

The Hampton Society

The residents' association of Hampton, est.1956 Spring Newsletter 2022

Hampton Girls win their Atlantic Race



▲ Atlantic crossing: Abby Johnstone, Charlotte Irving and Kat Cordinger arrive in Antigua having broken the world record by over a week.

They did it! Three girls rowed 3,000 miles across the Atlantic in six weeks, beating the previous record by an entire week and earning a world record. Abby Johnston and Charlotte Irving, both past pupils of Lady Eleanor Holles school and their friend Kat Cordinger achieved the new world record in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Rowing Challenge, spending both Christmas and New Year on the ocean.

Kat has been diagnosed with incurable ovarian cancer. Together with Abby and Charlotte, the trio took out a £60,000 bank loan to buy their boat, *Dolly Parton*, intending to sell it now the race is over with **Go Fund Me** proceeds going to **Cancer Research UK, Macmillan** and the **Royal Marsden Cancer Charity**.

The girls, Kat 42, Charlotte 32 and Abby 31, organised their voyage into three two-hour rowing sessions, two of them always rowing while the third took a well-earned rest. Between 11.00pm and 5.00am they took two-hour solo shifts, allowing the other two a clear four hours of sleep. Rowing *Dolly Parton* without a break, their record between La Gomera in the Canaries and English Harbour, Antigua, was 42 days, 7 hours and 17 minutes. The previous record was 49 days, 1 hour and 49 minutes.

How did they do it? By spending 18 months before their race training for its expected rigours, like navigation, safety at sea and sea survival. Clearly, they proved equal to such varied tasks, but here in their own words, are the two Hampton girl's thoughts on what is bound to be an outstanding occasion in their lives.

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Notice of The Hampton Society 2022 AGM

Venue TBC (see back page) at 8.00pm.

THU
28
APRIL

Agenda

1. Minutes of AGM held on 29 April 2021 (available on our website).
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Presentation and approval of accounts for 2021/22
4. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2022/23
5. Chair's report
6. Elections of officers and committee in accordance with the rules
 - a) Chair;
 - b) Treasurer;
 - c) Vice Chair;
 - d) Seven committee members

Please submit your application no later than Friday 13 April if you would like to stand for any of the positions on the committee.

7. Any other business.

This is not an impromptu part of the meeting. If you would like to raise an issue please submit it in writing no later than Friday 13 April to have it added to the agenda.

We are unable to discuss issues without prior notice.



Notes from the Chair

I have received lots of news from Hampton Pool in its centenary year.

First of all, following Greater London Authority approval at Stage 2 in late January, Richmond Planning confirmed the decision to approve the Hampton Pool building development on 18 February. The charitable trust will be holding a conversation with their members highlighting the key features and what has changed in March.

Centenary celebrations will take place at the weekend of 24 June, around the date it officially opened a hundred years ago in 1922. Please get in touch with the Trust at 100@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk if you have any memories of Hampton Pool over the years you would like to share in this momentous year.

Calling time

I would like to thank members **Richard Pull**, **Linda** and **Robert Cox** for all their enthusiastic help in running the refreshment bar at our events over the last few years. We now have a vacancy and would love to hear from you if you fancy helping the Society by running our modest bar. Please get in contact with me to get involved.

I would also like to acknowledge the immense effort of our retiring committee member **Sylvia Bridge Le Cluse**. For over seven years Sylvia has been monitoring and advising the committee on planning applications that challenge the aims of the Society – *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*. Iacopo Sassi is a practising architect, deputy Chair of the Society and leads the planning group. If you would like to join the committee and help in this important area, Iacopo and I would really like to hear from you.

Local inspiration

Finally, I would like to say how inspired I have been by the achievement of our two local girls and their friend, our cover stars. I have been in regular contact with Pauline – Charlotte's mum – during the girls' adventure at sea. Besides updates on progress and amazing encounters, Pauline has regularly informed me of when they would be appearing on **BBC Breakfast** who have been following the **ExtraOARdinary** story. The show even hosted a video link between the girls' parents and satellite phone in the Atlantic on Christmas Day.

Back on dry land, the three girls were in the studio on Monday 21 February and received a special message from **Dolly Parton**, after whom their boat was named. She said "I can honestly say that I am so flattered and so honoured that you would use me in any way to accomplish what you have accomplished. I just wanna say how proud of you I am – you are to be commended. Having my name associated with great girls like you is wonderful. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. You have helped a lot of people."

As a parent, I can only imagine how anxious all their mums and dads must have been while their children were in the middle of a vast ocean and I'm sure they are glad it's all over. Until their next challenge!

Kind regards, **William Redfern**, Chair
enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk



▲ Top: Kat, Abby and Charlotte on BBC Breakfast with Dan Walker and Sally Nugent.

Dolly Parton giving her personal message to the girls on 21 February. ▼



Food Bank Donations Replace Birthday Presents

There are just so many bunches of flowers or pot plants you can give older friends and relations for Christmas or birthdays.



When Jean Wood's 95th birthday hove into view she had a brainwave – why not ask for food bank donations in lieu of presents?

Such a sensible idea went down a storm among the prospective guests for her birthday party. They brought along enough food items for a potential 40 households.

Jean is a noted local cakemaker, a contributor to many local fundraisers for St Mary's Church.



She's passed on her talents to her children, too. Daughter Diana and husband Tony are keen cooks, as is daughter Jill and son Ian. This generation of Woods produced a marzipanned fruit birthday cake in white iced latticework and decorated with yellow flowers. It was the star item of the afternoon, supplemented by many small cakes baked by the younger generation.

Following a stroke two years ago Jean now uses a wheelchair. But as recently as 2017 she won the Swan Award from Arts Richmond for her productions of *Black Chiffon* and *WI Blues* for St Mary's Drama Group.

