

No. 166 Spring 2018

New 'canopy' for the café

How we won the bid – with your help!

Last summer, when the Friends of Radnor Gardens were seeking funds for an extension to the cafe, we learned about the new Village Planning Fund which uses money collected from local developers for new community projects. For the purposes of the fund, the Borough is divided into “village clusters”, each allocated a pot of money.

We applied for £20k and were excited to get through the first round. Next came a public consultation in which Borough residents

voted for their favourite projects. Now the work really began! We developed a flyer and distributed it widely. You may have seen us at the farmers' markets and elsewhere, encouraging people to vote.

We had magnificent help from others, especially South-West London Environmental Network (SWELN) which promoted us on social media and secured us a notice in the Twickenham Tribune. SHRA generously decided not to put forward a bid, but to support ours actively.

After a nail-biting delay, we heard just before Christmas that we had come top of our cluster and had been awarded our full bid.

So, what exactly were we bidding for?

We have struggled with descriptions: “extension”, “pergola awning”, “replacement canopy” . . . but the bottom line is that we want to be able to shelter cafe customers from unfriendly elements, while allowing them to be in the open air whenever possible. We are now working with David Leed, a consultant with experience of similar projects, to reconcile our requirements with those of the planning officials. The final design may be more expensive than our original estimate, so watch out for future fund-raising events. Meanwhile, many thanks for all you have done for the cafe so far. Please continue to use, enjoy and support it!

By Rosemary Melling,
Friends of Radnor Gardens (FoRG)

What happened to the annual carol-singing?



It was with great regret that the committee decided to cancel the carol-singing event, due to be held at Radnor Gardens Café on Sunday 17th December. The weather forecast predicted the rain that fell, and we were concerned about a wash-out. Happily, members of the reformed Richmond Brass Band (www.richmondbrassband.com) played carols in the Alexander Pope Hotel instead, and a great time was had by those attending.

We are very pleased that the Café is to have a canopy (see article above), so we will be less concerned about the weather for future events.



Strawberry Hill Residents' Association Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 25th April 2018 at Strawberry Hill Golf Club.

Everyone who lives in the Strawberry Hill area is automatically a member, so come along and tell us what you think.

After the meeting, you are invited to have a complimentary glass of wine and to stay for a chat to other residents.

New committee members are always welcome. For details please email: information@SHRA.org.uk





Update on St Mary's University Masterplan

St Mary's University's Masterplan appears to be on hold at the moment as the University considers how best to meet its future needs. At a recent meeting with the University it was made clear to SHRA that St Mary's new Estates Director, will be looking at potential campus developments with a fresh pair of eyes. He has identified that the most immediate need is for refurbishment and upgrading of existing facilities, particularly some of the student accommodation, and these are currently being given priority over wider developments on the campus.

With these and other changes, the development of the proposed Supplementary Planning Document, covering the main campus at Strawberry Hill and the sports fields at Teddington Lock, has assumed a lower priority and is unlikely to be appearing in the immediate future. This is all welcome news and gives the opportunity for further constructive engagement between residents and the University on any campus developments.

We have always supported the University in its wish to upgrade its buildings and facilities, or redevelop on its existing footprint, as long as this is done sympathetically, and we hope that this will prove to be the way forward for St Mary's. During our discussions

it was agreed that it would be timely for the University to update residents directly, so watch out for an update on the community section of the University's website, and perhaps, if you live close to the campus, another newsletter through your letterbox.

In the last Bulletin we set out our hope that the independent examination of Richmond Council's Local Plan would result in the amendment of several questionable statements in the section dealing with St Mary's campus. Sadly, this did not happen. However, we are heartened that the Greater London Authority (GLA) appears to be standing firm in its opposition to building on Metropolitan Open Land (MOL).

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This is the designation of the vast majority of the open land on the campus. The GLA recently overruled Harrow Council's approval for Harrow School to build a new sports block on the school's MOL. We hope the GLA would take the same approach should St Mary's ultimately decide to press ahead with proposals for building on MOL.

IMPROVEMENTS to the Strawberry Hill Village Plan

Following the consultation last summer on our Village Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), the Council has recently issued the finalised SPD, together with details of all the submissions they received on the draft.

We have not yet been able to review these in detail, but what is clear is that your submissions on the draft have led to some important changes in the final SPD.

Most significantly, the much criticised 'Vision for Strawberry Hill' has been changed for the better as follows (the new words are in red and the removed words struck through):

The vision for Strawberry Hill is that it will continue to be a safe and attractive family focused residential area. The local centre and railway station will be enhanced to create a real 'heart' to the area, whilst the contribution that its

valued open spaces make to the area's character will be protected provide opportunities for all ages.

Parking will be managed to support the community and its facilities and to create a safer space for people to walk and cycle.

