



# Traffic diversions: The Ghost of Hampton Future?

Photograph by Jed Leicester

## The Hampton Society Christmas Supper



**Come to our Christmas Supper on Saturday 6 December at 8.00pm at St Mary's Community Hall.**

Any contributions to a cold buffet would be welcomed by **Alice Fordham**.

Let her know which of your signature dishes you'd like to bring by phoning Alice on **8979 3543** by Saturday 29 November.

Tickets at £10 each are available from **Bill Weisblatt** on **8979 3089**. See you there!

Image styled by and courtesy of Liz Hippisley

**IT**won't have escaped many residents' notice that Hampton village's roads have been thrown into disarray these past few weeks.

As night fell on the first Friday of half-term, with no written warning from the council, new double yellow lines were painted on High Street, unsuspecting cars towed away to the far end of Ormond Avenue and a new system of traffic flow implemented around the Triangle at the junction with Church Street.



*“Let this carry a message to those involved in the proposed housing development at Kempton Park who imagine they can accommodate thousands more cars on the A308 by permanently altering the flow of traffic around Hampton's Triangle”*

Luckily, local councillors were quick to circulate a letter explaining the situation: the temporary closure of the A308 while Thames Water repaired leaks. Fair enough. However, residents around the Triangle were subjected to swearing drivers, horns blasting day and night, several car accidents (and as many near-misses), not to mention the increased danger to the lives of pedestrians as angry drivers flung themselves out into oncoming traffic and attempted to cut corners to beat the queues. And all this while roadworks were in full swing on Station Road! To top it all, after an accident on the A308 a few days later, traffic was diverted via Plevna, Varna and Avenue Roads causing further chaos.

Let this carry a message to those involved in the proposed housing development at Kempton Park (as reported in our March 2014 issue). They imagine they can accommodate thousands more cars on the A308 by permanently altering the flow of traffic around Hampton's Triangle. If the experience of this “dummy run” is anything to go by, their proposals are not viable!

P.S. A ray of hope that emerges from all the disruption on High Street is that the council did listen to residents' complaints and quickly implemented some of their suggestions, resulting in improved safety and traffic flow for the duration of the works. \*

## Any Questions? comes to Hampton

The spotlight will be on Hampton's White House on 19 December – and not just because it's Christmas. The Community Association there is hosting BBC Radio 4's popular live audience-participation programme that night. But they've waited three years for it.

As far as anyone can remember, it was about ten years ago when the venerable *Any Questions?* last favoured us with a visit, Hampton School on that occasion. So we were due for another one. Accordingly, some time in the autumn of 2011 the White House put in its application, spurred on by the suggestion of Judy Morrison, stalwart member of the Middlesex Yeomanry Band, which is based there. Out of the blue last September the BBC replied: was the White House still interested? Guess the rest.



The main hall there can seat 220 people. At the time of writing 60 seats are spoken for, all free of charge, as is customary for the BBC. Naturally, local organisations have been invited to book, and individuals can apply by ringing the White House office on **020 8979 2600** between 10am and 4pm or you can leave a message. But be quick – and if you do get a seat, remember to be in it by 7.15pm, almost an hour before the broadcast starts.

*Note:* No-one can tell you who the four panellists will be. As regular listeners know announcements are made only a week in advance, at the end of the previous week's broadcast. At least they will be offered the services of a green room behind the stage – a benefit not always provided by other hosts. \*

## Unauthorised street art blights Hampton's streets

Unightly multi-coloured markings recently appeared on the roads and pavements around the Hampton Triangle, "graffitied" by contractors in high visibility vests who, when challenged, claimed that Richmond Council knew all about it.

In an exchange of emails, local residents, the Hampton Society and councillors expressed their concerns to representatives at Richmond Council, only to discover that they were as much in the dark as everyone else.

Furthermore, the Council consider that an offence has been committed "in direct contravention of Section 132 of the Highways Act 1980" and have threatened legal proceedings (although it has to be said that the penalty for first offenders is only £100). An outraged local councillor said: "It is an absolute disgrace that your company can simply come into our streets and graffiti the length and breadth of the pavements and carriageways without first seeking any permission from the local authority or offering any form of explanation."

