

Hampton village traders light up for Christmas

Photograph by Joseph Washere

in this issue:

STRAWBERRY HILL HOUSE VISIT

Maura Waters reports on the successful visits to the newly restored Gothic masterpiece. *More on page 3 & 4.*

SOCIETY NEWS AND UPDATES

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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.

On Sunday 5 December, between 4-7pm, Hampton will start its Christmas celebrations with a lighting up of trees, organised by the newly formed Hampton Village Traders Association.

There will be lots of activities including Santa in his sleigh, carols from the Hampton Choral Society, a 'Find Santa's Lost Presents' competition, festive food and drink, a grand raffle with over 30 great prizes and lots more fun and games. It is hoped that Dr Vincent Cable MP will be available to attend that afternoon. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the general fundraising for maintaining Linden Hall, which is such a valuable asset in offering activities and lunches to Hampton's senior residents.

The Hampton Village Traders Association was set up less than 6 months ago, following a visit by Councillors Janet Langhorne and Suzette Nicholson to several Hampton shops and restaurants to find out how the lives of local traders could be improved. *Continued on page 2*

❄️ Come along to The Hampton Society Christmas Party! ❄️

Join in with the fun which includes a quiz and entertainment as well as plenty of food and drink. St Mary's Parish Hall, Friday 3 December, 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 and available from **Bill Weisblatt** on **8979 3089**.

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.

CAN YOU HELP?

Have you got a talent that you think would benefit the Society and its members? Do you have a fascinating story you'd like to tell us about living in Hampton? We not only welcome contributions for the newsletter and website, but also seek speakers and performers for the events we hold for the people of Hampton.

SOMETHING TO SAY?

You can contact The Hampton Society by email at: enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk
We also have a website: www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk which is regularly updated with current events and issues.
We look forward to hearing from you.

Traders unite for Christmas

Continued from front page

The association has already held several regular meetings (in the warm and welcoming surroundings of The Railway Bell, otherwise known as “The Dip”) and there have been some very positive steps taken towards working together, not only to raise awareness of the services Hampton traders have to offer the local community, but to ensure that traders are treated fairly and given the opportunity to flourish.

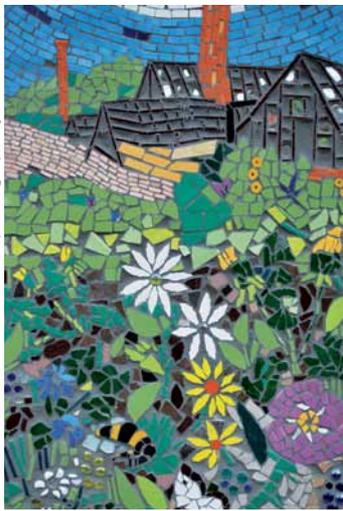
Sadly, Hampton has recently seen a spate of businesses packing up and moving out, often after only a short period of trading. Astronomical and unrealistic rents, along with imposed short-term parking restrictions, are partly to blame, but there is no doubt that local residents could make a big difference by choosing to shop and eat out in Hampton on a more regular basis.

Says Caroline of Village Estates, “We have traded in the village for 16 years and know that we have a great assortment of shops and businesses locally. This new association will shout about where we are, and who we are, and we are sure it will encourage more local residents to use us all.” Laura of Laura E Atelier adds, “As a new trader I think it’s great to have this association to pull the village together and make it a prime destination.”

The idea to do something to help the traders came from Councillors Janet Langhorne, Suzette Nicholson and Gareth Roberts. Having lived in Hampton for 30 years, Janet Langhorne (some of you may remember her days as a practice nurse at our local surgery) says her love of the village led her to take some positive action. “I wanted to promote the village as a place to live, work and play, not for political gain, but to keep it a nice place and to discourage people from moving away. We seem to have hit a niche, something that everyone wants. Now everyone’s talking to each other – it’s great!”

The traders are working very hard to make the lighting up an evening to remember, so do come along on Sunday 5th to show your support. **SAM REDFERN**

Nurserylands history in mosaics



Six sparkling mosaic panels now decorate the curved wall marking the walkway to Hampton’s White House Community Centre. Titled “Reflections” they illustrate the history of Hampton North from the seventeenth century onwards.

For instance the deer in the first panel reminds us that this area was heathland, part of the notorious Hounslow Heath where highwayman Dick Turpin relieved mail-coach passengers of their valuables! Flowers in the next mosaic represent the nurseries’ Victorian heyday, when cut flowers were sent daily to Covent Garden market. A landgirl in the third panel reminds us of the last war, while the fourth one shows vegetables growing during the post-war years of rationing up to the 1950s.

By the 1970s, dereliction had set in, the area characterised by broken windows in abandoned glasshouses and depicted in Panel 5. Finally, the last mosaic recalls the 1980s, when the nurseries’ final business closed. A fish and reptile importing business in Oak Avenue, it also provided flowers as props for the film industry.

