

Hampton Wick

The newsletter of The Hampton Wick Association (founded 1962)

August 2009

It's our High Street and we want it back!

Hampton Wick High Street has a serious traffic problem. Everyone who lives on the High Street or who works, shops or visits there knows this.

Outside the rush hour, cars, vans and motor bikes take advantage of short stretches of clear road to accelerate to dangerous and disturbing speeds. At other times there are lorries thundering under the railway bridge and into the High Street. At night these vehicles are often driving well in excess of the speed limit.

We are fed up with this. The High Street is the number one amenity for Hampton Wick. It is the very heart of our community.

The HWA is launching a major initiative to significantly improve the High Street for ALL road users be they pedestrians, cyclists or motorists. We aren't against through traffic but it must play fair and let us all enjoy the High Street.

We will be writing a comprehensive report on the traffic problems and some possible ideas for the major improvements needed. But we do need your help. If you live or work on the High Street and have any comments about speeding traffic or other traffic problems, please let us know. We are compiling a dossier of people's experiences to go in the report which we will present to Vince Cable MP, LBRuT and the police authority.

Continued inside...

Summer Fair Special: see inside



Photo: Dan Clark

Chris Drayson honoured with special award



This summer the Hampton Wick Association was delighted to honour former chairman Chris Drayson with the Award for Outstanding Contribution to Hampton Wick.

The Award was presented by Cllr Pat Parsons in the presence of former Award recipient Colin Pain and many other friends.

The Award recognises not just Chris's chairmanship of the HWA but also his unstinting service to the Safer Neighbourhood Team, the Police Liaison Group, Richmond Aid and Richmond in Bloom. Congratulations to Chris on a very popular and well deserved accolade.

All the fun of the Fair

Those of you who were able to attend the AGM in March will know that I have stepped into the role of chair (man/woman/person – take your pick!) of the HWA following Chris Drayson's decision to stand down after years of dedicated service. I agreed to take on this role on the express understanding that Chris will stay on the Committee – we're not letting him escape entirely! I'm delighted also to welcome new Committee members: Thomas Correia (planning), Anne Hardy (membership), Denise Woods (treasurer) and Ann Marie Meaney (events organiser). They join stalwarts Christina Gore, Ronnie Finlay, Iain Cox, Iain Burgess, Mark Buckley, Peter Greenwood and of course Chris. What a team!

It's been a busy few months. Campaigns include:

- Keep Bushy Park Free in the recent consultation by the parks agency ('Royal Parks'), five out of every six respondents (84%) opposed the introduction of parking charges
- The Library: Hampton Wick Library is not being moved or closed, but should be improved! We are pushing, along with Library staff, for better signage and an improved environment for the Library
- Lobbying against the unwanted positioning of extra bus stops on Church Grove
- It's our High Street and we want it back we're
 planning a major campaign to reduce speeds on
 the High Street through better street design
 rather than relying on (ineffective) enforcement
- We continue to monitor the anti-social behaviour at our end of Kingston Bridge and hope, in the first instance to persuade the police that the problem exists!
- We still want our Church re-opened. I have written to the new Bishop, and I am meeting with Revd Lund to see whether we can move things on at a local level

But the biggest and best thing that has happened since our last Newsletter was the Summer Fair. It was a fantastic day – see inside – and one we shall all remember for years to come. Many thanks to organiser Ann Marie Meaney and all the other volunteers and local businesses who helped.

The Summer Fair was also a great opportunity to celebrate our new village square which was officially opened on the day by Cllr Pat Parsons. Credit is due to all who worked for this over the past 6 years including Pat Parsons, Chris Drayson, Richard Pain, and other HWA members.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like to help out at events, get involved with campaigns or if there are any issues that you'd like our help with. You can find my contact details on the back page.

Best wishes

Carol

Notice board

Events at King's Field, Church Grove

Skate Summer Fun Day Skateboards, Food & Music, Sat 22 August, 1 - 5pm

Pick'N'Myths

Greek Myths brought to life, Thu 27 August, 2pm
Particularly suitable for children aged 3-6 years
Lots of songs, audience participation, friendly
monsters and silly hats.

