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# TO PRESERVE ANCIENT TWICKENHAM.

## York House Society and the Riverside.

Demolition orders have been made on these Queen Anne houses at the riverside at Twickenham by the Town Council, and efforts are being made by the York House Society to save them. They were bought about a year ago for £550 after the demolition orders had been under consideration by the Council.

Photo: Dann.

ONE of the last remaining pieces of ancient Twickenham is in danger of extinction. This, and other topics of immediate local importance were discussed at a meeting of the York House Society, held on Monday evening at Ferryside, by permission of Mr. N P. Viner-Brady. The possible extension of the Ham gravel pits on the other side of the river, the preservation of riverside land, and the fate of the fine poplars on the Twickenham slope of Richmond Bridge.

The meeting was placed in possession of important private information in regard to riverside developments at the Embankment and on the Surrey bank near Twickenham Ferry, and heard with great pleasure of steps being taken by county and local authorities to prevent undesirable encroachments; notably in connection with the gravel pits, against the noise of which there were some complaints. It was indicated that preservation of riverside amenities had been agreed upon, although it would be an expensive matter for the Richmond Corporation, and the view was expressed that it was more than ever necessary that Richmond and Twickenham should act in close co-operation.

**Old Twickenham.**

Attention was directed to a recent sale of property on the Embankment which followed the issue of certain demolition orders by the Town Council, and to the fear that any scheme of reconstruction would mean the destruction of old houses which Mr. Viner-Brady described as "like a corner of an old French town." One of the houses, he said, was oak-panelled, and had a beautiful staircase with a spiral banister.

In the discussion it was revealed that a Council committee that evening had postponed action on the matter for six months. There would be questions of the depth of the site if flats were proposed, and on the other hand, if an attempt were made to modernise the houses, it might be necessary to destroy the things which made them so desirable.

It was agreed that the York House Society should make a public protest in the hope that this quaint corner of old Twickenham, the last remaining between Teddington and Isleworth should be preserved from destruction. It is intended to seek the aid of the London Society.

It is feared that the widening process at Richmond Bridge entails the destruction of the poplar trees at the drawdock, which form so fine a setting for the ancient structure in the summer months.

### THE SOCIETY'S PROTEST.

**Action to be Taken to Prevent Spoliation of Waterfront.**

Mr. Alfred Featherstonhaugh, I.S.O., hon. secretary of York House Society, writes from 50, Cole Park-road, Twickenham:—

At a committee meeting of the York House Society, held on Monday last, it was learnt with amazement, not to say consternation, that one of the few remaining bits of beautiful old Twickenham is threatened with destruction.

The threat is to a group of the old cottages and houses on the old town waterfront. These, it appears, have been, or are to be, the subject of demolition orders. They have been sold as a whole, and it is believed that there is to be rebuilding—possibly in the form of a block of flats.

Thames lovers know only too well the dismal changes some reaches have seen in this generation, but it is perhaps true to say that, taking the stretch from Chertsey to Hammersmith, two old and delightful bits certainly remain unchanged. They are our old waterfront and Strand-on-the-Green.

Authorities in this part of the Thames Valley on both sides of the river have been, and are, most jealous guardians of our "Royal reach," with the result that we can boast that it is unique in its preservation. All is much as Thomson saw it. Our tradition is, indeed, a high one, and surely Twickenham should view changes on the old waterfront with a jaundiced eye.

The York House Society is endeavouring to obtain precise particulars as regards the area affected, and demolition orders made, or to be made, with a view to taking any possible action to avert what is threatened. They are approaching the London Society in the matter, and hope to enlist the support of all other bodies and individuals interested.

# TO PRESERVE BEAUTY.

## Mr. E. H. Keeling, M.P., Appeals

their work was co-ordinated. Some local authorities exercised the powers entrusted to them by Parliament, but some did not, and some would not. Advisory panels of architects were available all over the coun-

own sake. We spent £400,000 a year on the London museums, largely on preserving works of art. Could we not spare something for the preservation of rural Eng-
land, which

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