

# Hampton-in-Arden Society

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[www.hamptoninardensociety.org](http://www.hamptoninardensociety.org)

Dear Resident,

I'd like to start my first letter as Chair by introducing myself; my name is Vicky Woodall and I've lived in the village with my husband, two sons, two cats and dog for nearly 10 years. We first moved into the then brand new Engine Mews development and then moved as our family grew to what we hope will be our forever home. Since then I've joined and become chair of the Hampton in Arden HS2 Action Group, joined the Hampton in Arden Parish Council, been involved in the restarting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Hampton in Arden Scout group and obviously joined the Hampton Society. As part of the action group, I represented the residents of Hampton in Arden in front of both the House of Commons and House of Lords Select Committees. Currently I am still actively involved in negating HS2's impact and in implementing a much-needed Traffic Calming Scheme for the village. All of this, hopefully, proves my ability to guide the Society in continuing its objectives of protecting the history, character and surrounding environment of Hampton in Arden. I would also like my time as chair to see the Society become one that is more able to reflect the issues of the residents that support it, so that we can support you.

This past year has seen a number of highly successful talks on the impact of the HS2, the impact of UK Central (given by the Deputy Mayor Bob Sleight) and the Neighbourhood Plan. We plan to continue this year with a talk from Solihull Police Commander Javid in March, in response to the increasing level of crime being experienced in Hampton. You will also be pleased to see we are planning another Hampton Quiz Night, as last year's was a highly enjoyable evening and it was wonderful to see so many different groups of people all together.

The Society has continued to represent the village in discussions with HS2, although there has been very little progress, in contesting unsuitable planning applications and in agreeing a suitable night flying plan with the airport. The History Group has given a number of presentations on the history of the village, I particularly enjoyed the exhibition on Hampton's Artistic Past, and the Conservation Group has continued their invaluable work maintaining and enhancing all the natural areas of the village. The Conservation Group is always looking for volunteers, so if you fancy rolling your sleeves up and getting your hands dirty, please let us know.

I hope you agree that the Society continues to do excellent work on behalf of the villagers, we need your support to continue this work. As always, you will find a 'membership' form in the envelope, the suggested donation remains £2 for the first person and £1 for each further adult, you can easily pay online via our website, and we are set up to claim gift aid on your donations. Without these donations we cannot continue to represent the village, or support the Conservation Group's planting or the History Group's essential archival work, so please join or renew your membership for 2018. I'd also recommend liking our Facebook page, many events and other issues relevant to the village are posted on there, you don't want to miss out.

I look forward to seeing you on 7<sup>th</sup> March for Solihull Police Commander Javid's talk.

Yours Sincerely,

Vicky Woodall