

Introduction

Our 2018 AGM will take place at The Cricketers pub, Richmond Green on Tuesday 10th April 2018. This newsletter summarises key events of the past year. We're always keen to hear from residents who may be interested in joining our Committee or helping with FoRG activities.

Accounts

FoRG's accounts for the year ended 31st December 2017 will be distributed at the AGM and show total income of £1,571 (2016: £723) and a surplus of £730 (2016: £237). Total reserves amount to £8,085 (2016: £7,355). The principal source of income was, as for last year, donations from film companies. The main expenditure, as in 2015, was the funding of a public lecture on the history of personalities around The Green. Other costs included a donation to The Richmond Museum and 2017 AGM costs. Your Committee is actively considering uses for the accumulated surplus which, since the year end, has been boosted by a further £3,000. Projects being considered include a major contribution to the refurbishment of the Drinking Fountain on Greenside.

Drinking Fountain project

FoRG applied last August (2017) to the Village Planning Fund to refurbish the sadly dilapidated fountain on the corner of Richmond Green, facing The Cricketers pub and Paved Court. We were disappointed that our application was not successful. This historic fountain, dating from c.1860, was last refurbished for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 and is now in great need of repair. The stone structure is cracked with missing pieces, the paved red brick surround is out of keeping with the stonework, and the grass under the trees around the fountain is badly worn and turns to mud, especially in winter – not a welcome sight for residents and visitors who enjoy The Green or pass through to the river. We plan to

restore the fountain to its handsome former self and renew and extend the surround with more suitable paving. FoRG will be applying for other local grants and intends to contribute to the cost of any refurbishment.

May Fair weekend

We're pleased to report the Arts Richmond Book Picnic returns this year, so there'll be three days of activities across the May Fair Weekend. The Richmond May Ball (www.richmondmayball.com) heralds its 25th event on Friday 11th May and will raise funds for three worthy local charities. Richmond May Fair is on Saturday 12th, celebrating its 48th year, and on Sunday 13th May the Arts Richmond Book Picnic (www.artsrichmond.org.uk) greets speaker **Barbara Hosking** – retired civil servant, broadcaster and author. May Fair weekend is sponsored by *Be Richmond* (Richmond BID: www.berichmond.london).

Talk by Valerie Boyes

Rather than dwell on well-known kings Henrys VII and VIII, Valerie's talk *Richmond Green – People and Personalities: the great, the good and the not so good* focussed on medieval Queens such as Isabella of France, and Margaret of Anjou who, mainly due to their husbands' weaknesses,

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took a firm grip on the country. Anne of Cleves, fourth wife of Henry VIII, managed to keep her head as well as Richmond Palace and lived a comfortable life there. Other notable residents featured, such as Sir Richard Hill, who saved the Middle Gatehouse (Trumpeter's Lodge) for posterity, and Sir Matthew Decker who had a large mansion on the site of Pembroke Villas. His grandson, 7th Viscount Fitzwilliam, gave his extensive collection to fund what is now the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. The 19th century explorer Richard Burton lived in Maids of Honour Row; 17th century merchant Elihu Yale was one of the 'not so good,' but America's Yale University is named after him nevertheless.

Heathrow expansion

Richmond Heathrow Campaign (RHC) represents FoRG's interests on Heathrow, along with those of the Richmond and Kew Societies which together have over 2,000 members. FoRG committee member, and chair of RHC, Peter Willan, sits on Heathrow's Community Noise Forum. RHC's substantial research and its submissions to Government and others can be viewed at www.richmondheathrowcampaign.org.

During 2017, RHC responded to 16 major consultations and participated in over 20 meetings with Heathrow, the DfT and CAA. A substantive response was made to the DfT's consultation on the Revised draft National Policy Statement (NPS) and to parliament's transport committee, which will shortly publish their scrutiny of the draft NPS that goes before parliament for a decision on Heathrow expansion, probably this summer. RHC is doing what it can to discourage approval. Its report sets out arguments against a 3rd runway and details of the adverse impact on the UK aviation market, as well as the environmental harm from noise, nitrogen dioxide & carbon emissions.

Come to the
**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING 2018**

TUESDAY 10th APRIL
7.30pm

Hear what's happening on The
Green;
Have your say on local issues

Wine served

The Cricketers (upstairs),
Richmond Green

Of the additional 43 million passengers annually serviced by a 3rd runway, 17m would detract from growth at other UK airports, which is incomprehensible given the UK has the equivalent of ten runways with spare capacity. 16m would be extra international transfers – an inefficient use of additional capacity. This leaves just 10m additional passengers terminating here. More remarkable is the absence of any net increase in long-haul business passengers and few additional in-bound tourists. These are DfT estimates in context with 435m UK passengers in 2050.

