



BULLETIN No 121 November 2002

www.shra.org.uk

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

DIGGING IN

Hard digging by SHRA volunteers at the small garden area next to Threshers has transformed an rubbish strewn eyesore into what promises to be a pleasant flower bed.



Nor is that all. As part of the plan to brighten this corner, the Council has built a large square planter which SHRA has filled with sturdy perennials.

The Council has also installed three bicycle racks.

Green fingers?

SHRA will fund the planting of an attractive scheme designed by Jeannie and Cliff Edwards (above left with Clare Phelps). Volunteers with green fingers are sought to help with the planting.

We also want to draw up a rota to look after the garden throughout the year. Please contact Clare Phelps on the number below.

STATION FLOWERS

Now that South West trains has planted flowers and bushes in two flower beds beside the station platforms, SHRA no longer feels it is necessary to proceed with its offer to subsidise and maintain these flower beds.

Pigeons curbed

SHRA also welcomes South West trains response to our complaints about pigeons roosting above the seats at the station. Netting and spikes have been installed above the seats and elsewhere with a noticeable reduction in this nuisance

HOT PUNCH AND SEASONAL CAROLS

**Joint SHRA and Friends of Radnor Gardens
Annual Meeting 6.30pm December 4, 2002
Holy Trinity Church
(opp Twickenham Green)**

SHRA and the FoRG joint annual meeting will be an all-family affair this year featuring hot punch for adults and hot, spicy (and non-alcoholic) drinks for children.

All denominations and religions are welcomed - especially to join in the singing led by the church choir.

A shortened lessons and carol service will be led by the Rev Michael Starkey And Curate Lynn Hellmuth

Tickets: are not required; the celebratory punch and children's drinks are free, but donations on the night will be gratefully received.

close to the station entrances.

More bins needed

Meanwhile, SHRA continues to receive complaints that rubbish bins in some parts of Strawberry Hill are overflowing with domestic rubbish - in particular the bin in front of St James's Hall. The Council has been asked to look into this matter.

COLLEGE RADIO MASTS

Following concerns from residents about the installation of mobile phone radio masts at Strawberry Hill College, SHRA has corresponded with the College over issues of health and safety.

In the meantime, Richmond Council has given planning permission for a radio mast to be installed on the science block.

RUBBISH BINNED

Two new post box style rubbish bins have been placed outside Londis/Threshers and on the grass verge opposite Wellesley Parade. They replace three old bins.

The bins are sited in new positions for security reasons, according to Richmond Council, which says they must not be located

RADNOR GARDENS MUSIC DAY Up, Up and Away - as far as Essex

The Music Day Free Balloon Race organised by SHRA to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee was won by a Whitton resident whose balloon was judged to have travelled the furthest. It was carried to Braintree in Essex. Both the respondent and the winner received prizes. Over 120 balloons were released.



MAJESTIC OAK



As the second part of its Jubilee commemoration SHRA has arranged for an oak tree to be planted in Radnor Gardens in November.

Cllr Doug Orchard, Twickenham's Mayor, cut the turf during his visit to Music Day.

SHED LOADS OF NOISE

Residents in Strawberry Hill Close have complained that they are being kept awake at night by work on the old railway sheds. These are being refurbished and the work is expected to last four years.

SHRA has written to Railtrack asking why the work has to be done overnight and not during the day.

AUTUMN TRAFFIC STUDY

The study of traffic conditions in Strawberry Hill, promised by the Council last year, is now taking place. A questionnaire seeking residents' views on traffic issues was distributed by the Council during the week of October 21. Replies should be returned by the end of October.

COUNCILLORS

Two newly elected Cllrs for South Twickenham, David Marlow and Clare Head, attended the October meeting of the SHRA committee to update us about their council roles and to offer help with local issues. They can be contacted by e-mail on: cllr.dmarlow@richmond.gov.uk and cllr.thead@richmond.gov.uk.

BOLLARDS

SHRA is to fund the placing of bollards in front of the wall facing station yard to prevent damage to the wall by cars. The Council will be requested to undertake the work.

TOOTH SOME NEWS

A spicy newcomer will shortly replace the old Melting Pot cafe in Wellesley Parade. Mr Sutee Chutpinyacoub re-opens the cafe as a Thai restaurant.

'Fill Your Boots' is opening next to the station between 7am and 3pm for the sale of coffee and sandwiches.

SHRA also welcomes a new dentist to the village centre, Mr David Starr, who undertakes both NHS and private work.

SAFETY IN STRAWBERRY HILL

South Twickenham is one of the safest spots in the Borough of Richmond according to police statistics relating to burglaries. A total of 37 burglaries were committed on residential and non-residential premises in the period April - July this year. The highest number of burglaries were reported in the Mortlake & Barnes Common district; the lowest number was recorded in Hampton with 28.

Accord, the Richmond Action in Community Newsletter, has been distributed to all homes in Strawberry Hill. It contains useful telephone numbers as well as safety tips.

GRAFFITI REMOVAL

The Council is pledged to fight graffiti. You can register your Graffiti Removal Request on the Council website:

www.richmond.gov.uk.

Signage

The committee is concerned about the quality of signage in the Village, and this includes shop fronts. Views have been expressed that some of the signs are crude. SHRA will take up these issues to see if an acceptable outcome can be negotiated, but friendly persuasion is our only course.

A reader writes...

The great Xmas tree mystery - Part 2



I think I can solve part of the mystery of the Christmas trees.

I had a superb flowering cherry tree outside my house which the Council cut down leaving a 2 feet stump. I decided to use it as a base for a Christmas tree.

