

APRIL 2025

Friends of Richmond Green

NEWSLETTER

EVENTS IN RICHMOND in 2025

The **Richmond May Fair** is the town's biggest community event, welcoming thousands of visitors and giving local charities the opportunity to publicise their work and raise much-needed funding. The 2025 Richmond May Fair will be held on **Saturday 10 May** from 10am 'till 5pm. All the favourites from past years will be there: the Victorian Fun Fair, delicious food, the popular Dog Show and the Arts & Crafts Show. Local bands, schools and various performance groups will stage a great line-up of entertainment throughout the day (for more information, visit: www.richmondmayfair.co.uk). The **Richmond May Ball** 2025 (www.richmondmayball.com) will take place on **Friday 9 May**, and this year will raise crucial funds for **Ruils**, a user-led charity supporting Disabled People to live independently (www.ruils.co.uk); and for the **Orange Tree Theatre** (www.orangetreetheatre.co.uk). Over the years, the May Ball has raised more than £1 million for over 20 local charities.



Old Deer Park events: this year will see several new events held on Old Deer Park, so please watch out for the information posters, or join our WhatsApp group to be kept up to date with everything that's coming up.

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS FONTAINEBLEAU - RICHMOND UPON THAMES - KONSTANZ



2025 TWINNING CELEBRATIONS

This summer, Richmond will be marking the 65th anniversary of its international partnerships with the towns of **Fontainebleau** in northern France and **Konstanz** in southern Germany.

Hundreds of guests from both our European twins are expected to visit Richmond across the weekend of **6-8 June 2025**, with a host of commemorative events planned. These include receptions, a parade, sporting events & concerts. All Richmond residents are invited to participate in the festivities. In preparation for this reaffirmation, fifteen town-twinning signs have been refurbished & seven new signs have been erected. In addition, three new information boards about Richmond's twinning with Fontainebleau & Konstanz have been installed in Richmond, Twickenham & East Sheen.

For details of all the plans for June 2025, please visit www.richmondineurope.com/2020-reaffirmation/.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

Wednesday 23 April at 7.30pm

- Hear what's happening around The Green
- Have your say on local issues
- Wine will be served

Where? The Cricketers pub (upstairs), Richmond Green

Please come and join us



FORG's WHATSAPP

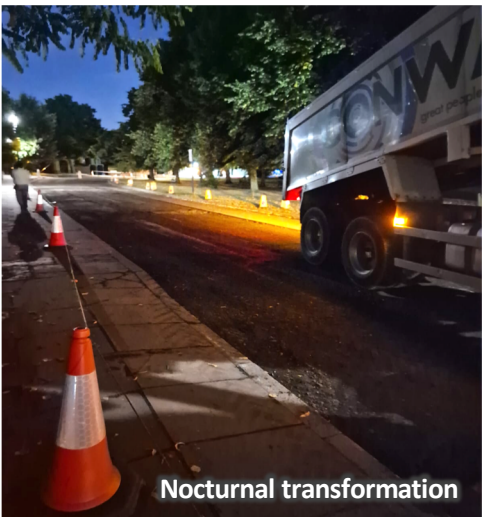
Friends of Richmond Green's **WhatsApp group** connects residents living in the vicinity of The Green, the Little Green and the surrounding areas. Its primary purpose is to keep residents **up to date** about local activities and developments that may be of interest. To join ForG's WhatsApp group, please visit www.forg.org.uk.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chimps in Richmond: you'll have seen them in the town, by The Green, on riverside and hill: statues of chimpanzees in a variety of life situations. This Conservation-born 'Chimps Are Family' exhibition appeared last July for a six-week display. They are still with us, but only, says the Council, until July 2025.



Roads resurfaced: a concerted chorus of complaints to the Council about the worsening problem of potholes in the roads around Richmond Green has finally resulted in long overdue repairs. Overnight works (below), carried out in August 2024, minimised the impact of closures along Pembroke Villas and Portland Terrace. The result, now that the surface has weathered to match those marginal areas left untouched, is a welcome reprieve from the crumbling surface that posed a hazard for cyclists and threatened damage to cars.



Nocturnal transformation

HEATHROW EXPANSION IS BACK

Richmond Heathrow Campaign (RHC), chaired by **Peter Willan**, acts for ForG and the Richmond and Kew Societies to campaign against the adverse impact of Heathrow airport on community health and well-being (for more details, and an archive of RHC resources, visit: www.richmondheathrowcampaign.org).



During 2024, RHC attended twelve meetings with Heathrow, twelve with community groups, three with other organisations, and it held twenty-four of its own meetings. RHC responded to eight consultations.

Heathrow Expansion: in 2024, passenger traffic increased to 89.3 million, three million above 2019 levels. Following recent Government support for expansion (that it says is key to UK growth), the anticipated decision process for a 3rd Runway will start with Heathrow's July 2025 proposal, to be followed by Parliament's approval of an amended (2018) Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS), a Consultation, an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO), and approval by the Secretary of State in July 2028. That's just over 3 years away. A successful challenge would require a new ANPS, which would add at least a further year to the timescale. A 3rd Runway could fail at the ANPS or DCO stages. Ultimate approval will depend on passenger demand, airline support, economics, carbon, air pollution, noise emissions and financial viability against restrictions on state finance. RHC opposes increasing Heathrow's annual limit of 480,000 flights (any increase would further reduce half-day respite for residents); and RHC will challenge expansion on evidence that demonstrates it would not, in fact, result in economic growth.