The project was specially formed for Hampton North ward through its Working Together group, led by the mosaic artist Susie John together with Norman Oakes from Feltham Arts Association. Sally Cadle, the White House’s general manager, says the panels have proved to be a great success with the locals since they were displayed in October. Situated where they can best be viewed by passengers alighting from the 111 and R70 buses, people have commented on the way the autumn sun glints off the mosaics.

So now a mosaic sign for the White House’s Reflections café garden wall is planned. It will feature a teapot, mug, slice of chocolate cake and flowers.

A scrapbook with photographs to accompany the panels is also on the cards. “It should provide some documentary evidence to accompany them” says Sally. **MAURA WATERS**

Thames Street by Sam Redfern



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.

Photograph by Sam Redfern



Hidden Treasures

Parish Boundary Markers
Hampton Court

Echoes of Henry VIII’s famous acquisition of Hampton Court Palace and its surrounding parishes are revealed here. These are the boundary markers between Hampton and Hampton Wick that run from end to end of Tennis Court Lane at the palace.

Parish boundaries have always been important in history, but trust Henry to secure his position. In 1539 he secured an Act of Parliament which “made use of an old collective name for the holdings of a great nobleman and referred to the Honor of Hampton Court, extending the local name to cover the whole of the acquisitions”, explained Bernard Garside, Hampton’s noted historian, in his masterly tome “The Ancient Manor Courts of Hampton-on-Thames during the Seventeenth Century”.

In fact, these markers date from the latter period and little or no mention is made of them in later administrative records. Maybe everyone just accepted them in fear of Henry’s ghost!

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

Notes from the Chairman

As a result of an initiative from our energetic membership secretary, Sam Redfern, well over 100 members have, belatedly, paid their annual subscriptions within the past few weeks.

She added a personalised note to each copy of the last newsletter, reminding members whether their sub had been paid or not, and in many instances this had the desired effect.

Our members can of course decide that they no longer wish to belong to The Hampton Society and support its activities, and that is a decision that we would accept with regret but with good grace. However, we suspect that in a majority of cases, what is involved is simple oversight or forgetfulness, to which we all easily fall victim, and a reminder is enough to do the trick.

There are still a number of people who have not renewed their membership and if anyone reading these notes is in that category, I urge them to send their payment to the Treasurer, William Redfern, since this enables us to continue our work of protecting the environment in Hampton, providing a programme of talks, visits and social activities and issuing four informative newsletters each year.

We have become more adventurous in finding venues for our talks and the last two events have been held at Hampton Hill Playhouse and the White House respectively, both of them proving to be popular and well-attended.

I send you best wishes for Christmas and the New Year and look forward to seeing you at some of our events.

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Bill Weisblatt
Chairman

Strawberry Hill House Visit, report by Maura Waters

Wearing plastic covers over our shoes 60 Hampton Society members and guests toured Strawberry Hill House recently.

Yes, the builders were still there, restoring the opulent castellated Gothic villa Horace Walpole created in the 1740s. It took Walpole himself 44 years to complete what he described as “a little plaything of a house, the prettiest bauble you ever did see”. So perhaps we can’t blame the builders!

In fact, most of them are restorers, painting the blue bedchamber in its original shade, matching the original pink paint on the stairs, or gilding the papier-mâché ceiling in the Gallery in imitation of the Henry VII chapel in Westminster Abbey. Then there are the fireplaces: intricately carved of wood, they’ve been painted to resemble stone.



Because Walpole left meticulous building accounts, as well as copious letters to friends asking them to find suitable furnishings for the house, there’s no room for guesswork in this restoration. He had a printing-press literally in-house to record all the information. He also employed a Mr Brindley of Twickenham to prefabricate the papier-mâché ceilings and covings which are such a feature of Strawberry Hill.

Horace Walpole is credited with coining the word ‘serendipity’, meaning ‘to make delightful discoveries by accident’. One of these must have been the purchase of a couple of crates of window glass from Flanders, some of which proved to be the best examples of painted glass of their age.

As viewers of the TV documentary series ‘Restoration’ know, Strawberry Hill was nominated one of the hundred World Structures most at risk by the World Monuments Fund, which backed a £3.5m campaign to restore it to its 1790s opulence. English Heritage put it on its ‘Buildings at Risk’ Register and pledged a £4.6m grant. The rest, it seems, is down to us tenners-a-time visitors. The plan for 2011 – once the builders have released the car-parking area – is to open the house without visitors needing to book first. *Continued over...*

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 are also updating our database and would like to hear from you with your email addresses. Your information will not be passed on to anyone other than the membership secretary. Please send them to **enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk**.

