



THE RICHMOND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Members' Newsletter

Issue 112

January 2023

Our first talk of the year promises to be fun! We are at Hampton Court between the years of 1660 and 1830, and there are lots of scandalous goings-on.

The Stuarts and Hanoverians have quite a story to tell that is not about ambassadors and politics, fashion and dignity.



Our speaker is a specialist on Hampton Court Palace, and will be sharing the exciting 'unofficial' side of the court.

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Richmond Local History Society is a registered charity, no. 292907

Website: www.richmondhistory.org.uk

Facebook: RichmondLocalHistorySociety

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Happy New Year!

Our Vice-Chair, Simon Fowler, who has taken on responsibility for organising our talks, has arranged an exciting programme for 2023. We've highlighted the next five talks in this issue.

You can read on our website about our other talks in 2023 – they include talks by Stephen Bartlett on Kew's Priory Estate and by Simon Targett on George Vancouver, who is buried in Petersham. Our website also has reports on our previous talks, and articles on Richmond Park, Richmond's almshouses, the former Star and Garter Home, and much more.

Our membership year runs from 1 January. Unless you currently pay by standing order, we're asking you to renew your membership now please: you can find out how to do this on page 11.

We have no staff, and all our work is undertaken by a small, and increasingly dwindling, number of volunteers. We need a new membership secretary (see page 9) and volunteers in all areas of our work, particularly publicity.

And in the longer term we'd like to identify people who could take on the roles we each do now – we're concerned that the future of our Society could be at risk if we don't have a pool of other people to whom, in due course, we could pass the baton.

Please consider what you could do to help our Society to thrive and to ensure its continuity; thank you.

Robert Smith

Richmond Local History Society (RLHS)			
President	Paul Velluet		
Chairman	Robert Smith	Vice-Chairman	Simon Fowler
	<i>(also Richmond History editor, & web editor)</i>		
Secretary	Elizabeth Velluet	Treasurer	Rose Constantine
Membership	Shirley Clark		
Committee members	Jill Lamb, Shirley Newton, Simon Targett		
Contact details	Richmond Local History Society, 9 Bridge Road, St Margarets, Twickenham TW1 1RE Email: rich.history@yahoo.co.uk		

NEW PUBLICATIONS

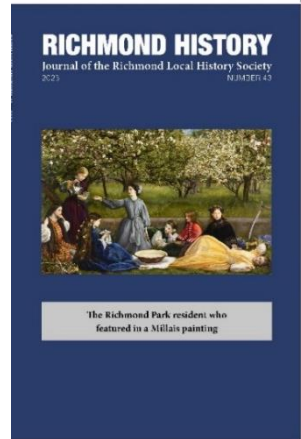
Richmond History journal

The 2023 issue of our journal is now available, with more than 30 of its 98 pages in colour.

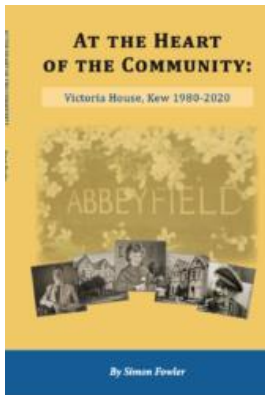
And we have won yet another award for it, this time for our 2021/22 issue.

For the second year running, the prestigious London and Middlesex Archaeological Society (LAMAS) selected *Richmond History* as best journal in its London-wide Publications Awards.

Price: £7 (£5 for Society members).



An inspirational story about one of Kew's best loved institutions



The Abbeyfield movement is an international network of homes established to help lonely senior citizens, and to involve the community as much as possible in running homes.

At the Heart of the Community: Victoria House, Kew 1980-2020 traces the history of the Abbeyfield movement locally. Between 1980 and 2020, Victoria House cared for many of Kew's elderly residents.

Simon Fowler's book offers a fascinating history of a unique part of life in Kew today. It is also the first history of a modern care home in Britain. The book looks at why the House was built and how it has changed over the past forty years, including its turbulent last few years.

