

BOROUGH OF TWICKENHAM

FIELDEND

SPRING 2026

THE FIELDENDER

THE FIELDEND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NEWLETTER

Springtime Garden Update

At the AGM concern was raised over what residents could plant in front of their houses. So to clarify this, we don't own our front gardens; they belong to FRAL and as such are managed by Sally as garden director with Allen our gardener. We have to refer to the board for any major change to the landscape.

But this does not mean as residents you have no say. Any change in front of your house will be discussed, and wishes for any replacement shrubs considered. We have a broad spectrum of broadly woodland species which we can plant. However climates are changing, which will lead to a more Mediterranean approach.

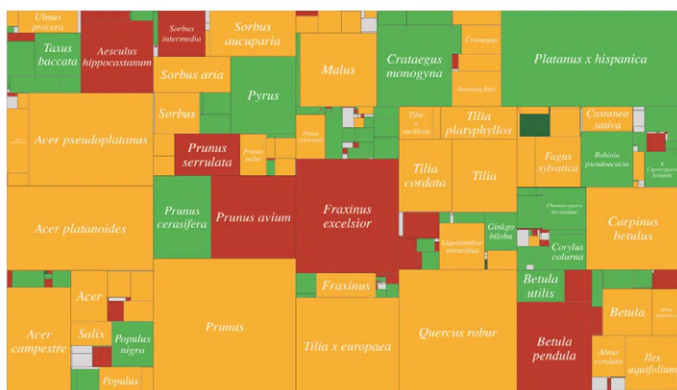
Studies from Kew Gardens have identified tree species at risk, using a traffic light system. Their attached plan

shows the species at risk. Some birches – notably *Betula Pendula*, our much loved Silver Birch – are facing a red light; they are unlikely to survive the changing climate. But the better news is that other birches such as *Betula Utilis*, the Himalayan Birch, are still showing green and they should still be fine.

The care of newly planted trees and shrubs is vital to their success, and trees need weekly watering for at least their first three years. We have to keep this up during periods of drought, but thankfully we are blessed with taps throughout Fieldend. We count on your help.

Meanwhile, please note the upcoming tidy days, from 1000 until 1200 on the last Sunday of the month.

The dates will be March 29th, April 26th, May 31st and June 28th.



Visit the Kew Gardens website to find out more about the trees that are at risk

THE CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

A Conservation Sub-Committee has recently been formed to support the FRAL board in its responsibilities for conserving Fieldend's buildings and landscape.

The committee is preparing a Conservation Management Plan (CMP). This type of document is widely used for historic places and explains why a place is significant while setting out principles to guide its care, repair and future change. At Fieldend, the CMP will complement the existing Scheme of Management by providing an evidence base to help inform decisions. It is expected to include guidance on repair materials and details, approaches to adapting homes to climate change, and principles for managing the estate's landscape and trees.

A draft CMP is expected to be available for consultation towards the end of 2026. The sub-committee is formed of:

Sarah Earney (Fieldend) A conservation architect specialising in changing and adapting historic buildings.

Zoe Fudge (Fieldend), a practicing architect with a masters in Urban Design.

Janet McDougall (Fieldend), an architect who manages the conservation, repair and change projects for the Historic Royal Palaces.

Ray Pinches (Fieldend), a retired architect with vast experience delivering complex projects.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Get to know our new head of maintenance

Architecturally-trained
photographer Kilian tells us
about his love for Fieldend



How and why did you move here?

We moved in January 2010. We sold a house in Archway and were temporarily in Hampton Wick – in Jo’s grandmother’s flat while she moved into care – when the financial crisis hit. So we were in that odd in-between moment of having sold but not yet bought, and wondering what to do next. Then, completely by chance, we drove into Fieldend one Sunday. We weren’t Span experts and didn’t know the estate well. We just found ourselves here, walking around Red Square and the different greens. The next day our estate agent rang and said, “I think I’ve got the house you’re after.” It was an extraordinary coincidence. Even now I can’t think what brought us here, it’s nowhere near Hampton Wick.

What were your first impressions?

I could see the potential straight away. The existing extension turned its back on the best part of the plot. You couldn’t really see the garden, and there was very little connection to the south-facing corner. My immediate thought was that you could knock down the extension, rebuild it, and reorient it so the house engaged properly with the garden. I remember walking round

Kilian is
pictured
with his
wife Jo and
daughters
Ida and
Ingrid

trying to show no emotion while internally thinking, “This is gold.” The renovation took roughly ten months. We never lived in the house while the work was going on. Luckily we had the flat round the corner as the place was completely gutted. I wanted the extension to be subordinate to the house. You’re not trying to create a grand standalone statement. So it was smaller, the same colour, and the windows tried to be sympathetic. It went very smoothly using builders we already knew. I had an obsessive spreadsheet as literally every penny counted. We had a party and put the drawings up in the empty house so people could come and look, and then another big party when it was all done.

