



Rev. Gareth Goes to Grenfell

▲ Reverend Gareth Wardell (centre) with well-wishers at his leaving party at All Saints church hall.

Hampton has lost one of its most-recognised churchmen, the Rev. Gareth Wardell of All Saints, Hampton North, to parishes covering the site of Grenfell Tower.

This was where 72 residents of a tower block of flats lost their lives in a devastating fire in June 2017. The church of his new North Kensington parish, St James and St Clements, lies close to the blackened structure of the fated tower.

For the Bishop of Kensington, the selection of Rev. Gareth to such a challenging post must have seemed obvious: a cleric whose previous career with the World Health Organisation (WHO) included tours in areas of conflict like Afghanistan and Nepal. And he had a hound, Libby the Lab(rador). Libby is a therapy dog, familiar with providing a comforting presence at local care homes and the Shooting Star hospice across the road from All Saints Church.

Following the fire, the bishop, the Rt. Rev. Graham Tomlin, set up a committee of clerics representing the different religious faiths of the 21-storey Tower's residents. He felt it was wrong that the companies under investigation for the fire were remaining silent unless they obtained immunity from prosecution. "The truth is the truth and needs to come out whatever the consequences," he concluded.

For 60-year old Gareth there will be plenty of conflicts to resolve in his new post. Of Grenfell's 72 deaths, 18 were children. Although 223 people escaped the fire, more than 70 people were injured. Their experiences will bear similarities to those he saw with the WHO, which he left after 14 years to take a degree in Post Recovery Studies. After that, he worked for York University's Post-War Reconstruction and Development Unit, moving regularly to countries affected by war.

Surely he deserved a quieter life in Hampton? Gareth was with us for seven years. The parish's burning issue was to gain planning permission for a new church hall. That permission came just in time before he left us. [THS](#)

2020 Notice of The Hampton Society AGM

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

THU
23
APRIL

Agenda

1. Minutes of AGM held on 4 April 2019 (available on our website).
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Presentation and approval of accounts for 2019/20
4. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2020/21
5. Chair's report
6. Elections of officers and committee in accordance with the rules
 - a) Chair; b) Treasurer; c) Vice Chair; d) Seven committee members

Please submit your application no later than Friday 17 April if you would like to stand for any of the positions on the committee.

This is not an impromptu part of the meeting. If you would like to raise an issue please submit it in writing no later than Friday 17 April to have it added to the agenda. **We are unable to discuss issues without prior notice.**



Notes from the Chair

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and that current events are not causing you too much anxiety.

Role as Chair and upcoming AGM

After giving my position on the committee a great deal of thought, and in the absence of anyone wanting to take over at this point, I have agreed to remain as Chair for the next two-year term. I have the support of the committee, each of whom have their own responsibilities ensuring the Society runs smoothly. It will be an honour to continue to represent you, the members, at events and meetings.

Space for two!

There are currently two positions that could be filled on the committee. We are not looking for any particular skills but for someone who is enthusiastic about things that happen in the village. However, if you have design skills and experience of using creative apps on your computer, I would be interested in speaking to you in regard to the production of our quarterly newsletter.

It's a great feeling being involved with The Hampton Society and a good opportunity to meet other neighbours. You may even want to stand as Chair in a couple of years time.

The rising cost of talks and events...

I have seen the draft of our upcoming events for the membership year 2020/21 and there are some really interesting talks for you to enjoy. However, the cost of speakers' fees, hall hire and printing have all gone up over the last few years. In the meantime, we have resisted increasing membership fees.

After discussing this issue at length with our treasurer and fellow committee members, I would like to ask if you would consider making a small donation to contribute to the costs incurred. There will be a collection box at all events from now on and although there is absolutely no obligation, if you have enjoyed the evening we would really appreciate your support.

£50s and £20s feature local past residents

The honouring of Alan Turing on the next £50 note (see page 3) accompanies the recently launched £20 note depicting J.M.W. Turner, showcased at the restored house he originally designed and lived in on Sandycoombe Lane, Twickenham. There is currently a small display of original paintings by Turner in the house (up to 30 April).

Parking survey update

The last Hampton Village Traders Meeting was attended by Mick Potter, the council's planning officer. He listened to the requests by local shopkeepers who are concerned that inconsistent restrictions have a negative impact on their businesses.

Mick also wanted to reassure attendees about the recent parking survey and reiterated that it was only right to consult a wider area if three residential streets had requested a controlled parking zone (CPZ) (see November's newsletter) as there would be a knock-on effect to other roads. He said there was a reluctance from him and his colleagues to introduce a CPZ and it was likely the parking situation will stay as it is.

