

## BRUCE DUFF IS STRAWBERRY FAIR'S CHOCOLATE HERO

Strawberries in all their delicious manifestations lay thick on the SHRA stall as Music Day opened in the ground of Strawberry Hill House. Then, in a whirl of activity, Victoria sponges, strawberry short cakes, fairy cakes, cheese cakes, millefueilles and jellies were flying off the stall and into eager hands – and mouths.

Mountains of strawberries and cream were delivered by SHRA joint chairman Bruce Duff whose chocolate sauce was declared gastronomic treat of the day. One lady was so impressed she produced a beer mug and asked if she could buy a pint. By 5 o'clock the stall was bare and the SHRA coffers fuller by £375 profit from the

day's takings at the Strawberry Hill Music and Fun Day.

A team of SHRA helpers was organised by secretary Clare Phelps, while the strawberry treats were all made by residents.

"A great success", declared SHRA joint chair Bruce Duff. A comment echoed about his chocolate sauce.



Preparing for the rush are Clare Phelps and Robert Youngs

## GIFFORD HOUSE PLAN IS WITHDRAWN

**The controversial application to build 27 flats and a family centre on the Gifford House site has been withdrawn by Care UK following widespread opposition from residents.**

**However, second planning application is in preparation.**

Local ward councillors, in particular Clare Head, and MP Dr Vincent Cable, all supported the campaign against over-development on the joint Gifford House and Twickenham Day Nursery sites.

The Gifford House Action Group benefited from the Advice of Chris Hern of Planning Aid for London

Residents hope

to persuade the developer to allow early community participation in the second application which is already on the drawing board.

### Background to the PFI

The background to the planning application stems from a Private Partner Initiative (PFI) for the care of the elderly in the Borough. Gifford House closed in October 2004. Subsequently, the former Twickenham Day

Nursery next door was added to the proposed development.

Care UK, the PFI partner, prepared a joint application for the development. There was no pre-application community involvement in the planning process. Care UK has only a short lease on the property. The freehold belongs to Richmond Council.

The Council has negotiated a £6 million

reduction from Care UK in the bill for the services Care provides to the Council against disposal of Gifford House (and Craig House on Ham Common). There is also provision for the Council to receive overage (additional payments) depending on the number of units

this property would make it easier to incorporate the Day Nursery into the site which is surrounded by homes in Pope's Avenue and Grange Avenue.

Residents say that building on the site is unacceptable. They have made a formal complaint about aspects of the application, including refusal of early community involvement.



*Gifford House*

built on the site.

### Developers seek to buy nearby homes

Approaches by developers to at least one local resident to sell the family home close to the development site have been made since 2004. Recently, a new developer has made several approaches.

The targeted property runs along the front of the Day Nursery grounds. Acquisition of

### Strawberry Hill Trust gets lease to the House

The Strawberry Hill Trust will finally be handed the lease to Strawberry Hill House at the end of July signalling the start of the £8.2 million restoration.

The lease transfer from St Mary's College was made possible by the grant of £4.6 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the final hurdle in the financing. The trust expects restoration work on Horace Walpole's iconic Gothic folly to begin next year and to open to the public in 2010.

Michael Snodin, Chairman of the Trust, said: "We would like to thank our many donors, friends and volunteers for their generous support over the last five years.

Alongside the restoration programme, we are devising a number of educational initiatives with St Mary's College and look forward to a close collaboration with Dr Arthur Naylor, the Principal, and his staff".

(See 'My little gothic castle' p 4)

## New St James's Church plan submitted

A new plan to build an extension at the rear of St James Church in Popes Grove has been lodged with Richmond Council.

The plan concerns only the church extension and does not make any reference to an earlier plan to demolish the church hall in Radnor Road and build eight flats on the site.

The Save St James's Church Hall group of residents, and others, have lodged objections with the planning authority over the new proposals. As a result, some amendments have been made.

