

Watermark



The Newsletter of the Thames Landscape Strategy, Hampton to Kew Issue 14 April 2003

Heritage Lottery Bid Success!



Sir David celebrates the success of the HLF Bid and looks forward to continued success across the entire TLS area. The Heritage Lottery Fund bid 'Arcadia in the City' has been given the green light to proceed thanks to a successful stage one pass for match funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in January 2003. Led by the Thames Landscape Strategy (TLS), Richmond Council, the National Trust and English Heritage the £3m scheme intends to implement a series of projects over the next four years at the heart of the TLS area to realise the first stage in the renaissance of London's Arcadia.

Sir David Attenborough, patron of the Thames Landscape Strategy is delighted by the success stating "I truly welcome the HLF's decision to support our plans to regenerate and make more widely accessible the environment around this part of the Thames, so creating a 'London's Arcadia' for all. This area is one of London's finest assets and it gives me great pleasure to think that through the Thames Landscape Strategy we will see the re-opening and re-connecting of this historic riverside environment so that it can be appreciated and enjoyed for many years to come."

More details on page 7 inside.

The TLS supports many different facets of riverside life including wildlife, heritage, recreation and art. One of the strangest sights that the Strategy observed along the river recently emerged last spring almost unnoticed from under the arches of Richmond Bridge. To find out what the strange creature was (pictured right, complete with an almost full complement of those who built her) turn to page six.

Building the 'Drebbel'



INSIDE

Waterworks: Bringing you up to date on recent events.....	2/3
Project Progress: An update on the current work of the TLS across the partnership area.....	3
Feature: An alternative String of Pearls - TLS Project Assistant Dany Mcleod writes about the wonderful variety of Thames islands.....	4/5
Feature: Building the Drebbel.....	6
Progress Report: London's Arcadia.....	7
Feature: The Hogsmill River.....	8
Feature:	8

This issue of Watermark welcomes the National Trust as a full funding partner



The core costs of the Thames Landscape Strategy are funded by the TLS partnership that includes the London Boroughs of Hounslow, Kingston and Richmond, Elmbridge Borough Council, The Royal Parks Agency, The Environment Agency and English Heritage. It is supported by the Countryside Agency, English Nature and Surrey County Council.

This month the Thames Landscape Strategy Memorandum of Agreement has been agreed for a further three years ensuring continued support from the partnership and significantly has increased the Strategy's core funding without which the TLS could not survive. Under the new Memorandum of Agreement the Thames Landscape Strategy has a brand new partner – The National Trust. The Trust has joined the TLS as a full funding member from April this year. Nationwide, one of the jewels in the Trust's crown is the magnificent Ham House and gardens, situated at the geographical centre of the TLS area. In the past couple of years the National Trust, led by Ham House Property Manager, Anne Partington-Omar, has had an ever-increasing role in the development of the Thames Landscape particularly with the Arcadia in the City project and the publication of the Ham Avenues Management Plan. It seems only natural that they continue to play a pivotal role in the future development of the Strategy and in particular shaping the future of the magnificent riverside lands on and below Richmond Hill.

W a t e r w o r k s

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

King Henry's Mound



King Henry's Mound Improvements

The Royal Parks Agency has recently installed a series of new interpretative plaques at key strategic view points around Pembroke Lodge in Richmond Park. A new ground feature (pictured above) cuts across the pavement at the exact point the vista from King Henry's Mound to St. Paul's Cathedral passes above. The vista provides the link between the series of views and avenues that are celebrated by the Thames Landscape Strategy between Hampton and Kew with the City of London.

The Mound itself has been extensively landscaped and a new interpretation panel installed. Nearby at Poet's Corner a key-hole vista has been opened to Ham House one mile below and marked on the ground by a plaque.

BP Lend a Hand

Volunteers from BP's local office recently spent a day along Petersham Meadow's towpath learning new skills and giving the place a general spruce up. The group carried out a litterpick and cleared scrub (below) before planting a mixed holly and thorn hedge near the meadow.



Ten Year Review

It may seem hard to believe but the Thames Landscape Strategy is almost ten years old. On this important anniversary, the partnership has decided to carry out a full ten year review of the Strategy document in order to bring it up to date and to take into account changes in legislation and policy including the establishment of the GLA and changes to the appearance, ecology and use of the riverside landscape. The process will begin in the summer to be agreed and launched later next year. The TLS will of course involve the active participation of all the partnership and wider community groups that have a stake in the Thames Landscape to ensure that all views are accounted for.

