



Photograph of Denmead School
by William Redfern

Denmead School's neighbours' concern over planned expansion

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Hampton Society is primarily concerned with the protection and development of the local environment, both built and natural, and to ensure that the provision of amenities enhances the quality of life for the residents of Hampton.

in this issue:

WAITROSE IN HAMPTON

Maura Waters reports on the plans to develop Field House. *More on page 2.*

HAMPTON FUN DAY

Maura Waters reports on the fund raising success of the first village Fun Day. *More on page 4.*

SOCIETY NEWS AND UPDATES

Notes from our new Chair, Sam Redfern, on membership and our event venues. *More on page 3.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Further details of the visits of interest and events being organised by The Hampton Society. *More on page 4.*

NEW TO HAMPTON OR THE SOCIETY?

We are always welcoming new members and our annual subscription is very modest. We are also looking for new committee members and would love to hear from you if you'd like to play a more active part in our community.

Residents affected by Denmead School's proposed extension in Gloucester Road are not to have quite the public consultation they were promised. A meeting between school representatives and the newly-formed Denmead Neighbours Association representing people living in Wensleydale Gardens, Scotts Drive and Carlisle and Gloucester Roads has been postponed.

Sixty four people attended the first consultation on May 11, with a second planned for May 24. The next meeting will now be on June 9 – just after we go to press – at which only a few representatives of the Association will meet Mr Barry Martin, head of Hampton School (which now owns Denmead), Mr Mike King, Hampton's bursar and Denmead's deputy head, Mr Dean Richards.

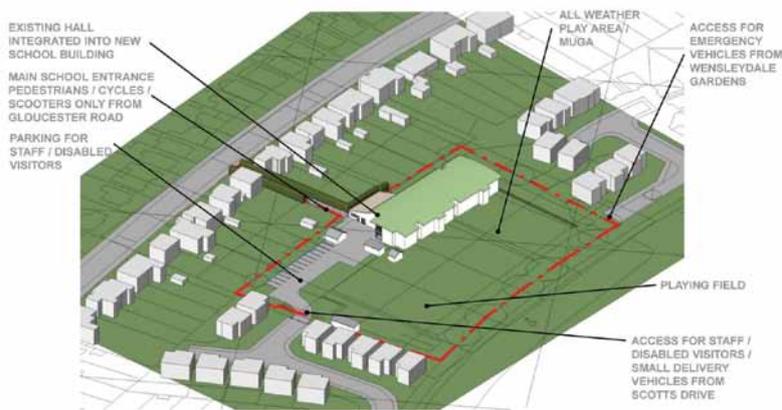
While it is understandable that Denmead wishes to improve or replace deteriorating buildings at the Gloucester Road site in line with its ideas of increasing pupil numbers from 144 to 192, a strong body of local opposition has been raised. An immediate cause of concern is that views are to be sought from "stakeholders" – staff, ex-pupils, parents and users of Denmead's facilities as well as local residents. The Association claims the majority of the "stakeholders" will not be local residents and will be unaffected by the extension plans. They feel as long as the school can gain enough support from people living outside the area, Denmead will be free to go ahead having "consulted," but having failed to recognise the impact on those most affected.

For its part, in a four page letter circulated to residents in the four roads bordering the site and dated May 11, Mr Martin expressed continuing concern at the deteriorating state of the school's buildings. The 2006 Inspectorate Report commented "The school makes the best use of its limited accommodation." Nothing has changed since but Mr Martin warns "doing nothing is not an option for us because it would eventually mean the school would have to close and the site would have to be put up for sale."

The letter stated that one of the stakeholders' preferred options was for a single-storey building attached to the Jubilee Hall running South, parallel with Gloucester Road and turning West towards Carlisle Park. A second favoured a two-storey structure attached to the same hall, stopping short of the Southern boundary fence. *(continued over)*

(continued from front page) In the same document Mr Martin explained “We have every intention of producing architecturally attractive, environmentally excellent accommodation in landscaped surroundings. We plan that they will be much more pleasing on the eye than the current facilities, while also being more environmentally friendly, sustainable and superior in every way in terms of the facilities provided for the school and its pupils.”

Right: One of the six proposed schemes for the development of the school buildings. This is a two storey option but there are also single storey schemes.



