

Watermark



The Newsletter of the Thames Landscape Strategy, Hampton to Kew Issue 13 Summer 2002

HM The Queen Visits Bushy Park



Angela Mason

Thames Landscape Strategy Co-ordinator: Jason Debney and Arcadia in the City Project Officer: Ken MacKenzie describe the Strategy's work to HM The Queen

On June 25th HM The Queen visited West London as part of her Golden Jubilee celebrations. During the visit she attended a 'Picnic in the Park' hosted by the Royal Parks Agency in the magnificent surroundings of Bushy Park. More than 40,000 members of the public joined in the celebrations that included an events arena, displays, bands and a variety of stalls and exhibitions. One of the main attractions was the 'Jubilant Thames' enclosure organised by the Thames Landscape Strategy. HM The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were piped 'aboard' by the Sea Cadets and Sea Scouts and spent twenty minutes in the enclosure escorted by TLS Co-ordinator, Jason Debney. The display included a large gathering of traditional Thames craft, live otters and an exhibition detailing the Queen's new barge currently being built in Richmond. For much more information about this glorious occasion please turn to page 7 of Watermark.

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This issue of Watermark is sponsored by the



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

The Environment Agency is responsible for water management throughout the Thames catchment and is a major funding partner of the Thames Landscape Strategy.

As part of the ongoing management of the river the Environment Agency launched an exciting initiative 'Thames Ahead'. This is to promote the Thames for walkers, boaters and visitors, seeking to improve facilities through collaboration with other organisations. Quite simply, their aim is to manage the Thames as the best inland waterway in the country. Find out much more in the next edition of Watermark.

Arcadia in the City Launched

This summer the remarkable view from Richmond Hill has been protected by Act of Parliament for 100 years. In celebration, a group of local and national organisations has joined together to mark the occasion with a series of events and a programme of landscape, access and nature conservation enhancements on and below Richmond Hill totalling millions of pounds. Brought together by the Thames Landscape Strategy, 'Arcadia in the City' hopes to initiate the first stage in a real

renaissance of this most special stretch of London's river. In May, the Thames Landscape Strategy and the London Borough of Richmond submitted a £2.5M Heritage Lottery Fund bid. To celebrate this considerable achievement a series of events was held on May 31st. To find out more please turn to the centre pages.



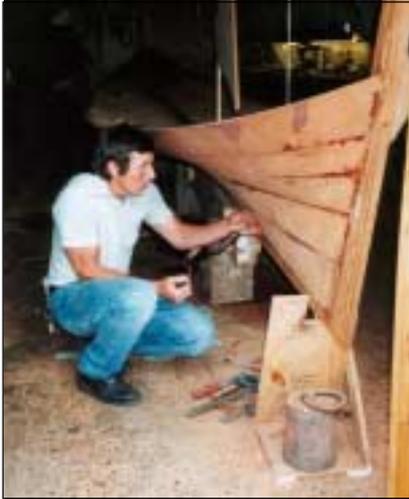
The view from Richmond Hill showing the new commemorative plaque.

David Archer

W a t e r w o r k s

Bringing you up to date with progress on the Thames Landscape Strategy

A Royal Shallop for the Jubilee



Mark working on the new Royal Shallop

Local boat builder Mark Edwards of Richmond Bridge Boathouse has been commissioned to build a new Royal Shallop, to be called (at HM The Queen's request) 'The Jubilant'. She is to be a replica of the Lord Commissioners Barge currently on display in Somerset House and a part of the National Maritime Museum's collection. The Shallop will have special design features to accommodate disabled rowers in the crew, which will be a unique feature of this ceremonial craft.

The Shallop will be administered by the Jubilant Trust, a charity which has been set up for that purpose, to provide sporting and recreational opportunities throughout the season for people with disabilities as well as those from disadvantaged backgrounds who have never had the opportunity to enjoy rowing activities.

The Thames Traditional Rowing Association will introduce the 'Jubilant' onto the Thames on Saturday 14th September at a special event called 'The Celebration of Time'. The Jubilant will be rowed with a flotilla of craft from the Kew Meridian in Isleworth to Greenwich for a picnic in Greenwich Park on the hill under The Royal Observatory. All are welcome to join in.