£4.50 per child (ages 2 - 12 inc) all others free Call 020 8831 6000 for tickets

Neighbourhood Police Meeting

The next public neighbourhood police meeting (SNT, PLG, CPP etc) will be on Monday 7 September in Bullen Hall, adjacent to the library in Bennet Close.

This meeting starts at 7:30pm.

These meetings are your opportunity to question the police on progress with speeding issues in the High Street and surrounding roads, anti-social behaviour and other issues where you'd expect the neighbourhood police to be involved.

Area Consultation Meeting

On Monday 9 November, there is another opportunity to put questions to our local councillors and council staff. The Area Consultation Meeting starts at 7.30pm in Elleray Hall, Elleray Road, Teddington, TW11 0HG. Everyone welcome.

If you would like to add anything to the agenda, please contact the Council on 020 8891 7156 or democratic.services@richmond.gov.uk at least 10 days before the meeting.

Hampton Wick & South Teddington Good Fellowship Club

For men and women over sixty.
Friendly and supportive environment to play cards,
Scrabble, board games, knit, read or just chat.
Refreshments are available

Wednesday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm in Bullen Hall, Hampton Wick, next to the library.

Just come along or call 020 8977 5176

Luncheon parties, outings, talks and other entertainment are arranged from time to time

Registered charity No. 278059

Station Improvements

rear station entrance from Station Road. We met with Area Station Manager Carl Fisher to find out about the rest of the plans.

The whole of the front of the station is going to be relandscaped. The raised central island will go, to be replaced by a smoothly sloping area with a path from

Work has already begun on improvements to the the road crossing to the ticket office. The phone box will be moved to this central area and they are hoping to plant out beds.

> To the left of the station there will be one disabled parking space only. The rest of the area will be used for a mobile coffee stall (open during morning peak hours) and bike stands. There will be more bike

> > stands to the right of the station as well as additional ones at the rear entrance.

All in all, the station should be much more attractive and easier to access. Carl also told us that he hopes the Oyster machines will be operational by early 2010.



Supporting our Library

Earlier this year we were alerted to a possible threat to our Library. A council report highlighted the problems with its visibility and location and, amongst other possible remedies,

referred to its potential "relocation or collocation".

The HWA immediately organised a petition in support of the Library in its current position while noting that it did indeed need to be better signposted and the environment around it improved.

We then met with Ian Dodds, Head of Culture at LBRuT and the man in charge of all the borough's libraries. He explained to us that it was their policy to retain libraries "at the heart of local communities" and that they recognised that our Library is in the best





place possible for Hampton Wick. Instead, he is committed to improving its signage and to making the environment around it safer and more pleasant.

We are working with Ian and the Library staff to keep the pressure on the various Council agencies responsible for different aspects of this improvement programme. We also understand that the Ward Champion will be taking an interest in the area. We are particularly interested to see the following improved: signage; railings; dangerous steps; litter collections; paths maintenance and of course planting/gardening. This may involve the HWA organising a volunteer day for locals who want to help with planting the flower beds - let us know if you'd like to be involved.

Mark Buckley July 2009

It's our High Street...

continued from front page

High Street traffic problems include:

No cycle lanes: The police keep saying that they're doing all they can to deter pavement cycling including issuing warnings and fixed penalty notices but the real problem is that cycling on the High Street is quite simply frightening and dangerous. There are facilities for cars and pedestrians but none for cyclists

Cars taking advantage of short, clear, wider stretches to accelerate to alarming speeds

Cars dangerously overtaking stationary buses or overtaking queuing vehicles towards the roundabout to get into the second lane

Lorries thundering under the railway bridge in the direction of Kingston making houses actually shake

Lorries speeding through the High Street in the middle of the night disturbing residents' sleep

Cars accelerating in the direction of the bridge as they pass the junction with Park Road, especially after 10pm

Possible solutions might include:

Cycle lanes or mixed use pavements/cycle lanes

Bus stops in-line with traffic flow so that cars don't simply overtake but wait behind

Creative use of car parking to narrow lanes in places and hence slow speeds. This would also provide much needed extra car parking for customers of local businesses

Raised central reserves/refuges to prevent vehicles from cutting corners or dangerously overtaking. This would also help pedestrians crossing

We need your help

If you have an interest in Hampton Wick High Street and are affected by any of these traffic problems and/or have any comments to make, PLEASE get in touch with us. We need your views to help build a comprehensive report on the problems.

