

Representing the views of all who live in the historic Thames-side village of Strawberry Hill

No. 152 Summer 2013

Council restores the Village boundaries

Richmond Council has acknowledged our residents' discontent about the redrawn boundaries of Strawberry Hill and has restored them to the original borders.

At a lively SHRA Annual General Meeting at the Golf Club in April, local Councillors and Cllr. Pamela Fleming, Cabinet member for Business, Culture and Planning, were left in no doubt about the feelings of residents.

The new map is shown on the Strawberry Hill page of the My Villages section of the Council website:

www.richmond.gov.uk/village_plans

The new borders would have excluded up to 800 homes in 16 roads. At the AGM, residents were told there would be a second consultation at a date to be announced. SHRA understands that consultation will take place in 2014. Residents will therefore have a further opportunity to indicate where they think they live.

Cllr. David Marlow, one of South Twickenham Ward's three councillors, said: "I am very pleased that the Council has accepted that the Strawberry Hill village area is now as defined by SHRA. The first question in the All in One consultation questionnaire was 'Where is your local area or neighbourhood? (for example Twickenham, Ham etc)'. The previous area was defined and based on the replies the Council received and this has now been rectified to accord with the clear view now expressed by residents."

We're happy that the Council has responded positively to our complaints. As one resident put it: "Thanks to ... the SHRA Committee for all your work on getting the Council to accept the residents' views on boundaries. This is a great result and shows that individuals can make their voices heard when galvanised into action."



The restored boundaries as shown on the Council's website



The schools have broken up, families are on holiday and there seems to be less traffic on the roads. But come the end of September, we'll undoubtedly return to normality: minor traffic jams, inconsiderate parking and incipient attacks of road-rage. We're going to ask the Council to take a considered look at the problems of our overutilised road space, but first, we want your opinions. Read the article on page 5 and let us know what you think.

Sometimes the opinions of our residents do carry some weight with the Council. We're delighted that the anger (and there was genuine anger) of some residents in our area convinced the Council to adjust their Village Plans, as described on the left. We think the Council has acted sensibly on this issue and look forward to their support for our traffic and parking initiative.

Each Christmas for the past several years, we've donated some of the proceeds of our Carol event to our local Charity: Roy Kinnear House on Waldegrave Road. There's a profile of it on page 6 and an appeal for volunteers.

We know you like a bargain, so we've found Strawberry Hill Vineyard: a little-known producer in the West Country. The muchoverused term "Award Winning" can genuinely be applied to them. Work up a thirst by reading our article on page 2, which contains a special offer for readers: 20% off all their products (this may be the first of a series of articles on "Other Strawberry Hills").

And if that's not enough for you, there's another offer hidden somewhere in this Bulletin. If you read all the articles, you'll find out how to get a free cup of excellent coffee at Peggy's Pantry.



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The Emmanuel Centre at St James opens

Lyndon Law attended the opening of a great new space for community use

The 16th of June at St James Church in Popes Grove saw the opening of the Emmanuel Centre, a wonderful new facility for parish and community use at the at the rear of the church. The Rt. Rev. Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, officially opened the centre and the guest of honour was HRH Dom Miguel of Braganza, Infante of Portugal, who has close links with the Church and the parish. Following mass, there was a reception in the new centre hosted by Father Ulick and I had the pleasure of attending.

The Church of St James is a beautiful old yellow brick building built in 1885. It features stained glass donated by the last king of Portugal, Manoel II. Following his exile, the king lived at Fulwell Park where, he was active in the local community and worshipped regularly at St. James. There are several toponymic references to his influence: Manoel Road, Lisbon Avenue and Portugal Gardens.

Although the new Emmanuel Centre is an unashamedly modern construction, the simple, clean design integrates very well with the old. When you enter the building there is a fantastic sense of light and space and it's immediately

obvious that a great deal of thought went into the project. The team went to great lengths to use local firms and craftsmen wherever possible in the construction, including Peter Caitlin, a local stonemason who works under the arches in Pope's Grove, who cut and installed the stone.

The church will be using the Centre for baptisms, weddings and Holy Communion receptions, as well as funerals. Father Ulick is very keen that the new facility be put to good use in the wider community for charities, community groups and alike for meetings, events or fundraising. Anyone wishing to enquire about usage, please see contact details at the end of this article.

The history of the project and how it was achieved

Plans for an extension to St James were first seriously discussed back in 2004 in order to accommodate the growing attendance at mass.