Furthermore, RHC's report shows the negative impact of a 3rd runway on the UK economy of £20-25 billion (net present value). Government and the airlines say charges should not increase from today's (in real terms), in which case RHC calculates Heathrow's value would fall by £12 billion, which would prove untenable to investors; Govt would have to provide substantial financial support for a company 90% owned overseas.

Heathrow has launched two public consultations with responses due by 28th March: a) Airport Expansion and b) Airspace Principles (see www.heathrowconsultation.com).

The consultations concern runway length, terminals, taxi-ways and roads including the M25, re-location of communities, compensation and airspace design. RHC recommends responding by email with views on expansion, noise and air pollution. Responses on expansion should go to: Expansion.feedback@heathrowconsultation.com; and on airspace design and noise, send your email to: airspace.feedback@heathrowconsultation.com; OR write to Freepost LHR Expansion Consultation and Freepost LHR Airspace Consultation.

Licensing

FoRG's remit doesn't directly cover the town centre, but nevertheless the FoRG community is impacted by the evening economy, particularly late-night dispersal and drinking on the Green and along the Riverside. Co-operation continues with the Council on crime and public nuisance issues, and with police at Police Liaison Group meetings. Peter Willan, on

behalf of the Richmond Society and FoRG, has been involved with all licence changes, with some success in limiting hours and adding conditions. These premises applied for new or varied licences during 2017: Bacco, Franco Manca, Holland & Barrett, Ivy Restaurant, Lidl, Nardi, Ole & Steen, R Chocolate, Revolution, The Richmond Arms, Sainsbury (Friars Stile Rd) and Viva. Meanwhile, Encore, Jamie Oliver and Yuma Sushi vacated their licensed premises. In early 2018 Five Guys and Jacks of London were granted licences. An appeal by Youngs of a decision by the Council regarding the Angel & Crown in Church Court goes to court in April. An application is pending for a new bar at 13 Hill Rise.

There have been three important legislative changes impacting anti-social behaviour. The borough's Licensing Policy came up for review, bye-laws and controlled drinking zone laws have been replaced by Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO), and the Council has, with Hounslow & Wandsworth, jointly prepared a Supplementary Planning Document for Noise.

There's pressure on the town's retail sector, and increasingly food-led businesses are taking over, as exemplified by the opening of Joe & The Juice, Leon and Ole & Steen in George Street. Concerns remain that all but one of the premises along the commercial section of Hill Rise / Petersham Road now have alcohol licences. The pattern repeats itself from the Odeon cinema up Hill Rise. Police resources are dwindling, with a police base in Richmond soon to move to Twickenham. Busking remains an issue.

The Mayor's draft London Plan promotes a 24-hour economy and a response strongly opposing this for Richmond has been submitted by the Richmond Society.

Old Deer Park

The Old Deer Park Working Group (ODPG), chaired by Peter Willan and comprising representatives from FoRG and other local amenity groups, published a report in June 2012 on the Park's future conservation and management, based

on Crown Estate's own adopted *Landscape Strategy*. It commented on anomalies in a number of planning boundaries, the poor condition of parts of the Park and the potential to realise a number of projects advanced in the *Landscape Strategy*. Since then the Council has been urged to prepare a coherent plan for the Park. ODPG encourages projects that provide improved access to and from and through the Park, and also improve the Park for recreation while enhancing its open parkland character and heritage significance.

During the year ODPG actively participated in Council meetings and correspondence to advance the Old Deer Park Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which sets out the policy in conjunction with the Council's Local Plan. Both are in final stages of being adopted.

With some success ODPG has sought to increase the protections in the Plan against inappropriate development. These concerns have been put before the Planning Inspector, and further action is under consideration. The Mayor's draft London Plan seeks around 8,000 new houses in Richmond borough over the next 10 years, so there's pressure to encroach on Metropolitan Open Land and Green Belt, which will be resisted.

ODPG has been keen to progress a number of enhancing projects, working with the Council. With Policy now largely in place, the first project this spring is likely to be enhancement of the entrance to the Old Deer Car Park from Park Lane. ODPG also supports installing raised decking under Twickenham Bridge, and making improvements to the ha-ha along the riverside.

Friars Lane vehicle restrictions

In December 2017, we wrote to the Council about our concerns over their proposal to install bollards restricting vehicle access where Friars Lane meets Richmond Green. A gap as narrow as 6'6" here, and at the mouth of Water Lane, would obstruct the passage of many domestic vehicles and small delivery vans, as well as preventing HGVs from using this route between Friars Lane and Water Lane. Residents are clearly worried

over essential everyday services (post, deliveries, removals, etc.) being blocked from reaching their homes. Refuse collection is a particular worry. There are added concerns over the likely impact on traffic around The Green. Any log-jam at the mouth of Friars Lane (e.g. two cars wanting to pass through the narrow gap in different directions at the same time) could cause conflict and tail-backs along King St and into the town. And vehicles (e.g. delivery vans) that find they're unable to turn into Friars Lane may try to park on The Green or be diverted around it to exit by another route. This would not be welcome and may even increase traffic problems. Research continues, but we understand that residents' feedback was overwhelmingly opposed to these proposed changes.

