



Hampton Loses Lloyds: Last Bank to Go

First it was the Royal Mail sorting office in Rosehill closing. Now Lloyds, Hampton's last surviving bank branch, is to close on 25 July. This bombshell arrived on individual customers' doormats only on Friday 1 March.

We've long been assured our Lloyds was among the bank's busiest branches because the two ATMs on its outside wall in Wensleydale Parade were in constant use. We thought our counter visits, too, were quite safe. Queues were quite common inside the branch.

But statistics, as ever, were against us: 14 million Lloyds customers now use the internet, while 10 million have mobile phones as their main contact point. Meanwhile, those of us who've obviously been spoiled by personal banking can try the Twickenham or Kingston branches instead. We'll also be able to withdraw cash at an ATM at Everyday's newsagents, 72 Milton Road, only a few yards away from the old familiar haunt.

The bank has some local number-crunching information to justify its bad news, thus: 68 per cent of Hampton customers have also used other branches; 81 per cent have also used their internet banking or 'Phonebank'; and 24 per cent also use the Post Office (presumably the one in Station Road, also the last remaining of its kind in Hampton).

The leader of the council and Hampton resident, Cllr Gareth Roberts has approached the head of Group Public Affairs to see if the decision is reversible and will also be requesting help from our MP, Vince Cable, with his higher corporate contacts.

Meanwhile, our local weekly newspaper, the Richmond & Twickenham Times, featured on its front page last week the long-threatened closure of our sorting office in Rosehill. Our newsletter readers learnt about it in our summer issue last year and a 2,500-signature protest petition to Royal Mail rapidly gained popularity. We knew then March 2019 was earmarked for closure, but now we're already in the target month and no further information is forthcoming. As far as the staff are concerned, 20 will continue working for Royal Mail, while the remaining five have decided not to move with their colleagues to the much larger office in Ashford. [THS](#)



Lloyds bank in Wensleydale Parade is set to close at the end of July

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Notes from the Chair



This April will be my tenth Hampton Society AGM since taking over as Treasurer and then Chair three years ago.

As I announced at last year's meeting, this will be my final year as chair of the Society. It is an honour to represent the residents' association of Hampton. It involves being invited to many different events in the borough and meeting

interesting people. It is not a 'job for life' or a 'closed shop' so we welcome any of our members who might be interested in the role of Chair to first consider joining the committee.

I had three important goals to achieve when I joined the committee back in 2010:

- **Build awareness of The Hampton Society within the community**
- **Increase membership**
- **Improve communication amongst members through our newsletter, website and emails**

We are fortunate that we have a strong committee which shares a number of responsibilities, including: events (talks, visits and the summer party); membership; finances; writing, editing, designing and organising distribution of the quarterly newsletter; monitoring planning applications; website and social media updates; and the minuting of meetings.

I invite any of our members who think they would like to be more involved in these activities to contact me.

I'm pleased to say that the goals I set have been more than fulfilled. In the last ten years the Society, one of the longest running associations of its kind in the country, has gone from strength to strength. I invite you to support the committee and maintain this momentum.

20 mph limit likely to go ahead

Alongside many other London boroughs, it is looking very likely that a blanket speed limit of 20mph is going to be introduced in Richmond following the agreement from the council's Scrutiny Committee in February. The council claims that it is more efficient to include all roads rather than just residential areas and effective for the safety and wellbeing of residents as it removes confusion over speed limits from one street to another.

However, it does exclude the A308 between Kingston and Hampton, including Hampton Court Road, Upper Sunbury Road and Lower Sunbury Road (but includes Thames Street) as a result of the views expressed by residents in the 12 week consultation period. The A316 is also excluded as it is managed by Transport for London.

Clr Alexander Ehmann, Cabinet Member for Transport, Streetscene and Air Quality has said: "I understand the strong feelings on both sides of this debate. A majority of residents who took part in this consultation acknowledged that a borough-wide 20mph limit would improve road safety. The oldest and youngest in our communities were overwhelming in favour and it simply cannot be denied that the slower vehicles drive, the safer our roads become."