It appears the marks were part of a cable and utilities survey done at the behest of Redrow Homes, according to the staff of Select Surveys, who spray-painted them on 3 October. Select Surveys were working for TriConnex, who were in turn working for Aspire (the Jockey Club's lead consultant on the 1500-homes-plus-commercial-units development proposed for Kempton Park). Redrow Homes were recently granted the right of first refusal over 70 acres of land on the Kempton Park estate. Mouchel, who were conducting a traffic count on the same day, are the Jockey Club's transport consultants for the same development.



Despite being asked several times, TriConnex have been reluctant to explain the purpose of the survey work. "Everyone I have spoken with has been vague to the point of evasiveness," said a Council officer. Despite the reticence of TriConnex and Aspire, however, the PR consultant to the Jockey Club confirmed today that the work was connected with the Kempton Park proposal.

There are similar markings on the road and pavement at the racecourse, and also near the roundabout at Hampton Court Bridge, including on the cobblestones at the entrance to the Palace itself. TriConnex have agreed to remove the paint from the Hampton Triangle and a member of the Select Survey team was spotted in the area last Sunday, brandishing a clipboard. However, at time of going to press, the markings remain. \*

## Record Remembrance Sunday

Maybe it was the centenary of WWI, intensified by all those ceramic poppies at the Tower of London, but Hampton produced a record turnout for 2014's Remembrance Sunday parade and service. As in previous years, representatives of local organisations paraded from the Methodist church in Percy Road to our simple war memorial in Oldfield Road.



Photograph courtesy of presenter & reporter Ben Moore

Usually there are scores attending. This year there were hundreds, a good proportion of them youngsters too, ranging from the Under-7 Beavers to the teenage Army and RAF cadets. Among other organisations represented were the Boys Brigade, St. John's Ambulance, the Paratroopers, the police – and more I simply couldn't memorise. Our MP Vince Cable came too, as always.

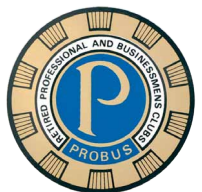
Our Society was there because we had been invited to lay a wreath, which we were honoured to do. But you try carrying a wreath and taking notes at the same time – that's why this is such a short story. **MW** \*

## The Men's Probus Club of Teddington and Hampton are looking for new members

Ladies! Tired of getting your spouse to raise his feet while you vacuum around his armchair? If he's mildly clubbable – and retired – he may very well be interested in our local men's Probus club. It meets monthly with a lunch and speaker in pleasant surroundings, currently the Thames Motor Yacht Club at Hampton Court Green.

Although lunches are the nucleus of the club, more events are open to families and friends, for example the monthly walks. Usually taken in rural Surrey, these are from and to a country pub, where those who do not wish to walk join the walkers for lunch. Recently members and their families and friends enjoyed an orchestral concert at the Cadogan Hall. A short holiday cruise down the Seine is organised for October 2015, and the annual dinner and dance at Imber Court in January will give the ladies an opportunity to dress up for a change.

Learn more about Probus from its Hon. Secretary **Phil Shepherd** on **01932 854501**.



# Notes from the Chair



**E**xciting times are ahead for Hampton. If, like me, you have sometimes felt that Hampton is viewed as the poor relation to other parts of the borough (possibly a symptom of being geographically located in the bottom corner!), then fear no more! In 2015 there will be an opportunity for more people to have their say about the shape of Hampton in the future.

## Village plans

Thanks to the recent appointment of Richmond Council's Community Links Officer, **Mamta Khanna**, who specifically looks after the Hampton area, we now have an enthusiastic point of contact - one who is actively campaigning for Hampton's voice to be heard. Following a meeting with Mamta and several emails, we are pleased to announce that the Hampton Society, in partnership with Richmond Council, is organising an informal evening of discussions to explore the opportunities and ideas for the Hampton area which residents can take forward as part of the Village Plan process beginning in October 2015.

