



# 200 mile cycle ride for charity

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Photography by Sam and William Redfern,  
unless stated otherwise.

## 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**  
[@thehamptonsociety.org.uk](mailto:@thehamptonsociety.org.uk)

**M**any GCSE and A-level students have clear ideas about how they'll chill out when exams are over. Mia Monahan's are already mapped out: cycling in Normandy for the Who Cares? Trust. She and mum Julie-nne – one of our committee members – expect to cycle 200 miles in three days in late June, aiming to raise £600 each in sponsorship.

The Trust exists to help improve the lives of an estimated 68,000 children and young people in England in public care and care leavers. Once they reach the age of 18 there is little public provision for the youngsters, who can be left to fend for themselves in bed and breakfast accommodation. For them the Trust provides skills sessions to help them live independently and deal with bills, benefits and housing applications – activities not normally expected of 18-year olds.

Julie-nne and 16-year old Mia are keen cyclists: the Surrey Hills present no fears for them, so the relatively flat landscape of Northern France should be straightforward. Once deposited by ferry at Boulogne, they'll join 55 other riders cycling to Honfleur over three days, taking in Abbeville, Dieppe and Rouen en route, and covering over 60 miles on each day in the saddle.

In its first year of 2002 the Trust had eight riders cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats. Subsequently they have covered parts of Holland, Belgium, the Loire and Moselle valleys and Burgundy, as well as plenty of inland locations.

Last words must come from our intrepid cyclists: Mia says "It'll be great doing another cycling challenge with Mum and for such a good cause. I think it's important for all young people to be able to achieve what they want to in life despite the circumstances they find themselves in". Julie-nne comments "The Who Cares? Trust is a charity I believe in and want to continue to support. It's important that young people achieve their goals in life and the Trust offers them the support to do that despite the difficult life challenges they might face".

Please sponsor Julie-nne and Mia at [www.justgiving.com/julie-nneandmiamonahan](http://www.justgiving.com/julie-nneandmiamonahan).  
Find out more at [www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk](http://www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk) **Maura Waters** ✨

**Summer Party 14 June** *see back page*

# From the Manche to the Med

Last September one of our members Hazel Greasby spent three weeks cycling nearly 1000 miles from one end of France to the other. This year she and husband Colin and friend Margaret Thorn plan another ride, Pamplona to Santiago de Compostella. The trio's average age is 72 and Hazel has two replacement knees.

All three have enjoyed foreign cycling holidays for years. It was thanks to Hazel's upper leg strength she recovered so well from the second operation in 2012. Five months later she spent a week cycling in Slovenia. But it was while riding in Northern France a year ago that Colin felt inspired to greater heights. "I wanted to do the Manche to the Med", he explained. "The whole length of France from the Channel to the Mediterranean." So they did, averaging 42 miles a day from Cherbourg to Sete in the Gulf of Lyons.



L to R, Margaret, Hazel and Colin with their bikes

Trying to avoid hills as far as possible, the route south took the party through Fougere, La Guerche, St. Florient, Les Herbiers, La Rochelle, Marennes, Royen, Soulac, Arcins and the Garonne canal. Then it was on to Toulouse by way of Marmande, Agen and Moissac. The final leg to Sete was via Castelnaudry, Marseillette, Capstange and Marseillette Plage. (I hope you all feel fully informed!)

The weather throughout the whole trip was mixed. Indeed, Colin's dream of a dip in the sunny Mediterranean at the end was shattered when the drizzle meant only a paddle was feasible. Another memory Hazel says they'd prefer to forget was the splashing of lorries during heavy downpours, despite using only minor roads.

To compensate they treated themselves to a train ride to Montpellier the next day where they picked up the Bike Bus for the return journey. This wonderful service takes tired bikers in a luxury coach all the way from the Mediterranean to Calais, then by ferry to Dover and finally to Gravesend, all in 12 hours. Once their sturdy steeds are collected from the following trailer, riders find their own way home.

Despite the weather the seasoned bikers enjoyed their trip. "We had a super time, cycling over rolling countryside, through woods, along marshes and sandy beaches" wrote Hazel. "We saw lots of different birds, a hunt in full swing and met lots of very friendly French people."

Incidentally, Colin says it's all Dervla Murphy's fault he took up serious cycling. Back in the cold winter days of 1962-63 (who remembers them?) he picked up her first cyclist's tale, "Full Tilt to India". But not until their children had left home did he and Hazel take up serious biking, starting with the London to Brighton run. Since then they've cycled through most West European countries – usually accompanied by Margaret – and even spent a couple of weeks riding in Cuba, courtesy the Cyclists Touring Club. But that's another story for another time! **MW \***



The trio paddling in the misty Med.

## Sam leaves the Orange Tree

Just think: if it hadn't been for a room above a pub with windows on three sides, London would have had to wait years for its first theatre-in-the-round. Sam Walters, the Orange Tree's retiring Artistic Director, explained the famous Richmond theatre's origins to Society members at our most recent talk.