However, objectors say these changes do not touch their core concerns which is that the extension :

- is an unsightly addition to an historic building
- intrusive to neighbours in Upper Grotto Road, Radnor Road and Pope's Grove
- raises questions of road safety and parking in Radnor Road
- is inadequate for community activities such as ballet and keep fit classes

Not least, residents fear that if the extension is build the church hall will be allowed to decay. No date has been set by Richmond Council for review of the application, but it is expected to go before the planning committee this summer. Objections can be lodged by end July.

## Crime still tops residents' concerns - survey

Crime and security are the overriding concerns of residents according to the annual SHRA opinion poll, said co-chairman Bruce Duff at the AGM in April.

Over 100 residents responded to the poll carried out in March.

The majority put crime as their first concern despite Strawberry Hill recording some of the lowest crime statistics in the country.

In this context, guest speaker PC David Hicks from the Safer Neighbourhood Team said that while the area was relatively crime-free, there were problems with anti-social behaviour in certain roads.

The Team has responded to residents' concerns by changing their shift patterns. Meanwhile, police surgeries are held every second Thursday of the month at the cricket pavilion on Twickenham Green. (see *Liaison Group* below)

### Achievement

Bruce Duff cited three major SHRA achievements during the year: the landscaping of the waste land at the entrance to platform 1 at the station; the annual Christmas Carol concert which raised £300 for the Roy Kinnear Foundation and success in persuading Richmond Council to implement 30 minute parking outside the shops in Tower Road.

The Carol Singing will continue to be held at Wellesley Parade this December after residents voted overwhelmingly not to

relocate it to Strawberry Hill House. One ailing tree at the station entrance was saved by regular watering. The fence will be replaced shortly.

### Strawberry Hill rose

At the suggestion of John Armstrong, the AGM agreed to present a Strawberry Hill Rose to Pat Schooling, retiring member and Project Coordinator of the the Friends of Radnor Gardens, in recognition of her contribution to the gardens and the local community. The rose was presented and planted in June.

### St Mary's student numbers rise each year

Student numbers are increasing by 2% to 3% a year at St Mary's University College, Russell Whitaker, the College's Director of Development told the AGM. A lot of the increase would be among older, post-graduate students who would not be resident permanently.

Mr Whitaker opened the AGM with a presentation on the new sports hall which has raised questions and concerns among residents. He said that the new sports facilities were essential to meet the needs of students, especially in view of the 2012 Olympics.

He added that he was aware of the parking problems that increasing student numbers were likely to cause.

### Police identify Radnor gang

Sergeant Denzil Darby from the Safety Neighbourhood team,

told the SHRA committee at their June meeting that the SNT was very aware of the anti-social behaviour in certain parts of Strawberry Hill by groups of adolescents.

The Team knew who they were and in recent weeks had succeeded in discouraging them from gathering in Radnor Gardens late at night.

### Liaison group

A police public liaison group is held every three months at the Salvation Army Hall, Twickenham Green. Notice of these meetings is posted on the SHRA board at the station. All residents of Strawberry Hill are welcome to attend.

### College plan for 'green travel'

St Mary's College has produced the final draft of a Green Travel Plan presented at a public consultation on July 11.

The plan seeks to encourage alternative travel to using cars. Details can be seen on the College website: [www.smuc.ac.uk](http://www.smuc.ac.uk)

The 10-page document sets out plans for promoting an environmentally responsible attitude and approach to transport and travel issues so as to minimise the impact of student and staff parking on surrounding residential roads.

### Strategy

The proposals are based on a strategy covering:

**Walking:** to improve pedestrian links and site permeability for staff and students. A network of paths will be created on the campus. The safest walking routes to and from the College will be established. Stu-

dents will be issues with panic alarms.

**Cycling:** the College supports the London Cycle Network. Cycle paths will be constructed around the campus and a subsidised bike scheme promoted. The number of cycle tands will be increased and new showers and changing rooms set up.

**Public transport:** The College will promote its interest-free season ticket loan to staff. Students already receive public transport discounts. Information on bus and rail routes will be provided and public transport companies lobbied to set up better services.

**Car sharing:** Staff will be encouraged to share cars through a data base and will consider reduced parking charges for car sharers. The College will investigate the Car Club/Streetcar and other pay-as-you-drive car ownership options. **Green Travel Officer:** a GTO will be appointed to oversee the plan and its management.