What do you like about it here?

The floor-to-ceiling glass, the sense of light, and the views through the house. But I also like the collective nature of it. The shared greens in front of the houses are a big part of the pleasure of living here. They belong to everyone and no one, which gives the estate a very particular atmosphere. The landscaping matters enormously too. The views change with the seasons, and even after all this time it still feels peaceful

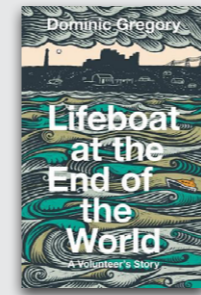
and unusual. There’s also the social side. Since photographing and interviewing people over the last year, I’ve come to know many of the residents and understand more about what people want from Fieldend. When Mark passed away recently, I really felt it, because I’d spent time with him.

Why are you taking on the maintenance role, and what will your approach be?

The honest answer is: because someone needs to do it. That’s how these roles work. They aren’t glamorous and there’s no grand qualification. Someone does the job for a while, then someone else takes it on. But maintenance does matter. It isn’t just fixing things when they break – it’s looking after the character of the estate and carrying forward what previous people have set up. Theo has been very diligent in that respect, and I see the role partly as continuing that work. My guiding principle is simple: when something needs replacing or repairing, look back at the original Span thinking and try to do it properly. Not nostalgically, but respectfully. If I had a mantra, it would probably be: “Make Span Great Again.”

BOOKSHELF

Two of our neighbours have
books coming out this month

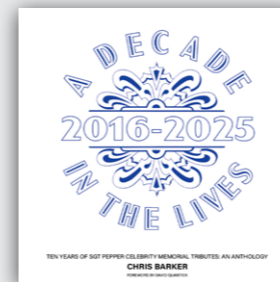


**Lifeboat at the
End of the World**
Dominic Gregory

Dominic Gregory at no 46 has written his first book, based on his experience of living on Dungeness and volunteering for the RNLI. It is published by William Collins on March 26th.

“For two hundred years, the Dungeness lifeboat has launched in storms and heavy seas to frigates and barques, trawlers and dinghies. Like all lifeboat stations in the British Isles, it is led by a coxswain and staffed entirely by volunteers. Dominic Gregory volunteers as part of her crew. Lifeboat at the End of the World is the first book to depict the experience of what it is like to volunteer on a lifeboat; the smells of the station, the emotions when the call to ‘a shout’ comes, how the crew is trained, the teamwork and trust, the ethos of the service. And incident aplenty – terrifying rescues both past and present, often to overladen inflatable small craft and their desperate passengers. Gregory’s book is non-fiction writing of extraordinary power and immediacy. While most of us will never serve in a lifeboat, we might well find ourselves thankful for their unquestioning and dauntless assistance at sea.” (Waterstones)

Order now from [waterstones.com](https://www.waterstones.com)



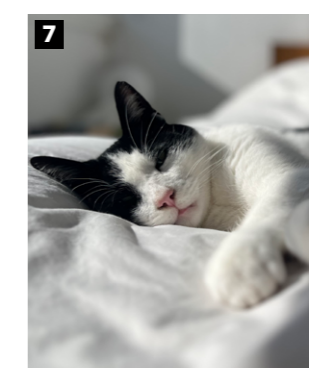
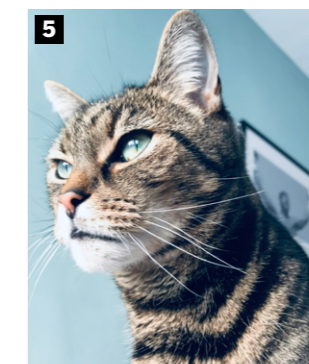
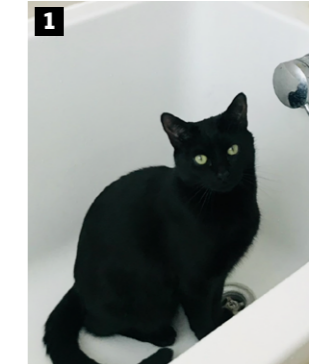
**A Decade in
the Lives**
Chris Barker

