

No.171 Winter 2019

## The West & South Twickenham Community Conversation was held at Waldegrave School on the evening of 15 October.

The panel was chaired by Elizabeth Tongue, headteacher, who introduced the councillors for South Twickenham, Richard Bennett, Michael Butlin and Katie Mansfield and for West Twickenham, Piers Allen, Alan Juriansz and Helen Lee-Parsons. The Community Conversation is part of the Council's community-engagement programme. These events are hosted by ward councillors and are chaired independently.

Katie Mansfield gave an update on the work of the councillors for South Twickenham during the past six months. The CPZ south of Twickenham Green in Strawberry Hill is coming up to the six-month review when everyone can give their thoughts on how the CPZ has worked. So far, 'relatively good feedback' has been received and petitions have been made from streets outside the zone to be included, e.g. Strawberry Hill Close, Clive Road and Hawkesley Close. Councillors have had ongoing discussions with St Mary's University and Strawberry Hill House about licenses and issues of noise raised by residents. They have also been working with officers on the implementation of the 20mph limit in South Twickenham. For example, two roads are to be



## The Community Conversation

excluded – Strawberry Vale and part of the Staines Road.

There were a number of questions posed by residents that were relevant to Strawberry Hill. Many questions focused on cars and transport.

The Council is encouraging residents to identify where they would like electric charging points to be located. Peter Lamb (SHRA Committee) raised the issue of the lack of enforcement of the 20mph limit and the risks involved from 'harassment' when being followed by people who wanted to ignore the limit. Councillor Butlin has asked for additional signage, as drivers were not always recognising they were in the zone. Councillor Mansfield stressed the safety reasons behind the new limit and said there would inevitably be a period of adjustment. Councillor Juriansz advocated the community road watch scheme where warnings can be

issued to people speeding in rat-run streets. There were a lot of other questions about the 20mph limit, air quality and the anti-idling policy. Councillor Bennett said that the Council will soon be publishing its 'active' travel plan to promote walking and cycling across the borough.

Councillor Butlin described 'ward budgets' which aim to spread community funding decisions across all the wards and involve residents in coming up with ideas. This could be something small, such as a new bench, or a contribution to something larger. He said it would be helpful if Council funding could be matched by funding raised by residents. Ward Councillors will have a large input into the decision about which projects to take forward. Your SHRA Committee will be discussing possible projects at future meetings.

The annual carol singing event will be held on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December**, starting at 6.00pm.

We will gather in Wellesley Parade, near the Christmas tree, which **we need your children to decorate**.

There will be mulled wine and mince pies for adults; soft drinks and treats for children. We do encourage donations in return for these freebies.

Bring the family, warm coats and a strong singing voice.

## STRAWBERRY HILL ANNUAL CAROL SINGING EVENT



Last year's event, with members of Richmond Brass Band and the Mayor of Richmond upon Thames.



## SHRA House History Service Uncovers First Briton to Fly

Among the first local residents to approach SHRA about commissioning a house history were David and Gillian Lawrie of *Batcombe Lodge, Pope's Avenue*. The house was built in 1862 by Abraham Slade, a local builder with premises on the North side of Twickenham Green. He was originally a carpenter who was born in Wanstrow, Somerset, in 1817. He called the house *Batcombe Lodge* because Batcombe is the next village to Wanstrow.

The Lawries had already done some investigations on *Ancestry* looking at Census data and found that the Brewer family lived there from 1862 to 1914. Edward Griffith Brewer was a civil engineer and patent agent who was born in Cadgwith, Cornwall in 1836. He met and married Carlota Rangel, a Mexican-born British subject (1836-1922), in St Austell in 1863 prior to moving to London. They had seven children. It was by exploring the lives of these children that the SHRA house

history researcher came across the fascinating story of *Griffith Brewer*, the eldest son.