In 2009 a plan was agreed for a project to be split into two phases: Phase 1, a new children's chapel and porch (completed in May 2011) and Phase 2, the new Emmanuel Centre. Father Ulick kick-started fundraising for this in July 2010 by shaving off his beard! Following that, there were many other examples of the parish coming together in fundraising activities, from a kayak race to coffee mornings and the long-standing Christmas market. The Emmanuel Centre is a great example of what can be achieved when the people of our community pull together and all involved should be congratulated for their achievement.

You can contact St James' by phoning 020 8892 4578 or emailing <u>st-james@tiscali.co.uk</u>.



Father Ulick and the Archbishop open the new Centre



Fizzingly good offer from our namesake wine

Local resident Lyndon Law has discovered a namesake vineyard in Gloucestershire – and a special offer to boot

You may be surprised to learn that Strawberry Hill has a namesake in a small hill-side in deepest Gloucestershire. That hill-side just happens to be home to a vineyard producing some very interesting English wines. We've been in contact with Tim and Olly from Strawberry Hill Vineyard and agreed a great offer for our residents.

In recent years English wine has been making a real impact on the global stage, often beating well-established French wines in international challenges. Strawberry Hill Vineyard has won a Silver Medal two years running in Decanter magazine's World Wine Awards, most recently for their sparkling wine, which was up against more than 10,000 competitors.

Their wines have been supplied to Heston Blumenthal and Rick Stein, as well as being served to the Queen and Prince Philip. The vineyard has been especially innovative in growing a portion of its vines under glass, so as isolate it from the vagaries of the English climate. They produce a wide variety of red, white and sparkling wines.

For more information on the vineyard and the wine, visit:

www.strawberryhillvineyard.com

Should you wish to order a bottle or a case, Olly has kindly agreed to offer Strawberry Hill residents a **20% discount** - please remember to mention that when ordering.





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Men at work at Strawberry Hill House – and it's fascinating

Summer heralds more timely work at the House

With summer activities in full swing, a further grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund ushers in an exciting second era of restoration and development for Strawberry Hill House. Over the next 18 months visitors will be able to see the most private rooms of the house restored and reopened. Walpole's bedroom and dressing rooms, the Breakfast Room, which was the everyday sitting room, and the Green Closet, where he wrote most of his correspondence will be seen as Walpole lived in them.

As far as is practical it is intended to allow visitors to view the restoration work first-hand once contractors arrive. As many visitors found out in 2010, the experience of watching wallpapers hung, gold leaf applied and even paint being mixed can be fascinating! As neighbours, SHRA members may well wish to visit often to see the work progressing. Later this year a special feature on the website homepage will highlight particularly interesting work that is about to occur to help you plan your visits.

Those of you who are Members of the Friends of Strawberry Hill have unlimited access to the house throughout our open season. If you're not yet a member, rates are very reasonable. You can join directly from their website:

www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/friends

Plants for sale

Work outdoors also continues and the bare landscape of 2010 has been transformed into a stunning young garden. You don't need a ticket to access the garden, so it is easy to spend time there on a sunny day - perhaps bring a picnic or enjoy the café. Not least, visitors admiring the flowering borders can now buy many of the plants on display to create their own theatrical Strawberry display.

Cultural Award restores stained glass

Recognition of the House's restoration achievement by the Europe-wide cultural organisation, the Europa Nostra Awards comes with a practical gift. As a Grand Prix winner, Strawberry Hill receives €10,000 and a wall plaque. The money will go towards the cost of reproducing stained glass in the Tribune.

This protected room was built to house Walpole's most valuable treasures. His priceless collection of miniatures was displayed in a very fine rosewood cabinet (now in the Victoria and Albert Museum). The walls and niches were crammed with pictures, statues, and expensive *objets d'art*. The grilled door resembles that of a bank vault and all but the most privileged of visitors were only allowed to view the treasures through its bars.

In restoring the Tribune it was discovered that there had been three layers in the window embrasures: a plain glass window, a painted glass panel and the shutters. The glass panels can now be returned.



Minute attention to detail produces stunning results

Making an entrance

Following an Herculean effort by Tom Organ and his colleagues at the Wallpaintings Workshop, the decoration to the ground floor of the Entrance Hall is virtually complete. The effect is staggering and The House now has an Entrance Hall that actually entrances!

