



Signals

Autumn 2018 edition

AGM – Tuesday 8 January 2019 at 7pm
Strand on the Green Junior School
(Brooks Lane entrance)

The Chairman's Foreword

The long, hot and dry summer proved to be a busy time for SoGA. The Curve Public Inquiry was held in June. There was a very strong turnout for both the Developer (Starbones) and the objectors including LBH/Kew Society/Historic England/West London & Gunnersbury Group amongst others with both sides having QCs to present their case. I had offered and was called to make a statement on behalf of SoGA and we now await the Inspector's report and findings.

Having successfully participated in the campaign to have the St. George's pontoon and hazard lights removed thus reopening the wonderful vista under the Kew Bridge arch, our endeavours were closely followed by the renewed and amended planning application for a two residential houseboat mooring at Steam Packet Steps. I am pleased to report that SoGA managed to solicit 95 written objections which has resulted in the LBH Planning department recommending REFUSAL. However we should not be blind to the fact that the applicant might still go to appeal.

We would be exchanging this view:



for something like this:



The CPZ seems to have settled down and is now generally accepted and indeed approved of by the residents in Zone 1. Comments and suggested amendments can be sent to soga.cpz@gmail.com for review in due course by the Council. Zone 2 quickly followed leading to a sustained campaign by Zone 3 for the accelerated introduction of a CPZ in their area. This is not surprising considering the obvious migration of parking from around Kew Bridge to Chiswick Station and surrounding roads. I understand that LBH want to extend the Zone 3 area right down Hartington Road to Chiswick Bridge but there remains strong opposition to the full extension. People will never learn! In the meantime new double yellow lines are to be painted on all corners to deter the foolish parking that is taking place and to provide sensible sight lines.

You may be wondering why there was no summer party this year. We called for volunteers to help at the AGM but none were forthcoming. We will revisit this question at the next AGM.

SoGA designed and received sponsorship for an interpretive sign which has now been installed at the west end of the footpath with the assistance of LBH. Following representations made to us, a second sign has been approved and will be installed at the east end of the footpath with the legends reversed.

We have received an offer of £500 from TSK-C on behalf of Thames Path National Trail and the pledge of £1,000 from Brentford Football Club and we are now seeking a further local authority grant to renew and update the large and vandalised sign by Kew Bridge. If the other grants applied for by SoGA are not forthcoming the SoGA Committee will discuss undertaking and paying the balance of around £1,500 for this project from its Environment Fund.

You will note that the next AGM will be held on Tuesday 8 January 2019 (7pm until 9pm) at Strand on the Green Junior School hall. Doors will open at 6.30pm. Refreshments will be served as usual. Your committee looks forward to meeting you as this is your prime opportunity to raise issues in addition to having your fill of delicious cocktail sausages.

The National Archives

The National Archives (TNA) at Kew has been in its present building since 1977. Guardian of some of the nation's most iconic documents, dating back more than 1,000 years, it was formerly four separate organisations: the Public Record Office (PRO), the Historical Manuscripts Commission, the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) and Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO).



Having looked across the river from our house for some 7 years at the rear of their building, I thought it time to find out what it contained. I was able to organise a private 'Behind the Scenes visit' (approx. 90 mins) for 12 but anyone may book on their monthly tour. They very much welcome visitors & readers. Such visits and many others may be found at: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/>.

The building is so large and the weight and amount of items that need to be transported so great that they have a fleet of bicycles for that sole purpose.



Some 500+ staff work at Kew. Over 9 million records are now available to be downloaded and there is a continuous programme to increase this figure. One reason for this digitalisation is of

course to free up space for new acquisitions. Some 5% of their physical records (around 600,000) are now kept in a huge salt mine in Winsford, Cheshire. This has a temperature and humidity controlled climate. When a visitor needs to see the 'hard copy' of a record, three days' notice is required for it to be brought to Kew.



I won't bore you with a list of the key objectives and types of records of TNA, but for those interested they may be found at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_National_Archives_\(United_Kingdom\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_National_Archives_(United_Kingdom)).

Our party of 12 (max number) found the visit most interesting. I am indebted to Nicola Roberts and Victoria Fitch for the photos.

CLH

Police update

The police recently organised a new initiative for the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators within the Chiswick area. They held a 2 hour meeting at St Michaels and All Angels church hall and showed some very interesting "scam" videos of what can happen to vulnerable and gullible individuals in the community. Some of the scams were very complex and sophisticated involving phone, deliveries and banks.

