

## AGM Special: the colourful story of Strawberry Hill House

The SHRA annual general meeting, to which all residents are invited, will take place at **7pm, Monday April 3rd**, in the Waldegrave room of Strawberry Hill House. Residents will hear a report of the association's activities for the year as well as feedback from the annual opinion survey. This year, SHRA has linked with the Friends of Radnor Gardens to seek your views about the gardens following abandonment of the Arcadia plan.  
(See the enclosed questionnaire)

Residents will have the opportunity to quiz the SHRA committee and to raise points of concern and matters for action.

A new feature of this year's AGM will be an entertaining, short history of the remarkable gothic house by Michael Snodin, Chairman of the Friends of Strawberry Hill (FOSH)

The project to restore Hugh Walpole's amazing 18<sup>th</sup> century fantasy, now a national treasure, has been granted nearly £5 million pounds by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

A gripping history of Strawberry Hill, the house and its creation, written by Anthony Beccles Willson and published by SHRA is available from Ottaker's or Langton's bookshop, Twickenham, or from the SHRA secretary.



*SHRA recently donated £1,000 for the restoration of historic chairs from Walpole's time. Eugene Bacot, SHRA chairman presented a cheque to Michael Snodin (left) at the FOSH AGM in January.*

## Station survey reveals habits and usage

The first rigorous study into residents' use of Strawberry Hill station and its importance in their lives, is revealed by the joint St Mary's College-SHRA survey undertaken last year.

The survey shows that while almost everybody uses the station at some time - over 90% - only 25% use it every day. Forty per cent of those questioned had made journeys to or from Strawberry Hill in the last five days.

Of the frequent users, 53% were business commuters while the remainder used it for leisure or shopping. Spurred by the re-phasing of trains times through Strawberry Hill, the survey was supported by SWT which made available the professional advice of MORI, the market research company.

The impact of the new timetable is shown in the number of negative responses to about the train service. Nearly half of frequent users said the new timetable had lengthened their working day by 30 minutes or more or created other inconveniences.

By contrast 25% of users registered positive attitudes for the trains' enhanced punctuality and reliability. A detailed cross-referenced analysis of the study is being prepared. The study was undertaken by second year geography students, led by Kevin Cook, head of department, as part of their degree course.

Local shops CostCutters and the Post

Office played an important role in distributing and receiving questionnaires. The survey examined three major sectors:

- who used the station
- how they accessed and used it the impact of the revised timetable.

The survey also produced sociological data about residents.

(see Page 3 *Insight into your lives*)

### Richmond - Kingston link revived, but a long way off

Proposals to create a rail link from Richmond to Kingston passing through Strawberry Hill are once again under discussion.

This time the plan is to extend the Silver Link north London line.

The scheme is unlikely to begin for decades, if at all, but would provide more access to London and more trains.

The plans to extend the London Underground Crossrail scheme to Kingston created a great deal of concern in Richmond where residents' property would have been compulsorily purchased.

A new plan might be less invasive of property.

Geoff Pope, Strawberry Hill resident, is

vice chair of the London Assembly Transport Committee and will be consulting SHRA and residents.

Geoff says: "Now that Transport for London is beginning to take over responsibility for some of London's railways, there is an opportunity to integrate transport in the Capital."

### 20 year plan

A 20 year plan is being developed which foresees the number of train users growing by 30%, but it is not clear how this will impact on Strawberry Hill.

Longer trains, more frequent trains and a direct link from Heathrow's terminal 5 are all under discussion.

## You can choose Tower Road parking curbs

Numerous complaints about all day parking by commuters and others in Tower Road has led to calls for a short stay parking scheme. Shopkeepers as well as shoppers are affected.

Now Richmond Council is seeking residents' suggestions for the time and duration of the restrictions. A transport department ques-

tionnaire is being distributed to homes around the station. The Council proposed to set up four short term parking bays outside shops number 50, 52, 54 and 56. Three options are proposed:

- controlled parking from 8.30am to 10.30am with a maximum stay of one hour
- controlled parking from 8.30am to 6.30pm with

maximum stay of one hour

• No change to the existing parking times

Residents are asked if they are in favour of controls and whether they would like the maximum stays of one hour, 30 minutes, 20 minutes. The deadline for replies is March 27 in preparation for a report to the Ward councillors and the Traffic, Trans-

port and Parking cabinet member with a view to reaching a decision in early April.

