



BULLETIN No 122

March 2003

www.shra.org.uk

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

BLOOMING MARVELLOUS!

The rock garden beside Threshers, planted with small conifers and heathers, has drawn unanimous praise. The plants, paid for by SHRA, were dug in during the Autumn to a planting plan devised by Jeannie and Cliff Edwards, to whom we owe much thanks.



Cliff and Jeannie Edwards with Mike Phelps hard at work

What was once an eyesore is now a pleasant feature of the village centre. The garden is planned to be self-maintaining, but should green-fingered enthusiasts wish to volunteer to trim and tidy, their services will be warmly welcomed (Please contact the Secretary, Clare Phelps.)

The final touch to the garden was the placing of stout wooden bollards in front of the parking spaces to prevent cars driving into the wall. This work was carried out by Richmond Council and funded by SHRA – i.e, your subscriptions paid for it.

The Council also provided the bicycle stands - which are used daily – adding a functional value to the site as well as the large square planter planted with hardy geraniums. The Council tarmacked the area to complete the neat appearance.

FOCUSING ON TRAFFIC

Focus groups of residents and local businesses are to be set up by Richmond Council to discuss solutions to traffic issues in Strawberry Hill.

SHRA and Ward Councillors will be invited to be members of these workshops.

The five workshops will be seeking opinions and potential solutions covering: road safety; public transport; cycling; walking and parking.

The decision to set up the workshops was taken following the Strawberry Hill Local Area Study. The study is being taken forward by Lisa Fenn, Senior Engineer for Traffic Planning who has succeeded John Troke. (see Counting Cars on page 2)

COMMUNITY BEAT

Petty crime around the shops and station is one of the issues raised with the two new community Police Officers, PCs Sandra Bown and Will Flint who are responsible for dealing with non urgent crimes and incidents in the area.

To learn more about residents' concerns, policy surgeries are being held once a month at St James's Hall Radnor Road. For all surgery dates, please see the SHRA community notice board at Strawberry Hill station.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

News...views...and updates on issues of importance from transport to planning including...

- Election of the SHRA committee
- Subscriptions increase
- Parking and transport
- Rubbish collection

Cllr. Clare Head will attend

Monday, April 7, 2003
Waldegrave Room
Strawberry Hill House

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm

All residents who receive copies of The Bulletin are automatically members of SHRA. New committee members are always welcome. Please contact any committee member for details.

COUNTING CARS

The Strawberry Hill traffic survey undertaken in November aroused questions and complaints from householders who felt they had been left out of the questionnaire.

The survey was confined to an area around the station rather than the whole of Strawberry Hill. It also asked general questions about traffic on which many other people felt they should have been consulted.

Responding to queries from SHRA, John Troke, formerly Richmond Council's Senior Engineer for Transport Planning, said that most of the correspondence about transport issues related to Waldegrave Park, Waldegrave Road, Strawberry Vale and Wellesley Road.

Study scope

These four roads were included and the boundary of the South Twickenham Ward was used as the southern and western edges of the study area.

Mr Troke wrote to SHRA: "It was decided that the existing South Twickenham CPZ would not be included. This includes roads such as Radnor Road and Popes Grove. It would not be feasible to consult all of Strawberry Hill so it was decided that it would benefit more local residents if they study on the local centre, namely Wellesley Road."

Mr Troke added that about 1600 addresses were consulted. New schemes would only be introduced after consultation with residents. The study would only be used as an indication of local public opinion.

BIN FINES

Overflowing rubbish bins resulting from people dumping domestic waste in them is a constant source of concern.

Now, Malcolm Sharpe from Richmond Council's Environmental department, and his team of environmental officers, are on the look out for offenders. Elsewhere in the Borough several offenders who have been identified dumping domestic rubbish have been prosecuted and fined heavily.

Shop bins

At SHRA's request, Mr Sharpe has surveyed bin use in Strawberry Hill. He plans to install two extra bins in the shopping area of Strawberry Hill - probably in late April. One will be sited near the Chemist, making two bins in Wellesley Road; an extra bin will be placed outside the shops in Tower Road. The old style bin outside St James's Hall will be replaced with a post box style bin.

CLEANER STREETS?

Residents' views on the state of street cleaning are sought. There is some evidence that since Serviceteam, the new contractor, took over the cleanliness of roads in Strawberry Hill has improved.

Serviceteam has given us their street cleaning rota for Strawberry Hill. Residents who wish to know when their roads will be swept should contact Clare Phelps.

WILLOW MEMORIAL

Following advice from David Partridge, Richmond Council's Trees Officer, SHRA will fund the replacing of two majestic willows on the river front in Radnor Gardens.

These will replace the planned memorial oak which was to be planted to commemorate Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee. The turf at the old site was turned by The Mayor on Music Day.

The willows, a traditional part of the Thameside, will complete the avenue on the river front and will be planted by Council gardeners this Spring.

A meeting with David Partridge was held in Radnor Gardens in January, at which both SHRA and Friends of Radnor Gardens were present, to discuss ways of keeping the gardens in good condition, preventing damage and dealing with graffiti on the gazebo and summer house.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF GARDEN PARTY

A garden party with a difference - that is, a party to do gardening at Radnor Gardens in April - is being planned.

