



New family centre for Tangley Square

in this issue:

COMPETITION FOR FREE SCHOOL

Maura Waters reports on the bids for developing a new 'Free School' on the Oldfield Centre site. *More on page 2.*

SOCIETY NEWS AND UPDATES

Notes from our chair on membership and our event venues. *More on page 3.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

ILLEGAL MOORING

Bill Weisblatt reports on the proposed bye-law that should see the removal of the illegally moored 'projects' on our stretch of the Thames. *More on page 4.*

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

All 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

What is Tangley Square? It's the suggested centre of Hampton North ward and many more people are likely to find their way there now a new Family Centre has settled in at Tangley Hall.

Only a month after opening in January, an estimated 160 families were already using the former day centre. Originally used by dementia sufferers, it caters for babies and young families throughout Hampton and Hampton Hill with a very full programme of activities from baby clinics to Kids' Cooking and dancing games.

Only two years ago the idea of a Children's Centre planned for the hall was shelved for lack of funds. But so valuable have such centres proved themselves to be nationwide, and with the ward already identified as one of Richmond Council's "uplift" zones, funds were soon provided to save it.

Renamed the Tangley Park Family Centre, the hall and its offshoot Norman Jackson Centre in Windmill Road, Hampton Hill, run a busy six-day week list of clinics and classes, including the highly successful Sure Start scheme which ensures a continuing programme of activities and advice for mothers, carers, babies and toddlers. *Continued on page 2*

SPECIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS: The Hampton Society AGM 5 April

This is the annual opportunity to review the past year, for members to question the committee, for the membership to elect new committee members and for existing committee members to be re-elected, so do come along and make your views known.

After the business part of the meeting, John Sheaf, one of our members and a distinguished local historian will speak to us on Victorian Hampton. John devotes a great deal of his time to local history matters and is a Trustee of the Twickenham Museum. He has written several booklets on local history topics, including Hampton in the 1890s, Edwardian Hampton from 1900-1914 and Hampton 1915-1937, and his talk will undoubtedly include some interesting local photographs and information. *We recommend that you arrive early to get a seat.*

St Mary's Parish Hall in Church Street at 8pm. Refreshments will be available.

New family centre for Tangley Square *Continued from page 1*

For families with children with additional needs like autism, development delay or physical disabilities the Centre offers specialist groups.



Even Richmond Adult Community College is involved. It runs courses at both centres for parents and carers for whom English is a second language. Literacy and ESOL – English for Speakers of Other Languages – are both offered.

Dads aren't forgotten. Welcome at most classes, they have their own Messy Play dates at Windmill Road on some Saturday mornings. The day we visited Dads and toddlers were enjoying themselves rotten filling plant pots with compost. Other times they make dens with cardboard boxes or play with sand or water. We picked a particularly messy morning. Indeed, one toddler was so reluctant to leave the last we saw of him he was beating on the door to be let back in! **MAURA WATERS**

Maharishi School or Church School?



Which is it be for Hampton – a church primary school with no religious affiliations, or the full education up to age 18 of the Maharishi School? Both bodies are seeking to use the Oldfield Centre site in Oldfield Road, formerly a special needs school, and open for business in September 2013.

Enthusiasm and disapproval have been revealed on both sides of the argument, but it's undoubtedly true Hampton needs more primary school places.

The academic reputation of the Maharishi school, which includes twice-daily meditation in its curriculum, certainly attracts some local parents. Offering education from age four to 18, it claims its latest Ofsted report quoted them to be "outstanding" in just about every field. 150 people attended their public meeting in December, many of whom expressed interest in sending their children there.

Conversely the church school supporters prefer the idea of a small primary school teaching to the National Curriculum with a Christian ethos, but without regard to religious affiliation or church attendance. Children living in or south of Oldfield Road or Station Road would have priority admission over those living in other local areas. The pattern would be single-form entry for 30 children at Reception level, educating up to age 11. The Maharishi school would have two-form entry of 24 to a class at age four with a second entry at age 11 for three forms, also of 24 pupils each.

