

The Hampton Society

The residents' association of Hampton, est.1956 Winter newsletter 2023

Denbies visit sparkles



▲ Beautiful sunny weather enhanced the experience – and the views – at Denbies Sparkling Wine Train Tour in October

Glorious sunshine was not the only reason Hampton Society members raised a celebratory glass of English wine on our recent Sparkling Outdoor Train tour of Denbies Wine Estate.

Vineyards in the UK are expecting the 2023 harvest to be their highest and best yields to date. Vineyard tourism is also on the increase. It is easy to see why, sipping sparkling wine on the estate's highest viewing platform with its panoramic views of the North Downs.

Everyone who came was most enthusiastic. **Rosemary Eadie** thought it was a delightful experience, saying "the ride up to the high point of the vineyard, lovely views of the surrounding country, an excellent commentary during the train tour, and of course, at the highest point, a glass of fizz when we stopped for yet another amazing view."

From hobbyist activity in the 1950s to an internationally award-winning industry, English wine is now Britain's fastest-growing agricultural sector. Denbies is one of 943 vineyards across Great Britain who collectively produced in excess of 12.5m bottles in 2022. With production expected to reach 25m bottles by 2032, it is not surprising that investors have begun to show an interest, with forward thinking Champagne houses, such as Pommery, growing, producing and release their own English vintages.

Society visitor **Philip McHardy** said, "I was very interested in the information about the different vines which were grown on the estate, and how carefully they have to be planted – it certainly wasn't a question of just planting them as they came. Different vines required different conditions."

While there is evidence that grapes were grown in England during Roman times, England's more recent influence in viniculture can be traced back to Christopher Merret, an English man who, in 1662, invented glass bottles to withstand the secondary fermentation process that makes wine "sparkle."

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Our lovely new Christmas cards of local scenes around Hampton are now on sale from committee members and local shops
Only £5.00 for a mixed pack of 10. See page 3



HAMPTON VILLAGE TRADERS ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS EVENT

SANTA CLAWS IS COMING TO TOWN



**SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER
From 4pm to 7pm**

Spot the 'Living' T-Rex and Polar Bear prowling around the village
Local Craft Market on the Green
Cher, Roy Orbison & Elvis perform by Hampton Cellar
Food Stalls, Local Shops & Businesses open for family fun!





Notes from the Chair

As your Chair, it is always a pleasure to share news of our

upcoming events and reflect on the successes of our recent gatherings.

Our trip to Denbies Wine Estate was a resounding success, and your positive feedback is a testament to our commitment to offering a varied and engaging calendar of events. We aim to provide opportunities for you to connect with fellow members, explore new interests, and broaden your horizons.



▲ (l to r) Siobhan Clarke's talk on Kensington Palace in September and John Sheaf's presentation on the memorials of St Mary's in November

Our last two talks at St Mary's community hall have been met with packed houses eager to learn and engage. They were informative and fascinating. A big thank you to our committee members Rosemary and Alice for their outstanding efforts in organising these enriching events.

Summer party comments

Your feedback has made it clear that this is a cherished occasion in our social calendar. I extend a warm welcome to anyone who lives alone and may feel hesitant to attend our gatherings. Our events are a fantastic chance to meet new friends, expand your social circle, and engage with like-minded individuals. We are more than happy to introduce you to other members and ensure you feel comfortable and included.

Enhancing the Committee

I am delighted to announce that Alayne Öztürk has accepted the position of our new secretary following my appeal for new committee members. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Lesley Cesenek for her invaluable

contributions in the role over the past few years. Additionally, we have received a welcome offer of assistance from Julia Stafford, who has kindly agreed to contribute articles to our newsletter and provide support at our events. Thank you, Julia and Alayne, for your willingness to lend a hand.

We are immensely grateful for the unwavering commitment of our new and existing committee members. Their dedication and enthusiasm are essential to the success of the Society.