Town Centre

FoRG and the Richmond Society played a significant role in the Richmond Town Centre Improvement Scheme 2007-2012. The Council is initiating more improvements, and the two societies are working with them on these.

A £3million cycle hub, funded mainly by DfT, is planned at the station car park in the next year. Wakefield bus station is going to be improved to provide more space for people waiting for their buses. Discussion is underway on improving street furniture in the town, around The Green and at Old Deer Park car park. Audits are being undertaken with reference to the Council's Public Space Design Guidelines, the aim being to remove redundant signage, and ensure consistency of appearance and messaging across the town.

A 20mph traffic-calming limit, that would include The Green if it happens, is being discussed, as well as a number of areas where there is conflict between vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.

Old Palace Lane resurfacing

After a very long delay, we're told by Savills that the consultation process for the much-needed resurfacing needs to be re-run due to a new court ruling. This was supposed to happen during Feb-March. Discussion is also

ongoing about the cost and exact type of resurfacing desired. The extremely dilapidated gate into Old Palace Yard will also be replaced. Following completion of the consultation, Savills anticipate work to begin in early June. We can but hope...

Telephone Boxes

The pair of listed BT phone boxes on the edge of The Green were repainted last May by *Be Richmond* (Richmond BID). One of them is owned by the Council and the other by The Red Box Company Ltd. We've questioned how the latter was able to purchase a Richmond Green kiosk (and all the others they claim to "own") while also complying with BT's *Adopt a Kiosk* scheme, as they do not meet the established criteria. The Red Box Company is now trying to sell its box back to the Council.

Trees

There's no progress with the Council on the pruning of the plane trees on Greenside. Their Tree Policy does not permit pruning on grounds of loss of light for residents, leaves in gutters or lack of light for grass beneath. The plane trees are checked annually for signs of disease and every three or five years for major pruning. The last pruning, in Nov 2013, was not significant and made little difference.

Website

Our web site continues to be maintained by South West London Environmental Network (SWLEN). If you have time and skills to help us enhance our website, we would love to hear from you. It's not an onerous task, as we post notices and updates infrequently. Our web site address is unchanged: www.forg.org.uk

AOB

Since our 2017 AGM last April:-

* The Gateway lights have been replaced and several lamp posts repainted (and bulbs replaced);

* We've spoken to the Council about the confusing road markings at the junction of The Green and King Street. We've been given a commitment that rogue white lines are to be permanently removed;

* The Museum of Richmond held an exhibition, to which FoRG was pleased to make a contribution, celebrating Old Palace Lane's past. Much research unearthed new material, and it was a fascinating exhibition, telling the story of the Lane using information boards, pictures, maps and artefacts. A booklet was published by the Richmond Local History Society and Museum of Richmond;

* Concerns had been expressed that litter bins on The Green had no covers, meaning loose rubbish tumbling out as a result of over-filling, the attention of foxes, or the action of wind lifting bags; all these litter bins now have lids;

* Over the past 12 months there have been rough-sleepers in tents under the railway arches at the end of Old Palace Lane, and often considerable amounts of litter. If residents see any tents put up in Old Deer Park or on the riverside, it's important to inform the Council – either contacting them directly, or by asking a member of the FoRG Committee to do so.

AGM

We hope to see as many of you as possible at our forthcoming AGM, upstairs at The Cricketers pub on Tuesday 10th April 2018 at 7.30pm. And we hope that you'll stay on for a glass of wine or two at the end of the meeting.

Vivien Harris
Chair, FoRG

We are again very grateful to Featherstone Leigh for their help printing this newsletter.



FRIENDS OF RICHMOND GREEN

Contact details: Chairman – tel: 020 8948 3384

Email: mail@FoRG.org.uk

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on

Tuesday 10th April 2018 at 7:30pm

in the upstairs room at The Cricketers pub, Richmond Green

AGENDA

Apologies

Minutes of last meeting

Matters Arising

Report of the Executive

Financial Report and Adoption of Accounts

Election of Officers – those standing are:-

Chairman	Vivien Harris	8 Pembroke Villas
Secretary	<i>Vacancy</i>	
Treasurer	Mark Sebba	9 Pembroke Villas

Election of other Members of the Executive – those standing are:-

Peter Willan	7 The Green
Peter Griffiths	26 The Retreat
Anna Newton Dunn	29 Old Palace Lane
Linda Christmas	16 Queensberry House

Any Other Business