

The Hampton Society

The residents' association of Hampton, est.1956 Winter Newsletter 2021

LEH Girls' Atlantic Row



▲ Antigua bound! Charlotte Irving, Kat Cordinger and Abby Johnstone depart from La Gomera in hope of breaking the Atlantic crossing record.

Two Lady Eleanor Holles' past pupils will spend Christmas rowing 3,000 miles across the Atlantic to raise money for three cancer charities. Along with a third contestant, they join the Talisker Whisky Challenge Atlantic Row in aid of Cancer Research UK, Macmillan and The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

By the time you read this Charlotte Irving and Abby Johnstone – both from Hampton's Ormond Avenue – and their friend Kat Cordinger, will have rowed away from La Gomera in the Canary Islands en route to Antigua in the Leeward Islands.

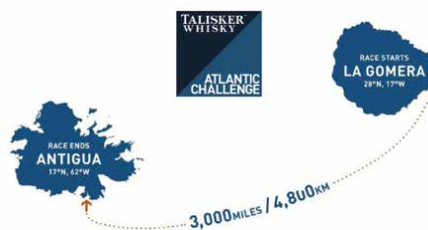
Working in pairs, two hours on, two off, they aim to beat the women's record of 49 days, 13 hours and 49 minutes in their 25 ft boat called *Dolly Parton*.

Kat has a particular motive for taking part. Having recovered from one bout of cervical cancer, she has learned it has now returned and is terminal.

Originally the girls took out a joint bank loan of £60,000 to buy their boat. When the race is over they will sell it with proceeds going to the charities. They believe that owing to the pandemic the named charities have missed out on sponsorship opportunities and cancer patients have suffered disruption to their treatments.

During the past 18 months, the trio have trained in navigation, use of the boat's systems and safety rules, including suturing wounds. Two support boats, one in La Gomera, the other in Antigua, will monitor progress. But as an unassisted race, a call to them can lead to disqualification, according to Pauline Irving, Charlotte's mother. "All three of them have been on courses about safety at sea, first aid, navigation and sea survival. The last one covered using a water purifier machine. It looks as if the girls will need LEH's motto, 'Hope Favours the Bold'".

continued on back page...



▲ Left to right: Kat, Abby and Charlotte. Support the girls at [gofund.me/b9040dd3](https://www.gofund.me/b9040dd3)

FUNDRAISING TARGET
£100,000

Inside...

Notes from the Chair page 2

News pages 2, 3 & 4

Committee members page 3

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Notes from the Chair

Merry Christmas to you all. It was great to see so many of you at the Hampton Christmas Celebrations on Sunday 5 December. Thanks for coming to say hello. I think it is the biggest turn out I've seen for many years. We were rushed off our feet signing up new members and giving away our lovely seasonal postcard.



If you still have a spare card, don't forget to pop it round to a neighbour and encourage them to join our thriving Society. Thank you to the Hampton Village Traders' Association for all their hard work putting on the event.

Our very own scandal

We also had a good

attendance to our last talk of the year at St Mary's. Sarah Slater shared all the goings on in the Tudor and Hanoverian courts, both with their close association to Hampton Court. There were some gasps amongst the 50 strong audience as we were shown some of the objects of pleasure enjoyed by our 18th century ancestors! Not for the faint hearted.

A return to 'normality'

As always, it was an honour to represent the Society at this year's Remembrance service at the memorial gardens by the green on Oldfield Road. Major Richard Warnes of the General Service Corps gave *The Exhortation* (*They shall not grow old...*) and kept us all in order. Representatives of the local youth groups helped place the wreaths on the memorial as we were called up. Bryan Woodriff of the West Yorkshire Regt. & Army Intelligence Corps, retired Society committee member and long-term contributor to improvements around Hampton read out the *Kohima Epitaph* after Reveille marked the end of the two minutes silence.

*When you go home tell them of us and say,
for your tomorrow we gave our today.*

I was proud to see the large numbers of Hamptonians following the parade and gathering at the memorial along with church leaders, school children, youth clubs, organisations (including our own), ward councillors and Munira Wilson MP.

Later in November I saw this stunning display in the gardens of Hampton Court and I thought I'd share it with you.



Assuming we all act responsibly and that the current situation doesn't deteriorate further, I hope you all have a wonderful family Christmas to make up for last year. Have a lovely time and I look forward to seeing you at an event in 2022.

Kind regards,
William Redfern, Chair

Why not join the Magna Carta Chorus?

Singing, they say, is the ideal comfort occupation, especially if you sing with others. Ask Magna Carta Chorus, the men's choir now marking 20 years' residence in Hampton.

All through the Covid period they've struggled manfully to rehearse weekly and maintain regular performances, largely at local care homes.

Now based at The Hub opposite Hampton station in Ashley Road, Covid fears have temporarily reduced their numbers from 30 to ten, but they still manage to conjure up enough tenors, baritones and basses to produce a lovely sound. I was treated to a splendid rehearsal performance of 'Java Jive' and can vouch for it.



I say 'temporarily reduced' in numbers, confident that more men who like to sing can be persuaded out of the shower and allow an appreciative audience to share the benefits of their talents. It isn't necessary to read music, so don't be shy. Magna Carta doesn't hold official auditions but 'sing-ins' to decide which register best suits your voice, explains John Morris. "Some people can be with us for about three months before making their choice. Meanwhile we'll allot them a mentor".

John drives over from home in Uxbridge on Thursday evenings for rehearsals led by musical director Hugh Beckwith, who's currently following a local Master's course at Guildhall College of Music and Drama. He keeps his singers in tune using a pitch pipe, a compass-like instrument with a movable dial to pitch the desired note.



