



## The Way We Were – In Lockdown

▲ The regular Teddington & Hampton PROBUS club's lunch is replaced by an outdoor picnic in Bushy Park after Lockdown was eased in July and before the 'Rule of Six' was introduced. PROBUS is a local, national, and international association of retired people. Pic. by Ray Lynch.

**“It wasn't all bad” is the general verdict from members when we asked how they fared. “No commitments, no meetings, no entertaining, no church, not even a hair appointment!” is one example from Colin and Hazel Greasby. Instead, “there was a lot of telephoning ensuring everyone was coping and had food supplies. Sainsbury's came up trumps with fortnightly deliveries.”**

The Greasbys have probably described the lifestyle change we've all experienced – absence of planes (until mid-September), quieter roads (at first), starry night skies (an even more distant memory). Thank heaven we can still see families out walking or training their children to ride bikes on what they must learn to be busy roads.

People of all ages seem to have caught the exercise bug judging from the number of joggers around. Keith McArthur isn't one of them. Though nominally in retirement, he's discovered his bee-keeping hobby is really serious stuff. Apparently, Defra regards bees as livestock needing tender care. Attired in his white suit and veil, Keith looks the complete professional.

Possibly Sylvia Bridge Le Cluse and husband Chris wished they'd thought ahead about a drive down to Sussex. Taking courage to vacate their parking spot outside their Hampton home, the AA with jump leads were called out to jerk the car into life after its long restful winter. “Tell me I must drive the car at least 50 miles” Sylvia begged the AA man. Naturally, he obliged. Luckily, their parking spot was still vacant when they returned home.

For Wendy Sim and son Jamie, Lockdown weekends were spent exploring the further reaches of Bushy Park's 1,100 acres. “That was the most rewarding part of Lockdown for me” says Wendy. *continued on page 3*

### Inside...

**Notes from the Chair** *page 2*

**Eat Out to Help Out** *page 3*

**Planned Parking Restrictions in Bushy Park** *page 4*

## Thank you for your email address updates



*If you have not been receiving email updates it might be that you have got a new address since you joined the Society and have not informed us. If you think this is the case, please drop us a line at [enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk) with your new email address and we'll update our records.*



# Notes from the Chair

**It might not look it but I am smiling behind the mask! What a lovely Indian summer we are having. I hope you've managed to make the most of the weather, near or far from**

**home, before the possibility of further restrictions being introduced to control the spread of Covid-19.**

My wife and I have had several trips away from Hampton – mainly to help our children move into their university accommodation in Nottingham and Bristol. I am very familiar with Nottingham having studied there but Bristol was a pleasant revelation – a fascinating city with great architecture and atmosphere. Highly recommended for a visit but expect a lot of hills!

## Information and reassurance

Whilst I was sending out the regular emails to members during Lockdown, I mentioned a BBC Radio 4 programme called *More or Less*. I still strongly recommend listening to this entertaining weekly show if you want an honest report on how the virus actually affects the community; how testing does – or doesn't – work; and many other statistic based answers to spurious claims from politicians and advertisers. I find that it helps put things into perspective. Catch up with the podcast or listen on BBC Sounds.

On another positive note, I was fascinated to hear Professor Sara Gilbert's account of how her Oxford University department's research into vaccines for other viruses such as MERS and SARS have placed them as frontrunners in the race to find a Covid-19 vaccine. They had already successfully developed a generic 'vehicle' and once the case information was released by Chinese scientists, 'all' they had to do was add the unique protein. So confident are they that production of the vaccine began in April. However, before we get too excited about a return to complete normality (uncomfortably crammed trains, buses and tubes!), the vaccine has had to undertake rigorous clinical trials which take time (you may have heard of a trial being suspended as one subject fell ill recently – it has now resumed). The vaccine is slated for release later this year/early 2021 – an unprecedented short amount of time for this sort of thing. Then comes the roll-out with health care workers the top priority. But with a UK population of around 68 million, you can only imagine the amount of time it will take to inoculate the rest of us.

I still think this is very encouraging news and certainly a beacon of hope. Well done Sara and the many other people involved.

## Events update

I joined an online seminar with voluntary sector councillors and officers from Richmond Council to see what their advice would be for us holding our talks and events. I'm afraid that although our venue, St Mary's community hall, would be big enough to manage (with reduced attendance numbers), the council are advising that meetings and events should still be avoided unless absolutely necessary.

Our initial thoughts are to roll the events planned for this year over to next, including a double-year AGM in April.

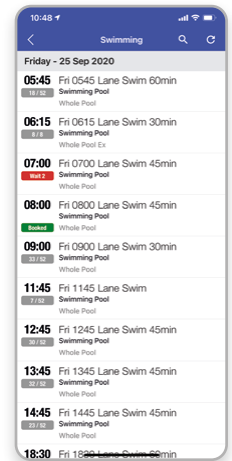
## Restart news

Along with the *Eat Out to Help Out* extensions reported by Maura in this issue on page 3, I wanted to share with you the work that the staff at Hampton Pool have undertaken to re-open the facility so that customers can enjoy it in safety. In order to meet the government's guidance, all swim, gym and class sessions must be booked in advance. This can be done through the rapidly adapted smartphone booking app or on the Hampton Pool website. You must register with Hampton Pool first.

I swim everyday and besides pre-booking, the main differences are that the changing rooms are out of bounds and pool users have to arrive 'beach ready' and towel off at the side of the pool. Temporary cover and new 'beach huts' have been put in place to help although we all hope we'll be let back into the changing rooms when the air temperature starts to drop!



