

Photograph of the Triangle
by William Redfern

The Hampton Society

Est. 1956



An early Christmas for Hampton

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The Conservation Manager of Historic Royal Palaces at Hampton Court tells Maura Waters that all is not lost.
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SOCIETY NEWS AND UPDATES

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UPCOMING EVENTS

There's a lot happening in Hampton over the next few months. See page 4 for more.

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Come along to The Hampton Society Christmas Party!

Enjoy some entertainment as well as plenty of food and drink. St Mary's parish hall, Saturday 3 December, 7.30pm (please note change of start time from that shown on membership card). Tickets are £10 and available from **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604**.

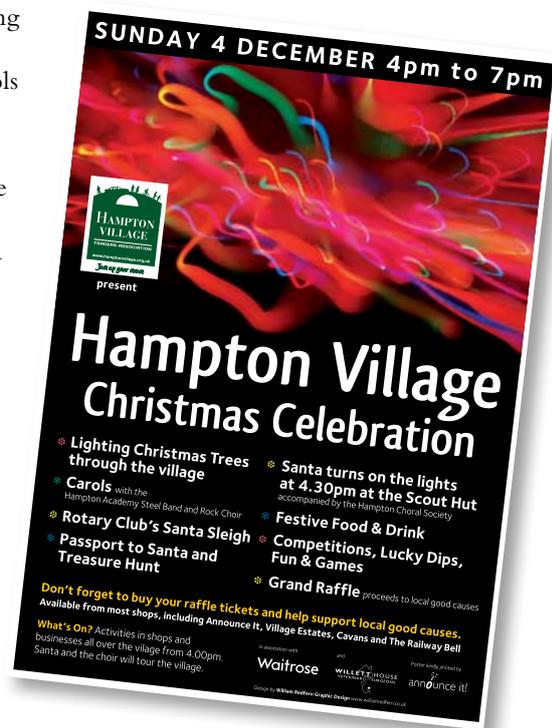
Christmas in Hampton starts on Sunday, December 4 – that's official. It lasts from 4.00 until 7.00pm to be precise. Last year's event, organised by local retailers, proved an enormous success when hundreds of local families turned out to greet Santa outside the Scout hall in Station Road. There were competitions, lucky dips and plenty of Christmas fare on offer from participating shops.

This year the event is likely to be even bigger, boosted by the loyalty card scheme recently introduced by the Hampton Village Traders Association (HVTA). The card costs £5 and entitles the holder to various discounts and value added services from the participating businesses throughout the year. It also benefits societies such as ours, local schools and charities, as half the fiver goes to the organisations who sell them.

Although it has only been operating since October, the scheme has already proved to be a great success, according to HVTA Chairman Michael Badgery of Village Estates. The remaining £2.50 goes towards production and administration, as well as supporting events like this one. For this year's celebrations he explains the association has organised a children's passport scheme whereby they earn the chance to meet Santa by having their passports stamped at local shops.

"They don't have to buy anything", he says, "but they must get a stamp from just ten different shops".

Continued over...



An early Christmas for Hampton continued from page 1

Santa's sleigh – kindly lent by Teddington and Hampton Rotary Club – leaves the Jolly Coopers pub in High Street for a tour around the village. His route takes him up Station Road, over the railway bridge, right into Wensleydale Road, around the triangle at its junction with Gloucester Road, back along Ashley Road and Station Approach to the

“Richmond mayor, Councillor Clare Head, and Twickenham MP Dr. Vincent Cable will help Santa light the Christmas tree while St Mary's church sounds a special peal for the occasion”

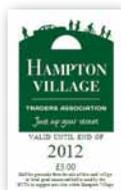
● railway level-crossing. Being a Sunday and with even fewer trains about, here's hoping Santa won't be delayed! ● Then it's back down Station Road again to the Scout hall, where Richmond mayor, Councillor Clare Head, and Twickenham MP Dr. Vince Cable will help Santa light the Christmas tree while St Mary's church sounds a special peal for the occasion. Santa will go inside the hall to greet the children who have filled in their passports.

● What with most of the food shops offering Christmas fare to the punters, along with a treasure hunt for a hamper filled with goodies, time is likely to fly until the finale on Hampton Green when choirs from local schools, the Hampton Choral Society and Hampton Academy's Steel Pans Band and the Rock Choir will all perform.

Sam Badgery, the 13-year old who won 'Hampton's Got Talent' at the Hampton Fun Day last May, will perform a specially-composed rap for the occasion.

