

THE RICHMOND SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1169079

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2016-09-07

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 13 Fitzwilliam Avenue
Richmond
Surrey
TW9 2DQ

Phone 02083327467

Email secretary@richmondsociety.org.uk

Website richmondsociety.org.uk

Activities

Objects: The Society is established for the public benefit to protect and to improve the quality of life of people living in, working in, or visiting the area comprising Richmond (in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames), in particular by promoting and encouraging: (i) high standards of planning, urban design, architecture, landscaping, conservation, infrastructure and transport; (ii) the conservation and protection of lands, buildings, open spaces, waterways, amenities, features of historic interest and the individual character of localities; (iii) the creation of or improvement to lands, buildings, open spaces, waterways, amenities, features of historic interest and the individual character of localities and the avoidance, removal, or improvement of features that are unsightly or, in the public interest, undesirable; (iv) knowledge of and interest in the matters aforesaid amongst persons concerned with such matters in a professional, legislative or administrative capacity and amongst members of the public generally (including corporate bodies) or any section of the public; (v) a sense of civic pride amongst members of the public generally or in any section of the public generally, and the fostering of community involvement and the capacity to effect necessary change; (vi) the principles and practice of sustainable development.

Activities: TO MAKE RICHMOND A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND VISIT

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Richmond Upon Thames

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£19,678	£22,326	-	-
2024-09-30	£20,836	£11,809	-	-
2023-09-30	£28,249	£16,515	-	-
2022-09-30	£12,525	£12,626	-	-
2021-09-30	£11,225	£11,867	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANDREW MARCUS COLEMAN		2016-05-18
Barbara Agnes Ruth Allen		2024-12-12
Brigitte Sophia Clausen		2024-12-12
Elizabeth Grace Danckwerts		2022-07-13
Ginny Curry		2016-05-18
Ian Galbraith		2024-03-18
Julian Rama May		2026-03-10
Ms Louise Fluker		2017-10-17
NICOLA JANE WOOD		2016-05-18
Neil Robert Cardwell		2026-03-10
Pamela Ann Fleming		2022-07-15
ROGER MOSEY		2025-02-27
Stephen Geoffrey Michael Speak		2018-12-06

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Accounts



**TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1169079**

THE RICHMOND SOCIETY CHARITY INFORMATION

PATRONS

Ms Anita Anand, Professor Ian Bruce, Baroness Ronny Van Dedem,
Lord Lee of Trafford, Sir Trevor McDonald, Lord Watson of Richmond

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Acting Chair Louise Fluker

Hon Treasurer Andrew Coleman

Hon Secretary: Barbara Allen

Brigitte Clausen, Ginny Curry, Lizzie Danckwerts, Pamela Fleming, Ian Galbraith, Roger Mosey, Stephen Speak, Nicky Wood

HONORARY REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

Marian Williams

COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

PLANNING

Louise Fluker *Chair*, Pamela Fleming, Tony Hall, Kenneth Roberts, Beverley Rumsey, Christopher Saunders

LANDSCAPING & RIVERSIDE (including Friends of Terrace Gardens)

Nicky Wood *Chair*, Frances Bouchier, Susanna Edwards, Julia Stead, Carol Ward, Dr Jonathan Wheeldon

INFRASTRUCTURE & AIR QUALITY

Stephen Speak, Pamela Fleming

TOWN CENTRE

Stephen Speak, Pamela Fleming

LICENSING

Ginny Curry

POLICE LIAISON

Pamela Fleming

RICHMOND HEATHROW CAMPAIGN

Peter Willan, Robert Tudway representatives from The Kew Society and Friends of Richmond Green, and co-opted experts

MEMBERSHIP, MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Ginny Curry (Membership), Richard Baldwin (Membership Database), Roger Mosey (Communications)

Shimei Zhou (Social Media)

EVENTS

Lizzie Danckwerts, Paul Velluet (Walks Organiser)

MEMBERSHIP or AFFILIATION of the SOCIETY to OTHER BODIES

Arts Richmond, Habitats & Heritage,

The London Forum of Amenity & Civic Societies

The Richmond Society also nominates a member to serve on

Old Deer Park Working Group (Nicky Wood), Petersham Meadows Advisory Group (Dr Jonathan Wheeldon),

Richmond Foundation, (Stephen Speak), South Richmond Police Liaison Group (Pamela Fleming), Thames

Landscape Strategy Community Advisory Group (Nicky Wood)

REGISTERED OFFICE

13 Fitzwilliam Avenue

Richmond TW9 2DQ

BANKERS

Lloyds Bank PLC, Business Banking BX1 1LT

Saffron Building Society, Saffron House, 1a Market Street, Saffron Walden, CB10 1HX

United Trust Bank, One Ropemaker Street, London EC2Y 9AW

WEBSITE

www.richmondsociety.org

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

**Louise Fluker
(Acting Chair)**

The Richmond Society continues to champion our special town and to preserve its unique character while encouraging beneficial changes.

We are lucky to live in such a beautiful place. This year Richmond upon Thames was ranked number 1 in the Telegraph Travel's list of the best London Boroughs to live in. Richmond stood out for its:

- Abundant green spaces like Richmond Park, with 37.6% of public open space, boasting 9,111 wildlife species and 8 of London's "Great Trees"
- Culture appeal and range of activities on offer
- Lowest population density
- Low crime rate
- Overall "Good vibes"

However, this popularity brings challenges. Richmond Council relies more than many London boroughs on Council tax and local business rates. Yet the town centre, like many others, continues to lose retailers and the Council's strategy is to develop the night-time economy and to encourage visitors to the town. This creates a tension between encouraging visitors whilst enabling residents to sleep at night!

Whilst Richmond is affluent, its population is ageing and more than 60% of the Council's income is spent on social care. This means that less than 5% is spent on libraries, parks and community venues although over 57% of the Borough is open space and 24% green space, being the principal attraction for both local residents and visitors. The Parks Department of the Council are to be commended for the projects which they undertake.

Being the London Borough with the lowest crime rate has meant that the Borough is a target for cuts by the Metropolitan Police. The special Parks' constabulary has been abolished and the manned police station at Twickenham is to close meaning that there will be no counter service in the Borough.

As a wealthy Borough with high property prices (the average house price was £801,000 as of July 2025), it is increasingly difficult for people on average incomes to buy property. Yet there is also a shortage of smaller houses to which people can downsize. Only 109 property sales were recorded recently, down 46% compared to last year.

The Annual Review of our activities during the year ended 30th September 2025 set out below discusses how we have addressed these challenges.

The Executive Committee has been strengthened since the last AGM by the election as trustees of Barbara Allen (secretary), Brigitte Clausen (IT) and the appointment of Roger Mosey (communications). They are helping us to address the challenges faced by the Society: communicating effectively with members, supporters and the general public; using technology better and providing an interesting range of activities.

Communications The Annual Review gives more details about our progress. The main change has been that the Society is much more visible on Facebook, X, Instagram and You Tube (recordings of meetings). This means our message reaches a much wider audience than before. Our particular challenge is communicating better electronically with the Society's members. The Chair's emails have mainly given advance notice of

meetings whilst our email Bulletins (also available to non-members) evolved to report on events that had happened. We are working on a better balance.

Technology Our new trustees are helping us use technology more efficiently.

Members' activities We have continued to run a varied events programme and summer walks with a new members' party at Asgill House, a summer party at Trumpeter's House, a Routemaster jaunt and a Christmas party.

My thanks go to all our Patrons, Trustees and our other volunteers without whom the Society could not operate.

Thank you for your support. The Executive Committee welcomes your comments, suggestions and information about what is happening in Richmond and the actions the Richmond Society should be taking.

ANNUAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

The members of the Executive Committee, in their capacity as Trustees, present their report on the activities of the Society for the year ended 30 September 2025.

PLANNING

Louise Fluker

The Planning Committee's main activity is to review planning applications and appeals in the Richmond part of the Borough (the wards of North and South Richmond and the relevant part of Ham, Petersham and Richmond Riverside). Where appropriate, we make submissions to the local authority and engage with developers and stakeholders. Our focus is on planning proposals that would be visible from the public domain. Our objective is to ensure that which is beautiful or special is conserved and that which is ugly, or overbearing is opposed. This does not mean we oppose good or radical modern designs!

Set out below are examples of our work during the year.

Applications for commercial parking on The Old Deer Park (Athletic Grounds and London Welsh/Cricket Ground adjacent to Kew Gardens)

The Council refused permission for both applications which sought to extend parking to customers unconnected with the sports activities. We (through the Old Deer Park Working Group) had objected that the proposals compromised the conservation and heritage aspects of the sites.

Richmond Local Plan 2024-29

Planning Inspectors eventually published their report which made relatively minor changes to the draft local plan on which work started in 2019. Richmond Council finally adopted the Plan on 5th October 2025. Richmond Station remains considered suitable for redevelopment with mid-rise buildings on top of the station. We continue to think this is inappropriate especially in view of the splendid refurbishment of the station facade.

Change of use from office to residential use

Demand for office space in old buildings is very limited. Where an owner can demonstrate that it has unsuccessfully tried to let the space as offices, the Council is now more inclined to consent for example, 9 The Green and 47 George St.

Increasing the height of buildings

This is a new trend. In certain circumstances the applicant can claim permitted development rights. The owner of a 5-storey block of flats behind the fire station sought to add another two storeys. The Council refused noting that the design was overbearing and would result in a loss of amenity for neighbours but more such applications are likely.

The Gosling, 80 George Street (formerly the House of Fraser site)

Sticks'n'Sushi and a gym, Third Space, seem to be the only active tenants but Lindt will join them. The freehold was apparently on the market. This illustrates how difficult the commercial and retail market is.

Onslow Hall

We were invited to meet the owners of the building and expressed our opposition to the plans to turn the building into a boutique hotel and bar. This application was abandoned and another one to turn the ground floor into a nursery (which we thought had problems) has also been dropped. A residential conversion is the most likely outcome and probably the most satisfactory. In an ideal world the building or part of it with its location could become a community asset for the arts. Without funders with deep pockets this, in the real world, is unlikely.

George Street and Town Centre

The main artery of Richmond continues in a sorry state with the exteriors of buildings festooned with agents' boards. Large spaces remain unoccupied (such as the former H&M site) whilst there is churn of existing businesses. For example, Blank St Coffee has taken over the former site of Oree. Apart from a few remaining chains (such as M&S, Boots and banks) the main retailers seem to be coffee shops, beauty salons, and retailers of chocolates and ice cream.

Former Richmond Inn, Sheen Road

After demolition work in December 2024, the site sat empty with the front a fertile ground for weeds. Enquires of the developers elicited that work was going to start in Autumn 2025 following a change of contractor. This has now happened.

Turks' Pontoon

Continued use of the pontoon for storage by the restaurant (Peggy Jean) using the adjacent barge might have seemed surprising given that the Planning Inspectors upheld Richmond Council's enforcement action. For some reason the decision was withdrawn and there will be another hearing in January 2026.

Homebase Site, Manor Road

The site remained derelict throughout the year and initially a dumping ground for rubbish until the owners took action. We were invited by Avanton to a recent meeting to discuss revised plans which were subsequently part of a public consultation.

Richmond Society Awards for 2024 for contributions to Richmond's amenity

The Society's Annual Awards review made two Awards: to Richmond Charities for their solar panel project in their almshouses, many of which are listed buildings and to "Explore" which was a redevelopment of a tired office block at the top of Eton St. Three projects were commended: the restoration of Aphrodite's Fountain ("Bulbous Betty") and surrounding garden in Terrace Gardens; the refurbishment of "The Roebuck" on Richmond Hill and phase one of the restoration of Richmond Station.

TOWN CENTRE

Pam Fleming, Stephen Speak

Vision for Richmond Town

Last year the Society responded to the Council's consultations for developing the Borough's Night Time Strategy. The strategy was formally launched in January 2025 and included some of our recommendations for Richmond Town. Our response challenged the Council to show leadership by enabling more night time use of the Council owned buildings and spaces.

In January 2025 the Council set out the next phases and a round of consultations on the Vision for Richmond. This followed over five years of work by Steer, the We Made That engagement in 2023, the Night Time Strategy consultations and studies undertaken during the preparatory work for the draft Local Plan. We are therefore disappointed that after all this historical work and the time elapsed that the Vision continues to be presented as broad concepts that will involve yet more consultation.

The Society spoke at the Council's Finance Committee when the Vision was discussed and raised concerns that the We Made That consultancy report engaged with 1,482 people but that over 2/3rds of the responses arose from an online survey which we considered was too heavily focused on traffic, transport and journeys. We also highlighted that the Council made no reference to the £0.45 million allocated through the Local Implementation Plan over the next three years and designated for "engagement with local stakeholders and exploring opportunities for further town centre improvements and the potential for significant pedestrianisation of key areas to reallocate carriageway space."

The Vision for Richmond Town being promoted by Council consultants, Hemingway Design, is based on three core values:

- Global City Energy meets Market Town Charm
- Space to breathe, Escapism, Exploration, Enrichment
- Natural leaders, champions of environmental action and social value

These core values are to be developed across five focus areas:

1. Roads & Public Access
2. River & Riverside
3. Retail
4. Young People
5. Night time economy

Over the spring and summer Hemingway Design held workshops with key stakeholders to solicit feedback on the Vision for Richmond. Four Richmond Society trustees attended a session on 10th July and agreed that the consultant's ideas were not well presented and insufficiently developed, particularly those relating to the Riverside.

The Society supports town centre actions that help to address the challenges to Richmond's shops and businesses from internet shopping, changes in lifestyle post Covid and cost of living pressures. We therefore support initiatives that will encourage more residents and visitors to visit and use the town but will also continue our long-standing campaigns for improvements to local policing and public toilet facilities.

At the "Centre Stage Festival" on September 13th the Council tested some of Hemingway Design's ideas around reclaiming the streets for the community. Along George Street there were market stalls, children's activities and live performances plus a music stage at Whittaker Avenue. Attendance was good, especially considering the inclement weather, but many attendees and residents questioned whether such events would be better located on Richmond Green where there is more space and less need for traffic and bus route diversions.

The Vision for Richmond and feedback from the Centre Stage Event were the central topics selected for discussion at the Society's Annual Forum in September. Cllr Katie Mansfield, who is leading on the project, and Cllr Phil Giesler, lead Councillor for business and the Night Time Strategy, gave presentations on the Council's current thinking. Thereafter the audience broke out into six groups aligned to the Vision's subject themes and with each group moderated by a Trustee who recorded the discussions. A full house of attendees at the Forum and the quality of discussions showed how much residents and businesses care about Richmond and its future.

The full report of the Forum discussions and links to You Tube clips of the event are available on the Society's web site at: richmondsociety.org.uk/2025_forum_report.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Pam Fleming

Burglaries

At the end of 2024 there were several high value burglaries around Richmond Green, Queen's Road, Denbigh Gardens and East Sheen. Residents were dissatisfied with the way these were handled by the police, particularly the lack of communication and there were meetings and briefings with senior police and officers from the Burglary Unit. The police increased patrols in the hotspot areas, and some residents have contracted private security. Most of these burglaries had a similar modus operandi and the perpetrators have not been caught. There have been reports of break-ins over the last few months, but we are told there is no connection with the earlier incidents.

Police Resources

The Met Budget has been cut again and TFL is cutting funding from the Transport Police. They will no longer have an office at Richmond Station and the Safe Space at the Station has been reduced to Friday nights. The Front Counter at Twickenham Police Station has been closed leaving the Borough with no 24-hour access, although Kingston will be open with reduced hours.

Good news is that the two Safer Neighbourhood Teams covering South Richmond, and Ham Petersham and Richmond Riverside have moved to Holly Lodge into space previously used by the now disbanded Parks Police. The Teams will continue to concentrate on neighbourhood policing, and the Police response unit will be responsible for policing the Park.

CCTV Cameras

In April the Council agreed that the pilot project for managing Richmond and Wandsworth's CCTV networks at the Joint Control Centre ("JCC") should be made permanent. This has increased the level of live monitoring in partnership with the police. In addition to the fixed cameras the JCC manage 24 deployable CCTV cameras that can be installed to tackle criminal and anti-social issues. There have been many requests for CCTV coverage on Richmond Green and the Council adapted two of the heritage light columns to install two deployable cameras. These were instrumental in identifying a group lighting a fire in a litter bin who were then tracked on the town centre cameras. The pilot period for the cameras has been extended for a further two months.

TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Pam Fleming, Stephen Speak

Transport Strategy

The Society has advocated for a Borough-wide transport and traffic study over many years and we support development of the Council's "Transport Strategy 2040" although feel it should include traffic surveys to collect evidence around how vehicles move through the Borough – particularly because there is a traffic funnelling impact caused by the river crossings. We feel it would be unwise to pursue plans that would reduce the capacity of George Street to handle through traffic volumes without knowing where that traffic might displace to and any knock-on effects for Hill Rise, Richmond Hill and residential areas.

To inform the transport strategy the Council conducted a public consultation during the spring and early summer with the results considered at the Transport and Air Quality Committee in September ahead of the strategy's publication which is anticipated in spring 2026. Public transport is a top issue and although we benefit from good public transport serving the Richmond Society area, the services can be poor in other parts of the Borough which undoubtedly contributes to traffic congestion and higher car use.

The Council's report outlines certain key pillars as the basis of the strategy including:

- improving public transport services
- improving the look and feel of town centres
- ensuring areas and locations where large-scale development is expected are supported by investment and wider improvement in transport services
- working with Network Rail, TFL and neighbouring boroughs to unblock bottlenecks in the transport system, including the provision of new infrastructure such as additional bridges
- support for transitioning to electric vehicles
- prioritising investment in routes for pedestrians in terms of accessing town centres and transport hubs

The committee papers highlight that the Council's Administration intends to apply current political priorities to informing the Transport Strategy 2040.

E Bikes and Scooters

Following a short public engagement the Transport and Air Quality Committee discussed a paper on e-bikes and scooters at their meeting in June 2025. We contributed to the debate around mandatory parking locations vs. "free float" parking expressing our view that the current hybrid model is best. However, we expressed concerns that there are locations in the town (especially near the station) where too many bikes are being squeezed into mandatory parking locations. Hirers can only end their rental when a bike is close enough to areas defined by geo-fencing and in the absence of a capacity limit this is leading to Lime bikes blocking the footpath and preventing other cyclists from using public cycle hoops. The Council expects to increase the number of mandatory e-bike parking spaces by converting more on-street car parking spaces.

In some cases, this utilisation of vehicle parking spaces may be on a temporary basis - to accommodate the demand during events for example.

The Committee's discussions also covered the impact of different contractual arrangements between boroughs which creates difficulties for Richmond residents wanting to use a Lime bike to travel to Hounslow for example. Unfortunately changes in national or London-wide regulation are some way off and so the Council must go ahead with procuring Borough-specific e-bike services, but these include proposals to increase the Borough's fleet.

While the Council's clear priority is for better management of e-bikes the Department for Transport is extending the e-scooter trial scheme until 31st May 2026. Richmond will continue to participate in the trial.

Bike Hub

After so many years in gestation it is a relief to see the Bike Hub at Richmond Station finally completed with parking spaces for 650 bikes and following a £664,000 contribution from the Council towards the cost. There is good support for better and more secure bicycle parking at the station especially to facilitate more commuting by bicycle and train. The Bike Hub is the 3rd largest such facility in the country and it remains to be seen whether users will overcome concerns around bike security and accept the effort and time needed to push a bike up the stairs for access to parking spaces on the upper floors.

Air Quality

During the year the Society participated as a stakeholder in discussions leading up to the publication of the Council's Air Quality Action Plan 2025-30 ("AQAP"). Our response to the consultation document in January 2025 generally agreed with the proposals but questioned the appropriateness of using Public Space Protection Orders to enforce anti-idling measures outside Richmond Station and what signage would be needed to make it enforceable. We also argued that a cost/benefit analysis should be used to assess the key recommendations and a hierarchy created for prioritising the more effective proposals.

Our suggestions were not adopted and, following adoption of the AQAP, the Council has initiated a consultation in October 2025 to follow Hillingdon's lead and make the entire Borough subject to a PSPO. This allows the Council to enforce anti-idling anywhere in the Borough with higher fines and a reduced intervention threshold. We think a Borough-wide PSPO is a disproportionate use of a legal power intended to control anti-social behaviour - most especially because engine idling tends to occur at specific and identifiable locations. The Highway Code does not allow idling and the Council already has legal powers to enforce anti-idling but has not provided evidence to show why these powers are not sufficient for the purpose of improving air quality.

LANDSCAPING AND RIVERSIDE

Nicky Wood

As in previous years, the Society has continued to:

- Report public realm problems including damaged street furniture, overflowing bins, unauthorised parking on the towpath, blocked drains and leaking water mains
- Respond to the Council's Events Consultations regarding applications for licences to use Parks and Open Spaces
- Respond to planning applications affecting vistas and landscapes
- Report dead, damaged, or diseased trees, and any damage to planting and lawns
- Report rough sleepers and anti-social behaviour in Parks and Open Spaces
- Liaise with Council Officers over plans for new trees & other plantings/maintenance
- Report damaged benches, including memorial benches

Thames Water

During the summer we took part in a further consultation on Thames Water's Teddington Direct River Abstraction (TDRA) plan to abstract water from the river at Teddington, for transfer to the Lea Valley during drought periods. The abstracted water would be replaced with treated effluent from Mogden. Local opposition has been fierce, and strongly supported by local MPs Sarah Olney and Munira Wilson, but Thames Water still intends to pursue a Development Consent Order ("DCO") in 2026. The Local Planning Authority will have no say on the matter, as the scheme has been declared a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project meaning that the Secretary of State will take the decision.

Petersham Meadows Advisory Group

Last year four Belted Galloways were brought to the Meadow by Tom's Farm, a charity based in Wandsworth. It was a worthy initiative, but the charity was overstretched and unable to continue the arrangement. This year the National Trust, which manages the Meadow, chose one of their tenant farmers to provide cattle for conservation grazing. The presence of seven Hereford Angus cross heifers, with some supplementary mowing using heavy horses, has kept the Meadow in good condition.

Old Deer Park Working Group (ODPWG)

New applications for events in Old Deer Park are scrutinised by the Group for their potential to cause harm to the fabric of the park, or undue disturbance to neighbours. One large new event this year did lead to several issues, including unacceptable noise disturbance for nearby residents: this is under investigation after an ODPWG report to Richmond Council.

The Group has responded to the Council's consultation on a refreshed Events Policy.

As noted in the Planning section above, objections were lodged to retrospective planning applications for car parking unconnected with the use of the land as a sports and recreational club at the Richmond Athletic Ground and by the Cricket Ground. Both applications were refused planning permission by Richmond Council.

Further information on predicted flooding, and the effect of Kew towpath repairs, is needed to feed into proposals to improve the resilience of the Link Path Project, which connects Richmond Town to the river via ODP.

Work continues to maintain historic vistas and provide succession planting of trees.

Thames Landscape Strategy ("TLS") Community Advisory Group ("CAG")

The "Vision for Richmond" document, produced by Hemingway Design, was presented at a workshop in July. Concern about some of the proposals for Richmond's riverside led to counterproposals from TLS, supported by our CAG member. Revised Activation proposals are awaited.

Much of TLS's work this year had been on a joint strategy refresh, extending far beyond its Weybridge to Kew stretch. Predicted flooding in London and environs, due to both climate change and new operational procedures for the Thames Barrier after 2035, is a key part of the joint strategy refresh. In our area the

strategy will include proposals for new wet woodland areas, and fish refuges to protect breeding populations in the important intertidal zone.

RSPCA Cattle Trough & Canopy

The granite bowl and ornate ironwork canopy of this Grade II listed monument were damaged in October 2024 when a stolen car rammed into it. It was left in a sorry state for about 9 months, with no one prepared to take responsibility. The Council was finally persuaded the Grade II listed structure was at risk when we sent photos showing the deterioration. Much to our relief, full repairs were completed in October 2025.

LICENSING

Ginny Curry

The Society continues to monitor the development of the town centre with regards to licensed premises. The change of use from shops to cafes and the (almost inevitable) application for an alcohol license continues. We examine every application and, in most cases, work with applicants so that the requirements of the business, the concerns of residents (who are often very nearby), and the police are considered. Most of the town's licensed premises are well run and cause no problems.

The emphasis on the night-time economy has come into sharper focus and we were disappointed that the application from Popeyes (adjacent to Richmond Station) was granted a late-night refreshment license. The Society put up a robust argument against this license variation, but the Council decided otherwise. The nearby Amazon shop has now closed (but the license remains extant) so we are keeping a watchful eye on the premises for any future development. We predicted that, because of the result of the decision taken over Popeyes, there would be movement among other premises in the location to extend their late-night opening hours. We were not surprised when an application for a late-night refreshment extension from a nearby business surfaced and we will keep this application under scrutiny. Over the last twelve months we have examined and commented upon fourteen applications for either new licenses, or variations of existing licenses.

We are also taking significant interest in the plans by the Government to update and reform the current Licensing Act which has been in place since 2003. We have depended on this Act and the Cumulative Impact Zone to give us the tools to protect our town centre. There are some proposals put forward so far – and they are by no means set in stone – that cause us some concern. We have been invited to take part in a “tick box” exercise in the first instance to register our initial thoughts and concerns. The Society will continue to keep a watching brief as the details emerge.