The Holbein Chamber, meanwhile, is looking rather different this year. The walllining of the bay has been taken down so as to discover more about the work that was done in the 1980s, when the College restored the room after an attack of dry rot. It is intended to complete the restoration as part of the second phase. The windows will be reconstructed as Walpole would have known them by removing the modern sashes.

College bursts into flower

Looking through the railings on Waldegrave Road into the grounds of St Mary's University College is set to become a much more fulfilling experience. The first stage of an ambitious new sowing regime is coming to fruition, with a species-rich meadow of annual wildflowers coming into bloom.

Subject to Richmond Council approval of the plans (the landscaping and planting is part of the planning conditions for the College's new sports hall), further sowing and planting will take place over the coming months to enhance further the views into the College grounds.

Following discussions between SHRA and the College authorities, the number of notice boards behind the railings has been reduced. SHRA is pressing the College to remove the remaining two notice boards that lie immediately behind the railings, so that there will be an uninterrupted view of what promises to be a spectacular display of wildflowers.

A splash of colour from Swan Island

Victoria and Claudio's clever ways with colour

Victoria and Claudio Fuller know your favourite home decoration colours (see below). And so they should, after 13 years of painting, decorating and home improvement in Twickenham and Strawberry Hill. At their office on Swan Island Victoria, explains that their company, Colour & Craft, seeks to deliver great customer service in depth.



Victoria and a range of colours

"That's really important for a business like ours serving the local community" says Victoria. "We also work with people's contractors who often call us in." Victoria and Claudio, who met in Italy – he a ski instructor, she a travel rep – now manage the company and consult with their customers. Victoria is in charge of marketing; Claudio is charged with client relations. "That's his thing. He will spend hours discussing colour schemes with clients." says Victoria. "Sometimes clients want to match an antique shower head or a bathroom basin with modern fittings. That can be timeconsuming," says Victoria.

Soon, they will be popping their newsletter, *The Gloss*, through letter-boxes in Strawberry Hill. What is more, take your copy of *The Gloss* to Peggy's Pantry by the station and you will get a free coffee!

Victoria's top tips for successful home projects are:

- Plan. Watch the TV programmes, read the home decor magazines
- Agree decent lead times
- Ask lots of questions about the project, when it will start, when it will end, what's involved in the price

As for Strawberry Hill's favourite colours, they're all from the Farrow and Ball range. "It's the all-time favourite range." And the five best sellers? Here they are; three are shades of white, one is pink, one is grey and they go by the interesting names:

- Wimbourne White
- Slipper Satin
- Skimming Stone
- Middleton Pink
- · Elephant's Breath

Contact details can be found in Colour & Craft's advertisement on page 1.

December marks 140 years of our 'attractive little railway station'

In 1873 the railway came to Strawberry Hill. Our archivist unearths the story

enden & Seath Westers Av.

TEDDINGTON to

See over

A ticket from Teddington to Strawberry Hill

dated the 19th of March, 1893

CLASS

Fare 1d

CLASS.

Fare 1d

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The most important item of news in the issue of the Richmond and Twickenham Times on the 6th of December 1873 was that reporting on the opening of a new station at Strawberry Hill. The writer added that 'it promises to be as attractive a little railway station as we could well wish to see'.

The nearest main line was that from London to Windsor via Richmond and Twickenham and this was owned by the London and South Western Railway Company. In 1859, the Company sought powers to build an extension or loop from the main line at Twickenham into Kingston and the necessary private Act of Parliament was passed on 1st of August 1859. This loop was to be known as the Kingston Bridge Line. However, there was enormous opposition by the burghers of Kingston to the building of a railway into the town and so, at first, permission was only given for a line from Twickenham terminating at Hampton Wick. The financial interests of the small clique of opponents were soon overcome and a further act in 1860 allowed the railway over the river and into Kingston.

At about the same time, another company was formed and took the name of the Thames Valley Railway Company, its object being to link Shepperton with Twickenham. With major works already in hand between Twickenham and Hampton, it seemed only logical for the London and South Western Railway to take an interest in the Thames Valley Railway and, in 1862, an amalgamation was agreed whereby the shareholders of the smaller company were suitably compensated. The

London and South Western Railway constructed and operated the Thames Valley Railway.

The Thames Valley Line was opened to traffic on the 1st of November 1864 when the first trains travelled the nine and a half miles from Shepperton to Twickenham Station. Ordnance Survey maps at this time shows the absence of any station at Strawberry Hill and, of course, passengers from Shepperton journeyed through the junction with the Kingston Bridge Line and alighted at Twickenham Station.