The date is April 12 and the plan is to tidy the rockery; the time: 10am; venue: the gazebo.

Enthusiasm is more necessary than gardening skills, but trowels and hand forks are essential. Cuttings such as Cistus Rock Rose, Aubretia, perennial Candy Tuft, Bergenia Cordifolia, or any hardy rock plants - i.e tough survivors - will be welcomed.

CAROL SERVICE

The year-end carol service at Holy Trinity Church in December was a departure from the usual joint Friends of Radnor Gardens and SHRA event.

The service of lessons and carols was conducted by The Rev Michael Starkey with superb singing by the church choir.

Mulled wine and mince pies completed the evening.

Planning Matters

METROPOLITAN OPEN LAND

The framework of land use in Britain is largely provided by the town and country planning system under which local authorities are obliged to prepare plans for land use in their areas. For the purposes of protecting wildlife and the natural environment, some land will be designated Metropolitan Open Land.

This has similar status to Green Belt Land. The local authority is obliged to protect and conserve it by keeping it in predominantly open use for as far as can be seen ahead. A good example of Metropolitan Open Land in Strawberry Hill is the Wellesley Road playing field.

As part of the review of land use in the Borough, the Council propose to reconsider the status of certain sites that are currently designated Metropolitan Open Land and to redesignate them to allowing building.

None of the sites under threat are in Strawberry Hill, but in future they might be. Changes in status of these sites under threat will affect the character of the Borough as a whole and should be the concern of everyone.

SHRA is opposed to the proposals in principle and has lodged a complaint. This is partly to ensure that we are notified of any intention to reassess the status of Metropolitan Open Land in our area.

POOLSIDE RENEWAL

SHRA is represented on the TS Riverside Steering Group which is submitting ideas for the second stage of the development of the Twickenham Pool site.

The second stage plan should be ready for consideration by Richmond Council in June next year.

Meanwhile, the first stage of the revised pool plan will see the old pool building replaced with a short term scheme featuring a raised walkway with seats, two childrens play areas and steps from the embankment to give access. The pool area will be fenced off and scheme enhanced with soft and hard landscaping

A longer term scheme foresees the development of a public piazza with a mix of residential, retail and cafe/restaurants.

A public building, such as a viewing tower or river museum, is also being considered.

Both stages will go through normal planning procedures. Stage one should be completed by end March 2004.

GRANGE AVENUE SUCCUMBS

After two years resistance, residents opposed to the development in Grand Avenue have been disappointed. The planning application for the demolition of two bungalows and construction of five town houses and a block of six flats has been approved by the Planning Inspectorate following a hearing at York House in November.

SHRA supported the residents, and Robin Walters, who follows planning matters for SHRA, spoke at the hearing.

The principal objections was that the development would generate significant extra traffic flow that would have to pass up and down the whole length of the road. Grange Avenue is a cul-de-sac crowded with houses; the open wooded site provided relief.

The appeal was allowed and, under a S.106 agreement, the Council is to receive £15,268 in respect of education provision and £4,000 for highway improvements.



Five houses and six flats to be built here.

COLLEGE RADIO MAST

SHRA received several complaints from residents concerned about plans to install a mobile telephone radio mast on the science block at St Mary's College. SHRA took up these concerns; however, the mast is now in place.

YOUR COMMITTEE

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Some members will be seeking re-election, others will be standing down at the AGM. We welcome two new members: Kate Johnson and Gus Grewall.

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 - June 23rd

Monday - September 1st

Monday - November 10th

Monday - January 12th 2004

Monday - March 8th 2004

Monday - April 5th 2004 AGM

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.



HOLD THE FRONT PAGE!

You are reading this newsletter thanks to the dedication of The Bulletin's distribution team to whom we all owe many thanks. Now some new Bulletin distributors are being sought, especially for Strawberry Vale, Radnor Road and Mallard Place.

The work is not arduous – twice a year – and covers your immediate road or roads. We are also looking for occasional volunteers who can be called on when the permanent distributors are not available. Please contact Clare Phelps if you can help.

The Friends of Radnor Gardens

MUSIC DAY BECKONS By Pat Schooling, Vice Chair FRG

After the success of last year you will certainly want to be at this year's Music Day and Fair in Radnor Gardens. The date is June 22 and, as before, will feature a top line programme of rock, pop and r&b.

This annual event took a giant leap forward with the help of generous sponsorship by the RFU who are backing it again.

Last year raised a fantastic £10,000 and the Friends are looking to top it this year. The need is urgent, because Lottery Fund grant has been promised, but funding has to be part-matched by voluntary contributions before restoration work can get under way.

The help of volunteers on the day is more important than ever - for stewarding, selling programmes, manning the gates and information point, helping with refreshments and the Pimms Bar.

If you can offer an hour or so through the day, please contact Ben Makins on 020 8892 6244 or e-mail him on bmakins@blueyonder.co.uk.

If you would like to have stand space or take part in the food area, contact Robert Beattie on 020 8255 9947 or e-mail FriendsofRadnorGardens@btopenworld.com.

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION OF £1.00 (minimum) PER PERSON FOR YEAR 2003

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 Strawberry Hill Station

DONATIONS ALWAYS WELCOME!

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