed exhibition there. Everyone is welcome to join these and other walks in this summer series of The Richmond Society Heritage Walks, and further suggestions for themes of walks and offers of assistance in guiding are keenly invited. ■ ■

## LANDSCAPING AND RIVERSIDE

Carol Ward 020 8948 3081  
c.cole at btinternet.com

**Old Father Thames Statue in Terrace Gardens** Regrettably, repeated vandalism to the Old Father Thames statue in Terrace Gardens means that the arm, which has been broken off on more than one occasion, will now not be stuck on again, but is stored for safekeeping by the Council, with the details of its location known by the Committee.

**Paving on Richmond Towpath** We have been in touch with the Council to ask that the broken and uneven paving on the towpath between Richmond Bridge and Water Lane be replaced along the lines of the attractive new paving in town. We have been assured that the Council is aware that this is a high priority area for decent permanent paving and is planning to attend to it as soon as funds permit.

**Public Conveniences** The poor provision of public conveniences in Richmond generally, and along the riverside in particular, remains an area of concern. We would encourage members to raise this issue as appropriate, e.g. with local Councillors, and to make use of the Community Toilet Scheme. This scheme enables local businesses like pubs, restaurants and shops to make their toilets available to the public. They are given £600 each per annum for providing this facility and there are now nearly 100 premises taking part in the scheme across the Borough, but it is not well publicised. Participating venues in Richmond town include Tide Tables, Slug and Lettuce, the Tea Box and Pizza Express, and the full list can be found on the Council website [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

**Cycling on the Tow Path** Concern has been raised about excessive speeding and somewhat dangerous cycling by some cyclists along the towpath. We are endeavouring to see if it is possible to have small signs erected, similar to those in Richmond Park, reminding everyone that pedestrians have priority over bicycles.

**Terrace Gardens** The November meeting about the proposed Friends of Terrace Gardens group was unfortunately cancelled by the Council. We hope to have more news on this in the next newsletter. ■ ■

# RICHMOND THEATRE

## SUPER CENTENARIAN CELEBRATIONS

### Richmond Society Meeting 19 November 2009

Report by  
**Doreen King**



Richmond Society members showed great enthusiasm for their local theatre by turning out in force for a glimpse behind the scenes at Richmond Theatre. Karin Gartzke [left], the Chief Executive of Richmond Theatre for the past ten years, entertained her audience with a comprehensive account of the theatre's history, how it works today and what it plans for the future.

Introducing Ms Gartzke, Richmond Society chairman Alan Saunders said that, though born in Germany, she studied for an MA in drama in England on a British Council scholarship and worked in theatre administration with a variety of touring theatre companies before joining the Arts Council Drama Department. She joined the Ambassador Theatre Group and became Chief Executive of Richmond Theatre in 1999.

Ten years ago Richmond Theatre was in the doldrums with a number of difficulties and financial problems, so the centenary year 1999 passed without a major celebration. In 2009 it is celebrating its 110<sup>th</sup> birthday. It opened in September 1899 when a local entrepreneur, Frederick Mouflet, having one successful theatre in Richmond, wanted to build a new one on the Green and employed the noted theatre architect Frank Matcham. He wanted his theatre to be comfortable and have electricity, and his brief to Matcham emphasised there should be real interaction between the actors, the audience and the building itself. It is a testimony to the architect's success that actors today love Richmond Theatre because it provides an intimacy with the audience. The original drawings and designs for the theatre are displayed in the Matcham Room.

'People are taller today and perhaps leg-room in the dress circle is not what we'd ideally like' said Ms Gartzke. 'There were 1,200 seats originally and only 840 now. The foyer is small for the number of people the theatre holds.' In the 19<sup>th</sup> century when social distinctions were more marked, people who'd bought the cheaper seats entered through the back of the theatre. Then the theatre was run by a manager who also directed plays.

