

# THE HISTORY OF HAMPTON WICK - AND NEARBY

**1.** *The H of HW & nearby*  
*music*  
*wind*  
 ↓ 29 Secs.  
 ↓ 1.06 TOTAL.

**2.** *smat* In Britain 250,000 years ago, early man lived by hunting and fishing.

Locally, flint tools have been found in and on the Thames valley gravels.

100,000 years ago! During a warm interlude in the Great Ice Age, early stone age man in the Thames valley had not yet learnt to use metals. He preyed on elephant, rhino, horse or boar by throwing missiles of flint.

**3.** *Riverside community*

Farming began in Britain about 5,000 years ago. Animals were domesticated and crops grown. Neolithic pottery and tools have been found nearby

**4.** *Ford*

A ford or crossing place has existed here for centuries. Leaf shaped arrow heads dating back to 3,000 BC have been found in the area.

From about 2,000 BC knowledge of bronze working spread to Britain.

**5.** *Barrow*

A Bronze Age barrow was formed near the Thames (between the present Hampton Wick and Teddington; to the north of Sandy Lane). It measured 100' x 50' and was 12' high. when opened in 1854 a bronze knife or dagger was found, together with flint hatchet heads and bones. There were traces of combustion, extending several feet, and evidence that this was the site of a funeral pile.

When the existing road bridge was built between Hampton Wick and Kingston various weapons of bronze, of a mixed character, were found in the Thames at Hampton Wick.

**6.** *Village*

Recent excavations in Kingston have shown that villages, such as this, existed along the Thames valley in 500 - 300 BC.



7.  
558c

In 55 BC Julius Caesar landed in Kent with 600 vessels and 32,000 men. Although attempts were made to halt them, they marched steadily through Surrey to a point where the Thames was fordable. This could have been at Chertsey or Kingston but the generally accepted site is at Brentford. Many Roman finds have been discovered in the Kingston area - weapons, house foundations and the remains of a Mint.

Saxon monarchs probably had a residence in the area. Beads and horn cores have been found in the district, and are dated at about the year 600 AD.

The oldest existing written document dates back to 838 AD.

8  
838  
52  
17 seen.

GAUDETE

It describes the great Ecclesiastical Council organised in Kingston by King Egbert and attended by <sup>his son Aethelwulf,</sup> the Archbishop of Canterbury, 24 Bishops and all the leading nobles of the Kingdom of Wessex. This meeting set the seal on the mutual co-operation between King and Church.

9.  
Ed. H. E.

In the year 900, Edward the Elder, son of Alfred the Great, was crowned King *in Kingston*

Edward succeeded in uniting the divided kingdoms and was the first king to be addressed by the Pope as "the King of the English".

10.  
Ethelston

In 925 he was succeeded by his son, Athelston, also crowned in Kingston.

A contemporary described the scene:

"the nobles assemble and place the crown, pontiffs pronounce a curse on faithless men; fire glows among the people with more than wonted festivity, and by various signs they disclose their deepest feelings. The great hall resounds with tumult, pages scurry to and fro; servers speed on their tasks; stomachs are filled with delicacies, minds with song; one makes the harp resound, another contends with praises; there sounds in unison: "to thee the praise, to thee the glory, O Christ." The King drinks in this honour with eager gaze, graciously bestowing due courtesy on all."

53  
35 seen.

HARP



N.  
Coro  
Stone

- Athelston was a great soldier and firm ruler - but died in his mid-40's. He was succeeded by his 18 year old brother - Edmund - who was crowned in Kingston in 940. Many of his followers would have come through Hampton Wick to cross the river for the Coronation.

Like rulers centuries before, Saxon Kings were elected by the assembly of councillors and placed on a sacred stone in front of the people - the Coronation Stone.

In 945 Edmund was murdered in his own banqueting hall.

12.  
C.S.2

His brother Edred was crowned in Kingston in <sup>946</sup>~~947~~; - he died in his early 30's in 955

13.  
CS3

That year, Edmund's 17 year old son Edwy was crowned in Kingston. As was the custom, he was annointed and consecrated. His behaviour at his coronation feast was considered to be "highly ill-considered". It is said that a Saxon noblewoman and her daughter set out to entice the King. At the banquet, after the Coronation ceremony, he suddenly jumped up and left for the bedchamber with the two ladies. Two of the company were elected to bring the king back to the royal banquet. They entered and "found the royal crown, which was bound with wonderous metal, gold and silver and gems, and shone with many-coloured lustre, carelessly thrown down on the floor, far from his head, and he himself repeatedly wallowing between the two of them in evil fashion, as if in a vile sty." Abbot Dunston "replaced the crown" (and we hope got him dressed) "and brought him with him to the royal assembly, though dragged from the women by force."

The King banished Dunston overseas; and married the daughter!

14.  
959

Only 4 years later there was a rebellion in Mercia and 13 year old Edgar was acclaimed King in opposition to his brother Edwy. Dunston returned from exile and the boy king was a pawn in his hands. It is likely he was crowned quietly in Kingston before a splendid coronation ceremony in the city of Bath 13 years later.



15.  
Plague

Edgar's sons Edward-the-Martyr and Ethelred II were both crowned in Kingston. Edward was murdered within 3 years of his coronation in 975.

His half brother Ethelred (later nicknamed "the unready") was only 11 when he rode in state to the centre of Kingston in 979 to receive the crown.

The ceremony was very similar to our present Coronation Service, last seen and heard on television in 1953. It included prayers, an anthem, the lesson from the old Saxon service, the Coronation oaths, the crowning ceremony and the giving of the sceptre and rod.

16.  
Canute

During his reign the Danes ravaged Wessex, Ethelred fled to Normandy. The Danish king's son, Canute, was expelled. Within 2 years Ethelred had died and his son Edmund Ironside was elected king and is thought to have been crowned in Kingston in 1016. Canute landed in Kent and entered the Thames with a vast fleet and army. There was appalling bloodshed and destruction in this area. The two kings formally agreed to divide the kingdom. However, Edmund was murdered, Canute became sole king and married Ethelred's widow.

Thus ended the West Saxon dynasty.

17.  
Ed. the C

During the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042-1066) Hampton Wick was apparently a "titheing" of Hampton, being held from the king by Earl Algar. A "titheing" or "titheing-master" was that person elected to collect the rates and to supervise the proper administration of the laws. He was elected, one for every ten families.

18.  
Domesday map.

According to writings in the Domesday Book, 1086, which was compiled by order of William the Conqueror, Hamptone (or Hampton) was contained in the Hundred of Hunneslow (Hounslow), and not as is often stated in the Spelthorne Hundred; the manor being held by <sup>de Wolevic</sup> Valerie in succession to Earl Algar. At that time Hampton covered over 6,000 acres and included the 'Wick', noted on this map as HAMNTANO WICCIUM MOREFORD (the latter being the title of Kingston).



Walter was the Norman Earl of Valerie and built himself a Court where Hampton Court now stands.

The property later passed to Henry of St. Albans.

In 1199 King John ascended the throne and stayed at his palace in Kingston many times. <sup>PAUSE</sup> In 1208 he granted Kingston a Royal Charter.

Generally though, his policies alienated the people and in 1216 the Barons offered the crown to Louis the eldest son of the King of France. He accepted and, with the support of the rebel barons, took half the shires of the country. King John died suddenly. England was in turmoil. Most people now wanted his 9 year old son to become Henry III.

The problem was solved in 1217 when Louis and the barons met on a small island to which they had to be rowed, between Kingston and the Hampton Wick bank, where they thrashed out the treaty of Kingston.

Henry III became king and ruled for 56 years.

It is known that a wooden bridge, under the charge of a "Master and Brethren" and endowed with a small estate, a bridge house and chapel, had been in existence for many years before 1219. It is known to have fallen into decay and in 1219 its care was transferred, with the estate, first into the keeping of 2 wardens appointed by King Henry III, and afterwards to the Bailiffs of Kingston. Income was never adequate for maintenance and they relied on tolls or public benefactors.

Henry III visited Kingston several times and when he married in 1236 assigned the town to his wife as part of her dower.

He was a weak king and there was much rebellion during his reign.

There was a Kingston conference of his barons in 1238; whilst he took refuge in the Tower! In 1256 he granted 3 charters to Kingston; 2 of them on consecutive days!

19<sup>A</sup>  
King John  
1980

20  
Henry



There was more unrest and the King and the barons met again in Kingston.

21.  
Knights  
battle

However, in 1263 civil war broke out. The bridge here was important and the area around was looted and burned by the rebel barons.

Henry's eldest son, Prince Edward, attempted to make a compromise by meeting Earl Simon de Montfort at Kingston. The talks broke down; as the Prince was about to return to Windsor he was seized and held prisoner; he had to agree to severe terms to gain his release.

Just across the river, mediaeval Kingston was a thriving town, drawing thousands of visitors with its market and annual fair. These visitors met such dangers on the road that, in 1285, Edward I decreed that "highways leading from one market town to another shall be enlarged, where as wood, hedges or dykes be, so that there be neither dyke, tree or bush where a man may lurk to do hurt, within 200' on the one side and 200' on the other."

22.  
Trees

In 1303 Walter de Wyke, and Maud his wife, granted the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem a messuage of 100 acres of arable land, 1 acre of meadow and 20 shillings of rent; Christine Heywood also gave 60 acres of land with appertenances in Hampton and the Wyke (meaning Hampton Wick).

The Norman Manor House, with chapel attached was included in the deal and there is record of sheep farming, hay, corn raising and the building of a weir for the purpose of taking fish from the Thames.

23.  
Ed III

In 1353, whilst King Edward III was staying at the Manor, one of his household accidentally started a fire that burnt the manor. The King appointed a Kingston carpenter to rebuild the house and barns; to buy timber and tiles and have them carried to Hampton. These would have had to cross the bridge, and some of the workmen probably lived in Hampton Wick.

