



An inspiring setting for our summer party

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.

Contact us at enquiries@thehamptonociety.org.uk

in this issue:

HAMPTON OLYMPIANS

Maura Waters interviews Sylvia Disley, our local Olympic medallist. *More on page 2.*

HAMPTON IN BLOOM

Rosemary Hill reports on the hanging baskets in the village provided by the Society. *More on page 2.*

SOCIETY NEWS AND UPDATES

Notes from our Chair, contact details and membership update. *More on page 3.*

GARRICK'S VILLA RISES FROM THE ASHES

Maura Waters speaks to members Lew Lloyd and Sara Bird from the Garrick Estate about the restoration and unveiling of one of our finest buildings. *More on page 4.*

Newsletter designed and produced by William Redfern
www.williamredfern.co.uk 020 8286 7071

Photography by Sam and William Redfern, unless stated otherwise.

Hampton Sailing Club have kindly agreed for us to use their clubhouse for our summer party. It sits in the river and hosts an unmatched view of the Thames, including Taggs Island, the Astoria houseboat and Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare.

To add to the experience, members will be ferried across the short stretch of water on the chain ferry. The sailing club have promised that there will be plenty of expert help so don't let it put you off!

Tickets are £7 to include a finger buffet and a welcoming glass of sparkling wine. Drinks can then be bought from the bar.

Come and watch the sunset over the Thames and enjoy this beautiful and seldom seen view over the river. It will be a lovely sociable evening so please don't delay in getting your tickets as numbers are limited. They are available from **Bill Weisblatt**, telephone **8979 3089**.

Cheques should be made payable to **The Hampton Society**.

Hampton Sailing Club **7.30pm Saturday 23 June**



Enter our Christmas card competition!

We'd like to continue with our very successful Christmas cards but that depends on you! The success of our cards has been due entirely to the artistic talents of our members. Please let Rosemary Hill have any photos, drawings or paintings which reflect a local Christmassy scene that you would like to submit for our annual Christmas card competition, by 31 July. The committee will then view all the entries and decide on the winners. **Rosemary Hill** can be reached on **8973 3604**.

Special Olympic Seats for Sylvia and John



What wouldn't today's organisers of the Olympic Games say to a strict budget of £750,000 for the entire event? Even accounting for inflation the whole idea seems risible. But that was the case in 1948 when Britain last held the Games.

The authority for all this is Hampton Society member Sylvia Disley, who competed in the track events as 19-year-old Sylvia Cheeseman. Although a medal eluded her she did win bronze at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, as did her then future husband John. As two of the few surviving British competitors of the 1948 Games they merit much-coveted seats at the finals of their respective events, Sylvia the women's relay and John the men's 4,000-metre steeplechase.

John is best known for pioneering orienteering in the UK and is a co-founder, along with the late Chris Brasher, of the London marathon.

● *"It rained the day before my event, so it was a quagmire*
● *but I did reach the semi-final of the 200 metres."*

The couple are well-known in the field of athletics and over the past year TV and radio sources have frequently come to search Sylvia's memory banks for details of the Austerity Games, as they came to be known.

Held only three years after the war, it was decided only "existing facilities" would be used. So a much-admired 50-metre Empire Pool was covered over after the swimming events to create space for fencing, weight lifting, boxing and wrestling. The traditional British homes of other sports were also pressed into service: shooting at Bisley, rowing at Henley and sailing on the South coast, for instance.

At Wembley Stadium, the athletics track was laid only two weeks before the track events took place. "It rained the day before my event, so it was a quagmire" Sylvia remembers. "But I did reach the semi-final of the 200 metres."

Naturally there was no Olympic Village to house the competitors in 1948. Sylvia recalls school rooms being used and a former nurses' home above Victoria coach station, where the female athletes had their sleep constantly disturbed by the noise from arriving and departing buses. The men, meanwhile, were accommodated in peaceful Richmond Park, albeit in pre-fabs left over from the war.

As for food, in ration-book Britain Sylvia recalls only one concession to her Olympic competitor status, a food parcel from Australia. Along with the usual tinned food was a packet of glazed fruit – an almost unimaginable luxury. "I ate the lot, then noticed some horrible little worm-like things wriggling at the bottom of the packet" she explained. "But it was too late then".

Like many others, Sylvia is not so keen on the lavish opening and closing ceremonies which have characterised so many recent Olympics. "The opening ceremony should be very dignified, introducing each country's team in turn, always led by Greece" she explains. No doubt that will be the case this year, when Germany and Japan will be represented, unlike 1948 when neither country was invited to take part. This time there will be an entirely different generation – with at least one representative from the last one to remind us how far we've come since then. **MAURA WATERS**



Hampton In Bloom!

