

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

No. 140 July 2009

## Band plays for café opening

**C**armel Kinnear (pictured right), cut the bright red tape and Richmond Youth Jazz Band played the music as the new café in Radnor Gardens was declared officially open on 11th July before a gathering of dozens of children and parents.

Carmel Kinnear is the founder of the Roy Kinnear Foundation for disabled children



Carmel Kinnear and Cllr Clare Head with a young visitor. Cllr David Marlow looks on

in Waldegrave Road and an actress in East Enders.

Cllr Clare Head, Chair of the Friends of Radnor Gardens, said: "We have waited years for this and we can see that families love it. Now we need some public lavatories in the gardens as well." FoRG is organising a petition calling on Richmond Council to fund lavatories.

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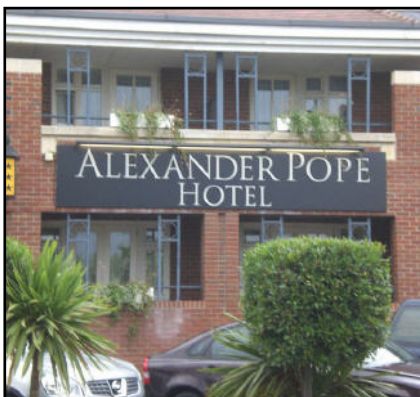
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## What's in a name?

When Young's brewery refurbished our community pub on Cross Deep, startled residents were quick to react to an unexpected name change from *Pope's Grotto* to *The Alexander*.

"Never" was the universal outcry, aided by local historian Anthony Beckles Willson and SHRA. Joint chairman Bruce Duff raised a petition and fired off a letter of complaint.



The renamed Alexander Pope Hotel

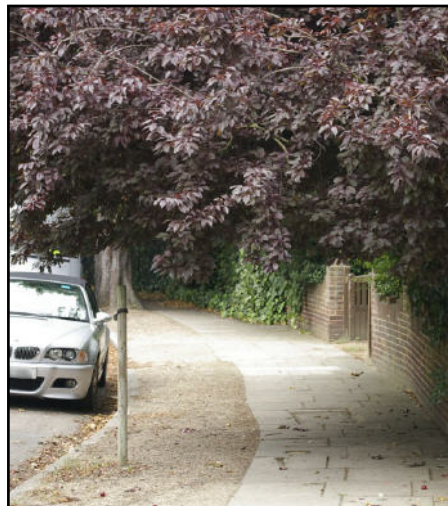
The identity of Strawberry Hill is wrapped in that of Alexander Pope, the brewery was told, and the great poet deserves recognition.

A rapid compromise was reached and the pub re-named *The Alexander Pope*. Honour was saved all round.

## Hedge task force patrols in August

**A** task force consisting of a Council Representative, a Councillor and members of SHRA will patrol in August to identify hedges and bushes overhanging the pavements around the Village to excessive degrees.

Following the inspection, the Council might ask particular residents to trim to their boundary hedges and trees, said local Cllr David Marlow.



An overhanging tree in Walpole Gardens. Householders may be asked to cut back trees and hedges like this

## Friends of Radnor Gardens Plan Family Fun Day

**A** Family Fun Day featuring a Richmond Youth Band, face painting and numerous stalls, will be held in Radnor Gardens on September 6. Stands will be available for hire. Contact Cllr Clare Head, Chair of the Friends of Radnor Gardens – 020 8977 7789

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# MP Vince Cable supports Tower Road phone antennas protest

**T**wickenham MP Vince Cable has joined the protest over mobile telephone antennas on Rochester House in Tower Road by writing to the Chief Executive of Orange.

In his letter, Mr Cable encloses correspondence from SHRA which, he says, "represents a serious complaint about the way in which Orange's agent, Waldon Telecom, has pursued a mobile phone antenna planning application which has since been refused".

Earlier this year, three groups of antennas on the centre of the building were moved to the edge and two more groups were added. In April, Waldon Telecom announced their intention to apply for permission to add further antennas for Orange, in addition to the existing Vodafone and O2 ones. SHRA, responding to a large number of complaints from residents, organised a public meeting at Strawberry Hill Golf Club to coordinate objections and sent a petition to the Council's Chief Executive, Gillian Norton. The petition was signed by more than 170 people.



