



Friends of Twickenham Green

An open society of local residents and community working towards a common goal: to protect the charm and integrity of one of West London's most-treasured public spaces.

Newsletter, May 2022

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Our website

<https://fotg.uk>

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Twickenham Green, Empire Day, 24 May 1909

Chair's Welcome

Dear Friends,

The weather is improving which has brought increased activity on The Green - even though we have had a few chilly days.

We are also in the 'public holiday season' with an unusually long 'weekend' for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This will also see greater use of The Green with people enjoying picnics and drinks.

This can cause issues with toilet provision which had occurred in the past. We have been working with the cricket club and the council and you may have



Who we are:

Chair - David Trigg

Vice Chair - Steve Guichard

Secretary - Pam McMillan

Treasurer - Nicky Rayner

Environment Officer - Howard Roberts

Membership Officer - David Vaughan

Web editor/social media - Peter Thomsen

noticed that there is extended toilet use available in the cricket pavilion; this started with the Early May Bank Holiday - please see the timetable below.

What we are still working with the cricket club and council to do is the long term provision of toilet facilities at the pavilion. This has not been finalised yet but we will keep you posted.

May I take this opportunity to wish you enjoyment of The Green in the improving weather and on the public holidays.

David Trigg

Chair, Friends of Twickenham Green

The Green Update



Like all the other parks and open spaces across the borough, The Green shows evidence of heavy use from the lockdown period. For all that, there are signs of recovery, and Parks have been working hard to restore the grass. Aeration and re-seeding has taken place, and although we still have bare patches, the ground is looking surprisingly good.

Lockdown has also slowed down the tree planting schedule, but we are working closely with the Tree Officer to keep an eye on the situation. On the plus side, the horse chestnuts are looking magnificent this year.

With the help of our volunteers, we have been working hard to keep the shrubberies clear of litter and leaf debris. I am always amazed how the roses come back regardless, with so little attention.

A big thank you to all the staff at Parks, who do so much to keep our precious open space looking good.

Howard Roberts

Environment Officer, Friends of Twickenham Green

Air Raid Shelters



As a local resident for over thirty six years, I was always curious about the rumours of a lost air raid shelter on The Green. This Spring we started a project to try and find them, and any first hand eye witnesses. We have now established the whereabouts of two shelters. One is located at the corner of First Cross Road and the Staines Road. It stretches back as far as the Jack And Jill School. When first built in 1939, it had the capacity to shelter over six hundred people.

We have had fascinating exchanges with people who had used the shelter. One lady who now lives in Nashville, Tennessee, remembers playing down the shelter, the awful smell of the chemical toilets, and that it was so large you could get lost down there.

We have also established that there was a second shelter, near where Arthur's Restaurant now stands. Both shelters can be seen in outline, and with their descending staircase entrances on a 1946 aerial photo of The Green. Interestingly, this also shows how half the Green was turned over to allotments.

The project is ongoing. We still hope to find when they were closed down; were they filled in, and any initial building plans. We will keep you posted.

Howard Roberts

Environment Officer, Friends of Twickenham Green

Cricket Pavilion Opening Hours



Extended opening hours with provision of toilets for members of the general public.

	Bank Holiday Weekends	
May Bank Holiday weekend	Sat 30th April	11am – 10pm
	Sun 1 st May	9.30am – 8pm
	Mon 2 nd May (BH)	10am – 8pm
Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend	Thur 2 nd June (BH)	10am – 8pm
	Fri 3 rd June (BH)	10am – 8pm
	Sat 4 th June	11am – 10pm
	Sun 5 th June	9.30am – 8pm

Fete Update

Sadly due there will be no Fete this year. The fete usually just breaks even and it takes extensive planning for months in advance to arrange and pay for licences, insurances and bookings. We need to start this process in November the year prior, and due the situation at the time meant we were unable to commit to risking the spend of our members' funds that we may have been unable to recoup.

We look forward to seeing you at our fete in 2023 which we hope will be bigger and better than ever.

Dates For Your Diary

Next members' meeting : **14 June, 8.00 p.m.** in the cricket pavilion, Twickenham Green. Guest Speaker Andy White, SPEAR Homeless Charity. All welcome - including interested friends too.

We publish our events calendar on our website. <https://fotg.uk/calendar>