

## No. 161 Summer 2016

# Major Developments at St Mary's University?

**Your guess is as good as ours, but SHRA are on the case to ensure that local residents' interests are protected.**

We became concerned when we read in the Board of Governors' minutes that St Mary's appeared to be considering a potentially significant expansion in student numbers in its developing Corporate Plan for the period from 2016 to 2025. Whilst the minute made clear that the Board had yet to consider student numbers in detail as part of that Plan, it stated that a figure of 12,000 students had been provided to the architects to give a basis for their planning. This would represent a more than doubling of current student numbers, and in our view would be completely unsustainable on such a small sensitive campus site surrounded on all sides by a residential area.

University undertook to share further detail with the Residents' Association as soon as this has been discussed with the Borough Council."

SHRA have been assured at a recent meeting with senior management of St Mary's that the numbers now being considered are less than 12,000, but we were unable to pin them down to any actual numbers. We were also advised that one possible option is the provision off-site of some of the additional student accommodation that will be required. However, what is clear is that any significant



increase in numbers will impact on our community and potentially involve major building developments on the campus.

From our discussions with senior management and a briefing from their consulting architects, it was

The following is a statement from St Mary's University which we asked them to prepare to ensure our community is brought into the picture.

"St Mary's University is in the final stages of approving its Corporate Plan for the next 10 years. The detail behind the overarching vision is still being developed, including the planned growth of student numbers and the associated development of the estate. The

made clear to us that both of them recognise the sensitivity of the campus site, and its value as a recruiting tool for students, as well as the impact of the University's activities on a primarily residential area and the need for full and open consultation with residents on their proposals. These are all encouraging signs, and we are pleased to report that St Mary's has agreed to keep SHRA up to date as their plans develop.

St Mary's is an important part of our community, and one which we wholeheartedly support and wish to see thrive and develop for the benefit of all. We will liaise with the University to try and ensure that this is the outcome achieved, and any changes are not at the expense of the wider community.

If necessary, we will press the Council to abide by its current restriction on St Mary's that there should be no further development on its Metropolitan Open Land, which comprises almost all the currently undeveloped land on the campus. Similarly we will look to St Mary's to honour its previous assurances to SHRA that any significant development on the campus will be by way of sympathetic upgrading/ redevelopment of buildings on the existing footprint.

But these days with the Council having less control over developments, a new era of competition between Universities with the government cap on student numbers removed, and a new senior management team at St Mary's, we can't take anything for granted. Like you we await the future with interest, and not a little trepidation.

## A Strawberry Hill House Volunteer

It is late afternoon and a bright low sun has suddenly burst over Waldegrave Gardens and gloriously illuminated the stained glass of the Tribune in Strawberry Hill House. The visitors who are coming to the end of their tour are treated to a kaleidoscope of colours that spills across the floor and forms a brilliant finale to their visit. As a room steward I have the pleasure of hearing them express their wonder. It is one of the magic moments that makes volunteering at the House so worthwhile.



*Stained glass in the Tribune, Strawberry Hill House*

Of course, the sun is not always there to show off the Gallery, or the Round Room or any of the lighter chambers to their fullest glory, but that hardly matters. The house is such that each room has its own particular atmosphere. On a dull day, or in the winter months when the light is failing, some of the rooms acquire a special mood. It may be spooky or tenebrous, but never depressing. Walpole's mirthfully eccentric spirit is ever present in the place, and he coined his own word to describe such an ambience; 'gloomth'.

I am now in my fourth season as a room steward at Horace Walpole's 'gothick castle' and in this time I've been stationed in every room open to the public. Like all the volunteers, I have a great affection for the house, which grows each time I do my shift. On average I steward one afternoon every fortnight, which is much less than some of my colleagues, but as a volunteer you offer what time you can, and any amount of commitment, however small, is greatly appreciated. Before each session the volunteers are given a short briefing by the staff whose humour, efficiency and boundless enthusiasm set an uplifting tone for the three hours ahead. What follows is never arduous. We are provided with a comprehensive folder of information for the room where we are on duty, which we can refer to if we've forgotten some of our facts. Almost all the visitors are deeply interested, polite, friendly and very often keen to engage in a conversation that may deviate from the house itself onto other subjects. We meet people from all over the world, delighted the house that lends its name to our own special residential area has international renown.

I suspect there are local residents who have not yet done a tour of Strawberry Hill House, not necessarily because they don't want to, but because they haven't yet got round to it. May I urge you to come along and enjoy this jewel at the heart of our community, what Walpole called his "little plaything... the prettiest bauble you ever saw". You may be tempted to sign up as a volunteer. I would thoroughly recommend joining the team. Your services will be very welcome.