MW THS

What a blow

Storm Eunice certainly left her mark on the village with at least two trees down. This one on Ashley Road rather conveniently fell along the pavement, mostly missing buildings, cars and pedestrians. WR THS



Repair Shop at the Hub

Hamptonians in the know go to The Repair Shop when their household items malfunction. These aren't the antique makeovers found on TV's programme but the more mundane search for advice, repair or re-purchase of some of our essential household items. It's all thanks to Tony Jacques.

Tony was inspired to set up the business on returning to the UK from Germany just over a year ago. There he had been horrified to see a rubbish tip full of electrical items due to be sent for landfill. "I thought we must find a way to extend the life of these things, stopping landfill and saving money" he explains.

Since last December the Repair Shop has been held at The Inspired Hub in Ashley Road opposite the station. On the third Wednesday of each month, from 2.00-6.00pm, tables are set up in the Hub's sizeable hall, each with an adviser ready to pronounce on care, repair or to discard those radios, toasters, food mixers, coffee grinders or vacuum cleaners. In fact anything transportable.



In practice, once advised, customers can take their 'cured' items home with them, knowing how to treat them, replace batteries or where to find spare parts. Where the original manufacturer charges more, the advice is often "Get it on Amazon".

Which brings us to the charges. There is a donation box at the hall, just pop in whatever you think is the value of the advice or repair you've received. It's up to you and your conscience. The advisers who responded so magnificently to Tony's call comprise retired experts as well as talented amateurs glad

to employ their talents usefully. Those talents are in danger of dying with them unless something resembling the Repair Shop idea catches on.

For the record, a typical repair session brought in 38 items submitted of which 47% were repaired, 16% needed one more part and 37% were sadly declared unrepairable. At least by that stage you can consider buying new with a clear conscience!

Next Repair Shop date is Wednesday 16 March from 2.00-6.00pm. Alternatively look on Nextdoor, Facebook or Instagram for subsequent opening times and dates. **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

Event organisers

Alice Fordham 020 8979 3543

Rosemary Hill 020 8973 3604

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

[@thehamptonsociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@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.

hampton pool FUNDRAISING TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF THE POOL
SUMMER PICNIC CONCERTS

Back for July 2022 - visit hamptonpooltrust.org.uk/concerts for details of this year's exciting line-up including **The Shires, The Feeling, Heaven 17, The Christians and Dodgy!**

Newsletter production:
Edited by Maura Waters.
Designed and produced by William Redfern
www.williamredfern.co.uk 020 8286 7071.



▲ Christmas celebrations in the middle of the Atlantic.

▼ Arrival in English Harbour, Antigua



News

Hampton Girls win their Atlantic Race

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Abby: "It's still hard to believe that we rowed an ocean, let alone broke a world record! When we left the start line, winning the female trios and breaking the record were two of our objectives, but we knew weather and other crews would always be something to contend with. To have been able to meet both those goals, as well as our most important objective of staying firm friends for life, has been overwhelming".

Charlotte: "We didn't want to believe it until it happened. We knew about halfway that beating the record was possible, but so many things can go awry at sea – from marlin strikes to auto-helm failures – that we didn't want to get our hopes up too much! With a race like this, with a distance of that magnitude, you just have to take each two-hour shift as it comes and focus on the next achievable milestone. It wasn't until we crossed the finish line that we really realised we'd done it – and let ourselves celebrate!"

If you would like to support the girls on this incredible achievement 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 again indebted to Pauline Irving for providing such important and plentiful information for this story and keeping us updated along the adventure. MW 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 020 8979 3543 and she will try to call you directly.

Events update 2022

Important notice about our event venues

We usually hold our talks at St Mary's community hall. This is our preferred venue but due to over-booking we are not be able to use the hall in March and April and an alternative venue is being sought. All venues, dates and times will be confirmed through our email newsletters. *Therefore...*

Do we have your current email address?

If you are not receiving regular notices by email on breaking information and events that we manage to organise between printed newsletters, it may be because you have not notified us of your email address or that it might have changed from what we have on record. If you think this is the case, please send your details to enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk, or contact Linda Brignall on 020 8979 9499. You can also find a link to our latest email newsletters at the bottom of the home page of our website, www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk. Thank you.

March

The Capital Ring

Thursday 20 March, 7.30pm for 8.00pm start

A talk by Robin Field-Smith. The Capital Ring is an urban walking route in a loop around inner and central London, staying within ten miles of Big Ben. It crosses the Thames at Richmond in the west and Woolwich in the east and takes in many of the city's open green spaces as well as sections along canals and waterways.

Robin and a group of 'Parish Plodders' from his church have recently completed walking the ring. His talk will explain the route, how to make the best of it, and show photos of places of particular interest.

April

Annual General Meeting of The Hampton Society

Thursday 28 April, 7.30pm for 8.00pm start

See notice on front page. Followed by a 20-minute film, *Richmond Park – A National Nature Reserve* narrated by David Attenborough.

May

Walk in Home Park

Date & time TBC

With Nicholas Garbutt, Park and Estate Manager, Historic Royal Palaces, lasting two hours and taking in the Ice House and the Sand Martin bank.

June

The Hampton Society Summer Party

Friday 24 June at 7.30pm

A return to one of the best venues in the area – Hampton Sailing Club – hopefully this year with a Platinum Jubilee theme.

July

Hampton in the '70s & '80s

Thursday, 14 July

John Sheaf will be speaking about his latest book - *Images of Hampton in the 1970s and 1980s*.

September

The Longford 'River'

Thursday, 29 September

A talk by Graham Dillamore, Deputy Head of Gardens, Royal Historic Palaces about our local waterway, cut in the reign of Charles I.