Quite apart from the curriculum arguments local people are asking about access to the site. Now that Waitrose has opened a store in Oldfield Road, traffic is expected to be even heavier there. If the church wins, most children will live locally enough to walk to school. Their opponents simply say they expect half their projected intake to be local, the other half from a lottery. **MW**



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.

Waitrose two months on

As we go to press the Waitrose supermarket in Oldfield Road has been open just two months. Manager Steve Yates is well content with the continuing number of customers passing through its doors, but of course it's far too early to pronounce on the store's long-term viability.

"We've had lots of positive feedback from our customers and local businesses" says Steve. "I'm looking forward to going to the next meeting of the HVTA" (Hampton Village Traders Association).

Fears of neighbourhood disturbance by regular van deliveries were originally allayed by assurances that the bulk of stock would be timed to arrive daily at 7am and 9pm, clear of the main local rush-hour. Deliveries by smaller vehicles would be made throughout the day. The rules, apparently, allow for regular visits by vans up to 11 metres long, and although there is a designated delivery bay, Waitrose vehicles have to share the forecourt car-park with customers – hardly an ideal solution.



"We have one of these larger vans scheduled to arrive at 11am to avoid evening deliveries" explained Steve... "A lot of our empty cages can be wheeled across the forecourt then, instead of in the evening, which I hope pleases our neighbours".

What will certainly please one of three local good causes is Waitrose's £500 monthly payout. By weighing the tokens customers have put into the three boxes just inside the main entrance, Linden Hall, Hampton Junior School or the Shooting Star Chase Children's Hospice could be this month's lucky winner.

Notes from the Chair



There's plenty of coverage in the news about the forthcoming Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 London Olympics, but I feel I must give these events a mention here as they will have a great impact on us locally.

No doubt some of you are already making plans for a Jubilee lunch or street party to make the most of the extended Bank Holiday, but it's worth keeping an eye on what else is going on in the area. At Hampton Court, for instance, there will be a 1950s themed weekend celebration and free entry to the formal gardens for one day on 2 June.

This month will also see the delivery of the first LOCOG (The London 2012 Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games) leaflet, outlining details about the events around Hampton Court and the necessary road closures, parking provision, rerouting of buses etc. The second leaflet is due out in June.

The LOCOG team met with local residents and organisations at Hampton Court last week to put forward their proposals. They have a challenging job on their hands but appear to be working very hard to ensure that events run smoothly. It certainly set me thinking about where to stand to gain the best views of the torch processions (24 & 27 July), as well as the cycle events: Road Races (28/29 July) and the Time Trial (1 August). If anyone has any suggestions, please let me know!

Another important 2012 event I would encourage you to attend is our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 5 April (Maundy Thursday). I would like to remind you that, after the business of the meeting, John Sheaf will be giving a talk on Victorian Hampton.

On a final note, I would like to thank Bill Weisblatt, who will be standing down from the committee this year, for his most valuable contribution and long-standing commitment to the Hampton Society since the 1960s and for the help and advice he has given me in my role as Chair.

Sam Redfern Chair

Agenda for AGM, 5 April 2012

1. Minutes of AGM held on 7th April 2011
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Presentation and approval of accounts for 2011/12
4. Appointment of Independent Examiner and Banker for 2012/13
5. Chair's report
6. Elections of officers and committee in accordance with the rules
 - a) Chair
 - b) Treasurer
 - c) Six committee members

The Society is currently thriving with over 100 new households joining last year alone.

The committee should represent all ages and areas of Hampton. If you'd like to be a little more involved, please contact any member of the present committee. Nominations are also welcomed in writing to the Secretary, Rosemary Hill, 7 Upper Lodge Mews, Bushy Park, Hampton Hill, TW12 1NE.

7. Any other business



Last year's wonderful cake stall

Bake a cake for Hampton Fun Day!

We will be holding a Hampton Society Cake Sale at this year's Hampton Fun Day on 19 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

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

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

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

Quiz Night Success

Thanks to everyone who came along and supported our first ever quiz night, which was expertly organised by Trisha Shirt. Our treasurer, William Redfern, did a superb job as quizmaster and our members John and Sheila Farndon provided an excellent bar.

