



Ham & Petersham magazine

Autumn 2010

“Ever in my dreams”

Following Pope Benedict’s visit to the UK in September, Brendan Gately, a parishioner at St Thomas Aquinas Church in Ham, writes about Cardinal John Henry Newman and his connections to Ham.

The Manchester Guardian wrote following the death of Cardinal John Henry Newman (1801-1890) that “he was the greatest Englishman of his age”.

Newman’s place in our local history was duly recognised in 1980 by the then Greater London Council with the placing of a blue plaque on the wall of the house where he once lived in Ham Street (now renamed Newman House and forming part of Grey Court School).

Ham was reputed to be the favourite place of his childhood and although he spent less than five years in Ham, he was to write as late as 1861 that his home here “has ever been in my dreams”.

It seems somewhat appropriate that the house is now part of a school as apart from being remembered as a great writer, philosopher, preacher and theologian, he was a renowned educator.

Indeed, as far as higher education was concerned, the unworldly Newman had a very clear perception of the principles upon which a university should be run. These he enunciated in discourses and lectures which were eventually collected in the *Idea of a University*.

In them he proposed a Christian humanism, open to the modern world, uniting science and Christianity.

Yet, Newman was no means just an academic, demonstrating time and again his commitment to Catholic Social Teaching.

The poor of Birmingham would long remember Newman’s discreet acts of charity: how he sought employment for those out of work, paid for medicines or provided coal for those who would otherwise go without, and risked his life for them during a cholera epidemic at Bilston, where he remained until the worst was over. He had preferred to go there himself rather than send another priest as asked by his bishop. And it was the poor who lined the streets of Birmingham (in numbers estimated at 15,000 to 20,000) as his funeral cortege wound its way to his resting place.

It was an immense privilege this September to be present with fellow parishioners for his Beatification Mass in Cofton Park, Birmingham only a few hundred yards from where he was buried.

Newman is a wonderful gift from God, not only for the Christian churches of England, but for the country as a whole.

New course to start on Spanish history

Many of us think of Spain mainly in terms of holidays in sunny resorts or ancient cities full of palaces, churches and Old Masters, writes Freda Hyde. A new course in Ham will explore 20th century Spain and the effects of the civil war on thinkers, writers, poets and artists not only of Spain but of the world. It was a war of ideas and the winning of freedom and it influenced the destiny of the whole world. This is the first half. In the second, modern Latin America will be explored through the influence of dictatorships on writers, poets and artists, particularly in Argentina, Mexico and Brazil.

Lectures, films, power point presentations and debates will be used.

The meetings begin on Tuesday September 28 from 1.30pm to 3.30pm at St Andrews Church Hall, Ham Common. The fee for the 20 week course is £136. Anyone interested can call Freda Hyde on 8940 8757.

Useful telephone numbers

Doctors’ surgeries

Lock Road Surgery

8940 8922

Tudor Drive Surgery

8549 0061

Ham Clinic

8973 3500

Richmond Practice

8940 5009

Dental surgeries

Perfect Smile,

Ashburnham Road

8948 4085

Perfect Smile,

Back Lane

8948 1675

Tudor Lodge Dental Practice

8940 4747

Ham Dental Practice

8546 0326

Schools

Strathmore School

8948 0047

Meadlands Primary School

8940 9207

St Richard’s with St Andrew’s

School

8940 7911

The Russell School

8940 1446

Grey Court School

8948 1173

The German School

8940 2510

Community services

Ham Children’s Centre

8734 3400

Ham and Petersham SOS

8948 1090

Ham Library

8940 8703

Ham and Petersham Youth Centre

8288 0916

Churches

St Andrew’s Church

8948 7374

St Peter’s Church

8940 8435

St Richard’s Church

8948 3758

St Thomas Aquinas Church

8948 8292

Ham Christian Centre

8948 0721

Milk delivery

8399 8251

Times and Seasons

In England we are fortunate to have four seasons that have a distinctive pattern of weather. As I write the end of Summer is nigh and we have experienced the first chill evenings that herald that Autumn is only weeks away.

In town churches we celebrate the Harvest in late September / early October. Most schools start their new year of studies in September and their newest pupils, in uniforms that they will "grow into" are a common sight in the streets of Ham and Petersham. It is the contrast of the end of Summer and the start of the school year that stirs us into activity or not, as the case may be.

Many of our local residents are avid gardeners and there is a great deal to do to prepare gardens for Winter. Autumn also brings leaf fall, a back-breaking task, in view. It can be that it is all too much effort to get started on some of the unwelcome tasks of daily living? To do the awkward or unpleasant job in the household garden or write that email to the person that we have to give unwelcome news or return a letter to a far-away friend. Sometimes it just seems too much effort.

In the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes chapter 3 is the oft-quoted phrase "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the Heaven." The scripture continues "a time to be born, and a time to die..." Wisdom indeed, but difficult advice to follow. I am a fan of "Thought for the Day" the religious talk on the Today Programme on BBC Radio 4. Many years ago I heard Keith Jones, now Dean of York Minster, talk inspirationally about getting started on the jobs we least want to do. Keith's recipe is the word BANJO, Bang A Nasty Job Off a day. The idea being that we get one unpleasant task done a day. I wish you every success with your BANJO this Autumn (with apologies to a small person who lives in Petersham whose name actually is Banjo).

The Revd Canon Tim Marwood

Parish Priest, St. Peter's, Petersham
Area Dean of Richmond and Barnes

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EYE TESTS SPECTACLES CONTACT LENSES

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Gabriella Walker BSc, MCOptom
10 The Green, Richmond,
Surrey. TW9 1PX

An adventurer's tale

George Vancouver died at his home in Petersham at the age of 41, but not after a breathtakingly adventurous life, as *Robert Coles* reports.

One of Britain's outstanding navigators and maritime surveyors of the eighteenth century, was born in Kings Lynn, Norfolk on the 22nd June 1757.

When George reached the age of fourteen, George's father - who was both wealthy and widely influential - arranged to have George engaged as an able seaman on Captain James Cook's ship, *Resolution* then readying for Cook's second voyage of discovery.

In reality George was one of the ship's 'young gentlemen': trainee officers destined for commissions once they had served the required period at sea and passed relevant exams. It was a challenging opportunity for the fourteen-year-old George, who knew it would involve the in-depth evaluation of his authority, seamanship and navigational skills.

Cook, newly promoted to Commander and given two renamed *Whitby* colliers; the *Resolution* and the *Adventure*, set out from Portsmouth on the 13th July 1772.

Sailing via the Cape of Good Hope, Cook headed south-east, and proved, conclusively, by means of extensive cross-crossing exploration of the ocean, that the reports of the existence of a previously unknown southern continent were false and in the process also became the first navigator to have crossed the Antarctic circle. Cook then set course for Queen Charlotte's Sound, New Zealand where *Resolution* was reunited with *Adventure* and both vessels refitted.

Once at sea George Vancouver soon realised that only strict discipline could maintain respect for authority from ordinary seamen and he kept in mind how he would apply this when he was given a command of his own. One of George's fellow young gentlemen described him as, 'A quiet, inoffensive young man.' But, quiet or not, George performed his duties well: his seamanship was confident and well judged, his navigation unerringly accurate.



Vancouver: highly-gifted, intensely private

In 1774, continuing his exploration into the southernmost regions of the South Pacific, Cook was turned back by an impenetrable field of ice. Satisfied that there was no great habitable continent in the South Pacific, Cook could have returned home, but he decided on a third season of exploration of the still largely unknown Pacific and began a wide circling sweep north and westward, visiting: Tahiti, Tonga, Easter Island, South Sandwich Islands, and South Georgia, also discovering and naming New Caledonia and Norfolk Island before returning to Queen Charlotte's Sound for a final refit in preparation for the journey home, returning to Portsmouth on the 29th July 1775.