**To find out more please contact:
The Jubilant Trust, 202 Lambeth
Road, London SE1 7JW.**

Aspects of Richmond

On the 20th June 'The Richmond Song Folk' staged a memorable evening at St. Thomas Aquinas Hall in Ham. As an official 'Arcadia in the City' event the performance included many traditional songs that have a connection with the river and the view from Richmond Hill. Many of the songs were written or adapted specially for the evening including 'Rambling round Richmond' and 'Station Songs'. The Thames Landscape Strategy would like to thank the Richmond Song Folk and in particular Val Glynn for organising such a marvellous event.

Thames Strategy Kew to Chelsea

Yet another landmark event regarding the future protection of the River Thames took place earlier this summer with the launch of the Thames Strategy Kew to Chelsea. The event took place at the Wildlife and Wetland Centre in Barnes and the document was officially launched by Government Minister Nick Rainsford. Already the Thames Landscape Strategy and the Kew to Chelsea Strategy are planning to work with each other on many projects in the London Borough of Hounslow particularly in Brentford Kew..



Enjoying a well deserved break to check the TLS cycle guide

Country Cycle & Towpath Walk

On Sunday 19th May a country cycle and towpath walk was organised by a small group of ROYAD members using the TLS 'Cycle Guide' to make their way from Kingston to Hampton Court. All participating cyclists received a free copy of the cycle pack and a certificate of achievement for completing the course.

Kingston's New Riverside Quarter

The recently completed Charter Quay development at Kingston has opened an important town centre stretch of the Thames Path along Kingston's river. The

associated public open spaces include new pedestrian links to the Market Place and a lovely piazza lined with cafes and bars. The design includes a Thameside boardwalk over a specially created reedbed and a new footbridge across the mouth of the Hogsmill River (including floating reedbeds). The vista between the Thames and the Guildhall has been framed by adjacent development.



Champion Ken!

Arcadia in the City Project Officer Ken MacKenzie won the J24 UK National Sailing Championship earlier this summer in Falmouth. Ken has sailed most of his life in Vancouver, Canada but had not sailed once in UK since moving here 3 years ago. Ken said, "I was lucky to get on the boat as I just sent an email after reading about the fleet and was invited out. It was hard work but I was thrilled that all 5 crew pulled together to win. For 3 of the days the winds were really honking which resulted in some bloodcurdling moments on the course! One thing I learned is that we won with two of the crew turning 70 years this year. So that should be an inspiration to everyone to get involved and I cannot think of a better way than participating on one of our river clean-ups!"

Ken's yacht 'Stouche' crossing the finishing line



W a t e r w o r k s

Bringing you up to date with progress on the Thames Landscape Strategy

Teddington Lock Enhancements

The Thames Landscape Strategy has teamed up with the Environment Agency, Richmond Council, The Teddington Society and the Waterways Trust to investigate major enhancements to the area of river around Teddington Lock. Plans are at a very early stage at present and there is still considerable work to do but if successful the work could coincide with the 100th Anniversary of the opening of the Barge Lock.

Annual Meeting

More than 220 TLS friends and partners packed the King's Room at the Royal Star and Garter Home in December for the 2001 Annual Meeting. The evening included two guest speakers: Dylan Hammond, Director of the London String of Pearls and Sir Roy Strong, President of the Garden History Society. Sir Roy reminded the audience of the importance of focusing on the 'ordinary' as well as the grand whilst carrying out conservation projects. This, he said, was the great strength of the TLS. The evening also included a heated debate on the future of Twickenham Riverside.

Marble Hill Vista

Earlier this year an important step in the implementation of the Thames Landscape Strategy was taken in partnership with Richmond Council, English Heritage and the Marble Hill Society. In preparation for the long awaited English Heritage masterplan for Marble Hill Park and in accordance with the TLS, scrub and decaying trees were removed to re-open the vista between the house and the river. After the initial tree work was carried out volunteers from English Heritage, the TLS and the Marble Hill Society spent a morning clearing undergrowth and years of accumulated litter.

