



# THE RICHMOND SOCIETY

## REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004

### PATRONS

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

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(9 meetings were held during the year)

<b>Chairman</b> Alan Saunders	<b>Hon Secretary</b> Patricia Spaight	<b>Hon Treasurer</b> Andrew Coleman
John Govett <i>co-opted July</i>	Freda Hyde	Janice Kay
Peter Locke	Bernard Marder	Neil Maybin <i>co-opted July</i>
Torben Petersen ( <i>to June</i> )	Beryl Pethick	Sylvia Ruggier
David Shaw	Peter Willan <i>co-opted 2002</i>	Jill Woolf

**Honorary Reporting Accountant** Geoffrey Hyde

### SUBCOMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

**PLANNING** Peter Locke *Chairman*, Douglas Barrell, Ron Berryman, Stuart Crichton, George Dunton, Janet Locke, Richard Young

**COMMUNICATIONS** Beryl Pethick, Janice Kay, Sylvia Ruggier, Patricia Spaight, Jill Woolf

**GRAFFITI & FLYPOSTING** Neil Maybin *Chairman*, Peter Locke, Julian Paxton, Torben Petersen (*to June*), Noelle Poole, Derek Robinson, David Shaw

**INFRASTRUCTURE** Neil Maybin, Torben Petersen (*to June*)

**TOWN CENTRE, LICENSING & RELATED ISSUES** Peter Willan

**LANDSCAPING & RIVERSIDE** John Govett, Freda Hyde, Edward Locke, David Shaw

### Newsletter helpers and Neighbourhood Area Distributors

**Co-ordinator:** Ailsa Long

Mrs Alexander, Mr & Mrs F Barnes, Miss J Crawley, Mrs Curry, Ms Jani Denison, Miss E Due-Lund, Mrs Heather Edgar, Ms Beryl Gale, Mr Colin Ganderton, Mrs Debbie Gooday, Mrs Edith Griffiths, Miss Irene Hainworth, Mrs A Hobson, Mrs Jenny Hodder, Miss J Jennings, Mrs D King, Mr & Mrs R Knight, Mr & Mrs B Marder, Ms Dolly May, Mr Moses, Mr Mike Peacock, Mrs Violet Peacock, Mrs Bidy Petersen, Mrs B Pethick, Ms Rebecca Phelps, Mrs June Razzell, Mr D Robinson, Mr & Mrs E Ruggier, Mrs Sheila Ryde, Miss Roberta Turner, Miss Ann Twinn, Ms Marion Shoosmith, 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

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

### THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY are

- to campaign to preserve and enhance Richmond's historic character, unique features and amenities
- to promote high standards in planning, building and landscaping in or affecting Richmond
- to protect the quality of life, balancing the interests of residents, business and visitors
- to encourage an active interest in the in Richmond and its community and to provide a focus for members to meet and socialise

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

[www.richmondsociety.co.uk](http://www.richmondsociety.co.uk)

## **CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**

It has been a great pleasure to serve as your chairman for the past year. It has given me the opportunity to meet many of you at our various functions and your committee is grateful for the support you have shown us. I have also been able to appreciate the hard work put in by the committee members themselves through our various sub-committees, each targeted at particular areas of concern.

I believe we are effective in addressing the issues that concern Richmond residents and that by engaging with the local authority and other bodies in a constructive and professional manner we are able to influence the decisions taken. In that way, we can help preserve the environment and maintain the quality of life for our members, which are our key objectives. Inevitably, some of the issues that come up arouse strong feelings and we may not always be able to keep everyone happy but on the whole I hope members are happy with the positions we take.

Three key issues have concerned us this year, two of which are undoubtedly threatening but one of which promises to offer great benefits. The threat from Crossrail appears to have been removed, to general relief. The new Licensing Act, however, has yet to be implemented and we are busy submitting our views at present. On a happier note, the Arcadia project has been welcomed by residents, and we devoted a recent Forum meeting exclusively to the topic.

If there have been no major issues this year to preoccupy them, our recently re-named Planning Committee is as assiduous as ever in monitoring development in the town, and the annual Awards evening in September proved as popular as ever. Similarly, our Infrastructure, Town Centre and Graffiti teams have all been hard at work attempting to preserve Richmond as the agreeable place to live in that we all wish.