24.  
1435

In 1435, due to the bridge being damaged by flood, pontage was obtained for 5 years, and this developed into a regular system of tolls.



25.  
1451-71

In 1451 Richard, Duke of York failed to persuade Parliament to recognise him as heir to the Crown. A year later he marched with an army from the West Country and came to Hampton Wick where he crossed the river and proceeded to Blackheath. This was the prelude to the War of the Roses, the power struggle between the houses of York and Lancaster. In 1461 Edward IV set aside Henry VI and became king. The bridge formed part of the finale to the War when in 1471 Falconbridge made a last attempt to rescue Henry VI from the Tower but was forced to retreat after a daring attack on London Bridge. His army retired to Kingston, only to find that the bridge to the Hampton Wick bank had been broken to prevent their crossing.

Henry VI was murdered in the Tower.

In the mid 15th Century, houses of the majority of the people were of wattle and daub, skilfully intertwined sticks or rushes cemented with clay, with roofs of straw or reed thatch. Bricks were becoming popular in some parts of the country but were a luxury. Rushes were laid on the clay floor. When the first layer of rushes became stale, a further layer was spread over it and the process went on until the floor was so near the ceiling that nobody could stand upright. A physician wrote: "The bottom layer of rushes are left undisturbed, sometimes for twenty years, harbouring the leakages of animals and men, all droppings, scraps of fish and other abominations.....a vapour is exhaled most pernicious to the human body." Even the wealthy were in the habit of moving out of their homes to allow the fairly lengthy process of "sweetening" them.

In 1480, another Manor House was built on the site of the oft repaired Norman one at Hampton Court.

Sometime before 1514 Hampton was transferred from the Hundred of Honneslow into the Spelthorne Hundred. The population of the Wick was probably about 60 at the end of the 15th Century - equal to Teddington!

In 1483 Edward IV died.

St. Mary's Church, Teddington, was built about 1500.

27.



In 1514 the Knights Hospitallers leased their land and property to Cardinal Wolsey. He pulled down the 1480 manor building to make way for his Palace at Hampton Court.

28 •  
W. Cdt.

He stayed at "Wolsey" Cottage in Lower Teddington Road whilst the Palace was being built.

29 •  
Int. HCP

It is said he "erected a Handsome building, stored with costly furniture." The oldest part is said to be the bell in the clocktower; originally it hung in the Monastery of St. John of Jerusalem.

30 •  
Clock Crt.

Clock Court was the core of the Palace, although the Clock itself was not made until later.

31 •  
Apph. M.

The oldest domestic building in the area is the little bakery at the corner of the Apple Market and Harrow Passage in Kingston - the building dates back to sometime between 1500 and 1525. ~~(At one time it was the Harrow Public House.)~~

32 •  
AM today

33 •  
Print HCP

In 1509 Henry VIII had become king at the age of 18; he also married the 24 year old Catherine of Aragon later that year. In 1516 they dined for the first time in Wolsey's Palace.

34 •  
Brick +

In 1520 Wolsey built paddocks on either side of the cart track that has now become Hampton Court Road. Within this wall can still be seen a dark brick cross; which was the normal practice to indicate ownership by Princes of the Catholic Church.

35 •  
1700(!)  
print.

In 1525, as Cardinal Wolsey was losing favour with Henry VIII he "gave" him his splendid house at Hampton Court.

36 •  
Interior  
HCP.

In 1526 a Treaty was signed at Hampton Court by Wolsey, (on behalf of Henry VIII), and by the French Ambassador (on behalf of Francis I) to the effect that neither King would unite with the German Emperor against the other.



37.

print  
HCP rd.  
to K'fm

In 1527 the French commissioners arrived in England to arrange a further alliance between the two Kingdoms and a marriage between Francis I and Mary, Henry's daughter, who was only 10! The ambassadors stayed at "the village at the end of the Park" - thought to be Hampton Wick.

In 1529 all<sup>d</sup><sub>h</sub> Wolsey's lands and goods were declared forfeit to the King.

1533, Henry broke with the Church of Rome, had himself proclaimed the Supreme Head of the English Church, declared his marriage to Catherine void; and married Anne Boleyn at once.

In 1535 the original Swan Hotel was built in Hampton Wick.

38.

An B. gate

In 1536 Anne Boleyn passed under the gate that bears her name and was taken by barge down river to the Tower where she was beheaded for infidelity. Henry married Jane Seymour the next day.

In 1537 Jane Seymour died 2 weeks after giving birth to a prince, later Edward VI.

39.

Chapel

Before she died he had been christened with great pomp and display in the Royal chapel. It is said Jane haunts the Queen's apartments.

Also in 1537 Henry ordered 5 men to be put to death at Kingston for stealing his hawks and hunting on royal territory.

In 1539 he married Anne of Cleves, but divorced her in 1540; and married Catherine Howard in the Royal Chapel;

they banquetted. After their honeymoon they returned again to Hampton Court. She brought him new youth but the wiley Cranmer produced evidence of her earlier infidelity and she went to the Tower, and the scaffold.

40.

B. Hall

In 1540 the famous clock was made by a French clockmaker, to the design of a German astronomer.

41.

clock



It is clock; calendar; and model of the universe (as understood then); it gives the age of the Zodiac sign; the phases of the moon; the age of the lunar month - the hour at which the moon appears highest in the sky, and hence the time of high water at London Bridge - this being very important when Royalty often made their way to and from London by barge.

**42 •**  
HCP  
Henry had established a new relationship between the Church and the Crown in England and strengthened the country's power on the continent and at sea.

During his reign this part of England became the hub of the Nation's politics, art, inventive genius and its commercial enterprise.

Henry married Catherine Parr, who outlived him, for he died in 1547.

**43 •**  
Answer  
The boy King Edward VI reigned. For the first and last time Hampton Court was involved in warlike preparations - 500 suits of armour were brought from the armoury for the royal servants - the level of water in the moat was raised and the gates fortified; but Edward was hurried to Windsor Castle.

**44 •**  
1548  
† 1553  
In 1548 the Chantry-roll records that there were 250 "housling people" in the parish of Hampton (which included the Wick).

Edward's short reign ended in 1553 with his early death.

**45 •**  
Mary & Philip  
In 1554 Sir Thomas Wyatt so violently opposed the betrothal of Queen Mary to Philip of Spain that he raised an army of 3,000. They failed to force their way over London Bridge but decided to cross at Kingston. They arrived at 4.00p.m. but found that 20 feet of the bridge had been hacked away. All the boats had been removed to the Hampton Wick bank which was held by 200 men. Two pieces of ordnance were turned upon them.

**VOLUME 1 UP!**  
**54**  
**Sun fire 2 shots**  
8 sec.  
Some sailors in his force swam the river and "loosed the barges" whilst others repaired the bridge.

**swim**  
11 sec.



This was completed by 10.00p.m. and all his men and ordnance were in Hampton Wick by 11.00p.m.

They set off for London to be at the court gates before the next morning.

Eventually he, and many of his followers were captured and convicted of high treason. They were hung, drawn, and quartered.

Mary held Elizabeth as a house prisoner ~~in the Water Gallery~~ at Hampton Court. For days she was allowed no visitors and cunning noblemen tried to trap her into a confession of treason - Elizabeth outwitted them and made her peace with Mary.

The tradition of THIS school, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, goes back to 1556. *this same year.*

By the will of Robert Hammond, bearing the date the 7th day March 1556, money from rents and profits was given to provide instruction for the children of all persons resident in the Parish of Hampton "in reading, writing and other elementary learning; and in the knowledge of the Church Catechism."

Children of Hampton Wick made the long walk between the local parks to a shed, used as a school, near the old Church at Hampton; and later to a school near Garrick House.

The structure of the bridge was in a very bad state of ruin and decay at this time. In the same will of Robert Hammond, he gave £5 towards the reparations of the great bridge of Kingston and 30/- a year forever, to make the bridge toll free forever. Revenues from the bridge were administered in the name of the Borough by two bridge wardens who were elected annually. *P.T.O.*

In 1556, Philip and Mary made a right to form a weir here for the purpose of taking fish from the Thames in order to supplement the funds to repair the bridge.



The bridge was of wood, with 15 arches, with its foot where Old Bridge Street now ends in steps down to the river.

In 1558 Mary died - to the relief of all England.

Elizabeth came to the Throne.

12 Secs only.

She often passed through Hampton Wick by road to and from Hampton Court, Kingston, and hunting areas in Surrey; and <sup>via the River</sup> ~~by water~~ from London. The bells of Kingston church would ring out every time she passed by.

This domestic house in Kingston (now occupied by Next) dates from about 1570 and its roof timbers are original.

The building opposite - between Woolworths and Millets, was once an Elizabethan merchant's house; its Tudor timbers are hidden behind a later front.

Elizabeth died in 1603 and James I became King. That year 121 parishioners were buried, 99 of them had died of the plague (and this was 62 years before the Plague reached its height.)

At Christmas William Shakespeare's company of players performed 6 interludes or plays at Hampton Court. The players may have been invited to watch Samuel Daniel's masque in the Great Hall a few days later, on Sunday 8th January 1604.

James avoided being blown up in the gunpowder plot of 1605, but in 1625 he died and Charles I came on the throne.

That year the Parish was so free of 'the fatal distemper' that "the King moved hither as to a place of security".....and a proclamation was issued to prevent any intercourse between London and Hampton Court.

However, 5 plague deaths are recorded in the parish that year.

48

Eliz

55 Church bells.

49

50

Next

Next

51

Prog.

52

1625.



53.

Map

In 1642, during what is now known as the First Civil War, Parliamentary forces had a considerable hold on London; - as well as areas within the confines of lines from the Solent to the River Mersey; also from the River Trent to the River Humber (excepting parts of Derby and Nottingham and all of Yorkshire.) North and West of these broad areas, the Royalist cause was very well supported.

