



#### Cover images

Front cover: Staff from the UK offices of Garnier and Maybelline New York set out to remove the invasive Himalayan balsam from the riverside at Ham, for their Take Care Day 2008, a corporate volunteering event organised by the Environment Trust.

Above: National Physical Laboratory, by Liz Knutt, donated for sale at the Environment Trust's art auction in 2009, which contributed towards the record total of over £10,000 raised for the Trust.

## ENVIRONMENT TRUST FOR RICHMOND UPON THAMES

Registered Charity No. 294869  
Company registered in England No. 02030430 and limited by guarantee

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# ENVIRONMENT TRUST

for Richmond upon Thames

## Annual Report 2008–2009

## ENVIRONMENT TRUST FOR RICHMOND UPON THAMES 2008–2009 MANAGEMENT

### TRUSTEES

John Anderson	Derrick Mercer
Lis Betteridge*	Jenny Pearce
Ann Callaway	Carole Ritchie
Guy Cowley	Alex Robb
Andrew Darby	Nick Thompson
Claire Fifield	Robin Wade

\*Died November 2008

### PATRONS

Vincent Cable, MP	Susan Kramer, MP
Bamber Gascoigne	Julian Reindorp
Donald Insall, CBE	Mary Weber
Mayor of London Borough of Richmond upon Thames	
River Centre Patron:	Sir David Attenborough

### FOUNDER

Honor Bailey

### TRUST OFFICERS

Chairman:	Jenny Pearce
Hon. Treasurer:	Andrew Darby
Hon./Company Secretary:	Guy Cowley

### SUPPORT SERVICES

Office Coordinator	Sara Black
Office Administrator	Jenny Willis
Book-keeping	Phil Morris
Fundraising	Gill Mercer, Ros Newby
Organisational development	Ann Callaway
Publicity	Derrick Mercer

### PROJECTS MANAGER

Angela Kidner

### PROJECT LEADERS

Art auction	Jenny Pearce, John Iddon, Ros Newby, Linden Loader (publicity), Yvonne Hewett (web support)
Art picnic organisers	Alex Robb, Angela Kidner, Anya Spence-Page, Jenny Pearce, Ros Newby
Art picnic tutors	Emily Burton, Cath Knight, Sasa Marinkov, Jill Storey
Between the Locks	Fiona Cosson
Environmental education (adult)	Ann Callaway
Environmental education (schools)	Joe Pecorelli
Grove Gardens Chapel	Angela Kidner, Derek Plummer
Kilmorey Mausoleum	Derrick Mercer, Claire McCormack
Planning and listing	Jenny Pearce, Angela Kidner, Geoff Noble
Richmond Environment Network	Colin Cooper, Angela Kidner
St Helena Boathouse	Honor Bailey, Janet Kingston, Claire McCormack
Sir Richard Burton's Tomb	Peter & Yannick Banks, Paul Velluet
Terrace Gardens	Alex Robb, Carole Ritchie
Towpath Group	Angela Dixon
Twickenham River Centre	Angela Kidner, Rob Gray
Vineyard Passage Burial Ground	Cathy Thomas
Practical volunteering	Patrick Kidner, Zeph King

## THANK YOU!

The Trustees are very grateful to the following individuals and organisations who have supported the Environment Trust over the past year. We hope that we have included everyone who has helped us, and we apologise to anyone that we may have inadvertently omitted. We greatly appreciate all of the contributions that we receive, without which the Trust would not be able to achieve its aims and continue to thrive.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Adobe / Thames Community Foundation, BP, City Bridge Trust, Community Engagement Fund, David King Charitable Trust, Eel Pie Island Association, Father Thames Trust, Greenwood Centre, Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity, Heritage Lottery Fund, Heritage of London Trust, Initiatives Fund, Jaims Ltd, L'Oreal, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Council, Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, Richmond Adult Community College, Richmond Parish Lands Charity, Scientific Edge, St Margaret's Fair Committee, St Margarets & Twickenham Riverside Liberal Democrats, P Alloway, S Barber, J & E Betteridge, W & R Bossert, W & J Boyle, ? Braddell, E Brown, L Carpenter, V Carter, C Chapman, J Cloake, G Cowley, J Deasley, E Butler, M & H Edgar, S & H Enthoven, S Essex, A Evererd, J & J Felt, E Frankland, D Garcia, B Gascoigne, O Gillie, C Govett, R & A Gray, T & S Gutch, G & Y Hewett, W & F Holland, J Iddon, A Kidner, R Kidner, D & J Kitson, S Lewis, D Meghreblian, R Meissner, K Merriman, M Millwood Hargreaves, R Newby, P & M Payan, G Quarry, Derek Robinson, Mary Rose Rivett-Carnac, Christopher Sanders, Schofield family, C Squire, E Strick, G Strilley, D Thomas, Robin Wade, P Willan, J Williams, I Wise, E Wood, and everyone who made a donation at one of our events, bought artwork at our Art Auction, Vineyard Passage cakes or raffle tickets, or sponsored our Great River Race rowers

### GIFTS IN KIND

**Time:** N Baskerville, M Betteridge / BBM Consultants, P Brown, H Corner, P Courtley, R Darby, J Deasley, P Dolan, A Elias, R Gedhu, B & C Gascoigne, L Geoghegan, R Gray, T & S Gutch, C Hegedus, Y Hewett, J Horrocks and the Great River Race rowers, F Hunter, J Iddon, C Keggen, P Kidner, Z King, I Leslie / Stone Rowe Brewer, T Little, H Livesey, L Loader, C McCormack & the Kilmorey gardening volunteers, K McCormack, G Mercer, P Morris, R Newby, P Pearson, S & H Pereira, D Plummer, REN volunteers, K Rock, C Roff, A Spence-Page, K Spurry, C Squire, A Stewart, J Storey, the Vineyard Passage Burial Ground team, A Valentine, J Vine, J Vosper, M Whitaker, J White, R York, T Gregory and the students from Marymount International School, M Lamplough and the students from Tower House School, everyone who helped us move office last summer, those who helped with the catering at the AGM and the Art Auction, and anyone who has ever helped put up our marquee at the summer fairs!

**Facilities:** Lensbury Club, Serco; **goods for sale:** artists who donated work for the Art Auction, Tricia de Courcy Ling, Joy Cuff, Kate McCormack, Jill Storey, Vineyard Passage cake bakers; **raffle prizes:** Brula Restaurant, Jim Deasley, Corinne Livesey, Denis Meehan, The Open Book, Squires Garden Centres; **venues:** Her Worship the Mayor, National Trust: Ham House, Scott & Hilary Pereira, Alan & Judy White

## FIT FOR THE FUTURE: REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Jenny Pearce, Chair

The Environment Trust for Richmond upon Thames is 25 years old. This is a year to count our achievements, which Angela Kidner has done in her Projects Report, but it is also time to re-assess our role so that we can respond to new opportunities and provide the maximum benefit for the environment and the community. This past year, the trustees and staff have been looking in detail at our purpose and our ways of working. In some ways this is in line with the national mood of taking stock; this is a year that has seen the aftermath of a financial cataclysm, and a growing awareness of different cataclysms to come if the threat of irreversible climate change cannot be moderated. We have undertaken a very thorough review of our core values, our objectives, our structure and our means of communicating.

### RE-THINKING OUR ROLE AND STRUCTURE

All organisations need to change and grow. We have been able to take this easily in our stride because we built on our strengths by appointing five new trustees a year ago, who have given us a new perspective; the new trustees have brought with them a varied range of experience and they have greatly strengthened our expertise in the fields of administration, governance, human resources and project management (see their biographies overleaf). Change has also been a response to the scope that our new projects have given us and to our

increasingly strong and successful role in education at every level from primary to 'third age', including sponsorship of a PhD with Kingston University.

We need to build on our original seminal role as a local building preservation trust with a tradition of environmental volunteering, while consolidating our increasingly important education projects. For this reason we initiated in October a series of trustees' workshops to examine from scratch our purpose and the way that we work, to ensure that we remain relevant to a broad audience. Our discussions about the key issues of identity, structure and communication have led to the following conclusions:

- A re-definition of our purpose (and therefore our charitable objects) in the light of changing demands and opportunities
- The clarification of decision-making processes through better role definition, particularly of the 'executive layer' between trustees and staff or volunteers
- Recognition of the vital and under-resourced role of administration and fundraising, and the need to find more resources and targeted volunteer support for this
- A new strategic plan to enable closer monitoring of projects and their funding
- More flexible and creative two-way communication with our members and within the Trust, making much more use of the website to attract younger members and to become a broad-based information resource for the whole community.