Invitation to petition for the extension of Zone 6

There have been suggestions from residents to extend Zone 6 so that people 'down the line' won't feel the need to drive to Hampton and park up, in order to save a few quid. Our new MP has had several talks with TfL and South Western Railways about the poor state of the service and with some success. It is my understanding that with the operator in a weakened position, it is an opportune time to propose the extension of the zone if TfL take over the rail franchise. If you feel strongly about this issue, please write to MP Munira Wilson and copy me in at enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk.

Kind regards to you all, **William Redfern**, Chair

Obituary

Sheila Farndon

We are sorry to report that Sheila Farndon, a longstanding member of the Society, has died.



Her husband John was similarly well known and Sheila supported him in many of his roles, notably staffing the bar at St Mary's hall for our events and talks.

John died in 2016. For many years the couple played very active roles in the community. Indeed Sheila was one of two founding members of Teddington and Hampton Ladies Probus and attended its monthly meetings until shortly before she died. **THS**

Richmond Borough in Bloom comes to an end

For 30 years, an independent community group called Richmond Borough in Bloom (RbiB) has existed in the Borough.

Its aim was to encourage residents, shop keepers, pubs and hotels, commercial centres and community groups to provide a wide variety of floral displays, attractive front gardens, window boxes and hanging baskets in order to make the most of the Borough's appearance so that passers-by could pause and admire.

Each 'village' in the Borough provided one or two members to a committee which organised an annual competition in terms of gold, silver and bronze awards.

Now, sadly, the long-standing and charismatic Chair, Pat Schooling, has decided it is time to retire and no one else appears to have the resources to continue.

It would be sad, indeed, if our impetus and enthusiasm for making the very best of our surroundings in Hampton were to wane in the future. If anyone has ideas of how we, in Hampton, could continue to make the most of our 'village' in terms of gardens, hanging baskets and floral displays, and in encouraging residents to do their best, please phone

Rosemary Hill on **8973 3604**. **THS**

Precious Sapling for Bushy Park

Bushy Park has been selected to conserve one of Sir Isaac Newton's eight saplings grown from the tree whose falling apple (on his head!) led to the discovery of the laws of gravity.



▲ Left to right: Chair of the Friends of Bushy Park Colin Muid, Assistant Park Manager Bill Swan with the space sapling, astronaut Tim Peake and Sarah Dalmedo from National Physical Laboratory – in front of the 400 year old 'Flower of Kent' tree in Woolsthorpe Manor (picture courtesy of The Royal Parks). Inset: Tim Peake's 'Principia' mission patch, named after Newton's work on the principal laws of gravity and motion and features a falling apple.

Pips from the 400-year-old apple tree at Woolsthorpe Manor, Newton's Lincolnshire family home, went into space, care of British astronaut Tim Peake, in 2015.

The Royal Parks, along with the National Physical Laboratory and the Friends of Bushy Park, bid successfully for the precious sapling from a group comprising the UK Space Agency, National Trust and Kew Gardens. But it won't come to us just yet. Until it's judged strong enough to withstand Bushy Park's outdoor conditions, the Super Nursery at Hyde Park will be its guardian.

Once planted in our woodland gardens within the park, the new arrival will be protected from predators by a domed iron cage measuring 5 by 3.5 metres. It will be used as an educational tool incorporating astronomy, physics and horticulture.

The last word must come from Isaac Newton himself, who memorably remarked, "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants" **THS**

Turing Portrait on £50 Note

The name of Alan Turing is to become even more familiar to us next year as a new £50 note commemorating the brilliant Enigma decoder of WWII is issued.

The Enigma code was used by German U-Boats which attacked the North Atlantic convoys. Had the code not been broken and the convoys diverted, Britain would have been perilously close to running out of food.

Although he spent only a short period working at the National Physical Laboratory in Teddington, he had digs in Hampton's High Street. A keen athlete, Turing was rumoured to have run all the way from Hampton to Guildford to visit his mother at weekends. **THS**



Mark Carney, the governor of the Bank of England at the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester (pic. court. of Getty Images).

About your committee

The committee is the governing body of The Hampton Society. It consists of elected officers and up to six committee members. We meet four times a year to discuss current issues that affect the community to see where we can make a contribution. We also organise talks, visits and events for our members.

Any member of the Society is eligible to join the committee and can stand for election at our Annual General Meeting in April or be co-opted during the year. If you are interested in joining the committee and playing a part in the Society and Hampton's development, please contact the secretary below.

