

No. 146 Summer 2011

Sun shines on music, fun and strawberries

On June 26, the hottest day of the year so far, we opened our strawberry-themed stall at the RFU Music and Fun Day. As temperatures soared, a large crowd gathered to hear Skalectrix, the Mustangs and other bands.

A team of volunteers manned the SHRA stall, slicing 20 lbs of strawberries and inserting them into sponge cakes, Pavlovas, millefeuille, cheesecake, and, of course, just strawberries and cream. Pints of cream were whipped and liberally applied to the home-made produce.

By 6 o'clock everything had been sold and we had taken £434, about £390 after expenses, which will go to SHRA funds.

Secretary Clare Phelps organised the helpers and the strawberry treats were all made by residents, whom we thank for their generous donations.



Residents Yvonne Kinder and Ros Armstrong serve some young customers

Staff cuts bode ill at station

Closure of the booking office in the afternoons at Strawberry Hill station threatens to cause booking and fare problems. Older residents unfamiliar with the ticket machines, or reluctant to use them, will be particularly affected.

One resident said: "What happens if the machine is out of order? Shall I be fined for travelling without a ticket?" Moreover, if they use the ticket machines, they risk losing out on special fare offers which are not posted on the machines. Nor can they get refunds for tickets purchased from the machines with cash or credit cards. Another passenger said: "I shall now have to change the way I usually book tickets or I won't be able to ask the advice of the ticket clerks about the best fare deals. I don't like the ticket machines. Just as well if, as I understand, I can't get a refund for those tickets".

From June 26, Strawberry Hill station booking office opens from 06.15 to 13.00 Monday to Friday. Weekend opening is unchanged: Saturday 08.00 to 14.45, Sunday 09.30 to 13.00.

See the article on the booking office on page 3.

St Mary's Sports Hall nears completion

Construction of the new sports hall at St Mary's University College is reaching its final stage, with completion currently due for the end of July 2011. The new £8.25 million facility will create a single centre by linking the new hall to the existing games hall and original 1960s sports block, which is also undergoing refurbishment.

The hall will provide courts for 5-a-side football, badminton, basketball, netball and handball, as well as providing cricket lanes. These new facilities, along with the existing ones, will be



The new sports hall

available for hire by the community when not required for use by the University College.

Details of these and other matters of interest to local residents are shown on the community section of the University College website:

www.smuc.ac.uk

(click on 'community' on the bar at the top of the page).

St Mary's plans for historic playfest

St Mary's College plans to host the biggest performance of medieval Mystery Plays ever witnessed in Britain. The 70 biblical plays will be produced in 2014 to celebrate the 750th anniversary of the festival of Corpus Christi. The plays, put on by the craftsmen's guilds, were a feature of the feast day.

The modern re-enactment will involve a wide spectrum of denominations, organisations, students and school children. St Mary's hopes that the plays will process from all over London to be performed in the College grounds. In the Middle Ages the plays were acted on wheeled stages pulled around the streets. The modern stages will be transported on the backs of trucks.

Unease over uplift in crime

Speculation about a rise in local crime gained credence with the recent report of the Police Consultative Committee which shows a of number thefts from cars and break-ins. In particular, owners of Citroen and Vauxhall cars have reported thefts of their spare wheels. Local shops Peggy's Pantry and Kyzan, the hairdresser, were burgled and an attempt was made to break in to Sopa.

There's more in the article on page 5.

No wine?

Can it be true that there are no winemakers in Strawberry Hill? Our appeal for home-grown vigneron in the last issue went unanswered. We had hoped that the prospect of an autumn wine festival would be too cheering to resist. The vines are budding, as this picture from John Armstrong's vine in Pope's Grove shows.



John inspects this year's crop of grapes

Please call John on 020 8894 5218 or email john@armstrong.efhmail.com should the lure of the vendage appeal.

Royal Wedding Street Parties

Waldegrave Gardens

Children and their parents raised £466 for Roy Kinnear House in Waldegrave Gardens with an almost impromptu party organised only two weeks before.