Our discussion forum is likely to take place in the first week of February and the date and venue will be confirmed shortly.

**Those of you not on our email list, please forward your details to [william@williamredfern.co.uk](mailto:william@williamredfern.co.uk) as we will be communicating by e-newsletter. We will also be publicly advertising the event.**

Mamta reports: "London Borough of Richmond upon Thames wants residents and businesses to help prepare 'Village Planning Guidance' for the Hampton Village area. This is a document that the Council considers when deciding on planning applications. The Village Plan brings together all the activity happening in Hampton so that everybody can see what is going on and where they can get involved. Hampton's Village Plans can be found at [www.richmond.gov.uk/hampton\\_area\\_village\\_plan](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/hampton_area_village_plan).

Themes that can be explored:

- Bringing vitality to the commercial areas in Hampton
- Improving access to support and social activities for older people in the area
- Increasing sports, mentoring and leadership opportunities for young people
- Increasing the sense of community in Hampton

Residents will also be able to get information about local groups and organisations, find out how to obtain funding for a local project, explore volunteering opportunities and more. Refreshments will be provided."

In the meantime, if you have an idea for a community activity or project or want to highlight a theme for discussion at the event, please get in touch with Mamta on **020 8831 6354**, or email [Mamta.Khanna@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:Mamta.Khanna@richmond.gov.uk), Twitter [@RichmondComLink](https://twitter.com/RichmondComLink), Facebook [www.facebook.com/mamta.khanna.16121](http://www.facebook.com/mamta.khanna.16121) and also [www.richmond.gov.uk/community\\_links](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/community_links)

## A welcome addition to the committee



Following our invitation in the last newsletter for potential candidates to join our committee, we're delighted to welcome Sylvia Bridge Le Cluse who has recently jumped on board to oversee planning and environmental issues. Sylvia has valuable experience working with London Borough of Hounslow and London Borough of Richmond Councils.

We would like to encourage others to apply to become members of our committee. One of our goals is to introduce one or two events more suited to young families with children, so if you have experience in this area and would like to take up the challenge,

please get in touch with me on **020 8286 7071**.

That just leaves me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year. ✨

Visit our website at [www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk](http://www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk)

Sam Redfern Chair

## 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

Sylvia Bridge Le Cluse 8941 4450

Julie-nne Monahan 8979 8942

Christine Paganelli 8941 5927

### UP-TO-DATE MEMBERSHIP?

Have you paid your subs for 2014/15? They were due on 1 May and you should by now have received your blue membership card. If you haven't paid yet, please do so using the application form available at [www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk](http://www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk)



## QUIZ NIGHT

After a successful quiz night last year, we've organised another on **Friday 20 February 2015** at **St Mary's Community Hall**; doors open at 7.30pm for a prompt 8.00pm start.

**Come with friends in a team of four to six or else come on your own and we'll help you make up a team.**

Tickets are £5 per person, payable in advance and are available from **Trisha Shirt** on **8941 5162**. Bring your own food but drinks will be available to buy on the night - as will a raffle.

There seems to be a lot going on in Hampton at the moment that affects residents. If you have any comments please contact us at [enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk)

### Newsletter production:

Edited by Maura Waters.

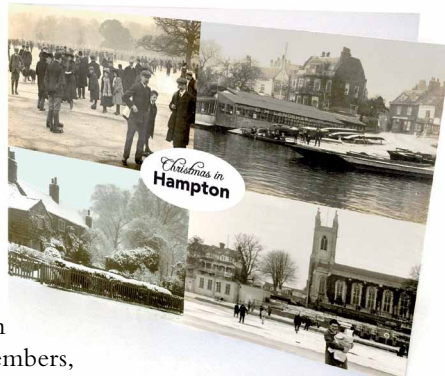
Designed and produced by William Redfern [www.williamredfern.co.uk](http://www.williamredfern.co.uk) 020 8286 7071.

Photography by Sam and William Redfern, unless stated otherwise.