Now as I commented recently in the Autumn newsletter, we are saying goodbye to several key members of the Executive Committee who wish to step down. Torben Petersen has already retired from Traffic and Infrastructure and has been replaced by Neil Maybin. Freda Hyde is stepping down from Trees and Landscaping and will be replaced by John Govett, aided by David Shaw. Peter Locke is standing down from running Planning, though not from the Executive Committee, and will be replaced by Richard Young. In addition, Bernard Marder QC will also be retiring from the Executive Committee. All four have been stalwarts of the Society for so long that it will be hard to imagine life without them but I would like to thank them all for their dedication and commitment over the years. I am very grateful to Neil, John and Richard for volunteering to take over.

Every society has to renew itself and we are now welcoming a somewhat younger generation to take over the running of the Society. Fortunately, many members of the Committee are staying put and I would like to thank them too for their efforts over the past year, notably Beryl Pethick, my deputy, Andrew Coleman our Treasurer and, especially, Pat Spaight, our hard-working Secretary. Peter Willan continues to campaign tirelessly on Town Centre issues, Sylvia Ruggier maintains our membership records, Jill Woolf organises our social events and Janice Kay produces an endless list of fascinating talkers for our Lecture programme. A special mention also to Paul Velluet and Charles Keggen for running up twenty-five years of summer walks this year; and I would also like to thank Sylvia Marder and all of you who help in the distribution of the Quarterly newsletter. As you know, we have just dispatched our 200<sup>th</sup> edition, something of a landmark for the Society.

I believe the Richmond Society remains in good shape and in a position to tackle the challenges of the year ahead. Please continue to support us and encourage new members to join.

**ALAN SAUNDERS**

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON THE WORK OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2004

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 30 September 2004.

### SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Total membership in the year to 30 September 2004 was 929 which was an increase of 29 over the previous year.

### PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

In the year under review there were six **public meetings** in the Vestry Hall and one held jointly with the Kew Society in May. The **Annual Review Awards** in September at St Johns Church was attended by the Mayor of Richmond, Cllr Pat Parsons and the Awards were presented by Paul Mortimer, Editor of the Richmond & Twickenham Times.

In May the Society participated as usual in the **May Fair** on Richmond Green, and in June our **Old Deer Park information board** at the river end of Old Palace Lane was unveiled by the Deputy Mayor Cllr Colin Yandle with Judith Church, widow of our late Chairman and President David, to whose memory the board is dedicated.

Social events, in addition to the **Christmas Party**, included the very well attended **Summer Party** held in the garden of Halford House, and two **Pub Lunches** in March and August.

There was also a party to celebrate 25 years of the summer evening **Heritage Walks**. In the seven individually themed guided walks Paul Velluet and Charles Keggen were assisted by expert volunteer leaders Johanna Coombes, Jason Debney, Martin Edgar, Reg Frary, Murray Hedgecock, David McDowall, Derek Plummer and Val Roberts.

All events were fully reported in the Richmond Society newsletters and in the local press.

### PLANNING

During the year the pattern of committee meetings was adapted to the need to respond to planning applications within 21 days of publication. Eight full meetings were held on the full scope of planning matters, interspersed with shorter 'applications only' discussions as and when required. Of the 97 cases then considered, 78 were selected as requiring representations to the Council – an increase of about 30% on the previous year. They ranged from unauthorised advertisement hoardings (an increasing problem) to major redevelopments. In many of the latter cases, objections were made on grounds of over-development – a sign of unremitting pressure by developers upon our area.

Wider issues also needed much attention. We participated for example in a useful Planning Outcomes Review convened to monitor Council Planners' performance on backland and other developments. Appearances by committee members at the Public Inquiry into Council proposals for changes to its Unitary Development Plan achieved agreement by the Inspector on a majority of items. Satisfactorily also, it was announced that earlier representations on the Mayor London's Draft London Plan had resulted in reinstatement of protection for the Richmond Park view of St Paul's Cathedral.

Responding to an invitation from English Heritage, committee members produced a register of 'non-beneficial' structures (e.g. historic street furniture, memorials, drinking fountains, etc.) in our area which might qualify for grant aid.

Fittingly, because of the long service of the late David Church on the committee, two members were responsible for implementing his idea of the Old Deer Park information board at the river end of Old Palace Lane.

