



THE RICHMOND SOCIETY

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2003

PATRONS

The Lord Attenborough of Richmond upon Thames, Mrs Rachel Dickson RIBA (retd), Mr Bamber Gascoigne,
The Lord Watson of Richmond CBE

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(8 meetings were held during the year)

| | |
|---|---|
| Acting Chairman and Hon Treasurer Andrew Coleman | Hon Secretary Patricia Spaight |
| Colin Ganderton (<i>to June</i>) | Freda Hyde Janice Kay |
| Peter Locke | Bernard Marder Torben Petersen <i>co-opted</i> |
| Beryl Pethick Vice Chairman | Sylvia Ruggier Alan Saunders <i>co-opted</i> |
| David Shaw | Peter Willan <i>co-opted</i> Jill Woolf |

Honorary Independent Examiner Geoffrey Hyde

CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE

(11 meetings were held during the year)

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Peter Locke <i>Chairman</i> | Ron Berryman | Stuart Crichton |
| George Dunton | Janet Locke | Richard Young |

WORKING GROUPS

GRAFFITI & FLYPOSTING Neil Maybin, Peter Locke, Julian Paxton, Torben Petersen, Noelle Poole, Derek Robinson, David Shaw

ROADS, TRAFFIC & PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE Margaret Morrison, Torben Petersen, Jill Woolf

PROGRAMME & EVENTS Janice Kay, Beryl Pethick, Jill Woolf

PR, PUBLICITY & NEWSLETTER Janice Kay, Patricia Spaight

TOWN CENTRE LICENSING & RELATED ISSUES Peter Willan

TREEPLANTING, LANDSCAPING & OPEN SPACES Freda Hyde, Edward Locke

Newsletter helpers and Neighbourhood Area Distributors

Co-ordinator: Ailsa Long

Mrs Alexander, Mr & Mrs F Barnes, Miss J Crawley, Mrs Curry, Jani Denison, Mrs E Due-Lund,
Mrs Heather Edgar, Mr Colin Ganderton, Mrs Debbie Gooday, Miss Edith Griffiths,
Miss Irene Hainworth, Mrs A Hobson, Mrs Jenny Hodder, Miss Fiona Holland, Miss J Jennings,
Mrs D King, Mr & Mrs R Knight, Mr & Mrs B Marder, Mrs McBeth, Mr & Mrs Moses,
Mr Mike Peacock, Mrs Violet Peacock, Mrs Biddy Petersen, Mrs B Pethick, Mrs June Razzell,
Mr D Robinson, Mr & Mrs E Ruggier, Miss Sheila Ryde, Ms Marion Shoosmith,
Miss Roberta Turner, Miss Ann Twinn, Miss V van Straubenzee, Mrs Patricia Urch, Mrs E Velluet,
Mrs Beryl Ward, Mrs Fenella Wardon, Mr & Mrs N Williamson, Mr & Mrs Woolf

MEMBERSHIP or AFFILIATION of the SOCIETY to OTHER BODIES

Council for Voluntary Service in Richmond, Environment Trust for Richmond upon Thames,
Friends of Richmond upon Thames Public Libraries,
Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise, Richmond Environmental Information Centre,
Richmond upon Thames Arts Council, Thames Landscape Strategy, The Civic Trust, The London Forum.

THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY are to encourage an active interest in the past, present and future of the town of Richmond and its community; to promote high standards in planning, architecture and landscaping in or affecting it; to secure the preservation and enhancement of its historic character and features; and to secure the maintenance and improvement of the amenities of the town.

The Richmond Society is an unincorporated body with the status of a Registered Charity – No.285805

www.richmondsociety.co.uk

STATEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

Little did I realise when I agreed to take on the role as Acting Chair at last year's AGM that I would be in office for a full 12 months. Following David Church as Chair was an awesome responsibility but one that I hoped would be made easier by being able to turn to David, in his new role as President, for advice and guidance. Sadly David was to hold this role for only a month before his untimely death in January this year. We were privileged to have known him and he set us an example that we should all try to live up to.

