

The Royal Parks of Hampton Court

From hunting ground to pleasure ground

Ray Elmitt

Overview

Within the boundaries of Hampton Wick, Teddington, Hampton and Hampton Hill lie 2,000 acres of Royal Park. In the case of Hampton Wick, this area amounts to 95% of the total land of the village but the ten residential buildings actually within this area of the park provide accommodation for less than 100 people out of a total village population exceeding 10,000.

This account begins by describing what exists in today's Bushy and Home Parks and then explains the history of how it all came to be. It outlines the earliest history and continues from when William the Conqueror granted land to his companion Norman knights. Then follows the 200-year stewardship of the parks by the Knights Hospitaller of the Order of St John of Jerusalem. The year 1499 saw the beginnings of the use of the parks for royal hunting and sport. It was Queen Victoria's accession in 1837 which finally marked the end of this royal exclusivity, apart from the continued (and continuing) use of the horse paddocks by the Royal Stud and Stables. Bushy - and later Home - Parks were both thrown open to the public and became (and remain) popular attractions.

The vital role of the Parks in the two World Wars - when Bushy Park was home to 8,000 allied troops - is described along with the current use of the parks for sports (including cricket, tennis, football, hockey, golf, skate-boarding and model yacht sailing) along with its provisions for allotment gardening.

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Bushy Park walk 7.5 miles



- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | <i>Upper Lodge</i> | 17 | Millenium Wood |
| 2 | <i>Water Garden</i> | 18 | Hampton Wick CC |
| 3 | <i>Brewhouse</i> | 19 | Church Grove Passage and Gates |
| 4 | <i>Rotunda House</i> | 20 | Kingston Concrete Skatepark |
| 5 | <i>Gear Wheel</i> | 21 | Heron and Boating Ponds |
| 6 | <i>Canal Plantation</i> | 22 | <i>Hawthorn Lodge</i> |
| 7 | <i>Barton's Cottage</i> | 23 | Cobblers Walk |
| 8 | <i>Bushy House</i> | 24 | Chestnut Avenue |
| 9 | <i>Gun Lodges</i> | 25 | Pheasantry Cafe |
| 10 | Teddington Gate | 26 | Triss's Pond |
| 11 | USAAF Memorial | 27 | The Waterhouse |
| 12 | SHAEF Gate | 28 | <i>The White Lodge</i> |
| 13 | Eisenhower's Office | 29 | <i>Hampton Court House</i> |
| 14 | Sandy Lane Gate | 30 | Diana Fountain |
| 15 | Leg of Mutton Pond | 31 | Playground |
| 16 | Hampton Wick Gate | 32 | Hampton Court Gate |

Bushy Park today

When the 18 year old Queen Victoria ascended the throne in 1837 she decided she had no further use for Bushy Park and was agreeable to it being opened to the Public as a recreational area. At over 1,000 acres, it was the second-largest of her eight Royal Parks in London and its popularity grew rapidly - especially when the London and South West Railway Company opened a new terminus just across the river at East Molesey in 1849.

The best-known feature of the park is probably the Chestnut Avenue running for a mile and a half southward from Teddington Gate to Hampton Court Gate and including the elegant sweep around a water basin. Originally intended as a magnificent new processional route to the palace from the north, the scheme was rather compromised when the then King (William of Orange) changed his mind about extending the palace towards the new route. Work had already begun on creating the new avenue and so his successor (and sister-in-law) Queen Anne attempted to give the avenue some continuing sense of purpose by moving the magnificent statue of Diana (or more probably of Arethusa) from its position in the palace's Privy Garden to its current place in the centre of the water basin. She also built the Lion Gate on the south (i.e. palace) side of Hampton Court Road in an attempt to provide a suitable visual destination for the avenue at the palace end. She died before it was completed and, whereas her stone gate pillars are on a very grand scale, the gates themselves - installed by George I - are probably rather more back garden-gate sized than the palace-sized gates she would have had in mind.



The walk starts in the north-west of the park. There are two options for getting there:

- *By bus: Routes 285, R68 and R70. Alight at stop HC. Walk on 100 yards to Hampton Hill gates. Walk straight ahead and turn right before the mews. The pedestrian gate is on the left just before you get to the Longford River. It is a 5 minute walk from Hampton Hill High Street.*
- *By car: park in the Pheasantry Car Park. Walk along Cobblers Walk (aka as Upper Lodge Road) until you are level with the Canal Plantation and turn left. Follow the path round to the entrance (total distance 1 mile).*

Upper Lodge (1) is located in the north-west of the park. Built around 1850, it is at least the third building to occupy this site. Its predecessor was built in 1713 by Charles Montagu, Earl of Halifax who also created the Water Gardens (2). However almost 300 years of neglect had meant that the gardens had effectively disappeared and it required a major effort, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Crown Estate, to restore them to their original design. The Brewhouse (3) a Grade II listed structure, was also built by Montagu and provided beer for the household in nearby Upper Lodge – alcohol being safer to drink than water at the time.

Just before leaving the Water Garden, glance over the north wall opposite the exit gate to see the Rotunda (4)

This modern house and garden complex exactly occupies the footprint of a torpedo test tank built at the height of the Cold War.

Retrace your steps to Upper Lodge Road and turn left. Within 50 yards take the diagonal path which will take you to ...

The central gearwheel from the torpedo test tank (5). A helpful information board provides much more information.

Return to the road and turn left. Don't follow as the road turns sharp left after 75 yards but keep almost straight on turning slightly to your right. Within 30 yards turn right along a rough path running between a few trees. After 400 yards, turn right onto the broad perimeter track. The Canal Plantation is 175 yards further on.

Part of the outflow from the Water Gardens passes through Canal Plantation (6) on its route to the Thames.



130 yards after the Canal Plantation take the path to the right just before the rugby pitches. After 200 yards you arrive at Barton's Cottage.

Barton's Cottage (7) was the centre of the farming operations of It was named for Sir John Barton who was financial adviser to Prince William, Duke of Clarence who was Park Ranger 1797-1830. The rest of the farm buildings were demolished when the Duke ascended the throne as William III but the original duck pond remains.

Continue along the path until you arrive back at Upper Lodge Road. Turn left and walk for 500 yards until you are level with Bushy House.

Built in the 1660s and enlarged by Charles Montagu's nephew in the 1720s, *Bushy House* (8) was the home of the Ranger of Bushy Park until the death of the last Ranger, Queen Adelaide, in 1849. After making it available as a safe haven for the deposed French royal family, Queen Victoria agreed in 1902 that Bushy House could become the headquarters of the National Physics Laboratory in which role it has played a major part in the invention of radar, the atomic clock and the forerunner of the internet amongst many other scientific milestones.

Continue for 250 yards.

Guns Lodge (8) on your left stands at the original entrance drive to Bushy House. It was designed by Decimus Burton in 1827.

Turning left after a further 100 yards, follow the path running parallel to the Chestnut Avenue for 500 yards as it leads up to the *Teddington Gate* (10).