If none of this appeals, ladies, take yourselves off to Syzygy in Ashley Road, where you can enjoy hairdressing demonstrations and learn how to look after your own hair! **MAURA WATERS**

Hampton Cards can be bought from our Treasurer. Just send a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE, a note saying that you want a card and £5.00 cash or cheque (made out to The Hampton Society) to: William Redfern, Treasurer, The Hampton Society, 66 High Street, Hampton, TW12 2SJ. Remember, as well as saving you money and supporting the local shops, you're also helping the Society. To find this month's offers, go to www.hamptonvillage.org.uk.



NATURE WATCH

Chestnut tree blight

Autumn came all too early for many of our many chestnut trees this year. During the summer the leaves turned brown and withered, making many of us fear the worst. Yet all is not lost, according to Nicholas Garbutt, the Tree and Wildlife Conservation Manager of Historic Royal Palaces over at Hampton Court.

Last August, Nicholas took HS members on a tree identification walk in the Wilderness and the Palace grounds and was able to allay our fears for the chestnut trees. It's all down to a small moth, the horse chestnut leaf miner. "It's at the caterpillar stage that it feeds inside the leaves," he explained. "The tiny brown and silver adult moths lay eggs on the foliage and, after hatching, the caterpillars enter the leaves and eat the internal tissues.

“There are usually three generations of a leaf miner during the summer, leaving the foliage extensively damaged with, in some cases, early leaf falls. This pest overwinters as pupae which continues the cycle the following year.”



The browning leaf phenomenon was first noticed in Wimbledon nine years ago. Since then it's spread to much of England and into Wales. But all need not be lost. Nicholas says that even after repeated infections the trees will still come into leaf the following year. But there are concerns that seed weight, photosynthetic storage and reproductive capacity may be affected, making the chestnut trees more susceptible to other pests and diseases.

Finally, he stresses, "There is no reason to fell and remove trees just because they are attacked." **MW**

Erratum

In our last issue we covered the Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity's 200th anniversary. Unfortunately, we incorrectly referred to the HFAC as a trust and not a charity.

We apologise for this error and it has been corrected on our electronic versions of the newsletter.

Lady Eleanor Holles chalks up 300 years

This year of 2011 LEH is celebrating its 300th anniversary. Indeed it goes on doing so into 2012. But it should have started a year earlier. Not until retired history teacher Elizabeth Hossein had completed her researches into the school's history was the blunder discovered.



Elizabeth Hossein signs her book "Grace and Integrity". Behind her stands Trish White, school archivist, who contributed greatly to it. She was a pupil at LEH from 1947 and taught Chemistry there until 1994.

We now know that as early as 1710 funds were provided by the Church of England and private benefactors for 50 poor girls from the parish of St Giles, Cripplegate to attend school. Nor was its original patron Lady Eleanor Holles. Elizabeth discovered the prime mover was the Hon. Anne Watson, daughter of the 2nd Earl of Rockingham. The Hon. Anne was directed by Lady Eleanor's will to use any surplus money from it for charitable purposes, nothing more specific than that.

One of many celebratory events is Elizabeth's book "Grace and Integrity". She describes it as "a wonderful story of how a charity school

founded for 50 poor girls developed into one of the leading independent school for girls in Britain". Many such schools founded at about the same time failed to survive.

Elizabeth is a longtime resident of Hampton and taught at LEH for 16 years, and before that at Rectory School, now Hampton Academy. Only a year after retiring she found herself researching and writing the Holles' history. A solid tome costing £45, it represents 18 months of devoted attention to truth and detail on her part.

As well as the book launch on November 15, a thanksgiving service is due to take place at St Paul's Cathedral on the 18th of the month. 2012 sees an alumnae service at St Giles, Cripplegate in March. Eucharist at Trinity College, Cambridge, follows in May and a ball at Hurlingham Club, also in May. Celebrations close with a concert, picnic and firework display in the school grounds next July. **MW**

Notes from the Chair



Photography by William Redfern

“When you go home tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today”. Kohima Epitaph

What a fantastic turnout by local residents at Remembrance Sunday this year, which was also attended by representatives from Hampton organisations, schools and churches, local councillors and Twickenham MP and Business Secretary, Dr. Vince Cable. There was a strong sense of community spirit as over a hundred people followed the colourful parade of cadets, guides, scouts, horse rangers and St Johns Ambulance representatives along their route from the Methodist church in Percy Road to the war memorial by Hampton Green. Under a

“Come along to our table in the Railway Bell on 4 December where you could win a bottle of champagne!”

clear blue sky with the sun shining down, many wreaths were laid, including one by Michael Badgery, Chairman of The Hampton Village Traders Association. Thank you to everyone who responded with views on the proposed name of our new constituency, with 99% of you in favour. A letter has now been sent to the Boundary Commission expressing our support of the name ‘Hampton Court Parliamentary Constituency’.