All this reflects a major shift from our origins 25 years ago – from a small building preservation trust to an important information and education resource for the community. We have a huge network of partners and potential partners and we are becoming much more proactive than reactive. The tangible results of this re-thinking process will be available at the AGM; we will be providing, for feedback from members, a set of immediate priorities for the Trust, a diagram of the structure that we think the Trust should now aim for, a summary of the new website contents and scope and the framework of a new strategic plan. To ensure that our charitable objects remain compatible with our extended role, our Honorary Secretary, Guy Cowley, is carrying out a review with the Charity Commission.

### EDUCATION AND THE RIVER CENTRE

One result of our changing role is the River Centre. Because we already have such a strong track record as an education resource – enabling people to learn through environmental management work, volunteering and art – we are becoming more ambitious in our scope. For example, this autumn we will be holding an evening forum on river ecology, hosted by Sir David Attenborough, and our *Between the Locks* oral-history



*The Environment Trust's new office on Eel Pie Island, with temporary watchman during the wintry weather earlier this year*

project was launched in May, bringing together a local school and those whose working lives were based around the river to record their histories. It is a natural progression to have a building where activities such as these can have the resources and space to be fully realised and we can work with a much wider audience. This is why we have such confidence in the concept of the River Centre. Our partnership with the council and the need to answer some outside criticism, both of our role within the overall scheme and of our business plan, has placed great demands on the project team but, because we are a skilled group with a network of highly experienced consultants and advisers, we have been able to carry through the project to the stage of acceptance of a tender.

This has been a very interesting process for me in my new role as chair of the Environment Trust, as we have through the evolution of the River Centre been able to confirm not only our expertise but the strength of our team-working and our integrity. We made an in-principle decision that we would withdraw from the project if we found the scheme developing in a way that was inconsistent with our responsibility to protect the borough's environment. So far, this has not come into question; we are delighted that the chosen scheme has not only as its developer the winner of last year's RIBA Stirling prize, but as its architect Clive Chapman who lives and works on Eel Pie Island. We also took a decision to be as transparent as possible in our decision-making and to answer politely, in detail, with good humour and if possible in person, all criticism levelled at us. (It is significant that despite numerous offers on our part to meet objectors one to one to discuss contentious issues, only four members of the public and the editor of the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* have taken us up on this). Our belief in the benefits that the River Centre will bring has kept us going, as has the support that we have received from the great majority of our members, our inspirational outside advisers, our donors and our River Centre patron Sir David Attenborough, whose calm confidence that we are doing the right thing has been immensely reassuring. He is an ideal patron and mentor not just because of his career as naturalist and film-maker, but because he is also an experienced business operator and has a proven ability to take creative decisions based on a sound instinct for an idea whose time has come.

#### PARTNERSHIPS

We cannot do everything ourselves, and this is why our network of partners is so important. Partnerships with and between community organisations are a growing force, particularly for educational institutions. Funding partners are essential to our projects, and we have been very heartened by the votes of confidence we have received this year, most notably from the Heritage Lottery Fund, who have granted us almost £45,000 for *Between the Locks*; City Bridge Trust has already committed £91,000 over 3 years to support the development of the River Centre. In adapting to the growing complexity of our operation, Investors in People has also

boosted our confidence and reputation by giving us continuing accreditation with a very complimentary report.

Angela Kidner recounts in detail all of the projects that we have been involved with this year. Holding them all together is the office and its staff at Phoenix Wharf, and we have been very pleased at the difference such a base has made to our mood and confidence. Eel Pie Island somehow reflects so much of what is important to us – the working river, sustaining local character and industry, and a community of creative people. Looking back over the year, I am impressed and inspired by what we have achieved in our projects, our organisation, and our relationships. Crucially, the Trust is the centre of a huge virtual web of individuals and groups, encouraging and supporting each other in projects that not only improve the borough's environment but enrich their own lives. I am genuinely amazed at the resources that we have been able to call on both inside and outside the Trust: talented and skilled and experienced people who gladly give up their time to expand our skills base. Our staff, Jenny, Sara, and Angela are the frontline and they are quite wonderful in their dedication. Our trustees have given up large chunks of time this year to our re-structuring workshops and they have been exhilarating to work with. Most of all, thank you to our members and volunteers. I hope that as the most influential and wide-ranging environmental group in the borough, we continue to deserve your support and confidence. Here's to the next 25 years.

### You are cordially invited to our Annual General Meeting

at The Orangery, Ham House,  
on Thursday 18th June at 7pm

The AGM will be followed by an informal talk by **Sir Simon Jenkins**,  
journalist, author and chairman  
of the National Trust

Admission is free but, as space  
is limited, PLACES MUST BE  
BOOKED IN ADVANCE

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW TRUSTEES

*At the Annual General Meeting in 2008, we were delighted to welcome five new trustees.*



#### JOHN ANDERSON

John was a career civil servant working in the Department of Health in a number of senior posts directly responsible to and advising ministers on policy. His work involved negotiating with health staff unions and developing relationships with stakeholders. Most recently John worked at Ealing Council, first in Social Services then in a major business transformation programme involving implementation of new work methods and use of council-wide IT systems. In a recent career change John qualified in garden design.

#### ANN CALLAWAY

Ann has a BA in history from Sussex University and spent 18 years as a teacher in comprehensive schools, first in Wolverhampton, then for 10 years at Feltham School in Hounslow, before becoming deputy head locally at Waldegrave. Ann then spent a year at Warwick University on an Industry/Education diploma course, before joining Unilever as a personnel manager for 18 years, working mainly in international management development and training. Having retired, she is still enjoying herself following up some of the interests that she did not have time for before, and discovering new ones. She is doing an art history course at the Victoria & Albert Museum one day a week and she enjoys gardening. She has lived in Teddington since 1971 but also has a flat in Chester, and spends a lot of time there and around the country visiting friends!



#### CLAIRE FIFIELD

Claire was born in Essex, but is more likely to be found in wellington boots than white stilettos, being a keen gardener. She left school after taking her A levels and began her career as an insurance broker. After 10 years working in the City she was fortunate enough to escape the grind and became a mature student, graduating with a First Class BSc (Hons) in Earth



Lis was born in Malmesbury, Wiltshire, and graduated from the University of Birmingham. Her career included work in social care, housing, medical research and the Office of Population Census and Surveys.

She loved living on Eel Pie Island. She had a keen interest in the environment, as well as travel, music, drama, and cooking. She also loved people and she had an ability to draw them out and encourage, often subtly, those who lacked self-confidence. She could also be clear-headed and decisive, and she brought a sharply critical eye and finely honed mind to any discussion or debate. Although she was never abrasive or dismissive, she had a capacity for getting to the core of issues and summing up problems, and it was a foolish person who tried to put something past her.

She was active all her life in local organisations. In Twickenham, as well as being on the committee of the York House Society and various committees on Eel Pie Island, she worked tirelessly for

Science from Kingston University. She now lives in Twickenham with her husband, one son, a Labrador and two cats. She started her own gardening business 5 years ago. Claire and her husband own a small boat moored on the upper Thames at Harleyford and she spends many happy hours messing about on the river. Being a keen amateur naturalist and environmentalist, no holiday is complete without a pair of binoculars!



#### CAROLE RITCHIE

Carole is a Richmond resident, and has taught in borough schools at primary level for many years, before retirement. With Alex Robb, Carole has represented the Environment Trust on the Terrace Advisory Group, set up to act in an advisory and support capacity for the restoration of Terrace Gardens in Richmond. Carole is a keen and very knowledgeable gardener and horticulturist and acts as a voluntary guide at Kew.



#### NICHOLAS THOMPSON

Nick is senior partner of Twickenham-based award-winning environmental architects Cole Thompson Anders. He was co-founder and chairman of INTEGER Intelligent & Green, the UK's leading action research group promoting innovation in building using new technologies and environmental techniques. His architectural practice won the British Expertise International Award as Small Consultancy of the Year 2006 for the INTEGER Pavilion in Hong Kong and Beijing. The practice is perhaps best known for the INTEGER Millennium House, which was filmed by the BBC as the *DreamHouse* television series with Carol Vorderman. Nick frequently speaks at seminars and conferences in the UK and overseas, he has acted as a judge for numerous construction industry competitions and he was co-editor of *Sustainable Architecture* published by RIBA in 2007. Nick is married, has two sons and has lived and worked in the Richmond area for many years. His hobbies include painting, drawing and learning Mandarin Chinese.

## LIS BETTERIDGE, 1936–2008

**Yvonne Hewett, Environment Trust member and volunteer**

The Environment Trust and became a trustee in 2003. Lis was a leading member of the Trust's fundraising team and persuaded influential artists such as Chris Orr RA to contribute high-quality works that guaranteed the success of the art auction. She was responsible for preparation of the Trust's case for its accreditation as an Investor in People – an important milestone – and she was a member of the committee in the transition period as the Trust grew in size, structure and strength to the shape it is today. She was a strong advocate on environmental issues and was passionate about the River Centre, and she kept up her interest in the work of the Trust until the end of her life.