Environment Trust for Richmond & BTCV Sponsored Walk

A special walk to celebrate some of the wonderful work that is carried out along the Thames Landscape was organised last year to coincide with the Queen's Golden Jubilee. A percentage of the money raised was handed to the TLS by Angela Kidner of the Environment Trust (below) to start the match funding of the Arcadia in the City Heritage Lottery Fund bid. Another walk is planned this year on September 14th - details can be obtained from: 020 8891 5455.



Seething Wells Victory

The long awaited result of the public inquiry regarding the development of the former filter beds at Seething Wells was announced earlier this month. The decision has halted any development for the time being. Congratulations to all those organisations that helped to safeguard the future of one of the river's most fascinating open spaces - the only question is what happens next!

Right: The view from Portsmouth Road looking towards Kingston across the filter beds

Ferry Quays (Brentford)

The TLS has been helping the new development at Ferry Quays get back in touch with its natural side. Native plants have been chosen to complement the riverside setting including willows, holly and mixed thorns. In addition, the TLS is helping to establish a volunteer group to engage new residents with their riverside.

Annual Meeting

254 TLS friends and partners packed the Great Hall of Hampton Court Palace on December 4th for the 2002 Annual Meeting. Hosted by Historic Royal Palaces, the evening began with a reception in the Queen's State Apartments that included a specially lit display of the new Golden Jubilee fountain at the end of the Long Water Avenue. Guests were permitted to wander through the Apartments and the earlier Tudor Palace which was lit for the mid winter evening (including the magnificent Hammer beam roof in the Great Hall). Director of gardens Terry Gough and TLS author Kim Wilkie took the platform first to discuss plans for the restoration of the Long Water Avenue and Ham Avenues respectfully. The guest speaker was Chief Executive of English Heritage, Dr Simon Thurley who spoke passionately about the future of the remarkable Thames Landscape including the threat to the vista from King Henry's Mound to St. Paul's Cathedral (see last issue of Watermark) from the proposed GLA Plan for London.

The evening was rounded off with wine and carols in the Great Hall. The Thames Landscape Strategy would like to give Historic Royal Palaces a huge thank you for providing such a magnificent venue. The only problem now is where do we go this year - Hampton Court really is a pretty hard act to follow!



W a t e r w o r k s

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

Project Progress

2003 Action Plan

The 2003/04 Action Plan proposes many major new projects to be developed over the coming years. It has been suggested that a scoping study could be carried out in Elmbridge for landscaping works in the Hurst Park area. In Kingston, a project is being developed under the railway bridge and the recent decision regarding Seething Wells provides a unique opportunity to find a long-term solution for site's future. In Hounslow the TLS has been active at Ferry Quays and is investigating the possibility of a major landscaping project between Strand-on-the-Green and Waterman's Park (to include the Kew side of the river as well). At Teddington the Strategy is working with the Waterways Trust and the Teddington Society to develop a landscaping project to co-incide with the Centenary of the opening of the Barge Dock next year.



The Thames Landscape Strategy was active at dozens of events last year and has visited many organisations to give a talk or presentation. Pictured above is the TLS Co-ordinator with Tony Leach of the Kingston Society.

The CD-ROM version of the TLS and the Executive Summary have proved popular and to date over 10,000 copies of the Access Guide have been distributed. The Strategy has received considerable press this year including many articles in the national papers. The Strategy is working with the Environment Agency to develop their proposals for flood risk management in our region and is continuing to support the Tidal Thames Bio-diversity Action Plan launched last month by the Thames Estuary Partnership. A full round-up of last year's events is in the Annual Report.



A regular event is organised in partnership with the Environment Trust for Richmond, riverside residents and the local Council carrying out weeding, litter picking and scrub removal. In line with TLS policies, the group has opened magnificent views to the Old Deer Park and on one occasion filled a skip full of broken bottles that had been thrown onto the beach along Richmond Riverfront! In February the TLS teamed up with the Friends of Strand on the Green and the Thames Strategy Kew to Chelea to clean up the area around the Hollows (pictured above) and has recently been active in Kingston. In January a hedge was laid on Richmond Hill where volunteers were joined by TLS Patron Sir David Attenborough (below). Other regular events are organised by the Ham & Petersham Association, the Kew, Marble Hill, Twickenham and Teddington Societies at various times of the year.