## Celebrate 100 Years of Roald Dahl with Dramacube this Summer

With 2016 marking the 100th anniversary of Roald Dahl's birth, this summer is filled with celebrations of his life and much-loved stories. Local children's drama company, Dramacube, will be celebrating 100 years of Roald Dahl by offering a free Dahl drama class to local 4-6 year-olds on 17 September at St. Mary's University, Twickenham. Children participating in this free 90 minute workshop will enjoy some Dahlicious drama, music and movement activities. Places tend to go quickly so please book your free drama class in



*Dramacube*

advance by calling 020 8408 0245 or emailing [contact@dramacube.co.uk](mailto:contact@dramacube.co.uk)

If you can't wait until September you can join Dramacube's Dahl party this summer from 15 to 20th August with summer workshops inspired by the BFG & Matilda for children aged 4-6yrs. Older children can take to the stage for a starring role in Dramacube's Musical in a Week, as they have secured the performance rights one of Roald Dahl's most famous and much loved stories, featuring a young girl with magical powers!

The summer workshops and rehearsals will take place in the impressive drama studios at St. Mary's University in Strawberry Hill, with two performances from the 7-16 year-olds in the main Drama Theatre on Saturday 20th August. Visit [www.dramacube.co.uk](http://www.dramacube.co.uk) for dates and prices.

## Radnor Gardens Cafe

**An update from Mike and Marcus.  
It's been a great few months since opening  
the cafe on the 17th March.**

Initially, we were nervous and had no idea how it would all be received, but we have met some wonderful people who have wholeheartedly supported the cafe and it has now become a vibrant and fun place to meet. Lots of different visitors have called in, including early morning dog walkers; families visiting the playground, park and river; local residents working from home or in local businesses, and visitors from afar who have seen the gardens and stopped to enjoy the views.

We have tried to create a varied menu to include coffee, teas and freshly made food: cakes and pastries as well as organic ice cream, all of which have been well received. We also wanted to give the cafe a community feel, and have done this through the addition of games for all ages, ping pong table, blankets for chilly days and always some flowers on display. It has been especially rewarding when one of our visitors told us how

much his/ her group had enjoyed their visit and when we have seen local people talking with each other, meeting the neighbours they



have never met before.

We have just started summer weekend events with licensed bar and BBQ running (when the great British weather allows) so we can celebrate and enjoy the fantastic surroundings of Radnor Gardens with some good quality food and a glass of prosecco or a Twickenham Fine Ales Pint from the barrel.

We are looking forward to starting lots of new events throughout the year so please look out for information on our blackboards and through our social media. (Twitter: @CafeRadnor)

Come join the community in Radnor Gardens this summer.




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**Strawberry Hill Residents' Association  
Drink Voucher for Radnor Gardens Café**

2 September 6.00pm-8.00pm  
Valid for one drink for the first 150 claimants

(Original vouchers only no copies)



**Meet your neighbours:**

The SHRA committee would like to invite residents to visit one of their summer events in the Radnor Gardens Café as part of a special residents' get-together on Friday 2 September, from 6.00pm – 8.00pm. The voucher (below) will secure a free drink (glass of wine, pint of beer, soft drink or non-alcoholic wine) for the first 150 residents to present it to the licensed event bar.

The café will also be selling barbequed food. Do come along and meet your neighbours!



**Get into golf**

Strawberry Hill is offering four lessons for beginners and novices for just £7.50 each, led by our PGA professional, Peter Buchan

[www.shgc.net](http://www.shgc.net)  
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Email: secretary@shgc.net  
Strawberry Hill Golf Club, Wellesley Road, Twickenham TW2 5SD

## Strawberry Hill House

**Nick Dolan, Director of Strawberry Hill House Trust Charity, shares his dream for the future of Strawberry Hill House.**

Strawberry Hill House was designed to be a place to show off in, and so I have entered into the spirit of the place, at least for a day or two. I had the chance to get out my Pirate costume for our recent Fun Day. We had over 1,400 people visit us and enjoy the activities on the theme of fun, fairytales and fables. The atmosphere was tremendous, with lovely feedback from the kind people who came and enjoyed themselves with us. Many were local, so if you were one of our visitors, I take this chance to thank you very much for your kind support. I also take the chance in this very public forum to thank my staff and volunteer colleagues, our Friends, Trustees and other supporters, in putting on this event, and supporting the host of other things we do. The passion people have for the place is tremendous, and is amongst the most important things I have learnt in my four months here as Director.

Horace Walpole was an inspiring fellow. Born in 1717, he became the 18<sup>th</sup> Century man of letters, MP (for a constituency he never visited!), collector, writer, and witty social commentator. Amongst an important legacy he left was Strawberry Hill House – his home, and home to his collection, which was dispersed across the globe following a sale of contents in 1842.

