

## Friends of Richmond Green

# NEWSLETTER

### LIFE-SAVING DEVICE for THE GREEN

With thousands of people attracted to Richmond Green each year, particularly across a summer, there seems a pressing need to help improve survival rates from out-of-hospital cardiac arrests by having a **Defibrillator** installed at the heart of this lovely open space. FoRG has now resolved to provide The Green with its own external, publicly accessible (24/7) Defibrillator unit. Funded wholly by FoRG, this installation is to be located – with LBRUT co-operation – on the **Council Storage Hut** on the corner of The Green opposite Friars Lane. To supply and maintain the unit, and provide essential community training and guidance, we've chosen to work with the **Paul Alan Project** ([www.thepaulalanproject.org](http://www.thepaulalanproject.org)), a charity founded by Clare Parish in memory of her father who died of a cardiac arrest in 2022. The Project is already well-known to Richmond Council and has installed multiple defibrillators across south and west London and elsewhere. Once in place, the Defibrillator unit on The Green will need to be monitored by a pool of resident volunteer '**defibrillator guardians**'. If you wish to be one of them, and to take part in the (free) training, then please let us know by email or by joining the FoRG **WhatsApp** group (*for details, see page 2*).



Defibrillator: proposed location

### CRIME, ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR and POLICING

Between January and December 2025, overall crime figures across Richmond **fell** by 4.5% compared to the previous year. South Richmond ward saw a 15.5% reduction in reported crimes. But while there was a decrease in burglaries, there was an increase in noise-related **anti-social behaviour** (ASB) on and around The Green, with lit fires and reckless use of fireworks becoming a growing issue. **Sgt Rich Wright** continues his 'visible policing' approach and it is this, combined with the usefulness of CCTV cameras, that has produced a positive result on more than one occasion. FoRG continues to negotiate with the Council to make **permanent** the 2 'temporary' CCTV cameras sited on The Green, and has offered to help with funds (subject to cost). Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), car crime, burglaries and shoplifting continue to be priorities for our local

police. But local police presence is **depleted** by resources being diverted to manage protests in central London, and there's no sign of this changing. Twickenham Police Station has now closed, so the borough no longer has any station with walk-in access for the public. However, with the Parks Police disbanded, Sgt Wright and his team now have a base at **Holly Lodge** in Richmond Park. PLEASE **REPORT all crimes on 999** (101 after the event); email our **Safer Neighbourhood Team** (SNT) about any concerns so they can target their patrols: [southernrichmond@met.police.uk](mailto:southernrichmond@met.police.uk). Every logged crime enables extra resources to be requested; if crimes, however minor, aren't reported it makes policing harder. 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.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

Tuesday 28th 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](http://www.forg.org.uk).

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Cleaning the Fountain:** we've asked the Council to organise professional cleaning, funded by FoRG, of the **Victorian Drinking Fountain**. A quote from Stonewest, who did the original restoration work, has been accepted and we're expecting the work to begin in Spring 2026.

**Tree maintenance:** the **London Planes** lining The Green are about 80 years-old, but the oldest trees are the **Limes**, some likely planted 140 years ago. Routine maintenance removed deadwood from several, notably the avenue of limes near Pembroke Villas. By Portland Terrace, a dead Norway Maple was removed entirely, and replacement with a different species is planned – to strengthen stock diversity against climate change. The trees by Maids of Honour Row were pruned ahead of the Council's 'Richmond Reimagined' event. Deadwood was removed, for public safety, and crowns lifted in line with TfL policy on tree height and bus clearance – because all buses were diverted around The Green.



The Green's oldest trees: an avenue of Limes

**Improvements to the grass:** the state of the grass on The Green seems worse than ever. For **"one of most beautiful urban greens surviving anywhere in England"** (Nikolaus Pevsner), we're disappointed at the poor level of maintenance, given the Council's stated objective to "maintain and manage the Green to the highest standards" (foreword to *Richmond Green Management Plan 2024-2025*). In 2025, because of budget restraints, restoration work was restricted to the cricket pitch. FoRG has now offered to help fund more large-scale reinstatement works in 2026.

