

Waste land at station to get a £4K facelift

Richmond Council Civic Pride scheme is to contribute two thirds of the cost of a £3,250 facelift to one of the approaches to Strawberry Hill station.

The remainder of the cost of clearing weeds, landscaping and planting, will come from SHRA funds; in effect your money from subscriptions plus monies raised from events such as the Strawberry Hill Music Day and sales of the

Strawberry Hill book by Anthony Beccles Willson

A design for the land has been donated gratis by SHRA Committee Member Andrew Fenney, an architect and landscape gardener. The heavy work will be undertaken by Leslie Hill of Court Landscapes Ltd.

The area to be landscaped is the triangular shaped piece of land beside the entrance to platform 2 (direction King-

ston). The white picket fence around the piece of land (next to Riverside Trading) will also be repaired and painted.

SHRA has struggled to keep this piece of land free of rubbish and weeds for the last couple of years through organising regular 'garden parties' of volunteers.

The first stage of the work is already underway to clear tenacious Japanese knotweed. The scheme will be completed

in the Autumn.

Now, having secured the promise of funding from Richmond Council, SHRA is appealing for volunteers to help with some of the lighter work. Please contact Clare Phelps, SHRA secretary on 020 8892 5863

Clare says: "The landscape design is practical and attractive and will cheer up that previously unsightly corner considerably".

St James' plans £500K extension to church

Planning application for a £0.5m extension to St James's Church is to be made this summer by the diocese of Westminster. It plans to fund the extension the sale of St James's church hall. A planning application to build eight flats on the site would be made at the same time.

The site will be sold to a property developer if planning permission be granted. Work on the church to create a new hall, children's chapel, vestry and other modifications, could begin in 2007 if the planning applications are successful.

Fr Ulick Loring told residents recently that the church hall would remain in use until a new hall at the rear of the church is built. Demolition of the old church hall would probably not start until 2008.

'Loss of a community amenity'

Residents close by were invited by Fr Ulick to meet the architect and discuss their concerns about the impact of the developments on the community.

Fr Ulick says the extension is needed because the church cannot accommodate the increase in parishioners, the church needs refurbishing and the old hall is in a very bad state of repair. The work on the church could only be financed by the sale of the old hall.

Concerns have been expressed by people in homes closest to the church in Upper Grotto Road, Radnor Road, Cross Deep Gardens and Pope's Grove.

Concerns range from the scale of the building project, noise from events in the hall and loss of the old hall as a community amenity, to increased parking, road congestion and the capacity of the sewer system.



James Cox (left) and Rob Gill: 'let's find a win-win solution'

Residents say the development will have a much wider impact on the community. The hall is used for local activities such as children's ballet classes, aerobics classes, meetings of local groups and is also a polling station.

James Cox and Rob Gill, who live near the

church hall say: "The proposed development would affect the whole neighbourhood. We recognise that Fr Loring has a problem with church accommodation. But we have a problem with the way he plans to solve it. All we want is to work this out to our mutual benefit"

In the meantime, local Councillors Clare Head and David Marlow have met Fr Ulick over residents' concerns. Cllr Head, a member of Richmond Planning Committee, has consulted Richmond Planning Officer for an expert view of the proposals. SHRA has agreed to support residents when the application is made.

New Joint Chairmen

The nomination of Bruce Duff and Robert Youngs to the posts of joint Chairmen of SHRA was ratified by the AGM at which previous Chairman, Eugene Bacot, stood down.

Bruce and Robert have been active in the life of our community for many years and seek to continue the overall mission of SHRA to protect out local environment and to represent the views of residents.

Crime is your top concern - and here's the new police team

Crime and security are the major concern of residents, reveals the annual SHRA opinion poll presented to the AGM in March.

This is the first time crime has loomed so large as an issue in Strawberry Hill.

Rail travel overtook parking as the second most prominent local issue, pushing parking into third place. Street cleaning and Aircraft noise were fourth and fifth matters for concern.

A majority of respondents voted to keep the Christmas carol concert and Christmas tree unveiling in Wellesley Parade and indicated that they would be willing to pay £1 or £2 towards the event.

The question of whether the carols and tree unveiling should continue was prompted by rising cost – especially public liability insurance.

The poll was undertaken through the February issue of The Bulletin and produced 98

replies from the 2,500 homes in the area.