54.

Flag

There were, however, several attempts by the Royalist forces to re-take important strategic points inside areas controlled by Parliament.

55.

F.1

In November, a force of Royalist troopers, probably part of Prince Rupert's Army based in Reading, attempted to gain control of Kingston Bridge.

F.2

B.1

For several months the bridge was successfully defended by a force of Roundheads under the command of Sir John Ramsay. Skirmishes took place all along the River as far as Brentford. One of the key strategic points was Richmond Hill - a natural defensive position.

57.

F.3

Forces from the main body of Prince Rupert's Army made several attempts to take Richmond Hill in order to gain a foothold on the South side of the river so isolating the Parliamentary forces of Kingston and Brentford.

58.

Loot

On 23rd July 1651 Hampton Court Palace and the Home Park were sold to John Phelps and other creditors of the State for £10,765 19/6; but was then acquired by the Protector in 1657.

59.

Hare Warren.

He kept the 380 acre Hare Warren (the part of Bushy Park closest to Hampton Wick) walled off and stocked with game; there was possibly a moat as well, to prevent deer from leaping the wall.

Villagers could only use the one authorised public footpath across the Park, via a ladder stile (at the entrance next to the present Timothy Bennet Memorial) to the Heath Gate (opposite the present Lion Gate entrance to Hampton Court.)



60.

Charles II became king in 1660 and with the restoration of the monarchy, the ownership of Hampton Court was speedily restored to the Crown - and, to this day, remains vested in the Sovereign.

61.

Hare Warren.

Two years later the "highway for horse and foot" leading from the Wick to Hampton Court, through Hare Warren was "still" stopped up by poles erected by Oliver Cromwell, and continued "stopped up". There were other complaints about the "Protector's" action. "By turning the course of the New river into Ponds lately digged by Oliver Cromwell in the Hare Warren, and by the overflow of the same water, the common highway leading from the Wick to Heath Gate, was made very dangerous and unsafe to pass for man, horse and carriage."

51  
Bell  
Toll  
23 Jan

62 Plague

In 1665 the plague reached its height. Although people throughout the kingdom tried to conceal the true cause of death; by the end of July 2,000 plague deaths a week were reported, this rose to 6,000 a week in August, and 7,000 in September. This was the peak.

"Ring a ring of roses" - the "roses" were the red rash first symptoms of the plague, the "posies" the scented herbs to sweeten the air; "sneezing" another symptom; they "fell down" - probably in the August or September!

63.

Letter

An undergraduate in London wrote to his Cambridge Tutor on July 18th "on Wednesday night news came from Hampton Court; the sickness is at Richmond and we believe the King will reside not long there."

However, although it is known that there were plague pits at Isleworth and elsewhere, in the parish of Hampton only 18 burials are entered in the records for the whole year.

Even today, lightermen on the river working above Teddington call it "working up West Country." This stems from 1665 when London lightermen were not allowed to go into the country districts because of the plague. West Country bargemen worked into London, and took goods up country again.



64. A

On Richard Blome's Mappe of ye Countie of Middlesex in 1673, the village is marked Kingston Wick and it is understood to have been known under both names.

64 B

The Wick was then largely populated by servants from the Palace.

About 1680, <sup>the present</sup> Manuel's ~~Buckham~~ <sup>timber-framed</sup> ~~Barkers~~ <sup>shop and building</sup> ~~was constructed.~~

The bridgewardens accounts of 1687 include such disbursements as "To Thomas Hiles for half a year's wages - £1;...to him for drinks 7/4d."

65.

66.

In 1699 the famous Chestnut Avenue in Bushy Park was planted. Wren's work on the galleries that surround Fountain Court was started in 1689 but was not finished until after 1700.

Watermen were furious when hackney coaches were introduced in the 17th Century, for until then townspeople of Kingston and Hampton Wick had relied heavily on river transport. Wealthy people had their own barges. Others shared the hire of a wherry with other passengers or hired a small rowing boat in the way we now take a taxi.

67.

These cottages in Park Road are believed to date from about 1700.

68.

Whilst hunting in Home Park on 21st February 1702, William III's horse "Sorrel" stumbled on a mole hill and threw him, breaking the King's collar bone. No serious alarm was expressed but he developed a lung infection and died at Kensington Palace on 8th March.

69. A →

The Jacobites toasted "The little gentlemen in black velvet" that had caused his fall, but they could not prevent the succession of Queen Anne.

69 B

In 1707 a house stood on the site of the old "Grove Motors", <sup>now Navigator House and</sup> next to the <sup>present</sup> sub-Post Office, ~~and~~ <sup>it</sup> was rented by Sir Richard Steele, the dramatist and actor. He referred to it as "The Hovel" in letters to his wife. He used it as his "Country Box" and dedicated the 4th volume of "The Tatler", 7th April 1711, to "Lord Halifax, from 'The Hovel' at Hampton Wick".

The Hovel was eventually demolished and "The Grove Inn" built on the site.



70 •  
W.T.Ho

In 1728 Walnut Tree House, in Lower Teddington Road, was built by a Maltster.

71 •  
M.Ho

The adjacent Malt House was, at one time, used for drying hops and had a tower on the ridge of the roof. *At one time there were several Malt Houses between the present Railway Bridge and "The Grove"*

72 •  
Bridge

Up until as late as 1729, this Bridge at Hampton Wick had been the only bridge between Kingston and the mouth of the Thames Estuary, apart from London Bridge. In 1729 Putney Bridge was opened.

John Roque's chart of "the Wyke" shows a large Green between the High Street and Park Road. There was a pond on the green.

73 •  
Ice Ho

The Ice House, just inside Hampton Wick's entrance to Home Park, was built in 1730 and originally intended for the storing of ice taken from the Thames for the use of the Royal Family at Claremont, Esher.

It was later used as a "standing" or "station" for soldiers as protection against the weather whilst guarding the entrance to the Park.

74 •  
Docking

The Westminster Journal 4th May 1745:-

"Last week a woman that keeps the Queen's Head Alehouse at Kingston in Surrey, was ordered by the Court there to be ducked for scolding, and accordingly was placed in a Chair, and duck'd in the River Thames under Kingston Bridge, in the presence of 2 or 3,000 people".

75 •  
1749 Map.

This map was produced in 1749. The first stage and mail coach services were introduced a year later; the horses were supplied either by postmasters or their rivals, the inn-keepers.

Coaches coming regularly to Kingston included:

- "The Star of Brunswick"
- "The Rockett"
- "The Times"
- "The Express"
- & "The Duke of Rutland".



On February 8th that year between 12 noon and 1p.m. a shock from an earthquake was felt in the district.

Some years prior to 1752, Lord Halifax (who was the Ranger of Bushy Park) closed the footpath from the Wick to Hampton Court "for all time." It had been the route used by villagers to attend compulsory Sunday Service at St. Mary's Church, Hampton; the exit being at a ladder stile near the present Garrick's Villa.

Timothy Bennet, a 75 year old shoemaker, who lived and worked in the Wick (reputed to be at No. 28, High Street, now the car park of 'The Swan') approached a lawyer about the matter:-

"I do not mean to cobble the job, for I have £700 and I should be willing to give awl, that great folks might not keep the upper-leather wrongfully."

The lawyer informed him that "No such sum would be necessary to try the right." Timothy is said to have replied

"As sure as soles are soles, I'll stick to them to the last."

Lord Halifax sent for Timothy after being served notice of action:- "And who are you that you have the assurance to meddle in this affair?"

"My name, my Lord, is Timothy Bennet, shoemaker, of Hampton Wick, I remember, an't please your Lordship, to have seen, when I was a young man, sitting at work, the people cheerfully pass my shop to Kingston Market, but now, My Lord, they are forced to go round about, through a hot sandy <sup>Cane</sup> road, ready to faint beneath their burdens, and I am unwilling to leave the world worse than I found it."

"Begone you are an impertinent fellow."

It is said that his lordship, upon mature reflection (and not wishing to be shamed by possible defeat by a shoemaker) opened the footpath, "for all time."



Timothy Bennet died two years later and was followed to his grave by all the villagers.

Peg Woffington's cottage at Teddington was built in 1759. Peg was a colourful Irish actress who graced the stages of Covent Garden and Drury Lane. Her name was associated with David Garrick, who partnered her in several plays.

This map of Hampton Wick was drawn in 1762.

In 1767 the road through Twickenham and Teddington to Hampton Wick was "turnpiked."

Turnpikes were set up to collect tolls for the upkeep of defined stretches. They were initially only supposed to be necessary for a 21 year period... but were extended for 2nd and 3rd terms.

This house in Park Road was built between 1780-90.

In 1789 it was said that the coachman of the Chertsey coach was asleep when he fell off the box, a gentleman on the box attempted to release the reins but the coach overturned on the Bridge 'across the water' at Bushy Park and fell into 4 or 5 feet of water. Of the 13 passengers, a man and a boy, riding on top, were killed when the coach fell on them and a woman inside drowned.

*The Bridge - in 1799, with Kingston on the far bank.*

Kingston Church looked like this in 1800.

Opposite the old library in Hampton Wick that year (on the site of the Green) was a group of buildings in the form of a square, known as Brown's Square. The houses lay between "The Swan" and the old "Grove Inn" (until ~~a few years ago~~ *and some Navigation House*). ~~recently~~ Grove Motors, the only entrance being through a narrow passage opposite "The Foresters Arms".

At this time the Wick consisted of 120 houses.



In 1801 the population was only 793.

84 •  
weir

The Weir at Teddington was built in 1810. It meant that Kingston and Hampton Court would no longer be tidal, with a morning and an evening tide.

In 1811 the population had reduced to 770.

There were now 177 inhabited houses and 5 uninhabited.

However in 1821 the population had increased to 1261.

