



The Hampton Society

The Hampton Residents' Association Est. 1956 Spring 2017



More Members More Influence

With 2016 having been a most successful year for new members to the Society, we think it's time to highlight the importance we attach to their opinions.

Whether it's the proposed Kempton Park development, access to Hampton Court grounds or the cycle ban along Dukes Head Passage from High Street to Bushy Park, our members will give us their views.

For instance, they responded to our email newsletter that informed of the petition to overturn the cycle ban along Dukes Head Passage, requested by a Hampton resident. We provided a link to the petition but also asked for your opinions. We were pleased to see that there were a mixture, with many highlighting "how inconsiderate many cyclists can be" and "how they creep up silently and surprise pedestrians".

Hampton residents have indicated their continuing interest in the local environment: exactly the Society's aim.

Of course, new members mean more influence, and with 96 of them joining us since last May, we now approach the 600 household mark. That's a hefty total for a local non-political organisation whose sole purpose is to protect and improve the local environment for its population. Sunbury's residents know we support them in their Keep Kempton Green campaign to prevent an unsuitable development which would add even more traffic on to the already crowded Upper Sunbury Road.

We understand the Jockey Club wishes to concentrate on Sandown Park, sacrificing Kempton to finance an all-weather course at Newmarket. Sandown is on a slope – unlike Kempton's flat gravel – some reckoned it to be unsuited to racing on the flat. The famous Boxing Day King George V Cup just wouldn't be the same anywhere other than Kempton. *continued on page 3*

Don't Forget the AGM

This year our AGM will be held in the **Coward Room** at **Hampton Hill Theatre** on Thursday, 6 April at 8.00pm.

Agenda

1. Minutes of AGM held on 14 April 2016 (available to download from our website).
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Presentation and approval of accounts for 2016/17
4. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2017/18
5. Chair's report
6. Elections of officers and committee in accordance with the rules
 - a) Vice-Chair; b) Secretary; c) Six committee members
7. Any other business.

Afterwards, Frances Hughes will give us a talk about the painter Zoffany, who created memorable scenes of Hampton for the eighteenth-century actor David Garrick, whose villa still stands close to the river on Hampton Court Road.

A refreshments bar will be available.

Notes from the Chair



It was a privilege to be part of the inaugural leaders' meeting at the White House Community Centre on Saturday 11 March and it highlights what a great area this is to live in.

The meeting came about in response to two issues. The first was to reach out to everyone in the Hampton community, especially those who might feel isolated and

in need of company. The second was to highlight how many activities are available to the residents of Hampton and to help introduce the leaders to each other.

The evening was a great success, with representatives getting to know more about what other organisations have to offer and discussing ways in which they can help and offer mutual support. My thanks go to Tracy Moulds of the YMCA for hosting, Linden Hall trustee Janet Fisher for her support and inspiration and Richmond Community Links Officer Bill Reed for providing the structure for the evening.

The excellent community newsletter that Janet publishes is delivered throughout Hampton and includes activities and contact details for all the organisations. The list is getting longer and longer and more complete with each issue – so you now know where to look for something to do. We also hope to have an online version of the contact list available soon.

If you think your organisation is missing from the list and would like to be included, please get in touch with me or Janet at hamptoncommunitynews@gmail.com.



David Farrell (left) and Barbara Perry (right) were amongst the 40 attendees at the leaders' meeting

Don't Panic! But do keep in touch

As our lead story has covered, if you have concerns about issues affecting life in Hampton, sharing them with a larger body of residents gives them more weight when a point needs to be made.

Our MP, Dr Tania Mathias, joined us for the lunch at Merits training restaurant in January. She was very impressed that the views we express are backed up by many of our residents. The use of polling your opinions in our email and printed newsletters means we can illustrate the scope of feeling behind particular issues.