If you would like to get involved with riverside volunteering contact the TLS at the address on the back page to be put in touch with the right group.



Event organiser Vanessa Fison watering some of the newly planted thorn and holly plants along the Great South Avenue.

Volunteer Update

Up and down the river volunteers have been busy over the past year helping to tidy up their stretch of riverside. Many of these events are organised or supported by the Thames Landscape Strategy (who co-ordinate the 'Adopt a River' groups upstream of Kew Bridge on behalf of Thames 21) with activities ranging from foreshore litter clearance to the re-opening of lost views and vistas. One memorable event called the 'Week of Promise' was attended by almost 200 volunteers across the partnership area. The TLS continues to fund BTCV to carry out willow spiling along the Old Deer Park foreshore helping to keep this ancient craft alive and creating a valuable habitat for wildlife.

Ham Avenues Plan Launched

The long awaited Ham Avenues Management Plan written by Kim Wilkie was launched last December and significantly work has already started to prepare for the long term restoration of the magnificent but decayed landscape. In February, pupils from Grey Court School planted a thorn and holly hedge along the Great South Avenue in order to allow the plants to grow and form a 'green corridor' before any tree works start. The report recognises the Avenues as the finest Carolean landscape in the country and proposes a phased restoration over many years to benefit the areas wildlife, history and recreational opportunities. It is hoped the study will be adopted by Richmond Council following consultation.

An alternative 'String of Pearls'

Thames Landscape Strategy Project Assistant Dany McLeod, herself a resident of Taggs Island tells the story of one of the river's best kept secrets- what it is like to live on one of the many Thames islands.



The Taggs Island lagoon

From the Cotswolds to the Isle of Sheppey where the River meets the sea there are many small islands dotted in the River Thames, like a string of pearls. The River is 215 miles in length and has about 40 islands in its waters. The islands have provided a home to both wildlife and people for centuries. In addition to houses, there are thriving small businesses, boat building, light industry, artists studio's and clubs (the infamous Eel Pie Club the most notable in our region).

In the Victorian era the islands became popular for recreational pursuits and entertainment. The River and the islands gained popularity when a best-seller book, published in 1889, 'Three Men in a Boat' by Jerome K Jerome made 'messing about on the river the fashionable thing of the day. Small chalets and houseboats sprang up in great abundance as weekend retreats and holiday homes. From the 1960's the population of the islands began to become more permanent.

The local area from Hampton to Kew has 18 such islands; eyots or ait's, as they can be known all with their own unique character. Taggs Island lies between Garrick Island and Thames Ditton Island. It is situated opposite Bushy Park and

near to Hampton Court Palace. In 1873 Thomas Tagg built a hotel on the island, giving the island its present day name. Houseboats were moored around the island, two of which are still moored to the island today. In 1914 Fred Karno, a showman and impresario of the day, better remembered as being a circus owner rebuilt the hotel.

Today, Taggs has its own road bridge, one of the only islands in the Thames to have this luxury. The hotel fell into disrepair and was pulled down in 1971. The centre of the island was dug out and a lagoon was created, with an outlet to the Middlesex side of the River. All the residents live in houseboats. There are 61 boats of varying size and shape, from a studio to a four bed, two bathroom 'double decker'. One boat even boasts its own 'granny flat'. Although these homes are all afloat they pay council tax, have their dustbins emptied and can flush the 'loo' in the same way as the residents in the near by street and avenues. There are a few differences. Instead of a loft, they have a hold for the Christmas tree to be stored, beneath the floor instead of above the ceiling. The dustbin can get turned over and the rubbish strewn about, but by a mink not the fox. And a real advantage enjoyed recently by the residents was not to be flooded, as was Thames Ditton Island. The houseboats just rise with the water level, until you look down at the car you parked outside, looking rather like a matchbox toy.

Needless to say there are the myth and legends that have built up over the years. Did Charlie Chaplin have tea on that lovely old boat that still sits serenely facing the Molesey bank? Did 'Gert and Daisie' share a boat here (if there is any one who remembers the fine music hall pair)? The Island has a feeling of being a small village, with all the friendliness and gossip and social activity that makes up a community. The islanders hold two parties a year. There is a bonfire night party, with mulled wine and a barbecue and fireworks which are 'backed up' by the added attraction of a wonderful view of rockets and 'golden showers' from the nearby Imber Park. The Imber Park display has become the highlight of firework display for people near and far.