Climate Change: the seventh carbon budget (2038-40) was recently published for Parliamentary approval. Forecasts see unconstrained UK passenger demand rising from 315 million in 2025 to 490 million by 2050, but limited by the carbon budget to 400 million. Of the 85 million spare capacity, 55 million would be taken up by Gatwick and Luton airports, leaving insufficient for a 3rd Runway at Heathrow. The risk for Heathrow is that even this headroom will be unattainable due to sustainable fuels not being available and carbon capture being difficult to achieve.

Easterly Alternation: the end of the Cranford Agreement results in use of the northern runway for departures towards the east, alternating with the southern runway from 2028 during easterly mode (around 30% of the year). RHC sought conditions on the approval by Hillingdon Borough of Heathrow's planning application, although RHC has concluded that the impact of noise on Richmond and Kew is unlikely to be significant from the flightpath slightly to the east of the existing southern runway route.

Airspace Modernisation (ASM): initial flightpath options have been produced, but the Government recently decided to reconsider its whole approach. National Air Traffic Services (NATS), instead of Heathrow, is expected to be tasked with designing flightpaths – resulting in less community engagement. RHC remains concerned at the likely effects of new departures and curved arrivals over Richmond and Kew.

Night Flights: the Department for Transport (DfT) has opted to keep its night-flight regime unchanged for three years, from October 2025. RHC made another presentation to Heathrow, DfT, and others on time-shifting all night-flights (currently 11pm to 7am) into the day-time hours.

Friends of Richmond Green website

Our thanks to **Habitats & Heritage** for maintaining our website. If you have time and skills to help us with it, we would love to hear from you... please email us on: mail@ForG.org.uk



CRIME & POLICING REPORT for 2024



In 2024, crime figures in Richmond remained at similar levels to the previous year, and are still **low** compared to the rest of London's boroughs. There was, however, an increase in **burglaries** towards the end of the year and into 2025, and this has seen increased patrols and improved communication channels with the Police, after an initially poor response. There've been a number of personnel changes in the **South Richmond Safer Neighbourhood Team** (SNT), which has reduced in size; but we now have a great Sergeant (Rich Wright), who takes a very hands-on approach and can often be seen walking the streets and The Green. The Met's announced budget cuts will result in the end of Parks Police, whose responsibilities will fall under our SNT, although the exact logistics are yet to be decided. Please continue to **report all crimes on 999** (or call **101**, if after the event). And please DO email our SNT (southrichmond@met.police.uk) about any concerns you have – for example about Anti-Social Behaviour – so that they can target their patrols accordingly. Every crime that's reported is logged, and therefore helps and enables the police to request extra resources. A reminder also that Richmond Borough has two **WhatsApp** channels (**Richmond Borough** and **South Richmond**), where crime updates are posted. If you aren't sure how to access and follow them, please contact the FoRG committee, your Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, or email the SNT at the email address above.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Friars Lane car park: the Council successfully completed its upgrade of the Friars Lane Car Park, with improved drainage, new surfacing, marked parking spaces, greening, plus fitments for new Electric Vehicle charging points. The improved lighting of the car park is welcomed, although the original promise of more waste bins doesn't seem to have materialised on the ground.



A new look for Friars Lane

Uncertainty over Richmond's commercial future continues in the face of economic headwinds,

online retail competition, changing demand for office, leisure and residential use, and uncertain planning policy outcomes.

Commercial deliveries and refuse collection are causing residents additional disturbance, and electric bikes remain a safety risk and a nuisance. In 2024, on behalf of Friends of Richmond Green, **Peter Willan** dealt with the following:-

Licence applications: 7 alcohol licence applications, all of which had satisfactory outcomes: 5 new licences were granted with conditions (Hotel Chocolat, Sticks N Sushi, Ottolenghi, Pasta Evangelists and Compass Box Whisky); Sainsbury's (the Quadrant) and Lebanese Bites withdrew their applications. So far in 2025, there have been 4 fresh applications: Efes Donor (King St) and 2 Bridge St have been granted licences, but Slug & Lettuce (riverside) withdrew; discussions with Andaluz (80 George St) continue. In 2024, the Old Deer Park Working Group (ODPWG, of which FoRG is a member) dealt with one alcohol licence application – 'Marzamemi' (a time-limited event in ODP), which was granted. So far in 2025, ODPWG has dealt with 2 alcohol licence applications – 'Park Live' (an ODP music event), which was granted; and again 'Marzamemi' which remains outstanding.