The Marble Hill 'work gang'



Linking the James River with Old Father Thames



TLS Co-ordinator on the James River

In February, the TLS Co-ordinator was invited to Virginia as part of the on-going 'sister city' partnership between Richmond upon Thames and Richmond Virginia. The delegation included: Richmond Mayor Eleanor Stanier and Anne Partington-Omar, Property Manager of Ham House. During the visit Jason stayed with Ralph White who is Director of the James River Project, an organisation established to manage the James River Park, in much the same way the TLS looks after the Thames.

The James River is regarded as America's best urban waterway and like our own River Thames is lined with historic houses, parks and gardens. Whilst flowing through the heart of the City much of the river is still wild and contains a remarkable diversity of wildlife. Jason was amazed to see on his first day river snakes, a pair of breeding ospreys and a bald eagle perched on a nearby lappost.

The falls of the James River were first 'discovered' in 1697 by Christopher Newport who sailed up the river from James Town, one of the first modern settlements in the USA. The city was named by William Byrd due to a similar bend in the river that viewed from a hill overlooking the town is remarkably similar to the view from Richmond Hill. From this settlement the City industrialised rapidly and became the home of the American tobacco industry. During the US Civil War, Richmond was the capital of the Confederacy. The town retains many relics from this time including historic battlefields and cemeteries. Today, the comparisons between the James and the Thames is astounding.

Even more similar are the constant pressures of inappropriate development, conflicts between recreation and conservation and the need to manage views of the river.

Much of the day to day work carried out along the James River is undertaken by volunteers who construct slipways, litter pick and maintain riverside trails. Jason's visit coincided with a special walk along one of these new trails. The trail tells the story of the slave trade in Richmond, taking the walker from the site of the original wharf where the slave ships unloaded their human cargo along the river to the heart of the downtown area to the site of one of the first Afro-American schools in the States. A former pupil of the school became the first elected Afro-American to the US Senate. From slavery to Senate, the 'slave trail' has been developed in partnership with the City's Afro-American community and demonstrates a real attempt to understand and interpret a difficult chapter of America's history.

Other highlights of the trip included visits to colonial Williamsburg, historic James Town and a walk along Richmond's flood defences, which are a massive 20 meters high in some places to channel flood water following frequent hurricanes. The City also boasts the remains of America's first canal: the Kanawha, constructed in the 1780's. Jason was astounded at just how much of the historic fabric remained "as good as anything we have in this country" he reported. During the visit Jason and Anne gave a talk to the American English Speaking Union on the work of the Thames Landscape Strategy.

Ralph White (centre with cap) on the Slave Trail



Sir Roy Strong Launches Arcadia in the City

Sir Roy Strong, President of the Garden History Society, launched the Arcadia in the City Heritage Lottery Fund bid on May 31st at the close of a daylong series of events that included a procession of boats, the unveiling of a commemorative plaque and a specially commissioned show 'An Arcadian Miscellany'.



The boats leave for Richmond

The day began with a civic reception hosted by the Mayor of Richmond upon Thames in the presence of invited guests including TLS partners and the official delegation from Richmond Virginia. Following the reception, the party was rowed from Twickenham to Richmond aboard a cavalcade of traditional Thames boats. All the craft were built in the Thames Landscape Strategy area by local boat builder Mark Edwards of Richmond Bridge Boathouse. They were rigged in full ceremonial regalia and the oarsmen dressed in traditional Thames clothing. The procession caused considerable excitement along the way as the boats passed from Radnor Gardens to Richmond Riverside.

More than 400 people assembled on the brow of Richmond Hill for the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the campaign of 100 years ago that safeguarded the view. The festivities included live music and a troupe of street performers provided by the Roebuck PH, the National Trust and Bill Brookman Productions. Master



The unveiling of the plaque

of Ceremonies was the Lord Watson of Richmond who introduced Bamber Gascoigne and Lord Attenborough who performed the unveiling ceremony. The plaque was designed by the Richmond Society and lists those organisations that led the fight to save the view 100 years ago and shows the land that is protected by the Act of Parliament.