### Targets

- increase the number of staff walking and cycling to work from 11% to 14%
- increase the number of students walking from 41% to 45% and those cycling from 11% to 14%
- increase the numbers of staff using buses from 11% to 12% and students. The College has set the following targets: from 11% to 16%
- increase the train journeys by staff from 12% to 13% and students from 17% to 19%
- decrease the number of sole occupants in cars

### Car parking

The programme will be funded by revenue from car parking charges. The number of parking permits will be reduced from 400 to 200.

# Residents' Love Match For Wimbledon

Did you notice the number of courtesy cars – Hertz ONE TO LOVE -which suddenly appeared on the streets of Strawberry Hill during Wimbledon fortnight? That's because local tennis buffs, including joint Chairman Bruce Duff, are closely involved

with the tennis championships each year. Their duties include driving the courtesy cars which are used to pick up the tennis stars, executives from the All England Club and VIP guests, as well as back room people who provide the constant stream of information

from the matches. Bruce says: "The most interesting part for the drivers is that they might have Roger Federer or the Williams family in the back, ferrying them from their rented homes to the matches and back. On the whole they are a pleasant group of people who are quite

happy to chat when they have won, but, but are quiet when they have lost". The best perk of all, adds Bruce, is that after working their shift, the accredited staff get into the ground and all courts, except Centre and No 1, for free.

## Transport

### Station to get face lift

After much urging by SHRA, South West Trains have confirmed that the footbridge at Strawberry Hill station will be repainted in August.

### More Sunday trains

From December 9 the Sunday service through Strawberry Hill will be increased to two trains an hour from 12.30 onwards. The additional service will run from Waterloo via Richmond and terminate at Kingston, return to Waterloo via Richmond.

### Waiting rooms

While there no chance of regaining use of the station waiting room on the Kingston platform, the waiting room on the Richmond side should be open when the booking office is staffed. SHRA is monitoring the situation. If the waiting room is not open at this time, please notify Joe Brett (see below). The room is shut at all other times to avoid vandalism.

### Chance to see train Security HQ

An opportunity to see the Security Centre at Wimbledon is offered to all SHRA members by South West Trains. The offer is for this autumn. The Security Centre is where all CCTVs are monitored and where train information emanates from. Should you wish to take up this offer, please contact SHRA Member Joe Brett at: [joe.brett@shra.org.uk](mailto:joe.brett@shra.org.uk).

### SWT penalty fares challenged

Two recent newspapers articles have questioned the legality of SWT's penalty fares policy (*The Times*, June 22; *The Guardian*, June 30). To comply it seems that the ability to purchase a ticket before boarding a train must be relatively easy – which strengthens our case for a ticket machine on the Kingston-bound platform. We are continuing to push for this.

### Tree spotter wanted

SHRA is seeking a tree lover, or two, to keep an eye on local trees and to report to SHRA. Trees are constantly under threat and someone who shares our delight in trees could help to control some of the worst excesses. Please contact John Armstrong if you would like to volunteer.

### Post Office for Holiday cash

Your local Post Office in Tower Road – one of the few remaining in the district – offers a wide range of services appropriate to summer holidays. Insurance is one, foreign currency is another, especially Euros, provided without commission. What is more, using your Post Office will ensure it survives.

### Plans for a brighter, busier town centre

John Armstrong, a long-standing committee member of SHRA, has been appointed Chairman of the Inward Investment sub-committee of the Town Centre Management Board.

John's main task is to seek ways of attracting new businesses to Twickenham, "to fill empty and under-used shop units by identifying those services we particularly lack at the moment, and then to give Twickenham a new face which is not exclusively devoted to rugby."

John says that a short term goal is to organise a Food Fair next summer. In the meantime, he would like to hear from all residents with their ideas for the shops lacking in Twickenham. He adds: "It might be that inconvenient parking is a deterrent which needs to be tackled."