Confirming the Admiralty's confidence in Vancouver's suitability for promotion, he was appointed as midshipman on Captain Clerke's *Discovery* for Cook's third voyage.

Vancouver was one of the few people to come out of the disastrous events surrounding Cook's death at Kealakekua Bay, Hawaii, with his reputation enhanced. He had deliberately shielded fellow officers during the islander's savage attack and suffered a severe blow from a heavy Hawaiian club intended for the *Discovery's* sailing master.

Two weeks after Cook's ships returned to Britain in 1780, George Vancouver passed his Lieutenant's examination and was appointed to a sloop of 50 guns under orders to make for the West Indies where he spent the following seven years, rising to be first lieutenant of the 50-gun *Europa*.

The latter part of the eighteenth century saw a growing national enthusiasm for exploration, often led by eminent scientists eager to gather samples of previously unknown fauna and flora, and in 1791 Vancouver was appointed to command such an exploration along the north-west coast of America.

Vancouver's ship, named after Cook's *Discovery* of 1776 -1780, was a merchantman converted for exploration that had been moored for over a year on the river Thames under the command of another of Cook's old officers, Henry Roberts.

The famous botanist Sir Joseph Banks had been closely involved in the planning of Henry Robert's voyage and immediately, friction began to flare between Banks and Vancouver.

Banks had persuaded the Admiralty to build a 12ft by 8ft 'plant cabin' on the

quarterdeck to house the collection of live plants he hoped would be brought back to England and he personally supervised its installation. George Vancouver detested the large, heavy structure that took up a large proportion of the limited deck space and made the ship difficult to handle.

Banks had also appointed Archibald Menzies, a Scottish naval surgeon, to make an investigation of the natural history of countries visited, together with an evaluation of the civilization and culture of its inhabitants.

Menzies was appointed to Vancouver's ship as a supernumerary botanist rather than a surgeon; a position that placed him outside the ship's formal chain of command, giving him a privileged and protected status that Vancouver was uneasy about. Menzies also had a salary of a hundred and fifty pounds per annum – twice that of Vancouver – and to make matters even more inflammatory, Banks was used to being treated with deference by naval officers and annoyed by what he interpreted as Vancouver's arrogant manner, advised Menzies to keep a careful note in his journal anytime he considered Vancouver was being obstructive.

In fact Vancouver had a free hand when it came to selecting his officers. Joseph Whidbey was appointed as Discovery's sailing officer. Another shipmate from the Europa, Peter Puget (Vancouver had named Puget Sound after him) became his second lieutenant, while his third lieutenant was Joseph Baker. First Lieutenant, Zachery Mudge had served briefly on the Europa, but almost certainly owed his appointment to his close association with the powerful Pitt family.

The Discovery was to be accompanied by the brig, Chatham, commanded by Lieutenant William Broughton, and a storeship, the Daedalus, commanded by Richard Hergist another of Cook's old officers and one of Vancouver's ex-messmates on the old Discovery. Hergist was to sail the Daedalus to the Pacific separately and rendezvous with Discovery and Chatham at Hawaii, or Nootka Sound.

There were a number of well-born young men among Vancouver's midshipmen. Thomas Pitt was the sixteen-year-old

son of Lord Camelford and first cousin to both the prime minister, William Pitt and first lord of the Admiralty, John Pitt, second Earl of Chatham. Charles Stuart, also sixteen, was son of the Marquis of Bute. Thomas Manby, who left a delightful record of the voyage written as a series of letters, was related to the Norfolk family of Lord Townsend. Spelman Swaine was connected to the Earl of Hardwicke and Robert Barrie, Henry Humphreys and John Stuart were all nephews of admirals. This number of well-connected midshipmen on a humble exploration ship was unusually high, perhaps reflecting the growing status of exploration following the Cook voyages.

After the mutiny on the Bounty in 1788, Royal Navy Captains entering Polynesia were aware of the possible affects of destabilising charms of the islanders on their crews

After the mutiny on the Bounty in 1788, Royal Navy Captains entering Polynesia were aware of the possible affects of destabilising charms of the islanders on their crews. Vancouver took the risk seriously and only allowed the young gentlemen to go ashore if they were required to be on duty there. When Midshipman Pitt was caught trying to exchange a piece of iron barrel-top for sex; Vancouver, the uncompromising disciplinarian, judged Pitt guilty of disobedience, illegal trade, misuse of ship's equipment and sentenced him to a flogging.

Vancouver was certain that his sentence and summary punishment was just. Pitt felt himself dishonored in front of his peers and determined to seek revenge by harrowing and physically threatening Vancouver on their return to Britain.

In 1791, the Admiralty ordered George Vancouver, 'to acquire a more complete knowledge of the northwestern coast

of America.' It was a task that suited Vancouver's innate sense of detail and in all likelihood, one only he could have achieved at the time. His finished charts reveal the size of the task that faced him: a thousand inlets, straits and rivers follow unpredictable convolutions of the flooded mountain range where, within a stones throw of the shore, the depth can plunge hundreds of metres, or shelve suddenly into shallows.

His survey of the northwest coastline stretching from today's Seattle to Anchorage in Alaska was carried out with determination, skill and such painstaking attention to detail that it resulted in a set of charts so accurate that many were still being used a hundred years later. It was an outstanding achievement that gained him the enduring honour of having cities in the USA, Canada, Australia, and even a mountain in Alaska, being named after him.

Lesser known, but none the less significant, were Vancouver's diplomatic successes. He negotiated the Spanish withdrawal from the offshore landmass that was to be named after him as Vancouver Island. Further afield, he regretted the loss of Hawaiian lives during British attempts at colonization and regenerated a relationship based on mutual respect.

Following a long illness, probably contracted during his service in the tropics and possibly aggravated by the derogatory attentions of Sir Joseph Banks and Thomas Pitt, George Vancouver died in May 1798 at his home in Petersham, aged 41.

George Vancouver was not the sort of flamboyant adventurer that could have found as popular a place in British naval history as James Cook had done.

However, you might believe that this highly gifted, self-disciplined, intensely private man, left as great a legacy as Cook and that it is entirely appropriate that his life and his achievements continue to be recognised annually by a service of commemoration at Saint Peter's Church, Petersham, followed by the laying of a wreath presented by the City of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Hydro power on Teddington Weir

Ham and Petersham residents may well have become aware of an exciting project to generate clean, fossil-fuel-free electricity from a hydro power installation on Teddington Weir, *writes Chas Warlow*. These are not ill-founded rumours – in fact, the project is gaining ground and, what's more, is being driven forward by a group of local residents, who have formed a company (to be precise, a community interest company – Ham Hydro CIC) to develop the project.

Ham Hydro CIC is a social enterprise which aims to harness the expertise and power of community to help to create a low-carbon economy. Any surpluses after debt or interest repayments will be used to develop further low-carbon solutions in Ham & Petersham, Teddington and in Richmond borough as a whole.

Following a tender procedure in which Ham Hydro bid against a number of commercial developers, the Environment Agency told us in early August 2010 that we have been selected as the developer for this project. We will sign an exclusivity agreement with the EA in October and aim to be generating electricity from the scheme by autumn 2012. Under our plans, the scheme will generate enough electricity to power several hundred homes and save around 1000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. It looks set to be the largest run-of-the-river hydro power scheme in the UK.

