

No. 165 Winter 2017

Clearing up the Village

Many people have commented on how messy the centre of the village often looks. As a result, back in October, some of the committee members and other volunteers decided to remove the litter and clean up the area.

We had some difficulty in getting the estate agent's dumped boards removed (we delivered them ourselves back to Snellers), and the area now looks a lot better thanks to MKG for removing the abandoned bike.

Many thanks to Sally Cornwell, who maintains the flowers in the planter, in memory of Clare Phelps, who first established the planter and always looked after the flowers.

When it gets its refurbishment we are planning to attach a plaque to the planter in recognition of Clare's indefatigable work for the residents' association.



Getting together at Radnor Gardens Café

On a rather wet evening in early September, a plucky group of about 40 people turned up for our advertised 'get together' (with free drink vouchers) at the café in Radnor Gardens.

The very heavy downpour stopped just before the advertised start, but it had put a damper on the event. The committee discussed whether a date in July (before the schools break up) might be preferable next year, but we are open to suggestions.



A DIARY DATE

Our next get-together, also at the café, will be our **Annual Carol Singing Event**. This year the event will be held on a Sunday afternoon, **17 December, 3.00pm** for a 3.30pm start.

Free mulled wine will be served with the vouchers printed

There will also be free mince pies and treats for the children.

As usual, we will be collecting for a local charity; this year the Strawberry Hill House 'lost treasures' fund.



FOR THE FIRST 100 APPLICANTS
 One free glass of mulled wine, provided by
 Strawberry Hill Residents' Association

At the
**Carol Singing
 Event**

Radnor Gardens Café
 After 3.00pm
 Sunday 17 December 2017

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Happy Birthday Horace!

Strawberry Hill House has been a very busy place, not least because we have been celebrating Horace Walpole's tercentenary – 300 years since his birth in 1717.

We have welcomed visitors and guests from far and wide – academics who study Walpole's history, life and literature, families and tourists who come to see Walpole's "little plaything-house . . . the prettiest bauble you ever saw", and locals who have passed by but never visited before. A recent Trip Advisor comment from a local said he was "...expecting it to be your 'run of the mill' stately home I was very much mistaken . . . I will certainly recommend people to go and check the place out".

If this was you – thank you for this kind review.

Our big birthday weekend at the end of September included: afternoon tea with a talk from **Alan Titchmarsh** who officially 'opened' our Woodland Walk; the annual "Walpole Wallow" hosted and sponsored by Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University; an evening of fine dining with many of our kind donors and supporters; and the Community Picnic in the grounds for local residents to come and share the birthday festivities. Cake featured of course; volunteers and staff kindly baked for the community event, and children entered excellent themed cakes for a competition. The Lewis Walpole Library's lunch included a birthday cake made in the form of the house – no mean feat in sponge, marzipan and icing!

We have been particularly popular in the last few months as a venue for television, filming, photoshoots, corporate conferences and private hires for significant personal events such as weddings, wakes and anniversaries. It is a shame that the original contents do not remain with the house. They were in fact sold off in a monumental sale in 1842 and are

scattered all over the world. However, we have reintroduced some extraordinary replicas of some of Horace Walpole's collection and are actively seeking the 'lost treasures' for a major exhibition planned for a year's time, if we are successful with our funding bid.

Strawberry Hill House will be appearing on large and small screens next year, although we are not at liberty to reveal details as yet. All these requests, and the income resulting, allow us to look after the building for visitors now and in the future. Please always check our website for up-to-date opening information; we hope that local residents will visit with friends or family, so you can see what is behind the intriguingly ornate white walls.

As an independent charitable trust we, the staff, volunteers, friends, guides and trustees work hard to pass on our enthusiasm and love of this unique building created originally by a unique man to please his own taste and vision. Three hundred years of being a significant historical figure is no mean feat. Walpole's letters have been republished this year with the excellent editions available at Strawberry Hill House. So we raise a glass – and piece of cake – to Horace Walpole.

We are staying open for visiting this winter. We have present ideas for sale in our shop and Christmas tree sales from our car park. Please check our website for details, www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk and we look forward to welcoming you to this very special place.

Season's Greetings!

Nick Dolan

Director, Strawberry Hill Trust




STRAWBERRY HILL
House & Garden

Strawberry Hill House & Garden
will be open to visitors **this winter**

Open Sundays and Mondays
(excluding 18th December - 8th January)
Book your ticket at: strawberryhillhouse.org.uk
Or call our team on **020 8744 1241**

Coming up

From 26th November
Christmas Tree Sales inhouse car park,
in support of the Strawberry Hill Trust.

Saturday 9th December
Christmas Wreath Making (booking required)

Sunday 10th December
Coro: Annual carol concert (booking required)

Strawberry Hill House & Garden
268 Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, TW1 4ST

Update on St Mary's University Masterplan

The University's controversial Masterplan proposals to build all over the campus sports fields are being further held up by the need for Richmond Council's Local Plan to get through its examination by an independent inspector.

As we reported in the last edition of the Bulletin, the Local Plan includes a number of highly contentious statements in the 'site allocation' for the St Mary's campus, and until this is finalised the Council has recognised that it cannot bring forward the Supplementary Planning Document – the important next stage for setting out the more detailed proposals for developments on the campus.

The Inspector's public hearings were held during late September and into October. SHRA, having submitted formal objections to the Local Plan earlier in the year, was entitled to speak at the hearings. We exercised this right and used it to challenge the basis of the site allocation for the campus and the building on MOL which would contravene both Greater London Authority (GLA) and Richmond Council policies, as well as the section 106 deed entered into between Richmond Council and the University. We were heartened by the fact that the Greater London

Authority took the trouble to attend the hearing and spoke alongside us to make clear that they disagreed with the wording of the site allocation and did not support any breach of their policy on Metropolitan Open Land. However, the Council officials responding to both SHRA's and the GLA's representations made clear that they were unprepared to change their stance and that flexibility to allow the possibility of building on MOL was required. This is very disappointing, and would indicate that the Council is not listening to the concerted opposition of residents. We must await the outcome of the examination to find out whether there is any substantive change to the site allocation, with current indications that this is unlikely to be until the first quarter next year. *The upshot of all this is that we are told the earliest we can expect to see the emergence of the Supplementary Planning Document is spring next year.*

Meanwhile, the University has been very quiet publicly about its conclusions from the consultations

with residents on the proposals that it held back in April and early May. However, in a recent meeting with SHRA, SMU have been somewhat more forthcoming. We were advised that the University has listened carefully to the views expressed by residents, and also to the views of its own students, and it recognises the depth of local opposition to the various proposals presented at the public consultation, and to the playing fields being lost by the creation of a 'student village'.

Whilst the University remains committed to the vision of modernising its facilities and enhancing its students' experience on its Strawberry Hill campus in order to provide a platform for growth and success, it was confirmed to us that, in addition to the original proposals, it is now looking at a range of options as to how this can be achieved.

It is clearly welcome news that the University is responding to the opposition from residents to its proposals and looking at other options. However, the fact that the Council is ploughing on with its determination to proffer the University the possibility of building on the campus MOL is very worrying, so we must not lower our guard. With your support we will continue to fight to preserve the character of our village and its open spaces whenever these are under threat.

Parking survey

The results of the parking review in Strawberry Hill are now available – details on the Council's website under Strawberry Hill CPZ. The headline is that there was a very disappointing response to the consultation – only 35% of those consulted actually replied.

However, it has been decided to move to the second stage consultation for a new Zone to cover Wellesley Road, Wellesley Crescent, Preston Close, Spencer Road, Popes Avenue and Grange Avenue where the necessary overall majority in favour was achieved. Vicarage Road, Walpole Road, Walpole Gardens and Shaftesbury Way will be asked again if they would like to be included.

This would seem to be a satisfactory outcome for those roads at least. No clear favourite for the times of operation emerged. The next consultation will attempt to resolve that matter; no date has been set for it to begin.

So far as the existing CPZs E and Z4 are concerned, the equivocal responses have led to a decision to make no changes to the current arrangements.

No doubt this outcome will disappoint those who feel that the pressure on street parking on the other side of the railway line during term time needs attention. However the Association will ensure that this subject continues to be at the top of the list of considerations in the ongoing saga of the possible expansion of student numbers at St Mary's.

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Twickenham TW2 5SD

Radnor Gardens *As seen by a visiting journalism student from France, Hannah Phillipson.*

Radnor Gardens in Strawberry Hill resulted from the joining of various adjacent riverside properties dating back to the 17th century, to create a small public recreation area. The Gardens that we know today were officially created in 1903 by the Twickenham Urban District and opened to the public in April 1903.

They were named in honour of Radnor House, which, until its destruction in 1940 by a bomb, occupied a central part of the area. Other vestiges in the Gardens include a summerhouse and gazebo both dating back to the 18th century, a period when the poet Alexander Pope was a local resident.

The Gardens have various key features. There is a First World War memorial statue from which the plaque was stolen but subsequently replaced thanks to local donations, showing people's attachment to the statue and the park itself. There is a bowling green, which has been in place since 1920 and a playground which was added in 2006 designed for the younger members of the public. The Radnor Gardens Café is a great spot for social gatherings, serving fair-trade coffee, tea, as well as cakes and organic ice creams amongst other things.

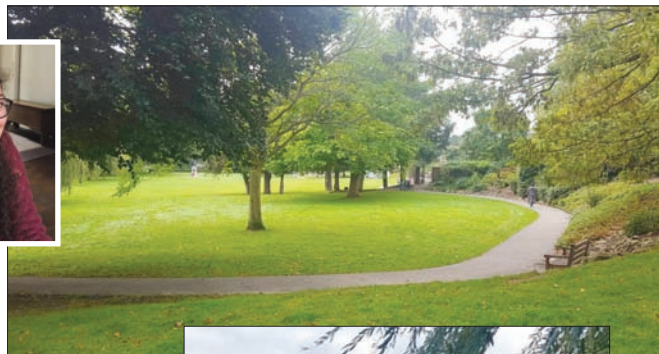
No matter what time of the day or the week the park is always lively, whether it's people fishing, jogging, walking their dogs, or

just enjoying the fresh air and admiring the River Thames and its wildlife and boat traffic.

I had the opportunity to interview people in the Gardens amongst whom were parents with children, senior citizens, and younger folk. When I asked them about what draws them to the Gardens they said that it is a great place to get away from home and city life, bring the kids and get some fresh air. The Gardens provide a sense of freedom and space which is not easy to find in a big city. This is quite different from my own experience of Parisian Gardens which, although they look pretty, do not always provide this sense of city escape.

Judging from my interviews, the future for the park looks bright, as it seems to contribute to the sense of wellbeing of its users.

View of Radnor Gardens from the river bank.



Crime and Policing in Strawberry Hill *Charles Owens, chair Richmond-upon-Thames, Safer Neighbourhood Board and SHRA committee member*

The last few months have seen an increase in crime in South Twickenham with the theft of bicycles again featuring prominently. Thieves are using increasing force to gain entry to sheds and houses, breaking doors and windows on occasions to gain entry. Please ensure that any of your gardening tools that could be used to break in are put out of reach. You may have seen a rise in reported domestic burglaries in our area. This is not as dramatic as it seems because the Home Office has again changed the definition of domestic burglary, so that thefts from garden sheds are now classified as domestic burglary.

Many households are now using alarms and home CCTV systems as well as remote devices to control appliances whilst away from home. There are rules in place for CCTV usage but an accredited supplier should explain these. All of these devices may assist in deterring burglars.

Motor vehicle crime mainly concerns the theft from motor vehicles where property has been left on display. There is at least one team of moped-riding thieves that is regularly smashing

windows to gain access to vehicles and often causing more loss through damage than the value of goods taken. mopeds and high-end cars are still being targeted and suitable security protection is recommended. With thieves increasingly using computer technology to steal high-end cars, the old Crook Lock has now come back into vogue.

Our Safer Neighbourhood Team has two constables and a PCSO but shares its sergeant with two other wards. The commitment by the Mayor of London to keep at least two constables as dedicated to individual wards is welcome but comes at the expense of the number of officers available 24/7 to answer 999 and second-tier calls for assistance. Worryingly, on the trial sites for merging of borough policing, the performance in answering both immediate (urgent, normally attended in under 12 minutes) and soonest (needing police attendance, desirably within one hour) has dropped off dramatically. The Met is currently reviewing its 101 non-emergency number's effectiveness as this is seen as a problem by Safer Neighbourhood Boards (SNB) across London.

I have recently attended meetings with both Cressida Dick, Commissioner of the Met and the Deputy Mayor for Policing along with other senior police and Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime officers. The continuing directions from Central Government to cut costs, in the face of increasing costs in policing terrorism, scams and cyber-crime are of extreme concern to SNBs.

The sale of the Met's last "non-essential" assets such as Teddington Police Station and Sovereign Gate training unit in Richmond look inevitable. The loss of many police support staff through job-cutting and redundancy is coming to its final phase and it is of concern that warranted police officers will be the next to face redundancies!

To conclude on a brighter note, Richmond-upon-Thames and South Twickenham remain comparatively safer from crime and particularly violent crime against people, compared to other metropolitan Boroughs and Wards and residents express a high degree of confidence in Chief Superintendent Sandhu and her staff.

What a Blooming Success!

There was exciting news for Strawberry Hill at this year's Richmond in Bloom Awards held at York House at the end of September.

The residents of Fortescue Park attended thinking they had entered the Estates category but ended up winning Silver on behalf of the whole of Strawberry Hill in the Villages division!

The attractive estate of town houses, originally built in 1976, has long been proud of its fantastic communal grounds with an emphasis on a mix of seasonal colour and evergreen plants.

'Management has for some time been delivered by an external contractor, Gavin Jones, from residents' management fees,' explains Christine Ryan who coordinated the entry on behalf of the residents.

'However, in recent years we've put more of a focus on getting people involved with watering and maintaining the beds which has been a real team effort. We are also encouraging increased participation in our own blooming doorstep competition which has seen some fantastic frontages entered in recent years'.

The judges this year made a number of suggestions for improvement and the residents have already come together to start working on some of them.

'In early October we held a very successful bug hotel building session involving a number of the children on the estate and we also planted 250 new spring bulbs in different locations around the development', explains Fortescue Park Residents' Association Chair, Giles Norman.

'We've also just planted a new sensory bed containing a number of plants aimed at attracting pollinating insects.'

AND FOR NEXT YEAR?

'We'll be entering once again under the Estates category,' says Christine 'but we'd really like to see Strawberry Hill residents and businesses as a whole step up to the plate and "Go for Gold" in the Villages section. Let's bring up the visual appeal of our fantastic area still further'.



← Two children from the estate with their Bug Hotel.



Holy Trinity In Roof Appeal

Holy Trinity Church on Twickenham Green is facing a challenge heading into Christmas. Years of wear and tear and heavy rain have finally taken their toll on north side roof, which faces The Green. The overall building work costs are likely to be in the region of £100,000 and the church is seeking generous donations from parishioners, users of the church facilities, local businesses and other well-wishers to help pay for this work. A recent "gift day" has helped the process but there is still much to be done to reach the target for this much loved community building.

Further details, including how to donate are available here:

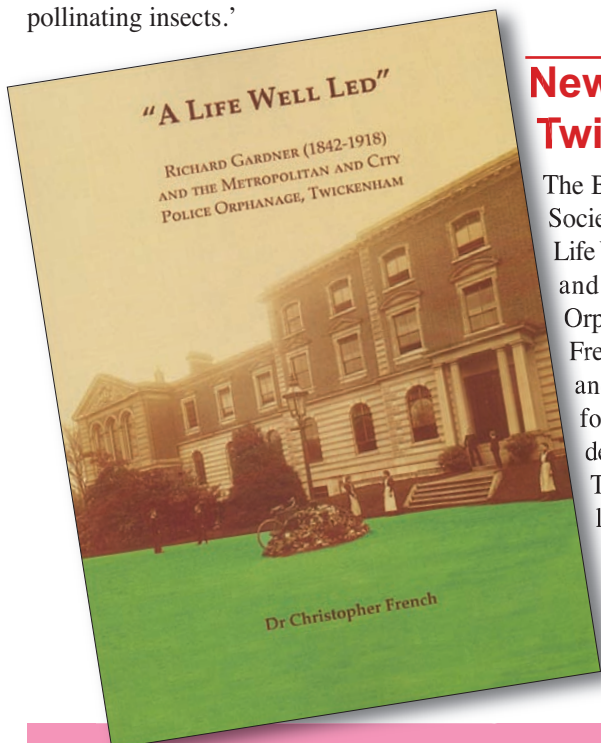
<https://www.give.net/holytrinityroof>

Donations can also be made at forthcoming Christmas services if wished.

Judith Lovelace



We are sad to report that Judith Lovelace, long time resident of Strawberry Hill, died recently. She was heavily involved with the restoration of Strawberry Hill House and was a former Chair of this Association and the Twickenham Society. She will be greatly missed.



New Publication on Twickenham's Police Orphanage

The Borough of Twickenham Local History Society (BOTLHS) has just published "A Life Well Led": Richard Gardner (1842-1918) and the Metropolitan and City Police Orphanage, Twickenham" by Christopher French. The book is based on the journals and diaries that Richard Gardner kept for most of his life and were recently deposited with the Twickenham Museum. They provide a fascinating insight into the life and times of an ambitious 'self-made' man, covering Richard Gardner's early life in Mortlake, his education and teaching career, his family (he and his wife May had 17 children) and, in particular, his time at the Orphanage where he was

the headmaster from 1880 until 1905. Richard Gardner retired to Hampton until his death in 1918. The Orphanage itself closed in 1937 when it became Fortescue House School. It was demolished in 1971 and the site fronting Hampton Road between Loch Fyne Restaurant (originally The Nelson Pub) and Wellesley Road is now occupied by housing. If anyone would like a copy of the book which is fully illustrated and costs £6, then please contact Chris French, either on:

christopher.french2@btinternet.com or 020 8977 8554

It is also available on the publications page of the BOTLHS website:

<http://botlhs.co.uk/portfolio-tags/publications/>

Hunt for Heroes

Committee vice-chair Peter Lamb continues his investigation into Strawberry Hill in the First World War

In researching the Strawberry Hill residents who served in the Great War my main starting point has been the 1911 census. From this I have selected the names of those who were of an age to serve in the armed forces and then looked for service records or other military documentation. I have taken the liberty of assuming that if they were resident in 1911 they could well have been living in Strawberry Hill 1914-18. In some cases this was confirmed by later evidence in the archives such as electoral rolls. A further starting point is the war memorials of Holy Trinity Church and St Mary's Church. I am grateful to Jeremy and Sue Hamilton-Miller who have done detailed research on the St Mary's memorial for their book "The Fallen of St Mary's Parish Twickenham 1914-1918." From this I have come upon an **Alfred Gordon Campbell** whom I would not have discovered simply by referring to the 1911 census as he was at that time living with his family in Harrow. During the War the family was at **The Cottage, Cross Deep** which makes Alfred Campbell one of our residents. He was born on 23 August 1900 in Harrow. His father, Benjamin, was a tailor and he had a sister and brother who were 5 and 4 years younger respectively. Alfred joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve but he

died of pneumonia on 8th October 1918 before he was able to undertake active service. He is buried in Chiswick Old Cemetery. At the time of his death he was at the Royal Naval Depot, Crystal Palace, a naval training establishment. Although he never lived long enough to make a full military contribution to the war effort, one can imagine an eager young man ready to serve his country on completion of his training. He rightfully has a place on the local war memorial. To quote from the "The Fallen of St Mary's": "On enrolment he was described as 5ft 10in, blue eyes, fresh complexion." Interestingly there is a short video clip on YouTube from Pathe News of 1916 which shows part of a sports day at the Royal Naval Depot. Here we can see some of the young men who were preparing for active service in the navy taking part in a tug of war and a rather amusing race. Electoral rolls indicate that Alfred's parents continued to live at Cross Deep until the mid-1920s. Sadly Alfred was not their only child to die at a young age as the 1911 census shows that the family had already suffered the loss of two children.

Another resident who lost his life whilst doing military service was **Walter Edwin Giles** who lived on the fringe of our area at **7 Heath Road**. Having enlisted in the Middlesex Regiment in 1915 he survived active service for nearly three years before being killed in action on 24th August 1918. Earlier that year in March he had sustained wounds from a gas shell. His grave is to be found in the Croisilles British Cemetery near Arras. Walter's father was a wheelwright and the family was living at the address in Heath Road in 1901 and 1911 but moved to 64 Grove Avenue before Walter died. Walter had four brothers, three of whom served in the army.



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A further message from the Chairman

Many thanks to all of you who responded to the request for a better level of subscription to the Association in the last Bulletin. We noticed an immediate improvement but there is still further to go!

Please consider supporting the Association's efforts with a financial contribution – it will make all the difference.

The Bulletin is published by the Strawberry Hill Residents' Association and is distributed free, three times a year, to approximately 2400 homes in the area. All text, images and design, copyright Strawberry Hill Residents' Association, except where noted.

For advertising or editorial questions, please email: information@SHRA.org.uk Twitter: @SHResidents

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