

First Classic Car Show on the Green

Photograph courtesy of Aston Martin

Hampton North Councillor Martin Seymour for Mayor



Councillor Martin Seymour is the first of his ilk from Hampton North to be elected Mayor of Richmond-upon-Thames. Representing the ward since 2006 as Cllr. Seymour, he

has been the council's spokesman on both Transport and Environment. On re-election last year he became Tenants' Champion and Vice-chair of Planning.

Before joining the council, the new mayor worked most recently for a charity in Hounslow following 20 years as head of IT for two multinational companies. During his mayoral year he will of course be non-political. His function will be to represent Richmond Council at civic functions and raise money for good causes.

For the past 25 years Mayor Seymour has lived in Hampton Hill with his wife Christine, who is his mayoress. They have a son, Anthony. When not pre-occupied with council business, the new mayor's hobbies include architectural drawing, writing and, he says, "anything Disney"! *

Newsletter production: Edited by Maura Waters. Designed and produced by William Redfern www.williamredfern.co.uk 020 8286 7071. Photography by Sam and William Redfern, unless stated otherwise.

Do you own a classic car or motorcycle you think deserves wider admiration? You'll have to book in quickly, then. Hampton Village Traders Association already has 50 cars and 15 motorcycles lined up for the event on Hampton Green on Sunday, 5 July. A maximum of 70 vehicles is permitted on the site.

Designed as a fundraiser for the HVTA, who put great efforts into staging our Christmas Parade each year, the idea came from the Jolly Cooper's landlord Nick Witham, who will judge the cars along with his wife Jane. Mike Hollis will judge the motorcycles.



The cars, entered at a cost of £10 per vehicle, range from a Lancia Aurelia 1958 to a Sixties Austin 1100

– with Aston Martins, Ferraris, Jaguars and Daimlers in between. For their part, the motorcycles come from the 1950s through to the 1970s. Each entrant will receive £50 in vouchers to be spent in the village.

To ensure a local identity, entries have been confined to Hampton residents or people with a close connection to Hampton. But anyone can come along to admire. *



Photograph of 1958 Lancia Aurelia courtesy of Bonhams; DB6 courtesy of Aston Martin

CLASSICS ON THE GREEN
 Sunday 5 July 2015 • 11am to 4pm

To be held on:
 Gander Green, Hampton

If you would like to enter your car or be a sponsor or stall holder, call Nick or Jane Witham at the Jolly Coopers on 020 8979 5384. Entries should be resident in Hampton or have a strong connection with our village.

CLASSICS ON THE GREEN It's your day to shine, polish, buff and sparkle
HAMPTON VILLAGE TRADERS ASSOCIATION

Photograph courtesy of LBRuT

Notes from the Chair



Thank you to everyone who attended our 59th Annual General Meeting on 16th April, a very enjoyable evening which ended with a viewing of the 1908 silent film of the *Burning of the Old Red Lion Pub* on the corner of Thames Street and High Street. The footage was accompanied by Bill Weisblatt's excellent reading of a transcript describing the event.

For those members who couldn't attend, here is a summary of the key matters reported:



Membership

Over 90 new members were recruited at September's *Transport Day*, the *Hampton Christmas Celebrations* and February's *Village Meeting*.

Planning

Concern has been growing about over-development in Hampton so, spurred on by increasing requests from local people for our support, the Society has set up a Planning Sub-Committee (or 'Working Group' as we prefer to call it). Accordingly, existing committee member Sylvia Bridge Le Cluse has been joined by Kevin Rice and Maria Casey to monitor key applications and take action where appropriate.

Local issues See box on page 3

Hampton Society events

There is no Christmas Party scheduled for this year following dwindling numbers of attendees. However, if there are any members out there who would like to arrange an event themselves, we would be happy to help by publicising it to other members. The Summer Party, on the other hand, is proving very popular and is a sell-out this year. With next year being the Society's 60th Anniversary/Diamond Jubilee, we have formed an Events 'Working Group' and are planning to hold a larger summer celebration. If you'd like to be involved in this, please contact **Rosemary Hill** or **Alice Fordham**.

Election of officers and resignations

This will be my fifth and final year as Chair and I will be stepping down at the next AGM. Alice Fordham has stepped down as Vice Chair, a role she has held for a decade. Julie-nne Monahan has been elected to fill this position and has agreed to take it on for at least a year. All remaining committee members were re-elected unopposed.

New roles

I'm very proud of the committee's achievements over the past four years and I'd like to thank everyone involved for their commitment and enthusiasm.

Each member of the committee has an important role to play, however we do sometimes need to reconfigure responsibilities and with the role of Chair up for grabs, this is one of those times! We're hoping to recruit a Chair from our existing committee but we are also very happy to consider applications from our membership and beyond.