Each summer there is a garden party. Last year it took place on the weekend of the Golden Jubilee and much was made of the royal event with flags and bunting. A life size cut out of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh plus a real life photographer on hand took snaps of any partygoer wishing to pose with 'royalty'. There is a traditional game of Boule each year and a pictorial general knowledge quiz that would test the brain of any 'University Challenge' contestant. The Island has a varied wild life community. Most of the ducks, swans, grebes and such are territorial. One pair of swans has been in residence for the past 8 to 9 years. Each season of the year the birds follow their own unique pattern of behaviour.

In the spring young hopeful swans glide into the waters looking to set up home but are hastily shooed off by the long standing resident pair, Etcetra and Sandra (ETC and SND as is marked on their rings). If the intruders persist then war breaks out. A swan has been known to kill another, usually by drowning. The Canadian geese also fight for the prime sites to nest and are very noisy about it. They will destroy each others nests and any other duck or bird in the near vicinity. The grebes and the coots hopefully build their nests time and time again, only to see the nest torn apart, but they do not seem to learn the lesson. When the eggs are laid there is then the resident mink to be wary of. It is the lowly coots and mallard duck who fall prey to him. Last summer one mallard duck lost three sets of eggs to the dark sleek invader. When the eggs are hatched the next enemy is the pike and the heron, both of whom silently lurk, one under the water the other sitting on a near by branch.

One of the highlights of the summer season is the mating of the carp. Each year around early June many carp congregate in the lagoon and bask in the shallow warm water when the sun is shining. There is much thrashing around, jumping and diving whilst spawning. The boats are known to rock with the impact of the fish as they come together. There can be as many as 40 carp, some at least 3 foot in length at one time. The winter has its own highlights, A large number of differing breeds of duck gather in the shallow water of the lagoon (continued on the next page)

(continued) to avoid the harsher conditions in the main stream. A cormorant can be seen early each morning catching his breakfast. When the waters freeze over there is the comical sight of ducks waddling across the ice, usually in single file. One can always predict when very cold weather is on the way when the bread thrown in to the ducks is snatched away by the seagulls. Living on an island is quiet but never dull.

The TLS in the Planning Process

The TLS is supported, both financially and in kind by a partnership of relevant local authorities and national bodies. The TLS document includes over 180 projects and management proposals to enhance and protect the landscape, which have been agreed by the partners. A Co-ordinator is employed by the partners to work with the partners, local groups, national bodies and volunteers to further the aims of the Strategy. The TLS is a relevant document when planning applications are considered by the local authority. In the case of Richmond, Elmbridge and Hounslow Councils, it has been adopted as supplementary planning guidance, which means that it is 'a material consideration' when decisions are made. It is however, one of many other policies which have to be taken into account by the Planning Authorities as part of the decision making process. With regard to making representation on planning applications, planning briefs and any other relevant proposals put forward by Councils, developers or individuals, the Co-ordinators role, as agreed by the partners, is solely to promote the policies of the TLS with respect to those proposals. The Strategy is not a pressure group with regard to the planning process, and cannot be used to advance opinions which are not those incorporated within the Strategy document itself. This is to avoid possible conflicts of interest between the Co-ordinator and one of the funding partners. The partner Boroughs would however, encourage local organisations and individuals to refer to the Strategy themselves when making representations to the Council. It is freely available in the Council Offices of all the partner Boroughs, main libraries, on CD-ROM from Holly Lodge (priced £30.00).

A New Strategy for the Hogsmill Valley Walk is Adopted



Mill Street before improvements took place.....

Like any major river flowing through a large urban centre, the River Thames has many small tributaries along its length. The TLS representative for the Royal Borough of Kingston explains how a new strategy for one of these rivers intends to improve the riverside environment for both humans and wildlife alike.

The adoption by Kingston Council of a new strategy to redefine the Hogsmill River as an attractive and accessible asset for the borough residents was welcomed last year.

The Strategy highlights the importance of the many natural features along the Hogsmill Valley Walk. It examines the possibility of extending the walk to open up more views of the river and encourages greater number of users. The Strategy focuses on both general aims to be applied along the length of the river and specific projects to improve access for the public.

