



THE LINK



ISSUE 58

Vicar: Rev. Peter Hart Parish Office: 8332 1324

March 2018

Inside this issue:

Editorial Services and Contacts	2
Letter from the Vicar	3
WW1 Roll of Honour	4
Pensford Field	5
Avenue Club	7
Kew for You	9
Obituary: Janet Lewison	10
Diary of Events Christmas Fairs	11
Rediscovering the Rec.	13
WWI in East Africa	15

Trees for Sacred Places

Churches across London now have the opportunity to make their neighbourhood a greener place as part of a new project supported by the Mayor of London.

In February 2017, the Rt Revd Richard Chartres launched the 'Trees for Sacred Spaces' project, along with the Bishops of Southwark and Chelmsford and Shirley Rodrigues, London's Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy.

The purpose of the project is to encourage the planting of trees on church land in Greater London. It is being run by the Conservation Foundation with the Mayor of London and the Dioceses of London, Southwark, Chelmsford and Rochester.



With the London Tree Officers Association, 12 different species were chosen to plant, based on their suitability for London and benefits they provide for bees, other wildlife and air quality. The trees were planted across 21 London boroughs. Some were planted by churches in their churchyards whilst others were donated to local schools, community groups and parks. Father Peter nominated Queen's School to be part of the campaign and on behalf of the Parish, he planted a Wild Cherry tree at the front of the school.

Visit our websites:

www.stlukeskew.org.uk

www.barnchurchkew.uk



Hello from *The Link* team

With 2018 offering us all the chance to refresh certain aspects of our lives, this edition follows suit by featuring a selection of articles also celebrating regeneration - but of the natural areas of Kew. Happy New Year!

Link 59 will be published on 10th June 2018. All copy to the editor by email — including photographs — by 19th May latest, please.

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ST LUKE'S

www.stlukeskew.org

Sunday Services:

8am Holy Communion

11am Parish Communion (Junior Church and Crèche in term-time)

11am Parish Communion with Junior Church participation (First Sunday in the month — All-age Worship)

Every Thursday

10am Holy Communion

THE BARN

www.barnchurchkew.uk

Sunday Services:

9.30am Parish Communion (Junior Church and Crèche in term-time)

9.30am Parish Communion with Junior Church participation (First Sunday in the month — All-age Worship)

Churches Together in Kew

journeying together in faith...

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www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter

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LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Easter is early this year. It raises hopes of warmth and growth, of blossom and green shoots, as it puts down a marker for the progress of the year. For some, Easter cannot come quickly enough – all those children eyeing up Easter Eggs in the shops, all those serious Lent observers who have given up the sweet things for 40 days, to sharpen their wits and their prayers – but days without sugar can seem long, and the early prospect of chocolate is a good spur to perseverance. To others, Easter can wait, for to get to Easter, we have to go through Holy Week, through rejection, betrayal, appalling suffering and death, darkness, loneliness, silence. That experience, the reliving of those awful hours from Jesus's arrest late at night to death at 3pm the next day, can be too harrowing, too painful for some. They seek relief, not a reminder of suffering.

Easter is early this year, and for those in the emergency winter night shelters, those seven-days-a-week respite from the cold and danger of the street, Easter could be viewed as coming too early. The warmth, the friendship, the safety of those night shelters is a lifeline to many. The support of case workers from Glass Door and SPEAR is taking many forward into supported accommodation options, and lives are being turned around. But the night shelter project has to stop at some point, and Easter Day will be its final hurrah.

Easter is early this year, and preachers must turn their minds to subjects that usually come further into the year, and musicians must prepare for services with fewer rehearsals than last year. Paschal Candles must be ordered early, eggs to be handed out on Easter morning must be sought and purchased pretty soon, or there won't be any left in the shops. An early Easter means greater activity, concentrated into a brief period of time. Yet Lent is supposed to be a season of quiet and reflection, an opportunity to review our lives in the context of Christ in the wilderness.