A panel above the proscenium arch in the listed auditorium is inscribed *To wake the soul by tender strokes of art*. The theatre's 21<sup>st</sup> century policy is enshrined in today's mission statement which begins *To become a highly regarded and welcoming presenting theatre with a unique and vibrant identity*.

Ms Gartzke draws a distinction between passively receiving productions and creatively choosing and constructing a programme designed to appeal to as many people as possible. She felt *Theatre Director* would be more appropriate title for her than Chief Executive as she saw her role as providing strategic leadership. It involved seeking out and cultivating relationships with individual producers who provided high quality productions, and getting the best deals possible.

Richmond Theatre can be hired for special occasions, including weddings, and has often been used for filming; it was transformed into Ford's Theatre where Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. All the theatre scenes in *Neverland*, the film about *Peter Pan* author JM Barrie, were filmed at Richmond. Dustin Hoffman has adopted Richmond as one of his favourite theatres, often visiting when he is in London. When *Neverland* was being filmed he made a point of walking through the theatre to study it in detail for his part as a Victorian theatre manager.

Hiring-out helps the theatre to remain commercially viable. But it also hosts charity events and Ms Gartzke was particularly proud of one which raised £50,000 for the Shooting Star hospice. Her personal passion was education work, reaching out to the community. The Creative Learning Department was a major initiative she had introduced. 'We now have three youth theatres, workshops, a poetry group and an adult scriptwriting group,' she told the audience. A special project was for local youngsters to create a play together about the theatre. They will collect from staff, producers and audience members their memories of the theatre. Ms Gartzke appealed to Richmond Society members to send the theatre's Creative Learning Officer, Eleanor Packham, their own memories or memorabilia.

She paid tribute to the theatre's archivist, Norman Fenner, now 90, who 'knew everything there was to know about Richmond Theatre.' She also praised the devoted members of Richmond Theatre Trust which existed to oversee the management of the theatre, and was concerned with educational work and raising funds for the Creative Learning projects.

She praised the Richmond audience for its constant support and loyalty. Many local people, including two recent leaders of Richmond Council, had told her how they remembered as children at the pantomime being called up from the audience to stand on the stage of Richmond Theatre.

Last but not least, said Ms Gartzke, the volunteers who assisted with many of the theatre's initiatives, and staffed stalls at the summer fairs, are a help and inspiration. The 25 full-time staff all regard it as a privilege to work there. There is a sense of history and she hoped future generations would have the same passion.

Ms Gartzke fielded a number of eager questions from the floor. Asked how far ahead she planned, she said now in November she was starting tentatively to programme for May. About six weeks earlier she was still programming for the New Year season after the pantomime. With drama she could wait almost until the last minute but musicals or opera had to be booked further in advance. Next year the Globe Theatre on the South Bank would be touring for the first time and she hoped to bring a production of the *Merry Wives of Windsor* to Richmond. Most Ambassador Theatre Group shows tended to be big musicals and operas. Only two of the group's theatres had an extensive programme of drama: Richmond Theatre and the Theatre Royal, Brighton. Other drama houses were the Theatre Royal Bath, Malvern Theatre and Cambridge Arts. 'The five theatres', smiled Ms Gartzke, 'are regarded as the Harvey Nichols circuit!'

Asked if there was any chance of Glyndebourne Touring Opera coming to Richmond, she explained Arts Council policy only encouraged the company to tour to certain regions. Richmond's small orchestra pit restricts the operas which can be staged there. Many small opera and dance companies who performed there were from Eastern Europe.

Asked how the Rose Theatre at Kingston was affecting Richmond Theatre, she was frank but diplomatic, referring to friendly competition. There had been no noticeable effect so far. When the Rose first opened, its declared artistic policy was to be different from Richmond but this now seemed to be changing and in 2009 the Rose had a Christmas show which might affect Richmond's pantomime bookings.