Now the emphasis has turned to implementing the Strategy. Following the developments at Charter Quay (see

last issue of Watermark), the mouth of the river has been opened up to the general public with new areas for seating in the open space and new wetland areas for wildlife. Progress has been made in several other areas along the walk as well as the railings near the Mill Street pub on the corner of Mill Street to expand views to the river and improve the overall appearance of the river. The unsightly and graffiti covered concrete railings have been removed and replaced by black railings similar to those around Hogsmill Island. Vegetation growth has been controlled and a management plan adopted to remove the overgrown area of land at the end of this stretch.

The Hogsmill is one of the last refuges of the water vole, a shy, native mammal. Because of this, it has been chosen as a priority species in the Borough's Biodiversity Action Plan. During the past 12 months the river has been extensively surveyed to identify how the riverbank can be managed in future so that water voles will always be found along its length. *Emma Lamey (Royal Borough of Kingston)*

.....and after



'A Watery Winter Wonderland'

The river was transformed earlier this year into a winter wonderland following some of the heaviest snowfalls in recent times. Shown is Richmond Riverfront looking splendid in the snow. Photos of the river in the snow would be appreciated.

Building the first submarine (or Mark Edwards: what depths has he sunk to now!)

In 1621 a wooden vessel rowed by 12 oarsmen became the first known working submarine. Cornelius Drebbel, a Dutch inventor working under the River Thames for James 1st designed, built and tested the vessel in the River between Westminster and Greenwich. Some 400 years later upstream, at Richmond local boat builder Mark Edwards (who was featured in the last Watermark building the new Queen's barge: The JUBILANT) became fascinated by this achievement, having read about it in a newspaper article. Mark set about producing a prototype double-ended submarine like a clinker 'whale' with a rudder for a tail, a conning tower/ entrance hatch for the blowhole and adjustable diving planes on the sides like fins. The actual boat was not built due to lack of finances but the idea and drawings appeared in the book 'Life at the Extremes' by Frances Ashcroft, published in 1998. A breakthrough came when BBC 2 decided to make a series of programmes, 'Building the Impossible', recording the first attempts of man to explore the boundaries of his existence. Mark at last had his opportunity to build the submarine right in the middle of the Thames landscape Strategy area.

The exercise was to build and test a prototype submarine within the space of 12 weeks using 17th century technology and materials. Chris Wise, Professor of Creative Design at Imperial College, designed the submarine. Scientist Caroline Bailey gave advice on materials but it was up to Mark to build the boat. The design was not unlike Mark's first drawings, but with the conning tower placed centrally and with a larger frame. Oak was the material of choice but the budget forced a compromise and the submarine was planked with mahogany plywood instead. The tools used by Mark were often ones that Drebbel would have used proving to be just as effective as modern day tools. As construction commenced a number of problems arose. The sole means of propulsion would be two rowers. Would there be sufficient air for the rowers as they exerting themselves fully and would the leather gaiters used around the rowlocks keep the water from flooding the sub? Two built-in water ballast tanks were introduced into the design and suction pumps were added, having been used on boats since the time of Alexander the Great. Dive planes were added to control depth, reducing the risk of hitting the bottom and greased leather washers sealed the control tools.

On completion, the sub was named 'The Drebbel' in memory of the original designer. It passed health and safety regulations (a pretty neat trick in itself these days!) and was tested in the Eton School rowing lake. A few problems arose, such as small leaks but these were made watertight with either pitch or red lead paste, in good 17th century style and the rowers were given the OK to descend. With only a few setbacks the event was successful and the reconstruction of the sub actually worked. But for all of those who have watched Mark work over the years this will not have come as a surprise - his knowledge and craftsmanship are unequalled, a true genius of his profession. 'The Drebbel' can be seen from mid-June until early September outside 'The River and Rowing Museum at Henley on Thames. It is hoped to eventually bring the Drebbel 'back home' to be placed in Heron Square, Richmond.

The JUBILANT (front left), also constructed at Richmond Bridge Boathouse entering the The City of London



London's Arcadia:

In the last edition of Watermark the launch of the 'Arcadia in the City' project was reported to coincide with the Centenary of the Act of Parliament that protects the view from Richmond Hill. Since then a great number of people have been working tirelessly to ensure success culminating in January with an announcement by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) that the project had successfully been awarded a Stage I pass to take Arcadia forward to the next phase.

