



The Stockyard photograph by Sam Redfern.

Celebrate with us at our annual Summer Party

in this issue:

AN END TO 'GARDEN GRABBING'

New legislation will put an end to the in-filling of our neighbourhoods by property developers. *More on page 2.*

SOCIETY NEWS AND UPDATES

Notes from our chairman on the AGM and an introduction to our new committee members. *More on page 3.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Further details of the visits of interest and events being organised by the Society and the Hampton Hill Association. *More on page 4.*

NEW TO HAMPTON OR THE SOCIETY?

We are always welcoming new members and our annual subscription is very modest. Please use the form on page 4 to either join or renew your membership and become part of the community.

Come along and meet your fellow Society members at this year's Summer Party at The Stockyard, Bushy Park.

Our annual summer party is a great opportunity to enjoy each other's company in the beautiful setting of Bushy Park. Food and drink will be provided as usual and we welcome contributions from our members with their 'signature dishes'.

Alice Fordham is organising the refreshments and would be very grateful to hear from potential food providers as soon as possible. She will need to know what to expect to ensure we don't spend the evening gorging on cheese-straws!

Artistic contributions for the Christmas card (see page 3 for details) will be placed on a board and members will be asked to choose their three favourite subjects.

Fingers crossed for decent weather for this event. All is not lost if it rains as we'll simply move along Hampton Court Road to St Mary's Church Parish Hall.

If you haven't booked already contact **Bill Weisblatt** on **020 8979 3089**. Tickets are £10 per person, which include food and drink. The party starts at 7pm. See you there...

The Hampton Society Summer Party
The Stockyard, Bushy Park, Hampton. Saturday 3 July 2010, 7.00pm

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.

CAN YOU HELP?

Have you got a talent that you think would benefit the Society and its members? Do you have a fascinating story you'd like to tell us about living in Hampton? We not only welcome contributions for the newsletter and website, but also seek speakers and performers for the events we hold for the people of Hampton.

SOMETHING TO SAY?

You can contact The Hampton Society by email at: enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk
We also have a website: www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk which is regularly updated with current events and issues.
We look forward to hearing from you.

'Garden-grabbing' banned

One of the first actions of the new Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government was to stop property developers 'grabbing' what seemed like any potential building sites – to them – and back gardens – to us.

Hampton has long suffered from such in-filling, much to the distress of local residents and councillors alike. Geoffrey Samuel, our longtime representative for Hampton North and now deputy leader of the newly-elected Richmond Borough Council, is delighted at the policy change. He tells us "We went on record several years ago urging just this change. We are totally committed to preserving the unique character of various parts of this borough and this new approach will make our task the easier. In-filling has blighted some lovely parts of Richmond-Upon-Thames and we are extremely pleased that we now have a weapon with which to combat it"

Our newly-elected LibDem councillors Ellen Day and Darren Thornton agree. Ellen says both of them "have lived in the community long enough to understand the need to maintain and protect the character and environment of Hampton even among inevitable change." She continues, "this in itself is one of the main reasons we stood as councillors, and with the help of local residents and fellow councillors we as a community work to maintain the beauty and wonders that survive."

Until now gardens of private houses were regarded as brownfield sites: land that had already been built on, so making it difficult for councils to refuse developments. Garden-grabbing has already affected more than 40% of councils, many of them, unsurprisingly, concentrated in the South East of England. *Now it has to stop!*

“We are totally committed to preserving the unique character of various parts of this borough and this new approach will make our task the easier”

Geoffrey Samuel,
Deputy leader
Richmond Borough Council



Happy 25th Birthday Hampton Pool

Hampton Pool was saved from closure and reopened by a group of local residents 25 years ago. It is an incredible success story of how determination and local support can achieve what might seem impossible. From a more than modest re-birth, the heated open air pool is today a million pound business and a fabulous asset right on our doorsteps.

Marshall Lees (pictured above), one of the original campaigners, spoke on Friday night at a celebration party attended by the Right Hon. Vincent Cable MP, the Mayor and Mayoress, members of the Hampton Pool Trust board, local councillors and supporters and contributors from the last 25 years. He concluded his speech by reminding us all that it was the support of the community as a whole through campaigning and fundraising that made the dream a reality for us all to enjoy.

The pool is a registered charity and depends on admissions, donations and fund raising events to secure its future, of which there is a fantastic line-up of concerts this July. Visit www.hamptonpool.co.uk for details and to buy tickets online.

Garrick Temple by Sam Redfern.



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.

Story courtesy of Geograph. Photograph courtesy of Jonathan Cardy.