## A BETTER, NOT BIGGER HEATHROW?

**Richmond Heathrow Campaign** (RHC), chaired by **Peter Willan**, acts for FoRG and the Richmond and Kew Societies ([www.richmondheathrowcampaign.org](http://www.richmondheathrowcampaign.org)). During 2025, RHC attended **7** meetings with Heathrow, **6** with community groups, **3** with other organisations and held **27** of its own. We responded to **2** consultations, submitted an "observation" to Heathrow's planning application for easterly alternation, and made public presentations to the Richmond Society and the Mortlake & East Sheen Society.



RHC's work focused on expansion, airspace modernisation and night flights:-

**Heathrow Expansion:** there are two main options: 2R+ (enhancing the two-runway configuration) and 3R (building a third runway). The **2R+ option** enhances Heathrow's ageing terminals and facilities to achieve high quality service from increased terminal capacity, reaching around 113 million passengers per year (up from 85.4m in 2025), at a cost of £16bn and within the existing planning limit of 480,000 flights (ATMs) a year. A fleet of larger aircraft is to carry the increased passenger numbers. The **3R option** includes terminal improvements but also increases passengers to 150m pa and ATMs to 756,000 pa – at a further cost of £33bn for a 3rd runway and additional terminals. **Surface Access costs**, estimated by TfL to be least £30bn (in 2024 money), are largely ignored by Heathrow, with its commitment to limiting private finance to airside facilities. In 2025 RHC reviewed the major issues and on 4th March 2026 made a presentation to Heathrow, its communities, Dept for Transport (DfT), Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and others, highlighting why the 3R option fails almost every test – especially financial and economic. The Chancellor supports (in our view misguidedly) the 3R option as a major driver of GNP growth. An Arora Group option proposes a short 3rd runway (avoiding the M25), with terminals managed by the airlines who together believe Heathrow's proposal is too costly and is without competition. **RHC's recommendation** supports the much simpler and more expeditious 2R+ option, making best use of other existing airports, especially in the UK regions, and providing **a better rather than a bigger Heathrow**. Additionally, RHC supports improved surface access to London's five major airports. RHC seeks to present an alternative option and to re-focus the existing **Airports National Policy Statement**, expected to be reviewed by parliament in the autumn, following a public consultation, and to oppose a 3R planning Development Consent Order forecast for 2029.

**Airspace Modernisation (ASM):** airspace design took a radical turn in 2025 when the Government and CAA claimed that **design conflicts** between airports were not being resolved and they decided to place responsibility with UK Airspace Design Service (UKADS), run by NATs. Heathrow's role and community engagement will consequently be much reduced; the extensive work over three years by Heathrow and communities will become redundant; and re-directed flight-paths risk harming communities. One such risk is from night-time arrivals curving over Richmond and Kew from the south and north onto the final descent. New design options, however, are more than a year away.

**Night Flights:** during 2025 RHC made progress opening the door to a **progressive shift** of night flights into the daytime. The DfT commissioned a study on the economics of night flights, taking account of initiatives by RHC and others, with results expected shortly. Results from a night noise effects study ('ANNE') and another on attitudes to aviation noise ('ANAS') are also expected.

### Friends of Richmond Green website

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



**OLD DEER PARK** The **Old Deer Park Working Group** (ODPG), chaired by **Peter Willan**, comprises FoRG and other local amenity groups aiming to make ODP better appreciated for outdoor sports & recreation, with better access, while sustaining the park's historic significance and parkland qualities. ODPG works with the Council, the Crown Estate, Thames Landscape Strategy (TLS), Habitats & Heritage and others, and has done for 13 years. Response was made to the Council's **Tree and Events Policy** consultations, and we attended site meetings about the **Link path** flooding and restoration of the **Ha Ha** along Kew Road. We spoke at the Council's Environment committee on Events and Pools on the Park, and we're working with TLS on re-wilding the area adjacent to the Thames, and on replacing the damaged **Meridian signage** on the towpath. Disappointingly, we've yet to engage the Council on excessive flooding of the Link path and the need to extend the boardwalk onto higher ground, but we remain optimistic for 2026. We're very saddened to learn of the passing of **Andy Such** who recently joined the ODPG, bringing his great experience in the sports industry as chair of Sport Richmond for more than 20 years,