RICHMOND HEATHROW CAMPAIGN

Robert Tudway, Peter Willan

www.richmondheathrowcampaign.org

Richmond Heathrow Campaign (“RHC”) acts on behalf of the Kew & Richmond Societies and Friends of Richmond Green on Heathrow matters. We believe it would be preferable to aim for a better rather than bigger Heathrow and to capitalise on the world-beating advantage of the southeast's five major airports by improving surface access.

Night Flights

Noise from night flights is, for many residents, the most acute Heathrow issue. During the year RHC made progress opening the door to progressive deferral of night flights to the day. The Department for Transport (“DfT”) has now commissioned a study on the economics of night flights, taking account of the initiatives of RHC’s and others with results early in 2026. Results from a night noise study “ANNE” and a noise/annoyance study “ANAS” are due early 2026.

Heathrow Airspace Modernisation

Airspace design took a radical turn in 2025. The Government and Civil Aviation Authority (“CAA”) claimed design conflicts between airports were not being solved and they decided to place responsibility for design with UK Airspace Design Service (“UKADS”) run by National Air Traffic Services (“NATs”). Heathrow’s role and community engagement will be much reduced. Extensive work over three years by Heathrow and communities will be redundant and potentially flight path changes will harm communities. A major risk is that of night arrivals curving over Richmond and Kew from the south and north onto the final descent instead of a straight-line approach starting 10 or so miles to the east as at present. Turning aircraft produce greater noise impact for multiple reasons but there is also the risk of any particular home experiencing overflight of descent to three runways instead of one.

Heathrow Expansion

Estimates of larger aircraft loads are sufficient to provide for modest growth in UK passenger demand within the constraints of aviation net zero carbon. Furthermore, across the UK there is substantial existing spare runway capacity to cater for any small increase in the number of flights otherwise constrained by the carbon ceiling and more so now that Gatwick’s plan for a second runway has been given Government consent. Under these circumstances there is no need for a 3rd runway at Heathrow, especially since 75% of the 3rd runway capacity would be used to concentrate flights in the southeast and increase international-to-international transfers that are no value to the UK economy. RHC believes it would be far better to invest in quality of service and surface access at Heathrow and other airports and to support regional aviation.

In January 2025 the UK Chancellor announced strong support for Heathrow expansion followed by Heathrow publishing its proposal for a northwest runway in July with costs of £50bn plus. A 3rd runway requires a planning Development Consent Order (“DCO”) and therefore Parliament’s approval of an updated 2018 Airports National Policy Statement (“APNS”) against which the detail of the DCO will be assessed. It is likely an updated APNS will be consulted on in 2026; Heathrow aims for a first flight in 2035. Considerable challenges arise from a 3rd runway’s negative impact on the UK aviation market, surface access congestion, noise, air pollution and climate change and lack of economic benefit and affordability, financial viability and deliverability.

Summary of RHC Activities

During the year RHC responded to CAA consultations on Airspace Modernisation and Environment and made presentations to Heathrow’s Noise & Airspace Community Forum (“NACF”) on Night Flights, to Mortlake with East Sheen Society on Heathrow and to the Richmond Society Forum. RHC responded to Heathrow’s planning application to Hillingdon for Easterly Alternation. We attended the Richmond Council Standing Committee on Heathrow. RHC also attended 26 meetings (some virtual) including: NACF (4), Heathrow workshop (1), Community Noise Group (“CNG”) (7), other organisations (3) and RHC (11).

MEMBERSHIP

Ginny Curry

Membership of the Society as of 30 September 2025 was 1,063 members. The current membership subscription rate is being held at £10 per annum for a single membership and £16 for a household membership. Changes in the way many members choose to pay their membership subscriptions means that a standard membership year of 1st October to the following 30th September has become administratively unwieldy. A resolution is being proposed at the Annual General Meeting in December to amend the Society's constitution to re-define the membership year as running for 12 months from the anniversary of joining the Society.

We continue to upgrade our membership database.

COMMUNICATIONS

Roger Mosey

The Society has stepped up its communications with the local community mainly by increasing the frequency, and seeking to improve the impact, of its social media activity. We recognise that members and followers receive their news in a multitude of different ways, and the website and individual email communications still have an important role. But social media platforms - mainly in our case Facebook and Instagram - have proved remarkably successful in reaching large numbers and prompting debate. In the 90 days until the end of October 2025, our more active policy meant we received 466,000 views on Facebook - which compares with 43,000 in the previous three months.

Two posts on the Draw Off in the River Thames had more than 100,000 views in total. We believe that the large public response to our highlighting of the damage to the RSPCA Fountain on Richmond Hill was a significant factor in the Council moving ahead with repairs. Other items also produced large responses: a report on the Society's Forum, focused on the discussion about retail in Richmond high street, drew more than 100 comments and the individual post was viewed by more than 37,000.

This is valuable in showing that local people are engaged by these issues, and it helps shape the Society's position when it is represented to the relevant authorities. We will continue to offer a platform for debate, and in the coming months we plan to revitalise our website and also devise new ways of communicating with members - including a dedicated WhatsApp group where those interested will be able to hear about developments as soon as they happen.

We are reviewing how we can communicate better with members. In common with other local societies, we have stopped printing and posting newsletters and instead produced Chair's Letters advertising forthcoming events and Bulletins for any interested subscriber on local issues of interest. In future we will produce one communication approximately monthly for members as well as using social media.

EVENTS

Lizzie Danckwerts

Members and guests were able to enjoy a full and varied programme of events this last year, including talks, walks and parties.

The Annual Awards - October 2024

Details of the Awards and Commendations are set out in the report on Planning above.

Forum - November 2024

We were joined by fellow civic groups to discuss a range of Borough-wide issues including: the town centre; community safety; transport; Heathrow; and the river.

The AGM & Christmas Party in December 2024

This was held once again at Queen Charlotte's Hall, Richmond & Hillcroft Adult Community College. After the AGM, members and guests enjoyed a festive buffet provided by The Sun Inn while listening to local jazz band, The Raccateers.

Retrofitting Richmond - January 2025

In January, scientist Michael de Podesta gave an inspiring talk, 'Retrofitting Richmond – creating a future for Richmond's past', in which he explained how renewable energy technologies can transform our homes to lower our carbon footprint.

The Cambrian Centre & The Real Junk Food Project - February 2025

Sue Pendle, Chair of Trustees, spoke about the Centre's role in the community and its range of activities. She was followed by Sarah Ritchie of The Real Junk Food Project who highlighted how it operates across Richmond, including from the Centre every Wednesday with its popular lunch café.

Almshouses in Richmond – March 2025

Juliet Ames-Lewis, Chief Executive Officer of The Richmond's Charities, looked back over 400 years of providing help and support for the elderly of the Borough in need of housing.

20th Century Architecture and Design – April 2025

At a Joint meeting in April with the Richmond Local History Society, architect and historian, Paul Velluet, celebrated Richmond's 20th-century architecture and design.

May Fair – May 2025

The Society promoted its activities at its stall at The May Fair on Richmond Green.

Heritage Walks – May, June, July 2025

Three evening Heritage Walks were devised by Paul Velluet with Adam Harrison: 1. From Asgill House to The Vineyard; 2. Along the towpath led by local guide, Rowland Mynors, to Marble Hill Park and Orleans Gardens; and 3. Great Trees of Richmond, led by Lord Lee and Julia Lourie.

The Summer Party - June 2025

The Party was again held in the grounds of Trumpeters' House by kind permission of Baroness Ronny Van Dedem, one of the Society's Patrons. Members and guests enjoyed afternoon tea while entertained by The Raccateers.

Vintage Bus Trip – July 2025

Lord Hendy drove members in his vintage Routemaster bus, with Paul Velluet as guide, on an evening excursion around Richmond and Barnes, followed by a buffet supper at The Sun Inn.

New Members Party - September 2025

A reception to welcome members who had recently joined the Society was held in the riverside garden of Asgill House by kind permission of Petina Hauptfuhrer.

Forum Meeting – September 2025

This year's Forum reviewed the Council's Vision for Richmond as reported in the Town Centre section above.

Event volunteers

These events could not have taken place without our volunteers' help. We are most grateful to Bella Hobson, Carey Clark, Catriona Dobbie, Deirdre Clenet, Iain Mulligan, Ian McKenzie, Jane Mills, Jane Parkinson, Jenny Pugsley, Linda Duffield, Lindsey Andrews, Lynne Cox, Marie Leigh, Sarah Turner, Valerie Reading-Kitchen and Zhijing Zhang.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

The members of the Executive Committee, in their capacity as Trustees, present their report and financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2025.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Richmond Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO - registered charity number 1169079) governed by a Constitution dated 7 September 2016, revised on 29 September 2020. It was set up to take forward the work of the Unincorporated Association, The Richmond Society (registered charity number 285805). To distinguish the CIO, we refer to this as "NewRic" and the previous charity as "OldRic" where necessary in this report.

The activities and net assets of "OldRic" were transferred to "NewRic" in prior years. Any membership subscriptions, donations and other income received by "OldRic" are remitted to "NewRic" and included in these financial statements.

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES AND PUBLIC BENEFIT

The charitable objects of the Society may be summarised to:

- campaign to preserve and enhance Richmond's historic character, unique features and amenities
- promote high standards in planning, building and landscaping in or affecting Richmond
- protect the quality of life, balancing the interests of residents, business and visitors
- encourage civic pride, an active interest in Richmond and its community, and to provide a focus for members to meet and socialise.

In carrying out its work to make Richmond a better place in which to live, work and visit, the Trustees confirm they have complied with the duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on providing public benefit.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

The review of the activities of the Society is set out on pages 3-14.

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR

Income for the year was £19,678 and expenditure £22,326, resulting in a deficit for the year of £2,648. There was a deficit of £641 on revaluation of investments to market value at the year-end. The resulting total deficit of £3,289 has been met from the Society's reserves. Given that the Society met a cost of £9,380 for one-off project and landscaping spend benefitting Richmond during the year, this is a very satisfactory outcome. We would expect such one-off items would be wholly or partially met from our reserves.

In comparison with the previous year:

- Income was 5% down. Publication sales of our "*Richmond's Trees*" book were down 48% to what we hope will be a stable level of annual sales. Income from events and walks was down by 13%. Subscription income was down by 6%. Donation income was sharply up, nearly doubling. This is principally due to the deemed value of software subscriptions donated from Microsoft and Google. Investment income was up a little this year due to higher balances on deposit although rates of interest on deposit are gradually decreasing.
- Expenses are up by 89%. Primarily this is due to one-off expenditure of £9,380 on projects and landscaping. This was £9,000 more than the previous year. The expenditure comprised a donation to the Orange Tree towards their important redevelopment programme, the cost of an information board at the historic Bethlehem Chapel, and a contribution towards the cost of the Council's elegant and functional circular tree bench on Terrace Walk. Excluding projects and landscaping, total expenditure for the year was up by 13%. – an increase substantially attributable to the deemed cost of the donated software referred to above.

Our financial position remains very strong.

Our thanks are due to our loyal members who support the Society through subscriptions, donations, and attendance at our events. Our thanks are also due to our loyal volunteers who give freely of their time and skills in handling the Society's casework, campaigns, and administration, and in organizing our events programme.

RESERVES POLICY

For the Society to function successfully, it must maintain an adequate financial position with sufficient reserves to finance its operations. At the end of the financial year, the Society's reserves comprised:

	2025
Unrestricted reserves	
General fund	33,734
Designated fund	6,398
Legacy fund	<u>46,738</u>
	86,870
Restricted reserve	
Landscaping fund	<u>850</u>
Total at 30 September	<u>£87,720</u>

The general fund comprises reserves necessary to support the Society's normal recurring activities. The balance now represents 28 months of budgeted routine annual expenditure (2024: 31 months). We will investigate additional spend on projects and landscaping in the coming year.

The designated fund represents reserves set aside to put up information boards at points of interest in the town. Further information boards are planned.

The legacy fund represents legacies received by the Society set aside for transformational projects that would otherwise be unaffordable.

The landscaping fund represents the unspent balance of monies raised specifically for landscaping projects.

The Trustees are satisfied that the Society's financial reserves are sufficient for it to continue at its current level of activities.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The major risks to which the Society is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed during the year and the Trustees are satisfied that action has been taken where appropriate to manage those risks.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The Trustees are grateful to **Marian Williams** who has carried out the Independent Examination of the Society's accounts pro bono.

STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial reporting period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the income and expenditure for the period then ended. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently, make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue in business. The Trustees have responsibility for maintaining proper accounting records

that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Society and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with charity regulations. The Trustees also have responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Society and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By Order of the Trustees

Barbara Allen

Hon Secretary

11 November 2025

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE RICHMOND SOCIETY

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Richmond Society for the year ended 30 September 2025 on pages 19 to 24.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not being kept in respect of the charity in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Marian Williams ACA
Richmond
11 November 2025

The Richmond Society
Statement of financial activities for the year ended 30 September 2025

	Note	General Funds £	Landscaping Fund £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Incoming resources					
<i>Income from donations</i>					
Subscriptions		7,823	-	7,823	8,390
Donations		1,917	-	1,917	678
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>					
Events and walks		5,041	539	5,580	6,442
Publication sales		1,215	-	1,215	2,351
<i>Investment income</i>		3,143	-	3,143	2,975
Total incoming resources		<u>19,139</u>	<u>539</u>	<u>19,678</u>	<u>20,836</u>
Resources expended					
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>					
Projects and landscaping		7,838	1,542	9,380	380
Events and walks		8,131	87	8,218	7,402
Publications		394	-	394	72
Communications		629	-	629	1,153
Administration costs		3,606	99	3,705	2,802
Total expenditure	2	<u>20,598</u>	<u>1,728</u>	<u>22,326</u>	<u>11,809</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before investment gains/(losses)					
		(1,459)	(1,189)	(2,648)	9,027
Gains/(Losses) on investments		(641)	-	(641)	1,633
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		<u>(2,100)</u>	<u>(1,189)</u>	<u>(3,289)</u>	<u>10,660</u>
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement of funds for the period		<u>(2,100)</u>	<u>(1,189)</u>	<u>(3,289)</u>	<u>10,660</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Opening fund balances		88,970	2,039	91,009	80,349
Closing fund balances		<u>86,870</u>	<u>850</u>	<u>87,720</u>	<u>91,009</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The Richmond Society
Balance sheet at 30 September 2025

	Note	General Funds £	Landscaping Fund £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Fixed assets					
Investments	3	17,729	-	17,729	18,005
Current assets					
Stock	4	3,491	-	3,491	3,795
Debtors & prepayments		4,204	-	4,204	3,259
Deposit account		61,986	2,392	64,378	68,515
Cash at bank and in hand		2,668	-	2,668	2,541
		<u>72,349</u>	<u>2,392</u>	<u>74,741</u>	<u>78,110</u>
Current liabilities:					
amounts falling due within 1 year					
Creditors & accruals		472	1,542	2,014	1,968
Deferred subscription income	5	402	-	402	402
		<u>874</u>	<u>1,542</u>	<u>2,416</u>	<u>2,370</u>
Net current assets		71,475	850	72,325	75,740
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>89,204</u>	<u>850</u>	<u>90,054</u>	<u>93,745</u>
Liabilities and charges:					
due after more than one year					
Deferred subscription income	5	2,334	-	2,334	2,736
Net assets		<u>86,870</u>	<u>850</u>	<u>87,720</u>	<u>91,009</u>
Funds	6	<u>86,870</u>	<u>850</u>	<u>87,720</u>	<u>91,009</u>

Approved by the trustees on 11 November 2025

Louise Fluker – Acting Chair

Andrew Coleman - Treasurer

The Richmond Society
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2025

1. Accounting policies

The accounting period covered by these financial statements is for the year ended 30 September 2025. The comparative financial information is for the year ended 30 September 2024.

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with “Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102)”, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102 and the Trustees are satisfied that the financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes. There are no assumptions about the future that the Trustees have been required to make that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

b Income and expenditure

Income is brought into the financial statements when received or when there is certainty of receipt. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. No provision is made for any tax on the charity’s net income as the charity is exempt from tax as all its income and expenditure relates to its charitable objectives.

c Fund accounting

The General Funds are unrestricted and can be used for any aspect of the Society's work. They comprise the General Fund and two designated funds, which the Trustees have decided, at their discretion, to set aside to use for a specific purpose. The Landscaping & Tree Fund is for income received from members and other donors and is restricted to funding these activities.

d Subscriptions and donations

Annual subscriptions are recognised in the period to which they relate. Life memberships are recognised in income on a straight-line basis over periods of 17 years.

Donations are recognised when received or when the charity is entitled to the amounts received. Donations in kind are recognised at their market value as a donation and the equivalent value included in expenditure.

Subscriptions and donations include the recovery of Gift Aid where applicable.

e Services provided

The Society benefits from the provision, without charge, of a variety of skills and other services by its members. The benefit is not reflected in these financial statements since it is not regarded as practicable to estimate its monetary value.

f Stock

Stock of plaques for presentation, stocks of books for sale and drinks for sale are stated at cost or realisable value if lower.

g Fixed assets - investments

Investments are stated at market value.

The Richmond Society

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2025 (continued)

2. Expenditure on charitable activities

The Trustees believe that all the expenditure incurred relates to charitable activities. During the period:

- There were no employees.
- The Trustees were not paid nor did they receive any benefits from employment or payment for any services rendered to the charity. The Trustees did not receive any reimbursement of expenses other than for expenditure incurred as agent for the Society.
- There are no related party transactions that require disclosure.
- The Trustees are covered by insurance that is part of the charity's insurance policy and that part related to the cover for Trustees cannot be separately identified. The total cost of the insurance policy was £292 (2024: £238).
- The Independent Examiner did not charge a fee for her services.

3. Investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Quoted investments		
Market value at beginning of period	18,005	15,974
Additions at cost	-	-
Accumulated dividends	366	398
Increase/(decrease) in valuation	(642)	1,633
Valuation at 30 September	<u>17,729</u>	<u>18,005</u>

4. Stock

	2025	2024
	£	£
Stock of books for sale	3,285	3,679
Stock of drinks for events	206	116
	<u>3,491</u>	<u>3,795</u>

5. Deferred subscription income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Movement for the year		
Amount brought forward:		
Due within one year	402	402
Due after one year	2,736	3,138
Additions for the year	-	-
Taken to income	(402)	(402)
Closing balance	<u>2,736</u>	<u>3,138</u>
The closing balance is:		
Due within one year	402	402
Due after one year	2,334	2,736
	<u>2,736</u>	<u>3,138</u>

The Richmond Society

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2025 (continued)

6. Reserves

(a) General Funds comprise:

	General Fund	Designated Fund	Legacy Fund	Total
	£	£	£	£
Year ended 30 September 2025				
Income for the year	15,996	-	3,143	19,139
Expenditure for the year	17,760	2,838		20,598
Net incoming/(outgoing) before investment gains/(losses)	(1,764)	(2,838)	3,143	(1,459)
Gains/(Losses) on investments	-	-	(641)	(641)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	(1,764)	(2,838)	2,502	(2,100)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement of funds for the period	(1,764)	(2,838)	2,502	(2,100)
Balance at 1 October 2024	35,498	9,236	44,236	88,970
Balance at 30 September 2025	33,734	6,398	46,738	86,870

The General Fund comprises reserves necessary to support the Society's normal recurring activities. As a result of income generated from the sales of the "Richmond's Trees" book the reserves are now around 28 months of budgeted routine annual expenditure (2024: 31 months). We will investigate additional spend on projects and landscaping in the coming year.

The Designated Fund represents reserves set aside to put up information boards at points of interest in the town. Further information boards are planned.

The Legacy Fund represents legacies received by the Society set aside for transformational projects that would otherwise be unaffordable.

	General Fund	Designated Fund	Legacy Fund	Total
	£	£	£	£
Year ended 30 September 2024				
Income for the year	17,411	-	2,975	20,386
Expenditure for the year	11,326	-	-	11,326
Net incoming/(outgoing) before investment gains/(losses)	6,085	-	2,975	9,060
Gains/(Losses) on investments	-	-	1,633	1,633
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	6,085	-	4,608	10,693
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement of funds for the period	6,085	-	4,608	10,693
Balance at 1 October 2023	29,413	9,236	39,628	78,277
Balance at 30 September 2024	35,498	9,236	44,236	88,970

The Richmond Society

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2025 (continued)

(b) Landscaping Fund

The Landscaping Fund represents the unspent balance of monies raised specifically for landscaping projects. The movements on the Landscaping Fund are fully disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(c) Overall adequacy of reserves

The Trustees are satisfied that the Society's financial reserves are sufficient for it to continue at its current level of activities.

THE RICHMOND SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1169079

Accounts



**TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1169079**

THE RICHMOND SOCIETY CHARITY INFORMATION

PATRONS

Ms Anita Anand, Professor Ian Bruce, Baroness Ronny Van Dedem,
Lord Lee of Trafford, Sir Trevor McDonald, Lord Watson of Richmond

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Acting Chair Louise Fluker

Hon Treasurer Andrew Coleman

Ginny Curry, Lizzie Danckwerts, Pamela Fleming, Ian Galbraith, Stephen Speak, Nicky Wood

HONORARY REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

Marian Williams

COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

PLANNING

Louise Fluker *Chair*, Tony Hall, Pamela Fleming, Christopher Saunders, Kenneth Roberts

LANDSCAPING & RIVERSIDE (including Friends of Terrace Gardens)

Nicky Wood *Chair*, Frances Bouchier, Susanna Edwards, Julia Stead, Carol Ward, Dr Jonathan Wheeldon

INFRASTRUCTURE & AIR QUALITY

Stephen Speak, Pamela Fleming **TOWN CENTRE**

Stephen Speak, Pamela Fleming

LICENSING

Ginny Curry

POLICE LIAISON

Pamela Fleming

RICHMOND HEATHROW CAMPAIGN

Peter Willan, Robert Tudway representatives from The Kew Society and Friends of Richmond Green, and co-opted experts

MEMBERSHIP, MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Ginny Curry (Membership), Richard Baldwin (Membership Database), Patrick Gillen (Webmaster),

Shimei Zhou (Social Media)

EVENTS

Lizzie Danckwerts, Paul Velluet (Walks Organiser)

MEMBERSHIP or AFFILIATION of the SOCIETY to OTHER BODIES

Arts Richmond, Habitats & Heritage,

The London Forum of Amenity & Civic Societies

The Richmond Society also nominates a member to serve on

Old Deer Park Working Group (Nicky Wood), Petersham Meadows Advisory Group (Dr Jonathan Wheeldon),

Richmond Parish Lands Charity (Stephen Speak), South Richmond Police Liaison Group (Pamela Fleming),

Thames Landscape Strategy Community Advisory Group (Nicky Wood)

REGISTERED OFFICE

13 Fitzwilliam Avenue

Richmond TW9 2DQ

BANKERS

Lloyds Bank PLC, Business Banking BX1 1LT

Saffron Building Society, Saffron House, 1a Market Street, Saffron Walden, CB10 1HX

United Trust Bank, One Ropemaker Street, London EC2Y 9AW

WEBSITE

www.richmondsociety.org

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

**Louise Fluker
(Acting Chair)**

Richmond is the happiest place to live in the UK according to Rightmove's December 2023 index. Visitors are keen to see where Ted Lasso was filmed. But Richmond is not without its challenges. That's where the Richmond Society comes in with its remit to seek to make Richmond a better place in which to live, work and visit. The Richmond Society continues to champion our special town and to preserve its unique and much-loved character while encouraging beneficial changes.

The new government will almost certainly impose mandatory house building targets on local authorities. This is a challenge for the borough as over 57% is green space so there are few opportunities for new dwellings and the pressure is therefore to build tall blocks. We have seen this with the approval of the development on the former Homebase site. Meanwhile, under the new local plan, the land behind Richmond Station is designated as suitable for a 5-6 storey building. Additionally, the discretion of local authority planning committees is being eroded as permitted development rights are extended, reducing the ability to prevent unsightly extensions or conversions.

Our activities during the year ended 30th September, discussed in more detail in the Annual Review below, have included:

- Continuing to campaign for the provision of public lavatories
- Objecting to applications for excessively tall mobile phone masts in inappropriate locations
- Responding to the Council's various consultations
- Seeking an appropriate balance between the interest of residents and the interest of businesses seeking licenses to sell alcohol
- Holding hustings for candidates standing in the Richmond Park constituency in the 2024 General Election. This was a hybrid event that was both live-streamed on Zoom and recorded.
- Running a programme of events and heritage walks
- Supporting the May Fair with a stand which attracted much interest and several new members
- Enjoying another Summer Party at Trumpeters' House thanks to the generosity of Baroness Van Dedem, one of our patrons
- Holding a fascinating new members evening at Asgill House, courtesy of Petina Hauptfuhrer,
- Responding through the Richmond Heathrow Campaign to the Airspace Modernisation Consultation.

During the year we reviewed how we communicate to members. We were conscious of the duplication between our email communications (the Bulletin and letters from the Chair) and our quarterly newsletter, which was primarily distributed by email but with some copies printed and posted. Producing the quarterly newsletter was very labour intensive and our assessment was that the email communications (generally about monthly) were a more useful and timely way of keeping in touch. Accordingly, we have decided to discontinue the quarterly newsletter. As that would have meant that members not on email would be disadvantaged, we will be posting them hard copies of our email communications on a quarterly basis. Increases in printing and postage charges have meant that we have requested members who would like hard copy communications to pay an additional subscription of £10 a year to cover the costs of these mailings.

