

# The Hampton Society

The residents' association of Hampton, est. 1956 Summer 2017

## Companions Honoured at Hampton Court

One of the last regular public engagements of the Duke of Edinburgh takes place on 13 June 2017 when the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court becomes the permanent royal place of worship for the Companions of Honour. A singular distinction for our local palace, the Queen and the Duke will mark the occasion along with an expected 37 Companions.

2017 marks the centenary of the Order King George V introduced as a reward for outstanding achievements by people "for whom this special distinction seems to be the most appropriate form of recognition, constituting an honour disassociated either from the acceptance of title or the classification of merit".

Today the Companions number 55, a majority of whom will attend the event. Companions include people like Sir David Attenborough, Dames Maggie Smith and Judi Dench and Stephen Hawking. Father Anthony Howe, Hampton Court's chaplain, explained "There will be no procession like the one for the Garter Ceremony at Windsor, and the Companions will wear insignia, not robes. Visitors already at the Palace before the gates close at 2.00pm will be welcome to watch the arrival of the royal party at the main gate at 5.00pm."

Incidentally, Father Howe is due to be promoted to Canon just the day before. [THS](#)



*The Companions' insignia with, above, the Chapel's ceiling (more information on back page).*



**Friday 23 June**  
**Don't delay getting your Summer Party tickets!**

For more details about the party and how to get your tickets,

**SEE BACK PAGE**



# Notes from the Chair



## Last year, we celebrated its 60th year. Not bad for a small, voluntary association set up by community minded people.

Its aims today are the same as they have always been, to preserve and enhance the area's beauty and interest and to encourage a strong sense of community.

I've seen significant change in just the twenty years I have lived in Hampton. Thankfully, on the whole, I would say this has been for the better and for the benefit of the community. But each year there are new challenges as lifestyles and demands change. Luckily we have the support of our colleagues on the planning team and the open dialogue we have with you, our members, so that we can make a balanced representation.

## Ahoy ahoy, party time!

Our summer party this year will again be held at the wonderful Hampton Sailing Club. I encourage you to get your tickets early to avoid disappointment as numbers are limited. See you there for another great evening!

## Over charged?

I see that four more electric vehicle charging points are being proposed at Hampton library. I hope this has a positive effect on the foot-fall into the library itself. Did you know that LBRuT has the highest percentage of electric cars in London? If you have any opinions, for, or against, either electric cars and charging points, please get in touch.

William Redfern, Chair

# Healthy Hamptonians start here

## Warmer weather, lighter evenings: just the right time of year to exercise, lose weight and be healthy, surely?

On your behalf I've been checking out Hampton's outdoor exercise areas, hoping to speak to the exercisers. But they proved an elusive lot, the humans.

Then I met Surdosh Shamshiri as he practised knee-bends at Hampton Common's exercise area. A black cab taxi-driver with a prosthetic left leg following a motor accident in his native Khazakhstan more than 20 years ago, he does regular workouts to compensate for his sedentary working life. Now aged 45, Surdosh has been a local resident for more than a decade along with his wife Mahnaz, who's 38, and seven-year old daughter Jasmine. All three make regular use of the equipment.

Indeed, there is so much of it on the Common to choose from: double sit-up board, parallel bars, triple pull-ups, elliptical cross-trainer, air walker and a pull-down challenger. They've been there for the past ten years, close to the BMX cycle track.

Newer to Hampton, at only a year old, is the exercise equipment at Hatherop Park. Find it just inside the gates at the western end of Broad Lane. Always deserted whenever I did a recce, nevertheless I was assured by local mums and dog-walkers that it was used. Here again were half a dozen pieces to suit varying needs: cross-rider, stepper, sit-up benches, chin-up and parallel bars, chest press/lap pull-up combi and cycle.

At both sites, take note, all this equipment is provided courtesy of our local Richmond Council, for FREE! **THS**



*As I took some pictures of the equipment for this newsletter I met a man who regularly uses it in Hampton Common (above). He said that he "loves it because it is in the outdoors and next to the trees which make the air nice and fresh"; below: Hatherop Park, waiting for you!*



## Richmond in Bloom

It's that time of year again! Richmond's annual *Merit Awards* gardening competitions – catering to all residents and businesses. The field is open now in the following ten categories:

1. Front Garden
2. Residential Frontages
3. Park and Bloom
4. Estates
5. Community Building or Community Area
6. Hotel or Pub Exterior
7. Shop Frontage or Business Premises
8. Commercial Centre
9. Rich. & Twick. Times Award for Best Residential Floral Display
10. Best Environmental Garden or Project

I'm sure we could all do so much in Hampton! If you would like a leaflet giving more information, or just like to talk, please phone **Rosemary Hill** (020 8973 3604), **Alice Fordham** (020 8979 3543) or **Dorothy Grant** (020 8783 0307). Any of us will be only too happy to help.

## Hampton Choral Society Concert

Hampton Choral Society are to perform **Giachino Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*** at **St Mary's University Chapel, Strawberry Hill, on Saturday, 17 June at 7.30pm** under music director **Richard Harker**.



A very tuneful piece showing the composer's penchant for an almost operatic approach to religious music, the soloists are Christine Cunnold, soprano; Helen Stanley, alto; Mike Bradley, tenor, and James Oldfield, bass.

The piano accompanist is Pam Kent with Jonathan Holmes playing the harmonium.

Tickets are £15 from **Di Bidwell** on **bidwell.di@gmail.com** or phone **020 8941 5394**. **THS**

# Sneaky Snakes Hide Away

It was supposed to be a snake sighting, one of the attractions for Society members enjoying a guided walk in the Queen's Paddocks at Hampton Court's Home Park recently. Protective plastic sheeting was provided for the coily creatures but they refused to appear – much to the relief of some of the party!



