



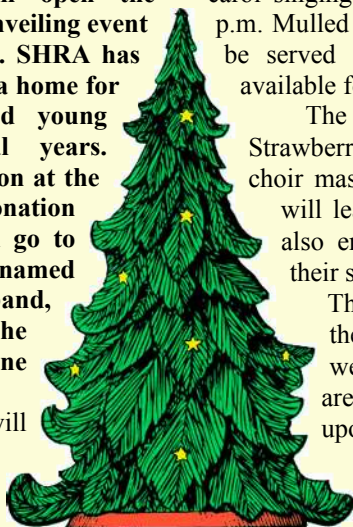
Representing the views of all who live in the historic Thames-side village of Strawberry Hill

No. 153 Winter 2013

Carmel Kinnear to open Christmas carols

Carmel Kinnear, the moving force behind Roy Kinnear House in Waldegrave Road, will open the SHRA carols and tree unveiling event on Friday December 13. SHRA has supported the charity – a home for eight severely- disabled young adults – for several years. Proceeds from a collection at the carol singing, and a donation from SHRA funds, will go to the home. The home is named after Carmel's late husband, the actor Roy Kinnear. The Kinnear's daughter is one of the residents.

The Christmas event will start at 6 p.m. when local children are invited to help decorate the tree.



Carmel Kinnear and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Stephen Speak, will open the carol singing which will start at 6:30 p.m. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served and soft drinks will be available for the children.

The community choir from Strawberry Hill House, with their choir master Michael McLaughlin, will lead the singing. They will also entertain us with some of their specially rehearsed pieces.

The tree will be put up and the lights switched on a week before the event. We are grateful to Richmond-upon-Thames Council for contribution to the funding to support the event.

In this issue...

As usual, we'll be holding our Christmas carol event at Wellesley Parade (see details left). There's an added attraction this year: everyone attending will be eligible for a discount on tickets to Twickenham's first pop-up ice rink at York House. And if that's not enough to get you out on a cold Friday in December, we're offering one free family ticket to the rink. You can read about the rink and these offers in our article on page 2.

There have been some big changes on Radnor House School's land in Grotto Road. In addition to a new sports pitch, they've landscaped what was Alexander Pope's Garden and partially restored Stanhope's Cave - see page 3.

Lastly, we've a profile of Holy Trinity Church, the only Anglican church in our area, on the back page.

SHRA partners with My Village plans

A public meeting for all residents has been organised by Richmond Council in partnership with the Strawberry Hill Residents Association and the Fortescue Park Residents Association. It will take place at Strawberry Hill Golf Course (off Wellesley Road) between 3 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. on December 5.

The purpose of the meeting is to bring together local organisations and show residents how they can obtain funding for projects and get involved in volunteering. The event will be in two parts:

3 p.m. - 6 p.m.: Information and volunteering fair

Local groups and organisations are coming together in one place for you to find out:

- What local groups do
- How they might help you
- How you might help them through volunteering or other support

Invited groups include the Police, Council Services, Children's Centre, RCVS, Volunteering Richmond, Strawberry Hill House, Friends of Radnor Gardens and more.

6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.: Ideas into Action

An informal evening of discussions to share your ideas for your local area such as:

- Bringing vitality to the commercial heart of Strawberry Hill
- Ideas for improving access to support and social activities for older people in the area
- Ideas for a WW1 centenary commemoration event

If you have an idea for a community activity or project that could be discussed, send it to:

john.addicott@richmond.gov.uk

before November 25.

Drinks and snacks will be available from the bar.



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Tickets to an echo of the old ice rink

... and an opportunity to win a free family ticket!

Richmond ice rink returns as a pop-up ice rink in the grounds of York House. The temporary rink, which recalls for many the famous ice rink in East Twickenham, closed nearly 20 years ago and remains a controversial issue for many skaters, who had hoped to see a new rink built in the Borough.

It will be open for six weeks between November 30 and January 12. Located on the tennis courts, the rink can take up to 100 skaters in 45-minute sessions. There will be 10 sessions a day between 10 a.m. and 7.45 p.m. (closed Christmas day).

Everyone attending our Carol Concert and Tree unveiling on December 13 will get a promotional code entitling them to a 15% discount on tickets booked online. And one free family ticket, worth £34 will be chosen by ballot at the event.