Easter is early this year, and for me, that is wonderful! For we get to the greatest of Christian feasts almost as early as we can, we revel in God's amazing, miraculous love so early in the year that we have a vast span of months ahead of us to enjoy that amazing love, that resurrection joy, that turning of the world the right way up. I, for one, am one of those for whom Easter cannot come soon enough – roll on Easter I cry, for our God is the God of the living and the dead, the God of life in all its fullness, of life lived the way it was always intended from the beginning.

So, share with us the last few steps of Christ's journey to the Cross, the silence of the tomb and the noisy wonder of resurrection – it is the most exciting time possible, the most exciting moment of our faith, and we need to embrace it and enjoy it together.

Peter

Baptisms

The Barn

26th November Evelyn Sophia Baxter Dobbie
Sarah Louise Baxter Dobbie
Benjamin Nigel Baxter Dobbie

St Luke's

21st January Sophie Elizabeth Armstrong
28th January Ethan Sidney Alliston
Finnlay George Alliston
Klayton Frederick Alliston
11th February Nicholas Mills

Funerals

5th December Ian Biggart
13th December Eileen Mary Pitman
14th December Janet Lewison
22nd January Jean Harding
9th February Norman Brayshaw
23rd February Roy Rees





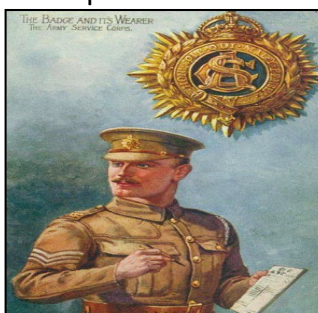
St Luke's - WW1 Roll of Honour Board:

**those who died
Jan. — Mar. 1918**

After last quarter's record twelve casualties of young men in the St. Luke's parish, there was a sigh of relief that the Americans were about to enter the war and hostilities were being brought to a head. Only three men are recorded as having been killed in this quarter:

Private Percival Herbert William Colton

S/295279, 8th Lines of Communication Supply Company, Royal Army Service Corps. Killed in action 7th January 1918. Born in Richmond and enlisted in Chertsey. Next of kin residents of Richmond. Buried in Blargies Communal Cemetery Extension. F. 77



Private William Bates 31418, 11th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers. 25th Division. Killed in action 23rd March 1918. Aged 32. Son of Mr & Mrs W. Bates of 43, Raleigh Road, Richmond. Husband of Mrs Catherine Bates of Clifton Cottage, White Horse Road, Mitcham, Melbourne, Australia. Born in Richmond and enlisted in London. Formerly with the Royal Field Artillery. Commemorated on Arras Memorial. MR. 20

Sergeant Lawrence Allen Williams 10787, 1st Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment. 25th Division. Died of wounds. 29th March 1918. Born in Kew and enlisted in Caxton Hall. Next of kin, Richmond. Buried in Ontario Cemetery, Sains les Marquion Nord F. 481

On 21st March 1918 the German Supreme Command launched the first of a series of offensives, committing 65 Divisions and 6,000 guns against the Allied lines held by French, British, Belgian and Portuguese troops. This was an attempt to break the deadlock on the Western Front before the U.S. Army was ready to take to the French battlefields in full force. The Germans hoped to punch through the Allied defensive line, cut off the British forces from the French, push the British forces to the French and Belgian coast and trap them there. After initial successes and some significant ground gained, the German offensives gradually ran into difficulties, not only where the Allied forces were able to put up a stubborn defence, but as a result of problems incurred by overstretching their supply lines.



A Short History of Pensford Field

Pensford Field is the remnant of an old orchard situated to the south west of Kew Village, dating back to the 17th Century. During the 18th Century, night soil from the City of London was brought down river to a wharf, near to the old sewage works, and used as a natural fertiliser for the nearby orchards and market gardens. Many broken clay pipes and pottery will be found whilst digging at Pensford Field.



