

Friends of Richmond Green

NEWSLETTER

RESTORATION OF THE DRINKING FOUNTAIN



FoRG is championing the restoration of the dilapidated Victorian Drinking Fountain on the corner of The Green (facing The Cricketers pub and Paved Court). It was renovated for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, but at some point the water supply became disconnected. FoRG aims to clean and repair the damaged stone structure, to replace missing rosettes and to add a new drinking spout. The Council will restore the water supply. The red-brick surround, which is out of keeping, will also be replaced and extended to match the overall look of the stone fountain. The project is fully funded by a generous private donation, as well as by grants from the Heritage of London Trust, the Civic Pride Fund, the Drinking Fountain Association and Richmond BID.

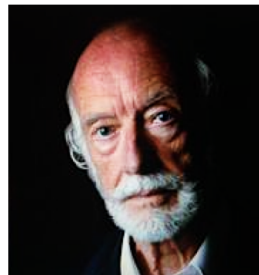
FoRG will also contribute funds to enable completion of the restoration. It is hoped these works can begin soon, with the aim of completing restoration by the summer, but we are still waiting for quotations from key companies required to do the specialist work.

MAY FAIR WEEKEND GETS BIGGER

This year's Richmond May Fair weekend will be held across three days: **Friday 10th**, **Saturday 11th** and **Sunday 12th May**. It will be organised by Be Richmond, the 'brand persona' of the Richmond Business Improvement District (BID), an alliance of over 300 businesses based in Richmond town centre (for more details, visit: www.berichmond.london). The **May Ball**, on **Friday 10th May**, will benefit two local charities: Shooting Star Children's Hospices and The Vineyard Community Centre. Just under 500 guests are expected to attend. For more details, and to book a place, visit www.richmondmayball.com

The **May Fair** on **Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th May** carries, as always, the primary purpose of helping local charities and community groups raise funds. The two-day event on The Green will feature over 100 stalls and a programme of fun and entertainment for all the family. To minimise disturbance to residents, FoRG has requested later start-times for musical sound-checks and stage performances. The Dog Show will now take place on the Sunday.

Also on the Sunday, the **Arts Richmond Book Picnic** welcomes guest speaker **Roger McGough** OBE CBE, President of Arts Richmond, who will read from his new book. For details, visit: <http://www.artsrichmond.org.uk/ar-event-detail.php?id=168>



NEW CYCLE HUB



Richmond Borough is set to become a hub for cyclists, with confirmation of a new £3m "cycle super hub", funded mainly by DfT, to be installed over part of the Richmond Station car park. It's expected that this 'hub' will be in use by Spring 2020, providing space for over 700 bicycles, as well as improved facilities and security. To find out more, visit: www.richmond.gov.uk/cycle_hu_b_races_ahead



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

Wednesday 10th April at 7.30pm

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

Where? The Cricketers pub (upstairs), Richmond Green

NEWS IN BRIEF

Other Local Events

Events planned for Old Deer Park in 2019 include:-

- **Surrey Food Festival** – Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th April;
- **ThamesBeat Festival** – Sat 18th May;
- **The Big Funny Fest** – Sat 15th and Sun 16th June.

None of these events have yet received final approval. The Council is also looking to relocate some existing running events, but FoRG will resist any attempt to use The Green for such events.

Trees on The Green

Some pruning of the lime trees has been done, but there's been no pruning of the large plane trees on Greenside. The Council's Tree Policy doesn't permit pruning on grounds of loss of light for residents, nor because of leaves in gutters or lack of light for the grass beneath.

The plane trees are checked every year for signs of disease, and every three or five years for more major attention.

The Council's recent tree survey highlighted the need for some general pruning around The Green, but they continue to say that no work is required on the plane trees.

Filming around The Green

A major feature film, *Peter Rabbit 2*, is to be filmed in Richmond from Sunday 31st March to Sunday 7th April. Specific scenes are scheduled at the junction of Duke Street and Quadrant Road on Tuesday 2nd April, and in King Street and Old Palace Terrace on Thursday 4th April. FoRG is receiving a significant donation that will be put towards the Fountain project on The Green.



Peter Rabbit (2018)

HEATHROW EXPANSION OPPOSED



During 2018, Richmond Heathrow Campaign (RHC) submitted responses to 18 major consultations, and participated in many meetings with Heathrow, the Department for Transport, the Aviation Minister and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). RHC also provided evidence to politicians and political parties ahead of the Airports National Policy Statement decision in June 2018. Although Parliament approved this – and with it the principle of building a 3rd runway at Heathrow – RHC's evidence was visible in parliamentary deliberations.

Since June, RHC has focused on Heathrow's proposals for modernising and redesigning airspace for a 3rd runway, with serious concerns in mind about the CAA's process for changing use of airspace, and about proposed principles that concentrate additional noise over those areas already affected significantly – including Richmond town and park.

FoRG's interests in Heathrow continue to be represented by the RHC, along with the Richmond and Kew Societies that together have over 2,000 members. RHC is represented on Heathrow's Community Noise Forum by FoRG committee member and chair of RHC, Peter Willan.

All of RHC's substantial research, and its many submissions to Government and others, can be viewed at www.richmondheathrowcampaign.org.