To those who knew her, she was a very kind person, with a wonderful laugh, a refreshingly positive view of life and a unique way of making you feel comfortable in her presence. She carried on the fight with cancer with great dignity and determination and she will be sadly missed by everyone who knew her. She is survived by her husband Jack and daughter Tasha.

## THE ENVIRONMENT TRUST: HOW IT ALL BEGAN...

**Honor Bailey, Environment Trust Founder**

In the early 1980s I was sitting back to enjoy having founded the Barnes Community Association (BCA). I was particularly pleased to have found one family in most streets in Barnes who could act as a link between other families in their street, and between the street and the BCA. The aim was to empower individuals so that they got to know each other and, instead of impotently grumbling, could act together and have an influence on things that affected them in their own neighbourhood.

My one regret was that, although we had managed to buy the 17th-century Rose House in Barnes High Street to be a community centre for the BCA and its many groups and activities, we had not also bought the builders' yard alongside. For what we got there were luxury houses, and what we



*Richmond bus station before (top) and after (bottom) the Environment Trust took action, with London Transport and the local council, to make the place more inviting for passengers and pedestrians*

actually needed was somewhere to park, to enable shoppers to use the excellent shops in the High Street.

By then I had married and left our flat in Barnes for a run-down house on Richmond Hill, and here I found that developers had been planning a gross red brick development on Richmond riverside. Obviously what we needed was a building preservation charity that could act as a benevolent developer when the council or the commercial sector could not, or would not, act in the community's interests.

So the Environment Trust was born. In 1983 I stood alone on Richmond Green with a placard at the May Fair, fed and watered occasionally by my 11-year-old daughter and her friends, and I canvassed commuters at Richmond station. By the end of the year we had some members and £35 in the kitty. Among the many people I met was architect Brian Smith and, together with my husband, a chartered civil engineer, we put together a plan for Richmond riverside that would retain the Georgian shops and the hotel where Lady Hamilton, Napoleon's mistress, had lived.

It was the time when the Liberal Democrats were poised to take over Richmond council and they gave us three weeks to come up with the financial backing that would be needed to implement our plan. From the Royal Bank of Scotland we were offered a bridging loan to enable us to buy the site and to start the work. But we failed to find the other side of the bridge – a permanent funder. Usually large developments are of houses, which a pension fund can be sure of selling, but ours was a mixed development of shops, houses, a hotel and a market place. We had too little time and the project was deemed too risky and unknown, so we failed – and Quinlan Terry came on the scene to provide a handsome development, but one that was not as full of life and activities as ours would have been.

However, the Environment Trust went on and, while I was involved in its management, we worked with British Rail to improve the run-down Richmond Station and with London Transport to improve the bus station. We bought a 60-year-lease on a boathouse and we restored the row of boathouses on Richmond riverside. We also raised over a quarter of a million pounds in grants and donations to restore the derelict listed chapel in Richmond Old Cemetery for community use, including meetings, concerts, a kindergarten, art classes, yoga and belly dancing. And so it has gone on, involving different people, properties and interests.

Seeing it today I am pleased at the Environment Trust's success and its plans for the future. My one caution to the Trust going forward is to make sure that it works hard to involve its members in major decisions and that it is responsive to the public pulse. Long may it live and prosper!

## ...AND WHERE WE ARE TODAY: PROJECTS REPORT 2009

**Angela Kidner, Projects Manager**

My involvement with the Environment Trust dates from about 1996, when it came to the aid of a project to establish a community boathouse on a redevelopment of Commander Lightoller's boyard at Richmond Slipways, Ducks Walk. Derek Plummer and Honor Bailey, already veterans of many planning campaigns, adopted the project, giving us good advice and support and the outcome was a partial success. Many of the partners in that project are staunch supporters of the River Centre today.



I became a trustee in 1997 and served as chair of the Trust between 2001 and 2004, so I have participated in nearly half of the Trust's 25 years. The gradual increase in members and funding support has been evidence of the Trust's successful growth, during which we have had the enormous good fortune to have been helped by City Bridge Trust (previously Bridge House Trust), Richmond Parish Lands Charity, Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity, English Heritage, smaller trusts and many generous individuals. In 2004, in partnership with BTCV and the Thames Landscape Strategy, the Environment Trust applied for Grants Direct funding to set up a Key Strategic Organisation for the Environment, Richmond Environment Network, and as a benefit of our involvement we received a salary for a part-time projects manager. I applied for the post in autumn 2004 and have been working in the role ever since.

There are innumerable highlights in my work:

- The camaraderie, enthusiasm and knowledge of the people who have adopted particular projects – such as the ever-consistent Vineyard Passage Burial Ground team who make a Richmond backwater a well tended oasis, the Kilmorey Mausoleum group who have developed a magical wildlife garden as a setting for the rare Grade II\* mausoleum, and the energetic team working on the restoration of Sir Richard Burton's tomb at Mortlake.
- The generosity of so many people who contribute their skills and knowledge in the areas of architecture, art,

history, planning, biodiversity, education, fundraising, charity law and management. If I tried to name them I would certainly forget some so it is safer not to try! Thank you ALL!

- The downright fun to be had managing the landscape with the monthly volunteers, exploring what lies in the Thames with experts in river ecology and archaeology, and sharing the excitement and pride of the schoolchildren who are doing this work for the first time.
- The calm and concentration of the art picnics, and the opportunity to look closely at parts of the borough that we would usually hurry through.
- The humour, tirelessness and dedication of Sara and Jenny in the office and the solid support of the trustees and many volunteers.

In recent years our work has developed strongly in the direction of education. Since the restoration of Grove Gardens Chapel there have been fewer opportunities for building preservation, although the rescue of 8 King Street and Petersham Lock-Up and participation in the achievement of listed status for several significant buildings (such as Langholm Lodge, Richmond Library, Lichfield Court, Langham House Close and Matthiae's Bakery) are all successes, and we continue to support projects concerned with existing listed buildings and with the sensitive Thames environment.

The river has been a consistent theme, and the Trust has been a strong supporter of the Thames Landscape Strategy since its inception. We are fortunate to have as our chair one of its authors, and to have had the opportunity to participate on the executive board of the London's Arcadia project, which has transformed so much of the riverside landscape. In the time since I joined the Trust, the public's enthusiasm for the river and its history has grown, the planning protection for its industries strengthened, and the use of the river for recreation and education has burgeoned. The popularity of our Heritage Lottery-funded project to record the oral histories of people who have made their living from the river is evidence of this, and is described later by our heritage officer, Fiona Cosson.



*Petersham Lock-Up, finished at last, after 12 years! With funding raised by the Environment Trust and the Ham & Petersham Association*





*After the Environment Trust rescued it from dereliction in the 1990s, Grove Gardens Chapel is now in regular use again, for a Steiner nursery school during term time (right) and for community groups and local residents during the summer. If you are planning an event in July or August, why not consider using the Chapel as your venue. Call the office on 020 8891 5455 to find out more.*

With this background, the most thrilling aspect of my job has of course been the development of the Twickenham River Centre project. It started with our entering the Twickenham Challenge in 2003, at the suggestion of local groups, and was led by our chairman at the time, Paul Chamberlain. Since 2006 it has developed into a complex and fascinating project, with a large and flourishing team of experts and partners who have guided it through the recent decision by the council's Cabinet to proceed with the riverside development. Rob Gray's role in this must not be underestimated, nor must the astonishing generosity of experts in many fields, national and local patrons and advisers, donors, partner organisations and supporters. We believe the River Centre designed by Clive Chapman

Associates will make Twickenham a regional centre for environmental education and sustainable design, as well as a focus for the community and for the recovery in Twickenham's fortunes.

I optimistically look forward to another 25 years with the Trust, but since that will make me 85, my fervent hope is that a new generation will be loving and working for the Richmond environment by then and I will raise my glass to them all!

## ST HELENA BOATHOUSE

**Claire McCormack,  
on behalf of the Boathouse Group**

The Childs family now have their own boat, Mulberry, and as well as enjoying time on the river they have worked hard to clean off all the rust on the flood doors, applied a suitable primer, repainted the boathouse doors, fixed the wonky shelf and gained a gold star! Not to be outdone, the Cowan family completed repairs to their salvaged rowing boat, Walter G, and maintain the boathouse interior.

As well as ensuring that routine maintenance and repairs are carried out to preserve the boathouse, the group plans to have some boat picnics on the river over the summer. The first will depart to the White Swan by Eel Pie Island from the boathouse at about 12.30pm on 21st June, and if you would like to join us with your own boat or in a hired skiff, please contact the office for details. Beginners welcome, we don't row fast and we will have at least one boat with an outboard motor!



