



TLS Annual Meeting

The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew hosted the 2018 Annual TLS meeting at the Nash Conservatory. Attended by 180 TLS friends and partners, HRH The Duke of Gloucester gave the key note speech.

Richmond Hill Telescope Opening

On Thursday 6th September the Thames Landscape Strategy opened a new telescope on Richmond Hill. The Mayor for Richmond upon Thames Cllr Ben Khosa, Pat Spaight, Zac Goldsmith and Ellen LeCompt unveiled the telescope in the traditional Thames Landscape Strategy manner by the cutting a garland of ivy picked from Richmond Hill. The telescope has been made possible by the London Borough of Richmond Civic Pride Fund and LBRuT Parks who funded the installation. It replaces a telescope that was stolen in 2015 funded by Richmond Hill resident and long standing Secretary of the Richmond Society Pat Spaight in memory of her late husband – Air Commodore Robin Spaight. The coin free telescope consists to 2 binoculars set at different heights offering an enhanced opportunity to explore the view.



Hounslow Ganeshotsav Mandal

The TLS has once again teamed up with the Hounslow Ganeshotsav Mandal (HGM) to help arrange the immersion of Lord Ganesh into the River Thames at Kingston Sailing Club. The event has now been running for 11 years and it has been estimated that the immersion has included over 5,000 people from the Hindu community who had previously had very little contact with the Thames Landscape- many previously feeling that the river had little value to them.

In 2018, the TLS has established a volunteer programme with HGM that will be rolled out over the winter 2018 /19 at Dukes Meadow, Canbury Gardens and Ham.

On 13th September the HGM was opened with a spectacular event in the Jubilee Room at Westminster Hall attended by three Hounslow MPs (Seema Malhotra MP pictured below) and representatives from the London Hindu community. The TLS Co-ordinator spoke about the relationship and the value that the partnership has added to the diversity of the river landscape.



North Kingston Neighbourhood Forum

TLS Co-ordinator Jason Debney was the guest speaker at the North Kingston Neighbourhood Forum AGM. At the meeting, the role of the TLS was introduced and TLS aspirations for the river landscape between Lower Ham Road and Kingston Bridge were discussed with particular reference to potential CiL funded projects.

Ham and Petersham Himalayan Balsam Bashing

The TLS has been working with 3 local residents to manage Himalayan Balsam along the Ham and Petersham reach. It is recorded that there has been a reduction in the plant by 60% this year compared to last.





Great River Race

The TLS assisted the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and the GRR prepare the finish site at Ham including grass cutting and scrub management along the river banks. During the race, the TLS hosted a marquee for Friends and partners. For the second year, *Mothers for Old Father Thames* rowed to raise funds for the FTT. (shown above with Their Worships The Mayors of Richmond and Kingston upon Thames).

Hubbub Plastic Boat Launch

The TLS has been working with leading environmental charity Hubbub to reduce plastic litter on the tidal Thames. In August Secretary of State Therese Coffey launched a new boat at Richmond made by Mark Edwards from plastic bottles collected from the river. The TLS intends to use the boat during its volunteering programme.

The Wey to The Thames

The project to install signs linking the Thames National Trail at Weybridge with the Wey Navigation was completed although one sign remains uninstalled waiting for the Weybridge Point scheme to go ahead. The project was made possible from an Elmbridge Borough Council CiL fund grant.

Ham Polo Club

The TLS has teamed up with the Ham Polo Club to form a new volunteer group to help manage the Petersham Avenue between the Polo Club and Petersham Road. The opportunity for a joint funding bid is being explored which could include a charity Polo Match to mark the 25th anniversary of the Thames Landscape Strategy.

Funding Bids Currently Being Written

The Longford Community Engagement Project

A £20K Heathrow Community Fund: Communities for Tomorrow bid for the Longford River to enable a series of volunteer activities (for a two year period) carrying out litter and habitat clearing, citizen science and water quality training. To raise the profile of the Longford River locally and to start building community partnerships with statutory authorities. £9k management fee for TLS. Application: FTT Partners: Royal parks, LBH, LBRUT, Historic Royal Palaces, EA, local community

Volunteer Event Dukes Meadow

Heathrow Community Cohesion. £2.5K FTT bid. A volunteering event to the bandstand area including clearing and hedge planting targeting the Hounslow Hindu community.

Great River Avenue Ham

A Big Lottery Awards for All bid in partnership with Operation Centaur to continue the environmental management of the GRA in Ham with local school children and volunteers. £4k management fee for the TLS.



Elmbridge Refugee Programme

Reaching Communities Fund. £30k over three years. Working with Elmbridge Greenleaf and Elmbridge CAN to put in place a programme of works tailored towards asylum seekers working towards their DoE Award. In partnership with Swingbridge Trust, the volunteers would carry out a series of practice conservation works from the community narrowboat Swingbridge II.

Ham Backwaters and Old Deer Park

The TLS has established that works to implement the recently published Richmond Tidal Thames HAP are eligible for BIFFA award funding up to £200k. To explore with stakeholders and partners which measures would be appropriate to take forward with the potential to form a larger project with the Ham Neighbourhood Forum.



Kingston University

The TLS and Kingston University are exploring a new partnership. **Water Resilience in Cities: Experiences of the Thames and the James** is a half-day seminar managed by Kingston University. Kingston University is also writing a funding bid to carry out research into the economic value of the Arcadian Thames, including the waterspace and the Thames Landscape Strategy itself. This would evaluate a series of different factors including the function of the green / blue space, health benefits, recreational opportunities, natural capital, views and cultural associations. To include a trial at Kingston to establish how a model could be developed that could be used across the Arcadian Thames. This research would help support future funding applications and inform the development control process.

Pimp My Cause

To investigate the potential for pro bono marketing advice leading to the 25th anniversary of the Thames Landscape Strategy and the Once upon the Royal River programme of projects.

Father Thames Trust

Trustees have been working towards establishing the FTT Legacies Programme and have begun to explore the potential for business sponsorship. Local fund raising continues.