Famous figures

The old rink attracted many famous figure skating stars including Olympic Gold Medal winning duo Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean. Both have been long time supporters of the ice rink and were responsible for hand delivering a petition to Downing Street, to try to prevent its closure.

On hearing about the temporary ice rink in Twickenham, Chris said he was "heartened to hear that skating is returning to the area after having



Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean: "a great event for the local community"

been missed for so many years." Jayne added "what a great Christmas present for the local community."

Twickenham Alive has been working on the ice rink project for two years and local businesses are sponsoring the temporary attraction (see Partners page on their website).

In addition to the core skating sessions available at the rink, visitors will be treated to a number of extra-special events and activities. These include Shetland pony rides, Santa's grotto, festive snacks, skating performances and much more.

Prior booking is recommended and tickets, starting at £8, can be purchased from

the rink website:

www.RichmondRink.com

Email: info@RichmondRink.com.

About Twickenham Alive

Twickenham Alive is a social enterprise operating primarily in Twickenham, but also within Richmond Borough as a whole. Twickenham Alive creates and organises community, entertainment and sporting events.

Although it is independent, Twickenham Alive works closely with the RFU, the Twickenham Town Business Association and Richmond Council. It was founded in 2011.

www.twickenhamalive.com

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These feet were made for massage...elbows, too

Linda and her husband Mark are managing Baan Thai Massage in Wellesley Parade for their daughter June. Since the Thai Massage Centre opened three months ago, residents have been quick to discover soothing and healing massage treatments from the staff of qualified masseuses.

Linda, herself a masseuse, says: "Many local people have been to Thailand and are already familiar with Thai massage, so they know what to expect." Training in the techniques of Thai massage - sometimes referred to as Thai yoga - is rigorous, explains Linda. "I was trained in Bangkok. Just the introduction to the techniques takes 185 hours. It is hard and the standard is high."

Thai massage differs from other styles in that it aims for deep muscle penetration, using the thumbs and thumb muscle to stimulate blood flow and to clear toxins. Sometimes the masseuses will use the heels and balls of their feet, when they will literally walk over the recipient's back. They can also apply pressure along energy lines using elbows and knees.

Mark is quick to add: "We can also be very gentle. In fact, people frequently fall asleep when receiving head massage. It's a technique we use to treat sleep problems."

Massaging of customers' feet is popular, too. "Some of my elderly ladies like to sit in a chair with a cup of tea watching the world go by as I massage their feet," says Linda. Strawberry Hill people seem to be very sporty, she observes. "We get a lot of people with sports injuries, especially cyclists."

June Promngeng, currently in Thailand, conjures up a relaxing ambience with the scents of flowers and herbs. In corners of the stairs and treatment rooms you will spy sweets and fruits as gifts to the spirits of the house (the Promngengs are Buddhists).

The treatments offered by Baan* Thai Massage range from Swedish oil treatments to traditional Thai massage and even a four-hands massage in which two masseuses work on different parts of the body.

www.baan-thaimassage.co.uk

* Baan means house or home



Linda prepares towels for a customer's massage

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New look sports space for Radnor School

Alexander Pope's garden gets a make-over and a new use

The new Radnor House School sports facilities, car park and garden at the top of Grotto Road are almost complete. Headmaster David Paton, speaking to *The Bulletin*, was quick to reassure residents that avoiding traffic nuisance and sensitive handling of the heritage site had been key elements in the project.



The new sports pitch and the landscaped garden. Stanhope's Cave can be seen against the back wall

Derelict for many years, the site, which was once part of Alexander Pope's historic garden and contains Stanhope's Cave, now includes a tarmac netball and tennis court and grassed area for football and rounders, plus a gravelled parking space with room for 16 cars. The bricked-up entrance from Radnor Road is being re-opened and a metal 'heritage' gate will allow pupils and staff to access the playing fields without having to walk up Grotto Road, as well as providing residents with a view into the old gardens.

Mr Paton says the playing facilities will be used mainly during school hours and there is no intention to put up floodlights.

An attendant will marshal the car park in the mornings, dealing with any congestion issues and ensuring that cars only turn left out of the car park towards Radnor Road. This is part of an unofficial 'one way' system which the headmaster has asked parents to observe. It includes only travelling up Grotto Road from

Cross Deep and a ban on dropping off pupils at the bottom of Grotto Road. He has also introduced a new bike scheme and a 60-bike storage facility as part of an active programme to encourage wider use of sustainable transport, rather than relying on the family car.