The Executive Committee has had two new Working Groups in operation during the year. One was a Sounding Committee set up to evaluate possible candidates as Chair and the other was set up to review the Society's strategy. I am pleased to be able to tell you that both Working Groups have satisfactorily completed their tasks. We have an excellent new Chair-elect, in Alan Saunders, and a number of useful initiatives to enhance the operation of the Society.

The report of the Executive Committee describes the work of the Society's main Subcommittees and Working Groups. It has been a busy year and I would like to thank everyone on those committees and our other volunteers for their hard work. We are keen to encourage more of our members to volunteer to help us and we have asked Jill Woolf, a member of the Executive Committee to take on a new role to manage this process. A special note of thanks is due to Colin Ganderton who resigned as a trustee during the year but not before making a major contribution to the successful work of the Strategy Committee.

The year has seen its share of big issues involving the Society. The modifications to the Council's Unitary Development Plan and the Examination in Public of the Mayor of London's Draft London Plan have involved us in considerable amounts of work. Regrettably much of this investment has been to try to prevent undesirable change that we believe would harm our area of benefit were it to be implemented. Not all change is undesirable; the awarding of lottery funding to the "Arcadia in the City" project is a wonderful boost to morale locally and will result in highly desirable change over a number of years.

We live in a wonderful place but Richmond's very success as a place to live and as a place of entertainment poses threats to those very qualities that make it special. We have become increasingly concerned about a number of aspects of the state of the town centre. Problems of trade-waste, litter and graffiti and drink-fuelled antisocial behaviour show no sign of alleviating. These are complex problems and require us to engage constructively with the Council, the Police and other local bodies to try to find practicable solutions. The recent announcement that Richmond may lose its District Line tube service if the Crossrail project proceeds and the proposed implementation of 24-hour pub opening hours suggests that the Society is likely to have no shortage of major issues to focus on in the future!

We have been working on a project to set up an information board at the bottom of Old Palace Lane by entrance to the Old Deer Park. The board should be in place in the late Spring in 2004. This is a very interesting historical site and one that is not as well known as it should be. The project was very dear to the heart of David Church and the board will commemorate him. We do not yet have a final estimate for the cost of this board but we anticipate that it will be of the order of £4,000. We have launched an appeal to raise the necessary funds and I would urge you all to consider supporting it. By making your donation under Gift Aid you can increase the value of your donation by nearly 30% without any additional cost to you.

Our membership is one of our great strengths both in terms of the revenue it generates to fund our work but also and more importantly for the authority it gives our voice. I am grateful to all of the members of the Society for their support over the past year. Please help us to help you by ensuring that you recruit as members as many of your friends and neighbours as possible. Membership forms are available in hard copy from our Hon Secretary or can be downloaded from our website. Now all it needs is you to make that call....!

30 October 2003

ANDREW COLEMAN
Honorary Treasurer and Acting Chairman

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON THE WORK OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 2003

The members of the Executive Committee, in their capacity as Trustees, present their report on the affairs of the Society, together with the financial statements for the year ended 30th September 2003.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Total membership in the year to 30th September 2003 rose to 900 and was made up of 367 Individual, 522 Household Members, 7 Corporate Members and 4 non-profit making organisations.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

During the year six public meetings were held in the Vestry Hall, as well as a joint meeting with the Kew Society in March at the Joddrell Lecture Theatre. The **Annual Review** by Peter Locke in September was held at a new venue, St Johns Church, the awards being presented by our Patron, Rachel Dickson.

The Society participated as usual in the **May Fair** on Richmond Green and also in the **Marble Hill House Centenary Weekend** in June. In the seven **Heritage Walks** in May, June and July Paul Velluet and Charles Keggen were assisted by volunteer leaders Johanna Coombes, Nigel Hepper and John Plant.

The **Summer Party** in June, held in the garden of Hill House in Queens Road was very well supported, as was our new social event, the **Sunday Pub Lunch**, first held in April and repeated by popular request in August. All events were reported in the quarterly newsletters and in the local press.

CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

The year under review was a particularly busy one because of the large number of official Consultation Papers requiring responses – some of which extended to needs for appearances by committee members at Public Inquiries. The two most important were upon proposals in the Mayor of London's **Draft London Plan** and amendments by Richmond council to its **Unitary Development Plan**. Results are awaited.