I wonder how many of you know that last year our Borough won a gold award in the London in Bloom competition and a silver/gilt award in the Britain in Bloom competition, the first time we had been in the final!

Throughout Britain, thousands of people are defying the weather and trying to make their gardens as attractive as possible in this very special year, celebrating both the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. And of course, we have some of the Olympic cycle events actually coming through Bushy Park. Think of all the tourists who may visit historic Hampton – just another reason for making our gardens, window boxes and floral displays look as beautiful as possible.



In the Borough of Richmond there is a well established Richmond in Bloom competition for lovely front gardens, floral displays on house frontages and around community buildings and on pubs and shop fronts. Sadly, Hampton has not featured very much in the awards in previous years, despite the many lovely gardens we have locally. We hope this will change this year.

Alice Fordham (tel: **8979 3543**) and **Rosemary Hill** (tel: **8973 3604**) have plenty of entry forms and leaflets giving information about the various categories and will endeavour to distribute as many as possible. If you don't receive a leaflet and would like one, please phone Alice or Rosemary. Judging for the different categories in the competition will take place between 23 and 29 June.



For the first time the Hampton Society is sponsoring four hanging baskets in Station Road and at the junction of Ashley and Milton roads. These will be matched by a further four baskets provided by the Richmond in Bloom committee so there's a start! How lovely it would be if we had sponsored hanging baskets all along the length of our shopping streets... A hanging basket or collar costs just £150 to install and maintain for 12 months – a summer display and a winter display! **ROSEMARY HILL**

Notes from the Chair



There are certainly some perks to being Chair of a local organisation, as I discovered this week when I attended a reception in the VIP guest marquee during the Queen's visit to Richmond Park on 15 May. Sadly, heavy rain and a flash hail storm meant the Queen spent much of the time in her car. However, I was delighted to be unexpectedly presented to Princess Alexandra, which meant I still had an exciting story to tell when I got home!

Our treasurer, William, with help from new committee member, Christine, helped raise awareness of the Hampton Society by setting up a stall at the event, alongside the Hampton Village Traders, who generously invited us to share a gazebo with them. Michael Badgery, Chair of HVTA commented, "Wet, cold, but the community spirit amongst the villages of the borough was fantastic!". Various Hampton schools and scouting groups were also there to line Her Majesty's route through the park.

"Thanks to everyone who baked cakes and helped out on our Fun Day stall last weekend where we made a profit of just over £200 to go towards the hanging baskets we are sponsoring in the village. We also signed up 20 new members."

- It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Hampton Society AGM on 5 April and to see John Sheaf's thought-provoking images of Hampton past and present. I was particularly fascinated by his photographs from past Jubilees, my favourite being one of cubs and scouts sitting cross-legged in front of a huge tower of wood, old furniture and other kindling collected together for an enormous bonfire (a reminder of what life was like before 'health and safety mania' set in!).
- Members who attended the AGM supported our request to move predominantly towards Standing Order as a method of paying membership subscriptions, although we accept that this will not be possible in some cases, where we will of course still accept cash or cheque.
- Processing applications and chasing payments is very time-consuming for a voluntary organisation like ours and we greatly appreciate your help in this matter.

We were sorry to say goodbye to two committee members, Bill Weisblatt and Tony Marks, who will both be greatly missed. However, we are delighted to welcome to the committee two newly-elected, energetic ladies, Julie-nne Monahan and Christine Paganelli.



Meeting Princess Alexandra at the Queen's visit to Richmond Park.



The Mayor, Clare Head, also paid a visit to our stand at the Hampton Fun Day.

Thanks to everyone who baked cakes and helped out on our Fun Day stall last weekend. It was a great success with not a drop of rain in sight!. We made a profit of just over £200 to go towards the hanging baskets we are sponsoring in the village. We also signed up 20 new members.

We greatly appreciate all your positive comments, contributions and support over the past year and I'd like to finish by wishing everyone a dry and sunny Jubilee holiday and lots of success with all your street parties!

Go on, get in touch at enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk

Sam

Sam Redfern Chair

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

Patrick Hooton 8941 6720

Julie-nne Monahan 8979 8942

Christine Paganelli 8941 5927

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH!

Do you have a story to tell or anything you'd like featured in the members' newsletter? Contact us at enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk

EMAIL ADDRESSES

We now have email addresses for over half of our membership. If you haven't done so already, or have changed your email address, please send them to enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk Your information will not be passed on to anyone other than the membership secretary.

UP-TO-DATE MEMBERSHIP?