We were very lucky to receive some great raffle donations from local traders, including a fish and chip meal from Marini's, personalised cards from Announce It, champagne from Village Estates, a meal for two at Squiffy's at the Jolly Coopers and the hire of a bouncy castle from All In One Events.



We were pleased to see so many new faces and a repeat event is already booked into the coming year's calendar.

SAM REDFERN

The council acts – not a case of the moor the merrier



After years of campaigning by the Hampton Riverside Trust and many local residents, supported by the Hampton Society, the council of Richmond upon Thames has finally taken action against unauthorised mooring.

It is going through a consultation process with a view to introducing a bye-law which would give them powers to remove offending boats – and their accompanying detritus – and make unauthorised mooring a criminal offence. Representations to the council are invited by 6 April 2012 and details can be seen on Hampton Online and on the linked council website. This has been a serious nuisance for several years and, apart from the mess and damage to the river banks in the stretch down river from St Mary's Church and Garrick's Temple, local residents and casual users of the riverside have felt intimidated.

The council's legal advisers have claimed that until now they did not have the authority to take action, although other local authorities and Thames Water seemed to be able to deal with similar problems effectively. However, we are glad that something is at last being done and local residents have the opportunity of expressing their views. **BILL WEISBLATT**

Denmead School expansion – decision soon?

A decision on Denmead School's proposed expansion plans may be reached by mid-March. 150 objections have so far been counted by the recently-formed Denmead Neighbours Association, some of whose members' properties adjoin the site in Gloucester Road.



They point out that plans to cater for 190 or more pupils, from the present 132, will result in serious overdevelopment of the site and be completely out of sympathy with surrounding residential properties. Already residents suffer parking problems, especially at school entry and exit times. They also claim 80% of a grassed area immediately bounding Carlisle Park will be lost, thus cutting across Richmond Council's stated

policy of maintaining "green chains and green corridors to safeguard and improve areas for bio-diversity, sport and recreation."

Meanwhile Denmead's headteacher Michael McKaughan says the school must update and modernise its facilities. The school buildings, largely portakabins erected in the 1970s, have been subjected to numerous repairs and were only ever guaranteed for ten years. His own office is not even at the main Gloucester Road site because there is not enough space.

The school's plans have already been amended to 176 pupils to reflect neighbours' concerns. Fifteen parking spaces are planned, relieving the current problem of staff needing to park on Gloucester Road. Pupils arriving by coach or public transport will, he hopes, walk to school across Carlisle Park under the scrutiny of a member of staff. MP Dr. Vince Cable has written in support of the residents, who submitted their objections to the council on January 20. A decision is expected around mid-March, i.e. any time soon. **MW**

EVENTS PROGRAMME, SPRING & 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.

THURSDAY 5 APRIL

Annual General Meeting of the Society, St Mary's parish hall, Thursday 5 April 2012 at 8.00pm, followed by **Victorian Hampton**, a talk by distinguished local historian, John Sheaf, and a pre-war film of the locality.

SATURDAY 19 MAY

Visit to Brooklands Museum, Weybridge "1940s relived" special theme day.

A guided tour around Brooklands, with options of vintage car rides and the Concorde Experience. Tour starts at 10.00am. £8/9 Adults, £4.50 children. You must make your own way to the museum. Contact the Society if you can offer, or would like, a lift.



SATURDAY 19 MAY

Hampton Fun Day, The Beveree

Those of you who are not visiting Brooklands may wish to attend this hugely successful all-day family event which returns to Beveree in Station Road, Hampton.

We will be having another cake stall to promote the Society to new members. Last year we had many kindly donated yummy cakes of all descriptions that helped raise over £200 towards the Fun Day charities.

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 with cakes or manning our stand.



Hampton Fun Day, Beveree
Saturday 19 May 2012

SUNDAY 17 JUNE

Hampton Society Summer Party

Details to be announced in a future e-newsletter, on the website and in our next printed newsletter.