But Association members are so concerned at the prospect of increased traffic on their already congested roads, loss of privacy due to size and spread of buildings and loss of visual amenity, that a fighting fund has been established to allow for expert planning, traffic and legal opinions to be sought. **MAURA WATERS**

Waitrose at the Level Crossing

Will Waitrose come to Hampton? The Field House site on the corner of Percy and Oldfield Roads is hardly ideal, even for the small supermarket proposed. It's immediately adjacent to the level crossing at Hampton Station and has only one access point in Oldfield Road.

Mindful of these reservations, more than 200 people turned up to the second of Waitrose's invitations to view proposals for the site and give their opinions in writing. Yes, it's not an ideal spot, agrees Waitrose, but a store measuring only 6,663 sq.ft. as proposed would need only two daily deliveries of stock. These would be scheduled for 7-8 am and 8-9 pm, avoiding rush hours and school runs. With heavy articulated lorries already making regular forays to the Kingsway business park further down Oldfield Road, the supermarket feels its own footfall won't make much difference. Its own articulated lorries are only 11.3 metres long.

While on the subject of footfalls, Peter Sharpe, Waitrose's surveyor, says he hopes more customers would come to the new store on foot, rather than by car. Commuters arriving at Hampton Station would be a natural target, with the store opening until 10pm. He also commented that Waitrose is conducting a trial of 'wheeled shopping bags' across some of their stores and Hampton could be a perfect location for such an initiative.

Which brings us to parking. 39 spaces for cars are planned, plus 18 cycle stands. Not enough, say some residents. By comparison, Sainsbury's store at Tangle Park, three quarters of a mile away, has 90 spaces, but has to share them with the White House nearby. Incidentally, the "little" Sainsbury's measures just under 10,000 sq.ft.

Mr M Malik, proprietor of the Hampton Supermarket opposite Field House, is understandably concerned for the future of his business. He also commented "There are more than 1,200 cars a day coming into Hampton," he says. "It's a very bad spot for a supermarket because of the level crossing." However, one of our members has commented to the website "I can't think of anything better than a Waitrose! I can just get off the train and pop into a good, clean and well stocked (hopefully!) supermarket. I will still use my local butchers as much as I do now."

Whatever the outcome – and rumour has it just about all the supermarket chains were interested in the Field House site – many people living nearby will welcome the addition of an up-market supermarket. Waitrose claims the introduction of one of their stores to an area gives a boost to surrounding retailers. Of course, if it's a delicatessen, dry-cleaning or fashions you're after, the proposed store won't be supplying it. There will be a small fresh meat and fish counter however. **MAURA WATERS**

You can follow developments on these issues at www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk. We also need to hear your opinions through the website or by email.



Hampton Common by William Redfern

What do you love about living in Hampton?

Is it the leafy lanes, the historic buildings, the Thames or the facilities available? We'd like to hear your thoughts on what makes living in Hampton so special for you. Write to us at enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk and we may publish them on the website or in the next newsletter.

UP-TO-DATE MEMBERSHIP?

Have you paid your subs for 2011/12? They were due on 1 May and you should by now have received the bright yellow membership card. If you haven't paid yet, please do so using the application form available at www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk



Nature reserve photograph by Sam Redfern

Hidden Treasures

Greenhouse Chimney
Oak Avenue nature reserve, Hampton
Nature is now reclaiming the last chimney standing from the Nurseryland greenhouses as it stands as a lasting reminder of the area's history. **SAM REDFERN**

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION Call for entries!

Last year's Christmas cards were a complete sell-out, thanks largely to the winning photography of Society member and amateur photographer Lewis Lloyd. After our recent snowy cold snaps in December and January, have you got something even better for this year's cards? Please send low res copies of your images (up to 1mb) by email by the end of July to: enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk. We will announce the winner of the competition on the website and in the autumn newsletter with details of how you can buy this year's cards.

Notes from the Chair



It is a privilege to be following on from Bill Weisblatt as Chair of the Society for 2011/12. During my 18 months on the committee, I have marvelled at the depth of Bill's knowledge of all-things-Hampton and, although I have been a Hampton resident for 14 years, I've clearly got a fair bit of catching up to do! Thankfully, Bill has agreed to stay on the committee for another year to help guide me through my first year.