Have you paid your subs for 2012/13? They were due on 1 May and you should by now have received the bright orange membership card. If you haven't paid yet, please do so using the application form available at www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk

Membership update

Our membership secretary Trisha Shirt is very pleased to report that 208 members have paid their 2012 subscription fees on time – some 58% of the active membership. More than 30% of these were by standing order.

If you're one of the 155 paid-up members of 2011/2012 who have yet to pay your 2012 sub., please set up a standing order. (See our website or contact Trisha for a form) or else send your cheque to the treasurer.

See above for contact details.



Trisha Shirt

Membership Secretary

Garrick's Villa Rises from the ashes

It's been nearly four years in the waiting, but now the scaffolding is almost completely down at Garrick's Villa. October 25th 2008 was the date fire gutted the Grade 1 listed Palladian villa near the Thames on Hampton Court Road.



2003



The day after the fire in 2008



The new roof unveiled in 2012

Enormous devastation resulted from the fire and water damage. So much wood had been used in the original construction of the villa in 1754 that two kilometres of Douglas fir were needed to replace the roof joists, lintels and wooden interior walls as well as the impressive Greek-style columns the famous actor used to decorate the façade of his country home. Like stage-props, the columns were actually hollow wooden tubes painted white. Following the fire the capitals on the columns have been replaced, this time with finely-decorated limewood.

Richmond reference library holds a detailed report on the building, describing the work David Garrick commissioned from the Adam brothers, and after his death in 1779, further improvements to the order of his widow. Now it contains the reconstruction proposals suggested by the Hampton conservation architects Garland Cornelius. **MW, LEWIS LLOYD AND SARA BIRD**

The fire started while a decorator was burning off paint in the roof-space. A strong wind was blowing and literally fanned the flames, causing the roof to collapse and fall through into the flats below. Residents of the six flats in the building have still been unable to move back in. One of them is Sara Bird who lived in the top one. Alerted by a neighbour to smoke coming out of the roof, she tried a door leading to the roof-space in an attempt to communicate with the painter. But the handle was too hot and, realising the danger, she escaped.

"I had been in my stockings feet" Sara explained, "so I just grabbed a pair of shoes and went down three flights of stairs dialling 999 as I went". Luckily, the residents of the other five flats in the building were at home, but able to leave safely.

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EVENTS



Walk in the Hampton Court Paddocks and Waterways of Home Park

An interesting walk will take place on Saturday 14 July, exploring the little known waterways of Home Park and walking through the Hampton Court Paddocks which are rarely open to the public. If you are interested in joining the walk, which begins at 10.30am at the Kingston gate to Home Park, please contact **Alice Fordham** on **8979 3543** or **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604**.

The walk will be led by Rebecca Law who is the project development officer with Thames Landscape Strategy. This is a rare opportunity to see a little known or seen part of Home Park.

Hampton Court Paddocks **10.30am Saturday 14 July**

Phillip keeps dry at Richmond

Hampton actor Phillip Langhorne's feet hardly touch the ground these days as he tours the country in the famous comedy *Doctor in the House*. Playing the main part as hapless medical student Simon Sparrow, he'll hardly be off the stage at Richmond Theatre.



Appearing here for the week of May 21 to 26, he'll probably just have time to pop home to Oldfield Road to check in with his parents Michael and Janet. Then it's back on tour, playing a week each in ten theatres all over the country from Plymouth to Newcastle.

At least he'll be in good company, as comedian Joe Pasquale and renowned actor Robert Powell are also in the cast.

Phillip, 32, went to Hampton Infant and Junior schools, then Rectory (now Hampton Academy) and Esher College before following his star at the Rose Bruford drama school. For the record, he's appeared in *Casualty* and *Eastenders* on TV plus a nationwide tour of *Pete and Dud*. Last year he endured a genuine hailstorm as well as frequent rain in an outdoor production of *Macbeth* at Ripley Castle. At least he knows he'll keep dry at Richmond... **MW**

EVENTS PROGRAMME, SUMMER 2012

All the events listed below are open to the members of both the Hampton Society (HS) and the Hampton Hill Association (HHA). **Please bring your membership cards.**

SATURDAY 23 JUNE

Summer Party

Hampton Sailing Club, Thames Street, on Saturday 23 June at 7.30 pm.

SATURDAY 14 JULY

Walk in the Hampton Court Paddocks and Waterways of Home Park

Hampton Court Paddocks, Thames Street, on Saturday 14 July at 10.30 am.

WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER



Wine and Cheese tasting

Cheese & Wine Company, Station Rd, Hampton on Wednesday 19 September at 8.00 pm.