Cross Chestnut Avenue and continue along the track for 500 yards until you are level with SHAEF gate. Now, with your back to the gate, walk directly ahead for about 150 yards.

It is hard to imagine that the whole of the park east of Chestnut Avenue was "home" to almost 8,000 troops during WW2. Every trace was removed by the early 1960's so today the only reminders are the SHAEF gate (12) reinstated in 1994, the RAF memorial to their USAAF colleagues (11) also installed in 1994 and the nearby plaque on the site of Eisenhower's office (13).

Return to the SHAEF gate.



Home Park walk 4.5 miles



- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 33 | Paddock Gate | 45 | The Pavilion Terrace |
| 34 | Kingston Avenue | 46 | <i>The Pavilion(s)</i> |
| 35 | Longford River Bed | 47 | Ditton Gate |
| 36 | <i>Stud House</i> | 48 | Hampton Court Golf Club |
| 37 | The Long Water | 49 | Rick Pond |
| 38 | Jubilee Fountain | 50 | Surbiton Passage Gate |
| 39 | The Overflow | 51 | HC Model Sailing Clubhouse |
| 40 | The Medieval Oak | 52 | Dew Pond |
| 41 | Oak Pond | 53 | Royal Stables |
| 42 | Farm Cottages | 54 | Ice House |
| 43 | Golf Course Crossing Path | 55 | Hampton Wick Pond |
| 44 | Jubilee Gate | 56 | Kingston Gate |

Home Park today

Unlike its neighbour to the north of Hampton Court Road, Home Park was never a hunting ground. It is true that Henry VIII used the northern part of the park against the wall for deer coursing, a sport in which dogs were set free to chase an individual deer. The terrified animal usually managed to outrun its pursuers and bets were placed on which dog would get closest to the prey. The mound on which the Ice House now stands would have provided a natural grandstand for spectators and punters to watch the action and settle their wagers. Otherwise the land in Home Park was used for grazing, with cattle and horses replacing the sheep herds of the medieval period.

A major change occurred following restoration of Charles II to the English throne in 1660. He chose Hampton Court as his "country palace" and commissioned André Mollet to create the Long Water canal using the water from his father's Longford River project to feed the new feature. The canal was aligned on the Queen's bedroom but Charles' romantic plan to have his bride gently rowed up to it on a decorated barge was totally thwarted when instead she turned up by coach on the other side of the palace along with a large and noisy group of her courtiers.

When the protestant William and Mary replaced her catholic father James II as joint rulers William, who suffered from chronic asthma, chose the pure air of Hampton Court in preference to the smoke-filled atmosphere surrounding the Palace of Whitehall. He originally commissioned Christopher Wren to design a completely new replacement palace but the royal budget would not stretch to this so the couple had to make do with an "extension" that nevertheless more than doubled the original footprint.

Mary's sister Anne inherited the throne in 1705. She turned out to be the last royal inhabitant of the palace and made much use of the two parks in which she had a 20-mile network of chaise-drives constructed.

The Hanoverian dynasty made very little use of palace or park except as a location for horse breeding and training based on *Stud House*. When these operations transferred to Sandringham in the 1890s Home Park joined Bushy Park as a second playground of the people.

Paddock Gate (33) is the newest entrance/exit and was created when free entrance to the Palace Gardens was abolished in 2016. It leads though one of the three remaining horse paddocks (out of the original 16) in Home Park.

Turn to your left (i.e. with your back to the Palace) and keep walking until, in around 700 yards, you reach the hard stone track

You are walking down Kingston Avenue (34) which is centred on the tower of the 12th century Parish Church. and was laid out in the 1660s as part of Charles II's Long Water project.

Turn right at the track, walk around 140 yards towards the gates at the far end then turn right up the grass track back towards the Palace. Stop when the wooden fence on your left turns a corner.

The shallow depression (35) leading away from you towards the Palace is the original bed of the Longford River created by Charles I in 1638 to bring water from 15 miles away to feed the Palace water gardens. His son repurposed the final stages of this supply to fill The Long Water.

Keeping the brown fence on your immediate left, follow the path as it again turns left. After 120 yards you can see the southern façade of Stud House over the fence.

The original *Stud House* was built by Charles II in the early 1680s and was the centre of the agricultural activities in Home Park. But in 1812, the future George IV (whilst still Prince Regent) established a racing stud there and the house was significantly remodelled into its present form. The stud operations ended in 1896 and *Stud House* became a grace-and-favour property. Since April 2007 it has been the home of Baron Lebedev of Hampton and Siberia, a Russian oligarch and a member of the UK House of Lords since 2020.

Walk back up to the last corner you passed then turn left onto the diagonal grass track leading to the Long Water.



The 1,250 yard canal known as the Long Water (37) was built in 1661/2 . The tree-lined canal (known as the Long Water) was contrived by André Mollet, a French garden designer. The scheme was completed in time for Charles II to present the whole feature as a gift to his bride Catherine of Braganza during their honeymoon at Hampton Court in May 1662. Sadly, the planned romantic pageant of the bride being greeted at the palace by Charles II after approaching gently up the canal on a barge did not happen - a contemporary drawing reveals a much more public and boisterous arrival by coach at the western gatehouse

Walk down to the bottom of the Long Water.

In the 1990s, by which time most of the original lime trees had long disappeared, the east end of the Long Water was chosen as the site of a Jubilee Fountain (38) to celebrate Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee. The central spout throws water 30 metres (100 feet) into the air. The fountain together with the replanting of the lime avenues was gifted to Her Majesty by the late Sir Donald Gosling, co-founder of National Car Parks (NCP).

Cross the road that goes to the Golf Club to reach the Overflow ponds.

The two-stage Overflow ponds (39) are used to regulate the water level in the Long Water. When first built, the ponds were bordered by ornate flower beds and the area was known as The Lower Wilderness (below) but after the beds had been washed away in 1702 and again in 1705, the scheme was abandoned.





Two maps of The Royal Parks: Jean Rocque 1730 (l) and Ordnance Survey 1868 (r). The use of theodolites to create the later map account for its greater spatial accuracy but the details correspond to a remarkable degree. Note the presence of the Royal horse paddocks in the later map.

Historical Context: The Manor of Hamntone

The communities of Hampton and Hampton Wick lie in the bend of a river (known in Saxon as a 'hamn') from which they derive their name. Half a million years ago this river was wider and wilder and, as it cut the valley in which it now flows, it laid down the gravel terraces that now form the Thames basin. The Hamptons sit on the first river terrace in a deep meander created at the end of the last glaciation (around 10,000 years ago). The land formed was free-draining, easy to clear and fertile and therefore ideal for agricultural purposes. Neolithic pottery has been found at Kingston. Bronze Age material has also been retrieved both from the river and from excavations of two local burial mounds, the latter indicating the prosperity of the inhabitants of the area. Following the Roman conquest, settlement and agriculture seem to have intensified judging by the extent of the remains reported as found by the 1530s - though their places of discovery were not recorded. Although no specific evidence of a settlement has so far been discovered, there may have been several prosperous agricultural estates, possibly centred on river fording points at Kingston and Hampton Court.