Richmond Police have put together 3 videos that you can access via this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Pc93RkpIIM>
Please make the elderly and vulnerable aware of these scams so that they don't fall victim to them.

▪ Chiswick Riverside

Despite what we residents may think, this area is a low crime zone. We do seem to have spates of

crime every now and then but compared to other London areas we fare well. Our police numbers in the Safer Neighbourhood team are down but we do now have TWO police constables on our patch but still no PCSO.

It is important that we realise the different responsibilities of the different factions of the force. If you dial 999 you will not get the local neighbourhood constable responding. 999 incidents are relayed to the Rapid Response team in Feltham. The numbers on this team have been cut by two thirds but they still seem to be able to operate reasonably well. If you dial 101 then the rapid response team are unlikely to respond unless the operator deems the incident to need a more urgent response.

▪ **Recent incidents in the area**

A rented house in Ernest Gardens was found to be a cannabis farm. Neighbours alerted police to the activity but unfortunately the plants had already been harvested and the tenant gone. It would appear that proper checks were not carried out on the tenant so a lesson to all who rent out properties. The police are having difficulty finding the tenant as a result.

In a playground a man was seen photographing children on swings etc. The nannies in attendance asked him to stop and go away but the photographs continued. This is a 999 situation and nannies should be aware of this. Do not hesitate to dial 999 when someone is behaving strangely and needs to be stopped or caught.

There are still the door to door tea towel salesmen to contend with. Some are apparently aggressive and the advice from the police is to try and keep them on your doorstep whilst someone else discreetly dials 999. Their goods can be confiscated and the salesmen arrested. This is not something you have to put up with and the community should actively discourage the activity by not buying. Rarely – despite ID – are they who they say they are.

▪ **Speed**

The ongoing campaign for speed reduction in the area has seen the police training local residents to carry out speed check sessions which can result in warning letters being sent to offenders. Please contact SoGA (info@strandonthegreen.org.uk) if you are interested in assisting with these.

▪ **Noise nuisance**

There is a dedicated phone number for this. Operational from 10pm to 4am – 020 8853 2222.

▪ **2018 Crime figures for Riverside ward**

| CRIME | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLES | 4 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLES | 7 | 11 | 11 | 4 | 9 | 12 | 8 |
| THEFT OF CYCLES | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 6 |
| RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY | 7 | 9 | 8 | 13 | 13 | 10 | 12 |
| BUSINESS BURGLARY | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

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The school term starts...

Unfortunately yet again a few inconsiderate parents are causing traffic chaos and noise disturbance in the area around school drop off and pick up times – from parking over the zebra crossing and over the yellow zig-zags at Strand School Approach, parking in the disabled bay (which operates 24/7) and engine idling. Regarding the latter, we are delighted to hear that LBH is organizing an educational programme for parents and children at the school. SoGA has been liaising with the two School Heads who have promised to remind parents to be more mindful. We have also contacted the parking enforcement team at Hounslow who have promised to make more regular checks in the area at the relevant times.

Kew Bridge Arch

For some time now SoGA has been campaigning along with other interested parties and local councillors to have an arch opened under Kew Bridge to allow disabled wheelchairs along with parents with pushchairs and pedestrians an unrestricted thoroughway under the bridge rather than having to negotiate the flood defence steps or the multiple road crossings above. As a result Tony Arbour (London Assembly member representing South West London) will be asking a question to the Mayor - for written answer - at the next Mayor's Question Time on 18 October. The wording of the question is as follows:

"Ease of access along the riverside at Kew Bridge is problematic for those with limited mobility and mothers with pushchairs, who find it difficult to

negotiate the steps continuing the river path under Kew Bridge and are forced to negotiate the complex road crossing. This perilous access caused considerable difficulties at the recent Tidefest event and is contrary to your policies of access to the Thames.

Will the Mayor now ask TfL to reconsider their decision not to open up the Kew Bridge Arch to pedestrians?"

An answer should be received by the Tuesday following MQT, i.e. 23 October but there is sometimes a delay in order for the Mayor to gather further information. Members will be kept updated.

Gunnersbury station update

Most of our members would agree that Gunnersbury station is a bit of an embarrassment, not only in terms of functionality but also aesthetics. In fact, one might suggest it is a health and safety nightmare waiting to happen, especially at morning and evening rush hour with the onslaught of commuters to and from Chiswick



Business Park on the staircase. As most of us have experienced, local residents are frequently prevented from accessing the platforms at morning rush hour, often resulting in trains being missed simply because the staff cannot keep those accessing the staircase to the left hand side.