In the early 20th Century, the land formed part of the Popham Estate, owned by the Leyborne Pophams, whose family seat was at Littlecote House, Wiltshire. In the 1920's, the land at Pensford Field was assigned for sports use for Gainsborough Secondary School. When the school closed in the early 1980's, the land was reassigned to Darell Primary School.

In 1991, Pensford Field was proposed to be sold and developed for residential use by the council. The parent governors of Darell School called a public meeting in June 1991 and asked for support to save Pensford Field as a site for nature conservation and environmental education.

In 1992, Richmond Leisure Services Committee agreed to allow the development of the site for community use. The proposal had the full support of the London Ecology Unit, the London Wildlife Trust and the local ward councillors. Councillor Serge Lourie said at the time: "This is a victory both for local democracy and for Richmond's Environmental Charter."

On 19th November 1992, the first tree was planted on the site. This was the first of over 800 trees to be planted, by the end of 1992 mainly by local schoolchildren. Tree species were planted to reflect the local habitat, including native Oak, Silver Birch, Ash, Hazel, Field Maple and Holly underplanting. A hedgerow was planted, running along the site border with Pensford Tennis Club. The hedgerow included Hawthorn, Maple and Hazel as well as wild shrub rose. The plants grown at the base of the hedgerow included Yarrow, Gerrymander Speedwell, thistles and cleavers.

In 1993 and 1994, volunteers planted wildflowers, including Ox Eyed Daisies, lesser Knapweed, Autumn Hawkbit, Greater Stitchwort and Musk Mallow. An annual Guy Fawkes night and the burning of a large bonfire, organised by the Kew Society, created a beneficial habitat for wildflower planting, during the late 1990's. The central area of the site was enclosed with cleft post and rail fencing and a latch gate and stile created for access into the site.

To increase natural diversity, the first pond was created in December 1998. Planting included Flowering Rush, Water Mint and Marsh Marigolds. An apple tree orchard was planted in January 2003 and celebrated by a traditional wassail. Apple trees within the orchard were specially selected as older varieties, reflecting the history of this area of Kew, which was once covered by orchards.

Advice on varieties was given by specialists at the Royal Botanic Gardens.

In 2005, within the mound closest to the hedgerow, volunteers constructed a reptile hibernaculum, containing interconnecting tunnels and corridors, to provide an ideal location for grass snakes and slowworm to hibernate. A south facing slope was created to allow for coldblooded reptiles to bask in the sun.

Since 2005, much progress has been made in creating further opportunities for nature conservation and environmental education. Pensford Field is now a unique part of Kew's natural environment, supporting a wide variety of plants and wildlife, and providing an invaluable educational resource, within walking distance, for local schoolchildren. The hedgerows act as a haven for wildlife, including nesting birds as well as small mammals and invertebrates. The pond is home to frogs, toads and common newts, in addition to numerous water invertebrates and dragonflies. The flora found in the area is highly diverse. By careful management of the site it is anticipated that the diversity of plant and animal life on the site will increase further.

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AVENUE CLUB NEWS

Greetings from all of us at The Avenue Club. We are very much looking forward to warmer weather – feels like winter has been interminable! We have some exciting new Activities to offer you for Spring.

Opera Lectures – 3rd Thursday of the month starting 8th March 2018 – 10.00 – 11.45 a.m - Cost: £7.00

We are delighted that so many people have expressed an interest in attending these lectures, but it does mean that space is going to be a bit tight, so for the moment the lectures are open to Members only. However, if you're not a member of the Club but would like to attend do call and give us your name and phone number and we'll call you as soon as spaces become available.

Strength Training – Talk and Demonstration – Wednesday, 14th March – 3.15 pm - Free

Strength Training (ST) is the least understood and most important aspect of anti-ageing therapy. The programme is all about building up muscle mass connected by strong resilient tendons and strengthening your bones, all governed by a well co-ordinated neurological system. This will both help to prevent falls AND bones breaking less easily if you do fall. Come along to the demonstration to find out more. If enough people are interested, we are hoping this will become part of our regular activities.

Spanish for Beginners – Mondays - 10.00 – 11.00 a.m - Cost: £5.00 – Telephone the office for start date.