Hidden Treasures

General Roy monument, Roy Grove, off Hanworth Road, Hampton

Did you know that Hampton played a significant part in the development of accurate map making? Major General William Roy conceived the idea of using triangulation to produce a map of the whole country, thus laying the foundations for the Ordnance Survey. The up-ended cannon in the corner of Roy Grove represents the one that was used originally as a marker and was erected in 1926 to commemorate the 200th anniversary.

It is the south-eastern end of the very first base-line for the Ordnance Survey, which was at the time part of Hounslow Heath. The other end is marked by a similar monument on the north side of Heathrow Airport.

The area was chosen because at the time it was flat and unobstructed, allowing a long, straight baseline to be measured. This was done using accurately measured rods which were used like a huge pair of rulers to measure the length of the line. Modern surveys have shown that this was just a couple of inches out – a remarkable achievement. It is recalled in the street names – Cannon Close and Roy Grove.

Do you have a story to tell? Contact us at enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk

Notes from the Chairman

The annual general meeting of the Society was held on 15 April 2010 and details of the newly elected officers and committee are listed opposite. At the meeting warm tributes were paid to officers and committee members who were retiring after giving enormously valuable service to the Society and the community over a number of years.

Ray Alen had brought wisdom and common sense to our deliberations and had, with reluctance, taken on the role of Chairman at a time of transition for the Society. Jean Alen had not merely carried out the challenging duties of Secretary, but had prepared our two sell-out books of reminiscences, organised a series of photographic exhibitions, re-vamped the newsletter layout, set up the website and generally, brought an unprecedented degree of technological skill to our work. Colin Sinnott was an exemplary Treasurer, performing his arcane labours with accuracy and unfailing patience. Bryan Alderson, the longest serving of those who have retired, has simply been a tower of strength (literally so when it came to moving tables and chairs at meetings) for many years. We shall miss them all and hope to keep in touch with them.

We have started allotting tasks to the committee members and the process will continue. Alice Fordham, Rosemary Hill and Maura Waters will arrange visits and talks. Sam Redfern and John Wood are looking after membership, Maura Waters has taken over as newsletter editor, with support from William Redfern, and Tony Marks will keep an eye on planning issues, where he will co-operate with our friends at Hampton Hill Association.

We were given clear guidance at the AGM that we should maintain an effective dialogue with our neighbours in Hampton Hill and we shall of course do so. I have already had talks with Mike Walker, HHA Chairman, and we shall continue to consider how and to what extent we can share our activities.

“We hope our members will do their best to bring our existence and activities to the notice of their friends and neighbours”

- When appropriate we shall also see whether it is feasible to make use of the excellent facilities at the White House.
- Another important issue that was helpfully raised at the AGM was the size of our membership, which has declined in recent years and is smaller than could reasonably be expected for a community like Hampton. We shall do what we

can to improve our publicity and make clear the attractions of joining and supporting the Society. We hope our members will do their best to bring our existence and activities to the notice of their friends and neighbours.

As well as losing a number of committee colleagues this year, we have also had to replace some long-standing newsletter deliverers who have retired after a long period of valuable service. We are grateful to them for helping us to keep in touch with our members. We very much appreciate the offers of help we have had with the job of delivering the newsletters and will take up these welcome offers in due course.

As well as having new committee members and new deliverers we have also taken note of the fact that political control of the Council (as well as the Government) has changed. We are of course non-party-political although many of our activities inevitably have a political element – planning, transport, traffic, Heathrow and so forth. We shall as always be glad to work with the Council and with our local Councillors, of whatever persuasion, but shall not hesitate to oppose them when it is in the best interests of the residents of Hampton to do so.

I send best wishes for the summer to all our members and look forward to seeing you at our events.



Bill Weisblatt
Chairman

Christmas Card call for entries

For the last two years we have produced a very successful Christmas card, thanks to the artistic endeavours of our members. The photo for last year's card was chosen by members at the Summer Party and we would like to do the same this year.

Please let Maura Waters have photos, drawings or paintings that you would like to submit for our Christmas card competition before 3 July. Last winter's great freeze should give plenty of scope for a local Hampton scene or view!

The new committee members of The Hampton Society

CHAIRMAN

Bill Weisblatt 8979 3089

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Alice Fordham 8979 3543

SECRETARY

Rosemary Hill 8973 3604

TREASURER

William Redfern 8286 7071

William and Sam have lived in Hampton since 1996. They have two children at Hampton Hill Junior School. William is a graphic designer and runs his business from his studio in Hampton, producing brand identities, websites, brochures, newsletters and advertising for local, national and international clients.