85 •  
2 Bridges.  
85B  
Bridges  
86 •  
Grove

Although it had been decided in 1812 that the bridge was beyond repair, a start was NOT made on a new £40,000 brick and stone bridge until 1825. It was completed and opened in 1828 when the old wooden bridge was demolished,

The architect was Edward Lapidge who lived at the Grove. The toll was reimposed. This pressed heavily on trade and our relationship with Kingston.

SP SOUND RIGHT DOWN

87 •

One <sup>very dark</sup> night, about midnight, in 1829, a Captain Mildmay and a friend were trying to catch up with two others as they returned from Hampton Court. At Hampton Wick their horse got into a canter, overturned the other gig and threw them off.

~~SP SOUND HERE~~ ~~PT. WEST FOR NEIGHING & SOUND TOWARD WEST.~~ ~~OFF.~~  
The riderless horse and gig careered over Kingston Bridge. A watchman found Captain Mildmay lying outside the White Hart where he was taken in, but died of his injuries a short while later.

88 •  
Bushy house

King William IV reigned from 1830 to 1837. He and Queen Adelaide lived in Bushy House and hunted in the park.

Villagers were not allowed to roam freely over the park. One day a local Ayliffe boy flew his kite there and a gentleman asked him who had given him permission to be there! He replied so politely that he was given permission to play at will - he had been speaking to the King.

In 1831 the population was 1,463.



89.  
church.

The Church of St. John the Baptist was erected at a cost of £4,000 "an edifice of brick in the decorated style, with a turret at each corner". The architect was Edward Lapidge.

On 26th June Hampton Wick first became a Parish; it was formed as a civil parish which consisted of 1,235 acres of land, and 69 of water.

The parish came within the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Police. Prior to this, the only custodians of the peace were the Constable and Headborough or titheing man - these offices had been in existence since the 17th Century. It had been the duty of the Headborough to collect a penny a head from the villagers as a homage toll to the Court of Hampton!

About this time there was a footpath from the Upper, to the Lower Teddington Roads, roughly along the line of Station Road, with a slip-stile, probably near No. 31.

At Easter, in an adjoining meadow, a fair was always held on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

90.  
King's Head.

At this time there was a magnificent chestnut tree near the site of the "Old King's Head" public house which was the rendezvous of the village.

The Spelthorne Farmers Coursing Club galloped about in Home Park with their scarlet coated Master at their head.

91.  
coaching

By the 1830's Kingston was so prosperous, from coaching and the allied trade of innkeeping, that plans to run a railway through the town were fiercely opposed.

The London and Southampton Railway Company was finally forced to put its line through Surbiton, then a country hamlet! Surbiton station was opened in 1838 and, at once, the area began to grow and prosper.

92.  
map.

This map is dated 1831.



In 1838 the Earl of Albemarle came to live in Stud House. He organised cricket matches, and occasionally took part in them. He also gave a Grand Ball in January each year.

In 1841 Hampton Wick's population was 1,614.

93 •  
School.  
The church had been built after much agitation by the increasing local population, their pressure continued until the Endowed School for Boys was built on part of the village green, the village pond having had to be drained first. It was opened on 1st April 1844. A commemoration dinner was given to 108 boys by Mr. Alexander Brice, the church warden. The 1st headmaster was Mr. George Bridges who was also temporarily headmaster of Hampton Grammar School at that time. A special room was provided in the school as a library for the district; to the cost of which Queen Victoria donated £5!

This room served as the local library and was supervised voluntarily by the teachers. To provide a school for girls, donations were obtained, including gifts of £50 from the Dowager Queen and £10 from the Bishop of London.

94 •  
Assembly Rooms.  
On the site of the Assembly Rooms, ~~until recently~~ <sup>now a</sup> ~~Clive Woods~~ dancing school, stood "The Cage", a prison for casual thieves and drunks.

In 1845 the parish decided to abolish the gate in Upper Teddington Road that prevented animals from straying out; also its adjacent pound for strays; and to widen the road. 'Dukey' Bolton, who had built his 'castle' only in 1843, protested at the proposed action and barricaded himself in. With an ancient blunderbuss he threatened to shoot anybody who dared to venture on his property. Mr. Ayliffe, the Headborough and Mr. Powell the Constable calmly walked round to the back of the house and took possession of it.

95 •  
Chestnut Sunday  
The Sunday nearest May 11th was, at one time, always celebrated as 'Chestnut Sunday' and people would flock to Bushy Park.



Apple stealing was prevalent at this time - if caught, bigger boys would be whipped at the cart-tail; - stripped to the waist, a cord was passed round their middles secured to their wrists and thence tied to the tail board of the cart. In this manner they were jog trotted from one parish boundary to the other with Mr. Pigrum the Beadle endeavouring to apply the cat-o'-nine-tails as frequently as possible - the driver was normally bribed to proceed at a smart pace and the Beadle had difficulty in keeping up.

Chestnut Sunday once more.

In 1849 the Hampton Court Gas Company Works was built in Hampton Wick also to serve Hampton Court, East and West Molesey, Hampton, Hampton Hill and Teddington.

Coal was landed at the Hampton Wick Wharf and taken by horse-drawn cart to the Works. ~~Note the horse drawn bus on the bridge!~~

In 1850 the 'wicked woman of the wick', as she was known, died aged 77. She was Mary Cleremont who came between Lord Byron and his wife. She is buried in Hampton churchyard in an unnamed grave.

By 1851 the population had risen slightly to 1,668.

Chestnut Sunday was obviously an annual event.

By the Metropolitan Water Act of 1852 the intake of all the London water companies had to be above Teddington Lock.

1855 "Glorious News!

A sheep is to be roasted on the frozen Thames, near the Anglers' Retreat, between Hampton and Hampton Court on Friday afternoon 23rd February between 2 and 3 o'clock, and the public are invited to partake of the same. Two barrels of superior ale will be supplied at the same time."



100

Spring  
Grove

In 1858 Spring Grove (in Park Road) was built. A year later the ancient English Sport of Wrestling was revived by the Landlord of the 'White Hart'. It was a contest between the renowned John Bescombe of Cornwall and George Toogood of Devon for the sum of £50; and was held on the Bowling Green attached to the inn.

101.

K'th  
winer

The Rev. de Crespigny was vicar of St. John's at this time. As he was represented as an apostle in one of the stained glass windows over the West door in Kingston Church he can still be seen today! It was in this year that a prospective godfather had to be forcibly ejected from St. John's Church for being drunk and disorderly.

102.

School.

In 1860 there were 3 well attended public meetings in the large school room to consider the prosperity of the proposed railway through the village. It was decided to request the railway to provide a station. A committee of 6 was elected, which included the vicar and Lapidge, the architect; (shades of the formation of the Hampton Wick Association 29 years ago!)

The vicar presided at one of the 'railway' meetings; also at the annual Venison Feast at the Greyhound Hotel, Hampton Court. The chairman that evening expressed his appreciation of the Queen who annually presented the parishioners of Hampton Wick with a buck; the toast was drunk amid hearty cheering.

In 1861 when the population was 1,994, Mr. Bransom, the Surveyor applied to the Hampton Petty Sessions for a rate of 6d in the £. It was necessary as some portions of the roads required extensive repairs. A Mr. Marriott complained that:

"a 4d rate had been proposed; Mr. Bransom is too intimate in his acquaintance with the stone mason; he has expended a considerable sum in kerbing some outlying districts, and the parishioners are determined to 'curb' Mr. Bransom; however, no objection will be raised if Mr. Bransom consents to water the Hampton Wick roads."

No

103



After much discussion, the reluctant Surveyor agreed, and the Magistrate signed the rate.

The landlord of the "White Hart", who was also the official Collector of Rates, suddenly left the village - and is said to have gone to Australia. A summons was taken out against the Parish for being in arrears in repayments, and he was alluded to as a defaulter.

This year the annual Venison Dinner was held at the King's Arms, Hampton Court.

On 30th June thanksgiving was offered up at the Divine Service for the providential escape of the Rev. and Mrs. de Crespigny when their boat capsized as they were getting into it. They were returning from the Kingston Church bazaar.

In March 1862, an open verdict was recorded at the inquest of Captain Cecil Rivers who was found drowned under the piles of the railway bridge which was being constructed. In October the railway claimed another victim when a 28 year old labourer was killed by a loaded truck when he fell across the rails.

The Rev. de Crespigny presided over several more stormy meetings when the elected overseers asked for a 1/6 in the £ rate "to release the parish from the debt which had so long disgraced it." After a lengthy debate, and a motion carried for a 1/- rate, the overseer stated that he would therefore have to use the power invested in his office and make a 1/6 rate... the animation produced by this announcement having subsided - the meeting terminated!

At another meeting it was decided to kerb part of Lower Teddington Road.

On 21st August a party of 100 boys, girls and teachers were treated to a visit to the Great Exhibition and were conveyed in a large "Manchester" class omnibus pulled by 5 strong horses, (3 abreast and 2 leaders). It was the first time such a large conveyance had been seen in the locality.



In 1862 the annual Venison Feast took place at the "White Hart" - about 50 gentlemen sat down to it! An anniversary feast of the Beehive Society took place at the "Rose and Crown", 45 members and friends ate, drank toasts and sang some good old English songs accompanied by the musician.

Mr. Bland's "Belle of the Village" won the Amicable Coursing Club's cup at their first meeting in Home Park in October.

The first Local Board of Hampton Wick was formed in 1863 and consisted of 9 members. This brought to an end an agreement, made in 1698 that Wick people would not only pay a third of the civil expenses of the parish of Hampton, but also a third of the church expenses as well. It was agreed that the device of the Board would be a deer surmounted with a Royal Crown, and encircled with a garter containing the name of the board.

The parishioners appear to have become very worried about the stigma to the parish that it had no burial ground of its own!

