

How to explore 300 years
in 90 minutes



£6.50

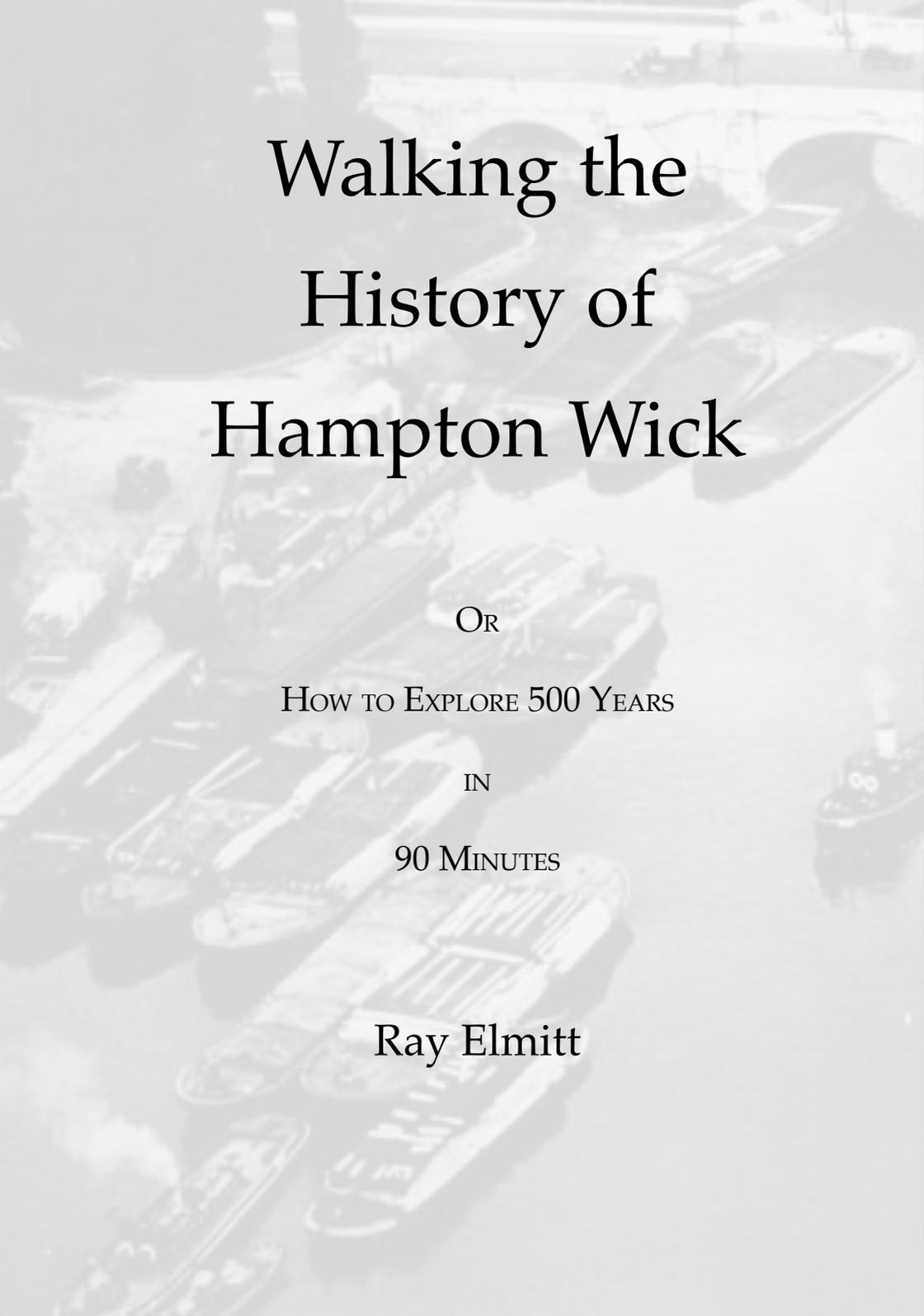
Walking the History of Hampton Wick

Ray Elmitt

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An aerial, high-angle photograph of a marina filled with numerous boats of various sizes, including yachts and fishing vessels, docked at piers. The water is a light, hazy blue, and the overall scene is slightly faded, serving as a background for the text.