Spaces are filling up fast, so again Members will have priority, but do call the office with your details and we'll be in touch if spaces become available.

New Pilates Class with Garry – Fridays - 11.00 – 12.15 p.m. – Cost: £7.00

This new class focuses on Applied Pilates, Health and Wellbeing. It's a smaller class which allows for a more prescriptive approach and can be tailored towards individual needs – i.e. mobility, strength and agility. Ideal for post-operative or injury recovery. There will also be the opportunity to suggest a weekly exercise programme.

The Buildings of Richmond Park by Max Lankester – Wednesday, 18th April – 1.00 p.m.

Following on from Max's last interesting talk about the Park, this time he will be describing the buildings in the Park – some long gone and others still part of the Landscape. Please do call to put your name down, so we can make sure we have enough chairs out. Many Thanks.

By Donation to The Friends of Richmond Park.

There are spaces available in most of our regular activities, including Art History, Creative Writing, Art, Mindfulness, Bingo and more. The best way to find out what's going on at the Club is to pop by and pick up a full programme of activities. Or call or email us and we'll send you a copy – there's bound to be something that piques your interest – and if there isn't we're always open to suggestions. Don't forget to check out our Notice Board. We look forward to welcoming you at the Club very soon.

Email: avenueclub@kewcommunitytrust.org.uk



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KEW FOR YOU MARCH 2018

1 BATTLING TO SAVE THE WORLD'S BANANAS

Some people can't stand bananas and I am the only member of our close family who actually likes them. However, bananas are said to be the favourite fruit in Britain. A massive banana plantation in Mozambique has now been devastated by a deadly fungus called Panama disease. Could the banana, the world's most exported fruit and the source of nutrients for millions of people, be at risk of extinction? Elie Matabuana, the head of technical services at the plantation, spends all his time checking the state of bananas for the disease. More than half a million people are employed in the banana industry in Mozambique and neighbouring countries like Tanzania also depend on bananas for a significant part of their economy.

2 THE TEMPERATE HOUSE STRUCTURE - The Final Countdown

Kew's amazing Temperate House is due to re-open in two months time. This has been such a huge effort and it is reaching its final stages, five years after the work started on the world's largest Victorian glasshouse. The opening day will be 5th May 2018, after a Press Preview on the 3rd May and I can't wait! Just to give you an idea of the work involved:

- 69,000 individual parts removed, cleaned, repaired or replaced
- 15,000 panes of glass replaced
- Scaffolding equivalent to the length of M25
- Enough paint to cover 4 football pitches
- Tent big enough to cover 3 Boeing 747's
- 400 staff and contractors worked on the project
- 1,731 days to complete



3 THE TEMPERATE HOUSE PLANTS

On the 5th May, the visitors will see some of the most exotic, rare and threatened plants. Five years ago, about 500 plants were taken out of the glass houses and moved into a temporary nursery behind the scenes. The majority of the rest were then propagated by Kew's leading horticulturists, producing an amazing 10,000 plants in situ. This will be a living and breathing classroom. Visitors to the Temperate House will be able to read the stories of some of the most incredible plants which Kew has rescued and the journey which they have taken to reach their new homes.

4 LEARNING AND ACTIVITIES

Weekend and Bank Holiday Activities: 26th May - 2nd September 2018. Timed performances throughout the day:

Cirque Bijou: Inspired by the Temperate House, staging vibrant and breath-taking performances by aerialists and live music. Cirque Bijou pushes the boundaries of contemporary circus and spectacle and will provide a new and unforgettable performance.

Family Programme: 26th May - 3rd June 2018 and 21st July - 2nd September 2018. Families can explore the Temperate House with Gnomus, a larger-than-life puppet who will lead them on an interactive walking tour with the building's most interesting stories around the vital importance of plants, to stimulate their imaginations.