The entire project has cost around £250,000 and Mr Paton hopes residents will already be noticing the benefits of reduced congestion in Grotto Road, and will enjoy the look of the newly-landscaped grounds.

Stanhope's Cave

The restoration and landscaping around the entrance to the 18th century Stanhope's Cave, which lies adjacent to the wall at the corner of Radnor Road and Grotto Road, has been carried out with expert advice from Donald Insall Associates, historic building consultants and architects.

Although the cave itself no longer exists, there is an old inscription at the site and a new display board will be put up describing some of the history. See our article on the right for some historical information.



The headmaster with Robert and Lucy Paton inspecting what remains of the Cave

Stanhope's Cave

Sir William Stanhope bought Pope's Villa in 1745, the year after the poet's death, though he did not actually occupy the property until 1748. In 1761 he bought the property which lay diagonally across Radnor Road (then 'Back Lane' or 'Worples Way') at the top of Pope's garden. It is now known as Radnor Lodge. There had been a house on this land, occupied in the winter of 1747/8 by the writer Henry Fielding, who wrote 'Tom Jones'.

Stanhope then constructed a "cave" in the corner of the garden leading to a tunnel beneath the lane, giving him private access from his garden. The cave was a minor pantheon in Stanhope's honour containing, according to a visitor in 1789, "three beautiful busts of Sir W Stanhope, his daughter and Lord Chesterfield, cut in Italian marble; opposite each a Roman urn of exquisite workmanship placed in a niche formed in the wall; around are scattered huge masses of stone in imitation of rocks". Somewhere, too, space had been found for a marble bust of Pope himself. The Cave was moved to its present position when Radnor Road was widened in the 1930s.

Today, the remains of the Cave can be seen at the top of Pope's Garden, now land belonging to Radnor House School. A stone above the entrance carries the barely-legible inscription:

*"The Humble Roof, the Garden's Scanty
Line*

*Ill spoke the Genius of the Bard Divine:
But Fancy now Displays a Fairer Scope
And STANHOPE'S Plans Unfold the Soul
of Pope"*

Post Office prepares for the Christmas rush

Jay and Aparna at the Post Office are gearing up for Christmas and the posting rush, not to mention holiday currency and cash withdrawals in the shop.

As Christmas card-writing draws near, the Post Office has taken delivery of some delightful cards showing drawings of Strawberry Hill House in the snow. "Post early for Christmas" says Jay.



Christmas, Strawberry Hill House



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Planning Matters

Consultation proposals for Swan Island

Local interest in Richmond-upon-Thames Council's development intentions for Swan Island have been revived by the publication of the Site Allocations Plan*. The Plan proposes that Swan Island industrial estate retains its designation as a key employment site. This restricts change of use from office to residential space.

* The Site Allocations Plan sets out to identify future needs for housing, employment, retail, transport, education, health, community facilities, sport and leisure over the next 15 years. It partially replaces the old Unitary Development Plan.

Village Plans now part of formal planning process

The Council's village plans, under which parts of Strawberry Hill were designated as being in Central Twickenham, are now part of the formal planning process.* Richmond-upon-Thames Council is to spend over £1 million to develop the village plans including local planning guidance.

Richmond Council says the purpose of the initiative is to protect neighbourhoods' heritage.

* Parts of Strawberry Hill which were initially excluded were reinstated after representations from SHRA and residents.

Stop press: another beauty salon?

The word on the street (at least, in Tower Road) is that the empty premises formerly known as McDowells grocery store is to become a beauty salon, although some say it might be a hairdresser. The new owners are being tight-lipped about their precise plans, but it may be that this is confirmed by the time you read this.

We wish the owners well, but readers with not-so-long memories will remember that there have been two attempts in the last four years to establish similar businesses in the immediate area, both of which have closed. We hope that their enterprise will be more long-lasting.

Ahoy! Christine takes on a boating challenge

...and cleans up after St Jude

Christine Robinson of Robinson Design Studio in Tower Road has taken on a rather unusual challenge for an interior designer - refurbishing a narrowboat.

