

## Vincent Cable MP to unveil the village Christmas Tree

Christmas gets under way in Strawberry Hill at 6pm on Friday, December 15 with carols, hot mince pies and mulled wine.

The village Christmas tree in Wellesley Parade, decorated by local children, will be unveiled by Twickenham MP Dr Vincent Cable at 6.30pm

Mr Cable will also start the carol singing led by the Strawberry Hill Singers. Now in its fourth year the tree and carols singing cere-

mony is made possible by residents' subscriptions which fund the purchase and decoration of the tree. Richmond Council will also provide some monies, but requires matching funding from



SHRA. Mulled wine, pies and soft drinks for the children are paid for from subscriptions, but this year we shall be seeking contributions to cover some costs and to make a do-

nation to local children's charity The Roy Kinnear Foundation.

Robert Youngs, Joint Chairman of SHRA says: "This Christmas event has become very popular. It is a focal point for local people to come together and to express the spirit of our community."

SHRA thanks Phil Rochford, at Sopa for allowing us to use their premises for serving wine and mince pies.

## SWT PRESSED TO CLEAN UP THE STATION

South West Trains is being pressed hard by SHRA to refurbish the station following renewal of SWT's franchise.

The announcement that Stagecoach will continue to run the train service through Strawberry Hill means that a freeze on station improvement can now be lifted.

Little work has been done at Strawberry Hill in the last 18 months while the train operator waited for a government decision. However recently new fencing and a gate have been installed at the entrance to platform 2.

SHRA has now approached all its contacts at SWT to press for urgent painting and improvements, especially to the footbridge which is now in a poor condition.

The bridge was last painted about five years ago and has not weathered well.

Joe Brett, SHRA transport specialist, says: "The announcement that SWT owner Stagecoach has retained the franchise is probably a good thing for us; better the devil you know!

Joe adds: "Hopefully, we and SWT will get to grips with outstanding problems immediately without having to wait

for a new owner to familiarise themselves with the network."

The new franchise, for which Stagecoach will pay £1.2 billion over ten years, comes into effect from February 2007. There are fears that train fares might be raised to recoup the cost.

However, as Travelcard fares within the GLA area are set by Transport for London, any unilateral fare increases set by SWT are most likely to affect people travelling outside the Travelcard area.



Joe Brett points out the poor state of paintwork. Much of the wood cladding around the foot bridge is rotten.

### SHRA history and T shirts

With Christmas gifts in mind, the history of Strawberry Hill by Anthony Beckles Willson makes an ideal present and will be on sale at the carol concert. Priced at £6, the books are also available from Sopa, Langton's Bookshop, the Twickenham Museum or from Clare Phelps, the SHRA secretary.

SHRA pink T shirts are also available from Clare. Price £4 each.

## Residents asked for views on new parking extension

The introduction of restricted parking in front of the shops in Tower Road, has sparked a call for similar parking arrangements in Wellesley Parade.

Since this summer parking in four bays from Threshers to the Post Office has been re-

stricted to 30 minutes.

Jay Patel at the Post Office has noticed an upturn in business since the new parking period

In the meantime, SHRA is in contact with Richmond Council and local cllr David Marlow with regard to parking restrictions..

Your views on the benefits or disadvantages of the Tower Road parking and an extension of these waiting times to Wellesley Parade are sought.

Please e-mail, or telephone John Armstrong or Jose Relton with your responses to the following question:

**Would you like to see similar waiting times in Wellesley Parade ?**

*Please see back page for Jose and John's telephone numbers and e-mail addresses.*

### Train and transport news

## Trains back on track with bigger type

Threatened major disruption and over-crowding on South West's Juniper trains has been avoided. The trains were threatened with withdrawal when the characters on the on-board passenger information service were discovered to be 3mms too small.

Since the summer, SWT has adapted the information system on eight of the trains to comply with the regulations requiring a minimum of 35mm characters. SWT has now announced that they will adapt and retain all 28

of the Juniper trains which will be largely allocated to the Waterloo-Reading line via Twickenham.

