



Photographs of the Village Meeting by Mamta Khanna

The Hampton Society AGM 16 April 2015



Agenda

To be held at St Mary's community hall,
Church Street, Hampton at 8.00pm.

1. Minutes of AGM held on 3 April 2014
(available to download from our website).
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Presentation and approval
of accounts for 2014/15
4. Appointment of Independent Examiner
for 2015/16
5. Chair's report
6. Elections of officers and committee
in accordance with the rules
a) Vice-Chair; b) Secretary;
c) Six committee members
7. Any other business.

Followed by a historic short silent film taken
in 1908 of the controlled burning down of
the old Red Lion in Thames Street and the
response from the local fire brigade.

What does the future hold for our local environment in Hampton? Residents gave their views to the Hampton Society and Community Links Officers of Richmond Council at a very lively meeting at Hampton Junior School on 2 February. This was the first step towards incorporating locally-inspired ideas into the Village Plan process, targeted to start in January 2016.

The Hampton Society was pleased to host the event and publicise it with a flyer posted on our website, social media networks, through letterboxes and displayed in local shop windows – and we were amazed at the result. More than 150 people finally attended what turned out to be a real brainstorming session.

Nearly 20 organisations were represented, of which seven gave four-minute updates: Rev Derek Winterburn, MTV Youth Club; Fiona Brennan, the Greenwood Centre; Michael Badgery, Hampton Village Traders; Joanne Coles, Hampton Pool Trust; Phil Weller, Hampton & Richmond Borough Football Club; Peter Dixon, Friends of Carlisle Park, and Sylvia Bridge Le Cluse, the Hampton Society.



Given such a steer, the company broke into six groups for discussion of five distinct subject areas: Hampton as a place, its character, greens, roads etc; its services, viz. accessibility, parking; its people, young and old; its businesses and, finally, community involvement. For each of these themes participants were asked to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Using flipcharts to capture people's views, this was where the important feedback occurred. Unsurprisingly, it came thick and fast. A brief overview of the evening's findings underlined unanimous views on parking and traffic problems, engaging local youth in community activities, the need for more trains, road and pavement maintenance, no public toilets, the implication that there are more elderly people in Hampton than other areas in the borough, and a plea for later starts to evening meetings to suit commuters. *Continued over*

Village Meeting

Continued from front page... Of course there was a general consensus that with the Thames, Bushy Park and plentiful open spaces, plus all our schools, Hampton is a great place to live in – and we're just inside Transport for London's Zone 6, justifying cheaper fares.

So what happens now? The Hampton Society is working with Richmond Council's Community Links Officers, Bill Reed and Mamta Khanna, to analyse the wealth of ideas generated and feed them into the council's Village Plan for Hampton. You will be able to find out more from the Hampton Society website www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk in due course. You can also speak directly to Mamta Khanna on **8831 6354**, or email mamta.khanna@richmond.gov.uk, or Bill Reed on **8831 6273**, william.reed@richmond.gov.uk. *



Update on Kempton development threat to Hampton

Threats of massive house building at Kempton Park will have knock-on effects for the Upper Sunbury Road, the A308 through Hampton, if they succeed.

Rumours that the Jockey Club proposes building as many as 1,500 houses on land it owns at Kempton Park have raised fears of even greater levels of traffic on the busy A308 between Sunbury Cross and Hampton Court. If successful, how will the newcomers find access and egress to their homes? This single-lane-in-each-direction road is the obvious answer. Anyone who tries driving into it from Percy Road, High St or Church St can only fear the consequences.

“I fear that a development of that size which is rumoured on this site would be wholly unsustainable as it would put a strain on the already creaking infrastructure” MP Vince Cable

Attempts to confirm facts on such proposed building are hard to come by. Threats of urban sprawl affecting Green Belt policy were plentifully expressed at a meeting of interested parties called by Spelthorne Council on 3 February – at which the Jockey Club was not represented.

Hampton Society member Rodney Maddock had already submitted the A308 question to the meeting. “How is it proposed” he asked, “to mitigate/alleviate the inevitable increase in traffic on this grossly overburdened and narrow road?” Spelthorne's reply only confirmed non-official proposals had been submitted from the Jockey Club, who “would need to demonstrate how the additional traffic resulting from that level of development could be accommodated”.