Back in 1971, and relatively fresh from Oxford – where he spent more time acting than studying Economics – he was looking for a venue suited to a small theatre. Across the road from Richmond station was the Orange Tree pub with a spare room upstairs. Conventionally it would have required curtains and more electric light to illuminate the space. But why waste daylight? Early audiences proved to be mainly mothers who relished a midday break before picking up their school-age children from schools and nurseries. Lunchtime performances were born, the pub's takings went up and Young's brewery, the landlords, looked on benignly. Sam let in the daylight, arranged his "stage" around the room to suit its existing seating plan and never looked back.



The glint of an opportunity to create London's first theatre-in-the-round from scratch came in 1974 when the premises of a school across the road in Clare Street were vacated. But not until 14 years later could Sam realise his dream, although development rules dictated the site should be designed for community use.

Top priority for Sam is that theatre should be an experience shared between actors and audience. "There's no 'right place' to put your actors" he says. "They need not keep redirecting their words to other actors to ensure they're speaking to the right member of the cast". In-the-round releases actors to address each other naturally instead of ensuring the audience hears them through the proscenium arch of conventional theatre.

Together with his wife, the actress and director Auriol Smith, Sam will always be celebrated for his original approach to theatre. He believes his greatest coup was to air Vaclav Havel's plays in the decade up to 1998 when the Czech playwright was banned from working in his native land. Ensuring his works were known in the West played no small part in his triumphal return and election as Prime Minister after the Velvet Revolution there.

We locals will remember Sam for the range of plays and playwrights, often previously unknown to us, the brilliant acting and the involvement with the action we all felt in the close, intimate atmosphere of theatre-in-the-round. However, Sam's successor Paul Miller will put an end to the wonderful scramble for seats as you will now be able to book them in advance. Maybe that's progress, but it does spoil the fun! **MW \***

**Don't Forget! The Tour de France departs from Leeds on Saturday 5 July. Stage 3 runs from Cambridge to London on Monday 7 July, with a sprint finish expected on the Mall.**

There will be Fan Parks in Canary Wharf, Queen Elizabeth Park, Trafalgar Square and Green Park over the weekend which are FREE EVENTS where you can watch the Tour de France live on the giant screen, follow the stage of the day, relive its highlights, and enjoy the festival atmosphere that the Tour brings. The perfect place for supporters to come together and celebrate cycling. Visitors will enjoy the best interactive activities, pop-up cycling focused retail stalls, cafés, bars, and cycling demonstrations.



**LONDON  
7 July**

# Notes from the Chair



**T**hank you to everyone who attended our 58th Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 3 April. The evening finished with an excellent talk by the Reverend Derek Winterburn about the setting up of St Mary's Hampton CE Primary School, which certainly highlighted the dedication and commitment of those involved in the process and we wish them every success going forward.

For members that couldn't attend the AGM, here is a summary of the key matters reported:

## Membership

A steady increase in members continues – 47 new households joined us in 2013/14, most of these being recruited at the Hampton Christmas Celebrations.

## Local issues

Disappointingly, the issue of unauthorised mooring on the bank of the river beyond Garrick's Temple is still unresolved. Earlier in the year, the Department for Communities and Local Government raised more points about the Council's draft bye law and the Council addressed these in writing a few weeks before the AGM. The DCLG was due to get back to them in early April, after which the amended bye law was to go out to consultation in the borough.

With regard to the proposed development at Kempton Green reported in our Spring newsletter, an official planning application is yet to be submitted. However, we are in touch with the main parties involved and will be keeping a close eye on any developments.

Many of you have expressed concern about the fate of Hampton Police Station after its closure last month. Rumours that it will be turned into a supermarket have been quashed and the Hampton councillors have asked that the police station be put in the Richmond Council's 'Site Specific Development Plan' for housing. This plan looks ahead over the next 15 years and is used to determine planning applications on specific sites.

A long-running campaign by local councillors to make Hampton Court Road a safer place for cyclists has proved a success and the request for clearer signage along the cycle pathway has at last been sanctioned.



The wonderfully hot weather helped make the Hampton Fun Day a great success. Jim Monahan, Amanda Hunt, Christine Paganelli, Sheila Cuzner (above left), Katy Grubb, Beth Redfern and Peter Cave all helped either set up our stall or run our roll-a-penny game, built and kindly lent to the Society by Michael Carr. We welcome all our new members who joined on the day.

## Thank you

My heartfelt thanks go out to everyone on the committee for all their hard work and I would like to thank you, our members, for all your suggestions, help and support. If anyone of you would like to become more involved in the society, don't be shy – do come and talk to us. After all, it's important for all organisations to have a regular injection of new ideas.

Finally, a big thank you to those people who volunteered to help at the Hampton Fun Day on Saturday 17 May. The weather was glorious and we ran a roll-a-penny stall which proved very successful.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer.  
Let's hope it's as sunny as last year!

