

## Sparkling debut to our 40<sup>th</sup> celebrations

Forty years ago residents of Strawberry Hill pulled together to fight plans to drive a road through the neighbourhood. The Strawberry Hill Residents' Association was born and the project was defeated. Celebrations of SHRA's 40th anniversary begin at the AGM when all who attend will be

greeted with a glass of champagne and invited to toast the next 40 years.

Other projects in train to commemorate SHRA's founding in 1965 are:

- a celebratory 1960s evening on June 17 with the Friends of Strawberry Hill in Walpole's magnificent house

- a donation from SHRA funds of £1,000 towards the restoration of the house

- a clean up project on the strip of land which runs beside Gloria's café

- special anniversary issue of The Bulletin.

Not least, SHRA will be seeking new members for the com-

mittee so that we can widen the scope of our activities in coming years.

All are welcome in any capacity. Please contact any member of committee by telephone or e-mail or consult our website to register your interest through the SHRA bulletin board.

## SWT starts £30k station upgrade

A budget of £30,000 has been earmarked for lighting and other improvements at Strawberry Hill station. The work which should be completed by the end of May covers:

- enhanced CCTV with digital recording
- replacement help points
- additional lighting
- additional cycle racks

Peter Byrne, newly appointed Twickenham station manager, says that work began in March and that Strawberry Hill station has been selected to trial new digital closed circuit television cameras which will provide greater image definition.



High definition CCTV

## Mystery ends over 'abused' station yard

*After many months of enquiry, SHRA has established that the station yard as well as the former waiting room/restaurant and former station master's house are owned by Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd, part of the Network Rail organisation. Ownership, and therefore responsibility for upkeep and refurbishment, had been in some doubt following privatisation.*

*SHRA formally requested that the waiting room and gents lavatory, converted to a restaurant, be restored.*

*Network Rail replied that it was not possible to restore them because the former waiting room is still let on a commercial licence, although the restaurant has not opened for some time*

*Network Rail says it is aware of the 'abuse of the area' from rubbish tipping and abandoned cars.*

*It has received sympathetically a suggestion from SHRA that the station yard could be refurbished and new lighting installed to prevent dumping.*

*Complaints about the state of the station yard have also been received from the restaurant owners, says Network Rail.*

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### Busy station

In the course of discussion with SWT over the impact of new timetables, it emerges that our local station is one of the most heavily used in south west London.

Nearly 523,000 tickets were issued to and from Strawberry Hill in the fiscal period 2003-2004. This represents a considerable weight of passenger opinion.

Comparison with footfall at similar stations reveals that Strawberry Hill is two or three times busier. Tickets issued for the same period shows:

- o Hampton Wick 399,175
- o North Sheen 205,054
- o Syon Lane 106,397

### HISTORIC 40TH AGM

The 40th annual general meeting of the Strawberry Hill Residents' Association will be held at 7.00pm for 7.30pm on April 11 in the Waldegrave Room of Strawberry Hill House.

All residents of Strawberry Hill are automatically members of the Association and are invited to attend.

Please complete the enclosed questionnaire. Your views will be reported at the meeting.

### St Mary's Campus Plans

At the AGM, a display of campus improvement plans for St Mary's College - programmed, or underway - will be on display. College representatives will be on hand to answer questions.

## Pavement Watch launched as complaints continue to rise

In view of the rapidly deteriorating condition of pavements and the rising number of complaints, SHRA has launched Pavement Watch.

If you have a complaint to make about a specific pavement call any SHRA commit-

tee member stating the location and date.

You can also log on to the SHRA website discussion site. SHRA has taken up this matter with Richmond Council. Broken paving slabs are frequently caused by parking of heavy

vehicles, such as lorries.

Uneven pavements are dangerous to the elderly and children; they are also unsightly and costly. Richmond Council's insurance annual insurance bill to cover its liabilities for such matters as injuries resulting from

falling over broken paving slabs is millions of pounds per year.

### Council Action

Following approaches to Richmond council by SHRA, work is to start shortly in Orford Gardens and Tower Road.

(continued from page 1)

## Station Yard

SHRA is preparing to meet with Network Rail to pursue a refurbishment plan.

SHRA understands that the Indian restaurant may re-open in May this year.

## Shops' parking limits Imminent

Parking restrictions limiting the time that cars can be left outside shops in Tower Road and Wellesley Parade are expected shortly.

Richmond Council transport and planning service is considering two options:

- a limit of 20 minutes or one hour between 8.30am and 10.30am
- a limit of 20 minutes or one hour between 8.30am and 6.30pm

The restrictions would apply either from Monday to Friday or Monday to Saturday.