*Mulberry and Walter G getting cosy in the Environment Trust boathouse*

## VINEYARD PASSAGE BURIAL GROUND

**Martin Edgar, on behalf of the Vineyard Passage Burial Ground Group**



*Thanks to the efforts of a dedicated group of volunteers, the burial ground beside Vineyard Passage in Richmond has benefitted from new walls and paths (above), restored tombs (top), and careful management of the trees and plants (right), to make this a peaceful haven for humans and wildlife.*

group), our own efforts and a grant from the council. £18,000 paid for the restoration of 11 monuments in urgent need of repair, repointing various bits of brickwork and restoring the headstone of the grave of one of several émigrés who fled from the French Revolution to sanctuary in Richmond.

From then on, we tackled the restoration of the crumbling listed railings, the transformation of the muddy path to Grosvenor Avenue, the creation of a shady garden in memory of Gerald and Laure Jessop, two of our founding members, the re-making of a special brick plinth and tree as an eye-catcher, and regular plantings of trees, shrubs, and hundreds of spring bulbs. The people who have made all this possible are our own members, the generosity of people in the neighbourhood, the Richmond Parish Lands Charity, the Pilgrim Trust, the C H Dixon Charitable Trust, the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association and Richmond Council, and donations in kind from the Thames Valley Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society. Some £35,000 in all has been raised and spent.

We carry on the never-ending job of keeping the place as an attractive wild woodland garden which can be enjoyed by those on the Hill, as they pass down the Vineyard Passage on the way to the shops or the station. This means regular litter picks, tree and shrub maintenance and monitoring for graffiti and dog mess. We are also extending into the historical side, with research into who is buried there and the stories behind them. It is an enjoyable place, and we enjoy looking after it.

We are only 14 years old. In 1995, a local resident wrote to the Trust about the appalling state of the Burial Ground and it all grew from there, with concerned local residents becoming involved.

The old Burial Ground – opened in the 1790s and closed 100 years later – was landscaped as a garden of rest in 1964. Gravestones were laid flat and ornamental trees planted, and it must have looked very attractive when first done. But neglect followed, and by 1995 it was overgrown with monuments falling apart or even being split open by seedling trees growing out of them. It was a mess.

Our first jobs were to clear the undergrowth and bring the vegetation under control, and to liaise with the council on pruning trees and to increase their cutting from annually to three times a year. Then we started on the rejuvenation, stripping ivy out of the trees and planting some 30 trees and shrubs. After that, we took a deep breath and decided to have a go at restoring many of the 55 tombs and monuments. A professional survey identified what needed to be done, but we quickly realised that the work would be dependent on how much money we could raise. We contacted a number of charities, but it was the Pilgrim Trust who offered £10,000, conditional on matched funding. This was raised from Richmond Parish Lands Charity (a staunch supporter of the



## KILMOREY MAUSOLEUM

Derrick Mercer, Trustee

No garden is ever static and Kilmorey wildlife garden is no exception to this maxim. Visitors this year will see a new area cleared for planting under the trees to the left of the meadow, a new nature corner and a recycling demonstration area designed to tempt neighbours into using the site for composting and then have the confidence to use the same techniques at home. The changes exemplify the approaches to make more people aware of the beauty of this secret garden just off a main road in St Margaret's.

When the Trust first took on the site 7 years ago it was a formless, arid space, but its secluded wooded atmosphere and magnificent architectural centrepiece showed its potential. A birch grove was planted to screen adjacent buildings, pathways were intuitively designed and a summer flowering meadow was sown to surround the mausoleum. Nothing ever stops in a garden, though, and in addition to the new clearing under the trees a story-telling circle has been created in the far corner and an autumn bed at the back among other work.

Native species and garden plants are being planted to attract wildlife. Birdfeeders have attracted goldfinches among other species and there are now more butterflies on the site. Two compost bins have been bought from the council and a wormery is being installed. This will enable people to see how these work so that they can recycle for themselves.

The garden is maintained by an enthusiastic group of volunteers guided by Claire McCormack who was trained at Kew and this shows in the attention to detail and intelligence of the gardening work. The volunteers liaise regularly with specialists from elsewhere. On advice from the Stag Beetle Biodiversity Group hardwood logs were stacked in piles around the garden. The beetles appear to be thriving and prove to be a big hit with children visiting the site. Richmond Council's tree officer is also consulted and, although the Trust's volunteers are now fully responsible for maintaining the site, we arrange for the council to supply tree surgeons and woodchips.

Much of the work being done by the volunteers is linked to education. The site is used regularly by children from nearby St Stephen's primary school for an eco club and the story-telling circle was used by Richmond Children's Library Service as the base for an activity day last summer. During this day children listened to stories read by library staff who also led them in various craft activities. Well over 50 families visited during the day and it will be repeated in August this year. The mausoleum was opened up so that parents and children could see inside the historic building.

Last year also saw visits to the mausoleum by other groups – scouts came and worked towards various badges (and helped us) and the mausoleum was the destination for an

### Visit Kilmorey Mausoleum and Garden

See inside the mausoleum  
and enjoy the wildlife garden

St Margaret's Road, near the Ailsa Tavern

**Saturday 6th June 2009, 1–5pm**

Free entry

East Twickenham walk led by Richmond Heritage Guides. The latter will also be coming back this year along with visits from adult college horticulture students with learning difficulties, the Woodcraft Folk and others. We are also planning some twilight bat watches in the mausoleum grounds following a trial evening last year when the regular volunteers gathered for a barbecue and heard many bats through detectors borrowed from the local council.

The Trust ran a second Open Day last June to complement the traditional opening during the nationwide Open House weekend in September. The former appealed primarily to local residents. The transformation of the gardens was greatly commended and proved particularly popular with the children who visited the site. A children's nature corner has been adapted to become a more general one after it had proved popular with adults, too.

The mausoleum itself has been a subject of continuing fascination and some of the regular gardening volunteers recently went to the National Archives to research the Lord Kilmorey file from Brompton Cemetery, which contained all of the plans and correspondence about the mausoleum. It was built in 1854 by Lord Kilmorey for his mistress Priscilla Hoste at a cost of £30,000. It is now a Grade II\* listed property and much admired for its Egyptian style. During the past year the Trust has been pressing Richmond Council, which is the site's legal owner, to move towards granting permission for the restoration of the gate, low encircling wall and iron railings that used to surround the mausoleum.

The restoration will be quite an undertaking as it needs the stone walls to be rebuilt in order for them to support the railings. Feasibility studies have begun and the Trust is hopeful that it can raise funds to help finance any restoration once the council has made the initial commitment to undertake the work. Such work would require the consent of English Heritage because of the mausoleum's listed status. It seems unlikely that this would be refused because the absence of the railings has caused the mausoleum to be included in English Heritage's register of buildings at risk. A fundraising campaign would be organised to supplement any grants received for the work. A similar approach paid off when money was raised for the site's composting toilet which was formally opened last summer by local inventor Trevor Baylis.

One of the great satisfactions of the Kilmorey Mausoleum project has been the positive reaction of neighbours to the site on Open Days. Many people who have lived nearby for years have never been through the black wooden gate (roughly opposite the Ailsa Tavern) to see what lay behind the brick walls. For many it is astonishing to see such a building tucked away just off the main road. The garden is now almost as much of an attraction as the mausoleum and last year it won more two awards: a gold in the environmental section of the Richmond Borough in Bloom awards and a certificate of excellence in the London in Bloom awards.

We are still working to develop new attractions or features within the garden. It has been an exhilarating journey, but it is one which still requires the time of volunteers, who meet there most Monday lunchtimes – fresh faces are always welcome, no skills are required, with tools and advice readily available. There will also be time for a picnic lunch amid the beauty of the mausoleum grounds that you are helping to maintain for the future. Do come and join us.



*St Stephen's school eco club visits Kilmorey Mausoleum gardens twice a month. Last term, the children were looking for signs of spring and were even able to help plant some seedlings during one of their visits. Each time they go there the children check under their logs to see if there are any new inhabitants, and they love inviting each other over to visit their logs.*



*The drab surroundings of Kilmorey Mausoleum (above) have been replaced by a vibrant wildlife garden thanks to the dedication of Environment Trust volunteers, recently supported by Zeph King and students from Tower House School (right)*



## TWICKENHAM RIVER CENTRE

Rob Gray, River Centre Project Manager

We are now 12 months on from last year's AGM and Sir David Attenborough's enthusiastic endorsement of the River Centre, which has received a much wider viewing since it was put on YouTube. Since then, the Environment Trust has been actively engaged, with the council and its advisers, in the evaluation panel for the overall development scheme.

Three schemes were shortlisted and the Trust's team met each of the developers' teams at least twice and went through their proposals in detail at both the interim and final submission stages. Throughout this process the Trust has been evaluating the proposals from two perspectives – as a prospective client for the River Centre and in relation to its broader remit for the local environment. This latter view is particularly important as both the trustees and project team were clear that the Trust would not support any scheme that it would have objected to were it not involved.

The Trust was delighted therefore when, on 27th April, the council's Cabinet selected the proposal by Countryside Properties Ltd (with a design team led by local practice Clive Chapman Architects) as its preferred scheme for the Twickenham riverside site. This scheme meets the Trust's requirements from both of these perspectives and has been unanimously endorsed not only by the trustees and our project team but by the council's expert evaluation panel.