St Mary's University and The historic importance of Strawberry Hill House and its setting will be protected and promoted. St Mary's University will continue to contribute to the local community including through access to its sporting and education facilities, employment opportunities and provision of open space. The future needs of the University will be balanced against the effects on the local community and the character and appearance of the area. will bring benefits to the local community and disadvantages will be minimised.

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The other major change has been to include far more details regarding the St Mary's University site, the absence of which was subject to major criticism. The constraints of the site are much more clearly documented along with the many factors that any possible future developments on the site will have to take into consideration. As we note in the article on St Mary's University Masterplan, above, the proposed dedicated SPD for the campus is now not expected any time soon, so these changes made to the Village SPD are probably as good as we could have reasonably expected.

The Village SPD can be found on the Council website at:
www.richmond.gov.uk/supplementary_planning_documents_and_guidance

Remembering Clare

As we reported in the Winter 2016 Bulletin, Clare Phelps sadly died as a result of an accident while she was abroad on holiday. Clare was secretary of the Strawberry Hill Residents' Association for 14 years. During that time, she pursued many initiatives for the benefit of the area, including setting up liaison between SHRA and St Mary's University, holding discussions with South West Trains, representing SHRA in planning disputes, supporting annual events such as the carol-singing, and persuading the council to clear the area opposite Strawberry Hill Road, and to provide a planter and the bicycle racks. She supplied the original plants herself and looked after them.



The planter is now maintained by local friends and has been refurbished. We have attached a plaque in her memory and as a gesture of our thanks for her tireless work. It was unveiled by family and friends on 10th March 2018.

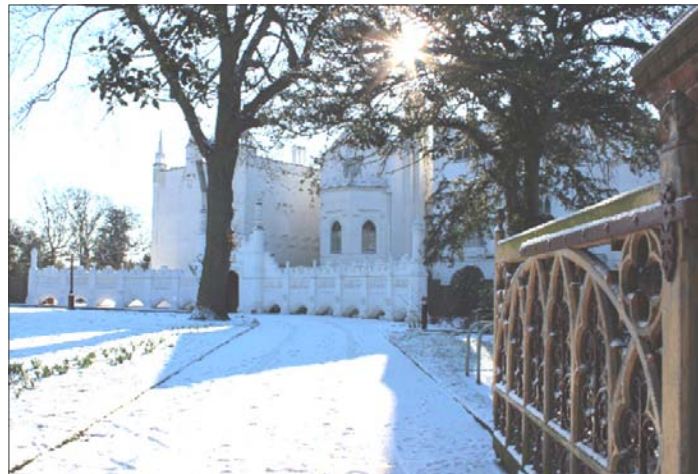


Springtime at Strawberry Hill House

The House has had a successful winter period, with public opening on Sundays and Mondays, tours, learning and outreach visits, and filming and photoshoots. As an independent charity, we rely on our wonderful volunteers and visitors using our spaces in creative ways to generate the income we need to look after the extraordinary building and garden.

We hope to put a spring in your step as we welcome guests to visit on Mondays through to Wednesdays from 12pm - 4:30pm & 11am - 5pm Sundays.

Because we sometimes need to take up opportunities for income-generating filming and event hire, it is always best to check our website for our opening details and to book special tours and events. This year we are offering pre-booked Early Bird Tours, where visitors can enjoy the peacefulness of Walpole's villa before it



opens to the public, and pre-booked Twilight Tours, where you can enjoy an atmospheric out-of-hours tour of Strawberry Hill. Kicked off with a glass of fizz, you will be guided through Walpole's gothic creation, exploring its beautiful interiors as the theatrical features of Walpole's eccentric villa change with setting sun. We will be open also from Good Friday to Easter Monday, for the Easter Garden trail, where you can search for 'Lost Treasures'. Entry will be £2, and on completion you will get a chocolate egg. Also, as part of the Easter sale, there is 25% discount off children's items in the shop.

On 21st April you can enjoy Horace Walpole's Little House of Horrors Murder Mystery, when Strawberry Hill will set the scene for a 1920s themed Murder Mystery. Book now to enjoy another glass of fizz on arrival, interview the suspects and test your detective skills over a three course meal in the Waldegrave Suite at St Mary's University. More details on website: www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk.