Walking the History of Hampton Wick

OR

HOW TO EXPLORE 500 YEARS

IN

90 MINUTES

Ray Elmitt

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With grateful thanks to David Rees for his wonderful front cover image and his designs for the chapter headings. Also to Michael Davison and Roger Elmitt for their painstaking checking of the proofs.

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First published 2020 by Hampton Wick History
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Preface

The origins of this book stem from an initiative on the part of Heidi Johnson-Paul, then headteacher of Hampton Wick Infants and Nursery School (HWINS), to persuade someone (i.e. me) to create a young person's local history walk for her Year 2 classes. It was designed to require just 90 minutes to complete the itinerary and take in nine places of interest to a curious seven-year-old's mind. The first walk took place in 2010 and every June – until now – Year 2 have kept coming back for more.

An adult version of the walk – on which this current volume is based – followed in 2012. It too visited five of the same sites of interest as the junior version but added another four designed to appeal to the more mature explorer's interests and knowledge. It starts and finishes at the Jubilee Fountain by the Hampton Wick Library (where parking is available) and the 90-minute duration has been retained.

However the real purpose of the present book-version of the walk – produced in an era of social distancing and government restrictions on inter-mingling – 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.

Ray Elmitt
The Grove
Hampton Wick
October 2020

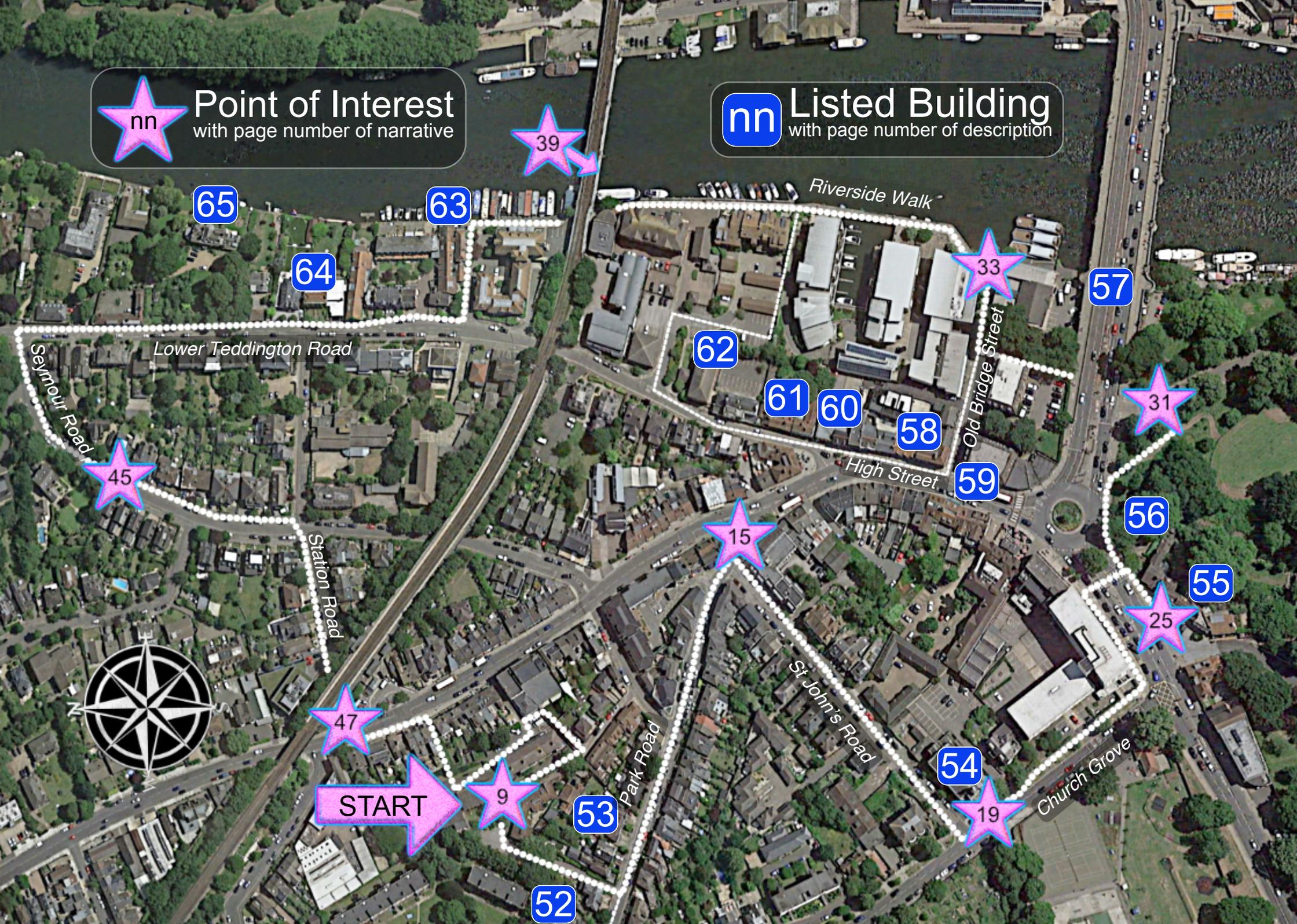
Opposite: Hampton Wick around 1740 from a map drawn by Jean Rocque (c. 1704–1762).