Get in touch with me by calling 020 8977 5171 or email mark.buckley@dasol.co.uk

The HWA approach:

In Hampton Wick we all know there's a problem. In the past we have tried to get something done through lobbying, petitions and this newsletter. This has had some effect in terms of raising awareness but we need to do much more. It was demoralising to hear a councillor at a recent ACM say "I didn't realise there was a problem" and that the police measured speeds during the rush hour when of course the traffic was crawling along!!

We won't let these minor setbacks deter us. The first step is to make absolutely clear, once and for all, that there is a very real problem. To that end we will be compiling a report detailing exactly which types of traffic are causing what types of problem at different times of day. We will also put together a dossier of people's personal experiences. We will start another petition specifically for people who live, work or have an interest in the High Street. We will seek advice and suggestions from the many professionals we have in the village, working or living close by. No-one will be left in any doubt that the traffic in the High Street is causing real problems.

In parallel, we want to work with the council to plan improvements to the design of the High Street. We don't want to impose unenforceable speed limits. We don't want to have speed humps or other vertical speed limiters on the High Street. We do want a better High Street environment through careful and considerate design including some of the possible solutions listed above. We've already opened a discussion with Chris Smith from the council's traffic planning department about this, but there's a long way to go.

The HWA was formed in the face of a threat to destroy much of the village to make way for a flyover from Kingston. We take the threat from intrusive traffic taking over our High Street equally seriously.

Please get involved to help save our High Street.

A proper pub with good food

We extend a warm welcome to Simon & Marta, the new tenants at The Swan.

Simon is (almost) a local. He grew up in Weybridge and trained for two years at the RAC Club in Epsom. He then spent two years in the South of France completing his training as a chef. He's an entrepreneurial sort, having owned a restaurant and three bars at one time. Now married to Marta, with a little boy Antoni, he is focused on developing The Swan as "a proper pub with good food".

The pool table is staying, children are welcome and all the food is freshly prepared by Simon.

Marta comes from Poland - her English is so good you wouldn't believe she's been here only 3 years. She told us: "I fell in love with Hampton Wick straight away. It's the perfect balance between the town and the countryside."

We wish Simon and Marta all the best.



It's lovely to welcome the Swan back to the great mix of pubs in we have in Hampton Wick along with Foresters, the White Hart and the Old King's Head. Each have their own distinctive style. Unfortunately we've recently heard that the Railway has been put up for sale - anyone willing to have a go at bringing back this traditional Hampton Wick pub?

Did you know? Jeevika Trust

Did you know Hampton Wick has its very own international charity? Jeevika Trust, based in Navigator House on the High Street, is focused on combating rural poverty in India and is looking for volunteers now.

Jeevika Trust has touched more than 100,000 lives over the last decade and continues to work with people on the margins of rural society – low -caste and tribal people, especially women – to help them build and sustain their individual, family and community livelihoods.

Right now Jeevika Trust is looking for volunteers: Business champions, Events organisers, Local Co-ordinator, Student Co-ordinator, New Media Co-ordinator, Sponsored challenges...

