



Royal Mail's delivery office in Hampton could relocate to Ashford because it is too small for its present workload.

Built in 1960 when the population was around 11,000, (half its present size) Rosehill has always provided a collection service for customers who were not at home when the postman called with an item needing a signature, for instance.

The proposed move to Ashford's much larger premises is designed to improve service, Royal Mail stresses. But those who very rapidly supported a 2,500-signature petition against the closure disagree – even if the Ashford office remains open until 8.00pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays and between 11.00am and 3.00pm on Sundays. The prospect of dedicated car-parking spaces there doesn't appear to impress, either.

The round driving trip of eight miles between Hampton and Ashford could take half an hour outside rush hours. But for public transport users, the prospect means one bus from Hampton station, the 216, to Sunbury station, then a 235 bus to Feltham Hill Road in Ashford. The length of that journey would obviously depend upon bus timings, due to be every eight to 12 minutes.

Of course, this is very early days for the project. The trade unions as well as the public will be consulted: it sounds as if Hampton's more vocal residents have made up their minds already. **THS**

You can also sign the petition set up by **onehampton** here: bit.ly/2DT4T5M

Advance notice of The Hampton Society AGM 19 April 2018

Agenda

To be held at St Mary's community hall, Church Street, Hampton at 8.00pm.

1. Minutes of AGM held on 6 April 2017 (available on our website).
 2. Matters arising from the minutes
 3. Presentation and approval of accounts for 2017/18
 4. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2018/19
 5. Chair's report
 6. Elections of officers and committee in accordance with the rules
 - a) Chair; b) Treasurer; c) Vice Chair; d) Seven committee members
- Please submit your application no later than Friday 13 April if you would like to stand for any of the positions on the committee.
7. Any other business.

This is not an impromptu part of the meeting. If you would like to raise an issue please submit it in writing no later than Friday 13 April to have it added to the agenda. **We are unable to discuss issues without prior notice.**

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Notes from the Chair



Our fascinating and very enjoyable talk in March was given by Pieter Morpurgo about Bushy Park and the restoration of the Water Gardens and the Diana Fountain.

The results of our 2015 village survey clearly showed how important and valued Bushy Park is to residents. I was amused to hear that Oliver Cromwell thought the park to be an 'indulgence' and ordered its sale when he became Lord Protector in 1653. However, when he took up residence at Hampton Court and realised how wonderful the park was, he promptly had it bought back by the State in 1654. Pieter's involvement with the Friends of Bushy and Home Parks illustrates how we can all have influence on our surroundings if we get 'involved'.

We seem to be facing insurmountable challenges in this country and throughout the world. The chance of us having any real influence on these as individuals is extremely unlikely. It's easy to either just get angry or depressed about a situation. But we can take small steps to make a difference that may in future have very positive long-term benefits. By joining The Hampton Society, you have already taken a 'small step' of wanting to be a more active part of your community and together, we can do remarkable things.

My aim as Chair of the Society is to improve the way we communicate through this newsletter and our regular email updates (please make sure you have sent me your email address or a new one if it has changed from Tiscali, AOL etc). As a result, we are able to inform, enlighten and entertain you and share any concerns with our councillors, council officers and MP.

I am a firm believer that local actions and behaviour have national impact over time. I encourage you all to share any of your concerns with our elected councillors and MP directly as well as through the Society. As public servants, they can only act on issues they are aware of. So it's time to stop grumbling at the newspaper and the television, and open a dialogue with your representatives. Let's get talking.

Have you heard of the website Nextdoor?

Nextdoor is a private social network that has been created for local communities. It's like *Facebook* but much more local. I'd encourage you to join as requests and offers are shared by your neighbours. The council and the police also regularly post useful information to the site that you might find of great interest.

...play on

On another note, Hampton is rapidly becoming the music capital of the borough. We have **Hampton Pool** with its six annual open air summer concerts, but are you familiar with the hidden gem that is the **Hammond Theatre** on Hanworth Road? This modern seated and intimate venue will host jazz legend **Georgie Fame** on 20 April. If you saw him at Hampton Pool in 2017, you'll know he is not to be missed. Google the venues' respective websites for ticket details and for information on other performances.

William Redfern, Chair

Obituary

Fred Martin Dies at 102

We have just lost our oldest member, Fred Martin, whose centenary we marked in our Winter 2015 Newsletter.

Fred was our chemist in Station Approach – now Boots – from 1961 to 1986. His two boys, Robin and Howard, were brought up in the flat above the shop before the family moved to nearby Chestnut Avenue. Fred later moved to Marlborough Rd. His funeral took place at Hanworth crematorium on 29 March. **THS**

News

Farewell to Athelstan House

After nearly 40 years Athelstan House in Hampton's Percy Road is to close this summer.

This small stand-alone pre-preparatory school has seen a decline in pupil numbers over the last decade so that there are just five Year-2 pupils in this, its final year.

