



Spring 2016 edition

**Summer Party**

**Saturday 16 July 2016, 7 p.m.** in the gardens  
of St Paul's Church, 64 Grove Park Road

## The Chairman's Foreword

### Kew Bridge walkway

For some time now I have been attempting to find a way to open Arch #3 under Kew Bridge as a throughway for disabled carriages and baby buggies that are unable at present to negotiate the flood prevention steps leading under the bridge. St George (as part of the planning permission for their Thameside Development) were going to construct a rather unattractive boardwalk that bypassed the steps but owing to problems with the Environment Agency that scheme has now been dropped as a condition of planning.



Arch #3 at Kew Bridge

As a possible and alternative solution, I have suggested the construction of a 'hump' on the path close to where it joins the slipway as a secondary defence against flood water entering Thames Road combined with the installation of flood boards at both sides of each occupied archway and the opening as a throughway of Arch #3. The Arch is presently used by St George as their temporary sales office. The Environment Agency has ultimate responsibility for flood defences and it offers the following argument to that proposal:

*"The works you describe would require consent from the Environment Agency. Any proposal to carry out work to or within 16 metres of a tidal flood defence must obtain Flood Defence Consent from the Environment Agency. This is a legal requirement which allows us to ensure flood defences are protected and flood risk is not increased. In order for the EA to determine an application for consent there needs to be a sufficiently developed proposal for us to consider with plans drawings and method statements etc. There are other factors that would also need to be considered such as planning permission from land owners and any other consents or permits that may be required. Whoever is proposing the works would need to find out what is required in this particular case."*

There is no SoGA Committee member with the professional background required to undertake such a task so I am throwing the idea open to members to establish if there is anyone who would be prepared to pick up and take on such a project.

### Great West Corridor

SoGA submitted the following comments to the Great West Corridor consultation paper:

*The present high pollution levels make all the A4 sites unsuitable for residential development. Development outside the immediate A4 corridor should preserve the historic ambience of Strand on the Green. The plan should ensure safe and easy movement across the A4 and that further heritage assets like listed buildings should be indicated on an appropriate map and policies should ensure that their character and setting are fully protected.*

*Building new employment or residential development before the transport infrastructure is in place would add to the serious congestion around Kew Bridge and Chiswick Roundabout which would be unacceptable and detrimental to existing residents.*

*No development should harm the Strand on the Green conservation area or the setting of its listed buildings. In the case of proposed multi story buildings it must be taken into account that the consequences may occur at a considerable distance from the site.*

*The plan should promote the river footpath and include the addition of a cantilever footpath to Kew Gardens alongside Kew Railway Bridge from Strand on the Green. The plan must review all infrastructure shortfalls and identify and protect land required to meet them during the plan period.*

*In conclusion the proposals to include tall buildings within the Great West Corridor Area must be so designed that no harm is caused to listed and locally listed buildings and their setting to conservation areas and historic estates as well as the World Heritage Site at Kew and more distant heritage assets particularly Strand on the Green.*

## Vision for the tidal Thames

The Port of London Authority (PLA) has unveiled a vision for the tidal Thames, a 20-year development framework for what is the busiest tidal river in the UK. It is hoped that increasing use of the river – passenger travel, sport and recreation, as well as further houseboat moorings – will encourage entrepreneurial innovation and provide a stable environment for investment. A consultation document can be viewed at [www.pla.co.uk/ThamesVision](http://www.pla.co.uk/ThamesVision).

The tidal Thames is as safe as it has ever been and sustains more wildlife than it has for generations. The condition of the river will be further improved by the construction of the Thames Tideway Tunnel (the ‘super sewer’) which has already started at Blackfriars and will hopefully be completed in around 7 years’ time.

The PLA hopes to undertake further dredging work at and around Kew Bridge later this spring. It also hopes to make an App available for rowers, paddle-boarders and mariners which would provide information on the flow rates and pollution levels of the river at any given time.