Point of Interest
with page number of narrative



Listed Building
with page number of description



65

63

64



57

Lower Teddington Road

62

61

60

58

59

High Street



56

Seymour Road



Station Road



55



53

Park Road

St John's Road

54



Church Grove

52



THE JUBILEE FOUNTAIN

The Jubilee Fountain was erected to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria which had been celebrated on 22 June 1897. Hampton Wick's memorial is made of Aberdeen granite standing on a raised pedestal of York stone. The lamp was originally lit by gas and the fountain itself driven by gravity although an electric motor was added later. A nice touch were the spouts at the bottom which filled drinking bowls for horses and dogs.

It was designed by Horace Fred, an architect from East Molesey. The total project cost £120 (about £10,000 today) which was raised entirely through a public subscription organised by a committee chaired by the Vicar and supported by several members of the Hampton Wick Urban District Council.

The unveiling ceremony took place on the afternoon of 15 June 1898 — almost exactly a year after the actual Jubilee. It was performed by the Queen's 63-year old niece Princess Adelheid Hohenlohe-Langenburg (who was also mother-in-law of "Kaiser Bill" — Wilhelm II of Germany).

The ceremony was a very grand affair — just how grand can be seen from this photo taken just after the unveiling. The fund-raising committee are to be seen seated with their backs to the camera immediately to the right of the fountain whilst one of their number, leaning on his cane and with his left hand on his hip, addresses the Princess (who is just out of shot on the right of the picture).

The guard of honour was made up of the members from six local fire brigades, two of which are seen drawn up outside the front of *The Foresters*. The smattering of umbrellas confirms the intermittent showers — mentioned in the contemporary newspaper report — that threatened to spoil the afternoon though the majority of the crowd seem unfazed by the weather. One elderly gentleman is solemnly raising his top hat to acknowledge the unveiling.



In front of them, to the left and just behind the fountain, the gentlemen in natty uniforms and pill-box hats are from Farban's Blue and White band and their upright piano is just visible behind the flagpole. Just in front of the Fire Brigade horse's head stands a solitary policeman – who seems to be all that is needed to control this eminently ruly crowd.

The Jubilee Fountain was moved in the 1920s to provide space for widening the entrance to Park Road. It was consequently banished to a position on the grass verge on Hampton Court Road opposite the end of Church Grove. It spent fifty years in that relative obscurity until the Hampton Wick Association moved it back to its current position outside the Library and re-missioned it – or rather double-missioned it – to serve as a memorial to our own Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 (*see below*).

Since then it has additionally been tasked to mark her Golden (2002) and – most appropriately – Diamond Jubilee (2012). And, to complete the connection with Royal Jubilee celebrations, the three-storey block of flats just behind the fountain is known as Jubilee Close, so-named because it was opened in the year of the Silver Jubilee of the Queen's grandfather George V in 1935.



With your back to the Jubilee Fountain and to Jubilee Close, walk straight ahead down Bennet Close and out onto Park Road. Turn right to view Park House (see page 52) then retrace your steps and continue down Park Road until you are standing by the phone box and facing The Foresters.

And on the way ...

The first properties on Park Road were built in the late 1820s and were located at this north west end of the street. As well as No.40 Park House, home to Fenner's Academy from 1830 until the late 1870s, they included No.38 Green Cottage designed and built by local-born architect Henry Walker in 1828 and, along with No.36 Compton Lodge which the family added in 1847, the properties remained in the Walker family until the 1940s.