FoRG ACCOUNTS

It is sad to report that our Treasurer, **Mark Sebba**, died suddenly in July 2018, having suffered a heart attack at his home in Crete. Since September, **Diana Billingham** has been our acting Treasurer and we very much hope her appointment as FoRG's Honorary Treasurer will be ratified at the forthcoming AGM.

The FoRG accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018 will be distributed at this year's AGM and show a total income of £3,020.18 (2017: £1,571.16), with a surplus of £1,513.67 (2017: £730). Total reserves amount to £9,599 (2017: £8,085).

The principal source of FoRG's income was LBRuT Film Office receipts. The main expenditures were donations towards Richmond Heathrow Campaign and the Old Deer Park Improvement Project. The committee continues to actively seek uses for the accumulated surplus: future projects planned for 2019 include the The Green's Drinking Fountain, which is close to finalisation.

Friends of Richmond Green website

Our thanks again to South West London Environmental Network (SWLEN) for maintaining our website. If you have time and skills to help us with it, we would love to hear from you... email us on: mail@FoRG.org.uk



THE EVENING ECONOMY



FoRG's remit does not strictly cover Richmond town centre, but the FoRG community is nevertheless directly impacted by the evening economy, particularly **the effects of late-night dispersal and drinking** on The Green and along the Riverside. On issues of **crime and public nuisance**, FoRG continues to work with the Council and with the police at Police Liaison Group meetings and on other occasions.

Generally, Peter Willan, acting on behalf of the Richmond Society and FoRG, has been involved with all the **licence changes**, achieving some success in limiting hours and adding conditions. Although not directly involving FoRG, **licences were granted** to Five Guys on Hill Street and, on Hill Rise, to Jacks of London, Kapucin Coffee and the Ice House. In Church Court, the Angel and Crown pub was taken to a Licence Review and **conditions were added** to their licence.

The town continues to change, with the retail offer being **replaced by food-led outlets** and additional alcohol licenses. Police resources continue to be reduced.

TOWN CENTRE NEWS

- Audits of **street furniture** in the town, around The Green and on the Old Deer Park car park, are being undertaken with reference to the Council's Public Space Design Guidelines. The aim is to remove redundant signage and ensure consistency of messaging across the town.
- **Waiting space** at Wakefield bus station is being modestly improved
- As with other towns, the character of the **retail offer is changing**, with growth in the number of cafes and food-led outlets.
- The mix between retail, office and residential is also changing. **Emphasis on leisure** may encourage more people to visit Richmond, The Green and Riverside.

OLD DEER PARK

The Old Deer Park Working Group (ODPG) comprises representatives of FoRG and other amenity groups, and is chaired by Peter Willan (you'll find its aims on FoRG's website). During 2018, the Council finalised a Supplemental Development Plan for the Old Deer Park, with help from ODPG. Also, concerns were raised with the Planning Inspector about park protection in the Council's emerging Local Plan.



OPDG and the Council combined to upgrade the ODP car park and its Park Lane access to the town. Metal structures have been replaced by wooden barriers, redundant signage has been removed, new wooden bollards have been installed, an historic brick pier has been repaired, and pathways have been resurfaced with heritage gravel. FoRG made a relatively small but important financial contribution to these works.

Also, ODPG successfully opposed a proposed new telecom mast near Twickenham Bridge. Events overseen by the Council are a regular feature in Old Deer Park, and the ODPG generally is consulted on each one. In addition, ODPG is preparing a strategy for future projects in the park.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Progress since our last AGM:-

Rough-sleepers: over the past 12 months, tents of rough-sleepers have appeared under the railway arches at the bottom of Old Palace Lane as well as in Old Deer Park. FoRG has worked with Spear and the Council to tackle this situation, and if residents see any such tents in Old Deer Park, or on the Riverside, they are encouraged to report to the Council.

Old Palace Yard re-surfacing: the condition of the surface in the Yard continues to deteriorate. Residents have long been in correspondence with Savills (the Crown's Agent) and their latest letter confirms that they will issue a new consultation document detailing costs for refurbishment. The damaged gate at the Old Palace Lane entrance to the Yard is also to be replaced.



20mph speed limit: we've not pursued the idea of a 20mph limit around The Green itself because there is a move to introduce such a speed limit more widely in the town and borough.

Bollards on The Green: Good Gym Richmond was asked to re-paint the bollards on The Green as part of their objective to help local communities. Their task was then modified, however, to clean them thoroughly instead. FoRG thinks they could have done a better job; while some of the bollards are in better condition than others, we believe they would all benefit from another cleaning.

New Committee members: Do you have time and the interest to join our Committee, to help with FoRG activities? We're always keen to hear from residents who'd like to help. Email us: mail@FoRG.org.uk

FRIENDS OF RICHMOND GREEN

Contact FoRG's Chair on telephone: 020 8948 3384 / email: mail@FoRG.org.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 10th April 2019 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	Diana Billingham	21a The Green

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

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

Any Other Business

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

We hope to see as many of you as possible at our AGM, upstairs at The Cricketers pub on Wednesday 10th April 2019 at 7.30pm. And please stay on for a glass of wine or two at the end of the meeting.

Vivien Harris
Chair, FoRG