

## **West London River Group**

### Late Spring and early summer Newsletter.

Can I first thank all those who have provided copy for this newsletter.

The reports I have received follow:

#### **West London River Group Towpath Group.**

There was a very well attended meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> March, which included no fewer than eight representatives from the PLA and the LBRuT who were walking the towpath together from Kew to Putney in respect of the Tree Survey. The draft of the Survey is now back with Richmond, we are promised sight of this before the end of May.

At the same time, it was disappointing that, yet again, the Environment Agency failed to send a representative; they are both conspicuous and predictable in not working in partnership with the community which is disappointing for Ben Frei of Jacob's, the EA contractors responsible for delivering EA 2100, who built a good line of communication with us last year. It has since become apparent that the "Urgent" Flood defence works programmed to begin at Barnes/Mortlake Towpath the day after the Boat Race, has been further delayed as the EA has not applied for the appropriate Licences from LBRuT. The work is now delayed by over a year.

A further planning application for the Stag Brewery has now been lodged, following the Mayor of London's refusal of the previous application last summer. Once again, Environmental issues have not been addressed.

There is a curious situation on Duke's Meadows where the footbridge under Barnes Bridge is under construction...the boathouse has been totally demolished but no planning applications have been lodged or approved.

Back to the Towpath, does anyone know when or by whom the very good "perch" style bench was installed by Queen Elizabeth Walk? We would like to source some more.

Diana Roth Towpath group.

#### **Old Chiswick Protection Society**

The OCPS organised and funded the pollarding of Chiswick Eyot in November 2021 and then asked for volunteers to help with bundling. We had a good turnout of enthusiasts, who all worked hard on a number of different days.

We got all the withies bundled and stored in record time. Since then, we have used all that material to repair and extend the defences around and on top of the Eyot. Some of the working days were organised by OCPS, some were arranged by Thames21. We now have no

home grown material, so we are reliant on T21 to bring material from other sites they help maintain and to organise more work days- we are waiting for dates.

Storm Eunice did a small amount of damage on the Eyot. A few of the medium sized trees on the south bank were wholly or partly blown over, but the bigger trees at either end escaped unharmed.

Jane Nissen OCPS

### **Hammersmith Society**

Hammersmith Bridge strengthening work is underway but no decision has yet been taken whether funding will be available to reopen the bridge to vehicles. Hammersmith and Fulham Council are suggesting a toll to finance the completion of works to enable the reopening to all users.

Caroline Clarke Hammersmith Society

### **Putney Society**

Thames Tideway Tunnel: Work continues, although the finish date has slipped by a year to 2025. At present the original drawdock is being reinstated and the temporary slipway by Charles Newens will be removed. The office building in front of Kenilworth Court has been relocated in front of Thai Square restaurant. The first 19 columns ventilating the tunnel has been installed as part of the public realm and takes the form of a 5m high sculpture featuring a poem about Beverley Brook. Future plans for Waterman's Green are under discussion with Wandsworth Council. The next Community Liaison Meeting will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> May from 6.00pm on Microsoft teams.

St Mary's Church Repair Café: Thanks to Thames tideway's works under the bridge the Church is now able to use some of the arches which were formerly subject to flooding. A repair workshop has been set up and Repair Cafes will take place monthly. The first was held recently in the church and 50 people attended, bringing faulty items to be mended by the team of skilled volunteers.

River Races: Heads of the River Races are back and the Boatrace on April 3<sup>rd</sup> was back on its traditional course with large crowds on the Embankment. The organisers again provided much needed portable loos.

Putney Tidy Towpath: Their good works continue with the help of 134 volunteers, including Duke of Edinburgh Award students. 101 bags of litter collected. No fatbergs, but lots of old plastic and, alarmingly a large flick knife.

Wandsworth Park: In late February the Putney Society joined the Friends of Wandsworth Park and our MP to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Initiative by planting four ornamental trees in the Park. On the 14<sup>th</sup> May a May Tree Festival is to be held in the Park

reviving the Beltrane (May Tree) celebrations, practices and symbols of ancient traditional tree folklore. Events will include: traditional tree-dressing and decoration of a birch tree, maypole dancing, music and a mindfulness session.

Wimbledon & Putney Commons: Their recently appointed fundraiser has now raised the full amount to enable repairs to be made to the footbridge on Putney Lower Common and work will commence shortly. The oil spill in Beverly Brook has now been dealt with by the Environment Agency.

Fulham Football Club: River users are expressing consternation about the suggestion the FFC intends to erect a pier extending to a maximum of 85 metres into the river. So far neither H&F Council or the PLA have received a planning application.

Caroline Whitehead Putney Society.

