



Photograph by Len Cross

Hampton Academy prepares children for 21st Century

in this issue:

HAMPTON ACADEMY

An insight into the new Hampton Academy in an interview with the Principal, Dr Sue Demont. *Continued on page 2.*

SOCIETY NEWS AND UPDATES

Notes from our chairman on Hampton Academy, the summer party and membership. *More on page 3.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Further details of the visits of interest and events being organised by the 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. See details on page 3 to either join or renew your membership and become part of the community.

Exciting times are ahead for the new Hampton Academy (formerly Hampton Community College) which has just become one of the first two Swedish-style academies to be opened in England this September.

Many people, including The Hampton Society, have been concerned about the not-always-favourable publicity surrounding the proposed changes to our local school (see more on this in 'Chairman's Notes' on page 3). Even headteacher Dr Sue Demont admits to having had some reservations when the idea was first proposed, but since visiting some of the already successful Kunskapsskolan schools in Sweden, she is confident that the new model will enhance and build on the positive work she has achieved over the past few years and is enthusiastic about the challenges ahead. *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.

The new Hampton Academy

Continued from front page

“One of the myths is that the Swedish model is radically different and bypasses the National Curriculum and that the children will not achieve any exam results,” says Dr Demont. “This couldn’t be further from the truth. These methods are in line with our current ideals and we are still committed to offering the full curriculum. In fact, our standards will need to be very high as we will be measured on this more rigorously than ever.”

One of the main concerns initially voiced by The Hampton Society was that the introduction of a private company to run our local school as a business would be to the detriment of our childrens’ education, yet we were told that this was a non-profit making venture. With no privately owned company allowed to profit from educating English children, what’s in it for Swedish sponsor, Kunskapsskolan?

As an international company with global ambitions, it seems that it will be very much in their interest to make the school a success. In order to expand and make a profit in other parts of the world, like the United States, far east and Europe, they need to demonstrate that they can deliver internationally recognized qualifications, i.e. GCSEs and A Levels.

Dr Demont took over as headteacher of HCC over five years ago, and, due to lack of funding, found it impossible to introduce all the improvements she knew were needed at the school. Now, with academy status bringing a much-needed cash injection, there will be smaller class sizes and one-to-one tutorials for pupils where they will be helped to set their own goals and regularly chart their own progress. In addition, pupils will be encouraged to learn independently by carrying out their own research.

Dr Demont emphasises that Hampton Academy’s learning opportunities will reflect the needs of young people in a modern society and give them the skills and abilities they need to succeed in life.



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● **Dr Sue Demont,**
● Principal, Hampton Academy

GCSE A*-C grades, with a 16% increase in students achieving the ‘magic five’ with English and Maths. Dr Demont said “These results provide a great platform from which to launch Hampton Academy on 6 September. We are confident that as a Learning Schools Trust Academy our performance will continue to improve and go from strength to strength.”

And that’s not all! Following weeks of uncertainty and press speculation, the Secretary of State recently confirmed that the rebuild of Hampton Academy will definitely go ahead.

If all goes to plan, just think what an asset Hampton Academy could be to the local community. Yet another great reason to live in Hampton!

Hampton Green 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

Oldfield Road War Memorial
opposite the village green

This very modest memorial was erected in 1922 to the memory of those killed or injured during the First World War 1914-1918.

Hampton’s main war memorial is in St Mary’s Parish Church but local landowner, a Mr Aldous, released some of his property in Oldfield Road to build four Homes for Heroes. These single-storey houses can be seen on the very sharp bend in the road.

A stone at the foot of the flagstaff bears the legend “We Will Remember Them.”



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

We are giving prominence in this Newsletter to the new Hampton Academy, which reflects the importance of this significant change in the provision of secondary education in our community.

Primary schools throughout the Borough have attained very high standards, as shown in the national league tables, but secondary education has lagged behind and despite the best efforts of the current and previous staff Hampton Community College has

“our young people deserve the best possible quality of education at the critical secondary stage, and we wish the new Hampton Academy every success.”

a disappointing record of underachievement over the years. The proposal to replace the College with an academy, run by a Swedish-based company, met with considerable scepticism, not least on the part of The Hampton Society, and it seemed that these concerns were shared by many of the College staff and governors, as well as by local parents. Critics of the proposed scheme included leading local Conservative councillors, then in opposition, and it is a quirk of the way politics work that the major change is now being implemented by the current Conservative

administration. However this came to pass, what is now important is that our young people deserve the best possible quality of education at the critical secondary stage, and we wish the new Hampton Academy every success.

John Beasley has decided that his other commitments make it impossible for him to continue as a committee member and he has accordingly resigned. He is a long-standing member of the Society and we are pleased to know that he will continue to perform his valuable function as a newsletter deliverer.

The Summer Party was once again held in the delightful surroundings of the Stockyard in Bushy Park and as well as enjoying the food and drink and good company members helped to choose the photos for this year's Christmas cards, which will be on sale at our autumn events.