### Griffith Brewer (1868 – 1948)

Griffith worked at Chancery Lane from 1885 until 1891 when he moved to Leeds to manage the Yorkshire office of the family patent firm. In the 1891 Census, Griffith still lived at



Batcombe Lodge with his parents, brother and three sisters. Griffith was always interested in aeronautics and it was in 1891 that he made nine ascents in a hot-air balloon as a pupil of Mr Perceval Spenser. From 1892 onwards, Griffith piloted balloons for the Spenser Brothers. In 1906, he was a pilot in a balloon race held in Paris. In the same year he married Beatrice Swanson, who was the first woman to cross the channel in a hot-air balloon. He also competed in later races in St Louis (1907), Berlin (1908) and Geneva (1922). He won the first international balloon race from *Hurlingham* in 1908 against 30 other competitors.

In October 1908, he travelled to Le Mans to witness Wilbur Wright's flights in the *Kitty Hawk* biplane and was invited to fly on a



Griffith Brewer shown with the Wright Brothers  
Acknowledgements to *Grace's Guide to British Industrial History*

VISIT OF THE BROTHERS WRIGHT TO THE AERO CLUB'S FLIGHT GROUNDS AT SHELLBEACH. A group in front of Muscle Manor, the Club House. Reading from left to right – Seated: Mr. J. T. C. Moore-Brabazon, Mr. Wilbur Wright, Mr Orville Wright, and the Hon. C. S. Rolls. Standing: Mr. J. D. F. Andrews, Mr. Oswald Short, Mr. Horace Short, Mr. Eustace Short, Mr. Frank McClean, Mr. Griffith Brewer, Mr. Frank Butler, Dr. W. J. S. Lockyer, Mr. Warwick Wright.

"Flight" Copyright Photo.

trial flight, becoming the first Briton to fly in a plane (although it was only up for just over four minutes). Griffith met Wilbur and they liked each other immediately, sharing the same sense of humour. He became a close friend of the Wright Brothers and visited them in America (Dayton, Ohio & Lambert Island, Ontario) on 30 occasions – on one occasion in the airship, *Hindenburg*.

In 1909, he took the Short brothers with him to witness Wilbur's flights in France. In 1910, he became one of the first pupils at the Wright Flying School. Eustace and Horace Short built six prototypes and this was the beginning of their aeronautical business. Griffith was entrusted with setting up the British Wright Company, which managed Wright patents in England. He also negotiated the rights for the British government to use the Wright patents when war broke out in 1914.

He was arguably the major defender of the Wright Brothers in their long battle with the Smithsonian Institution over their 'deceitful claim' that Langley's 'Great Aerodrome' was the first machine capable of flight – a battle that went on until the 1940s when they finally admitted to the deception. Griffith enabled 10 million members of the British public to see *Kitty Hawk*, the

first 'Flyer', at London's Science Museum between 1928 and 1943.

During World War 1 he was Honorary Adviser to the Royal Naval Air Service, and he gave regular lectures to British and Allied kite balloon and airship officers. For ten years after the war he returned to his work as a patent agent with Brewer & Son. He was made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society in 1933 and was made President from 1940 to 1942. He was also made President of the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents in 1930 to 1931. He was a founder member of the Royal Aero Club. Griffith Brewer died a month after Orville Wright in 1948.

### Blue Plaque

David Lawrie made the following comment about the SHRA house history service:

**'It's been amazing to have the past occupants of Batcombe Lodge brought to life by your research and for them to take on real personality and character. We will definitely tell our friends and neighbours about your work and would encourage more Strawberry Hill residents to take up your offer.'**

The Lawries have made a formal application to have Griffith Brewer's time in Pope's Avenue recognised with a Blue Plaque and are awaiting a response.

## Police Liaison Group (PLG)

**Regular meetings take place between the Safer Neighbourhood Team of the local police for South Twickenham and Neighbourhood Watch coordinators plus other interested residents.**

The last meeting took place on 25<sup>th</sup> September and the next will be held at 7.30pm on 27<sup>th</sup> November at the Salvation Army Hall in Colne Road. **All are welcome.**

Dates of upcoming meetings (approximately every two months) can be obtained from the secretary, **Pam McMillen** (pam-plg-mcmillen@hotmail.com)

Crime statistics comparing South Twickenham to West Twickenham and Twickenham Riverside showed our ward to have lower crime figures.