Planning applications: objections were lodged against 5 applications, of which 4 were granted with conditions (47 George St, 'Open Book' at 10 King St, 12 Paved Court and Friars Way); 3 Duke St withdrew. Applications opposed by FoRG and outstanding are: Hunters Court, 54 George St and Onslow Hall. Opposed by ODPWG are Richmond Athletic Association and Old Deer Park Sports Ground, both in relation to commercial car parking. Agreement was reached with All Bar One on its application for brand-change and refurbishment of One Kew Rd. Decaux's proposed 4 electronic town centre display hubs were refused by the Council in 2023, and appeals for three of them were dismissed in 2024. FoRG opposed all four, although that in The Quadrant was allowed on appeal. 80 George St (ex-House of Fraser) is finally seeing life with the opening of Sticks N Sushi, with Andaluz tapas about to open and Lindt preparing to occupy office space; the gym is now open, resulting in Greenside parking from about 5:15am with resultant noise disturbance for residents. Onslow Hall's future remains in question.

Local Plan: Prospect of Richmond (supported by FoRG) and ODPWG were represented by Paul Velluet and Peter Willan at planning hearings in June-July 2024 on the LBRUT draft 'Local Plan'; Laurence Bain attended as an observer. Topics covered included Place-based Strategy, Richmond Station, Pools on the Park Site Allocations (incl. the latter's Statement of Significance), Evening and Night-time economies, Development in Centres, Views & Vistas and Tall Buildings. Disappointment was registered at the many issues raised that the Council seemed to ignore.

Night-time Strategy: the Council's strategy for the borough has been published, including increased policing, better lighting and waste collection, later business openings, more events, safer travel and youth space. FoRG urged recognition of a distinction between evening and night-time economies, and argued for residents' need for the winding-down of activities before midnight.

Richmond Town Centre Strategy: Council deliberations continue. FoRG attended an away-day where the vision centred on Culture, while traffic congestion registered as a negative. Aims to relocate the Reference Library to the Little Green and site new public toilets on Quadrant Road are some way off.

TOWN CENTRE – PLANNING & LICENSING

Friends of Richmond Green

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 23 April 2025 at 7:30pm

(upstairs at The Cricketers pub, Richmond Green)

Minutes of last year's FoRG AGM (17 April 2024) are available to view on FoRG's website: www.forg.org.uk

Current Executive Committee: **Vivien Harris** (Chair); **Diana Billingham** (Treasurer);
Peter Willan; **Peter Griffiths**; **David MacKenzie**; **Gemma Warrillow**; **Gemma Fumagalli**; **Juliet Bramwell**.

Contact FoRG's Chair – telephone: 020 8948 3384

FoRG's ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Accounts for year ending 31 Dec 2024 will be distributed at the AGM

In summary, FoRG recorded total income for the year of £2,836.28 (cf. 2023 when it was £2,182.20), leading to an overall surplus of £808.78 (cf. 2023: -£6,472.18). Total reserves at the year-end amounted to £10,256.45 (cf. 2023: £10,941.67). After a quieter 2023, the number of filming production company visits increased last year, and with them came donations to the community. In addition, FoRG sought professional services relating to City Pub Group's planning application for the redevelopment of Onslow Hall on Little Green, a move that led to a successful outcome. FoRG continues to actively seek uses for the accumulated cash surplus and always welcomes **ideas and suggestions** about how funds might be **put to good use**.

OLD DEER PARK

The **Old Deer Park Working Group** (ODPWG), chaired by **Peter Willan**, comprises representatives of FoRG and other local amenity groups, aiming to make the park better appreciated and with better access for outdoor sports & recreation, while sustaining the park's historic significance and parkland qualities. The ODPWG works with the Council, Thames Landscape Strategy, the Crown Estate, Habitats & Heritage and others, and has done so for over 12 years. In 2024, some 15 meetings were attended, including those that



The boardwalk linking town and riverside to park

concern the Link Path project, floating pennywort control, and restoration of the Ha Ha along Kew Road. Meetings with the Council's committee for Environment, Sustainability, Culture & Sports concerned adoption of a new strategy for Leisure, Sport & Physical Activity, as well as capital investment for Pools-on-the-Park covering repairs and future management.

The Link Path: this footpath renewal project (fostered jointly with the Council) opened for use on 31 July 2024, connecting the heart of Richmond to the river Thames, with access into the park itself. A 'stage 3' is still needed – to extend access from the new boardwalk (pictured) under Twickenham Road bridge, improving the route to the pedestrian bridge near Richmond Lock.

Flooding: ODPWG undertook a 3-month study in the Autumn of 2024, gathering flood data and modelling access along the towpath and connected lanes and paths. A proposal is being developed to improve access in the face of the increasing flood risk. This work is ongoing.

Events and planning applications: two examples are referred to under 'Town Centre – Licensing & Planning' (inside).

Newsletter published by Friends of Richmond Green • Email: mail@FoRG.org.uk • Website: www.FoRG.org.uk

**We hope as many of you as possible can join us for our 2025 AGM
on Wednesday 23 April at 7.30pm.**

Vivien Harris
Chair, FoRG

FEATHERSTONE
LEIGH

We are grateful to Featherstone Leigh for printing this newsletter