

New Kicks for the Common? It's Time for the Girls

▲ The Under 10 Warriors Hampton & Richmond Borough Youth FC team.

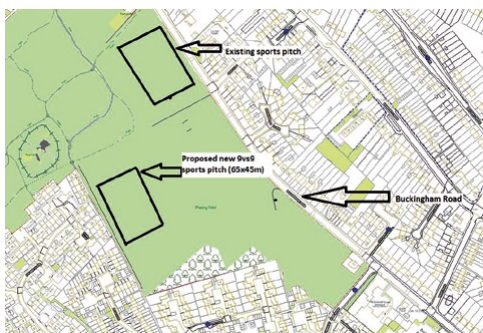
If you need to judge the popularity of women's football today, come to Hampton. Our local young Beavers – Richmond & Hampton Borough Youth FC – already boasts around 60 female players in their young teams.

So imagine how they welcomed news of an additional dedicated pitch for girls' matches on Hampton Common that will be all their own. This ancient space won a Green Flag management award earlier this year including proposals for adding another 9 a-side pitch as the current pitch is fully booked with boys matches.

The Beavers currently offer playing space to female teams – as do other clubs – using portable goals to prevent over-use of pitches. With actual playing time fixed for Sunday mornings, the overall effect on the local environment is likely to be minimal.

Richmond Council is presently canvassing local views on the subject at www.richmond.gov.uk/have_your_say_hampton_common_football_pitch

Councillor Julia Neden-Watts, chair of the council's environment and sustainability committee, says "Women's and girls' football continues to boom in popularity around the world and it's great that it's happening in the borough too". She urges "We are continuing to improve the park, so please take time to express your views".



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**Thank you
for your
email
address
updates** 

If you have not been receiving email updates it might be that you have got a new address since you joined the Society and have not informed us. If you think this is the case, please drop us a line at enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk with your new email address and we'll update our records.

Notes from the Chair



As we come to the end of an unusual year, with the loss of loved ones and our own liberties, not to mention the impact on businesses both locally and nationally, the news of a reliable vaccine gives us hope.

We've all had to do things a little differently – and that includes The Hampton Society. With the use of St Mary's community hall denied us, in November we conducted our first **Zoom** talk with members dialling in to a fascinating talk by Laurence Shafe featuring 'the Windsor Beauties'. If you were unable to attend, the talk was recorded and can be viewed here youtu.be/XhudWusuMIs. We're hoping to hold more virtual talks until we are able to return to normal.

Remembrance at a distance



I represented the Society at a very different Remembrance service in November. The public were requested not to attend and social distancing was observed by representatives of local organisations who laid their wreaths. A short service was conducted by The Reverend Ben Lovell of St Mary's in subdued but respectful proceedings.

Hampton High on Newsnight, again

Headteacher Rebecca Poole featured on Newsnight for the second time in the last two months. Following a piece on students returning to school in September, she contributed to the discussion on 11 November on whether school exams should be cancelled around the UK in 2021 on BBC Newsnight. Ms. Poole said that the situation requires "a great deal of consideration as many vulnerable children could be left more vulnerable under current conditions". It's great to see one of our own schools asked to join the debate and I wish all our students in Hampton the very best with their exams – *should they go ahead* – next summer. You can see the interview here: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p08y1vx6



▲ Newsnight presenter Emma Barnett with Conservative MP David Simmons and Hampton High Headteacher Rebecca Poole.

Police Station update

Committee member Sylvia Bridge Le Cluse has been pursuing the progress of the planning application for a care home on the site of the old police station on Station Road. Apparently the application will be going to committee but the developers, Cinnamon, are considering having another public consultation first. They have been trying to create extra parking and make some revisions to the existing plans to respond to some of the objections that the Society and other neighbours had raised in regard to the welfare of residents (due to over-development) and the impact from staff and visitor cars on local streets. The earliest meeting would be in February next year and councillor Suzette Nicholson will be keeping Sylvia informed. We will share any further information when we hear it.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in person as soon as we can get together again.

William Redfern, Chair



▲ Two of the 'Windsor Beauties', painted by Peter Lely, from Laurence Shafe's Zoom talk, 'The Power of Beauty in Restoration England'



▲ Photograph courtesy of the Still Rockin' blog

Slumboat on the Move Again

After a short visit this time, the view-destroying craft has moved back across the Thames to the Elmbridge shore. But at least it's not obliterating our valuable Hampton Riviera views downstream towards Hampton Court.

