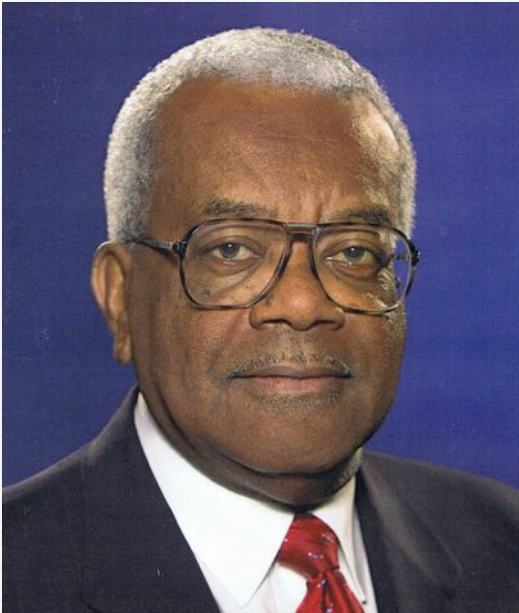




THE RICHMOND SOCIETY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2013

Issue 236



Welcome to

Sir Trevor McDonald OBE

who joins our distinguished group of Patrons: Lord Attenborough of Richmond, Rachel Dickson MBE, Bamber Gascoigne and Lord Watson of Richmond upon Thames CBE

Deputy Mayor Cllr Stephen Speak and Richmond Society Chair Professor Ian Bruce with some of the young people awarded certificates in our Photographic Competition

[left to right]

Florence Turner (7)

Jayden Young (8)

Eleonora Gallenzi (9)

Felix Turner (11)

Alexander Haydn-Williams (12)



Photo by David Meggitt

From the Chair p2 Heathrow update p3 Annual Awards report p4
Landscaping & Riverside p6 Membership p7 Notice of AGM p7
Our Local Health Services p8 Licensing p9 Development issues p10
Future Events p11

FROM THE CHAIR

Professor Ian Bruce CBE

Well, an interesting autumn for the Richmond Society! First, an additional Patron; a good Forum meeting on changes to local health services; a “buzzy” well attended awards ceremony; and four more events before Christmas. All this is on top of our vital **monitoring and campaigning work** on the built environment, landscaping and riverside, alcohol licensing, and Heathrow. And congratulations to **Paul Velluet**, our new nominee to Richmond Parish Lands Charity, and huge thanks to **Dr Vivienne Press**, our outgoing nominee.

Last January at one of our largest meetings ever, 250 of us heard **Sir Trevor McDonald** talk about some of the famous people he had interviewed. As a result Sir Trevor has become interested in our work and has agreed to become one of our distinguished Patrons, a major boost to our work. Thank you Sir Trevor!



Our annual review and awards evening for Richmond buildings and landscapes **The Good, the Bad and the Ugly** is reported on page 4 with photos of the winners on the back page.

Also during the evening we displayed entries in our first Photo Competition for children and young people, reflecting the growth in membership from families with younger children. The spectacular photo submitted by fourteen-year-old **Ishaan Kapoor** is shown here, and other winners are pictured on the front page with their certificates.

Two further events for families coming shortly are: for children 3-12 years **making Tudor Mince Pies** (with a glass of wine for parents and grandparents) on Sunday afternoon 8 December; and on the morning of Saturday 30 November the formal handing over to **Richmond Museum** as part of their Twenty-fifth Anniversary celebrations the Tudor children’s costumes made by five of our members, **Franziska Braunleder-Leib, Tina Bruce, Barbara Hicks, Sarah Percival** and **Nicky Wood**. This will mean that any children in the borough can borrow the costumes. To come to these events, contact me please.