It has been a busy year for us with additional pressure while we have trying to recruit to fill trustee vacancies, including that of Chair. I have been acting Chair since December's AGM, when Barry May stood down, while continuing to act as chair of our planning committee. We were sorry to report that Barry died in June and the full church at his memorial service reflected the regard in which he was held by different communities in

Richmond. A number of my fellow trustees have also been covering more than one portfolio. We were delighted that Ian Galbraith joined the Executive Committee as a trustee in May. I am hopeful that I will shortly be able to make an announcement about further new trustees joining us. They will be most welcome.

Lord Hendy has resigned as a patron. He is of course now Minister of Transport for Rail but he kindly drove his Routemaster bus for a jaunt round Richmond and Kew which was appreciated by members as was Paul Velluet's interesting commentary.

My thanks go to all our Patrons, Trustees and our other volunteers without whom the Society could not operate.

Thank you for your support. The Executive Committee welcomes your comments, suggestions and information about what is happening in Richmond.

ANNUAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

The members of the Executive Committee, in their capacity as Trustees, present their report on the activities of the Society for the year ended 30 September 2024.

PLANNING

Louise Fluker

The Planning Committee's main activity is to review planning applications and appeals in the Richmond part of the borough (the wards of North and South Richmond and the relevant part of Ham, Petersham and Richmond Riverside). Where appropriate, we make submissions to the local authority and engage with developers and stakeholders. Our focus is on proposals visible from the public domain. Our objective is to ensure that which is beautiful or special is conserved and that which is ugly or overbearing is opposed. This does not mean we oppose good or radical modern designs!

Set out below are examples of our work during the year.

Draft Local Plan

Planning Inspectors held a public examination of Richmond Council's draft local plan (to which we had responded) and their decision is awaited. We hope, but do not expect, that the designation of Richmond Station as suitable for redevelopment with mid-rise buildings on top of the station will be re-considered. We continue to think this is inappropriate.

80 George Street (formerly the House of Fraser site)

The first part of the development, Sticks'n'Sushi restaurant, opened on the corner of George Street and King Street. Sheen Lane Developments Limited continues with developing the rest of the site.

Onslow Hall

We opposed City Pub Group's application to convert offices into a boutique hotel, which would be an adjunct to a restaurant and bar with 100 covers. Youngs took over City Pub Group so we await further developments.

George Street and Town Centre

In principle, we do not object to converting redundant office space above shops into residential accommodation, but we continue to be concerned about the details of some of the proposals, which seek to

cram the maximum number of units into the space. As they are just above the legal minimum, the Council has no power to refuse permission on those grounds alone.

Egregious examples of over-development where the planners refused permission or where the application was withdrawn are:

- **47 George Street** – art deco building for which 7 apartments were proposed
- **3 Duke Street** – adding two storeys to a one storey building which would have been anomalous
- **Hunter’s Lodge** (off Richmond Green) - second application refused but a third one is under consideration.

Land Rear of 33 Petersham Road Richmond

We have consistently opposed applications to turn a boathouse into a dwelling because of its proximity to the towpath but finally the applicant obtained permission. We hope this does not set a precedent.

Turks’ Pontoon

We supported the Council’s enforcement action, which was upheld by planning inspectors. The issue was use of the pontoon for storage by the restaurant (Peggy Jean) using the adjacent barge plus the use of large jumbrellas which obscured the view of Richmond Bridge from the towpath.

Flat Above 10 King Street Richmond TW9 1ND (The Open Book)

Inexplicably Richmond Council’s Planning Committee gave permission to a revised application from the one previously objected to by the Richmond Society and many others. We thought the revised plan did not take sufficient account of visitors with disabilities, reduced the retail space at the front of the shop thus making it less viable as retail space.

Homebase Site, Manor Road

Finally, Avanton got planning permission for its development. The consultation process held by the Mayor of London was, we thought, flawed but a legal challenge was unlikely to succeed so all we can do is make sure that Avanton complies with all the conditions of the permission.

5G Telephone Masts and telephony

Richmond Council refused permission for a 20-metre mast in front of **Pools on the Park** but the telephone operators succeeded on appeal to planning inspectors. However, an appeal against the Council’s refusal to permit telephony equipment with higher aerials on **Richmond Telephone Exchange Paradise Road Richmond** was dismissed

Richmond Society Awards 2023

The Society’s Annual Awards review commended five projects for their contribution to Richmond’s amenity: the Alberts Heritage Lights and Community Garden; Virginia Woolf’s statue by Laury Dizengremel; the installation of solar panels on Queen Elizabeth’s Almshouses; the restoration of The Selwyn Hotel (formerly Quinn’s Hotel); and the redevelopment of Gainsborough House (the offices adjacent to Waitrose in Sheen Road).

TOWN CENTRE & COMMUNITY

Pam Fleming, Stephen Speak

Vision for Richmond Town

The Council’s consultants, We Made That, published their report in January 2024 with six priority themes for the town arising from their 2023 public engagement.

1. **High Street Diversity** - Their findings confirm that, following the pandemic, the town's retail offer continued to decline while the switch to coffee shops and restaurants accelerated. Local residents in particular have lamented the loss of retail.
2. **Movement** - The consultants noted a consensus that traffic and congestion is a challenge for the town but that changes will require careful consideration.
3. **Heritage and Identity** - They noted that people are keen to celebrate Richmond's heritage.
4. **Public Spaces** - The green spaces and riverside are a key part of the town's attraction and contribute to its success. However, areas of the town need upgrading and public toilets and more places for people to sit would make the town centre more welcoming.
5. **Young People** - The consultants were asked to emphasise collecting views from younger people contributing to suggestions that better spaces, activities and events may encourage younger people to spend more time in Richmond.
6. **Culture, Leisure and Sport** - Although there is an excellent range of sports facilities these could be improved in partnership with the Council.

Following that engagement the Council appointed Hemingway Design to review the work undertaken over the last eighteen months and propose a vision and action plan for Richmond town. We are not aware of the timeline, nor details of the work proposed, but have noted that the Council seems keen to prioritise ideas around traffic management and attracting visitors to Richmond.

Night Time Strategy

The Mayor of London recommended that each borough produce their own night time strategy. The Richmond Society contributed to Council led workshops on this subject during 2023 culminating in the Council's draft strategy being released for public consultation in July 2024.

The draft covers the whole borough but the Society limited its response to matters affecting Richmond. We considered the Council's recommendations for Richmond to be generally sound but raised several observations:

- It is unclear how the Council expects to implement a recommendation to "encourage later opening businesses". Supermarkets and convenience stores already open late and non-hospitality businesses have rejected later opening because the footfall does not justify the increased staffing costs. We therefore suggested that the Council show leadership by extending the opening times of Richmond library and the Old Town Hall later into the night. A more intense use of Council space could also contribute to meeting other recommendations around having more locations available for community use at night. This could include using Whittaker Avenue for a monthly night market in the expectation that a routine event could also bring footfall to support the later opening of high street retailers.
- We supported a review of lighting around Richmond Green and also suggested that the lighting of key routes to and from transport hubs could be reviewed from a public safety perspective. Allied to this, we also mentioned that the hazards posed by poorly maintained footpaths are significantly worse at night.
- We strongly agreed with the recommendation for permanent public toilet facilities and endorsed our recommendation for having designated collection points where shops can take their rubbish instead of each shop leaving bags outside their frontage when they close for the night.
- Young people have enjoyed visiting Richmond over many generations without formalised entertainment and we questioned if there is sufficient support for running larger youth themed events. Our concern was endorsed by low attendance at the Council's pilot event on Richmond Green in September.

House of Lords Inquiry - High streets in towns and small cities

In March 2024 the Society submitted evidence to the House of Lords Committee on the Built Environment. We concluded that most people can recognise a “High Street” without needing a specific definition and that the government’s commercial to residential Permitted Development Rights and changes to use rights had brought more harm than good to Richmond’s high street. We advocated giving local communities the freedom to determine how their high streets should operate without central government directives.

Policing

The Society continues to press for better police resources, but recruitment is slow and there appears to be no likelihood of a permanent police base for the foreseeable future. The Safe Space continues to operate at Richmond Station on Friday and Saturday nights as a partnership between the Council, Police and other agencies and with partial funding from the Safer Neighbourhood Board.

The Richmond Green and Riverside Action Plan operated for a fourth year between April and September although the poor weather probably contributed to the period being relatively quiet. The police dealt with the few problem gatherings that did occur swiftly and efficiently with Section 35 Dispersal Orders only used three times.

The prevalence of shoplifting in Richmond remains a concern, although Be Richmond’s additional security and the intelligence passed to the police appears to be helping to reduce the problem – but possibly by moving it to other shopping areas.

Public Toilets

Another year has passed with no public toilets nor updates around the Council’s proposed feasibility study. There are suggestions that public toilets could be included within refurbishment plans for the lending library, but the timing for this is uncertain and the Society will continue its battle for a permanent provision.

Progress with the Community Toilet Scheme is more promising. Most of the Society’s recommendations were accepted and the Council has appointed an officer with a mandate to review the scheme and recruit more businesses. The bad news is that the posting only lasts for six months.

TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Pam Fleming, Stephen Speak

Transport Strategy

Last year the Society supported a petition to the Council organised by several civic groups in the east of the borough. This called for transport consultants to be appointed - principally to evaluate how planned large developments in Mortlake, Kew, and North Sheen could affect private and public transport requirements.

The Society has long advocated having a long-term and borough-wide transport strategy founded upon up-to-date surveys rather than re-purposed models, wishful thinking, and small scale interventions. We think it is important to understand the journeys that people want to make, how they actually move through the borough, and the transport methods they use.

We were therefore pleased with a paper presented to the Council’s Transport & Air Quality Committee in June containing proposals for a borough-wide transport strategy. A nuanced understanding of transport needs enables better strategic plans and decisions around the allocation of transport investment.

Consultants were appointed in August with a plan to launch public engagement activities from November 2024.

The Society will keep members informed about progress with this work and we plan to monitor related activities that extend well beyond Richmond. The actions taken at some distance from Richmond can influence the volume of traffic that passes through and around the town due to the funnelling effect of the river bridges. Similarly, bus and train services through Richmond are affected by factors that extend far beyond the immediate area.

Manor Circus / Sandycombe Road

Throughout the entire year the Manor Circus area was blighted by congestion caused by road works to repair the deck of the bridge, replace gas mains, reshape the roundabout, alter the running lanes, and install signalised pedestrian crossings on each arm. The wish for signalised crossings has been the subject of campaigns dating back decades and arising from the roundabout's appalling safety record. Pedestrians should now find it safer to cross the A316, but it will take them longer compared to the zebra crossings.

Sandycombe Road is a key feeder route between Kew Bridge and Richmond Hill. During the Manor Circus roadworks it only operated one-way for much of the time, with the 110 bus route diverted to Kew Road. While the closure provided Sandycombe Road residents with respite from the typical traffic volume, bus users were sorely inconvenienced, and many drivers ignored the official diversion in favour of nearby residential roads creating significant angst for those residents. Matters came to a head in the spring after some Sandycombe Road residents asked the Council to make the closure permanent. This was countered by objections from other residents, bus passengers, and shop owners with some members seeking advice from the Richmond Society. After conducting investigative survey work, the council did not develop the idea further, but the issue lends support to the Society's argument for wide area traffic surveys to better understand traffic flows in feeder routes to and from the river crossings.

LANDSCAPING AND RIVERSIDE

Nicky Wood

As in previous years, we have continued to:

- Report public realm problems including damaged street furniture, overflowing bins, unauthorised parking on the towpath, blocked drains and leaking water mains
- Respond to the Council's Events Consultations regarding applications for licences to use Parks and Open Spaces
- Respond to planning applications affecting vistas and landscapes
- Report dead, damaged, or diseased trees, and any damage to planting and lawns
- Report rough sleepers and anti-social behaviour in Parks and Open Spaces
- Liaise with Council Officers over plans for new trees & other plantings/maintenance in Parks & Open Spaces

Petersham Meadows Advisory Group

Last year the Meadow was not grazed. This year two belted Galloways, later increased to four, were brought to the Meadow by Tom's Farm, a charity based in Wandsworth. It was a worthy initiative, but will not be repeated next year, as the charity is overstretched. The National Trust is again seeking a new partner to put grazing cattle onto the Meadow next summer and beyond.

Old Deer Park Group

New trees have been planted in the central copse, and efforts continue to provide better access to the Park from the town.

Teddington Direct River Abstraction Scheme Thames Water's plan to abstract water from the river at Teddington for transfer to the Lea Valley, replacing it with treated effluent from Mogden, had a green light from the Secretary of State. There will be a new round of consultation in Spring 2025.

LICENSING

Ginny Curry

The Richmond Society continues to concentrate on reducing the negative impact of the evening economy on residents whilst encouraging the positive impact of well-run licensed premises within the town. We aim to find a balance between the economy and the development of the town and its environs with adequate (and not over-bearing) examination of licensed premises applications – particularly those that fall within the bounds of the Cumulative Impact Zone area of the town.

We continue to find increasing numbers of shops that have been vacated are being replaced by food-led outlets and, as a result, additional licence applications are increasing. Licence applications are made through the Council and, in the first instance, the Society works with the applicants so that the requirements of the businesses, the residents, and the police are all considered, enabling a sensible and workable outcome for all. Sometimes these pre-hearing discussions do not come to fruition and the application goes to a full hearing of the Licensing Committee. The Richmond Society is always represented at these hearings. We do not automatically object to every application and our starting point is always a careful consideration of the application as a whole and how it may affect the town.

We recognise that most of the town's licensed premises are well managed and cause no issues, but there are some where residential neighbours suffer from late night noise, disturbance, and other anti-social behaviours. Alcohol purchased for consumption in the town's open spaces remains a significant issue when it results in such behaviour. Rigorous attention to the granting of licences, with particular attention to the requested opening hours, and the call for review of those licence holders who step beyond their mark are ways in which we can continue to have an enjoyable (and valuable) day and evening economy for businesses, residents and visitors alike.

RICHMOND HEATHROW CAMPAIGN

Peter Willan

The Richmond Heathrow Campaign (RHC) acts on behalf of The Richmond Society, The Kew Society and Friends of Richmond Green in matters relating to Heathrow, and in particular, its environmental impact on community health and wellbeing.

Night flights

Noise from night flights is, for many local resident's, one of the most acute Heathrow issues. We await the imminent release of DfT's next Night Regime 2025-2028. We are not confident of improvement but during the year we made progress in opening the door to progressive deferral of night flights to the day. This includes approximately 10 late runners after 11pm, 15 arrivals 4:30 to 6am, and 56 early morning flights between 6 - 7am (total 81). Last year RHC made two full length presentations on Night Flights to Heathrow's community noise forum (NACF), which includes the CAA, DfT, NATS and the airlines.

Heathrow Airspace Modernisation

Heathrow has confirmed the airspace is being re-designed for a two-runway airport within the existing planning limit of 480,000 flights a year. The issues are therefore about allocation of noise impact rather than an increase from more flights. But, in the densely populated surrounds of Heathrow, one person's gain is another's loss and modernisation is a major threat for over 2 million people.

RHC continues to seek retention of the legacy flight paths (24 departure and 16 arrival) with focus on specific congestion and environmental issues rather than Heathrow's blank page approach with over 150 Initial Options. RHC continues to raise with Heathrow, CAA, DfT and NATS substantial optioneering issues.

Stage 3 of the CAA design process will produce a few Final Options for public consultation in about 18 months time. Richmond and Kew face a particular challenge from new overhead departures to the east from the northern runway previously prohibited by the Cranford Agreement (now dissolved). Heathrow's planning application to Hillingdon Council will propose two existing departure flightpaths, which are no threat to Richmond and Kew, but the CAA's airspace change process conversely introduces Initial Options for departures over Richmond and Kew while retaining the existing arrival paths. RHC is strongly resisting this lateral solution. Additionally, RHC is pressing for increased departure heights.

Heathrow Expansion

RHC believe Heathrow expansion remains paused but, should it return, RHC has 30 years of evidence and experience in opposing expansion which we are ready to deploy to the full.

Summary of RHC Activities 2023/24: During the year RHC responded to two consultations: DfT (1) on Night Flights and Heathrow (1) on airspace modernisation. RHC also attended 32 meetings (some virtual): NACF (5), Heathrow (1) incl. serial correspondence and an RHC research report on departure heights, Community Noise Group (CNG) (11), other organisations (5) and RHC (11). We raised questions with Sir Keir Starmer MP, Heathrow's new CEO, and election candidates. We updated RHC's Noise Model. RHC welcomes new representatives - Robert Tudway from the Richmond Society and Paul Bethel from the Kew Society. Please contact Peter Willan, RHC Chair, at action@richmondheathrowcampaign.org if you can help.

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS

Ginny Curry

The Society's membership at 30th September 2024 was 1,100. The current cost of membership is being held at £10 per annum for a single membership and £16 for a household membership (two adults and any number of children under the age of 18).

Members enjoy free attendance at our events programme and the opportunity to buy tickets to attend our Christmas and Summer Parties and our ever-popular walks and bus tours. Members and non-members continue to be kept up to date with the Society's activities through our periodic digital Bulletin, which has nearly 900 subscribers, and e-mails from the Chair. On social media we maintain a stream of posts which attract a virtual following of well over 6,000 on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

The Society is currently upgrading our membership database. Although most members receive the Bulletin electronically, we do not have email details for all our members. Measures are being undertaken to seek email addresses wherever possible, as email is the most cost-effective and quickest way to inform our members of all our activities and projects on a timely basis. Not everyone can use email, and it is important that we cater for those of our members who need hard copies. The cost of printing and posting copies of the Bulletin, Chair's letter and the programme of events four times a year is now greater than the annual single

membership fee of £10. For this reason, we are having to introduce an additional charge of £10 per annum for members who want hard copies. Hard copies will be posted quarterly.

Although the majority of our members pay the current rate of subscription to the correct charity, we still have some members paying by standing order paying old rates of subscription and in some cases into an obsolete bank account that we have been trying to close for some years. As part of the Membership database review, we will be in touch with those members to ask them to kindly set up a new Standing Order into the new bank account and to cancel their current Standing Order.

EVENTS

Lizzie Danckwerts

Once again members and guests had the opportunity to take part in a full and fascinating programme of events and walks:

The Annual Awards in October 2023: Details of the commendations are set out in Planning on page 4. The evening was enlivened with a presentation by Richmond Council's filming officers, Sue Lewis and Sarah Hillman, about Richmond as a lucrative film and tourist destination given the popularity of the Ted Lasso series.

Our Patron Lord Lee of Trafford gave **our talk in November**. This was hugely entertaining with his anecdotes from a political journey. The AGM **and Christmas Party in December** was held at Queen Charlotte Hall, Richmond & Hillcroft Adult Community College. It was a delightfully convivial evening with music not only by virtuoso jazz pianist Max Rush, also an award-winning landscape photographer who designed his own Richmond Oak Camera, but also by local jazz band the Raccateers.

Acting Superintendent Christopher Scammell of the Borough Command Unit, Metropolitan Police Service gave **our talk in January 2024**. He explained what the New Met Plan means for Richmond. **Our talk in February** celebrated the centenary of The York House Society by inviting Yvonne Hewett, past Chair, and Paul Leonard, current Chair, to speak about the fascinating history of York House, and how it became the headquarters of Richmond Council. **Our talk in March** was about managing Richmond's built heritage by Nicolette Duckham, Building Conservation Officer for Richmond Council for over 25 years, who spoke with enthusiasm about some of the many projects she had been involved with.

A joint meeting with the Richmond Local History Society in April, featured Dr Elizabeth Hallam Smith who explored the turbulent history of Richmond's royal palace: from Plantagenet Sheen to Tudor Richmond. **A joint meeting later in April** with the River Thames Society examined the increased risk of local flooding: "Richmond under Thames?" It was led by Jason Debney from Thames Landscape Strategy and Cllr Julia Neden-Watts, Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Services Committee of Richmond Council, with a contribution from Elizabeth Bunker of Community Bluescapes on how this issue is being tackled for the Beverley Brook catchment.

The May Fair on Richmond Green, chaired by Richmond Society trustee, Pamela Fleming, was a huge draw. Volunteers were kept busy on our stall encouraging new members to join the Society, as well as selling copies of our best-seller, *Richmond's Trees*. **Our meeting later in May** was at the Bethlehem Chapel, with a welcome by Pastor Robert Goodgame. This celebrated the Chapel's rescue from dereliction over 30 years ago following an initiative to restore it by The Richmond Society under then Chair, the late David Church. Our former Chair, the late Barry May, was instrumental in organising this event.

Three Heritage Walks over the Summer were organised by Paul Velluet with Adam Harrison: the historic heart of Richmond; the Road to Kew, led by Lucinda Ganderton; and a summer's evening on Richmond Hill; all followed by an adjournment to a local pub.

The June Summer Party once again took place in the glorious grounds of Trumpeters' House by kind permission of our Patron, Baroness Ronny Van Dedem. Members socialised and enjoyed afternoon tea whilst being entertained by popular local band, the Raccateers. We organised **The Richmond Park General Election Hustings, also in June**. These were held at Duke Street Church with Richmond Park constituency candidates responding to pre-submitted questions.

For **our July bus trip**, Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill was behind the wheel for an evening excursion around landmarks in Richmond and Kew aboard his vintage Routemaster bus with Paul Velluet as guide. This popular tour was followed by a buffet supper at The Sun Inn, Parkshot. Finally, **our talk in September** was by Paul Jennings, CEO of Habitats & Heritage, who gave a presentation on how Sir Joseph Bazalgette overcame the Great Stink of London.

These events could not have taken place without our magnificent band of volunteers. Enormous thanks are due to Barbara Benemar, Bella Hobson, Carey Clark, Catriona Dobbie, Deirdre Clenet, Iain Mulligan, Jane Mills, Jane Parkinson, Jenny Pugsley, Julia Stead, Linda Duffield, Lindsey Andrews, Lynne Cox, Margaret Walsh, Marie Leigh, Mona Turner, Sarah Turner, Susanna Edwards, Paul Velluet and Adam Harrison for their fantastic help in a variety of roles. The Society is most grateful to them.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

The members of the Executive Committee, in their capacity as Trustees, present their report and financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2024.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Richmond Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO - registered charity number 1169079) governed by a Constitution dated 7 September 2016, revised on 29 September 2020. It was set up to take forward the work of the Unincorporated Association, The Richmond Society (registered charity number 285805). To distinguish the CIO, we refer to this as "NewRic" and the previous charity as "OldRic" where necessary in this report.

The activities and net assets of "OldRic" were transferred to "NewRic" in prior years. Any membership subscriptions, donations and other income received by "OldRic" are remitted to "NewRic" and included in these financial statements.

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES AND PUBLIC BENEFIT

The charitable objects of the Society may be summarised to:

- campaign to preserve and enhance Richmond's historic character, unique features and amenities
- promote high standards in planning, building and landscaping in or affecting Richmond
- protect the quality of life, balancing the interests of residents, business and visitors
- encourage civic pride, an active interest in Richmond and its community, and to provide a focus for members to meet and socialise.

In carrying out its work to make Richmond a better place in which to live, work and visit, the Trustees confirm they have complied with the duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on providing public benefit.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

The review of the activities of the Society is set out on pages 3-11.

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR

Income for the year was £20,836 and expenditure £11,809, generating a surplus for the year of £9,027. There was a surplus of £1,633 on revaluation of investments to market value at the year-end. The resulting total surplus of £10,660 has been added to the Society's reserves.

In comparison with the previous year:

- Income was 26% down. This is principally due to sales of the Society's book "*Richmond's Trees*" reducing from an exceptional £10,730, in the year of its launch, to £2,351. Income from events was down by 22% on the previous year due to fewer trips and the non-recurrence of a special one-off event. Membership subscriptions increased by 6% and we were delighted to receive a one-off £600 donation from a company filming in Richmond. Investment income more than doubled again this year due to higher balances on deposit and much higher rates of interest.
- Expenses are down nearly 29%. Primarily this is due to one-off expenditure of £4,134 on projects and landscaping in the previous year. Excluding projects and landscaping, total expenditure for the year was over 7% down. This was due to a variety of factors but in particular by the non-recurrence of some one-off costs incurred in the previous year.

Our financial position remains very strong.

Our thanks are due to our loyal members who support the Society through subscriptions, donations, and attendance at our events. Our thanks are also due to our loyal volunteers who give freely of their time and skills in handling the Society's casework, campaigns, and administration, and in organizing our events programme.

RESERVES POLICY

For the Society to function successfully, it must maintain an adequate financial position with sufficient reserves to finance its operations. At the end of the financial year, the Society's reserves comprised:

	2024
Unrestricted reserves	
General fund	35,498
Designated fund	9,236
Legacy fund	44,236
	<u>88,970</u>
Restricted reserve	
Landscaping fund	2,039
Total at 30 September 2024	<u>£91,009</u>

The general fund comprises reserves necessary to support the Society's normal recurring activities. The balance now exceeds 31 months of budgeted routine annual expenditure (2023: 24 months). We will investigate additional spend on projects and landscaping in the coming year.

The designated fund represents reserves set aside to put up information boards at points of interest in the town. Further information boards are planned.

The legacy fund represents legacies received by the Society set aside for transformational projects that would otherwise be unaffordable.

The landscaping fund represents the unspent balance of monies raised specifically for landscaping projects.

The Trustees are satisfied that the Society's financial reserves are sufficient for it to continue at its current level of activities.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The major risks to which the Society is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed during the year and the Trustees are satisfied that action has been taken where appropriate to manage those risks.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The Trustees are grateful to **Marian Williams** who has carried out the Independent Examination of the Society's accounts pro bono.

STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial reporting period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the income and expenditure for the period then ended. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently, make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue in business. The Trustees have responsibility for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Society and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with charity regulations. The Trustees also have responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Society and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By Order of the Trustees
Andrew Coleman
Hon Treasurer,

12 November 2024

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE RICHMOND SOCIETY

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Richmond Society for the year ended 30 September 2024 on pages 15 to 20.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not being kept in respect of the charity in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Marian Williams ACA
Richmond
12 November 2024

The Richmond Society

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 30 September 2024

	Note	General Funds £	Landscaping Fund £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Incoming resources					
<i>Income from donations</i>					
Subscriptions		8,390	-	8,390	7,908
Donations		678	-	678	8
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>					
Events and walks		5,992	450	6,442	8,219
Publication sales		2,351	-	2,351	10,730
<i>Investment income</i>		2,975	-	2,975	1,384
Total incoming resources		<u>20,386</u>	<u>450</u>	<u>20,836</u>	<u>28,249</u>
Resources expended					
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>					
Projects and landscaping		-	380	380	4,134
Events and walks		7,377	25	7,402	6,696
Publications		72	-	72	960
Communications		1,153	-	1,153	1,337
Administration costs		2,724	78	2,802	3,388
Total expenditure	2	<u>11,326</u>	<u>483</u>	<u>11,809</u>	<u>16,515</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before investment gains/(losses)					
		9,060	(33)	9,027	11,734
Gains/(Losses) on investments		1,633	-	1,633	(235)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		10,693	(33)	10,660	11,499
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement of funds for the period		10,693	(33)	10,660	11,499
Reconciliation of funds					
Opening fund balances		78,277	2,072	80,349	68,850
Closing fund balances		<u>88,970</u>	<u>2,039</u>	<u>91,009</u>	<u>80,349</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The Richmond Society
Balance sheet at 30 September 2024

	Note	General Funds	Landscaping Fund	2024 Total	2023 Total
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Investments	3	18,005	-	18,005	15,974
Current assets					
Stock	4	3,795	-	3,795	85
Debtors & prepayments		3,259	-	3,259	2,516
Deposit account		66,476	2,039	68,515	65,916
Cash at bank and in hand		2,541	-	2,541	1,256
		<u>76,071</u>	<u>2,039</u>	<u>78,110</u>	<u>69,773</u>
Current liabilities:					
amounts falling due within 1 year					
Creditors & accruals		1,968	-	1,968	1,858
Deferred subscription income	5	402	-	402	402
		<u>2,370</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,370</u>	<u>2,260</u>
Net current assets		73,701	2,039	75,740	67,513
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>91,706</u>	<u>2,039</u>	<u>93,745</u>	<u>83,487</u>
Liabilities and charges:					
due after more than one year					
Deferred subscription income	5	2,736	-	2,736	3,138
Net assets		<u>88,970</u>	<u>2,039</u>	<u>91,009</u>	<u>80,349</u>
Funds	6	<u>88,970</u>	<u>2,039</u>	<u>91,009</u>	<u>80,349</u>

Approved by the trustees on 12 November 2024

Louise Fluker – Acting Chair

Andrew Coleman - Treasurer

The Richmond Society
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2024

1. Accounting policies

The accounting period covered by these financial statements is for the year ended 30 September 2024. The comparative financial information is for the year ended 30 September 2023.

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with “Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102)”, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102 and the Trustees are satisfied that the financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes. There are no assumptions about the future that the Trustees have been required to make that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

b Income and expenditure

Income is brought into the financial statements when received or when there is certainty of receipt. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. No provision is made for any tax on the charity’s net income as the charity is exempt from tax as all its income and expenditure relates to its charitable objectives.

c Fund accounting

The General Funds are unrestricted and can be used for any aspect of the Society's work. They comprise the General Fund and two designated funds, which the Trustees have decided, at their discretion, to set aside to use for a specific purpose. The Landscaping & Tree Fund is for income received from members and other donors and is restricted to funding these activities.

d Subscriptions and donations

Annual subscriptions are recognised in the period to which they relate. Life memberships are recognised in income on a straight-line basis over periods of 17 years.

Donations are recognised when received or when the charity is entitled to the amounts received.

Subscriptions and donations include the recovery of Gift Aid where applicable.

e Services provided

The Society benefits from the provision, without charge, of a variety of skills and other services by its members. The benefit is not reflected in these financial statements since it is not regarded as practicable to estimate its monetary value.

f Stock

Stock of plaques for presentation and stock of books and drinks for sale are stated at cost or realisable value if lower.

g Fixed assets - investments

Investments are stated at market value.

The Richmond Society

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2024 (continued)

2. Expenditure on charitable activities

The Trustees believe that all the expenditure incurred relates to charitable activities. During the period:

- There were no employees.
- The Trustees were not paid nor did they receive any benefits from employment or payment for any services rendered to the charity. The Trustees did not receive any reimbursement of expenses other than for expenditure incurred as agent for the Society.
- There are no related party transactions that require disclosure.
- The Trustees are covered by insurance that is part of the charity's insurance policy and that part related to the cover for Trustees cannot be separately identified. The total cost of the insurance policy was £238 (2023: £395).
- The Independent Examiner did not charge a fee for her services.

3. Investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Quoted investments		
Market value at beginning of period	15,974	15,857
Additions at cost	-	-
Accumulated dividends	398	352
Increase/(decrease) in valuation	1,633	(235)
Valuation at 30 September	<u>18,005</u>	<u>15,974</u>

4. Stock

	2024	2023
	£	£
Stock of books for sale	3,679	-
Stock of drinks for events	116	85
	<u>3,795</u>	<u>85</u>

5. Deferred subscription income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Movement for the year		
Amount brought forward:		
Due within one year	402	410
Due after one year	3,138	3,540
Additions for the year	-	-
Taken to income	(402)	(410)
Closing balance	<u>3,138</u>	<u>3,540</u>
The closing balance is:		
Due within one year	402	402
Due after one year	2,736	3,138
	<u>3,138</u>	<u>3,540</u>

The Richmond Society

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2024 (continued)

6. Reserves

(a) General Funds comprise:

	General Fund	Designated Fund	Legacy Fund	Total
	£	£	£	£
Year ended 30 September 2024				
Income for the year	17,411	-	2,975	20,386
Expenditure for the year	11,326	-	-	11,326
Net incoming/(outgoing) before investment gains/(losses)	6,085	-	2,975	9,060
Gains/(Losses) on investments	-	-	1,633	1,633
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	6,085	-	4,608	10,693
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement of funds for the period	6,085	-	4,608	10,693
Balance at 1 October 2023	29,413	9,236	39,628	78,277
Balance at 30 September 2024	35,498	9,236	44,236	88,970

The General Fund comprises reserves necessary to support the Society's normal recurring activities. As a result of income generated from the sales of the "Richmond's Trees" book the reserves are now in excess of 31 months of budgeted routine annual expenditure (2023: 24 months). We will investigate additional spend on projects and landscaping in the coming year

The Designated Fund represents reserves set aside to put up information boards at points of interest in the town. Further information boards are planned.

The Legacy Fund represents legacies received by the Society set aside for transformational projects that would otherwise be unaffordable.

	General Fund	Designated Fund	Legacy Fund	Total
	£	£	£	£
Year ended 30 September 2023				
Income for the year	26,436	-	1,384	27,820
Expenditure for the year	12,307	2,952	-	15,259
Net incoming/(outgoing) before investment gains/(losses)	14,129	(2,952)	1,384	12,561
Gains/(Losses) on investments	-	-	(235)	(235)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	14,129	(2,952)	1,149	12,326
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement of funds for the period	14,129	(2,952)	1,149	12,326
Balance at 1 October 2022	15,284	12,188	38,479	65,951
Balance at 30 September 2023	29,413	9,236	39,628	78,277

The Richmond Society

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2024 (continued)

(b) Landscaping Fund

The Landscaping Fund represents the unspent balance of monies raised specifically for landscaping projects. The movements on the Landscaping Fund are fully disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Overall adequacy of reserves

The Trustees are satisfied that the Society's financial reserves are sufficient for it to continue at its current level of activities.

THE RICHMOND SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1169079

Accounts



**TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1169079**

THE RICHMOND SOCIETY CHARITY INFORMATION

PATRONS

Ms Anita Anand, Professor Ian Bruce, Baroness Ronny Van Dedem, Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill,
Lord Lee of Trafford, Sir Trevor McDonald, Lord Watson of Richmond

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman Barry May

Hon Secretary Anne Koutsabeloulis

Hon Treasurer Andrew Coleman

Ginny Curry, Lizzie Danckwerts, Pamela Fleming, Louise Fluker, Stephen Speak, Nicky Wood

HONORARY REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

Marian Williams

COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

PLANNING

Louise Fluker *Chair*, Tony Hall, Pamela Fleming, Christopher Saunders

LANDSCAPING & RIVERSIDE

Nicky Wood *Chair*, Frances Bouchier, Susanna Edwards, Judy Gibbons, Julia Stead, Carol Ward

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Ginny Curry (Membership), Neil Maybin (Webmaster),
Paul Velluet (Walks Organiser), Shimei Zhou (Social Media)

INFRASTRUCTURE & AIR QUALITY

Stephen Speak, Pamela Fleming, William Collis, Richard Pender

TOWN CENTRE

Stephen Speak

LICENSING

Ginny Curry, Christine Houston

POLICE LIAISON

Pamela Fleming

EVENTS

Lizzie Danckwerts

RICHMOND HEATHROW CAMPAIGN

Neil Maybin, representatives from The Kew Society and Friends of Richmond Green, and co-opted experts

MEMBERSHIP or AFFILIATION of the SOCIETY to OTHER BODIES

Arts Richmond, Habitats & Heritage,

The London Forum of Amenity & Civic Societies

The Richmond Society also nominates a member to serve on

Old Deer Park Working Group, Petersham Meadows Advisory Group,

Richmond Parish Lands Charity, South Richmond Police Liaison Group,

Thames Landscape Strategy Community Advisory Group

REGISTERED OFFICE

The Bridge Workspace, 7b Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RD

BANKERS

Lloyds Bank PLC, Business Banking BX1 1LT

Teachers Building Society, Allenvue House, Hanham Road, Wimbourne BH21 1AG

United Trust Bank, One Ropemaker Street, London EC2Y 9AW

WEBSITE

www.richmondsociety.org

Civic and amenity societies like ours need to be ever vigilant to help preserve and enhance architectural heritage and green spaces in their charitable area of benefit.

The past year has continued with its challenges and successes for the Society and the community in Richmond. The challenges have included weekend disturbances and anti-social behaviour linked to excess alcohol and drugs in the town centre and on The Green and elsewhere which make life less pleasant for residents. The police do exercise their dispersal powers for which we are grateful. We continue to scrutinise applications for alcohol licences.

We have continued our campaign for the provision of public lavatories as the Council's Community Toilet Scheme has failed because many providers have pulled out of the scheme.

We have supported the Council's position in refusing consent to tall and unsightly mobile masts in unsuitable locations.

The Richmond Society Awards 2022 celebrated the restoration of Marble Hill House and Gardens by English Heritage.

The May Fair was held once again and we were pleased to have a stand which attracted visitors. We also had an excellent Summer Party at Trumpeters' House, thanks to The Baroness Van Dedem, one of our Patrons.

We were delighted that Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill agreed to become a Patron and kindly drove one of his Routemasters round Richmond whilst members were treated to a commentary on key places by Paul Velluet. Paul also led his popular and oversubscribed summer walks.

I am also grateful to all my other fellow Trustees for their unstinting service. All Trustees are volunteers and give willingly of their time and expertise. Without exception all of them are busy people with a wide range of other commitments and interests. The Society is fortunate to have such a dedicated team.

Supporting the Society and its work is not about preserving everything that is old against ravages real or imagined of the twenty-first century, but cherishing the special character of the place where we live, work, play or visit and caring for it until a new generation of citizen custodians can take over.

That is why we constantly seek younger people to join us. We need their enthusiasm and their energy, and we need their commitment.

For me, time is almost up. After 21 years as a member, the last five as Chairman, I am stepping down. In June I informed the Executive Committee that I would not offer myself for re-election at the Annual General Meeting in December.

It's time for someone else to face the challenge of preserving and enhancing the special character of Richmond. A Search Committee of Trustees has been formed and is led by our Vice Chair, Louise Fluker. The Society's Executive Committee of Trustees is broad enough to embrace a diversity of opinions. The sole qualification is love of Richmond.

Leading the Society has been an honour, a privilege and a pleasure. Together with my fellow Trustees we have achieved a few things and left some for my successor to confront.

Over the past five years the Society has been re-invigorated with an infusion of fresh blood to the EC and our marvellous team of volunteers, bringing additional relevant experience to our mission.

Communications have been important. Our periodic Bulletins and online meetings coped with the challenges of the COVID pandemic. Our new visual image for the Society was rolled out across various media, our Manifesto conveyed clearly our aims and intent, and we placed more information boards at key points around the town for the benefit residents and visitors alike.

My Executive Committee colleagues and I are sorry to report that our Honorary Secretary Anne Koutsabeloulis, who took over that role in 2020, is also stepping down at the AGM. We are very grateful to her for managing to give time to the Society as well as running a business, travelling and raising her family.

Thank you for your support. Every single membership is essential to giving the Society the weight to influence authorities concerned with the future of our town.

The EC is strong, and I am certain that under new leadership the Society will go from strength to strength. I shall enjoy watching from the sidelines.

ANNUAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

The members of the Executive Committee, in their capacity as Trustees, present their report on the activities of the Society for the year ended 30 September 2023.

PLANNING

Louise Fluker

The Planning Committee's main activity is to review planning applications and appeals in the Richmond part of the borough (the wards of North and South Richmond and the relevant part of Ham, Petersham and Richmond Riverside). Where appropriate we make submissions to the local authority and engage with developers and stakeholders. Our focus is on proposals visible from the public domain. Our objective is to ensure that which is beautiful or special is conserved and that which is ugly or overbearing is opposed. This does not mean we oppose good or radical modern designs!

Members of the Committee were: Louise Fluker (Chair), Tony Hall, Pam Fleming and since January, Christopher Saunders. We meet in person when required.

Key Planning issues and challenges

Consistency or a long-term strategy eludes national politicians although the government continues to stress the importance of flexibility regarding change of use.

Richmond Council produced the final version of its new local plan following extensive consultation. We were disappointed, but not surprised, that no changes were made to the designation of Richmond Station as suitable for redevelopment with mid-rise buildings on top of the station. We continue to think this is inappropriate.

80 George Street (formerly the House of Fraser site)

Sheen Lane Developments Limited (SLDL) obtained planning permission for its main changes from the permission previously granted, namely a swimming pool in the basement and an additional floor and balcony for a restaurant with plant and machinery on the top floor. Since then, SLDL has engaged in development creep, the latest example of which is an application to be permitted to use space freed up by relocating some plant and machinery for the restaurant with the creation of an outside terrace. We have argued that there should be a full planning application rather than a variation to the existing permission. We have also argued that the risk of light and noise pollution is significantly increased. The application is being considered.

George Street and Town Centre

The trend to convert offices above shops to flats continues. A modified application was granted permission for the creation of flats above Dobbies. The site of the former Superdrug has Oliver Bonas on one side and on the other an entrance to flats over the shop.

We remain concerned about overdevelopment. Recent examples where we felt the developer was doing this and the planners refused permission are:

- **47 George St:** this involved an additional storey to create nine units.
- **The Rose of York, Petersham Road:** proposal to add 15 new bedrooms.

- **Land to Rear of 24 Marchmont Road:** increasing the size of an extension to a two bedroom house.
- **91 Petersham Road (backs onto Petersham Meadows, Metropolitan Open Land)** adding part single storey and part two storey rear extension.
- **Land Adjoining 13 Lorne Road Richmond** erection of a new dwelling house with associated cycle parking and landscaping, effectively an infill
- **Hunter's Lodge** (off Richmond Green) The first applications to demolish existing garages and replace them with one and two bedroom flats were refused. A revised one is under consideration.

Homebase Site, Manor Road

After a year of inactivity, Avanton, the applicant, has just submitted a new application which consolidates previous ones with further revisions. The main changes seem to be adding a second staircase to four blocks, increasing slightly the number of London Affordable Rent Units which reduces the intermediate affordable housing known as London Living Rent. However, the total provision will remain 453 residential units of which 173 are affordable. No account has been taken of the opposition by residents, Richmond Council or local societies. The Richmond Society's objections remain the same: the proposals are an overdevelopment of the site with buildings up to 11 storeys which are too tall and out of keeping with the surrounding buildings (and which ignore the height restrictions referred to in Richmond's local plan of 2018 and draft plan adopted by the Council in 2023). The application ignores changes in the provision of public transport (fewer buses and train services) and the pressure on utilities.

5G Telephone Masts and telephony

The mobile phone operators continue the game of cat and mouse with the planners. The government wants greater connectivity including to trains. This requires masts and the telephone operators want tall ones (10 to 20 metres) which are unsightly and especially harmful in conservation areas. Their preferred location is adjacent to the A316 between Richmond Circus and St Margaret's roundabout and in the Old Deer Park. The Society continues to oppose them (2018, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023) and Richmond Council has so far consistently refused the applications. We were pleased that a planning inspector rejected an appeal against the refusal of an application for a 10 metre mast on the eastern side of Old Deer Park (i.e. nearest Asgill House). Meanwhile the planners have just refused a new application for a 20 metre mast in front of Pools on the Park.

The Orange Tree Theatre

The OTT was granted planning permission to develop the front of the theatre so that patrons can walk into the theatre from the street without climbing the stairs as at present. Now the OTT has to raise the money!

Richmond Society Awards 2022

English Heritage received the Award (Richmond Society red plaque) for its restoration of Marble Hill House and Gardens and we had an interesting presentation about the project. Projects for restoring the K6 Telephone Box by St Mathias, the construction of a modern, new house in Queen's Rise and transforming the interior of the Duke St Church were commended.

Policing

The Society continues to make the case for a more visible police presence on the streets and a police base. This was the overwhelming priority raised at the Community Safety table of the February Forum. Earlier this year there were changes to the Borough Command Unit structure and Richmond now has its own Superintendent, Roger Arditti, who has accepted an invitation to speak at the Society meeting on 18 January, and a second Inspector, Christopher Jackson, joining Jon McLoughlin.

In July a new Met Plan was published and presented by Assistant Commissioner Matt Twist at a meeting in York House attended by 160 residents from around the borough. There were encouraging aspirational messages on action to restore confidence and trust in the police and an increased focus on neighbourhood policing. The January meeting will be an opportunity to ask what the new plan will mean for Richmond and local policing.

The Richmond Green and Riverside Action Plan drawn up in 2020 to respond to the doubling of ASB and spike in crime during the spring and summer of the Covid lockdowns was extended for a third year. Reports are discussed at the quarterly Police Liaison Group (PLG) meetings, which are open to anyone living or having a business in South Richmond. Regular uniformed Police and Council Park Guard presence has deterred most large gatherings this year and when they have occurred action has been in place to disperse them.

Shoplifting has become a major problem and threat for local stores and their staff. The Society supported a request from Be Richmond (the Business Improvement District) for this to be one of the priorities for the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The Society responded to the Council's consultation on a new Community Safety Strategy and used the opportunity to reiterate the need for an increased police presence and base in Richmond.

Night Time Strategy & Safe Space

The Society attended the meeting launching the Council's proposals for a borough wide night time strategy and has met the two lead officers to explain concerns about the deleterious impact on residents of any extension in operating hours for hospitality businesses. The strategy is not specifically about economic activity and much emphasis is on safety for all people who work at night. The Council carried out an engagement consultation between June and September and will use the data to draw up a draft Night Time Strategy for further consultation. The Safe Space at Richmond Station on Friday and Saturday nights continues and is a welcome initiative, but this proposed Night Time Strategy is another opportunity to press the need for permanent Safe Space in the form of a Police Base in Richmond.

Toilet Provision

We continue to make the case for permanent well-signed public toilets and when we noticed the long awaited report on Public Welfare Facilities in Richmond had disappeared from the Environment, Sustainability, Culture & Sports Committee Forward Plan asked Local Councillor Chris Varley to raise the matter. It has since been reinstated and was discussed at the Committee's meeting on 7 November.

The Council's Policy & Performance Review Board conducted a review of the Community Toilet Scheme. We have pointed out on numerous occasions that this can never meet the needs of a busy tourist town like Richmond. There are in fact only two businesses listed as members of the scheme in the town centre. The Society made written and verbal representations with the professional assistance of Dr Vivienne Press. The final report and recommendations are unlikely to improve provision in Richmond and, although the appointment of a dedicated officer was a key recommendation, there seems to be no budget for this to extend beyond six months.

Vision for Richmond Town Centre

Like most town and business centres, Richmond has suffered the effects of online shopping and working from home, although it does of course benefit from tourism. In August the Council announced the appointment of consultants We Made That to carry out an engagement project and survey gathering views from residents, visitors, workers and shoppers to make sure it continues to be a place where people want to spend time. The information will be used to create a town centre study and explore recommendations. The Society attended a drop in session at the Station, has met the lead Councillor Katie Mansfield, Vice-Chair of the Transport & Air Quality Committee and also met with the Consultants. The Consultants state that their mandate is far reaching but we are assured that the previous work carried out by Steer over a number of years will be used to feed into this new study.

TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Pam Fleming, Stephen Speak

Richmond Forum

At this event in February 2023 residents' views around local transport tended to fall into long-term aspirations or short-term complaints around operations and maintenance.

Determining long-term ambitions and needs well into the future (10+ years) would need comprehensive origin and destination surveys supported by modelling. Accordingly, we were pleased to endorse the petition to the Council and Mayor for an independent area-wide transport study organised in June by three local civic groups based in the east of the borough.

Attendees were receptive to improving the facilities for cyclists, although with some complaints about the "Nissen hut" appearance of Bikehangars and when they are placed on pavements.

There was wide agreement that Richmond is well served by public transport, but with the notable absence of a regular year around bus service that can take visitors from the station into Richmond Park. The service to the Park was upgraded later in the year and subsequent to meetings held with Richmond Park management, but it could be made more regular.

Manor Circus Safety Scheme

The long awaited A316 Manor Circus roundabout safety scheme started in August and quickly brought traffic chaos across the area. Works are programmed to run until spring 2024 with a plan to replace the zebra crossings on all arms with signalised crossings, to create more space for pedestrians and cyclists and to enhance the overall aesthetic.

Although a budget for the signalised crossings was available in 2012, TfL has delayed the works for over eight years in part because water was leaking through the bridge over the railway.

We retain a concern that removal of the dedicated left turn lane into Manor Road will reduce the roundabout's capacity to accommodate traffic going straight ahead whenever tailbacks from the Manor Road level crossing extend to the junction. We do however welcome the safety enhancements given the roundabout's terrible accident record even if crossing the road will now take longer.

E-Scooters

The Transport for London e-scooter trial was extended to 31 May 2024 and the Council is adding additional bays for hire scooters and bikes under Experimental Traffic Orders. These parking locations will be reviewed once the trial ends.

The Society lodged concerns about scooter safety, their misuse, and the lack of clarity around the trial's measures of success. Those concerns have been endorsed by the decision in August to end Paris's e-scooter hire scheme after the city pioneered the idea five years ago.

Friars Stile Crossing

The Society responded in December 2022 to the Council's consultation plans to adjust the zebra crossing outside the Vineyard School, remove some parking spaces to enhance the sight lines and remove a traffic island at the junction with Richmond Hill. We had deep reservations that the proposals would not resolve the pedestrian safety issues in the area and may have made matters worse.

It was therefore reassuring that the Council confirmed in September 2023 that they will adopt our key recommendations to replace the zebra with a signalised pedestrian crossing and will retain the traffic island.

South Western Railway Ticket Office Closures

The Society opposed the railway operators' proposals for closing ticket offices and require anyone wanting to travel by train to use digital ticketing methods. Finding the most appropriate fare and claiming concessions is time consuming and not user-friendly even for the technologically adept. For the less savvy the difficulties multiply when they must open user accounts, remember passwords and retain access to an app and/or email account for ticket delivery (possibly while away from home).

The 2021 census confirms that 20% of the LBRUT population is aged over 60 and we felt the proposals would discriminate against and adversely affect those who are not technology adept, or with visual, or mobility problems.

Furthermore, anyone over 60 can obtain concessional train fares through the Senior Railcard while those with a Freedom Pass are also eligible for free travel up to the TfL boundary. This dual concession is easily and quickly obtained by visiting a ticket office, but it is difficult to accomplish by walking up to a ticket vending machine and under time pressure. As a consequence, we are aware of many older people forfeiting their concessional fare entitlements and overpaying for their journey.

We raised specific concerns about dispersing staff across Richmond Station to perform multifunctional roles especially given the ebbs and flows in passenger numbers. The station's configuration over two levels

make it impossible to see all areas from the concourse and expecting people with visual or mobility impairments to find roving assistance is wholly unreasonable. We also questioned whether staff assigned to revenue protection roles would be allowed to leave their post or offer anything more than perfunctory assistance.

We felt it was disingenuous for the consultation only to show comparative staffing information based on station attendance hours with no indication of the number of staff on duty, or the roles they will be undertaking. It was not possible to discern the changes from the current arrangements when Richmond Station already has 24 hour staffing.

We were alarmed at the suggestion that passengers using North Sheen station who want a ticket that is not offered through a vending machine must first buy a ticket to travel to a category 1 station (e.g., Richmond) and then purchase a ticket for the full journey. It is fundamentally wrong to expect passengers to undertake an extra trip that adds stress, time, and effort onto their journey only because of unaddressed deficiencies in the ticketing systems.

