



Impressive response from
Hampton residents to
council All In One Survey

Photograph of Hampton Common by Sam Redfern

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HAMPTON SOCIETY CENTENARIAN

Is Percy Evans the Society's sole centenarian?
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SOCIETY NEWS AND UPDATES

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and our membership secretary, Trisha Shirt.
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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Newsletter designed by William Redfern
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What do Hampton residents value most? Open spaces, parks, the Thames: these are what we appreciate! Richmond Council's "All In One" survey earlier this year revealed these local priorities. 91% of those responding also expressed satisfaction with the area, quoting peaceful location, transport links, shops and affordable housing (compared with other areas).

Of course it isn't quite Utopia. Traffic congestion, crime and anti-social behaviour, parking provision and pavement repairs were all quoted in the responses to the survey as being in need of improvement. So many local properties were built before we became a largely car-owning population, it's not surprising parking features so highly. Double parking and out-of-borough commuters leaving their vehicles all day in roads near Hampton Station are a particular problem. Ours is the last station within Transport for London's Zone 6, and passengers living outside it have to pay more for their journeys.

As for crime and anti-social behaviour, the survey found local residents would welcome a higher police presence. Cuts in policing levels have left us with only one community support office, the one in Tangle Park.

These are only a few of the "All In One" survey's findings. To discover more, go to www.richmond.gov.uk/all-in-one. MAURA WATERS

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**.

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.

WHY NOT JOIN THE COMMITTEE?

We always welcome 'new blood' to reflect our ever-changing membership. Do you like organising events; have accounting skills; have experience of planning issues or researching items of local interest? If you would like to make a contribution to the direction of the Society you are cordially invited to contact any current committee member.

A tribute to Frank and Ella (not Sinatra and Fitzgerald!)



A bride and groom of seven minutes and a bride and groom of seven decades



What's a platinum wedding anniversary? Seventy years, that's what. We know it because Frank and Pat Marshall of Garside Close have just celebrated theirs. The actual anniversary was on 16 August, and coincidentally four days later their grand-daughter was married here in St. Mary's Church.

Frank met Ella as the sister of one of his schoolfriends. But he preferred the name Pat, and Pat she has been ever since. Romance bloomed, but it was 1939 and Frank, a Territorial with the RAMC, was sent to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force, narrowly escaping capture by the Germans. He was back home just long enough to marry Pat at Christchurch, East Sheen. She was then a bank clerk who had been decentralised to Sheen to avoid the London bombings.

After the war, Frank returned to work at Customs & Excise and the couple moved to Hampton in 1953. Together with their two young children they made full use of our parks, the river, and bridge clubs. Indeed Pat still plays a competitive bridge game, often with Frank as her partner. Meanwhile, Frank enjoys all the model railway exhibitions he can get to! **MW**

Read the full story on our website www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk

Hampton Society centenarian

Is Dr. Percy Evans the Society's only centenarian? We're all living longer, but I doubt many of us could pack in as many activities into 100 years as he has done. Besides, we don't have the space...

Familiarly known as Nick, he's had a home in Church Street for more than 60 years, but spent much of his career as a teacher overseas.

“*the Daily Gleaner newspaper in Jamaica asked why an Englishman was telling them what to do? He was Welsh, the patriot replied, and Wales had been England's first colony!*”

Born and raised in Aberfan in South Wales, he read History at university in Cardiff, followed by a Master's degree at London University and a first teaching post in Islington.

By the early 1940s Dr. Evans was teaching in Kenya, following up an abiding interest in other cultures. He became head of an agricultural college, learning to speak Swahili, and to make bricks out of sun-baked clay.

When Jamaica gained independence in 1958 he was seconded to the new government for two years. Soon, the Daily Gleaner newspaper asked why an Englishman was telling them what to do? He was Welsh, the patriot replied, and Wales had been England's first colony!

Back home and in retirement he continued to act as an external examiner for Cardiff University, and liked taking his late wife Christina in her wheelchair to Bushy Park to feed the birds. He still likes filling the birdfeeders in his garden along with his carer Val Morey. **MW**

Read the full story on our website www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk



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.

Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity's 200th Anniversary

Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity marked its 200th anniversary with a day of celebrations at Hampton Hill Playhouse on Saturday, September 10.

Today it is the largest grant giving charity in the country, but had its origins in the Enclosure Acts of 1811 when previously common land was enclosed. The new laws prevented local people exercising their rights to collect firewood and graze animals on a 15-acre site at what is now Hampton Road East.

Sam Walters, Director of Richmond's Orange Tree Theatre opened proceedings at the Playhouse with live music performed by talented young musicians from Richmond Music Trust.



Local schools took part in a photographic competition and exhibition while local playwright Keith Wait described the important events leading up to the birth of the Charity in a specially commissioned play, "For Ever In Trust," performed by local actors. **MW**

Notes from the Chair



It's been an exciting summer for Hampton with the London-Surrey Cycle Classic road race test event passing through Bushy Park in August. Then, one Sunday afternoon, I was lucky enough to catch sight of comedian David Walliams (or his arms at least!) during his marathon swim along the Thames. Standing by

Garrick's Temple, soaking up the carnival atmosphere of well-wishers cheering from the banks and the boats, I was reminded how very fortunate I am to be living here.