Rosalind Eagleton

Janet Lewison

The death is announced of Janet Lewison, late of 50 Marksbury Avenue, Kew. She died peacefully aged 74 on 29 November from advanced dementia, which had afflicted her over the last seven years. She is mourned by Grant, her husband of 47 years, her daughter Miranda and son Richard, grand-children Charlie and Erin Loughrey, and her younger sister Philippa.

She was born in Nairobi, Kenya, where her father ran the church Missionary Society bookshop, and was subsequently Director of Literature Development in the Colonial Service. Her mother taught at the Kenya High School, which Janet and her sisters attended, and which she revisited on a return to East Africa in 2003.

She trained as a teacher at Homerton College, Cambridge, and then taught in several primary schools before her marriage in 1970. Subsequently she worked at the Royal Botanic Gardens, and became an enthusiastic gardener. Later she re-trained to teach dyslexic pupils on a one-to-one and found this far more satisfying than coping large classes.

One of her principal accomplishments was singing with a fine alto voice in the Bach Choir, where she was a member for 43 years under, Sir David Willcocks and then David Hill. With them she went on several foreign tours, including Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa and Sweden. She also formed many close friends in the choir. When the Barn Church, which she attended, formed a choir, she was one of the principle members. She also sang with the Cantanti Camerati, a local choir, which gave some delightful concerts in York House and elsewhere.

Janet had a great fondness for animals and supported several animal charities. During her life in Kew, she looked after two dogs and quite a number of cats. In recent years, she visited Philippa and Terry in Maine, USA, many times and much enjoyed helping with the llamas on their farm and preparing them for local shows.

Many tributes were paid to Janet at her funeral on 14th December at the Barn Church in Kew.



Janet at her daughter's wedding in 2001

Diary of Events & Services at St Luke's & The Barn

March

Wednesday 21 st	8pm	St Luke' PCC Meeting in the Meeting Room
Sunday 25 th	10am	Palm Sunday — starting at The Barn, and then walk to St Luke's
Mon26 th /Tues 27 th /Wed28 th	8pm	Compline at The Barn
Thursday 29 th	8pm	Maundy Thursday service at The Barn
Friday 30 th	noon	Richmond Passion Play
	2pm	One hour Devotion at St Luke's

April

Sunday 1st	9.30/11am	Easter Day — the Barn & St Luke's
Sunday 15 th	9.30am	Barn APCM
Sunday 22 nd	11am	St Luke's APCM
Sunday 29 th	11am	Barn Patronal Festival followed by Bring & Share Lunch

May

Tuesday 8 th	8pm	St Luke's PCC Meeting in the Marwood Room
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June

Wednesday 20 th	8pm	St Luke's PCC Meeting in the Meeting Room
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All the Fun of the Fairs

November 2017 was a fantastic month for our Christmas Fairs. The Barn Church Christmas Fair raised just under £2,600 towards church funds – a magnificent achievement — and St. Luke's enjoyed a similar success.



Congratulations and huge thanks to all those who contributed in so many ways to make the events so successful!

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Rediscovering 'The Rec'

North Sheen, in the former Municipal Borough of Richmond (Surrey), was first marked on maps from 1904. At that time the area was mostly undeveloped and was used to grow fruit and vegetables for market, but by 1920 residential building was underway. North Sheen was incorporated into Kew in 1965 when the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames was created.

Opened in June 1909 and extended in 1923, the recreation ground - much like its near neighbour Pensford Field - was originally part of an orchard

belonging to the Popham Estate, owned by the Leyborne Pophams whose family seat was at Littlecote House, Wiltshire.

