BE A FRIEND OF RADNOR GADENS

(registered charity no. 1022565)

In 1987 a group of local residents founded The Friends to raise funds, in partnership with the Council, to restore the summerhouse and the gazebo, part of a master plan for improvements to the gardens. Both these mid-18th century buildings were in a poor state of repair, yet their individual character, architecturally and by historical association, made restoration worthwhile. The ***summerhouse*** was built c 1755 in the grounds of Cross Deep House: restoration of this gothick style gem was completed in 1989. The ***gazebo***, formerly belonging to Radnor House, was originally part of an elegant bathhouse with ornate internal décor of shellwork: restoration was achieved by 1991. Re-landscaping of the central area of the gardens was then undertaken.

The Friends became an independent charity in June 1993 and was granted a licence from the Council for the use and management of the central area of the gardens, the two restored buildings and the brick hut.

In 1998 The Friends carried out a major survey of local opinion on plans for further improving Radnor Gardens. The priorities which emerged were improved pathways, new trees and a children's play area. In the meantime, The Thames Landscape Strategy, which had been developing plans for improvements all along the river from Hampton to Kew, started work on the **Arcadia in the City** project, aimed at enhancing, conserving and celebrating one of the world's great urban landscapes – the stretch of the river from Radnor Gardens to St Margaret's riverside and the home of the English Landscape movement. This £3.3mn project was awarded a £2.1mn grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in March 2003, with the remainder to be raised through sponsorship, donations, volunteer work and events.

The Radnor Gardens element of Arcadia in the City covers £100,000 of improvements including refurbished footpaths and landscaping. Detailed designs for this work have been drawn up by landscape architect Kim Wilkie and Phase 1 is due to commence in September 2005.

Through the annual **Radnor Gardens Music & Crafts Day** and other fundraising initiatives, the Friends are building up the resources required to match the lottery contribution to these works. **If you would like to join us, please complete the tear-off slip below and send it, together with your membership subscription to Eugene Bacot, 29 Upper Grotto Road, Twickenham TW1 4NG**

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Name:
Address:
Telephone:
Signature:

I would like to become a Friend and I enclose a cheque payable to The Friends of Radnor Gardens for (please tick the membership you require):

Annual Single £3 Annual Family £5 Life membership £50