To implement the Thames Landscape Strategy will take many decades and tens of millions of pounds to complete (probably Euros by then!). So in order to build on the considerable head of steam that the Arcadia project has built up over the past year the TLS has begun to broaden the scope of the project to benefit the entire TLS region. In particular the 'London's Arcadia - one of the world's great urban landscapes' theme is to be used more widely (where appropriate) to help raise funds to roll out the Strategy and promote the remarkable river landscape. This summer, market research and visitor surveys (funded by the HLF) will be carried out to ascertain exactly what it is about the Thames landscape that is loved (and hated) by the public and how facilities can be improved.

The present grant from the HLF will ensure that almost 40 projects identified in the Strategy will be implemented over the next 4 years at the TLS's geographical centre. In all, Arcadia proposes 122 projects which including the development year in 2003 will cost a total of £3.3 m. This year is focused on the development and refinement of the detailed proposals in consultation with the community, partners and suppliers. The total cost of the project will need to be matched by generous contributions from sponsors and donations totalling £750,000 so the local fundraising has already started in haste. As part of the bid, Richmond Borough Council has pledged commitment to the long-term day to day maintenance of the HLF Arcadia area and money to match the development year match-funding requirement.

The project has been steered by the Thames Landscape Strategy but will be

One of the world's great urban landscapes

led from now on by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, in partnership with English Heritage, the National Trust, the community and the TLS.

Taking place this year alongside the detailed development of the projects is a series of 'early hits' that have been initiated to demonstrate the way that work on the ground will take place as the scheme evolves. To date this has included hedge laying in Nightingale Lane and the planting of a mixed holly and thorn Hedge along the Great South Avenue in Ham. A reed bed is planned for Choldmondely Walk and the underside of the pedestrian arch to Richmond Bridge will be imaginatively lit. But by far the most important expression in the way that Arcadia is to initiate a real renaissance in the riverside has been the improvement in the day to day management of the towpath and riverside vegetation. The plan has taken many different views into account in order to produce a holistic management regime that for the first time actually takes the monthly rhythms of the tide into account. For example, litter picking now takes place each month immediately after the series of high spring tides. It really is all very exciting. More details next time.

What is London's Arcadia?

The following provides a brief abstract of the project's development.

The scope of the Arcadia project

London's Arcadia spans from Richmond Hill down to and along the riverside from Radnor Gardens to the Old Deer Park. The project intends to open up and bring together the public spaces along the river to link and connect the major historical centres for the enjoyment by local residents, Londoners and tourists for many years to come.

Riverside litter - Arcadia is proposing new and imaginative ways to reduce its impact on the environment



The View during January's snow storms - still the only view in the UK to be protected by an Act of Parliament.

This requires regenerating and managing the open spaces, pathways, landscaped gardens, avenues and meadowlands throughout the area as well as supporting and managing the river environment with its associated wildlife and recreational opportunities. Not only will Arcadia provide the cultural and educational benefits of a leading heritage site but it will also provide leisure and health benefits including interpretation, boating facilities and the imaginative use of lighting – all to be in keeping with the historic and natural treasures of the area.

What does Arcadia mean?

The term Arcadia is derived from the Greek Arcadia mountain district in the Peloponnese, and taken to mean an 'idyllic pastoral landscape' a symbol of man in nature co-existing in harmony.

Creating an Arcadia along the Thames

During the C18th, an Arcadia was re-created along the Thames on and below Richmond Hill. Magnificent Royal and Aristocratic palaces, gardens and parks were constructed and linked by a series of avenues and set within a framework of meadows and woodland.

A landscape of Inspiration

The Thames landscape between Hampton and Kew quickly became a leading focus of European culture and is recognised as the cradle of the English Landscape movement. It has inspired poets, painters, writers and artists to the present day, including James Thomson, Alexander Pope, Horace

Walpole, Daniel Defoe, J M Turner, Joseph Addison, Charles Dickens, Octavia Hill, Benjamin Britten and the Rolling Stones!