Our crime figures for July – September 2019 compared to the same period in 2018 are shown below:

OFFENCE	JUL-SEP 18	JUL-SEP 19	Difference
Burglary	5	5	-
Criminal damage	2	6	+4
Robbery	4	1	-3
Theft from motor vehicles	7	5	-2
Theft of MV	12	6	-6
Theft of pedal cycles	12	0	-12
Offences against the person	19	14	-5

Local concerns were raised about late-night noise from motorbikes and student noise from St. Mary's University (see article on page 5).

There is still some concern about car theft, especially involving keyless cars. The police recommend 'Faraday pouches' to keep keys in at night to prevent thieves using the technology to break into your car.

See web site:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Faraday-Blocking-Keyless-Antitheft-Protector/dp/B077XTMHZW>

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## Obituary Bruce Duff

We are very sad to report that Bruce Duff, SHRA chairman from 2006 to 2015 died suddenly on 11<sup>th</sup> August following a short illness.

Bruce was joint chair when SHRA launched a petition as part of a campaign to persuade Young's Brewery not to rename the Pope's Grotto pub the Alexander. With support also from local historian Anthony Beckles Willson, Youngs Brewery agreed to change the name to the Alexander Pope, keeping the reference to one of our most famous residents.

Bruce's experience in the catering business (as founder of Plum Duff Patisserie and Party Caterers) was put to good use making mulled wine for our Christmas events in Wellesley Parade, and helping with the making and sale of cakes at the Strawberry Hill annual music and fun day. He was also instrumental in the organisation of the Golden Jubilee picnic in Radnor Gardens in 2015 which celebrated 50 years since the Association was formed.

Bruce and his wife Susan moved from Chiswick to Strawberry Hill in 1982 when their daughter Zoe started school at St Catherine's. Following his retirement in 2004, Bruce joined the Rotary Club, became a guide at Twickenham Stadium and drove courtesy cars during the Wimbledon tennis tournament. He was also a keen skier and adventurous traveller spending time in North and South America and Australia.

We send our deepest condolences to Susan, Zoe and family.





## Strawberry Hill House

As part of an on-going series of events, Strawberry Hill House hosted an exhibition of work by local artists (28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> September), attended by 24 artists and over 900 visitors.

Other events, including Autumn and Winter opening times, are listed on the Strawberry Hill House website:

[www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk](http://www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk)

The annual Christmas concert with the Coro choir will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019, 7.30pm. Doors open at 6.45pm.

This year the programme will include 'Gloria' by Vivaldi as well as other choir carols and some traditional carols for everyone to join in with. The choir will be accompanied by the Baroque instrumental group.

### Christmas Opening Hours

If you are looking for something to do over the festive period, find below dates when the house will be welcoming visitors.

Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> December:	Closed
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December:	Open 11am until 4pm <i>last entry 3pm</i>
23 <sup>rd</sup> until 28 <sup>th</sup> December:	Closed
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> December:	Open 11am until 4pm <i>last entry 3pm</i>
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> December:	Open 11am until 3pm <i>last entry 2pm</i>
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> December:	Open 11am until 3pm <i>last entry 2pm</i>
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> January:	Closed

Enjoy the house, garden café and shop. Drop in visits welcome or book tickets in advance at:

[www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk](http://www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk)



### Volunteering

The House is recruiting more volunteers ready for the new year. Join the team and share the history of the little gothic castle, help in the shop or garden or support school visits as part of the education team. For more information or to apply please e-mail: [volunteer@strawberryhillhouse.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@strawberryhillhouse.org.uk)

## News of the restoration of Pope's Grotto

**Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust are delighted to announce that their application for funding to the National Lottery Heritage Fund has been successful. Over the next two years, they will be using this substantial grant of c£250k to complete both the conservation project and the planned digital reconstruction of the grotto and the gardens.**

Responding to the fund's new criteria launched on 30<sup>th</sup> January, they will be making the grotto open to new audiences, in particular to younger ones, and partnering with Marble Hill House, Strawberry Hill House and Orleans House Gallery.

This marks a considerable success for the Trust when funding for such projects is getting harder to find and will enable there to be a fitting memorial to Tony Beckles Willson, that noted Strawberry Hill historian, without whose determination and inspiration the project would never have got off the ground.

## Radnor Gardens celebrate resident's 100th birthday

**Baking sunshine on the August Bank Holiday set the scene for Radnor Gardens' Street Party celebrations to mark long-time resident Doris Pickett's 100th birthday.**

Born in Kingston, Doris served in the WRENS during WW2 and subsequently married George. Sadly widowed early, Doris raised their four children at their Teddington home alone, while also working as a dinner lady and school nurse at Hampton Wick Infants. Some thirty of Doris's now far-flung family joined over 100 Radnor Gardens residents and friends for what proved a fantastic day.

The small street was transformed with bunting, marquees and huge bespoke banners. Children (young and old!) enjoyed a bouncy castle, Beat the Goalie, badminton, bike rides and a quiz. Evoking memories of past decades, swing band Mississippi Swamp Dogs accompanied the tea party, complete



with whimsical birthday cake. Following an evening BBQ, everyone danced the night away to another local band, the 'Riverkites', with fireworks as a fabulous finale.

Residents were delighted with the party's success, the first held in the street for 40 years.

**"Everyone came together and their hard work paid off"** said organiser, Lee Hopkins.

**"We also raised £600 for dementia charities.**

**Brilliant!"**



## The Greening of Strawberry Hill

We are delighted to hear that **Fortescue Park** has been successful once again in the Estates category of Richmond in Bloom. The estate won a Gold award, which was presented by the Mayor, Nancy Baldwin, at an event in York House in late September.

Also, this year, **Strawberry Hill Golf Club** won a Bronze award, in the Community Building category, thanks to the enormous efforts of the Ladies club members. Many, many congratulations to both organisations.

It is good to find out that so many people care about our local environment, including the anonymous gardener who tends the flower bed on **Platform 2** at Strawberry Hill station. It looked glorious in the summer and we are all really grateful.

We continue to tend the planter near the station, placed there in memory of Clare Phelps, our long-time secretary of SHRA.

Some of the committee members also decided to clear up the patch of land (the 'entrance' to Strawberry Hill, opposite Radnor Gardens and at the end of Tower Road), which had been covered in litter, leaves and weeds. We could make something more of this open space perhaps. *Any ideas?*

*Members of the committee clearing the space at the start of Tower Road*



*Clare Phelps planter*



*above & below – The flower bed on Platform 2*



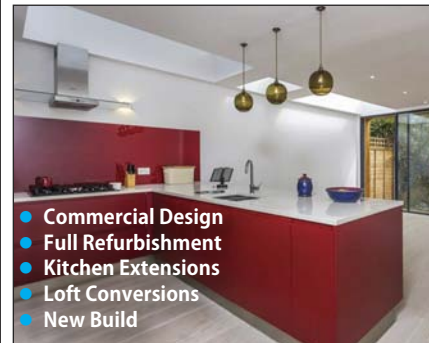
## Student Behaviour



**Thankfully, September's freshers' weeks at St Mary's University (SMU) have been less disruptive for local residents than last year with the number of complaints about student behaviour well down.**

However, some late-night noise problems persist, particularly for residents in parts of Clive Road and Michelham Gardens. If you are disturbed by student behaviour and wish to complain, or need prompt action taken, the SMU number to call is

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**020 8240 4335.** In the event of concerns for life or property the SMU emergency number to call is: **020 8240 4060.** Further details can be found on the Community section of the SMU website.

