



The Bulletin

www.shra.org.uk

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

No.125

June 2004

Vote, vote, vote for Strawberry Hill

When Strawberry Hill House features as one of 21 historic properties on BBC2's Restoration programme in July, it will be an opportunity for all residents to lend their practical help.

The Friends of Strawberry Hill (FoSH) and St Mary's College are campaigning hard to win restoration cash.

Here's how you can support them:

Twickenham Festival Week Raffle: all proceeds from events and tickets will be donated to the House restoration.

Garden Party, July 10: afternoon tea, evening drinks and canapés on the lawn of 33 Strawberry Vale, the home of Rosemary Leach and Colin Starkey. The garden party will be opened by Brian Allen, President, The Art Fund. Tickets £15, can be purchased from the FoSH Treasurer,

Terry Smith, 14 Gothic Road, Twickenham TW2 5EH, Tel: 8894 6628.

Visit the House: Sunday tours begin at 2pm, 2.45pm, 3.30pm, or by arrangement. Tel 020 8240 4224

Join the Friends of Strawberry Hill.

Contact Membership secretary, Michael Peover, 8940 5574.

The date of the screening of the BBC2 Restoration programme on Strawberry Hill in July has a yet to be confirmed, but the 'smart money' is on Sunday the 18th. The phone number to Vote for Strawberry Hill is: **09011 33 22 22**
General enquiries: Judith Lovelace 8404 4370

Website:

www.FriendsOfStrawberryHill.org

(see: *Guest Column page 4*)

Concert in the Waldegrave Drawing Room, June 17.



A magnificent concert of 18th and 19th piano and harp music, performed by Oliver Davies and Rowena Bass, was filmed for the BBC Restoration programme.

Planning and parking are your top concerns

The recent poll of community views reveals that Planning and parking are the two issues which most concern residents.

These issues are closely followed by Twickenham Riverside, aircraft noise and the long-standing wrangle over an extension of the controlled parking zone (CPZ) to roads around the station.

The poll was undertaken to guide the SHRA committee in assessing local concerns and in drawing them to the attention of Richmond Council and other organisations.

(continued on page 2)



The SHRA stall at Radnor Gardens Music Day (see page 3)

Soon to be 40 years old ...

If life begins at 40, SHRA is about to start living. Next year the residents' organisation celebrates its 40th anniversary. We want to mark this occasion for several reasons, but not least because it gives us an opportunity to assert the character and spirit of our well defined riverside community.

We know from the recent returns from the opinion survey that you are brimming with ideas. Perhaps an enlarged Strawberry Fair could be the centre-piece of our 40th birthday? You might prefer a children's party; musical evenings, events at Strawberry Hill House or even a Big Black Tie Ball.

Please let us know by calling or e-mailing Eugene Bacot or Clare Phelps (contact details on page 4). SHRA was born out of the urgent need to protect our neighbourhood from a devastating road project. It was successful because of the energy of local people, some of whom such as June Turner and George

Kerpner still live here. The threats remain in many different guises. Your help in our anniversary year could make our organisation and our community stronger and more capable of withstanding the menace of the property developers. Please post your comments on the SHRA web forum.

Planning, parking your top concerns (cont)

Of the six other issues which you were asked to vote on, transport - especially rail - was the sixth most recurring. The others, in declining importance were: street cleaning, Radnor Gardens, Crossrail, education and schools, RFU activities. It is no surprise that

Planning is your top concern. SHRA receives a large number of complaints and requests for assistance. The situation on parking, - especially by commuters in the roads around the station and by students from St Mary's College - has been drawn to the attention of Richmond Council and local

Councillors on numerous occasions. A decision following a Council survey is long overdue. The inclusion of Twickenham Riverside as one of the top three issues of interest to the SHRA Committee because it lies outside the boundaries of Strawberry Hill.

Response to the poll was low; 85 completed forms were received: just over 3% of all homes in the Strawberry Hill area. A similar survey conducted two years ago produced 272 replies. The poll form was distributed with March issue of The Bulletin to circa 2,500 homes.

The SHRA poll reveals classic desires

The written answers to opinion polls - as opposed to the ticked boxes - often provide the most penetrating insight into residents' views.

The SHRA Poll is no exception. Despite the lower response to the poll, there is no doubt of a rising interest in community activities in those who completed their questionnaires.

Your interests are mainstream and classic. Historical walks around Strawberry Hill figured, with different variations, quite frequently.

Fireworks parties (where could that be held?) and Maypole dancing with traditional English food were other suggestions.

