



Pro-Biz



Web site - www.probus-teddington-hampton.org.uk

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FARMER GEORGE CAME TO HAMPTON, RIDING ON A PONY!

This is fake news.

We have no evidence that this actually happened, but we can say that at the time of land enclosures in 1811 King George III was party to a land deal; a few acres of his personal estate centered on Hampton, where His Majesty was Lord of the Manor and a keen “improving Landlord”, was passed most generously into the hands of a charity managed by local dignitaries based at St. Mary’s Church.

This was originally known as the Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity and eventually became the core of Hampton Fund. Further details can be found on the Fund’s website at www.hamptonfund.co.uk



Our post-prandial speaker on Tuesday, February 15 was Martin Seymour, a Trustee of The Hampton Fund who was able to show how the Fund has developed into its present diversified form whilst still true to its original aims of supporting the poor in the Hamptons, Teddington, Twickenham and Whitton. An enormous boost to the Fund’s coffers came with the sale in 1989 of a large plot of land now forming Sainsbury’s St Clare’s site for over £20M. Quite a contrast to 1986 when the Fund’s cash assets were only £770, with no discernible income! That sum has

now increased to £60M by judicious investments and notwithstanding the distribution of charitable funds. Martin was able to show that this level of investment brings its own problems and management pressures, whilst continuing its charitable support. Over 1500 fuel grants were made in 2020.

Martin’s talk introduced a topic well worth further exploration. There is so much more to be discovered about the history of this local jewel in the crown.

PETER HEATH 1927-2022

The funeral for Peter was held at St Mary’s Church on Thursday 3rd March with more than 100 attending.

Peter had been a member since 1993. His attendance at our lunches dropped off a few years ago due to Vascular Dementia and he was bedbound for some years.

Peter was born at the Albion PH in Epsom and moved to Hampton with his parents in 1936 living at 8, High Street where he remained until his death. At that time, the building was the Jolly Gardeners and Peter’s dad was the licensee. Peter attended Hampton Junior School and then onto Rectory School, leaving at the tender age of 14 to start an apprenticeship at Wilson’s in Sunbury which led to a lifetime’s involvement in the River Thames and boatbuilding.



Peter was an avid dinghy and big boat sailor. He went on to work at Thorneycroft's on Platt's Eyot and after a stint in the Royal Navy married his wife Ella in 1949. He bought 8, High Street from his Dad in 1956 and set up his own business as a boat builder in what was the old bar of the pub.

Peter was a founder member of Hampton Sailing Club and became their Life President.

The Vicar of St Mary's did mention that both Ella and Peter were very supportive of the church with Peter being a little more supportive of the Jolly Coopers, a stone's throw from his house. Since Peter made it to the grand old age of 94 there weren't too many of his old muckers in attendance as most had long since passed on, but there was a large contingent from his lodge in Twickenham, and also from the sailing club. Peter's family was represented by his children, grandchildren and a new great-grandchild. With the passing of Peter a chunk of Hampton history fades away.

WALK AROUND STAINES MOOR - MARCH 2022

A very grey day met our six intrepid Probus walkers at the Lammas Park car park in Staines. It was a drizzly start to the day, but luckily the rain stopped as we arrived at the car park. The pay machine was finally mastered, as it wouldn't take cash, so we had to use our cards. We set off into the wooded area opposite complete with many ponds, which is obviously a popular fishing area.

After a few hundred yards we found Martin Riddell who was a little late arriving at the car park, but he somehow managed to catch us up after spotting the bright red hat worn by Alice Fordham.

The route took us across to a lane which was at one time connected to Datchet,, but has now been blocked off by the M25 and is therefore a real backwater now. The road runs into a track alongside the Wraysbury River and the M25, so it was good to get off that into the Moor. Just before entering the Moor we crossed the Old Datchet to Staines railway line, which closed in 1955, a little before Dr Beeching got his hands on the rest of the network.

The Moor itself is quite a large area trapped between the M25, Heathrow Airport, and the King George VI reservoir and, if you are a local resident with the right credentials, you can graze your livestock there for free. The Moor is split by the River Colne which we crossed and re-crossed by very secure bridges, and then made our way through a tunnel under the A30. This tunnel is decorated with pictures of wildlife that can be seen on the Moor, and it has a few extra bits of paint work in the way of tags from the local "youff". It was then a little windy route back to the car park, where we arrived on time for a change, and then back to the Slug and Lettuce for lunch where we were joined by 6 diners. It is a monster size pub overlooking the river, which specialises in cocktails, and it must be a complete riot at evenings and weekends.

FUTURE EVENTS

Tuesday 29 March: Lunch at La Familia, Hampton Hill - Organiser: Brian Brignall

Tuesday 19 April: Club Lunch- **AGM**- no speaker

Wednesday 4 May: Coach trip to Concert at Cadogan Hall, including Rimsky-Korsakov's 'Scherazade'-
Organiser Chris Oprey

Pub Lunches /Walks:

Tuesday 5 April - The Bell, Fetcham- Organiser: Mike Fraser

Tuesday 3 May -The Cricketers, Guildford- Organiser : Keith McArthur