

# The Hampton Society

The residents' association of Hampton, est.1956 Spring Newsletter 2021



The Greenwood Centre on School Road, Hampton Hill. You enter through the alley on the right (see sign on wall) and exit through the main door ▲

For those of us directed to the Greenwood Centre in Hampton Hill for our Covid-19 jabs here is a picture of its frontage. Located in a side road, School Road, off another side road, Windmill Road, it's possible you could be unfamiliar with it unless you attended classes there.



▲ School Road from Windmill Road in Hampton Hill. The Centre is seen just to the right.

Apparently, patients from Hampton's two doctors' surgeries, the Hampton Medical Centre (Lansdowne) and Broad Lane practices have been so directed because of the Greenwood's easy separation of entrance and exit, reducing the possibility of contamination as 'vaccinatees' move smoothly through. You can be in and out within ten minutes, sleeve rolled down again and clutching an explanatory leaflet given to you on leaving. Kindness and efficiency are what you'll remember.

Indeed, so efficient was the service the day I attended, 400 people out of a daily quota of 600 had already been vaccinated by noon.

Parking is admittedly difficult, so for the sake of a few minutes, having a driver to drop you off helps. Blue badge holders can ask the marshals outside for help in parking. All in all, when your time comes, have no fears, just reassurance. *MW*

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Spring Flowers in Kings Paddock ▲

Fisher's Pond dredging works, see Notes from the Chair on page 2 ▼







## Notes from the Chair

With the light getting brighter on the horizon, both seasonally and metaphorically, I hope you are all keeping well.

Have you noticed all the work being done on the waterways around Fisher's Pond in Bushy Park's Woodland Gardens? On my daily walks, I have been fascinated to see the birds bemused by the heavy machinery and the easier access to tasty morsels caused by the dredging. The work is to improve the flow and quality of the water



by removing the build-up of sediment. This is all part of The Royal Parks Mission: Invertebrate project that I have been hearing about on their regular Podcast <https://bit.ly/3kTf7u3>.

The gardens are also looking a little bare at the moment due to the clearing of the *Rhododendron ponticum*, a non-native invasive species being removed to improve the site's ecology.

## COVID-19 Community Champion

I have volunteered to represent the Society in this capacity. The aim is to share relevant information with you through this newsletter and by email. If you have been offered a vaccine (at time of publication this covers ages 56 and above), I would encourage you to arrange one through the national booking service, which can be accessed at the NHS website. The system allows patients to choose a time slot and location that suits them. Anyone unable to book online can call 119 free of charge, anytime between 7am and 11pm, seven days a week.

### **Vaccine Myth Busting:** *Myth: The vaccine can give you COVID-19*

**Fact:** Some vaccines contain the germs that cause the disease they are immunising against, but they have been killed or weakened to the point that they don't make you sick. But in the case of a coronavirus vaccine, none of the vaccines contain a live coronavirus, and they therefore can't give you a coronavirus infection.

## Meal Train – all aboard for helping out

Through friends of ours that have found themselves in difficult circumstances, I have become aware of an innovative 'crowdsourcing' online platform that helps schedule and organise homemade meal-giving for other people. If you are trying to help your friend, family or associates through a difficult time, this might be for you. By managing contributions, the person you are helping can say what meals they do or don't like and your friendship group can see when each of you are providing for them. Sounds really helpful. Find out more at [mealtrain.com](https://mealtrain.com).

## The New Baron of Hampton

I read in the excellent *Hampton Guide*, that drops through our doors twice a year, that we now have nobility in Hampton, sort of. Evgeny Lebedev, who has lived in England since the age of eight and owns the *Evening Standard* and the *Independent* newspapers has chosen the title 'Baron Lebedev of Hampton in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and of Siberia in the Russian Federation'. Prime minister Boris Johnson offered the multi-millionaire media magnate a cross-bench peerage for services to both the media industry and also charities, including the *Evening Standard's Dispossessed Fund* (£13 million +) and the *Raisa Gorbachev Foundation* (£10 million +). The 40 year old lives in Stud House in Home Park.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.  
Kind regards, **William Redfern**, Chair

## Obituary

### John Shankster

Many of you will recall John's boyhood escapade to the Victory in Europe celebrations outside Buckingham Palace in 1945  
(Summer Newsletter 2020).



