



SIGNALS

Autumn 2020 edition

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Perhaps the most salient subject as I write this is the impending traffic measures being proposed and introduced into the area. Apart from the wider implications the item that most affects the members living in the parking zones SOTG/RV/CS is the restriction that SOTG residents coming from Richmond cannot access Thames Road from the A316 via Hartington Road and residents in CS may not access Kew Bridge via Thames Road. We need to collectively convince Lbh to amend this anomaly and to that end I ask that each and every one of you lobby the Council via traffic@hounslow.gov.uk to treat the three traffic zones - SOTG/RV/CS as one.

Opening an Arch under Kew Bridge should occur shortly. After a long campaign by SoGA planning permission is being sought by the Council in order to comply with Listed Building regulations. Opening the arch as a throughway for pedestrians/prams and wheelchairs will negate the need to negotiate the multiple network of lights and traffic islands at the junction on the main road above.

Amended SOTG parking hours are proposed by Lbh for the New Year to counter fans visiting the BFC Stadium during matches and to deter the many new residents from the associated apartment blocks from parking in Thames Road. I understand the new hours will be 10:00-12:00 weekdays / 18:00-20:00 Monday-Friday and 14:00-16:00 match and event days.

After SoGA lodged a complaint with both Fullers and Lbh Planning about the glassed in enclosure installed around the riverside terrace in contravention to planning permission an Enforcement Notice was issued by the Lbh requiring Fullers to remove the glass. This has now been done opening the terrace once again but leaving the frame and awning for which Fullers do have planning permission.

I would like to remind members that the DEFIBRILLATOR purchased by SoGA is installed at the entrance to Strand Infants School in Brookes Lane. Let's hope it is never needed but it is there if required.



A seal sunbathing at Strand on the Green.

A resident on SotG has commented on a recent increase in noise from the Kew Bridge railway track and is proposing to raise the matter with the appropriate authority. If you have noticed this increase please drop me an email which I will forward.

The controversial proposal by Brentford Football Club and Strand School to make 150 car parking spaces available in the school grounds on London Irish and by extension BFC and event days has caused outrage amongst members and local residents. Whilst the matter remains unresolved SoGA has made it crystal clear to both BFC and Strand School that it does not tolerate the plan and will continue its vigorous opposition.

SoGA had planned to organise a social function for members in the Steam Packet towards the end of the year however the rule of six now precludes that and any such function will have to be held over into the New Year.

I doubt we shall be able to hold the AGM in January which is regrettable as we have a number of new members and the AGM is an opportunity for the Committee to meet and greet them. We will circulate a resume of the year's events plus current accounts and membership details but if any member has an issue they would like raised please email me and it can be put as a Q & A.

The Committee prepares and contributes to SIGNALS but is running out of ideas and material. If as a member you would like to raise and write about an issue or experience or indeed anything of interest please email to alexorski@hotmail.com who can include it in the Spring 2021 issue with or without credit as you chose.

Richard Griffith
Chairman
Strand on the Green Association

A TRIP TO THE ANTIPODES PART II

Just before we left NZ, on 29th FEB, we attended Alison's niece's wedding on a beach on the north side of Marlborough Sounds where her parents have a bach (holiday beach house).



Everyone and everything came in and out by water. The day after the wedding the fridges & cookers were collected and 'sailed away' on a barge. We left Wellington for Brisbane and then north to Noosa Heads, known for its surfing beaches and warm climate. Normally during the southern summer it is full of the residents from Victoria but this year most, but not all of the locals, were delighted not to be swamped by them due to the re-imposed lockdown in Victoria and Melbourne etc. After a few days with an old friend, we flew to Darwin which took over 4 hours, such are the travel distances in Australia.

Why Darwin you might ask? Well, the iconic Ghan train starts from there and goes almost due south through Alice Springs to Adelaide and vice versa. I hadn't been to Darwin since the late 60s when VC 10s landed there a couple of times a week en route Sydney. The city had changed enormously since those days, having become much more cosmopolitan. It had experienced Cyclone Tracy in 1974, when between 70 – 80% of the buildings and houses had been destroyed at a cost in today's terms approaching \$5 bn. Gone were the days when the crew hotel had a sign T SHIRTS WILL BE WORN AFTER 6PM.



On the main wharf in Darwin there is a museum telling the story of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), which began operational service in 1939, and the Japanese bombing attack in FEB 1942 which brought destruction to the city.

The Ghan has two engines and up to 44 carriages (length of 5 football pitches). It is named after the Afghan camel drivers when camels were used in the Outback.



As ever, with such journeys there were a mixture of inclusive 'side trips' and those you needed to pay for. Our first stop was at Katherine so that we could visit the adjacent Gorge which is located in the Nitmiluk National Park. One way to see this was by helicopter.



In Alice Springs we were taken to the RFDS 'School of the Air' where some of the classes were historically conducted for outback children using the Flying Doctor radio system. This has now been replaced by telephone and internet technology.