Alison Clay, one of the mums who set it up, says: "It was such a resounding success as everyone wanted it to happen and all helped to make it happen. We had a juke box and



Children in Waldegrave Gardens enjoying the party

Jonathan, a resident of the street, played his saxophone whilst we tucked into BBQ food and salads. The children enjoyed a number of games including a scavenger hunt, egg and spoon race using Cadbury's Creme Eggs, playing table tennis, basketball, beat the goalie as well as simply being able to scooter and ripstick freely in the road! Over 96 adults and children attended. It was a fantastic way to generate a real sense of community and for everyone to make some new friends."

Upper Grotto Road

Residents of Upper Grotto Road and Rhollies Close threw a spectacular street party that went on from mid-day until midnight involving nearly 120 people. After a collective effort clearing the road of cars, getting the bunting and gazebos up and decorating the street with balloons and flags, the fun started. It was a super family day for all generations including live music provided by Matt Harris, number 51, and his friends from the band 'Born Native'.

Table tennis, and some very competitive games such as pitching the Odds v the Evens,



The barbies are fired up and the street party is in full swing in Upper Grotto Road.

an egg and spoon relay race, balloon passing between the knees and passing an orange under your neck were a great way to get to know your neighbours. The barbecues sizzled all day and there was no shortage of home-made cakes and sandwiches as well as plentiful supplies of Pimms. Everyone mucked in to make sure it was a fantastic day.

Street parties were also held in Holmes Road and Tennyson Avenue.

Strawberry Hill House

Royal visitor attends Gala Concert

Jenny Eynon, Assistant Director writes:

The 2011 season is now well underway, and since April our doors have been open to the general public five days per week (Mon-Wed 2-4.20 pm last admission; Sat and Sun 12.00-4.20 pm last admission). We've had a fantastic response and visitor numbers are still extremely encouraging.

The big event of the season was a Gala Concert in conjunction with the Chopin Society. We were honoured to welcome HRH Princess Alexandra to Strawberry Hill to hear Angela Hewitt play a selection of pieces by Chopin, Bach and Schubert. The event was a phenomenal success, with ticket sales and two auctions raising much-needed funds to

continue the restoration work and to acquire key pieces of the reproduction furniture to place within Walpole's villa.

Twilight tours

So what's next for Strawberry Hill? We are starting to think about offering guided tours for individuals to join at the weekends, as well as the Twilight Tours we have already begun. More information will come on the website when the details have been finalised - keep your eyes peeled!

The SHRA garden tours held in May were well received and we hope went some way to explain the vision for Walpole's garden which is now being realised.

We welcome comments and feedback from our neighbours, and hope that by now most of you have had a chance to look around the house and garden. If not, then please do book via the website:

www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk

where you will also find a full list of activities including a great range of family activities through the summer: Twilight Tours, Shadow Theatre Puppets and Storytelling workshops, to name but a few.

If you like what you see here and would like to get involved, then we're always looking for friendly and enthusiastic volunteers to join our team! If you are interested, please contact us on:

volunteering@strawberryhillhouse.org.uk

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Travel and Transport News

'Allo, 'allo - 'oo is on zee buses?

Puzzled travellers may have noticed the name of a new bus operator for the local routes 33, 281 and 267. They have been taken over by Groupe RATP, operator of the Paris Metro - and much more.

The R68 and R70 routes, meanwhile, are operated by Abellio, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Netherlands railways.

If that were not curious enough, Transport for London has privatised the operation of our buses to French and Dutch state nationalised industries.

C'est bizarre, n'est-ce-pas?

Twickenham to Kingston bus route

The T2K bus campaign aiming to introduce a direct bus route linking Twickenham and Kingston via Strawberry Vale has attracted positive support from local councillors, residents, shopkeepers, schools and local attractions including St Mary's University College and Strawberry Hill House, but initial responses from Transport for London (TfL) have not been as positive as campaigners had hoped.