Get in touch for full details:

rosemary@jeevika.org.uk; 020 8973 3773; www.jeevika.org.uk

Jeevika Trust is a registered charity no. 291167









Henry VIII (Sion Tudor Owen) opens the Fair in our brand new village square, watched by Cllr Parsons, Cardinal Wolsey (David Rees) and The Haunted Huntsman (Rob from the White Hart)



The Earl of Hampton Wick (Chris Drayson) with Henry at the start of the Children's Tudor Treasure Trail: crown-making at the Library



The full cast of characters on the first stop of their royal progress through the Wick, stopping with Moidul Hussain outside his Hampton Wick Tandoori

The Hampton Wick Summer Fair 21 June 2009

The Summer Fair was a fantastic day for Hampton Wick. We also raised some money to contribute to the Good Fellowship Club.

It couldn't have happened without the generosity, goodwill and sheer hard work of so many. Thank you to everyone who came

along and joined in.

Special thanks to:
All the volunteers who manned the stalls through the day,
Bohemia Gifts, Charlie Chandler
& Behind Bars, The Foresters
(especially Tom's mum for the cake stall), Hampton Wick Frame
Shop, Hussar's Coffee House,
The HWA Committee, Levenes,
The Library, Moidul's Hampton
Wick Tandoori, Showprint
Graphics, Squire's Garden Centre,
Trend Hair & The White Hart

And not forgetting! Ann Marie Meaney (HWA event organiser), Sion Tudor Owen (HW resident currently starring with Prunella Scales in Carrie's War at the Apollo Theatre) and Dan Clark (HWA photographer).



Few can resist throwing a wet sponge at our Estate Agent in the Stocks



Henry slips out of Tudor character for a moment, having spotted Wayne's motorbike outside Hussar's.



Henry takes Anne Boleyn (Ronnie Finlay) and the King's Fool (Iain Burgess) to visit the children's brass-rubbing stall at Bohemia gift shop.



Ann Marie gives Denise her raffle prize



Rob at the White Hart entertains the children with a ghost story as part of the Children's Tudor

Treasure Trail around the village



The Earl of Hampton Wick and Jack!



The incomparable Charlie Chandler and his band get everyone dancing outside the Foresters

That Was The



Post Card Ouiz

Outside which present day shop would the two policemen on the right be standing today? (answer at foot of inside back cover)

More local reminiscences

Following our recent article on local reminiscences, Colin Pain has written to us to explain that:

Ayliffe is not the last person to record the history of Hampton Wick. If you look in the reference section of the Hampton Wick Library you will find reminiscences of Charlotte Shaw, Marjory Kearn, Derek Shail, Grace Wren, etc including one from me on the 1986 fire at Hampton Court.

There are three volumes on Normansfield by Heather Cadbury which include reminiscences of some local people; a book on the history of Chestnut Sunday; memories of what local people were doing on 'D Day - 6th June'; a Hampton Wick community survey 1998-99 by the Hampton Wick Baptist Church, copies of the 1909 Kelly Directory and numerous pages from the census.

Thanks for this useful information Colin.



'Why Hampton Wick?'

The history of Hampton Wick

At Hampton Wick Library Bennet Close KT1 4AT

On Saturday 12th September 3.00 pm

Colin Pain will be talking about the history of Hampton Wick.

Free event Refreshments will be served



Wick That Was

Inn and around Hampton Wick

an article contributed by Al Ferrier

Many of the suburban villages around London possess just one or maybe two pubs. Hampton Wick is slightly unusual in that it arguably boasts five! As with the village itself, the pubs are historic and each has its own character. Indeed, each pub has attracted its share of colourful characters over the years and I am sure that you have many memories of great times spent inside them and stories about their landlords and ladies.

My own experience of the village began some fifteen years ago when my wife and I went to The White Hart to watch the Republic of Ireland play Italy in the (Rugby) World Cup. The Irish emerged victorious, winning by a single goal, something which the partisan crowd and the pub's management couple Sid and Eilish (from County Tipperary) were delighted with. Falling into conversation with another Irish couple who were students at St. Mary's College, we were invited to "an Irish house up the road". This turned out to be The Railway Tavern under the incomparable Michael Jordan.