With some men changing their working days from daily commutes and operating from home instead, pleasurable social outlets like a male chorus are an obvious plus. Currently MCC has ten performance dates in care homes over the year. But they're happy to sing at weddings, beer festivals, even funerals, if asked. During Lockdown last summer they even gave a performance outside a wedding reception location. There's no end to these choral opportunities.

Contact spokesperson **John Morris** at johnmorris12@gmail.com or call on 01895 231876. MW **THS**



▲ The Hampton & Richmond Borough Football Club 2021-22 1st team

Beavers Clock Up A Century

Before the year 2021 vanishes from sight, we must record the centenary year of Hampton and Richmond Football Club—our very own Beavers. Covid lockdowns prevented any celebrations when they were due back in August. The season wasn't ideal either.

But a football season was just a glint in the eye of one George Marlow in 1921. Realising Hampton could number no less than seven sides, all of them scratchy, he blended them into one. Meeting at the Working Men's Institute, he fielded potential players from Hampton Court Palace, Hampton Hill, Hampton Nursery Workers, the Metropolitan Water Board and Hampton Wednesday. Local police expressed support, but the potential seventh member failed to materialise. Those who did in effect stopped strong players draining away.

As the club's strength improved, local landowner Captain Christie Crawford offered his own pitch at Beveree. The ground was commonly used by local sports clubs, but in 1959 the Beavers' presence became official. Now there would be room for spectators. A record 1,500 of them watched the Spartan League with six Hampton players versus an England amateur XI, play to a 1-1 draw in 1967. This time they played under newly-installed floodlights (costing £4,000 then).

"Suddenly the quiet backwater of Hampton was on the celebrity map" says club historian Les Rance. Encouraged by club chairman Alan Simpson, (scriptwriter of TV series *Steptoe & Son* along with Ray Galton), big names like Tommy Steele, Ronnie Corbett and Marty Feldman made guest appearances. This was the sixties, the golden era, and fame lasted a whole decade.

Today the Beavers are happy to be at the summit of non-professional teams. They are top of the National League's South Division. Unsurprisingly the 2020-21 season has been described as possibly the weirdest 129 days in their history. Between 3 October 2020 and 9 February 2021, just 21 matches across the League were played. Hampton came in at 6th position out of 21 clubs.

Facts for the curious: the Beavers take their title from Beaver Close, the road giving entry to their pitch and clubhouse. At Christmastime, their Beaver Box van collects contributions to the Food Bank and buckets are shaken at matches in support of local charities like the Greenwood Centre and Shooting Star. For good measure, the girls' teams have existed since 1996.

Beat that! **MW THS**



About your committee

The committee is the governing body of The Hampton Society. It consists of elected officers and up to six 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 or be co-opted during the year. 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

Lesley Cesenek 07540 342813

Treasurer

Brian Brignall 020 8979 9499

Membership

Linda Brignall 020 8979 9499

Newsletter editor

Maura Waters 020 8979 9654

Planning

Sylvia Bridge Le Cluse 020 8941 4450

Event organisers

Alice Fordham 020 8979 3543

Rosemary Hill 020 8973 3604

Contact us at [enquiries](mailto:enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk)

[@thehamptonsociety.org.uk](https://www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk)

Update on Membership

Over 95% of our members now pay by annual Standing Order

We would really appreciate it if you do not currently pay by Standing Order to consider doing so when you come to renew your membership.

A warm welcome to our new members .

◀ These little guys have been placed around shops and businesses in the village for children to spot and enter a competition to win one. Following an appeal from the HVTA, the number of knitted hats donated far exceeded requirements and the surplus can be seen hanging from the boughs of the Christmas tree outside the Sea Scout hut.

News

LEH Girls' Atlantic Row *continued from front page*

Charlotte and Abby were successive Captains of Boats at school, which gave them their initial love of the sport, in 2007-08. Both went on to Newcastle University, winning with their Women's Eight boat at the Henley Regatta. Off the water, Abby, now aged 32, read Spanish and French at university and is deputy head rowing coach at LEH. In 2017-18 she took part in the *Clipper Round the World Race* – the Australia to China leg, which is where she met Kat.

Meanwhile Charlotte took a Master's degree in International Business and is currently on sabbatical leave from her job as a marketing manager for MercerMarsh Benefits in London. Back in 2016 she walked the length of America from Mexico to Canada in the 2,600-mile *Pacific Crest Trail*. It took her five months and raised more than £3,000 for Cancer Research UK.

Incidentally, her birthday is on 30 January – the deadline for the women's record for this leg of the race. The girls were given a small bottle of Talisker whisky when they set out on condition they didn't open it until they reached their goal. Here's hoping it can be a double celebration!

Keep up with progress on their *Instagram* page [@weareextraordinary](#). Or follow the race on [www.taliskerwhiskyatlanticchallenge.com](#)

If you would like to support the girls on this incredible challenge and help them hit their target of £100,000 for their chosen cancer charities, you can make a donation through their GoFundMe crowd funding account at [gofund.me/b9040dd3](#).

We are indebted to Pauline Irving for providing such important and plentiful information for this story. **MW THIS**



▲ A letter of support from Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall. ▼ And away...



Events

Hampton Christmas Celebrations December 2021



▲ As a safety precaution, Santa's Grotto became a well ventilated 'walk-through' on the green – the queue is twice as long as the one in the picture!



▲ Entertainment came from numerous acts on two music stages – one outside the Sea Scout hut and the other by Hampton Cellar ▼



▲ Glorious gift shop



▲ The Hampton Society stand



▲ Elvis was 'outside the building'!