Australia is notorious for flies but never before had we seen them in such profusion, so all guests were issued with a fly net - fortunately they all seem to go to bed as soon as the sun dropped.

Other side trips included a visit to an Opal Mine in Coober Peddy where half the residents live underground. We lunched out of the hot sun and continued to the underground Serbian Orthodox Church.



After three nights and four days we arrived in Adelaide. This is a trip to do once, the food and wine were of a very good standard. We were on one of the last Ghan trains in March, and only restarted in early September because of Covid.

The last part of our journey was along the Great Ocean Road to Melbourne. Tourist spots including the Naracoorte Caves, the wineries and viewing platforms for the massive 'Twelve Apostles' (now only eight limestone structures) were closing behind us with the march of Covid.



We cancelled our planned week in Sydney and returned home arriving on Lockdown Day

In my first article in the last issue of SIGNALS, I had fervently wished that “.... hopefully the Coronavirus will not dominate the nightly news”. How wrong could I be.

Chris Hodgkinson




*A Lovely Sunday afternoon spent
kayaking from Strand on the Green
to Richmond and then drifting back
with the tide.*

Lousie Staden

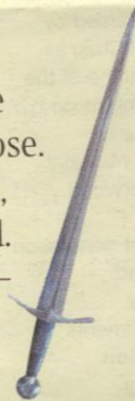
I take it you already know
Of tough and bough and cough and dough?
Others may stumble, but not you
On hiccough, thorough, slough, and through.
Well done! And now you wish, perhaps
To learn of less familiar traps?



Beware of heard, a dreadful word
That looks like beard and sounds like bird.
And dead: it's said like bed, not bead;
For goodness' sake, don't call it "deed"! 
Watch out for meat and great and threat,
(they rhyme with suite and straight and debt)
A moth is not a moth in mother.
Nor both in bother, broth in brother.



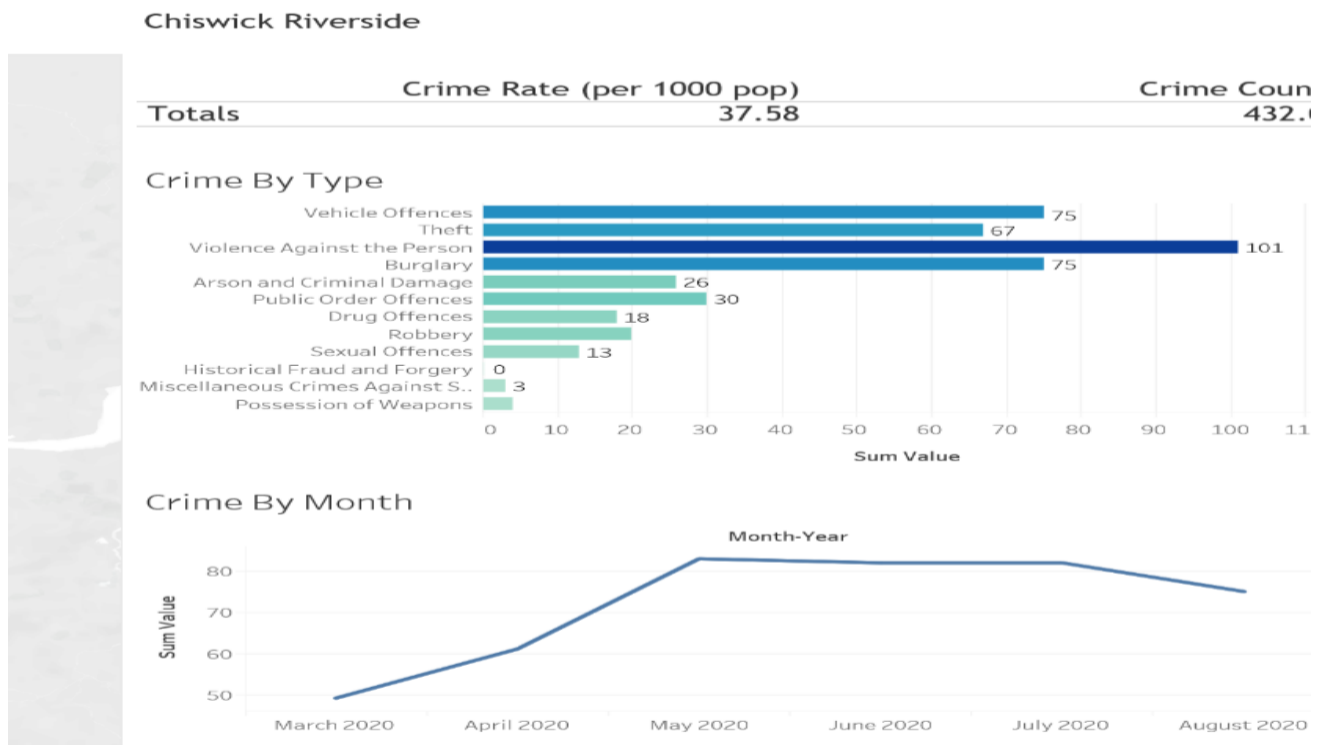
And here is not a match for there,
Nor dear and fear for bear and pear.
And then there's dose and rose and lose
Just look them up — and goose and choose.
And cork and work and card and ward,
And font and front and word and sword.
And do and go, then thwart and cart —
Come, come, I've hardly made a start.