As always, many planning topics were helped by information from Society members, who were also regularly advised on various relevant matters. As always also, the committee needs to be kept up to strength, and we were very glad to welcome Douglas Barrell who joined us in January. Although we act as watchdogs upon them, it was good to hear during the year that the Council does value our input to them upon planning matters. We are looking for more volunteers to join us, and any member coming forward can be assured therefore that they will be making a positive and purposeful contribution to the safeguarding and beneficial development of our Town.

## **LANDSCAPING AND RIVERSIDE**

At the request of Ken McKenzie of the Thames Landscape Strategy / Arcadia we donated £345 to provide plants for a hedge at Petersham Meadows.

We sent detailed comments on an Arcadia plan for works at Chitty Hole and Buccleugh Gardens, suggesting some modifications. We also had several meetings and site walks with Arcadia planners to discuss the detailed plans for their proposed works in Terrace Field and Gardens, and the riverside 'pocket parks', again suggesting some changes.

We discussed with Council Officers and Arcadia planners possible planting schemes at the important Richmond Riverfront townscape, and agreed with the outcome of new turf and no planting for the present time.

After much discussion amongst Committee members we sent a detailed response to a Historic Royal Palaces consultation document on the future development of Hampton Court Palace Gardens and the surrounding area.

The contribution of Ron McEwen to all these consultations was much appreciated.

## **TOWN CENTRE, LICENSING AND RELATED ISSUES**

The focus during the last year has been on anti-social behaviour in the town centre and licensing, and as much of this has been to do with the infrastructure as with specific cases. A new working group chaired by Peter Willan was set up jointly by Richmond Society and Friends of Richmond Green to focus on licensing and anti-social behaviour. The group, for short called LASB broadly covers the geographical area covered by the Richmond Society but in practice concentrates on Richmond town centre. The two other members of LASB are Martin Anderson and John Coates.

As with most towns up and down the country, Richmond town experiences poor behaviour by some people, particularly in the evenings. An important step by the police this year has been the introduction of the Safer Neighbourhood Team led by Sergeant Alan Beazley. We have worked closely with this team from the start and have provided support and have helped define the issues. The greater presence of the police and the police community support officers in the town has been widely welcomed. In addition to dealing with incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour the police presence is a boost to confidence in the community. This work is ongoing and the Society continues to provide an important link with community policing.

On licensing, the main effort has been in preparing a response to the Council's consultation on a draft Licensing Policy issued for consultation in July 2004. Some 40 pages of comments and suggestions were presented to the Council and a Special Policy proposed for restricting further increases in licensed capacity in the town. Articles on this work are in the Society's Autumn and Winter Newsletters. Work continues on the issues and preparation for the likely deluge of licence applications under the new Act from February 2005.

In the previous year much effort was spent in trying to reduce the litter on the town's streets, Riverside and The Green. This last year saw the fruits of this work and what was a serious litter problem has been generally eliminated through the efforts of the Council, Councillors and others. The Society took much effort over the years in resisting the late opening hours of Burger King in George Street and the issue of litter and recently the outlet closed.

The alcohol license applied for by Steins along the Riverside was resisted but granted by the magistrates. While Steins is pleasant enough in its present form it was felt the risks of greater amounts of drinking in the area needed to be addressed.

The commercial pressure and consumer demand for expanding the evening economy continues, as do the costs to the community. The Society has no wish to interfere with peoples' choices but we will continue to do what we can to protect residents and the town from any adverse impact with the limited resources we have.

## **GRAFFITI AND LITTER**

The Richmond Society's Graffiti Subcommittee combats the problem of graffiti tagging in the Town and Hill areas. It met three times in 2004. We campaign for local government and utilities to play an active part in removing graffiti. We also contact property owners of affected sites to remove tags, 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.

Over the past few years there has been a very welcome increase in graffiti awareness in local government and amongst most utilities. This has progressed further throughout 2004. All the road bridges over the railway are now cleared by the Council by agreement with the Railways. The boathouse doors along the river now have no graffiti. Tags in Waterloo Place, Duke Street, the Renton Shelter and other areas are regularly repainted as part of community service orders. Even the Telewest junction boxes are cleared regularly.

During 2004, your subcommittee has been pressing South West Trains to improve graffiti removal processes from Richmond Station and the surrounding area. Some progress has been made, and the pedestrian approaches in particular are greatly improved. However, much more remains to be done and we will continue to regard the railways as a priority in 2005.