This was the latest of our popular nature walks led by Nicholas Garbutt (pictured above with a deer's jaw) from Historic Royal Palaces. As their tree and wildlife conservation officer he is best placed to describe what goes on in those areas of the park normally closed to the public.



above: the "owl hotel";  
below: two of the Queen's  
horses in the Royal Paddocks.  
Photographs by Linda Brignall.



Apart from the sneaky snakes the "owl hotel" created for barn owls and a reed bed attracting falcons, buzzards and even badgers, created great interest. The bed has been allowed to develop naturally in recent years, proving its popularity with wildlife. Elsewhere a mink raft has been placed in a stream to trap these unwelcome, non-indigenous creatures. But Nicholas revealed some of their pelts, showing they had been "humanely dispatched".

After passing quickly through an area where, we learnt, all our garden waste is recycled, Nicholas pointed out a ditch where tubes had been installed to create an eel pass. Thousands of eelers pass through artificial grass here, eventually entering the Thames.

Once finished with the fauna side of the story, Nicholas finally warned everyone about the oak processionary moth. Despite constant spraying, this pest is now spreading all over southern England. But we mustn't end on a downer. Just think of the lucky escape some of you have had from those snakes. **THS**

Story from information by Brian Brignall

## About your committee

The committee is the governing body of The Hampton Society. It consists of elected officers and six ordinary committee members. We meet five 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. 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

Trisha Shirt 020 8941 5162

### Newsletter editor

Maura Waters 020 8979 9654

### Other committee members

Alice Fordham 020 8979 3543

Sylvia Bridge Le Cluse 020 8941 4450

Christine Paganelli 020 8941 5927

Contact us at **enquiries**

@**thehamptonsociety.org.uk**

If you are not a member  
why not join your neighbours  
and apply today?

Only £6.00 per household  
or £4.00 per individual (plus 50p  
postage). See website for details.



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# River Setting for Summer Party

## Summer Party 2017

Friday 23 June  
at 7.30pm

**Come and join us for the Society's annual summer party at our most favoured venue, Hampton Sailing Club. It's on Friday, 23 June and you'll be welcomed with a glass of fizz when you arrive.**

Last year we celebrated our Diamond Jubilee sixtieth year with a glittery party where we were all encouraged to add some diamond-like glitter to our glad-rags. Although we can't promise the same level of glamour this time I'm sure we won't miss it as we enjoy the wonderful setting on a specially created island close to the riverbank.

Because that's part of the fun. The evening starts at 7.30pm with guests arriving in a series of two-minute chain-ferry crossings to the club from Benn's Alley at the bottom of Hampton High Street. Once arrived, especially if it's a fine evening, unrivalled views of the River Thames at sunset can be enjoyed from this particularly favoured spot.

Because they were both such successes last year, we've asked the Burleys, Gary and Sarah, to provide us with another substantial fork supper, while live music from Richmond Youth Jazz Band will entertain us all evening. Last year's party set a bit of a precedent, but we're happy to keep throwing a party like this for our members and friends as long as you want us to.

Once again, we are indebted to Hampton Sailing Club for lending us their premises, including the special marquee and the bar. A wide variety of drinks will be available at very reasonable prices.

Although we can now stretch the numbers to 100, last year's party sold out quickly so please don't delay in getting your tickets. They are £16 each and available from **Bill Weisblatt** on **020 8979 3089** or 2 Buckingham Road, Hampton TW12 3JA. Cheques should be made out to "The Hampton Society". **Please send a S.A.E. for the tickets.**

**NOTE:** Partygoers are reminded the event is held on an island and attend it at their own risk. **THS**



## Events calendar

**Our talks are free to members but 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.*

**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 8979 3543 and she will try to call you directly.*

## 2017

### June

**Summer Party** (*see information above*)  
Friday 23 June at 7.30pm at Hampton Sailing Club

### July

**Visit to Strawberry Hill House** (*see picture below*)  
Friday 14 July at 10.30am for 11.00am start

After the success of our two visits, now over six years ago, the chance has arisen again for us to see how Horace Warpole's gothic-style castle has weathered-in since restoration was completed in 2010 and witness any further developments in this guided group tour. Please contact **Alice Fordham** on **020 8979 3543** if you are planning to go (£13.50 per head admission fee).



### September

**Guided visit to the National Archives, Kew**  
Friday 22 September at 11.00am

Please contact **Rosemary Hill** on **020 8973 3604** if you are planning to go. (£10.00 per head fee)

### October

**Sybil Penn, the Grey Lady**  
Thursday 19 October

Talk by Sam Hearn on Edward VI's nurse at St Mary's community hall

### November

**Final talk on World War I**  
Wednesday 22 November 8.00pm

Paula Kitching's last talk covering the final year of the Great War, 100 years ago at Hampton Hill Theatre.

### December

**"The most famous rink in the world"**  
Thursday 7 December 8.00pm

Talk by three aficionados of Richmond ice rink, Berkley Driscoll, Theresa Read and Professor Hamilton Miller, at St Mary's community hall.

*Front cover photograph courtesy of the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court. The panels between the windows were painted by Thomas Highmore, Sergeant-Painter to King William III, Queen Anne and King George I in 1710. They are matching pairs, facing each other across the Chapel. Each panel is headed by a pair of gilded cherubs, linking the Tudor woodwork above with the painted cherubs below. <http://www.chapelroyal.org/painting.html>*