Responses were also submitted to draft Government proposals on the **Future of Air Transport and Night Flights** and Council documents on **Affordable Housing** and **Supplementary Planning Guidance**. Additionally, the committee supported members **opposing licensing applications**, and **lobbied the Council** on a variety of problems and opportunities in the Society's area of benefit. As always, many points raised originated from welcome contacts by **Society members**, who were also advised on various planning matters.

Routine monitoring of development proposals continued to need much attention. Eleven full committee meetings were held and representations to the Council were made on 58 of the total of 85 planning applications considered. Meetings were also held with developers – e.g. on the major proposals for development of the **Brunel University site** and at **Sainsburys Store in Manor Road**. Objections were made to **unauthorised advertising**, especially in Lower Mortlake Road, and invaluable legal advice upon such matters was given to the committee by its former member Bernard Marder QC.

The death of David Church was an especially sad loss to the committee on which he had served since its re-constitution in 1985. His inspiration will be commemorated by the **information board proposed for the river end of Old Palace Lane**, on which committee members have been working. The energy and experience of Andrew Gillespie was also missed by his departure to Northern Ireland.

The committee needs to be kept up to strength if it is to continue to be effective in monitoring planning matters in Richmond, and whilst new members are beginning to come forward, we shall always be most interested to hear from any who could contribute to this important aspect of the Society's work, especially from younger generations.

TREE PLANTING, LANDSCAPING & OPEN SPACES

2003 has been a disappointing year. We were unable to arrange for any new trees to be planted, but only for replacement planting. The newly-appointed Borough Tree Officer organised payment for the Plane tree at Richmond Green out of the Civic Trees Fund, the replacement Plane tree at Lichfield Court, Sheen Road has twice lost all its leaves and may not survive, and the Plane tree at Tesco Metro has been a failure, once again. Both the Council and Tesco declined to provide protective guards or bollards and the tree was very soon damaged, finally being removed in November. Under the circumstances, we did not pay for any of these trees.

We made a grant of £100 to The Petersham Trust towards hedge planting along the concrete wall of the meadow.

TOWN CENTRE LICENSING AND RELATED ISSUES

Commercial pressure continues to encourage expansion of the evening and late night economies in the town centre. This results in the change of use of premises to bars etc, intensification of use of existing premises (upwards, backwards and onto the street) and extension of operating hours. Also, there is increasing use of open spaces and off-licence sales. The issue is about balance of use, given the town's mix of residents and businesses, restricted geography, limited resources and the aim of matching quality of life with the unique character of the town's built and natural environments. There are about 10,000 residents in the town and 100 bars, pubs and restaurants with indoor capacity of around 8,000 people. The growing capacity and outside drinking and extension of hours are producing an imbalance of use. The Society's resistance to this trend is about maintaining a balance while accommodating contemporary lifestyles.

Accordingly, the Society's emphasis in the town centre is on licensing and planning issues related to the evening and late night economies, litter, disturbance and anti-social behaviour. The Society's planning sub-committee and working groups deal with environmental issues in the centre, as elsewhere in the town, but in addition provide input to **town centre licensing and related issues**. The issues concern all the town's stakeholders and often the issues are dealt with also by other parties; the recent successful representation to the magistrates on restricting an extension of hours at *The Lot* public house in Duke Street was a combined effort from the Society, individual residents and businesses. In addition to a case by case approach, the issues of policy are kept in the forefront with the council, police and other bodies.

During the past year the Society with others was successful in resisting the extension of opening hours at *The Lot* and *Café Rez*, the expansion of *O'Neill's* public house, permission for take-away at *Burger King* and the change of use of 16-20 Water Lane to a restaurant. Cases were taken before the Council, the magistrates and the planning inspector on appeal.

Representations were made to the Council on new Open Spaces and Events Strategies, particularly in relation to the Green and Riverside. Representations were made on the evening economy section of the Draft London Plan. Efforts were made to reduce public litter and trade waste in the town centre and significant improvements were made by the Council, although public litter on the Green remains a problem. Disturbance and anti-social behaviour in the town centre have reached serious levels. Continuing efforts were made to find solutions and encourage action by the various authorities.