Asked how she had managed to get Richmond Theatre out of its doldrums and financial difficulties ten years ago, she attributed it to quality of productions, the support from Richmond Council and also the outreach work which meant going out into the community, making the theatre accessible to everyone including the disabled, talking to everyone and encouraging them to be involved. ■ ■

In mid January Minister for Culture and Tourism Margaret Hodge gave approval to the Royal Parks to levy fees for parking in Richmond and Bushy Parks. This has still to be confirmed by a statutory instrument. Our local MPs aim to oppose this in Parliament.

Under the proposals, drivers parking in Richmond Park will face an hourly £1 charge, with a maximum fee of £3. For those who visit the parks frequently these charges could amount to several hundreds of pounds a year.

The Richmond Society does not support the introduction of parking charges in Richmond Park on the basis proposed by the Royal Parks. The Royal Parks have not offered any rationale for why charging is needed now or what its purpose is, and they do not appear to have considered alternative ways of increasing funding, if indeed that is what is needed.



*Zac Goldsmith speaks at the 30<sup>th</sup> January rally  
Other speakers were Susan Kramer MP,  
Justine Greening MP, Vince Cable MP  
and Pieter Morpurgo of the Friends of Bushy Park*

The strength of local opposition to the proposals was evident at a rally held in Richmond Park on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January. Several thousand came to hear speeches by Zac Goldsmith, Susan Kramer MP, Justine Greening MP, Vince Cable MP and Pieter Morpurgo (Chairman of the Friends of Bushy Park). These set out the arguments against the proposals. Overall, south-west London's royal parks should be freely available for the public's enjoyment and health. The only practical way of reaching the parks for many is by car. The proposals would discourage access by penalising those who visit the parks frequently, while raising no money from those merely driving through. This penalisation would particularly affect the less well-off, such as pensioners on fixed incomes and young families. The proposals would also result in the urbanisation of the parks and may be of

marginal value with a break-even point of as much as seven years. Both the Royal Parks and the Minister were criticised for refusing to consider the ideas raised by local MPs who had discussed the proposals with them.

The next stage is for the Minister to raise a statutory instrument. Susan Kramer urged all who oppose the proposals to write to the Minister to insist that this is accompanied by a full debate in Parliament.

Final approval cannot now be given until after the general election, expected on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Both opposition parties have indicated that they will review the proposals if they gain office. However, those against the proposals should continue to make their voices heard to be certain. ■ ■

**Welcome to new members** who have joined us since publication of the last newsletter: **Mr & Mrs Paul and Janice Cummins** of Kings Road, **Ms Diana Flloyd Jones** of Sheen Road, **Mr Stephen Garner** of Kings Road, **Ms Ann Goldie** of Onslow Road, **Mrs Vicky Guiton** of Marchmont Road, **Mrs June Harris** of Sheen Road, **Dr Morag McKinnon** of Friars Lane, **Mr Richard Robinson** of Twickenham, **Mr David Rose** of Lewis Road, **Mr Hugh Ryan** of Lancaster Cottages and **Ms Annabel Westman** of Grosvenor Road.

**Subscriptions** for the current year were due for renewal on 1 October last, and there are still a few outstanding. Thanks to all those who paid promptly, but **any member who has not yet renewed will find a reminder letter enclosed. Please note that this is the final request and regrettably we will have to delete from our mailing list anyone who has not paid by the end of March.** We do hope you will all wish to continue your membership.

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### **DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?**

If you have recently received an email from us the answer is clearly yes. However, for many members our records are incomplete and we are therefore unable to give everyone the opportunity to receive the **new electronic version of the Newsletter**, which is not only easy to read and archive – but is in colour.

A number of members have already opted for the e-Newsletter, which helps to save on print, paper and postage and so keep down costs to the Society (and the planet)!