The Royal Wedding of Prince Edward and Princess Alexandra of Denmark took place in March 1863. Hampton Wick celebrated this by collecting £35 and giving 120 of the aged and working population of the village an excellent dinner of: roast and boiled beef, legs of mutton, veal and ham, veal pies and other good things; followed by plum pudding, and finishing with oranges; there was an abundance of good ale.

After this everyone drank the good health of the Royal bride and groom in a glass of wine, some capital port and sherry having been provided. 300 school children were given an excellent tea; and a barrel of very best ale distributed amongst those of the working class who did not attend the dinner. All this only cost £30 and so £5 was forwarded to the Kingston Fund.

30 attended the Venison Dinner at "The Swan", this year. Toasts were drunk to Her Majesty, the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Church of England, the Bishop, the Clergy of the Diocese, the Army, the Navy, the Volunteers, the Rev. and Mrs. de Crespigny, and the host. (Hic!)

107.  
H/W crest

Sound down  
S10  
MUSIC  
Box  
51 sec



108.  
Coach

Kingston's coaching and inn-keeping had declined, and died. After their earlier mistake in fighting NOT to have the railway, Kingston Corporation had worked frantically for the past decades to get a station in the town. One was finally opened in 1863.

109.  
HW Stn

It was a loop line railway from London, via Twickenham and Hampton Wick, to Kingston; Kingston being a terminus at this time. Hampton Wick station merely consisted of platforms. (This photo was taken 40 years later in 1903.) A letter in the Surrey Comet reads:

"A memorial to the Directors of the London and South West Railway has been drawn up and signed by season ticket holders and others using Hampton Wick station, requesting them to enclose part of the down platform in order that ladies and others with luggage shall not be subjected to the wind and weather whilst their luggage is being removed from the train or while waiting for the gate to be opened on the down platform during the time the Kingston tickets are being collected."

The short-sightedness of the Kingstonians, and the selfishness of Victorian vested interests at Norbiton, has to this day left us all with only "branch line status", whilst Surbiton has a fast main line service.

110.  
Cricket Club

A portion of Bushy Park was granted for the purposes of a cricket and recreation ground for the use of the parishioners and a Cricket Club was formed after a public meeting was held on 14th May 1863 - the opening match was played on 9th June. (This picture was taken in 1912.)

From records in 1864 it is clear that the parish received the present of a fat buck twice a year - and a rotation of hotels was used for the feast - "The White Hart", "The Greyhound", "The King's Arms" and "The Swan".

This year the main subject of concern in the village was the inadequate drainage system. The majority of houses had their own cess pits and complaints were arising because some of the parish drains found their way to a watercourse which drained into the Thames near Kingston Bridge.



The board accepted the proposal of the Grand Junction Waterworks Company to lay down pipes and supply Hampton Wick with water.

The names of the following roads were agreed, Lower Teddington Road (to the parish boundary); from the "Man of Kent" to the Bridge, High Street; - to the end of the district in Sandy Lane, Park Road; to the end of the district, Upper Teddington Road. "The Man of Kent" was, therefore, probably "The Foresters", Seymour Close was renamed Road, Church Grove, St. John's Road and Station Road were all agreed.

Between 1860 and 1870 companies of the Hussars, Dragoons and others occupied temporary quarters under canvas in the Park, at the time of the annual shooting matches held on Wimbledon Common.

At this time Moira Vale was the residence of the manager of the Alhambra Theatre.

Each year, for a period of 1½ to 3 months, Fredericks Travelling Theatre pitched on the ground at the corner of Seymour Road. They performed plays by Shakespeare and others, including "The Murder of Maria Marten in the Red Barn".

Between the station and Normansfield Avenue were a series of brick fields.

Even at this time the public were restricted to the prescribed footpaths in the parks, where pheasants, partridges and rabbits abounded.

Up until 1870 Kingston Bridge had a tollkeeper who lived in a house beside the bridge which was reached by a spiral staircase on the up-river side.

On 12th March the Bridge was once again declared "free for ever". There was a huge celebration with a procession of bands, soldiers and many local dignitaries, which wound its way all round Kingston and Hampton Wick.

112 •  
Toll House

113 •  
Toll free

511  
Pavilion  
for  
Sound.



358

A 21 gun Royal salute announced that the Bridge was, once more, TOLL FREE.

You may care to reflect on this, when next you scurry past their engraved words on your way to Kingston!

## INTERVAL

Almost the entire area in Lower Teddington Road, from the railway bridge to "The Grove", was occupied by a number of Malt Houses.

## INTERVAL

MUSIC

change reels.  
1st slide again

1st slide again



MUSIC (20 sec)

1 The Hist of Ham

201 C. Sun

1871 The beginning of the picnic season - Chestnut Sunday! The population was 2,207.

202

Prisoners.

From the Surrey Comet of 23rd December:-

"Richard Fondall and James Knight were charged with stealing a Christmas tree from Bushy Park at Kingston Crown Court yesterday. PC Tichener said that at 1.00p.m. on Friday he saw the men carrying the tree out of the park. The prisoners were committed to the house of correction for seven days, with hard labour."

203

Hgh. Bone shaker.

Before the Pennyfarthing cycle appeared in the area in the early 1870's, small bone-shaker velocipedes, with 3 wheels and iron tyres, could be hired locally at 3d an hour.

204

2000 cycles.

Normanfield

At first those who rode Pennyfarthings were jeered at in the streets - "Monkey up the stick", "Monkey up the stick".

However, they became very popular and clubs were formed. An annual meet was organised at Hampton Court and in 1878 more than 2,000 cycles and 30,000 spectators attended the event.

In 1879 ~~Hampton Court Hospital was built. It still exists as~~

205

205 B

Park Cye

1881 - another giant meet. The cyclists would line up down Hampton Court Road; from the Lion Gates, back almost to Kingston Bridge. A bugle would sound. They would all mount and cycle the 8 miles through Hampton and Teddington, then down the Chestnut Avenue. The two files would separate to cycle either side of the Diana fountain, before joining hands as they re-formed to finish at 'the Greyhound'.

Tea rooms

As inns used to develop along the highways and at crossings of the river, tea rooms for cyclists appeared in Hampton Wick near the foot of the Bridge. (This photo was taken in 1902 and <sup>for those with extra ordinary eyesight,</sup> the large wheel of a <sup>on the wall,</sup> Pennyfarthing bike can just be seen hanging as a sign <sup>^</sup> above the cart.)

207

C.S.

In 1881 the population had risen to 2,164.

Chestnut Sunday was with us again!



Up until this date, it was the custom to beat the bounds of the parish annually. Selected older boys from the school would assemble in the High Street with the Vicar, Churchwardens and others. They would set out and traverse the gas works, cross Bushy Park, stop at "The Greyhound" for bread and cheese and beer; traverse the grounds of the Palace, scramble over the roof of the covered tennis courts, arrive at the big fountain at the end of the long water, hurl a stone (or a stave) across the pool to denote their having included the area within the boundaries; proceed to the river bank where a boat would be waiting, row down the river to Kingston Bridge, mark the centre arch with a boundary cross (using a whitewash brush) - on reaching the shore the boys would "bump" the Vicar and Churchwardens with gusto!

208  
Loughwater

209  
K'bridge

210  
Muybridge

In 1882 Eadweard Muybridge of Kingston gave a lecture on moving pictures to the Royal Institution, where the Prince of Wales asked to take the chair.

211  
Horses

no 212

213  
Zoo

He was one of the world's great geniuses. He invented one of the first practical camera shutters, experimented with a series of cameras to obtain pictures of horses moving at speed - (the forerunner of the motion picture) - ~~recorded pictures of the movement of people~~, AND perfected a projector to show his "moving" pictures, called a ZOOPRAXISCOPE. This is now in the Kingston Museum. Two years before, in 1880, he had shown the first moving pictures ever to be seen in the United States. The fundamental principles are still used in cinema projectors throughout the world. He preceeded Thomas Eddison by at least 15 years.

214  
HCP  
513  
Fire.

(50 sec)

Many famous people could have been mentioned in this "History" tonight, but the author considers Muybridge has been undervalued by historians and is almost unknown by local people - besides, he is just a little unhinged about anything to do with 'moving pictures'. (the author)

1882, Hampton Court had its first fire in its 370 year life. After a servant raised the alarm she went back to collect something but the Palace Fire Brigade found her suffocated. Luckily, despite exaggerated stories, only 3 of the 1,000 rooms were burnt. It was thought to have been caused by a mineral oil heating lamp used by the servant (unbeknown to her mistress.)

Do NOT change slide



→ →  
At this time

In 1885 there was a Hampton Wick section of the Kingston Fire Brigade. The Fire Station was in the yard of the old "Grove Inn" - it was equipped with a hand pump/hose reel/and jumping sheet.

In November of 1886 Hampton Court had its second fire within 4 years. It started in an area known as "My Lord Princes Lodgings" or "Edward VI's Nursery" - this time it was due to a candle being left in a housemaid's closet - the fire rapidly acquired a considerable hold. It took the Palace Fire Brigade, a detachment of Hussars (who were quartered at the Palace) and a dozen neighbouring fire brigades 3½ hours to extinguish the fire. A warder, who carried an invalid over the roof, was awarded a commendation by the Royal Humane Society.

40 rooms were destroyed this time and, after this experience, all residents had to contribute a quota towards fire insurance.

(Shades of 1986 when a candle may have caused the fire over the Cartoon Gallery)

One hundred years ago. In 1887, the September Venison Dinner was held at the "Rose and Crown" Hotel. *Many of you will remember that H.C.W. Association held a 100% Dinner celebration later this in 1987.* ~~and you may wish to note that the Hampton Wick Association is currently negotiating an anniversary celebration later this year.~~

The Chancel was added to Hampton Wick Church of St. John the Baptist.

At 10.50p.m. on August Bank Holiday, the 6th August 1888, the 13 coach passenger train left Waterloo for Kingston, via Richmond and Hampton Wick. The 13 coaches included 2 guards vans and a horse box with 2 racing ponies.