Sadly, the cost to run a new bus service linking these two major towns would outweigh the revenue generated as TfL does not believe there is sufficient demand for this service. TfL will, however, monitor the use and demand for bus services in the area and will reconsider if the circumstances change.

Ingrid van der Weide, local resident and leader of the T2K bus campaign, said "The initial response from TfL did not come as a great surprise. However, I believe that there is a solution out there that would make good economic sense and will improve the public transport routes for people travelling between Twickenham and Kingston. We will carry on with the campaign, but we do need more signatures and comments in support of the proposed bus route. We currently have around 1,000 signatures, but need triple to give us the best possible chance of success. Residents are urged to sign the petition and send it to anyone they know who would stand to benefit."

To find out more about the campaign and show your support please go to:

www.t2kbus.com



Paul bids farewell to the friendly eccentrics

Popular Paul Tjader, booking clerk at Strawberry Hill station, leaves soon for Hampton station in the wake of the staff rota changes. In his two years at the station Paul has won many admirers for his cheerful and helpful approach. "I shall miss you very much," says Paul, who lives in Wimbledon. "People here are very friendly and very interesting to talk to as well. They have a wide range of interests."

Paul's interest are wide too. After seven years at the Associated Arts School in Wimbledon, he was offered, but declined, a place at the Royal Ballet school and became a dancer, both classical and modern, from pantomime to the ballet. His hobbies are Victorian military history and jazz - "from bebop onwards". A frequent visitor to Ronnie Scott's jazz clubs, he has met many famous jazz musicians such as Oscar Peterson, Art Blakey, Slim Gaillard and Ella Fitzgerald.

Paul adds, "People here like to talk. Some of you can be a bit eccentric - but always polite".



Paul Tjader: not just trains but history, dance and jazz too

:*!@...RANT ...&%!1

This Bulletin introduces RANT! - a new column for residents wanting to let off steam. Email ebacot@tiscali.co.uk if you have a Rant! for a future issue.

Ban backyard bonfires!

Dear Sirs,

I have a Rant relating to inconsiderate residents south of Waldegrave Road who persistently hold backyard bonfires; this has been going on for years.

A sunny warm day in Spring is the trigger to start and usually early in the evening. When the day is really warm and pleasant, one sits outside, but the enjoyment is marred by the smell of acrid smoke from household waste, not the lovely smell of burning dried leaves. Also, one throws open windows and doors of one's house to let some fresh air in after the long winter months, but on going upstairs to bed the bedroom smells of smoke. In the

summer months with the windows open overnight the smoke comes in all night as the bonfire is left to burn itself out.

Apparently it is not against the law and the Council does not encourage these bonfires, but will only get involved once a resident cannot resolve the matter with the offender. The Council also used to send out leaflets to a complainant that could be given to an offending party.

This is wrong. There should be no need for these bonfires, given all the waste and recycling services the Council provides.

Maxine Frieze.

maxinefrieze@blueyonder.co.uk

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Life underneath the arches

How three carpenters build their business

The arches beneath the railway bridge spanning Pope's Grove are home to a group of enterprising local craftsmen.

Paul Creagh, 18 years a carpenter and joiner, moved to his workshop under the arches five years ago. Paul mostly works on his own, but frequently combines forces with two other carpenters who have workshops under the arches. His customers are all in Richmond and business is good, despite the downturn.



Paul Creagh says "business is good"

"You know how it is. When you work for yourself and you have two jobs in hand, you think business is good. Nonetheless, most of my work comes to me through recommendation and that is a good sign."

The jobs can be basic carpentry to furniture making. "I make what people want and that can be a long, and frankly expensive, oak library in a big house on Richmond Hill to free-standing furniture. Or it could be some window frames."

Paul enjoys designing and making furniture. Modern styles in light wood are much in demand. "Oak and cherry are popular."

His workshop, smelling of wood, is compact, and he admits, not big enough. But he has no plans to move and enjoys the camaraderie of the neighbouring carpenters. Paul, married with one daughter, says: "It is quiet here and I like it."