MEMBERSHIP

Sam Redfern 8286 7071

Sam designs and makes jewellery business and in her spare time enjoys managing two plots at the allotments on the High Street.

John Wood 8783 1990

John and his wife Katie have lived in Hampton since 2003. John runs a garden design and landscaping business with many local clients.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Maura Waters 8979 9654

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tony Marks 8979 2003

John Beasley 8979 5956

Colin Greenhalgh 8979 5809

Tony, John and Colin are new to the committee although they have been long-standing members of the Society. In the next newsletter we will include more details on their background and responsibilities.

New to Hampton or the Society?

Membership application and renewal slip

I wish to pay renew my/our subscription to The Hampton Society for 2010/2011 (mark as appropriate)
I enclose £3.00 (individual) or £5.00 (family) for membership.

Name/s..... Telephone

Address.....

Postcode..... email.....

Cash or cheques accepted. Please make cheques payable to THE HAMPTON SOCIETY and forward to: **William Redfern**, Treasurer,
66 High Street, Hampton, TW12 2SJ with a **stamped addressed envelope** for the return of membership card/programme.

Existing members

If you do not have a buff coloured membership card and programme of events for 2010/2011 then your membership has expired and should be renewed. We value your support and encourage you to renew your subscription.



EVENTS

Be one of the first to see Walpole's restored masterpiece

Hampton Society members will be among the first to visit Horace Walpole's Georgian gothic house in the opening month of September.

Walpole's choice of architecture came to be known as 'Strawberry Gothic' and was much imitated during the eighteenth century. Even today upper-crust garden designers copy its pointed arch windows and ivy-covered walls. Its round tower, crenellated rooftops and intricate chimney-pots show its owner's obsession with fashionable architecture and style.

Indeed, Walpole formed his own Committee of Taste together with John Chute, responsible for the main elevations of the house and its interiors, and the artist and draughtsman John Bentley. They created the desirable residence befitting the high position in society now enjoyed by the son of England's first prime minister. In fact, from its origins as a modest coachman's house built in 1698, Walpole extended his property from five acres to 46.

Now all that remains of Horace Walpole's treasures is his collection of painted and stained glass, whose fragile state has earned Strawberry Hill a place in the World Monuments Fund Watch list of 100 most endangered sites.

Contact **Maura Waters** on 8979 9654.

Strawberry Hill House Visit **15 September 2010, 2.30pm**



Photograph courtesy of Laura Nolte

EVENTS PROGRAMME, SUMMER 2010

All the events listed below are open to the members of both the Hampton Society and the Hampton Hill Association.

The Hampton Society

- 3 July** **Summer Party** Saturday 7.00pm to 9.00pm.
To be held in the Stockyard, Bushy Park, (entrance Hampton Court Road), or St Mary's Church parish hall if wet. Contact for tickets (at £10 per person), Bill Weisblatt, Tel: 020 8979 3089. See front page to see how you can help.
- 15 Sept.** **Strawberry Hill House Visit** Wednesday 2.30 pm: Contact Maura Waters (020 8979 9654) Cost £10 per person. Tea or coffee with home-made biscuits after the 90-minute tour at £2.70 per head may be reserved at time of booking.

The Hampton Hill Association

- 27 June** **Alfresco lunch at Anne Wood's house** Sunday 12 noon onwards.
136 Uxbridge Road. £10 per head. Lunch served from 1.00pm.
Contact: Vanessa McKew, 29 Myrtle Road, Hampton Hill, TW12 1QE.
Tel: 020 8941 3671
- 7 Sept.** **Visit to Woburn Abbey and Safari Park** Tuesday.
Contact Vanessa McKew, 29 Myrtle Road, Hampton Hill, TW12 1QE.
Tel: 020 8941 3671. Up to 53 passengers can be accommodated on the coach.
Cost to be confirmed.

Other local events this summer

Hampton Pool Fundraising Summer Picnic Concerts: 16-31 July, featuring *10cc*, *Courtney Pine*, *The Lightning Seeds*, *Elkie Brooks*, *Kid Creole* & *The Coconuts* and *The Stars from The Commitments*. See www.hamptonpool.co.uk for details and to book tickets online
Hampton Hill Association Summer Festival: July 17 at 12 noon until 7pm.
Hampton Pool Family Fun Day Saturday 25 July, 12.00-4.00pm. Steel band and many more activities. Normal admission prices apply and all entertainment is free.