

The Hampton Society

The residents' association of Hampton, est.1956



Teresa Doherty (with fellow snipper Lynne) are cutting ties with their home of 42 years

Sweeny Tod's barbers, which had been based on 117 Station Road for the last 42 years, has relocated to the Hampton Hub from 3 April 2024.

Maggie and Teresa took over the running of the shop 14 years ago having both worked with the original owner. Whilst they are both going to miss their lovely colleagues and neighbours, which amusingly include Shaun's Family Butchers, they are looking forward to working within the Hub and spending more time with the community on the other side of the bridge.

The new unit is smaller but still cosy with an iconic image of the "We can do it! Rosie the Riveter" customised by Maggie's-sister-in-law to hold clippers.

While Maggie is trained as both a women and men's stylist, she and Teresa focus solely on boys and men. They are capable of rapidly switching subject matter, discussing construction work with one customer, and accepting a mother's compliment at her son's haircut with professional ease.

Unlike its literary namesake, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, they are fortunate to have a loyal and repeat client base who will follow them to the Hub. It will remain a walk-in service and the imminent arrival of a marketing board outside will make them easier to locate. However, it was already bustling when I dropped in to interview them.

Reducing their days of operation to Wednesday and Friday from 9.00am to 6.00pm will also enable the ladies to focus on a mobile hairdressing service and they are considering the possibility of collaborating with care homes.

It is always sad to see a shop close, especially as Hampton village is one of the least transient in the Borough of Richmond but we are delighted to know they will remain local and know when and where they can be found! **THS**



Chair's Notes



I have been Chair of the Hampton Society for eight years and I announced that I will be standing down as Chair at this year's AGM in March.

This was not a decision I have taken lightly, but I think this is the right time to step back. I took over the role in April 2016 after being treasurer for six years and I think we have achieved a lot in this time.

I am very grateful to Iacopo Sassi and the committee for covering for me at this year's Quiz Night. As a result, I can see that the Society can cope quite capably without me!

I leave the committee in good health with the welcome recent additions of Alayne Öztürk as Secretary and Andy Smith joining last year.

However, a committee must be a dynamic body when it represents a membership as large as ours. I have really enjoyed my time on the committee and would therefore encourage you to join if you have a skill that you think would benefit our group. Please speak to Alayne or any member of the committee.

An eventful few years

It has been an eventful eight years – pandemic lockdowns; Brexit; Trump; five Tory Prime Ministers; seven Chancellors of the Exchequer and seven Home Secretaries! The loss of our longest reigning monarch and the Coronation of King Charles III.

And, of course, my beloved Leicester City won the Premier League at odds of 5000-1 in 2016 and were FA Cup winners, at last, at the fourth time of asking in 2021.

In 2016, we celebrated 60 years of The Hampton Society, the longest running amenity association in the country. Might I remind you that we are only two years away from our 70th anniversary?

I have aimed to improve the way the Society communicates to its members through our colourful newsletter and regular emails to members. I leave the committee knowing that our membership is strong, our subscriptions are up-to-date, largely thanks to the introduction of paying by Standing Order, and our bank balance is healthy. As well as talks and visits, during my time on the committee we have also hosted many successful new events including the Summer Party at the Sailing Club, the successful Quiz Nights and our first Jazz Night last December – a sell-out event (*right*).



During my time on the committee, I have forged a strong bond with our local businesses, representing the Society at Hampton Village Traders Association meetings. They have supported local shopkeepers and hosted events in Hampton to encourage residents to shop locally. The Society has attended every Christmas Celebrations event since 2010, attracting lots of new members every year.

A big thank you

I'd like to thank all the current committee members: Iacopo Sassi, Alayne Öztürk, Brian and Linda Brignall, Rosemary Hill, Maura Waters, Alice Fordham and Andy Smith; and former members that have served whilst I have been Chair: Lesley Cesenek, Diana Pogson, Sylvia Bridge Le Cluse, Trisha Shirt, Tricia Mole, Julie-nne Monahan and Christine Paganelli. Thank you for your support and advice.

I'd also like to thank our refreshments bar helpers: Derek and Mary May; Linda Cox, Robert Cox and Richard Pull; and Jim Monahan; Carol Bevis; and Sue Ramus. Cheers!

And finally, thanks must go to you, our members, for all your loyal support. Without you, none of this would happen.

It has been an honour representing the community as Chair of the Society and heading the committee.

Long may the Society serve the people of Hampton!

William Redfern

Chair of The Hampton Society 2016-2024

The Presence of the Past

by Eileen Jones, Birchwood Grove

I was born in Hampton in 1942 and lived here till I was 20 years old. I then sailed away (quite literally) to a foreign land for 23 years to be with the man who had captured my heart! Life happened. Love. Children. Dogs. Ups. Downs.

Eventually back here to Hampton... and it was like almost nothing had changed, even while much had.

I stayed temporarily with my mother who was still living in the same house where I was born in the blitz – the midwife could not get there in time, no NHS then, so I was delivered by my father amid explosions and the screech of airplanes (apparently capably and without fuss!).

Being back in my childhood home made me realise that I had been subconsciously feeling homesick for some time – everything so familiar. Even the mundane felt beautiful. Let me take you for a walk down memory lane.