Strawberry Hill House's new website, launched last year, has given us the opportunity to include a blog, in partnership with sponsors Boodle Hatfield, solicitors, about our hunt for its 'lost treasures'. If you ever wondered what it takes to unearth long lost artworks, and what kind of detective work is required to retrace treasured antiques and objets d'art scattered two hundred years ago, then please subscribe to the blog. The blog has been very popular, and has inspired interest in our ambition to hold a major exhibition at the end of this year of items that used to be at Strawberry Hill in Horace Walpole's extraordinary collection. By Nick Dolan Director, Strawberry Hill Trust

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Hunt for Heroes

by Peter Lamb

STRAWBERRY HILL RESIDENTS WHO SERVED IN THE GREAT WAR

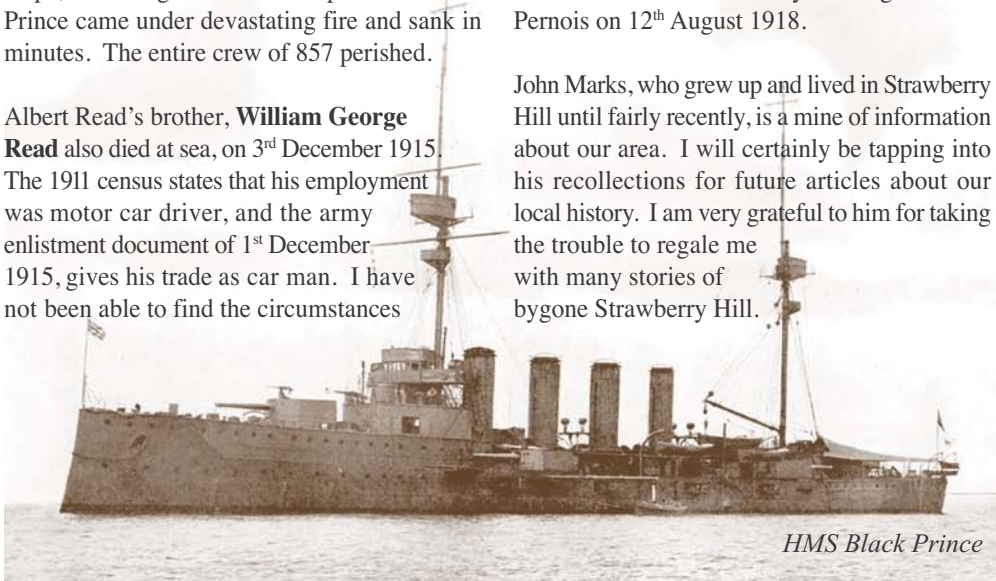
Sue and Jeremy Hamilton-Miller's interesting article in the Twickenham Tribune of 2nd February 2018, (Memorials for those who were killed at Sea in WW1) set me on the trail of **Albert Victor Read** who lived at **74 Upper Grotto Road**. Born in 1892, he enlisted in the Royal Navy in January 1910 and served on a number of ships before joining the armoured cruiser HMS Black Prince in February 1914. Built in the 1900s, Black Prince was serving in the Mediterranean at the beginning in of the First World War, and after several successful actions here and in the Red Sea, joined the Grand Fleet in December 1914. Shortly before the Battle of Jutland in May 1916, Albert Read's naval record indicates that he became a signalman on the ship. Jutland was the biggest and costliest naval engagement of the war, and the Black Prince was one of the vessels lost in the action. There is speculation as to what exactly happened in the final hours of the ship, but it would appear that she became separated from the main body of the fleet during the night of the 31st May and ended up within close range of at least five German ships, including three battleships. The Black Prince came under devastating fire and sank in minutes. The entire crew of 857 perished.

Albert Read's brother, **William George Read** also died at sea, on 3rd December 1915. The 1911 census states that his employment was motor car driver, and the army enlistment document of 1st December 1915, gives his trade as car man. I have not been able to find the circumstances

of his death, but it seems that he was in the Army Service Corps. The parents, having lost both sons, continued to live in Upper Grotto Road until at least 1924. According to the 1911 census, the father, Richard Read, was a stationary engine driver.

I am always delighted when I am contacted by someone with information additional to what I have been able to unearth. In the summer 2017 Bulletin I wrote about **William Morrell** who lived at **1 Radnor Road**. I had the pleasure of meeting with his grandson, John Marks, who has told me about "Bill" and a lot more besides. William Morrell had quite an affluent upbringing and was sent to Heidelberg to finish his education, where he became fluent in German. Before the war he bought the land on which the Majestic Wine Warehouse now stands with the aim of developing a motor engineering business. His ambitions were cut short by the outbreak of war when he enlisted. He was given a commission in the Intelligence Corps because of his knowledge of German. Apparently, he found the process of interrogating German prisoners with some brutality not to his taste and he resigned his commission. He then joined the Army Service Corps. At the Battle of Amiens in the summer of 1918 he received wounds from an exploding shell and died at the casualty clearing station at Pernois on 12th August 1918.

John Marks, who grew up and lived in Strawberry Hill until fairly recently, is a mine of information about our area. I will certainly be tapping into his recollections for future articles about our local history. I am very grateful to him for taking the trouble to regale me with many stories of bygone Strawberry Hill.



HMS Black Prince

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