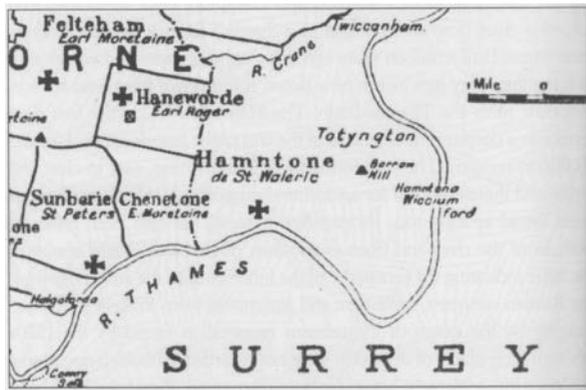
After the Romans left around 400 AD, the system by which they governed their agricultural estates remained - in the form of the manor - as the organising principle of the rural economy throughout the Middle Ages. Manorialism was characterised by the vesting of legal and economic power in a Lord of the Manor. He was supported economically from his own direct landholding in a manor, and from the obligatory contributions of the legally subject peasant population under the jurisdiction of his manorial court. It is likely that the Manor of Hamntone took over the land and governance from the Romans as a going concern. There are no records before 1000 AD, but it is likely that the manor increased in importance when nearby Kingston started to become a significant royal estate from the beginning of the ninth century.

The Domesday Book - that great Norman land record compiled in 1086 - reveals that, shortly before 1066 Aelfgar, Earl of Mercia and son of Leofric and the lady Godiva, had held the manor. Until his death in 1062 he held many holdings around the country. These included the Hundred of Hounslow - comprising the Manors of Hamntone and Gistelesworde (Isleworth) along with the villages and fields of Twickenham and Teddington. This holding represented the largest lay estate in Middlesex.

The Normans and Plantagenets (1066–1399)

Following his victory in the Battle of Hastings, William the Conqueror forced through a political union with Normandy, driving out the old Saxon landowning nobility and subjecting England to the dominance of the Norman aristocracy. William granted almost half of England to Norman nobles and about a quarter to the Church, whilst retaining a fifth for himself.

The King parcelled up the former estates of Aelfgar and awarded them, as one, to a single Norman lord, Walter St Valery.



It was from St Valery's home town of Saint-Valery-sur-Somme that William and his fleet had sailed in 1066. The two men were not only close companions, but were also related - Walter's grandmother was William's aunt - and the Hundred of

Hounslow, granted immediately after the Conquest, must have seemed a valued prize.

The Domesday Book gives the first real glimpse of the manor of Hamntone. In area it comprised about 4,200 acres, 2,000 of which St Valery held for himself and the remainder of which he let. The Book also records that, on his 2,000 acres, there were only three ploughs as against 17 in the other part of the Manor. This suggests that most of St Valery's holding was unploughed sheep pasture. Walter was unlikely to have lived at Hamntone since he held lands in Suffolk, as well as his estates in Normandy.

In 1096 Walter de St Valery departed on the First Crusade to the Holy Land along with his son Bernard. The latter inherited all his father's estates and in turn passed them on to his son Reginald, also a crusader. The St Valery family crusading connections were to be a crucial factor in the later history of Hampton.

At first, knights returning from the Crusades and - wishing to support the military orders in the Holy Land - gave lands to the Knights Templar. However, after the Second Crusade (1147-9) gifts were more commonly given to the Knights Hospitallers. It seems likely that, following his return around 1160, it was Reginald who agreed to rent Hampton to the Hospitallers, and we will learn more about them shortly.

Reginald St Valery died in September 1166, leaving his Middlesex estates to his son Bernard. Following family tradition Bernard also fought in the Holy Land and was killed at the siege of Acre in 1190. Thomas, who then came into the estates, was the last of the line to hold the manor. He had no sons, but one daughter whose first husband held the Isleworth Manor in right of his wife. King John seems to have taken the other half of the Middlesex estates, Hampton, into his own hands, probably because of Thomas's involvement (or implication) in the rebellion against him after Magna Carta and the Battle of Lincoln in 1217.

But before it was confiscated Thomas seems to have given the manor to a rich and prominent city merchant, Henry of St Albans, who was allowed to retain the property by John's successor Henry III. Thus for the first time in three centuries the histories of the manors of Hampton and Isleworth were split. Soon afterwards the manor of Hampton was transferred from the Hundred of Hounslow to that of Spelthorne to the west. Later still, Teddington and Twickenham were established as separate manors and the boundaries of Hampton Manor itself corresponded with those of today's Hampton and Hampton Wick.

In 1237, Henry of St Albans sold Hampton Manor to its sitting tenants, the Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem in England. The Hospitallers originally arose as a group of individuals associated with a hospital in Jerusalem, dedicated to St John the Baptist. Initially the group existed to provide care for poor, sick or injured pilgrims to the Holy Land. However, the Order soon extended its role to providing an armed escort to pilgrims and it grew into a substantial military force. The Knights of St John had primarily been battle-proven soldiers before they joined the Order, where they too were subject to the monastic vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. As a holy

army, the Hospitallers received significant gifts of money and land from benefactors around the Christian world. To underwrite their continued existence, they also established their own international fund-raising organisation. The English branch of this organisation, run from Clerkenwell Priory, received and passed on the profits from several smaller establishments scattered around the country of which Hampton Manor was one. Having started in 1160 when they first became tenants, the Order's direct association with Hampton was confirmed when they became Lords of the Manor in 1237, and this tenure continued for over 350 years. Their stewardship there was entirely focused on maximising the manor's ability to generate money with little or no interest in the status or power associated with the Lordship of the Manor. They ran Hampton with a small group of clerical and lay people housed in a modest property probably on the site of today's palace.

By the early fourteenth century, the headquarters of the Hospitallers was on the island of Rhodes. Jerusalem had long ago been lost, and with it the Hospital of St. John, but the Hospitallers continued to exist as a purely military order, owing allegiance only to the Pope.

In 1328, the Prior of Venice, Leonard de Tiberius, was sent to investigate the English branch. Some disturbing rumours about it had reached Rhodes. Leonard's report showed that they were well founded. The Priory was losing over £1,000 a year. Thomas L'Archer, the English Prior, was an old man verging on senility, and recent events had proved too much for him. Even worse, he had borrowed money from overseas banks at usurious rates of interest in order to keep up his payments to headquarters. Leonard deposed L'Archer and appointed himself Prior of England.

10 years later, Rhodes demanded a further report on the English branch which was far more encouraging and showed that, by 1338, the Priory was now making a profit of more than £2,000 a year. Exactly 500 years later the antiquarian Rev. Lambert B. Larking, on holiday in Malta, found a copy of that original 1338 report in Valetta Public Library (the Hospitallers had moved to Malta in 1530). The Camden Society published Larking's expanded transcription in 1857 and in 1973 local Hampton historian Peter Foster used this material to produce a remarkable reconstruction of the probable local land use at

Hampton in 1338. His map suggests that almost all of Bushy Park and some of Home Park was arable land. Mediaeval "ridge and furrow" ploughing leaves unmistakable traces on the ground which are extremely difficult to erase completely, even when the ground is later flat-ploughed. These traces are evident at several points in Bushy Park. The Home Park was not under the plough and was used as pasture to graze sheep and as meadowland to provide hay for winter feed.