Due to a misunderstanding between the Kingston signal man and the driver of a light engine returning from Kingston to Twickenham, the engine proceeded on the wrong line.

The two trains met at 11.42<sub>pm</sub> just on the platform side of the bridge over Upper Teddington Road.

wait for end of sound. 32 sec  
shot sound. 7 sec.  
wait for scream 18 sec



221

crash

The first 4 coaches concertinaed on the bridge.

The Surrey Comet reported:

"The lamps in most of the carriages were extinguished and the groans of the dying and the injured, the screams of the terrified imprisoned passengers, and the hissing noise of escaping steam all combined to form a ghastly and heart rending scene, the horror of which was intensified by the prevailing darkness."

Four people were killed, including the driver and fireman of the passenger train - 20-30 people were injured.

The inquest was held at the "Rose and Crown".

222

ftr

In 1889, Mary Wilkins of Manor House, Hampton Wick, erected a drinking fountain in memory of her son, Edward Stanley Wilkins.

The Assembly Rooms were built on the site of "The Cage" at a cost of £3,000. The seating capacity was 250.

223

fort Br.

That year, near Teddington Lock, two foot bridges were built over the Thames. One is an iron girder bridge with a 99' span;

224

Br.

the other a 160' span iron suspension bridge. Both were built at a cost of £2,700.

In 1891 the population had reached 2,378.

In May 1893 the Home Park was officially opened to the public for the first time; and additional entrances into Bushy Park were also opened.

225

flooded.  
flooding

1894 - Between 23 oct and 17 November 8" of rain fell - almost a third of the annual rainfall - there was extensive flooding at Molesey, Kingston, Harefield & Teddington.  
That year In 1894 the Local Board became the Urban District Council of eight members.

It was constituted under the provision of the Local Government Act 1894.

The area of the Urban District was 1,306 acres.) This year Muybridge visited England and stayed in Hampton Wick.



In 1895 the manager of the "Rose and Crown" also owned a water trough on the footway immediately opposite the hotel; (behind the trough was Northwick House which was in the centre of a huge garden.)

226  
Park  
Hotel

Park Hatch, in Park Road, was built in 1896. In September that year a letter to the Surrey Comet says:

"Sir, as dancing in the streets appears to be one of the recognised amusements of Kingston, judging by the fact that a crowd of over 100 persons held the road at the corner of Fife Road and Clarence Street for a considerable time this Thursday evening, may I suggest that some less dangerous spot be selected for this recreation - say the Market Place - where the constable on duty could keep order and act as MC, and traffic would not be stopped!"

227  
Fm

On 8th June 1898, Princess Hohenlohe unveiled the drinking fountain which was Hampton Wick's contribution to the commemoration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. it cost £120 and the ceremony took place near the present Foresters public house. The fabric was of granite and bath stone, surmounted by an ornamental lamp.

It is this fountain which was restored, near the library, in Bennet Close, as the Association's Jubilee Project in 1977.

228  
Ed's

On the corner of St. John's Road stood the Coffee House, named after Edward, Prince of Wales.

The hamlet of Hampton Wick, in the Spelthorne Hundred, is recorded as consisting of 1,314 acres with a population of 2,606 - (more than triple the number 100 years before.)

In 1899 a street fire alarm was installed on the wall of Belchambers Bakery (currently Bojangles wine bar); at the same time electric call bells were fitted in the firemen's houses.



230

This unique building dominates Thames Street and Kingston Market place. It was Nuthalls new banqueting hall, opened in 1902

231 →

"For 30 years it was the heart of local social life - punting parties with champagne picnic hampers.....afternoon tea in the riverside gardens.... elegant luncheons in the Knights Room....glittering balls and banquets in the Kings Hall and the Rosebery Hall....wedding receptions, birthday parties, and midnight suppers in the private banqueting suites."

Alas, Nuthalls has long since gone, (in its place is Millets!)

232

Since 1898 The London United Tramways had been pressing to extend the Hounslow line with a loop line between Twickenham, Hampton, Hampton Court, Hampton Wick and Teddington. At Hampton Wick they would then be within sight of Kingston. The 'Thames Valley Times' welcomed the prospect as the Hampton Wick - Hampton Court road surface was of a most villainous consistency of deep, filthy mud.

Over 250ft. of Hampton Wick High Street, in 3 places, would have to be widened by up to 15ft. And so it was that in 1902 much of Hampton Wick was destroyed to make way for trams.

This series of photographs was taken in 1902, just days before the demolition began.

slow

Starting at the foot of the bridge, looking up the High Street, the old "White Hart" is on the left - the fencing on the right is where the small parade of shops now stands, ~~which used to include Mr. Looker's cycle shop.~~ In the middle distance the bay window, above Mr. Bullens shop, on the 3 storey building, still exists over the present Ross Hand's estate office.

233

slow

This is a slightly closer view than the last slide with the 3 storey building in the middle distance

234

slow

Slightly further towards "The Swan", which can now be seen in middle distance. Old Bridge Street on the right.



234B

A similar view, taken at the entrance to Old Bridge Street. All these shops and houses on the left hand side were soon to be demolished to widen the road for the trams.

*the Swan Public House is on the right - the Foresters in the middle.*

236

We have now passed the Old Swan Hotel, and the Foresters' Arms is <sup>now</sup> on the left. <sup>on the right, the shops,</sup> The 3 storey building <sup>2 story</sup> on the right and the houses beyond (where the sub-Post Office now stands) were shortly to be pulled down to widen the road, again, for the trams.

237

We now do an about turn at the Foresters, and we go back along the route we have just taken.

238A

"Walking" back down the road, the Swan is on the left hand side. All the houses on the right were soon to be taken down, to make way for the trams.

238B

*On the right - Silver Tea & Dining Rooms were soon to go!*

239

Slightly further round the corner, just beyond the horse and cart, the policeman is standing where the present roundabout exists at the foot of the bridge. The building beyond the policeman was pulled down at a later date. The buildings on the right were the few to remain on this side of the road.

The buildings on the left were <sup>soon to be</sup> demolished ~~slightly later~~ to ease the bend ~~for a route~~ over the bridge.

It was said at the time that "Little Hampton Wick" was <sup>very</sup> generous. Work went on day and night.

240

Diary

Apart from this diary note that the first brick in her house was laid by her Dad on March 13th 1903, and the writer laid one on the 21st - we have the important information that the first tram made a trial run through Hampton Wick on Monday, March 23rd 1903.

Hundreds of people thronged the streets. The loop was officially opened on April 2nd.

S15.  
Tram(46  
seen)



Toward Rad. Abt.

241

From the 'Swan', looking toward the roundabout. One of the first trams. On the right, and in the distance on the left, the hoardings where buildings have been demolished.

White Hart + tram

242

Looking from the roundabout, the new tram stop opposite the old White Hart.

White Hart

242B

The White Hart again; all has been pulled down beyond the remaining buildings on the left. The right hand buildings, in the foreground, will be demolished shortly to ease the bend onto Kingston Bridge.

In Forward, Bill Shanklin

251

The Jubilee Fountain; looking towards the 'Swan' on the left. Note the hoardings in the distance on the right.

NB  
↓

1903 was the year when the Hampton Wick Fire Brigade had a fire escape added to its earlier items of equipment!

Tedd Lock

244

For many years there had been a lock at Teddington. In 1905 the largest lock on the Thames was built alongside it. Costing about £30,000, it is the first of the Thames Conservancy locks and is capable of taking a tug and a train of 6 barges.

(650' x  
25' w x  
10'6" d.)

K' Head PH

245

In 1906 the 'Kings Head' was rebuilt.

Diary

246

Our diarist tells us about a private trial run of 2 electric trams over Kingston Bridge on February 11th - in the middle of the night at 11.30pm. The first one was driven by Sir Clifford Robinson, Managing Director of London United Tramways; over 500 people braved the winter night to cheer the first 2 trams to enter Surrey.

(Barn) tram on Bridge

248

1st March 1906; the official run of trams over the Bridge. The first one was driven by Lewis Bruce, Sir Clifford Robinson's coloured, 'personal' driver.

Mayor + tram

249

Amongst the first trams was one driven by the Mayor of Kingston

Turnabout

247

Use was made of the new turnabout at the foot of the Bridge.

K' bridge

250

The 'narrow' Kingston bridge, about 1910.

H. Ct Rd

243A

Looking down Hampton Court Road, towards the Bridge. The 4 houses on the right have now long since gone.

Wick Cleaners

243B

Towards the Station, the present 'Wick Cleaners' on the right. Then it belonged to William Uff - Fruiterer, Florist, and Greengrocer. Wreaths and Crosses a speciality!



251B

Kingston Road~~Upper Teddington Road, opposite the entrance to Normansfield.~~

252.

Looking down Hampton Court Road, the parade of shops has now been completed at the foot of the Bridge. The "Teas and Cycles Stored" building has long since gone, together with the small single storey shop. The other buildings on the right remain.

253 •

In 1909 this pillar was erected just below Teddington Lock to mark the 'Landward limit' of the Port of London Authority and the 'Lower limit' of the Thames Conservancy.

54 •

~~The following group of 4 photos from the 1912 Christmas issue of the Surrey Comet show people and events of the time. The first shows <sup>the</sup> Hampton Wick <sup>girls'</sup> School's champion swimmers (at a time long before the school became 'mixed'.)~~

255 •

~~- the vicar was the Rev. Jukes.~~

256 •

~~- the Kingston Regatta was then held alongside Barge Walk. *Note how you could still paddle, lead your horse to water, or hire a rowing boat, where*~~

257 •

~~- the brigantine Steadfast was moored in the river to serve as an evening technical school for the sea for the districts of Kingston, Hampton Wick and others nearby. *we now have the quayside.*~~

258A

In April 1914 Mr. Bullen (a relation of <sup>one of</sup> the present vice-chairmen of the Hampton Wick Association) was re-elected chairman of the Hampton Wick District Council. He said there were 2 things requiring their attention:-

1. A more satisfactory collection of the dust.
2. Better street watering - fortunately a new water van had been added (although he would have favoured 2 vans).

