

## Family carols, mulled wine and mince pies

The village Christmas tree will be unveiled at 6.30pm on December 10 at Wellesley Parade. Carols and music by local musicians, free mulled wine and mince pies will be liberally served from outside the Melting Pot.

The decoration of the Christmas tree by local children - all are welcome to attend - will start at 6pm when the



*Carol singers at last year's Christmas festivities*

tree's lights will also be switched on.

A record number of families attended last year. The SHRA Committee looks forward to welcoming many more to share in the community's seasonal spirit.

Our thanks are owed to many local volunteers, especially Mr Sutee Chutpinyacoub and Andy Stevens, organiser of the Strawberry Hill Singers.

## New train times cut travel flexibility

The 15 minute turn-up-and-go commuter services to and from Waterloo station to Strawberry Hill will be severely curtailed from December 12.

There is no hope that the more frequent service can be reinstated, says SWT. SHRA, in concert with other local organisation, has protested to SWT against the timetable revision. Local Councillor Clare Head and MP Vincent Cable, have been notified of residents' objections.

Clr Head says: "The wider implication of a reduced train service is that traffic and parking problems will increase - especially around the College - because people will be deterred from taking the train and compelled to rely on their cars". SHRA has also lodged protests with Transport for London, The London Transport Users Committee and St Mary's College.

### From four to two

Timetable revision effectively cuts the number of trains from four an hour to two trains an hour by reducing the time gap to one minute when Waterloo trains via Richmond and Kingston cross at Strawberry Hill station.

SHRA has protested that it was not among the 81 local organisations - they include Richmond Council - consulted over the timetable changes.



*Cllr. Clare Head points to the conclusive Waterloo platforms poster (see page 2)*

The revised timetable was discovered in October on the National Rail website by a resident. No announcement of the changes had been made.

Matthew Winnie, Twickenham area station manager with responsibility for Strawberry Hill, has accepted an invitation to attend the SHRA committee meeting on

November 29. Residents may lodge their views, comments and questions in advance of that meeting, via the SHRA website:

[www.shra.org.uk](http://www.shra.org.uk)

### 'Impossible to change back' says SWT top executive

Rufus Boyd, Commercial Director of SWT and the man responsible for overseeing the time table changes, says there is no chance of reviewing or changing the new train times.

In a reply to SHRA Mr Boyd says: "You formally asked me to

reconsider our position with regard to this timetable and my formal response is that even if we could at this stage (and we can't) we would still regard the wider benefits secured across the inner London network as being worth the loss of amenity at Strawberry Hill"

(see page 2 for full text of letter)

## Queries over Zone 6 excess fare demands

Several residents have complained about excess fare charges by Inspectors while passing through zone 6. SHRA is informed that these charges should not be imposed. We understand from the Rail Users Guide that all

tickets from Strawberry Hill to Clapham Junction and beyond can be used provided the journey is not broken between Strawberry Hill and Clapham Junction. SWT states that it consider the main route to London as being

via Richmond. However, a poster from SWT in front of the station clearly states that trains to Waterloo depart from both platforms. Moreover, the recent SWT letter also states that there are benefits to residents of the new

timetable, namely that: "between 2000 and 2320 Monday-Saturday from Waterloo to Kingston service via Twickenham will operate through to Waterloo via Wimbledon. SHRA has drawn the attention of SWT to these anomalies.

## 'Strawberry Hill's loss is inner London's gain'

- *SWT Commercial Director Rufus*

*The full text of the reply from Rufus Boyd, SWT Commercial Director, dated November 4, to Eugene Bacot, Chairman of SHRA, reads:*

'Thank you for your letter of 26 October on the subject of changes to train times from Strawberry Hill from 12 December. I am very sorry that you feel the changes are detrimental to Strawberry Hill users. The company is aware that some Strawberry Hill customers consider the service as being provided to London in both directions.

I am duty-bound to say, however, that we regard the main route to London as being via Twickenham since this does not involve the train journey being routed via Zone 6, with an attendant increase in fare. The reasons we changed the timetable in the way we did are many and varied, but were all made in good faith. These are:

- A desire to improve the reliability of the train service which has traditionally had right turn around times at London. These services are now self-contained, have longer turn around times and a little bit of recovery time at Kingston.
- To restore a connection at Teddington between the Richmond and the Shepperton lines
- The need to continue to provide a 15-minute interval service between London and

Kingston and London and Twickenham, in line with our commitments to provide an overground network (ON) service on behalf of Transport for London.

