

The  
Hampton  
Society

Est. 1956



# Soggy opening for Hampton Square

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Local concert organiser and fundraiser is recognised for her outstanding contribution to music. *More on page 2.*

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### SOCIETY NEWS AND UPDATES

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### CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

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### CHRISTMAS CARDS

Don't miss out on this year's super scenes on our Christmas cards. *More on page 4.*

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

## 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**

**I**T may have happened in mid-October, but we're a quarterly publication and can't always give you hot news. We felt the official opening of the refurbished Hampton Square deserved to be celebrated though. The rain poured incessantly, the wind blew – the whole event could have proved to be a damp squib.

But the Dunkirk spirit was out in force and many of us turned out loyally to see the actress Samantha Bond cut the tape in a windblown and hastily-erected bandstand in the middle of the square. This was where the White House Big Band, Kristi's Dance Academy and Groove Academy were all due to perform. All wisely retreated to their usual homes alongside the square at the White House or the Hampton Youth Project and performed there.

Not all participants were so fortunate. The usual Sunday market traders braved the elements. But I felt sorry for young Regan Turner, whose face-painting tent had attracted only two customers in more than an hour when I met her, and for whom the prospects looked distinctly bleak. Similarly the art exhibition's open-fronted tent did them no favours in such weather. With the original White House disappearing from the middle of the square as part of Richmond Council's Uplift programme, the scene has been transformed. *Continued overleaf*

## The Hampton Society Christmas Party

This year's party will be held in St Mary's Church Hall on Friday 6 December at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10 and are available from **Bill Weisblatt** on **8979 3089**.

Now the *Great British Bake-Off* is over, why not turn your culinary talents to our party! It is always nice to have some homecooked food on these occasions so if anyone could help in this way please get in touch with me, **Alice Fordham**, on **8979 3543**.

As I need to order food at least a week in advance could you let me know by 25 November if you are able to help and don't forget to let me have a note of your expenses so that you can be reimbursed. Thank you. **AF**

Image styled by and courtesy of Liz Hippisley



## Hampton Square opening

*Continued from front page* – Lawns, flowerbeds, a children's play area, and, best of all, pavement fountains surrounded by comfortable benches now fill the space. During the summer the fountains proved a great hit with the children. Small ones dashed in and out as the jets spurted water upwards to varying heights, while the bigger ones rode scooters or bikes through, trying to dodge a wetting. (Thank heaven they're to be closed during the winter!)

For the record, it's 33 years since the original "square outside Sainsburys" opened. At the time it was a victory for the Hampton Society, who campaigned for neighbourhood shops to be included in plans



*So that's what was under the curtain (see front cover)!  
The square is now officially open!*

for the new housing development. There had been no such provision originally.

Sunday 8 December is the date the square's own Christmas tree will light up their festivities: Santa's grotto, a hog roast and mulled wine, plus carols sung to the accompaniment of the Wensleydale Wind Band and Ladies' Harmony Chorus are among the highlights. **MW** \*

## Community award for Hilary



Hilary receives her Community Award from Richmond council leader Lord True

**L**ocal classical music lovers won't be surprised to hear Hilary Dodman has been honoured with a community award from Richmond Council for her work as Chair of Teddington and Hampton Music Festival.

Together with her team – Hampton School's head of music Iain Donald, Janet Burt, Mary May and Gaynor Chick – Hilary has raised £26,000 for good causes during the last decade, £6,000 of it in this year alone.

The Festival operates with two concerts every year, in the summer and, usually, on Twelfth Night in January. It aims to give performance opportunities to local youngsters who show exceptional vocal or musical talent. Since 1996 the concerts have been held in places like Hampton Court

House, Garrick's Temple, local churches and even Hampton Sailing Club. Next Twelfth Night, though, the venue will be the Normansfield Theatre on the site of the former hospital in Teddington. With an audience capacity of 200 it offers the potential to raise more funds for causes like local community associations and the Shooting Star Hospice.

In fact Hilary is also involved in organising an annual Jazz in the Park concert in the woodland gardens of Bushy Park which solely supports the Hampton hospice.

She confesses to being amazed by her award, one of only 28 out of a nominated list of 150 people. Her team's efforts have given invaluable performance opportunities to young people like recorder-player Charlotte Barbour-Condini, winner of the woodwind section of last year's BBC Young Musician of the Year. Other potential stars include pianist Claudia Shek, clarinettist Emma Van Gelder and violinist Athene Hinkleys-Walker, to name only three.

"It's important talented young people are given the opportunity to perform in front of an audience, and we like to showcase their talent" Hilary explains. "I'm always grateful to local residents who support us faithfully year after year. We've built up reliability over the years and know we can raise £1,000 from each concert".

Incidentally, Hilary and her husband David are Hampton Society members (just boasting!). **MW** \*

Go on, get in touch at [enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk)

## Visit to Hampton Hill Playhouse

**Wednesday 29 January at 7.45pm**

We are planning to make a block booking for a performance at Hampton Hill Playhouse on Wednesday 29 January at 7.45pm. The production is a bawdy Restoration comedy, *The Country Wife*, by William Wycherley, and is a celebrated Restoration comedy of manners.

