

The Hampton Society

Est. 1956

Autumn newsletter 2016



Know your trees

“I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree” wrote the American poet Alfred Joyce Kilmer. He was killed in the Second Battle of the Marne on 30 July, 1918 where his body rests, in Picardy. His memorial is, appropriately, at Elmwood Cemetery, New Jersey.

Starting near the Hampton Hill Gate, 22 of us spent a very happy and informative two and a half hours learning to identify Bushy Park’s trees under the tutelage of park manager Ray Brodie. Some of the trees are rare and most of them beautiful. Ray fascinated us with his wealth of knowledge about the stresses, diseases and extremes of weather they have to endure.

Hampton residents recognise their good fortune when wandering across the park and through to its two woodland gardens. We know, however, this should not be taken for granted as nothing is certain: trees are no different from us for they, too, have finite lives which may be cut short by disease, adverse weather and fungi, as well as insects that attack stealthily from under the bark, as is the case with *Dutch elm disease*. Currently, ash trees are affected by *dieback*, oaks by *processionary caterpillar* nests, horse chestnuts by *bleeding canker*, planes by *massaria* and conifers by *dothistroma* needle blight.

During the walk I took note of 26 different trees that included plane, beech, oak, willow, hornbeam, lime, Persian ironwood, gingko, acer, yew and a rare specimen of large leaf oak.

We had walked a long way by now, so finished at the Pheasantry Café for refreshment and looked across the vista of trees we’d passed earlier, wondering that if heaven exists it might be just like Bushy Park – with Ray on hand, of course. *Chris Le Cluse* **THS**



Park manager Ray Brodie was our guide through the arboreal wonders



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Notes from the Chair



At a recent borough volunteers group forum hosted by Lord True and the council that I attended, the greatest issue arising from the event was communication.

How can we get important and useful messages spread around our community? Over the last few years, the Society has improved the way it regularly sends information out to members via email. But what about members of our community who don't have access to email, a computer or a smart phone? Other than word-of-mouth, printed notifications are still the most dependable way of getting messages through people's doors – but it can be prohibitively expensive. The answer to this could be 'micro-volunteering'. Lots of people in the community prepared to do a little, so that it doesn't encroach on their daily lives too much, but they can still feel they are making a contribution. Our many valued newsletter deliverers already meet this description. I would like to appeal for representatives from each neighbourhood who are accessible via email who would be prepared to kindly volunteer to print out such important or useful messages and deliver them to their immediate neighbours. This could be a two-way street, if you'll excuse the pun, as those reps could then feedback any concerns to the Society, your residents' association. Please get in touch if you would like to discuss this further.

We are also looking to build a contact list of local groups and organisations to share with residents. The large number of clubs and associations that arose from the Village Survey was surprising which resulted in the Society and Janet Fisher from the Village Traders building a database. Please get in touch with your details if you would like to be included.

William Redfern, Chair

Support your community football club champions

Right down to the wire! In the very last game of last season, roared on by a crowd of more than 2,000, Hampton & Richmond Borough FC (the Beavers) secured the single precious point needed to see them crowned Ryman Premier League Champions.



This season, in their stylish new red and blue striped playing strip, Hampton has moved up a flight to the National League South. With the nucleus of the title-winning squad, plus a number of shrewd signings by manager Alan Dowson, the Beavers are poised to maintain the momentum and cutting edge that last term brought them 103 goals.

Through their junior teams, schools outreach and numerous affiliations with local groups and charities, the Club makes a significant contribution to local community life. If you want to see keenly-contested, affordably-priced football in a pleasant, family-friendly environment, come down to the Accord Beveree Stadium in Beaver Close, off Station Rd in Hampton and help inspire the Beavers to keep moving onwards and upwards. *James Woodford* **THS**



Richmond in Bloom awards 2016

Hampton excelled this year in the Community Buildings category of the Richmond in Bloom awards. Hampton Care on the Upper Sunbury Road won the Best in Category gold award with 88 points whilst Hampton Pool also achieved a gold award.

Hampton Junior School did very well with a silver gilt award in the *Environmental Garden* section whilst in the *Frontages* category, **Jill Mansfield-Scaddan** in *Wensleydale Road* and **Rick Cunningham** at **The Ferry House** in Thames Street both achieved silver gilt awards.