It's not often you can say your life totally changed on a certain day but we stepped across the threshold of 'The Railway' and we stayed as regulars for close to fourteen years, experiencing some brilliant times there. Looking back on their respective times now, Mick and John Stryker recall becoming acquainted with the history of the pub, which is one of the village's oldest buildings. Mick still lives locally and The Railway is special to him.

"My first impressions before taking it on weren't good really. The previous landlord had run it pretty much as a wine bar and it had become run-down. I think it was only taking about £800 a week so there was a lot to do. I took it over in 1985. I knew it was a very old building and had been run by an older couple, Ted and Iris. Incidentally, Ted collapsed and died from a heart attack right here in the High Street whilst on his way to bank the previous night's takings. Someone told me that his final words were 'Make sure the money goes in the bank!'.

"The Railway was a great pub for a long time and Hampton Wick is a magnificent place to bring up kids. There's always been a good deal going on around here. I'd have a steady day-time trade but things are different now as companies discourage their staff from drinking at lunchtime. That said, I still like the place a lot, it's a fine place to settle and after a while you want to stay put!"

The pub went over to holding management for a year or so after Mick left in the autumn of 1998 and was then taken on by a character few around the village could forget: John Stryker. An ebullient, charismatic American, John stamped his personality on the pub but knew a good deal of its history before going behind the bar.

"I knew the building reeked of history but it needed work done so I started with that thought in mind: to restore the old girl to her former glory and I think I did that. I was a hospitable guv'nor and, although it took a while before it started making money, I was paying the beer bills and building a clientele" says John who now lives in the US.

"I had visited the pub several times while Mick was the landlord and during the time after he left. I researched its history, finding out when it was built and the role it played in the aftermath of the train accident here. The bodies of those who died were stored on The Railway's upper floors. I always thought the ghost was mostly friendly but could be a bit mischievous sometimes!"

John's personal highlights during his time at the pub include, in his own words:

"The Stryker Cup, Hampton Wick Drinking Society's golf tournament, the parties held on the fourth of July, New Year's Eve celebrations and eventually knowing the pub was on the map as an excellent purveyor of beer, good music and good food. Receiving the accolades from my fellow publicans was definitely a highlight."

The village's other watering holes have stories to tell too. Maybe they will appear in print here one day.

Thanks to Al for this article. If you've got some interesting memories of Hampton Wick - shops, pubs, characters or events - we'd love to hear from you. Get in touch with me by calling 020 8977 5171 or email mark.buckley@dasol.co.uk

Caring for our Memorial Garden

I am pleased to report that the council has agreed to carry out the following renovations:

- cleaning the memorial stone and replacing the lettering with lead if necessary
- rebuilding the back wall
- putting in a new light at the back and repairing the existing ones
- re-gravelling the surface
- cutting back the trees and shrubs

They have also agreed to carry out maintenance twice a year. I am constantly in touch with them to make sure the work is done in time for Remembrance Sunday.

The HWA and the Foresters pub have raised additional funds for the Memorial Garden and this money will be used to improve the planting, with a focus on plants that will make a good display in November.

It will be lovely to have our Memorial Garden looking as good as it should do once again.



Article by Chris Drayson

Bus Stop Madness

A big muddle seems to have arisen over proposed new bus stops in Church Grove. It seems that residents in Park Road, Teddington requested additional bus stops for the 481 route. This makes a lot of sense especially given all the new flats at the Linden Homes development.

However, TfL decided also to impose new, uncalled for, stops on Church Grove, Hampton Wick. Contrary to council assertions that there is a law that bus stops must be placed every 400m it is in fact just a "rule of thumb". On Hampton Court Road (Between The Walls) for example there is approximately 1300m between Westbound stops and 1450m between East-bound stops.

During the local consultation process, there was mixed support for the new stops in Teddington. But there was 100% opposition to the new Church Grove stops.