Family events (often unspecified) figured most frequently as did concerts. An Easter Egg hunt and a call for children's street parties were also echoed several times.

Wine and cheese parties, barbecues (food and drink in all forms seems popular) and even an arts and crafts fair were often repeated.

The Strawberry Fair on Music Day answered some of those requests. But, as ever, what the local community really needs are volunteers with special knowledge. Any would be guides for local walks, childrens' events organisers, or even maypole dancing choreographers need only call any member of the SHRA Committee to be assured of an enthusiastic welcome.

Faster news and views

SHRA is always looking for more effective ways of receiving residents' news and views.

The SHRA website - www.shra.org.uk - lists background and history of our neighbourhood, as well as back copies of The Bulletin and a map.

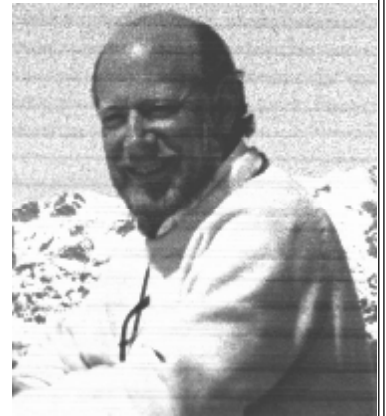
We have now opened a discussion forum accessible from the home page. This will create a faster way of reaching us; and make it easier and faster for us to reply to you.

Farewell to the jewel in Richmond's crown

Richmond upon Thames is probably the best place to live in the whole of the UK, and, within the Borough, the human scale of its many amenities makes it the jewel in Richmond's crown. It has been my privilege over the past five years to help, through SHRA, to defend and enhance the enduring values of Strawberry Hill within the wider context of Twickenham. Posterity expects that we take our stewardship of such a treasure seriously; that we set

high standards and resist the demands visionless expediency. SHRA should not be ashamed to raise the banner high or to take the lead. Strawberry Hill and Twickenham are not theme parks or funfairs. They are where we live, and it is for us to make the effort to create and maintain a lifestyle and environment for ourselves in which pride in the community, friendship and joy can flourish. Sadly, I have to give up my

work with SHRA as I am preparing to leave the district. There is a vacancy now, and I thoroughly recommend the job to anyone with vision, sensitivity and commitment to our neighbourhood. I would like to thank my friends on the SHRA committee for their patience, tolerance and companionship, and to send my good wishes to the many friends with whom I have had the pleasure of working over the years. I will miss you all.



Robin Walters

Set fair for the Strawberry Fair

Thirty enthusiastic volunteer cooks and helpers turned up - and braved the showers - to make the first Strawberry Fair Music Day a success. Their menus and ideas reveal a huge pool of gastronomic ambition, not to say culinary talent. Among the delights, all made with strawberries, were: milles-feuilles, pavlovas, tartlets, cheesecakes, gateaux, Swedish strawberry cake and, not least, jam by a famous Strawberry Hill jam-maker.

From the many favourable comments received, it is clear that the Strawberry Fair seized the imagination. While the Fair broke even, the real intention was to test the concept and gauge the response of residents. Copies of Anthony Beccles Willson's book on Strawberry Hill - now reprinted - were also on sale as well as the new Strawberry Hill T-shirts emblazoned with our logo...and a giant Strawberry.

Village centre parking and mobile mast

The first phase of building work by Lovett International at 43 Tower Road - it produced many complaints to SHRA and to local shopkeepers about

parking - is drawing to a close. A second phase of building work to erect three flats on the roof, scheduled to last up to 16 weeks, may begin towards the end of year when the builders' vans will return. A mobile mast owned by O2 has been erected on the roof, but at time of going to press was not thought to be operational. The mast has been inspected by Richmond Enforcement Officer who says the mast complies with the regulations.

Tripping over cracked pavements

Cracked pavements - Orford Gardens boasts some good examples - is the source of a growing number of complaints to SHRA. Frequently, residents complain that the pavements are damaged by parking of builders' vans and lorries during home refurbishment. The uneven pavements which result are particularly hazardous to the elderly, besides being unsightly. Residents are urged to request builders to park correctly or to provide a ramp which prevents damage to paving flags.

Time to express pride

Under Richmond Council's Civic Pride scheme, local communities such as Strawberry

Hill can request funding to improve the local environment. A request by SHRA in last year's scheme was turned down. We requested £1,000 to set up a series of Awards for householders or developers who had made the most pleasingly aesthetic contribution to the neighbourhood.

