



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

No. 135 November 2007

Carmel Kinnear to unveil village Christmas tree

Carmel Kinnear, founder of the Roy Kinnear Foundation in Waldegrave Road, will formally open the annual SHRA Carol Concert on Friday, December 14.

The tree decoration by local children begins at 6 p.m. followed by the tree unveiling at 6:30 p.m. All children are welcome to participate in the tree decoration. The venue is Wellesley Parade, outside Sopa's restaurant where free mulled wine and mince pies, with soft drinks for the children, will be served.

The Strawberry Hill Singers will lead the carols. Donations to fund the cost of the event and to make a contribution to a local charity will be sought. Last year your donations totalling £300 were presented to the Foundation. Carmel, widow of the entertainer Roy Kinnear, set up the home in 2002 in memory of her husband.

Their daughter Carina is one of the profoundly disabled young people who receive 24 hour care at the home.



Carmel Kinnear

Gifford House protest for planning brief

Protestors against the development of Gifford House have produced a planning brief which they say should serve as a public consultation document. They want the Council to discuss the draft brief as part of their campaign to modify the proposals.

Meanwhile, Local MP Dr Vincent Cable has written to Council leader Serge Lourie requesting a meeting with local representatives. Dr Cable says the Gifford House group wants to engage with the Council, but they feel they have reached an impasse.

The Gifford House group's draft planning brief was drawn up because Richmond Council has consistently refused to produce its own planning brief.

Teresa Read, of the Gifford House Action Group, says: "There are seven very good reasons why a planning brief should be produced":

- Gifford House is in a Conservation area between a grade II listed church and buildings of Townscape merit. It faces Twickenham Green, an open public space which has Green Flag status
- Given the importance of this site and the historic interest of the surroundings, any development must preserve and enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area
- There are problems with access, parking and so on. A Traffic Impact Assessment is essential
- Many trees were at risk in the previous planning application, even those with TPOs
- The previous application was very unneighbourly.



Cllr Clare Head arranged the meeting with Care UK: Jose Relton (SHRA), Clare Head, Tony Hosking (Managing Director of Care UK), Teresa Read, Chris Hern, MBE (Planning Aid for London), Jackie Donegan (Grange Avenue Residents Association)

- There should be full and proper consultation as recommended by Government Planning Statements
- We have been advised by Planning Aid for London that a planning brief will go some way towards solving the problems of the withdrawn application

In the meantime, Richmond Council has decided to go ahead with a planning application for the Contact Centre and to sell Gifford House separately.

A public meeting, organised by Cllr Clare Head, will be held at Archdeacon Cambridge School at 8pm on November 28.

Care UK meets locals

Following three years of requests, Care UK and Council officers met residents after a meeting was arranged by Cllr Clare Head (see above) Tony Hosking of Care UK agreed in principal to pre-application consultation with residents. However, Care UK and the Council refused to budge on the question of the planning brief.

Your new look bulletin

The Committee hopes you'll appreciate our new-look colour Bulletin.

We would like to acknowledge the assistance of St Mary's College and their printer, Stag Print Services of Whitton.

In particular we thank our advertisers whose support has made it possible. They are:

- Mercury Motors, Strawberry Vale
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Summer excitement leads to Winter surprises

By Judith Lovelace

Chair, Friends of Strawberry Hill

It's been an exciting summer as we have moved towards a lease arrangement with St Mary's University Twickenham. The Strawberry Hill Trust now runs Walpole's house and has nearly £9m from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the restoration of the eighteenth century part of the building. Mayor Marc Cranfield-Adams attended a thank you party for supporters on 17th October.

The House will be open next year from April until mid-summer while all sorts of works are undertaken. We hope that you will visit and support us in other ways.

Forthcoming events include:

- A Celebration of Christmas in the 18th century at 7.30pm on December 13th



Michael Snodin (Chairman, Strawberry Hill Trust), Roger Hackett (Secretary of the Trust) and Marc Cranfield-Adams inspect the gothic staircase

- Christmas carols on Sunday 16th December in the Waldegrave Drawing Room at 6.00pm
- The Friends AGM is on the 21st January 2008 at 7.30pm when one of the conservation architects will update us all on progress.

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Rotary in the community

Strawberry Hill Golf Club hosts the dinners of Twickenham's very active Rotary Club, as President Michael Horner explains:

The club has been established for 29 years and has 32 active members. Our dinner meetings are held on Tuesday evenings in the centre of Strawberry Village at the Golf Club. The members follow the precept of all Rotary Clubs in having fun and fellowship while engaging in fund raising activities to support many charitable and voluntary organisations in and around Strawberry Hill.

Our main fund raising efforts are centred on HANDS Charity Fair (our plant sale); firework night at Kempton Park with hot toddys; the Varsity Match at Twickenham and the door-to-

door collections at Christmas time when our popular Santa's sledge tours the neighbourhood.

These and other minor events help us to raise an average £17,000 per year. Local beneficiaries include Princess Alice Hospice, Welcare, The Endeavour Club and Homeline. On the social side, visits include Kneller Hall summer concerts and our annual trips abroad (this year was Rome) as well as theatre parties and other events. We are looking for new members, both male and female, and would welcome anybody who would like a look-see visit to our meetings.

Contact David Kilvington for more information on 020 8894 4874

Planning

St James' hearing postponed

The hearing of the planning application for the extension to St James's Church in Popes Grove was postponed from October and might now be heard by late November.

A residents' Group, The Friends of St James Hall, are opposing the extension to the rear of the Church because of the impact on nearby homes. They also fear that the Church Hall will be allowed to decay if the extension is built.

Newland House: further appeals

Newland House governors are appealing against the rejection of the second application on the grounds that the Planning Committee was unreasonable in its decision.