This does mean, however, that other roles (e.g. Treasurer) might need to be filled next year. So, just thinking ahead, if any of you think you can make a positive contribution to the place where you live, don't be shy – do talk to us (without any obligation of course!).

Volunteers

In the meantime, thank-you to those of you who volunteered at the AGM to deliver newsletters. We're still looking for volunteers to set up and take down our pop-up gazebo and help on our stall at local events (two to three per year) and to be part of a bar rota at our own talks and events (six to seven per year). Contact **Julie-nne Monahan** if you think you can help.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer.

Sam Redfern Chair

FLORAL APPEAL

Rugby Colours for Richmond In Bloom

This year, Richmond in Bloom is focusing on floral displays in all 14 villages which make up the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. The Council is aiming to enhance the look and feel of every one. From May to October each village will have hanging baskets provided by the Council with an emphasis on key positions in localities where they will have the most striking impact. The number of winter hanging baskets is on a smaller scale and will be located in key strategic points throughout the borough rather than in each village. There will be a common colour theme of the *Rugby World Cup* – pink, blue and white – throughout the Borough.



In Hampton's case, the Council is providing us with 26 hanging baskets in Station Road, Church Street, Percy Road and Ashley Road. In addition, the Hampton Society is paying for eight baskets close to the station and in Hampton Square near the new fountain.

But what about the individual garden competitions? Hampton has some really lovely gardens, and yet we do not seem to shine in the competitions as much as some of the other villages within the borough. Can we try and reverse this situation? Stunning wild flowers on Hampton Common



There are 10 categories in the garden competitions for merit awards – front gardens, residential frontages, park and bloom, estates, community buildings, hotel or pub exterior, shop frontage or business premises, commercial centres, an award for the best residential floral display and finally the best environmental garden or project. All these categories are explained on the entry forms which **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604** and **Alice Fordham** on **8979 3543** hold. The last date for entries is Friday, 10 July. In addition, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary year of Richmond in Bloom an important extra new category is being introduced – the best village in bloom, within the borough. Can Hampton measure up to this competition? All of us, residents, traders, businesses, would have to work very hard to achieve such an honour.

What do you think? Could we do it? *

Unauthorised mooring

The Department for Communities and Local Government has finally signed off a bye-law warning illegal moorers of court action and hefty fines if they don't remove their boats and only seven out of the previous 50 remain, three of these on St Albans riverside.

Proposed development at Kempton

No planning application has yet been submitted, however Richmond Council and local politicians are aware of the potential adverse affects this will have on local traffic and infrastructure and have voiced support in opposing such a scheme.

Hampton Police Station has been bought by a developer solely for residential use and they will be presenting the plans to us once they are completed.

Community networking

The *Village Meeting*, hosted jointly by the Society and Richmond Council Community Links officers, was a great success. More than 150 people, including representatives from many local organisations, turned up for an open forum on ideas to improve Hampton for its residents.

So many organisations were represented at the *Village Meeting* that Hampton Academy has offered to host a community page on its website, listing all these organisations' details. In July, the school will also be hosting a networking workshop for youth service providers in Hampton.

Roads and pavements

Rather than wait for your comments to be dealt with in next year's Village Plan, Richmond Council has suggested that residents report



individual faults in their streets on the council website where they will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Triangle disused pub sign

The council has approved our design (above) for a village sign. Before Easter, we consulted residents who overlook the sign and received very positive responses. There was just one objection, which called for the post supporting the sign to be shortened, so we are gathering further quotes to enable us to complete our application for funding.

Rail service

It appears the proposed introduction of longer trains as a regular service on the Hampton and Kingston loops has slipped a year until December 2015. However South West Trains have given an assurance that a review of train services is now taking place. *

The Hampton Society committee members

CHAIR

Sam Redfern 8286 7071

DEPUTY CHAIR

Julie-nne Monahan 8979 8942

SECRETARY

Rosemary Hill 8973 3604

TREASURER

William Redfern 8286 7071

MEMBERSHIP

Trisha Shirt 8941 5162

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Maura Waters 8979 9654

OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alice Fordham 8979 3543

Sylvia Bridge Le Cluse 8941 4450

Roy Law 07831 340507

Christine Paganelli 8941 5927

OBITUARY

Jean Alen

It is with great sadness that those of us who knew her learned of the recent death of Jean Alen. Jean served on the committee of the Hampton Society from 2004 to 2010 and was, for a time, its secretary. Together with her husband Ray, Jean made an enormous contribution to the work of the Society, using her many talents to instigate different projects which helped to increase our knowledge and appreciation of our local area. Her PC skills were by far the best on the committee at the time and helped to make the newsletter more professional.

Among her contributions was the organisation of our archives and their transfer to the Borough's collection; a PowerPoint presentation for primary schools and help with the production of a map of local historic sites given to all primary-age pupils to mark the Society's 50th anniversary in 2006.