SHRA, with the assistance of Cllr Clare Head, asked for a 20 minute limit following numerous complaints from residents about all day parking by commercial vehicles

## Bulletin distributors

Your copy of the Bulletin reaches you thanks to our network of distributors. We are always seeking new distributors who can deliver in their road or a few local roads.

Distributors are needed for Strawberry Vale (riverside) and Mallard Place.

Please contact Clare Phelps on 020 8892 5863.

## Post Office provides holiday cash

With Easter approaching, Aparna Patel reminds all residents that the Post Office can provide holiday cash and travel insurance.

The Post Office is now able to provide a wide range of banking services for individuals and local businesses. "It is important to remember that with many post offices closing, Strawberry Hill, too, might lose this valuable amenity", says Aparna.

Customers of Alliance & Leicester, Barclays and Lloyds TSB can all withdraw cash without charge as part of a free banking arrangement. All you need is your card and PIN number, says Aparna.

Aparna is sitting on the new bench recently installed and funded from the legacy of Miss Cowan. A plaque acknowledging the legacy will be placed on the bench.



## Music Day postponed

Because of the works in Radnor Gardens this year, Music Day has been postponed from June; FoRG hopes that a children's music and craft day can take place in September.

## SHRA gets Civic Pride Funding

Richmond Council has indicated that SHRA will be allocated funds under its Civic Pride scheme for projects which improve the local environment.

Four projects have been earmarked for this year and SHRA will collaborate with council representatives in undertaking the work. Volunteers are welcome and should contact Clare Phelps, SHRA Hon. Secretary on 8892 5863.

The projects are:

- Repairing and restoring the grass verge outside the post office
- Repairing and restoring the grass verge in Wellesley Parade
- Resurfacing the path outside the shops in Tower Road
- Providing and placing a planter alongside the wall of Harjii's shoe repair shop.

Dates for the work have yet to be decided.

## Plants Galore

John Armstrong will be hosting a spring plant fair in front of Cost Cutters in Wellesley Parade from 10:00 till 12:00 on Saturday the 21st of May.

Please bring surplus plants to the stall or phone John on 8894 5218 the week before. Unusual plants, seeds, fruits and vegetables are particularly welcome. All monies generated will be donated to HANDS the local charity for supporting elderly people and the infirm

## New 33 bus stop outside College

A new bus stop and shelter may be placed opposite the Waldegrave Road entrance to St Mary's College, following a request to Transport for London. The bus company is considering two locations and is in discussion with Richmond Council following a request from SHRA.

There is only one stop in one direction (Teddington) outside the College to serve the 3000 students and 400 staff. It is considered important to encourage students to use public transport.

## Sopa Serving Now

Phil and Sopa Rochford have reopened the former Melting Pot under the name of Sopa. The restaurant will continue serving Thai cuisine. Phil and Sopa previously ran a Thai restaurant elsewhere in London for many years. For reservations Tel: 020 88946111.

## Security and Gazebo Top Concerns at Radnor Meeting

Security, especially the provision of CCTV cameras, and resiting of the gazebo were two of the most frequently voiced concerns at the public meeting in St James' church hall in March.

The meeting was convened by Cllr Clare Head to further consultation and information about the projected works in Radnor Gardens/ Prevention of vandalism by installing CCTV cameras was proposed by several residents



No funding for gazebo resiteing

as a solution, but cost of installation may rule this out. Residents were assured that the railings around the gardens would not be removed. However, the police are also being consulted over this point. The police have taken the view that locking gardens is not a solution to vandalism and may aggravate the problem. Council officers who were present at the meeting will follow up the suggestions and points raised at the meeting.

### Radnor Gardens survey reveals:

## Major support - but minor response - for development

The response to the survey of residents' views shows strong support for the redevelopment, though fewer than 3% of homes replied to the questionnaire.

There must be doubt about the effectiveness of the consultation process as few respondents seemed to be aware of the plans before reading about it in The Bulletin.

A total of 54 responses were received, or 2.16% of the circa 2,500 homes in the area.

In some cases there were multiple replies to questions, e.g. over where to view the plans. Nearly nine out of ten respondents were broadly in favour of the proposals for Radnor Gardens

### **Awareness**

Nearly three quarters said they were aware of the proposals. Yet nearly 8 out of ten had learned about them from The Bulletin; less than one ten had seen the plans at Music Day last year. Just over one in ten said they had seen it in the local press.

On the form of consultation, more than half preferred The Bulletin, followed by public meetings or a dedicated Radnor Gardens newsletter.