## SoGA AGM 2016

There was a good turnout at this year’s meeting with approximately 100 members attending. Esteemed guests and speakers included Ruth Cadbury MP, Ruth Hutton (Thames Strategy Kew-Chelsea), Councillor Paul Lynch, Sgt Mark Saunders and PC Dayna Stephen from the Metropolitan Police.

The Chairman started by presenting a long list of updates that included the Lionel Road development; £500 of the Association’s money had been paid to the Kew Society to contest the Compulsory Purchase Orders for Lionel Road; the lack of a solution to the Kew Boardwalk and the year’s extension granted to Mrs Joshi at the Post Office, where Ruth Cadbury had been supportive and helpful.

The Chairman also briefly mentioned the proposed CPZ plans commenting that on balance the benefits would outweigh the negatives and that LBH are preparing a design scheme which would go out to both residents and businesses in Zone 1 for detailed comments. He further mentioned the intended 20mph zone along Thames Road.

SoGA has asked LBH for section 106 funding of £250,000 for resurfacing the footpath and further funds to repair the steps leading down onto the river foreshore.

**Treasurer’s Report** - the Treasurer reported that there was a total of about £8,600 in the Association’s accounts, the environment fund holding £4,000 and the remainder in the current account. There had been an increase in the membership which currently stands at approx. 190.

**Ruth Hutton** (Thames Strategy Kew to Chelsea) - explained the work that she did as coordinator between local amenity groups on local issues concerning planning for parks, open spaces and river footpaths. Some funding comes from and is supported by the local Councils, with further access to sources of capital which are unavailable to Councils. She gave examples of where such money might come from: London Marathon Trust, Viola, Thames Water, as organisations that might help along with section 106 funding requests.

**Ruth Cadbury MP** - explained that having been a Councillor for 25 years she was now enjoying being MP for the area. She spoke of her, and many other MPs in all the political parties, concerns regarding the new planning laws currently going through Parliament, which if passed would allow developers to face less stringent controls than is currently the case. Hounslow Council has a good record with regard to providing much needed housing in the area but when the new laws come into force local planning departments will be by-passed.

**Robert Colvill** presented an update to members about Brentford Football Club’s Lionel Road development. SoGA had joined with other major residents’ associations in opposing the original application, which had sought detailed permission for the stadium itself and for associated developments of tower blocks of flats and a hotel. Both applications were approved at a meeting packed with the football club’s supporters but sadly only a few residents were there to join the SoGA opposition. The plans for the residential

development of 910 flats and a hotel in 12 tower blocks rising to 17 storeys have come forward in two parts. The first involves 648 apartments, for which a detailed application was made and approved recently. The second part is held up pending an inquiry into the compulsory purchase orders being used to acquire those parts of the site which lie outside the railway triangle. SoGA has opposed these applications and the CPO's but LBH is clearly determined that the development should go ahead, which is in tune with its policies designed to stimulate more housing. As outline permission has already approved the overall height and density questions, our recent opposition has focused on the aesthetics of the tower blocks. Little or no infrastructure spending has been required of the developer and the bulk of section 106 money is to be spent on improved access to the stadium.

**Jonathan Knight** (Chairman of the Grove Park Group, [jonathan@knightdesigninnovation.co.uk](mailto:jonathan@knightdesigninnovation.co.uk)) gave a short illustrated talk on plans for the upgrading of the shopping area by the Grove Park shops. Section 106 money has been requested to enable this upgrade. He would be grateful for SoGA membership support.

**Sgt Mark Saunders** and **PC Dayna Stephen** discussed the level of local crime.

Crime figures for Chiswick Riverside Ward  
**THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLES**  
January 2016 = 8 (down 11% on same month last yr)  
February 2016 = 11 (up 22%)

**THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLES**  
January 2016 = 3 (down 40%) [all mopeds]  
February 2016 = 3 Up 200% [2 Land Rovers and 1 moped]

**BURGLARY**  
January 2016 = 7 (down 22%)  
February 2016 = 9 [all attempted burglaries]

**THEFT OF PEDAL CYCLES**  
January 2016 = 2 (up 100%)  
February 2016 = 0

All cycle owners should note that the local police offer FREE BIKE MARKING from time to time in the locality. This is the only way of ensuring that your bike will be traceable back to you should it be found.