Committee members

Chair

William Redfern 020 8286 7071

Deputy chair

Iacopo Sassi 07761 670911

Secretary

Rosemary Hill 020 8973 3604

Treasurer

Brian Brignall 020 8979 9499

Membership

Linda Brignall 020 8979 9499

Newsletter editor

Maura Waters 020 8979 9654

Planning

Sylvia Bridge Le Cluse 020 8941 4450

Other committee members

Alice Fordham 020 8979 3543

Lesley Cesenek 07540 342813

Contact us at **enquiries**

@thehamptonsociety.org.uk

Update on Membership

Over 84% of our members now pay by annual Standing Order

We would really appreciate it if you do not currently pay by Standing Order to consider doing so when you come to renew your membership this April.

A warm welcome to our 18 new members

Newsletter production:
Edited by Maura Waters.
Designed and produced by William Redfern
www.williamredfern.co.uk 020 8286 7071.

Be Inspired at The Hub

Commuters – in fact anyone using Hampton station – will have noticed the lavender-painted fence boarding the Metropolitan Water Board Club in Ashley Road.

On it are 15 framed notices, each describing different interests, exercises, games and hobbies from art to Zumba.

You can pursue them all at 'The Hub', newly built premises at the club's rear and comprising a cafe, exercise hall, office, counselling and conference rooms, even a lawn. It started off as 'Inspired Women', a group mustering at the former Rising Sun pub, now a café, in Hampton Hill. Founder Susan Green (see right) of Greenacres Nurseries in Hampton explained "In conversation we were inspired by each others' stories. I suggested fund-raising events for local charities. Everyone had ideas".

Two of these ideas were helping to start a business – or a return to work – though anyone who feels the need to refresh their skills can familiarise themselves with the office environment provided by one of the smaller rooms. For some, it could even be an introduction to the world of work.

Supper clubs in people's homes have raised between £2,000 and £3,000 over the half-year for charities such as Shooting Stars or



the Greenwood Centre in Hampton Hill. A supper club theme is selected by the hostess, and six guests pay £20 each for the privilege. Themes aren't always stomach-related, though Caribbean or Moroccan menus, for instance, sometimes figure. Guests can learn more about arts and crafts, travel, gardening – even Trichology (study of hair) – on such occasions.

Take a browse at that fence – there's so much more on offer than there is space to show you. **THS**

Events calendar

Our talks are free to members but 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.

No email address?

If you want to be informed of the latest event information but don't have access to a computer, please contact Alice Fordham on 020 8979 3543 and she will try to call you directly.

2020

March

Quiz Night

Friday 20 March, 7.30pm for 8.00pm start

Come and exercise your brain at our annual popular quiz evening at St Mary's community hall. Remaining tickets available from **Linda Brignall** on **020 8979 9499**.

April

Annual General Meeting of The Hampton Society

Thursday 23 April, 7.30pm for 8.00pm start

See notice on front page. Followed by a 20-minute film, Richmond Park – A National Nature Reserve narrated by David Attenborough.

May

Boatyards and Bands, Artists & Inventors

Thursday 21 May, 7.30pm for 8.00pm

A talk by Celia Holman and Robin Hunter about Eel Pie Island (see pictures on right). The nineteenth century Eel Pie Island Hotel became a Jazz and Blues venue in the 1950s, before becoming a thriving rock venue in the 60s that would host performances by The Rolling Stones, The Who, Eric Clapton, Rod Stewart, Black Sabbath and Hawkwind. The building burnt down in 1971, but its influence was evident for many years with the nearby Eel Pie Studios (formerly owned by Pete Townsend) operating up until recent years.

June

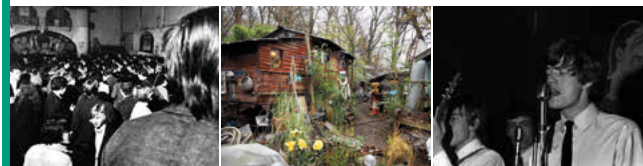
Summer Party

Friday 26 June, 7.30pm at Hampton Sailing Club.

Tickets available in May from **Linda Brignall** (as above).



▲ Image courtesy of www.wearedorothy.com from which prints are available to buy.



Important Notice Regarding email Addresses

We are updating our membership database and we need to know if any of your details have changed. Please contact **Linda Brignall** on **020 8979 9499** especially if you have acquired or updated an email address so that we can be sure that you receive our regular newsletters. Finally, please add **enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk** to your 'trusted' contacts and address book so that our messages don't get filtered out of your inbox.