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

John Wood 8783 1990

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Maura Waters 8979 9654

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tony Marks 8979 2003

Colin Greenhalgh 8979 5809



Tagg’s Island by Munnings

After Dave Raven’s fascinating insights into the lives of Tagg’s Island at our last talk, interest was shown in this beautiful painting by Sir Alfred Munnings. Greetings cards are available from:

<http://siralfredmunnings.co.uk/greetings-cards.php>

Dave also asked us to pass on his thanks to those people who gave him photos, copies of publications and extra information.

EVENTS

Strawberry Hill House Visit

continued from page 3

Or they could just come to use the café – lunches and teas provided.

There is so much more I could write about the house's subsequent history: Lady Waldegrave's sale of the furniture to pay the family's gambling debts and how much of it turned up in Farmington, Connecticut (where the Lewis Walpole Library now keeps many of the books which covered Strawberry Hill's sadly empty shelves, see right).

They may yet be returned. A set of windows were returned from Farmington after being turned out by one of the priests occupying the Holbein room as a bedroom when Strawberry Hill House was part of St Mary's Teacher Training College. He said he found the originals draughty!



The shelves as they were (above), and how they can be seen are today (below).



Fine food at a remarkable price – delicious 3-course lunch at Merits for £6.99



MERITS IS THE TRAINING restaurant at Richmond Sixth Form College, but don't let that worry you! On previous occasions the food has always been delicious and that's why we are planning to go again. We have reserved the restaurant for Friday 21 January 2011 and hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend. The end of January is a good time to enjoy a lunch out with friends.

The price for three courses is £6.99 and an extra £1.00 for coffee. Beer, wine and soft drinks are available at an extra charge. Car parking and lifts are available.

If you would like to go, please contact **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604** to reserve places and obtain directions, or if she is unavailable, contact **Alice Fordham** on **8979 3543**.

Merits, Richmond Sixth Form College **Friday 21 January 2011**

Elizabeth's Women – the hidden story of the Virgin Queen – not to be missed



IN OCTOBER 2009, Tracy Borman gave us a fascinating talk on Henrietta Howard of Marble Hill. She is returning to talk to us on Thursday 10 March about her new book on Queen Elizabeth I and the women around her who shaped the Virgin Queen.

The talk will explore all of the most important women in Elizabeth's life: From her bewitching mother, Anne Boleyn, to her dangerously obsessive sister, Mary Tudor, and from the rivals to her throne such as Mary, Queen of Scots and the sisters of Lady Jane Grey, to the 'flouting wenches' like Lettice Knollys who stole her closest male favourite.

It is through their eyes that Tracy will reveal the real Elizabeth, stripped of her carefully cultivated image. The talk will take place at St Mary's Parish Hall on Thursday 10 March at 8.00pm. Refreshments will be available.

The talk is free to members. Any queries to **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604**.

St Mary's Parish Hall **Thursday 10 March 2011, 8.00pm**

EVENTS PROGRAMME, WINTER 2010/11

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.

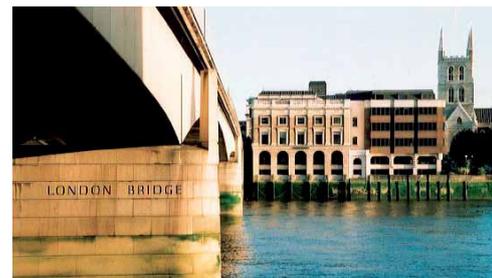
DECEMBER 2010

Christmas Party. Friday 3 December 7.00pm to 9.00pm (HS). Support from our members with catering is welcome as always. Please contact **Alice Fordham** on **020 8979 3543** if you can help.



St Mary's Parish Hall. Tickets £10 per person. Contact **Bill Weisblatt** on **8979 3089**.

"To God and the bridge", a tour of bridges and two City churches. (HHA)



Photograph by Christopher Holt

The visit includes a main course at a historical City pub. **Thursday 10 December.** Contact **Vanessa McKew** on **8941 3671** for tickets.

JANUARY 2011

Dinner at Loch Fyne restaurant (HHA), Hampton Road, Twickenham. **Date tbc.** Contact **Anne Wood** on **8979 1431** for more details.

Lunch at Merits restaurant (HS), Richmond Sixth Form College, Egerton Road, Twickenham. **Friday 21 January.** Free car park. Three course lunch £6.99, extra £1 for coffee. Beer, wine and soft drinks extra. To reserve places contact **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604**.

FEBRUARY 2011

The Importance of Being Earnest, Oscar Wilde's comedy (HS), **Wednesday 2 February, 7.45 pm.**

This is a Teddington Theatre Club production at Hampton Hill Playhouse. For tickets contact **Alice Fordham** on **8979 3543**.

MARCH 2011

Elizabeth's Women (HS), **Thursday 10 March, 8pm.** Well-known author Tracy Borman will give a talk at St Mary's Parish Hall. Refreshments available. Contact **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604**.