During a Q&A session following the meeting, Spelthorne's Head of Planning John Brooks confirmed the council was contacted by a highway consultant, but claimed the authority was not privy to any of the Jockey Club's traffic studies carried out in Sunbury and Hampton late last year.

Only last autumn ugly multi-coloured markings appeared on roads and pavements around the Triangle between Church St and High St here in Hampton as part of an alleged cable and utilities survey for Redrow Homes. Redrow is understood to have been granted right of first refusal to develop 70 acres of Kempton Park land.

Meanwhile, in a letter to key constituents, Twickenham MP Vince Cable has promised to write to both Spelthorne and Richmond Councils and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government calling for close collaboration and mutual assistance in protecting the Green Belt. “I fear that a development of that size which is rumoured on this site would be wholly unsustainable as it would put a strain on the already creaking infrastructure” he wrote. *

STOP PRESS: Illegal Moorers

Illegal moorers – guilty boat owners who leave or even abandon their craft moored at the Thames riverbank above Taggs Island – are set to get their just deserts. The Dept. of Communities and Local Government has finally signed off a bye-law warning owners of court action and hefty fines if they don't remove their boats.

Until February this year boat owners could play off one local authority against another by moving craft between Richmond's and Spelthorne's areas, avoiding court action from either. Now Central Government has added its authoritative clout, preventing mooring on both banks of the river. Look out for more details in our next issue. *



YMCA London South West to manage the White House

Following the success of Hampton Pool's arrangement with the YMCA, the White House Community Association is to follow suit and has asked them to take over the management of the building.

Now 21 years old, the White House is the successor to the original white house which stood in the centre of what is now Hampton Square, and its demolition provided the space needed for outdoor communal activities. With its landscaping, entertainment and children's play areas, and a pavement fountain, the square now gives an identity to Hampton North ward.

Today 3,000 people a week use the house for indoor sports and exercise, crafts, music and health classes. A pre-school nursery, Citizen Advice Bureau visits, Richmond Council surgeries and even a café are some of its other attractions. But there are only 350 people paying membership fees, which work out at £25 a year or £15 for pensioners. The various groups hiring its two halls and five meeting rooms cover remaining costs.

Hampton Fuel Allotments Charity set up the Community Association in the first place. A partnership with YMCA London South West, to give it its proper title, is now seen as the preferred option for management. The “Y” will co-manage the building on behalf of the trustees, run day-to-day administration, employ staff and carry out membership and publicity functions. They will also try to attract Lottery grants, the Association having always existed without the aid of national or local authority grants.

The latest information is that user group meetings will be held quarterly for the hiring group to express their views to the new management and HFA trustees. *



Notes from the Chair



After years of thinking I couldn't run, a friend encouraged me to start training with her and I've now completed the Bushy Park 5K two weeks in a row. But it only came to my attention when I registered online that this weekly 9am Saturday Park Run is a global event – and it all started in Bushy Park! Which just goes to prove that you can live in an area for 18 years and still not be aware of its wealth of resources.

This month's Village Meeting certainly opened the eyes of many local residents to some of Hampton's excellent amenities and the good work of many of its local organisations. We think the event really helped raise the profile of Hampton within the borough. Community Links Officer, Bill Reed, commented, "Just about the best event of its type I can ever remember attending."

One of the most positive outcomes is that local organisations made face-to-face contact and are now planning how they will work together and hold their own forums, providing further opportunities for residents to air their views.

If you are keen, in the meantime, to communicate your own observations and ideas to improve Hampton, please do contact us or the council's Community Links Officers (see end of lead article on page 2 for contact details).



Council support on proposed Kempton development

It's great to see that Richmond Council and our local MP, Vince Cable, are publicly acknowledging the threat that a major housing development at Kempton would have on the A308 and Hampton itself and sending out letters of support and reassurance to residents.