Jazz Night at St Mary's

Marking an exciting departure from our usual programming, we are hosting a jazz evening on Thursday, December 7th, featuring the renowned **Perrin Jazz Collective**. Tickets are selling fast at only £5 each. Tables will accommodate up to six people, and if you are coming on your own, we will ensure you find a welcoming spot to enjoy the music and company. Secure your tickets by scanning the QR code at the top of the next page or go to bit.ly/46dKILJ.

Remembering our community's dedicated councillors

November has brought us the sad news of the passing of two esteemed councillors, Geoffrey Samuel and Martin Elengorn. Their dedication to serving our community leaves an indelible mark on our local landscape.

Geoffrey Samuel was a dedicated and long serving councillor representing Hampton North. In my experience, he was a committed and courteous councillor who was always available to meet with residents and hear their concerns.

I will miss his regular email newsletters that updated all who received them with issues in the Hampton North ward, especially the future of the White House. He was also a prominent figure at Remembrance Sunday, adding a touch of elegance and respect to the occasion with his academic attire.

That same week, I first heard of the passing of Councillor Martin Elengorn, who has represented Teddington since 1982. He had been seen only the week before at his usual spot in a Teddington café where he made himself available to meet residents and hear about local issues.

On behalf of the Society, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of Geoffrey Samuel and Martin Elengorn. Their contributions to our community will not be forgotten.

Kind regards, **William Redfern**, Chair

Obituary

Geoffrey Samuel

Hampton loses venerable champion of North Ward.

Geoffrey Samuel, a dedicated and long-standing councillor who served our local communities for over 60 years, has passed away at the age of 92.

Geoffrey was born in Chiswick and moved to Twickenham as a child in 1940. He worked in the education system for 43 years, 23 of which he served as the head of The Heathland School in Hounslow.

First elected to the council in 1957, councillor Samuel was a tireless advocate for his constituents, always putting their needs



first. He was a champion of local democracy, and his unwavering commitment to public service will be deeply missed.

During his time on the council, Cllr Samuel held a number of key positions, including Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Schools and Finance. He was also a respected member of the Richmond Bench for several years.

Cllr Samuel was a man of great integrity and wisdom, and he was always willing to go the extra mile for his constituents. In May 2022, he was the sole surviving Tory councillor in the council elections.

"When I was first elected, 90 per cent of my time was spent dealing with council affairs and 10 per cent was spent speaking to residents. Now it's the other way around. Councillors have to listen to and be advocates for the people who voted them in. You get a much better feel for what people want."

He was a true friend to many, and will be fondly remembered by all who knew him. **WR THS**

Residents lament loss of vital services as Boots closes two local chemists

You may have noticed queues round the block at the remaining Boots the Chemist shop on Station Approach, following the closures of the Hampton Square and Priory Road branches.



This is part of a series of closures by the pharmacy giant that is closing up to 300 stores around the UK. It is seen as another sign of a large store chain struggling to maintain a high street presence as it moves to 'consolidate the business' by the end of the year.

Hampton Medical Centre has posted "we have had an increased number of complaints from patients about Boots services. As it is a separate business, we do not have any influence on their operational procedures and any other aspects of their service provision".

They recommend that customers contact **Boots customer service team** on: **0345 070 8090** with your complaints and concerns. Boots claim shoppers affected by the closures "will have alternative stores less than three miles away", no consolation for the elderly who need easy access to a pharmacy that the former Hampton Square store offered to many local residents. **WR/MW THS**

Denbies Visit Sparkles *continued from front page*

This is despite Dom Perignon, the Benedictine monk who made wine at Hautvillers Abbey in the Champagne region of France, being credited to have discovered sparkling wine 30 years later.



Known for his skill at blending different vintages, it is more likely that he devoted his life trying to prevent cellared wine from developing bubbles, 20-90% of which would have exploded. It was again the English who had provided a practical solution to the removal of cork stoppers that had been used to seal glass bottles since the late 1600 by patenting the world's first corkscrew in 1795.

While England's historical significance is undeniable, wine as we know it, sparkling wine in particular, has been the product of many people over several years.

