

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, April 2020

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Our website

<https://e-voice.org.uk/twickenhamgreen/>

Contact Us

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Chair's welcome

I do hope everyone is keeping safe and well in these difficult times. Although we sadly have had to cancel several events due to the current circumstances, including the fete and the biannual clean-up, we continue to support the local area as best we can.

Bird and bat boxes were installed on the lime trees along First Cross Road at the end of January; we are awaiting their first visitors.

Prior to the lockdown, we were pleased to welcome Jane Crowther and Craig Ruddick from Richmond and Wandsworth Councils to our early March meeting to discuss the history of the trees on the Green, the soil structure and why some trees appear to thrive better than others.

The committee agreed at our recent (online!) meeting to donate to some local charities that may be having a hard time at the moment. As we will not have an outlay for the fete this year and we have some surplus funds in our business account, we felt we wanted to continue to support our local food bank who do such a good job, as well as the local Age UK and SPEAR, the local homeless charity. We will keep the situation under review; if any member has a suggestion for how we could support those in need, do get in touch.

Because of the uncertainty surrounding the lockdown period, we have decided to cancel the June members' meeting. Our next meeting will therefore be the AGM on 8th September and we do hope that we will see everyone again then.

Stay at home and stay safe.

Helen Williams

Chair, Friends of Twickenham Green

Who we are:

Chair - Helen Williams

Vice Chair - Steve Guichard

Secretary - Pam McMillan

Treasurer - Nicky Rayner

Environment Officer - Howard Roberts

Membership Officer - David Vaughan

Web editor - Peter Thomsen

Green update

Howard Roberts, Environment Officer

As a consequence of the Covid-19 outbreak, all events on the Green, including fitness groups, The Hands Fair, The Twickenham Green Village Fete and Zippo's Circus have been suspended.

Whilst this is a sad loss of so much popular social activity, it is, at least, giving the grass some time to recover. There are still many bare patches, especially at Arthur's (events) end. No seed seems to have taken in the tyre tracks that resulted from the Christmas event and there are lots of parallel lines on the events end. For all that, at least the grass is getting a bit of a rest.

Tree felling should have taken place along the Hampton Road side during the week of the 9th March but that is currently on hold.

Another positive consequence of the current lockdown and reduction in both road and air traffic is how much clearer the night sky is. I have never seen the moon and stars so clearly, presumably because pollution levels are down.

It is worth noting that lots of families are out on the Green, although keeping separated, along with small-scale fitness activity and, of course, dog walkers. Our little patch of grass is doing its bit to preserve sanity in these troubled times.

An event worthy of note was on the 26th March at 8pm. All the neighbours were out and you could hear the applause and the cheering for the NHS, all around the Green. Quite moving.

Our monthly wildlife surveys are still going ahead. We collate reports from members across the conservation area and forward the data to The South West London Environment Network. Exciting news last month was our first bat sightings. I will keep you all posted.

Enjoy the Green at a safe distance from one another and make sure you keep in touch with all elderly and vulnerable neighbours.

Stay safe and, hopefully, see you all soon.

Dates for your diary

Friends' events:

Next members' meeting: **8th September, 8.00 p.m.** in the cricket pavilion, Twickenham Green. **N.B. the bar is now cashless.**