We grew up on Westbrook Avenue. There weren't many cars – if any – and we had the freedom to walk, play and roam around Hampton unsupervised. Despite changes (especially the building on Hampton nursery lands) all the infrastructure remains the same. The walk down Holly Bush Lane and Percy Road to the junior school; the library; the 'Rec' (now called Hatherop Park); sweet rationing ending and the jars of sweets at the shop around the corner, Mr Sibley's, being filled with colour again.

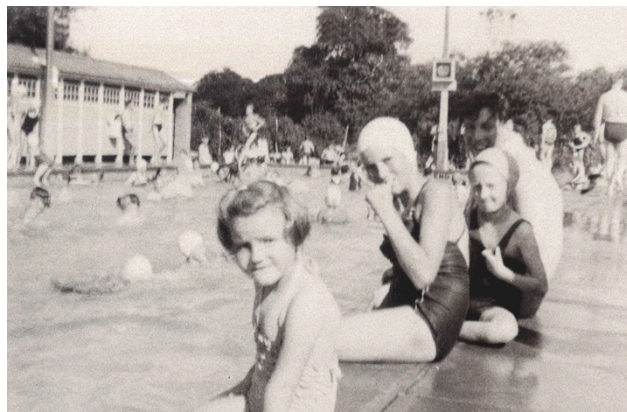
Schooling seemed uncomplicated compared to how it is today. No over-studying or coaching. The 11+ was just another day at school like any other – and I passed!

My walk to school gave way to catching the 267 from Hampton Hill to Thames Valley Grammar (now Waldegrave). There weren't any buses around Hampton then.

But there were nurseries in between Oak Avenue, Percy Road and Ripley Road. It gave us the excitement of earning pocket money in the holidays and the joy of buying and eating all the fresh produce. Fresh was such a recent luxury!

Simple days, few distractions, everyone in the same boat. Freezing winters, icicles on the windows, no central heating, family together around the coal fire with maybe the radio playing (in our home mainly *Forces Favourites* or *Dick Barton Special Agent*).

But the highlight – the absolute highlight – was Hampton Pool. My friend and I thought we owned it! Always the first down there when the season started. Thruppence entry (just over 40p in today's money), no heated water and enjoying a cup of hot OXO when we were out. Can you imagine drinking a cup of hot OXO and really enjoying it like it was the best thing in the world!



Those were the days! Does absence make the heart grow fonder? It certainly does in my case. To this day, I experience gratitude at being 'at home' and relishing all the mundane but wonderful things that Hampton and the UK offer. I embrace living the 'good old days' right now and the past is happily always present.

Thank you for celebrating and bringing together our timeless neighbourhood, Hampton Society! **THS**

*In our last newsletter, we invited members to submit an interesting article for our next newsletter with the opportunity to win a prize. Well done to Eileen Jones who wins a bottle of **Louis Pommery English Sparkling Wine Brut**.*

Do you admire a particular tree in Hampton? Well, you can apply to protect it!

One of our residents is putting together a list of trees to present to the Council and apply for Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) and preserve the Hampton landscape for future generations.

Please send us your photographs and the location of the tree (groups of trees) and be sure to include why you feel they need to be protected: usually TPOs are placed on a tree or wood that's deemed to be a local amenity.

Remember though, making a TPO is a discretionary power – the council does not have to place a TPO on any tree. However, where one is made, the council does have a duty to enforce it.

*If you aren't sure if the tree is protected, we can find out and let you know. **THS***

Summer Party: It's Not a Midsummer Night's Dream

Summer is coming and we are ready to welcome you to our annual Summer Party.



For the ninth consecutive year, Hampton Sailing Club have agreed to allow us the use of their marquee, prior to their annual regatta.

In case you do not have a Shakespearian diary, the date is Friday 21 June and the first chain ferry from Benn's Alley (at the river end of High Street) will depart at 7.00pm. The usual jazz entertainment will be performed by Roger Perrin's Jazz Ensemble, plus Gary and Sarah Burley have agreed to provide their magnificent buffet to suit all dietary requirements. Despite inflationary pressures, our Treasurer has agreed to retain last year's ticket price of £25.00. Tickets are now available and early booking is recommended. The cut-off date for purchases is Wednesday 12 June. For all enquiries, please contact **Linda Brignall** on **020 8979 9499. THS**

Committee members

Deputy Chair

Iacopo Sassi 07761 670911

Secretary

Alayne Ozturk 07837 077310

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Newsletter Editor

Maura Waters 020 8979 9654

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Programme of events 2024-25

Unless otherwise stated, all events are held at Hampton St Mary's community hall, 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start.

Sunday 19 May 2024

Walk in Home Park with Eleanor Evetts, Park Ranger Historic Royal Palaces

Friday 21 June

Summer Party at Hampton Sailing Club

Thursday 11 July

Talk by Robin Hunter:
"A Local History of Manufacturing"

Thursday 12 September

Talk by Jo Willett:
"The Pioneering Life of Mary Wortley Montague"

Thursday 10 October

Talk by Robin Field-Smith, "Eltham Palace"

Thursday 14 November

Talk by Howard Slater:
"Audrey Hepburn and Her War"

Thursday 5 December

Jazz Evening

Friday 25 January 2025

Members' Lunch

Friday 7 February

Quiz Night

Thursday 25 March

Talk by Siobhan Clarke:
"The Tower of London"

Thursday 10 April

The Hampton Society
Annual General Meeting