Cardboard Recycling

A new cardboard recycling unit will be added to the Wellesley Parade collection point this month

We will be renewing our application to Civic Pride and seek your views and ideas about how you would like to see this money spent.. Up to £3,000 can be requested. Applications are judged on four criteria. They must


- improve the environment
- improve the social well-being of a group of people
- deal with the results of vandalism
- improve local facilities for social or environmental purposes

Health news for all

The magazine, Local Health Matters, is now available from local chemists. Published by the Richmond and Twickenham Primary Care Trust, the magazine focuses on access to medical care in the Borough. The current issue covers subjects such as the new walk-in centre at Teddington Memorial Hospital; how people suffering from long conditions such as arthritis, heart conditions and diabetes can maintain and improve their health. A section the Patient and Advise Liaison Service (PALS) shows how and when advice about any aspect of the NHS can be obtained. Based at Thames House, 180 High Street, Teddington, PALS can be contacted on 020 8973 311 or be e-mail at pals@rtpct.nhs.uk

Air conditioning research

The Government has commissioned research from University College London into the growing use of domestic air conditioning. Residents interested in taking part in the two-year research project should contact: Ayubkhan Pathan, Bartlett School of Graduate Studies, 1-19 Torrington Place, University College London, WC1E 6BT, Tel: 020 7679 5963



GUEST COLUMN

Michael Snodin
Chair of
The Friends of Strawberry Hill

The long climb ahead...

Restoration on BBC 2 is only a part of the story.

The Friends and their allies the Strawberry Hill Trust and the World Monuments Fund have been hard at work. So what now? A feasibility study by Peter Inskipe has been completed and a business plan commissioned.

Conservation plan funding from the Getty Grant Fund and a Heritage Lottery Fund planning grant applications are under way.

In the meantime, we are developing ideas about how the house might be used in the future so that it can benefit the community without endangering its fragile fabric.

We are planning more frequent opening times. The house will be accessible to school and adult education groups. The Trusts plans also include improvements to the grounds, recreating where possible, their Walpolean appearance. And, of course, the exterior and interiors will be restored.

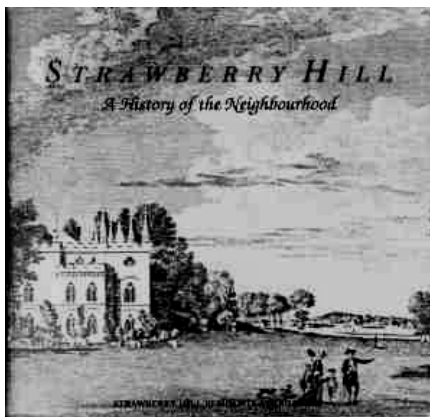
All this might give the impression that the troubles of Strawberry Hill are over. In fact, we are at the start of a long climb in which the help and support of the local community is of huge importance.

Vote, vote, vote for Strawberry!

STRAWBERRY HILL HISTORY

The popular history of Strawberry Hill by Anthony Beccles Willson - nearly 5,000 copies have been sold - has been reprinted.

The history has a topographical bias; much has already been written about Pope and Walpole. This book is mainly about the place they lived in and where we live today. Copies are £6 each (plus p&p) from Hon. Secretary Clare Phelps, 40 Pope's Grove, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, TW1 4JY



THE COMMITTEE

- Eugene Bacot (Chair)
Eugene.Bacot@shra.org.uk
8892 2837
- Clare Phelps (Hon. Secretary)
Clare.Phelps@shra.org.uk
8892 5863
- Richard Spires (Hon. Treasurer)
Richard.Spires@shra.org.uk
8898 6355

Members

- John Armstrong
John.Armstrong@shra.org.uk
8894 5218
- Marcus Banfield
Marcus.Banfield@shra.org.uk
8894 1258

- Kate Johnson
Kate.Johnson@shra.org.uk
8892 5977
- Mike O'Hagan
Mike.OHagan@shra.org.uk
8894 5193

- Arthur Tarrant
Arthur.Tarrant@shra.org.uk
8894 3339

The Bulletin is published by
The Strawberry Hill
Residents' Association.

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION OF £3.00 (minimum) PER HOME FOR YEAR 2004

This subscription renewal may be made by cash, cheque made payable to Strawberry Hill Residents' Association.
Hand to either:

- (a) Richard Spires, 70 Pope's Avenue, TW2 5TT - Standing Order Forms available from Richard Spires or the SHRA website
- (b) Costcutter by Strawberry Hill Station
- (c) Post Office, Tower Road
- (d) The Riverside Supermarket (next to Radnor Gardens)

Donations are always welcome!

Name(s):		Telephone:	
Address:			
Date:		Amount:	
eMail:			