



# Not So Windy Christmas Celebrations



Dave Singh of Hampton Guide mans the HVTA wheel of fortune!



The host with the most – Francis Redfern from Hampton Academy compères the evening's acts.



A Stormtrooper, Darth Vader and Chewbacca visit Birdie Bikes – another great surprise – well done Adam!

**W**inds blew, rain threatened and the big stage was cancelled, but Hampton families swarmed as usual to our Christmas Celebrations in the village. As darkness fell, lights on Christmas trees were switched on above the shops and outside the Scout hut in Station Road. The wind died down, the rain held off and the fun began.

Now in its sixth year, Hampton Village Traders Association has developed a custom of opening its shop doors for the event and supplying a cornucopia of refreshments from cupcakes to onion bhajis, hamburgers to fish and chips, mulled wine to tea. This year Father Christmas arrived at the front of a toy train with two coaches behind. After his ride around Station Road, the railway bridge, Station Approach and Ashley Road, small children and adults alike queued for the same journey on a continuous loop.

The Sea Scout hut attracted small children to Father and Mother Christmas' grottoes – 550 youngsters according to organiser Susan Green of Greenacres nursery schools. The idea of a Mother Christmas was introduced last year and proved its worth again this time, with the bulk of younger or shyer children choosing that option. Meanwhile no less than 32 staff were on hand, including ten elves, *Spiderman* and *Peppa Pig* to keep them amused while they queued.

As usual the roads forming Father Christmas' route were closed to wheeled traffic for three hours while the crowds strolled along and across normally busy thoroughfares, nostrils twitching and taste buds alert for the next culinary treat. In view of the windy conditions traders opted not to put up stalls on the pavements but instead invited organisations like our own, with no permanent village footprint, to share their premises.

For those with sated appetites – or no small children – the dais outside Hampton Cellar provided a stage for tribute singers *Mick Hucknall*, *Cher*, *Karen Carpenter* and perennial favourite *Elvis!* Performers Darren Alboni and Tania Alboni have graced our stages before and could be relied upon to attract a good crowd.

So once again Hampton proves we can please everyone – well, most people. Numbers turning up this year appeared to be almost as heavy as 2014. Who wants to drag small children away from their own locality to see Father Christmas? Everyone knows he can find the way to their individual homes come Christmas Eve! **Maura Waters** ✨

# Fred Martin Celebrates his Century



**F**red Martin, our local chemist for 40 years, has turned 100. Born in Colchester, he came to work in Hampton in 1940, shortly before the fall of France during the last world war. But his reserved occupation as a pharmacist was interrupted by call-up to the Royal Corps of Signals and involvement in the famous D-Day landings of June 1944 which helped turn around the course of the war.

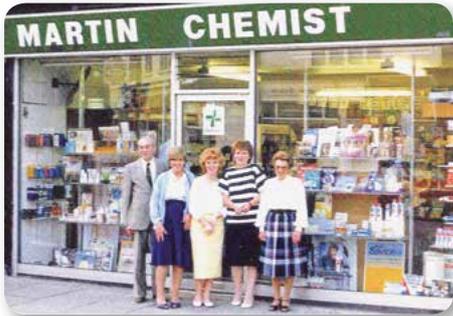
Among too many colourful incidents to describe here, Fred remembered being detailed to supply public address equipment to Canterbury Cathedral for Field Marshal Montgomery to address the troops before the historic event. The equipment was faulty but Monty, nothing daunted, declared he needed no such aid. "Now chaps, clear your throats, I don't want any interruptions", he declared. Commented Fred "He had such a clear voice everybody heard him".

Fred's 12th Corps formed the first of the D-Day reinforcements. Crossing the Channel at night, his ship passed three battleships firing at the enemy – Nelson, Ramillies and Rodney – Fred believed. "The blocks for Mulberry Harbour and Pluto the pipeline were also being towed across, but at the time we were unaware of their purpose", he said. The soldiers were too busy climbing 60ft down rope ladders to the landing craft, each man carrying a large backpack, rifle, side packs and a kitbag.