Three of the five masts on Rochester House

The application for the additional antennas was rejected after many objections submitted by residents. SHRA and other residents pointed out that the applicant had failed to follow the telecommunications industry's own Code of Practice and the Government's Planning Policy Guidelines. In particular, they require that the applicant should:

- Produce a consultation plan and consult with residents where antennas will be installed on sensitive sites,
- Consult school authorities if any are within 500m of the site (both Archdeacon Cambridge and St James Primary Schools fall within this distance)
- Justify the need for extra capacity and show that alternative sites were investigated

The applicant signally failed to address any of these points. Mr Cable's letter adds: "The Association makes some very reasoned and worrying points regarding Waldon Telecom's handling of the application process which I hope you will thoroughly investigate".

At the time of publication, Orange had not responded and an appeal against the refusal is expected.

Local resident, Ann Halliday, in a letter to the Richmond and Twickenham Times, said: "Residents are united in their opposition to these masts. The saga, and the fight, goes on".

Many residents believe radiation from mobile phone masts can be dangerous to health.

## House scheduled to open in June 2010

By Judith Lovelace, Chair, Friend of Strawberry Hill

**M**any of you will have visited the RFU Music and Fun Day in the grounds of Strawberry Hill on 21st June. For those of you who weren't there, the weather was fine, sunny and not too hot! Thousands of people turned up (best estimates are 7,000) to mingle with the stall holders, the rock bands and the children's activities.

The food and drinks stands ran a roaring trade all day. The Pimms bus was a new treat and the Beer tent ran out! The organisers were concerned about the viability of the event given that a high proportion of the grounds are a building site. We were grateful to the contractors Bowmans for their efforts in making sure the event would work on the day. Our thanks as ever to the RFU, to Fraser Cullen and

his team and to all the volunteers who helped the day to be a great success.

The restoration is going well and it is strange to see the building covered in scaffolding and plastic. There are no opportunities for visits (people do keep asking!) but we promise to advertise widely as soon as visits are possible. The project is due for completion in May next year. We hope to have an opening in June and for public visits to restart in July. Fingers crossed.

Look out for future events - eg the sponsored walk in September around Richmond Park. All details of events can be found at:

[www.friendsofstrawberryhill.org](http://www.friendsofstrawberryhill.org)

## Network Rail plans mast for train depôt

**R**esidents in Southfield Gardens and Strawberry Hill Road are worried by Network Rail's plan to erect a 15 metre high communications mast by the track at the train depot. Network Rail has written to some residents about the new mast, which it says will be used for rail communication only.

While the site is technically outside the area of Strawberry Hill, residents near the site say the mast will be visually intrusive. They have also sought advice from local councillors. Planning permission appears not to be required as the mast is to be used in connection with the movement of rail traffic.

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# New committee aims to improve relations with St Mary's University College

**I**n a bid to improve relations between the Community and St Mary's University College (SMUC), a new joint SHRA-College committee has been set up to focus on issues and points of potential friction and developments. The first meeting with the Principal and a Vice Principal discussed car parking, the new sports hall, events at the College and public access to College grounds.

## Car Parking Problems

St Mary's accepted SHRA's suggestion that students need to be made more aware of their green travel policy and find ways of reducing student car usage. They were urged to consider a register of student cars. Progress on the proposals will be followed up at the next meeting in October.

One point of progress is that, since September 2008, St Mary's has allocated two parking places on the campus to the Streetcar

club, with VW cars available for short-term hire by club members, open to all ([www.streetcar.co.uk](http://www.streetcar.co.uk)). More spaces will be provided on campus if demand justifies it.

## Progress on New Sports Hall

Subject to satisfactory tender and finalisation of funding, building work is planned to start in January 2010 and will take one year.

## Pre-Notification of Events

At the initial meeting with SHRA in April, St Mary's agreed to expand the Community page on its website ([www.smuc.ac.uk](http://www.smuc.ac.uk)) to provide details of forthcoming campus events which might interest residents. The purpose is to permit residents to attend or to prepare for the impact of increased traffic and parking.

The site should become live in August and will link to the Sport St Mary section of the website, which details sporting and gym facilities on the campus available for community use.