The pair of semi-detached properties known as *Oak Villa* were built in 1829 by William Walton of Kingston. Initially run as a boarding school for girls and occupying both halves of the property, the school mistress – the delightfully named Mary Slow – retired in 1848 but remained living in No.34 until her death in 1866. Compared with the modest facade of *Oak Villa*, *The Priory* also built by William Walton is positively exuberant (see page 53).

The focus of attention now switches to the other side of Park Road (opposite). For almost two decades there had been no further construction but between 1849 and 1859 a total of 29 houses were built and occupied on the land that had originally been purchased by Edward Lapidge from the Crown in 1826. Much of this was now acquired by two families: the Wrights and the Huntingfords. The former family were painters/glaziers and the latter were builders so, given their complementary trades, it seems likely they were working as a consortium. The two partners built their own single-household detached properties at No.31 and No.41 in contrast to the semi-detached and terraced properties they were creating for their clients.

There are great similarities between the various styles of property but, although it was common practice for builders to use architectural "pattern books", no two properties are identical and together they make an attractive and coherent display of early-Victorian architecture.

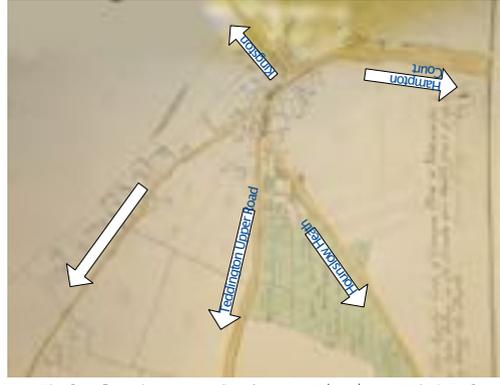




THE VILLAGE SQUARE

What spot has recently been designated as the Village Square – or, as the children of the village call it “Christmas Square” since this is where they meet Father Christmas and collect their present every December. As this 1828 map (right) of the area shows, the road are arranged rather like the tines of a trident with a bent shaft leading down to Hampton Court. The three prongs are the roads – one leading to Hounslow Heath and two to Teddington and Twickenham, the lower road taking off just down from here at *The Swan* public house.

Not surprisingly therefore, this spot has been a village hub probably for centuries. The postcard view (above) taken around 1910 shows how surprisingly little has changed with today (bottom left). The Jubilee Fountain as we know was removed. So too was the cattle trough that stood behind – but in this case the removal was unplanned. I can remember when it stood here on the corner where the tree now is. However some years ago, someone obviously fancied it as a planter and stole it during the night – next morning the village awoke, troughless. On the left is *The Prince of Wales* Coffee Tavern – changed from a Beer Tavern just a few years before the photo was taken. Number 2 Park Road was an off licence until converted into a private house in 1970.



that this is where they meet Father Christmas

And though *The Foresters* has had a facelift, it retains the same multi-paned windows that betray its Georgian origins.

Start walking back down Park Road but then turn immediately left into, and to the far end of, St John's Road. Turn left. Stand on the church entrance steps.

And on the way ...

Six years after the unveiling ceremony for the Jubilee Fountain, the High Street in Hampton Wick underwent a fundamental enforced remodelling. The London United Tram Company had obtained an agreement under the Light Railways Act to extend their existing horse drawn tram system from Brentford via Twickenham, Teddington and Hampton Wick to Hampton Court, from whence they returned direct to Twickenham.

However, Hampton Wick High Street was simply too narrow and twisty to allow the trams to pass between the existing buildings so wholesale demolition was undertaken on the east side of the road opposite the Fountain *(see opposite)*.

Under the terms of a bond dated 1903 and agreed with local councils along the tram route, London United Tramways Ltd were required to provide alternative accommodation if ten or more houses "occupied by the working classes" were purchased and demolished by the company. The residents of the old tenement blocks now found themselves rehoused in a row of brand-new properties located on the north side of St John's Road (below) which were accurately – if rather prosaically – named Tramway Flats.

The configuration of the building was unusual in that each of the five archways actually contains two front doors providing both the downstairs and upstairs flats with their own dedicated entrance, an arrangement technically known as a half-house.



A large section of the High Street (shown dotted above) was demolished by pick-axe and sledge hammer to make it wide enough to accommodate the trams. Even before the rubble had been removed, the tramlines are in place and two men are already fixing the overhead wires whilst a gang start to lay the jarrah wood blocks imported from the Swan River near Perth, Western Australia that will finally provide a mud-free surface for the convenience of other traffic and pedestrians.