We have also continued to lobby for repair of the dilapidated buildings in the Terrace Gardens, as these could form a magnet for graffiti. Plans are finally in place for repairs and rebuilding work to be carried out in spring 2005, but progress has been painfully slow. We will continue to monitor the situation and lobby Council officials and councillors regularly.

In the spring we were also active in lobbying the owners of the building above Maison Blanc to clean off a major graffiti attack. This took some time, as the initial proposal to remove the paint would have involved scaffolding. The eventual decision to paint over the offending tags has proved a much better and longer-term solution.

Much of our work, however, involves clearing up more widespread incidences of smaller graffiti attacks. Over the year we have instigated removal of tags on premises in Church Court, Albany Passage and other areas of the Town and Hill. This low level of graffiti attacks will no doubt continue in 2005, and we will continue to respond, liaising with the Council and the Police as appropriate.

Richmond Council offers a free graffiti removal service to homeowners, but charges businesses either for time and materials or an annual fee. This can discourage some establishments from getting tags removed, and this affects the surrounding area, not just those unwilling to pay. We would like to see the Council's free graffiti removal extended to small businesses, and will be raising this with them in the coming year.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Income for the year was £14,109. This is £5,564 higher than 2003 largely as a result of funding of £5,294 received for the Society's Information Board about the Old Deer Park. In addition to donations from members and friends of the Society towards the cost of the Board, we were also delighted to be awarded a grant of £2,400 from Richmond Council's Civic Pride Fund. Thank you to everyone who supports the Society through their membership, donations and attendance at our events.

Expenditure for the year was £11,869. This is £5,334 higher than 2003 as a result of the cost of the Information Board, which amounted to £5,334. Excluding this, our expenditure at £6,535 was exactly the same as the previous year although there were some changes in its composition.

Overall the Society recorded a surplus for the year of £2,240 (2003: £2,010) 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 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

16 November 2004

# The Richmond Society

## Statement of financial activities for the year ended 30 September 2004

	2004	2003
	£	£
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
<i>Voluntary income</i>		
Subscription income	4,194	4,299
Donations	3,732	1,176
Grants	2,400	-
<i>Income from operations</i>		
Publications	262	304
Social events & walks	2,371	1,864
<i>Investment income</i>		
Interest income	1,150	902
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>14,109</b>	<b>8,545</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
<i>Cost of generating funds</i>		
Social events & walks	1,962	1,551
Fund-raising & marketing	212	236
<i>Cost of charitable activities</i>		
Trees & landscaping grants	345	100
Information boards & plaques	5,334	16
Newsletters	1,556	1,490
Annual awards	345	191
Public meetings	258	303
Subscriptions	250	410
Printing, reports & postage	475	1,108
Council agendas & reports	147	150
Depreciation	270	444
Other running costs	571	371
Management & administration	144	165
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>11,869</b>	<b>6,535</b>
<b>Net incoming resources before transfers</b>	<b>2,240</b>	<b>2,010</b>
Transfers between funds	-	-
<b>Net movement of funds for the year</b>	<b>2,240</b>	<b>2,010</b>
<b>Opening fund balances</b>	<b>14,633</b>	<b>12,623</b>
<b>Closing fund balances</b>	<b>16,873</b>	<b>14,633</b>

## Balance sheet at 30 September 2004

	2004	2003
	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Display stands, computer & projector	449	719
<b>Current assets</b>		
Stock of awards plaques	240	399
Debtors & prepayments	976	842
Deposit account	30,581	26,131
Cash at bank and in hand	451	1,267
	<b>32,248</b>	<b>28,639</b>
<b>Current liabilities: amounts falling due within 1 year</b>		
Creditors & accruals	12,315	10,900
Deferred income from life subscriptions	896	857
	<b>13,211</b>	<b>11,757</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>19,037</b>	<b>16,882</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>19,486</b>	<b>17,601</b>
<b>Liabilities and charges due after more than one year</b>		
Deferred income from life subscriptions	2,613	2,968
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>16,873</b>	<b>14,633</b>
<b>Funds</b>		
General	14,120	12,348
Project	69	109
Landscaping & Trees	2,684	2,176
	<b>16,873</b>	<b>14,633</b>
Approved by the Executive Committee on 16 November 2004		
A Saunders – Chair		
AM Coleman – Treasurer		

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 16 November 2004 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 Saunders (Chair)

