

# *It's a* SOCIAL

**WHAT: HAMPTON FERRY plus 4 km gentle walk and coffee stop (2 hrs)**

**WHEN: WEDNESDAY 8 SEPT 2021**

**TRANSPORT: FERRY, WALK, BUS**

**TIME AND MEETING PLACE:**

10.00am at Hampton Ferry, opposite The Bell Inn on Thames St, Hampton, TW12 2EW. Ends around 12 noon at Hampton Court.

**COST: £2.00 Ferry ride (bring coins)**  
Plus bus and refreshment costs as needed.

**Leader: STEPHANIE WILKINSON**



**River Ferry - Walk - Boathouse  
Coffee - Hurst Park - Nature**

**HAMPTON FERRY WALK 8 SEPT 21**

Assemble on the grassy area beside the Hampton Ferry Boathouse, where you can buy a drink and ice cream if you're early. We'll pay the ferryman £2 each (coins only please) to cross the river, in groups of 4 at a time, and reassemble in Hurst Park opposite to start our walk. Hurst Park has a genteel air today as a popular recreational space, but its colourful history includes duels, fist fights, cockfighting, hot air ballooning and horse racing. Charles Dicken's describes a popular race day in *Nicholas Nickleby*: "The little racecourse at Hampton was in the full tide and height of its gaiety; the sun high in the cloudless sky. Every gaudy colour that fluttered in the air from carriage seat and garish tent-top shone out in its gaudiest hues."\* At its height, crowds of 100,000 would gather for the carnival atmosphere by train and steamer.

A short stroll across the park will take us to our coffee stop at the lovely traditional Molesey Boat Club which has fine views of the river from the 1<sup>st</sup> floor café and restaurant (access by lift or stairs) with plenty of indoor and outdoor balcony seating. There is a wide choice of hot drinks, pastries, and brunch items on the menu. Toilets available. Molesey Boat Club was founded in 1866 and is a premier rowing club, developing many World and Olympic Champions. Whether you're into rowing or not, you'll enjoy the scenery & food.

After this relaxing pause, we will continue walking along the towpath towards Hampton Court, passing Molesey Lock where paddleboarders, kayakers and pleasure craft pass us and down the river. At Hampton Court, the walk officially ends, so feel free to bus or walk home or hang around for lunch. Look forward to seeing you.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** \* <http://www.friendsofhurstpark.org.uk/history.html>

**TO BOOK: Sign up or email Steph [swstephwilkinson@btinternet.com](mailto:swstephwilkinson@btinternet.com)  
Mob 07876 015238**

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*It's a SOCIAL - Interest-led outings & events organised by Teddington Baptist Church. Learn new things, explore wonderful places and make new friends. Come and join in the fun. Please note all outings & events are undertaken at your own risk*