Why was the station built?

Strawberry Hill Station was opened on the 1st of December 1873. Why wasn't it thought necessary to build a station at first? Unfortunately, it will probably never be possible for an authoritative answer to be given, for the one certain source of information - the directors' minutes of the London and South Western Railway for the relevant decade - was destroyed during the Blitz on London by a fire at Waterloo Station.



The level crossing in the early 20th century. The structure of the footbridge can be seen.



The centre of the village in 1864 and in 1894, after the building of the station. Note that Walpole Gardens and Strawberry Hill Road have been developed

An entry in the Richmond and Twickenham Times for Saturday, 4th of October 1873, stated rather baldly: "The Waldegrave Station on the Kingston Extension Line is to be opened on November 1st. It will be under the management of Mr. George Topley Court, the station master at Twickenham." Perhaps as a result of this report, it has been suggested

that the station was built at the behest of Lady Waldegrave to ease the travelling for the many house guests she entertained at Strawberry Hill. Without the station, her many eminent guests would either have travelled from London by road or they would have left the train at Twickenham Station, quite a long and awkward distance from Strawberry Hill.

A more likely explanation of the chief reason for the opening of the station is that pressure was exerted on the railway directors by property

speculators, amongst whom was Chichester Fortescue, fourth husband of Frances Waldegrave. There is no direct evidence, but in the absence of the railway records, an intelligent guess can be made from other sources. Any walk around Strawberry Hill and the station will be along roads in which there are still many houses built in the last quarter of the 19th century. A W.J. Scott, writing about the Thames Valley Railway in the Railway Magazine for June 1919, referred to a "local baronet who wished to develop his building estate" and the solid, Victorian villas shown on the second map would suggest that the baronet - Chichester Fortescue - fulfilled his wishes.

The new station was officially opened on Monday, the 1st of December 1873. The Richmond and Twickenham Times had, in October, announced the opening for the 1st of November. They were a month early in their timing and on the 29th of November 1873 made a graceful apology for their "somewhat premature announcement of the opening of the station". However, the paper added "it will be used for the first time on Monday next and will prove a great boon to the inhabitants of the district around ... " A week later they were reporting that "it has already been much utilised".

The new station at Strawberry Hill was equipped with the very latest in signalling and safety devices. The Richmond and Twickenham Times again, this time on the 6th of December 1873, furnished technical detail. "The station", it reported, "has been fitted with entirely new signal and locking apparatus and the completeness and efficiency of the means provided to prevent all danger of collision merit especial attention. The signal and locking system is that of Messrs. Saxby and Farmer, being the same as that fitted at the Twickenham and Windsor Line Junction Box." In 1873 it merited special mention for its up-to-the-minute design and *Continued on page 5...*

SHRA calls for area-wide traffic and parking review

Most residents will have noticed the increase in traffic volumes and pressure on parking in the last five years. Persistent complaints that we have received include difficulty in passing parked cars during heavy traffic, excessive speeds, inconsiderate parking, confusing or missing road signs, poorly marked and dangerous junctions and having to park unreasonable sign in the area, unless distances from home.

Rush-hour traffic is particularly problematic in Tower Road, Strawberry Hill Road, Pope's Grove, Orford Gardens, Pope's Avenue and Vicarage Road. Residents in the western part of our area, outside the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ), complain about parking by commuters and students, abandoned cars and long-term parking, in one case for more than seven months. Junctions which seem to residents to be particularly dangerous include Pope's Avenue/Wellesley Road, Pope's Avenue/Spencer Road/Pope's Grove, Pope's Avenue/Vicarage Road, Pope's Grove/Cross Deep and Pope's Grove/Orford Gardens.

We have, in the past, called upon the Council to address some of these problems individually, with some success, but often, sadly, with failure. Some solutions have been



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proposed by residents. They include one-way streets, mini-roundabouts, improved markings at junctions, clearer signage, extensions to the CPZ and an area-wide 20 mph limit. The causes and their solutions are not necessarily obvious to those who are not professional traffic planners. And, in many cases, proposals can contentious, sometimes he favouring some parties to the detriment of others. Piecemeal changes merely solve a particular



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situation in a particular area and do not address the overall problem.