The evening's entertainment continued with a specially commissioned performance at the Royal Star and Garter Home entitled 'An Arcadian Miscellany'. Based on an original idea by Mavis Batey and written and staged by Doug Pinchen and Richard Morris the event starred Prunella Scales and Timothy West.

The two-hour performance was sponsored by Thames Water and told the fascinating story of the view from Richmond Hill in words, music and song. Highlights included a reading of the work of Horace Walpole, renditions of 'The Lass of Richmond Hill' and 'Old Father Thames' and guest appearances by TV presenter John Stapleton and Freda Hammerton - a descendent of ferryman Walter Hammerton.



A celebration of 100-years of conservation

Immediately afterwards, Sir Roy Strong formally launched the Arcadia in the City Heritage Lottery Bid and thanked the evening's sponsors. A celebration book, written by Mavis Batey was on sale with profits being donated to the Arcadia project.

The event formed part of the London String of Pearls Festivals. Copies of the celebration booklet 'Arcadia in the City' are available from the Thames Landscape Strategy priced £5.00.

'A Great Winding Stream of Heritage' - Sir Roy Strong's Speech to Launch the Arcadia in the City HLF Bid

The following is an extract from Sir Roy's closing remarks that formally launched the Arcadia in the City Heritage Lottery Fund Bid.

"This evening has been a total revelation - the programme has revealed the stretch of the river as a great winding stream of the heritage of this county: its poetry, its paintings, its architecture, its music and its gardening. There must be few stretches of river in the world, certainly in Europe that are so rich; kings, queens, poets like Thompson and Pope, painters like Turner and Van Gogh, Horace Walpole and Alexander Pope finding inspiration from the scenery.

We are present this evening at the culmination of a decade's work. It began with people like Mavis Batey, my predecessor as President of the Garden History Society, who together with David Lambert did the research on this remarkable stretch of the river which led to Kim Wilkie formulating his Thames Landscape Strategy in 1994. This brought together the Royal Parks Agency, local authorities, Historic Royal Palaces, the National Trust, the Environment Agency, the Countryside Agency, English Nature, English Heritage, amenity societies, preservation societies - practically everybody together in this great scheme.

It seems almost gratuitous to ask why is this so important, why is the Thames Landscape Strategy so important. Well, I think it is the pattern for what is going to happen in the 21st Century. It is a view of looking at heritage and conservation (that was a great movement in the 1970-80's but became sterile and looked backwards in this country) that moves things on in the sense that it still combines the wish that is deep within us in the UK to preserve that which comes from the past but....

(continued on next page)

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....marry it with innovation, so that we see the past, present and future are combined in one.

But above all, this comes from the basis that anything to do with anything, is actually about people. The people who visit and live in this area of the metropolis, in this still Arcadia, still paradise. I think that this has been one of the great miracles of the Arcadia project to draw together all sorts of people from every walk of life particularly at this great moment - the launch of Arcadia in the City.

Finally, it would be wonderful to see this whole stretch of the Thames designated as a World Heritage Site. But this doesn't depend on the bigwigs, the sort of loquacious people like myself - we are already right behind you at every stage. It depends on you, each and every one of you. So as you leave the hall this evening remember it is your project and that your contribution is as important as anybody's - so stick with it, a vision for the 21st Century.

Sir Roy Strong May 31st 2002

The TLS would like to thank Kingston Estate Wines, One Paradise Road Wine Bar, The Royal Star and Garter Home, The Friends of Strawberry Hill, Teddington Studios, Richmond Shakespeare Society, The National Trust, Petersham Hotel, Marble Hill Society, Geoffrey Bowyer and all the cast for making the evening a memorable event.

Below: The assembled cast of An Arcadian Miscellany

Arcadia in the City: A Summary

The view from Richmond Hill is unique and is quite rightly known as 'London's countryside' yet it is situated within the largest metropolis in Europe. It was the cradle of the English garden movement and has been at the centre of English poetry, politics, philosophy, garden design and painting for centuries. Today, this 'Arcadia' is the largest green open space in London with unequalled opportunities for recreation accessible to all.