The New Police Team

A new team of three police officers has been allocated to Twickenham South Ward which covers Strawberry Hill. They are: Sgt Denzil Darby (55TW) Pc Dave Hicks (173TW) and PCSO Phil Savill (7152TW).

Police surgeries are held every two weeks on Wednesdays from 12 noon to 2pm in the cricket pavilion on Twicken-

ham Green. During July they will be held on July 12 and July 26.

The surgeries are an informal, drop-in opportunity to meet the police team and voice issues of a local nature or to impart information to the police. For general and non-urgent issues they can be contacted on 020 8721 2910; e-mail SouthTwickenham.SNT@met.police.uk

In emergencies dial 999

Train and transport news

Let the train take the strain from Strawberry Hill

From July 31 travellers to Waterloo from Twickenham will almost certainly experience serious overcrowding on peak hour Reading trains.

However, passengers can be assured of a seat if they take the train from Strawberry Hill. The overcrowding is due to withdrawal of the ten year-old Juniper rolling stock because the letters on board the trains' overhead message systems are 3mm too small. Regulations state that the letters must be 35mm high.

As a result, some trains will be only four coaches long. Joe Brett, SHRA transport observer, says: "This is political correctness gone mad. The only grain of comfort is that passengers from Strawberry Hill will get a seat because the loop line rolling stock is unaffected".

Little hope of bridge repainting

SWT says there is little hope that the passenger bridge at the station will be refurbished in the coming year.

David Whittle, Group Station Manager, based at Richmond, says with the franchise renewal looming in February 2007 no firm predictions can be given. Mr Whittle adds that he agrees the bridge is looking 'pretty tired, but no money is available for repainting this year as had been proposed by SHRA. He

adds: "I suspect that it probably requires a little more than just a lick of paint."

SHRA is to meet Mr Whittle shortly.

Despite the freeze on expenditure, there is still a possibility that Transport for London, keen to enhance rail services in Greater London, could fund work. It has recently agreed to pay for Oyster Card validation equipment at all rail stations in zones 1-6 by 2008.

franchise bidders

The winning bid for the current South West Trains franchise is to be decided in February next year for a ten year period. South West trains is seeking a renewal among four contenders. The others are: First Group, operator of the Greater Western franchise and Thameslink; Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway, a new comer with an exemplary record Arriva, a bus operator with a checkered history as a rail operator.

New ticket machine

A new ticket machine is to be installed at Strawberry Hill station, but it will replace the current machine on the Richmond bound platform, SHRA is told. SHRA had urged that a second ticket machine be placed on the Kingston bound platform. SWT says it had a limited number of machines and that

Strawberry Hill was not a priority. The decision for a single machine was based on station needs elsewhere, a study of ticket sales and discussions with local staff.

Night flights increase

The number of night flights into Heathrow will rise from October, but are unlikely to have a major impact on Strawberry Hill.

Joe Brett, SHRA transport observer, says the increase is about two flights a night which are expected to be early morning landings.

Strawberry Hill is not affected by landings, only departure when there is an easterly or nil wind, which amounts to above 30% of all departures.

The Government has approved an increase in the number of night flights at Heathrow from 5,800 a year to 6,420 over the next six years.

SHRA monitors activity at Heathrow through its membership of HACAN Clear Skies.

Golf links radio mast defeated

The proposal to erect a 60 ft radio mast on Strawberry Hill gold course has been withdrawn following massive protest from residents, local schools and SHRA.

Shoppers parking - let us have your views

The four new 30-minute fee parking bays outside the Post Office and shops in Tower Road seem to be working well, says Joe Brett, SHRA's transport observer.

There is a section of single yellow line which allows for short stay commercial deliveries.

Jay Patel at the Post Office says shopkeepers are pleased with it, but he notes that 30 minutes is too short for people going to the dentist next door.

Jay proposes a one hour parking period and SHRA is keen to know your views. The Association has pursued with question of parking with Richmond Council for several years.

We should also like to know whether you think a similar scheme should be applied to Wellesley Parade. Please send our comments to Joe Brett by e-mail: joe.brett@shra.org.uk

Support your local Post Office

With holidays approaching, Strawberry Hill Post Office reminds residents that among the banking services they provide is exchanging sterling for euros and other foreign currency. Travel cards and bus passes and also provided as well as cash withdrawal from an ATM. Jay Patel says: "Having these services on your doorstep is not only convenient, it keeps the Post Office in the community."

