



The **Hampton Society**

Est. 1956

Summer newsletter 2016

Celebrating 60 years

The Hampton Society's Diamond Jubilee

Over the last 60 years we have helped build a greater sense of community in Hampton through our close involvement in creating or improving many highly valued local places, including Hampton Green, Hampton Pool, Bell Hill riverside and Garrick's Temple, Hampton Ferry, Hampton Common and the 'little' Sainsbury's in Hampton Square.

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Special Anniversary Issue

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member?**
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today?*

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Celebrating The Hampton Society's Diamond Jubilee

Continued from front page... Formed in 1956 and originally named Hampton Residents' Association, we changed our name to The Hampton Society in 1998 as some thought we were the go-to organisation for household issues and complaints. Our sights are set much higher than that and our aims for Hampton are as follows:

1. To preserve and foster its local amenities and to protect its buildings of beauty and interest;
2. To preserve its open spaces from disfigurement and encroachment;
3. To encourage good architecture in its future development;
4. Generally, to express the wishes and safeguard the rights of its residents in these matters.



Wild summer flowers on Hampton Common

All of these aims remain relevant today as we note and discuss current issues of local interest such as discouraging large-scale housing on green belt land at Kempton Park, enforcing laws on boats mooring on the Thames and fighting unsuitable over-development at Hucks boatyard nearby.

Through our regular entertaining talks, visits and events we have also enabled the residents of Hampton to get to know each other better. See pages 6 and 8 for details. **THS**



The Hampton Society stall at local events has helped raise awareness and has recruited many new members



Unrivalled views from our summer party venue, Hampton Sailing Club

We're having a party! Why not join us on Friday 10 June?

For this special year in our history we've a jazz band to play in a marquee at our now regular summer haunt, Hampton Sailing Club. Along with a fork buffet and welcome glass of fizz, the club has an unrivalled view of a particularly stunning curve in the Thames.

We hope some bright sparks among our guests will wear something sparkly for the occasion – rescue those diamonds from the bank vaults, why don't you? There will be a prize for the best outfit!

The Club has very generously arranged for the marquee used at their regatta that weekend to be made available to us. It means we can provide more seating space with room to sit at long tables. So come to eat, drink, listen to the excellent Richmond Youth Jazz Band and watch the sunset.

Hampton Sailing Club can be found at the end of Benn's Alley off Thames Street, opposite the bottom of High Street, and is boarded via a chain-link ferry. Which is where the fun of the evening invariably starts...

Numbers are limited and tickets must be bought or ordered in advance. They are £15 each and are available from **Bill Weisblatt** at 2 Buckingham Road, Hampton TW12 3JA (tel. **8979 3089**) or **Alice Fordham** at 23 Wensleydale Gardens, Hampton TW12 2LU (tel. **8979 3543**). **THS**



Letter from the Chair



This is my first letter as Chair since taking over in April from Sam whom I'd like to thank for doing such a marvellous job for the last five years.

My wife and I moved to Hampton 20 years ago this year. We only joined the committee in 2010 when I took on the role of treasurer. In this time, we have

seen the Society flourish through attending local events where it has attracted many new members. The Hampton Society truly represents the whole village, north and south, and we have members in practically every street.

Since getting more involved in the Society, I've got so much out of living in Hampton. My first 10 years as a resident were spent commuting to and from London, leaving at 7.00am and returning at 8.00pm, simply 'just sleeping' in



Hampton Pool is a heated open air facility with a gym and fitness studio. It was saved by our local community from closure in the 80s. Now thriving, it is open 365 days a year.

Hampton. Of course, at weekends I was free to enjoy the leafy streets, Bushy Park and living by the Thames but I wasn't really able to appreciate all the village had to offer or get to know my fellow residents. I started working from home in 2006 and that's when I really started to see the pleasure of this place and its people. It's an outstanding and caring community where people work together to achieve great things that we can all enjoy. I swim daily at the wonderful outdoor heated Hampton Pool, saved from closure by a community action group in the early eighties and still owned by a charitable trust. I have also been involved with the local shopkeepers' association since its formation in 2011. As a result, I have a far greater connection with the people that make our community strong, including our local councillors.

I would also like to encourage those of you who have not yet attended any of our talks or events to come and see what you're missing!