These stops are not needed because local residents can quickly and easily reach the High Street and its frequent bus services through paths and passageways that central planners do not know or do not recognise (e.g. path from Park Court to the High Street; path from Bennet Close to the High Street; Shaws' Path). Nonetheless TfL are determined to go ahead, despite:

- One of the stops will make the exit from the Royal Paddocks Allotments even more dangerous than it already is. The police response to our concern is that, if cars are travelling at no more than 30mph there is no safety problem and therefore they are not going to oppose the positioning of the stop. The HWA has already provided evidence to the police and the council that cars significantly exceed the speed limit on this road.
- The other stop will invade the privacy of a number of local residents. How would you like it if someone unnecessarily put a bus stop right outside your front door when there is no need for it?
- Both will cost public money we're not asking for our money back but at least spend it on something that is needed, see separate article on Hampton Wick Library! The stops cost approximately £5,000 each.

The HWA has made a submission to the Transport Consultation Group of the council, met with a council official and a local councillor, written to the police, local councillors and TfL (on several occasions!). Local residents have also written and handed a petition opposing the scheme to the council.

We wholeheartedly support public transport and are proud of our excellent local bus services (281/285) and our train service BUT why reduce road safety, intrude on people's privacy and waste public money when there's simply no need for these stops? Why on earth would (a) TfL push for them and (b) the Council allow them to implement them???

Answers anyone?

Hampton Wick Passport Scheme

Support
Iocal
businesses
and save
money
with the
Hampton
Wick
Passport



The Hampton Wick Passport scheme aims to encourage local people to support local businesses, and to provide rewards for HWA members.

Wherever you see this sign in the window, there'll be a special offer available inside when you show your HWA membership card.

Offers change from time to time so it's always worth checking back. At the time of going to press participants and offers available are as shown below. Always check with traders for details of their latest offer.

Foresters : 10% off food and accommodation **Moidul's Hampton Wick Tandoori** : 10% extra off meals and take-aways

Hussar's Coffee House : 5% discount Bohemia Gift Shop : 10% discount

The Swan : Ladies dine half-price on Tuesday nights

Lanson's Running shop : Free running socks with purchase of shoes

Levene's : 50% discount (enquire for full details)

Rocksons restaurant : enquire for details

Hoa's Nail Parlour : enquire for details

Membership Form

If you're an existing member unsure whether you've paid, please call Anne Hardy on 020 8977 1346

I/we would like to join/renew membership of the Hampton Wick Association (PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS):

Name/s: Phone

Address: Postcode

Email: Tick here to receive the free email news

Individuals: £5 pa Concessions £3 pa Family/Business £10 pa

I enclose my donation towards the work of the HWA £....... I would be interested in volunteering

Please make your cheque payable to the Hampton Wick Association and send it with this form to: Hampton Wick Association, 38 Park Road, Hampton Wick, KT1 4AS ◆ 020 8977 1346 ◆ annehardy@fastmail.fm

Answer to Post Card Quiz question on page 9: Euro Carpets

The HWA exists to serve the interests of Hampton Wick

The HWA supports the local community by maintaining a watch on local issues that may affect our environment, such as High Street speeding or closure of amenities; organising events such as the Summer Fair and Christmas Carols and communicating with local residents, businesses and others with an interest in Hampton Wick through the notice boards, web site, email news and this newsletter.



THE HAMPTON WICK ASSOCIATION

Formed in 1962 to fight proposals to build a flyover from Kingston that would have demolished a large section of the village

HWA Contact Details

Address for all correspondence: 38 Park Road, Hampton Wick, KT1 4AS

Chair: Carol Dukes

020 8977 5171; carol@btinternet.com

Newsletter: Mark Buckley 07703 042 136; mark@dasol.co.uk

Membership enquiries: Anne Hardy 07905 282 283; annehardy@fastmail.fm

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36-38 High Street 020 8977 8090



Jeevika Trust, Hampton Wick's local international charity combating rural poverty in India, is looking for volunteers!

Get in touch for full details – rosemary@jeevika.org.uk phone 020 8973 3773 www.jeevika.org.uk

Jeevika Trust is a registered charity no. 291167



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The Swan

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Lunch 12 - 2:30 Dinner 6 - 9pm

Sunday Roast 12 - 5pm

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