As local residents, we have a vested interest in ensuring that the scheme does not have any detrimental impact on the local environment, especially on aquatic life. Therefore, the only suitable technology (and one which is approved by the Environment Agency) for the project is the Archimedean screw turbine, which has been demonstrated in tests to be "fish-friendly".

The Ham Hydro project has been modelled along the lines of community-led hydro power projects developed elsewhere in the UK, such as the Torrs Hydro New Mills and the Settle Hydro schemes,



An indicative representation of the turbines – we plan to install 4 Archimedean screw turbines on a different section of the weir

in which the schemes have been financed through a mixture of debt finance, local share issues and grants. In both cases, local residents successfully raised the finance and have managed the project since commissioning.

We have had huge interest in the scheme since publicising our plans in the press: the notion of community ownership seems to have sparked the public imagination. As they say.....watch this space.....

For more information please consult our website <http://e-voice.org.uk/hamunitedgroup/ham-hydro/>

Chas Warlow, Joint Project Leader, Ham Hydro CIC

Ham Fair attracts 135 stalls

This year's Ham Fair, organised by Ham Amenities Group and Ham and Petersham Scouts and Guides, attracted 135 stalls, *writes Gwen Dornan*.

Ham's tranquil Common was transformed on June 12 into a hive of activity for the annual event. From early morning the first stalls and games were set up and by 11am. the area was full of fairgoers looking for their favourite stalls and ready for a day of entertainment.

A full day of dancing, singing and gymnastics was provided by local schools, joined for the first time by students from the Montford dance and Arts Academy.

The highlight of the middle of the day was the ever popular Dog Show, professionally judged and enjoyed by all dog-lovers whether their pets are pedigree or not.

Ham Fair is a real 'village fair' and is supported by the whole of the community and around. Local schools, churches, organisations and the local branches of national charities have stalls at the Fair and many other stall-holders have been coming to Ham Fair for years.

Expenses are kept at a minimum and many people generously give freely of their time and expertise so that the maximum can be donated to local charities and organisations.

First prize winners of the Schools' Art Competition were: Aged 7 and Under – Yasmin Bangemann, German School; Aged 8-11 – Katie Broderick, Grey Court School; and 12 –14 yrs – Amy Townsley, Grey Court School.

Diary dates...

October

October 7th, 14th, 21st
**"Freedom Songs" with
 Dr Alwyn Marraige
 series of 3 lectures**

Ham Convent
 10am-12noon
 Suggested donation £3.50

**Sunday, October 10
 Garage sale 11-1pm.
 Guerilla Gardening
 2-4pm**

Ham Close, Ham
 Join HUG for a great eco
 event

December

Wednesday, December 1
 and Thursday, December 2
**Christmas Shopping
 Event of 'Unique Gifts
 from Emily'**

Old Ham Lodge, Ham Street
 9am-1pm and 7-10pm
 free entry, complimentary
 mulled wine/coffee

**December 8th, 9th & 10th
 Advent Meditation (same
 each evening)**

Ham Convent
 8pm retiring collection

News in brief....

- Watch out for posters for the upcoming **Barn Dance in Ham** on Saturday, November 20
- **Toddler group** meets in St Richard's Church in Ashburnham Road on Wednesdays from 1.15pm to 2.45pm. Have a cup of tea while the children play. Suggested donation £1 per family.
- **Office for rent in Ham.** 50sq ft, near bus stops and shops. £75 a week (plus electricity bill). Call 07837 823603.
- **Invest in the launch of a new eco-ethical magazine.** Email handpmag@googlemail.com for details.



Eyecare Opticians was established to provide independent, state of the art and comprehensive eye care to the community of Ham and Petersham.

As a husband and wife team of Optometrists they are dedicated to ensuring continuity of care and outstanding levels of service whilst providing value for money. Nish and Jaimini also provide NHS home visits for those who have difficulty getting to the parade

Practice details: www.eyecareopticians.com

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The Loch Ness Monster of Ham

Local historian Len Chave has delved into the archives and uncovered something very mysterious. The following letter appeared in the *Surrey Comet* dated 1 September 1934, written by Mr Harold A. Able of Hampton Wick:

SANDPITS MONSTER

Sir: Apparently the 'monster' has vacated his Loch Ness quarters and taken up new ones locally; for whilst my wife and I were walking across Ham Fields recently, we both saw what appeared to be a member of the seal or walrus family – only much larger than usual – wallowing in the deep water which now fills the disused sand pits there. This occurred in broad daylight on a Sunday afternoon, and, although a more recent visit had failed to confirm the authenticity of the phenomenon, possibly one or other of your readers who reside in the vicinity may be able to throw some light on the matter, or at least afford me an explanation of this unusual occurrence. – I am, etc.

In the following issue of the *Comet*, Mr J. H. Dicks of Teddington wrote as follows:

Sir – May I attempt to dissuade any of your readers whose curiosity may have been aroused by the letter which was published in last Saturday's *COMET* under the above heading from venturing unwarily about the dangerous banks of the gravel pits at Ham Fields expecting to see a 'monster' in the water there; and at the same time satisfy your correspondent that his idea that any member of the seal or walrus family being there is not only grotesque, but may be reasonably explained. I once there saw an object come to the surface of the water and immediately dive, which gave me the impression that I had seen a porpoise, but the absurdity of such a thought caused me to carefully watch to ascertain what the object really was. I was soon rewarded by the sight of a cormorant, which was evidently trying to find its finny food. As is perhaps well known the cormorant swims at all times low in the water with little more than the head above the surface and therefore, though a large bird, might easily be mistaken for some under water creature, especially from a distance – I am; etc.

I am surprised that Mr Dicks did not emphasise that it would be almost impossible for a large 'monster' to gain from the Thames to the gravel pits, since the only access would be through the draw dock used by barges taking sand and gravel away. But Mr Able was not to be easily satisfied:

Sir – : While thanking your correspondent for his views on the above subject, I should like to express my surprise at his having overlooked the fact that the creature seen in the sand pit in Ham was clearly stated as being of a much larger stature than the average seal or walrus; when he suggests the possibility of its having been a cormorant.

So far as I can ascertain a cormorant, although a gluttonous bird, is comparatively the same size as a penguin, and although as your correspondent states, the cormorant swims partly submerged in the water, one could hardly mistake a bird of such proportions for a larger birdlike being which I assure you wallowed for a distance of approximately twelve feet before disappearing beneath the surface. In that respect the method of locomotion was not unlike that of the porpoise, who travels in a series of undulating glides.

I might further elucidate the happening by saying that the creature had whiskers similar to the walrus and a shiny sleek black body also similar to the seal, and I make the observations in all seriousness in an endeavour to explain the extraordinary phenomenon that my wife and I witnessed. I am: etc.

At that point the correspondence ceased, and no editorial interest was taken in the matter; it concentrated instead on the Mayor of Richmond's view that 20 m.p.h. in Richmond Park was quite fast enough. 14 people had been convicted of motoring offences in the Park, mostly

speeding, but some of over-staying the limited hours enforced. Apparently some drivers tried to bribe the Park keepers! These days one can be fairly certain that a humorous editorial comment would appear somewhere. Either Mr Dicks did not bother to respond, or the editor decided that enough was enough. A correspondent calling himself 'Hiker' invoked 'a plague o' both your houses' with the final published letter:

Sir – After having read the letters in the *Surrey Comet* about the monster seen in the gravel pits at Ham Fields, I should like to inform those who are interested in prehistoric monsters that the 'monster' seen belongs to a more modern type, named Rebbur Rotomaryt. It is quite harmless, and when it leaves the water which it has strangely taken to, it will perish and all the fresh air that usually kept it running will be of no use. I have never been fortunate enough to see a cormorant at Ham. I don't suppose they appreciate kippers. I have often seen the 'monster'; it was there yesterday, basking in the sun. No museum would give a halfpenny for it. I am; etc.