I attended our consultation session with the council in November and as a driver myself, I was surprised by the opposition to the lower speed limit by some of our residents. I think it is only fair that we take responsibility as car users if it improves both safety for pedestrians and cyclists and air quality for all residents.

William Redfern, Chair

News

Another Knock-Out Quiz

It pays to persist. That was the message our 2019 Quiz Night prize-winners 'The Replacements' had for us all. This was their fourth attempt in a contest which produced its usual full house of 12 tables, mostly of six gamers each.

The Society's eighth annual quiz, this was the last one to be set by our committee-member Trisha Shirt. She is stepping down – no doubt her brain hurts after all the effort her little grey cells have put into it. Her verdict? "A very tightly-fought battle between Gareth Roberts' team (who won last year), who lost out to 'The Replacements' by only one point."

The evening was not only hugely enjoyable but also a great financial success, raising over £500.



"The Replacements" winning quiz team (left to right): Rupert Collins-White, Graham Fisher, Kieran Earney, (Chair), Rick Stedley, Yogesh Gandhi, Mike Aarons.

With her detailed knowledge Trisha explained "The Replacements overtook them in the final straight, being the only team to get all 25 of the 'Film Star Anagrams' correct. Half points played a crucial role too, separating 3rd and 4th, 7th and 8th and 11th and 12th teams".



So with the sad but understandable departure of our eight-times quiz mistress we'll be looking for a successor to set next year's event. If you think you've the brain – and the staying-power – or know someone who has, please go for it.

You could start with thinking up original team-names to put you in the mood. This year we saw 'Maura-less', 'No Eye Dear', 'Savvy Blancs' and 'Older But No Wiser' (no, ignore that one, it's too defeatist). Just start thinking now, you've nearly a year to go... **THS**

Flight Path Changes: Quieter Skies?

The prospect of an extra 25,000 flights a year in and out of Heathrow may strike fear in our hearts. Especially as the news comes a year before the proposed third runway is built.

But the pill could be sweetened with news of a longer respite period between aircraft take-offs and landings. At present, some communities living near the airport experience half a day's break as their direction alternates in the afternoon.

With three runways, the Heathrow expansion plan sets to implement a 'mixed mode' on either the north or south (for safety reasons, never the middle). This is where planes can land and take-off on the same runway (once it is clear) and would deliver the greater capacity. Currently, each runway handles exclusively either take-offs or landings.

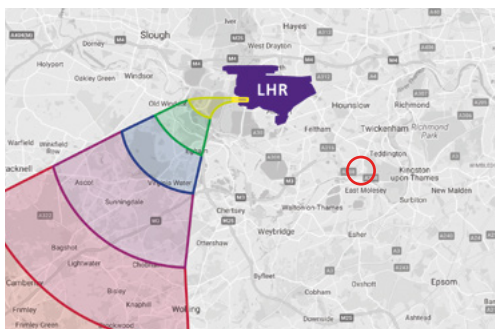
Hampton's lucky, though, being five miles south of Heathrow, so well below the East-West landing path. Though the new plans mean we may experience more planes taking off over Hampton, it is a fraction of the amount that our neighbouring villages have to put up with. Pity poor Richmond, Kew, Isleworth, Brentford and Hounslow lying right underneath both the major arrival and departure flightpaths.

According to HACAN, (Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise), respite periods are likely to drop to eight hours. Chairman John Stewart believes, as the airport expands, so will the respite area. "Vast swathes of London and the Home Counties will receive a predictable break from aircraft noise for the first time as the respite areas are extended" he says. "It amounts to a near-revolution to Heathrow's flight path."