The Richmond Hill view however, was by the 1890's increasingly threatened by development. A campaign was launched to protect the landscape linking for the first time the loss of open space with the destruction of a cherished view. Against all the odds the Richmond Ham and Petersham Open Spaces Act 1902 was enacted preserving in perpetuity the landscape that makes the view. The public protest or 'indignation' as it was then known is still rightly seen as one of the earliest and most successful environmental campaigns in history. What was achieved was astounding and is often regarded as the nation's first piece of modern environmental planning, and still the only view to be protected by Act of Parliament in the UK.

Almost a century after the 1902 Act, the imagination of the local community was fired again by the publication of Thames Landscape Strategy. The centenary of the Act provides a unique opportunity to bring the events of the last 100 years full circle by addressing some of the key projects at the heart of the TLS between Radnor Gardens and the Old Deer Park.

Although containing a wealth of historic parkland enjoyed by all the capital's residents, Richmond Council receives the lowest level of grant aid for its local services in London and has no mandate to charge an entry fee for the use of the riverside parks and gardens. With the central support available to previous public authorities now at an end, the need to find new ways to reinvest in the heritage landscape is urgent.

Arcadia in the City is the Thames Landscape Strategy in action and if successful will implement nearly 40 policies contained in the TLS, ensure the long term future of the landscape and provide a model that can be used in the other TLS partner Boroughs of Kingston, Hounslow and Elmbridge.

Arcadia in the City is a £2.5M three year project that aims to celebrate and enhance the landscape on and below Richmond Hill to a standard appropriate to the area's potential status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Building on the philosophy of the Strategy, Arcadia covers four of the twelve of its identified TLS landscape "reaches." It is an ambitious project, which addresses heritage and conservation, accessibility and biodiversity. It is strongly supported by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, which has already made capital provision for many of the schemes and is committed to exploring innovative ways to improve annual maintenance.

A partnership has been established that includes the National Trust (Anne Partington-Omar from Ham House currently chairs Arcadia in the City), English Heritage, The Thames Landscape Strategy and local groups. The London Borough of Richmond has acted as lead partner in the submission of the Heritage Lottery Fund bid and will project manage the work providing the funding bid is successful. In addition to the exciting series of landscape proposals a series of events and educational activities is planned including art and sculpture exhibitions, sponsored walks, lectures and music days.

If you would like to know more please contact: Jason Debney at Holly Lodge or Arcadia in the City Project Officer Ken Mackenzie on 020 8891 7309.



David Archer

Walking the Thames

This year's Thames Landscape Strategy Chairman is Helen Cornforth of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. Below, Helen details two exciting new ways to enjoy the wonderful River Thames.

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Walking Strategy

Richmond Council has now finalised its Borough Walking Strategy. Find out how the Borough intends to improve things for pedestrians and encourage people to walk more. The Strategy covers walking in all areas, streets, town centres and open spaces for leisure, commuting and health. As well as helping to reduce traffic congestion, walking more is good for your health and well being, and an environment which encourages pedestrians helps to improve trade and may help to reduce crime. Copies of the Strategy will be in local libraries and available from Richmond Council tel 020 8891 7322 for £3.50. It will also be available on the council's web site www.richmond.gov.uk

Capital Ring Section 6 and Beverley Brook Walk leaflets

Positive action for walking routes around the Thames!

Capital Ring Section 6 is part of the inner orbital walking route which encircles London. This section runs for 7 ¼ miles from Wimbledon Park station via Wimbledon Common, Richmond Park and Petersham Meadows to the Thames towpath. Partners Richmond Council have now signed the route and produced a leaflet with the Boroughs of Merton, Kingston and Wandsworth. This is one of the best sections of the whole route, and links up to Section 7 (Richmond to Osterley), for which leaflets were produced last year by the Boroughs of Richmond and Hounslow.

The Beverley Brook walk is a 6 ½ mile walking route running from New Malden station, via Wimbledon Common, Richmond Park, Palewell Fields and Barnes to the Thames downstream of Barn Elms. The leaflet, designed by Joy Cuff, has recently been reprinted. Leaflets for both walks are free and available at local libraries and Council offices.