The area of the manor in the north-east nearest the buildings of Hampton Wick consisted of two parcels of arable land sandwiching an expanse of Common Pasture. The latter corresponded to the land between today's High Street and the line of Church Grove-Sandy Lane. The parcel of arable land between Upper Teddington Road and the river was held on a freehold basis with the other parcel (now part of Bushy Park) being "at farm" which is to say short-term leasehold. This division and use of the land in the manor is unlikely to have changed markedly throughout the Hospitallers tenure with the notable exception of the "at farm" land at Hampton Wick. In the face of falling wool prices, the Hospitallers took over this section and enclosed it to run yet more sheep. This action proved to be a disastrous mistake. For over 1,000 years, barley had been cultivated as the main grain staple. Barley bread and ale played a major part in the diet of most people. The long history of single crop farming on the land had impoverished it and running too many sheep on depleted grassland encouraged the growth of bracken that made the pasture useless. The bracken exists there to this day.

Over the next century, the role of the manor house itself changed from being purely the administrative centre to also becoming a high-status guest house. Royal palaces had been created at Byfleet and Sheen. Hampton was an ideal staging-post between the two and was increasingly used as overflow accommodation. It is recorded that, during a visit by King Edward III and his household in March 1353, the house caught fire and was evidently severely damaged or even destroyed. The King appears to have accepted responsibility and arranged the rebuild at his own expense. It was another fire 150 years later that was to herald a complete change in the status of Hampton Manor.

The Tudors (1485–1603)

Sheen Palace had increasingly become the favourite royal out-of-town place of pleasure and recreation. Henry VII intended it to be his principal country residence, and he began major building works there in the early 1490s. At this time, one of Henry's closest confidants was Sir Giles Daubeney, one of the most powerful men in the kingdom but - unlike his colleagues and equals - currently without a seat in London. Daubeney must have been looking for a suitable property commensurate with his increasingly elevated status. With Henry's focus on Sheen, he would have been delighted to be able to sign, in July 1494, an 80-year lease on 'Hantoncourt' an easy seven-mile barge-ride away from his royal master. Determined to be in a position to entertain the King and his Court, Daubeney immediately set about transforming Hampton Court from a modest country manor to a major courtier house.

In 1499, Sir Giles Daubeney acquired and enclosed 300 acres (120 hectares) of Bushy Park (corresponding with what became known as Middle Park) and stocked it with deer. Such a venture would have required a royal licence but, since his main intent was to provide sport for Henry VII and his visiting courtiers, permission would probably have been readily forthcoming. Because of the cost and exclusivity, ownership of deer parks had become one of the status symbols which Daubeney coveted. The transition from common arable land to deer park, much of which has subsequently remained substantially unchanged, meant the massive field baulks defining the individual field strips have been preserved and are distinctive archaeological features in today's Bushy Park.

Henry VII had suffered a set-back at Sheen when the buildings of the nearly-completed palace caught fire and were destroyed in December 1497. However, he immediately started rebuilding, and the palace was finally completed in 1501. Before winning the throne at the Battle of Bosworth Field, Henry had been known as Earl of Richmond (Yorkshire). He used this as the name for the new palace and, at his command, the town of Sheen, which had grown up around the royal manor, also changed its name to "Richmond".

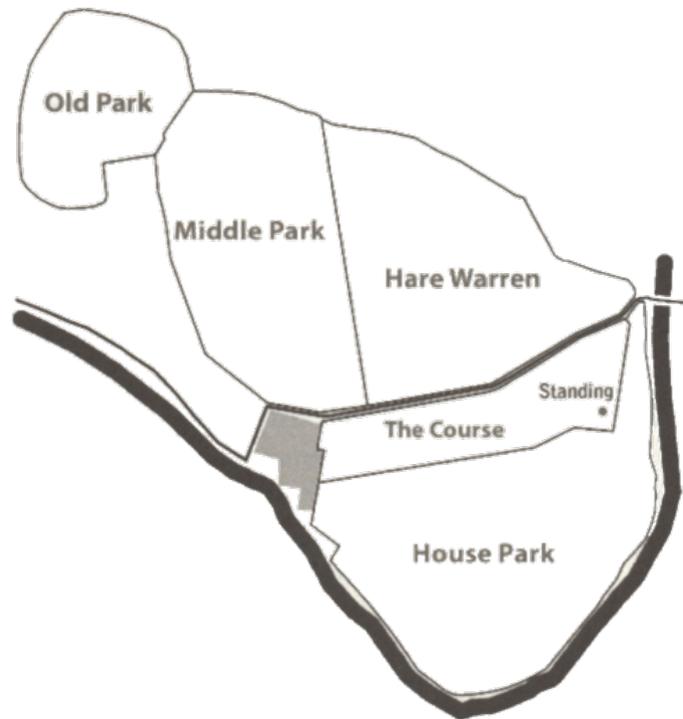
The King and his courtiers were frequent visitors to Hampton

Court over the next few years. Daubeney died in 1508, leaving his estates to his son Henry, who was still a minor. However, on obtaining his majority in 1514, one of the young Daubeney's first acts was to give up the lease on Hampton Court. It was almost immediately transferred to a new tenant - Thomas Wolsey - who would begin the transformation into today's much-loved edifice.

However, it is beyond the scope of this small book - with its focus on the Royal Parks - to also record the evolution of Daubeney's original creation through the Tudor, Stuart and Hanoverian dynasties with their demolitions, modifications and new additions that have together produced today's magnificent Hampton Court Palace.

Wolsey also continued the emparkment, acquiring Hare Warren, adding a further 425 acres (170 hectares) of land to the east of the hunting grounds and fencing it with oak paling. He was almost certainly responsible for enclosing the whole of Home Park with timber paling. However, it was Henry VIII who gave a substance and structure to the parks that largely remain to this day (see map overleaf). Most significantly, he built the walls that still run from Kingston Bridge to Hampton, thereby not only creating a firm division between the two parks, but also - and perhaps inadvertently - ensuring that much of the verge on either side of the walled road would subsequently become coveted as a building plot. Henry organised the park to the south of this road to provide his favourite sport of deer coursing. The area was divided into two by a wall, the northern part being the course and southern, riverside section, being the House Park, which was stocked with fallow deer from other royal game reserves. The course was essentially a racecourse, one mile long and tapering from half a mile wide in the west to around 200 yards in the east. The race itself was between two greyhounds, on which heavy bets would be laid. A deer would be released and allowed to run for a short distance before a slow-running dog was released to chase it. Once the deer, now at full speed, passed a post around 160 yards from the start, the greyhounds were released, and the first dog home would win. The proceedings could be watched from a great standing (or grand-stand) on a small hillock near the finish. This was possibly located near to today's Ice House.