The People's Landscape

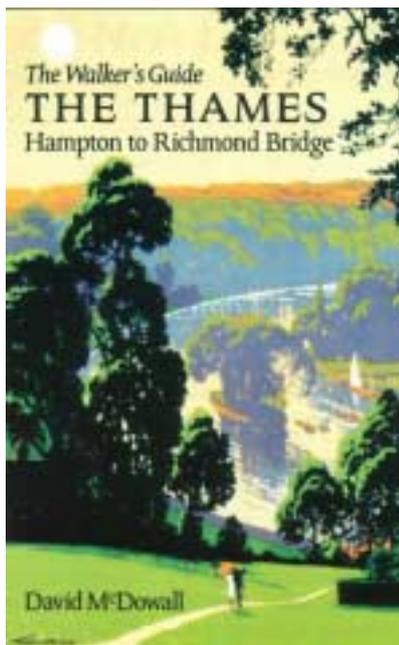
Over time this privileged C18th landscape was opened up for the enjoyment of the public. By the late Victorian age, this stretch of the Thames had become the 'Playground of London'. Arcadia had been democratised.

Indignation!

But a century ago the Thames Landscape was threatened by development and much of the riverside including the view from Richmond Hill would have been lost had it not been for a pioneering environmental campaign (indignation as it was known then) to ensure that it was protected.

The Thames Landscape Strategy

London's Arcadia is a true countryside in the city that sweeps over a stretch of the Thames that offers unrivalled recreational and tourist opportunities to escape the hustle and bustle of modern city life yet is still within Europe's largest metropolis. The TLS provides a unique opportunity for the events of the past to come full circle to initiate a true renaissance of the river to ensure the continued survival of this most special of watery panoramas. *Please visit the web site at www.richmond.gov.uk/arcadia*



A New Riverside Companion!

"An intriguing and immensely entertaining tour through one of the most important landscapes in England. David McDowall is a wonderful storyteller and witty commentator. He has uncovered a fascinating range of details about the river and its settlements. The book will make a most engaging companion, both on walks and in the pub afterwards. Even those who think they know the landscape well will discover corners and nuggets they never even suspected"

Kim Wilkie Author, The Thames Landscape Strategy

A 2nd volume is planned for downstream of Richmond Bridge to Putney in the future. Available from good local bookshops or direct from the publisher at: David McDowall, 31 Cambrian Road, Richmond TW10 6JQ priced £8.99 (+£1.00pp)

The Story of Teddington Studios by John Tasker

The fascinating story of Teddington Studios is told. Proceeds from the publication are to raise funds for the Twickenham Museum. Copies available from the Museum: 25 The Embankment, Twickenham (priced £5.00) - the museum is well worth a visit too!

'A Moment in Time'

Exactly 400-years after the death of Queen Elizabeth I at Richmond Palace, hundreds of people gathered on Richmond Green to witness a unique event to commemorate the life and legacy of the Queen. Organised by the TLS and sponsored by the Kingston Riding Centre and St. George PLC, the event re-enacted the popular legend that the dead Queen's ring was dropped from the gatehouse of Richmond Palace by a lady in waiting to be taken to James VI in Scotland. Guests of honour were the the Earl and Countess of Wessex who watched the re-enactment take place with great amusement before entering Richmond Theatre for the evening's performance of a 'Moment in Time', a specially commissioned Royal Charity Gala staged by Richard Douglas Promotions and organised by Richmond Glorianna. The stunning performance starred amongst others Richard E Grant, Robert Hardy, Thelma Barlow, Bobby Davro and Colin Starkey.

Pictured right is Jo Mastroianni with master of ceremony Lord Watson with the Earl and Countess. The event was closed (with a 21st Century twist to the story) by a cyclist who took the ring all the way to Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh, taking 3 days to complete the epic re-enactment of events of 400 ago. More next time.



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 Thames Landscape 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.

Watermark is free to subscribers and costs £1.50 where sold

**Thames Landscape Strategy,
Hampton to Kew
c/o Holly Lodge,
Richmond Park, Richmond,
Surrey TW10 5HS
Tel 020 8940 0654
Fax 020 8332 2730
e-mail j.debney@richmond.gov.uk
www.thames-landscape-strategy.org.uk**

Printed on recycled paper by Jaggerprint Victoria 020 8546 0593.



ELMBRIDGE
BOROUGH COUNCIL



LONDON BOROUGH OF
RICHMOND UPON THAMES



HOUNSLOW



Royal
Kingston



English Heritage



ENGLISH
NATURE



THE
ROYAL
PARKS



THE NATIONAL TRUST



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