John died recently aged 88, leaving us with a 13-year old's take on the most popular event of those wartime years: the end of them. You can read a summary at the end of this piece.

As a boy John went to Hammersmith School of Art and later trained as a draughtsman and engineer, working as a consultant on contracts as varied as the Palace of Westminster and the Shah of Iran's palace to H.M. Prison Lewes and the steel mills of South Wales.

A quiet man who loved a chat and listening to other people's opinions, John also enjoyed travel, history and music. What's more he sailed his own 'Jonosboat' at Hampton Sailing Club. With sons Jonathan and Chris, he sailed Jonathan's ketch 'Dedushka' back and forth across the Channel.

With his brother Len, he sailed in Scotland's Western Isles and further afield in the Mediterranean and the Caribbean.

Over the years John loved to paint and draw and attended various art classes and groups. He was also a prolific potter, and since retiring joined the Sunbury Art Group, organising a Friday morning class where his draughtsmanship was much appreciated.

John married Rosemary in 1961, moving to Hampton in 1966. All who knew him will miss him greatly.

*I promised you a summary of what happened to John and Len after they'd had their fill of seeing the royal family and Winston Churchill from the railings of Buck House. Falling darkness reminded them a street bonfire back home in Hammersmith was planned so they caught the bus back home. **THS***

# Ring for the Fire Brigade!

In retrospect, when five firemen filed into my front garden it seemed I'd escaped into an episode of *Trumpton*.

'Pugh, Pugh, Barney McGrew, Cuthbert' came to mind from the 1967 children's TV series. Only 'Dibble' and 'Grubb' were missing. Was that 'Captain Flack' directing operations at my front gate, ordering the fire engine's driver to stay in his cab as they could manage this one?

Of course they could. "It's only a ring!" I protested. "I can't get it off my finger".

I was only following Teddington Hospital's instructions to call in the fire brigade because the Pandemic meant they couldn't get their own ring-cutter repaired. Sufferers of fat fingers were being directed to Twickenham Fire Service instead. It was a fairly frequent occurrence.

Sure enough, "We'll be there in ten minutes" promised the Firemen from Fulwell. And they were: the men from White Watch in full uniform, masked but happily minus helmets – or hoses. "We have to be prepared to be sent on to a real emergency" explained 'Captain Flack'. Obviously, returning to base could well be wasted time.



▲ White Watch (photographed in 2016)

Meanwhile 'Pugh, Pugh, Barney McGrew and Cuthbert' took up position in my kitchen, advising me to sit down with my arm on the table, hand raised, while 'Grubb' – master of the ring-cutter – took aim to murmurs of encouragement from his fellows (this must have been such a welcome diversionary activity for a fireman). In seconds, my finger was free and four firemen filed out to the waiting fire engine parked across my neighbour's drive. My thanks go to White Watch.

Apparently, Twickenham Fire Service find it's all in a day's work to release rings from fingers or watches from wrists. It really does average out at about once a day. Sometimes sufferers with sense turn up at their Fulwell HQ, clearly depriving themselves of a little drama in their lives of Lockdown while we endure Covid-19.