258B

Two recent improvements were the electrification of the railway; and the widening of Kingston Bridge.

Due to the War there were no celebrations at the opening of the bridge, now doubled in width.



Sound  
down.252  
→

From the Surrey Comet, September 3rd 1921, an incident involving Augustus John:

"One of the numerous ex-servicemen who have taken to organ grinding as a means of livelihood came to grief yesterday afternoon at Eden Street junction. Two tramcars were standing on the lines opposite Bristows, and Harry Chaseley, the man with the piano-organ, who has only one serviceable leg, was standing outside Girlings shop, when a motor car belonging to Mr. Augustus John, the famous artist, came round one of the tramcars and ran into the piano-organ and its operator, both being thrown over."

260<sup>A</sup> •

The War Memorial was unveiled on July 3rd 1921 - the Last Post was sounded by a bugler of the East Surrey Regiment which was stationed at Kingston Barracks.

That year the Hampton Wick section of the Kingdon Fire Brigade was disbanded - it had received no further equipment since its initial 3 items, plus the ladder received in 1903!

1923 The War Memorial Service on Armistice Day was well attended

The following series of sketches of Hampton Wick were made in 1924 by Lucy Millett who used to live in Gomer House in Lower Teddington Road.

The Old Vicarage, on the site of Ingram House.

A semi-permanent caravan in Park Road.

Park Road.

End of Park Road, with "The Foresters" on the left.

Godwins Cottages, in the middle of the present "Swan" car park.

End of Lower Teddington Road - with the "Swan" on the right.

To put the next quotation in context it must be remembered that the BBC had only just started broadcasting.

S 17

(36 yrs)



266B. There was a news item in the Surrey Comet -

"Hampton Wick enjoyed the unique experience of hearing the King's Speech on the opening of the Empire Exhibition. 4 loudspeakers, of large dimension, were erected on the balcony of the Hampton Court Gas Company's office. Between 700 and 800 people gathered in the broad roadway at the foot of Kingston Bridge. The wonderful apparatus reproduced the tones of His Majesty and the Prince of Wales who, as President of the great Wembley Exhibition, read an address of welcome. Both speeches came through perfectly and were heard distinctly not only by the audience immediately in front, but also by listeners nearly halfway across the Bridge."

omit 267  
About this time Mr. Holmes of the Thatched House, Hampton Wick, offered a reward for information concerning the theft of 11 of his valuable pigeons. He was a foremost breeder and exhibitor of pigeons and offered 10/- for each bird as may be restored to him.

After much opposition from Hampton Wick, we became part of the Borough of Twickenham in 1926.

268. At the end of 1926 it is recorded that Mr. Beckett undertook lighterage. He worked about 100 barges and maintained a fleet of 7 tugs. One tug could tow 6 laden barges and was allowed to do so by the Port of London Authority below Teddington Lock but the Thames Conservancy only allowed 4 in this area. The present boatyard now stands on the site of the large garden in the foreground.

269. 1927 saw an end to one of Hampton Wick's major problems - liability to flooding of basements by a mixture of rainwater and sewerage!

Mr. Bullen, the former chairman of the Council and an engineer, invented a simple and ingenious device to indicate, by means of an electrically operated alarm bell, the height of sewerage in a particular man-hole, which enabled the pumping station attendant in Kingston to know when to start the ejectors to lift the sewerage to the Kingston Works.



270<sup>A</sup> • On June 25th 1927 the foundation stone of St. John's Church Hall (later to be known as Ronayne Hall) was laid by Her Royal Highness Princess Mary, The Princess Royal, Countess of Harewood.

271 • Afterwards there was a Garden Fête in the Royal Paddock, Church Grove.

The Teddington Town Military Band played 20 tunes and ended the first half of the performance by playing a march titled "Hullo, Hampton Wick", written by Mr. F. W. Tomalin, the Band's conductor.

272 • The Hall cost £4,850 and was opened by the Lord Bishop of London on October 15th the same year. He said "I sincerely believe that no parish is complete without a hall. For the older members of the congregation the hall will be a great boon for lectures and concerts and might well prove a medium for the development of local talent, also I hope they will not be afraid of a little dramatic entertainment now and then. Although I cannot permit your vicar to appear on the stage of a London theatre, it is a great mistake to think that acting is something wrong!' (Hear, Hear)

273 • Also in 1927, King George V presented 2 of the Royal Paddocks in the S.E. corner of Bushy Park to the National Playing Fields Association, now known as the 'King's Field.'

274 • The Hampton Wick Social Union programme of meetings for 1927-28, held in the new Church Hall, indicated that there were lantern lectures, dancing, parties, musical evenings, concerts and a pantomime.

275 • On Thursday, March 20th 1930 regular patrons of the White Hart Hotel met for dinner for the last time before the building was pulled down to make way for the present public house.

*The then Duke of York (later King George VI) opened the 'Kings Playing Field'*

276 • In 1931 coaling lorries plied between Kingston Bridge wharf and the Gas Works.

The population of Hampton Wick was 2,957.



277A

277B

The trolley bus era was slow to arrive in London; of the eventual 49 trolley bus systems throughout Britain - London's was the 32nd to open. The first route was 'Twickenham to Teddington' which started in May 1931. In June the route was extended to Tolworth via Hampton Wick and Kingston, a total length of 17½ miles. The cost was £¼ million.

278

S18

Bonfire

(18 fm)

On May 6th 1935 King George V caused an electrical circuit to pass from Buckingham Palace to Hyde Park where it ignited the first of a chain of bonfires organised by the Boy Scouts Association - there was one in Hampton Wick near the Ice House in Home Park; there were 2 in Richmond Park and 2 in Bushy Park at Upper Lodge and the Heron Pond.

279

In 1935 the derelict 'Newmans' cottages were demolished, and Jubilee Close, *near the present library,* erected in their stead.

At this time there was a butcher's shop at the foot of the bridge. The owners were well known for their eccentricities. Instead of Jubilee decorations in their window, there was a picture of the butcher's wife surrounded by butcher's knives.

280

The Fountain was still outside the "Foresters", but no longer surmounted by the gas lamp.

In 1936 the Hampton Wick Urban District was abolished by the County of Middlesex Review Order and then formed part of the Borough of Twickenham.

The Church of St. John the Baptist had 600 sittings, 200 being free.

omit  
281

In 1938, No. 28 High Street was pulled down to make way for the "Swan" car park. Up to that time it was the Fountain Coffee Tavern and was thought to be the self same shop as that first occupied by Timothy Bennet in 1736.

282

A group of buildings known as Godwins Cottages were demolished in 1938 to form the car park of the "Swan" public house.

283

11.15a.m. September 3rd 1939. The Prime Minister speaks

S19 PM speaks.



At 11.27a.m.

(13  
sec)

air raid siren.

the first air raid warning - a false alarm.

284<sup>A</sup>

284B

285

In 1939 King George VI made an unannounced visit to the area. *It was a cold winter before the long hot summer of 1940. In May, the 'little boats' from this area sailed down river to help with the BET at Dunkirk. 80-90 returned in the first week of June.*

~~1940~~ The Battle of Britain. The weir at Teddington received a direct hit by a bomb and caused Teddington reach to run dry. A barge was hurriedly sunk to fill the breach.

*German bomber flew low, down the High St - firing its guns - bullets missing the village, including Charlotte Skankin's father, who was coming home for lunch. Major Jones accurately saw it.*

286

287

Pill Boxes (some only recently demolished in the rebuilding of Kingston) were erected in case of invasion. ~~Many bombs fell in the area.~~ *INSERT*

people were killed when Hawkers factory in Canbury Park Road was hit in the

blitz. In the 12 months from November 1943, 64,000 houses

*INSERT* Many incendiary bombs fell on Hampton Wick, setting several buildings on fire, including 34 Cedars Road and 'The Elms', the house that once stood on THIS site. A bomb hit Sandy Lane, near the Gas Works ..... and a string of bombs fell across Kingston Road and to the north of Normansfield Hospital on November 11th 1940.

rocket and 490 bombs.

288

289

Behind the high walls of Bushy Park, also sealed to the public, all the Flying Fortress raids on Germany and the occupied countries were planned, also the invasion of Europe. ~~The numerous buildings erected in the Park contained the headquarters of both the US 8th Air Force and the US Strategic Air Force. At one point 8,000 American troops were stationed there and General Eisenhower lived nearby.~~

S20

(24 sec)

doodle bug - wait for explosion.

*Long sound.*

During the 80 days of flying bombs in 1944, 5,300 houses were damaged in Kingston and 15 people were killed. In Twickenham 29 flying bombs fell, killing 34 and injuring 454.

*A V2 Rocket fell between the railway and Fairfax Rd, setting the Gas Holder ablaze.*

Most of the damage was caused to houses, but the Surrey County Hall and Kingston Hospital suffered direct hits. Both British and US service personnel from Bushy Park were involved in rescues and clearing up.



290<sup>A</sup> •

A civic restaurant was opened next to the Railway Bridge in Upper Teddington Road.

A bomb hit the power house at Teddington Studios - now Thames Television - an oil tank burst and caught fire, wrecking part of the studios before the National Fire Service and the studio's fire brigade could quell the blaze - 3 people were killed and 4 injured.

A bomb fell in Argyle Road, Teddington; the Hospital and the Methodist Church were damaged. Although many people had gone to their Anderson shelters, 8 people were killed, 10 seriously injured and 40 slightly hurt.

Three bombs fell in the Thames - one at Hampton Wick, the others at Twickenham.

Within 4 days, 2 bombs fell at Hampton Court not 100 yards apart. In the Greyhound Hotel close by one man was holding a glass tankard of beer which was split completely in half without injuring him in any way.