The scheme provides an elegant and well designed River Centre, with the building relating naturally to the river, to an imaginative new children's play area with a boating theme and to the landscaped public open space. The open space will be a considerable new riverside asset in itself, open to everyone, linking the site to the river and extending over the River Centre in the form of a sloping green roof. Sir David Attenborough, who as patron of the River Centre has reviewed each of the schemes, applauded the decision in a letter to the council, saying of the scheme:

*'The River Centre is cleverly integrated into the overall development, and relates particularly well to the new public open space and playground. Together they will provide a lively focus for activity on the embankment, and will be a great benefit to the town. The Environment Trust and the council have shown admirable commitment, through their partnership, to ending the dereliction of the site and giving it a positive future. I look forward to further good progress so that the innovative River Centre can become a reality.'*

The council is now working with the developer to complete the development agreement for the site, and the Trust and the developer's team will be working together to finalise a detailed planning application by the autumn.

The Trust produced a business plan for the River Centre in October last year and two update reports have subsequently been submitted to the council. All three of these documents are available for download from [www.rivercentre.org.uk](http://www.rivercentre.org.uk) and

the Trust welcomes comments on its proposals. The Trust is currently developing its education strategy for the River Centre (a version of which can also be seen online), undertaking more detailed work on the restaurant proposals and evaluating the employment, apprenticeship and training opportunities that the River Centre will offer. These findings will all be incorporated into an updated version of the business plan to be published in the autumn.

*Clive Chapman Architects, part of the development team that will be working with the council to redevelop Twickenham riverside, have provided these illustrations of what the River Centre building, with its green roof adding to the public open space (bottom) and the public exhibition area within the building (above) could look like.*



## A SUSTAINABLE BUILDING TO ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLE BEHAVIOUR

John Clarke, PhD research student

*The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), a public body sponsored by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, is funding a 3-year collaborative doctoral award between the Environment Trust and Kingston University's Archiblab Research Group in the School of Architecture and Landscape. The research will inform the design, construction and use of the Twickenham River Centre as a leading example of sustainable design with environmental education at its heart. John Clarke, the holder of the doctoral award, is working closely with the River Centre project team. The AHRC has recently announced that it will be highlighting this project in its Impact Task Force report, as a good example of impact. The report will go to MPs, civil servants, senior academics and other stakeholders. John explains his work so far.*

The purpose of my doctorate is to study how sustainable buildings can be developed to optimise their teaching and learning potential for environmental education. My research will contribute to the way in which the Twickenham River Centre – a building with environmental education at its heart – is designed, built and used. The main hypothesis, 'To what extent do sustainable buildings encourage sustainable behaviour?', further poses the questions of how do you define a sustainable building, how do you measure and influence sustainable behaviour, and how do you prove the link between the two? After 6 months my research has gone some way to addressing these questions.

The provision of sustainable educational and community buildings is now a very hot topic, which is being tackled through public and private initiatives and most notably through the government's ambitious Building Schools for the Future programme.

Professor David Orr, a leading academic in this field, speaks of the 'hidden curriculum' that is the building itself. The false lessons that unsustainable buildings can impart to us are that resources are infinite, wastefulness is the norm and it is acceptable for us to be removed from natural processes. A sustainable building should be diametrically opposed to this and should explicitly and implicitly enable us to lead more sustainable lifestyles.

### HOW DO YOU DEFINE A SUSTAINABLE BUILDING?

My initial literature search and review have revealed current best practice in the fields of sustainable building design, technology and construction, education for sustainable development, and environmental and architectural psychology.

A plethora of sustainable buildings is being constructed around the world and some of the best examples have an educational and community purpose. Each has its unique features and focus on varying aspects of sustainability. How then do you define a sustainable educational building? A number of standards have been developed over recent years, reaching a high level of complexity.

For my research, the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) provides a benchmark of sustainability to compare and contrast selected buildings as case studies. Like the Twickenham River Centre, each case study will have attained or will aspire to the BREEAM 'excellent' standard.

However, even with this standard there are many different approaches to achieving a sustainable building. I will be collecting evidence to study the relationship between certain variables in the design, development and use of sustainable buildings used for educational and community purposes.



## HOW DO YOU MEASURE THE INFLUENCE OF A BUILDING ON THE BEHAVIOUR OF ITS USERS?

The case studies will involve a post-occupancy evaluation of the impact of the buildings on sustainable behaviour. This will be achieved through a series of workshops and focus groups monitoring how interaction with a building affects attitudes and behaviours over time and whether long-term change to more pro-environmental behaviour can be proved.

The first pilot case study was undertaken in April 2009 at the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), Machynlleth, Wales. Here they are drawing on 30 years' knowledge of sustainable buildings and applying this to a new building complex, the Wales Institute for Sustainable Education (WISE). As well as having impeccable environmental credentials in terms of energy efficiency, passive design techniques and use of natural materials, the building will provide its occupants with data about their resource use and the thermal performance of the building fabric in the hope that this experience will influence their behaviour. This case study has elicited a great deal of very useful data that can now be analysed, interpreted and applied to the Twickenham River Centre.

## WHY CHANGE BUILDING PRACTICES?

The need for us all to live our lives in a more sustainable way is broadly becoming accepted as we increasingly recognise that resources are finite, pollution levels must be controlled and the burning of fossil fuels has an impact on our climate, with implications for flooding, extreme weather conditions, loss of biodiversity and ultimately threats to life on earth. Buildings play a significant part in this, currently accounting for 45% of total carbon emissions in the UK.

The UK government has set a number of challenging targets for improving sustainability, starting with the overarching goal of an 80% reduction in carbon emissions in the UK by 2050 (from 1990 levels) and recognising the need to change our building practices with targets for zero-carbon and low-water-usage new housing by as early as 2016 and new non-domestic buildings by 2019 for England and Wales.

## MIND THE GAP

However, there is a gap between our attitude towards urgent environmental and social issues and our actions and behaviours in tackling these. The best sustainable building will be undermined if its users do not understand it or if they behave in unsustainable ways. This is called the value-action or intention-behaviour gap by behavioural psychologists. The reasons for this gap are a highly complex set of human responses in relation to the perception of environmental, social and economic problems.

By investigating behavioural change theory, environmental psychology and ecological psychology and applying these to the provision of buildings that encourage sustainable behaviour through their design, construction and use, it is

hoped that a greater understanding will emerge of how this gap can be closed.

Interventions and strategies can modify environmental behaviour. Sustainable buildings allied to sustainable education can have a significant impact on environmentally responsible behaviour. Attitudes formed from direct behavioural experience tend to be stronger and are more predictive of later behavioural change than are passive or abstract attitudes. Therefore the more we use buildings as an experiential teaching and learning resource the more likely positive environmental behaviour is to occur.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

In my research, I will continue to try to establish the correlation between sustainable buildings, environmental education and pro-environmental behaviour to ultimately inform the built environment professions and develop strategies that will have optimum environmental and educational benefits.

The next stage of my research is to engage with the newly appointed development team to turn theory into practice, directly informing the design, construction and use of the Twickenham River Centre as a leading example of a sustainable building to encourage sustainable behaviour.

John can be contacted by e-mail at [k0639064@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:k0639064@kingston.ac.uk).



## SUMMER ART COURSES

Now booking

Grove Gardens Chapel, 20–22 July,  
with tuition by local artist Sasa Marinkov

Crane Park Island, 27–29 July,  
with tuition by local artist Alex Robb

£70 for each 3-day course  
(£60 for Environment Trust members)

An opportunity to explore the rich  
environment and record what you find,  
using a variety of media.

For more details and to book your place,  
contact the office (020 8891 5455,  
[info@art-picnics.org.uk](mailto:info@art-picnics.org.uk))

## BETWEEN THE LOCKS

Fiona Cosson, Heritage Officer

In March 2009, I was delighted to join the Environment Trust as Heritage Officer for the Trust's newest project, *Between the Locks*. This is a 2-year oral-history project to record the lives of people who made their living from the Thames, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity.

Oral history is the recording of people's memories and experiences, many of which would be otherwise left out of the history books, and oral-history projects are flourishing across the UK. But this is no ordinary oral-history project. The interviewees are schools students from Christ's School, Richmond, who will not only help research the history of the river and carry out the interviews, but will also learn the practical activities associated with livelihoods of the river, such as boat-building, lock-keeping and riverbank management. The project will concentrate on the experiences of those who worked on the stretch of the river between Richmond Lock and Teddington Lock, hence the project's title, *Between the Locks*!

The project is already famous, having made it into the pages of the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* in April 2009, and in response several people have contacted us to offer their own stories and experiences of working on the upper tidal Thames. To show how excited we all were about the launch of *Between the Locks*, we had a gathering in early May at Twickenham Yacht Club. It was chance to get everyone in the same room – students and parents along with a range

people with links to the river, the local museum, local history societies and so on – meeting one another, talking and marking the start of this innovative project.

