



# Hampton Court start for Olympic torch – and some games

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### 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.

## 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:enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk)

**W**here do the 2012 Olympic Games really start? Fingers crossed there are – unconfirmed – plans to sail the Olympic torch downriver by barge from Hampton Court on its final relay to the stadium in Stratford, East London. Once there, the formal opening of the Games is signalled, as always, by the lighting of the Olympic flame. The last big public sighting of it, remember, was at Beijing.

The Palace will also feature in two off-track cycling events. On 28 and 29 July the road races will take competitors through Richmond Park, Twickenham, Teddington, Bushy Park and past Hampton Court Palace, with time trials due to start and finish there on August 1. After that, a medal ceremony is scheduled to take place. Inevitably some local roads will be closed for twelve hours from 4am for this event.

I'm sure some of us will view this as a once-in-a-lifetime chance to catch a glimpse – albeit fleeting – of the Olympic events and competitors. Others may even now be rushing to book holidays or otherwise ensure they are far from Hampton during these weeks!

**Alice Fordham**

## SPECIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS: THE HAMPTON SOCIETY AGM 7 APRIL

**Don't forget our AGM on Thursday 7 April** at St Mary's Parish Hall in Church Street at 8pm. Our current chairman, Bill Weisblatt, is standing down but remains on the committee.

**Why not join the committee?** We always welcome 'new blood' to reflect our ever-changing membership. Do you like organising events; have accounting skills; have experience of planning issues or researching items of local interest? If you would like to make a contribution to the direction of the Society you are cordially invited to contact Bill or any committee member (names and numbers on page 3) **as quickly as possible** before the election of officers at the AGM.

Afterwards our speakers will be Sara Walton, acting recycling manager for Richmond borough and David Ingham, its waste management officer. Did you know we are the most efficient London borough at recycling our waste? Come and put your questions to the experts. It promises to be a very interesting topic.

## Tangley square development: Fate of Tangley Hall

One comes, one goes. What are we to make of Richmond Council's decision to develop Tangley Square (or Sainsbury's, Tangley Park area) while closing Tangley Hall, our local day centre for dementia sufferers?



According to deputy council leader Geoffrey Samuel, who represents Hampton North Ward, the development is just what the area needs. We've lost the Post Office, a bakers, a dry cleaners and a greengrocers as well as chiropody services for the elderly. Plans for a £1m+ children's centre were also dropped.

Now a family-orientated children's centre is due to open in the precinct before Christmas. Says Cllr Samuel, "The council reached agreement

in principle to develop the square but it's a five to ten-year plan needing a feasibility study during the summer, a public consultation and then a planning brief to see who's interested. But we'll have a slimmed-down children's centre before Christmas."

As for closing Tangley Hall, only three of the fifty dementia sufferers attending it actually came from Hampton, he says. To which Lib Dem Cllr Darren Thornton (also Hampton North) positively fumes. "There were seven people from Hampton, five from Teddington and twelve from Whitton using Tangley Hall. Cllr Samuel is just going on the transport figures and not looking at the attendance as a whole." Cllr Thornton says 41 people attended as of last November, 27 of whom lived within a two-mile radius of Hampton.

Cllr Samuel concedes there were 49 people on the Centre's waiting list 18 months ago, now there are none. He claims people are making choices as to how they spend the money they receive from the Council as "self-directed support" and that could mean attending a British Legion club, visiting relatives or attending college courses, for instance.

Besides, he says, with recent strides in treatment for dementia our local centre was too small to be fit for purpose. But one of the most useful therapies is that of smell and the sensory garden planned for the Ham Centre can provide this. Cllr Samuel claims Ham is also closer to home for the majority of former Tangley attendees, some of whom travelled from Putney and Barnes for instance.

Finally, Cllr Thornton is suspicious of the "relatively small" amount of money our Tory council has set aside to develop Tangley Square. "There's just over £5m to be divided between five "uplift" areas in the Borough, only £400,000 marked for Tangley," he says.

MAURA WATERS

## The Middlesex Yeomanry Band



The sound fairly blows the roof off the White House's main hall. It's the Middlesex Yeomanry's Christmas concert, and with 35 instrumentalists in full swing – including three tuba players – it's only what you'd expect.

But back in 1962, the band's future was bleak. It was axed as a casualty of the reorganisation of our reserve forces after performing a communications role as part of the Middlesex Yeomanry TA Regiment.

At this juncture, a former Commanding Officer of the Regiment, the late Lt. Col. Bill Williams, rode to the rescue, negotiating with the MoD to take over all the assets of the band and keep it as a uniformed – albeit civilian – one. For many years, right up until his death, he poured a great deal of his own money into the band to keep it going.