### Seats for all

Joe Brett, SHRA transport specialist, points out that there have been misleading reports about SWT plans to remove seat from suburban trains to create more standing room.

In fact there might be more seats, or at the very least, the same number.

Trains are undergoing refurbishment and those serving Strawberry Hill will not be affected except for some trains of a different type used on the peak hour Shepperton line services.

Joe says: "These trains, together with those on the Hounslow Loop have some First Class seating which will be replaced by more Standard Class seats. At the same time, some seats by the doorways will be removed to create more standing room. The overall number of seats will remain about the same".

### 'Shop' to be set up for neighbourhood police team

Jim Davis, Metropolitan Police Superintendent based at Twickenham Police Station invited residents to a presentation, on the changes to policing in the Borough. It was attended by Bruce Duff, SHRA Joint Chairman, and Clare Phelps, Secretary.

Among the changes are plans to move to one central custody suite for detainees, rather than keeping them in cells at police stations across the Borough.

Police Safer Neighbourhood teams will be made more prominent in each ward by creating a 'shop front' in each neighbourhood. We have yet to learn where the Strawberry Hill shop front will be located. In an attempt to cut costs, some administration and training will be shared with Kingston.

### Safety

Superintendent Davis said that the Borough of Richmond was still one of the safest boroughs in London, a fact demonstrated by the latest crime figures.

### Public Forum

The first Twickenham south ward police liaison group meeting will be held on Thursday, December 7 at 7pm in the Salvation Army Hall, May Road, off Twickenham Green. It will lead by Sgt Deniz Darby of the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

### Hampton Road bus stop relocated

The Twickenham bound bus stop by the Prince Albert pub will be relocated back to the Fulwell side of Second Cross Road, reports Joe Brett.

This should ease congestion at the junction with Walpole Road as well as providing better facilities for bus passengers.

### St James's Hall plan pending

The planning applications for development of St James's Hall and a construction of a new hall at the rear of St James's Church in Popes Grove, have not yet been lodged with Richmond Council.

There will be no further consultation with residents or other local organisations before the application is made.

### How planters survived the hot summer



Regular watering of the tubs and planters near the station and in Wellesley Parade by local businesses meant that flowers continued to bloom during the hot summer. SHRA, which funds the flowers from your subscriptions, thanks Sopa, Rawlinson and Webber and MKG 3000 as well as the local volunteers who weed and maintain the planters. Pictured is James Sutton of Rawlinson and Webber.

## Civic Pride/SHRA station land facelift is deferred

The SHRA sponsored plan to landscape the triangle of land leading to platform 2 at Strawberry Hill station has been postponed because of building work on the shop.

However, the donation of two thirds of the cost of a £3,250 by Richmond Council is still in place. Work is expected to start in January 2007.

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 Beckles 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.

### SHRA updates the Constitution

SHRA Committee members have agreed to update the Constitution of the Association to permit up to eleven members to sit on the committee.

The purpose of this change is to create more specialist roles in

line with the growing number of issues presented to the committee.

The Constitutional changes were voted at the 2006 AGM. Copies of the new Constitution can be seen on the SHRA website or obtained by contacting Clare Phelps, the Secretary. A map of the SHRA boundaries is printed on the reverse of the Constitution document.

### Strawberry Hill House

## Marching towards £2 million goal

The Trustees of the Strawberry Hill Trust and the Friends of Strawberry Hill have registered more successes in their plan to restore Walpole's Gothic gem.

In recent months agreement has been reached on the terms of the lease on the house, a stage 2 big for funding by the Heritage Lottery Fund was submitted at the end of October, the London Borough of Richmond has granted planning permission and Listed Buildings consent for the restoration project.

However, the Trust still needs £2 million of matching funding by the end of the calendar year. Some of this will now be released by donors following recent achievements.

### Rich and famous

A Society party took place at Strawberry Hill House in October, widely reported in the London evening newspapers, *The Observer*, *Hello* and *Grazia*. Reports featured pictures of the rich and famous with Strawberry Hill interiors in the background.

