



Green Belt land and life in Hampton under threat

KEMPTON PARK

in this issue:

ALAN TURING PARDON

Code breaker, 'father' of the modern computer and former local resident receives overdue posthumous pardon. *More on page 2.*

MARSHALL LEES OBITUARY

Champion of community issues and founder of Hampton Pool Trust. *More on page 2.*

SOCIETY NEWS AND UPDATES

Notes from our Chair, contact details and membership update. *More on page 3.*

HAMPTON ESCAPES WORST STORMS

Maura Waters reports on Hampton's lucky escape – so far! *More on page 4.*

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Photography by Sam and William Redfern, unless stated otherwise.

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.

Contact us at enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk

As many as 2,000 new houses could be built on the Kempton Park estate. That may not sound as though it will affect Hampton too much, until we think of the seemingly nonstop congestion on the A308 from Sunbury Cross. How long have you spent trying to enter the flow at the bottom of Church Street? Think of the increased traffic such a development is bound to produce. Plans for the estate include at least 1,500 houses, (there could be 2,000 eventually), plus a hotel, a Waitrose, a new doctors' surgery and public access to the north of the site.

The Jockey Club owns the Kempton Park estate, and has already appointed transport consultants Mouchel to look into potential traffic problems. But they appear just to be resurrecting some of the worst parts of Transport for London's unpopular proposals of a few years ago (see page 2), to which residents raised strong objections and which were eventually thrown out. Mouchel's feasibility study concludes that by addressing traffic bottlenecks which build up at the base of the Triangle (by St Mary's Church) on Thames Street "some additional disbenefit may result on the A3008 (High Street) and A311 (Church Street) corridors at Hampton ..." Do note that "some"!

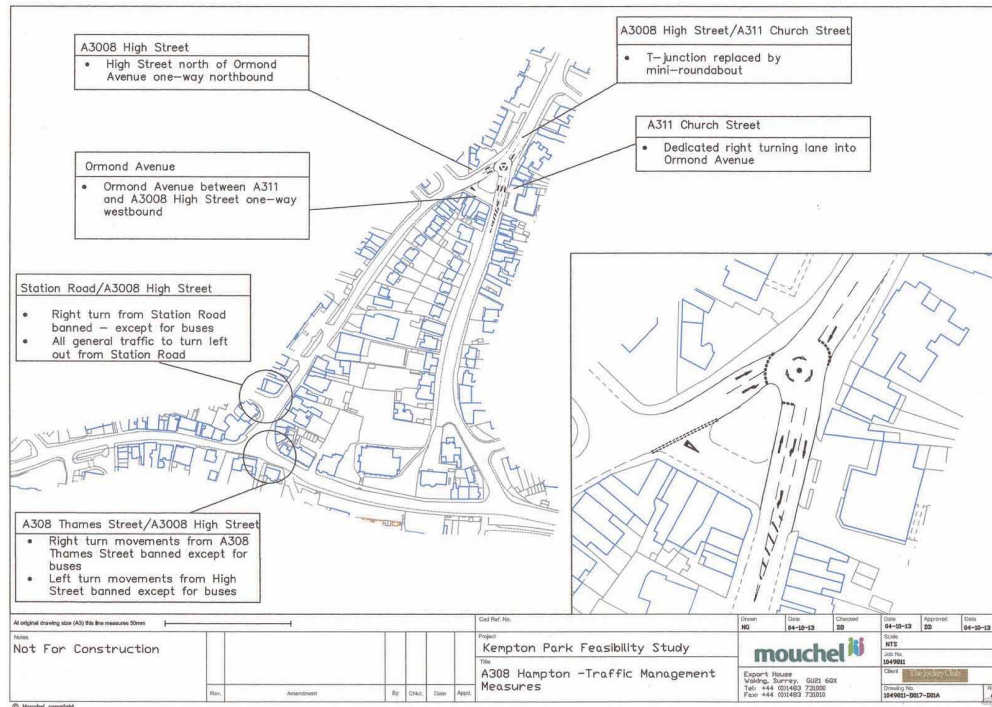
Early warning from Hampton councillors

Hampton's Lib Dem councillors recently reminded local residents, "these proposals have yet to be presented to the Spelthorne Borough Planning Dept. and as such there is no immediate cause for concern." However they are aware of the potential impact and will be discussing it with senior borough engineers and Richmond Council's cabinet member for transport.