Meanwhile, Chris Barker from number 32 has published a large coffee table book anthology of his ten year art project creating memorial tributes to the celebrities who have died each year from 2016-2025 in the style of the Beatles Sgt Pepper album cover. There is a full colour print of each montage plus detailed key, analysis and commentary on the key events of the last decade. “These magnificent Sgt Pepper-inspired collages memorialise the fallen stars of music, film and TV with a mischief that inspires joy and laughter amidst the tears.” (Daily Telegraph)

Order now from [chrisbarkerprints.co.uk](https://www.chrisbarkerprints.co.uk)

Feline Fieldend

A spotters guide to some local furry friends



Bobby (1) and **Squeaky (2)** are two rescue cats. Bobby likes playing hide and seek, Squeaky likes golf and football. **Olive and Oscar (3)**. Olive is the sociable type while Oscar tends to act aloof. **Bowie (4)** lives at number 32 but spends most of her time at number 31. **Buster Merryfield (5)** is so named because of his white beard-like chin. **Maple, Honey and Peanut (6)** have their own instagram page: [instagram.com/thebiscuitqueens](https://www.instagram.com/thebiscuitqueens). Opinionated **Monty McCat (7)** likes tuna and naps and finally, **Sushi (8)** likes chasing sticks and shoelaces.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

A beginners guide to infrared heating

When Miles and Meri were renovating number 1 they installed traditional electric underfloor heating downstairs. But then they had to decide how to heat the bedrooms. They decided on an innovative solution, infrared heating panels. We spoke to them.

So firstly, what are these panels?

Meri: They are electric radiant heating panels, but instead of functioning like traditional heaters, infrared radiation heats objects and people, in the same way as the sun. So, you feel warm, but the air never feels stuffy. The ones we bought are made by a German company, Herschel.

Why did you decide on the system?

Miles: Meri has a friend who is an architect and suggested them: we had never heard of them. I particularly like the slim profile and the ability to fix them higher up on the wall, allowing furniture to be positioned underneath. You can't put objects directly in front of them because it would block the infrared rays. In fact, the best place to place them is on the ceiling, but we couldn't do that because of the beams. Other benefits include less risk of mould and condensation throughout the house. They are also great for allergy sufferers because they don't circulate dust.

Are they more expensive to buy than traditional heaters?

And what about the running costs?

Miles: They are more expensive than a traditional wet system, but each panel is controlled

using a separate thermostat, so you can vary the heat room by room.

Meri: It's hard to compare the running costs because we have installed insulation since last winter, but they do seem to heat the rooms more quickly. The house is not as cold and this year and electricity bills have been a lot less, so they seem to be efficient.

Were you worried about the safety of infrared radiation, especially since you have a young child?

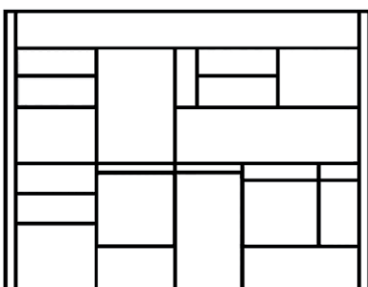
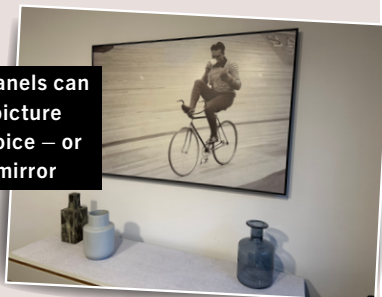
Miles: I did have initial reservations about being blasted with infrared radiation. However, further research confirmed the panels operate using far infrared radiation which is considered safe. Studies generally suggest far infrared radiation is non-ionizing and does not damage DNA.

So are you pleased that you chose infrared heating panels

Meri: Yes, very pleased. The house gets warm very quickly, much faster than our more traditional electric underfloor heating downstairs.

Miles: Our only regret is that we perhaps installed it too soon. Newer infrared heating products have become available in sheet form. These can be plastered into the ceiling, are completely hidden and incredibly efficient.

Infrared panels can feature a picture of your choice – or even be a mirror



FRAL

FIELDEND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Email contact for the Board: FRALBusiness@outlook.com

If you haven't been getting FRAL emails, let us know – we may need to update our address list

Chair
Theo Williams

Treasurer
Lesley Alexander

Company Secretary
Judith Palmer

Gardens and Trees
Sally Stones

Planning and Conservation
Tim Bystedt

Maintenance
Theo Williams (outgoing)
Kilian O'Sullivan (incoming)

Newsletter Editor
Elizabeth Blunt

Newsletter design
Chris Barker

Portrait photography
Tim Bystedt