Community microscope

Do you have a microscope that our local library could use to help children take a closer look at nature?

Email handpmag@googlemail.com if you can help.

The Petersham Trust: mission accomplished.

The Petersham Trust was launched in 1999 by the late Chris Brasher with these objectives

- Maintain and enhance Petersham Meadows as the cornerstone of the view from Richmond Hill
- Maintain the centuries old tradition of cattle grazing on the Meadows
- Transfer the lease to the National Trust so that the Meadows' future is assured in perpetuity.

I am proud to announce that all these objectives have been achieved. Considerable efforts and resources were necessary, not only to repair and replace buildings and build a new barn, but also to mend fences and gates in this highly valued bucolic setting. This success has only been possible through the great generosity of our donors who share the Trustees' love of this special riverside flood meadow and its ancient tradition of cattle grazing in the heart of Richmond.

I am pleased to announce that the lease has been transferred to the National Trust which shares the same aims and objectives. The Trustees have fulfilled their duties with the assurance that care of this unique place will continue for succeeding generations to enjoy.

The Petersham Trust is now being wound up. Three Trustees have been welcomed on to the National Trust's Advisory Committee for the Meadows to ensure that their aims and values are retained as the responsibility is passed on.

I would like to finish by saying many, many thanks for your support in helping the Trustees' to achieve the late Chris Brasher's vision that the Meadows be restored and maintained so that cattle will continue to graze there for the greater part of the year.

Graham Ball

Chairman Petersham Trust.



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Connecting the future:

Local residents and businessmen Richard Woolf from Ham and Mark Wing from Twickenham are proposing the building of a bridge across the Thames to link their two communities. Here, they tell H&P magazine readers more about their ambitious project.

As our society grows connections are made that alter physical, cultural and economic landscapes. Sometimes change is imperceptible, slow and frustrating.

Alternatively it may be rapid, enforced and unwanted. For many it is the process of consultation and the way initial ideas are presented, evolved and developed which makes the difference between acceptance and rejection.

An initiative in July 2010, orchestrated by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames under the banner Twickenham



The Twickenham side



The view from Ham

Barefoot Consultation, sought to reinvent the process of ideas generation and community consultation.

It gathered together individuals and collectives and gave them a forum to present their initiatives and ideas, as well

as enabling those with concerns over the future of the local built environment to express their views.

The event intended to challenge preconceptions, offering a range of possibilities and an opportunity to communicate to a wider audience.

Although focused primarily on Twickenham, many of the exhibitors, such as the River Thames Society, had close links to Ham and Petersham.

As borough residents, we had been debating the possibility of a river crossing for some time and the Barefoot Consultation provided an ideal platform for us to exhibit a proposal for a combined pedestrian and cycle bridge which would link our two communities. If it were to become reality, it would have a significant impact on how Ham and Petersham, currently faced with limited options in terms of transport and communication, could be reached by many more people for both economic and social reasons.

Over the years there have been many proposals for Thames crossings, potentially located at various points between Teddington and Richmond. A scheme via Eel Pie Island was also presented at the consultation, and many residents with long memories will recall discussions in the 1960s and 70s to introduce a road connection across Teddington Lock to connect with the then proposed expansion

A bridge proposal between Ham and Twickenham



How the bridge might look

of the Wates Estate. Many ideas have been variously considered and many quickly abandoned. What we hope is that our Ham Lands to Radnor Gardens proposed link has a semblance of possibility.

In recent years the bicycle has become a real alternative to car and rail travel, and the prospect of a cycle route to link directly between Teddington and Twickenham to Richmond, without the need to negotiate traffic in Twickenham town centre, was something which repeatedly received positive feedback, as the social, commercial and environmental

advantages became apparent. The current footbridge crossing at Teddington is becoming inadequate and can be almost grid-locked with pedestrians and cyclists at peak times. The proposed new bridge between Ham Lands and Twickenham would provide a safe, segregated, disabled-compliant pedestrian route, whilst a two-lane

cycle provision would give substantial capacity for commuters and leisure cyclists alike. The design for a single-span crossing, with clearance height for modern leisure craft, anticipates the enormous expansion of cycling as a major alternative means of transport within the capital, as well as enabling many families with school age children to gain safe cycle access between the two parts of the borough.

As well as bringing a cycle route extension, with its social, commercial and environmental advantages, we feel that the crossing would provide an amenity

connection much needed for many, not least connecting the densely populated community to the West with the open spaces of Ham and Richmond to the East.

Standing either side of the Thames, a distance of only 100m separates access to two great homes. Ham House has long been a tourist attraction and Strawberry Hill House, which has just had a serious makeover, is being opened to the public again this month. Did you know that 1.3m people walk along this section of the Thames each year? In addition, the potential of the Thames itself as a transportation conduit is being increasingly explored and the bridge could form a natural hub and stop-off point along the river.

Naturally there have also been concerns raised by many who are worried about the impact a bridge may have on both sides of the Thames, although 89% of the responses received following the Barefoot Consultation were positive calls for the bridge and declarations of support. Going forward we will be engaging directly with the council and national and local interest groups, as well as further consultation with the wider community. Initial proposals have been circulated and various letters to local newspapers have recently continued debate. It will be interesting to see how our initiative develops and to revisit the debate in the months to follow.

If you wish to contribute to the consultation and have any comments or feedback for Mark Wing and Richard Woolf, please contact them on the following email addresses, or call McDaniel Woolf on 020 8332 1981.

Mark Wing – Interrelated:
markwing@interrelated.co.uk

Richard Woolf – McDaniel Woolf:
richard@mcdanielwoolf.co.uk

Ham and Petersham Low Carbon Zone

The Ham and Petersham Low Carbon Zone is bringing people together to help our homes, schools and businesses save money on their energy bills. Join in and we can help you to make your home warmer, greener and more efficient.

In case you haven't heard yet, the Low Carbon Zone programme is offering you up to £150 worth of free energy efficiency measures and grants towards insulating your home. This offer is being made through a project trying to make Ham and Petersham a Low Carbon Zone and is exclusive to Ham and Petersham residents.

All you have to do is complete an application form, which can be found on our website below, in Ham library or the RHP Ham office next door.

Fifty-six households have benefitted by having a free home energy survey and Eco-Starter Kit so far but we only have limited places so make sure you don't miss out!

How much could I save on my energy bills with the Eco-Starter Kit?

When the Home Energy Assessor visits your home you will be able to choose from a range of items from a list to have for free. You can have all or none of these items, it will be up to you. Some of these items can be installed for you but where this is not possible advice will be given for you to install them yourself and a helping hand will be provided by your local Street Champion. Upcoming workshops will also take place so that you can find out how these devices work.

Efficiency Measure	Annual Saving (£)*
Reflective Radiator Panels	£5-£25
Hot Water Cylinder Jacket	£35
Energy Saving Light-bulbs	£45
TV Standby Saver	£30
TOTAL	£115-135

*Based upon an average household. Figures from the Energy Saving Trust or British Gas



One household recently had loft insulation installed and is now in the process of having solar photovoltaic panels fitted to their roof to generate electricity.

How much could I save on my energy bills if I decide to insulate my walls or loft?

If you are keen to cut your bills even further whilst making your house more comfortable, there will be grants available to help you invest in larger measures such as loft and cavity wall insulation.