Preferred public places for seeing the plans (multiple replies)

were in top position with roughly a third for each: the Civic Centre, Twickenham Library, Radnor Gardens.

### **Concerns**

Major concerns (multiple replies) for between a quarter and one third of respondents were:

- moving the gazebo and the threat damage by flooding
- tree felling
- vandalism and security

Two out of ten respondents approved of the total plan.

### **Approval**

Most approved of individual items were:

- café and lavatories
- cctv
- improved pathway and dog free zone

One in ten wanted to see the appointment of a park keeper or gardens supervisor.

Most of the respondents visit the gardens rarely.

Four out of ten visit once a month or less frequently. One in three visits several times a week or once a week.

As to activities, the major visits were for relaxation, exercise, and observing wild life.

One in ten used the gardens for children's play; less than one in ten for walking their dogs.

### **Gazebo resiteing may not happen at all**

**Denise Carr, Chair, Friends of Radnor Gardens, clarifies the roles of Arcadia in the City and the FoRG.**

The plans for the Garden overlap with a later initiative from Arcadia in the City. Many people appear confused about the the roles of different organisations.

In 1998 The Friends of Radnor Gardens carried out a major survey of local opinion on plans for improving Radnor Gardens. The priorities which emerged were safer pathways, new trees and a children's play area.

In the meantime, The Thames Landscape Strategy, which had been developing plans for improvements all along the river, started work on Arcadia in the City.

This project aims to enhance, conserve and celebrate one of the world's great urban landscapes - the stretch of river from Radnor Gardens to St Margarets' riverside and the home of the English landscape movement.

The Radnor Gardens element of Arcadia in the City covers £100,000 of improvements to footpaths and landscaping with money provided by the National Lottery Fund.

### **Timing of phases**

Phase 1, the only Arcadia project to be undertaken this year, is to realign and resurface the path from the northern gate along the riverside.

Phase 2, planned for 2006, envisages work on the pathways and sloped grass bank on the east side of the gardens, a curved wooden bench and interpretation panel on the axis with the Great River Avenue on the Ham side. Tree felling and replanting with oaks, ash and other species is also under discussion.

Resiteing of the gazebo is also under discussion.; That work will be carried out this year only if funding can be identified; if funding is not found the resiteing may never happen.

Richmond Council, meanwhile, is putting a dog free children's play area into the gardens in May and has consulted local mums on the design and equipment.

The Environment Agency is also looking to restore the river bank with irises and green stabilisation in place of cracked concrete, as well as building granite steps to the river's edge at the exit point of the former inlet to the gardens.

## GUEST COLUMN

**Roger Hackett**  
**Hon. Secretary**

**The Friends of Strawberry Hill**



## Trust bids for £5 million funding

There's a lot of change going on at Strawberry Hill. The house is not longer suitable for use by St Mary's College because the building is far too fragile. The urgent need to restore and conserve the Grade 1 listed house grows more pressing

The College's resources are earmarked exclusively for teaching, so a new partnership is being forged with the Strawberry Hill Trust (SHT)

The Trust is chaired by Michael Snodin, a curator at the V&A and an expert on Strawberry Hill. The SHT has access to funds - especially Heritage Lottery funds - not available to the College.

In partnership with the World Monuments Fund, whose expertise is in fund raising, the SHT is putting together a bid to secure £5 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) of the estimated £8 million restoration cost.

In the meantime, a joint venture with London Metropolitan University has begun with students learning and working on site. While HLF are considering the main grant application, the Trust is seeking a Development Grant from them to start preparatory work by the Trust's architects Inskip and Jenkins, who are renowned for their conservation work.

The Trust, with help from the World Monument Fund, has raised, or has pledged for, over £400,000. If all goes well, it is planned that the lease on the house will pass to the Strawberry Hill Trust in 2006 and that full conservation work will start in early 2008

The Trust plans to make the house as accessible as possible to local people as a heritage site, an education experience for schools and adults, and for local community use.

The majority of the £8 million will come from large funders, but the Trust needs to raise smaller sums too. This is where local people can help as volunteers or as fund raisers.

The Friends of Strawberry Hill has been set up as a support organisation. You can join the friends and enjoy the events they organise; equally you can help with the work they are doing to support the Strawberry Hill Trust.

Please contact us through:  
[www.friendsofstrawberryhill.org](http://www.friendsofstrawberryhill.org)  
 or the membership secretary  
 Nicki Faircloth, 1 Southfield Gardens,  
 Twickenham TW1 4SZ.  
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- (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!**

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