1831



1863



1937



CHURCH GROVE

This map (opposite top) has fascinated me ever since I first came across it. Although perhaps rather crudely drawn, it nevertheless shows a great amount of detail and I had been intrigued to understand its origin. There are two clues: firstly, the church is referred to as St John's *Chapel* and not St John's *Church*; secondly, there is a dotted line running along the centre of the river and, when it comes on shore in the bottom right hand corner, it does a dog-leg right behind where the Hampton Wick Infants and Nursery School now stands. I finally realised that this map was in fact showing the boundary of the new parish that was created when St John's Chapel was upgraded to St John's Parish Church. We know this happened in July 1831, so this map shows exactly the state of the village at that date.

Focussing on the 10 acre lozenge-shaped area outlined in purple, the leasehold of this land – the curtilage of *Hampton Wick House* – was bought from The Crown by local architect, Edward Lapidge, in October 1825 for £4,500 (today about £15m). The following year he bought the freehold but The Crown made it a condition of sale that Lapidge should, within three months, lay out the road in front of us (then called Park Grove which only later became known as Church Grove). This was a remarkable early example of urban planning since the new road allowed through traffic to avoid the narrow and crowded High Street.

Lapidge next donated a plot of land to the Church Commissioners as the site for the proposed chapel. Unsurprisingly he was in turn awarded the contract to design and build the chapel which was begun in October 1829 and completed by the end of the following year. It cost £4,500.

The chapel – later church (see page 54) – was paid for by His Majesty's Church Commissioners. This was a body set up by Parliament in 1818 to create new parishes and provide additional churches in areas which had seen rapid population growth. This was in a period very soon after the ending of the Napoleonic Wars and only 30 years after the French Revolution which had been their cause. There was a real fear amongst the Government and Upper Classes that similar uprisings could occur in Britain and this initiative was in partial response to that threat – based presumably on the notion that people on their knees are less likely to revolt.



Above: This 1930 aerial photograph shows all four Royal grants: Hampton Wick Royal Cricket Club ground – 1863 (1), the tree-lined Church Grove gate passage – 1891 (2), The Royal Paddocks Allotments – 1921 (3) and the King's Field Recreational Park -1927 (4).

Below: The Duke of York (later George VI) formally opens King's Field.



The land behind those high brick walls opposite the church used to consist of 19 horse paddocks belonging to the Royal Stud. Half of these paddocks were the subject of four separate Royal grants to the people of Hampton Wick – which are still enjoyed by young and old. The other paddocks remain as the only royally-owned elements of Hampton Court Palace.

Rev Frederick John Champion de Crespigny became Vicar of Hampton Wick in 1858. An enthusiastic cricketer who had played at first-class level for both Cambridge University and Nottinghamshire, he wrote to Queen Victoria on behalf of his parishioners respectfully asking that, since all open spaces in Hampton Wick belonged to The Crown, would she give her permission for the villagers to create a cricket ground inside Bushy Park. Perhaps to his surprise – and no doubt the villagers delight – the Queen agreed to the request and the Hampton Wick Royal Cricket Club played its first match in July 1863.

Although Bushy Park had actually been open to the public since 1838 when Queen Victoria had decided she never intended to live at Hampton Court, the only pedestrian entrance for the villagers of Hampton Wick was on Sandy Lane (opposite Vicarage Road). In 1891 the Queen consented to a new gate being installed opposite the church which gave access into the park via a long passage which was newly created between two of the paddocks.

Thirty years later the Queen's grand-son George V signed a warrant authorising the appropriation of the five paddocks to the north of this passage covering a total of 14 acres "for the purposes of Allotments for Labouring Classes of Hampton Wick and South Teddington."

Finally, in June 1927 the same King donated two large paddocks on the corner of Church Grove and Hampton Court Way and totalling 10 acres to the youth of the village. Still known as the King's Field, facilities from the beginning included a playground, tennis courts and space for two cricket pitches. More recently a skateboard park was opened in June 1998 and attracts enthusiasts from both sides of the river.

Leaving the church on your left, walk towards the traffic lights at the southern end of Church Grove. Turn left and follow the pavement round to the left towards the bridge. Cross at the zebra crossing just before the roundabout. Turn right and follow the pavement round towards the park gates. Stop in the parking area in front of Home Park Terrace.

And on the way ...