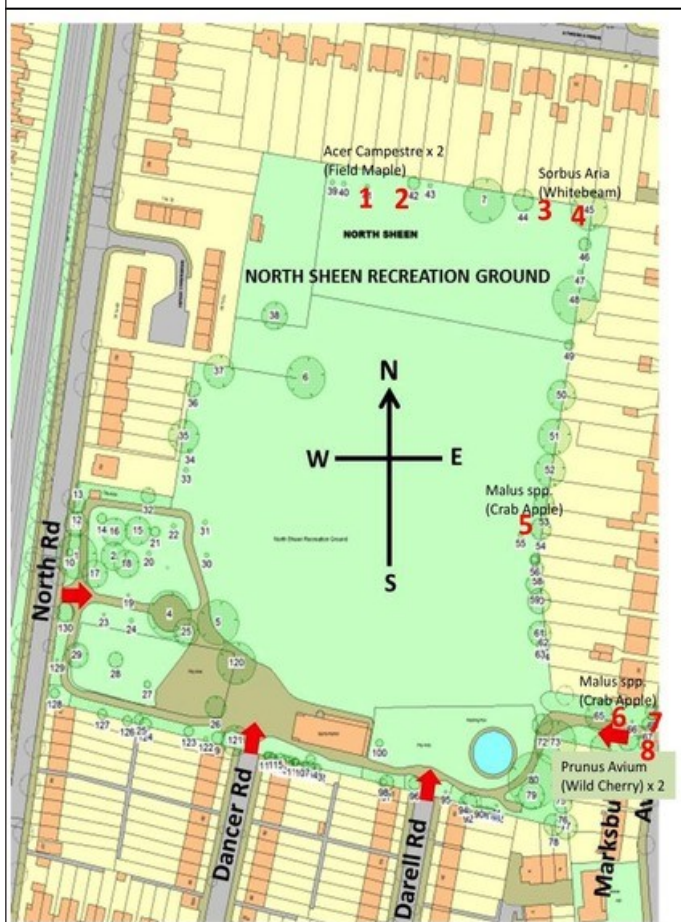
During the Second World War the recreation ground was used for allotments and there was an underground public shelter opposite what is now the sports pavilion clubhouse. Known locally as "The Rec", it now contains football pitches, a children's paddling pool, two extensive playgrounds, a large dog-free grassed area and a sports pavilion clubhouse, which opened in September 2011, housing a community cafe and a community hall.



More recent development has seen the installation of a new adventure playground in 2016, followed by an outdoor gym in 2017. As part of the Council's Parks Improvement Programme, the project was championed by the Friends of North Sheen Rec who had secured funding for the equipment through the London Marathon Charitable Trust. The outdoor gym is open 365 days a year and is free for all to use. Free classes have also been introduced, which are designed for people who may not currently participate in any physical activity and aim to help improve physical health and wellbeing through exercise.

The Rec is also home to local children's football club, Kew Park Rangers, which is a Football Association Charter Standard Community Football Club, the highest level of accreditation under The FA Charter Standard Kitemark programme. In 2015 it was the FA's National Charter Standard Community Club of the Year, a wonderful achievement!

In the coming months, the continued development will include a new tree planting initiative, which will include species, such as Field Maple and Crab Apple trees on the Rec's skyline.





NOTICE BOARD

GENERAL

St. Luke's House

Debbie Fife **8940 2791**

The Kew Society

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Kew Sinfonia

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Kew Horticultural Society

Annual show August Bank Holiday Saturday. Outings and talks.

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Kew Wind Orchestra

King's House School, King's Rd, Richmond.

All ages, Thurs, 8pm.

8876 2192

Tea & Art Club

for over 50s Thurs 11-12

Pensford Field. Pam: **07500 178578**

Kew Neighbourhood Assn

offers help with transport to medical appointments and the Avenue Club, together with befriending and shopping.

8948 8054 weekdays 10-12 for help and offers of help.

Kew Community Trust

runs **Avenue Club** - social activities for older people. Nicola Patel

8948 8806

Rotary Club of Kew

Coach & Horses, Kew Green.

Wed, 7.30 for 8pm.

8894 9958

Richmond and Kew Quilters

every 2nd Monday of the month. 7.30—9.30pm, St Winefride's Church Hall.

www.richmondandkewquilters.org.uk

Kew Community Choir

Thurs. 7.30

— 8.30, St Luke's in the Avenue

noyesmary@hotmail.com

Q2 Players

Kew Scouts HQ, Station Ave, Presents three full-length plays each season, with performances at St Luke's. **8940 2053**

North Sheen Bowling Club

Marksbury Avenue, Kew. All levels from 12 plus. **8891 1541**

Kew Studio

Art courses and studio space to let. 270 Sandycombe Road TW9 3NP.