A double first for the May plant stall

The SHRA May plant stall in Wellesley Parade was the occasion for two debuts: the first official engagement of deputy major Councillor Celia Hodges from Barnes and the unveiling of the Strawberry Hill shrub rose created to support the restoration of Wapole House at Strawberry Hill. Business was brisk, despite dodging showers.



John and Rosamund Armstrong say they raised £230, compared with £180 the year before. The money was donated to the Restoration Fund. John (right) says: "The atmosphere around the stall was excellent and demonstrated superb community spirit. Some stock was unsold which went to the St Mary's church fete."

Vandalised trees, but catalpa sprouts

By Geoff Pope, Chair FoRG
The recent SHRA/FORG consultation on priorities for work in the gardens shows that the projects designed to improve the river edge, resurface paths and the creation of a ferry crossing were the most popular. There is, however, no indication from Richmond Council whether any these projects will be undertaken.

The main development plan that envisaged the loss of the rockery has been halted following the EGM last November, except for the realignment of pathways at the Northern end; still only partially completed. Work on the Council's plans for new gates and paving in front of the tea hut is due to start in the summer. These plans are displayed on the notice board in the gardens.

The fig tree in the rose garden, planted by volunteers about ten years ago, has disappeared. A silver birch planted at the same time has been vandalised. However, the stump of the catalpa, or Indian Bean tree, felled by Council contractors, has resprouted.

On a happier note, the children's play area is very popular.

AGM and Constitution

A number of constitutional amendments have been drawn

up by the Executive Committee. A two-thirds majority is required at the AGM to approve any amendment.

The Friends of Radnor Gardens ran a successful tombola at the Strawberry Hill Music and Fun Day raising over £130 which will go towards work in the garden.

Fun Day boosts funds

The SHRA strawberry themed food stall on Music Day and Fun Day raised over £650 of which half was profit. Secretary Clare Phelps says: "This is a fantastic result, given that last year we only broke even. The event was marvellous."

Glorious day of sun, fun and discovery



For many of the 5000 visitors to the Strawberry Hill Music and Fun Day, it was a day of revelation and discovery, says Judith Lovelace, Events Director of the Friends of Strawberry Hill. Judith says: "Many people had never seen the house at all, let alone the magnificent garden frontage. And the garden itself was a revelation.

"Apart from the obvious enjoyment, this discovery will serve the House well as we drive on to raising £3 million for the £8 million conservation project."

The Fair raised over £10,000, in which the support of the RFU in providing publicity, the bands and other contributions played a large part.

Stall holders reported that they were very pleased with the positioning, especially the division between adult and children's areas.

GUEST COLUMN

By Michael Snodin, Chairman

Friends of Strawberry Hill



How old snaps can held the restorers

The hunt is on for old photographs of Strawberry Hill House which will be vital for restorers repairing the fabric as part of the £8 million restoration project.

In particular we are anxious to unearth photographs of railings which were erected along Waldegrave Road in the 19th century. The railings were put in place by Lady Waldegrave, circa 1861, in what was then her new property. She divided the carriage sweep from the public road and created a green court in front of the entrance.

Remarkably, no photograph of this side of the house, including the boundary, is known prior to 1980. It seems very likely that the railings were removed during the war.

A single slide records an elaborate gothic tracery gate, while all that remains of the railings are the stone copings and 'shadow' of the railings where they abutted the gate piers.

By contrast, the house is much photographed from the east and south, with the earliest views dating back to 1856.

Any images of the north elevation prior to 1980 and any images of the interior – some

were published by *Country Life* – would be most welcome.

Bowls Club appeal boosts members

The appeal by the Bowls Club for new members in the last number of the *The Bulletin* was very successful, says the secretary in a letter of thanks to SHRA. The column drew 60 people to the Open Day, resulted in 26 signing up for the induction course, and 20 becoming full members.

SHRA is pleased to open the columns of *The Bulletin* to other local organisations. Please contact The Editor on: Eugene.Bacot@shra.org.uk or write to 29 Upper Grotto Road, Twickenham TW1 4NG.

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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!

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