We have quite a few different events promoted in this newsletter so remember to make a note of them in your diaries (for those of you who receive our e-newsletters, we will of course be sending out our usual reminders!). We’re particularly excited about our new Quiz Night at the beginning of February, which is being organised by Trisha Shirt, our membership secretary. She has a great deal of experience in this area, having run such events for the Richmond and Twickenham Diabetes UK support group.

Finally, do come and say hello to us at Hampton Village Christmas Celebrations on Sunday 4 December, where we will be promoting The Hampton Society from a table in The Railway Bell, where you will be able to enter a competition to win a bottle of Laurent-Perrier champagne!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Sam

Sam Redfern Chair

Christmas Cards last remaining packs!

THE LAST FEW remaining packs of 10 Christmas cards showing two lovely local views are available to buy now for £4.00. The competition winning photographs are again by Lewis Lloyd, one of our members, and show the silver birch glade pond and cottage in the Woodland Gardens, Bushy Park and a winter’s morning in the park taken from the red brick bridge.



Available from any of our events, or from **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604**.

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

Winning picture from Lew

You will have already seen one view of River Lodge, the subject of one of our Christmas cards this year. Here is another view of it, also photographed by our own Lew Lloyd, which won a first prize in Bushy and Home Parks’ photographic competition this summer.



Lew has called it “Hidden House” and has captured its reflection in the pond in the foreground. Entrants were asked to photograph structures – either places where people lived or used for storage, says Lew.

As usual, he has come up with a most imaginative interpretation.



Kew talk

Another great turnout at one of our events. The talk was given by Sarah Oldridge from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The library at Hampton Academy was also a new venue for us which the school kindly let us use free of charge.

Banish winter blues and join friends for a convivial lunch!



“three delicious courses cost just £8.50”

WHEN CHRISTMAS IS almost forgotten and the depths of winter are upon us, what better thing to do than join friends for a convivial lunch at Merits, the training restaurant at the Richmond upon Thames College?

The restaurant is reserved for us on Friday, 20 January 2012 for at least 40 members. The price for three delicious courses is just £8.50 and an extra £1.50 for coffee. Beer, wine and soft drinks are extra. Why not make a up a table of four or more with friends?

If you would like to attend and enjoy a gourmet lunch, please contact **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604** to hear about the menu, reserve places and obtain directions.

Merits training restaurant, Richmond upon Thames College
Lunchtime, Friday 20 January 2012

QUIZ NIGHT! If you've not been to a Hampton Society event before then this is the one for you!



WE ARE PLANNING our first ever Quiz Night for Friday 3 February at Linden Hall (by the level crossing); doors open at 7.30pm for a prompt 8.00pm start.

Come with friends in a team of four to six or else come on your own and we'll help you make up a team.

Tickets are £5 per person, payable in advance and are available from **Trisha Shirt** on **8941 5162**. Bring your own food but drinks will be available on the night – as will a raffle.

We already have several tables booked and we're looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible!

Linden Hall **Friday 3 February 2012 at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start**

Please visit the new website www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk

2011

DECEMBER

The Hampton Society Christmas Party
St Mary's parish church hall, on Saturday
3 December 2011 at 7.30 pm.

Tickets available from **Rosemary Hill** on
8973 3604 or **Alice Fordham** on 8979 3543.

Hampton Village Christmas Celebration
Station Road and all over the village,
on Sunday 4 December 2011 from 4.00pm.

2012

JANUARY

Lunch at Merits training restaurant,
Richmond upon Thames College,
Egerton Road, Twickenham.
Friday 20 January 2012. Free car park.

Three course lunch £8.50, extra £1.50 for
coffee. Beer, wine and soft drinks extra.

To reserve places contact **Rosemary Hill**
on **8973 3604**.

FEBRUARY

Quiz Night
Linden Hall **Friday 3 February 2012**
at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start.

Come with friends in a team of four to six.

Tickets are £5 per person, payable in advance
from **Trisha Shirt** on **8941 5162**. Bring your own
food but drinks will be available on the night.

MARCH



Traditional boat building on the Thames
talk by **Mike Adams**, St Mary's parish hall.
Thursday 8 March 2012 at 8.00pm.

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 **John Sheaf** and a pre-war film
of the locality.

Please visit www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk
for more information on local events.