But what about my ring, now in two neat halves? Sorry to say it wasn't valuable: not one precious diamond chip. A plain silver band I'd bought for £2 in Portobello Market years ago which the vendor assured me was genuine, despite bearing no qualifying hallmark. "The Assay office in Birmingham is snowed under, they're just too busy to do the small ones". Pity it only received genuine attention at the end of its life. But what a way to go! **Maura Waters** **THS**



Image from Trumpton courtesy of Gordon Murray (Trumptonshire) Ltd. ▲

## 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 07761 670911

#### Secretary

Rosemary Hill 020 8973 3604

#### Treasurer

Brian Brignall 020 8979 9499

#### Membership

Linda Brignall 020 8979 9499

#### Newsletter editor

Maura Waters 020 8979 9654

#### Planning

Sylvia Bridge Le Cluse 020 8941 4450

#### Other committee members

Alice Fordham 020 8979 3543

Lesley Cesenek 07540 342813

Contact us at **enquiries**

**@thehamptonsociety.org.uk**

## Update on Membership

### Over 84% 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 this April.

A warm welcome to our new members.



**Wash your hands**



**Wear a face covering**



**Give space**

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Edited by Maura Waters.  
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## Obituary

### Pat Schooling

Every time we admire a hanging basket of flowers on a street lamp or above a local shop frontage, it's Pat Schooling we have to thank.

Pat died recently at 93 after retiring from her self-appointed task of encouraging Richmond Council to adopt the *Britain In Bloom*

idea locally (see Spring Newsletter 2020).

Pat saw room for improvement throughout the borough, and Hampton soon became a winning candidate in the varied classes of awards within each suburb: domestic gardens, businesses and schools. In 2019, for instance, Hampton won three of them for our gardens and another for Hampton Pool. Two years earlier our schools provided five winners in their section. **THS**



# Windfall For Stables

Flushed with the success of a £1 million 'crowdfunding' effort to save Park Lane Stables in Teddington, manager Natalie O'Rourke can now afford to be more ambitious.



More grazing land for 23 horses, an arena for disabled riders and coach driving sessions could all be afforded should more funds become available.

The threat of closure loomed for Park Lane when their landlord decided to sell the property. Half their million-pound target had been raised, but when the *BBC Breakfast* TV programme aired the story, as did two London TV newscasts later the same day, the target was topped by nearly £350k. Gift Aid also raised £227k for the cause.

"We still welcome any extra support" says Natalie. "We're a charity with ongoing costs and every little really does help". **THS**

◀ "No carrot? I'll make-do by licking your cheek!"

## 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.

## Events update



### Summer Party in 2021?

We've pencilled in a provisional date for our summer party at Hampton Sailing Club for Friday, 25 June, only four days after the Government's relaxation of the Pandemic restrictions which have so blighted our lives for a year.

Of course we must be prepared for many a slip between March and June, but at least we'll have time to give you plenty of notice both on our website [www.thehamptonssociety.org.uk](http://www.thehamptonssociety.org.uk) nearer the time, by email\* and in our Summer 2021 issue, due in early June.

According to the *Daily Telegraph*, "June will likely see the lifting of remaining restrictions on numbers and social contact, allowing much larger numbers to congregate again". It goes on to warn

"The Government's document predicts there will be no legal limits on people socialising together by the end of June. The date is the earliest possible time rules could be eased, and any setback in the vaccination programme or more variants could push that date back."

So, modified rapture, I think. But we must think positively...

### Zoom Talks

Because of Pandemic restrictions we branched out into Zoom talks in the autumn ranging from the Windsor Beauties paintings of Restoration England, to the postponed Battle of Britain, and lately Henry VIII's art collection. The latest offering on Zoom was 'Boatyards and Bands, Artists and Inventors', a take on life on Twickenham's Eel Pie Island on 10 March.

Although this last talk is too late for Newsletter readers, but we can maybe look forward to seeing each other at a Summer Party this year after all!

### Important Notice Regarding email Addresses

\*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 with your email address or that it might have changed to what we have on record. If you think this is the case, please send your details to [enquiries@thehamptonssociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thehamptonssociety.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.thehamptonssociety.org.uk](http://www.thehamptonssociety.org.uk).

Finally, please add [enquiries@thehamptonssociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thehamptonssociety.org.uk) to your 'trusted' contacts and address book so that our messages don't get filtered out of your inbox. *Thank you.*