8332 2122

www.kewstudio.org

Richmond Chamber of Commerce

1-3 Richmond Rd Twickenham TW1 3AB

email@richmondchamberofcommerce.co.uk

Arts Richmond Unit 6, Upper Deck, Phoenix Wharf, Eel Pie Island, TW1 3DY. Over 80 affiliated societies.

8892 9446

info@artsrichmond.org.uk

Kew Residents Assn.

Caring about the community environment by promoting sensitive and appropriate local development

www.savekew.org.uk

Priory Park Club

Bowls, Bridge and Tennis Forest Road, Kew

www.prioryparkclub.org.uk

Bowls **8400 1963**

St. John Ambulance

8948 8852

For events coverage:

operations@richmond.sja.org.uk

Probus Club

Third Wed monthly, lunch for retired professionals, Richmond Golf Club. **8785 6718 or 8994 0396**

Richmond Local History Society

Talks, usually 2nd Mon. monthly Oct/May, 8pm. Duke Street Church, Richmond TW9 1DH.

Elizabeth Velluet **8891 3825**;

rich.hist@yahoo.co.uk

www.richmondhistory.org.uk

Facebook and Twitter (@RLHS1985)

KIDS

Girl Guiding

Brownies (7-10 yrs)

Tuesdays: St. Paul's, Raleigh Road;

Thursdays: St. Luke's House,

Sandycombe Road and the Barn Church.

Guides (10-14 yrs)

Thursdays: the Barn Church.

guides5thkew@gmail.com

Kew Scout Group HQ

Station Avenue by Kew Gardens Station (rear of Pether's Butchers Shop).

Beavers (6-7 yrs) Thur 6 pm

Cubs (8-10yrs) Thur 7 pm

Scouts and Explorer Scouts

(11+ yrs) Fri 7 pm

8940 2484

Kew Youth Club

Barn Church (entry Marksbury Ave):

Friday nights during term time, secondary school years 7-9.

Entry £2.50. jabraddock@sky.com

Kew Park Rangers Football

North Road Recreation Ground.

Ages 5-11, boys and girls.

Sat morning (training),

Sun morning (matches).

07770 755 538 or 8940 9882

Kew Young Musicians

Saturday morning music school for

5-18s. Drums, bass, electric and classical guitar, saxophone, clarinet, flute, recorder and singing.

kewyoungmusicians@googlemail.com

8401 6950

Toddler Groups

Barn Church Mon. Wed. and Fri.

9.15 –11.00

Windham Rd. Tues 9-11 term-time

Toy Library The Old Court House, Sheen Lane, Mortlake.

£1 membership, plus 30p per toy for 2 wks, plus family drop-in.

Thurs. 9.30-11.45.

8876 7294

Richmond Gymnastics Association

Townmead Rd, Kew.

Pre-school for mothers and toddlers (18 mths-4 yrs).

Gymnastics 5 plus, classes, competitive squads in sports acrobatics and tumbling.

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Skills for all levels. **8878 8682**

Project for Children with Special

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***Mimi* and *Toutou* - a pair of pet Pekinese? Malcolm Alexander continues his story of WWI in East Africa**

Probably the best known episode of WWI in Africa concerns *Mimi* and *Toutou*! The Germans had achieved dominance on Lake Tanganyika, until John Lee, a British big-game hunter, had the idea of attacking the enemy on this completely land-locked, inaccessible lake. Rather than compete with the Germans in terms of size, why not dispatch a smaller but faster vessel?

The self-proclaimed hero was to be Geoffrey Spicer-Simson, a superannuated RN commander, "something of an eccentric", lacking modesty, tact and luck. He had twice been beached for incompetence; once for ramming a liberty boat with his destroyer and then for allowing a German warship to sink a coastal defence vessel under his command, as he watched from shore while dining with his wife. Naming the motorboats became an issue with The Admiralty, who eventually agreed on *Mimi* and *Toutou*.