Architectural joiner and furniture maker is how Stephen Baber describes his trade. He came to the arches at the same time as Paul Creagh from their previous

workshops in Hamilton Road off Twickenham Green. Stephen has worked for himself for 15 years since leaving college.



Stephen Baber: likes designing iconic furniture

"The most satisfying work is making and designing furniture. I would describe my style as being a contemporary with a classic feel. Furniture that is iconic, like an E type Jag."

Typical of his designs is a table made from ash in a style reminiscent of Art Nouveau. Stephen lives in Twickenham and all his work is from local customers. Architectural commissions range from window frames - "people here don't like plastic much" - to verandahs. His most spectacular recent job was for a record collector who ordered massive free-standing oak library racks and drawer to house the precious disks.

Martin Hole calls himself, simply, a woodworker. "That encompasses everything. If it's wood you want, I'll make it." However, Martin, who lives on a boat at Isleworth, makes furniture and undertakes repairs. He enjoys architectural work and

recently completed a magnificent oak front door for a grand house in Wimbledon.



Martin Hole: enjoys architectural work

To show the variety of his work he then made a front door for a houseboat at Hampton Court and shortly after that repaired the board listing past presidents at the rowing club on Eel Pie Island. "That needed a nice piece of reclaimed oak which came from my wood stock. I usually have a piece of timber somewhere." Martin's favourite wood is mahogany - "especially old wood. A 100 year old piece of mahogany is a pleasure to work with."

A woodworker for 10 years, Martin previously restored classic cars. "My heart is in restoration." Martin adds: "Strawberry Hill is a pleasant place to work. What is more, people live in nice houses and want good quality work done on them".

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Safer Neighbourhood Team Report

There is a perception that crime is increasing in this area. We asked our local Safer Neighbourhood Team to update us on their recent activities.

Peggy's Pantry

Peggy's Pantry on Tower Road was broken into overnight and the day's takings stolen. Previously Kyzan hairdressers was targeted in the same way with the till contents taken. On the same night as Kyzan was burgled, a failed attempt was made to gain entry to Sopa.

We have increased foot patrols in this location at night, added high-visibility patrols at peak commuter times and advertised surgeries with the aim of accessibility so that our residents can make us aware of issues or suspicious behaviour in the locality that we may not already be aware of.

Our PCSOs have given crime prevention advice to all the businesses in this location with regard to not leaving money in the tills overnight and if possible making the empty till visible from the street. We have also suggested that shopkeepers put up signage stating that no money is left on the premises overnight.



Following police advice, this notice in the window of Peggy's Pantry seeks to deter burglars.

St Mary's students

South Twickenham SNT have liaised closely with St Mary's University following complaints from residents about people believed to be students engaging in low-level Anti Social Behaviour in the area close to the campus. We applied for CCTV from the Council to monitor the area close to Strawberry Hill Road.

The university supplies street wardens on Mondays, Wednesdays and for events. The extra security staff have been approved for the foreseeable future. South Twickenham SNT has given cover on special event nights to make sure that noise and disturbance levels are kept to a minimum.

Environmental Visual Audits

PCSO Curtis has been in contact with the Highways Agency for more than three years regarding a parking bay at the end of Pope's Grove which had been extended to cover and block the raised pedestrian crossing point from St Catherine's school to the Alexander Pope Hotel and to implement double yellow lines on either side of Popes Grove beyond this point. At last, the parking bay has been removed from the crossing and double yellow lines implemented from this point for safety and visibility of residents and school children.

PCSO Yong has recently been in contact with the Highways Agency with regard to the extremely faded and broken double yellow lines that commuters have been ignoring and parking on in the close vicinity to Strawberry Hill Station. As a result, these lines will be refreshed imminently.

Theft of spare wheels

Spare wheels have been taken from Citroen and Vauxhall motor vehicles models which have the spare wheels slung under the rear and accessed externally. This happened over a two-night period. We have given specific crime prevention advice to the victims of this crime and sent detailed Crime Prevention Advice to all the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators on the ward for dissemination to their respective watches. We also do checks of vehicles of the vulnerable models to give advice to their owners.