On the same night that your tree went walkabout, mine also went AWOL. When I later saw them reunited at Strawberry Hill station, I decided to leave them together and took the enclosed photograph!.

The story has a happy ending. The Council replaced the old cherry tree with a wild cherry planted in time to blossom this spring.

- Brian Booth.

Planning Matters

SHRA represents the interests and views of residents on planning matters considered appropriate by the committee of the day. Planning applications are scanned by SHRA's planning liaison officer, Robin Walters, and raised with the committee if thought worthy of debate. This does not replace the prime function of individual initiative and the role of ward councillors.

Residents living in Strawberry Hill, or organisations with interests in the area, are welcome to make their views known to the SHRA committee regarding planning applications and local government planning decisions. In deciding whether SHRA should become involved, the committee members take into account:

- a the merits of the case
- b the number of residents calling for action
- c whether the issues fall within an agreed strategy or list of causes adopted by SHRA
- d support for the work of other local amenity groups where appropriate
- e support for the work of the Council or individual ward councillors where appropriate

TWICKENHAM RIVERFRONT/SWIMMING BATH SITE

The new Council has reversed the recommendation of the Development Control Committee

Two groups are at work on new proposals:

- 1 The Twickenham Terrace Group with an updated version of Ken Hathaway's scheme, for which no developer is required and planning consent has already been given.
- 2 The Twickenham Society Group, under the leadership of Judith Lovelace, chair of the Twickenham Society, and Jack Betteridge of the Eel Pie Island Association, have submitted a discussion paper, recommending a low-scale, river-related development with a modest funding requirement.

The Council has no alternative proposal, and is currently in discussion with both groups.

Strawberry Hill Village

Wellesley Parade on the north side of the tracks has two unfinished developments, with no sign of a reliable completion date for either. Planning consent has long since been given for both; so there's no hold-up there.

On the south side, 35 Tower Road, we are advised by the selling agent that the block of flats planned should be completed by April next year.

Ownership of the whole terrace adjacent to the 35 Tower Road development has changed hands, and the new owner has applied for planning permission to open an office.

The flats above the shop premises are being upgraded, with the addition of an new penthouse on top.

SHRA cannot interfere with any of these developments; the committee can only represent your concerns to the owners.

4,5 and 6 Wellesley Terrace (The Melting Pot Site)

The restaurant will also serve take-away food. The Council have granted permission for extended hours up to 11 o'clock at night for an experimental period of 12 months from the date of opening. They are sensitive to the response of the community, and, if the experiment gives rise to complaints, hours may be restricted again after the period of licence.

317 Waldergrave Road

This is the key peninsular site at the junction of Waldegrave and Tower Roads. The development is a modern block of 5 apartments for which planning consent has been granted, subject to approval of materials and finish by the Council. The architects are in consultation with the Council, and the owners are hoping to commence work early in the new year.

46 - 48 Grange Avenue

Try Homes have failed in three attempts to get a development of 5 town houses through the Council, and have been rejected at every appeal. There is to be a hearing before the Government Inspector on 26 November.

SHRA is supporting the Grange Avenue Residents' Association in their opposition to the proposal, and have asked to speak at the hearing. The proposed development would be at the end of a narrow cul-de-sac, with high density housing on both sides of the road. The SHRA committee believe that the proposed development is wholly inappropriate in the circumstances.

48 Grange Avenue remembered

Jane Matthews from Addlestone, Surrey, writes: *My father, Bill King, built 48 Grange Avenue soon after the war. He bought all the land on which the two bungalows are sited and divided it into two plots (there is no no 44!) and sold no 46 to Mr and Mrs Sewell. We moved in as a family in the early 1950s, so we remember the Strawberry Hill of old.*

My parents sold up in 1988. When my mother and I heard about the plans for the bungalow. We went back to have a last look and wished we hadn't; we were most upset. I should be interested to know if the bungalows are still standing.

YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2002

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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.



Unveiling of the Strawberry Hill Christmas Tree

Following the enthusiastic reception to last year's Christmas Tree at Wellesley Parade, SHRA plan to place another - bigger and better - this Christmas.

The unveiling of the tree will take place on the green beside the station at 11am on December 14 - Free punch and mince pies.

THE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION/TWICKENHAM RUGBY GROUND

The RFU have applied for planning permission to redevelop the South Stand and to build a 200-bed, four star hotel with underground parking, conference and exhibition space, a health and fitness club, office space for the Union and a new RFU store. The development is estimated to cost £80 million at the moment, and will accommodate another 7000 fans.

The Council has not yet initiated public consultation. However, in its application for Lottery funds to host the Rugby World Cup in 2007, the RFU included revenue streams from the new facilities in their business plan. Lottery funding of £8 million was granted, of which the RFU has already received £7 million.

A great many people live on the south side of Whitton Road, and we have received initial appeals for help from the Whitton Road Residents' Association and Heatham Residents' Association, and more are likely to follow.

We cannot escape deciding where we stand on this issue - particularly as the RFU has applied to erect hospitality marquees on Twickenham Green and in Radnor Gardens on rugby days, bringing the whole show (cars, coaches, fans, street traders, etc) to our doorstep.

The committee will be consulting with the Twickenham Society and Friends of Radnor Gardens, as well as other amenity groups and residents' associations, and will keep you advised.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Should residents wish to draw the attention of the SHRA committee to local issues, please note the dates of upcoming committee meetings when they can be discussed:

Monday - January 13
Monday - March 3
Monday - April 7 - AGM

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION OF £1.00 PER PERSON FOR YEAR 2002

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:	