In the current year key issues are the new Licensing Act 2003, disturbance and anti-social behaviour and litter on the Green. The town centre is currently licensed mainly to 11pm which effectively means the centre closes down at midnight, although some premises do have extensions for a further 1, 2 or 3 hours. There may be considerable pressure, when the new Licensing Act is implemented in 2004, for the town centre to close down at 1am or later with more premises extending well beyond this time. All 100 premises will require new licenses. The Society intends to resist this shift in closing times to minimise further disturbance to residents in the early hours of the morning.

GRAFFITI

The Richmond Society Graffiti Subcommittee combats the problem of graffiti tagging in the Town and Hill areas. It met three times in 2003. We contact owners of affected sites directly, and encourage them to arrange for graffiti removal from their own premises. When a direct request is made from them, we make these arrangements on their behalf or indeed remove the graffiti ourselves. Not only does this improve the appearance of Richmond: it also discourages further vandalism.

In the past year organisations and individuals have been much more active than before in removing graffiti as soon as it appears. For example, the Renton Shelter is now being cleared regularly as are many Telewest junction boxes. Graffiti attacks on Old Palace Lane and Kings Road in mid-year were dealt with rapidly by local action. As a result, your subcommittee has been able to focus on areas which have been difficult to clear fully in the past, such as lower Albany Passage where all graffiti tags were removed by autumn.

The Council's arrangement with the Strategic Rail Authority to clear tags from railway bridges has worked well throughout the year. In a very welcome recent development, the railway wall in the Old Deer Park was also cleared. However, parts of Richmond Station and its trackside approaches remain covered in tags, and your subcommittee will continue to press South WestTrains for action.

We have also lobbied for repair of the dilapidated buildings in the Terrace Gardens, as these were forming a magnet for graffiti. We are now assured by the Council that renovation will be completed by March 2004. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Most of our work, however, involves clearing individual tags, either directly or through the submission of orange cards. This low level of graffiti attacks will no doubt continue, and we will continue to respond, liaising with the Council and the Police as appropriate.

ROADS, TRAFFIC & PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Litter Some improvement has taken place with the removal of both trade litter and the emptying of litter bins in Richmond town centre and the Richmond Hill area. This has been, in part, due to the production of innumerable photographs providing unquestionable evidence showing how serious the problem was. This was followed by a walkabout in the town centre with members of the Society and the Council. The improvement is also in evidence in the area at the side of Tescos and in Princes Street between the market and the rear entrance to Waitrose. There is, however, still room for further improvement. Some of the abandoned bicycles near the station and near Union Court have, at last, been removed. The hideous bright green plastic litter bin liners have been replaced with a more acceptable darker green plastic liners. It is to be hoped that all the litter bins will eventually be replaced with bins where the plastic liners are completely hidden.

Bus Shelter - George Street It seems almost incomprehensible that the Council and London Buses have still not been able to organise delivery and erection of the this bus shelter which was 'promised' for erection by August last year. Following further letters we were told that the shelter would be erected in the middle of October this year. We are now told that no firm date for the installation of this and other shelters can be given. It really is not good enough to expect people to wait for buses in this area without any form of shelter.

Public Infrastructure It was good to see Hill Street between King Street and Bridge Street resurfaced at long last. The serious shortfall in the drainage of the Star & Garter Hill has also been attended to although resurfacing has yet to be carried out. There are still very serious shortfalls in maintaining much of our roads and pavements. Some of the many water leaks have been dealt with. It is to be hoped that these can be dealt with more expeditiously in future and in particular during the frosty period in the winter

Richmond Station Some improvement has been made in clearing litter and weeds on either side of the platforms, but the removal of graffiti remains a problem.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income for the year was £8,545. This is £1,099 lower than 2001/02 but our income last year was boosted both by our Information Plaque appeal which brought in £1,185 and the final instalment of £1,056 of our Local Heritage Initiative grant. Excluding these two items, which totalled £2,241, our income on a like-for-like basis was £1,142 higher this year due principally to higher subscription income and higher donations. Thank you to everyone who supports the Society through their membership, donations and attendance at our events.

Expenditure for the year was £6,535. This is £1,783 lower than 2001/02. We would have expected a reduction of £2,300 since last year included grants made of £1,025 as part of our Local Heritage Initiative project and the cost of our Information Plaque of £1,275. We incurred expenditure of £600 this year on reprinting our successful walks leaflets and this is the main reason why the fall in expenditure is less than expected.