Accessible Thames

In the last issue of Watermark the publication of the Thames Landscape Strategy Accessible Thames Walking Guide was reported. The Guide has proved a considerable success and many thousands of copies have been distributed free of charge to local libraries, schools, disability groups and people who want to enjoy a walk by the river. If you or your group would like to receive a copy please send an A5 SAE to Holly Lodge, Richmond Park, Richmond, TW10 5HS enclosing a 39p stamp.

Project Progress

The TLS has been working with the GLA in the development of the Mayor's Plan for London. Published earlier this summer the plan sets out the Mayor's vision for the capital including detailed guidance regarding the future of London's waterways and public open spaces. The pressure to develop riverside locations is constant and the TLS continues to guide the planning process through the promotion of the unique Thames landscape at all levels.

A new set of marketing tools was launched this summer including an executive summary 'The Thames Landscape Strategy - The first ten years', a set of waterproof display panels and a series of booklets detailing the various aspects of the Strategy's work. A CD-Rom version of the Strategy document is now available priced £30.00, copies can be bought from Danny McLoed at Holly Lodge.

The Strategy continues to build its strong volunteer network and is developing revised riverside management regimes along the Thames. The TLS is working on many projects up and down the river. These include improvements to a public car park in Kingston and landscaping to the riverfront at Ferry Quay in Brentford.

Jubilant Thames:



Photos: Lynne Debnay

The TLS Co-ordinator welcomes HM The Queen

Much of the remarkable landscape between Hampton and Kew is the result of 500 years of Royal patronage. In celebration, the Thames Landscape Strategy gathered in one place, a variety of organisations between Hampton and Kew that help to make the river unique. A marquee displayed the history of the river from its origins to the present day and included a display on the work of the TLS. A pair of otters 'Bertie and Belinda' were on show, symbols of how the tidal Thames has been cleaned up and transformed from a biologically dead river to one of the cleanest metropolitan estuary in the world.

The Jubilant Thames enclosure showed on land, some of the large variety of users of the River whose history has so many Royal connections. HM The Queen's Swan Uppers, together with those of the Companies of Vintners & Dyers were in attendance alongside their traditional Thames skiffs rigged ceremonially for the occasion. The Port of London, the Metropolitan Police Marine Support Unit and the RNLI also had vessels on display. The main commercial interests on the river, including Royal and Thames Watermen, and passenger boats were on show and a selection of the Trusts and Societies whose aims are to protect the river were represented. Nine Thames Watermen cutters (a concept of the Great River Race) rigged ceremonially were on display alongside other boats ranging from dragon boats to fine rowing boats adapted for people with disabilities. The centrepiece was a display depicting

The Queen's Visit to Bushy Park

'The Jubilant' being designed and built by Mark Edwards (at Richmond Bridge Boathouse) and funded by the Traditional Thames Rowing Association. The ten-oared shallop is to form the new Queen's barge and will be handed to Her Majesty in September.

Exhibitors included:

Kingston Sea Cadets; Twickenham and Richmond Sea Scouts; HM The Queen's Swan Uppers; The Vintner Company; National Trust (Ham House); Historic Royal Places (Hampton Court); Display of live otters (Martin and Daphne Neville); Francis Francis Angling Club; Royal Tours Past (Michael Jones); Environment Trust for Richmond; Richmond Society; RNLI (National branch and local); Jubilant Trust; Thames and Royal Watermen; Thames Passenger Boat Services including Turks and the Queen's Bargemaster and Royal Watermen; Rotary Club of Great Britain; Adaptive Rowing Association; Thames Strategy Kew to Chelsea; Dittons Skiff and Punting Club; Royal Canoe Club; Walbrook Rowing Club and The Skiff Club; Thames Landscape Strategy Hampton to Kew; Great River Race; PLA; Richmond Bridge Boathouse; Metropolitan Police Marine Support Unit; Westminster School; Trinity House; Worshipful Company of Founders; Worshipful Company of Tallow Chandlers; Worshipful Company of Drapers; Company of Watermen and Lightermen; Worshipful Company of Glaziers; Worshipful Company of Water Conservators; Honourable Company of Master Mariners