This is the fourth in our series of enlarged and illustrated newsletters and judging by the comments we have received the changes and improvements are appreciated by our members. It is self-evident that producing newsletters in this form involves more work and is more expensive and we repeat our previous request that you should tell your friends and neighbours about The Hampton Society, its activities and benefits, and encourage them to join.

I hope to see many of you at our talks, visits and, of course, at the Christmas Party on 3 December.



Bill Weisblatt
Chairman

Strawberry Hill House visit: Two bites of the berry

Every cloud has a silver lining. The electricity supply problems necessitating postponement of the Society's original proposed visit on 15 September have worked to our advantage. Strawberry Hill can now offer us two dates: Sunday, 31 October at 10.30am and Thursday, 4 November at 2.30pm.

Ideally we would like at least twenty people booked for each visit, but with sufficient notice, more can be accommodated. The main restriction is parking. There are twenty parking spaces, and with existing bookers coming mainly in couples, doubling up with four to a car seems sensible, if possible.

Costs are £10 each, payable to the Hampton Society. Coffee or tea, plus a handmade biscuit, is being offered by our hosts at £2.70 per person.

Contact **Maura Waters** on **020 8979 9654** by 29 September.

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

Tony is a retired Government auditor who moved to Hampton in 1998. He still works on behalf of retired members of the National Audit Office and other organisations, providing financial assistance from charity funds. Meanwhile his wife Nancy is involved in administering Companion Cycling, a local charity which runs a special needs project in Bushy Park.

Colin Greenhalgh 8979 5809

Colin has lived in Church Street for forty seven years – though he and Maggie moved to the 'house next door' thirty seven years' ago. (It's the gypsy in them!) There were thirteen shops, four pubs and a bank in the Church St./High St./Thames St. triangle at that time. Happy days! Colin spent his working life in market research – nowadays it's all house repairs and gardening, he says.

FUTURE EVENTS



Christmas Cards available to buy NOW!

PACKS OF 10 Christmas cards showing two lovely views of Hampton are available to buy now for £4.00. The photographs are by Lewis Lloyd, one of our members, and show an unusually quiet A308 by St Mary's Church on Thames Street and an interesting glow from the low winter sun to Fisher's Pond in Bushy Park.

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

The Longford River, a talk by Richard Flenley

HOW MANY OF us know much about the Longford River which directs water ten and a half miles from the River Colne at Longford to Bushy Park and was constructed in 1638?

Who better to speak on this very interesting subject but the celebrated landscape architect, Richard Flenley who is giving a talk on the Longford River at Hampton Hill Playhouse on Thursday, 14 October at 8.00pm. Richard has over 30 years' experience in landscape appraisal and design, and is Chairman of Land Use Consultants. He has been advisor to the Royal Parks since 1980 and was deeply involved with the restoration of Bushy Park, including the Water Gardens.

Contact **Rosemary Hill** on **8979 3604**.

Hampton Hill Playhouse **14 October 2010, 8.00pm**

"From boom to bust & back to boom," a history of Taggs Island by Dave Raven



IMPRESARIO FRED KARNO put Taggs Island on the Edwardian map with his marvellous Karsino entertainment complex, whose Palm Court, electric light display and German beer garden turned the island into the Rock of its day, with braying posh 'uns such as a young Oswald Mosley getting tanked up and running

their motorboat aground upstream. The island has gone through its hippy phase, its forgotten-about phase, and now, what with house prices, its rediscovered phase.

Come and find out more about the allure of living on the river from Dave Raven.

Contact **Alice Fordham** on **8979 3543**.

The White House, The Avenue, Hampton **15 November 2010, 8.00pm**

EVENTS PROGRAMME, AUTUMN & WINTER 2010

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.

OCTOBER

Bletchley Park Visit. (HHA)



The home of the code-breakers during WWII, including one-time Hampton resident Alan Turing, of Enigma and computing fame.

Friday 29 October. Contact **Vanessa McKew** on **8941 3671** for ticket prices.

Strawberry Hill House Visit. (HS)
CHANGE OF DATE Sunday 31 October at 10.30am and Thursday 4 November at 2.30pm. £10 per person. (Tea or coffee with home-made biscuits after the 90-minute tour at an additional £2.70 per head may be reserved at time of booking.)
Contact **Maura Waters** on **020 8979 9654**.

The Longford River, a talk by Land Use Consultants' chairman Richard Flenley. (HS)
Hampton Hill Playhouse, **Thursday 14 October** at 8.00pm. No charge for members.
Contact **Rosemary Hill** on **020 8973 3604**.

NOVEMBER

"From boom to bust & back to boom", an illustrated history of Taggs Island by one of its residents, Dave Raven. (HS)

Room 1 (ground floor) of the White House, The Avenue, Hampton, **Monday 15 November** at 8.00pm. No charge for members.

Please note change of date and venue.

Contact **Alice Fordham** on **020 8979 3543**.

DECEMBER

Christmas Party. Friday 3 December 7.00pm to 9.00pm. 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)



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