Our last two regular meetings this year will be: **Thursday 21 November** (our last at the Vestry Hall) when the Principal of **Richmond Adult Community College** will describe the exciting building plans for the Parkshot site with its expanded community facilities. And our **AGM and party on Thursday 12 December** in the lovely surrounding of the Old Town Hall. *See page 11 and party ticket application form enclosed for full details.*

Farewell to Vestry Hall (Thank you Richmond Parish Lands Charity) Because of rising attendances at our evening meetings we will be shifting these to the Duke Street Church from January. The two meetings we have held there this year have shown that this is an excellent venue for us.

Ian Bruce : 07967 007 642 : chairman at richmondsociety.org.uk

Richmond Heathrow Campaign recently submitted a paper to the Airports Commission on noise, which introduces some original concepts on the nature, impact and measurement of aircraft noise and the assertion that the noise impact is already far too high and would be much worse with four runways at Heathrow. We also responded briefly to the publication of the 58 long-term proposals for aviation submitted to the Commission in August. We sought inclusion of our long-term proposal for passenger growth without new runways in the Commission's Interim Report this December. It is the only option that does not propose additional runways and is likely to form a more credible basis for building long-term cross-party consensus as it is far less controversial than runway development.

However, Sir Howard Davies, Chair of the Airports Commission, in his public speech on 7 October opened the door for further expansion to four runways at Heathrow. Sir Howard said the Commission believes future demand will require additional capacity in the southeast. In effect the Commission has now sought to close off the debate about the need for new capacity, although the amount is still in play. This is no longer a balanced approach in which no-expansion options are taken forward in parallel with other options thus allowing proper public consultation and decisions to be taken by elected politicians. Sir Howard did say he would be surprised and disappointed if RHC did not respond to his speech, which we will do. We shall also continue to promote the case of no need for new runways as well as an alternative to the hub model and recognition that greenhouse gas restrictions are likely to inhibit expansion.

On the hub issue we propose an airport structure where demand in the southeast is spread across five main airports as opposed to a single hub, in part because the evidence demonstrates that international transfers that define a hub are the problem and not the solution. It is a myth that transfers fill up planes to make destinations viable. Virtually no long-haul low frequency destinations have any transfers. Transfers take up a third of Heathrow's capacity and create a third of the aircraft noise and can be reduced to free up capacity for local demand. The Commission has not yet expressed its views on transfers and hubs but these will be key to the location of capacity.

Heathrow has just issued a consultation with limited participation and just weeks to respond on a 3-year extension to 2018 of its 5-year Noise Action Plan. Given the unrealistic timing RHC has no option but to withhold consent. Heathrow and the CAA have also just issued final reports on the Operational Freedom Trials. Although the Trials have not demonstrated any net benefit overall or individually Heathrow is seeking the Freedoms to be made permanent subject to consultation. We expect the DfT to publish its proposals and consultation on Night Flights shortly. We recommend that people check the RHC website on all these developments www.richmondheathrowcampaign.org



THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

Richmond Society Annual Review and Awards Presentation 17 October 2013

Report by Charles Pineles



The evening opened with a display of the photos submitted to the Richmond Society photographic competition and presentation of certificates to the winning children. *[Photo on the front page]*

Deputy-Mayor Cllr Stephen Speak *[left]* introduced the Annual Review, with a thoughtful and well-received speech. He said that he particularly appreciated the Society beginning to involve children, hopefully giving them an interest in the care of their environment. As a politician he was all too aware that it was not possible to keep everybody happy, despite trying to do one's best, but he felt that the recent unfortunate business of the bollards

round the Green had at least shown the very considerable interest that residents in the town took in their surroundings.

Charles Pineles, Chairman of the Planning Committee, then took over, firstly bringing the assembled company up to date with the most recent news on the future of the Royal Star and Garter Home building. He then passed on to an exposé of submissions received by the panel, of aspects affecting the built environment which fell into the category of **Ugly**. The Transport for London advertising sign on Richmond Roundabout came in for particular opprobrium. This signage had been refused permission by the Council but approved, on appeal. There was therefore nothing further that could be done. On the subject of advertising, the new WH Smith fascia, and that of the proposed Boots fascia in George Street, undoubtedly failed to “conserve or enhance” the



Conservation Area and were part of an Americanisation of the High Street, shortly to be followed by Halifax with a similar project under submission.