Further objections had to be in by October. 22nd but a date for a hearing of the appeal has not been set yet.

Did you know...

... that the railway was originally built in 1862 without any intention of building the station at Strawberry Hill? It was added later in 1873. The most likely explanation for this is that pressure was put on the directors of the Thames Valley Railway by the Rt. Hon. Chichester Fortesque, fourth husband of Lady Waldegrave and a local property developer.

This, and many other fascinating facts about the area, can be found on the Twickenham Museum's website:

www.twickenham-museum.org.uk

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Parking and transport

1 hour plans pending for Wellesley Parade

The short term parking proposals for Wellesley Parade are likely to be published by late November for public consultation. The outline proposal is for one-hour parking bays from Monday to Friday directly in front of the Wellesley Parade shops and station entrance. No parking will be permitted at any time around the island. Some small additions will be made to the double yellow lines at the junctions.

Waiting room

South West trains says that, in principle, the waiting room on the Richmond-bound platform should be open at all times when the booking office is manned. SHRA invites residents to monitor opening times and, where the waiting room is not open to report it to Joe Brett at SHRA.

New ticket machine

A new ticket machine will be sited on the Kingston-bound platform next year. SHRA has urged this for some time.

Station painting before Christmas

The side elevations of the station footbridge are to be painted within the next month, according to South West trains.

The top walkway will not be painted as this can only be done when there are no trains running

More trains on Sunday

From December 10, the frequency of trains on a Sunday will increase to two per hour.

Radnor Gardens

Council pledges £76K on gardens and bowls green

Richmond Council has agreed to spend £50,000 on restoring the garden gates and on work around the tea hut and paths.

A further £26,000 will be spent on urgent repairs to the bowling green. Work on these long-outstanding projects is scheduled for January 2008.

Clare Head, Friends of Radnor Gardens chairman, says the work is part of their Friends' plans to substantially improve the gardens in the short term. In the longer term they seek rebuilding of the Bowls Club. The plans for Bowls Club include a two storey building with a flat for a park keeper as well as community facilities, café and public lavatories.

FoRG is seeking new members and has launched a newsletter delivered to 2,000 homes. Prospective members should contact:

Cllr Clare Head, Home Lodge, 13 Gloucester Road, Teddington TW11 0NS.



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River drawdown



John and Ros Armstrong, with Janet Griffith and Colin Cooper (Richmond Environmental Network), take a break from tidying up the river bed

The Friends of Radnor Gardens took advantage of the annual drawdown when the shoreline is exposed to locate granite sets which had fallen from the bank.

It is hoped that Richmond Council workmen will reset the stone blocks at next drawdown in November 2008.

Storm sewage

FoRG has complained to Richmond Council and Thames Water about sewage overflows from sewers opposite the children's playground and asked that this be given urgent attention.

The overflow occurs during heavy rain when effluent is forced up through the drains and runs down Cross Deep and into the gardens.

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Station garden gets final touches

The final touches to the garden at the station entrance were put in place in September when Leslie Hill put a new fence on the street boundary and on the far side of the site beside the garage.

A bright brass plaque recognises the contribution made jointly with Richmond Council to improve what was an unsightly corner.

The work celebrates SHRA's 40th anniversary.



Committee chairman Bruce Duff fixes the plaque

Waste Units tidied up

The Recycling units at the corner of Wellesley Parade and Popes Avenue have been tidied up following repeated complaints by SHRA to Richmond Council.

The site had become very untidy with most of the bottle units left sprawled outside the stockade, making the area look messy, and with the cardboard unit overflowing at weekends

St James Independent School
for Senior Boys



Top GCSE Results

As part of The Bulletin's focus on local organisations, David Boddy, Headmaster, sets out some of the School's achievements.



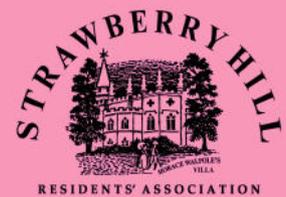
We started our new half term celebrating the news that two of our pupils have achieved national recognition for their public exam results earlier this year.

Andrea Caio won the Independent Schools Associations 'Whitbread Trophy' for the top GCSE results in the country, and Anthony Ridge, now at Cambridge, was among the country's top ten candidates in A level computing.

Since St James Senior School arrived in Twickenham, it has more than doubled in size. The School's growing popularity seems to arise from our rather distinctive approach to the development of character, combined with the pursuit of high academic standards. We are a philosophical school, promoting the idea that every human being belongs to the same family, and that each of us has a responsibility to care for one another, and the planet in which we live.

Our aim is to encourage boys to allow the rush of the world to go by and for them to connect with their own inner peace. This approach does not produce angels! It produces boys of a highly spirited nature - this spirited nature sometimes spills into Radnor Gardens.

We very much want to play our part in the community. The boys raise money for both local and international charities and over the next year we would like to support the work of the Friends of Radnor Gardens, we always welcome visitors and have regular tours of the school special tours of Alexander Pope's Grotto are also organised by Mr Tony Beckles Willson. We look forward to seeing many of you in the year to come.



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Can SHRA help you with planning issues?

If you and/or your neighbours are concerned about projected building plans in your area, we are here to give advice and support. Together with local councillors, SHRA is able to help by giving advice on:

- 1 Coordinating objections
- 2 Pin-pointing acceptable grounds for objections
- 3 Explaining the workings of the Council's Planning Department

Contact Jose Relton or any member of the Committee.



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- B Costcutter by Strawberry Hill Station**
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Payment may also be made by Standing Order. Forms are available from John or from the SHRA website (www.shra.org.uk)

Additional donations are always welcome!

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