## **Strand on the Green**

### **Strand on the Green Platinum Jubilee Celebration**

When? 5<sup>th</sup> June 12pm to 6pm

Where? The green spaces and the Kew Bridge end of Strand on the Green

Come along and celebrate our wonderful neighbourhood, history and lovely stretch of the River Thames- entry is Free

Plant yourselves on the grass or drop off your deck chair

Bring a picnic or take advantage of the fabulous "specials" our local pubs, restaurants and cafes will be offering on the day

Live music outside the Steam Packet- we are keen to include some local talent so if you are interested in performing let Jon, the Landlord, know at [jon.gillespie@brunningandprice.co.uk](mailto:jon.gillespie@brunningandprice.co.uk)

**We will be closing the top end of Strand on the Green** to give us lots of space for fun and games- Morris dancing, games, competitions and activities for all the family. Don't miss out on the community cake stand where we will be selling locally made Jubilee cupcakes with proceeds going to a very local charity – The Hounslow Foodbox.

**Do the Strand:** Strand on the Green resident and local Blue Badge Guide Guy Fairbank, will be leading a walk along Strand on the Green. On this 90 minute stroll you will meet a very "u" writer and a director of blockbuster movies, a Bond baddie and a rogue male, a cannibalistic artist and the composer of a best-selling charity single, and "Help!" out the Beatles. Meet at the Steam Packet at 11am and 2pm. Cost: £10per person. Limited places so book ahead @[guythelondonguide.com](https://www.guythelondonguide.com)

**Fun on the river** – including paddle board taster sessions and a boat race.

**Fuller horses-** will be bringing their dray and offering rides.

**Happy to help?** Fancy joining in and offering an hour or two of your time on the day? Help run a stall or just be part of the setting up or clearing up team? Please contact [ann.collins9@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.collins9@btinternet.com).

**We love Strand on the Green and know that you do too so... to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee we are hosting four exciting competitions-** open to all who love this stretch of the Thames, judging criteria are **originality and inspiration**.

- 1) Compose an original poem inspired by the phrase- What Strand on the Green means to me.
- 2) Looking for something a little more down to earth? Write a limerick starting with the line "There was a lady from Strand on the Green"(swap lady for other 2 syllable descriptor- eg young/oldman or other person descriptor or even animal-fat cat!
- 3) Design a Strand on the Green coat of arms- traditional or modern encompassing aspects of Strand on the Green.
- 4) Submit a photo you have taken that captures the spirit of Strand on the Green.

**Two age group categories** in each competition – 18s and under and adults. Entries to be submitted by the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022 in the first instance as JPEGs or Pdfs to [lucycuffin@gmail.com](mailto:lucycuffin@gmail.com)(please put subject line: Strand on the Green competition).

**Fuller Smith &Turner will be displaying entries at the Jubilee party on 5<sup>th</sup> June, we will post entries on the SoGA and GPG websites and the Chiswick Calendar will host a gallery of the winning entries.**

Note: all copyright remains with the author, however by entering the competition grant SoGA and GPG the right to use submitted material as required.

Ann Collins and Lucy Cuffin Strand on the Green Association

### **Bishops Park Co-ordinating Group.**

Fulham Football Club

Of great concern is the club's idea to trespass further into the river with the construction of a "Riverwalk extension, floating reed beds, an event space and a passenger pontoon" in the river alongside the ground.

The club wishes to turn its property into a "destination", not just for football. Last summer(2021) it announced plans which included the construction of a pier for the large

high speed catamarans to use at all states of the tide. While these very large boats, Uber/Thames Clipper service are used on the river in central London they come no further upstream than Putney Pier at present.

The club seems to think that its pier would only need to stretch 25m into the river (which is bad enough for those using the river for recreation). However others say that **if the pier is to be used at all states of the tide** it would have to extend much further into the tidal stream to **approximately 75m**.

This has caused much concern and opposition. Petitions, public meetings, pressure on the Port of London Authority and questions in Parliament have followed. As yet there is no formal river works licence or planning application, so there is no real detail.

Let's hope that the club realises that their attempt to encroach on and privatise the river for its benefit is not welcome, is dangerous and unsafe for other river users.

The club claims to have consulted. There was something on the club's website but it has not consulted its neighbours in the residential area around the ground. It claims its plans were supported but closed the feedback facility very quickly.

Roger Weston Bishops Park Co-ordinating Group.

### **Wandsworth Society**

The Council announced in the latter part of last year that there is a fund of approximately £500,000 available for improvements to riverside walks. We have been unable to establish with the Council where this money will be deployed.

The planning application for the Gas Works site in central Wandsworth, beside the river Wandle, has still not been made. The promoters indicated that the application was likely to be made at the turn of the year(21/22), but the delay may be because of an announcement by TfL that the alterations to the One Way Gyrotory system is "on hold", which would mean that vehicular access to the site is compromised as eastbound traffic only is currently available. The writer is on a consultative group to consider the soft landscaping provisions on both the Wandle riverbank and other areas at ground level of the scheme.

Philip Whyte Wandsworth Society.