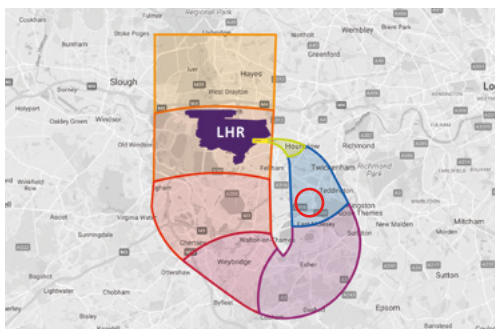
It was in June last year that MP's representing constituencies around Heathrow backed the third runway plan. Altering flight paths is one method of trying to smooth our feathers. Even so, we shall enjoy our eight hours of respite, the first-ever break from aircraft noise.

We understand 68 extra flights a day could be accommodated during busy periods.

Note: Future plans for Heathrow's flight paths were covered by consultation with 30 Greater London areas in January and February this year. Hampton was included in Twickenham's consultation. [THS](#)



Area 3 where aircraft height is 6,500-21,000 feet above ground, frequency up to 17 flights an hour, of which 11 would exit at a noise level of 65 decibels (average level in a busy office environment).



Hampton is within Departure Area 8 where elevation is between 1,000-2,000 feet, frequency up to 17 flights an hour, of which 11 will emit 65 decibels of noise or more.



Hampton is also just within Departure Area 9, where elevation is between 3,000 and 4,000 feet, frequency up to 17 flights an hour, eight of which will emit 65 decibels or more.

 Hampton area shown on maps

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**

@thehamptonociety.org.uk

Update on Membership

A warm welcome to 18 new members

We look forward to meeting you at forthcoming events.

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.*

Classics on the Green advertising opportunity



Would you like to promote your business or organisation at a very reasonable price? The extremely well-attended annual **Classics on the Green** car show, now in its fifth year, will take place on Sunday 7 July, between 11.00am and 4.00pm.

The event programme in which you can buy advertising space (¼ page £25.00/ ½ page £50.00/1 whole page £100.00) reaches out to over 4,000 local households. There are also sponsorship packages for categories and attractions.

Call **Nick Witham** at the Jolly Coopers on **07825 030962** or **020 8979 3384** if you are interested in promoting yourself and supporting this wonderful local event. Help with artwork for your advert can be provided if required. **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.

2019

March

Talk by Siobhan Clarke on Edward VI
Thursday 14 March, 7.30pm for 8.00pm start

A talk about the 'boy king'. At St Mary's community hall.

April

The Hampton Society AGM
Thursday 4 April, 7.30pm for 8.00pm start

Followed by a talk by Geoffrey Godbold about the Horse Rangers Association. At St Mary's community hall.

May

Expert-led walk in Bushy Park
Time and date TBC

June

The Hampton Society's Summer Party
Friday 21 June, 7.30pm

Don't forget to put the Summer Party in your diary. If you've not been to this magical location before, you just take the chain ferry from Benn's Alley and you're in the middle of the river at the **Hampton Sailing Club**. More details in our Summer newsletter and tickets will be available in May (paid for in advance). See you there!

The Hampton Society Annual General Meeting

The AGM is to take place on Thursday, 4 April, 7.30 for 8pm at St Mary's community hall, to be followed by a talk on the Horse Rangers Association by Geoffrey Godbold.

Agenda

1. Minutes of AGM held on 19 April 2018 (available to download from our website).
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Presentation and approval of accounts for 2018/19
4. Appointment of Independent Examiner of the accounts for 2019/20
5. Chair's report
6. Elections of officers and committee in accordance with the rules
 - a) Vice-Chair; b) Secretary;
 - c) Six committee members
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 29 March to have it added to the agenda. We will be unable to discuss issues without prior notice.*



The Horse Rangers Association is a charity dedicated to supporting children and young people from all backgrounds and abilities by giving them the opportunity to develop confidence and life skills through learning to ride and care for horses. Founded in 1954 by Raymond Gordon, and originally based at Shepperton Studios, it moved to The Royal Mews, Hampton Court during the 1960s. HRH Princess Michael of Kent is currently their Royal Patron. An accomplished horsewoman herself, she has been very supportive and regularly comes to events. She takes a great interest in the individual Rangers and is extremely popular with them, their volunteers and the guests she meets.

A refreshments bar will be available. **THS**