## SoGA online!

We have been working closely with a local web developer who has kindly offered his "Residents' Association template" to SoGA (and various other residents' associations in West London) for free for as long as we wish. In doing so, we have been able to revamp the SoGA website. We would encourage you to log on and explore the new site which is found at [www.strandonthegreen.org.uk](http://www.strandonthegreen.org.uk).



The new homepage is separated into two main sections – a left hand vertical margin containing our Twitter feeds and a link to our Facebook group (for further information on those two items please see below) and a horizontal index bar containing the following categories: ABOUT THE AREA; NEWS; ASSOCIATION; and CONTACT. Each of these categories links to its own page but in addition each category has its own sub-categories (appearing in a drop down menu format), again clickable, each with its own page.

The main body of the homepage will always contain two categories of latest news – first, Association News (such as important dates in the SoGA calendar, e.g. the AGM and the summer party) and secondly Local News (which we define as non-SoGA, Chiswick-related stories). The title of news stories will always appear in purple – this title is clickable and it will open up a separate screen with the full news story.

The new site is more dynamic than our old one – we even have some film clips about Strand on the Green and we hope to expand this section (and others) in months to come. In addition, we will be adding captions to images, particularly the old photographs of Strand on the Green, which are proving very popular with members.

Membership renewal forms are now available to download directly from the site – please go to ASSOCIATION<JOIN US to click the relevant link and in an attempt to be more environmentally friendly we shall be uploading future copies of Signals in pdf format under ASSOCIATION< SIGNALS. For those members who are not internet-savvy we will of

course still provide hard copies of Signals – these will be available at the Post Office and The Coffee Traveller.

You may notice “Username” and “Password” at the top of the homepage. At present you do not need a username or password as all sections of the website are accessible to the public. We do have the capability of making certain sections of the website private, via a username and password facility but we are still deciding whether we want to employ that function. One idea is to have a members'-only forum (along the lines of the forum operating on the chiswickW4.com site). Please do let us know whether that function is something you would like us to introduce.

Associated with the new website is a new SoGA email address – [info@strandonthegreen.org.uk](mailto:info@strandonthegreen.org.uk). Please feel free to use this email address to contact the committee.

### SoGA on Twitter (@SoGAssn)



The screenshot shows the Twitter profile for @SoGAssn. It features a blue flame logo as the profile picture. The bio reads: "SoGA Strand on the Green Association Strand on the Green, Chiswick @strandonthegreen.org.uk". The stats show 96 tweets, 47 followers, and 63 following. The timeline displays several tweets from the account, including one from @SoGAssn about the Third Runway and another from @CHATR\_Hestcore.

We now have a Twitter account. You can find us @SoGAssn. You can follow our tweets on Twitter itself or via the left hand column on our new website, which is automatically updated via Twitter. Currently we have 74 followers so if you are part of the Chiswick Twitterati then please follow us if you haven't already done so.

### SoGA on Facebook



The screenshot shows the Facebook page for "Strand on the Green Association". It is a closed group with 9 members. The profile picture is the same blue flame logo. The page header shows "Strand on the Green Association" and "Joined". The main content area shows a large image of a bridge over water, likely the Strand on the Green. The sidebar includes links for News Feed, Messages, and other Facebook features.

The old SoGA Facebook page was not a members' group (meaning that anyone could post anything!) and so we decided it would be better to have a closed members' group, just for members of SoGA. The group can be accessed at the following address:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/SoGAssn/> where you can register your interest to join us. Alternatively, there is a direct link to the group in the bottom left hand margin of the website – just click the image link. However, you must already be logged into Facebook for the link to work. Currently, we only have 12 members ☺ (perhaps because some members are unaware of the change in our status on Facebook) so please do join us and feel free to post any information or photographs relevant to Strand on the Green.

### Fountain repair

Over the past couple of years the Strand on the Green Fountain became more and more difficult to operate due to a sticking push-button. It is 10 years since the original renovation by Taylor Pearce so they were engaged to carry out a service. Once opened up it became apparent that the internal mechanism was rusted and seized and would have to be taken away for repair.