290<sup>B</sup> •

The war ended and again we remembered those who died.

1954 The firemen of Hampton Court - like policemen, they seem to be looking younger these days.

-91 •

We move on to 1959. An Armed Forces Day was held in Bushy Park Air Force Base in May. The RAF Band played, British Army and RAF helicopters arrived, there was a baseball game, demonstration by the Royal Corps of signals motor cycle team, the RAF dog handling and drill teams.

At this time the Bushy Park Base was one of the largest schools for the children of US service personnel in London.

BLANK •

The 8th May 1962 was the "official last day" for the ending of the 31 year old trolley bus era - the last bus ran back to the Fulwell depot. ~~the slide shows the last trolley bus on the left, and the first on the right with the central headlamp.~~



293 •

A public meeting was called in 1962 to discuss the rumours about a second road bridge at Kingston.

The then vicar of Hampton Wick told the meeting that a second bridge, near the existing one, would ruin Hampton Wick and make him vicar of a roundabout! This meeting turned out to be the inaugural meeting to form the Hampton Wick Association.

294 •

1963 - The Great Freeze! - when the Thames froze down to Kingston Bridge. Motor cycles were said to have raced around on the ice at Surbiton within sight of Kingston Bridge.

LANK.

FILM X X X X X X X X X X

295 •

In April the Surrey Comet confirmed the rumours about a second bridge - the Kingston plan was produced showing a new bridge pointing menacingly towards Hampton Wick, just South of the railway bridge. We were not happy with our own Council's proposals which would have ruined the village. All the villagers rallied around. Someone in advertising produced a poster.

296 •

We retained a barrister to represent us at the inquiry. A local architectural practice produced a counter scheme, entitled "Hampton Wick Survival". If there was to be a 2nd bridge we wanted a river frontage for the village; and the High Street turned into a pedestrian precinct.

297 -

298

299<sup>A</sup>

In 1964 the 'Teddington and Hampton Record' headlined Hampton Wick's plight! *The Association calculated that 318 homes in Hampton Wick would be demolished and 850 people re-housed.*

299<sup>B</sup>

In 1965, the good news, This school of St. John the Baptist, was opened by Councillor Lees on Friday May 21st after a dedication by the Rt. Rev. and Rt. Hon. Robert Stopford, Lord Bishop of London.

300 •

In 1969 the Thameswick Players Drama group was formed and started using Ronayne Hall for one of its original purposes. The Hall was eventually sold due to the cost of maintenance. Although the players are still linked with Hampton Wick they now perform in neighbouring Hampton.



301 • The annual Swan Upping ceremony takes place in July. In 1975, we were able to catch a glimpse of Prince Charles as he, and Prince Andrew, joined in and passed <sup>along</sup> ~~through~~ this stretch of the river.

303 • At Easter 1976 there was a large fire at the Lensbury Club and the roof area was gutted.

304 • The Silver Jubilee 1977,

307 • The children's street party was transferred to Ronayne Hall because of threatening weather. However, some street parties went on despite the rain.

309 • The Union Jack was the predominant decoration. A villager painted his garage door and added flags to decorate the street.

312 • This presentation was first given to celebrate the 1977 Jubilee and to raise funds to help bring the Victorian Jubilee Fountain back into the centre of the village. We were successful and it was erected outside Bullen Hall and Library.

313 • ~~For years ago~~ — In 1979 the Association re-established Chestnut Sunday with the traditional walk and a picnic ~~(we even achieved an interview on Radio London)~~

NEXT  
Why not join us ~~this~~ year on Sunday, 10th May 19<sup>92</sup> - 12.30p.m. at the Teddington Gate in Park Road.

In 1981 - Kingston Bridge:

- swapped its old lamps for new
- lost part of its parapet when a motorist careered through it!
- suffered a fire nearby
- and celebrated Prince Charles' and Princess Diana's Wedding.

By the way - at the last census the population of Hampton Wick was 10,884.

END. \* GOOD NIGHT



HCP  
FIVE

During the '80's we have had a major fire at Hampton Court Palace, when one resident died.  
The completed restoration work is to be handed over by the Contractor next week.....and Mike Fishlock will be coming along to tell us all about it on November 15th.

Storm  
damage

We have had storms which caused much damage to property, cars, trees and street furniture.

St. John  
place

The Association continues to keep a watchful eye on all issues that effect the village, but, particularly, those on safety, highways and planning.

Angley  
place

We seek greater knowledge of Hampton Wick's social history through our links with the Teddington Area Reminiscence Group - in fact, the FIRST person to be interviewed was one of our own local residents, Marjorie Kearn.

Paragon

We are currently fighting a 'take-over' bid by Kingston to draw us within THEIR boundary

No 13  
prints

and trying to stop the contracting-out of all the work in the Royal deer Parks of Bushy and Richmond

Sandy  
John  
quinn

A more cheerful sign, our 'END' slide, is our 1977 one.

By the way, we are advised that the best way to assess Hampton Wick's current population is to calculate it on the basis of our Polling District,

and that makes it,

3,200!

GOOD NIGHT



We finish this presentation with a poem called Hampton Wick

It was written by Mr. Warner of the London String Quartet, whilst he was staying at The Wilderness in Hampton Wick in 1932 - it was broadcast by the BBC on 20th January 1935:-

Old Hampton Wick, we come to you and dream  
 'Neath shading branches mirrored in the stream;  
 We hear the hum of Summer in the breeze  
 All undefined, a whispering of the trees.  
 Then faint, now louder on the air is borne  
 The mingling sound of bells this Sabbath morn,  
 All jangling out of tune; yet does their call  
 But add unto the beauty of it all.

But man, the ravager, is ever quick  
 To mar such peaceful spots as HAMPTON WICK  
 Yet still you smile, though many scars are seen  
 Where modern man has left his marks of spleen  
 That urged his vandal hand to rend and pick  
 Your very bones, like vultures, HAMPTON WICK.

From Kingston Bridge, where noisy street cars clank  
 Some half a mile along the river's bank  
 And hidden amid trees from fevered stress  
 There stands an old time house, THE WILDERNESS  
 In front, from casement window, we can spy  
 Through waving branch, the river wending by;  
 And fancy wings us back to olden time;  
 We see a Royal Barge, hear jests and mimes  
 And chatterings as King and courtiers vie,  
 To win a glance from some fair maiden's eye.  
 We hear the heralds' trumpets, hear the songs  
 And ribald laughter of the gaping throngs.  
 From rearward view, we conjure up in thought  
 Whilst looking o'er the leas of HAMPTON COURT.  
 The Royal party, court and hirelings near  
 Mounting their steeds, to chase the nimble deer



The spell may weave a shimmering Summer night  
The elfin moonbeams dart, their shafts of light  
Fall upon knights and ladies of St. James  
Who - here nigh to the banks of Father Thames  
Dance - to the viols, the hautboys and spinet  
The stately measures of the minuet.

The spell has snapped; we see but serried ranks  
Of Sunday trippers on the river banks  
The stream itself bears on its crest great throngs  
Of craft of every kind.  
We hear the songs the trippers sing  
Some coarse, some sad, some gay  
'Tis laughter, jest and jazz on holiday.

We see the litter that the trippers make  
Leaving great ugly blotches in their wake  
Not theirs the fault, for ants will gather thick  
Where sweetness is like yours old Hampton Wick.

Onslow Frampton (pen name)



## LONDON UNITED TRAMWAYS.

*is the same  
mentioned in  
1902*

A trial run was made over the Hampton Court loop on March 22nd, 1903. The 'Chiswick Times' reported that the 'great new car' left Fulwell Depot at 9 p.m. 'A strikingly novel aspect it must have presented to the dwellers on the route as it passed through the comparatively open country between Fulwell and Teddington, throwing its halo of radiance across the meadows through the fast-falling rain.' Robinson junior was at the controls. With him on the platform were Sir James Clifton Robinson and the heads of the permanent way, overhead installation and rolling stock departments.

At Teddington, Hampton Wick and Hampton hundreds thronged the streets, for a water car had passed earlier and presaged the trial trip. The report said that neither curves, nor gradients, nor the new Teddington railway bridge, nor the underline dip at Hampton Wick, nor the river hump at Hampton Hill delayed progress. The 7-mile run took just over 45 minutes, including brief halts.

'The Daily Telegraph' stated that the King had consented to a slice being taken off Bushy Park if the LUT put up new ornamental railings (between Garrick Villa and Hampton Court Green) and that Garrick Villa would be dedicated to the public enjoyment.

THE HAMPTON WICK SIDE OF THE LOOP OFFICIALLY OPENED ON THURSDAY APRIL 2nd, 1903,  
and the Hampton section two days later.

.....

At 11 pm on Sunday, February 11, 1906, two of forty handsome new covered-top cars with end balconies left Fulwell Depot. The first, No. 309, carried Robinson and other officials, the other a gang of workmen. At midnight Robinson took the controls of No. 309 at the new turnout in Hampton Wick, to become the first man to drive an electric tram over a Thames bridge.

Five hundred spectators braved the winter night to cheer him. Their hardiness was rewarded, for No. 309, the finest public service vehicle yet seen on a Surrey street, must have been a brave sight as, lights ablaze, it moved over the still narrow Kingston Bridge and on into the town.

On February 21st Lewis Bruce, a coloured man who was Robinson's 'personal' driver - though he also drove service cars - successfully piloted the Board of Trade inspection car, No. 321, over the new system.

On March 1st, 1906, the Mayor of Kingston under Robinson's supervision, drove No. 320 - first of three bedecked cars crowded with LUT officials and distinguished guests - set out at 11.30 am over Kingston Bridge, through Clarence Street, along London Road and up Kingston Hill to the end of the line by the 'George & Dragon.' The Mayor handed over to Bruce for the tour of the remaining routes.