



## **ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2009**

Richmond Hill Terrace Residents Association:  
Mail address: The Stables, Friars Stile Road, Richmond-upon-Thames, Surrey, TW10 6NE  
Email address: [info@richmondhillterrace.org](mailto:info@richmondhillterrace.org)  
Website: [www.richmondhillterrace.org](http://www.richmondhillterrace.org)

Bankers: Lloyds TSB Bank plc, 19-21 The Quadrant, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 1BP

## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009**

The members of the Committee have pleasure in presenting their report on the affairs of the Association, together with the financial statements for the 12 months ended 31 December 2009.

### **Corporate structure**

Richmond Hill Terrace Residents Association is an unincorporated body governed by a constitution adopted on 1 December 2005 and revised on 27 August 2006.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the Association are

- a. To safeguard and promote the legitimate interests and to protect and enhance the environment of the residents of Richmond Hill Terrace;
- b. To foster and to encourage the growth of community spirit among the residents of Richmond Hill Terrace.

### **Governance**

The management of the Association is exercised by members of the Committee. Members of the Committee are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election.

### **Committee members**

The members of the committee who served during the period were:

Andrew Coleman  
Jane Forsythe  
Vanessa Gouws  
Beryl Hickox  
Yvonne Loftus  
Katherine Loynes  
Ronan McCarthy  
Howard Roffey  
Tony Taylor  
David Vinograd  
Gill Willson

### **Review of developments, activities and achievements**

The Association and our members care about our locality - its local character, quality of life and community.

#### *Local character*

We continue to monitor developments at the Royal Star & Garter Home which has secured planning permission for its new premises at Hampton Court. Not surprisingly in the current environment, we understand that the existing Home has not yet been put up for sale.

It is encouraging to see that refurbishment work is taking place at Wick House and at Terrace Cottage. It will be wonderful to see these long neglected buildings back in residential use.

The continued deterioration of Doughty House is less good news. This continues to be a concern to local residents and to English Heritage which has it on its Listed Buildings at Risk register. The owner

has recently promised the Council to engage engineers and we hope that this time the Council will ensure that action is taken.

The restoration of Terrace Gardens was successfully completed during the year by the Council. RHTRA has been represented on the Consultative Committee of local amenity groups and residents. The Gardens were formally reopened in July 2009 with HRH Prince Edward in attendance.

Congratulations to the Council and Landscape Architect Portia Baker for their success in winning two awards. In September they won the gold award for the Best Public Park or Garden in London. In October they won a Richmond Society Award for the high quality of the refurbishment.

The Council has been consulting on setting up a charitable group to act as the "Friends of Terrace Gardens". To date there has been little interest from anyone locally to this initiative. A further consultation meeting scheduled for November was cancelled at extremely short notice and will take place at some stage in the New Year. If a "Friends" group is to be set up we will want representation on it. Our view is that there is no need for a "Friends" group to be set up since both we and the Richmond Society, as well as many local residents, keep an eye on the Gardens and notify the Council in case of problems. A "Friends" group made up of non-local residents might encourage greater use of the Gardens for events which risk causing disruption to local residents.

One aspect of the Terrace Gardens still remains unresolved and that is the future of the toilets at the top of the Gardens - the so-called "Loo with a View" - which has remained closed for a number of years. Both restoration and demolition are viewed by the Council as too expensive. Perhaps the roof of the building might become a viewing platform and garden.

The road surface of our part of Richmond Hill continues to look unsightly and the pavement on the Terrace Walk side of the road is a positive danger. Despite a number of representations, no action has been taken by the appropriate authorities on the basis that the matter continues under consideration. We are aware that the Council is concerned about the existence of subsidence and that major works have been considered. The latest excuse for Council inaction is the Thames Water pipe replacement works scheduled for the Summer of 2010. We will be seeking to engage with the Council to ensure that we fully understand the implications for residents and that the road surface and pavements are improved.

### *Quality of life*

Efforts during the year have been focussed in a number of areas to seek improvements in the quality of life of local residents. Set out below are some examples of our work:

- Thames Water main replacement on Richmond Hill: Thames Water is in the process of renewing the existing old cast iron water pipes in the Richmond Hill area with plastic piping. It looks as though our part of Richmond Hill will be re-piped in the Summer of 2010 and it is likely that Richmond Hill will be closed to through traffic while the work takes place. The work on the Hill seems to be proceeding reasonably quickly but we will ensure that we continue to liaise with Thames Water.
- Proposals to impose car parking charges in Richmond Park: The Association has responded to the Royal Park's consultation paper stating that the paper did not adequately justify the introduction of parking charges. Other local organisations such as the Richmond Society and the Friends of Richmond Park seem to have come to broadly similar conclusions.

The independent report on the Royal Parks Consultation document of April 2009 was published in August. We know that they read at least some of the responses as they quoted directly from *ours!*

The Conclusions state that:

*“Proposals relating to the introduction of parking charges generated the largest response of any section of the consultation. Analysis of these responses has shown that a majority of respondents are against the introduction of parking charges in Bushy and Richmond Parks. They consider that parking charges would discourage use of the parks, alter the atmosphere of the park and the nature of a park visit, and displace visitor parking to local residential areas. Respondents also cite problems with alternative methods of transport, suggest a more flexible charging scheme than that proposed, and raise questions about the cost of implementing the scheme”.*

Changes to the Park Regulations require Parliamentary approval. We understand that an announcement will be made in January. Hopefully common sense will prevail but with the present state of Government finances, revenue raising projects are a priority. We understand that the Council are expecting that parking charges will be imposed in the Park. Of course the cynical might say that this is not necessarily a disaster for the Council since it would give them the opportunity to impose parking charges in roads surrounding the Park on Sundays.