Designed in stages from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> Century, he used a then remarkably unusual style – the Gothic, rather than the more usual Classical, to represent British, antiquary, but also to stand out, to be different, and be seen to be different. It is a remarkable survival. Horace himself never expected it to last long

after his death (1797), but survive it did, not least in recent years due to the efforts of local people. They formed a friends group, out of which grew a Charitable Trust, that with funding and help restored the building and interiors, meticulously, and incredibly.

So, now we can use it for all sorts of inspiring purposes: the interiors are fragile but glorious. We have wedding and premise's licenses. The quirky and grand interiors sing with life when things are going on – intimate 'do's' or extravagant celebrations. We need help to keep the house alive, in every sense: we want the place to buzz with activity and every penny we get from that helps us to look after this jewel, with all its conservation needs and musts.

Part of our fundraising efforts are properly licensed outdoors activities. I recognise that we need to be careful and sensitive in what we do, the impact we make, and the respect we show our neighbours – yourselves, the local residents. I hope that you appreciate our need to hold some activities in order to gain the vital income to keep the building safe and secure for now and the future, but I want these to be in harmony with you, and thank you for your understanding of our need.

Please support our programme. Check out our website [www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk](http://www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk) and I hope that you find something to inspire you to visit us. The Cloisters Café also does excellent coffee and food, all produced from the kitchen in the house itself.



I'll finish with a dream, not of a gothic horror, which Horace turned into the first Gothic novel – 'The Castle of Otranto' never out of print since first publication in 1764. My dream is that Gloriously near the Thames stands Strawberry Hill, the welcoming home of a significant character.

Strawberry Hill is an important historic mansion and garden, inspiring awe in visitors with its quirks and collections as it did in Horace Walpole's time. It is a vibrant place inspiring passion and fun, is recognised and respected for its exemplary conservation, service and culture, and is the hub of a Charitable Trust of significance.

Horace Walpole would be amazed, and proud. Thank you for the chance to share my thoughts on an important landmark for the local area.

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## Pope's Grotto: And so it begins... The first stage of the restoration

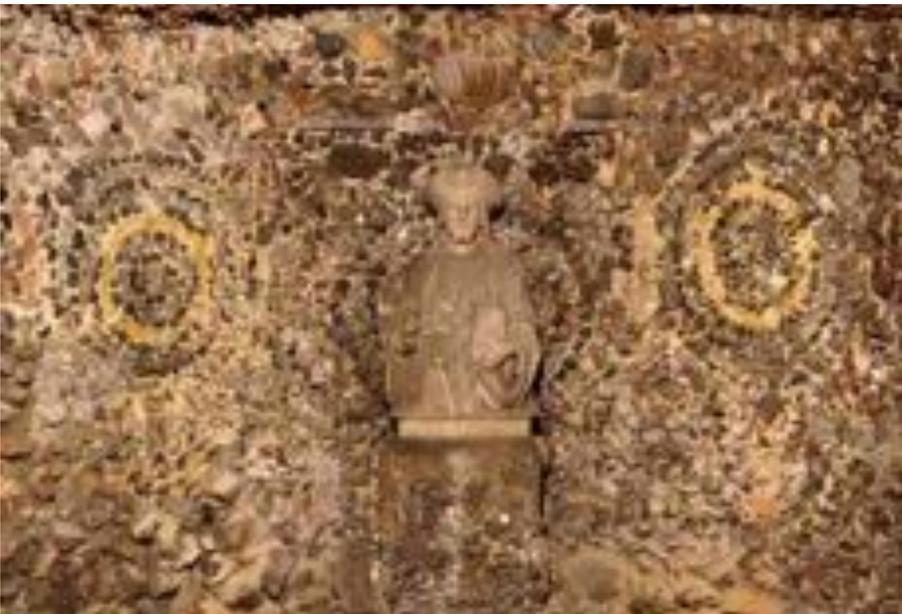
Julia Fiehn, Trustee of PGPT

As all regular readers of this Bulletin will know, Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust has been working hard to raise funds for the restoration of Alexander Pope's famous grotto – one of Strawberry Hill's treasures.



Entrance to the Grotto

The £250,000 project will involve careful cleaning and re-fixing the minerals that line the grotto, an appropriate lighting scheme that will evoke Alexander Pope's sparkling reflections from the river and candlelight mirrored in the stones and glass. An uncovered area of the floor and the vestige of the rill that previously ran through the grotto will be visible.



St. James

In a parallel project, the grotto's statuary and carved elements will be conserved. Some of these are later than Pope, having been introduced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is this work, as well as the replacement of the gates to the grotto, that began in July. The conservation work is expected to take several weeks, and will be carried out by Humphries and Jones overseen by Odgers Conservation. The work on the gates will be done by Newton Forge.