Overall the Society recorded a surplus for the year of £2,010 (2002: £1,326) which was added to reserves.

For the Society to function successfully, it must maintain an adequate financial position with sufficient reserves to finance its operations. The trustees are satisfied that the financial position continues to be satisfactory.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The major risks to which the Society is exposed, as identified by the trustees, have been reviewed during the year and the trustees are satisfied that action has been taken where appropriate to manage those risks.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Charity law requires the Executive Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the income and expenditure for the year then ended. In preparing those financial statements, the Executive Committee is required to select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently, make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue in business. The Executive Committee has responsibility for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Society and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with charity regulations. It also has responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Society and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By Order of the Executive Committee

Patricia Spaight
Secretary

30 October 2003

The Richmond Society

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 30 September 2003

| | 2003 | 2002 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Incoming resources | | |
| <i>Voluntary income</i> | | |
| Subscription income | 4,299 | 3,856 |
| Donations | 1,176 | 1,875 |
| Grants | - | 1,056 |
| <i>Income from operations</i> | | |
| Publications | 304 | 277 |
| Social events & walks | 1,864 | 1,737 |
| <i>Investment income</i> | | |
| Interest income | 902 | 843 |
| Total incoming resources | 8,545 | 9,644 |
| Resources expended | | |
| <i>Cost of generating funds</i> | | |
| Social events & walks | 1,551 | 1,428 |
| Fund-raising & marketing | 236 | 197 |
| <i>Cost of charitable activities</i> | | |
| Trees & landscaping grants | 100 | 560 |
| Information boards & plaques | 16 | 1,275 |
| Grants | - | 1,025 |
| Newsletters | 1,490 | 1,496 |
| Annual awards | 191 | 289 |
| Public meetings | 303 | 276 |
| Subscriptions | 410 | 196 |
| Printing, reports & postage | 1,108 | 505 |
| Council agendas & reports | 150 | 135 |
| Depreciation | 444 | 438 |
| Other running costs | 371 | 372 |
| Management & administration | 165 | 126 |
| Total resources expended | 6,535 | 8,318 |
| Net incoming resources before transfers | 2,010 | 1,326 |
| Transfers between funds | - | - |
| Net movement of funds for the year | 2,010 | 1,326 |
| Opening fund balances | 12,623 | 11,297 |
| Closing fund balances | 14,633 | 12,623 |

Balance sheet at 30 September 2003

| | 2003 | 2002 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Fixed assets | | |
| Display stands, computer & projector | 719 | 1,100 |
| Current assets | | |
| Stock of awards plaques | 399 | 399 |
| Debtors & prepayments | 842 | 828 |
| Deposit account | 26,131 | 22,993 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 1,267 | 1,699 |
| | 28,639 | 25,919 |
| Current liabilities: amounts falling due within 1 year | | |
| Creditors & accruals | 10,900 | 10,124 |
| Deferred income from life subscriptions | 857 | 825 |
| | 11,757 | 10,949 |
| Net current assets | 16,882 | 14,970 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | 17,601 | 16,070 |
| Liabilities and charges due after more than one year | | |
| Deferred income from life subscriptions | 2,968 | 3,447 |
| Net assets | 14,633 | 12,623 |
| Funds | | |
| General | 12,348 | 11,374 |
| Project | 109 | - |
| Landscaping & Trees | 2,176 | 1,249 |
| | 14,633 | 12,623 |
| Approved by the Executive Committee on 30 October 2003 | | |
| B Pethick – Vice Chair | | |
| AM Coleman – Treasurer & Acting Chair | | |

Trustees statement: The information contained in the summary financial statements is taken from the full accounts and includes details relating to the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet. The audited accounts were approved and signed by the Executive Committee in their capacity as trustees on 30 October 2003 and will be submitted to the Charity Commission for England & Wales within the relevant period. The summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Society. For further information the full accounts, the report of the independent examiner and the trustees' annual report should be consulted. Copies can be obtained from the Secretary for a nominal donation of £1 for printing and postage.

A Coleman (Acting Chair)