Member **Ann Fraser**, said "I thoroughly enjoyed the visit in such brilliant weather and excellent company" and **Roger Robinson** added "the train ride showed us how vast the acreage of the vineyard is". And all, only a short journey from Hampton. **JS/RH THS**

Try some yourself with our competition!

In the spirit of collaboration, The Hampton Society is inviting members to submit an interesting article for our next newsletter with the opportunity to win a bottle of **Louis Pommery English Sparkling Wine Brut**.

Good luck and we look forward to receiving your entries.



Contact us by email at enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk

The Hampton Society present

JAZZ night

St Mary's Hampton community hall
Thursday 7 December
7.30pm for 8.00pm

Buy Tickets Here Now!
£3.00 each

with the Perrin Jazz Collective

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 - if you are interested in 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

Alayne Öztürk

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

Andy Smith 020 8941 2495

Lesley Cesenek 07540 342813

Newsletter production: Edited by Maura Waters. Contributions from Julia Stafford, Rosemary Hill and William Redfern. Designed and produced by William Redfern www.williamredfern.co.uk



Our Christmas cards are now on sale from the following local shops:

Meriandos Greetings Cards & Gifts,
98 Station Road
(nextdoor to the Post Office)

Hampton Cellar, 1 Station Approach
Szygy Hair Design, 33 Ashley Road
Curves, Station Road

You'll need to dash if you want help in making a difference in your neighbourhood



Richmond Council is inviting organisations to apply to the Community Fund by midnight on Monday 11 December 2023.

The borough is split into two areas, east and west. £351,000 is currently available towards services or activities that benefit Whitton and Heathfield, Twickenham, East Twickenham, Hampton, Hampton Hill and Fulwell, Strawberry Hill, Teddington and Hampton Wick.

For east of the borough £518,000 is available for services or activities that benefit Richmond, Kew, East Sheen, Mortlake and Barnes.

Applicants can apply for up to the total budget available in each funding area.

As there is limited funding available, this is a competitive process and organisations should make sure that their project closely aligns with the priority areas for the fund.

Generated by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which amounts to a tax on developments over 100sqm, requests for funding need to be infrastructure based and aimed at relieving the demands placed on a local area by those new developments.

Examples include: countering the loss of biodiversity or pollution; community support activities covering education, culture, physical and mental wellbeing in the area; improvements to outdoor space; and walking routes, cycle paths and community bus services.

To be eligible organisations must be: providing a service or activity that benefits residents or the borough; not-for-profit; a constituted organisation; and financially solvent.

Further information can be found on the council's website at bit.ly/3G3N72z **Community Fund round five - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.**

Please note the strict criteria that include a project being able to start within 12 months of receiving the grant; endorsement from at least two councillors; a minimum of £5,000; proof that it will positively improve and impact the local community; and match funding, which includes volunteer time.

Examples of successful projects include: Hampton Pool; cycle storage; Marble Hill play centres; ETNA Community Centre; Community Kitchen extension and garden; TAG Youth Project; outreach van; Vineyard Community Centre; disability access improvements; and Kneller Gardens Pavilion Extension.

If you would like further information and guidance, contact communityconversations@richmond.gov.uk. JS THS



▲ Hampton Pool has new covered double-decker bicycle racks either side of the main entrance thanks to the Community Fund

Events 2023/24



Thursday 7 December

Jazz Evening

St Mary's community hall, 7.30pm for 8.00pm

£5.00 per person (scan QR code), tables of up to six people. Featuring the Perrin Jazz Collective.

Friday 19 January 2024

Member's new year lunch

Details TBC by e-mail notice

Friday 9 February 2024

Quiz Night with Andy Smith



St Mary's community hall, 7.30pm for 8.00pm

£6.00 per person, teams up to six people. If you are on your own and want to join in, we will ensure you find a welcoming team.

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.

Events calendar

Our talks are free to members but please bring your membership cards to meetings

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 William Redfern on 020 8286 7071 and he will try to call you directly.