Once the stories have been recorded, the boats have been built and the students are well and truly worn out, that will not be the last you hear from us. All our experiences on the project, as well as the interviews themselves, will be captured on film and made available on DVD to schools, libraries and community centres and, oh why not, we will have another party at the end!

*Between the Locks* has already received the kind assistance of a number of agencies in the area such as the Port of London Authority, Age Concern, Richmond Local Studies Collection and the Museum of Richmond as well as numerous individuals who have all shown a real enthusiasm for the project. Such interest illustrates the feeling in the local community that the history of the working lives of the river must be recorded before it disappears, and that these personal histories are integral to the history of not only the Thames but also the wider borough and beyond.

I am pleased to play a part in this fun, creative oral-history project, to work with young people to ignite a passion for history in them, and to ensure that the lives of the people who helped to shape the river and its surroundings to what they are today have their story recorded and passed on to current and future generations

Fiona Cosson (right) and students from Christ's School ready to embark on the *Between the Locks* oral-history project





## PRACTICAL VOLUNTEERING

### Patrick Kidner, Volunteering Coordinator

Volunteers have been central to the work of the Environment Trust in the whole of its 25-year history. But practical conservation work and in particular the monthly volunteer events only began to emerge as a feature of its work about 9 years ago. Several of us in the Trust were invited to help in a small way with minor projects on the riverside, clearing litter, weeding steps and pruning willows. The River Action Group was born as a project of the Trust and began to attract support, especially from residents who were fed up with the neglect of the river in their own locality. One or two of us went off to train as volunteer leaders with BTCV; it is one thing to enjoy a bit of fun and practical activity in the open air but quite another to find yourself responsible for the safety of a group and to be prepared for the occasional mishap, especially near the river. So we found ourselves doing risk assessments before each event, attending first-aid courses and seeking to educate our volunteers in safe use of tools.

The start of the London's Arcadia project under the Thames Landscape Strategy added impetus to these developments and we began to work in partnership with it and other groups. The annual riverbed clean-ups quickly became popular, not least in attracting whole families and young children in search of lost treasure or artefacts from a bygone age or just fascinated by the river ecology. Before long, we were extending our reach beyond the riverside, especially to sites for which the Trust is responsible – Grove Gardens Chapel and Kilmorey Mausoleum. Then the friends of Strawberry Hill House in Twickenham invited us to help with some initial landscape management as part of their restoration project. We quietly abandoned the River

Action Group title which was no longer wholly accurate and gave ourselves the more prosaic name of Environment Trust Volunteers!

Within the past 3 years, the number and variety of projects has continued to expand and younger volunteers have played an increasing role. First in line was Tower House School in East Sheen, eager to involve their older boys in some practical activity for the community. They began to join us regularly with up to 12 boys, a couple of staff and parents too, and they have remained loyal supporters to the present. More recently, the girls of Marymount International School in Kingston have added their skills and brought a welcome multicultural flavour to our activities. It can be no coincidence that, having established a reputation for managing this kind of activity in the area, the Trust is increasingly being asked to run corporate events for local businesses. The world it seems is crying out to do its bit for the environment and the opportunities for doing so are all too limited.

All of these developments have been strongly supported by the Trust office and notably by Jenny Willis who has hardly missed a project in the past 6 or 7 years. Thanks to the records she has kept since 2002, we can say with confidence that no fewer than 100 projects have been completed, and our volunteers have contributed well over 4000 hours of their time during that period. The average number at each event has also grown from about 12 volunteers in 2003 to about 19 in 2008.

And how much they have achieved? There are some notable landmarks for those inclined to look: a thriving hedge beside Petersham Meadows, two more on each side of the



Willing volunteers braved the cold and wet last November to help clean up the riverbed at Twickenham, taking the opportunity to look out for wildlife, historical artefacts and... a set of false teeth, found by girls from Marymount International School

A316 near Twickenham Bridge, new planting in Bridge House Gardens in Richmond, improved vistas near Orleans House and Glovers Island, nesting rafts on Corporation Island, and willow spiling to protect the natural river bank at Kew Reach to name but a few! But it is not just the physical outcomes which count. Just as important is the satisfaction that so many volunteers have derived from their work and the learning that has gone with it: about safe use of tools and working in a group, about the natural environment and climate change, about the river and how it behaves, about insect and bird life, and much more besides.

### Zeph King, Volunteering Coordinator

Variety has definitely been the key theme in the past year's volunteer projects. We have worked right across the borough – from enhancing the riverbank at Kew Reach to tracking and recording bird boxes and their inhabitants at Terrace Gardens. We have removed scrub and cleaned paths at Kilmorey Mausoleum and Orleans Gallery, cleared rubbish from the Thames despite high flood waters in November, planted a large variety of plants at Bridge House Gardens and Terrace Gardens, re-visited and fixed nesting platforms on Corporation Island, built homes for the local bee residents, and continued to clear paths in the old cemetery around Grove Gardens Chapel.

We have worked in all weather, with a great number of willing volunteers, without whom none of the work could have been achieved. As we continue to educate the volunteers while completing hard work, we see the benefits of what environmental volunteering can bring to both young and old. There is also a real sense of achievement and satisfaction, and that's by 1.30pm on a Saturday afternoon!

I for one feel proud of what we have achieved when I walk around our various completed projects with friends. It is so satisfying to see how our work is having a direct impact on the local environment and allowing all of the residents of Richmond to benefit.

We thank everyone who has supported our events over the past year and especially those who have turned out on a regular basis. Special mention should be made of Charles Keggen, Tim Gutch, Bryn Hall and Robert Monk, and of course Mandy Lamplough from Tower House and Tanya Gregory from Marymount who have brought pupils and their parents consistently throughout the year. We also owe much to our first aider, Pat Pearson, and to Jenny Willis for maintaining a supportive presence at the office and at all of the events. Finally we thank London's Arcadia for lending us tools and continuing to provide us with exciting projects along the river. We would like to thank Fran Morrison who has contributed to many of our events and offered her skills and support.

Thanks to everyone, 2008–09 has been a highly successful and varied year and we very much look forward to welcoming them and new volunteers next year!



Students from Marymount International School help to make insect habitats in Terrace Gardens, Richmond

## THE BEE HOUSE

### Reika Takahashi, student, Marymount International School (London)

On a Saturday in April, a group of Marymount Middle School students went to do conservation work in the community with the Environment Trust. We did two different activities and one of them was to make a bee house.

To make a bee house, you need something with a hole in it. We used bamboo sticks, sawn down to lengths of 15 cm. We made a small hole at the end of each stick and then we wired four of them together. After that, we tied four lots of sticks into one bundle. The Environment Trust will hang our bee houses from trees in Terrace Gardens in Richmond. A variety of solitary bee, called the mason bee, will hopefully use these tunnels as nest sites.

It was a very fun and interesting activity to do and useful for the bees. We were told that bees were dying out and we were trying to help their numbers increase. Bees are very important to humans because they pollinate flowers.

I had so much fun at this activity because I had never experienced it before. I was even allowed to take back to school, where I am a boarder, one of the bee houses that we made. We are going to get our school gardener to put up the bee house on the school campus.

## MY COMMUNITY AND SERVICE EXPERIENCE

**Sydney Smiley, student,  
Marymount International School (London)**

I am a boarder at Marymount International School and I was lucky that I was able to go to Terrace Gardens in Richmond. It was a cold and early April morning, but I was excited to help out. There was no school bus to take me there, so I had to ask a friend to give me a lift. It took quite a long time to get there, but we eventually did. When we got there, we were accompanied by Miss Holland, one of our biology teachers. We also met some other helpers there and they put us into groups. I was with my friends Kamillah, Reika, Funmibi and Maggie and our task was to pick up trash along the riverside.

After collecting as much trash as we could find, we came across a farm on Petersham Meadows. I saw the owner there and I saw some cows. I really like cows so I asked the owner if I was allowed to pet the cows and he said 'Yes'. The funniest part had to be when one of the cows came up and licked me. The owner told me that soon the farm will be expecting a new-born calf and the amazing thing was, he said that he would name the new calf after me! I was so delighted!

Finally, after some other activities, it was time to go. There was a lot of thought and effort put into the activities, I had a lot of fun and had a great experience. My favourite part of the trip was the 'Cow Story' and I will visit the new-born calf very soon. I never thought any of this would happen to me and I don't think I will ever forget it.

*Boys from Tower House School record the locations of nesting boxes on the trees in Terrace Gardens, Richmond*



## FINDING THE BIRD-NESTING BOXES

**Tom Going, student, Tower House School**

The Tower House boys went with the Environment Trust to Terrace Gardens in Richmond one Saturday and as one of the activities we were asked to find the locations of and to check 36 bird houses that had previously been erected on trees throughout the area. It was a great experience because, if the houses had nests in them, we were able to see the birds, such as blue tits and robins, in their natural environment.