To the north of Kingston Road, Henry built a wall between the Middle Park and Hare Warren. In the corner of the latter, he created a warren for black rabbits. In the late 1530s, he acquired the land for Old Park and was also able to extend the park northwards to its modern boundary on Sandy Lane by incorporating land from Teddington Manor, formally owned by Westminster Abbey, which he confiscated. All the parks were planted with oaks from which acorns were collected and further plantings made. The trees were destined for the successors to Henry VIII's mighty ships of the Royal Navy battle fleet but, as will be seen, these assets were to prove too tempting for the parks' later owners.



Notwithstanding the steady accretion of parkland that occurred under Wolsey and Henry VIII, none of these enclosures was suitable for the King's favourite sport of stag-hunting. Now that he was getting old and over-weight, he wished to enjoy this close at hand, without the fatigue of going to Windsor Forest. In order to form an extensive hunting-ground immediately

adjacent to the palace, and as part of his confiscation of all monastic property (which included the Hospitallers' tenure on Hampton Court itself), the King acquired or appropriated a whole group of manors near Hampton Court. These were on both sides of the River Thames from East Molesey to Shepperton and, by an Act of Parliament passed in 1539, were consolidated into a single Honour (domain) based on Hampton Court itself. The next stage was to enact that a great part of the extensive tract of countryside comprised within the boundaries of the Honour should be marked and enclosed within a wooden paling, to create the Hampton Court Chase from which the local inhabitants were excluded. Thus a selected stag could be released from an enclosure at Hampton Court, kept on the run by the pursuing pack of stag-hounds, and hunted by the King and his party, if necessary all the way to Windsor Castle. Unsurprisingly, the inhabitants local to the chase, whilst they suffered in silence during the remainder of Henry's reign, successfully petitioned for the chase to be dismantled immediately upon his death.

Queen Elizabeth I inherited from her father an ardent love of stag-hunting, often sharing the sport provided for the entertainment of her guests at Hampton Court and shooting deer with her own bow.

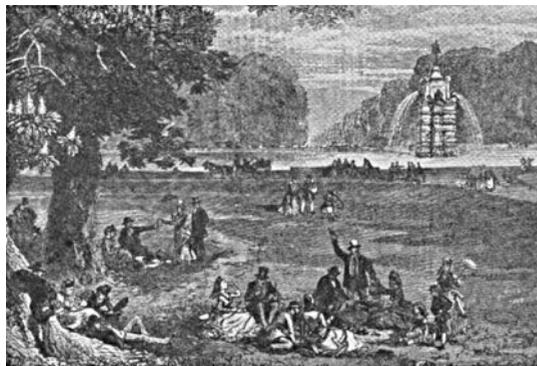
The Public Parks (starting from 1838)

In 1838, the young Queen Victoria (she was then just 19) had decreed that Hampton Court Palace and its gardens

should be thrown open to all her subjects without restriction.

The response was immediate with over 115,000 visitors arriving within the first year of opening. In 1851, the year of The Great Exhibition (after the 1847 opening of the railway service to Hampton Court Station), over 350,000 came. The palace's new role as a tourist attraction profoundly affected the livelihood of the local residents. There were five refreshment rooms, four restaurants, two hotels, a Post Office and a tobacconist in the 220 yard stretch of Hampton Court Road between the Lion Gates and The Green to cater for the visitors (bottom).

Although the parks had previously been reserved mainly for the pleasure of the monarch, it was not a rigid preserve. There existed an ancient right of 'lop and top' allowing people to collect discarded wood in the parks. There were also a number of footpaths used by the villagers to pass between the Hamptons - Town and Wick - and onward to Kingston market. Any stoppage of these routes caused disruption to the lives of the villagers. The most famous case involved Timothy Bennett, the Hampton Wick



Above The tradition of Chestnut Sunday, when school-children from the East End of London would flock to see the tree blossom, was revived by Colin and Mu Pain in 1967. Intended as a one-off event to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee, it became an annual event until temporarily halted by the 2021/2 Covid pandemic.

Below The first bicycle meet took place in 1874 with comparatively few riders present but by the following year it had attracted 204. The event reached its peak in 1882 when 2,360 riders from 183 clubs participated but the 1883 event, which attracted five or six hundred fewer participants, was the last to be held.



The Heritage Lottery Fund part-funded two major restoration projects that were undertaken in Bushy Park as part of a £7m programme. In the mid-1990s, evidence had emerged of the existence of a Baroque-style garden of pools, cascades, basins and a canal that together had extended almost 1 km across the northern part of Bushy Park. It had originally been built around 1710 for Charles Montagu, 1st Earl of Halifax, who lived at *Upper Lodge* and was keeper of Bushy Park at the time. In the 1950s, the Admiralty built a vast tank alongside these Water Gardens to develop guided missiles and carry out submarine research. The site, including the ponds, played a significant role in the development of Cold War defence technology. It then fell into disuse and the cascade and pools all but disappeared beneath undergrowth and silt. Through the twentieth century their existence was largely forgotten. A campaign for restoration of the water gardens was launched by the Friends of Bushy and Home Parks. This was significantly helped by the discovery, in 1999, in a dusty palace stateroom, of an eighteenth century detailed painting of the original gardens. The restored gardens were opened to the public in autumn 2009.



The second project involved the restoration of the Diana Fountain in the centre of the great basin on Chestnut Avenue. The fountain includes a gilt bronze of Diana on a black marble and stone fountain, surrounded by bronzes of four putti, four water nymphs and four shells. It was originally commissioned by Charles I in the 1630s for his wife, Queen Henrietta Maria, and was located in her garden in Somerset House. It was moved to Hampton Court by Oliver Cromwell in 1656, remodelled by William III in 1690 and then in 1713, under Queen Anne, it was moved to its present location. The top part of the current base was part of the 1690 remodelling. The lower rusticated part was erected for the new site in Bushy Park. The central figure was gilded, apparently for the first time, for its re-erection. By 2009, only four spouts were working, and the bronzes were heavily stained by lime scale and guano having not been cleaned for some years. Evidence of gilding was found on all of the figures, and it was decided to gild Diana and to colour the remaining sculpture with a rich, dark brown patina.



1. The Flower Show

The Hampton Court Flower Show (now known as Hampton Court Garden Festival) was established in 1990 and first sponsored by Network Southeast before the Royal Horticultural Society took over the running of the show in 1992. It is now the world's largest annual flower show, with the showground at the west end of Home Park covering 34 acres on both sides of the Long Water. The show attracts over 125,000 visitors and the conceptual gardens at the show are considered to be some of the world's finest.

2. The Hampton Court Music Festival

The Hampton Court Music Festival is an annual musical event held in June which was first run in 1993. The Festival is known for presenting artists across the music genres such as Sir Elton John and Eric Clapton, to Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and José Carreras. The concerts are held in the open-air in the Palace's Base Court and, despite most of the audience being at the mercy of the weather, are regularly sold out. The existence of these major events raises the international profile and tourist awareness of the palace and parks.

