



BULLETIN No 119 November 2001

Representing the views of all who live in the historic
Thameside village of Strawberry Hill.

www.shra.org.uk

Social Evening

Monday 26th November 2001

Waldegrave Drawing Room
Strawberry Hill House

Guest Speaker

Kim Wilkie

Author of The Thames Landscape Strategy

"ARCADIA IN THE CITY"

Next year is the centenary of the Richmond, Ham & Petersham Open Spaces Act 1902, protecting in perpetuity Turner's view from Richmond Hill, the cradle of the English landscape movement.

Kim Wilkie will explore this fascinating subject at the social evening jointly hosted by SHRA and the Friends of Radnor Gardens. It is a return event for Kim, who was our speaker at the very first of such annual occasions, when he introduced his Thames Landscape Strategy in 1973.

The evening begins with a wine reception at **7.30 pm**, inclusive in the ticket, price **£7.00**.

Tickets are available now from the Newsagent at 50 Tower Road.

OVERWHELMING 'YES' TO A BRIGHTER STRAWBERRY HILL

Unanimous approval for a drive to make Strawberry Hill a brighter neighbourhood was received from the recent opinion questionnaire. Moreover, a substantial number of residents have volunteered to help with clean-up projects.

Of nearly 120 responses, almost nine out of ten approved of the proposal that SHRA pay from its funds for flowers and flowerbeds – though some felt that Strawberry Hill station should be excluded.

One third of respondents volunteered to devote time to brightening up certain areas as well as the station. We look forward to contacting those 40 new enthusiasts.

Just over half of the replies approved of a Queen's Jubilee Day celebration in the village next year for both children and adults.

More than nine out of ten respondents approved of an increase in the SHRA subscription, which, at £1, has remained unchanged since the Association was founded.

The results

The results of the survey revealed that most people were enthusiastic about involvement in local activities and improving amenities:

Wellesley Road Playground

- 77% were aware of the children's playground
- 68% would like to see new play equipment for very small children
- 29% would help raise funds for new playground equipment

Royal Day Festival

- 56% would like to take part in village day to celebrate the 50th year of the Queen's reign
- 55% a party for children

Flowers and flowerbeds

- 86% approved of using SHRA funds to pay for flowers and flowerbeds
- 31% would help with the work

SHRA subscription increase

- 94% approved of an increase in the subscription
- 50% suggested it should be raised to £5 while 25% suggested £3; 2% £7 and 8% £10

Project fund

- 64% supported the creation of a project fund; a substantial number wanted clarification of the proposals before replying

NEXT ACTION

As a result of the clear leads indicated by the research SHRA committee is formulating a number of proposals.

These include:

- Seeking estimates for play equipment in the Wellesley Road playground, combined with an approach to Richmond Council to contribute towards the work from SHRA funds
- Setting up a Royal Day Committee to report to the next SHRA meeting
- Creating initiatives to brighten the station area including contact with South West Trains and local organizations
- Appointment of a sub-committee to propose a series of awards for exceptional improvements within Strawberry Hill
- Seeking approval at the April 2002 AGM for an increase in subscriptions

COUNCIL PLANS TO CALM THE STREETS

Richmond Council hope to allocate funds to review traffic calming measures in Strawberry Hill, revealed John Troke, a senior traffic engineer, when he addressed the October meeting of the SHRA committee.

Council data on traffic speeds and volume in Strawberry Hill was last obtained five years ago and further measurements are now being undertaken.

Traffic congestion and parking in Waldegrave Road has given rise to numerous complaints and consultation will take place. In the meantime a single yellow line on one side will be introduced soon.

The Cross Deep roundabout and crossing is considered dangerous, especially for cyclists. Realignment and safety measures will be implemented this year.

The extension of the CPZ regulations to deter commuter parking in Strawberry Hill will be examined and residents will be consulted.

Your views sought, plus Morning traffic jams

Richmond Council seeks the views of residents on traffic volumes, road safety and parking. Residents are asked to write to any member of the SHRA committee. Your input will be forwarded to the council. In the meantime complaints have been received about increased morning congestion in Waldegrave and Strawberry Hill Roads.

CLEANER STREETS, TOO

Committee member Mike O'Hagan and a Council representative carried out an inspection of litterbins. It was found that many bins were rusted and overflowing.

The Committee has been informed that all bins will be replaced with sturdier, larger bins before the end of the year.

Fragrant Gesture

The tubs outside the Melting Pot have been turned into herb pots. A resident has generously offered to look after the tubs and plant herbs from her garden. The volunteer hopes that passers-by will pick the herbs for culinary use. The first selection includes mint, chives, thyme, marjoram and oregano.

Pavement Watch

Inspections by Committee members reveal that the greatest number of cracked pavements is in the village centre where they may be caused by parked lorries delivering to local shops. No response was received from residents following the Pavement Watch item in the last Bulletin.

