

Update 2025

The Hampton Society

The residents' association of Hampton, est.1956

Warning sirens in Hampton



Any new residents of Hampton may wonder or be concerned on hearing the World War II siren when they move into the area. This is a warning system which originates from Hampton Waterworks and is sounded every Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. The siren is sounded at the same time each week as a

routine safety measure. If it is sounded at other times it is warning of an accidental chlorine release.

The way that chlorine is stored on site was changed about eighteen years ago, and escapes should be extremely rare. Local residents asked for the sirens to be kept up, so the siren testing was continued, and there are no plans to change this. The current storage facility in Hampton has been built to vigorous standards regulated by the Control of Major Accident Hazards regulations 2015.

If the warning is sounded residents who live near-by should go indoors, close all windows and doors, turn off air conditioning, ventilation fans and heating systems. They should then wait to hear from the emergency services or from media sources.

Perhaps it is fortunate or is it confusing that this siren was the World War II 'all-clear'.

The siren can be heard around Hampton and, so I have read, beyond.

The Hampton Society

If you would like to find out more about future events and join The Hampton Society, visit our website: www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk.

Our annual membership fee is £6.50.

Bill Weisblatt

Distinguished Hampton Resident

Bill Weisblatt died in September, aged 96. Bill and his wife Betty moved from Central London to Hampton in 1962 and embraced 'village life' immediately. Bill was proud and happy to be a



member of the Hampton Community and helped with others to secure the preservation of Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare, the restoration of Hampton Village Green, the saving and landscaping of Hampton Common and the preservation of Hampton's Outdoor Swimming Pool.

As an active member of the Hampton Residents' Association, (now The Hampton Society), Bill was involved in discussions about the development of Hampton Nurserylands, the St. Clare's Nursery Site and noise pollution from Heathrow Airport. His contributions were of great value to the citizens of Hampton.

Among his other memberships, Bill was a long-standing member of the Probus Club of Teddington and Hampton, and with Betty he helped to organise coach visits and other events for the Richmond Association for the National Trust. His

ability to speak concisely and wittily at meetings - without notes - will be greatly missed. Our condolences go to Betty and his daughter Emma and his son-in-law Nick.

A Memorial Event will be held next Spring.

Author: Nick Waters

Hampton – the place of the railway

Update on our trains

The history of the railways has been celebrated this year. It was 200 years ago that the Stockton and Darlington Railway opened in 1825. We might think of "Ivor the Engine", the Thomas the Tank Engine stories written by the Rev. W. Awdry, or even our own Hampton and Kempton Waterworks Railway. Even remembering perhaps travelling by steam train in decades past. Closer to home, the railway came to Hampton in 1864, and there is an interesting piece on it on the Twickenham Museum website.



However, things don't stand still and there are continual changes in the services. The new Arterio fleet of trains has been operating in our area since late 2024. The Shepperton line was one of the first to see these new trains and they are now operating widely over the south western region, serving some 98 stations. They carry more passengers than the older trains, and provide Wi-fi and toilets. Other advantages include wider and faster opening doors, cycle racks and air conditioning, all of which are designed to increase comfort. If you use these trains, hopefully you find them to be an improvement, and that they make your journey between Hampton and Waterloo more enjoyable.

Changes in Hampton's Built Environment

Developments in Hampton Village

The Hampton Society makes comments on planning applications in Hampton or neighbouring Boroughs if they are going to affect Hampton. These are usually larger applications that quite a few residents would be concerned about.

At present we can see the **Old Police Station** site in Station Road being partly demolished and a Care Home being built. The main building that was the police station is to be refurbished so the facade at least will stay the same. Overall there will be eighty-eight high dependency care beds provided.



Opposite there has been the rebuilding of **Kingsbury's Garage**. (Ref: 21/1841/FUL) The garage and workshops are still there and the business is in use. However, four semi-detached houses, built like those nearby, are at the front of the business. A new access road and car-parking have been provided.

The Kerslake, Ruston and Ward Buildings at **Hampton Waterworks** have an application in for the conversion and extension of the buildings to provide 36 residential units and flexible business space with car-parking. There have been some objections to this scheme (see 23/3259/FUL on the Council's website under planning) but also, some residents would like to see these historic buildings developed before they fall into decay

News about an important local person

Many Hampton residents were pleased to hear that PCSO Marek (Maz) Regan was awarded a British Empire Medal in the last New Year Honours List. Maz has served the Hampton Community for over 15 years. The Hampton Society would like to pass on our thanks for all your hard work and dedication Maz.

Linden Hall

Fifty years of supporting older folk locally



Suzette Nicholson and Alayne Ozturk of the Hampton Society presenting the cheque to Bill Glassup, Treasurer of the Linden Hall Trustees

Linden Hall celebrated 50 years in the Hampton Community in 2025. It was built on the site of the old railway goods yard. It is the place where ‘The Lindeners’ social club meets which provides company and a hot meal for older folk in the community. However, there is a lot else going on there for all ages so take a look and see if you would like to join in. There is a large hall and a smaller lounge, both of which can be hired for events such as parties. The Hampton Society was pleased to donate to Linden Hall funds recently, so that the good work can continue.

St Mary’s Youth Club

Supporting young people

The Hampton Society was also able to make a donation during the autumn term to the work of the MTV Youth Club, based at the bungalow in Oldfield Road, next to St Mary’s School. MTV Youth Club provides a welcoming space for young people and the money will be used for a variety of items supporting sporting activities for club members. The main item will be a heavy-duty gazebo to provide essential shelter for their fitness activities.

Date for your diary: Next year’s AGM will take place on Thursday 16th April