Whilst the brickwork repair on the 18th century Patten Alley wall was to be regretted *{photo left}*, the stone paving, which had been stolen and was subject to a temporary repair in tarmac, was due to be rectified promptly.

The presentation then moved on to illustrate all the submissions inspected by the panel, giving those present an over-view of the whole and allowing them to make their own minds up as to which of them they would have chosen, and in what order. Charles then announced the winners and the Deputy Mayor presented certificates to the owners, architects and contractors for each winning project. *[Photos on the back page]*

Commendations were awarded to:

Palm Court, 4 Heron Square: Moving the entry door from the south side of the premises to the north, installing a porch over as an attractive architectural feature, and creating a ramp for disabled access in a sensitive and practical form had resulted in a pleasing accretion to the west side of the square. *Client:* Serco Ltd *Design & Build Contractor:* Area Squared

Heron Square, landscaping, lighting and signage redesign:

A complete re-think of the design and location of street furniture (benches and planters) had the effect of transforming a gloomy, difficult site into a warm and friendly ambience which it is a pleasure to enjoy. *Client:* Exemplar Properties *Architect:* Robert Myers Associates *Contractor:* Willerby Landscapes *Lighting Designers:* Light Bureau

Matthiae Café, 76 Kew Road: Galliard Homes had taken a singularly run down and difficult project and, with commensurate care, re-created the quality of design and build of the original art deco building. The Tesco connection is purely that of their being the first tenant, the decision to retain traditional café window displays and so much of the 1930s features being those of the developer. This is a jewel in the architectural legacy of the town and we are most appreciative of its restoration. *Client:* Galliard Homes *Architect:* The Louis de Soissons Partnership *Contractor:* Vascroft Contractors Ltd

The Richmond Society **top award of a brass plaque** was presented for the transformation of **15 Montague Road** *Owner:* Tanya McIntyre *Architect:* Nigel Hartley *Contractor:* Advantage Basement Company

The replacement of a 1950s semi, which itself was an infill resulting from bombing during the Second War, with a carefully designed reconstruction of a 19th century villa, completely in keeping with the existing historic townscape and being of the highest build quality. The judging panel had been particularly impressed with the care and consideration taken to reproduce the character and detail of the neighbouring villa.



Richmond Society Patron Bamber Gascoigne [left] then spoke, saying that he always greatly enjoyed the Awards evening and regretted his occasional unavoidable absence; he congratulated his fellow Patron, Rachel Dickson, who had never been known to miss, and whose encyclopaedic knowledge of all things Richmond was well known. Covering a number of other Richmond related topics, his speech was humorous and delivered with the great charm for which he is well known.

Thanking Bamber for his words of encouragement, the **Chairman, Prof Ian Bruce**, congratulated everyone for their efforts and said that the Society continued striving to maintain the quality of its contribution.

Finally, he invited everyone to join him in what became a highly convivial wine and cheese party.

Plans for a '**New London Park**' were outlined by David Allister of LBRuT at a Gardens Festival talk in September. David explained that the Thames and its towpaths could be promoted as one Park, highlighting the river connection between attractions such as Hampton Court Palace, Ham House, Marble Hill House, and the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew. If the idea sounds familiar, it's because we've had the Thames Landscape Strategy : Hampton to Kew (*a 100-year blueprint for the Thames ... to conserve, enhance and promote for the future, one of the world's great urban landscapes*) for nearly 20 years, and the same area is covered in the Thames Path National Trail.