Efficiency Measure	Annual Saving (£)*
Cavity Wall Insulation	£110
Loft Insulation	£145

*Based upon an average household. Figures from the Energy Saving Trust

Apply today and see how much you could save.

Christopher Hunt, Low Carbon Zone Coordinator
 E: christopher.hunt@richmond.gov.uk, T: 020 8891 7387
 A: Sustainability Unit, Civic Centre, 44 York Street, Twickenham, TW1 3BZ
 W: www.richmond.gov.uk/gogreen/low_carbon_zone

What else is happening in the area?

There are many more projects happening in Ham and Petersham to help make the area a Low Carbon Zone. See below for an update on what is currently happening and how to get involved.

Street Champions

Ham and Petersham now have a network of more than 25 Street Champions. The aim is to build this up over time until there are between 75-100, one to cover every street in Ham and Petersham.

The group are having training workshops on energy saving measures and things people can do locally to be more sustainable. Each Street Champion will have their own business cards and leaflets and will be making themselves known to their neighbours in the coming weeks.

Street Champions will, in the coming months, also be able to access a 'Light Bulb library' and have the use of a thermal imaging camera to help their neighbours identify what light bulbs work for them and where insulation can help to stop heat escaping from properties. Training sessions for both of these will be organised for Street Champions at the start of the winter.

Thank you to all those who have already volunteered to be a Street Champion, we couldn't do this without you! If you are not a Street Champion but think you might be interested, contact Chas Warlow, Street Champion Coordinator, for more information.

chas.warlow@richenvironmentnet.org.uk

www.projectdirt.com/group/hamstreetchampions

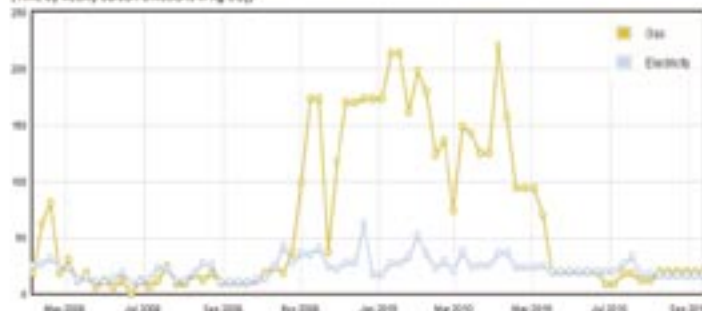
Ham and Petersham Green Drinks

On the second Tuesday of every month people from all over Ham and Petersham meet up at Green Drinks in the Hand and Flower pub from 18:30 onwards. This informal meeting brings people together to discuss local environment issues.

Why not join in? Look out for the Green Drinks sign on the table and come and introduce yourself.

YOUR HOME CARBON EMISSIONS

(Time by weekly carbon emissions in kg CO₂e)



*Based upon an average household. Figures from the Energy Saving Trust

i-Measure

People signed up to i-Measure, an independent online energy monitoring tool from Oxford University, can compare how energy efficient they are with other people in Ham and Petersham.

The programme is easy to use; just sign up, find the Low Carbon Zone Ham and Petersham' carbon club and enter your meter readings regularly. You'll then be able to see your energy consumption and also see where you are in the local league table.

Green Streets Competition

A group of 15 households and 6 schools in Ham and Petersham have been representing the area in a national competition to reduce energy use. The Green Streets group is fighting to win the prize of £100,000 for the Ham and Petersham area.

So far, four of the group have had loft insulation, two have had cavity wall insulation and the first solar photovoltaic panels are being installed later this month. In addition to this, some of the families are having quotes for their old boilers to be replaced before the weather starts to get chilly.

The group and the schools are also receiving some smaller measures such as eco-kettles and pipe insulation, to make their buildings even more efficient.



MAYOR OF LONDON

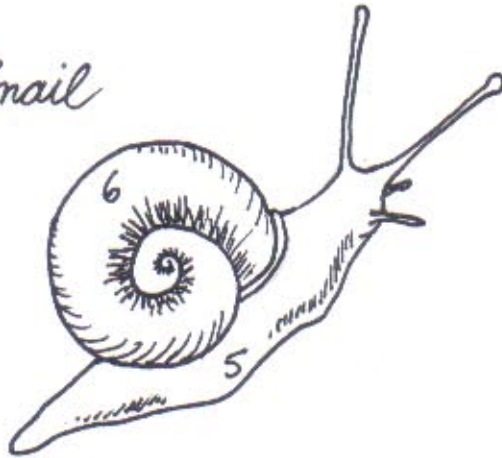


Richmond Environment Network

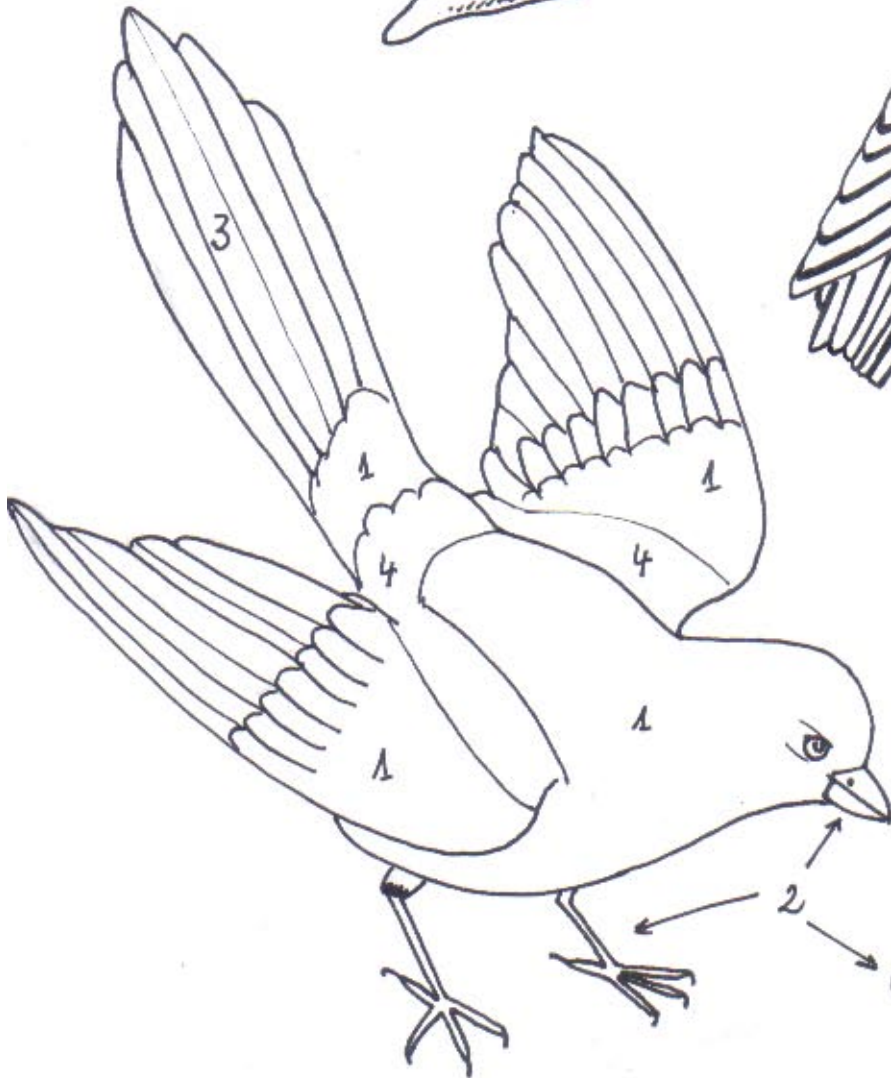


Residents of Ham and Petersham







Vine Snail



Starling



Magpie

-  = 1
-  = 2
-  = 3
-  = 4
-  = 5
-  = 6

How an eye examination could save your eyesight...or even your life!!

