

# The Hampton Society

The residents' association of Hampton, est.1956 Summer Newsletter 2022

## Hampton Pool hits 100



▲ To help raise valuable funds, special limited centenary merchandise including towels, hats and bags are available to buy at the pool shop and events.

### There's to be a Bigger Splash at Hampton Pool later this month. The weekend of June 25 and 26 denotes its centenary.

Back in 1922, in a Britain still recovering from the Great War, the Middlesex Chronicle informed its readers: "The opening of the swimming bath at Hampton... was a ceremony which must have delighted everybody for it marked a happy termination to a work that has been beset with difficulties from its very commencement."

It goes on to explain "There was much difficulty in obtaining proper foundations and great care and foresight were necessary in ensuring that such baths should be watertight".

Since then, significant improvements included a diving pit (what happened to that?) and a new filtration system in 1939 had been introduced. A new main building and



▲ Opening Day, 24 June 1922



▲ Splash For Cash with Chris Tarrant in 2001

car park, plus a wider pool, were new facilities in 1960-61. After the pool was saved from demolition in the eighties and reopened in 1985, the Royal Parks provided more land for a picnic and sunbathing area, while Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity (HFAC), now known as the Hampton Fund, supported the construction of the learner pool.

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## Notes from the Chair

Welcome to our celebration issue to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

I hope you all enjoyed the recent Jubilee celebrations and that you were able to take part in a local street party - one of an amazing 16,000 around the country. Talking of parties we've now sold over two thirds of our allocation of tickets for the summer party at Hampton Sailing Club. If you haven't already got a ticket and would like to come I would encourage you to get one soon to avoid disappointment as numbers are limited.

I have been asked by several members why we are having our summer party on the same day as the celebrations at Hampton Pool. It's unfortunate but we have to plan our summer party around the Hampton Sailing Club regatta so that we can take advantage of their marquee and accommodate more people in comfort. I hope those involved in both Hampton Pool and The Hampton Society will understand.

### *It's quite a year for centenaries*

This year also marks 100 years of the Hampton War Memorial Charity. The cottages, built in Oldfield Road, remain as residences for ex-service personnel and their families to this day.

### *'Tread lightly'*

The BBC is also 100 years old this year. One of its most famous servants, Sir David Attenborough, was the narrator to the film that we showed at this year's AGM about Richmond Park. The message he wanted us to take away from the film was to tread lightly in order to protect the ecology of the parks and to secure their future for generations to come. This is a message I was acutely aware of having recently visited one of our more remote areas of the British Isles, the Outer Hebrides. This largely unspoilt archipelago benefits from a sparse population and only a small number of tourists each year. The beaches and landscape are beautifully clean, owing in part to the relatively small impact of visitors.

### *Theatre news*

The marvellous **Orange Tree Theatre** in Richmond has announced the appointment of their new artistic director. Tom Littler is currently Artistic Director and Executive Producer of the West End's Jermyn Street Theatre. He will succeed Paul Miller who is stepping down in December 2022 after more than eight years in post. Tom has directed throughout the UK and Europe and has been nominated for eight *OffWestEnd* Best Director Awards. I wish him the best of luck and look forward to seeing one of his productions when he takes over.

### *Future of the High Street*

I have received an update from Cllr Richard Baker, Business and Growth Lead Member, following the Community Conversation events, where we shared ideas for local high streets. He is particularly excited to be piloting a local service hub concept which could be a brilliant solution to the things people tell us they miss in their local areas. Further details can be found here <https://bit.ly/3MYcDdG> and a larger version of this infographic can be found here <https://bit.ly/390VyhX>.

Kind regards and I hope you have a lovely summer,  
**William Redfern**, Chair  
[enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk)

## Obituary

### Chris Le Cluse

With great regret we must announce the death of Chris Le Cluse, husband of our recently retired committee member Sylvia. Chris died suddenly in March following a fall at home.

He last appeared in our Autumn 2021 Newsletter, having won first prize in Arts Richmond's annual drawing competition. **MW THS**



## Come Bowling for Hampton

Ever noticed the bowling green at Carlisle Park?



Nestling behind the car park leading to the children's playground and tennis courts you pass an immaculately clipped hedge. Behind it, enjoying the privacy, are the players of Hampton Bowling Club.

On many a summer afternoon or evening in the park you'll find bowlers out on their lawn, freshly-mown each morning in anticipation of play later in the day. Newcomers to the sport can be assured their initial clumsiness won't be observed by passers-by.

Saturday 28 May saw the second of three Open Days at the Club, which started life back in 1928. Affiliated to several official organisers of the sport, it's a friendly organisation open to visitors when members are present. The season lasts from late April to the end of September.