It's nothing new for Christine, though. She says: "Well yes, I have done a boat before. As a child, I grew up around narrowboats on the canals. I was taught to steer the 70 ft boats by the last of the old boatmen. My father was a real enthusiast. So when we were asked to look at this job it was a real pleasure to be back in a boatyard again."



Christine caught vacuuming the pavement outside her studio after the St Jude storm

"The challenge is the limited space, very narrow width, around 14 ft, and all the fittings need to double up as something else. The traditional narrowboats are the ultimate example of space planning and we could learn a lot from them."

Christine does not normally Hoover the pavement, but after a blustery weekend the leaves were piling up and it seemed the most effective way of getting rid of them. The Bulletin's intrepid reporter was there to catch her in the act.

Remembrance Day Service in Radnor Gardens

In fine weather on Sunday November 10, the annual Remembrance Service was held in Radnor Gardens. That it was one of the best-attended services of recent years was the view of hundreds of residents, members of the British Legion in Pope's Grove and other local organisations.

Among dignitaries attending the service were Councillor Meena Bond, Mayor of Richmond-upon-Thames Council, and The Right Honourable Vince Cable, MP.



St Jude fells large ash tree

The so-called St Jude Storm in October brought an ancient ash tree crashing on to the garage of Steve Elphick. It has also turned the small road outside Stangate Mansions (off Tower Road) into an attraction for the curious. "Hundreds of people of turned up to take photographs," says Steve, who has lived in Strawberry Hill for over 20 years. The Audi A2 inside the garage can't be reached until the tree has been cut up, so Steve does not know if the car is damaged. In the meantime, the fire brigade roped off the area.

About a quarter of the fallen tree remains. A tree surgeon thinks there is some 15 tonnes of tree to be removed and therefore a crane will probably be needed.



The fallen ash tree at Stangate Mansions. There's a car in there somewhere!

Lucy Worsley, Chief Curator at Historic Royal Palaces, author and presenter of numerous historical television programmes, visited Pope's Grotto in Radnor House School in August, together with a film crew. She was filming scenes for her new series, *The Georgian Revolution*, which will be shown on BBC4 next Spring.

The series will mark the 300th anniversary of the Hanoverian Succession, and is a partnership with the Royal Collection, who will be staging their own Georgian Revolution exhibition to coincide with the series.

The publicity will be welcomed by the Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust, which hopes to be able to begin raising funds for the restoration of this internationally-important monument next year.



Doctor Worsley brightens up the Grotto whilst filming

Burglary peak bike thefts

The coming weeks are a peak period for residential burglary. Make sure that your house is not in total darkness, especially in the afternoon and evening. Ensure that valuables are not visible through doors and windows. This includes house and car keys and naturally, presents at the foot of a tree.

Bicycles continue to be stolen from sheds. If you have to store your bike in a shed, please lock it with a lock commensurate with its value (a cheap lock on a £2,000 bike won't impress an insurance company much). Also make sure that the shed is secure and consider fitting an alarm - they are quite small but can be a deterrent.

St Mary's College police contact point threatened

The weekly police contact point at St. Mary's University is in danger of being withdrawn if it is not used more often, writes Charles Owens, Chair South Twickenham Police Liaison Group.

The contact point is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Residents can report crimes, ask for advice or speak to other police.

A new floral take on urban guerillas

Crusader Travel's Guerilla Gardeners strike Strawberry Hill

Guerilla Gardeners, in the shape of Bruce and Shona Lyons, leapt to the aid of SHRA to replant the three boxes in Wellesley and Tower Roads. The attractive display of yellow and purple pansies was paid for by SHRA, but the Guerilla Gardeners gave their time free of charge.

Guerilla Gardeners was set up by Bruce Lyons - he runs Crusader Travel in Church Street, Twickenham - 18 months ago. Now he and his band of floral urban guerillas strike all over the Borough wherever borders cry out to be liberated from weeds or neglected patches revived. Bruce explains: "Working with Richmond in Bloom, I saw lots of neglected spaces and decided to transform them. We buy the flowers ourselves with the financial help of local organisations, but we sometimes donate them."



The planter on Pope's Avenue looking colourful, thanks to the Guerilla Gardeners

Shona says they will soon start planting 5,000 bulbs throughout the Borough, with Strawberry Hill being one of the first neighbourhoods on the list. The band of Guerilla Gardeners is already attracting new members, but Bruce says they can always do with more.