### SHRA request

*SHRA has asked that the survey be extended to all residents' homes and that the scheme can include Wellesley Parade.*

### Train and station survey

## An insight into your lives

Detailed analysis of the lifestyles, incomes and ages of Strawberry Hill residents will also be revealed by the St Mary's College-SHRA survey which produced a very high response rate of 23%.

Of the 850 questionnaires distributed on the station platforms by students and through local shops, 296 replies were received and analysed

Pending the detailed data, topline analysis shows that:

- The majority of respondents were aged between 36 and 45
- respondents' incomes ranging between £30,000 and £49,000 per year.
- one in ten of the station users are students at St Mary's College
- most people access the station on foot
- a small minority bicycle to the station
- two thirds of respondents complained about the impact of the revised timetables
- Few had changed their travel habits
- one in twelve used another station

•four out of ten said that proximity of the station had influenced their decision to buy a home in Strawberry Hill

### MORI contribution

The contribution of professional researchers at MORI was key to the success of the project. MORI assisted St Mary's students with the framing of questions and the preparation of the questionnaire.

A MORI researcher also lectured students at St Marys - field research is an important part of the Geography degree course.

Kevin Cook said: "MORI made a very important contribution to the course. We could not have done it so well without them. Nor could we have achieved such a big response without the enthusiasm of Costcutter and the Post Office in taking in and distributing the question forms."

### Parking Hotline

Illegally parked cars near your home will be removed if you call 02087440462 between 7am and 12pm.

### Police teams for a safer area

From April, Twickenham south ward, which includes the boundary of Strawberry Hill, will be assigned its own neighbourhood police team.

The team can only be withdrawn in cases of unusual security situations.

The team will consist of one sergeant, one police constable, and two police constable support officers. More officers might be added to the team next year.

Location of the team's base is still to be decided. Telephone numbers and e-mail addresses will be supplied later and posted on the station notice board and in The Bulletin.

### Police surgeries

Officers from the west and south wards have started holding police surgeries in the cricket pavilion on Twickenham Green. Residents may meet and speak to the police about local issues. *Date of the next surgery is: Wednesday, March 15 from 2pm to 4pm*

### Please help distribute The Bulletin

Two more people are needed to distribute The Bulletin in Clive Road and Strawberry Hill Road. Please contact the Secretary Clare Phelps.

### Civic pride puts funds to a tidier station path

The SHRA project to clear and landscape the weed blighted and rubbish-strewn strip of land between the station path and River Trading will begin shortly with funding from Richmond Council's Civic Pride fund.

The Council will provide two-thirds of the cost; the remainder will be paid by SHRA from your subscriptions.

The committee accepted a design by resident Andrew Fenney (he is also a member of the SHRA committee) which is both attractive and easy to maintain. Competitive tenders will be sought for completion of the work. The design will be displayed on the station notice board.

## TfL station plan is turned down

The disputed Transport for London funded plan for Wellesley Parade was turned down by Richmond Council following strong opposition from residents. A petition with 600 names was presented to local MP Vincent Cable and Cllr Clare Head was instrumen-

tal in presenting the case at a Planning committee meeting attended by local shopkeepers and SHRA committee members. Objections were based on the plans' reduction in the number of parking spaces and limited parking periods which it was feared would

reduce traffic for some businesses. There were also complaints of insufficient consultation. The funds of circa £100,000 allocated by TfL for the station area refurbishment were originally earmarked for Hampton station and switched to Strawberry Hill at the last

minute. The funds will now be spent on other TfL projects. In the meantime, approaches are being made to SWT and Network Rail with a view to establishing paid parking on the station yard on the Tower Road side of level crossing.

## Summer Strawberry Fair at the House

SHRA has decided to hold a second Strawberry Fair this summer and will take a stand at the Friends of Strawberry Hill summer gala on **Sunday 11th, June**. The setting is the gardens of the House and the SHRA stall will feature strawberries in a myriad of culinary settings.

Helpers, cooks and others are welcome to contact the Secretary.

