

The Hampton Society

The residents' association of Hampton, est. 1956 Autumn 2017

Wanted: One Flagpole

Our own Carlisle Park has won the coveted Green Flag award for the first time – the only park of 17 such holders in the borough this year to receive it for the first time.

That, at least, is the only niggle for the Friends of Carlisle Park. Elizabeth Hossain, one of their number, explains “We’ve got an enormous flag showing the words Green Flag and the year, but we need a flagpole to display it to people who use the park.” In this case that includes bowls and tennis players, cricketers, children, Tadpoles Nursery, walkers – and bats.

The Green Flag award scheme dates back to 1996. Successful applicants, mainly municipal parks and controllers of open spaces, need to prove high standards of facilities, maintenance and management and to encourage biodiversity and landscape. They can fly the flag for a year, after which they must re-apply to retain it.

A long list of judging criteria includes good and safe access, signs, community involvement, chemical use and climate change adaptation strategies. In practice, our own Hatherop Park and Hampton Common are already flagged and renewed this year, having proved their mettle.

Ah, those bats. Enthusiastic bat-watchers can observe them flying in the park at night. Sympathetic neighbours are encouraged to draw their curtains or lower bright lights from windows backing on to the park to allow for better observation of these harmless, if not exactly cuddly, creatures. **THIS**



The Green Flag Award is given to parks that show high standards of facilities, maintenance and management and to encourage biodiversity and landscape.



A super front garden display in Wensleydale Gardens, opposite the entrance to Carlisle Park.

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Notes from the Chair



Our local community secondary school has undergone a few name changes over the years.

Known to locals (depending on length of residency) as Rectory, Hampton Community College and Hampton Academy, many will be aware that during the last academic year the school changed its name once more to Hampton High. This was to mark a change in management, as the school moved from being run by the Learning Schools Trust to becoming part of a Richmond West Schools Trust alongside Waldegrave School, Teddington School and Twickenham School.

20% leap in Hampton High's GCSE results

The school has had its challenges over the years, but as a parent I have seen tireless dedication from the heads and staff to improve results, so it is heartening to see the well-deserved 20% leap in Hampton High's GCSE results for 2017. The new term has just started under the leadership of new headteacher, Rebecca Poole (formerly Deputy Head at Teddington School) and students will be showing off a new smart burgundy red uniform. We'd like to wish Hampton High continued growing success for the future.

William Redfern, Chair

Screen on Hampton Green – Another Record

It could have been the balmy weather, the film "Beauty and the Beast", donations requested instead of tickets – or just Twitter, but it was certainly a record number who turned up for Hampton's annual film-fest at the end of August.



Hampton Village Traders Association (HVTA) set up Screen on the Green for the sixth successive year on Hampton Green in Station Road, and as usual, the event broke all previous attendance records.

The Green was thick with picnickers three hours before curtain-up: you need darkness before such open-air events in summer, obviously, and keeping a young audience quiet with plenty of food stalls to choose from is a lesson long learnt by HVTA. The Traders offered everything from sausage and chips, pizza, paella, butter chicken and curry to popcorn, ice-cream and fruit drinks. Cake-decorating and even a bookstall were additional attractions along with the permanent children's play area at one corner of the Green.

Having proved their value last year, instead of selling tickets for the film, volunteers toured the site with donation buckets, offering a yellow wristband to every customer. That way no-one felt the annoyance of a further approach. "Last year we introduced this idea and it obviously works" said Traders' treasurer Audrey Marini. She believes the event being trailed on Twitter helped too. "And you only have to come one year and tell your friends about it," she explained.

The money raised from this event, and the Classic Car show in July help to finance Hampton's Christmas celebrations each year. In 2017 they'll be held in Station Rd and surrounding shopping areas on Sunday 3 December. Save the date. **THS**

Obituary

Ray Alen, former Chair of the Society

The Hampton Society was very sad to hear of the recent death of Ray Alen. He was a committee member from 2004 until 2010 and for a short period from 2009 to 2010 served as chairman.

Together with his wife Jean – who also served as secretary for a time – he made a great contribution to the Society's development. This included modernising our newsletter and organising the compilation and publication of the oral histories *Hampton Tales* and *Hampton Voices*.

After Jean died in 2015 Ray left the area to be cared for in a home. Alice Fordham **THS**

Update

Huck's Chalet: Court's Conclusion

Following a civil case hearing, it has been reported the man believed to be the owner of Huck's Chalet, Myck Juerberg, will have to repay nearly £2 million charged to prospective houseboat buyers who discovered that no mooring rights were included.

Neither was there provision for residential development. The court decreed the debt should be repaid "without further recourse to the courts", therefore no leave to appeal.

We recollect a large colour photograph of Hucks Chalet in the Daily Telegraph last spring when it was being offered for sale at around £3.5 million. A Grade 2 listed building of 1890s vintage, it was brought to this country from Switzerland, it is believed, around 1915.

Hampton councillor Gareth Roberts said he hoped this will mark the end of the Juerberg saga. Don't we all. **THS**



Hampton Pupils Pot Prizes

Hampton provided no less than five prizewinners in Richmond in Bloom's schools art competition this summer. The children painted flower posters shown to the public at Teddington's Landmark Arts Centre in June.