The Hampton Society AGM was held on 7 April 2011 and details of the newly elected officers and committee are listed opposite. Bill reported that three members of the committee, John Beasley, John Wood and Colin Greenhalgh had resigned due to other commitments making it difficult for them to continue, and thanked them for their contributions.

We are pleased to welcome back to Hampton, and to the committee, Patrick Hooton, who joins Tony Marks in keeping an eye on planning issues. We also welcome Trisha Shirt who recently joined the committee as membership secretary, responsible for managing the list of members as well as co-ordinating the delivery of our quarterly newsletter.

Members who attended the AGM supported a modest increase in subscriptions, the first in seven years, to cover the increased cost of producing the newsletter and hiring venues for our talks and events.

This has been an exciting year for the Society with a record number of new members joining. Since last year's AGM, when we reported a decline in membership, we have made a concerted effort to raise awareness of our existence and our activities, resulting in the recruitment of 80 new members! Word of mouth has proved as effective as our printed publicity and we continue to urge members to make their local friends and neighbours aware of The Hampton Society.

Congratulations to our treasurer, William, who has made a superb job of revamping the Society's website www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk.

We are also delighted with the success of our "e-news" communications, which has enabled us to provide immediate news updates to those members with email accounts although we are currently only reaching just under half of members and would urge the rest of you to provide us with your e-mail addresses as soon as possible so we can extend this service to you all.

I would like to echo Rosemary Hill's enormous "thank you" to Bill for his year as Chairman, as well as much longer stints as Chairman in the past. Rosemary paid tribute to Bill's enthusiasm for all things connected with Hampton, and the value of his loyalty, clear-thinking mind and excellent memory, emphasising the huge influence Bill has had on the Society during his 41 years of active membership. His retirement will be marked in a more tangible way at the end of this, his final, year on the committee.

Thanks to all of you who worked so hard, baking cakes and helping out on our stall at the first Hampton Fun Day on Saturday 28 May at The Beveree. We are proud to announce that, not only did we attract lots of new members to the Society, we managed to raise £260 for charity! The event was attended by Vincent Cable MP who came over for a chat and to thank the Society for all the good work it is doing for the community.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you at our events which, thanks to Rosemary and Alice, are as interesting and varied as ever. Best wishes to you all,

"This has been an exciting year for the Society with a record number of new members joining. Since last year's AGM, when we reported a decline in membership, we have made a concerted effort to raise awareness of our existence and our activities, resulting in the recruitment of 80 new members!"

Sam Redfern Chair

UPDATES

The Hampton Society committee members

CHAIR

Sam Redfern 8286 7071

DEPUTY CHAIR

Alice Fordham 8979 3543

SECRETARY

Rosemary Hill 8973 3604

TREASURER

William Redfern 8286 7071

MEMBERSHIP

Trisha Shirt 8941 5162

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Maura Waters 8979 9654

OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tony Marks 8979 2003

Patrick Hooton 8941 6720

Bill Weisblatt 8979 3089

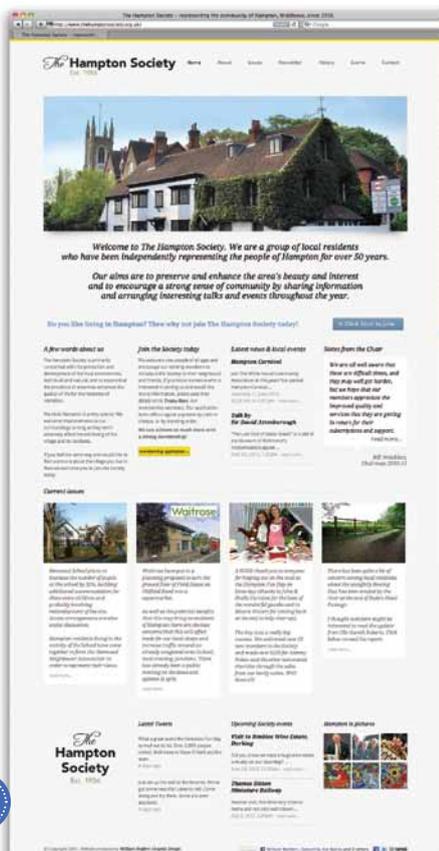
The Hampton Society NEW website!