LANDSCAPING AND RIVERSIDE

Nicky Wood

Committee Members: **Frances Bouchier, Susanna Edwards, Judy Gibbons, Julia Stead, Carol Ward, Nicky Wood (Chair)**

The Society's book, *Richmond's Trees*, which our Patron Lord Lee kindly funded, was launched in November. It has been very well received, and thus far has raised over £10,000 to fund various projects we have in the pipeline. Our long-awaited Bridge House Gardens information panel was unveiled by the Mayor in April. It's been time-consuming keeping track of Thames Water's plan to abstract water from the river for transfer to the Lea Valley, replacing it with treated effluent from Mogden. Thames Water are very far from convincing residents and Councillors that this is an acceptable plan.

As in previous years we continued to:

- Report public realm problems including damaged street furniture, overflowing bins, unauthorised parking on the towpath, blocked drains and leaking water mains
- Lobby the Council for the provision of public toilets in the town centre
- Respond to Events Consultations regarding applications for licences to use Parks and Open Spaces
- Respond to planning applications affecting vistas and landscapes
- Report dead, damaged or diseased trees, and any damage to planting and lawns
- Report rough sleepers and anti-social behaviour in Parks and Open Spaces
- Liaise with Council Officers over plans for new trees & other plantings in Parks & Open Spaces

Nicky Wood represents the Society on the Thames Landscape Strategy Community Advisory Group and the Old Deer Park Working Group.

Judy Gibbons represents the Society on the Petersham Meadows Advisory Group.

The Committee acts as a "Friends of Terrace Gardens" group, headed by **Julia Stead**.

The Richmond Society continues to concentrate on reducing the negative impact of the evening economy on residents. Alcohol-related anti-social behaviour in the town and in its open spaces is still too high. Richmond is almost unique in that it has residents and businesses so closely co-located. The town is congested by the river on one side and Richmond Hill and Richmond Park on the other so there is little room to spread out. We aim to find a balance between the economy and the development of the town and its environs with adequate (and not over-bearing) control of unwanted behaviour by visitors in licensed premises and outdoor areas during both use and dispersal.

The recent epidemic and resulting financial difficulties have certainly cast long shadows over the town centre. We find that increasing numbers of shops that have been vacated are being replaced by food-led outlets and, as a result, additional licence applications are increasing. Restaurants and cafes are increasingly selling meals for home consumption with the inclusion of alcohol. Further problems arise when there is alcohol with food delivery being undertaken by possibly inexperienced delivery personnel who may deliver food and alcohol to under-aged people. Delivery drivers and riders are also congregating in significant groups in the town - giving cause for concern over late night noise and disturbance to nearby residents.

When licence applications are made through the Council the Society works with the applicants to try and find suitable and workable outcomes so that the business, the residents, and the police are all able to work together and avoid acrimonious outcomes. Sometime these agreements do not come to fruition but it is important to note that we do not automatically object to every application and our starting point is always a careful consideration of the pros and cons put forward by either side.

We recognise that many of the town's licensed premises are well-managed and cause no issues but there are some where residential neighbours suffer from late night noise, disturbance and other anti-social behaviour. Alcohol purchased for consumption in the town's open spaces remains a significant issue when it results in such behaviour and the Society recognises that residents around The Green have been particularly badly affected on Friday and Saturday nights in recent months. Rigorous attention to the granting of licences, significant attention to opening hours in any application and the call for review of those licence holders who step beyond their mark are ways in which we can continue to have an enjoyable (and valuable) day and evening economy for businesses, residents and visitors alike.

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS**Ginny Curry**

We have maintained a steady flow of new members this year. Since January just over 100 new members have joined us and we warmly welcome each and every one of you.

Members enjoy free attendance at our events programme and the opportunity to buy tickets to attend our Christmas and Summer Parties and our ever-popular walks - see details below. Members continued to be kept up to date with the Society's activities through our quarterly Newsletter, monthly digital news Bulletin, and occasional e-mails. Most members receive the Newsletter electronically. The Bulletin has a following of seven hundred subscribers. Our Social Media Editor Shimei Zhou maintained a stream of posts which attracted a virtual following of well over six thousand on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

Our membership year begins on 1 October.

Membership costs £16 for a household and £10 for a single membership and details about joining or renewing membership are in the Chairman's letter with the Notice of the AGM.

EVENTS

Lizzie Danckwerts

It's been a busy year! In October 2022 the Society's Annual Awards for a distinguished contribution to Richmond celebrated the restoration of Marble Hill to its former glory by **English Heritage**. Commendations were received by Duke Street Church, the K6 telephone kiosk next to St Matthias Church, and a modern home in Queen's Rise.

Our beautifully-illustrated book, **Richmond's Trees**, written by **Linda Christmas** and inspired by our Patron **Lord Lee**, was launched in November and quickly became a best-seller. The 2022 AGM and Christmas Party made a welcome return following the previous year's cancellation due to Covid-19. Attendees celebrated the festive season in a new club-like setting in the RHACC theatre whilst tapping their feet to the Raccateers Jazz Band.

Our speaker in January 2023 was the hugely entertaining **Michael Billington**, Britain's longest-serving theatre critic. The following month our Forum, Taking Richmond's Pulse, attended by **Sarah Olney MP and Nick Rogers MLA**, generated a terrific buzz as attendees gathered around six tables, each devoted to a different topic: housing provision; transport and infrastructure; community safety; community facilities; heritage and planning; and future economy. In March, **Paul Richards**, Park Manager of Richmond Park, gave an excellent talk about current and future developments of this world-famous royal park and national nature reserve.

The Panorama of the Thames was the subject of a joint event with Richmond Local History Society in April. The talk by Journalist **Jill Sanders** about Samuel Leigh's 1829 panorama from Richmond to Westminster and how the river has changed since then was very popular and attracted some 250 attendees. Future joint events are planned.

Richmond May Fair, chaired by Richmond Society Trustee **Pamela Fleming**, made a welcome return after a three-year absence due to Covid-19. Volunteers worked tirelessly to make it a great success, encouraging many new members to sign up. Later that month, **Tom Littler**, artistic director of the Orange Tree Theatre, gave an enthusiastic talk about his future plans.

Three Heritage Walks over the Summer were organised by **Paul Velluet** with **Adam Harrison**: exploring Richmond's historic Vineyard area with **Alan Sherriff** of the Friends of Vineyard Passage Burial Ground; a guided walk by Paul taking in the development of Richmond from 1900 to the present day; and another walk by Paul focusing on the survival of Richmond's unique heritage.

The Summer Party in June once again took place at Trumpeters House by kind permission of our Patron, **Baroness Ronny Van Dedem**. Over 130 people relaxed in the magnificent gardens enjoying afternoon tea and bubbles whilst being entertained by the Raccateers. The Baroness set a fine example, dancing with former Strictly Come Dancing pro **Andrew Cuerden**. She also cut a splendid cake decorated with the cover of *Richmond's Trees*. A raffle for prizes donated by Venture Photography, Orange Tree Theatre, Thames River Boats, Whole Foods and Dance Savoir Faire helped to raise funds for the Society.

In July, Patron **Lord Hendy's** tour of Richmond and Ham in his vintage Routemaster bus, with Paul Velluet as guide, was great fun! The evening ended with refreshments at The Sun Inn, Parkshot.

In September, the celebrated author **Anthony Horowitz** enthralled his audience at Duke Street Church as he reflected on his career and shared details of his future projects. Over 200 people attended this joint event with the Museum of Richmond.

The events programme could not take place without our excellent band of volunteers and special thanks go to: **Barbara Benemar, Bella Hobson, Carey Clark, Catriona Dobbie, Corale Canard, Diane Harvey, Iain Mulligan, Jane Mills, Jane Parkinson, Jenny Pugsley, Julia Stead, Linda Duffield, Lindsey Andrews, Lynne Cox, Margaret Walsh, Marie Leigh, Mona Turner, Rose Constantine, Sarah Turner and Susanna Edwards** for their stalwart help in a variety of roles.

RICHMOND HEATHROW CAMPAIGN

Neil Maybin

The Richmond Heathrow Campaign (RHC) acts on behalf of the Kew & Richmond Societies and Friends of Richmond Green in matters relating to Heathrow, and in particular its environmental impact on community health and wellbeing.

Night flights

Noise from night flights is, for many local residents one of the most acute Heathrow issues. The government is re-assessing the UK night flights regime but progress is slow. Our response to a recent DfT consultation on night flights again sought a deferral of all night flights between 11pm and 7am to the daytime with reductions in late runners allowed after 11pm, and reductions in morning air traffic from 6am to 7am. In conjunction with other community organisations, we are discussing with Heathrow the commissioning of independent research on the impact of noise on health including sleep disturbance and annoyance.

Heathrow Airspace Modernisation

An equally significant issue for residents is the proposed modernisation of airspace over Heathrow. Heathrow has submitted proposals to the Civil Aviation Authority for evaluation. Their emphasis on concentrated, rather than dispersed flight paths, would create a more concentrated noise impact because Performance-Based Navigation allows aircraft to follow very precise trajectories. Importantly, Heathrow has confirmed the airspace is being designed for a two-runway airport within the existing planning limit of 480,000 flights a year. The immediate issues are therefore about how the noise impact is allocated rather than an increase in noise emitted through airport expansion. This may mean flights over Richmond Park.

RHC is carefully monitoring what is a complicated and highly technical issue.

Summary of RHC Activities: During the year RHC responded to 4 consultations: CAA (1) and Heathrow (1) on airspace modernisation, the DfT(1) on Night noise and Heathrow (1) on Heathrow's Noise Action Plan.

RHC also attended 30 meetings (some virtual): NACF (5), Heathrow workshops (7), Community Noise Group (15) and other organisations (3). Please contact Peter Willan, RHC Chair, at action@richmondheathrowcampaign.org if you can help their work.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

The members of the Executive Committee, in their capacity as Trustees, present their report and financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2023.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Richmond Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO - registered charity number 1169079) governed by a Constitution dated 7 September 2016, revised on 29 September 2020. It was set up to take forward the work of the Unincorporated Association, The Richmond Society (registered charity number 285805). To distinguish the CIO, we refer to this as "NewRic" and the previous charity as "OldRic" where necessary in this report.

The activities and net assets of "OldRic" were transferred to "NewRic" in various stages with effect from 1 October 2016. Any membership subscriptions, donations and other income received by "OldRic", are remitted to "NewRic" and included in these financial statements.

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES AND PUBLIC BENEFIT

The charitable objects of the Society may be summarised to:

- campaign to preserve and enhance Richmond's historic character, unique features and amenities
- promote high standards in planning, building and landscaping in or affecting Richmond
- protect the quality of life, balancing the interests of residents, business and visitors
- encourage civic pride, an active interest in Richmond and its community, and to provide a focus for members to meet and socialise.

In carrying out its work to make Richmond a better place in which to live, work and visit, the Trustees confirm they have complied with the duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on providing public benefit.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

The review of the activities of the Society is set out on pages 4-12.

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR

Income for the year was £28,249 and expenditure £16,515 generating a surplus for the year of £11,734 before a small loss on revaluation of investments to market value at the year-end. The net resulting surplus of £11,499 after the revaluation loss has been added to the Society's reserves.

Income was over twice that of the previous year. All of the Society's income streams played their part in this but the largest contribution came from sales of the Society's newly launched book "*Richmond's Trees*" with sales of £10,730. As our Patron Lord Lee kindly funded the production of this book, the majority of the income from sales flows directly to the Society's bottom line. Membership subscriptions and donations income increased by 16%. This seems to be primarily due to the timing of subscription and donation receipts rather than a comparable increase in membership numbers. Income from events and walks was up

year on year by 62% as the Society held both an Autumn and a Summer vintage bus trip (thanks to Lord Hendy), and a substantial event jointly with the Museum of Richmond in addition to our regular programme of meetings and talks. Investment income doubled as a result of higher balances on deposit and much higher rates of interest.

Expenses are up nearly 31% year on year. Primarily this is due to one-off expenditure of £4,134 primarily on the information board at Bridge House Gardens and a contribution to tree planting in Old Deer Park. Excluding this expenditure on projects and landscaping, total expenditure for the year was comparable to the previous year. The composition changed somewhat with a reduction in administration costs of £721 (due to non-recurring costs in 2022) and a reduction in communications costs of £566 (due to producing only 3 newsletters during the financial year in 2023) being offset by expenditure of £960 in relation to the “Richmond’s Trees” book.

Our thanks are due to our loyal members who support the Society through subscriptions, donations and attendance at our events. Our thanks are also due to our loyal volunteers who give freely of their time and skills in handling the Society’s casework, campaigns, and administration and in organizing our events programme.

RESERVES POLICY

For the Society to function successfully, it must maintain an adequate financial position with sufficient reserves to finance its operations. At the end of the financial year, the Society’s reserves comprised:

	2023
Unrestricted reserves	
General fund	29,413
Designated fund	9,236
Legacy fund	<u>39,628</u>
	78,277
Restricted reserve	
Landscaping fund	<u>2,072</u>
Total at 30 September 2023	<u><u>£80,349</u></u>

The general fund comprises reserves necessary to support the Society’s normal recurring activities. As a result of income generated from the sales of the “*Richmond’s Trees*” book the reserves now exceed 24 months of budgeted annual expenditure (2022: 15.8 months). We will investigate additional spend on projects and landscaping in the coming year.

The designated fund represents reserves set aside to put up information boards at points of interest in the town. Further information boards are planned.

The legacy fund represents legacies received by the Society set aside for transformational projects that would otherwise be unaffordable.

The landscaping fund represents the unspent balance of monies raised specifically for landscaping projects.

The Trustees are satisfied that the Society’s financial reserves are sufficient for it to continue at its current level of activities.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The major risks to which the Society is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed during the year and the Trustees are satisfied that action has been taken where appropriate to manage those risks.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The Trustees are grateful to **Marian Williams** who has carried out the Independent Examination of the Society's accounts pro bono.

STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial reporting period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the income and expenditure for the period then ended. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently, make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue in business. The Trustees have responsibility for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Society and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with charity regulations. The Trustees also have responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Society and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By Order of the Trustees
Anne Koutsabeloulis,
Secretary
14 November 2023

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE RICHMOND SOCIETY

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Richmond Society for the year ended 30 September 2023 on pages 17 to 22.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not being kept in respect of the charity in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Marian Williams ACA
Richmond
14 November 2023

The Richmond Society

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 30 September 2023

	Note	General Funds £	Landscaping Fund £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Incoming resources					
<i>Income from donations</i>					
Subscriptions and donations		7,916	-	7,916	6,829
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>					
Events and walks		7,790	429	8,219	5,074
Publication sales		10,730	-	10,730	-
<i>Investment income</i>					
		1,384	-	1,384	622
Total incoming resources		<u>27,820</u>	<u>429</u>	<u>28,249</u>	<u>12,525</u>
Resources expended					
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>					
Projects and landscaping		2,952	1,182	4,134	164
Events and walks		6,696	-	6,696	6,450
Publications		960	-	960	-
Communications		1,337	-	1,337	1,903
Administration costs		3,314	74	3,388	4,109
Total expenditure	2	<u>15,259</u>	<u>1,256</u>	<u>16,515</u>	<u>12,626</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before investment gains/(losses)					
		12,561	(827)	11,734	(101)
Gains/(Losses) on investments		(235)	-	(235)	(240)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources					
		12,326	(827)	11,499	(341)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement of funds for the period					
		12,326	(827)	11,499	(341)
Reconciliation of funds					
Opening fund balances		65,951	2,899	68,850	69,191
Closing fund balances					
		<u>78,277</u>	<u>2,072</u>	<u>80,349</u>	<u>68,850</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The Richmond Society
Balance sheet at 30 September 2023

	Note	General Funds	Landscaping Fund	2023 Total	2022 Total
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Investments	3	15,974	-	15,974	15,857
Current assets					
Stock	4	85	-	85	514
Debtors & prepayments		2,516	-	2,516	348
Deposit account		63,844	2,072	65,916	47,236
Cash at bank and in hand		1,256	-	1,256	11,796
		<u>67,701</u>	<u>2,072</u>	<u>69,773</u>	<u>59,894</u>
Current liabilities:					
amounts falling due within 1 year					
Creditors & accruals		1,858	-	1,858	2,951
Deferred subscription income	5	402	-	402	410
		<u>2,260</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,260</u>	<u>3,361</u>
Net current assets		65,441	2,072	67,513	56,533
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>81,415</u>	<u>2,072</u>	<u>83,487</u>	<u>72,390</u>
Liabilities and charges:					
due after more than one year					
Deferred subscription income	5	3,138	-	3,138	3,540
Net assets		<u>78,277</u>	<u>2,072</u>	<u>80,349</u>	<u>68,850</u>
Funds	6	<u>78,277</u>	<u>2,072</u>	<u>80,349</u>	<u>68,850</u>

Approved by the trustees on 14 November 2023

BJ May - Chairman

AM Coleman - Treasurer

The Richmond Society
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2023

1. Accounting policies

The accounting period covered by these financial statements is for the year ended 30 September 2023. The comparative financial information is for the year ended 30 September 2022.

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with “Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102)”, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102 and the Trustees are satisfied that the financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes. There are no assumptions about the future that the Trustees have been required to make that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

b Income and expenditure

Income is brought into the financial statements when received or when there is certainty of receipt. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. No provision is made for any tax on the charity’s net income as the charity is exempt from tax as all its income and expenditure relates to its charitable objectives.

c Fund accounting

The General Funds are unrestricted and can be used for any aspect of the Society's work. They comprise the General Fund and two designated funds, which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. The Landscaping & Tree Fund is for income received from members and other donors and is restricted to funding these activities.

d Subscriptions and donations

Subscriptions are recognised when received. The membership year runs from 1 October. Subscriptions received in the period from May to September are deemed to cover the period up to the end of the following subscription year and are treated as payments in advance. Life memberships are recognised in income on a straight-line basis over periods of 17 years.

Donations are recognised when received or when the charity is entitled to the amounts received.

Subscriptions and donations include the recovery of Gift Aid where applicable.

e Services provided

The Society benefits from the provision, without charge, of a variety of skills and other services by its members. The benefit is not reflected in these financial statements since it is not regarded as practicable to estimate its monetary value.

f Stock

Stock of plaques and stock of drinks are stated at cost or realisable value if lower.

g Fixed assets - investments

Investments are stated at market value.

The Richmond Society

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2023 (continued)

2. Expenditure on charitable activities

The Trustees believe that all the expenditure incurred relates to charitable activities. During the period:

- There were no employees.
- The Trustees were not paid nor did they receive any benefits from employment or payment for any services rendered to the charity. The Trustees did not receive any reimbursement of expenses other than for expenditure incurred as agent for the Society. There are no related party transactions that require disclosure.
- The Trustees are covered by insurance that is part of the charity's insurance policy and that part related to the cover for Trustees cannot be separately identified. The total cost of the insurance policy was £395 (2022: £395).
- The Independent Examiner did not charge a fee for her services.

3. Investments

Quoted investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Market value at beginning of period	15,857	15,831
Additions at cost	-	-
Accumulated dividends	352	266
Increase/(decrease) in valuation	(235)	(240)
Valuation at 30 September	<u>15,974</u>	<u>15,857</u>

4. Stock

	2023	2022
	£	£
Stock of drinks for events	85	-
Stock of plaques	-	514
	<u>85</u>	<u>514</u>

5. Deferred subscription income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Movement for the year		
Amount brought forward:		
Due within one year	410	438
Due after one year	3,540	3,950
Additions for the year	-	-
Taken to income	(410)	(438)
Closing balance	<u>3,540</u>	<u>3,950</u>

The closing balance is:

Due within one year	402	410
Due after one year	3,138	3,540
	<u>3,540</u>	<u>3,950</u>

The Richmond Society

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2023 (continued)

6. Reserves

(a) General Funds comprise:

	General Fund £	Designated Fund £	Legacy Fund £	Total £
Year ended 30 September 2023				
Income for the year	26,436	-	1,384	27,820
Expenditure for the year	12,307	2,952	-	15,259
Net incoming/(outgoing) before investment gains/(losses)	14,129	(2,952)	1,384	12,561
Gains/(Losses) on investments	-		(235)	(235)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	14,129	(2,952)	1,149	12,326
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement of funds for the period	14,129	(2,952)	1,149	12,326
Balance at 1 October 2022	15,284	12,188	38,479	65,951
Balance at 30 September 2023	29,413	9,236	39,628	78,277

The General Fund comprises reserves necessary to support the Society's normal recurring activities. As a result of income generated from the sales of the "Richmond's Trees" book the reserves are now in excess of 24 months of budgeted annual expenditure (2022: 15.8 months). We will investigate additional spend on projects and landscaping in the coming year

The Designated Fund represents reserves set aside to put up information boards at points of interest in the town. Further information boards are planned.

The Legacy Fund represents legacies received by the Society set aside for transformational projects that would otherwise be unaffordable.

	General Fund £	Designated Fund £	Legacy Fund £	Total £
Year ended 30 September 2022				
Income for the year	11,434	-	622	12,056
Expenditure for the year	10,484		2,055	12,539
Net incoming/(outgoing) before investment gains/(losses)	950	-	(1,433)	(483)
Gains/(Losses) on investments	-		(240)	(240)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	950	-	(1,673)	(723)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement of funds for the period	950	-	(1,673)	(723)
Balance at 1 October 2021	14,334	12,188	40,152	66,674
Balance at 30 September 2022	15,284	12,188	38,479	65,951

The Richmond Society

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2023 (continued)

(b) Landscaping Fund

The Landscaping Fund represents the unspent balance of monies raised specifically for landscaping projects. The movements on the Landscaping Fund are fully disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Overall adequacy of reserves

The Trustees are satisfied that the Society's financial reserves are sufficient for it to continue at its current level of activities.

THE RICHMOND SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1169079

Accounts



**TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1169079**

THE RICHMOND SOCIETY CHARITY INFORMATION

PATRONS

Ms Anita Anand, Professor Ian Bruce CBE, Baroness Ronny Van Dedem, Lord Lee of Trafford DL,
Sir Trevor McDonald OBE, The Lord Watson of Richmond CBE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman Barry May

Hon Secretary Anne Koutsabeloulis

Hon Treasurer Andrew Coleman

Ginny Curry, Lizzie Danckwerts (co-opted July 2022), Pamela Fleming (co-opted July 2022),
Louise Fluker, Stephen Speak, Nicky Wood

HONORARY REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

Marian Williams

COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

PLANNING

Louise Fluker *Chair*, Tony Hall, Pamela Fleming

LANDSCAPING & RIVERSIDE

Nicky Wood *Chair*, Frances Bouchier, Susanna Edwards, Judy Gibbons, Julia Stead, Carol Ward

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Ginny Curry (Membership), Neil Maybin (Webmaster),
Paul Velluet (Walks Organiser), Shimei Zhou (Social Media)

INFRASTRUCTURE & AIR QUALITY

Stephen Speak, Pamela Fleming, William Collis, Richard Pender

TOWN CENTRE

Stephen Speak

LICENSING

Ginny Curry, Christine Houston

POLICE LIAISON

Barry May, Pamela Fleming

EVENTS

Lizzie Danckwerts

RICHMOND HEATHROW CAMPAIGN

Neil Maybin, representatives from The Kew Society and Friends of Richmond Green, and co-opted experts

MEMBERSHIP or AFFILIATION of the SOCIETY to OTHER BODIES

Arts Richmond, Habitats & Heritage,

The London Forum of Amenity & Civic Societies

The Richmond Society also nominates a member to serve on

Old Deer Park Working Group, Petersham Meadows Advisory Group,
Richmond Parish Lands Charity, South Richmond Police Liaison Group,
Thames Landscape Strategy Community Advisory Group

REGISTERED OFFICE

The Bridge Workspace, 7b Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RD

BANKERS

Lloyds Bank PLC, Business Banking BX1 1LT

Teachers Building Society, Allenvue House, Hanham Road, Wimbourne BH21 1AG

United Trust Bank, One Ropemaker Street, London EC2Y 9AW

WEBSITE

www.richmondsociety.org.uk

Preserving and enhancing Richmond's special character

Diligent casework and campaigning to preserve and enhance the special character of Richmond, which is the core purpose of The Richmond Society, continued throughout the year in planning, infrastructure, landscape and riverside, licensing, police liaison and airport expansion.

Disorder on the streets and in the open spaces of Richmond troubled many residents. We were especially concerned at the adverse cumulative impact of new applications for alcohol licences despite local authority policies designed to prevent their proliferation. While we recognise that the night-time economy of a town like Richmond needs to thrive this must be balanced with the right of residents to enjoy peace and quiet in their homes.

Although the Metropolitan Police marks Richmond upon Thames as having the lowest crime rate of all Greater London boroughs, anti-social behaviour related to alcohol and drug abuse is an increasing worry.

At various times throughout the year and especially at weekends large gatherings of youths, many of school age, were involved in anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and assaults, leading police to invoke statutory powers to disperse groups from the town centre, Green, riverside, Old Deer Park and Terrace Gardens.

Our Membership Secretary **Ginny Curry**, who also leads on licensing matters, ensured that the relevant authorities were kept informed of the Society's views and we maintained close liaison with the police.

The local authority's failure to provide proper public toilets in places popular with visitors continued to have unpleasant anti-social consequences. The Society has long campaigned for permanent facilities to be established rather than relying on businesses like pubs, restaurants and shops to make their toilets available to members of the public who may not necessarily be customers. The Council's borough-wide Community Toilet Scheme, whereby such businesses receive a fee for making their facilities available, has been poorly supported in Richmond.