Price: £5.

All our books are available from our online bookshop and at our meetings, often with member discounts.

You can also buy them from The Open Book shop, King St, Richmond.

FORTHCOMING TALKS IN 2023

JAN: Sex, Secrets, Scandal and Salacious Gossip of the Royal Court 1660 – 1830



In exploring the British Royal Court from 1660 to 1830, our speaker will lift the veil about the naughty bits of history you would probably not have learned about at school!

1660 saw the restoration of the monarchy with Charles II, whose life in exile in France had also been 'colourful'; his brother James II followed, and after him came William III and Mary II (the elder daughter of James II). Queen Anne, James's younger daughter, was the last of the Stuarts, and in 1714 was followed by the four Hanoverian King Georges.

Some of these monarchs led really very racy lifestyles, so it should be a fascinating evening.



Our speaker will be **Sarah Slater**: she is a tour guide at Hampton Court Palace – sometimes in costume, as you can see – and she also delivers lectures on it.

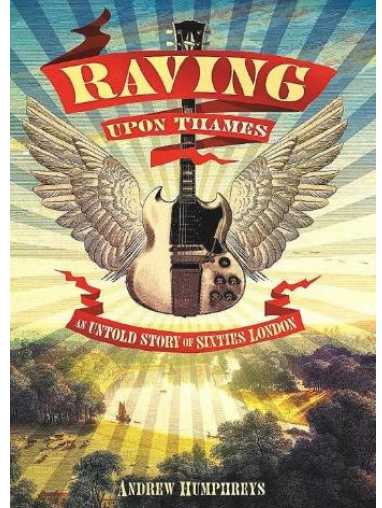
After 23 years in retail banking, Sarah changed career, and in 2008 she joined Historic Royal Palaces as a warder and guide at Hampton Court Palace.

She has a particular interest in the human stories of those who have lived and worked within the palace walls, so we should really get the inside track on them.

FEB: Raving upon Thames: The Rolling Stones in Richmond

February 2023 marks exactly 60 years since the Rolling Stones launched their Sunday-night residency at the Station Hotel, aka the *Crawdaddy Club* in Richmond. Over the following 16 weeks, the group would rapidly progress from unknowns to the verge of stardom.

While at the *Crawdaddy* the Stones would hone their stage act, receive their first reviews, meet the Beatles, land a manager, record a first single, play their first festival, make their first TV appearance, and sign on for a UK tour supporting one of their heroes, Bo Diddley.



What *The Cavern* was to the Beatles, the *Crawdaddy* was to The Rolling Stones.

But Mick Jagger and Keith Richard were from Deptford, SE London; Bill Wyman was from Lewisham, and Charlie Watts from Wembley – what brought them to Richmond? How did the borough play such a large part in their early success? And why isn't this story better known? Expect answers to these questions, and more, in our February talk.



Our speaker is **Andrew Humphreys**, a member of our Society who has spent 25 years in global newspaper and magazine publishing.

He lives in Richmond, where he now runs Paradise Road, a publishing company producing non-fiction books about London. His book *Raving upon Thames: An Untold Story of Sixties London* was published in 2022.

MARCH: The royal medieval Manor House of Ham

When the Manor House of Ham is mentioned, the normal response is to reflect on a classic Georgian house on the corner of Ham Street and Sandy Lane, not far from Ham House.



© Gordon Elsdén
HIMANISH DAS ARCHITECT

Yet, the original manor house, directly opposite Grey Court School on Ham Street, was a building with a far more intriguing history.

This was a *royal* manor house built by the House of Lancaster in the fifteenth century, and it pre-dated Ham House by nearly 200 years.