3. Parkrun

When, on 2 October 2004, 13 runners took part in a 5K run in Bushy Park they little knew they were starting an activity which has now been adopted in almost 2,000 parks in 24 countries worldwide. To date over 6m runners (and joggers and walkers) have participated. The operation is run by Parkrun Global Limited whose headquarters are located on Eel Pie Island, Twickenham. Not only did they successfully export the 5K run/jog/walk format but then, as their website proudly explains:

we ramped up the technology, and so the parkrun registration and barcode result system was born. Now many hundreds of thousands of parkrunners are processed, websites updated and millions of emails sent each week. The parkrun community is growing all the time – but it's all still based on the simple, basic principles formed from the start: "weekly, free, 5k, for everyone, forever."



1. The Flower Show 2. The Music Festival
3 The Parkrun 4. Hampton Court Half Marathon and 10K Events
5. Concours of Elegance



4. *Concours of Elegance*

The Concours of Elegance began at Windsor Castle in 2012, before moving to St James's Palace in 2013, Hampton Court Palace in 2014, Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh in 2015 before returning to Windsor Castle in 2016 and Hampton Court Palace in 2017 where it has remained. The event brings together a selection of 60 of the rarest cars from around the world – many of which will never have been seen before in the UK. Uniquely, the Concours of Elegance winner is not selected by a panel of judges but by the owners of the cars themselves. Each participant is asked to vote on the other models on display to decide which car is considered to be the 'Best of Show'.

5. *Hampton Court Half Marathon and 10K Events*

These two events take place in March and May each year and attract large numbers of entrants both experienced and novice. The 2021 events were each completed by around 2,000 entrants. The event starts and finishes within the park. The half marathon course exits the park and crosses Kingston Bridge. The competitors then follow the Portsmouth Road out to Littleworth Common before turning north and returning to the Palace by crossing Hampton Court Bridge. The course then follows the Barge Walk outside Home Park as far as Kingston Bridge and then turn into the park to return to the start. The 10K event starts in front of the Palace and also follows the Barge Walk before turning back into the Park at Kingston Bridge.

Historic Buildings within the Royal Parks of Hampton Court

Upper Lodge

The building that now occupies the *Upper Lodge* site is at least the third - and quite possibly the fourth - to do so. According to the Twickenham Museum website:

Upper Lodge is surrounded by mediaeval ridge-and-furrow ploughing which is so well integrated and aligned with the lodge itself that the two must be either contemporary or, far more likely, the lodge was already there when the land around it was ploughed. There is a strong possibility that Upper Lodge started its existence as a small Roman marching fort, standing just where the land starts to fall away to the River Thames. Ancient field edges, fence lines and roads clearly form a rectangular pattern neither mediaeval nor modern.

The version of *Upper Lodge* that existed in 1703 was severely damaged in the catastrophic storm of 26 November in that year. So when in 1709 Charles Montagu, 1st Earl of Halifax, purchased the keeperships at Hampton Court - including the reversion of Middle Park and Harewarren in Bushy Park - he argued that *Upper Lodge* was in such a ruinous state that it was beyond repair. Since the cost of rebuilding it was a hefty £580, the Treasury agreed to its exemption from the Bushy Park keepership and instead to lease it to Halifax personally as his country residence.

Charles Montagu was a career politician and a canny operator. He created the Bank of England in 1694 and soon persuaded Isaac Newton to become the first Master of the Mint, a position the latter held for the next 30 years. The first task facing them was to solve the problem of coin clipping - the practice of cutting small pieces from the pure gold and silver coins in circulation which could then be melted into a bar and sold to a goldsmith or used to make counterfeit coins. Their solution was to gradually call in the old silver coinage and replace it with milled coins made of base rather than precious metal. To fund the huge cost of this replacement programme, Montagu



Above left: *Upper Lodge* in 1775

Above right: The Brewhouse now used as the Bushy Park Allotments Association Seed Store

Right: Charles Montagu, 1st Earl of Halifax

Bottom: The current edition of *Upper Lodge*, built around 1840.



devised the ingenious Window Tax system whereby an individual paid tax based simply on the number of windows in his property - a purely pragmatic method of assessment which remained in place for the next 150 years.

Halifax replaced the ruinous building in Bushy Park with an elegant house based on - though slightly smaller than - the Lower Lodge (*Bushy House*). He also created the original Water Gardens that have recently been so faithfully restored with support from the Lottery Fund. The total scheme including the Brewhouse (now used by the Bushy Park Allotment Association) had cost him £1,000.

When he died suddenly in 1715, he attempted via his will to leave *Upper Lodge* and the keepership of Bushy Park to Isaac Newton's niece Catharine Barton

as a small recompense for the Pleasure and Happiness I have had in her conversation.

However it was not his to give as it automatically passed to his nephew and heir George Montagu first Earl of Halifax of the second creation who preferred to live in the far grander *Bushy House*. Catherine meanwhile married John Conduitt who succeeded her uncle as Master of the Mint and the couple probably occupied the *Upper Lodge* occasionally until her death in 1739.

The present yellow-brick house had been built by 1840 and remained a Grace and Favour Residence until the start of the First World War when its new role was to provide accommodation for soldiers' wives and families.

Then, in 1915 King George V gave permission to the Canadian Red Cross for *Upper Lodge* to be used as a hospital for Canadian troops stationed in Bushy Park. It opened in December 1915 with 30 beds. At its peak it accommodated 450 patients between the six wards in Bushy Park and the further accommodation at its auxiliary location at *Clarence House*, Roehampton. During November 1916 the average number of patients in the Hospital and Clarence House was 436, of whom 75 were amputees.

Special clinics were established for patients with heart and kidney disease. By May 1918 the staff consisted of 10 officers, 6 nursing sisters, 90 other ranks and 5 civilians accommodated in



Upper Lodge itself as well as in the substantial stable mews to the south of the main house. The war ended on 11 November 1918 and, with the signing of the armistice, the patients and personnel were gradually evacuated. The Hospital was officially disbanded on 2nd September 1919.

Meanwhile the buildings and wards were being redecorated ready for handing over the site to the next occupants - the London County Council - following George V's agreement to their using it as an open-air school for children from the East End with TB and other respiratory disorders. 70 boys were admitted each week on a rolling basis and each intake stayed for four weeks. There was a programme of classroom education, sport and entertainment - including cinema shows and wireless (radio) concerts. Parents were allowed to visit on the third weekend of their boy's stay whilst those boys in their final week of residence would provide an entertainment for the others just before they left. By the time the King's Canadian Residential Open Air School closed on the outbreak of WW2 some 70,000 boys from the smoke-filled atmosphere of Central London had benefited from a month of health-giving fresh air and fun in Bushy Park.

Upper Lodge remained vacant until it was taken over by the Air Ministry following the entry of the US into WW2 in 1941. Bushy Park itself, under the name Camp Griffiss, served as the European Headquarters for the USAAF from July 1942 to December 1944 and also as the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEP) HQ from December 1943. This was the body responsible for planning the D-Day landings.