Delivering all the above has meant that the services to Strawberry Hill no longer form an alternate quarter-hourly pattern. I would observe. However, that this pattern was unintended albeit quietly enjoyed.

I would like to draw to your attention some of the additional benefits that Strawberry Hill will have from 12 December, namely:

- An additional train in both the morning and the evening peaks
  - Between 2000 and 2330 Monday-Saturday the Waterloo to Kingston service via Twickenham will operate through to Waterloo via Wimbledon.
  - Other additional train services on the so-called "Windsor Lines" should ensure reduced overcrowding on your services via Richmond
- I fully understand that you will not regard these things as interchangeable benefits, but I hope you will see that we have tried across the network to create benefits for as many people as possible (including those at Strawberry Hill) and have not, as your letter infers, stumbled into this.

You formally asked me to reconsider our position in regard to this timetable and my formal response is that even if we could at this stage (and we can't) we would still regard the wider benefits secured across the inner London network as being worth the loss of amenity at Strawberry Hill.

I fully understand that this will not be of comfort to you, and I accept the charge that it would have been far better for us to have been able to engage with you directly rather than for you to have found other through your own devices. We did consult 81 organisations on this timetable change including local authorities and passenger representative groups. I am afraid that until I received your letter, I was not aware of your interest in railways matters, but I am happy to involve you in all our relevant consultations in the future.

If you would like to give me a call, or drop me a further line on the matter please do so.

Yours sincerely,  
Rufus Boyd  
Commercial Director.

### Pope's Grove Bridge Work

A six week work programme of bridge and track maintenance between Strawberry Hill station and Upper Grotto Road which began on November 15 has sparked comment from some residents over disruption to local traffic and the length of

time needed to complete the project. Pope's Grove will be closed to general traffic between Pope's Avenue and Orford Gardens until the 24th of December.

Pedestrian access will be permitted via signed diversion routes.

Nightwork will continue through the six week period lasting mostly from midnight to 5am though in some cases work may continue to 7.30 and 8.30 in the morning.

### Sitting pretty

The new seat bought with the legacy of Miss Cowen has been installed for us by the Council by the rockery between Threshers and Harji's shops. A plaque recognising Miss Cowen's generous donation to SHRA and all residents will be placed on the seat.

### Help! Green fingers needed

SHRA is seeking volunteers to help us look after the planter and rockery garden between Theshers and Harjiis during the hot summer months to ensure the plants' survival.

We propose a rota system to share the load. Please contact  
Clare Phelps,  
on 020 8892 5863

or e-mail:

[Clare.Phelps@share.org.uk](mailto:Clare.Phelps@share.org.uk)

## Waldegrave Park protests at school expansion

Objections to the most recent development plans of Newland House School have been sent to Richmond Council. Residents of Waldegrave Park say that the plans for school expansion, increase in pupil numbers and demolition of a house (number 36) will worsen traffic chaos and create extra risk of serious injury to children and residents. Protestors add that the massive

extra building will cause grave damage to a fine residential area.

Earlier proposals were rejected by Richmond Council in March on the grounds, among other reasons, of traffic problems and the overbearing size of new buildings.

The Waldegrave Residents Association says that a new round of objection and observation is now required because previous

objections will not apply to the new proposals.

The deadline is December 3. Copies of the plans can be inspected at Teddington Library, the Civic Centre in York Street or on-line at

[www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

Written or e-mail submissions can be sent to: Development Control, Civic Centre (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) 44 York Street, Twickenham TW1 3BZ, quoting ref-

erence 04/3279/FUL. E-mail objections on environmental grounds can be sent to [envprotection@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:envprotection@richmond.gov.uk) and must include your postal address.

To add your name to the growing list of objectors, or for more information, Contact: Gillian Robbins, tel 020 8892 7662; or e-mail: [robbinsfamily@btopenworld.com](mailto:robbinsfamily@btopenworld.com)

## Radnor Gardens Project

### First phase planned for early 2005

**Following enquiries to SHRA about the planned developments at Radnor Gardens and consultation about the impending changes, the Friends of Radnor Gardens have provided an up to the minute state of play.**

*Pat Schooling,, of the Friends of Radnor Gardens writes:*  
In early December the Arcadia Committee expects to receive the go ahead from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the landscaping plans drawn up by Kim Wilkie for Radnor Gardens. The work will be tacked in phases.