Our speaker says his research on the house is very much work in progress but he will share with us the history of the house; its regrettable destruction in 1958; and current efforts to create drawings and models of the house that will raise its profile in the local community

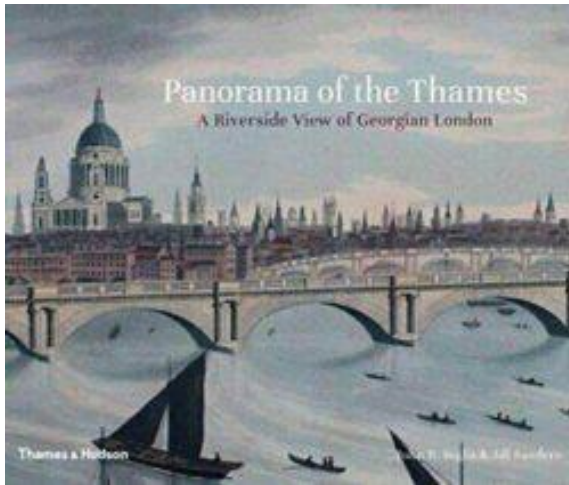


Gordon Elsdén is our speaker on this topic, and is a local historian, writer, traveller and businessman.

He has been working to resurrect public awareness of the long-forgotten ancient history of Ham.

Without this awareness, decisions will continue to be made by local councillors and developers that further diminish the rich historical legacy of Ham.

APRIL: The *Panorama of the Thames*: how the river has changed over nearly 200 years



April's talk is a joint event with the Richmond Society.

It will open up to us the nineteenth-century hand-coloured aquatint work, *Panorama of the Thames*, illustrating both banks of the fifteen-mile stretch of river from Richmond Hill to Westminster.

Stretching to 60 feet, the 46 prints were glued together and folded into a concertina.

This was because it was designed for boat users: at that time, the river was a prime means of transport, so it was a practical reference 'document', and included detailed information about the waterway, the landscape, the buildings and the people who lived and worked on the banks of the river Thames.

After meticulous surveys and two summers' work it was published in 1829. There was also an accompanying booklet, by London bookseller Samuel Leigh who specialised in both panoramas and guidebooks.

The April talk will explore the work with us, and will show us how the river has changed since then.

Journalist **Jill Sanders** is the speaker for this shared event: she developed an intense interest in the river's landscape after living for over 25 years on an island in the Thames, and is involved with local groups to conserve and enhance the river environment.

Jill has been working on a similar exercise to the original study, in order to produce a current record of the banks of the river, so it will be a fascinating evening.

MAY: Annual General Meeting

Talk: Housing the Workers – the birth of council housing in London 1890-1925

In Manor Grove, off Manor Road near North Sheen station, Richmond has one of the oldest developments of council housing in England. 1890 brought the 'Housing for the Working Classes Act' which allowed London's local councils to build houses as well as clear away slums.



In the same year, Richmond was created a municipal borough, and Manor Grove was among the first council housing in what was to become Greater London. It was built through the efforts of Richmond's very own 'People's Champion', councillor William Thompson, a young Liberal schoolmaster who gained approval in 1892 for a significant scheme of municipal housing. The success of the Manor Grove scheme – the Richmond Experiment – led to its expansion until 132 homes were provided by 1900.



In this talk **Martin Stilwell** will discuss how the concept was developed across south west London and the Surrey suburbs.

Martin is a volunteer researcher at the Surrey History Centre in Woking and has a specialist interest in early social housing. His research encompasses all the early London County Council housing, but he has particularly focused on London and Surrey.

In 2020 Martin gave a very well received talk to our Society on the industrialisation of Kew and North Richmond in WWI. He expanded his talk into an article in the 2020 issue of our journal, *Richmond History*, and for that he received an award from the British Association for Local History.

WILL YOU HELP TO MAKE THE MOST OF OUR SOCIETY?

PLEASE VOLUNTEER!

The Society is entirely run by volunteers. To keep things going well, we'd *really* like help in the areas below. We always help volunteers to settle in, and support them in their role; none of the topics described below is hugely time-demanding but they do make a real difference to the Society.