Details of all the Society's activities are provided elsewhere in this Report by those who lead the Society's work in its various areas of interest. In addition, the Society's position on these topics is set out in our Manifesto which can be read on our website at www.richmondsociety.org.uk/richmond-society-manifesto/.

The Executive Committee welcomed two new Trustees. **Lizzie Danckwerts**, Volunteers Co-ordinator since last year, agreed in July to become a Trustee with responsibility for organising events, and **Pamela Fleming**, formerly a Richmond upon Thames councillor for South Richmond ward, joined us, also in July, as a member of our Planning Committee headed by Vice Chair **Louise Fluker**. Pamela's long experience at the heart of a wide range of local issues enabled her to take additional responsibility for infrastructure including transport and air quality, and police liaison. Some of this work covers areas formerly led by **Stephen Speak**, who was obliged to step back from his day-to-day duties due to ill-health but remained a Trustee. We were glad to see Stephen at Executive Committee meetings and wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

Trustees were saddened to hear of the passing of **Bamber Gascoigne** in February at the age of eighty-seven. He had been a closely-interested Patron and enthusiastic supporter of the Society's work for more than thirty-two years.

Later in the membership year **Lord Lee of Trafford**, who joined the Society soon after moving to Richmond a few years ago, graciously accepted our invitation to become a Patron.

Although he has many parliamentary and other commitments Lord Lee found time to inspire a book, ***Richmond's Trees: An Exciting Trail of Discovery***, and to guide a team of members and specialists to produce it for launch this Autumn. **Nicky Wood**, who heads our Landscape and Riverside Committee, made many valuable contributions to the project in addition to her day-to-day work of leading an active group of volunteers concerned with our natural environment. Lord Lee generously underwrote the cost of the book's production and will be donating the proceeds of sales to the Society. We are immensely grateful to him.

Work on the content and design of an interpretation board about Richmond Bridge and Bridge House Gardens was completed and sent for production by the firm which previously made our board for the Church of St Mary Magdalene and our new Awards plaque. It will be installed over the Winter.

Thanks are due to **Anne Koutsabeloulis**, Hon Secretary, for her tireless support throughout the year, for keeping records of our discussions, and for compiling this Annual Report.

Prudent management means that the Society's finances remain healthy and we are satisfied that reserves are sufficient to continue at our current level of activities, as **Andrew Coleman**, Hon Treasurer, records elsewhere in this Report.

I am also grateful to all my other fellow Trustees for their unstinting service. All Trustees are volunteers and give willingly of their time and expertise. Without exception all of them are busy people with a wide range of other commitments and interests. The Society is fortunate to have such a dedicated team.

We are in need of additional Trustee and volunteer resources to assist with campaigning, communications, and information technology. If you or anyone you know has skills in these areas we would love to talk about how help might be provided.

Finally, the Executive Committee joins me in thanking all members for their loyal support, which is valued most highly. Every membership is important because it adds to the force of our influence and the power of our voice in interactions with various authorities.

We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in person in the year ahead.

ANNUAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

The members of the Executive Committee, in their capacity as Trustees, present their report on the activities of the Society for the year ended 30 September 2022.

PLANNING

Louise Fluker

The Planning Committee's main activity is to review planning applications and appeals in the Richmond part of the borough (the wards of North and South Richmond and the relevant part of Ham, Petersham and Richmond Riverside). Where appropriate we make submissions to the local authority and engage with developers and stakeholders. Our focus is on proposals visible from the public domain. Our objective is to ensure that that which is beautiful or special is conserved and that which is ugly or overbearing is opposed. This does not mean we oppose good or radical modern designs!

Key planning issues and challenges

At a national level, the whirligig of changing secretaries of state (Jenrick, Gove, Clarke and Gove again) and prime ministers resulted in Jenrick's radical reforms being dropped. The last idea (but yet to be translated into proposals) was that developments should be scrutinised at local level. With yet a new government but with a previous Secretary of State (Gove) now back we wait to see what results.

Meanwhile the Mayor of London's 2021 London Plan was adopted and Richmond Council is developing its new local plan. We submitted our views during the consultation, one of the most contentious points being the designation of Richmond Station as suitable for redevelopment with mid-rise buildings on top of the station. We do not think this appropriate. The responses to the consultation are being processed and the next iteration of the Plan is awaited.

There were subsidiary consultations, first on the four conservation areas within our area where no major changes were proposed and second on the protected vistas where additional views were proposed. These seemed sensible.

Protecting the views from Richmond Hill and Richmond Park is of course key and whilst Richmond Council is vigilant, other local authorities may be less concerned. We have objected to the redevelopments in Kingston especially a seventeen-storey building on Canbury Car Park where the top of the building will be visible on the horizon behind Petersham Hotel. A decision is still pending.

House of Fraser site

Canadian & Arcadia sold the site (with planning permission) to another local developer, Sheen Lane Developments Limited (SLDL). SLDL felt a new approach was needed and proposed changes to the external features, the installation of a swimming pool as part of a leisure centre in the basement and the creation of a restaurant on the new top floor and submitted a new planning application. SLDL shared their vision with us. SLDL has made clear that it could build to the existing permission granted. Our approach has been sympathetic to the proposals with concerns over the possible noise and light pollution from use of the new top floor. The addition of a new floor has been controversial since the original development was proposed but the view of the Executive Committee was that the site was so key to the future of the town centre that on balance it was justified and that remains our view although we acknowledge that not all residents or members agree with this.

George Street and town centre

The trend to convert offices above shops to flats continues. Examples include the site over Dobbies in George Street where a revised planning application was approved. We objected to the first application. Generally, a change of use under the relaxed permitted development rights does not require planning permission unless the building is a listed building or in a conservation area. If the development is an appropriate scale to the building and surroundings we do not object. Most applications are for studio or one- and two-bedroom flats. Whilst they may encourage younger people to live in Richmond, the need for affordable family accommodation is not addressed.

One of the most controversial applications would have adversely affected The Open Book shop and we, along with hundreds of others, objected and the application was withdrawn.

Another trend is to increase the height of existing buildings (1 George Street - planning application under consideration) or when redeveloping a site (Eton House and Castle Street which are 1970s or 1980s tired and undistinguished office blocks). We met the developers of both sites and residents of St James's Cottages who are most affected by the Eton House project which has received planning permission subject to various conditions to protect the residents. Castle Street is under consideration by the Council. Our view is that where the increase is modest, does not adversely affect the protected views or surroundings we should not object.

As Richmond becomes even more popular as a destination for visitors, the tension increases between making the town welcoming to visitors whilst ensuring that residents can live and more importantly sleep in peace. Thus, shops apply for licences to sell alcohol or established premises want to change their use for greater flexibility. The owners of Lion House successfully applied for permission to use the ground floor (currently occupied by Pizza Express) not only as a restaurant but also as a bar. We opposed this but the Council was advised that there were no valid planning reasons to refuse and that the licensing laws were the appropriate way to impose any controls. The two systems do not necessarily coincide.

4 Whittaker Avenue - Scott's restaurant

Caprice Holdings, owners of Scott's and the Ivy, met us to discuss their initial proposals for a permanent enclosure on the balcony fronting the river. The building is part of the Quinlan Terry development and he was very unimpressed, as were we. Caprice withdrew the original application and were granted permission for a much less obtrusive design.

Homebase site, Manor Road

Avanton submitted a further planning application relating to the site. It did not change the number of buildings or height for which the Mayor of London had already granted permission subject to an appropriate s106 Agreement being reached with Richmond Council (yet to happen) but the new proposals required a fresh consultation. The process was botched, requiring an extension of time. Mayor Khan is considering whether to grant permission, having received advice from his officials to grant permission. We, along with other stakeholders, objected on the grounds that the development was too big and that the situation had adversely changed regarding transport. TfL has already reduced the bus routes serving the area and the frequency of trains is also in doubt following COVID, quite apart from North Sheen station being inadequate for greater use. These points were ignored by the Mayor's officials. Requests to the various secretaries of state to call the project in have fallen on deaf ears. It is perverse that government platitudes about planning being decided at a local level (Richmond Council) are ignored. Meanwhile we wait in limbo which is bad for everyone.

Howson Terrace

Housing 21 applied (but has subsequently withdrawn in order to consult further) to demolish the existing buildings off the Petersham Road and to replace them with one building comprising twenty-eight one- and two-bedroom affordable retirement apartments and communal facilities. We opposed this on the grounds that the replacement taller building would be visible from Richmond Hill and the Terrace unlike the present buildings, a concern shared by Historic England.

5G telephone masts and telephony

The mobile phone operators continue the game of cat and mouse with the planners. The government wants greater connectivity including to trains. This requires masts and the telephone operators want tall ones (ten to twenty metres) which are unsightly especially in conservation areas. Their preferred location is adjacent to the A316 between Richmond Circus and St Margaret's roundabout and in the Old Deer Park. The Society continues to oppose them (2018, 2020, 2021 and 2022) and Richmond Council has so far consistently refused the applications. Currently the planners are considering an application for a seventeen-metre pole adjacent to the car park near The Green. However, operators have appealed against the refusal of an application for a ten-metre mast on the eastern side of Old Deer Park (i.e. nearest Asgill House) and the decision of the Planning Inspector will be of crucial importance.

Richmond Society Awards 2021

We were at last able to meet in person to celebrate projects completed in 2020 and 2021 which enhanced the amenity of Richmond. The winner of the Award (now a more visible vitreous enamel roundel) was The Vineyard Life Church which was a significant project providing better facilities and more flexible space. Conversion of the former magistrates' court on Parkshot to offices for William Grant, restoration of a house on 17 The Green, and enhancing a Victorian villa on Kew Road were all commended.

INFRASTRUCTURE & AIR QUALITY

Pam Fleming, Stephen Speak

Richmond town centre

The Society is a member of the Council's Town Centre Working Group but that has not met since the local elections in May. The Group supported the Public Artwork that has been installed along from the Station. We reported that removal of the old balustrade was poorly executed and remedial works have been proposed. The artwork improves the appearance of the area and removes the previous problem for pedestrians of having bicycles chained to the railings.

We have asked about the new cycle hub at the station that was expected to be completed by March 2023 and the Society will be advised about the updated programme currently being considered.

Whittaker Avenue

The town has no public event space and, in August, Be Richmond began a twenty-two-week pilot to test public opinion on pedestrianising Whittaker Avenue and creating an event space in Whittaker Square. Over the late summer this took the form of a "pop-up park" with children's activities and music and it will be used for the town's Christmas events. We have had discussions with Be Richmond and told them of our concern about the lack of consultation and that the design and materials of the temporary installation do not respect the heritage site. At the end of December, the parking bays will be restored and if monitoring data demonstrates the pilot has been popular, they will ask the Council to consider a full consultation with the community about creating a permanent civic event area. If the idea is supported, we understand Landscape Architects will be appointed and the Society will expect to be involved in the design process.

Transport between Richmond Station and Richmond Park

The 2020 survey of Richmond Society members showed support for publicly accessible transport from the station to the park. With The Royal Parks' impending plans to implement parking charges coupled with more visitors coming from outside the local area we expect demand for this service to grow. The Society spoke with the new Park Manager, Paul Richards, and Friends of Richmond Park to discuss this in July and will be arranging a follow up meeting shortly. There are large cost implications but with restrictions on private car use in the Park at weekends it is also important to look at providing better facilities for the less mobile.

Bikehangars

The Society has supported the installation of Bikehangars in all but the most sensitive areas where we felt their utilitarian design could be enhanced. We note they have been popular right across the borough and consultation is to begin on an additional thirty-five. These include nine in the Society's area.

E-scooter & E-bike hire

When the Council elected to join the TfL trial last year the Society made a number of observations including the need for clearer definition of measures for success. We objected to some of the proposed parking locations including those on Richmond Green, which would have encouraged hirers to ride against the traffic. The Department for Transport has decided to allow a further extension of the trial period to 31 May 2024 and the Council will be extending its participation. The existing parking locations will be made permanent, although subject to review when the trial ends, and additional parking bays will be introduced under Experimental Traffic Orders.

Telephone boxes

The Society's representations to the Council about the derelict K6 box at the top of Albany Passage by St Matthias Church have been successful and it was beautifully restored in August.

Friars Lane car park

The Society responded to the Council's consultation about reorganising the car park with some minor suggestions including that this could be a good location for a Bikehangar if demand exists.

LANDSCAPING AND RIVERSIDE

Nicky Wood

The Summer was challenging for gardeners everywhere, but the Council's managers and contractors rose to the challenge and kept our Parks and Open Spaces in good condition for residents and visitors to enjoy. We are pleased that the renewed grass terraces on the Riverside have finally recovered from drought, and now complement the splendidly refurbished paths and benches. Be Richmond's repurposing of Whittaker Square, by contrast, has been a disappointment.

The two-year project to produce *Richmond's Trees: An Exciting Trail of Discovery* has come to fruition: the book and tree trail pay tribute to some of our street and park trees, which are often overlooked and under-appreciated by comparison with their neighbours in Richmond Park and the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew.

As in previous years we continued to:

- Report public realm problems including damaged street furniture, overflowing bins, unauthorised parking on the towpath, blocked drains and leaking water mains

- Lobby the Council for the provision of public toilets in the town centre
- Respond to Events Consultations regarding applications for licences to use Parks and Open Spaces. Post COVID there have been few applications, but no doubt these will increase
- Respond to planning applications affecting vistas and landscapes. Ongoing concerns are the effect of redevelopment of Howson Terrace on the adjacent GII-listed Terrace Gardens, and the potential impact of telecomms monopoles within Old Deer Park (multiple applications have been made for these)
- Report dead, damaged or diseased trees, and any damage to planting and lawns
- Report rough sleepers and anti-social behaviour in Parks and Open Spaces. Large gatherings of young people on Richmond Green and in Terrace Gardens have been a continuing problem due to underage drinking and drug use
- Liaise with Council Officers over plans for new trees and other plantings in Parks & Open Spaces. Over the past year the Society has planted a black poplar for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and a disease-resistant elm for Elms4London, in Petersham Meadow.

Nicky Wood represents the Society on the Thames Landscape Strategy Community Advisory Group and the Old Deer Park Working Group.

Judy Gibbons represents the Society on the Petersham Meadows Advisory Group.

The Committee acts as a "Friends of Terrace Gardens" group, headed by **Julia Stead**.

LICENSING

Ginny Curry

The Society continues to concentrate on reducing the negative impact of the evening economy on residents - alcohol-related anti-social behaviour in the town and in its open spaces is still too high. Richmond is almost unique in that it has residents and businesses closely co-located. The town is compressed by the river on one side and Richmond Hill and Richmond Park on the other so there is little room to spread out. We aim to find a balance between the economy and the development of the town and its environs with adequate (and not over-bearing) control over unwanted behaviour by visitors in licensed premises and outdoor areas during both use and dispersal.

The recent epidemic and resulting financial difficulties have certainly cast long shadows over the town centre. We find that the increasing number of shops that have been vacated are being replaced by food-led outlets and, as a result, additional licence applications are increasing. Restaurants and cafes are increasingly selling meals for home consumption with the inclusion of alcohol. Further problems arise when there is alcohol with the food delivery being undertaken by possibly inexperienced delivery personnel who may deliver food and alcohol to under-aged persons. Delivery drivers and riders are also congregating in significant groups in the town - giving cause for concern over late-night noise and disturbance to nearby residents.

When licence applications are made through the Council the Society works with the applicants to try and find suitable and workable outcomes so that the business, the residents, and the police are all able to work together and avoid acrimonious outcomes. Sometimes these agreements do not come to fruition and a contested application goes before the Council. It is important to note that we do not automatically object to every application and our starting point is always careful consideration of the pros and cons put forward by both sides.

We recognise that many of the town's licensed premises are well managed and cause no issues - but there are some where residential neighbours suffer from late night noise, disturbances and other anti-social behaviour. Alcohol purchased for consumption in the town's open spaces remains a significant issue when it results in such behaviour. The Society recognises that residents around The Green have been particularly

badly affected on Friday and Saturday nights in recent months. Rigorous attention to the granting of licences, significant attention to late-night opening hours in any application and the call for a review of those licence-holders who step beyond their mark are ways in which we can continue to have an enjoyable (and valuable) day and evening economy for businesses, resident and visitors alike.

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS

At the close of the membership year on 30 September, the Society had more than one thousand paid-up members. This was fewer than a year previously. We hope that the full return to our in-person programme of activities will see our membership increase. As ever, in a membership organisation it is you, our members, who can play a valuable role in recruiting new members. Please recommend us to your friends and neighbours and do contact us if you have ideas to help us recruit new members.

Existing members can also help by ensuring their subscriptions are up to date. Although joining via our website is easy and convenient we urge all members to set up a Standing Order at their bank so that we do not have to chase you every year to renew your subscription. Details you require to do this are:

Account name: The Richmond Society (at Lloyds Bank, George Street, Richmond)

Account number: 34877468

Sort Code: 30-84-57

Payee Reference: Your surname plus last three digits of your postcode.

Wording: Pay £10 (single) or £16 (Household) annually on 1 October each year.

Members enjoy free attendance at our events programme and the opportunity to buy tickets to attend our Christmas and Summer Parties and our ever-popular walks - see details below.

Members continued to be kept up to date with the Society's activities through our quarterly Newsletter, monthly digital news Bulletin, and occasional e-mails. Most members receive the Newsletter electronically. The Bulletin has a following of seven hundred subscribers.

Our Social Media Editor Shimei Zhou maintained a stream of posts which attracted a virtual following of well over six thousand on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

EVENTS

Lizzie Danckwerts

October to December 2021 saw the welcome return of three in-person events: the Annual Awards, at which the Richmond Society plaque for a distinguished contribution to Richmond was presented to The Vineyard Life Church; a Forum at which our Patron **Anita Anand** moderated a panel discussion about Richmond's Recovery; and the 2021 AGM and Christmas Party. We were delighted that local soprano **Alicia Hill**, who had sung at our 2021 Summer Party, returned for a programme of songs celebrating the festive season at the Christmas Party.

However, the first event of 2022, The Night the Beatles met the Stones, with speaker and author **Andrew Humphrey**, was held via Zoom due to increasing COVID-19 levels in January. All other events took place in-person. Two events were rescheduled out of respect for **Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**.

Other speakers during the year were: **Colin Cooper**, CEO Habitats & Heritage, on connecting habitats, heritage, climate and community; **Tom Chesshyre**, journalist and author, on his book *From Source to Sea: Notes from a 215-Mile Walk Along The River Thames*; **Peter Holley**, an officer with the Metropolitan Police Cyber Crime Unit, on how to protect ourselves.

Three heritage walks were organised by **Paul Velluet** with **Adam Harrison**: Exploring the Historic Heart of the Town; Exploring the Upper Town; and Exploring the Arcadian Thames. All were sell-out events.

The Summer Party, celebrating **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's** Platinum Jubilee, took place in the magnificent grounds of Trumpeters' House by kind permission of our Patron **Baroness Ronny Van Dedem**. More than one hundred and eighty people attended and were royally entertained by Richmond Brass Band. The Baroness cut a celebration cake featuring the Jubilee emblem and The Richmond Society logo. A raffle and silent auction for prizes donated by **Petersham Nurseries** helped to raise funds for the Society.

The Metropolitan Police event in the Old Deer Park, **Met in the Park**, for the local community, was attended by Trustees and volunteers who took turns to help promote the Society.

A guided tour of **The Poppy Factory**, celebrating its centenary this year, was a sell-out.

The Society's first **Local Election Hustings** provided candidates from three wards - Ham, Petersham & Richmond Riverside; North Richmond; and South Richmond - with a platform to present their policies and respond to questions.

Our events **volunteers** excelled themselves and deserve special thanks, especially **Barbara Benemar, Bella Hobson, Carey Clarke, Catriona Dobbie, Christine Baines, Corale Canard, Deirdre Clenet, Diane Harvey, Iain Mulligan, Jane Mills, Jane Parkinson, Kezban Alan, Lindsey Andrews, Julia Stead, Lynne Cox, Mona Turner, Rose Constantine, Sarah Turner** and **Susanna Edwards**.

Richmond and Hillcroft Adult Community College continues to be supportive.

It has been a busy year, but a most enjoyable one.

RICHMOND HEATHROW CAMPAIGN

Neil Maybin

Richmond Heathrow Campaign (RHC) combines the people and resources of The Richmond Society with those of The Kew Society and Friends of Richmond Green to campaign to reduce the negative impacts of Heathrow Airport on our community, the UK and the world.

We recognise the reality of a two-runway Heathrow but believe that it should be better rather than bigger. We oppose new runways at Heathrow, are against any dilution of runway alternation, and seek an end to night flights.

During the year RHC responded to four consultations by the Civil Aviation Authority and Department for Transport on climate change, airspace and economic regulation of Heathrow. RHC attended a number of meetings with Heathrow, the DfT and other communities on airspace modernisation and night flights and raised parliamentary questions on aviation taxation through Richmond's MP. RHC liaised with the United Nations Association-UK on carbon emissions from aviation and research was continued into Heathrow's impact on climate change.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

The members of the Executive Committee, in their capacity as Trustees, present their report, together with the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2022.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Richmond Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO - registered charity number 1169079) governed by a Constitution dated 7 September 2016, revised on 29 September 2020. It was set up to take forward the work of the Unincorporated Association, The Richmond Society (registered charity number 285805). To distinguish the CIO, we refer to this as "NewRic" and the previous charity as "OldRic" where necessary in this report.

The activities and net assets of "OldRic" were transferred to "NewRic" in various stages with effect from 1 October 2016. Any membership subscriptions, donations and other income received by "OldRic", are remitted to "NewRic".

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES AND PUBLIC BENEFIT

The charitable objects of the Society may be summarised to:

- campaign to preserve and enhance Richmond's historic character, unique features and amenities
- promote high standards in planning, building and landscaping in or affecting Richmond
- protect the quality of life, balancing the interests of residents, business and visitors
- encourage civic pride, an active interest in Richmond and its community, and to provide a focus for members to meet and socialise.

In carrying out its work to make Richmond a better place in which to live, work and visit, the Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on providing public benefit.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

The review of the activities of the Society is set out on pages 4-10.

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR

Income for the year was £12,525 and expenditure £12,626 so the charity reported a deficit for the year of £101 before a loss on revaluation of investments to market value at the year-end. The net resulting deficit of £341 after the revaluation loss was met from reserves.

Income was 11.6% higher than the previous year. Membership subscriptions and donations income decreased by 7.5%. This was due to lower donations and a decrease in membership income, partly due to timing of receipts. Income from events and walks was up year on year by 69.6% as the Society was able to return to a full programme of in-person activities. Investment income was 7.0% lower than the previous year. Our thanks are due to our loyal members who support the Society through subscriptions, donations and attendance at our events.

Expenses are up 6.4% year on year. This reflects a 97% reduction in project and landscape expenses, which are typically one-off, and a 100% increase in our other expenditure.

- Just over half this increase was in events and walks as a result of the full return to in-person activities

- Just over a third of the increase was in administration costs. The main increases were the cost of taking legal advice on a licensing campaign, the cost of new marketing materials and additional printing expenses associated with the return of in-person meetings
- The remaining 10% of the cost increase was in communication costs where postage and printing costs saw rises.

This year all the Society’s activities were reflected in the accounts of NewRic. Accordingly, no proforma accounts are presented aggregating NewRic with OldRic since they would be identical to the accounts of NewRic.

RESERVES POLICY

For the Society to function successfully, it must maintain an adequate financial position with sufficient reserves to finance its operations. At the end of the financial year, the Society’s reserves comprised:

Unrestricted reserves

General fund	15,284
Designated fund	12,188
Legacy fund	38,479
	<u>65,951</u>

Restricted reserve

Landscaping fund	2,899
Total at 30 September 2022	<u>£68,850</u>

The general fund comprises reserves necessary to support the Society’s normal recurring activities. It is now equivalent to 15.8 months of budgeted annual expenditure (2021: 15.6 months). The ratio is expected to decrease in future years. The designated fund represents reserves set aside to put up information boards at points of interest in the town. Further information boards are planned.

The legacy fund represents legacies received by the Society set aside for transformational projects that would otherwise be unaffordable. During the year the Society drew on the fund to finance the cost of legal advice on licensing cases and the cost of new marketing materials.

The landscaping fund represents the unspent balance of monies raised specifically for landscaping projects. The Trustees are satisfied that the Society’s financial reserves are sufficient for it to continue at its current level of activities.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The major risks to which the Society is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed during the year and the Trustees are satisfied that action has been taken where appropriate to manage those risks.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

The Trustees are grateful to **Marian Williams** who has carried out the Independent Examination of the Society’s accounts pro bono.

STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial reporting period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the income and expenditure for the period then ended. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently, make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue in business. The Trustees have responsibility for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Society and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with charity regulations. The Trustees also have responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Society and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By Order of the Trustees
Anne Koutsabeloulis,
Secretary

8 November 2022

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE RICHMOND SOCIETY

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Richmond Society for the year ended 30 September 2022, which are set out on pages 15-20.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not being kept in respect of the charity in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Marian Williams ACA
Richmond
8 November 2022

The Richmond Society
Statement of financial activities for the year ended 30 September 2022

	Note	General Funds £	Landscaping Fund £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Incoming resources					
<i>Income from donations</i>					
Subscriptions and donations		6,829	-	6,829	7,379
Transfer of net assets from unincorporated charity	2	-	-	-	186
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>					
Events and walks		4,605	469	5,074	2,991
<i>Investment income</i>					
		622	-	622	669
Total incoming resources		<u>12,056</u>	<u>469</u>	<u>12,525</u>	<u>11,225</u>
Resources expended					
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>					
Projects and landscaping		164	-	164	5,649
Events and walks		6,450	-	6,450	3,145
Communications		1,903	-	1,903	1,305
Administration costs		4,022	87	4,109	1,768
Total expenditure	3	<u>12,539</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>12,626</u>	<u>11,867</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before investment gains/(losses)					
		(483)	382	(101)	(642)
Gains/(Losses) on investments		(240)	-	(240)	2087
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		(723)	382	(341)	1,445
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement of funds for the period		(723)	382	(341)	1,445
Reconciliation of funds					
Opening fund balances		66,674	2,517	69,191	67,746
Closing fund balances		<u>65,951</u>	<u>2,899</u>	<u>68,850</u>	<u>69,191</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The Richmond Society
Balance sheet at 30 September 2022

	Note	General Funds	Landscaping Fund	2022 Total	2021 Total
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Investments	4	15,857	-	15,857	15,831
Current assets					
Stock	5	514	-	514	426
Debtors & prepayments		348	-	348	2,610
Deposit account		44,337	2,899	47,236	47,019
Cash at bank and in hand		11,796	-	11,796	8,911
		<u>56,995</u>	<u>2,899</u>	<u>59,894</u>	<u>58,966</u>
Current liabilities: amounts falling due within 1 year					
Creditors & accruals		2,951	-	2,951	1,218
Deferred subscription income	6	410	-	410	438
		<u>3,361</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,361</u>	<u>1,656</u>
Net current assets		53,634	2,899	56,533	57,310
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>69,491</u>	<u>2,899</u>	<u>72,390</u>	<u>73,141</u>
Liabilities and charges: due after more than one year					
Deferred subscription income	6	3,540	-	3,540	3,950
Net assets		<u>65,951</u>	<u>2,899</u>	<u>68,850</u>	<u>69,191</u>
Funds	7	<u>65,951</u>	<u>2,899</u>	<u>68,850</u>	<u>69,191</u>

Approved by the Trustees
on 8 November 2022

BJ May - Chairman

AM Coleman - Treasurer

The Richmond Society

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2022

1. Accounting policies

The accounting period covered by these financial statements is for the year ended 30 September 2022. The comparative financial information is for the year ended 30 September 2021.

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102)", the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102 and the Trustees are satisfied that the financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes. There are no assumptions about the future that the Trustees have been required to make that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

b Income and expenditure

Income is brought into the financial statements when received or when there is certainty of receipt. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. No provision is made for any tax on the charity's net income as the charity is exempt from tax as all its income and expenditure relates to its charitable objectives.

c Fund accounting

The General Funds are unrestricted and can be used for any aspect of the Society's work. They comprise the General Fund and two designated funds, which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. The Landscaping & Tree Fund is for income received from members and other donors and is restricted to funding these activities.

d Subscriptions and donations

Subscriptions are recognised when received. The membership year runs from 1 October. Subscriptions received in the period from May to September are deemed to cover the period up to the end of the following subscription year and are treated as payments in advance. Life memberships are recognised in income on a straight-line basis over periods of 17 years.

Donations are recognised when received or when the charity is entitled to the amounts received.

Subscriptions and donations include the recovery of Gift Aid where applicable.

e Services provided

The Society benefits from the provision, without charge, of a variety of skills and other services by its members. The benefit is not reflected in these financial statements since it is not regarded as practicable to estimate its monetary value.

f Stock

Stock of plaques and stock of drinks are stated at cost or realisable value if lower.

g Fixed assets - investments

Investments are stated at market value.

The Richmond Society

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2022 (continued)

2. Transfer of assets from unincorporated charity

The net assets transferred from the unincorporated charity, The Richmond Society (charity registration number 285805) ("OldRic") during the year amounted to £nil (prior year £186) comprising cash. With effect from 1 October 2020 any membership subscriptions received by OldRic are accounted for as income of NewRic as membership activities are conducted by NewRic.

3. Expenditure on charitable activities

The Trustees believe that all the expenditure incurred relates to charitable activities. During the period:

- There were no employees.
- The Trustees were not paid nor did they receive any benefits from employment or payment for any services rendered to the charity. The Trustees did not receive any reimbursement of expenses other than for expenditure incurred as agent for the Society. There are no related party transactions that require disclosure.
- The Trustees are covered by insurance that is part of the charity's insurance policy and that part related to the cover for Trustees cannot be separately identified. The total cost of the insurance policy was £395 (2021: £385).
- The Independent Examiner did not charge a fee for her services.

4. Investments

Quoted investments

	2022	2021
	£	£
Market value at beginning of period	15,831	13,506
Additions at cost	-	-
Accumulated dividends	266	238
Increase/(decrease) in valuation	(240)	2,087
Valuation at 30 September	<u>15,857</u>	<u>15,831</u>

5. Stock

	2022	2021
	£	£
Stock of drinks for events	-	-
Stock of plaques	514	426
	<u>514</u>	<u>426</u>

6. Deferred subscription income

	2022	2021
	£	£
Movement for the year		
Amount brought forward:		
Due within one year	438	438
Due after one year	3,950	4,388
Additions for the year	-	-
Taken to income	(438)	(438)
Closing balance	<u>3,950</u>	<u>4,388</u>
The closing balance is:		
Due within one year	410	438
Due after one year	3,540	3,950
	<u>3,950</u>	<u>4,388</u>

The Richmond Society

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2022 (continued)

7. Reserves

(a) General Funds comprise:

	General Fund	Designated Fund	Legacy Fund	Total
	£	£	£	£
Year ended 30 September 2022				
Income for the year	11,434	-	622	12,056
Expenditure for the year	10,484		2,055	12,539
Net incoming/(outgoing) before investment gains/(losses)	950	-	(1,433)	(483)
Gains/(Losses) on investments	-		(240)	(240)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	950	-	(1,673)	(723)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement of funds for the period	950	-	(1,673)	(723)
Balance at 1 October 2021	14,334	12,188	40,152	66,674
Balance at 30 September 2022	15,284	12,188	38,479	65,951

The General Fund comprises reserves necessary to support the Society's normal recurring activities. It is now equivalent to 15.8 months of budgeted annual expenditure (2021:15.6 months). The ratio is expected to decrease in future years. The Designated Fund represents reserves set aside to put up information boards at points of interest in the town. Further information boards are planned.

The Legacy Fund represents legacies received by the Society set aside for transformational projects that would otherwise be unaffordable. During the year the Society drew on the Fund to finance the cost of legal advice on licensing cases and the cost of new marketing materials.

	General Fund	Designated Fund	Legacy Fund	Total
	£	£	£	£
Year ended 30 September 2021				
Income for the year	10,101	-	669	10,770
Expenditure for the year	6,131	2,049	3,600	11,780
Net incoming/(outgoing) before investment gains/(losses)	3,970	(2,049)	(2,931)	(1,010)
Gains/(Losses) on investments	-		2,087	2,087
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	3,970	(2,049)	(844)	1,077
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement of funds for the period	3,970	(2,049)	(844)	1,077
Balance at 1 October 2020	10,364	14,237	40,996	65,597
Balance at 30 September 2021	14,334	12,188	40,152	66,674

(b) Landscaping Fund

The Landscaping Fund represents the unspent balance of monies raised specifically for landscaping projects. The movement on the Landscaping Fund are fully disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Richmond Society

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2022 (continued)

(c) Overall adequacy of reserves

The Trustees are satisfied that the Society's financial reserves are sufficient for it to continue at its current level of activities.

8. Commitments

The Society had no outstanding commitments at 30 September 2022 (2021: £2,800).

THE RICHMOND SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1169079

Accounts



**TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1169079**

THE RICHMOND SOCIETY CHARITY INFORMATION

PATRONS

Ms Anita Anand, Professor Ian Bruce CBE, Baroness Ronny Van Dedem, Mr Bamber Gascoigne CBE,
Sir Trevor McDonald OBE, The Lord Watson of Richmond CBE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman Barry May

Hon Secretary Anne Koutsabeloulis

Hon Treasurer Andrew Coleman

Simon Clarkson, Andy Dowding (*co-opted December 2020*), Ginny Curry, Louise Fluker,
Neil Maybin, Stephen Speak, Nicky Wood

HONORARY REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

Marian Williams (*appointed January 2021*)

COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

PLANNING

Louise Fluker *Chair*, Tony Hall, David Izett

LANDSCAPING & RIVERSIDE

Nicky Wood *Chair*, Frances Bouchier, Judy Gibbons, Julia Stead, Carol Ward

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Simon Clarkson, Ginny Curry (Membership), Andy Dowding (Events Organiser),
Olivia Kursar (Graphic Design), Neil Maybin (Webmaster),
Paul Velluet (Walks Organiser), Shimei Zhou (Social Media)

INFRASTRUCTURE & AIR QUALITY

Stephen Speak, William Collis, Richard Pender

TOWN CENTRE

Stephen Speak

LICENSING

Ginny Curry, Judith Pearson, Christine Houston

POLICE LIAISON

Barry May

RICHMOND HEATHROW CAMPAIGN

Neil Maybin, representatives from The Kew Society and Friends of Richmond Green, and co-opted experts

MEMBERSHIP or AFFILIATION of the SOCIETY to OTHER BODIES

Arts Richmond, Habitats & Heritage,

The London Forum of Amenity & Civic Societies

The Richmond Society also nominates a member to serve on

Old Deer Park Working Group, Petersham Meadows Advisory Group,

Richmond Parish Lands Charity, South Richmond Police Liaison Group,

Thames Landscape Strategy Community Advisory Group

REGISTERED OFFICE

The Bridge Workspace, 7b Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RD

BANKERS

Lloyds Bank PLC, Business Banking BX1 1LT

Teachers Building Society, Allenvue House, Hanham Road, Wimbourne BH21 1AG

United Trust Bank, One Ropemaker Street, London EC2Y 9AW

WEBSITE

www.richmondsociety.org.uk

A year of challenge and change

It has been another unusual and eventful year with many challenges faced by The Society's Executive Committee of Trustees.

Despite further difficulties caused by COVID-19 restrictions, which gradually eased as the year progressed, campaigning and casework across the planning, infrastructure, landscape and riverside, licensing and police liaison areas of the Society's interests continued uninterrupted. Details are provided by individual Trustees who lead the Society's work in those areas in our annual review on pages 3 to 10 in this Report.

At the close of the year ended 30 September, the Society's membership was 1,106. This was lower than the previous year but unsurprising given that our meetings were held online and member recruiting opportunities such as the May Fair were cancelled. We are now beginning to hold "in person" events again and we hope that member recruitment will pick up. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join the Society if they are not already members.

The Society's finances remain healthy, as **Andrew Coleman**, Hon Treasurer, reports elsewhere in this Report, which is compiled by **Anne Koutsabeloulis**, Hon Secretary, to whom thanks.

A new visual identity designed by **Olivia Kursar**, a professional designer who volunteered her services, under the guidance of **Simon Clarkson**, our Marketing & Communications Trustee, was unveiled at the 2020 AGM and was implemented on our quarterly Newsletter, website, monthly Bulletin and social media accounts. It was the first major update of the face the Society presents to the world since its founding in 1957.

Our social media activity continued to attract a growing virtual following. We are lucky to have **Shimei Zhou**, a social media specialist, to lead our programme.

In addition to the Society's quarterly Newsletter for members, we continued to publish our digital news Bulletin which was sent to nearly six hundred subscribers at monthly intervals.

The Executive Committee reviewed the Society's strategic objectives during the year and carried out some member research. This led to a Manifesto as a positive statement of what we wish to see for Richmond. We see this as helpful to changing the perception that amenity societies like ours talk only about what they do not want. The Manifesto was launched at our recent Annual Awards event.

We were delighted that **Anita Anand**, member, local author and increasingly busy broadcaster, accepted our invitation to become a Patron of the Society.

An interpretation board provided by the Society to mark the 800th anniversary of St Mary Magdalene Church in the heart of the town was unveiled in the church grounds by the Mayor of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, **Cllr Geoff Acton**. It was the first such board to be produced by the Society since 2004.

At the end of the year under review, **Neil Maybin**, Trustee in charge of administration, website and Heathrow Airport issues, decided to retire from the Executive Committee in December. We are extremely grateful for his contribution to the Society's work in many roles over the course of three decades.

Simon Clarkson, Marketing & Communications, who first became a Trustee in August 2020, and **Andy Dowding**, Events, who became a Trustee in December 2020, are not standing for election at the forthcoming AGM. We thank them for their service and for the fresh approach and insights they brought to the Society.

I thank all my fellow Trustees for serving so willingly to ensure the Society was able to continue to run efficiently in pursuit of its charitable objectives.

The entire Executive Committee is grateful to members for their loyal support throughout the year and we look forward to meeting as many as possible in person in the year ahead.

ANNUAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

The members of the Executive Committee, in their capacity as Trustees, present their report on the activities of the Society for the year ended 30 September 2021.

PLANNING

Louise Fluker

The Planning Committee's main activity is to review planning applications and appeals in the Richmond part of the borough (the wards of North and South Richmond and the relevant part of Ham, Petersham and Richmond Riverside). Where appropriate we make submissions to the local authority. Our focus is on proposals visible from the public domain. Our objective is to ensure that that which is beautiful or special is conserved and that which is ugly or overbearing is opposed. This does not mean we oppose good or radical modern designs!

Members of the Committee were: **Louise Fluker** (Chair), **Tony Hall** and **David Izett**. We have continued to meet online during COVID-19 restrictions which continued to affect public planning processes which have now become virtual with Planning Committee meetings being held online at both the Borough and GLA.

COVID-19 has also reduced major activity in the Richmond part of the borough.

House of Fraser site

Canadian & Arcadia has been stripping out the interior after which it will need to set up a Community Liaison Working Group which it promised to do. The site remains key to the future of the town centre and currently there are rumours of a major high street store being interested.

George Street and Town Centre

The position has not improved since last year even if individual properties may have changed. The trend to change retail or office space to residential continues and there have been various applications to convert office space above shops to flats. The Society has no objection where the design is appropriate and sympathetic to the surroundings but we have opposed those which we think are overly dense, unsuitably designed or poorly planned in relation to neighbours. The Richmond Society with the Kew Society, local councillors and residents successfully opposed an application to build maisonettes above London House, an unoccupied office block by Manor Circus.

Homebase Site, Manor Road

The previous Secretary of State declined to call in the Mayor of London's decision to approve the amended application. There have been suggestions that the Mayor is having second thoughts but it is not clear how this would be translated into action.

5G Telephone Masts and telephony

This continues to be contentious: the government wants greater connectivity including to trains. This requires masts and the telephone operators want tall ones which are unsightly especially in conservation areas. The Society continues to oppose tall masts, for example in the vicinity of the Old Deer Park (2018, 2020) and Richmond Council has so far consistently refused the applications. There is yet another application (October 2021) which we are opposing. We also successfully opposed an inappropriate plan to change equipment on top of the old telephone exchange in Sheen Road.

Interference with the landscape

The famous view from Richmond Hill over the Thames and the riverside are most vulnerable to destruction from tall buildings or development creep.

Proposed mixed use buildings up to 17 storeys on Canbury Car Park, Kingston

No further news about this application to which we objected as the top of the development will be visible from behind the Petersham Hotel on Richmond Hill when viewed from the Terrace Gardens.

Ham Polo Club

We opposed (along with the National Trust and many local residents) two applications by the Club to replace first an existing fence along the boundary by the side of Ham House with a two-metre high metal one and second the existing all-weather track. Both would have been visible from Richmond Hill and were wholly inappropriate and insensitive to the setting. The Council refused the fence application whilst the second was withdrawn.

Boathouse adjacent to Gaucho

The Society successfully objected to a proposal to replace the current building, which is close to the towpath, with a dwelling house.

Richmond Landing Stage

Gaucho agreed to use half the landing stage as a temporary restaurant during the summer months and successfully relied on extended permitted development rights so they did not need planning permission. This was a difficult issue because there were strong arguments in favour of allowing the experiment especially after the effects of COVID-19 on hospitality businesses. On balance, we thought that this would be an encroachment on the riverside and on Metropolitan Open Land and undesirable as a precedent.

There are other examples of visual pollution from huge advertising hoards or ones which are illuminated with LEDs. A proposal to put four advertising panels on Manor Circus was fortunately rejected.

Planning Changes

Another day and another Secretary of State arrives. The Government was due to present a Bill relating to its radical reform of the planning system. The proposals are deeply unpopular so we wait to see what the new SoS will do. Major reforms will stretch council planning departments which already are under pressure to carry out current statutory duties.

INFRASTRUCTURE & AIR QUALITY

Stephen Speak

The Society is a member of the Council's Town Centre Working Group where plans and ideas are discussed and developed. Those meetings continued during the year although lockdown shifted them online.

Air quality

We met the Council's air quality officers in June and learned that, although NO₂ concentrations across the Borough reduced during 2020 (in line with a London-wide trend and partly due to lockdowns), they remained stubbornly above legal limits in Richmond Town Centre. Some of this breach can be attributed to diesel-powered buses and delivery vehicles and, with TfL's bus fleet becoming Euro VI compliant from February 2021, officers anticipate improvements.

Tiny air-borne particulates thrown off from vehicle brakes and tyres may prove to be the more insidious threat and electric vehicles do not resolve this problem. The best solution is to reduce the number of vehicles on the road. Whether that is achieved by stick or carrot, the demand for more active travel should follow (i.e. walking, cycling or using public transport).

Ten-minute neighbourhood

The Society's trustees gave substantial thought across several strategy sessions to the principles underlying the ten-minute neighbourhood idea and elements have been adopted into the Society's Manifesto. We therefore want residents to enjoy good access to arts, culture, entertainment, hospitality, sport, leisure and social facilities without having to venture far from home.

Defibrillators

During the year we have invested substantial time seeking to secure more defibrillators in the town. An approach to the Community Heartbeat Trust put us in contact with a potential sponsor and we have been refining ideas with them over several months. Discussions are still ongoing at the time of writing.

Phone kiosks

The iconic K6 phone kiosks on Richmond Green are separately owned by the Council and by a resident and are crying out for a future use. In May the Society solicited suggestions from members and received a diverse range of opinions in response. We are working with Friends of Richmond Green (FoRG) to develop ideas with the kiosk owners (which may include a defibrillator).

We are acutely aware that other K6 kiosks outside St Matthias and at the top of Vineyard Passage are falling into disrepair and are keen to try and arrest this. We are developing ideas with FoRG and others for all the K6 kiosks around the town - perhaps to create a heritage trail that connects the kiosks and for each one to provide information about their immediate vicinity.

E-Scooter and E-Bike hire consultation

The Council elected to join TfL's trial of E-Scooters and in April consulted residents living closest to the proposed parking locations. In our response we observed that the trial's measures for success had not been defined and that several of the parking proposals were poorly located (most especially those adjacent to Richmond Green and Terrace Gardens). These were subsequently withdrawn.

We opposed the proposal for Clarence Street because it would mean losing one of only three parking places which are particularly valued by less mobile people attending Parkshot Medical Centre and the Orange Tree Theatre. Clarence Street is also one-way with a compulsory left turn onto the A316 and we were concerned that many scooter riders (who pay by the minute) would ignore the rules and put themselves and other road users in danger.

The Council, however, went ahead with their Clarence Street plan, although our suggestion that Richmond Green be completely "geo-fenced" to prevent E-scooters from being ridden there was adopted.

Kew Road cycle lane

Under an Experimental Traffic Order the Council further extended the Kew Road cycle lane towards Richmond Circus by removing parking and banning loading along most of the rest of the road. Kew Road residents without off street parking are now required to park in the surrounding roads. Stopping to make home deliveries is problematical and often leads to drivers blocking the cycle lane. Coaches with passengers for Royal Botanic Gardens Kew must drop off and pick up their passengers at Elizabeth Gate off Kew Green. This is a good walk from the main visitor entrance and the education centre for school children which eats into their learning time. The residents of Kew Green and Kew Road now face multiple large vehicle movements each day because coaches are sent to wait in the Old Deer Park car park before being summoned back. Unfortunately, this does not always happen because coaches can be seen waiting in the residential side roads with greater frequency.

Ironically part of the Phase 2 plans required that the pre-existing cycle lanes on both sides of Kew Road from Lion Gate to Stanmore Road be removed and this has created a new concern for the safety of cyclists under the revised layout.

The scheme seems to have led to more cyclists passing through the area and more people can be seen walking to Kew Gardens from Richmond, but the Council's consultation to gauge residents' views about the arrangements is not expected until eighteen months have elapsed. In the interim, we are liaising with the Kew Society.

Bikehangars

In April we responded to the Council's Phase 2 consultation in relation to their proposals to install four on-street lockable units managed by Cyclehoop around Richmond. Each unit can store six bicycles and uses a vehicle parking space.

Our response expressed general concerns about the utilitarian design and manufacture of the Cyclehoop units and asked if they could be "mellowed" in conservation areas using planters, for example. We also raised specific concerns about the units proposed for Richmond Hill and King's Road being positioned close to schools because parking a bike involves blocking the pavement for a short period and this could lead to children walking in the road. The Council did not accept these concerns and the King's Road unit installed during September was fully utilised within a month.

The Royal Parks (TRP) Movement Strategy

We responded to TRP's Movement Strategy feedback consultation to observe that the trial road closures in Richmond Park had made the overall environment more pleasant in the north and east. We reiterated our comments expressed in the first consultation (before the trial measures) that future changes should not restrict blue light vehicles responding to an emergency - most especially ambulances going to/from Kingston Hospital. We advocated against making permanent changes until a "new normal" was established following lockdown and subsequently Royal Parks extended the trial for a further twelve months.

Fly parking in surrounding streets remains a concern that can be expected to get worse once TRP implements parking charges.

Streetlights

The Council has a multi-year programme to replace the oldest streetlight columns and all light heads across the borough with an LED version. Only the cool bright white colour (4000 Kelvin) is offered and the scheme has met opposition from some residents. The Society, together with FoRG and other residents, participated in a series of discussions with the Council regarding the proposed replacement of "Revo" columns around Richmond Green with taller "Oxford" heritage columns.

The Society originally came together in 1957 to resist Council plans for concrete lamp posts around the Green and secured the cast iron Revo columns instead. It was therefore with some sadness that we learned that the Revos had reached the end of their service life, with some disintegrating below ground. We agreed that replacing all the Revos with Oxfords at a uniform height would achieve better consistency across the Green and these works were completed in March.

LANDSCAPING AND RIVERSIDE

Nicky Wood

Committee Members: **Frances Bouchier, Judy Gibbons, Julia Stead, Carol Ward, Nicky Wood** (Chair)

The number of visitors to our Parks and Open Spaces continued at unprecedented levels during the year, as did the amount of rubbish left behind by those visitors.

The Council did eventually provide some temporary public toilets on the Green and the Riverside: we would have preferred the latter to be in Whittaker Square, and both to be open for longer hours. As in previous years we continued to:

- Report public realm problems including damaged street furniture, overflowing bins, unauthorised parking on the towpath, blocked drains and leaking water mains
- Lobby the Council for the provision of public toilets in the town centre
- Respond to Events Consultations regarding applications for licences to use Parks and Open Spaces
- Report dead, damaged or diseased trees, damage to planting and lawns, and anti-social behaviour in Parks and Open Spaces

- Liaise with Council Officers over plans for new tree & other plantings.

The Society contributed to the cost of Council replacement of the railings on The Terrace overlooking the view from Richmond Hill.

Nicky Wood represents the Society on the Thames Landscape Strategy Community Advisory Group and the Old Deer Park Working Group.

Judy Gibbons represents the Society on the Petersham Meadows Advisory Group.

HEATHROW

Neil Maybin

The Richmond Heathrow Campaign (RHC) combines the people and resources of The Richmond Society with those of The Kew Society and Friends of Richmond Green to campaign to reduce the negative impacts of Heathrow Airport.

We recognise the reality of a two-runway Heathrow, but believe that it should be better rather than bigger. We oppose new runways at Heathrow, are against any dilution of runway alternation, and seek an end to night flights.

Our activities in 2020-21

The impact of the pandemic on aviation has delayed Heathrow's expansion plans by several years, to the extent that the design point for future airspace discussions is no longer based on there being a third runway. However, in December 2020, the Supreme Court overruled the Court of Appeal's decision against Heathrow's expansion proposals on the basis that in past decisions the Secretary of State had exercised his power of discretion lawfully. The project to build a third runway is therefore still on the table, if not as imminent as it was.

During the year, we have continued to seek a reduction in the impact of Heathrow on the environment - including climate change, aircraft noise, air pollution and surface access congestion - and to oppose an additional runway on economic and environmental grounds.

We submitted detailed and technical responses to seven consultations. Two of these responses were to the Civil Aviation Authority on the subject of the economic regulation of Heathrow. We also submitted two responses to the Department for Transport (DfT) on sustainable aviation and decarbonisation. And we responded to the House of Commons Environmental Audit Select Committee.

2021 saw the five-yearly consultation on night flights. The consultation was split into two stages. Stage 1 (this year) covered an interim proposal to maintain the existing night flight restrictions for Heathrow (and other airports) from 2022 to 2024 and to ban the noisiest aircraft in the night period; it also sought views on night flight policy beyond 2024. Stage 2 (next year) will propose the future night flight policy beyond 2024.