CLEAN AWAY GRAFFITI DAY

The Clean Up Twickenham Campaign has offered SHRA assistance in the form of materials and technical advice. As this is a problem, which affects everyone, the Committee would like to hear residents' views on taking part in a Strawberry Hill Anti-Graffiti Day. Please contact any Committee member.

PLANNING APPROACHES

The SHRA joint chairs have received approaches from property developers offering to show plans for developments in the area. These offers have been declined because SHRA takes the view that the role of the Committee is to reflect the opinions of residents where there is a significantly large number of voices for or against a project. SHRA does not seek proactively, or unilaterally, to create support or opposition to development proposals.

PLANNING DECISIONS

Several issues concerning areas close to Strawberry Hill have been brought to the Committee's attention. In particular, Twickenham Riverside and concerts at the Rugby Ground. SHRA Committee is to examine the extent to which it should represent residents' views on issues that are outside the immediate area. Notably:

Rugby ground disharmony?

The Planning Inspector's decision to permit three concerts at the Rugby ground between June and October next raises issues about the impact on local infrastructure, notably transport and crowds in densely packed residential areas.

An application by the RFU for unlimited music concerts without seeking fresh planning permission was turned down by the High Court, Permission for an appeal was granted.

Riverfront plans

Wide scale disagreement has been expressed with Richmond Council's proposals for the swimming baths site. Residents might consider that the site is close enough to Strawberry Hill to warrant representation from SHRA..

A scheme developed by the late **Ken Hathaway** has also received planning permission from the Council. Plans to implement this are now being drawn up, and fundraising has begun to pay for the necessary work.

Details of the scheme can be found at:

<http://www.twickenhamriver.org.uk/designs.htm>



The Riverside Site

CCTV AND SECURITY

A joint approach to the Home Office by Richmond Council and the Police for funds to improve Borough security through increased siting of CCTV cameras has been turned down. This means that cameras planned for the village centre and station will not now go ahead.

BANK ON IT

Cash withdrawal and deposits are now available at the Post Office and Costcutter.

Post Office: cash deposits, cheque deposits (ask for a special deposit envelope) and cash withdrawals can be made if you bank with any of the following: Alliance and Leicester, Barclays, Cahoot, The Cooperative Bank, Lloyds TSB, Smile.

Costcutter: withdrawals can be made from the cash point machine (cost - £1.25 per withdrawal.)

BLOWING BUBBLES

The winners of the champagne draw from the Opinion questionnaire are **Sarah and David Pennant** of Upper Grotto Road.

TWICKENHAM MUSEUM

Work continues at 25 The Embankment to prepare the Twickenham Museum for its formal opening in early 2002.



The Twickenham Museum

The house is the generous bequest of Jack Ellis, the former owner, and will run its first pilot exhibition before Christmas featuring pubs and high streets of Twickenham, Teddington, Whitton and The Hamptons.

As Strawberry Hill is noticeably absent, donations or loans of old photographs and artefacts illustrating the life of the riverside village would be greatly appreciated.

Benefactors should contact:

The Hon. Secretary
The Twickenham Museum
36 Gothic Road
Twickenham TW2 5EH

Tel: 020 8241 9011

STRAWBERRY HILL HISTORY

Copies of '**Strawberry Hill – A History of the Neighbourhood**' written by **Anthony Beckles Willson**, can be purchased for £5 from The Secretary, Clare Phelps, at the address on the front page.

The history has a topographical bias; much has already been written about Pope and Walpole. This book is mainly about the place they lived in and where we live today.



INTERESTED IN STUDYING HISTORY IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

St Mary's College at Strawberry Hill now offers a number of part-time courses in History for all.

Courses are designed to suit adult learners. You do not need any background or qualifications in the subject.

They are taught on campus at Strawberry Hill, the site of Horace Walpole's 18th century Gothic villa.

Courses take place during weekdays and they may be taken purely for leisure and interest or for credits towards a degree of the University of Surrey.

Our tutors are experts in their subject areas and experienced in teaching adults

The History Courses are:

**The Renaissance in Europe or
The Middle Ages: An Introduction**

**Modern World Revolutions or
War and Society in Modern Europe**

In 2002-3 it is anticipated that we will offer courses in Tudor and Stuart history and in Modern British history.

For more information please contact:

Dr Glenn Richardson, Director, History Programme,
St Mary's College, Waldegrave Road, Twickenham
TW1 4SX

E-mail: richardg@smuc.ac.uk
Tel: 0208 240 4087

YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2001

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Forthcoming SHRA Committee meetings:

- January 14, 2002
- March 4, 2002
- April 8, 2002 – AGM

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION OF £1.00 PER PERSON FOR YEAR 2001

This subscription renewal may be made by cash or cheque made payable to Strawberry Hill Residents' Association. Hand to either:

- (a) Richard Spires, 70 Pope's Avenue, TW2 5TT
(b) Costcutter by the station

DONATIONS ALWAYS WELCOME!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Date: _____

Amount: _____