On that note, Dr Mathias also encouraged us to fill in the various Government Heathrow surveys, saying "if they are not filled in, the developers will think that people of this area don't have an opinion". I know that we do and although the Night Flights public consultation closed at the end of February, those for Airspace and Heathrow Expansion go on until 25 May so please go to www.tania4twickenham.co.uk/news/heathrow-consultations for links to find out how to make your views known.

Cracking up www.richmond.gov.uk/fund

Finally, the *Nominate Pavements for Repair* scheme is running. As the condition of your pavements was a leading concern in the village survey, it's your chance to encourage your neighbours to get together and propose the area of paving that affects you. The stronger the response, the greater the chance of repair. It's a shame that it should have to come to this but the council is limited in funds and time to repair so this helps move areas up the priority list. There have already been successful applications in Church Street, High Street and Station Road.

William Redfern, Chair

Obituary

Hampton Football Club's Alan Simpson

The recent passing of comedy scriptwriter Alan Simpson, although international news, was also personal to a corner of Hampton. Alan was an integral part of Hampton & Richmond Borough F.C. for almost 50 years and a massive presence in Beveree Stadium.

Alan found the club quite by accident. Back in 1966, on finding himself insufficient time to get to Craven Cottage to watch Fulham, he decided to wander into Beveree to see Hampton FC (as it then was) take on Huntley & Palmer's in the Spartan League. The following year he happily accepted the post of club president, a position he held to the end of his life.

To the world he was the co-writer of *Hancock's Half-Hour*, *Hancock* and *Stephoe & Son* with long-standing partner Ray Galton. To everyone at the club he was just Alan. He loved his football and would gladly talk about the last game or about a certain player, rather than his comedy writing.

Many were the ways in which he helped the club. He loved to sponsor a player each season, usually a goalkeeper because he had always wanted to be one in his youth.



Alan with the Ryman (Isthmian) League Trophy which H&RBFC won for the first time in 2006/07. The club won the League Championship for the second time in 2015/16.

It became an established part of my pre-match routine to give him his teamsheet and have a chat about a new player or recent action concerning his beloved Hampton FC. His presence – so much part of the club for so long – will never leave Beveree, such is the love and respect the fans had for the man, our Alan.

Rob Overfield, Press Officer,
Hampton & Richmond Borough FC **THS**

Stand and Deliver!



With Society household membership numbers now approaching 600, we need more people to help deliver this Newsletter four times a year, says our hardworking membership secretary Trisha Shirt. Although we have 23 people doing delivery rounds for us, we could do with more.

Trisha explains her routine like this: "I drop off the newsletters with a list of where you need to deliver them and ask that they be delivered within the next two or three days, usually over a weekend. If you are away on holiday or perhaps ill, so can't help out, no problem. We have several people who are on standby for such times."

Obviously, delivery rounds are based close to deliverers' own addresses, as far as possible, so it's a good way to find out more about your local neighbourhood as well as providing good gentle exercise!

Find out more by contacting Trisha on 8941 5162 if you'd like to join either on an ad hoc or permanent basis. Some of you could also be interested in helping to distribute the Hampton Community Newsletter, which goes to every Hampton household every two months. Call Janet Fisher at hamptoncommunitynews@gmail.com. **THS**

More Members More Influence *continued from front*

The projected move leaves Sandown as the sole remaining racecourse within the M25 and a notoriously difficult journey there by road. Kempton, as we all know, has its own railway station to avoid that hazard.

Let us remember, though, how crafty developers can be. As with other schemes we have monitored, an 'outrageous' and 'contentious' proposal can often mask the true intention. In this case, could it be the Green Belt land bordering Hampton that they have had their eyes on all along?

Let's not be distracted but we should join together to show what the people of Hampton think of this behaviour!

Annual membership of The Hampton Society is cheap and simple. At £6.00 for a household or £4.00 for an individual (plus 50p to cover postage of your membership card), once a standing order is set up at your bank you can forget all about it as the annual membership will be renewed automatically.

With an average of a talk, visit or event for each month of the year, including our famous sell-out quiz night, we think we offer great value for your membership. But we also wish to raise awareness of local issues through quarterly newsletters and our website:

www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk. Why not encourage your neighbours to join? **THS**

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 five 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.