Jaimini and Nish Fofaria of Eyecare Opticians in Ham tell how eye tests can reveal problems throughout the body

People typically get a routine eye exam when their glasses break, they have an eye infection, or they are on their last pair of contact lenses. Naturally, an eye examination does help with these problems but unfortunately, many people do not understand the importance of having regular eye examinations. We find time to visit our family doctor. We find time to make our 6 monthly visits to the dentist. Yet how many are overdue for a trip to see the Optometrist, or worse still have never been to one? In reality, how much could we actually accomplish in a day without the precious gift of sight? The eyes function as a window to our bodies and a comprehensive eye examination can reveal the presence of undiagnosed problems throughout the body.

Periodic eye and vision examinations are an important part of preventive health care. We only have one pair of eyes so it is paramount to take care of them. The first step is undergoing regular comprehensive eye examinations as many eye and vision problems have no obvious signs or symptoms. Early diagnosis and treatment of eye and vision problems are important for maintaining good vision and eye health, and when possible, preventing vision loss. A good optometrist does not only make you see better but advises on keeping your vision at its best.

With such advances in technology, the 21st century eye examination is a comprehensive and thorough assessment, which may include, but is not limited to, the tests below. Individual patient signs and symptoms, along with the professional judgment of the Optometrist, may significantly influence the testing done.

Patient History

This helps to determine any symptoms you're experiencing, when they began, the presence of any general health problems, medications taken, family history and occupational or

environmental conditions that may be affecting vision.

Visual Acuity

Visual acuity measurements evaluate how clearly each eye is seeing. As part of the testing, you are asked to read letters on distance and near reading charts. However, if this is not possible (children, dementia) there are objective ways of testing this.

Eye Focusing, Eye Teaming, and Eye Movement Testing

Assessment of accommodation, ocular motility and binocular vision determines how well your eyes focus, move and work together. In order to obtain a clear, single image of what is being viewed; your eyes must effectively change focus, move and work in unison. This testing will look for problems that keep your eyes from focusing effectively or make using both eyes together difficult. Your eye's responsiveness to light is measured to ensure that your retina is exhibiting the proper level of photosensitivity.

Ophthalmoscopy (Detection of eye disease)

During this part of an eye exam the retina, fundus (back of the eye), retinal vessels, and optic nerve head (optic disc) are viewed with an ophthalmoscope (a type of microscope with an attached light). Although highly effective, there are limitations such as pupil size and the subjective results obtained.

With the introduction of retinal cameras (a camera which takes a photograph of the back of the eye, thus capturing the entire retina and providing a photographic medical record) it is widely accepted in the profession that these should be routinely used to examine the back of the eyes.

Many serious eye diseases often have no symptoms. Glaucoma is an eye disease that causes vision loss and is commonly known as the "sneak thief of sight." Conditions such as macular degeneration or cataracts develop so gradually that you may not even realize your vision has decreased.

A retinal examination can also reveal the earliest clues to the presence of an overall body ailment. For example, one of the earliest signs of diabetes is the leaking of fragile blood vessels in the eye. High blood pressure can also have negative effects on your vision as it can restrict blood flow which can cause vision loss as a result of retinal damage. High cholesterol may also be detected by your Optometrist before the condition becomes apparent to your doctor. At worst, this examination can reveal life threatening tumours.

If diagnosed early enough, many eye diseases can be cured or treated, helping to prevent permanent vision impairment. Unfortunately, many diseases of the eye have no noticeable symptoms in their earliest stages. While the early warning signs of a serious eye disorder may be invisible to you, they are often easily detectable through an eye test performed by a trained optometrist.

Below are examples of how common eye diseases affect vision in the advanced stages which can be prevented with regular eye examinations:

Tonometry

This is the notorious 'puff of air' test. However, there are other methods of assessing eye pressure that are more comfortable which are employed in certain practices. This measurement is critical as elevated pressure can signal an increased risk for glaucoma. Glaucoma is when increased pressure ('eye' pressure, unrelated to blood pressure) causes

damage to your optic nerve which sends messages to your brain, thus affecting vision. Those over 40 with an immediate family member who suffer from glaucoma are entitled to an annual eye examination free of charge on the NHS.

External Examination

A slit lamp (a type of microscope with a light attached to it) is used to evaluate the anterior structures of the eyes (lids, conjunctiva, cornea, and lens) under magnification. This aids diagnosis of dry eyes, lid infections, corneal disease, and cataracts.

Refraction

Your prescription needs to be checked on a regular basis to make sure your visual acuity is the best it can be. Refractive error can now be accurately determined using a computerised phoropter or objective methods for those who are unable to communicate adequately. Headaches or general fatigue can often be caused by slight over or under corrections of

prescription. In addition, if you spend more than two hours on a computer each day, you may develop a condition known as computer vision syndrome, or CVS. Symptoms of CVS include headaches, focusing difficulties, burning eyes, tired eyes, eyestrain, aching eyes, dry eyes, double vision, blurred vision, light sensitivity, and neck and shoulder pain. CVS can be treated with exercises, lighting advice, and/or glasses.

Supplementary tests

These include colour vision (extremely important in children as it can affect career choice in the future or those learning to drive), depth perception and visual field testing (checking side/peripheral vision; if this is reduced it can be a sign of optic nerve damage).

Children's Examinations

These are free on the NHS (all under 16s and those under 19 in full time education). Children's eye examinations are equally

important as uncorrected vision problems in children often cause learning and reading difficulties or contribute to other medical problems such as dyslexia and ADHD. Uncorrected vision in children can cause amblyopia (lazy eye) or strabismus (eye turn) which can cause permanent vision loss if not treated early in life.

Advice and Recommendation

At the completion of the examination, your optometrist will assess and evaluate the results of the testing to determine a diagnosis and develop a treatment plan. He or she will discuss with you the nature of any visual or eye health problems found and explain available treatment options. In some cases, referral for consultation with, or treatment by, an ophthalmologist or other health care provider may be indicated.

To make an appointment or ask for further information please contact Eyecare Opticians 020 8549 0331 or visit www.eyecareopticians.com



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A cormorant surveys Ham pond Photo: Kevin Archer

HAM ART GROUP Autumn Exhibition 2010



Friday 8th October
6.30pm - 8.30pm
Saturday 9th October
10am - 6pm
Sunday 10th October
10am - 6pm

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All proceeds to go towards equipment for the children
of the school

Doors open 7pm



**HAM UNITED GROUP-YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP-
CARE ABOUT WHERE YOU LIVE**

INCORPORATING PETERSHAM

Ham United Group Autumn update

So here we are in September and the days are getting shorter. The summer has been mixed weather-wise, but **HUG** members have been very, very busy. Our main focus has been on the **community allotment at Grey Court School** and working on the **Ham Hydro** project.

The **Grey Court Community Allotment** was the main community focus over the summer months. The 'Official Opening' took place on Saturday, 17 July and drew a good crowd. No ribbons to cut, but the blueberry bushes produced fruit in time for our MP to devour the first produce from the fruit 'n veg garden.

The 'Weeding Wednesday' activity during term time is up and running. Mary is there between 1h15 & 1h45, so if you would like to join in then pop along or email her at allotment@hamunitedgroup.org.uk



Just last week the school kitchen served tomatoes and green beans from the allotment to the children.