Two years ago, Richmond Council introduced a byelaw preventing boats mooring illegally on the Hampton shore close to the beauty spots of Taggs Island and Garrick's Temple. It was Transport for London (TfL) who gave it Riviera status with a named bus-stop, but we won't deny it.

The byelaw has been successful, but now and again the ugly craft moves back and forth across this popular stretch of the river and moors on the Elmbridge bank, where the local authority does not own that stretch of land, and is unable to prevent such un-neighbourly behaviour as littering the bank around it.

Apparently the slumboat's owner, one Alastair Trotman, uses a pile nearer the Elmbridge shore to moor his boat and take up residence. His aim is to provide value accommodation to tenants. Visit the website www.londonriverrooms.co.uk and make your own mind up as to whether that's a fair evaluation. **THS**

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The council also points out that more sport within Hampton is likely to discourage traffic as it will be close enough for a short walk. The Richmond & Hampton Borough Youth FC girls teams currently have to travel to Hanworth to play.

Those with long memories may recollect a similar scheme for football on the same pitch was turned down 15 years ago on the grounds of increased traffic fears. Female football was almost unknown in 2005 and we have all been encouraged to walk or cycle more since then. If it's within Hampton, why not? Letters have already been sent to residents living around the Common. Share your views. A paper copy of the survey is available via email to consultation@richmond.gov.uk. **THS**

Food Bank Contributions? Try the Beaver Box

Christmas is less likely to be so festive for all of us this year. So spare a thought, or better still, a box of good things for recipients of the Food Bank.



Here in Hampton we have three collection points for contributions: the Jolly Coopers pub, Hampton Pool (both on the High Street) and Richmond & Hampton Borough Football Club (Station Road). All three will accept donations of Christmas goodies, especially food, until Friday 18 December to be ready for distribution three days later.

Anyone unable to visit a collection point can email enquiries@hamptonfc.net or contact Melissa (07734 448569) or Tracey (07812 698094) with the Beavers' Trust van who will come and collect from you.

For the Jolly Coopers, collections can be accepted between 8.00am and 8.00pm daily (phone 020 8979 3384) and for Hampton Pool the collection hours are between 10.00am and 4.00pm, Monday, Wednesday and Friday (phone 020 8255 1116).

Particularly acceptable in the Christmas packs are mince pies, Christmas cake, Christmas crackers (small boxes), stuffing mixes, gravy, Yorkshire pudding mixes, crisps, squash, fizzy drinks, fruit juices, cake mixes, trifle kits, long life milk, jams and marmalade.

In non-foods: toiletries sets, soaps, candles, hand cream, body lotion, toys, soft toys, craft kits, quiz books, colouring books and unwanted gifts are all sought.

There is such a wide selection to choose from, I'm sure most of us could add something to our weekly shop to donate. **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