When the Air Ministry moved out at the end of the war they were replaced by the Admiralty Research Laboratory (ARL) who had been based in Teddington since 1921. The onset of the Cold War had increased ARL's scale of operations and *Upper Lodge* and its environs would provide the expansion capacity needed to meet this. A key component for ARL was the construction of the Rotating Beam Channel facility for large-scale underwater weapon testing. The original facility, finished in 1955, featured a large 160' diameter domed structure (larger than that of St Paul's) that covered a 15' deep, 120' diameter pool. Although the original building was demolished due to contamination, the footprint was retained and the replacement building known as Rotunda House gives an idea of the scale of the original.

The buildings vacated by the Canadian Hospital were used by the King's Canadian Residential Open Air School for the next 20 years to provide a total of 70,000 boys from the smoke-filled atmosphere of Central London with a month of health-giving fresh air and fun in Bushy Park. There was a programme of classroom education alongside sport and entertainment.





Above and right

The Rotating Beam Channel facility had a dome that was larger than St Paul's Cathedral. The technician on the right gives a clue to the sheer scale as does the central gear wheel which is on display near *Upper Lodge*



Right

Rotunda House retains the same footprint and has some of the original machinery in its basement.



Below

This aerial view shows *Upper Lodge*, *Rotunda House* and the newly refurbished Water Gardens.



Barton's Cottage



When the Duke of Clarence became Ranger of Bushy Park in 1797, he used this cottage as the centre of his extensive farming operations. It was named after Sir John Barton who lived there. When it became clear that the Duke was likely to inherit the throne (as William IV) he charged Barton with managing the affairs of his mistress and the ten members of their joint but illegitimate FitzClarence family whilst he went off to Europe to find a bride to serve as his future queen. Barton served as deputy comptroller of the Royal Mint in the early part of the nineteenth century and later as Treasurer to William's wife Queen Adelaide.



King William IV
and
Queen Adelaide



White Lodge



This 2-storey house dates from early C18 and was probably part of the original Great Avenue scheme designed by Sir Christopher Wren and George London. The building is set sideways to the road and was built to close the vista from the Diana Fountain down the long Lime Avenue which meets the Chestnut Avenue there.



It is located in the eastern section of the Stockyard which also houses the park's administrative centre along with other facilities including a Field Studies Council Education Centre and the Companion Cycling organisation which provides partnered cycling for people with special needs.

Hampton Court House



This house was built in 1757 by George Montague Dunk, the second Earl of Halifax for his mistress Mrs Anna Maria Donaldson. As Ranger of Bushy Park, Halifax was based in *Bushy House* at the other end of Chestnut Avenue so the couple were conveniently adjacent but decorously separated.

The building itself is outside the park since it stands on Hampton Court Green but a section of park on the north side had been enclosed as a semicircular private garden, finally reverting back to Bushy Park in 1945 when the property was bought by Middlesex Council Council. It was then used as a home for elderly ladies until 1982 when it became a Save the Children's home occupied, amongst others, by 'boat people' - unaccompanied refugee children from Vietnam (right). It changed hands again in 1996 and opened as *Hampton Court House School* in 2001. It now has 240 pupils covering pre-nursery to 18.



The Ice House



James I of England commissioned the construction of the first modern ice house in Greenwich Park in 1619 followed by this one at Hampton Court in 1625-6. It is known to have originally been a brick-lined round well, 30 feet (9.1 metres) deep and 16 feet (4.8 metres) wide and covered with a thatched timber building. At some stage, the superstructure was rebuilt in brick, and the thatch replaced by today's tiled, pitched roof.

An ice house is a subterranean structure, built and used for the storage of ice and in turn for the preservation of food. When ice is packed together, its relatively small surface area slows down the thawing process. The ice was packed between layers of straw, keeping it frozen for as long as two years. In severe winters, ice for the Home Park Ice House would have come from the river itself. Otherwise, ice could be made from nearby Wick Pond. Early maps show two square-shaped overflows from the pond with sluices between themselves and the main pond. The water level in the overflows could be adjusted and maintained long enough to produce the ice required.

Stud House



Stud House has had a much-varied existence. It was built late in his reign by Charles II (who died in 1685) as the residence and centre of operations for the Master of the Horse who was keeper of his royal stud. Plans by Henry Wise, the King's gardener, from the early 1700s clearly show the house and nursery. During the rest of the century, the stud operations grew and expanded into more general farming with the establishment of a range of farm buildings and workers cottages.

The stud was maintained by the first three Georges, but George IV was the real founder of the afterwards famous Hampton Court Stud. In 1812 (whilst still Prince Regent), George established a stud

for riding horses of good strain,

intending that they should all be greys. He began breeding his own racehorses and spent considerable sums of money. He had 33 brood mares and many famous stallions. At the time, *Stud House* was occupied by the Prince Regent's secretary. George himself was a very frequent visitor to Home Park.

Pavilion



Today's *Pavilion*, which is the last survivor of a set of four originals, has recently been joined by a very convincing replica.

The originals were set around a bowling green and designed to provide a visual end-point for the raised terrace that William III created along Home Park's southern boundary with the river. The layout of the pavilions was simple - they were doubtless fitted out as withdrawing rooms, where tea and coffee could be served, card games played and conversation enjoyed. Anthony Highmore's charming 1744 illustration (above left) imagines the original scene with the bowling green and its four pavilions in full swing though in reality, even from the outset, they were very little used.

At first sight, there is such a difference between Highmore's representation of the pavilions and today's remaining original (top left) that one doubts they are actually the same buildings. The clue is in the position of the chimney stack which, as Highmore shows, used to be external but now protrudes from towards the centre of the roof. Everything on each side and in front of that has been added to the original, changing its character from a pleasure pavilion to a fine, if inauthentic, residence.



In 1748, Princess Amelia, the second daughter of George II, asked to be allowed to move into the two easternmost pavilions and demanded the insertion of bay windows. There were only four rooms in each pavilion, apart from those in the basements. Of these eight rooms, six were furnished as

bedrooms; there was a dining room and a second dining room which also served as a withdrawing room. The kitchen, other domestic offices, and the servants' rooms were in the basements. Amelia greatly enjoyed riding and hunting and, in addition to the two parks available to her at Hampton Court, was also able to use Richmond Park in her capacity as Park Ranger there. In 1760, King George II bought Gunnersbury Park for his favourite daughter and she left the pavilions soon after.

She was followed in 1764 by her nephew Prince William Henry, the newly created Duke of Gloucester and one of King George III's younger brothers. The Duke made regular use of all four pavilions until his death in 1805. He demanded several changes be made including the construction of a building 13 feet high to connect the two easternmost pavilions. It was a lath and plaster structure and gave him two extra rooms and an entrance porch.