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 3016 5918

Christine Paganelli 8941 5927

## WANTED: Hampton memorabilia from WWI

If anyone has old photographs of Hampton showing life in the first World War, Brenda Badcock at the White House Community Association would like to hear from you. There are plans to commemorate WWI with a stall at Hampton Carnival on Nursery Green on Saturday, 14 June. Anything describing the early days of the war would be particularly welcome. There will be more such events during the next three years as each one marks its century since the "war to end all wars" as it was hoped. Ring **Brenda** or **Sally Badcock** on **8979 1884**. \*

## Richmond In Bloom

Richmond Borough in Bloom Merit Awards gardening competitions were launched on 1 May at a splendid evening at Strawberry Hill House.

There are awards for all kinds of gardening:

- **Front gardens**
- **Residential frontages**
- **Park and Bloom, where residential front gardens are arranged to allow off-street parking**
- **Blocks of flats**
- **Community buildings**
- **Hotel or pub exteriors**
- **Shop frontages or business premises**
- **Commercial centres**

The last day for receipt of entries is Friday, 27 June. So far, Hampton hasn't shone in these competitions, despite the many attractive gardens we see in the area. So this year, please, please let **Alice Fordham** on **8979 3543** or **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604** know of any gardens you would like to see entered in the competitions – even your own! Alice or Rosemary will let you have all the necessary information. \*

# All set for the party

ONCE AGAIN, Hampton Sailing Club has agreed to host our summer party. This year it's on 14 June, a Saturday, from 7.30pm. One of the highlights of this event is the two-minute voyage by chain ferry to the club's premises in the river. It certainly seems to put everyone in party mood.

The views of the Thames from the club's vantage point are quite spectacular: Garrick's Temple (site of a Society visit on 18 July), the Astoria houseboat and Taggs Island are all visible thanks to a beautiful wide bend in the river. So come and watch the sun go down with a glass in one hand and a plate from the finger buffet in the other. Need anything more?

Tickets are £8 each and include a welcoming first drink. Contact **Bill Weisblatt** on **8979 3089**. Cheques should be made payable to *The Hampton Society*. **MW** \*

Hampton Sailing Club, **Saturday 14 June** at 7.30pm



## Spend an evening at Garrick's Temple



WHAT IS THE POINT of living in Hampton if you don't take advantage of its picturesque riverside? Surely one of the most beautiful buildings, in an equally lovely setting, must be David Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare.

Bill Weisblatt is a trustee of the Trust responsible for the

building and will show Society members around it on the evening of Friday, 18 July. Events start at 7.30pm when Bill – a former committee-member and Chairman of the Society – will give a short talk about its history and describe some of the activities taking place there.

Wine and soft drinks are available for a donation, but the event is free to members. Non-members will be asked to pay our usual £4 charge or they can join on the night. **MW** \*

Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare, **Friday 18 July** at 7.30pm

## Hampton Station 150th Anniversary

HAMPTON WILL BE buzzing from 10am until 5pm on Sunday, 7 September. An exciting event, The Hampton Transport Gala, is being held to celebrate the opening, on 1 November 1864, of the railway between Twickenham and Shepperton and also of Hampton Station.

A free bus service will run from Twickenham and Kingston to Hampton and there will be an opportunity to see an 1885 steam loco, 17 vintage London buses, as well as a transport collector's fair at Hampton Junior School.

This one-off family event is free and, with the addition of stalls and a beer tent, promises to be a great family day out. Make sure it's in your diary!

The Hampton Society will have a stall at Linden Hall – please come and say hello! **SR** \*

Hampton Station and surrounding roads, **Sunday 7 September** from 10.00am



*This souvenir programme will be available to buy.*

## EVENTS PROGRAMME, SUMMER 2014

### 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.

**SATURDAY 14 JUNE 7.30PM** (See left)

### Summer Party

**FRIDAY 18 JULY 7.30PM** (See left)

### Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare

**SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 11.00AM**

### Guided tour of the Royal Paddocks Hampton Court Road.

**THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 8.00PM**

### Witches – Sorcery and Seduction

A talk by **Tracy Borman** about her new book, at St Mary's Community Hall, Hampton



'Witches' traces the dramatic events which unfolded at one of England's oldest and most spectacular castles four hundred years ago. The case is among those which constitute the European witch craze of the 15th-18th centuries, when suspected witches were burned, hanged, or tortured by the thousand. Like those other cases, it is a tale of superstition, the darkest limits of the human imagination and, ultimately, injustice – a reminder of how paranoia and hysteria can create an environment in which nonconformism spells death.

**PLEASE NOTE THE CORRECT DATE THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE PUBLISHED IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD.**

**WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 8.00PM**

### They won't be home for Christmas: the build up and first six months of the First World War

A talk by **Paula Kitching** at Hampton Hill Playhouse.

As men around the UK and Empire rushed to recruitment centres to volunteer for a conflict that would be over by Christmas, the opening stages in the summer of 1914, ensured it would be anything but a brief European war. This talk will explore the start of the First World War and the first six months of the conflict on the Western Front. Examining how it began, what the state of play for the different sides was and how a shot in Sarajevo kicked off a series of events that by December 1914 had the world plunged into a conflict that had no easy end in sight.