Discreet signage indicating direction, distance, and walking time, might be welcome at some points on the towpath. A single body responsible for maintenance of the towpaths in the tidal area would be an improvement on the present divided structure, but agreeing funding would be difficult. Currently the different nature of areas is reflected by a change in surfacing eg sealed gravel to Cholmondeley Walk, paving on Richmond Riverside, and a rough unbound surface to the Petersham Meadow/Ham Lands section. The towpaths are already well used by cyclists, runners, walkers, dog-walkers, and other groups, and conflict between these users does occasionally arise. We would resist any change to towpath surfaces which might, for example, encourage more and/or faster cycling. £300,000 seems a great deal to spend on this project, and we find it odd that Thames Landscape Strategy is not involved.

Staying with **towpaths**, the **access bollard at the Three Pigeons** was finally re-commissioned in July, after more than four months awaiting sundry parts for repair. Sadly it was put out of service again less than two months later, following an incident with a lorry delivering furniture to Gauchos restaurant. We are pressing for reinstatement of this bollard, and barriers at River Lane, to prevent unauthorised use of the towpath for access and parking.

Trees continue to be a concern. The recent felling of mature trees in Twickenham and Whitton caused controversy. Now the Council proposes felling a number of healthy, mature trees including two yews, a Pagoda tree, a holly, and an apple tree, on the top slope of **Terrace Gardens** under the Night Watchman's Hut. This is to make way for terracing works and the planting of annuals. We have objected to the proposal as an unnecessary expenditure, and damaging to the GII listed Gardens.

In other developments, expansion plans for **Vineyard School** appear to put a substantial number of trees under threat, as they will affect the light levels in new buildings, and the maintenance cost of gutters, downpipes etc. If nearby residents have a view on this application ref 13/T0729, please do comment as soon as possible.

We have yet to hear what the developers of the **Royal Star & Garter building** have in mind for Petersham Common.

One of the two newly-planted **trees on the station forecourt** has died, and was removed recently. The cause of death has not been advised: shortage of water seems more likely than passive smoking, though both must be candidates.

A warm welcome to the new members who have joined since our Autumn newsletter: Ms Deme Bambani, Miss Jane Dewey, Mr Stephen & Mrs Sarah Kent, Mr Mike McCrory, Mr Matthew Ramsey, Mr Matthew Syed & Ms Kathy Weeks, Ms Andrea Vasiliu, Ms Anne Verwaerde, Ms Renee Virgo, Mr Richard & Mrs Eva Wiseman and Ms Andrea Wood all of Richmond, Mr Mike & Mrs Pat Harrison and Miss Jean Watson OBE all of East Sheen, Ms Francesca Owen of Barnes, Ms Su Sayer of Putney and Mrs Patricia Morgan of Twickenham.

Subscriptions for the current year were due on 1 October 2013 and our thanks to members who have already paid. Those who have not will find a subscription reminder enclosed. Prompt payment would be appreciated.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

All members of the Richmond Society are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting on

Thursday 12 December 2013 at 7.30 pm

in the Library Room at the Old Town Hall, Whittaker Avenue, Richmond

Only paid up members will be eligible to vote in the Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2012
3. Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 30 September 2013 *It is intended that this will be posted on the website before the meeting*
4. Election of Officers: Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer
5. Election of Members of the Executive Committee *See note below*
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Any other business

The formal meeting will be followed by the Christmas Party for which tickets must be purchased in advance – see application form enclosed

NOTE (Item 5) Nominations are invited for Members of the Executive Committee. These should be submitted in writing to the Honorary Secretary at the address at the foot of page 11 **by 6 December 2013.** Candidates must be members of the Society who are willing to serve, and must be proposed and seconded by members of the Society.

We are very sorry to report the death in September of **TOM MANNING**, who was a member of the Richmond Society Executive Committee in its early days (1960-1964) and chaired its Architecture Sub-committee. A key player in the establishment of the Richmond Parish Lands Charity, he was the Society's nominee on the Charity from 1968 and its Chairman 1980 to 1983. As Senior Partner of the architectural practice of Manning Clamp + Partners, he designed the Award-winning Portland Terrace residential development on Richmond Green for the Crown Estate. For many years Parish Architect for the Parish Church and St Matthias Church Richmond and inspecting architect for St Peter's Church Petersham, he also served as a Churchwarden of the Parish Church. He made a vast contribution to the local community and will be much missed. Our sympathy goes to his wife Rene and family.

