

Ramblers 2 – Walking the Thames Path South from Richmond to Kew Bridge – Tuesday 23 April 2023 – leader Helen Salmon

We met at Waterloo station and took a train to Richmond on a chilly but dry day. We walked through the town down to the Thames Path and along to Twickenham Bridge with the river on our left and the Old Deer Park on our right (we didn't see any deer). Ahead was the Richmond Footbridge painted green and cream with the weir, comprising three vertical sluice gates suspended from the bridge. These gates ensure that the water level between Richmond Lock and Teddington Lock is maintained at or above half tide level. On our left was Isleworth Ait, one of the river's many islands. As the river bent to the right we got a view of Old Isleworth with its slipway, church and pub on the north bank. The path was now skirting the Royal Botanical Gardens Kew on our right. As the path became narrower we had to dodge cyclist and joggers and quite a few large puddles. On the opposite bank was Syon Park, the London home of the Duke of Northumberland. As we continued on we could see where the mouth of the River Brent and Grand Union Canal entered the Thames on the north bank. Further along the red bricks of Kew Palace could be seen with its many chimneys. This was the former home of George III. The path became busier as we neared Kew Bridge – the end of our walk. As we made our way up the steps to the top of the bridge we became very aware of the noise of the traffic after the quiet of the riverside. We made our way to the Express Tavern for a nice pub lunch before making our way home via Kew Bridge Station.