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SHRA Annual General Meeting

The 46th Annual General Meeting of the Strawberry Hill Residents Association was held on April 11 at Strawberry Hill golf club. Twenty-five residents attended, fewer than usual, but perhaps explained by this year's meeting falling in the Easter holiday period.

At the beginning of the meeting PC Cameron McKenzie introduced himself and talked briefly about the role of the Safer Neighbourhood Team. Co-chairman Robert Youngs then talked about another successful year for the Association, mentioning our involvement at the Music & Fun day at Strawberry Hill House and the Christmas Carol event at Wellesley Parade.

Our bulletin goes from strength to strength, with financial support from advertisers and issues of planning and traffic and travel have been followed up on behalf of residents. The current committee was re-elected and a new member, Charles Owens, was also elected. The meeting ended with residents enjoying a glass of wine and the opportunity to talk to their neighbours.

Questionnaire seeks your views on Christmas carols

For last eight years, the SHRA Committee has organised a Christmas event, on a Friday evening near Christmas, outside Sopa restaurant, at which local children decorate the tree, carols are sung and mulled wine and mince pies are served. The present choir can no longer continue, but a school choir has volunteered to take its place. Your generous donations have enabled us to donate money to Roy Kinnear House, a home for severely disabled young adults on Waldegrave Road.

The weather last December was very cold and the pavements very icy, which made walking conditions dangerous and unsafe. The Committee feels we should re-think this event, and would appreciate your help by answering the questions below. *If you prefer, you can answer the same questionnaire on our website:*

I would like to see the Christmas Carols and Tree lighting continue: Yes No

I am not interested in the above: Yes No

I would prefer a different time of day (enter here):

I would prefer a different day of the week (enter here):

I would like to see local schools involved in the carols: Yes No

I would like another kind of event at this time of year (enter here):

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Vintage Golf at Strawberry Hill Golf Club

*Timewarp at Hickory Golf Day
By Our Golfing Correspondent*

A glimpse of the past arrived at Strawberry Hill Golf Club in May, when Gavin Bottrell of Timewarp Golf came to Strawberry Hill with 50 sets of antique hickory-shafted clubs for a unique 'hickory' competition. About 45 players tackled the course with clubs that were older than they were. Whilst there were glimpses of genius, including a hole-in-one by visitor Roger Graham, for the most part the idiosyncrasies of the original equipment made modern clubs seem positively easy by comparison.



Gavin Bottrell of Timewarp Golf with a set of hickory-shafted clubs

still had 29 years to run when J. H. Taylor, another 'golfing great' of his day, designed the nine-hole course at Strawberry Hill. He had in mind a good test of golfing skill – which it remains today, despite the advent of carbon fibre and titanium. But try taking on the course with brassie, spoon, mashie and niblick. Now there you have another test again!

It was altogether quite a month for the Golf Club, with an open day held four weeks later on the Bank Holiday Monday. On offer were a free nine-hole "try" of the course or some lessons for those just thinking about

taking up the game. It can be quite a surprise coming across the course for the first time. Compact and picturesque and a club that prides itself on giving newcomers a warm welcome. Strawberry Hill G.C. is one of our own facilities, helping to make Strawberry Hill the community it is. If you missed the open day, come along and see it for yourself.

In 1929 the world of golf had changed. The Royal and Ancient, British golf's governing body, legalised the use of steel-shafted clubs. Although Bobby Jones, arguably the greatest golfer of all time (and an amateur), used hickory wood throughout his career, steel soon became the material of choice, with all the benefits it brought to golfers, both good and not so good. Hickory

Final chance for Pope's Avenue and Alexander Close

Despite our best efforts, we have been unable to find anyone willing to distribute the Bulletin to Pope's Avenue and also to Alexander Close. Unless volunteers step forward, this may be the last issue residents will receive for the time being.

The job is not onerous, taking about 30 minutes three times a year. If you think you can help, please contact Clare Phelps or email:

Bulletin@shra.org.uk.

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