In 1999, after the colonel's death, and homeless when the MoD sold off its TA drill halls, White House chairman, the late Maureen Woodruff, now stepped in. Bandsman Ron Keevil, a former warrant officer, explained: "Maureen jumped at the chance to give us a home and we were more than grateful. She offered us storage space for all our sheet music as well as our music stands and the big bass drum emblazoned with the regiment's battle honours." (cont. p4)



### 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](mailto:enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk) and we may publish them on the website or in the next newsletter.



### Did you know?

Royal Oak plaque  
Oak Avenue, Hampton

On the night of November 7, 1940, eight high-explosive bombs hit Hampton. Among the six civilians killed in that incident were local residents William Adams and Sidney Till. Both men were standing outside the Royal Oak pub in Oak Avenue. Now a plaque commemorating the event has been placed on the pub's outside wall. It bears the message "Why should we forget?"

Maura Waters

### 'Court' circular

Home Park gateway improvements

The Kingston Gate entrance to Hampton Court's Home Park is currently closed to vehicles for about thirteen weeks to enable improvements to the gates and the surrounding area to be carried out. Meanwhile a new vehicle entrance has been opened at the Stud Gate.

Work is to begin shortly on changing the vehicle exit from the main car park and a new gateway is to be opened up in the wall nearer to the Lion Gate. This is to make it safer for pedestrians on the main approach to the Palace and to improve the view of it from the main gate.

Alice Fordham

# Notes from the Chairman

There is a good deal of interesting material in this Newsletter and I should like to pay tribute to my talented colleagues who are responsible for the text and illustrations, and, in particular to Maura, who takes editorial responsibility, and to William, who uses his professional skills to provide such an attractive design layout.

One of the important items in the Newsletter is the Agenda for the forthcoming Annual General Meeting on 7 April and amongst the routine items you will see that there is a resolution recommending that the annual subscription be raised from £3 and £5 to £4 and £6 for an individual member or a family resident at one address respectively. The last increase was as long ago as April 2004. We are all well aware that these are difficult times, and they may well get harder, but we hope that our members appreciate the improved quality and services that they are getting in return for their subscriptions and support. It is self-evident that we are spending more on our quarterly newsletters, which have doubled in size, are printed on better paper and profusely illustrated.

We are in the process of updating and improving our website, which is increasingly important these days, and are having to meet higher costs in venue hire, speakers' fees and more adventurous outings. Our recent drive to persuade members to pay their arrears of subscriptions has given us a temporary boost in our bank account but, as indicated above, increased costs will soon eat into our nest-egg.

I hope that you will continue to give us your support and look forward to seeing you at some of our events. With best wishes.

*“We are all well aware that these are difficult times, and they may well get harder, but we hope that our members appreciate the improved quality and services that they are getting in return for their subscriptions and support.”*

**Bill**

**Bill Weisblatt**  
Chairman

## Agenda for AGM, 7 April 2011

1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 15 April 2010
2. Matters arising from the Minutes
3. Presentation and Approval of Accounts for 2010/2011
4. Appointment of Independent Examiner and Banker for 2011/2012
5. Chairman's Report
6. Proposal that the annual subscription be raised to £4 for an individual member or £6 for members of a family resident at one address. (NB The subscription was last increased in April 2004.)
7. Elections of Officers and Committee in accordance with the Rules
  - a) Chairman
  - b) Vice-Chairman
  - c) Secretary
  - d) Six Committee Members

*(Nominations in writing to Secretary, Rosemary Hill, 7 Upper Lodge Mews, Bushy Park, Hampton Hill, TW12 1NE)*
8. Any Other Business



Photograph by Karen Booth

## Bake a cake for Hampton Fun Day!

To help raise funds for the Fun Day charities (see page 4), we will be holding a Hampton Society Cake Sale on 28 May and need lots of delicious cakes to display. If you enjoy baking and are able to contribute something on the day, please notify Sam Redfern asap on 07966 382178 or by email, [samantha.redfern@virgin.net](mailto:samantha.redfern@virgin.net)

Your efforts will be greatly appreciated and there will be a prize for the best cakes of the day! **SAM REDFERN**

## UPDATES

### Committee members of The Hampton Society

**CHAIRMAN**

Bill Weisblatt 8979 3089

**DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

Alice Fordham 8979 3543

**SECRETARY**

Rosemary Hill 8973 3604

**TREASURER**

William Redfern 8286 7071

**MEMBERSHIP**

Sam Redfern 8286 7071

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Maura Waters 8979 9654

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Tony Marks 8979 2003

Colin Greenhalgh 8979 5809

### INCREASING MEMBERSHIP

We welcome new people of all ages and encourage our existing members to introduce the Society to neighbours and friends. If you know someone who is interested in joining us and would like more information, please pass their details on to Sam Redfern, our membership secretary, on 8286 7071.

**We can achieve so much more with a stronger membership!**

### EMAIL ADDRESSES

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

### Pantile Open Space

Society members have voted in no uncertain terms for the name Pantile Bridge Green for the little piece of parkland between Uxbridge Road and Hampton Hill High Street. Now the crocuses are blooming again to cheer us all up. As Hampton Hill Association are of course aware the land actually lies just inside their boundary, we are sure that they appreciate this gem as much as we do!