## THAMES LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

Weybridge – Hampton – Kew

In addition to ODPG's work, FoRG recently met with **Thames Landscape Strategy** (TLS) to learn about plans to conserve, enhance and promote our stretch of the Arcadian Thames. Because of **climate change** and increased **flood risks**, TLS is actively working with the Environment Agency and other riverside groups on a **Joint Thames Strategy**, to create multiple benefits alongside flood-risk measures. Examples

include re-wilding, tree and hedge planting, boardwalks and towpath management; a future project will create a Freshwater Tidal Wetland with a new boardwalk and planting for Buccleuch Gardens (between the Petersham Road and the river).

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Travellers deterred:** in readiness for further incursions, a Borough-wide preventative High Court injunction is now in place. In 2025, it enabled the prompt removal of the Travellers who had set up camp on Old Deer Park.



**Railway bridge pathway:** you'll have noticed the newly-gravelled surface and three collapsible bollards installed behind the gates leading to the path over the railway bridge. 'Beautifying' this route between The Green and the A316 is on the council's aspiration list, but FoRG has concerns if a suggestion to open the gates is carried through, bringing potential risks to pedestrians from a tempting rat-run for scooters, bicycles and motor bikes.

**CLIMATE ACTION** On tackling **Climate Change**, our local Council has been one of the more proactive London Boroughs, having published on its website the **Climate and Nature Strategy 2025-30**, a comprehensive document showing that there is a way to go. Importantly, it seeks to engage with community groups such as ours. We are proud of our historic building stock, and yet Richmond has over **60%** of houses with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of **C** or worse. FoRG has held discussions with the Council on what can be done to resolve the dilemma of preserving existing **listed buildings** while allowing modifications that reduce energy loss and decarbonise buildings. More news to follow on the FoRG website.



**PLANNING & LICENSING** **Licensing:** FoRG co-operates with the Richmond Society on licensing, and engages with licensees, their lawyers, the police and residents affected.

In October, a Government task force reviewed the **Licensing Act 2003** (the Act) with a report calling for evidence, to which FoRG has responded. A **National Licensing Policy Framework** followed in November, with **Revised S182 Guidance to the Act** in February 2026 and provisions to amend the Act in the **Community Engagement Bill**. In parallel, the Mayor launched his **Draft London Strategic Licensing Policy**; consultation closed at the end of March and FoRG has responded. A **two-year Pilot** is planned for the new policy, and FoRG recently attended two webinars with the Mayor's staff. The Govt and Mayor are driven to save the hospitality sector from increased taxes, new employment rules and falling demand – owing to changing leisure habits and the cost of living. The proposals are **highly de-regulatory**, and risk more ASB and crime. Justifications given are biased; success, not failure, has resulted from the Act and Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) in Richmond over 20 years. Risks are inflated by the Mayor's 24-hour Night Time Strategy, which Richmond Council replicated in its own Night Time Strategy. Community groups, including FoRG, and the health sector across the country strongly oppose most of these changes.

**Licence applications:** Peter Willan, on behalf of FoRG, dealt with 11 alcohol licence applications. 6 new licences were granted: for **Hotel Chocolat**, **Andaluz**, **Ambrioso**, **Grab & Go**, **Popeyes** and **Hagens**. 3 variations were approved: **Efes Donor**, **2 Bridge Street** and **KFC**. In most cases a satisfactory outcome was achieved through attached licence conditions. But concern has grown over the number of licences granted in the CIP Zone. **Sainsbury** (the Quadrant) and **Slug & Lettuce** withdrew. On behalf of The Old Deer Park Working Group (ODPG), Peter dealt with alcohol licences for park events including **Park Live** (permanent licence granted). The Council now encourages full alcohol licences instead of Temporary Event Notices. Noise from ODP events, directly affecting FoRG residents, is of concern and is being taken up with the Council.