The route is following the south-west corner of Edward Lapidge's 1825 purchase. He was a canny businessman as well as an able architect and within his lifetime (he died in 1860) over 50 houses had been built on his original 10 acre investment, some of which he both designed and built. These included *Fairlight* (*below right*) completed in 1848 and intended to serve as the vicarage for his Church of St John's. However the incumbent of the day preferring the house provided by his previously widowed rich wife declined the offer to move in and was vindicated when in 1852 the Lord Chancellor presented Hampton Wick with its own new ecclesiastical accommodation (*below left*) in high Victorian Gothic on the corner of the present-day Vicarage Road (now the site of *Ingram House*).

Lapidge's other major development was *The Terrace*, a row of ten townhouses completed by the late 1820s. Each property comprised 10 rooms ranged over three storeys as well as a basement for the servants quarters. Edward Lapidge spent much of the 1830s and 1840s living in central London and developing properties off Park Lane but returned to Hampton Wick and was living in *10 The Terrace* (*arrowed*) at the time of his death.

The photograph below was taken sometime between 1911 and 1913 from the the top floor of what is now called *Parkgate*, the recently refurbished development opposite the end of *Church Grove*. At the time of the photograph it was the premises of WH Wheeler House Furnishers and Upholsterers. The lady in a white blouse pushing a pram in the bottom left of the photograph is just turning left into the crowds on the pavement.

The heavy traffic includes not only the ubiquitous trams but also several motor cars along with open- and closed-top horse busses and a lone cyclist. The congestion would have been exacerbated by the road-works associated with doubling the bridge width.



Walnut Tree House

Early C18. Three storeys, 5 windows, brown brick, red dressings. Dentilled eaves cornice, hipped pantiled roof sash. Windows in nearly flush frames on upper floors altered on ground floor. Central door with bowed pediment and broken cornice above Corinthian pilasters.



Walnut Tree House was built in 1728 to provide accommodation for the proprietor of the brewhouse (later converted to a malthouse) located on the north side. In 1752 John Wornham Penfold, a Kingston maltster, acquired the lease of both properties and it stayed in his family for over 100 years. The house was extended to the south and by 1828 the footprint was similar to today's. However these extensions were probably more utilitarian than residential and in the 1880s were replaced by today's more substantial structures which included a coach-house.

Perhaps the best-known resident of Walnut Tree House was Richard Fortnum, son of the founder of Fortnum and Mason's, who had taken over running the grocery and tea dealers business on his father's death in 1815. Both Richard and his sister Ann divided their time between an apartment in Piccadilly and Walnut Tree House until their deaths there in the mid-1840s.

In more recent times, Walnut Tree House was both the home and surgery of Dr Gordon Feltham a much-loved and highly colourful local GP whose nature was always out-going – and out loud – often to the embarrassment of his current patient and amusement of those awaiting his ministrations.

The Grove

Large, late C18, house. Two storeys with attics. Brown brick front, 7 bays wide with 3 centre bays set slightly forward. Modillion cornice. Slated mansard roof behind shallow parapet. Central entrance contained in later front extension. River front also of 7 bays with the 3 centre bays forming canted bar. Brick faced with band at first floor level and modillion cornice which supports a shallow parapet over the centre bays and eaves at the side.



The Grove was built around 1757 by George Montagu-Dunk 2nd Earl of Halifax who had inherited the position of Ranger of Bushy Park – together with its official residence, Bushy House (now part of the National Physical Laboratory) – from his father. In the same year Halifax had also built Hampton Court House to accommodate his mistress so it is unclear what purpose The Grove was intended to serve.

In 1793, The Grove was acquired by Samuel Lapidge a surveyor working for Lancelot "Capability" Brown and who later succeeded him as Head Gardener of Hampton Court. Samuel's eldest son Edward (1779-1860) was the architect who designed Kingston Bridge, St John's Church and Hampton Wick Endowed School (demolished in the 1960s) as well as the present St Mary's Church in Hampton and St Andrew's Church at Ham. On Edward's death, ownership of the house passed via his son and two younger daughters to his great-nephew.

The Grove thus remained in the ownership of the Lapidge family for over 150 years until the death of the last survivor in 1948 when the house was converted into five properties.

Also available from Hampton Wick History



Hampton Wick: Brick by Brick is a set of three books which, in conjunction with the accompanying 1000-page website, tell the history of the 650 houses in the village - who built them and who has lived in them. *Volume 1 & 2 £9.99 Volume 3 £11.99*



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