▲ Newly installed 'Beach Huts' for poolside changing. Timed swim sessions can be booked in advance on the Pool's website or by using their smartphone app ▼



Although our community-owned pool has lost a lot of revenue during Lockdown, out of adversity the booking system might actually be beneficial for all. If you find that some sessions are booked out you can clearly see when a quieter time of the day is available. This has helped spread pool use throughout the day and avoided 'pinch-points' – a much more pleasant experience for all.

Another sign of a successful reopening is that the number of registered users of the pool has risen from 5,000 to over 15,000 since July. Details and guidance at [www.hamptonpool.co.uk](http://www.hamptonpool.co.uk).

Well done to the pool staff who have turned this around for us all.

Take care, give each other room and I wish you all the very best for the autumn.

William Redfern, Chair

continued from front page

## The Way We Were – In Lockdown

For instance, Wendy and Jamie followed Timothy Bennet's Cobbler's Walk from Duke's Head Passage to Hampton Wick Gate on one walk, and on another traced the outline of Eisenhower's camp during WWII by entering the SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force) Gate on Sandy Lane, Teddington. They even found evidence of a medieval ridge and furrow system that existed before the park was enclosed for Henry VIII's deer. Descendants of those deer graze contentedly in Hampton Court's home park today.

For Grahame and Gwen Hadden "Lockdown meant not seeing siblings, children or grandchildren all living far from us" said Gwen. "My sister's rare trip to visit from abroad was cancelled due to banned flights." All family contact was confined to video calls or just long phone chats. Eight months later proper human contact allowed reconnection in real life. A week with added grandparent duty was thoroughly enjoyed, using some innovative methods across the miles and a Facetime birthday disco with five people. A real pleasure was to chase a toddler who wasn't walking at our last visit in December 2019, while still self distancing with adults." **THS**

## Hurry Up If You're Hungry

**Four Hampton restaurants have decided to increase the benefit of the 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme from 20 per cent to 50 per cent, three of them until the end of September. Plenty, Squiffy's at the Jolly Coopers, Monaf's and Ruchi are all now offering half price food until the end of September.**



There are a few exceptions, viz: Plenty is closed on Sundays and will operate the discounts on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, while the others have it from Mondays through to Wednesdays. Similarly, Squiffy's at the Jolly Coopers on 16 High Street is the only participant extending the offer for the remainder of 2020. It will run right through until the beginning of the new year 2021.

Italian cookery is the speciality of Plenty at 135 Station Road, (020 8979 0383). Further down the same road at 119 is Monaf's with its Bangladeshi selection of dishes (020 8979 6021). Find Ruchi with its Bangladeshi and Indian cuisine at 87 Station Road, just at the bus stop (020 8941 0555). Finally, Squiffy's is known for its Tapas menu, but there's a lot more than Spanish cuisine to appreciate (020 8979 3384). Telephoning ahead to secure a table is recommended for all four restaurants.

Hurry. As I write the Government is deciding whether or not to lock us down again. Act now before it's too late. **THS**

## 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](mailto: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.*

**A warm welcome to our new members during lockdown!**

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

# Parking Restrictions Plan for Bushy and Richmond Parks

**Seen as one more restriction in our already Pandemic-affected lives, the Royal Park's idea is to charge £1.40p per hour Monday to Saturday for a maximum of six hours between 9.00am and 6.00pm. On Sundays the charge increases to £2 an hour. Blue Badge holders pay no charge but the same time restrictions would apply.**

*Pictures taken in 2009/10 covering the Royal Parks anti-car park charging campaign in Bushy Park and Richmond Park. ▼*

Since mid-August, a trial to remove all through traffic (by means of a partial road closure) between the Lion Gate at Hampton Court and Teddington will conclude in February. Consultations with the general public are already in place, the first set of which have a deadline of 1 November this year: not too far away. The online consultation can be found at the address below; alternatively, email your views to:

[consultation@royalparks.org.uk](mailto:consultation@royalparks.org.uk)

Richmond Council are seeking reassurances about the introduction of parking charges at Bushy and Richmond Park.

Cllr Alexander Ehmann, Chair of the Transport and Air Quality Committee at Richmond Council, explains:

"Ultimately parking arrangements within Richmond and Bushy parks is a matter for the Royal Parks. However, they need to consider the very real risk of displacement of parked cars into nearby residential areas. Parking controls can minimise that impact, but these changes are not without costs to the council and residents.

"If these proposals go ahead, Richmond Council will be asking Royal Parks for a suitable financial

contribution toward parking consultations in the impacted areas and any (Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) changes around the parks via a 'Rapid Reaction CPZ Fund'. We also hope that some concessions can be made for those with mobility impairments and that it may yet prove possible to use the Richmond Card to offer some parking concessions to local residents.

"I encourage all residents to have their say in this important consultation."

When this issue was raised in 2009, many local residents, MPs and councillors came out and protested and eventually Royal Parks scrapped their plans to charge for parking (see pictures on right).

The restrictions imposed by Covid-19 requirements – and more expected as I write – underline how much we value our open spaces, especially when we've been largely confined to our homes for part of that time. Hackles have risen at this intended permanent imposition to our freedom to roam, but it isn't absolutely necessary for all of us to drive to Bushy Park and the trek to any of its gates is surely worth it. **THS**



© Brian Holder

Respond to Royal Park's consultation here:

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/parkingcharges-consult](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/parkingcharges-consult)

## Events Update

**All of our events are currently on hold. We hope to re-schedule them as soon as it is considered safe to do so.**

**Our talks are free to members but when they do resume, 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.*

## Important Notice Regarding email Addresses

We are updating our membership database and we need to know if any of your details have changed. Please contact **Linda Brignall** on **020 8979 9499** especially if you have acquired or updated an email address so that we can be sure that you receive our regular eNewsletters. Finally, please add [enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thehamptonsociety.org.uk) to your 'trusted' contacts and address book so that our messages don't get filtered out of your inbox.

## 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.*