The first talk I went to was by Dave Raven about Taggs Island. I had no idea what a fascinating history it holds and it highlighted what an interesting place we live in. As you will see in the events calendar it has come full circle for me as Dave will be giving an updated talk next March. I urge you not to miss it – you will get hooked I'm sure. And don't forget that all our talks are free to members – what a bargain!

Finally, I'd like to congratulate my fellow committee members, both past and present, for 60 years of outstanding service to this local Society and the community of Hampton. Here's to at least 60 more!

William Redfern, Chair

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.

The Hampton Society 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 yet please do so using the application form available at www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk.

Membership update

More than 55% of members have already paid this year's subscription fee by Standing Order. All administration is handled voluntarily and SOs really help reduce the amount of work involved in managing subscriptions. *Thank you.*

Newsletter production:

Edited by Maura Waters, with many thanks to former Chair Bill Weisblatt for help with background information.

Designed and produced by William Redfern

www.williamredfern.co.uk 020 8286 7071

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

Our history and achievements

The Hampton Society was founded in 1956 (although originally called the Hampton Residents' Association until 1998). The inaugural meeting was held on 19 April 1956 in the Public Hall (site of the present St Mary's community hall). We are very proud of our sixty-year anniversary as the Society was the successor to five previous bodies, none of which endured for very many years. The most long lasting of the five was founded in the 1920s and came to an end in the late 1930s at about the time of the bitterly opposed amalgamation of Hampton and Twickenham.

Some of our achievements over the last 60 years

It's thanks to the support of local organisations, including The Hampton Society, that important aspects of Hampton exist and flourish today:

On Station Road, where Hampton Green now stands, the disused Thames Water filter beds stood hidden behind an ugly concrete wall. The land was to be included as part of a wider housing development with just a few small patches of green space available. After much campaigning, it became the lovely large open green space that is now the heart of the village, catering for the local shopkeepers' Christmas Parade, annual film nights and, latterly, a classic car show.

Originally, no shops were planned for Nurseryland residents as part of the new housing development of the 1980s. We raised concerns and since December 1980, Hampton Square has had a 'little' Sainsbury's and a chemist.

At one time, an ugly barbed wire fence at Buckingham Fields offended everyone. Today, the barbed wire has disappeared and we enjoy the open fields there under the new name of Hampton Common.



Space to play on Hampton Common

In the late 1990s, The Hampton Society worked with the Hampton Riverside Trust to open up the beautiful stretch of the river at Garrick's Temple and Bell Hill, reinstating the Hampton Ferry across to East Molesey.



Our first campaigning president in 1956, Sir John Betjemen

Our first president was the poet John Betjeman (later Sir). He supported our fight to make the then Twickenham Council publish its agendas in advance

of council meetings. The local press supported this democratic action to enable comment and the results are now all around us. **THS**



Hampton Green, saved from over-development, is a wonderful open space and play area for all residents to enjoy



Without the Sainsbury's and Boots in Hampton Square (then Tangley Square) there would have been no local shops for the new Nurseryland houses in the eighties

If you are not a member why not join your neighbours and apply today?

Only £6.50 per household – see back page for details.

Past, present and future

Current campaigns

The future of the eastern end of the Kempton Park estate is one of the Society's current concerns. The Jockey Club owns the racecourse and surrounding Green Belt designated land.



The area of Green Belt land to the rear of Kempton Park's track is threatened with development of up to 2,000 new houses

They propose building up to 2,000 homes that will feed into an already overloaded Upper Sunbury Road, the A308. It has only single-lane traffic in each direction between Sunbury Cross and Hampton Court and is regularly difficult – sometimes impossible – to access

from Hampton. Widening is not an option since the Thames bounds one side of it, and dense housing most of the other. We are supporting Sunbury residents "Keep Kempton Green" campaign to retain the Green Belt and prevent planning permission being granted.

We're also keeping a beady eye on Hucks boatyard opposite Taggs Island. The owner is due to appear in court in July to



The moorings at Hucks Boatyard do not have planning permission and extend too far into the river

answer allegations of building without planning permission. He has extended boat moorings out into the river and added more buildings around the site of the original Hucks Chalet.

We are also looking to secure the best outcome for the development of the Kingsbury car showrooms, Alderson's garage, the police station, all in Station



A planning application has been submitted to develop the Kingsbury car showroom into houses but has met opposition

Road, and the Yates garage in Tudor Road.

Meanwhile an ongoing task is to try and prevent unsuitable development and 'garden-grabbing' becoming familiar features of Hampton.

THS



The strange 'success' of Sainsbury's

Back in the '80s when a massive Sainsbury's supermarket was planned for the site of St Clare's garden centre, the Society opposed it.

There were many environmental reasons in our favour and discussions lingered on for years. Meanwhile, the price soared and what was originally a £3 million site rocketed to almost £22 million in value.

Technically, we lost, but this was really a 'pyrrhic victory' (where some gains are made). In this case, Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity, who owned the site, made a thumping profit to distribute to local good causes. **THS**

Planning guidelines now on our website

If you don't know where to start when it comes to planning applications, help is at hand.

The Society's planning sub-group has produced a set of guidelines including advice and a flowchart describing steps to be followed in dealing with plans.

Our own specialists are local professionals Iacopo Sassi and Kevin Rice, architect and surveyor respectively, plus committee-member Sylvia Bridge, a registered social worker with 30 years of management experience in local authorities.

The trio's aim is to support the residents' claims to preserve and enhance Hampton's village character and to extend and preserve our public amenities. Currently with the future of at least four sites to consider – Kingsbury car showroom, Alderson's garage, the police station, all in Station Road, and the Yates garage in Tudor Road – they expect to be busy. **THS**

Making physics sound sexy

Who can make physics sound interesting to the rest of us? Enter Fiona Auty, communications director of the National Physical Laboratory, telling us about its history and how lax methods of measurement prevailed until the Victorians put us right.

Each month of the year the Society aims to arrange an interesting visit or talk from an expert in their field for the enjoyment of all age groups. Experience has taught us that talks on the Thames are always popular, whether it's Dave Raven on Taggs Island or John Inglis and Jill Sanders recently charming us all with their historic Panorama of the Thames project. Tracy Borman, joint chief curator of Historic Royal Palaces, enjoys talking to Society members on a regular basis: she says it's so close – much nearer than the BBC, where she's about to present another series about the Tudors.



Recent speakers Fiona Auty of NPL (left) and Tracy Borman of Historic Royal Palaces (right)

Fascinating tours

As for our visits, it seems we have a distinct predilection for horses. We've seen the Queen's horses at the Royal Paddocks on the edge of Bushy Park and met – among others – two of the Shetland ponies HM currently favours. The Queen personally names every foal born to any of her horses, using strict alphabetical order.



Our visit to the Queen's horses at the Royal Paddocks in Bushy Park

We've been to see the Metropolitan Police's horses at Imber Court, too. Visitors were encouraged to wave flags and toss balloons about in an exercise to familiarise the magnificent mounts with rowdy crowds.



A rare opportunity to see the Jersey Loan paintings at Osterley Park

When we can tear ourselves away from the horses we visit local stately homes. When Strawberry Hill House re-opened after many years of restoration we had to organise two trips to cope with the demand. The last such trip was to Osterley House – familiar from many a locally-made film.

Inspiring walks and gatherings

Indoors-y types have been lured out to tree identification walks in the Royal Parks, and/or stayed in to enjoy one of the friendly lunches held at Merits restaurant at Richmond College in Twickenham at the start of each new year.



The winners at this year's quiz night with former Chair, Sam Redfern

Engaging events

Finally, our Quiz Night: it tends to be very competitive, sometimes a bit rowdy, but always very enjoyable. Indeed, on all the above evidence we think we can safely say our members find our talks and events enjoyable, informative and fun. **THS**

Chelsea Pensioner at Yeomanry Concert



Chelsea Pensioner Lance-Corporal Robert Suttie in front of the Middlesex Yeomanry Regiment's regalia displayed at the White House community centre.

This was the occasion when the regimental band's spring concert presented them with an opportunity to show some of the artefacts previously stored at their Uxbridge headquarters.

Seen here front left is a sabretache, part of an officer's cavalry dress uniform; a tea-making set at centre front and a first-aid box on the right.

Lance-Corporal Suttie revealed he joined the Army as a National Serviceman: yes, that much time has passed by – no more surviving WWI warriors and fewer WWII ones either. **THS**

Richmond In Bloom

Another summer and another opportunity for Hampton to shine with the merit awards which recognise good floral displays to enhance our beautiful borough.