For quite some time SoGA has been trying to get updates about the intended improvements. Finally SoGA has been invited to join the Gunnersbury Station Action Group after meeting with Ruth Cadbury MP and liaising with the station manager. One of our committee members attended this month's meeting. Chaired by Ruth Cadbury MP the meeting was attended by representatives of TfL, local business, residents' groups and other stakeholders.

The main discussions focused on the bridge from the Business Park to Chiswick Park station – this is on target to be finished at the end of the year and hopefully this will alleviate some of the footfall at Gunnersbury. There may be changes to the

number 27 bus, perhaps terminating at Hammersmith. Further, TfL are attempting to have lifts installed at Gunnersbury, Kew Bridge and Turnham Green stations.

It is our current understanding that platform improvements will include moving the position of the waiting room further down the platform to free up space around the generally overcrowded staircase. Whether we'll ever educate passengers to keep to the left on the staircase or get a complete refit including an alternative entrance/exit via Wellesley Road probably remain a pipe dream.

Chiswick's Great Houses

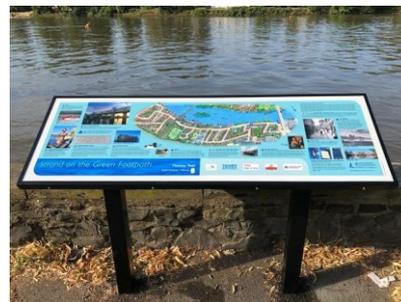
James Wisdom, Chairman of the Brentford & Chiswick Local History Society, is giving a talk about three great houses in our local area – Chiswick House, Grove House and Sutton Court Manor House (the last two now long demolished). The talk is being organized by the Grove Park Group. Join them for a glass of wine at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 24 October 2018 in the church hall of St. Joseph's Church, 1 Bolton Road, Chiswick W4 3TE. Entrance is free.

Can you spare some time?

Strand on the Green schools are looking for reading volunteers. If you are interested then please call (020 8994 7921) or email the school office at office@strandin.hounslow.sch.uk with your details.



Panoramic sign



Most of you will have seen the Panoramic sign that has been erected on the footpath close to the Bell & Crown and

which has produced some appreciative and positive public feedback. As the Chairman has said, a similar sign has been commissioned for the other end of the footpath close to Strand End and will shortly be put in place. In addition, the

vandalised sign at Kew Bridge, beside the Paddle Board Headquarters, is to be removed and replaced with an updated version. All the signage has been constructed with materials that are resilient to criminal damage.

We are grateful to LBH, Tesco's, Fullers and the Thames Strategy Kew to Chelsea for their sponsorship and help in the installation of these signs.

Cycling along the towpath and pavements...

is a major problem in Strand on the Green. Not only is it illegal, it's incredibly dangerous. For some time, SoGA has been campaigning for more and clearer "no cycling" signage. Believe it or not, some people believe that a cycle in a red circle means cycling is permitted. We have persuaded Mark Frost at LBH to install "Cyclists Dismount" signs at both ends of the towpath – let's see whether it makes any difference.



Want to join the SoGA committee?

We are currently looking for a new member to join our committee as a Social Secretary. If you are interested in joining then please email us at info@strandonthegreen.org.uk.

Rubbish and bins

We have been approached by a few members complaining about bins being left out on Thames Road for long periods before and after collections. The guidance from LBH is that bins should only be left out very late on Tuesday evenings or early Wednesday mornings. For houses without gardens or flats above shops, the collection days are Mondays and Thursdays. In those cases, purple bags should only be placed on the pavement on the morning of collection to prevent attack by foxes. Also, in weeks with a bank holiday Monday, collections will be a day later, i.e. Thursdays for those properties with bins and Tuesdays and Fridays for collections from flats.

Then and now...

We continue to add (new) old images of Strand on the Green to our website. We realize that some members may not have access to the website so we thought we'd include some "then and now" images in editions of *Signals*. We thought these photos were particularly interesting – Pier House being developed yet again almost 50 years later!



Strand on the Green circa 1970



Strand on the Green in 2018



With special thanks to Riverhomes for printing copies of *Signals* for us.

Thanks also to Alan McBride for the image on our front cover