Produce has also been donated to the residents at Redknapp House and of course those that tend the allotment certainly go home with their arms full of freshly picked produce.

As you can see from the picture on the left, Janice is almost lost in the green beans! What a difference a month makes in the garden.

The birds had the gooseberries, so that is a lesson learnt for 2011.

One of the apple cordons has produced fruit so we are looking forward to sampling a Saturn apple.

Our continued thanks go to **Maggie Bailey** for allowing us the space to 'grow' (sorry about the pun). Lastly, a big 'thank you' to **Ham**

Amenities Group for their kind donation of £200 which will go towards purchasing seeds.

You will no doubt have seen in the local papers that **Ham Hydro CIC** has been selected as the developer of a hydro power scheme on Teddington Weir. This community led scheme will help develop a low carbon economy. More details will be released during the Autumn of this really exciting project. To discover more go to this link - <http://e-voice.org.uk/hamunitedgroup/ham-hydro/>

Update time:

The **Ham Library Bird & Butterfly garden** has been left in its' natural state over the summer – this was partly because in early summer the ground was so hard our volunteers could not dig, so we decided to see what happened. Most users seemed to like the un-manicured garden. You will also notice the meadow daisies in the grass due to the reduced 'regimental' mowing. It has certainly attracted many insect visitors this summer. One of the apple trees, the Claygate Pearman has produced a good mini crop.

Low Carbon Zone (LCZ). This project is going very well and as a project we are advancing well compared to some of the other London Low Carbon Zones. Well done to Chas Warlow and his Street Champions. It is still not too late to get involved - email lowcarbonzone@hamunitedgroup.org.uk

HUG is continuing to make an impact to the local environment for the residents of Ham & Petersham. There are some autumn events in the planning stages. So look out for notices in the library, shops and local papers and we hope to see you joining in.

Again, a huge vote of thanks is due to our volunteers (why not join our merry band – a warm welcome awaits), **Ham & Petersham Association, BTCV, Grey Court School, Ham Amenities Group, Richmond Environment Network (REN)** and of course **the residents of Ham & Petersham**.

Jean Loveland

Vice Chair and founder member of HUG

Visit us at - <http://www.e-voice.org.uk/hamunitedgroup/>
E-mail info@hamunitedgroup.org.uk



LOTTERY FUNDED

**grassroots
grants**

Financed by the Lottery and Government
Funding via the Office of the First Minister

Pear Bread *by Bettina Rixon*

You will need:

500g flour

Yeast

500g fruit (pears, raisins, figs, apricots, walnuts are all suitable)

Half teaspoon salt

100g sugar

One teaspoon aniseed

One teaspoon allspice (originally Lebkuchengewuerz)

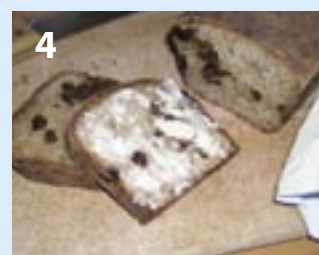
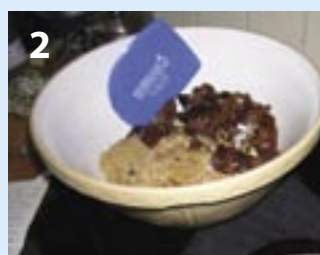
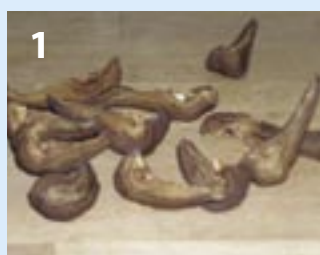
If you've got a glut of pears this year, try this traditional South German recipe from my grandma.

First, slice the pears, cutting off the stalk and blossom, and dry them out on a baking tray over several days to weeks (you can do this best by popping them in your oven to use the rest of the heat from baking). The pears go dark brown and hard **(1)**. Before you start baking, "re-constitute" the pears by putting them in water over night.

Make a dough with the flour, yeast, sugar, salt, spices and water you have softened the pears in. Only when you've made the dough, add the pears and fold under carefully, otherwise they get mashed **(2)**.

Fill in to greased tin and let it rise for a while **(3)**. Bake at 200 degrees Centigrade for 40-45 minutes.

Enjoy with unsalted butter! **(4)**



Ham Polo club celebrates New Zealand culture

The London Polo Club hosted the 10th Anniversary Toast festival promoting the best of imported New Zealand food and wine and saw 5,000 revellers witness a nail biting match between an official New Zealand Polo Association Colts team and a Hurlingham Polo Association Young England side, writes Marion Cairns.

The twelve goal game was played in good spirit, speed and excitement with both young teams well mounted and the pony's coats shimmering in the summer sun.

Michael Henderson scored five of the NZ Colts goals and with the score two all in the first chukka, Young England showed true grit as they kept up the pressure and were rewarded by scoring four of their six goals in the second chukka.

Even the traditional Hakka challenge before the start of the match didn't hold England back as they defeated New Zealand by a goal.

With champagne and wine still flowing, this fun loving crowd moved onto the Jubilee ground where families were enjoying late afternoon picnics, while a diverse collection of established New Zealand bands currently on tour in the UK encouraged an audience of all ages to dance and singing along to the tracks as the day slowly slipped into evening.

For any queries about the club or membership contact the polo office on 0208940 2020 or events@hampoloclub.com for more information go to our site at www.hampoloclub.com

Ferns for your Garden

Martin Gibbons, of the Palm Centre in Ham Street, recalls the Victorians' love of ferns



Leafy wonders

The history of the use and cultivation of ferns in the U.K. closely mirrors that of Palms, and indeed, many gardeners grow both. Once again we are indebted to the Victorians, those great patrons of gardening, for their early efforts to introduce, cultivate and distribute rare ferns among their peers, which began the entire interest in this country. Indeed, it became such a craze that weekend jaunts to the countryside were organised where enthusiasts ripped out sometimes entire colonies of native ferns for cultivation back at home. This of course is absolutely illegal these days, and rightly so.

The wealthier enthusiasts constructed ferneries of glass where suitable atmospheric conditions could be maintained, and worked on hybridizing species or propagating naturally occurring 'sports'. Another popular way of growing ferns for those who had the space and the money was the digging of a deep trench or 'fern gully' over which a glass top was built, with steps down to the bottom where a path would be laid. The ferns themselves were planted in the walls of the gully where they enjoyed cool, low-lit conditions and a naturally occurring supply of water, simulating their natural habitat.

We have come a long way since those early days; there are literally hundreds of species and cultivars available, including many exotics such as the Stag's Horn fern and the so-called Tasmanian Tree fern, both now widely available. Until a few years ago, this latter species was extremely rare and very expensive. Then some enterprising Aussies started exporting them by the container-load, prices dropped and now one garden in every two seems to have one. Even so, they still attract attention and a well grown plant with a few feet of thick trunk and a magnificent crown of grass-green fronds is still an arresting sight.

As for the Stag's Horn fern (*Platycerium bifurcatum*), it is well worth trying out-of-doors in our rapidly warming climate, as it tolerates temperatures down to freezing. Tie it onto a ball of moss against a tree trunk where its bizarre appearance will surely attract attention. It will grow slowly to embrace the trunk, needing no care other than an occasional splash of water in a hot summer. Most of the moisture it needs comes from early morning humidity as in its native Australia.

Less exotic but extremely popular is the beautiful Hart's Tongue fern, *Asplenium scolopendrium* which thrives in the shaded garden, given a damp spot. It is native to the UK and is hardy and easily grown, producing a dramatic clump in just a few years. It makes a good contrast to the more feathery types of fern.