***So if you have an email address and would like to see a sample issue, please let me know at [kgrigorians at gmail.com](mailto:kgrigorians@gmail.com)***

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### **NEWSLETTER DELIVERERS NEEDED**

If you can spare a couple of hours, four times a year, to help deliver the Richmond Society Newsletter, we'd be glad to hear from you. Main deliverers are especially needed in Twickenham and Petersham and reserve deliverers in other areas. *Please email Judith Becker at [jude at beckerandhall.demon.co.uk](mailto:jude@beckerandhall.demon.co.uk) or phone 0208 940 8365*

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**Our local National Trust property HAM HOUSE is recruiting volunteers** ready for the new season in March. Information mornings where you can meet staff and volunteers and find out about the roles on offer in a friendly and relaxed manner will be held on

**30 January, 2, 22 and 28 February from 10 am to 12 noon**

From volunteer room stewards and visitor welcome assistants to gardeners, garden guides and bakers, there is a role to suit your time and talents. Be a part of historic Ham House in its 400th Anniversary year. To book a place email the volunteer recruiter Gabrielle Gale at [helping.ham at nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:helping.ham@nationaltrust.org.uk) or telephone the volunteer team on 020 8439 8247

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## Future Events 2010

### FEBRUARY

**Thursday 18**      **FORUM MEETING** Your Views on **LOCAL ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**  
 7.30 for 7.45 pm      A joint meeting with The Friends of Richmond Green led by Peter Willan  
 Come and discuss your concerns and views on how we can curb rising  
 levels of rowdiness and other asb      *At the Vestry Hall, 21 Paradise Road,  
 Richmond [next to the multi-storey car park]*

### MARCH

**Sunday 7**      **PUB LUNCH** at the *Lass of Richmond Hill*, top of Queens Road,  
 From midday      Richmond 371 bus stops outside      **New members especially welcome**  
*Join us for a meal or just a drink*

**Thursday 18**      **FACT AND FICTION: HOW ARE PUBLIC LIBRARIES CHANGING**  
 7.30 for 7.45 pm      **AND WHAT DOES THEIR FUTURE HOLD?**      LBRuT Head of Culture  
**Ian Dodds** talks about meeting demands of readers of all ages in the  
 current economic and social climate.      *Vestry Hall*

### APRIL

**Thursday 15**      **ROMANCE IS ALIVE AND WELL IN PARADISE ROAD**      Richmond is  
 7.30 for 7.45 pm      home to the internationally renowned publishers of romantic fiction  
**Mills & Boon**      Senior Editor **Linda Fildew** will look back at the  
 company's 100-year history      *Vestry Hall*

### MAY

**Wednesday 5**      **HERITAGE GUIDED WALK** *The pubs of Richmond – Past, present and*  
 7.30 pm      *the future?*      Start from Richmond Railway Station upper concourse

**Saturday 8**      **THE MAY FAIR**      Visit our stand on Richmond Green      *10 am to 5 pm*

**Wednesday 19**      **HERITAGE GUIDED WALK**      7.30 pm from Richmond Railway Station

**Thursday 20**      **A GLOBAL ADVENTURE ON RICHMOND HILL!**      An exclusive tour for  
 6.30 pm      Richmond Society members of the buildings and grounds of **Richmond,**  
**NB earlier time**      **the American International University**, led by **Dr Newbould** the  
 President. Followed by a talk and concluding with a wine and canapes  
 reception. Meet in Main Reception at the University at the top of  
 Queens Road.      *See full details on page 2*

### JUNE

**Wednesday 2**      **HERITAGE GUIDED WALK**      7.30 pm from Richmond Railway Station

**Wednesday 16**      **HERITAGE GUIDED WALK** *The Suffragettes in Richmond* 7.30 pm from  
 Richmond Railway Station

**Sunday 27**      **SUMMER PARTY** in the garden of Trumpeters House      *Details and  
 invitation will be in the Summer Newsletter*

**Wednesday 30**      **HERITAGE GUIDED WALK**      7.30 pm from Richmond Railway Station

### JULY

**Wednesday 14 & 28**      **HERITAGE GUIDED WALKS**      7.30 pm at Richmond Railway Station

**All correspondence to the Richmond Society should be sent to the Secretary and Editor**

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T: 020 8948 0643      E: secretary at richmondsociety.co.uk      www.richmondsociety.co.uk

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