We have launched our new website where you will be able to follow up-to-date developments on issues and upcoming events. We are able to include much more information than within the four pages of this quarterly newsletter.

Please visit the site to read more information, including:

- Duke's Head passage 5' fencing
- Information about interesting non-Society local events

If you think the new site is helpful, then please show your appreciation by simply clicking the 'Like' button at the base of the page. Thank you.



Go on, get in touch at enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk and visit the new website www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk

Hampton Fun Day raises over £5,000 for charity: "an amazing response!"



Eight-year old Laura Chisholm and her father Douglas help Francis and William Redfern man the stand. Laura and her mother Alison were awarded first prize for their beautifully decorated chocolate cup cakes.

Spirits were high, even if the weather was a little dull, when around 3,000 people turned up at the Beveree on Bank Holiday Saturday for a full day of fun and raised over £5,000. Our own Society's stall raised £260 of that total from selling mouth-watering and imaginatively designed cakes.



Thirteen-year old rapper Sam Badgery, winner of the Hampton's Got Talent contest.

the people of Hampton all came forward," he says. "We were blown away by the response. Now we're trying to Gift Aid the money so it will make 25% more."

The success of our stall must partially be attributed to past chairman John Farndon, who kindly lent us his smart green and white striped gazebo. Prominent among the line of stalls, it undoubtedly attracted custom – largely from sweet-toothed youngsters. As well as cupcakes we had sponges, fruit cake, brownies and rose water meringues, all home-baked and freely given by Society members. Special thanks to Symone Tucker whose miniature 'alcoholic shot' cakes sold rapidly!

Along with the customary food and games stalls and bouncy castles, a fully-equipped stage provided for the Hampton's Got Talent contest, won by local thirteen-year old rapper Sam Badgery. Energetic youngsters tried out, among others, Beat the Goalie, Gladiator and Hammer Striker, the Tea Cup carousel, pony rides and the chance to stroke a live micro-pig at the small pet enclosure. **MAURA WATERS**

Organised by Hampton & Richmond Borough FC's Commercial Manager Steve O'Neill, and supported by the relatively newly-formed Hampton Village Traders Association, the event raised money for five charities: Anthony Nolan Trust, African Revival, the Greenwood Centre, Linden Hall and SOS!SEN, which gives aid to children with special educational needs.

Promotion manager Richard Sharp described the day's success as "Absolutely amazing! The shops, pubs, restaurants and the people of Hampton all came forward," he says. "We were blown away by the response. Now we're trying to Gift Aid the money so it will make 25% more."



The Right Honorable Vincent Cable MP stops for a chat with our treasurer William Redfern in front of The Hampton Society cake stall. The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills was keen to find out what were our members' concerns.

EVENTS PROGRAMME, SUMMER 2011

18 JUNE: Visit to Denbies Wine Estate, Dorking

Did you know we have a huge wine estate virtually on our doorstep? We have scheduled a visit there for Saturday 18 June, hoping to accommodate members who only have weekends free for such treats. It starts at 11am with a classic wine tasting experience lasting about one and a half hours at a cost of £8 per head. Then there will be an opportunity for lunch at the estate's café or restaurant followed by a vineyard train tour (£4).

We need to know how many people are interested in coming to this event so please contact **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604** if you are planning to attend. She also has directions if you need them.

Denbies Wine Estate
Saturday 18 June 2011, 11.00am

3 JULY: Thames Ditton Miniature Railway



A great opportunity for you to bring small children and grandchildren – and even adults – for a ride on this little railway in Claygate Lane. We've planned a Hampton Society afternoon tour there from 2pm. Bring a picnic or have tea in the café. Further information is available on our website and also from **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604**.

Thames Ditton Miniature Railway
Sunday 3 July 2011, 2.00pm

6 SEPTEMBER: Wine tasting

Come and explore the world of wine with Premier Wines of Hampton at a tasting they will be hosting at Hampton Hill Playhouse. It will be an informative, enjoyable evening with prizes to be won. Tickets should be bought in advance and cost £3 a head. They will be available from July from **Alice Fordham** on **020 8979 3543** or **Maura Waters** on **020 8979 9654**.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE FROM THAT GIVEN IN THE MEMBERSHIP CARD

The Coward Room at Hampton Hill Playhouse
Tuesday 6 September 2011, 7.30pm