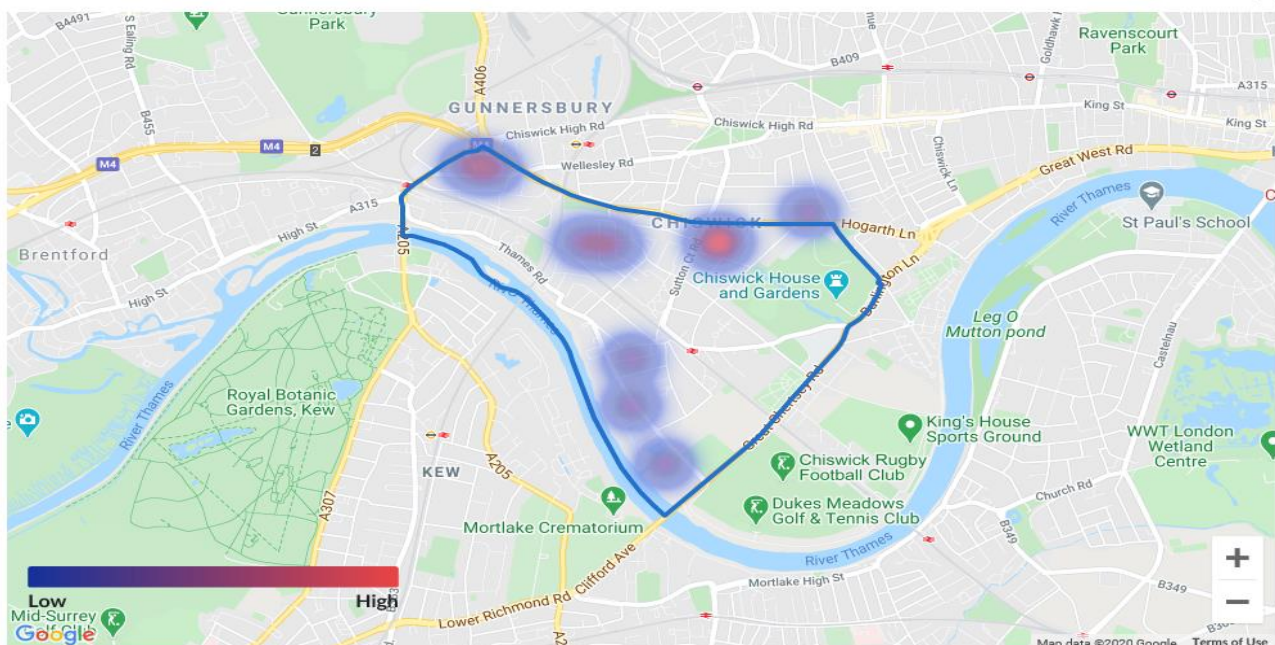
A dreadful language? Why, man alive!
I'd mastered it when I was five!
And yet to write it, the more I try,
I'll not learn how 'til the day I die. (Anon.)

CRIME

The below chart shows the latest crime figures for the months of March 20 to August 20 in the Riverside Ward.



The below map shows the burglary hotspots.



The below link will direct you to the Chiswick Riverside page, from here you can check on local stats, voice your concerns and contact our local team. Sergeant Anil Sharma, Constable Prabhdeep Singh and PCSO Callum Norris make up the Safer Neighbourhoods Team.

<https://www.met.police.uk/a/your-area/met/hounslow/chiswick-riverside/?introducingyoursaferneighbourhoodsteam=yourteam>

ALEX'S APIARY



...and Just like that the beekeeping season is over, time to hang up the smoker and raise a glass. October provides the last few suitable days to open up the hives to make sure the queen is present, that they have more than enough stores to get them through the winter and all is well.

The year delivered a real mix of weather with a fantastic honey yield in the spring followed by a rather disappointing return in the summer. Huge numbers of wasps proved problematic for the colonies but they managed to defend their treasures successfully.



Bees that are born in the spring and summer will generally live for around 6 weeks and spend the large majority of that time foraging. They work nonstop flying to and from the hive. However, the bees born now will live for around 6 months and will complete chores from within the hive. Their most important job is to keep the queen alive and they do this by forming a cluster around her and gently vibrating to conduct heat and keep her nice and toasty.

Next year brings with it a couple of leads to new apiary sites within W4, I will hopefully bring good news of these in the spring edition of SIGNALS.

Alex Orski



www.strandonthegreen.org.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.strandonthegreen.org.uk>

Contact the chairman – rsg.soga@hotmail.co.uk