The next occupant of the pavilions was Edward, Duke of Kent, the fourth son of King George III. He had made an unsavoury name for himself as a martinet and achieved the reputation of being the most hated man in the British Army. He was sent home to England and given a few appointments where he could not cause trouble. One of these was Ranger and Keeper of Home Park. He soon announced that he claimed the possession of all the buildings in the Home Park including the pavilions and *Stud House*. He demanded a survey be made of them with estimates of the cost of all the essential repairs and alterations.

The survey on the pavilions included the fact that

the basement storey ... is very damp and much decayed in parts from being frequently overflowed, the water having been at particular times from 3 to 4 feet high above the floor

and went on to say

It is proposed to raise the floors of the basement storey above the level of the highest floods, which will cause the other floors of the pavilions also to be raised; (and) to connect the pavilions with a Brick building instead of the present Lath and Plaster building.

The total cost of the projects was enormous, and the programme proposed by the Duke of Kent was not followed although, in 1811, the connecting building was rebuilt in brick. The Duke then lost interest in the pavilions and passed them to his Equerry General James Moore. In any case, the Duke had become much involved in the race to ensure the succession to the throne of the United Kingdom after the sudden death of the only heir-apparent in 1817. He returned to England with his new royal bride for the birth of their daughter, the future Queen Victoria in 1819. He died the following year.

The dilapidation of the two western pavilions was such that they were demolished sometime around 1820. The same fate apparently awaited the eastern pavilions and the linking building when General Moore's widow died in 1852. It had been intended to then pull them down. But prompted, no doubt, by her purse keeper, the Queen asserted

She was justified in expecting that the number of Houses or Apartments in Her Gift shall not be diminished.

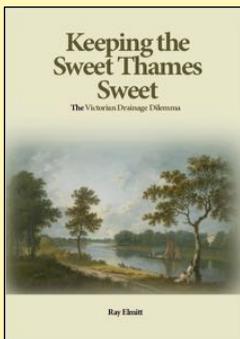
It seems that, in the face of this royal challenge, a compromise was reached. The central building and one of the pavilions was pulled down and in 1855 the remaining pavilion significantly enlarged on the south-west (river) side resulting, as previously noted, in the new position of the chimney-stack within the roofline. It resumed its role as a grace-and-favour apartment.

Ernest Law, born in 1854, had spent his boyhood at the Palace, where his mother had been granted an apartment. He carried out extensive research into the history of the Palace and this led to the publication of his *History of Hampton Court Palace* in three volumes between 1885 and 1891. In April 1894 he wrote a long letter to the Lord Chamberlain proposing that he should be appointed Curator or Surveyor of the Palace and Pictures, coupling this with the observation that the holding of such an appointment would necessitate his having a residence in the Palace.

Soon after he took possession of the *Pavilion* in 1896, he was given permission to extend it by building a library and bedrooms over the kitchen. Ernest Law was not exactly a popular man. His esteem in the locality dropped still further when he enclosed part of the Barge Walk to extend his garden and much more so when he then obtained permission, rather surprisingly, to enclose upwards of three acres of the Home Park for his own use. Following his death in 1930, the *Pavilion* had two further grace-and-favour residents until it was surrendered to the Crown Estate Commissioners in 1963 and its lease put up for auction.

In 2012, a brochure was produced in conjunction with the proposed sale of the *Pavilion* on a 120-year Crown Lease. It illustrated an approved scheme for the construction of a second pavilion to the original design and a(n) underground) building linking it to the existing pavilion. It seemed that once again, the basement of the pavilions were to be full of water, but this time intentionally ... in the form of a swimming pool. The scheme - including what became a much enlarged replica pavilion - was completed in 2019.

New and Recent Publications from Hampton Wick History



Keeping the Sweet Thames Sweet The Victorian Drainage Dilemma

Arguably the most down-to-earth yet intractable problem facing communities and their local government institutions in the second half of the nineteenth century was simply this:

how to deal with the human waste generated by an ever-growing population?

It was a topic that occupied huge numbers of column inches in newspapers and fuelled lively and sometimes bitter debate.

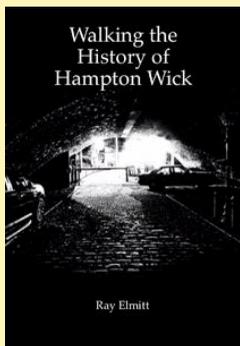
- How did such an unprepossessing issue come to force itself centre-stage on the attention of so many worthy and capable politicians - from both central and local government?

- Why did it leave them struggling to find solutions for so long?

- How was it eventually resolved?

This account seeks to answer these three questions both for Central London with its Metropolitan Board of Works and for the 27 communities in the lower reaches of the Thames from West Molesey to Mortlake.

152 pages 85 maps and illustrations Price £8.50



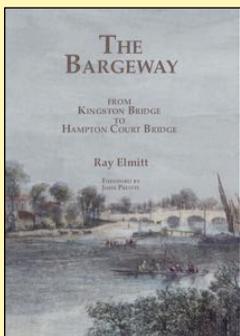
Walking the History of Hampton Wick

How to explore 300 years in 90 minutes

The idea for this book came from a guided tour I devised for the pupils of Year 2 at Hampton Wick Infants and Nursery School some years ago. To fit the school timetable it was designed to require just 90 minutes to complete and took in nine places of interest to a curious seven-year-old's mind. An adult version of the walk – on which this current volume is based – followed in 2012.

However this book has been produced in an era of Covid-19 where social distancing and government restrictions on inter-mingling preclude the use of tour guides. So the purpose of this book-version of the walk is to allow would-be explorers to self-guide themselves around the route. The original commentary script of the nine stops on the guided walk is reproduced here and it should still take 90 minutes to walk, look and read – just! But this content is now augmented with instructions on the route, information on additional items of interest to be seen along the way and details of the 14 English Heritage Listed Buildings passed en route.

66 pages 68 maps and illustrations Price £6.50



The Bargeway

from Kingston Bridge to Hampton Court Bridge

This book is about the tow path and track between Kingston and Hampton Court Bridges on the Middlesex bank of The River Thames, originally known as The Bargeway and now known as Barge Walk. It runs for nearly three miles and occupies the land between the river's edge and the boundary of the Home Park of Hampton Court Palace. Its purpose was to provide a route for horses engaged in towing barges along the river and the close of land - which covers 18 acres - was known as the Bargeway. The route had been maintained and operated since the end of the twelfth century by the Corporation of the City of London.

The arrival of railways brought about a steady decline in barge traffic whilst the invention of the steam- and later diesel-powered tugboats finally obviated the need for horses. Thus the Bargeway lost its purpose and eventually it also lost its name. Kelly's Directory referred to it as Riverbank, or Barge Walk from 1892 but in 1923 this became just Barge Walk.

The obvious way to organise a book about a route is to start at one end and travel to the other. This account makes the journey twice: firstly to acquaint the reader with what exists today and then to explain how it all came to be.

110 pages 84 maps and illustrations Price £7.50

On sale at **Priyas Local**

85 High Street, Hampton Wick (opposite the station)

Or from www.hamptonwickhistory.org.uk