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

Christine Paganelli 8941 5927

Contact us at **enquiries**

@thehamptonsociety.org.uk

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

Only £6.00 per household or £4.00 per individual (plus 50p postage). See website for details.

Newsletter production:

Edited by Maura Waters.

Designed and produced by William Redfern

www.williamredfern.co.uk 020 8286 7071

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



Cllr Gareth Roberts and Cllr Martin Seymour also attended the leaders' meeting (see Chair's notes, left)

Another Bumper Quiz Night

We had to close the list well before the event, the successes of our quiz nights now being so well feted around Hampton. February's was our sixth in succession with ten tables of – mainly – six players each and held at Linden Hall.



I say "mainly" because the winning table consisted of only five contestants: Colin and Trish Muid, Jeff and Ros Cash, plus our own Hampton councillor Gareth Roberts. Here they are, pictured along with question-master William Redfern and their wine winnings.

William wasn't the only one confused when his answers didn't fit the questions set by Trisha Shirt during one of the rounds. Unfazed, Trish explained "Thought I'd come up with a way of making this year's quiz memorable". She didn't need to: she'd won the top raffle prize of a couple of tickets to one of Hampton Pool's upcoming summer picnic concerts (see www.hamptonpool.co.uk/concerts for this year's line-up).

Everyone attending had already covered one hurdle just to reach the hall. SouthWest Trains had selected that very day to start engineering works at the level crossing on Percy Road, obstructing the usual access.

Most people managed to get there by foot or by car, but the buses, of course, had their own way of following the necessary diversion. Marguerite Devenish found herself waving her umbrella and shouting to her 111 bus-driver as he blithely passed her stop. She had to walk back in the rain – but was determined not to let her team down. **THS**

2017 Events Programme

We've tried to provide something for everyone with our events programme for the coming year.

We start off with a walk with Nicolas Garbutt in May in Home Park, concentrating on areas like the Queen's Paddocks which the general public doesn't normally see. Nicholas promises he will take us into new areas none of us have yet seen. We may even spy snakes...

June brings our summer party, once again to be held at Hampton Sailing Club – always a happy venue, notably for the fun of arriving there by chain ferry!

Two guided visits take up July and September, firstly to Strawberry Hill House with coffee and biscuits included, and secondly to the National Archives at Kew where, if feasible, members will be able to do their own research if they wish.

Who hasn't heard of the ghost of Sybil Penn, the grey lady and well-known nurse of Prince Edward, who became the Tudor Edward VI? She is buried at St Mary's and lived at one time close by in Church Street.

October seems an appropriately ghoulish time to learn more about her life from Sam Hearn.

Paula Kitching returns in November with her final talk on WWI, and in December we finish 2017 with three aficionados of ice skating telling us about Richmond's rink – once the most famous ice rink in the world.

THS



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.

2017

March

Taggs Island and the Karsino
Wednesday 22, 8.00pm

Talk by Dave Raven at St Mary's community hall.

April

Annual General Meeting of The Hampton Society

Thursday 6 April, 8.00pm followed by a talk on Johan Joseph Zoffany and his Hampton connections by Frances Hughes at Hampton Hill Theatre (please note change of venue).



May

Walk in Queens Paddocks, Home Park with Nicholas Garbutt

Friday 12 May at 10.30am

Meet at Kingston Bridge end of Home Park

June

Summer Party (see picture above)

Friday 23 June at 7.30pm at Hampton Sailing Club

July

Visit to Strawberry Hill House (see picture left)

Friday 14 July at 10.30am for 11.00am start

(£13.50 per head admission fee)

September

Visit to the National Archives at Kew

Friday 22 September at 11.00am

(£10.00 per head admission fee)

October

Sybil Penn, the Grey Lady
Thursday 19 October

Talk by Sam Hearn on Edward VI's nurse at St Mary's community hall