The plot involves an enterprising young man who devises a cunning plan to allow him to have access to young females by pretending to be a eunuch.

Tickets for the performance cost £12 and if you would like to book contact **Alice Fordham** on **8979 3543** by Friday 17 January. **AF** \*

## Postscript to Richmond in Bloom's success this year

Richmond scooped a whole fistful of awards in the *London in Bloom* competition this year, the most prestigious being a gold award and category winner for a small city within London. We were already entitled to be considered in the *Britain in Bloom* competition because of our success last year in the London in Bloom competition and guess what! We emerged from the BiB competition with a gold award and were also joint category winners with Stockton-on-Tees in the city category.

Can it get much better than this? Of course it can if next year Hampton can shine in the *Richmond in Bloom* competition. **RH** \*



## Save money and support your local shops

Support both the traders and the Hampton Society with the new Hampton Card and get special offers at shops and services in the village, for just £5 per year – a bargain, as most offers cover the cost of the card immediately.

Further details and a full list of offers can be viewed by visiting the HVTA website

[www.hamptonvillage.org.uk](http://www.hamptonvillage.org.uk) or by scanning the code above with your smartphone (using the recommended i-nigma app).

They can be bought from our treasurer, William Redfern, and half the proceeds will go to the society

Please include a note requesting a card and a SAE. \*



# Notes from the Chair

**I**wonder how many of you have started writing your Christmas cards? The first card to hit our mat every year is from a family member who has hers all ready to post by 1 December yet mine always seem to be despatched in a slow trickle right up to the last minute.

This year, happily, I have at least bought my cards – Hampton Society ones of course! Last year the society cards sold out by early December, so don't delay ordering yours from any of the committee members (contact details on right) or popping along to Ohso, Station Road or The Greenwood Centre, both of whom are very kindly selling some for us again this year.



## Road and pavement repairs

Friday 13 December is the closing date for submitting suggestions for the Council's Community Roads and Pavements Fund. This is a scheme introduced last year, following comments from the 'All in One' consultation, releasing £35,000 per village area to invest in road, pavement and drainage improvements. It's up to local residents to nominate the area they live in and say how they think the money should be spent. For more information, go to [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk) and look under 'transport and streets'. Winning roads in Hampton since the scheme began are Cardinal's Walk, Cotswold Road, Hanworth Road, Douai Grove, Buckingham Close, Nightingale Road and Church Street.

## Membership payments

There are still a number of people who have not paid their subs. If this applies to you, we greatly value your support and we hope you still wish to be a member. If you do, then please send payment to the treasurer, William Redfern. Better still, I would urge you to set up a standing order – it not only makes life easier for us, but you will no longer need to worry about simple oversight or forgetfulness!

And finally, it was encouraging to see a good turn-out at the Hampton Square opening ceremony. How well the Sunday market fits into the scheme and breathes new life and



The two Samanthas at the opening of Hampton Square last month.

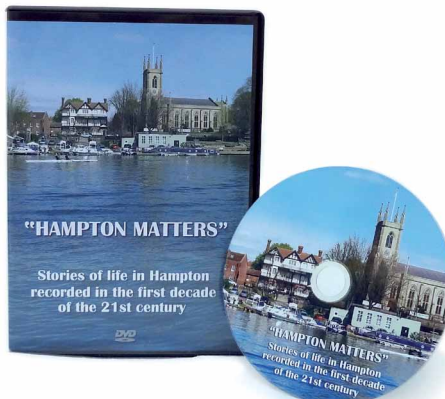
energy into the area. It was also a pleasure to meet *Auntie Angela/Miss Money Penny/Lady Rosamund Painswick*, a.k.a. Samantha Bond!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you at some of our events. **SR** ✨

Sam Redfern Chair

## Hampton Matters DVD

Sales of this great time capsule have been brisk but we still have a handful of copies left for sale. They make a great Christmas present. If you would like a copy (cost only £5), please call **William** on **020 8286 7071** to arrange to pick one up from 66 High Street. There are ten stories featured which include *The Hampton Ferry*, *The Last Shop in Thames Street* and Hampton School's *Founder's Day*.



## 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

Patrick Hooton 8941 6720

Julie-nne Monahan 8979 8942

Christine Paganelli 8941 5927

## EMAIL ADDRESSES

We now have email addresses for over half of our membership. If you haven't done so already, or it has changed, please send the correct email address to [enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk). Your information will not be passed on to anyone other than the membership secretary.



## QUIZ NIGHT

Following the runaway success of our second quiz night last year, we've organised another on **Friday 7 March 2014** 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 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 to buy on the night – as will a raffle.

## UP-TO-DATE MEMBERSHIP?

Have you paid your subs for 2013/14? They were due on 1 May and you should by now have received your violet membership card. If you haven't paid yet, please do so using the application form available at [www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk](http://www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk)

## EVENTS

# Santa comes to Hampton – and so does the food

NOW IN ITS FOURTH YEAR, Hampton's Christmas celebrations start on Sunday 1 December with Santa's familiar sleigh journey around the main shopping streets.



