



# The Twickenham Society

[www.twicksoc.org.uk](http://www.twicksoc.org.uk)

## Eel Pie Update

Issue 8 - April 2005

### From the Chair

We are delighted to offer you a shortened version of the Eel Pie published to bring you up to date with the immediate future programme.

Since the last Bulletin we have had Christmas and the AGM. We had a good meeting then and a good discussion See photo.



In March we shared a very interesting meeting with other groups to hear Kim Wilkie and others present issues to do with Floodscape for the area.

Over the last couple of years we have joined with other local groups as the Twickenham Society Group on developments at Twickenham riverside. Last year we were pleased to support the Council on the short term scheme. And are also pleased to see that scheme almost finished and look forward to information about the next stages.

I hope you will join us for the forthcoming events These include a big presentation on the developments in Bushy Park see enclosed leaflet. The introduction from the Project Director is on 27th June.

But before that we are going to be at The Fair on The Green on 30th May all day. We are planning a book sale and a Tombola. Please collect items for both and please bring books or tombola items to my house (evenings and weekends). If you can help on the day please contact us about timing.

Your Twickenham Society is around and working hard. Keep In Touch.

With all good wishes

Judith Lovelace  
020 8404 4370

### "FLOODSCAPE" MEETING

St Mary's Church, Twickenham, March 10<sup>TH</sup>

Over 150 people crowded into St Mary's Church at Twickenham to listen to a presentation of the risks of local floods that may arise from climate change, and the Environment Agency's plans for managing them.

The meeting had been arranged by the River Thames Society in association with the Eel Pie Island Association, the Environment Trust for Richmond upon Thames, Friends of Marble Hill, Richmond Environmental Information Centre, the Twickenham Society and the York House Society.

It was addressed by Kim Wilkie, originator of the Thames Landscape Strategy, who is currently a consultant to the Environment Agency. He is responsible for the preparation of the "Floodscape" proposal for flood management between Richmond and Teddington. It is an elegant concept, which combines landscaping on the Surrey bank to restore traditional vistas, whilst at the same time creating flood plains that will enable most local inhabitants to survive peak flooding. He showed historic and contemporary pictures of landscaping and riverside meadows of Petersham and Ham which gave an idea of what it would be like if cattle grazed there. To cope with extra volumes of flood water it is proposed to remove from Ham fields the bomb-site rubble that was deposited there, during the post-war reconstruction of London. Computer simulations of flood levels with and without the creation of the flood meadows dramatically illustrated the benefits of the proposal to local residents.

An excellent set of questions from the audience set the "Floodscape" proposal in the much wider context of the whole of the Thames, its tributaries and the effects of tide. In response, Kim Wilkie noted that paving-over gardens in Reading for car space and the new car park for Terminal 5 will seriously increase water levels in Richmond. He believed that the "Floodscape" proposal had demonstrated the soft landscaping approach to flood management could well be superior to the current policy of building high embankments to contain floodwaters. This realisation was a major factor in John Prescott's recent decision to put the Thames Gateway project "on hold".

The community is obviously very concerned about future flood risk. Many left the meeting feeling they had had an excellent presentation of what steps are being taken to manage risk in our stretch of the Thames, but wanting to know more about the big picture. Maybe the local Societies can organise a future meeting to deal with that.

### Communications by eMail

If you would like to receive news and reminders of Twickenham Society events by eMail, please send a mail to [Richard.Spires@twicksoc.org.uk](mailto:Richard.Spires@twicksoc.org.uk).

## Forthcoming Events

<p>Tuesday 24th May</p> <p>Rob Gray Chair of FORCE</p> <p>River Crane Area of Opportunity</p> <p>19:30</p> <p>Cricket Pavilion on Twickenham Green</p>
<p>Monday 30th May</p> <p>Hands Fair on Twickenham Green</p> <p>Twickenham Society Stand With Tombola</p>
<p>Monday 27th June</p> <p>Greg McErlean Bushy Park Restoration Project</p> <p>19:30</p> <p>St Mary's Church Hall</p>
<p>Friday 29th July</p> <p>Annual Social Event Richmond Venturer</p> <p>19:30</p> <p>Tickets £15 (including buffet and drinks) Available from the treasurer</p>
<p>October TBA</p> <p>19.30 RFU</p> <p>Eel Pie Sounds</p> <p>Social event with Music from the 50s, 60s and 70s</p>

### Future meetings, events visits

Note that our regular venue for Twickenham Talks has moved down Church Street to number 7 the home of the Twickenham Club.

Any ideas for future speakers? Events or visits ?

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