Fears for Green Belt

With local authorities already pressured by the Government to hit targets for affordable housing, the threat to Green Belt land is obvious. So is the squeeze on local amenities and the possible detrimental effect on Hampton and the quality of life of its residents. Spelthorne Council told neighbouring boroughs about the proposed developments some time ago, although they've yet to receive a formal application from the Jockey Club. They have been discussing the plan with the owners for at least 18 months and have set up a steering group comprised of planning committee members, council officials and Jockey Club representatives. *Continued on page 2*

Green Belt land and Hampton under threat *Continued from cover*



Mouchel's feasibility proposal to improve traffic bottlenecks in Hampton – a sense of deja vu, anyone?

Please let us know what you think about the proposed scheme at enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk. If you would like to be kept informed first hand of further developments, contact the Keep Kempton Green Steering Group keepkemptongreen@hotmail.co.uk to join their mailing list. **MW ***

Alan Turing pardon

A recent royal pardon for World War II codebreaker Alan Turing gives us an opportunity to point out he was once a local resident. A blue plaque on the front wall of Ivy House in the High Street denotes where he lived for two years from 1945.

Best known for helping to break the Germans' Enigma code, thus shortening the period of the war by two years, Turing committed suicide in 1954 after being convicted of homosexuality, then a criminal offence.

Our own Rosemary Hill and her husband Tom lived in the house later on, and were instrumental in installing the plaque. Rosemary now takes up the story:



"Way back in 2000, one of our neighbours, Alec Mackie, who had worked at the National Physical Laboratory, told us that Alan Turing, the great codebreaker, had once lived in our house! At the time we lived in Ivy House, close to The Triangle where Church Street and High Street meet. We were excited by this news and decided that there was some detective work to be done. We discovered that Alan Turing had lived there between 1945 and 1947 when Ivy House was a guest-house and he was working at NPL. Apparently he often used to run to work from the house and would also run home from Hampton to his mother in Guildford for Sunday lunch. He was, of course, a good marathon runner too.

We thought we ought to commemorate his time at Ivy House and after supplying evidence that he had indeed lived there – letters from him giving the house address, the Electoral Roll for 1947 etc – Richmond Council and The Hampton Society supported our application for a plaque. It was officially unveiled on 2 December 2001 by Andrew Hodges (see above), the author of the bestselling biography *Alan Turing – the Enigma*. We marked the occasion with a buffet lunch for our local neighbours and those who had helped us. I still see people stopping outside Ivy House to read the plaque and I feel very pleased that we commemorated the man who played a pivotal role in cracking the German Enigma codes, thereby helping enormously to bring the war to an end, and who has also been called the 'father of the modern computer.'" *

Hampton community champion Marshall Lees

We are saddened to report that another significant contributor to the quality of life in Hampton has died in January after a short illness. I first met Marshall shortly after joining the committee of The Hampton Society. Marshall and I often swam at the same time in the morning at Hampton Pool, our great local community facility that he was so instrumental in saving over 25 years ago. Marshall, a resident since 1968 with his wife Carrie and four children, cared deeply for the wellbeing of the people of Hampton through his involvement in campaigning for a larger public space from the Thames Water housing development that would become Hampton Green; limiting air traffic over the village; the Riverside Trust; as a councillor; at St Mary's Church and of course the long term security of Hampton Pool. His vision for the pool has been rewarded as the number of users has increased 10 fold since 1985 and last year attracted 250,000 visitors.



Hampton Pool Trust President Marshall Lees speaking at the 25th birthday celebrations in 2010

He imparted knowledge to me about certain impacts on the village in the last few decades which have helped and inspired me in my role within The Hampton Society.

We were also both involved with the development of a new school for Hampton South, St Mary's Hampton CE Primary School (on Oldfield Road). I have been frequently told that one of Marshall's great talents was to find the right people and persuade them to become actively involved and he never ceased in his quest for new people and new talent, be it at the pool, the school or at church.

Marshall was a chartered accountant, chief administrator of the Performing Rights Society (retired), Hampton Pool Trust project founder, trustee and chairman (1984-1995), an elected LBRuT Hampton Councillor 1994-1998, founder Leader of Hampton Riverside Trust and governor of three local schools.

His funeral was held at a packed St Mary's (both upstairs and downstairs) on 3 February followed, fittingly, by a reception at Hampton Pool. He is an enormous loss to our community and reminds us that to achieve great things, a great deal of effort may be required but that the rewards can be enormous. **William Redfern ***

Notes from the Chair



Weather-wise, what a turbulent start to 2014! My parents live in Staines and have so far escaped being evacuated, even though the water has crept up the road to within a few metres of their home.