OUR LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

Changes to the organisation of services

Richmond Society Forum Meeting 19 September 2013

Report by

David Willcox

In a departure from the Society's normal focus on the physical environment, the September Richmond Society Forum was dedicated to health services. Dept of Health policy shifted towards making GPs more directly responsible for purchasing services for patients, and as a result the Richmond Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has replaced the Primary Care Trust. Speakers for the evening were Barnes GP **Dr Patrick Gibson** who was on a short secondment to the CCG to improve cross-organisation work, and **Cathy Kerr** of Richmond Council Adult and Community Services and CCG representative.

Dr Gibson explained that CCGs had not been optional for GPs. Many GPs were suspicious that CCGs have been set up to fail, as management funding per patient had been cut from around £68 to approximately £34 per head. He said only approximately 10% of NHS spend is in primary care with the majority assigned to hospitals. Taking a more positive view however of the government's proposals, CCGs were an acknowledgement that GPs have a whole system perspective and patients have their GP's ear.

Dr Gibson reassured the audience that changes to Richmond practices were not linked to the political reforms. There has been a Dept of Health focus on the fitness-for-purpose of GP premises and on looking to accommodate services in practices which historically have been delivered in hospital. There have also been personal circumstances that resulted in changes in individual practices.

In 2012 a Whole System Transformation (WST) initiative began around care of the frail elderly in Kingston, Richmond and East Elmbridge. A programme followed the patient experience and found an absence of patient-centred care. A patient journey "to be" was generated, and on this was mapped the service development projects across each organisation. This encompassed over a hundred initiatives, often duplicated across organisations, all trying to find a solution which could only be addressed through co-operation. Since that time, attention has been given to address mutual accountability between organisations.

Cathy Kerr then provided the local authority perspective. NHS and local authority remits are merging, with an ethos that people should have choice and control. Public health used to be the remit of local authorities in the 1970s and that responsibility is returning. Top of the agenda is a drive to halt the process where patients are forced to repeat their stories to many service providers. The aspiration is to have a single point of contact, bringing together NHS providers to coordinate with social workers and health care professionals to provide holistic support.

What was a complex discussion generated numerous questions. People were eager for further information, and the speakers referred to Council Cabinet papers that summarised the new structures¹. A key difference is that GPs are able to purchase services from providers that perform, and not under-achievers. Within a year there will be more extensive and co-ordinated community nursing and social care support. To

reduce A&E admissions, more out-of-hours services in the community will be provided, ending default hospital admission in borderline cases.

On accountability the speakers agreed it was easier to demonstrate in local government than the NHS. The CCG does however engage in public consultations² and Patient Panels were identified as one of the new ways in which individuals can influence the system. The event ended with examples of service improvements. The speakers had spoken openly about their roles and the system in what had proved to be a pertinent diversion from the Society's usual focus.

¹ For more information see:

http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/council_government_and_democracy/council/decision_making_council/cabinet_meetings_agendas_and_documents.htm?mgl=ieListDocuments.aspx&Cid=163&Mid=3002&Ver=4

² For more information see:

<http://www.richmondccg.nhs.uk/HaveYourSay1/Take%20part%20in%20consultations/Pages/ConsultationsinWandsworth.aspx>

Licensing
licensing at richmondsociety.org.uk

Peter Willan
8948 4142

A licence review of *Vodka Revolution* on the Riverside (the third - others being July 2012 and March 2013) was recently heard at a four-hour meeting by the Council's licensing panel. The review application was made by the police; the Richmond Society and one other nearby resident submitted representation letters supporting the police application.