This is very exciting. We are enormously grateful to all our funders of this summer's work (including Historic England, Heritage of London Trust, and The Ironmongers' Company) and are looking forward to the main restoration work, which we hope will be completed by December 2017. In addition to the restoration, a digital reconstruction of the grotto and gardens will be developed by Professor Paul Richens of Westminster University. Using research (carried out by local volunteers and academics) into the buildings, gardens, people, clothing, boats, flora and fauna present during Pope's time, the reconstruction will allow users to 'experience' the visit from river to garden. Here is a short opening extract from Professor Richens' plan:

*'You find yourself in a boat mid-river, around Twickenham, where you are being sculled by a Thames waterman in a typical 18th Century wherry. It is a fine mellow early summer afternoon in 1740. You can't steer the boat, but you can look around to see what's about: the riverside villas with their waterfront*

*gardens, more workaday premises – a tannery, wheelwrights shop – other craft sailing, fishing, or being hauled by hand by a gang of men on the towpath. Sheep and cattle grazing on Ham Common, horses and riders pass. The boatman may be rather loquacious, telling you about the places you pass, their inhabitants, and what's going on generally.*

*You arrive at the lawn in front of Pope's villa and are disembarked. The wherry returns without you. You are free to walk around the lawn, admire the villa and the statuary in the garden, and approach the archway to the grotto. When you enter, you will experience a video segment of Pope in his reconstructed grotto, talking to you, or perhaps conversing with one of his mineral-supplying friends, about the grotto, the house and garden, and what they mean to him. At the end of the segment you will be propelled through the tunnel into the garden.'* (See more from the plan on [tinyurl.com/grottoDR](http://tinyurl.com/grottoDR))

Fundraising so far has involved a banquet, two symposia, seven open days, Arts Council-funded performances by storyteller Giles Abbott, sales of publications, sponsorship of minerals and donations. If we are to continue the work and raise the match funding for our bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Our open days benefit enormously from local volunteers who help to staff the events. We are also mounting an appeal for donations. Please contact us on [www.popesgrotto.org.uk](http://www.popesgrotto.org.uk) if you would like to volunteer, sponsor a mineral or donate to the restoration fund.

## Hunt for Heroes

**Committee vice-chair Peter Lamb continues his investigation into Strawberry Hill in the First World War**

My continuing search for Strawberry Hill residents who served in the Great War is made easier if the person I am looking for had an unusual name. I had no difficulty in cross referencing the resident of 19 Pope's Grove with military records. Surely there could only have been one Clovis William Octave Carrée, and with this somewhat exotic name I was able to locate his record of war service. Clovis Carrée was born in 1871 in Rendcomb near Cirencester, Gloucestershire. His family moved to Pope's Grove before he was 10, and the house remained in the family, and then in Clovis' ownership until at least 1936. The 1911 census lists him as living at 19 Pope's Grove as the head of the house with his wife Ethel whom he married in 1904. By the time the war broke out he was in his 40s, and would therefore not have been required to serve as a combatant. However, he has a war record which shows him to have been a heavy motor driver 1918/1919 in the Royal Army Service Corps. The Army Service Corps received its royal title in 1918 and was responsible for moving the vast number of supplies and ammunition that were needed to service the ever demanding war machine. They have been referred to as the unsung heroes of the British Army in the Great War, because without their prodigious logistical efforts and organisation the front line would have collapsed. At the height of the war the (R)ASC numbered 10,547 officers and 315,334 men. Clovis Carrée appears in the electoral registers for Twickenham at several addresses throughout the 1920s and 30s, including Gothic Road and The Green. It is possible that he owned a number of properties. The 1936 register has him firmly fixed at 19 Pope's Grove. He died in 1951 in Surrey.



*Vehicle of the Royal Army Services Corps*

My most recent research has turned up another unusual name in Pope's Grove. William Sydney Kelynack lived at number 65 and served in France with the YMCA from February 1917. William came from a family of Wesleyan ministers, and was one himself, so I can assume his service with the YMCA was in this capacity. The YMCA played an important part in maintaining the morale of the troops by providing material, educational and spiritual support. The organisation set up hundreds of small havens, many close to the front, where soldiers could receive some respite from the horrors of the trenches. Pastoral care, spiritual encouragement, recreational activities, or simply tea and sympathy were on offer, and these gave soldiers a small reminder of the civilian life that must have felt so distant. Where possible the YMCA also arranged for family members to go to hospitals to visit soldiers who were dying or who could not be moved. I am sure William Kelynack would

have played a very active role in these humanitarian endeavours. He was born in 1879, went to school at Manchester Grammar and studied at St John's Cambridge from 1898. He entered the ministry in 1903 and as a Wesleyan minister served on many circuits throughout the country including Nottingham, Southampton, Birmingham, Islington and Brentford. In 1909 he published a book "Moses for the Children - with coloured illustrations". The 1911 census locates him at 65 Pope's Grove and at the same address in the 1914 electoral rolls. He died in 1958 in Weston-Super-Mare.

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