Rosemary Hill 020 8973 3604

Treasurer

Brian Brignall 020 8979 9499

Membership

Linda Brignall 020 8979 9499

Newsletter editor

Maura Waters 020 8979 9654

Planning

Sylvia Bridge Le Cluse 020 8941 4450

Other committee members

Alice Fordham 020 8979 3543

Lesley Cesenek 07540 342813

Contact us at **enquiries**

@thehamptonsociety.org.uk

Update on Membership

Over 84% of our members now pay by annual Standing Order

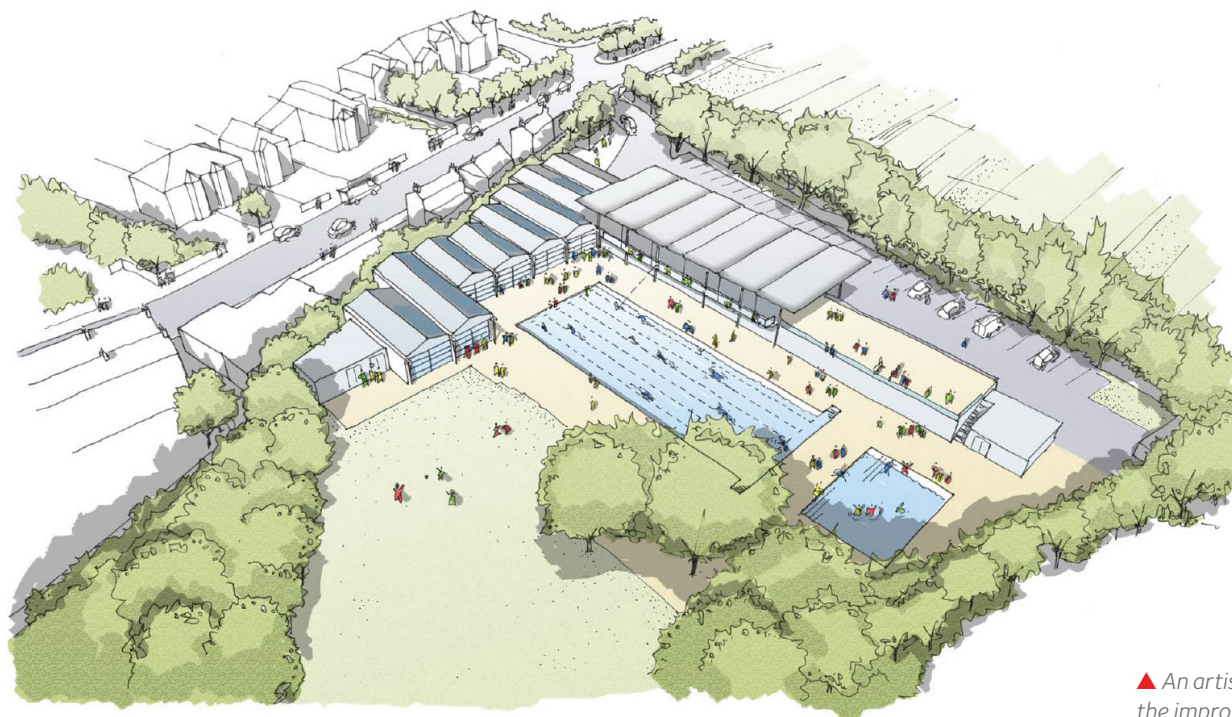
We would really appreciate it if you do not currently pay by Standing Order to consider doing so when you come to renew your membership.

A warm welcome to our new members during lockdown!

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

Hampton Pool's Next Generation

With the increasing popularity of Hampton Pool, plans are likely to go ahead improving its facilities with more changing rooms, covered seating outside the cafe and disabled access including a lift.



▲ An artist's impression of the improved facilities for Hampton Pool, part of the planning application that was approved in November.

It's taken four years for the requisite permissions and consultations to go through, notably those of the Greater London Authority's London Plan. It involves necessary improvements ranging from energy efficiency to redesigning the car park and setting up cycle racks.

The final goal two years hence is for a fully accessible, inclusive facility with family changing rooms and showers, plus flexible spaces for training courses. Classes ranging from baby swims to keep fit for golden oldies already exist, as do a fully equipped gym and a fitness studio.

With annual numbers of 278,000 visits (2018/19) and 43 schools, sports and community groups using it, the pool has proved its usefulness many times over already. Open 365 days a year for 16 hours a day, swims start early at 6.00am. There are sessions throughout the day (bookable through the Pool's app and website) and the gym is open until 10.00pm. However, the buildings are in sore need of improvement following the Pool's

re-opening in 1984 so some short closures will be inevitable during the refurbishment.

None of the projected improvements could succeed without local agreements. Detailed consultations were held with residents living close by and permission was sought from Royal Parks as the pool is actually on their land.

Jane Savidge, Chair of Hampton Pool Trust, the volunteer organisation that owns the facility, said "Hampton Pool has been at the heart of our local community for almost 100 years. We know how much the pool means to our local community and we will be in touch about the timing of member conversations as we move forward with the fundraising and design phase. One thing is clear, the unique opportunity to swim outdoors in heated water on the edge of beautiful Bushy Park, 365 days a year is at the centre of all our plans."

Read more at the Trust's website,

www.hamptonpooltrust.org.uk **THS**

Events Update

All of our events are currently on hold. We hope to re-schedule them as soon as it is considered safe to do so.

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.