If you might be able to give a hand, please do email our Chairman, Robert Smith to find out more, or discuss a role: chair@richmondhistory.org.uk

Membership

Our Membership Secretary, Shirley Clark, is standing down. She has done a great job in moving our membership and renewals online, and we urgently need someone to continue her good work.

Our membership database is not complex, and the role is at the centre of the society. Some aspects, such as 'meeting and greeting' on the door at our talks (nine a year), could perhaps be a job-share.

If you have good organisational skills and enjoy dealing with people, you might also really enjoy this rewarding role. You'd get lots of support.

Publicity

We're very keen to do more publicity – promoting the Society, publicising our talks and publications and raising our profile, both via traditional methods and also using social media.

If you have some experience in either, you could find it fun, and very rewarding.

IT

We currently don't have sufficient technical expertise 'in-house' to fix the website easily when it occasionally goes wrong; and we'd like to make more of our online membership system (on *Stripe*).

If your own IT expertise might help to make us slicker, we'd love to hear from you.

Do please give a little time if you can!

RECENT EVENTS

Previous talks are also available on our website, in the Archive section.

FUTURE EVENTS

Our physical venue is always Duke Street Church, Richmond TW9 1DH. Events are also broadcast on Zoom.

To attend in person: doors open 7.30pm. There is no need to book.

To attend via Zoom: log in from 7.45pm. Everyone registered for our e-bulletins receive a reminder email before events, with the Zoom links.

To register, email membership@richmondhistory.org.uk.

Events, 2023		
Jan	Mon 9 8.00 pm	Sex, secrets, scandal and salacious gossip of the Royal Court 1660 – 1830 Speaker: Sarah Slater
Feb	Mon 13 8.00 pm	Raving upon Thames: Richmond's music scene in the 1960s Speaker: Andrew Humphreys
Mar	Mon 13 8.00 pm	The Manor House of Ham Speaker: Gordon Elsdon
April	Mon 24 8.00 pm	The Panorama of the Thames: how the river has changed over nearly 200 years. Joint event with The Richmond Society Speaker: Jill Sanders
May	Mon 22 8.00 pm	Annual General Meeting Chairman: Robert Smith
		Housing the Workers – the birth of council housing in London 1890-1925 Speaker: Martin Stilwell

For the latest on all the Society's talks and events programme, visit our website at www.richmondhistory.org.uk

RLHS MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mr P Baker, Mrs M Emerson, Mr P Emerson, Mr R Gillingwater, Dr E Hallam-Smith, Ms E Mapp, Ms F McDaniel, Miss P Owain-Jones, Mrs H Thomson, Mr I Thomson, Ms E Wilson, Mr R Woolf.

Membership subscriptions for 2023 are due on 1 January

Members gain free admission to talks, our newsletters, the opportunity to join RLHS visits, and discounts on most publications.

- **If you currently pay by standing order**, do nothing – your subscription will renew automatically.
- **If you are setting up a *new* standing order**, complete the form overleaf and return it with your payment to the address shown.
- **If you pay by cheque**, complete the form overleaf and return it with your payment to the address shown.
- **If you renew online**, do this through our website only – there is no need to complete the form.
<https://www.richmondhistory.org.uk/wordpress/products/>

For queries on any aspect of membership, and to be included in the e-bulletin mailing list, contact the Membership Secretary by email: membership@richmondhistory.org.uk

Security: Your details are safe – we do not share our database with third parties.

Please see our Privacy Policy for more information:

<https://www.richmondhistory.org.uk/wordpress/what-we-do/richmond-local-history-society-data-privacy-policy/>

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2023

For payment by cheque or *NEW* standing order

Return this form and your payment to the Membership Secretary

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

Name(s):

Address & Postcode:

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Email:

Telephone / Mobile No:

Date:

Would you like to be added to our e-Bulletin mailing list? Yes

No

Type of Membership:

Individual **£12**

Joint (at same address) **£20**

Type of payment: Cheque

Cash

New Standing Order *

* Please contact the Membership Secretary, Shirley Clark
membership@richmondhistory.org.uk

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