There are ten categories you'll find listed below, including the Richmond and Twickenham award for the best residential garden.

Hampton is such a lovely place to be – let's aim to make it even more beautiful this summer with our hanging baskets and floral displays – not to mention our front gardens. It's up to us as local residents to make Hampton the best village in the borough through our gardening efforts.

The ten categories are:

- Front gardens
- Residential frontages
- Park and bloom
- Estates
- Community buildings or communal areas
- Hotel or pub exterior
- Shop frontage or business premises
- Commercial centre
- Best environmental garden or project
- Best residential garden



If all these categories sound a little intimidating there are some very useful notes attached to the entry form obtainable from local libraries or from **Alice Fordham** on **8979 3543** or **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604**. Last day for receipt of entries is Friday, 24 June. **THS**

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

Membership application

How to use this membership application form

We would really appreciate it if you pay by Standing Order.

Please cut out this form, complete each section and return by post to:

**Brian Brignall, Honorary Treasurer,
5 Howard Close, Hampton, TW12 2UB**

or fill in, scan and email to **brianbrignall@aol.com**.

1. Your details (please tick)

Total annual subscription for:

Individual £4.50 Family of two or more £6.50

Name/s.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

email address.....

Telephone.....Date.....

Please let us know your age range: 20-29 30-39 40-49

50-59 60-69 70-79 80-89 90-99 100+

2. Method of payment (please tick)

I wish to pay by: Standing Order Cash

Cheque (payable to THE HAMPTON SOCIETY)

IMPORTANT: If you choose to complete your payment instruction using your online banking service you must notify the Treasurer by email with your name, address and a reference (see right) so that we can match your payment to you.

3. Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Standing Order

To the Manager Bank/Building Society

Address of your Bank.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Name of account holder (s):.....

Please make payments detailed below to **The Hampton Society** at Barclays Bank, Account number: 10451312 Sort Code: 20 46 73 and debit from my/our account:

Bank Account number: _____ Sort Code: _____

Annual membership is £4.50 for an individual, or £6.50 for a family (including 50p p&p for your membership card/programme)

£ __ . __ __ (please fill in either £4.50 or £6.50)

To be paid on (DD/MM/YYYY): __ / __ / __ __ __ and then 1 May every following year until further notice.

Reference: HSOC _____

IMPORTANT: Please fill boxes after HSOC with your house number (or abbreviated house name) and full postcode – this will appear on our bank statement so that we can recognise your payment.

Signature (s):

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

June

Friday 10, 7.30pm The Hampton Society 60th Anniversary Summer Party at Hampton Sailing Club

July

Saturday 9, 10.30am Tree identification walk with Ray Brodie of The Royal Parks in Bushy Park starting off from Upper Lodge Mews (through Hampton Hill gate by United Reform church)

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)

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 Playhouse

December

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 Playhouse

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 St Mary's community hall



Painting by Johan Joseph Zoffany – David Garrick and his wife by his Temple to Shakespeare in Hampton

Membership application

Do you like living in Hampton? *If the answer is yes, then we urge you to join if you are not already a member.*

What does The Hampton Society do?

The Hampton Society has been independently representing the people of Hampton for 60 years. Its aims are to preserve and enhance the area's beauty and interest and to encourage a strong sense of community by sharing information and arranging activities and events that bring people together.

Who can join?

We already have a membership of over 500 households from all over Hampton and warmly welcome new members of all ages. There are no special requirements to become a member and, don't worry, there are no responsibilities or commitments attached other than paying a modest annual subscription.

What's in it for me?

Peace of mind – knowing that someone is keeping an eye on what's happening (positive and negative) in the area, and that you will be kept informed and given an opportunity to comment.

Quarterly newsletters (like this one), delivered to your door, and, if you have access to a computer, regular email news updates to communicate more immediate issues.

A membership card listing all our events and allowing free entry to our wide range of talks and activities.

Feeling part of our community and meeting other like-minded local people.

How do I join?

If you would like to support us by becoming a member of The Hampton Society, please complete the form on the reverse.

Membership is only £4.50 for individuals and £6.50 for couples and families (including 50p to cover postage of your membership card).

If you need any further information, please contact the Chair of the Society: **William Redfern**, on **020 8286 7071** or email enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk or take a look at our website:

www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk

To join, please complete the form on the reverse