**Planning applications:** FoRG responded to applications for **9 The Green** (granted) and **3 Duke Street** (undetermined), and objected to forecourt changes at **Onslow Hall**, Little Green, linked to a proposed nursery school (refused). Development at **Hunters Court** (FoRG objected in 2024) remains undetermined. Peter, for ODPG, also objected to retrospective applications for additional car parking at **Richmond Athletic Association** and **Old Deer Park Sports Ground** (both refused).

**Richmond Town Centre Strategy:** ongoing consultations continue, including various specific projects and also the re-staging of the 'Richmond Reimagined' event, planned for **Saturday 18th July 2026**.

**Local Plan:** the Council approved its Local Plan in 2025, but disappointingly ignored FoRG's many proposals. There are council consultations on SPDs for Trees, Biodiversity, Transport and Local Views, to which FoRG aims to respond.

# Friends of Richmond Green

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 28th April 2026 at 7:30pm

(upstairs at The Cricketers pub, Richmond Green)

Minutes of last year's FoRG AGM (23rd April 2025) are available to view on FoRG's website: [www.forg.org.uk](http://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**, and **Karineh Grigorian** (co-opted).

Contact FoRG's Chair – telephone: 020 8948 3384

### FoRG's ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Accounts for the year ending 31st Dec'25 will be available at the AGM

In summary, we recorded a total income for the year of £5,110.81 (cf. £2.8k in 2024), yielding an overall profit of £4,764.03 (cf. -£808 in 2024). Total reserves at year-end amounted to £15,020.48 (cf. £10.2k in 2024). In 2025, film production activity around The Green significantly increased, so donations to the community went up. The most prominent of the production companies was Jash Productions (filming the 4th season of the popular Apple TV series *Ted Lasso*), from whom £3,400 was received (up to the end of Dec'25). These **filming donations** allow FoRG to function without annual membership charges and to fund local projects. Our Councillors decide the split between FoRG and other local charities, with FoRG typically receiving just over half of donations. But last November the filming of a New Year's Eve party for *Ted Lasso* caused general disruption for residents – closure of Greenside, diversions and parking suspensions; after FoRG's intervention, a further discretionary £2,000 donation came entirely to FoRG. We continue to seek appropriate uses for the cash surplus and welcome all **ideas and suggestions** about how funds might be **put to good use**. **Current projects funded by FoRG** include cleaning of the Victorian drinking fountain, improvements to the state of the grass on The Green, and plans to install a 24/7 Defibrillator.

### EVENTS on THE GREEN

The 2026 **Richmond May Fair** will take place on **Saturday 9th May**, from 10am till 5pm. Expect to find all the favourites from past years – the Victorian Fun Fair, delicious food, the popular Dog Show, Charity and small business stalls, and the Arts & Craft Fair. Local bands and schools will stage a great line-up of entertainment throughout the day. For more details, visit

[www.richmondmayfair.co.uk](http://www.richmondmayfair.co.uk). The 2026 **Richmond May Ball** will take place on **Friday 8th May**, this year raising much-needed funds for **The Poppy Factory** ([www.poppoypoppyfactory.org](http://www.poppoypoppyfactory.org)), the Richmond-based charity that helps Armed Forces veterans and their families achieve more independence and to make progress on the path to employment; and for **The Purple Elephant Project** ([www.thepurpleelephantproject.org](http://www.thepurpleelephantproject.org)), a children's mental health charity supporting over 100 children and their families every week with therapeutic services across the London Boroughs of Richmond, Hounslow and beyond. For more information on the Richmond May Ball, see: [www.richmondmayball.com](http://www.richmondmayball.com).

And on **Sunday 10th May** the marquee will host a series of events run by the **Orange Tree Theatre**: children's workshops in the morning, short play extracts performed at lunchtime, and entertainment in the evening ([www.orangetreetheatre.co.uk](http://www.orangetreetheatre.co.uk)).

**Old Deer Park events**: there will also be new and returning events on Old Deer Park this year, so watch out for the posters or join our **FoRG WhatsApp group** to be kept fully up to date about forthcoming local events.



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We hope as many of you as possible can join us for our 2026 AGM on Tuesday 28th April at 7.30pm.

**Vivien Harris**  
Chair, FoRG

FEATHERSTONE  
LEIGH

We are grateful to Featherstone Leigh for printing this newsletter