### A big step forward – by taxi!

By Michael Snodin, Chairman, The Strawberry Hill Trust

When a taxi raced our application for second stage funding to the Lottery Heritage Fund, it was clear that none of this would have been possible with-

out the intensive effort of the Friends.

An impressive load of reports, maps and plans were amassed, while a stalwart group nobly undertook to transcribe parts of Walpole's correspondence for Peter Inskip's voluminous conservation study.

Their work made a huge difference to a report that will play a key role in how the house will be restored.

Also in the taxi were the first fruits of the Oral History project taken on by Kim Hacker. She has been interviewing people with memories of the house.

These memories will help with the conservation process (is that wallpaper from the 18602 or the 1960s?). Some of the voices will be heard in the Museum Room to be installed in the house.

Kim is still seeking people with interesting memories so please get in touch with her if you can help; telephone 020 8336 1507.

### Friends of Radnor Gardens

## Masterplan for maintenance

By Geoff Pope, Chairman FoRG

The Friends have agreed to draw up a master plan to improve the gardens and their maintenance.

A list of features based on the

results of recent local consultation has been produced ranging from improved pathways to riverbanks and lavatories and security lighting.

More frequent maintenance of the rockery and planted areas as well as litter and graffiti removal are included in the plan. Negotiation is to be held with Richmond Council on how to implement improvements and facilities, The intention is that the plan will provide a blueprint for all future work in the gardens.

The Council's plan to improve the southern entrance and adjacent pathways has been the subject of further discussion and is being assessed against the master plan.

Implementation of the work at the Southern entrance is expected next year.

### Stamps and winter holiday currency

That pile of Christmas cards will need stamps and you can support the local Post Office by buying stamps in Strawberry Hill. What is more, 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.

### Planning

## Queries over Radio masts

More telephone radio masts could sprout on the roof of 39-45 Tower Road following the granting of permission to erect cabinets and tripods. This is causing concern among nearby residents, especially in view of the recent protest over plans for radio masts on Strawberry Hill Golf Course.

SHRA planning specialist Jose Relton has been in contact with Richmond Council which confirms that permission for the equipment has been granted and there is no breach of the regulations.

The Council's investigator of planning breaches says that the regulations restrict the maximum number of phone companies on one site to three, but there is no restriction on the number of masts per company. Masts can be a maximum of four metres high.

## Appeal over golf course masts

An appeal has been lodged against refusal by Richmond Council to permit mobile phone radio masts on Strawberry Hill Golf Course.

Objections were received from residents and local schools.

The site was visited by an Inspector at the beginning of November.

A decision is unlikely before Christmas.



**GUEST COLUMN**

By Paul Astbury\*

**Strawberry Hill Golf Club**

**Golf and a good social life**

Celebrating its 106<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, Strawberry Hill Golf Club is one of the oldest in Richmond – and certainly older than that upstart Fullwell, which is only a mere 104 years!

Described as an almost invisible oasis, screened by trees from rail and road, the nine-hole golf links are maintained to a high standard in keeping with founders' aims.

Strawberry Hill was designed by the legendary J. H. Taylor, five time winner of the British Open who set out to design the best course in Middlesex.

Today, the picturesque woodlands course retains much of its original character. A natural water hazard runs through the middle providing a challenge to golfers of all standards.

The club is very friendly with members of all ages ranging from juniors (they start at 13) to seniors and with sections for ladies and mid-week players.

The club house is the focus of an energetic social calendar and non-playing social members. These include a Bridge section and the Rotary Club of Twickenham-on-Thames, all valued members.



*Sporting Heroes: Club founder J. H. Taylor with the legendary Dr. W. G. Grace.*

New members are always welcome. Current membership is about 300, with 50 social members.

Players keen to improve can receive coaching from Peter Buchan, the club professional; or you might prefer a member to take you round the course.

If you would like to learn more, please call me, the Secretary, at the Club on 020 8894 0165, or pop in and see me or Peter.

\* Club Secretary

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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:			