Key upcoming events generating additional traffic are:

**Saturday September 12:** Open day for prospective new students for 2010

**Sunday September 20:** Residential students arrive for new term

## Extent of Public Access

While the campus is private land, residents are allowed access for agreed use of facilities, including the new Dolche Vita [*sic*] coffee shop, which overlooks the running track. Weekends and out-of-term term are quieter at the coffee shop and therefore recommended.

Other issues raised were:

- the mobile phone antennas on the roof, which are to be removed
- the need to remind students running at night that they must be visible to motorists
- the need for the security limitations of the campus to be taken into account when accepting applications for use of the site as a pre-Olympic training camp.

Satisfactory assurances were received on these issues.

*If you have any issues you would like raised with St Mary's University College at the next meeting in October, please contact Mike Allsop (details are on Page 4).*

## Black boxes are card readers



**P**illars covered in black cloth on both platforms on Strawberry Hill station are Oyster card readers which will go live in September this year.

## Planning

### Gifford House and Contact Centre

**T**he Council has told SHRA that construction of the new contact centre will commence shortly and the Council has set up a monthly surgery for local residents in addition to the monthly newsletter.

Terms have been agreed (subject to contract) with the preferred bidder for Gifford House and it is hoped that the site will shortly be sold.

### Pope's Grove Railway Arches

**F**our planning applications have been submitted for new businesses in the arches under the railway in Pope's Grove. They are for a furniture restorer and joiner, together with storage facilities. There are also applications for continued use of an artist's studio and an antiques restorer.

Residents of Orford Gardens are concerned about the possible impact of noise and smells from such developments.

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## It's dawn to dusk for debut grocers

**B**rothers Ben and Andrew Cowley, the new owners of Costcutters in Wellesley Parade, are young, enthusiastic and learning fast how to run a shop 15 hours, seven days a week.

Neither Ben, 25, nor Andrew, 23, has run a shop before. Originally from Swindon, the brothers heard that the shop was available through a friend.

It is Andrew's first job since leaving University, while Ben had been a heating engineer. Now both work long days that start at 6 a.m. and end at 9 p.m., seven days a week (with some help from Dad on Sundays) and part time help from Shirley who worked in the shop under the previous owners.

"It's been a friendly start," says Andrew. "We have met some very nice people." Andrew says they have experimented with different products, but the staples of the business are "milk, newspapers and bread – especially the hot croissants; they're very popular. Soon we shall add hot pies."

Neither brother is married – and little prospect of it when they work 15-hour days, agrees Andrew – but both plan to get involved in community life soon. In the meantime, the takings are building nicely and Andrew hopes



*Ben and Andrew outside Costcutters*  
Costcutters in Strawberry Hill will be the beginning of a larger business.

Ben and Andrew wish to thank all the residents of Strawberry Hill for giving them such a warm welcome.

### Committee Changes

**J**oe Brett and Mike O'Hagan have retired from the Committee. The Chairmen and Committee would like to thank them both for their hard work and service over many years.

New Committee members are always welcome. The task is not onerous - we have about 6 meetings a year, on Monday evenings. Most members assist at our 2 annual events - the Strawberry Hill Music and Fun Day and the Christmas Carol singing.

If you are interested in joining, please contact any member of the Committee.

**T**he Bulletin costs £1500 per annum to produce and distribute to each home in the area and is financed by your subscriptions. If you have found this issue enjoyable and useful, please pay your subscription for 2009 using the form below.

Please send any comments, praise or criticism you may have to: [Bulletin@shra.org.uk](mailto:Bulletin@shra.org.uk)

### RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION of £3.00 (minimum) PER HOME FOR YEAR 2009

This subscription renewal may be made by cash or cheque made payable to Strawberry Hill Residents' Association.

**Hand to either:**

**A** John Naish, 12 Waldegrave Gardens, TW1 4PG

**B** Costcutter by Strawberry Hill Station

**C** Post Office, Tower Road

Payment may also be made by Standing Order. Forms are available from John or from the SHRA website ([www.shra.org.uk](http://www.shra.org.uk))

**Additional donations are always welcome!**

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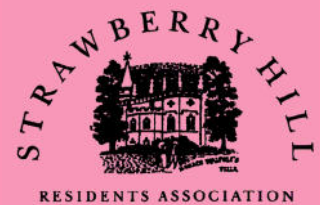
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