It was, however, Jean's interest in local history which prompted her to produce a compilation of accounts by local residents called Hampton Tales. This first volume was such a success in 2007 that she was encouraged to embark on a second volume. Hampton Voices emerged a year later with the theme of working lives, illustrating the wealth of experience which resides in Hampton. The book vividly brought to life times which may have been forgotten or else faded in our memories. There are copies of both books in our local library.

Jean will be greatly missed by those who knew her and were aware of her contributions to, and appreciation and awareness of, our local area. She was exceptionally generous with both her time and skills for The Hampton Society and thus benefited the community at large. *

NEWS visit our website at www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk

And Then There Were Two

The ugly sight of two storm-damaged boats moored above Taggs Island on the Thames indicates a partial success of the now nationally-enforceable bye-law on illegal mooring. As mentioned in our last issue, both craft were victims of 2014's January floods, and one of them is now simply a partly-submerged hulk.



But until this spring there were five and sometimes six boats apparently permanently moored there, along with rubbish and personal possessions despoiling the bank on Richmond's side of the river.

The threat of prosecution and hefty fines for offenders is succeeding now they can no longer play off Spelthorne and Richmond local authorities by constantly switching moorings between opposite banks – apparently a favourite dodge.

Of course it takes time to enforce the law on such moving targets. Accordingly David Allister, Richmond Council's head of parks, envisages a first prosecution hearing in July. "There are now only three or four vessels moored to Council land compared to 50 in early March" he says, and describes this as a very significant success. "Our priority now is to get a few solid prosecutions under way to send out a clear message."

Incidentally Hampton councillor Suzette Nicholson has been assured resources are in place to enforce the new bye-law. "It's taken over ten years to deal with this problem so far, but it will be seen to the end" she promises. *

EVENTS

Visit to Osterley House



WE HAVE ARRANGED a visit to Osterley House and grounds on Friday, 3 July, from 11.00am where there will be an opportunity to see round the splendid house and the newly acquired Jersey Loan paintings, a collection of rare family portraits and treasures. If you would like to be included please let **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604** know. The visit is free for National Trust members and will cost £8.50 for non NT members, Please aim to arrive from 10.00am, particularly if you would like a coffee first! *

Osterley House, from 11.00am, Friday 3 July. Contact **Rosemary Hill, 8973 3604**

Three Days of Our Big Gig



Hampton Academy student band *Revolution* perform live at last year's music festival in Hampton Square.

WITH TOUCHING FAITH in the omens for fair weather, Hampton Square is to host *Our Big Gig* Music Festival over the whole weekend of July 10-12. Remembering the square's soggy opening by actress Samantha Bond nearly two years ago, I wish them luck. The rain was torrential and unremitting, but the show went on. However, the sun shone throughout last year's summer concert so don't let the weather put you off.

This time it starts late on Friday afternoon when the Hampton Youth Project hosts a music taster workshop for primary schoolchildren followed by a youth band night for teenagers. Saturday afternoon sees Fulmer Close Residents Association hold a Community Fun Day at Hampton Common. On Sunday it's the turn of Hampton Square, where local community choirs and bands will perform. A variety of voluntary groups are also expected to put up their stalls there. It being the second Sunday of the month, the outdoor market will function there as usual. Finally, The Hampton pub in the square is to invite individual performers to entertain from 8.30pm.

The guiding spirit behind all this is Angela Ramsay of community music provider The Groove Academy, who explains *Our Big Gig* is part of a national music event to bring communities together in a celebration of local music-making. Starting only in 2014, Superact, the charity behind *Our Big Gig*, provided grants to 150 community organisations in England to host these events. Hampton's was then a single-day gig. But so popular was it, says Angela "we received wonderful comments from residents who hoped we'd hold it again." She added "Along with positive feedback from the Council we'd like to run a bigger and hopefully better *Our Big Gig* this year". *

Hampton Square, from Friday afternoon 10 to 12 July

EVENTS PROGRAMME, SUMMER/AUTUMN 2015

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).

FRIDAY 3 JULY, 10AM FOR 11AM

Visit and talk at Osterley House

There will be a talk on the newly-acquired *Jersey Loan* paintings. Please note admission free for National Trust members, £8.50 for non-members.

Contact **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604**.

A SATURDAY IN SEPTEMBER (T.B.C.)

Walk in Home Park with Nicholas Garbutt

A fascinating walk with the Tree and Wildlife Conservation Officer of Historic Royal Palaces.

Contact **Rosemary Hill** on **8973 3604**.



Photograph courtesy of Mrs. Lacer

WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 8.00PM

Tracy Borman on Thomas Cromwell



Photograph courtesy of Libby Pedder

Following the success of *Wolf Hall* on television, here's a chance to find out more about Thomas Cromwell with Tracy's talk about her new book at Hampton Hill Playhouse.

WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 8.00PM

Siobhan Clarke talk on the Royal Christmas

4 A festive talk at St Mary's Community Hall.