Once assembled in an orchard at Langrune-sur-mer, the 12th Corps helped encircle the enemy at the Falaise Gap. In early July, Lancaster aircraft bombed German-held Caen, only five miles away, with devastating results. The tide having turned in the Allies' favour, the 12th Corps moved towards Belgium, feted at villages en route with cries of "Vive l'Angleterre!" from people freed from five years of German occupation. Now, at a holding camp, Fred learnt he'd become a father. Robin weighed in at 7lb 10oz. No home leave for Dad, though.

Eventually, after a tour of duty supposedly to Palestine but which never got beyond Egypt, Fred was demobbed and returned home with the handsome handbag he'd bought for his wife Peggy in Alexandria. "You have only one wife?", asked the trader, incredulous at such a poor sale!

Fred and Peggy had married in 1942 – a wedding delayed when he was called up to the Forces on 2 July, within weeks of the planned date. So they tied the knot on his first leave.



Now back in Hampton and with another addition to the family, son Howard, the Martins lived over the shop for 13 years. Fred then bought a house around the corner in Chestnut Avenue and two years later his first pharmacy. In 1961 he bought the Station Approach pharmacy (shown on the left in the 1980s), where Peggy ran the retail side along with three assistants until the couple retired in 1986.

Peggy died in 2000, not before teaching Fred to cook. Scorning convenience foods, he prefers using fresh ingredients and still makes his own biscuits. He still keeps up membership of his local Rotary, Probus and bowls clubs, too, not to mention our own Society.

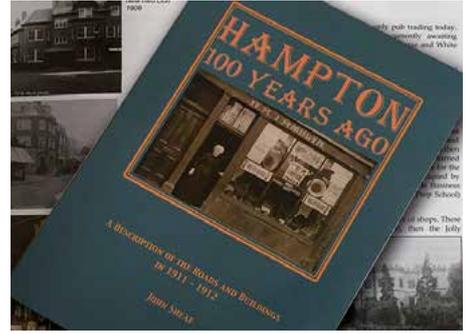
With the arrival of Fred's century we should surely listen when he describes war as a "necessary evil", but "you can't imagine what life would be like if the Allies had lost". \*

## ...and then there were none

FINALLY THE SIGHT of two hulks of river boats blighting St Albans Riverside has disappeared. Last March, a new bye-law criminalised unauthorised moorings, affecting 50 local boats. By November four were left – all at the otherwise picturesque bank opposite Taggs Island. The site was cleared later that month when the last two craft, further damaged by last winter's storms, were removed.



## Hampton 100 Years Ago – the latest book from John Sheaf



Our local historian has just published a new book covering the village layout, its roads, shops and pubs as well as some of the significant buildings standing a century ago, plus the occupations of some of their owners. You can find a separate section for each road then existing, each with an individual map and related images.

There are plenty of illustrations, both in sepia and colour, including more than 90 historic photos and illustrations and 45 maps.

The book is published by the Borough of Twickenham Local History Society. To order a copy go to [www.botlhs.co.uk](http://www.botlhs.co.uk) and under Publications click on the image of the cover. Alternatively send a note requesting the book and a cheque for £7.00, which includes postage and packing, payable to "BOTLHS", to BOTLHS c/o 75 Radnor Rd, Twickenham TW1 4NB. It could be just the Christmas present you're looking for! \*

## Fundraising limited edition etching of Hampton Church – on sale now



Phil Weller of the Hampton & Richmond Borough Football Club Supporters Trust has organised the production of a limited print run from this etching by artist Sheila de Rosa MA.

This iconic view of Hampton Church from the Molesey bank dates from c 1910 and originates from the John Sheaf collection. The artist has hand printed an initial 50 copies, each numbered and signed. A maximum of 100 will be printed and the plate will be destroyed after they are all sold.

The image area is 150mm x 230mm and is presented in a generous ivory mount (350mm x 280mm), sealed in cellophane. The price is just £39.95 of which the surplus will go to the H&RBFC Trust fund.