Volunteers can contact Bruce or Shona at Crusader Travel: 020 8744 0474.

Beware scammers bearing gifts

A new scam is hitting the Richmond area, writes Charles Owens, SHRA committee member charged with police liaison. It goes like this:

- Householder gets telephone call from an express parcels service saying they will make a delivery shortly
- Deliveryman turns up with a parcel containing wine and flowers, which the householder has not ordered, and asks for £3.50 delivery charge
- He asks for payment by card as he cannot accept cash

Of course, there's a sting in the tail. In one incident, the husband of a resident paid by card - entering his pin and security number at the driver's request - then found the following week that £4,000 had been withdrawn from his account.

The moral of this tale: be wary of accepting any surprise gift or package which you neither expected nor personally ordered, especially if it involves any kind of payment as a condition of receiving it. Also, never accept anything if you do not personally know the sender or there is no proper identification of him or her. Above all, the only time you should give out any personal credit/debit card information is when you personally have initiated the purchase or transaction!



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SHRA volunteers too, please

In the meantime, staff at Everyday's and MKG 3000 have volunteered to keep the planters watered in dry weather. SHRA has supplied them with watering cans.

Pam Crisp, SHRA Secretary says: "residents who would like to help maintain the planters can contact us via the SHRA website or call me on 020 8898 1878."

Holy Trinity Church, Twickenham Green

Built for the growing population in the Strawberry Hill area

Holy Trinity was built on Twickenham Green in 1841 for the growing population in the Strawberry Hill area. It was designed by a successful Victorian architect, George Basevi, who designed the University of Cambridge's Fitzwilliam Museum. Basevi fell to his death while inspecting the west tower of Ely Cathedral in 1845. It was extended in 1861 by Francis Dollman, one of Basevi's pupils.

Today the church continues to play an important role at the heart of our community. The church is welcoming and has a very friendly atmosphere. There's a quiet service at 9 a.m. and a family-friendly service at 10.30; this has a staffed creche for under threes and lively groups for older children. After the 10:30 service people often stop to enjoy a coffee and a chat. There is a wide variety of regular activities that take place throughout the year: picnics on the green, barbeques and dad's evenings are just a few.

Reverend Tim Garrett (Vicar) along with his wife Natalie Garrett (Associate Minister) have been at Holy Trinity since 2010. A recent example of their innovative fundraising and sense of fun was an auction of promises where people in the church community volunteered their services in an eBay style auction. Tim himself volunteered his car washing services to the highest bidder!

Holy Trinity hosts a wide variety of groups for adults and children which meet in the Church function room. Children's activities range from toddler activities, footie, tots to dance and drama. Adult groups include singing, yoga and faith groups. The refurbished Green Room and the smaller Blue Room are both available for hire and can be used for parties, clubs, rehearsals and community groups.

A number of Christmas Services are taking place and everyone is warmly invited:

Sunday 15th December:

10:30 a.m.: Family Carol Service (with Christingle and the Trinity Singers)

6 p.m.: Carol Service by Candlelight (with the Trinity Singers)

Sunday 22nd December:

9 a.m.: Holy Communion

10:30 a.m.: Family Communion 'A Contemporary Christmas'

Christmas Eve:

3:30 p.m.: The Christmas Story

11 p.m.: Midnight Communion

Christmas Day:

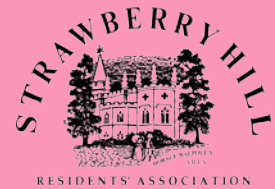
10:30 a.m.: Family Service with Communion

Tim and Natalie welcome any new faces, young or old, to join in worship and the wider Holy Trinity activities.

www.holytrinitytwickenham.org



Holy Trinity Church between 1841 and 1861



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Cathy Bird

(Hon. Treasurer)

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Pam Crisp

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The Bulletin is published by the Strawberry Hill Residents' Association and is distributed free, 3 times a year, to approximately 2,400 homes in the area. All text, images and design © Copyright 2013 Strawberry Hill Residents' Association, except where noted. For advertising or editorial questions, email: Bulletin@shra.org.uk, Twitter: [@SHResidents](https://twitter.com/SHResidents)



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