# Don't forget to pick up packs of our Christmas cards

FOR CHRISTMAS 2014 we've selected a collage of four views of Hampton past from local historian John Sheaf's extensive collection of postcards and photographs. On the one card you'll find views of skating in Bushy Park in 1907, Hampton Ferry and Bell Hill in 1909, the frozen Thames in 1963 and old cottages in Station Road around 1930.

The price for a packet of ten cards is the same as last year, just £4.00, and are available from **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604**, any committee members, selected local shops such as **Ohso** gift shop on Station Road or at any of our pre-Christmas events listed alongside. \*



# Christmas starts early in Hampton this year

CHRISTMAS IN HAMPTON starts on Sunday 30 November, the date of Father Christmas's fifth annual sleigh-ride around the streets surrounding our station. Organised as usual by our Hampton Village Traders Association, an innovation this year will be three grottoes in the Sea Scout hall, two for Father Christmas and one for Mother Christmas.



Following the enormous successes of previous years, the grottoes in the Station Road hall are designed to cut down on queuing – and childish nerves. Grotto organiser Susan Green of Greenacres Nurseries believes some children may feel more confident to meet Mother Christmas, especially if this is their first time. So she is providing eight elves, *Peppa Pig* and *Upsy Daisy* characters to marshal the queues and keep them entertained while they wait their turn.

As for the adults, sound-alikes *Elvis* and *Amy Winehouse* will perform on the stage at Hampton Green after the local school choirs and the Wensleydale band have done their turns with Christmas carols and other yuletide music. Not to be outdone, *Roy Orbison* and *Cher* are due to strut their stuff on the other side of the railway bridge outside Hampton Cellar during the second half.

To cater for all this jollity Station, Ashley and (part of) Gloucester roads will be closed to traffic between 4.00 and 7.00pm to allow for free roaming between all the pavement stalls set up by the Traders, who have selected various good causes for donations instead of their usual payments.

Everything kicks off at 4.00pm when the Christmas tree outside the Sea Scout hall is lit, swiftly followed by all the smaller trees above the shop fronts all along the parade route. Then the fun can begin: Father Christmas's sleigh will wind its way around all the aforementioned roads before entering Station Road again for his final destination at the hall.

People might want to delay Sunday dinner once they know about all the food and drink on offer. Shopkeepers will be offering sausages in buns, hamburgers, chips, hot chestnuts, sweets, mulled cider and fizzy drinks. After sampling that lot, maybe they'll cancel Sunday dinner!

Just don't forget to call at the Hampton Society stall and pick up some useful information about our talks and visits for all year round. Meantime, Merry Christmas! \*



## 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.

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

### WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 8.00PM They won't be home for Christmas: the build-up and first six months of the First World War

A talk by **Paula Kitching** at Hampton Hill Playhouse.

As men around the UK and Empire rushed to recruitment centres to volunteer for a conflict that would be over by Christmas, the opening stages in the summer of 1914 ensured it would be anything but a brief European war. This talk will explore the start of the First World War and the first six months of the conflict on the Western Front, examining how it began, what the state of play for the different sides was and how a shot in Sarajevo kicked off a series of events that by December 1914 had the world plunged into a conflict that had no easy end in sight.

### SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER 4.00PM Hampton Christmas Celebrations



Hampton Village Traders Association again host the biggest Christmas event in the area which is your opportunity to shop locally for Christmas gifts. See article on the left and [www.hamptonvillage.co.uk](http://www.hamptonvillage.co.uk) for more details about the event.

### SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 8.00PM The HamSoc Christmas Supper

at St Mary's Community Hall, Hampton. Buffet supper with friends and members. Tickets at £10 available in mid-November from **Bill Weisblatt** on **8979 3089**.

### FRIDAY 16 JANUARY 2015 Lunch at Merits

Yet another delicious lunch at a very reasonable price is on the cards at Merits, the training restaurant for Richmond College. If you would like to attend and enjoy the cooking of the chefs of tomorrow, please contact **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604** to hear about the menu, reserve places and obtain directions.