There are many lovely gardens in Hampton and it would be so good if more residents were prepared to enter their front gardens, frontages or the park and bloom category. There are estates which could enter, there are shop frontages or business premises, commercial centres and environmental gardens or projects. And where are our colourful pubs? Floral displays can make so much difference to a building, whether domestic or commercial and it has certainly been proved that shop trade benefits from attractive floral displays. Can we all try just a little harder next year? **THS**



“Senseless” Vandals Damage Hampton Playground

Some might also describe it as “mindless” when tools are used to remove 15 safety bolts from a climbing frame and basket swing at a children’s playground. The action must have taken time and thought.



Children are currently denied the opportunity to play on the climbing equipment at Nursery Green play area in The Avenue

vandalised equipment during a routine inspection and cordoned off the damaged equipment. The rest of the playground is still open, to the relief of local mum Lisa Burt, who turned up to let 18-month old India enjoy the swings for smaller children. “It’s senseless” she said, observing the barriers around the damage. “What’s the point of vandalising a playground for children?”

The council’s cabinet member for environment Pamela Fleming expressed her own outrage: “I’m alarmed that someone thinks that removing bolts is fun” she said. “It isn’t fun. It’s dangerous. We will work to repair the equipment and reinstate as soon as possible. But in the meantime, if anyone has any information about the crime I urge them to come forward and report to the police”. **THIS**

It’s all happening on Hampton Green!

Classic cars, an outdoor film – the Village Traders don’t let the grass grow under their feet. That’s the grass of Hampton Green, of course. This is the fifth successive year the Traders have staged Screen on the Green, featuring a popular contemporary film on a giant screen.

Although the film was not scheduled to start before 8pm on Bank Holiday Monday, punters started arriving before 5.30pm armed with picnic boxes and rugs ready for the long haul – one consisting of plenty of trips to the food and drink stalls kindly provided by HVTAs shopkeepers at the edge of the green. The weather was glorious, one of the hottest days of the summer.

An estimated 500 people turned up, mostly in family groups, for this year’s offering of Disney’s *Zootropolis*. With school summer holidays not quite over, explained Traders’ committee-member Audrey Marini, parents seemed willing to let the kids stay up later. “As it turned out, the children were quiet during the film – right up to the end” she said. I can’t help wondering how many of them had stayed awake after all the pizzas, paellas, curries, ice cream, soft drinks and Pimm’s they and their families had consumed!

As is customary at Traders’ events, no entry charge is made, but Mrs. Marini says she was surprised by the number of people who assumed Screen on the Green was a Richmond Council-inspired one. Never mind how many posters and flyers they read, people don’t understand these ideas come from their local shopkeepers as does the fundraising for the annual Christmas celebrations, for instance.

The Classic Car show on the Green back in July – another fundraiser for the Christmas celebrations – has proved its success after a second year. In 2015 there were about 1,000 visitors. This year an estimated 4,500 people turned up to view 84 vehicles dating from the Fifties to the Eighties.

Judged best vehicle in the show was an immaculate *Alvis* convertible from the 1950s. Whatever can be revealed under long-stored tarpaulins or in sheds and garages by the time next year’s show comes around? Of course, no-one’s mentioned 2017’s show yet, but what’s the betting? **THIS**



About your committee

The committee is the governing body of The Hampton Society. It consists of elected officers and six ordinary committee members. We meet four times a year to discuss current issues that affect the community to see where we can make a contribution. We also organise talks, visits and events for our members.

Any member of the Society is eligible to join the committee and can stand for election at our Annual General Meeting in April. If you are interested in joining the committee and playing a part in the Society and Hampton’s development, please contact the secretary below.

Committee members

Chair

William Redfern 8286 7071

Deputy chair

Alice Fordham 8979 3543

Secretary

Rosemary Hill 8973 3604

Treasurer

Brian Brignall 8979 9499

Membership

Trisha Shirt 8941 5162

Newsletter editor

Maura Waters 8979 9654

Other committee members

Sylvia Bridge Le Cluse 8941 4450

Iacopo Sassi 07761 670911

Julie-nne Monahan 8979 8942

Christine Paganelli 8941 5927

Contact us at **enquiries**

@thehamptonsociety.org.uk

Up-to-date membership?