We had to go slowly round the gardens looking in the trees for the bird houses. Sometimes they were quite difficult to spot – depending which direction one was approaching from they could be hidden from view. When we found one, we waited for a while to see if any birds were living in them. If they were too high and we couldn't see, Zeph King had his trusty binoculars which we could then use to see if there were any birds nesting. We were looking for evidence of use – feathers, twigs, bird droppings. Sometimes it was the bird song as we approached that gave us an indication of who was living there. At one box there was a pair of robins in the branches nearby. Sadly not very many of the boxes were occupied. Surprisingly, with the girls from Marymount also helping, we traced all but two of the boxes. Some of us were very quick to spot the boxes – maybe Oli was so particularly good because he had just come back from a safari and his eyes were trained to spot movements far away!

When we found the bird houses, we had to mark on a map the place where they were and identify the correct tree on the plan. If anything was living in the house, we had to mark down the type of bird too. Overall this was a great activity.

## SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

**Oli Davis, student, Tower House School**

Volunteering with the Environment Trust has taught me how to work as a team and not just to sit back and let everyone else do the work but to do it myself and this gives me a rewarding feeling.

Also I enjoyed actually helping the environment as it makes you realise everything we do matters. For example, you do not actually realise that the waves being pushed by the boats on the Thames are bad, until you see that they are undercutting and damaging the bank.

The Trust has introduced me to the world of volunteering really well and the satisfying feeling I get from it makes me want to help out even more and I am sure in the future I will continue doing volunteer work.

**Ben Parker, student, Tower House School**

I have enjoyed the experience of helping the environment on Saturday morning. At the beginning I was not looking forward to the 9 o'clock starts. I soon found out that all my friends were going and we had great fun. You feel good

as you have done something good for the environment and given something back.

**Oliver Ricceri, student, Tower House School**

I really enjoyed it when I was digging a hole for the stag beetle loggery as we were working as a team really well and we managed to get a really good hole for the loggery. Everybody around was supporting me which was really good and this really encouraged me to keep doing it even though I was getting really tired. It was an absolute pleasure working with the Trust and I would be really grateful if I could do it more often.

**Mandy Lamplough, teacher, Tower House School**

A tentative enquiry made to the Environment Trust 4 years ago about the possibility of some Year 8 boys helping out with Saturday morning volunteer activities has grown into a regular fixture in the diary. It has been a pleasure in my role as facilitator to introduce 80 boys over this time to the benefits of volunteer work and to see raw recruits develop enthusiasm and skills through their involvement in the variety of activities. I find it gratifying that, despite all of the other pressures of Saturday mornings, be it on the sports field or chilling with friends, doing homework or just enjoying a lie-in, the boys have been keen not to miss a session and have accepted the challenges with alacrity and a sense of fun. Seeing how the boys have approached the tasks has opened all adult eyes. The staff and volunteers at the Trust have been both long-suffering and welcoming in shadowing and teaching our young people and in ensuring that they have a good time and feel a sense of achievement. The physical hard work and aching muscles has led to really positive feedback and the parents who have also become involved with the Saturday mornings have enjoyed the workouts. We are really getting to know our borough so much better through our work and as we move around we watch projects progress and reminisce how our small contributions have made a difference. We are proud of the 600 hours the boys put in last year and it is my hope that these are the foundations of some life skills and habits that will continue into adulthood. Thank you Environment Trust for accommodating us and I look forward to introducing yet another cohort of willing volunteers in the autumn.

**Jackie Compton Howlett, Headteacher,  
Tower House School**

There are many comments in the media about the need for young people to be involved in community work. Social responsibility and caring for the environment has been a constant message at Tower House School for many years and throughout their time in the school our pupils undertake a variety of activities that support this ethos. The work that the Year 8 boys do for the Environment Trust is, in a way, the culmination of years of awareness-raising. It is also part of a special award that is given when they leave the school. The Dan Phillips Award was set up in memory of a past pupil and its purpose is to encourage the boys to



*Willow spiling: a traditional conservation technique that Environment Trust volunteers have been putting into practice to protect the riverbank along Kew Reach*

challenge themselves in different ways. Working to improve their local environment is one of those challenges and it is really gratifying to see how successful this project has been over the years. The boys, at a young age, are being made aware of the need for stewardship – to protect the environment and to look to the future. We hope that when they accept their Dan Phillips Award at the end of the year, they will also accept that this could be a life-long social commitment to their community. Many thanks are due to Mrs Lamplough and to the Environment Trust for giving the boys this exceptional opportunity.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Joe Pecorelli, Education and Events Coordinator

This year we have been harvesting the fruits (organic of course) of a very enjoyable partnership with School Food Matters (SFM) and the extended schools team of the local authority. Trafalgar Infants won our food competition with SFM and, thanks to the generosity of Mears Ltd, now have a shiny new school allotment (24-carrot) and all the tools they need to grow prize-winning, knobbly vegetables. The extended schools coordinators have supported us from the start and, having seen the benefits of encouraging gardening clubs in schools, have agreed to fund schemes in a number of schools across the borough. Richmond Environment Network (REN) has also continued its work recruiting volunteers to support environmental initiatives and we are delighted to have matched Maggy Ramsay with Heathfield Junior School. Maggy has a team of eight dedicated Year 3 helpers who have dug, weeded and planted through the winter and are soon to harvest their first crop of radishes.



Trafalgar Infants School, winner of the School Foods Matters competition, enjoying its new allotment, provided by Mears Ltd

However, it has not all been fruit and veg. The organisation of the Schools Environment Forum, assemblies and support visits to schools continue. The sustainability days held at Orleans Park and Christ's secondary schools were one of the highlights of our schools work in the last academic year. The days were run in partnership with the local authority. Pupils looked at how the environment is portrayed in the media and investigated the lifecycle of household products. They met professionals in the field of sustainability and finished the day by racing solar-powered cars that they had built.

At the beginning of the summer term this year we took our stag-beetle assembly to many of the borough's infant and junior schools. The stag beetle spends much of its lifecycle as a large, fat, white grub feeding on the fungus growing on rotting wood – something that particularly delighted most of

Students at Orleans Park school racing their solar-powered cars



the children. The assemblies ended with an invitation to the Springtime Safari, a free family event celebrating local biodiversity and held in the woodland gardens of Orleans House Gallery. Now in its third year, this is a partnership project between the borough's Arts Service, REN and the Richmond Biodiversity Group.

The Hampton *Tree of Life* mosaic project, funded by Hampton Fuel Allotments Charity, is nearing completion. An official unveiling will happen in late summer to which you will all be very welcome. Heather Gibbs of the Greenwood Centre's Will and Way group said 'The group have found previously undiscovered talents and it has been such a pleasure to work with the children who are as enthusiastic as us oldies!'

Over the past year the emphasis of my City Bridge Trust-funded work has shifted to developing strong foundations for the education service to be offered in the River Centre. The aim is to ensure that it will be used and enjoyed by as many people as possible for learning about the environment. It is important that with energy, momentum and hard work we can get straight on with fulfilling our strategy for fast-growing educational provision. Big changes are taking place in national qualifications for 14- to 19-year-olds in the form of new diplomas. The Environment Trust is working with the local authority and others to develop the content for several diplomas. One project will give creative media students at Sheen and Teddington schools access to the River Centre team next academic year and we continue to support the Richmond Adult Community College as it develops its capacity to offer the land-based diploma from 2011.

Also with the adult college, and building on the popularity of last year's Healthy Walks, we are offering an even bigger programme of activities for adults with learning difficulties. This will include environmental volunteering and boat trips on the *Jubilant*. It is hard to imagine how restricted life is for

some of the people who attend these activities and how reliant they are on others giving them access to things that we take for granted. One chap in his 40s was incredibly delighted to be going on the ferry from Twickenham to Ham last year. He told me it was the first time he had ever been on a boat and he could not have appreciated it more. For the Environment Trust to have played a part in helping him to have that experience is something we should all be very proud of. I am looking forward to the year ahead and feel privileged to be working with the Trust.

Please do let me know if you would like to get involved in any of the projects I have mentioned.