Contact Phil directly here to secure your copy at [phil.weller@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:phil.weller@hotmail.co.uk)

# Notes from the Chair



**W**ell done to those of you who managed to register and complete the Village Plan\* survey before the end of November deadline. Plenty of responses came in at the last minute which is no mean feat on the weekend of Black Friday and the Hampton Village Christmas Celebrations!

We are now in the process of collating all the responses and we will be presenting them to the council this month.

## Committee update

In the last newsletter I mentioned our Planning Work Group and all the great work they've been doing to monitor applications. I am delighted to report that the group's newest member, Iacopo Sassi, has also decided to join our main committee. For those who don't already know, Iacopo is an RIBA chartered architect and founder of the firm Square One Architects in Hampton.

Sadly, we recently lost a much-loved committee member, Roy Law, who passed away unexpectedly in September. Roy was a polo enthusiast and developed a lifelong polo-commentating career alongside his accounting and IT consultancy work. Roy only joined us a year ago and in that short time made a valuable contribution to the society, most notably by improving the efficiency of our standing order forms and handling our Twitter feeds. Roy's daughter, Fran Bridgewater tells us: "I know he felt passionately about the objectives of the society". As a committee, we will certainly miss his witty asides at our meetings.

## Hampton Police Station

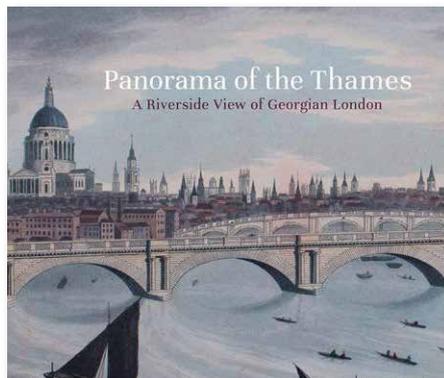
No real news yet, but the developers of this site have invited us to attend a public consultation on Monday 7 December, where they will be revealing their plans and drawings before submitting a final application to the council. We will keep you posted.

## Helpers' social

In October we hosted our first "Drinks & Nibbles" event at The Bell pub as a thank-you to members who volunteer their help in different ways: delivering newsletters, selling Christmas cards, serving drinks at events and, of course, being on the committee! We've also picked up some new offers of help this year (you know who you are!) and look forward to working with everyone in 2016.

## Panorama of the Thames

Hampton Society members John Inglis and Jill Sanders have recently finished work on a beautiful new book, 'Panorama of the Thames, from London to Richmond', which was first published by Sam Leigh in 1829. The original book was unusual in that it contained only two pages, the first sixty feet long and the second six feet long. The pages were in fact panoramas of both sides of the Thames from Richmond to Westminster (page 1) and the City of London (page 2). John discovered a surviving copy and he and Jill have turned it into a modern version with more than 200 pages replacing the two concertinas. The new book is published by Thames and Hudson and is available for £30 from retailers or £25 from John and Jill at one of their presentations – see website for details [panoramaofthethames.com](http://panoramaofthethames.com)



*Panorama of the Thames, from London to Richmond – restored and modernised by John Inglis & Jill Sanders*



## Our Diamond Jubilee

Plans are underway for the Society's 60th Anniversary celebrations next summer. Subject to venue, a date has been decided but not confirmed. So for now, please provisionally pencil in Friday 10 June and we'll confirm it in the new year.

Merry Christmas to you all,

*Sam*

Sam Redfern Chair

\*The Village Plan for Hampton will be presented early in the new year. This will inform the quality of life in Hampton in regard to planning and council budgetary spend for the village.