After trials with Thorneycroft, the craft were shipped to Cape Town, then by train to Elisabethville in the Congo, and onwards to Fungurume. It took six weeks to cover 100 miles through the Mitumba mountains, requiring the construction of 150 bridges over streams and gorges, using two steam tractors, dozens of oxen, and hundreds of Africans, to reach Sankisia. A narrow-gauge railway went to Bukama, where barges were used on the shallow Lualaba River to Kabalo. After another rail journey, the weary expedition arrived at Lake Tanganyika on 26th October 1915. The entire journey had been accomplished in four months, covering 3,000 miles, a Herculean achievement, outstripping even the Germans' transportation from Dar-es-Salaam of their *Graf von Goetzen*.

Mimi and *Toutou* were launched in December 1915, seeing action on the 26th, hitting the *Kingani* below the waterline, forcing surrender. Once repaired, and renamed '*Fifi*', Spicer Simson took the vessel as his flagship, and in February 1916 used her to score a second success, sinking the *Hedwig von Wissmann*. When the *Graf von Goetzen* returned to look for her, Spicer Simson held his crew off from an attack. Travelling to Stanleyville he found a steel vessel, the *St George*, which was dismantled, transported and reassembled, ready for service on the Lake.

Armed Motor-Boats Trek to Lake Tanganyika



An interesting achievement in the East African campaign was the transport of two great motor boats, *Mimi* and *Toutou*, from Cape Town to Lake Tanganyika. Arrived at Fungurume after a journey of 100 miles, they were used to transport the British fleet to the lake.



Spicer Simson on *Mimi*

My great-uncle, Claude Oldfield, having been on six months' home leave, arrived back in Northern Rhodesia at Abercorn in May 1916, to find the British planning a strike into German East Africa. The Colonial Office had been spurred on by instability in the African population, not helped by a reduction in administrative staff, the stretched resources contributing to food shortages and discontent. Brigadier-General Edward Northey, the new commander, began the push northwards into enemy territory, with Lt.Col. Ronald Murray leading two companies of British South African Police (BSAP) and a large number of volunteers.

Back on the Lake, the enlarged British flotilla, under Spicer-Simson, had set sail on 5th June to attack the German fort at Bismarburg. This should have been a pincer movement

with "Murray's Column", but when Spicer-Simson sighted the heavily armed fortifications, he erred on the side of caution and withdrew. Murray was also worried that he did not have the strength for an assault and on 7th June tried to bluff the German commander, Lieutenant Hasslach, by threatening that '*as soon as my guns arrive, I will blow you into the Lake*'. The request for surrender was firmly rejected, but this was misunderstood and a group of BSAP troopers, led by the Medical Officer, Dr. Harold, a former Irish rugby international, marched up to their door and attempted to seize Hasslach. In the ensuing skirmish, lives were lost, and many obvious questions asked in the *post mortem*.

That evening Hasslach quietly withdrew his men and using a concealed dhow and fleet of canoes, moved north up the Lake, much to the ire of Murray. To the great chagrin of Spicer-Simson, the guns on the fort turned out to be wooden imitations, and he would not have enjoyed his subsequent dressing-down by Murray!

Malcolm's biography of his great-uncle, Claude Oldfield, *Ulendo: An African Love Affair in the Footsteps of Rhodes*, is to be published later this year.

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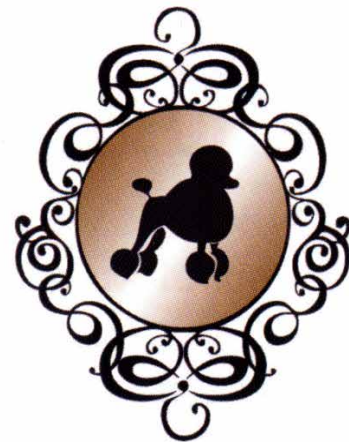
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