- Parking on Richmond Hill: Although the Council committed to us to review the on-street parking arrangements on Richmond Hill in the Spring of 2010, they informed us during the year that they do not intend to honour that commitment and have deferred the review to 2010/11 and then only if there are funds available. We have written to the Council protesting about this decision. The Council has indicated that they believe it preferable to await the outcome of the Royal Park’s decision on parking before looking at the arrangements for on-street parking. This “chicken and egg” approach is unhelpful and it would make sense for the Royal Parks Authority and the Council to meet to discuss parking arrangements and have an integrated strategy.
- We continue to liaise with the police about our Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Fortunately our area is relatively low in crime but it is important that we report all incidences of crime to the police. The reason for this is that police resources are allocated on the basis of reported crime. If we are aware of crime but don’t report it – we are doing ourselves no favours. Damage to car wing mirrors, speeding, aggressive and noisy drunks are all examples of instances that should be reported.
- Misuse of Terrace Gardens. We have expressed concern to the Police and the Council about the use of Terrace Gardens for late night and often rowdy drinking sessions. We asked what action was being taken to ensure that the use of the Gardens at night is monitored and the risk of damage to the Council’s investment in the Gardens is minimised. The Council promised to consider whether the Gardens should be added to the existing “dispersal area” of the Town and the Riverside. This would give the Police power to confiscate alcohol and to move people on without having to wait for a crime to be committed.

For 2010 we will continue to follow up all of these issues.

### **Community**

Through our social events and regular communications we aim to develop a stronger sense of community and neighbourliness. Participating in the Association is a way to get to know our neighbours better and to help build a sense of local community.

The Committee running the Association is set up on the basis that we try to secure Committee members who can represent and liaise with groups of Association members living in different parts of the Terrace and Terrace Lane. This ensures that we keep close to our membership.

In the period we have held two of our parties. Over 30 people enjoyed a buffet in the upstairs room of the Roebuck in January and about 50 people (including children) took advantage of the weather to enjoy our summer party in the back garden of Terrace House in June.

We also continued our newsletter Terrace Views, which is issued periodically. This is emailed to our members with hard copies delivered to those who prefer this method of distribution.

We have also kept up our website and continued with the policy of this setting out only standing data about the Association. We continue to believe that providing "news and views" to residents is best dealt with by the newsletter.

Discussions have been continuing between residents fronting onto and backing onto Terrace Lane about the resurfacing of the first part of the Lane - from the main road to near the white gate. This is not an RHTRA project but a project where RHTRA have been facilitating an agreement between the parties concerned. Estimates have been obtained from contractors for the cost of this work. Contributions towards the cost have been secured (including a contribution from RHTRA) and these monies are held by RHTRA as stakeholder. The difficulty in reaching agreement for the work to proceed should not be underestimated. This was also a problem nearly 20 years ago when the resurfacing was last undertaken.

### **Financial review**

Income for the year of £588 comprised subscription income and donations of £133 plus social events income of £455. Expenses totalled £518 comprising running costs of £84, costs to date on Lane resurfacing £37 and social events expenses of £397 leaving a surplus of £70. The Association's net assets of £416 comprise cash at bank of £7,790 and creditors of £7,374 in relation to expenses incurred and unspent monies being held for the Terrace Lane Resurfacing Consortium as stakeholder. The Association has benefited from a number of kind donations of office running costs and this has helped keep our expenses down. The financial position is considered satisfactory.

The level of income and expenses is such that the Committee does not believe that it warrants having the Association's accounts examined by an independent examiner.

### **Risk management**

The major risks to which the Association is exposed, as identified by the Committee, have been reviewed during the year and the Committee is satisfied that action has been taken where appropriate to manage those risks.

By Order of the Committee

7 January 2010

## The Richmond Hill Terrace Residents Association

### Statement of financial activities for the 12 months ended 31 December 2009

	2009	2008
	Total	Total
	£	£
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Subscription income	130	230
Donations	3	5
Events	455	330
Total incoming resources	<u>588</u>	<u>565</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Website	69	35
Share of costs on Lane resurfacing	37	-
Membership of London Forum	15	15
Events	397	259
Total resources expended	<u>518</u>	<u>309</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	70	256
Opening fund balances	346	90
Closing fund balances	<u>416</u>	<u>346</u>

### Balance sheet at 31 December 2009

	2009	2008
	£	£
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand – own funds	163	381
Cash at bank and in hand – as stakeholder	7,627	-
	<u>7,790</u>	<u>381</u>
<b>Current liabilities:</b> amounts falling due within 1 year		
Creditors & accruals – general	110	35
Due to external stakeholders	7,264	-
	<u>7,374</u>	<u>35</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>416</u>	<u>346</u>
<b>Fund</b>		
Retained surplus	416	346
	<u>416</u>	<u>346</u>

Approved by the Committee  
on 7 January 2010

### Accounting policies

Income from subscriptions and donations is recognised when received.  
Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis