

thebulletir



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

No. 147 Winter 2011

Radnor Gardens war memorial vandalised

n the night of 14th October, the war memorial in Radnor Gardens was vandalised. The bronze plaque depicting the Royal Navy, one of three representing the services, was prised off the side facing the river and removed, almost certainly to be sold and melted down. It is believed that the thieves may have chosen this side as it is not visible from the road.

The Council's Parks Service erected a metal screen within 24 hours to protect the remaining plaques and temporary CCTV cameras have been installed. A full-size photographic reproduction was installed in time for the Remembrance Day services.

Cllr. Clare Head, Chair of the Friends of Radnor Gardens, told our reporter that "she was upset by this cowardly act". She said that it is likely that the remaining plaques will be removed and replaced by resin mouldings to match the originals as closely as possible. The plaques will be kept in a safe place.

Roy King, Chairman of the British Legion Club, said: "We have put the word out among our members in all parts of Richmond. There are British Legion Clubs in Richmond, Teddington, Hampton and Isleworth, as well



Cllr. Clare Head. Mavor and Chair of the Friends of Radnor Gardens, inspects the damage

as Twickenham. It is shocking that anyone could have done this. The plaque is worth more than money. You can't value it."

The war memorial was unveiled on 2nd November 1921 by Field-Marshal Sir William Robertson, Bt. The sculptor was Mortimer Brown. It has been suggested that the panels are superior to the statue itself.

In this issue

n the last Bulletin, we told you about some of the businesses which are hidden under the Pope's Grove railway arches. We continue with an article on page 3 about three more craftsmen who are plying their trades undeterred by the rumble of the railway overhead.

Last month, the annual Remembrance Day parade and service was held at the Radnor Gardens war memorial, which was sadly damaged by thieves in October. We provide a local perspective on the crime in our article on the left. Our back page is appropriately devoted to an article on the Royal British Legion in Pope's Grove.

Finally, our researcher has been dusting down old maps and going through yellowing copies of the minutes of SHRA to bring you the definitive history of travel and transport in our area on page 5.

Lord Coe opens St Mary's sports hall

The new sports hall at St Mary's University College was packed when it was opened by Sebastian Coe, KBE, on Thursday 27th October.



Lord Coe unveils the commemorative plaque in the new sports hall

Guests were welcomed by Professor Philip Esler, who described the recent achievements of the University. After the opening, two former students at the University, David Bedford and Rebecca Romero, were admitted as the first members of the St Mary's Hall of Fame for Sport. David Bedford held many records for long-distance running in the 1970s and is race director of the London Marathon. Rebecca Romero, holds a silver medal for rowing in the 2004 Olympics and a gold medal for cycling in the 2008 Olympics, becoming the first Briton to win medals in two sports in the Olympics.

Guests were able to see some of the University's work in the Centre and to tour the new facilities.

Christmas Tree Decorating and Carol Singing Event

or the last 8 years, the Committee has organised this annual event at Wellesley Parade. Attendance has declined in recent years, so we invited you to tell us what you thought about it in a survey in the last Bulletin. There were 5 responses from a circulation of 2,300.

We have, therefore, decided not to hold the event this year. Instead, there will be a Christmas tree outside Sopa and all local children (and tall dads) are invited to come and help decorate it on Saturday 17 December at 3 p.m.

If you feel that we should run the full event in future years, you can still complete the survey form in the last Bulletin, do the on-line survey (both available on our website) or send an email to: Bulletin@shra.org.uk. We would also welcome volunteers to help organise it.



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Two birthdays and a year of achievement

Jenny Eynon, Assistant Director, Strawberry Hill House writes:

It is hard to believe that this time last year the House was still cluttered with workmen and we had only recently abandoned hard hats. Then on 24th September we celebrated two birthdays: Horace Walpole's 294th and our first since opening.

In that time we have seen sell-out concerts and master classes, welcomed a diverse range of our local community, and achieved recognition as an accredited visitor attraction by VisitEngland. We have taken on a horticulture apprentice, begun a community garden, and even had a visit from Royalty!

The volunteers from the local community have been at the heart of this success, none of which could have been achieved without their enthusiasm and dedication.

With the exception of the Christmas opening below, the house will take a brief respite over the winter, re-opening to the public again on 31st March 2012. Tickets for the 2012 season will be available from January via the website.

We hope that many of you will join us for some of our Christmas events, choose to support us by buying some of our lovely Christmas cards or gifts in the shop, or just pop in for a cup of coffee and a mince pie in the café. For now, however, we wish all our neighbours a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Saturday 3rd December: drop-in sessions 12 noon to 3 p.m. Victorian Christmas Paper Crafts - make marble wrapping paper, paper chains, lanterns and gift boxes. £3 per person, for all ages (children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult).

Sunday 4th December: Evening Tour - an opportunity to tour the house at a magical time of day. Arrive for 5.30 p.m. for a glass of mulled wine. Tours begin at 6 p.m. £20



Strawberry Hill in the snow (picture by Kilian O'Sullivan)

including a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. Recommended age 18+.

Saturday 10th December: Evening Tour an opportunity to tour the house at a magical time of day. Arrive for 5.30 p.m. for a glass of mulled wine. Tours begin at 6 p.m. £20 including a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie, recommended age 18+.

Sunday 11th December: drop-in sessions 12 noon to 3 p.m. Gothic Goblets: Glass painting Taking inspiration from the house, paint a Gothic Goblet fit for a Christmas banquet! £4.95 per goblet for all ages (children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult).

Sunday 11th December: Christmas Concert with CORO: the shop will be open selling Christmas goodies before the concert. £20 including a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie, for all ages.

For more details on all of these events, to book tickets or just to get in touch, please visit our website:

www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk

Singing banishes the blues

Opera singer Helen Astrid starts her New Year singing classes for beginners on Saturday 21st January at The Alexander Pope.

"It's a great way to banish the January blues," says Helen. "Don't worry, you don't need to look like Katherine Jenkins or sound like Pavarotti. This workshop is for complete beginners!"

Helen says that if you think you're tonedeaf and would like to learn the basics in



Helen Astrid

singing, this workshop is for you. The good news is that you don't need any experience or ability to read music, just a willingness to give it a go and make a fresh start. "You're sure to gain more confidence and 'chutzpah' next time you sing-a-long to the radio in the shower."

A lady on a previous workshop says: "Helen's warmth, charm and positive approach helped me get over my wobbly knees and feeling of uneasiness very quickly."

The venue is The Alexander Pope Hotel, Cross Deep. To reserve a place and for enquiries about private lessons, contact Helen Astrid on 07710 245 904 or visit:

www.harmonyworks.co.uk

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From trendy Chelsea via Louis XV to the rich and secretive

More tales from beneath the Strawberry Hill railway arches

Chelsea shabby chic

Alan King's furniture restoration business - it has no name - is a star of décor shops in Chelsea's Kings Road. His decorative French and German painted furniture is "very on trend" says Alan and sells well.



Alan with Poushka and Chica, his French bulldogs. In the background is a Bavarian wardrobe he is currently restoring

Now nearly ten years under the arches, he formerly had a shop on Richmond Hill Rise. A graduate of the London College of Fashion, he skipped frocks for antiques and found his métier in Covent Garden and Portobello Road.

"It just grew from there and business is brilliant." It must be. Harrods sells his pieces and celebrities such as Ralph Fiennes, Nigel Havers and Lloyd Grossman visit his workshop.

"I hand-paint the furniture and sometimes give it just the right amount of distressing to make it look as though it has had an interesting life - just like me."

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Polished with care

Alan Fell's first craft was French polishing, but he soon found he preferred restoring furniture to buffing it. That was over 30 years ago and, Alan has run his business - Strawberry Hill Furniture Restorers - from the arches for 10 years.



Alan sits in a Louis XV chair which he is repairing for a local customer

Alan used to do a lot of work for antique dealers. Now he mostly works for local people. "I prefer good quality old furniture such as Louis XV", he says. "I also like working on small objects that have charm."

Among his current jobs are a delicate inlaid chest and Victorian sideboard. "My most interesting recent job was a 1690 chest. A wonderful thing to work on."

The St Mary's Clinic Physiotherapy Sports Massage Podiatry Psychology Biomechanics Physiology Testing Health Checks For additional services and further information: www.smuc.ac.uk/clinic St Mary's University College Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, TW1 4SX Tel 020 8240 4070 Email clinic@smuc.ac.uk www.smuc.ac.uk/clinic Credit/Debit Cards Accepted BUPA Accredited

Marble and stone

The rich and famous like anonymity, says Peter Cating; and he should know because he is frequently called to country estates to look after garden statuary. "They would not like me to say who they are," adds Peter.



Peter with his next project, a Victorian Portland stone fountain

A mason for nearly 40 years, Peter's workshop houses a wonderful jumble of marble and Portland stone lintels, fireplaces, statues and lovely old bits and pieces. "I never throw anything away. You never know when you will need a piece of marble."

Starting his working life as a cabinet maker, he moved into stone when he worked at Crowthers at Syon Lodge.

His commissions come from all over the world. He has just delivered a 1.5 ton Celtic cross to the US and he has restored statues in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Peter's favourite period is Regency and Georgian. "I like the lines", he says.

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Police probe pedlars and Radnor revellers

oor-to-door pedlars are creating alarm Jamong elderly residents, says Cllr David Marlow. He raised the matter at a recent meeting of the local Police Liaison Committee.

The Committee was told that doorstep sellers are required to hold a Pedlar Certificate signed by the police. If they represent a charity, they must be licensed.

Residents who feel uneasy about such visits can call the non-emergency number 101.

Dolice priorities for Strawberry Hill and Twickenham South Ward are curbing:

- * Burglaries
- Theft from cars
- Road safety
- Anti-social behaviour

Cycling on the pavement continues to raise much ire among residents. The police say that cycling on the pavement is illegal and many kets have been issued to offenders.

Crime for the whole South Twickenham area is low, the police add. In the three months of June, July and August, 90 crimes were reported compared with 115 for the previous three months.

Theft from motor cars showed the biggest drop from 17 to four, while burglaries fell from nine to four. However, there were 10 instances of actual or grievous bodily harm compared with five in the previous period.

Students

St Mary's University College has agreed with residents' complaints that some of its students are responsible for anti-social behaviour. Following consultation with the police, a private security firm now patrols the area around the University and this is proving to be effective.

Radnor Gardens

Rollowing late-night incidents in Radnor Gardens, Richmond Council was asked if the gates could be locked in the evening.

if the gates could be locked in the eve		
Useful Numbers		
Crime Reporting	Non-emergency: 101 (24 hour) Emergency: 999 (24 hour)	
South Twickenham Safer Neighbourhood Team	Email: SouthTwickenham.SNT@met.police.uk Tel: 020 8721 2910 or mobile: 07879 431228	
Graffiti	www.richmond.gov.uk/graffiti_removal Tel: 08456 122 660	
Noise - commercial	Email: commercialeh@richmond.gov.uk Tel: 020 8891 7994	
Noise - weekend	Tel: 07944 038495 (Friday - Saturday: 10.00pm – 03.00am)	
Parking Enforcement	Tel: 020 8744 0462 (Monday - Saturday: 7.00am - 7.00pm except Bank Holidays	
Metropolitan Police Website	www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods	

Pre-school starts year with new uniforms

Since Rowena and Lisa Neagle opened Strawberry Hill Pre-School in St James's Hall in February it has flourished. With 26 pupils aged between two and five years, the school is now full on Wednesdays, with a waiting list for the New Year.

An Ofsted inspection resulted in a good overall mark, higher than most schools achieve in their first year. When the new term starts in January, the bright red uniform becomes compulsory. Their first pupil, a four-year-old boy, can now the new year. Fees of £22 a session



Showing off their new uniform are Rowena Brimacombe (far write his name and starts school in left), Lisa Neagle (far right) with assistants Anne Roake and Jo

are government funded (50% of the cost) for children aged three to four.

The Council declined the request because it believed that it would lead to more damage.

Fishermen in the Gardens had also come under scrutiny because they had been putting up large tents. Cllr. Marlow told the meeting that fishermen must hold a permit and were permitted to erect a shelter, but not a large tent. There had also been complaints of rowdy behaviour and casting lines across boats. The police have agreed to monitor the area and report back to the committee.

How to create a buzz

utumn gardeners in Strawberry Hill are urged by local bee keepers - and honey lovers - to choose pollen and nectar rich plants when preparing for next year. Varieties span a wide range of flowering shrubs and hedges which can be planted now and in the spring so as to blossom when the bees are out.

Small ornamental trees beloved of bees

Winter flowering cherry (Nov to Mar) P* Ornamental almond (March) P Magnolia stellata (March to April) P Crab Apple Malus x zumi Golden Hornet (April to May) P

Malus Sargentii (April to May) N* P Acer Atropurpureum (May to June) NP Willo. Salix S. hastate (February to March)

Suitable hedging plants are:

Common or Cherry Laurel Prunus laurocerasus Rotunddolia (April) NP P. laurocerasus Otto Luyken (April) NP Hawthorn. Crataegus monogyna (May) NP Pyracantha coccinea (May to June) NP Portuguese laurel - Prunis lusitanicam (June) NP

Holly - ilex aquifolium (May to June) NP Cotoneaster - many varieties (June) NP

P = pollen

N = nectar

Hundreds of other varieties of trees, shrubs, climbers and perennials can be found the website of the British Beekeepers Association: www.bbka.org.uk or from the Twickenham and Thames Valley Beekeerers Association:

www.twickenham-bees.org.uk

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Travel and Transport in Strawberry Hill

In the third of our occasional articles on the social history of Strawberry Hill, Robert Youngs writes about the history of travel and transport in our area. The road names used are mostly the present names, though most were not adopted until after the late 1800s.

The Development of the Roads

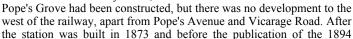
Strawberry Hill might be traceable to Domesday Book, but the first hard evidence is a road map drawn by Ralph Treswell in 1607. This shows "Kinson Waie" (now Cross Deeep) and the "Waie to Hampton" (now Hampton Road). Between the two lies the "South Feilde", an arable area now known as Strawberry Hill.

John Rocque's map, published in the 1740s, shows Radnor Road and Waldegrave Road (though neither was named as such at that time) roughly along their present lines. Pope's Avenue can be seen as a track running down to what is now the junction of Shacklegate Lane with Waldegrave Road. The footpath which now runs along the railway south of Tower Road lies along this original track.

When The Isleworth, Twickenham and Teddington Turnpike Trust was founded by Act of Parliament in 1767, Cross Deep and Strawberry Vale became a major highway.

By the time of Samuel Lewis's map (right) of 1784, Grotto Road and Tower Road had been laid down and Radnor Road is shown with a pronounced dog-leg at the northern end, roughly where Radnor Gardens now leads off it. Radnor Road was called variously Back Lane and Narrow Lane until the 1890s.

The road system hardly changed until the railway was built in the 1860s. By 1867,





Ordnance Survey (left), Strawberry Hill Road and the southern end of Waldegrave Gardens were constructed. Radnor Gardens, still with its dog-leg, and Heath Gardens are shown.

TWICKENHAM

the County of Middlefex

The major change at this time was the development to the west of the railway with Wellesley Road,

Walpole Road and Spencer Road appearing. Most of the remaining roads were created as part of the massive housing developments of the 1930s to the east of the railway.

Railways, Trams, Trolleybuses and Buses

The opening of the station in 1873 spurred the residential development of the area, the only public transport within the Strawberry

Hill area until tram tracks were built along Hampton Road in 1902. Passengers could travel to Hampton, Hampton Court, Hampton Wick, Teddington and then along Stanley Road, with connections to Isleworth and Richmond from Twickenham. This loop line partly followed the lines of today's R68 and 281 bus routes and no service ever ran along Cross Deep and Strawberry Vale.

Buses arrived in 1910, with the number 37A service along Cross Deep. On the 16th



Laying tram tracks on Hampton Road on 18th March 1902. The tower of Holy Trinity church can just be made out on the right

Major road plan triggers formation of SHRA

On 9th January 1965, the Richmond and Twickenham Times published an article about a town centre development plan for Richmond, in which new arterial and "primary distribution" roads were proposed to relieve the traffic in the town.

One of these roads would have run from a junction on the A316 near Egerton Road, down Grove Avenue and into Strawberry Hill at Radnor Road, which was to be extended to join Waldegrave Road near its junction with Waldegrave Gardens and on to Broad Street in Teddington. Radnor

Road would have been widened, presumably demolishing many houses, and a new extension would have cut through the housing between Tower Road and Waldegrave Road, effectively dividing the community into two parts. Headlines in the following issues of the paper included "Houses may come down to make way clear", "Houses on road route are now unsaleable" and "Save our village' battle".

Merged in 1963, Twickenham and Richmond Council existed only as a "shadow authority". Twickenham Council rapidly issued a statement to the effect

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The route of the proposed road

that the published plans were "seriously misleading" and that they had not been consulted. However, Strawberry Hill residents, taking no chances, formed a group to oppose the plans. The first General Meeting of the Strawberry Hill Residents' Association was held on 11th February 1965. 450 people attended the meeting and a summary was published in Bulletin No 1 - a single page typed and "photocopied". The first officers were A W Holden (Chairman), George R Kerpner (Secretary), Cecil G Whithair (Treasurer) and June Turner (Vice-chair).

46 years and 145 Bulletins later, the Association still strives to ensure that Strawberry Hill continues to be a pleasant riverside village. One can only speculate what the outcome might have been had these events happened two months later, after the new Council had assumed full authority.

May 1931, the first trolleybus service in London, number 4, started on the service between Twickenham and Teddington via Hampton Road (a video of this historic event can be seen on the Twickenham Museum's website in the article on Fulwell Depot). The last tram ran in 1935, but the trolleybus service continued on this line until 1962.

A bus route through the village?

On 25th July 1995, a London Transport bus was seen to pass along Tower Road and Wellesley Road. The SHRA Committee had discussed with LT the possible re-routing of the 290 service through the centre of Strawberry Hill. This 'route test' was the result. However, several residents, most notably Dr R Davies, expressed opposition to the plan. The Committee was forced to write to LT withdrawing their support for the re-routing until the AGM in March 1996, when the proposal was overwhelmingly rejected by residents. The centre of Strawberry Hill remains a bus-free area to this day.

More recently, a campaign has been started by residents, living mainly in Strawberry Vale and Michelham Gardens, to persuade Transport for London to instigate a direct Twickenham to Kingston bus service (T2K). You can support the campaign for T2K by signing the on-line petition at www.t2kbus.com.

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A fuller version of this article, with more illustrations and a full list of references and acknowledgements, can be found on our web site, www.shra.org.uk, in the History section.

The Royal British Legion, **Twickenham**

Ninety cheers for the Legion

s the British Legion celebrates its A 90th anniversary this year, the Legion's local club in Pope's Grove is celebrating an 80th anniversary: its move into their long time clubhouse in Thornton Lodge, Pope's Grove.

A feature of Strawberry Hill since 1932, the Twickenham branch of the Legion was formed in the early 1920s, when its HQ was sited near Twickenham Green. A photograph from 1926 - one of the club's momentos shows a cheery (and soon to be beery, no doubt) group of men about to embark on a charabanc outing.

The lodge was the former home of Dr Lewis - a doctor of music. Amazingly, links between Dr Lewis and the club linger in the form of a member, Doris Woods, whose mother was a maid in the house. The father of another member smiles out of the picture of the 1926 group.

Behind the traditional Victorian brick façade much has changed, however. Roy King, club social chairman, explains that since 1974 the Club has been extended to the rear with a vast entertainment room, Roy King, Chris Knott and Paula Harding on the steps of conservatory and a large snooker hall extension with room for three tables. In the summer, barbecues are held in the garden. Lunches are prepared during the week and on Saturdays by Paula Harding, partner of Chris Knott, the Club Steward. And drinks are at Club prices.

New members

While former members of the armed forces account for about 70% of the 850 members, all residents of Twickenham are eligible.

"In fact, we have just started a leaflet campaign to encourage residents to join," says Roy. "The Club flourishes, the finances are in



Thornton Lodge

very good shape and you don't have to be an old soldier, sailor or airman, or woman, to join.'

Charlie Richens, the Club's welfare chairman, is in charge of the Poppy Appeal and always keen to welcome collectors for the yearlong charity collection. "Last year we raised £51,000," says Charlie.

Set up to care for former soldiers returning from the Great War, times were hard. Mr Frith, the former chemist in Heath Road, was a member in the 1930s and paid for the Club's beer because they did not have enough money to pay the brewery. He got his money back when the beer had been sold.



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