Fountain open for repair



The seized mechanism

The fountain was closed up and the spout and fixing screw holes taped over to prevent debris being pushed in or small birds deciding to nest there. Thus the fountain sat for the next three months with an ongoing battle with those who insisted on poking their fingers through the tape. Despite Taylor Pearce's best efforts the original mechanism was beyond repair. A new replacement had to be found and as the original unit is no longer in production an alternative was procured and modified to fit in February. However, much to our regret, the replacement has also proven faulty and so it has gone back to Taylor Pearce for further investigation and repair.

### Japan in W4

A(n) "Haiku" is a Japanese short poetry form of 17 syllables, usually 3 lines of 5, 7 and 5 syllables. One of our members, Sue Shorter, has brought a little piece of Japan to W4:

**Chiswick - my village!**  
**Cormorants and cattle-troughs...**  
**Parakeets, bamboo...**

The background to the poem is that Sue was telling her overseas students how London is said to be a collection of villages. Sue tells us that the students loved the idea and history of cattle-troughs, and also of the returning and arriving exotic flora and fauna.

Many thanks, Sue.

俳句

haiku

#### SoGA Summer Party

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – 16 July 2016



Starring

- Elle and the Pocket Belles
- The Spitting Pig Hog Roast (with Veggie Option)
- Raffle with exciting prizes
- Fireworks

This year we are holding the party in the St Paul's Church Vicarage Gardens on Saturday 16 July starting at 7.00pm. We are looking forward to enthusiastic member support both by attendance at the party and in terms of volunteers to help.

Back by popular demand, we are delighted that music will be provided by Elle and the Pocket Belles. They played for us in 2014 and entertained us with a variety of music from the 40s and 50s.



Elle and the Pocket Belles

A hog roast will be provided along with accompanying salads and we will in due course be looking for other food contributions. If you are able to contribute and/or volunteer to help please contact Chris Hodgkinson on [clh@hodgkinson.com](mailto:clh@hodgkinson.com) who will pass your details on to the Party Sub-Committee.

For updates as plans develop please keep an eye on the website.

Tickets will be on sale from mid-May from the SoGA Membership Secretary: [clh@hodgkinson.com](mailto:clh@hodgkinson.com).

#### Advance Tickets

£20 per person

£10 pp 12 – 18 years

£5 pp 8 – 11 years

#### On the Night £25 members/non-members/guests

The party is not suitable for under 8s.

#### Strand on the Green on DVD



Copies of the DVD *Strand on the Green - Portrait of a London village by the Thames in the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee* are available (priced at £10). If you would like to purchase a copy then please email us at [info@strandonthegreen.org.uk](mailto:info@strandonthegreen.org.uk).

## Panorama of The Thames

On Tuesday 26 April 2016 at Chiswick Pier House, there will be a pictorial "voyage" through the centuries, where Jill Sanders and John Inglis will be showing Samuel Leigh's 1829 panorama in contrast to the contemporary Thames Panorama Project's video of the present day Thames. Comparing the two reveals the dramatic social, architectural and industrial changes along the river over the last 200 years.

Jill's presentation will explore the transformation of the London Thames from a largely working river of factories, wharves, fishing, osier growing, market gardening and transportation - and some fine houses - to the riverbanks and waterway we see today with a particular focus on West London.

Doors open at 7pm and the illustrated talk will start at 7.30pm. Tickets are £3 (on the door), or free to members of Chiswick Pier Trust.



## Thames Road 20mph zone - update

We previously reported that LBH was going to introduce a 20mph zone for the part of Thames Road around the schools. We had been told that the zoning would be introduced at the end of 2015 or the start of 2016. However, we have recently learned from a Transport Support Officer at LBH that the implementation of 20mph zones will span over the next 4 years effective 1 February 2016. No dates have been set for the implementation of each 20mph so unfortunately LBH cannot provide us with an exact date of when the 20mph zone will come to Thames Road.