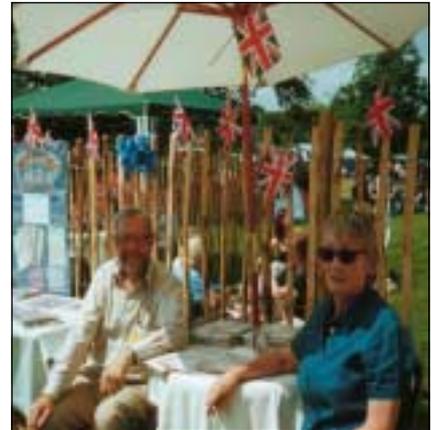
Right: The assembled boats, Below left: The Queen with the TLS, Below right: TLS marquee and display, TLS partners: Clare Smith from Elmbridge Borough Council and Nathan Morley of Surrey County Council



HM The Queen meets Royal Waterman Mike Turk and David Barber The Queen's Swan Upper



Above: Daphne Neville with Belinda the otter. Right: TLS volunteers: John Ray and Danny McLeod



The King Henry's Mound Vista

Ten years ago (May 22nd 1992) the ten mile strategic view of St. Paul's Cathedral from King Henry's Mound in Richmond Park was awarded protection by the Secretary of State for the Environment. It is an intrinsic part of London's heritage, as the longest (at exactly ten miles) of ten Strategic views to St. Paul's, and is the only one in which Wren's masterpiece is seen framed to the exclusion of all else in the City. The strategic views to St. Paul's provide delight to many Londoners and visitors to the Capital each year. They are a tangible, visual link to the heart of the City from the four corners of the modern metropolis. The importance of the vistas was strengthened following the Liverpool Street Station Inquiry of 1976. The subsequent Inspectors Report (1979) underlined the great value of these historic views, thus providing a framework for the Secretary of State for the Environment's proposals for protection.

Recent planning applications have however challenged this protection including the redevelopment of the former goods yard at Bishopsgate that extends to the NE of the Cathedral within the cone of protection. Potentially, development could completely obscure the dome from the viewpoint. In addition to the threat from development the vista is under pressure from the recently published GLA draft 'Mayor's Plan for London'. The document includes a detailed analysis of views in London to be protected in the future. Of considerable concern to the many thousands of visitors who enjoy this vista each year the Mayor's Plan does not recognise the wonderful keyhole vista from King Henry's Mound as one of the strategically protected London panoramas. Without this recognition the vista will be open to the threat of development in the future.

London is one of the great world cities. But what makes our city stand head and shoulders above the rest is the melting pot of modernity and history found on every street, along each waterway and in the green open spaces. Our heritage, including the ten-mile vista, is often seen as a barrier to economic growth and regeneration but this is simply not the case. London's historic fabric provides a framework for change that extends way beyond the confines of any given site. The scope for modern exemplary design (that in the right place could include high rise buildings) taking reference from our past is an exciting prospect that can act as the only real catalyst for long-term growth within a City founded almost 2000 years ago.

The ten-mile vista from Richmond Park links the City with arguably England's finest historic and natural landscape that extends along the River Thames between Hampton Court Palace and Kew that forms the area protected by the Thames Landscape Strategy. The Thames Landscape Strategy would urge everyone who is concerned about the potential threat to this vista to write to the London Mayor in support of the View from King Henry's Mound to ensure that it is included in the list of strategically protected views.

Letters should be sent by the end of September and addressed to:
Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London,
Greater London Authority, City Hall,
The Queen's Walk, London
SE1 2AA



Become a Friend of the Thames

Support the Thames Landscape Strategy

The Strategy is a unique 100 year blueprint for the river Thames between Hampton and Kew. Launched in 1994, it has won several national and international awards. Supported by a partnership of local authorities and national environmental agencies, over 180 projects and management proposals to enhance the riverside have been agreed. Already over 100 projects are complete or in progress.

Sir David Attenborough is the Patron of the Strategy, which works closely with local community groups to implement projects. Funding has been secured from the lottery, charitable trusts and commercial sponsors.

However, we need to raise every penny we can each year to enable the work to continue. If you would like to help please contact the Co-ordinator at the address below.

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The TLS would like to thank Diana Wilment who after many years writing Watermark's 'Questionmark' has decided to move on to fresh challenges.

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