For a dramatic change, the Chilean fern, (*Blechnum chilense*) is hard to beat with its red new leaves, slowly turning to green. In its native South America, it is a ubiquitous roadside plant, so common as to be considered a weed. Here it is an exotic stranger, hardy to frost, growing ultimately to 4 or 5 feet tall and producing a short trunk

We are fortunate to have a wide range of forms and species, sizes and colours, cultivars and sports available to us. Such is the case that there is one for every garden, be it sunny or shady, wet or dry, large or small. The Victorians would be very happy to see how far the hobby that they began has spread.

For a wide range of ferns see our website, or visit: www.palmcentre.co.uk or call 020 8255 6191.

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Music studio ready to rock at Ham Youth Club

We have had an exciting and busy summer here at Ham Youth Centre, writes Ben Skelton. This has included paintballing, waterskiing, bike maintenance, canoeing, music production and rock climbing. We also ran a project encouraging young people to appreciate the amazing area in which they live like Richmond Park, Ham Lands and the riverside. This included bike rides, orienteering, fishing and parkour. In July a boys team from Ham also won the cross borough Football tournament held at Heatham House beating teams from numerous other youth organisations!

We are now straight in to the autumn term with all our evening activities running again including drop in youth clubs, football training, Parkour, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, careers advice and music. Our newly built music studio equipped with the latest recording technology, guitars and a drum kit is nearly ready for use and we hope will serve all those budding young musicians in the area.

For October half term we are planning a cross borough girls residential to an activity centre on the Isle of Wight where young women from Ham Youth Centre will join peers from other youth clubs in Richmond in trying lots of exciting activities.

Lastly myself and a colleague will be running a Family Links parent support programme from the start of October looking at ways to get the best out of family life and raising teenage children.

If you are interested in any of the above please contact me on 0208 288 0916.



A problem shared; a problem solved; the “Grey Court” way

At Grey Court, about two years ago as a group of students we were really concerned about the way our year group were behaving towards one another, *writes Jess Butler*. The school was making progress in so many other ways yet we seemed unable to communicate with each other effectively or get through lessons without some disruptive incident happening which would inevitably spill over in to the playground and sometimes last all week.

Ms Bailey (our head teacher) is always so upbeat and determined that school should be a positive experience for all her students. She told us many times in assemblies and at every opportunity really, how keen she was to ensure that school became a place where young people felt safe and happy. Her desire for us all to love learning and achieve our full potential seemed so far removed from our cohort because we just could not seem to solve our differences amicably. Ms Bailey constantly made it clear to us that her “door was always open” to us, we were her “first priority” and yet whenever we went to see her we were unable to follow through and shrunk from her office door. After several abortive attempts, we finally plucked up enough courage and had an exceedingly good conversation!

We shared our thoughts and hopes for the future and Ms Bailey promised that we would be able to find solutions. At last... we felt optimistic. True to her word within a week we were having conversations with Ms Mercer, our expert student support officer.

Two years down the line we are now well on our way to becoming a fully restorative justice school. What an earth does that mean I hear you exclaim. Let me explain. Sometimes at school incidents happen where there is conflict between people; this can result in students feeling hurt and upset; just like what was happening to people in our year group on a regular basis. At Grey Court we now use a restorative approach to deal with these problems.

Restorative approaches aim to resolve conflict in a calm and positive way. We get everyone who has been involved in a conflict or a difficult situation together to find a way forward. At this meeting everyone has the opportunity to talk about what has happened, how they feel, how they have been affected and what needs to happen next to put things right. The meeting is structured so that everyone has the opportunity to have their say and to listen to others so that the same thing does not happen again.

We have found that by using restorative approaches incidents of bullying have decreased, attendance has improved and exclusions are rare. By encouraging students to talk about conflict and listen to each other, students have a better understanding as to how their behaviour has affected others; they are better able to take responsibility for their actions and can work to repair the harm that has been done.

Over the past two years, we have worked really hard and have expanded our use

of our restorative approaches to create a positive ethos and enhance our student voice by holding whole year student and teacher conferences. Students have been able to work with teachers to create detailed action plans outlining how they want the behaviour, learning and teaching and reward systems of the school to be. We have then been able to put these ideas in to place. We feel empowered by this new approach and we have ownership of the new systems in place.

Recently we have developed our behaviour policy. Students parents and staff have worked together to ensure that the policy reflects the importance of restorative approaches at Grey Court and we are in the process of creating a restorative relationship policy to ensure that students and staff feel they are given every opportunity to give of their best. By working together we have strengthened our community relationships, our progress in lessons has increased. Our school results have increased by 31% and probably most importantly of all, we have a greater respect for each others opinions. There is a calmness in the school from which everyone benefits. The atmosphere is amazing.

You are welcome and in fact encouraged to come and experience it for yourselves.

Jess Butler
Deputy head girl
Grey Court

Ham & Petersham WI

Our meetings are held every second Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm at The Dysart Arms in Petersham Road (with the exception of August). Future meetings this year:

Wednesday 13th October: Tony Leppard on a trip to Vietnam & Cambodia (in aid of The Shooting Star Children’s Hospice).

Wednesday 10th November: The AGM followed by making Christmas decorations.

Wednesday 8th December: Christmas party (members only).

Plus every meeting we have a table top sale (with a different theme every month) and we organise theatre trips, day trips, craft evenings and walks outside the regular meetings.

The annual subscription is £29.50, due in January, but in the meantime if you would like to come and sample an evening, please come along; visitors are very welcome!

For more information call Antje on 07803 207014 or Emma on 0780 876 3198.

German Lutheran church “hidden in Ham”

“I’m already living here for more than twenty years, but I didn’t know that there are being held Lutheran services in German language.”

We often hear such statements when we meet people who are attending German services for the first time., *writes Pastor Wolfgang Kruse.* There have been German speaking congregations in central London already since 17th century, . The Ham & Petersham Lutheran congregation is not that old.

The congregation was officially founded in 1979 although German Lutheran services had been held before from time to time in Ham. The primary initiative for the Lutheran congregation came from the parents of pupils attending the German School. They wanted their children to be confirmed and to attend services on a regularly basis. The founding meeting of the Lutheran congregation took place on 25 November 1979 and from 1980 onwards regular services in German language have been held twice a month at St Andrew’s Church, Church Road, Ham, which is still being used for these purposes today.

The services take place on second and fourth Sunday each month at 4.30pm. Families with children are most welcome since the congregation offers also a Sunday school at the same

time. There are regular ecumenical services together with the hosting Anglican St Andrew’s congregation and with the German speaking Catholic congregation. For children we offer from time to time an ecumenical “Childrens-Bible-Day”, where the children enjoy different activities around a Bible story. Regularly we have a confirmation-class which meets in German School for their lessons. I am teaching Religious Studies in the German School, so there is a close link to the school community.

Best way to get in contact to the congregation is to attend a service and talk to the pastor and to people afterwards during the social in the church hall (with German cake!). You are also invited to the Harvest Festival family-service on 10 October at 4.30pm in St Andrew’s Church as well as to the St Martin Lantern walk on 14 November in Hyde Park (4pm). On Christmas Eve there is a family service with German Christmas Carols at 3pm in St Andrew’s Church.

All events you’ll find on our web-site www.ev-kirche-london-weStorg.uk

Contact details: Pastorin Anne-Kathrin Kruse and Pastor Wolfgang Kruse, phone 020 8876 6366, mail pfarramt@ev-kirche-london-weStorg.uk

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