However, my mother reassures me that “the Dunkirk spirit is alive and well in Staines-under-Thames!” and indeed, stories of communities

pulling together in the worst affected areas are astounding and heartening. Social media sites have come into their own in the quest to provide locals with up-to-date news and advice and to co-ordinate help from volunteers: flood update pages created this week on Facebook, covering Staines, Shepperton and Sunbury (nothing for Hampton as I write!) have attracted thousands of followers and volunteers. I’m sure you will all join me in wishing our neighbours safe and well during this crisis.



2014 Annual General Meeting

On a lighter note, spring is round the corner, and brings with it the Society’s AGM on Thursday 3 April. Following the usual business on the agenda (see below), the Reverend Derek Winterburn will be giving a talk on what was involved in the setting up of the new free school in Oldfield Road, St Mary Hampton CE Primary, which opened its doors last September.

A new opportunity

In our four and three years as Treasurer and Chair respectively, William and I have seen several new faces join The Hampton Society’s committee and our membership grow from strength to strength. It has been an enriching experience: as well as being invited to several prestigious local organisation and council events, we have become more closely involved in the community and made lots of new friends along the way. We do feel, however, that it is only fair to offer others the opportunity to take on leading roles within the Society and ensure that new people continue to join the committee. There are plenty of local issues affecting Hampton residents in the year ahead and your support would be greatly appreciated.

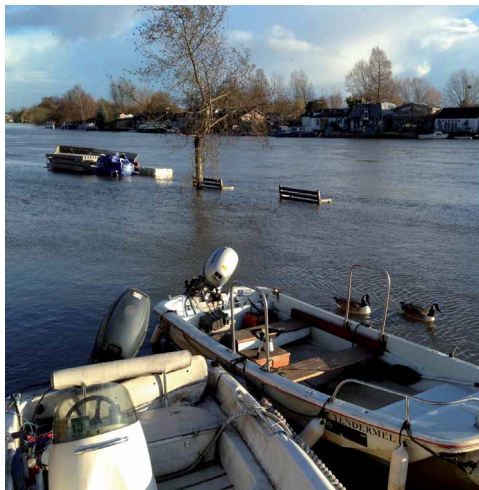
So, don’t be shy! If you would like to be part of our open and friendly team, please contact me or any member of the committee. Nominations for 2014/15 are also welcomed in writing to the Secretary, Rosemary Hill, 7 Upper Lodge Mews, Bushy Park, Hampton Hill, TW12 1NE and need to be presented before 20 March.

I look forward to seeing some of you at our Quiz Night and AGM.

Sam Redfern Chair

Agenda for AGM

1. Minutes of AGM held on 18 April 2013
2. Matters arising from minutes
3. Presentation and approval of accounts for 2013/14
4. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2014/15
5. Chair’s report
6. Elections of officers and committee in accordance with the rules: Chair; Treasurer; five committee members.
7. Any other business



The jetty at Bell Hill lying underwater as the Thames swells

The Hampton Society committee members

CHAIR

Sam Redfern 8286 7071

DEPUTY CHAIR

Alice Fordham 8979 3543

SECRETARY

Rosemary Hill 8973 3604

TREASURER

William Redfern 8286 7071

MEMBERSHIP

Trisha Shirt 8941 5162

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Maura Waters 8979 9654

OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patrick Hooton 8941 6720

Julie-nne Monahan 8979 8942

Christine Paganelli 8941 5927



QUIZ NIGHT Friday 7 March

St Mary’s community hall (please note change of venue). details on Page 4.

Denmead school development update

Denmead Neighbours’ Association

Local residents were disappointed that at the December meeting of the Council’s Planning Committee, the arguments put forward by the Denmead Neighbours’ Association were not accepted and planning permission was given for the school to be rebuilt on the present site between Gloucester Road and Carlisle Park. The association feels, however, that it is important to recognise what has been achieved.

Without their action pupil numbers would have risen from the current 144 to 176 with no restraint on future increases. Numbers are now limited to 144 and the school must apply for planning permission to increase this number. This would mean looking again at the traffic situation. Other aspects on which conditions have been achieved are, lighting, hours of use and the use of Wensleydale Gardens for access.

Whilst they campaigned for more, the association feels that they have significantly reduced some aspects of the plans which are of considerable concern to local residents. **AF** ✨

Hampton escapes worst storms – so far

THANK HEAVEN FOR our steep riverbank. Unlike Molesey and Sunbury we've escaped serious flooding. By the time you read this, of course, the outlook could change, but we'll certainly remember early 2014 for its gale force winds and rain. Uncharacteristically the jetstream spilt the worst of its weather on Britain instead of the unpopulated North Atlantic.