## Bring & Buy Plant Stall : Saturday 20th May

Last year's highly successful Bring & Buy Plant Stall is to be repeated this year. Residents are encouraged to put the above date in their diary and contribute by sowing extra seeds and taking more cuttings than they need, to assist in the stocking of the stall. This time the Strawberry Hill Trust has been nominated to benefit so that the House can be given some modest help by us for its restoration. Offers of help would be appreciated; contact John Armstrong 020 8894 5218.

## A new start for Radnor Gardens

By Geoff Pope, Chairman, FoRG

Following rejection of the earlier plans for Radnor Gardens, new consultation is being set up. Your ideas about the priorities for work will help us to develop a plan later this year. Completing the survey in The Bulletin will help us to understand your views and generate a plan which meets the needs of most people.

At present the Council is planning work on the southern entrance to install new gates and realign pathways. This will help to prevent ruts in the grass caused by maintenance vehicles

## A new bus stop for the College



Repeated calls by SHRA for a Teddington direction bus stop to be installed outside St Mary's College have been answered. The bus stop - there is now one in each direction - was installed in February.

The request is part of SHRA's response to residents' complaints about student parking near the college.

## How to clear a dumped car

There is a rising number of complaints about cars and vans being dumped or parked for long periods in roads around the station. If you are concerned about vehicles which appear to be abandoned, untaxed and on a public highway you can seek the help of Richmond Council which runs a service to clear dumped vehicles and reacts very quickly. Call 08456122660.

## Newland House public inquiry

Plans by Newland House school in Waldegrave PARK to develop the school site will now go to a public enquiry. No date has yet been set for the hearing. Richmond Council had turned down the expansion plans. Local residents have complained about the scale and potential traffic disruption. Details of the plans and the appeal can be inspected at the Environment reception, Civic Centre, York House.

## How to adopt a tree

One thousand new trees are being planted throughout the borough and Richmond Council is asking residents to adopt a tree near their home and look after it. Adoption entails watering, weeding, some general TLC and reporting damage. Local reaction is: great idea, but how do we do it, do we need to register, who is responsible? Tree lovers will have all their questions answered by telephoning the Council's tree section on 020 8891 7808 and requesting an information pack.

**GUEST COLUMN**  
By Alan Hewitt, Chairman



**STRAWBERRY HILL BOWLING CLUB**

**Open Day to showcase our Club**

Strawberry Hill Bowling Club, located in the delightful setting of Radnor Gardens, was founded in 1920. It currently has 53 members, whose ages range from 17 to 80+, and there is room for many more

We have an active list of events. We enjoy a weekly Club Night, on a Thursday evening, internal competitions, friendly matches against other local Clubs, and other social activities such as the Annual Dinner.

**Council grant**

The outdoor bowling season runs from April to September. The Club annual subscription is currently £65. This entitles the Member to use of the bowling green at anytime and participation in all Club events.

The Club has recently received a grant from the Richmond's Council's Civic Pride Fund, for the purchase of bowls

equipment to be used in encouraging the local community to participate in sport, particularly bowls.

To this end the Club is organising an **OPEN DAY** at **RADNOR GARDENS** on **SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> MAY 2006**, between the hours of **11.00am to 5.00pm**.

Members of the public are warmly invited to come along at anytime during these hours, try their hand at bowls, under the guidance of qualified instructors, participate in **free** refreshments and have **free** use of all equipment. All you need to bring along is a pair of flat-soled shoes. Dress is informal.

So why not come along – try your hand – bring a friend; or the whole family You will **all** be made most welcome. If you enjoy it and decide to join the Club, you too will be able to spend a warm summer evening, alongside the River Thames, playing a friendly and enjoyable game of bowls.

**THE COMMITTEE**

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**RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION OF £3.00 (minimum) PER HOME FOR YEAR 2006**

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

- (a) Richard Spires, 70 Pope's Avenue, TW2 5TT - Standing Order Forms available from Richard Spires or the SHRA website
- (b) Costcutter by Strawberry Hill Station
- (c) Post Office, Tower Road

**Additional donations are always welcome!**

Name(s):			
Address:		Telephone:	
Date:		Amount:	
eMail:			