Hampton Village Traders Association are once again organising what has proved to be probably the most popular local event of the year, encouraging families with young children, among others, to join in the festivities. Once again the sleigh route follows Station and Ashley roads, Station Approach and part of Gloucester Road. Along the pavements will be stalls offering food, courtesy of our local shopkeepers.

Like last year, these roads will be closed to traffic between 4pm and 7pm, allowing everyone to walk across them unimpeded – an invaluable plus where excited children are concerned. Lighted Christmas trees above the shops will illuminate the scene with, at its centre, the big Christmas tree outside the Scout hut. Inside, after his sleigh-ride, Santa will enter his grotto and talk to individual children.

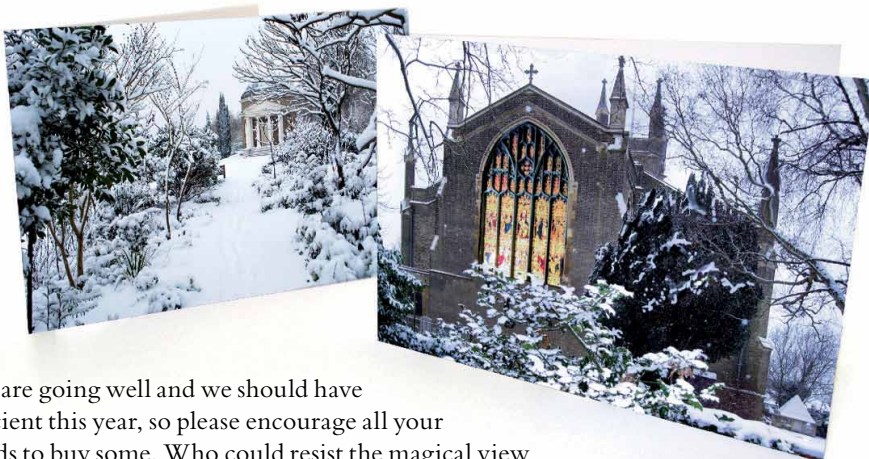
Of course there are some innovations and improvements this year. The stage for the choirs in Hampton Green will be brought forward to the pavement facing on to Station Road instead of the middle of the green. So far, choirs from Hampton Infants and Denmead Schools will sing carols, and maybe Hampton Junior School, too. This better location with improved lighting should ensure parents can identify their own little singers onstage.



As for the adults, "Elvis Presley" is booked to perform on stage outside Hampton Cellar on the corner of Ashley and Tudor roads. For just about everyone there's food: sausages from Shaun's Meats, chips from Marini's, hot chestnuts from Chino's and mulled wine from the Cheese and Wine Shop, to name but a few. There are bound to be more added to the list as November rolls by. So put the date in your diary. ✱

Station Road and Ashley Road **Sunday 1 December** from 4.00pm

## Please don't leave it too late to buy our lovely Christmas cards this year



Sales are going well and we should have sufficient this year, so please encourage all your friends to buy some. Who could resist the magical view of Garrick's Temple in the snow and the east window of St Mary's Parish Church, lit up amidst snowy branches? RH ✱

Available from **Rosemary Hill** on 8973 3604, any of our committee members, at any of our events, **Ohso** on Station Road and the **Greenwood Centre**.

## EVENTS PROGRAMME, WINTER 2013/2014

### 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 20 NOVEMBER, 8.00PM "Dress, Dazzle and Display"



Family of Henry VIII, an Allegory of the Tudor Succession

Talk by Siobhan Clarke on dressing for the 16th Century Tudor Court, at St Mary's parish hall at 8.00pm.

### FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER 7.30PM Christmas Party

at St Mary's Parish Hall on Friday 6 December at 7.30pm. See front page.

### FRIDAY 17 JANUARY 2014 Lunch at Merits

Yet another delicious lunch at a very reasonable price is on the cards at Merits, the training restaurant for Richmond College. Those of you who have been before won't be slow in signing up whilst for anyone new to the restaurant, a treat is in store. A bonus is that the cost of the three course menu remains the same at £8.50! Let us just hope that we have better weather than last year's snow! If you would like to attend and enjoy the cooking of the chefs of tomorrow, please contact **Rosemary Hill** on 8973 3604 to hear about the menu, reserve places and obtain directions.

### THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2014 8.00PM Royal Parks talk

A talk by Linda Lennon, Chief Executive of Royal Parks

We are very fortunate to have the recently appointed Chief Executive of Royal Parks coming to speak to us in February. Linda Lennon grew up close to Bushy Park and has a special affinity with it. It will be interesting to hear about Linda's core objectives for the Royal Parks.

The talk will take place at St Mary's parish hall on Thursday 6 February 2014 at 8.00 pm and refreshments will be available. The talk is free to members. Any queries to **Rosemary Hill** on 8973 3604.