In essence the police sought to reduce the terminal hours for licensable activities including alcohol to 23.30 on Friday and Saturday (i.e. by 90 minutes) as on other days except 22.30 on Sunday. *Revolution*, the police and the Richmond Society agreed these hours, which were then decided by the licensing panel. The panel decided closing hours would be half an hour later except on Sunday to provide half hour drink up. *Revolution* agreed to drop its appeal of the March Review, which was to be heard in November. There were some modifications of the existing conditions and some added. There was substantial evidence provided by the police and the Society.

So finally after four years, when the hours were increased in what turned out to be a legal watershed in the Society's opposition to extension of hours, we have an outcome which hopefully will improve the environment on the Riverside and in the town generally; for some of us this has been a ten year battle. It is one of the most important licensing decisions for Richmond town and is on a par with the decision taken a few years ago to substantially change *Edwards* opposite the station.

Of course the hours are important, but the management of the premises and the type of clientele are important also. *Revolution* described their new management structure and their plans to change the clientele to a more food-led basis.

It would seem that a positive blizzard of town landmarks are up for change. The big daddy at the Star and Garter Home [below], now destined for residential use, is only the beginning.

The registry office for Births, Deaths and Marriages in Paradise Road is closing and will probably revert to the use for which it was originally designed: a private house.



The police station in Red Lion Street, also, will shortly change hands and our planning committee is due to receive a presentation from the new owners, setting out their plans for its future. The under-used and singularly un-pretty tyre garage at the bottom of Kings Road has closed and plans will soon be submitted for the site's development as town houses, with parking.

In Retreat Road the old Attenborough projection studio is up for demolition and replacement by a more permanent, residential structure. A completely contemporary scheme was originally proposed for this project but, regrettably, was rejected as not being in keeping with the council's Core Strategy, which now demands only designs felt to be in keeping with the pre-existing, traditional townscape. Whilst there is certainly a place for unity (see below) we feel that buildings should be part of the times in which they are built. Quality of construction is frequently of at least as great importance in ensuring that a project fits in, and weathers well, as that of its design.

Amongst new considerations comes the most recent initiative aimed at solving the housing crisis by allowing retail outlets to be converted to residential units. We feel, in common with the Council, that such a policy may well have merit in towns more marked by economic change or downturn but that it does not, per se, have such merit for Richmond.

The opening of Whole Foods in Lower George Street went with a bang. Nationwide opposite objected so strongly to the band, which played highly amplified music outside for several hours on opening day, that they closed their door and posted a sign registering their disapproval claiming that the row made business impossible for their staff. Initial consumer interest has been keen, and certainly the layout, lighting and display make a conventional supermarket look more like a warehouse, with white lighting seemingly inspired by a public swimming bath. If this is the future it bodes well for the shopping experience. The beat goes on.