There have been some very enjoyable Hampton Society events recently, most notably the tree identification walk at Hampton Court and a very merry evening tasting wines, courtesy of Premier Wines (great to see some new faces at these events). We're delighted to congratulate some of our older members on impressive landmark celebrations in their lives (see left). Many people regard the Hampton Society as an organisation for the over-60s. However, as a result of an age-range survey on our membership forms, we are able to confirm that our members span all ages and many of our newer members are between 30-50. Some are even 20-30 (not to mention all the children who are part of the Society)!

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Mark Cavandish (centre) leads the World class peloton through Teddington. The Tour de France Green Jersey winner would go on to win the one day classic.

Unfortunately, this isn't currently reflected at all our talks and social events. It's totally understandable that society talks will not be top of most people's 'to do' list (I, myself, have work and family commitments that prevent me from always being able to go along). However, the events I have attended have always been worth the effort and the next two interesting talks coming up this autumn are firmly in my diary. It would be great to see you there, but if these don't appeal, then hopefully our quiz night in February will draw more of you out of the woodwork!

And finally, make sure you get your orders in early for our Christmas cards (see below) as they sold out very quickly last year. It might seem early to be promoting them, but I've already been informed by two of our members that they bought their Christmas cards months ago! Best wishes to you all,

Sam Redfern Chair

Christmas Cards available to buy NOW!

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

Membership update

It is really pleasing to see that we have had 78 new households join us since May this year, with some 40% being younger families. Meeting people face to face as at the Hampton Fun Day seems to be paying off as our membership numbers have already increased by nearly 20%.



A jovial crowd that included many new members at Premier Wine's wine tasting earlier in September.

A third of existing members have yet to pay their 2011/12 subs so kindly send your cheque to **William Redfern, Treasurer**, (or set up a standing order).

Have you paid your subs for 2011/12?

They were due on 1 May and you should by now have received the bright yellow membership card. If you haven't paid yet, please do so using the application form available at www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk

Did you enjoy reading about Dr Nick Evans, our oldest member? We wondered who our youngest member might be. Any new babies out there? And who might the 100th new member in 2011 be?

Send me your details and check out the Winter newsletter for an update.



Trisha Shirt
Membership secretary

The history and work of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew



Photograph of the tree walk at Kew by William Redfern

THIS FULLY ILLUSTRATED lecture outlines the early history of Kew Gardens and introduces the 'behind the scenes' scientific work in the Herbarium and Jodrell Laboratory. It also looks at how the Gardens function today and highlights some of the marvellous plant and garden scenes at Kew.

Our speaker, Sarah Oldridge, has worked at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew for over 25 years. She began her career in the Herbarium where she participated in several overseas collecting trips, primarily in South East Asia. She is currently the Adult Education Co-ordinator, and has been lecturing to a variety of groups and societies for over 15 years.

Hampton Academy's car park will be open, although due to another event taking place here on the same evening, Hampton School's car park (next door) will also be open as an overspill. There will someone to direct you to the library.

Please contact **Samantha Redfern** on **8286 7071** if you are planning to attend.

Hampton Academy Library **Thursday 13 October 2011 at 8.00pm**

Hampton Court and Magnificence – an opportunity not to be missed!



Photograph courtesy of Mary Harrsch

SIOBHAN CLARKE, WHO is a Guide Lecturer for Historic Royal Palaces, will be giving us a fascinating talk in November. Siobhan specialises in sixteenth century dress and delivers tours and lectures on Hampton Court Palace and the Banqueting House, Whitehall.

In this talk, Siobhan will explore the way the palace has been used over five hundred years as a vehicle for magnificence and the way in which its buildings, grounds and artefacts expressed the image and wealth of its powerful owners. The talk will also cover tapestries and Tudor court dress.

For those of us who relish living so close to one of the most prestigious European palaces, this is an opportunity not to be missed to hear more about life in the Palace.

Please contact **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604** if you are planning to attend.

Hampton Hill Playhouse **Wednesday 23 November 2011 at 8.00pm**

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

EVENTS PROGRAMME, AUTUMN & WINTER 2011

OCTOBER

History and Work of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Hampton Academy library, Hanworth Road on **Thursday 13 October at 8.00 pm** (see left).

NOVEMBER

Hampton Court & Magnificence

Hampton Hill Playhouse, High Street, on **Wednesday 23 November at 8.00 pm** (see bottom left). Free parking in Taylor Close opposite from 6.30 pm.

DECEMBER

The Hampton Society Christmas Party

St Mary's Parish Church Hall, on **Saturday 3 December 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 from 4.00pm** (see below).



Santa Claus with a young admirer

Bells peal out for Hampton Village Christmas celebration

Remember this from last year's Christmas celebrations? Encouraged by the success of this first venture, Hampton's Village Traders Association are doing it all again – with bells on!

St Mary's parish church will sound a special peal to signal the celebrations on Sunday, December 4 and the Christmas tree lights in Station Road will be switched on at 4pm. Then, until 7.00pm, Hampton Village will come alive with food stalls, choirs, games, lucky dips and competitions, plus Santa in his sleigh of course.

Richmond Mayor, Cllr. Clare Head will open the proceedings with Twickenham MP, Dr Vincent Cable. Local pubs and restaurants will be open. The Railway Bell is holding a Christmas Fayre with a grand raffle and auction and proceeds will go to local charities and good causes.

New events for this year are a 'Passport to Santa' children's game and an adult treasure hunt.

Come along, bring the children and join in the fun!

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