Send your ideas, plans, ambitions to John Armstrong at: [john.armstrong@shra.org.uk](mailto:john.armstrong@shra.org.uk).

### History of the area

The gripping and colourful history of Strawberry Hill, written by Anthony Beccles Willson, is available from Langton's bookshop in Church Street, or from Sopa, the

Thai restaurant in Wellesley Parade, or from SHRA secretary Clare Phelps.

Price per copy is £6.

### T shirts and aprons

T-shirts in Strawberry Hill pink bearing the SHRA logo can be bought from Clare Phelps, SHRA secretary, for the remarkable price of £3 each. Strawberry motif aprons (see picture from Music Day) are also available from Clare at £6 each.

### Friends of Radnor Gardens

#### Clare Head is new Chairman

Cllr Clare Head, a member of the committee of FoRG for the last five years was elected Chairman at the AGM in June. Clare says: "Radnor Gardens is a unique and beautiful open space in the centre of our ward of South Twickenham. Boasting beautiful views of the river looking towards Twickenham, it has a brand new children's playground, lovely riverside walks, a listed gazebo and summer house.

We councillors have already been working on an exciting plan to build a new community centre which would also provide a purpose-built clubhouse for Strawberry Hill Bowls Club (SHBC) which is situated on the southern boundary.

As the new chairman of FoRG, I and my fellow councillors are looking forward to working with the council to achieve our triple goals of improved maintenance, renovation and rebuilding in the Gardens.

Many of you came to see us on our joint FoRG/SHBC stall at Strawberry Hill Fun Day Better still, why not now become a member of Friends of Radnor Gardens and the Bowls Club. We need volunteers to achieve our plans.

Please call me on 020 8977 7789"



At last station to be re-painted this summer, says Joe Brett SHRA transport guru.





By Michael Snodin

Chair of the Strawberry Hill Trust

'My little gothic castle'

It is great news that Strawberry Hill House, our architectural jewel in the crown, will finally be restored.

Horace Walpole built Strawberry Hill between 1747 and his death in 1790 converting a coachman's cottage into what he described as 'my little gothic castle'

One of a string of famous eighteenth century villas along the Arcadian stretch of the Thames between Chiswick and Hampton Court, Strawberry Hill Gothic has become an internationally recognised style of architecture. Its influence is seen all over the world.

The restoration programme includes structural repairs and renewal of services, the conservation of the remarkable historic fabric, including the unique collection of renaissance stained glass, and the restoration of exterior features such as the pinnacles.

The garden, too, will be restored to something reminiscent of Walpole's original design.

Strawberry Hill will be open to the public on Sunday afternoons until the end of October 2007 and for special Tours or educational visits by appointment.

Contact: *Strawberrytours on 0870 626 0402*

New SHRA Committee members

At the AGM in April the following members of the Committee stood down:

**Richard Spires**, who served as Hon. Treasurer, membership secretary, web master and Bulletin producer for seven years. Our thanks to Richard for agreeing to produce this copy of The Bulletin.  
**Christine Yusef**, deputy secretary.  
**Andrew Fenney** who designed the new SHRA inspired garden beside the station.

The following have been elected to the SHRA Committee:

**John Naish**, Hon Treasurer. John has lived in Waldegrave Gardens for 23 years.  
**Pam Crisp**, who has lives in Strawberry Hill for 25 years and is a Governor of Waldegrave School and Richmond College  
**Matthew Hull**, who has lived in Strawberry Hill for two-and-a-half years and stood for the Liberal Democrats in South Ward at the last election.  
**Teresa Read**, who has lived in Strawberry Hill for 29 years and leads the Gifford House Action Group.

**THE COMMITTEE**

Joint Chair

**Bruce Duff 8894 5271**

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**RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION OF £3.00 (minimum) PER HOME FOR YEAR 2007**

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

- A John Naish, 12, Waldegrave Gardens, TW1 4PG - Standing Order forms are available from John or from the SHRA website ([www.shra.org.uk](http://www.shra.org.uk))
- B Costcutter by Strawberry Hill Station
- C Post Office/Jays Tower Road

**Additional donations are always welcome!**

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