If you do have need to complain it would be helpful if you could also notify SHRA by e-mail or telephone to Mike Allsop (see back page for contact details). SHRA can then raise your concerns at our regular liaison meetings with senior management of the University.



Our New Series . . .  
**StreetWise**

**Bygone Waldegrave Road –  
the Strawberry Hill end**

**StreetWise** is a history of the streets of Strawberry Hill. Strawberry Hill Residents' Association will be publishing, via its website, a series of street histories: [www.shra.org.uk](http://www.shra.org.uk) They are based on research undertaken by members of SHRA, using commercially available genealogical websites and the Local Studies Library.

As we walk along Waldegrave Road today, with its traffic (often speeding), lines of parked cars, the stop-start of the 33 bus and the to and fro of the students, it is difficult to picture this thoroughfare in bygone times. The line of the road existed by the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and probably before that there was a track of some sort leading through the "South Fields" towards Teddington and Hampton Court. Until the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century our end of the road, from Cross Deep to the Shacklegate Lane, was little more than a country lane with dairy cows grazing where the SMUC sports facilities now stand. In the 1880s houses in Strawberry Hill Road and Waldegrave Gardens had appeared on the market gardens and fields, but the only houses of note in Waldegrave Road itself were of course the magnificent Strawberry Hill House, Walpole's cottage opposite (now Harptree Cottage), Walpole Lodge (now 251 to 259) and Lincoln Lodge.

**Lincoln Lodge** stood on the boundary of our area on land between the Shacklegate Lane, the railway and bordering the plot that became Southfield Gardens. The house was built some time after 1846 and was originally called Waldon Villa. In November 1867 it was put up for auction. The notice for the auction describes it as a substantial place. ". . . a detached villa residence with lawn, gardens, conservatory, greenhouse". The property included a detached coach house, a two-stall stable, harness room, poultry yard and "Pleasure Grounds". By 1880

the owner of the house was George Hyde who was born in 1815 in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. It was probably he who renamed the house after the county of his birth.

In the 1920s it was the residence of John Cusack. Having been active as a judge and politician in Ireland, he came to live in Twickenham following the independence of the Irish Free State and continued his judicial and political work here at a local level. He was involved in educational matters and served as



Walpole Lodge in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

mayor of Twickenham 1929/30. He died in 1940. Lincoln Lodge suffered bomb damage in 1942 and was demolished. The land is now occupied by Cusack Close, named after the former eminent resident of the Lodge.

Before 1900 Waldegrave Road was certainly a quiet semi-rural stretch of road, but even after that, as the side opposite St Mary's went from fields to residential properties, the impression of urbanisation must have been slight. That is not to say however, that the road did not have its share of incident and drama.

Whilst researching the British Newspaper Archive, I discovered a number of articles from more than a century ago that refer to the road. Under the heading "Trying it on", a certain resident of Waldegrave Road, Arthur Bendorff, came before the petty sessions in July 1883 for riding in a first-class carriage from Waterloo to Strawberry Hill without having paid his fare. When he alighted at Strawberry Hill an inspector asked to see his ticket. He claimed he was a first-class ticket season ticket holder but had forgotten to carry it. To compound his offence, he then gave a false name and address, that of his father, who lived in Adelaide House, Teddington, and who was a first-class season ticket holder. It suggests that Bendorff came from an affluent family. The judge deemed it a very bad case of deception deserving the highest penalty and this Strawberry Hill fare-dodger was sentenced to a fine of forty

shillings or one month's imprisonment. At the other end of the social scale, in 1907, a 12 year-old scalliwag named Arthur Rogers was apprehended by the police in Waldegrave Road after numerous complaints. Rogers and a number of other beggars had been running along the road beside "brakes and traps" calling out "coppers please". The lad "caused considerable trouble" by giving a false name and address and claiming that his father was unemployed and that he was trying to earn a few coppers. He was found to have on him the princely sum of five and half pence in coins. He was severely cautioned for having caused this nuisance.

Further information about the development of Waldegrave Road will appear in a future issue of the Bulletin.

by Peter Lamb

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