At the time of going to press, I was sent a press release from the council regarding the potential development at Kempton Park: "Richmond Council will work closely with Spelthorne Council, neighbouring authorities and public transport providers when considering the key planning implications, including traffic, which would arise from any potential residential development at Kempton Park Racecourse." Councillor Stephen Speak, Cabinet Member for Transport, said: "The developer has yet to submit formal plans, but I know how concerned Hampton residents are about the indicated size of the development. I can assure residents that the Council will work tirelessly to protect them from negative transport repercussions."

Finally, we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this year's AGM. See details and agenda on front page.

Visit our website at www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk

Sam Redfern Chair

SOCIETY MATTERS

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

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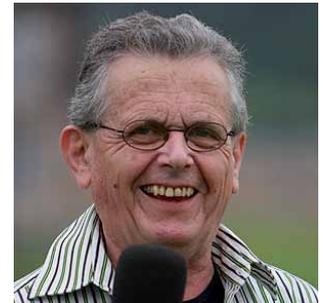
OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sylvia Bridge Le Cluse 8941 4450

Julie-nne Monahan 8979 8942

Christine Paganelli 8941 5927

Roy Law 07831 340507



New committee member

A warm welcome to Roy Law, who joined us before Christmas. He reckons he "slipped under the radar one November night with a vague brief and a willing heart on the basis of having worked for a forensic auditor in a Housing Association."

Roy has kindly offered his support to our Treasurer and will be taking a look at our bookkeeping system as a first step in determining whether or not we apply for Charitable status.

Newsletter production:

Edited by Maura Waters.

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

Photography by Sam and William Redfern, unless stated otherwise.

EVENTS

Forthcoming talk by Dr. Susan Kay-Williams of the Royal School of Needlework

DON'T MISS AN interesting talk by the chief executive of the Royal School of Needlework, Dr. Susan Kay-Williams on Wednesday, 11 March, 8pm at St Mary's community hall.



She will tell us the history of this distinguished school, based at Hampton Court Palace. It began as the School of Art Needlework in 1872. More recently nine embroiderers worked on the Duchess of Cambridge's wedding-dress.

St Mary's community hall, Hampton, 8.00pm, Wednesday 11 March

Hampton shows the way with another bumper Christmas parade



YET AGAIN, FOR the fifth year in succession Hampton's people turned out for the Village Traders Association's Christmas Parade. Some estimated the crowd to number 3,000, many of them Elvis fans come to hear their Tribute Troubadour perform on the stage at Hampton Green. (Who says we don't cater for all ages, even at nominally children's events? There were sound-a-likes Amy Winehouse and Cher, too).

As for the kids, there were no less than three grottoes where they had a chance to see either Father or Mother Christmas (the latter for shyer children). Queuing time was enlivened by entertainment from elves supplied by Greenacres Nurseries staff.



Top: The Swing Band get things going. Bottom left to right: Sophie Faggetter in fine voice representing Hampton Academy; Mother Christmas and sound- and look- a-like Amy Winehouse. Photographs by Caroline and Sam Badgerly.

The parade itself, with Father Christmas riding in his sleigh down traffic-free roads on either side of Hampton Station, is now clearly a well-established local event. Small children can see him in their own locality, avoiding needless travel.

Meanwhile the traders sold food and drink from pavement stalls along the parade route, largely donating their profits to charity in the proper sense of Christmas. *

EVENTS PROGRAMME, SPRING 2015

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.

All the events listed below are open to the members of both the Hampton Society (HS) and the Hampton Hill Association (HHA).

WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 8.00PM

Talk on the Royal School of Needlework (see left)

A talk by **Dr. Susan Kay-Williams** at St Mary's community hall, Hampton.

THURSDAY 16 APRIL 8.00PM

The Hampton Society AGM

at St Mary's community hall, Hampton.

Following the AGM there will be a showing of an old film, familiar to quite a few members, but well worth showing again: the burning of the old Red Lion pub in Hampton in 1908.

THURSDAY 27 MAY 10.30AM

Visit to the Mounted Branch of the Metropolitan Police

at Imber Court, East Molesey KT8 0BT.



Photograph courtesy of the Thames Scout Cruising Club

This visit is likely to last just over an hour. Apart from seeing the horses, it's hoped the farrier and saddler will be available to answer our questions. The visit is limited to a maximum of 30.

The contact for all these events is **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604** for checking in and directions.