At least so far we haven't seen Hampton and Nursery Greens, Hampton Common and Carlisle and Hatherop Parks turned into lakes like Hurst Woodlands on the opposite bank of the Thames. But neither have we escaped altogether, as this picture of the illegally-moored boat below Garrick's Villa shows. One cabin-cruiser took the brunt of the weather and finally sank after its cabin was knocked askew in a previous storm.



A little further upstream Hampton Sailing Club's landing stage has been under water since late January. The clubhouse appears isolated above the surface. "We've got 2-3 ft. of water and we're unsure how much of the decking has been washed away" said club trustee Malcolm O'Connor. (I just hope it dries out before our summer party there in June!)

As for Taggs Island resident Peter Cave claims he's not seen weather like this for 30 years. He was about to fly home from Sydney, Australia when he heard waders were in short supply



in England. He rapidly bought two pairs – made in Bradford – to bring home. "We need them to get on and off the boat" he explained. Meanwhile his grandchildren, also island-dwellers, get to school by walking the length of a boat now positioned in their garden. "My son-in-law launched a tender on to the garden in front of the door, so we use it as a gangplank" he says.

For the record, the water table at present is 28 metres higher than normal and both flow and height are at four times their usual levels. Here's hoping we won't have to batten down the hatches before this patch of weather is over. **MW ***

Another village success

ONCE AGAIN HAMPTON'S Christmas celebrations brought out local families in force. In fact some have estimated there were more than 2,000 people thronging the roads to see Santa in his sleigh – courtesy of Teddington Rotary Club – for the children. For the grownups there were sound-alikes for Elvis and Karen Carpenter.

For everyone there was food and drink, lots of it, provided by organisers the Hampton Village Traders Association. All had collection boxes out for donations to local charities in lieu of their usual takings. On offer was everything from sweets to samosas, mulled wine to fizzy drinks.

The numbers joining in the fun seems to increase with each year: this was the fourth such event, and the second where Station and Ashley roads were closed to vehicle traffic for its duration. People could cross from one side of the road to the other inspecting stalls for goodies without having to stop and check for traffic.

On this occasion the sound stage for the performers was brought forward to the pavement edge on Hampton Green, flanked by stalls belonging to local artisans and organisations including The Hampton Society! It was great to meet so many people at our gazebo and attract lots of new members.

Every year seems to bring innovations to our Christmas celebrations: it's a learning curve for all of us. Who knows what 2014's bright ideas will be? **MW ***



EVENTS PROGRAMME, SPRING 2014

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.

FRIDAY 7 MARCH, 7.30PM

Quiz Night

Venue: St Mary's community hall. Come along at 7.30 for an 8pm start. Bring along a picnic supper – drinks will be available at the bar. Teams should be made up of four to six people and the charge is £5 a head, payable in advance. Tickets from **Trisha Shirt** on **8941 5162**. Always a jolly occasion when we curse ourselves for not recollecting the right answer, or else act surprised when we do, it's the perfect antidote to cold wet winter evenings.

THURSDAY 3 APRIL 7.30PM FOR 8.00PM

Annual General Meeting

Venue: St Mary's community hall. The Reverend Derek Winterburn will be talking to us about the setting up of the new free school, St Mary's Hampton CE Primary.

MONDAY 12 MAY 8.00PM

Talk by Sam Walters from the Orange Tree Theatre

Hampton Academy is the venue for our next talk and likely to be very popular as it's to be given by Sam Walters, retiring artistic director of Richmond's much-loved Orange Tree Theatre. He has spent his whole career of 42 years at what is claimed to be Britain's first purpose-built theatre-in-the-round, which started life in the pub of the same name across the road from its present home. Sam's wife is the distinguished actress and director Auriol Smith. (If you are uncertain how to reach the Academy, please contact **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604**).

SATURDAY 14 JUNE 7.30PM

Summer Party

Hampton Sailing Club will host our third successive summer party there on Saturday, June 14. We keep returning because we all have such a good time, starting with the perilous two-minute voyage by chain ferry to their premises in the Thames. The views of the river it affords are unmatched. There will be more information in our May newsletter.

FRIDAY 18 JULY

Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare

Finally for this season, on Friday 18 July we're planning an evening at Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare, surely our proudest local landmark? Temple trustee Bill Weisblatt (also a Society member) will tell us how the famous eighteenth-century actor came to build a villa in Hampton and added a temple to the Bard in his riverside garden. Again, more details will be given in our May Newsletter.