#### Phase 1

The first phase, in early 2005, will concentrate on pathway repairs, and refurbishment, with adjustments to make it safer down and around the gradient leading to the river. The gazebo will be moved back close to the river bank. The gazebo is in fact on the remaining alcoved end of the bathhouse built by the Earl of Radnor c 1750 and it originally stood beside the water. The building was reduced down and move in the nineteenth century. In its new position, the restored gazebo will be an attractive spot from which to enjoy the life of

the river and the vista across to Ham and Richmond Hill. The work will involve erecting temporary surrounding barriers, for health and safety reasons.

#### Music Day

This phase is expected to be completed by Music Day in June, after which the upper pathway alongside the roadway and the grass bank sloping down from it will be laid. To achieve this, many tons of soil (donated by the developers Octagon from another site) will be brought by barge to Radnor Gardens. In early autumn, a number of new trees will be planted along the western boundary.

It is also hoped to make improvements to the river bank itself with the removal of the concrete, to be replaced by banks of soil planted with irises, kingcups and other attractive wild flowers.

In 2005 we will also see work by the London Borough of Richmond begin on restoring and improving the children's play area. A new dog-free enclosure will encompass much the same area as the previous play area and within it, covering about one third (40sq metres) of this enclosure, special play equipment and safety

ground surfacing will be installed for the first time. The scheme will conform to the Open Spaces Strategy, meeting "Local Equipped Area for Play" standards.

It will include five types of activity: climbing, rocking, rotary, sliding and swinging, with some sort of wheelchair friendly and/or suitable for children with learning or physical difficulties. It is envisaged for use by toddlers and children up to about 10.

#### Equipment

There are many permutations of equipment and colouring and proposals for these are now being drawn up. We will be inviting the comments and suggestions of local residents and hope particularly to have the views of mums and child carers which will be canvassed via our volunteers in the Friends of Radnor Gardens and PTAs.

We are hoping that community organisations may be interested in sponsoring different items here, for fundraising is still a top priority for the Friends. The refurbished play area will be funded by the Council, by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Environment Agency and by the Friends fundraising campaign

which includes a contribution from the Bridge House Trust

## New plan for Housing Project

Negotiation continues over an alternative plan for the proposed redevelopment of the Richmond Housing Project property at 11 Strawberry Hill Road..

Following residents' objections, the RHP planning application was turned down. The RHP has made written representation to the Inspectorate. A decision may take up to 50 weeks. In the meantime, residents and Cllr Clare Head met on site with the RHP architect and a new plan was proposed. If agreed by residents, a decision could be reached in eight weeks under delegated powers.

## Community policing

Our community police officer, Pinder Chana, can be contacted for non-urgent matters on 020 8247 5814 or by e-mail on:

[Harpinderpal.Chana@met.police.uk](mailto:Harpinderpal.Chana@met.police.uk)

**GUEST COLUMN**

**Nicki Faircloth**  
**The Friends of Strawberry Hill**



# Winning despite losing

Strawberry Hill House benefitted greatly from the BBC's Restoration programme - even if we missed the jackpot by a handful of votes in the first round. We have benefitted from publicity and increased interest to the extent that membership has increased by 20% and visitor numbers have gone up markedly. The value of heightened awareness is revealed by the visitor this summer who told me she had lived in the area for 60 years and did not know of the house's existence. Now restoration work is beginning. Students from the London Metropolitan University start work shortly on refurbishing the shutters.

This will restore the shutters to working order and make the house more secure. Meanwhile, a conservation plan is being prepared with a timescale. We will bring you up to date in future issues of The Bulletin and look forward to many of you joining us in the exciting restoration of this unique building. While the house is closed for public tours until May, private tours can be booked at any time. For information about the restoration project or tour bookings, please contact me on 020 8892 0592 or e-mail: [Nicki.Faircloth@FriendsOfStrawberryHill.org](mailto:Nicki.Faircloth@FriendsOfStrawberryHill.org)

## Timely reminders

- **John Armstrong** plans to set up a Spring plant stall in Wellesley Parade in May next year. Please save your cuttings now.
- **Strawberry Hill Residents Association celebrates the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of its founding next year. A programme of anniversary events, including a special issue of The Bulletin, is being prepared.
- A **new cardboard unit** has been set up at the recycling facilities in Wellesley Parade.
- **Graffiti will be removed** by Richmond Council by contacting Spencer Robert at Richmond Council on 020 8891 7053
- **Removal of dead trees** in your road will be undertaken by Richmond Council. Contact: Craig Ruddock, 0208892 7808.
- **Murder Mystery Evening at Strawberry Hill House** on Saturday the 4th of December. For more details and tickets ring 020 8894 6628.

## THE COMMITTEE

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**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

**Donations are always welcome!**

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