## The Hampton Society committee members

### CHAIR

Sam Redfern 8286 7071

### DEPUTY CHAIR

Julie-nne Monahan 8979 8942

### SECRETARY

Rosemary Hill 8973 3604

### TREASURER

William Redfern 8286 7071

### MEMBERSHIP

Trisha Shirt 8941 5162

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Maura Waters 8979 9654

### OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alice Fordham 8979 3543

Sylvia Bridge Le Cluse 8941 4450

Christine Paganelli 8941 5927

Iacopo Sassi 07761 670911



The Hampton Society joined other local organisations and our new Conservative MP, Dr Tania Mathias, laying a wreath at the Remembrance Sunday service on Oldfield Road. The commemoration was well attended by hundreds of Hampton residents.

## UP-TO-DATE MEMBERSHIP?

Have you paid your subs for 2015/16? They were due on 1 May and you should have received your green 2015/16 programme/membership card. If you haven't paid yet please do so using the application form available at

[www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk](http://www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk)

## Membership Update

More than 75% of members have paid this year's subscription fee.

Welcome, too, to the 30 new members who have joined this year.

### Newsletter production:

Edited by Maura Waters.

Designed and produced by William Redfern [www.williamredfern.co.uk](http://www.williamredfern.co.uk) 020 8286 7071.

Photography by Sam and William Redfern, unless stated otherwise.

Get in touch at [enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk)

# Dick Barton Special Agent

Tea-time radio comedy brought to life in full colour!



WE WILL BE making a block booking again for a show at Hampton Hill Theatre in January.

Based (loosely) on the 1940s BBC Radio series, this action comedy finds our hero fighting the evil foreigners intent on taking over Britain with doped tea! It is directed by Wesley Henderson Roe.

This award winning comedy, first produced at the Croydon Warehouse Factory, was heralded as the complete antidote to pantomime! With a cast of six playing 30 roles there's no time to relax. Can Barton save the day? Will he appear in the right costume..?

If you would like to book tickets for the performance, please contact **Alice Fordham** on **8979 3543** by Friday 15 January 2016. \*

Hampton Hill Theatre, week of **24-30 January** at 7.45pm

# Last Christmas Cards Get them while you can!

Out-selling the previous year's and still at only £4 for a pack of ten cards, our unique cards are a genuine bargain. Don't delay in securing the handful of remaining packs of cards which are available from **Ohso** in Station Road, **Hampton Sailing Club, Trisha Shirt** on **8941 5162** or contact any of our committee members. \*



## Calling all photography enthusiasts!

THE SNOWY SCENES of Hampton for this year's Christmas cards were photographed by our Treasurer, William. In the past, we've held a competition and I'm pleased to announce that we're reinstating this for 2016. If you'd like to enter and win two free packs of cards, please submit your own photographs of "Winter in Hampton" (doesn't have to be snowing but it helps!) by emailing a low resolution version to **william@williamredfern.co.uk**. Closing date is end of May 2016. \*

## EVENTS PROGRAMME WINTER/SPRING 2016

### Please bring your membership cards

Due to the popularity of our talks and events and the size of our venues, we may have to turn people away if we run out of room. Arrive early to avoid disappointment.

FRIDAY 15 JANUARY 2016

### Lunch at Merits



Yet another delicious lunch provided by catering students of Richmond College and a firm favourite with our members. If you would like to attend please contact **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604** to hear about the menu, reserve places and obtain directions. Please note, numbers are limited.

24-30 JANUARY AT 7.45PM

### Hampton Hill Theatre Show

See left.

FRIDAY 4 MARCH 7.30PM

### Quiz Night

Quiz Night at St Mary's community hall, 7.30 for 8pm start. Bring your own food, bar available. Make up teams of four to six or let us help you make up a team. Tickets cost £5 a head, payable in advance, from **Trisha Shirt, 8941 5162**.

WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 8.00PM

### WWI on the Western Front



After her fascinating talk that she gave a year ago on the causes and opening months of WWI, Paula Kitching returns to Hampton Hill Theatre to tell us about the events that happened on the Western Front.

THURSDAY 14 APRIL 8.00PM

### The Hampton Society AGM

At St Mary's community hall. It will be followed by a talk about the history and work of the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) in Teddington by Fiona Auty, its director of communications.