The RHC was disappointed in the DfT's subsequent decision to impose a three-year rollover of current night flight restrictions while consulting on a two-year rollover, and at the DfT's failure to provide evidence supporting the economic benefits and costs of night flights. We have yet to see a compelling justification for Heathrow's deviation from World Health Organization guidelines on night noise. Our campaigning continues.

Nevertheless, the RHC is one of a few organisations - all others (airlines, airports etc) are far bigger than us - to have stayed the course in consultation responses, and the feedback we receive indicates that we do have some influence.

All our responses are available on the Richmond Heathrow Campaign's website at <https://richmondheathrowcampaign.org>.

Our plans for the coming year

In July, RHC Chair **Peter Willan** presented to the Heathrow Community Noise Forum on managing aviation demand and emissions. While there is some acceptance that there may have to be carbon pricing for aviation in order to meet carbon emissions targets, a rigorous quantitative analysis shows that on its own, carbon pricing will be insufficient. Any realistic solution will also have to incorporate full and fair air passenger duties and an airport quota scheme. Heathrow is responsible for more than 55% of the UK's aviation-related carbon emissions - more emissions than the

total emissions of many individual countries - and is clearly an airport that will be affected one way or another by these constraints. We plan to publicise these findings further.

2022 will also see the second stage of the night flights consultation, and we shall continue to press for the elimination of all flights before 6am together with an ultimate ban for the full period from 11pm to 7am.

In addition, we shall continue to engage on Heathrow expansion and also on airspace modernisation as we have for the past few years.

LICENSING

Ginny Curry

The Society is well aware of the possible negative impact of the evening (and increasingly daytime) economy on residents, and we continue to receive reports on anti-social behaviour and noise disruption both in the town environs and in open spaces such as The Green and the Terrace Gardens.

In the past the Society has sought a balanced evening economy but in recent months we have had to consider in more detail the effect of applications for licences in shops and restaurants who wish to operate both during the day and into the evenings. The pandemic has resulted in the closure of many premises, and we keep a weather eye on the reopening of venues as they come up. All applications for new licences or extensions of licensing hours are investigated and opposed if necessary. Often the applicant and those who are opposing the licence have a conversation prior to the hearing where problems can be significantly reduced, and conditions amended.

The form that the applicants have to fill in to apply for a licence is more complicated than it should be. The Council is updating the procedure and it is hoped that this will help the Licensing Committee, those who object to the applications and the applicants themselves to present their requirements and arguments in an easier to understand format.

I would like to record my thanks to **Judith Pearson** and **Christine Houston** who have joined me on the vertical learning curve of licensing applications in the last six months.

CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Barry May

Still no police station, and none likely

The Richmond Society and other groups of residents as well as individuals continued to urge the authorities to establish a permanent police base in Richmond instead of relying on officers stationed in Twickenham. Richmond has been without an establishment since December 2017 when the station at Sovereign Gate on the corner of Kew and Church Roads closed. The police response has not changed: There are no plans to re-open the former police station or build a new one. Compared with the rest of Greater London, Richmond is a low crime area.

The Society was represented at regular virtual meetings of South Richmond Police Liaison Group and Richmond Green Working Group.

The former has been established for some years as a forum for police, local authority, Neighbourhood Watch and other residents to share information of interest.

The latter was formed in the Summer of 2020 by concerned residents in response to incidents of crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder on the Green and Riverside during lockdown.

As COVID-19 restrictions have eased, so too has much of the trouble in those areas, which have seen a decline of high-risk incidents. Residents remain disturbed by drug dealing and taking, street drinkers, amplified music from cars, graffiti, and increased theft from motor vehicles.

This Summer problems migrated to The Terrace and Terrace Gardens which attracted growing numbers of teenagers, predominantly on Friday and Saturday evenings. Robberies, assaults, use of nitrous oxide canisters, drug-taking and underage drinking were issues. Elsewhere, late night/early morning noise from groups, litter and drug paraphernalia, criminal damage, and noise nuisance were among issues reported.

The new visual identity for the Society, developed by **Olivia Kursar** and announced at the AGM in 2020, has since been implemented across our website, membership leaflets, annual awards, event banners, social media channels and stationery.

A programme of member research was initiated with the overarching objective to embed member feedback mechanisms to inform the Executive Committee in developing the Society, and a specific objective to explore ways to improve the experience for members, in order to ensure a sustainable and engaged member base in future. The first phase of research took the form of qualitative interviews which were rich with valuable feedback. One overriding theme was an openness among members to feeling more involved in the Society, and for many this research was a good example. A second overriding theme was the need for the Society to articulate a more explicit vision for the future of Richmond - "a view of what we stand for, not just what we stand against". As a result of this feedback, the Executive Committee committed to developing the first manifesto for the Society, which was launched at the Awards on 14 October.

Human resource is a key limiting factor of our marketing effort, with only a single ongoing volunteer in **Shimei Zhou** (social media). The vacancy was identified for a voluntary marketing manager, experienced in developing and executing a marketing plan of online and offline marketing activities. The role was advertised thoroughly to our membership base, also to subscribers of our Bulletin, in social media, and with Richmond CVS. Applications have been in very small volumes and relevant experience has been scarce. The search continues.

On a very positive note, our social media channels, expertly managed by **Shimei Zhou**, continue to form the backbone of our marketing communications to the broader public. **Shimei** has successfully grown our reach on each platform. Our Twitter followers now number some 1,987 (+20% year-on-year), Instagram 1,506 (+50%) and Facebook is rapidly catching up with 758 followers, a growth of some 250% year-on-year.

EVENTS

Andy Dowding

Most of the year's talks were held via Zoom. In October 2020 we hosted a Forum at which leading figures in business, the Council and the culture sector discussed how the arts could help to revive Richmond. It was moderated by **Anne Sebba**, local author, biographer and broadcaster.

The 2020 AGM was also held via Zoom, a first for the Society. Meeting virtually meant that regrettably there could be no Christmas Party.

Speakers during the year were **Jason Debney**, Co-ordinator, Thames Landscape Strategy, on rewilding Arcadia; Chief Superintendent **Elisabeth Chapple** on policing Richmond; **Matthew Syed**, author, broadcaster and columnist, on the use of diverse thinking to change the world; **Sir Peter Hendy**, Chair, Network Rail, on fifty years in public transport; **Dominic Palacio** of Richmond Rugby on changing lives through the power and influence of sport; **Manoj Badale**, entrepreneur, on how the business of sport - cricket in particular - is changing; **Richard Deverell**, Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, on a new strategy for Kew Gardens; and **Tom Jarvis**, Director of Parks, The Royal Parks, on ecological diversity.

Three Heritage Walks organised by **Paul Velluet** with **Adam Harrison** in the Summer were as popular as ever, though numbers were limited by the need for COVID-19 counter-measures.

This year's Summer Party - later in the season than usual because of the vagaries of COVID-19 - was attended by one hundred and thirty members and guests on a sunny Sunday afternoon in September at Trumpeters' House, courtesy of our Patron **Baroness Ronny Van Dedem**.

The introduction of the Eventbrite platform for events management has been overall positively received. A few members have had difficulty migrating to online bookings and further encouragement and support is required. The use of a promotion code to provide for free tickets to members and chargeable ones to guests has not been ideal but it works.

The use of the Richmond & Hillcroft Adult Community College for face-to-face events restarted. It is an excellent venue but there is a need to speed up video processing there.

It was decided not to try to run hybrid events as it is technically complicated. Recording events and publishing the video soon afterwards is a more manageable solution to bring content to members who are unable to attend in person.

Marketing and data collection are opportunities for the Society to develop its membership and understand more about members and what they want from the Society.

During events, payments from attendees have been facilitated using a credit/debit card reader.

MEMBERSHIP

Ginny Curry

Membership of the Society has decreased over the last year but remains at an encouraging level of 1,106. With the absence of member recruiting opportunities and against a background of unprecedented social disruption we were not surprised to see this. The continued effort by the Committee to keep in touch with the membership and the residents of Richmond via the Newsletters, the Chairman's letters, the Bulletins and active social media accounts have kept us in the public eye. A small but steady flow of applications to join the Society has been the result. Meetings held using the Zoom facility have gone well with numbers of members in attendance. We welcome the opportunity to have in person meetings again and we hope that our membership numbers will pick up during the year ahead.

There is still a significant amount of work to be done to complete the payment of subscriptions at the new rate into the right bank account and we still have a considerable number of members who pay the wrong amount into the wrong bank account, but this is work in progress. We manage to claim Gift Aid on a large percentage of subscriptions, and we aim to increase this amount over the next twelve months.

VOLUNTEERS

Ginny Curry

Our excellent band of volunteers have had a quieter time of it - the Newsletter Stuffing and Delivery Teams have been significantly under-used as we have moved to delivery of the newsletter by email rather than hard copies through the door. We will continue to do this for the foreseeable future although any member who wishes to receive a hard copy in the post will be able to do so on request. Volunteers have stepped up to assist with the Summer Party and our Autumn meetings are now conducted at our usual venue at the RHACC.

I would like to pay particular thanks to the newsletter stuffing team of **Susie Judge, Jane Parkinson, Patricia Urch, Heather Edgar, Vala West, Iain Mulligan, Cary Clark, and Jill Steed** who have turned up every quarter to put around 900 newsletters plus inserts into envelopes. **Patricia** and **Heather** have been assisting for the past twenty years.

The newsletter delivery team - most ably organised by **Judith Becker** - have had a quiet time of it recently but deserve acknowledgement and thanks for their stalwart work in hand-delivering over 500 newsletters every quarter, in some cases for many years. They are **Janet Young, Derek Robinson, Caroline Walker, Cathy Thomas, Mary Rose Rivett-Carnac, David Garcia, Rose Constantine, Bella Hobson, Alwyn Wales, Pat Maynard, Ann Twinn, Margaret Walsh, Hazel Dunlop, Jacyntha Crawley, Jan Watson, James Turtle, Peter Newall, Adam Harrison, Rebecca Phelps, Iain Mulligan, Cary Clark, Elizabeth Velluet, Fenella Warden, Maxine Samuels, Linda Duffield and Christine Baines.**

I should also add thanks to **Alan and Margaret Laird, Corale Canard, Barbara Benemar, Elizabeth Danckwerts, Diane Harvey and Jane Mills** for their willing assistance in various roles at events - most recently the Summer Party and the Awards evening.

The Society is most grateful to all of you for your willing assistance over the years.

Shortly before this report was compiled **Elizabeth Danckwerts** kindly agreed to become our Volunteers Coordinator. We are extremely grateful to her for taking on this important role.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

The members of the Executive Committee, in their capacity as Trustees, present their report, together with the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2021.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Richmond Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO – registered charity number 1169079) governed by a Constitution dated 7 September 2016, revised on 29 September 2020. It was set up to take forward the work of the Unincorporated Association, The Richmond Society (registered charity number 285805). To distinguish the CIO, we refer to this as “NewRic” and the previous charity as “OldRic” where necessary in this report.

The activities and net assets of “OldRic” were transferred to “NewRic” in various stages with effect from 1 October 2016. Any membership subscriptions, donations and other income received by “OldRic”, are remitted to “NewRic”.

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES AND PUBLIC BENEFIT

The charitable objects of the Society may be summarised to:

- campaign to preserve and enhance Richmond’s historic character, unique features and amenities
- promote high standards in planning, building and landscaping in or affecting Richmond
- protect the quality of life, balancing the interests of residents, business and visitors
- encourage civic pride, an active interest in Richmond and its community, and to provide a focus for members to meet and socialise.

In carrying out its work to make Richmond a better place in which to live, work and visit, the Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on providing public benefit.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

The review of the activities of the Society is set out on pages 3 to 10.

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR

Income for the year was £11,225 and expenditure £11,867 so the charity reported a deficit for the year of £642 before a gain on revaluation of investments to market value at the year-end. The net resulting surplus of £1,445 after the revaluation gain was taken to reserves.

Membership subscriptions and donations income (received directly or transferred from OldRic) increased by 28.9%. Primarily this was due to the increase in subscription rates for the first time since 1999. Income from events and walks was up year on year by 60.7% attributable to a change in the mix of activities between the two years due primarily to the impact of COVID. Investment income was 34.7% lower than the previous year primarily due to the continued decline in interest rates. Our thanks are due to our loyal members who support the Society through subscriptions, donations and attendance at our events.

Expenses are up 28.7% year on year reflecting substantially higher expenditure on projects - completion of the information board at St Mary’s and a grant to LBRuT towards the replacement of the railings at the Terrace, Richmond Hill. Excluding expenditure on projects and landscaping, expenditure was down 18.8%:

- 11.9% lower expenditure on events and walks reflecting the change in the mix of activities referred to above.
- 42.5% lower expenditure on communications as a result of the continued transition to the Society’s newsletters being distributed via email rather than hard copy.
- 3.0% lower administration costs. This reflects the absence of a charge for depreciation of fixed assets this year, offset by greater use of bought-in services for storage etc.

Because the Society's finances are partially reflected in these financial statements and partially reflected in the financial statements of the predecessor, unincorporated charity ("OldRic"), we have for information purposes again included a pro-forma statement of the combined finances of the two charities as a supplement to these financial statements on page 20.

RESERVES POLICY

For the Society to function successfully, it must maintain an adequate financial position with sufficient reserves to finance its operations. At the end of the financial year, the Society's reserves comprised:

Unrestricted reserves	
General fund	14,334
Designated fund	12,188
Legacy fund	<u>40,152</u>
	66,674
Restricted reserve	
Landscaping fund	<u>2,517</u>
Total at 30 September 2021	<u>£69,191</u>

The general fund comprises reserves necessary to support the Society's normal recurring activities. It is now equivalent to 15.64 months of budgeted annual expenditure (2020:8.2 months) as a result of the impact of the increase in membership subscription rates with effect from 1 October 2020, the first increase since 1999. The ratio is expected to decrease in future years. The designated fund represents reserves set aside to put up information boards at points of interest in the town. The information board at St Mary's was completed and erected during the year. Further information boards are planned.

The legacy fund represents legacies received by the Society set aside for transformational projects that would otherwise be unaffordable. During the year the Society made a grant of £3,600 towards the cost of LBRuT's project to replace the railings on The Terrace, Richmond Hill. The Landscaping Fund represents the unspent balance of monies raised specifically for landscaping projects.

The Trustees are satisfied that the Society's financial reserves are sufficient for it to continue at its current level of activities.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The major risks to which the Society is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed during the year and the Trustees are satisfied that action has been taken where appropriate to manage those risks.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Marian Williams took over as Independent Examiner of the Society's finances during the year following the retirement of **Noel Flannery**.

STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial reporting period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the income and expenditure for the period then ended. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently, make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue in business. The Trustees have responsibility for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Society and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with charity regulations. The Trustees also have responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Society and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By Order of the Trustees
Anne Koutsabeloulis,
Secretary

9 November 2021

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE RICHMOND SOCIETY

I report on the financial statements of The Richmond Society (Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registration number 1169079) for the year ended 30 September 2021, which are set out on pages 14 to 19.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this financial period under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Marian Williams ACA
Richmond
9 November 2021

The Richmond Society
Statement of financial activities for the year ended 30 September 2021

	Note	General Funds £	Landscaping Fund £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Incoming resources					
<i>Income from donations</i>					
Subscriptions and donations		7,379	-	7,379	3,620
Legacies		-	-	-	-
Transfer of net assets from unincorporated charity	2	186	-	186	2,306
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>					
Events and walks		2,536	455	2,991	1,861
<i>Investment income</i>					
		669	-	669	1,024
Total incoming resources		10,770	455	11,225	8,811
Resources expended					
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>					
Projects and landscaping		5,649	-	5,649	1,563
Events and walks		3,145	-	3,145	3,568
Communications		1,305	-	1,305	2,270
Administration costs		1,681	87	1,768	1,823
Total expenditure	3	11,780	87	11,867	9,224
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before investment gains/(losses)					
		(1,010)	368	(642)	(413)
Gains/(Losses) on investments		2,087	-	2,087	546
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		1,077	368	1,445	133
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement of funds for the period		1,077	368	1,445	133
Reconciliation of funds					
Opening fund balances		65,597	2,149	67,746	67,613
Closing fund balances		66,674	2,517	69,191	67,746

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

The Richmond Society
Balance sheet at 30 September 2021

	Note	General Funds	Landscaping Fund	2021 Total	2020 Total
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Equipment	4	-	-	-	-
Investments	5	15,831	-	15,831	13,506
		<u>15,831</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,831</u>	<u>13,506</u>
Current assets					
Stock	6	426	-	426	219
Debtors & prepayments		2,610	-	2,610	1,384
Deposit account		44,502	2,517	47,019	51,923
Cash at bank and in hand		8,911	-	8,911	7,702
		<u>56,449</u>	<u>2,517</u>	<u>58,966</u>	<u>61,228</u>
Current liabilities:					
amounts falling due within 1 year					
Creditors & accruals		1,218	-	1,218	2,162
Deferred subscription income	7	438	-	438	438
		<u>1,656</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,656</u>	<u>2,600</u>
Net current assets		54,793	2,517	57,310	58,628
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>70,624</u>	<u>2,517</u>	<u>73,141</u>	<u>72,134</u>
Liabilities and charges:					
due after more than one year					
Deferred subscription income	7	3,950	-	3,950	4,388
Net assets		<u>66,674</u>	<u>2,517</u>	<u>69,191</u>	<u>67,746</u>
Funds	8	<u>66,674</u>	<u>2,517</u>	<u>69,191</u>	<u>67,746</u>

Approved by the Trustees

on 9 November 2021

BJ May - Chairman

AM Coleman - Treasurer

The Richmond Society

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2021

1. Accounting policies

The accounting period covered by these financial statements is for the year ended 30 September 2021. The comparative financial information is for the year ended 30 September 2020.

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102)", the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102 and the trustees are satisfied that the financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes. There are no assumptions about the future that the trustees have been required to make that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

b Income and expenditure

Income is brought into the financial statements when received or when there is certainty of receipt. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. No provision is made for any tax on the charity's net income as the charity is exempt from tax as all its income and expenditure relates to its charitable objectives.

c Fund accounting

The General Funds are unrestricted and can be used for any aspect of the Society's work. They comprise the General Fund and two designated funds, which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. The Landscaping & Tree Fund is for income received from members and other donors and is restricted to funding these activities.

d Subscriptions and donations

Subscriptions are recognised when received. The membership year runs from 1 October. Subscriptions received in the period from May to September are deemed to cover the period up to the end of the following subscription year and are treated as payments in advance. Life memberships are recognised in income on a straight-line basis over periods of 17 years.

Donations are recognised when received or when the charity is entitled to the amounts received.

Subscriptions and donations include the recovery of Gift Aid where applicable.

e Services provided

The Society benefits from the provision, without charge, of a variety of skills and other services by its members. The benefit is not reflected in these financial statements since it is not regarded as practicable to estimate its monetary value.

f Stock

Stock of plaques and stock of drinks are stated at cost or realizable value if lower.

g Fixed assets – equipment

Tangible assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is computed at rates calculated to spread the cost of the assets over their expected useful lives. The annual rate of depreciation is 25% on the cost of equipment.

h Fixed assets - investments

Investments are stated at market value.

The Richmond Society

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2021 (continued)

2. Transfer of assets from unincorporated charity

The net assets transferred from the unincorporated charity, The Richmond Society (charity registration number 285805) ("OldRic") during the year amounted to £186 (prior year £2,306) comprising cash. With effect from 1st October 2020 any membership subscriptions received by OldRic are accounted for as income of NewRic as membership activities are conducted by NewRic.

3. Expenditure on charitable activities

The trustees believe that all the expenditure incurred relates to charitable activities. During the period:

- There were no employees.
- The trustees were not paid nor did they receive any benefits from employment or payment for any services rendered to the charity. The trustees did not receive any reimbursement of expenses other than for expenditure incurred as agent for the Society. There are no related party transactions that require disclosure.
- The trustees are covered by insurance that is part of the charity's insurance policy and that part related to the cover for trustees cannot be separately identified. The total cost of the insurance policy was £385 (2020: £389).
- The independent examiner did not charge a fee for her services.

4. Fixed assets – equipment

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cost		
Opening balance	1,030	1,030
Additions	-	-
Disposals	(1,030)	
Closing balance	<u>-</u>	<u>1,030</u>
Depreciation		
Opening balance	1,030	412
Charge for the year	-	618
Disposals	(1,030)	
Closing balance	<u>-</u>	<u>1,030</u>
Net book value		
Opening balance	<u>-</u>	<u>618</u>
Closing balance	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

5. Investments

Quoted investments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Market value at beginning of period	13,506	12,680
Additions at cost	-	-
Accumulated dividends	238	280
Increase/(decrease) in valuation	<u>2,087</u>	<u>546</u>
Valuation at 30 September	<u>15,831</u>	<u>13,506</u>

The Richmond Society
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2021 (continued)

6. Stock

	2021	2020
	£	£
Stock of drinks for events	-	103
Stock of plaques	426	116
	<u>426</u>	<u>219</u>

7. Deferred subscription income

	2021	2020
	£	£
<u>Movement for the year:</u>		
Amount brought forward:		
Due within one year	438	449
Due after one year	4,388	4,681
Additions for the year	-	134
Taken to income	<u>(438)</u>	<u>(438)</u>
Closing balance	<u>4,388</u>	<u>4,826</u>
<u>The closing balance is:</u>		
Due within one year	438	438
Due after one year	<u>3,950</u>	<u>4,388</u>
	<u>4,388</u>	<u>4,826</u>

8. Reserves

(a) General Funds comprise:

	General Fund	Designated Fund	Legacy Fund	Total
	£	£	£	£
Year ended 30 September 2021				
Income for the year	10,101	-	669	10,770
Expenditure for the year	6,131	2,049	3,600	11,780
Net incoming/(outgoing) before investment gains/(losses)	3,970	(2,049)	(2,931)	(1,010)
Gains/(Losses) on investments	-	-	2,087	2,087
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	3,970	(2,049)	(844)	1,077
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement of funds for the period	3,970	(2,049)	(844)	1,077
Balance at 1 October 2020	10,364	14,237	40,996	65,597
Balance at 30 September 2021	<u>14,334</u>	<u>12,188</u>	<u>40,152</u>	<u>66,674</u>

The general fund comprises reserves necessary to support the Society's normal recurring activities. It is now equivalent to 15.64 months of budgeted annual expenditure (2020:8.2 months) as a result of the impact of the increase in membership subscription rates. The ratio is expected to decrease in future years.

The designated fund represents reserves set aside to put up information boards at points of interest in the town. The information board at St Mary's was completed and erected during the year. Further information boards are planned.

The legacy fund represents legacies received by the Society set aside for transformational projects that would otherwise be unaffordable. During the year the Society made a grant of £3,600 towards the cost of LBRuT's project to replace the railings on The Terrace, Richmond Hill.

The Richmond Society

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2021 (continued)

	General Fund £	Designated Fund £	Legacy Fund £	Total £
Year ended 30 September 2020				
Income for the year	7,679	-	1,024	8,703
Expenditure for the year	7,661	763	800	9,224
Net incoming/(outgoing) before investment gains/(losses)	18	(763)	224	(521)
Gains/(Losses) on investments	-	-	546	546
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	18	(763)	770	25
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement of funds for the period	18	(763)	770	25
Balance at 1 October 2019	10,346	15,000	40,226	65,572
Balance at 30 September 2020	10,364	14,237	40,996	65,597

(b) Landscaping fund

The landscaping fund represents the unspent balance of monies raised specifically for landscaping projects. The movement on the Landscaping fund are fully disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(c) Overall adequacy of reserves

The trustees are satisfied that the Society's financial reserves are sufficient for it to continue at its current level of activities.

9. Commitments

The Society had outstanding commitments of £2,800 at 30 September 2021 (2020: £4,349).

The Richmond Society

Pro-forma combined financial statements of "OldRic" and "NewRic"

for the financial year ended 30 September 2021

This is provided for information only and does not form part of the formal financial statements

	OldRic	NewRic	2021 Total	2020 Total
Statement of financial activities				
Incoming resources				
Subscriptions and unrestricted donations	-	7,379	7,379	5,725
Income from events and walks	-	2,991	2,991	1,861
Investment income	-	669	669	1,159
	-	11,039	11,039	8,745
Outgoing resources				
Projects and landscaping	-	5,649	5,649	1,563
Events and walks	-	3,145	3,145	3,420
Communications	-	1,305	1,305	2,270
Administration costs	-	1,768	1,768	1,971
	-	11,867	11,867	9,224
Net Incoming/(outgoing) resources before investment gains				
	-	(828)	(828)	(479)
Gains on investments	-	2,087	2,087	546
	-	1,259	1,259	67
Transfer of net assets from OldRic to NewRic	(186)	186	-	-
Opening fund balances	186	67,746	67,932	67,865
Closing fund balances	-	69,191	69,191	67,932
Balance sheet at 30 September 2021				
Fixed assets				
Equipment	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	15,831	15,831	13,506
	-	15,831	15,831	13,506
Current assets				
Stock	-	426	426	219
Debtors and prepayments	-	2,610	2,610	1,409
Deposit accounts	-	47,019	47,019	51,923
Cash at bank and in hand	-	8,911	8,911	7,863
	-	58,966	58,966	61,414
Current liabilities falling due within 1 year	-	1,656	1,656	2,600
Net current assets	-	57,310	57,310	58,814
Total assets less current liabilities	-	73,141	73,141	72,320
Liabilities falling due after more than 1 year	-	3,950	3,950	4,388
Net assets = closing fund balances	-	69,191	69,191	67,932