



April 2018

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### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 15 May, Garrick's Temple, Hampton Riverside**

Business will start at 7.30pm with reports and elections of Chair and Committee. If you would like to propose a motion, please send it in two weeks ahead of the AGM date. The speaker this year will be Malcolm Head, a retired Master Dredger, who will talk about his "Treasures of the Thames", and bring some of them along.

Malcolm is a keen archaeologist and collector of both artifacts and the stories behind them.. £5 at the door for entrance and/or membership – well worth it for a voluntary organisation that brings both banks of the river together, Middlesex and Surrey. There will be refreshments with wine and snacks.

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### **HAMPTON RIVIERA – UPDATE**

There has been much concern expressed by local residents about developments along the Hampton Riverside and two Public Enquiries have taken place. Richmond Council are putting a case together to initiate legal proceedings to make sure that enforcement action relating to planning is complied with.

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### **GARRICK'S TEMPLE TO SHAKESPEARE**

The season opened on 25 March and will run through to October, with concerts and entertainment on the riverside lawn of this 1754 Robert Adam garden temple, It is a classical gem, built by David Garrick on the riverside lawn opposite his Villa as a homage to Shakespeare – it is unique on the Arcadian Thames.

More information from [www.garrickstemple.org.uk](http://www.garrickstemple.org.uk)

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### **HAMPTON FERRY**

British Summer Time, and the ferry between Hurst Park, Molesey, and Hampton's Bell Hill is plying daily. Hours are 8am to 10am and 4pm to 6pm weekdays, all day weekends and Bank Holidays. However, if the ferryman is there and you ring the bell, he should hear you. Whichever side of the river is yours, there's something worth visiting on the opposite bank.

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### **DEVELOPMENT FEARS FOR HURST MEADOWS FLOODPLAIN**



An application for a 30 x 10 x 7.55m boathouse with ground floor storage for 60 boats and first floor facilities, sited in leafy Hurst Meadows, has been resubmitted by 1st Molesey Sea Scouts. An earlier proposal was withdrawn following strong objections from all statutory consultees and local people, both sides of the Thames. Regrettably a second very similar application emerged at the end of March, with a stated intention to hire it out widely for frequent use by any group, including commercial operators.

We continue to oppose this highly inappropriate development. There are many good, feasible alternative locations for the scouts, which would be less damaging to the floodplain, the Thames Path, the Thames Landscape Strategy views, the navigation, nature conservation, local water fowl and much else. For the latest information see the website [www.friendsofhurstpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofhurstpark.org.uk)

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## **PETANQUE COURT - COMING SOON**

Boules, quelqu'un? Community Infrastructure Levy funding has been found at Elmbridge Council for a petanque terrain on Hurst Park, to the right of the Sadlers Ride carpark. This will be a facility open to all – as long as you have the boules – and a local club has been formed to help maintain the site. Hopefully it should be ready for summer, but do note the automatic public loo by the carpark has been closed.

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## **RIVERSIDE LIGHTING**

The scourge of the LED security light has severely polluted what was once our dark river corridor, illuminating the riverbank like an airport. However, new owners of the former Hampton Waterworks buildings Morelands Riverdale, Blackbottle Ltd, have been very responsive to calls to turn that light out and things have greatly improved.

Thames Water too have a new site manager, Rose Wilkinson, who walked along the Surrey Towpath and took a look at the lighting on her site from the top of Thames Court. She has been working hard to reduce light pollution spilling over the Thames. Platt's Eyot continues to blast out dazzling beams far downstream and across the Hurst. We hope to persuade them to improve this. Light travels in straight lines and can be shielded and directed to where it is needed for security, health and safety – light pollution is habitat loss.



Our river, at the heart of the Thames Arcadian landscape on a summer's day  
Looking upstream towards Hampton, with the Surrey riverbank of Hurst Meadows on the left

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## **UNAUTHORISED MOORING**

This continues further downstream at Hampton Court Bridge, with the untidy boats that are let out as lodgings moored up at Ash Island. Richmond's bye laws work well and St Albans Riverside Park has remained clear of unauthorised boats moored there long-term since these were introduced. The Environment Agency is the landowner on the Surrey bank and does take action, though it may take some weeks.

See our website: [www.hmrt.co.uk](http://www.hmrt.co.uk)  
Contact us by email: [info@hmrt.co.uk](mailto:info@hmrt.co.uk)