Have you paid your subs for 2016/17? They were due on 1 May and you should have received your **blue** 2016/17 programme/membership card. If you haven’t paid up yet please do so using the application form available at **www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk**.

Membership update

So far 65% of members are up to date, with over 75% paying by standing order. All administration is handled voluntarily and SOs really help reduce the amount of work involved in managing subscriptions. If you think you have paid but don’t yet have your card please phone Trisha on 020 8941 5162. *Thank you.*

Newsletter production:

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Designed and produced by William Redfern

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Our thanks go to all photographic contributions

from unknown sources used in this edition.

Events

Visit to Kneller Hall 12 October

The original hall was built in 1709 for the great court painter Sir Godfrey Kneller and rebuilt in 1848 as a Jacobean mansion. Since 1857 it has housed the Royal Military School of Music founded by the Duke of Cambridge.



Visitors will be shown the school's chapel, museum and parade areas. Depending upon the training programme for that day you may hear and see some music and marching.

You will need to bring some form of identification e.g. a driving licence or credit card. Some car parking is provided, but organiser **Alice Fordham** will need know your car's registration if you intend driving there.

The cost is £5, payable to Alice on the day. If you would like to attend, please let her know between 14 and 21 September - both of them Wednesdays - on **8979 3543**. Outside these dates contact committee-member **Christine Paganelli** on **8941 5927**. Please note that a list of visitors' names is required by Kneller Hall *at least a week in advance* of the visit. **THS**



Conductor's Farewell Concert

Fresh from a series of concerts in French churches during August, the combined singers of Hampton and Ember Choral Societies will give their last concert under the baton of John Sutton this coming December.

Musical director of the Hampton choir for the past 38 years, before it combined with Ember, Mr. Sutton lived in Warfield Road here in Hampton until a few years ago. Conducting Handel's *Messiah* at St Mary's University Chapel, Strawberry Hill on 17 December will be his farewell (7.30pm, tickets £10 via Peter Robson 020 8398 2440).

In August he and the combined 160-strong choirs, plus a few more singers from his retirement neighbourhood in Winchester, spent nearly two weeks in France, giving concerts in churches at Sancerre, Vezelay and Neuvy Deux Clochers. They even sang during an open-air concert in Sancerre's main square. What a way to go! **THS**

Do you have a story to share? Please contact our editor Maura Waters with your news on **8979 9654**.

Events calendar

Our talks are free to members but 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.

No email address?

*If you want to be informed of the latest event information but don't have access to a computer, please contact Alice Fordham on **8979 3543** and she will try to call you directly.*

2016

September

Wednesday 21, 11.00am Visit to the Banqueting House, Whitehall, with talk by Siobhan Clarke (£4.50 per head, if not a member of Historic Royal Palaces). Please phone **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604** if you would like to attend as numbers are limited to 30.

October

Wednesday 12, 10.30am Visit to Kneller Hall, Whitton, the home of The Royal Military School of Music.

November

Wednesday 23, 8.00pm Talk by Paula Kitching on the events of WWI up to the end of 1916 at the Coward Room, Hampton Hill Theatre.

December

Sunday 4, 4.00pm onwards Christmas Celebrations in Station Road and Ashley Road areas, Hampton with Santa's train and plenty of stalls. Organised by Hampton Village Traders Association.

Wednesday 7, 8.00pm Talk by Alison Weir on *Henry VIII: King and Court* at St Mary's community hall.

2017

January

Friday 20, 11.45am (TBC) Lunch at Merits Restaurant, Richmond College, Twickenham.

January/February

(date & time TBA) A performance at Hampton Hill Theatre.

February/March

(date TBA) 7.30pm Quiz Night at St Mary's community hall.

March

Wednesday 22, 8.00pm Talk by Dave Raven on Taggs Island and the Karsino at St Mary's community hall.

April

Thursday 6, 8.00pm Annual General Meeting of The Hampton Society followed by a talk on Zoffany and his Hampton connections by Frances Hughes at Hampton Hill Theatre **(please note change of venue)**.