## Reading buddies/listeners volunteers wanted

Strand on the Green Infants and Nursery school is looking for volunteers who are able to support individual children with their reading. The school will work closely with volunteers and only asks that a volunteer spare a slot of time either weekly or fortnightly to listen to/read with the children from Reception, Year 1 or Year 2.

The school is not asking for any previous experience of working with children, just a love of reading and helping to improve this vital skill with their children. If you think you might be able to spare some time, please contact the school on 020 8994 7921 and ask to speak with Polly Watkinson or email her at [pwatkinson1.313@lgfmail.org](mailto:pwatkinson1.313@lgfmail.org).

## Membership and Street Representative(s)

There are some 770+ houses in the Strand on the Green catchment area, which extends north to the railway line and as far east as the west side of Grove Park Terrace. We have a paid up membership of 190, which represents around 25%, so there is plenty of scope to recruit new members.

The leaflet drop just before the AGM was very successful and we will repeat this exercise a month or so before the Summer Party, but extend it to the whole area.

There is of course a steady turnover in ownership and it is very difficult for the SoGA committee to keep tabs on this, so we are proposing that we should have a 'Representative(s)' for each street in the area. That person would keep a note of the new arrivals to their street, welcome them on behalf of SoGA and leave them a copy of our application form or point them to our website and check back a few weeks later to answer any questions and check if they have joined.

We have a few volunteers already and we would be delighted to receive notice of anyone else who wishes to assist. Please let our Membership Secretary know at [clh@hodgkinson.com](mailto:clh@hodgkinson.com).

## Microchipping dogs

This month it becomes a legal requirement for all dogs in England to be microchipped. The Battersea Dog and Cats Home are holding a series of free microchipping events in partnership with Hounslow Council. For further details please go to: <http://x.cly.cx/4FJYytbdnOy>

## Litter around Strand on the Green

It cannot have gone unnoticed by members that the state of the streets and green areas has become increasingly littered. Not just dog fouling but bags of rubbish lying about the streets, paper, plastic bottles, coffee cups and the like strewn in the gutters under cars, along pavements and in the parks. We have even noted that the dog waste bin in front of Pier House went unemptied for about 3 weeks.

You will therefore hopefully be pleased to know that we as a committee have been doing something about it and it has resulted in a number of council staff being called to account and our own local Councillor, Paul Lynch, taking up the baton on our behalf.

We have experienced some success with some of the streets from Spring Grove running towards the Post Office being given a proper sweeping (even on Good Friday!) BUT we have not stopped there. We have now asked the Council to provide us with an ongoing schedule showing planned street cleansing, litter picking etc. for the entire area.



Bags of rubbish left out the day before a collection and the resultant litter strewn up Thames Road

A couple of Committee members hope to go on a walkabout fairly soon with those working for the Council who are responsible for ensuring the cleanliness of our streets to highlight the areas that are being missed or might be missed. We will of course give you updates on the website on our

progress in ensuring that our beloved area does not present as a third world country!

If anyone has any specific areas that they have noticed need the attention of street cleaners then please let us know by emailing us at: [info@strandonthegreen.org.uk](mailto:info@strandonthegreen.org.uk).

## PLA Notice to Mariners – Online Calendar

This can be found on the PLA website, under the 'Events' tab and also using the following link: <http://www.pla.co.uk/Events/Annual-Events-Calendar>

And finally...

## Something for the weekend? What about a pot?!

You may be interested to know that SoGA members Paul Griffin and Michael Boulton of Cascade Hairdressing (66 Thames Road) are holding an open house on 17-19 June 2016 to showcase their latest talent - potting. Although known to members as hairdressers since 1984, Paul and Michael have decided to branch into other artistic areas in their spare time. Not wishing to do things by halves, they are both attending further education courses in pottery at local art schools and they have even converted a room in their house into a pottery studio.

Paul and Michael will have a selection of their work on display and for sale in June. To contact them please telephone 020 8994 6055.



64 Turnham Green Terrace  
Chiswick  
W4 1QN  
T: 020 3757 6230  
E: chiswick@knightfrank.com

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