This year it means any newcomer will be in time to catch the Club's Open Day on Sunday, 10 June. Call in from 11am - and please wear flat shoes.

"Bowls is a recognised form of exercise for people of all ages" says club captain Kevin Keown.

"It's a great way to meet new people and make friends."

So how about it?

Find the club online at

[www.hamptonbowlingclub.co.uk](http://www.hamptonbowlingclub.co.uk)

**MW THS**



# Support for Ukraine

**Why is Syzygy the only shop in Hampton I can find to show its support for Ukraine so vividly as the decoration surrounding its frontage?**

Maybe we all think the fulsome reports on the media are enough. Denise Speight of this hairdressing salon in the middle of the village in Ashley Road knows otherwise. Her swags of blue ribbons and sunflowers – Ukraine's national flower – are particularly arresting. And everyone appreciates her efforts.

"It's not just my customers, but passers-by will drop in and tell me how much they appreciate these decorations" says Denise. "I felt we all talk about the situation in Ukraine, but this was something more."

Incidentally, around the corner from Syzygy, **The Hub** is collecting clothes to send to Ukraine.

Outside Hampton, but close enough, **Bentons** cafe near the traffic lights at Hampton Hill collect other items for Ukraine. Note men's socks are the only clothing asked for. See their advice below. **MW THS**

BENTONS

**Please note we are not collecting clothes but need these items:**

Power banks for charging phones  
Large and medium sized backpacks  
Men's socks  
Camping mats  
Sleeping bags  
Warm blankets  
Pain killers e.g. ibuprofen



Flu medication e.g. Lemsip  
First Aid Kits and dressings  
Insulated flasks  
Hot water bottles  
Baby food  
Nappies  
Women's sanitary products  
Protein/energy bars

## 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 07761670911

### Secretary

Lesley Cesenek 07540 342813

### 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

Contact us at **enquiries**

**@thehamptonsociety.org.uk**

## Update on Membership

**Over 93% 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.

Newsletter production:  
Edited by Maura Waters.  
Designed and produced by William Redfern  
[www.williamredfern.co.uk](http://www.williamredfern.co.uk) 020 8286 7071.



News

## Hampton Pool hits 100

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In 2002 the fundraising Summer Picnic Concerts were launched to help financially secure the future of the community owned facility, while 2004 saw the pool tank replaced and the building waterproofed following the 'Splash for Cash' fundraiser and the support of the HFAC.

Although the actual centenary falls on Friday 24 June, its celebrations cover the whole weekend. Saturday the 25th is a taster day for visitors to try out activities and classes, while Sunday 26th is a family fun day of children's games and activities.

More details will be available on the Hampton Pool and Hampton Pool Trust websites. **MW THS**

This lovely painting by local artist Lisa Tolley has been commissioned for the centenary and can be bought as either a print or on a swimming/shopping bag. All proceeds to the pool. ▶



## 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 **020 8979 3543** and she will try to call you directly.

## Purple and Silver Theme for Summer Party

Don't forget your purple and silver, whether it's in clothes or jewellery we hope partygoers at our annual Hampton Society party will note the colours chosen for the Queen's platinum jubilee celebrations. And wear them.



Friday 24 June at 7.30pm

As usual the venue is Hampton Sailing Club, reached by chain ferry from Benn's Alley at the bottom of High Street. Tickets – already selling like hot cakes – are available for £18.50 each in

advance from our treasurer **Brian Brignall** at 5 Howard Close, Hampton TW12 2UB, or call him on **020 8979 9499**.

Here below is the mouth-watering Ploughman's Platter available for your delectation along with a welcome drink of fizz and music from Richmond Music Trust's youth jazz group.

### Ploughman's Platter

Honey Roast Ham, British Roast Beef, Mature Cheddar, Melton Mowbray Pork Pie, Hard Boiled Egg, Iceberg Lettuce, Pickled Onions, Cornichons, Cucumber & Cherry Vine Tomatoes

Served with Fresh Tiger Bread Sticks, Butter, Sauces, Dressings & Branston Pickle.

## Events 2022

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.thehamptonsociety.org.uk). Thank you.

## July

### Hampton in the '70s & '80s

Thursday, 14 July, at St Mary's community hall, 7.30pm for 8.00pm

John Sheaf will be speaking about his latest book – *Images of Hampton in the 1970s and 1980s*.

## September

### The Longford 'River'

Thursday, 29 September, at St Mary's community hall, 7.30pm for 8.00pm

A talk by Graham Dillamore, Deputy Head of Gardens, Royal Historic Palaces about our local waterway, cut in the reign of Charles I.