FUTURE EVENTS

<p>Thursday 21 November 2013 7.15 for 7.45 pm</p>	<p>WHAT IS HAPPENING AT PARKSHOT? Richmond Adult Community College Principal Gabe Flint reveals how sale of the Clifden Centre has provided the resources to develop and add to their flagship for adult learning - new Science lab, Art & Design centre, cafe, bar, shop, gallery and an extension to the Queen Charlotte Hall At the <i>Vestry Hall, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond (next to the multi-storey car park)</i></p>
<p>Sunday 8 December 2013 afternoon</p>	<p>MAKING TUDOR MINCE PIES For children 3-12 years old (with a glass of wine for parents and grandparents) <i>Anyone interested should contact Ian Bruce T: 07967 007 642 E: chairman@richmondsociety.org.uk</i></p>
<p>RICHMOND SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CHRISTMAS PARTY At the Old Town Hall, Whittaker Avenue, Richmond Thursday 12 December 2013 at 7.30 pm There is no charge for the meeting Tickets for the cold buffet which follows cost £12 including one drink <i>Please use the form enclosed and apply early as space is limited</i></p>	
<p><i>In 2014 our meetings will be held in the Duke Street Church, Richmond TW9 1DH</i> <i>Hot and cold drinks available from 7.15 pm Entry free to Members Non-members £2</i></p>	
<p>Thursday 23 January 2014 7.15 for 7.45 pm</p>	<p>DISCOVERING THE PAINTINGS YOU OWN The Public Catalogue Foundation was set up 10 years ago to record all the oil, acrylic and tempera paintings in public ownership in the UK. This ambitious project involved photography of over 211,000 paintings. Mary Rose Rivett-Carnac offers an insider's view, describing some unusual collections, intriguing paintings uncovered, detective work involved, and help needed by the public to improve the painting data. <i>Duke Street Church</i></p>
<p>Thursday 27 February 2014 7.15 for 7.45 pm</p>	<p>THE PENGUIN COLLECTORS SOCIETY was founded 40 years ago in Richmond and is now internationally renowned. Trustee James MacKay shows some of what lay behind this extraordinary publishing company, and behind that row of orange, green and multi-coloured spines seen on every civilised bookshelf. <i>Duke Street Church</i></p>
<p>Thursday 27 March 2014 7.15 for 7.45 pm</p>	<p>CRACKING THE ENIGMA! Alan Turing, who conducted pioneering research in Teddington after World War II is best known for his code-breaking at Bletchley Park. Simon Singh, author of <i>The Code Book</i>, will discuss how Turing's code-breaking efforts changed the course of the war, and will demonstrate a genuine Enigma cipher machine during his talk. <i>Duke Street Church</i></p>

All correspondence to the Richmond Society should be sent to the Secretary/Editor

Pat Spaight, 5 Kelvin Court, Marlborough Road, Richmond TW10 6JS

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photo by David Meggitt

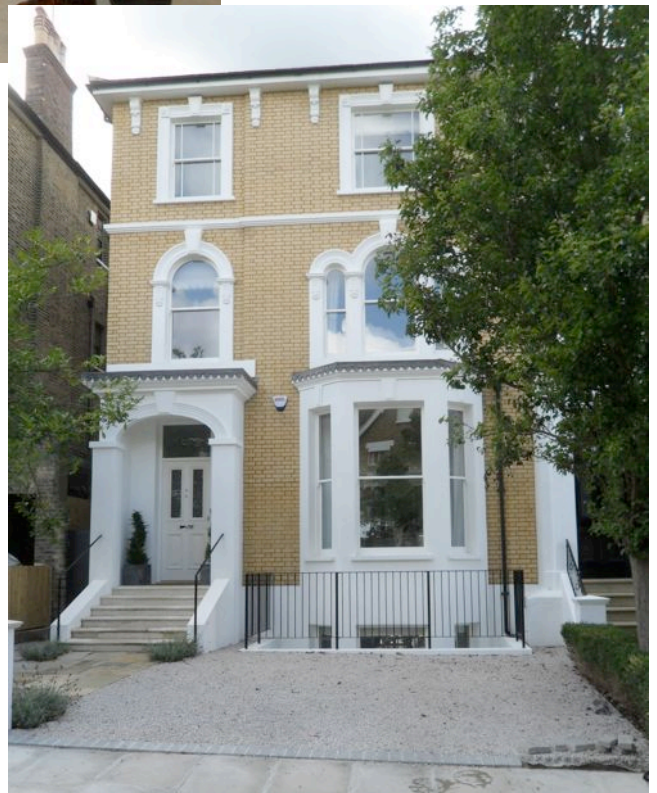
**Winners of the Brass
Plaque for the new house
at 15 Montague Road**
[photo below]

[left to right]
Charles Pineles, Bamber
Gascoigne, owner Tanya
McIntyre, Cllr Stephen
Speak, architect Nigel
Hartley and Richmond
Society Chair Ian Bruce

Commendation winners below



Conversion of Matthiae Cafe



Palm Court in Heron Square



Heron Square improvements