Increasingly, parents appear to prefer a single-school environment from Nursery to 11 years old and beyond, while larger preparatory schools have either opened up or acquired their own pre-preps to accommodate them, explains headteacher Jill Collins.

She is philosophical, understanding parents can become anxious about their child sitting 7-plus assessments, but can look back on how well successive cohorts have done in these tests and the high approval rating Athelstan's pupils earn when they pass on to preparatory or junior school aged seven. Over the years many of them went on to Oxford or Cambridge universities and won scholarships and awards aplenty.

"After leaving us their new head-teachers often remarked upon their high academic standards and how well-rounded our pupils were" explained Jill. "They're happy and sociable and have a love of learning"

The After-School Club children also have a taste for Chicken Korma – if I interpreted the cheer correctly when they asked "What's for tea?" I wonder if they'll get that at their new schools? **THS**

Endeavour comes to Hampton



A genuine 1960s shop front, absolutely untouched – Elephant Productions couldn't believe their luck: an ideal location for an episode of ITV's *Endeavour*, set in 1968. Where else should they find it but in Priory Road, Hampton?

'Pettits of Priory Road' says the original fascia above our long-lost sub-post office. The Pettit brothers, Ronald and Clive, still live there although the shop is now closed. Rather sadly, for filming said fascia had to be covered by one proclaiming 'Doziers', a couple of shopkeepers in the TV script who turned out to be spies. Furthermore the wife murdered her husband in this episode.



The popular ITV prequel to the Inspector Morse series, screened in February, was being filmed in Hampton over a couple of days last autumn, focusing on our former sub-post office. Only the fascia board needed covering, the rest of the frontage looks exactly the same as it did in 1968 when the film is set.

The altered fascia bore the name 'Doziers', but Ronald Pettit was anything but dozy when he decided to leave things as they were. For the film company was delighted to discover the shop's interior and entire ground floor didn't look too different to the way they were when the Pettits moved there in 1963. Scenes were shot inside the shop and even showed the view down the hall to the kitchen. "Clive and I moved out during the day but came home to sleep during filming" explained Ron. "But it was unnerving to come down to the kitchen in the morning and find it full of film props!"

Meanwhile Ruby's shop next door also came into shot during filming. Proprietor Ruby Lamberth recognised the actor Shaun Evans walking along Priory Road. "Shaun, what are you doing in that old coat?" she asked. Young Endeavour protested "But I'm in costume!"

Incidentally, many of us who have lived in Hampton for more than a decade fondly remember Ron and Clive's mother Dorothy Pettit, the sub-postmistress who knew most of her customers by name if not by sight when they came to collect their pensions or children's allowances, and she was a mine of information on Post Office rules. Two days after hearing of the office's closure in 2004 – when people could use banks instead to draw pensions and allowances – Mrs. Pettit suffered a stroke and spent six months in hospital. Her sons cared for her at home until she died six years later, shortly before her 96th birthday. **THS**

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 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. 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

Tricia Mole 020 8941 2126

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.

Newsletter production:

Edited by Maura Waters.

Designed and produced by William Redfern

www.williamredfern.co.uk 020 8286 7071

Our thanks go to all photographic contributions including Ronald Pettit and Lew Lloyd.



Competition

Did you Capture Hampton in the Snow?

The 'Beast from the East' turned Hampton into a wintry wonderland in February – perfect for this year's Christmas cards!



If you'd like to submit your own "Winter in Hampton" pictures for the chance of publication and winning two free packs of cards, please send low resolution images by email to william@williamredfern.co.uk. Closing date: May 2018. **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 020 8979 3543 and she will try to call you directly.

2018

April

Annual General Meeting of The Hampton Society

Thursday 19 April, 8.00pm

followed by a talk at St Mary's community hall.
(please note change of date).

May

Bat Walk

Friday 18 May

Hampton Court Palace's tree and wildlife conservation manager Nicholas Garbutt will be leading a bat walk at 7.30pm starting from the Kingston Gate to Home Park. It will last until 9.30pm, after which there may be an opportunity for refreshments at a local hostelry.

June

Summer Party

Friday 8 June 7.30pm

The summer party will take place at the very popular venue, Hampton Sailing Club.



Events

Second Archives Visit

Thirty of us enjoyed a visit to the National Archives at Kew, some having missed out our first very successful venture last September.



This time we heard very varied tales including the double burial of WWII traitor William Joyce, ("Lord Haw Haw") after he was hanged as a traitor. In latter years his body was disinterred and buried in his birthplace of Ireland, but simply recorded as "reburial" in the Archives.

More happily, it was to a young student on work experience there that the fortunate accident of discovering George Washington's signature fell. The actual document's whereabouts within the archive have been entirely subsumed by the idea of a young student ("who'd only been here about ten minutes" said our guide) having such a stroke of luck. Beginners', obviously. **THS**

Another great Quiz

One of the highlights of the year, this year's quiz was another sell out.



The Chair presents the winning team with their prize.