Overall winner was 12-year old Wen Lan Chang from Lady Eleanor Holles, seen here displaying her winning entry. She also won in her 12-16 age category. Mayor Cllr. Lisa Blakemore loyally appears in the individual shots of

four of the five children pictured below. They are Buckingham Primary's Anjun Uddin, 4, (under-5 category runner-up); George Tumelty, 4, from Jack and Jill (under 5 category); and Paulina Gerchuck, 13, from LEH (12-16 category). James Clarke, 6, from Carlisle Infant School (5-7 age category) appears above, third from left.

All 13 prizewinners in the competition were given a surprise pack of art materials along with their commemorative certificates.

Pat Schooling, who chairs Richmond in Bloom, commented "This year we've seen some of the best talent we've ever experienced." **THS**



Left to right with Mayor Cllr. Lisa Blakemore, overall winner 12-year old Wen Lan Chang from Lady Eleanor Holles; Anjun Uddin from Buckingham Primary; George Tumelty from Jack and Jill; and Paulina Gerchuck also from LEH.

Strawberry Hill Revisited

Last time we visited Strawberry Hill House was five years ago, just after a lengthy renovation. On that occasion all visitors were encouraged to wear overshoes made of J-cloth so as not to spoil the newly preserved floors. But that was only the first stage of restoration.

No such precautions prevailed in July when a party of Society members enjoyed coffee and cake before touring the house's exterior, followed by the restored rooms. These included Horace Walpole's bedroom facing the river, and the library, now happily fully booked, unlike the sad empty shelves we saw five years ago.

It's always particularly interesting to visit places in our own locality, so if some of you weren't able to join us in July, mark it down for somewhere not to be missed. After all, it's only down the road! **THS**

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 020 8286 7071

Deputy chair

Iacopo Sassi 07761 670911

Secretary

Rosemary Hill 020 8973 3604

Treasurer

Brian Brignall 020 8979 9499

Membership

Trisha Shirt 020 8941 5162

Newsletter editor

Maura Waters 020 8979 9654

Other committee members

Alice Fordham 020 8979 3543

Sylvia Bridge Le Cluse 020 8941 4450

Christine Paganelli 020 8941 5927

Contact us at **enquiries**

@thehamptonsociety.org.uk

Membership update

Some 66% of the membership are up to date but if you haven't yet paid your subs for 2017/18, due on 1 May, and received your yellow membership card please do so using the application form available at www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk. If you think you have paid but haven't had your card yet please phone Trisha on 020 8941 5162.

We also welcome 12 new members.

Thank you.

Newsletter production:

Edited by Maura Waters.

*Designed and produced by William Redfern
www.williamredfern.co.uk 020 8286 7071*

Our thanks go to all photographic contributions from unknown sources used in this edition.

Events

25 Objects Explained in 50 minutes

Yes, this is the record Hampton's scribe John Sheaf has to achieve when he gives an illustrated talk on our local history at the library later in September. He'll bring along the objects from his own collection of Hampton memorabilia amassed during the past 30 years.



The railway bridge by the Railway Bell in the 1960s

"Most of what I'll bring will be books or pictures" John explains. "The talk is supposed to take just under an hour – which probably means 50 minutes" No doubt he knows what he's doing.

His is one of eight talks about different localities within Richmond Borough's boundary taking place at local libraries during September.

Catch John at the library in Rosehill on Tuesday, 26 September between 7.30 and 8.30pm. Tickets cost £3 in advance or £4 on the door. But do remember the library has limited capacity. **THS**



Christmas Celebrations, 3 December

The Hampton Village Traders Association's Christmas celebration this year is proposed for **Sunday 3 December**. As with previous years, the fun will start at **4.00pm** when **St Mary's Church clock strikes the hour**.

As a quarterly publication timed to fit with the seasons, our Winter Newsletter is not scheduled to appear until a little later in December, but more details will be in that issue. There will be plenty of stalls selling food and drink for charities. **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.

2017

September

Guided visit to the National Archives, Kew Friday 22 September at 11.00am

We have had a tremendous response to this event. We already have three groups of 12 and a lengthy waiting list. We will try to see if the members on the waiting list could visit the National Archives on another day.

October

Sybil Penn, the Grey Lady Thursday 19 October

Talk by Sam Hearn on Edward VI's nurse. 'The Grey Lady' is commemorated in St Mary's Church and lived in a house on the site of Penns Place in Church Street. She became a Lady of the Bed Chamber to Elizabeth I. This talk promises to be a fascinating story of a local personality and will be held at St Mary's community hall.

November

Final talk on World War I Wednesday 22 November 8.00pm

Paula Kitching's last talk covering the final year of the Great War, 100 years ago at Hampton Hill Theatre.

December

"The most famous rink in the world" Thursday 7 December 8.00pm

Talk by three aficionados of Richmond ice rink, Berkley Driscoll, Theresa Read and Professor Hamilton Miller, at St Mary's community hall.

2018 Special notice:

The date of the Annual General Meeting of The Hampton Society has been changed to **Thursday 19 April 2018 at 8.00pm**. It will be followed by a talk on the Horse Rangers by Geoffrey Godbold at St Mary's community hall.

Christmas Cards

Still at only £4 for a pack of ten cards, our unique cards are a genuine bargain. Don't delay in securing yours from **Trisha Shirt on 020 8941 5162** or contact any of our committee members. We will also be selling them in selected local shops, details to follow.



Calling all photography enthusiasts!

The snowy scenes of Hampton for this year's Christmas cards were photographed by our Chair, William, and member Lew Lloyd. If you'd like to submit your own "Winter in Hampton" pictures for the chance of publication and winning two free packs of cards, please send low resolution images by email to **william@williamredfern.co.uk**. Closing date: May 2018.