Photograph by Peter Bucknall

Accordingly we have written a story for their own publication and hope they will support our idea of a name change. If we join forces, we can split the £364 cost of two new signposts between us.

**Maura Waters**

## EVENTS

(cont. from page 2) The Middlesex Yeomanry Band was formed as early as 1843 and has become the proud possessor of a very valuable archive of military music inherited from many regimental bands that are now defunct. With typical military efficiency, each band stamped its identity on its own sheet music, resulting in a fascinating record of long lost regiments, some of them of Irish origin disbanded in 1921 before Partition. Says Ron, "We have about 3,500 scores – arrangements for the seated band and about 300 marches printed on cards for a marching band. Some of them go back to the 19th Century."



From the original dozen homeless players of the 1990s, the Middlesex Yeomanry Concert Band's current 35 members include eight former military bandmen. Rehearsals take place on Sunday mornings at the White House and performances are both there and at the Musical Museum in Brentford and at the Star and Garter in Richmond – an in-home event for former servicemen. Hampton's annual carnival is also given a rousing welcome by the band performing at its starting point in Nursery Green.

Ron reckons the band has encouraged a swing band from Hounslow to use the White House as a base and a saxophone quartet has followed suit. "What with two choirs, art and ballet classes and ourselves, the White House must be the most varied Performing Arts Centre in the Borough," he says.

Now he'd just like to hear from a few more brass players to swell the band's numbers. For the record, members are of all ages and nearly half of them are women. They all wear a smart dark green and black uniform – original colours the MoD allowed them to retain.

Since the Yeomanry ceased to be a marching band and became an established concert one, we can now sing all the verses of their signature tune "The Lass of Richmond Hill" without fear of losing the tune as they march away!

Contact Ron at [jillianclose@aol.com](mailto:jillianclose@aol.com) or the chairman, Judy Morrison, at [judy.morrison1@btinternet.com](mailto:judy.morrison1@btinternet.com).

The band's next dates are Hampton Carnival, Saturday 11 June, 12.30-2.00pm; the Musical Museum, Brentford, Sunday 4 September, 3pm; informal concert at the White House, Sunday 18 September, 2.30pm and the Christmas Concert, also at the White House, Sunday 4 December, 2.30pm.

## Hampton Fun Day at The Beveree

Looking set to be the biggest family event of the year in Hampton, "Hampton Fun Day" should provide an exciting start to the spring bank holiday weekend.

This all-day family event, taking place on Saturday 28 May, is being organised by Hampton & Richmond Borough Football Club (The Beavers) and taking place at the Beveree Stadium in Station Road, Hampton. The day's events will include a six-a-side football competition, theatrical shows and live music, as well as a variety of stalls (including several £1-a-go fun and games stalls), pony rides, face painting, bouncy castles and BBQ.

Hampton Fun Day is open to everyone and there will be a suggested £1 donation on entry. Proceeds from the event will go to Anthony Nolan, a pioneering charity closely connected to the club, after a former player sadly passed away from leukaemia and two members of staff were also diagnosed with the disease. In addition to wanting to show their appreciation for all the help Anthony Nolan has given them over the years, the Beavers are keen to host an event to thank the local community for their continued support of the club. Three local charities will also receive a share of the proceeds: Children's education and opportunity charity African Revival, The Greenwood Centre and Linden Hall.

Don't miss out on the fun. We will have a cake stall to support the charities and promote the Society to new members. **SEE PAGE 3 TO SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP** Come along and enjoy a day of fun and games and feel part of the local community.

Please contact **Sam Redfern** on **8286 7071** if you can help out on our stand on the day.

Hampton & Richmond FC, Hampton **Saturday 28 May 2011, 10.00am**

## EVENTS PROGRAMME, SPRING 2011

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.**

### APRIL 2011

#### Hampton Society AGM

Thursday 7 April, 8pm (see page 3)  
St Mary's Parish Hall, Church Street.

To be followed by a talk on recycling by Richmond council representatives.

### MAY 2011

#### Hampton Fun Day, The Beveree

Saturday 28 May (see below left)  
Contact **Sam Redfern** on **8286 7071** if you can help with cakes or manning our stand.

### JUNE 2011

## 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).

Please contact **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604**.

Denbies Wine Estate

**Saturday 18 June 2011, 11.00am**

### JULY 2011

## Thames Ditton Miniature Railway

Another visit, this time very close to home and not very well known. This is a great opportunity for you to bring small children and grandchildren and yes, the trains will take adults around too! We have planned a Hampton Society afternoon tour there on Sunday, 3 July from 2pm. Bring a picnic or have tea in the café and enjoy the train rides. Further information is available from **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604**.

Thames Ditton Miniature Railway  
**Sunday 3 July 2011, 2.00pm**