In support of our member's complaints, we intend to ask the Council to conduct a thorough review of traffic and parking over our whole area, with the twin objectives of improving road safety and convenience for all residents. We will not pre-judge possible solutions, but will present your concerns to Council officers. Please let have your opinions using the contact details below.

Let us have your views on traffic and parking

We want to hear your views and experiences. Do you regularly encounter difficulty parking? Are you inconvenienced by excessive traffic and speeds? Have you had, or witnessed, any near-misses with other vehicles? Have you seen examples of inconsiderate or dangerous parking? If you're a cyclist, do you have any special concerns?

You can contact us through our website, by email using Bulletin@shra.org.uk, by Twitter (@SHResidents) or by calling any Committee member (details on the back page). If you have any relevant photos, please send them as well.

SHRA Committee changes

t the AGM on Monday the 22nd of April, residents approved the appointment of Cathy Bird, Peter Lamb, Julia Fiehn and Jackie Rowley as new Committee members.

Since the AGM, Lyndon Law has joined the Committee, John Naish has resigned as Hon. Treasurer and is replaced by Cathy Bird. The Committee would like to thank John for his sterling work as Treasurer over the last six years.

These changes will be proposed for confirmation at the next AGM. The full list of Committee members can be found on the back page.

Continued from page 4...

efficiency. In 1973, 100 years later, the same equipment was still in use. The original footbridge still stands, though it was extensively refurbished in 2009. However, cracks appeared in the new wooden cladding, which was replaced in late 2010.

We have no idea how busy the station was when it opened. However, in the financial year 2011/12, the Office of the Rail Regulator estimated that just over 1 million journeys either started or ended at the station, up 4% on 2010/11 and more than twice the usage in 1997/98, the earliest year for which statistics are available.

This article is based on "Strawberry Hill Station - A Centenary" by Ken Breen, published in 1973.

Improving quality of life at Roy Kinnear House

This year, as in previous years, SHRA donated the collection from the Christmas Carol and Tree unveiling to Roy Kinnear House. Your donations raised over £300 which means a lot to the six profoundly disabled residents - the house can accommodate eight residents - and the 28 full and part time nursing, support workers and admin staff at the home in Waldegrave Road. It is SHRA's intention to repeat the donation this Christmas and so, it is appropriate to update residents about the work, aims and current needs of Roy Kinnear House.

In memory of the well-known actor Roy Kinnear, the home was set up by his wife Carmel. Their daughter Karina is one of the residents. Like Karina, the five other adult residents have profound learning and physical disabilities. Several have sensory impairments and none has verbal communication. All the residents are confined to wheelchairs and need 24-hour nursing support.

However, Carole Britton the house manager and Gareth Bubbins, volunteer fundraiser, point out that the residents need a good quality of life. Gareth says: "What is important is the help of volunteers. An hour a week makes a lot of difference. Playing music to the residents, for example, enhances their lives. They all love music. But any kind of participation is appreciated from gardening to decorating. We have three permanent volunteers at present. Several students from St Mary's College come in from time to time. Students from a local independent school are also involved."

The office manager Ingrid Temmerman explains that profoundly disabled young people are supported financially by their placement authority in terms of their basic care needs. However, additional funding is needed to offer



opportunities. Each resident has their own personalized

bedroom. The staffing ratio is often 1:1. Residents are supported to go out to activities such as hydro-therapy, bowling, theatre trips, concerts, London Eye and Windsor Castle, accompanied by both a nurse and support workers. The house needs additional funding to support this program.

A full round of social activities ensures that the residents are kept busy and lead fulfilling lives. The Space Magic Room in the garden provides sensory activities and sometimes outdoor live entertainment is booked.

The degree of disability may of course vary. For example, one resident has capacity to understand the world around her but is unable to communicate verbally. Roy Kinnear House is looking to upgrade her communication equipment which costs in the region of £5,000.

Everyone at Roy Kinnear House believes that a small donation helps provide activities which in turn enhances the social lives of the residents.

How to volunteer or donate

The first stop for anyone wishing to become involved with The Roy Kinnear Foundation - a registered charity - is to call 020 8892 4049 and ask for Carol Britton or Ingrid Temmerman. Or you can e-mail Ingrid at:

Ingrid@roykinnearhouse.co.uk.

Your help, however basic or skilled, will be highly appreciated. Donations, meanwhile, can be sent via the website: www.roykinnearhouse.co.uk. Click on the virginmoneygiving link.



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- **B** Everydays, by Strawberry Hill Station
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