Participants in the pilot Healthy Walks programme, organised in association with Richmond Adult Community College, enjoying a trip on Flammerton's ferry



## RICHMOND ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Colin Cooper, REN Coordinator

Richmond Environment Network (REN) has been going for 5 years and now has these five goals:

- To improve the capacity of local voluntary environmental and sustainability organisations and to provide advocacy
- To increase schools' capacity for environmental activities
- To increase communication and public engagement in environmental issues and voluntary activities
- To protect, conserve and increase biological diversity
- To promote prudent use of resources within the community, voluntary organisations and schools

Since it began, REN has supported the set-up of eight new environmental groups, run a successful year-long project to increase volunteering numbers with local groups, and supported the borough's schools in their environmental projects, helping establish eco clubs, gardening activities and school allotments and bringing these together in the successful Schools Environment Forum. We instigated the computer donation programme with Richmond Council for Voluntary Service (RCVS) that provided 70 computers to local voluntary organisations, and we continue to develop our website, which now has 84 pages of environmental information and news, including an Events Calendar providing details of local groups' activities and a database of 58 local environmental groups; the website received over 100,000 visits last year. Our popular Environmental Forums attract a wide range of people. At our climate change forum run in partnership with the Richmond & Kingston group of the World Development Movement we had the renowned Aubrey Meyer, author of *Contraction and Convergence*, speaking about this model of reducing emissions globally. The event attracted over 120 people, including one of the borough's MPs. Yearly we attend at least 10 summer fairs and events to promote local groups and their activities and to encourage people to get involved. Our environmental auditing project ZWIN (Zero Waste Initiative) has undertaken over 50 assessments of local buildings, to help local voluntary

organisations and schools reduce costs and decrease energy use and waste.

In the past year we moved office to Eel Pie Island; this move has provided us with more space, which has been essential for our growth and facilitating our increasing numbers of volunteers. We have had four student interns join us on placements and we are keen to grow in this area and establish an Interns programme. We have purchased a new IT system that allows the team to work away from the office securely as well as having a number of computers donated to us. We have developed a range of leaflets not only publicising our work but also promoting local groups. We will also shortly be launching our new tool-loan service for local environmental groups.

REN is a joint venture formed by a unique partnership between the Environment Trust, Thames Landscape Strategy and BTCV as an umbrella body that supports the development of local groups and provides an advocacy role for the sector. It is clear that REN has been successful, with the network being cited as a model of good practice that is being emulated across London. This success is due in no small measure to the diligence and efforts of the team, including part-time consultants Joe Pecorelli and Maria Longley and our volunteers past and present: Sara Black, Laura Drapper (student intern), Hirsh Cashdan, Frank Gleeson, Laura Bradnam (student intern), Judy Maciejowska, Colin Levy, Bryony Ganf, John Maskell, Laura Shimili, Simon Howlett (student intern), Malcolm Whittaker, Valérie Ulrich and our very recent joiners Kathryn Mason, Pedro Crispim (student intern), Marisa Clark, Katherine Varvill and Mark Parker, without whom progress could not be made. Thanks to all of these people, REN supports a very broad range of groups, activities and interests spanning the whole community, young and more mature.

Now is a good time to look ahead and plan for the future. A new strategic management plan is almost completed and this provides the chance to review the partnership arrangements and plan for the future.

## ART PICNICS

Linden Loader, Environment Trust volunteer and art picnicker

Art Picnics? No, I thought, I can't draw. I will embarrass myself amongst proper artists. But you don't have to be able to draw, I was told. We visit all sorts of interesting places. We bring a picnic. All the drawing materials are provided. It's a great way to spend a Sunday.

The child in me has always loved a picnic, so I filled my brand new flask with coffee one Sunday morning and, as I made extra squidgy sandwiches which I just knew would taste divine eaten away from home, I pondered on the 'art' bit.

We were going to Strawberry Hill House for the day. I had visited Walpole's 'little gothic castle' very briefly once before on a local fete day and walking through it had made me want to return.

Now we were to spend several hours there. We felt special arriving as a group, being shown around and told we could sit and draw whatever and wherever we wished. The place was cold and bare and beautiful. We could sit and quietly absorb the atmosphere of this extraordinary building and really look at what we were attempting to capture on paper.



My attempts were, shall we say, nothing to write home about, despite the presence of the excellent tutors that attend and mingle amongst us giving advice and encouragement. But the experience was magical. And this is what I have found at each of the places I have subsequently visited as part of the Art Picnics, from Eel Pie Island to Kew Gardens, from Kempton Steam Museum to Hampton Allotments and on one memorable occasion a gentleman's touring yacht on the Thames.

The abilities of the varied group of twenty or so people who attend each month range from the very good to the very amateur. It is fascinating to see each person's interpretation of what they see.

Looking at other people's work makes me green with envy. I know I will never be that good. But it's wonderful company and a great day out. Each time I learn just a little bit which I grab and take away with me like a squirrel with a newly acquired nut. And I love picnics. But I think I've said that before.



People of all ages and artistic abilities can enjoy the Environment Trust's art picnics each month, with expert tuition from local artists such as Jill Storey and Emily Burton. Contact the office on 020 8891 5455 or e-mail [info@art-picnics.org.uk](mailto:info@art-picnics.org.uk) to find out more.



## FOUR THAMES BRIDGES AND A FOOTBRIDGE

Yvonne Hewett, Environment Trust member and volunteer, reporting on a talk by Paul Velluet

Paul Velluet is an architect who specialises in conservation and planning. He is currently involved with the Environment Trust as project leader on the restoration of Sir Richard Burton's tomb in Mortlake. In October 2008, at a joint meeting of the Environment Trust and the River Thames Society at the Old Ship in Richmond, Paul delivered a fascinating illustrated lecture on some of the bridges in the area: Richmond Bridge, Twickenham Bridge, the half-lock bridge and the railway bridge at Richmond.

**Richmond Bridge** is the oldest bridge over the Thames in Greater London. It was started in 1773-74 and finished in 1777. Before that, traffic crossed the river by flat-bottomed barges, poled by hand, often with difficulty because of the weather and the tides. The maximum the larger barges could carry was a coach and four horses or twenty foot-passengers, and owners of grand carriages and freight wagons had to go to Kingston to cross the river. This was affecting commerce, as the merchants in Richmond recognised.

Plans for constructing the bridge met with great opposition: the residents of Richmond were concerned that they would be invaded by unsavoury residents from the Middlesex side, and local landowners refused to allow the bridge to cross where the river banks are lowest, from Duck's Walk to Ferry Lane. There were also practical, physical problems: at the point where the bridge could be built, following the route of the ferry, there is a considerable difference in level between Bridge Street on the Richmond side and the low-lying road on the Middlesex side. In addition, the central span of the bridge had to be sufficiently high to allow vessels of some draught to pass through, with enough headroom to do it comfortably on a high tide.

Unsurprisingly, the bridge was opposed by the ferrymen, who feared for their livelihoods. There was also much concern that there would be a loss of view, and the bridge would be an ugly, wooden structure like the one at Kingston at that time. In the end, a committee including Capability Brown, Horace Walpole and David Garrick was charged with ensuring that there would be a fitting bridge for Richmond. The committee specified that the bridge must be built in stone, even though it was expensive.

Originally funded by a tontine share system, the estimated cost of the bridge was £20,000, with a second tranche of £5,000 – about £2.3 million today. The tontine was paid off through a system of tolls, collected at Palladian-style toll booths at either end of the bridge. When the last member of the tontine died in 1859 the tolls ended and the booths were demolished; the only sign of them now is the wider areas with benches that give views over the river.

The bridge was lowered slightly and widened in 1939, very skilfully. The work is almost impossible to see unless you look very carefully at the undersides of the arches.



Richmond Bridge, built in the 1770s and still a vital link across the river

The **Richmond railway bridge**, opened in 1846, was designed by Joseph Locke to carry the rail line from Windsor to Richmond, Clapham Junction and Waterloo. It was built in cast iron, replaced by steel when it was rebuilt in 1900. The long viaduct on the Richmond end is brick, and there are three stone-faced land arches, and two stone-faced river piers, supporting three 100-foot steel girders above the water.

The **half-tide lock** was finished in 1894, as part of a lengthy process that started when the rebuilding of the old London Bridge took away the weir that was effectively stopping the river from flowing out at low tide. The weir at Teddington and the half lock at Richmond were built after a long and controversial struggle and much petitioning: one problem for Richmond was the stench of the sewage drying on the mud at low tide.

The **Twickenham Road Bridge** on the A316 is 75 years old. It was designed by Maxwell Ayrton, who also designed the old Wembley Stadium, and was built as part of the Great Chertsey Road as the major road network expanded westward. The bridge is constructed of steel-reinforced concrete, with clay tiles between the sections. It was ahead of its time, with bronze-plated expansion joints that accommodate temperature changes. Architecturally, it has some interesting bronze detailing, and bronze handrails and lamp posts.

And finally the **footbridge**: the delightful iron footbridge in Old Deer Park, close to the half lock. It leads from the towpath to the park, and crosses the channel that runs parallel to the river. Thousands of people use the footbridge every year, but so far its history is unknown.

Paul finished his talk with a brief discussion of other bridges, such as Barnes Bridge, one of the last iron bridges to be built in the UK, but now sadly decayed and only half-used. In closing, he suggested that we should have an annual Bridge Fair, to celebrate the meeting of Middlesex and Surrey over the past 40 years and salute the unification of the borough brought about by these great and innovative bridges.