



thebulletin

A newsletter for all residents of Strawberry Hill

No.173 Spring 2021

'SO LONG, AND THANKS FOR ALL THE FISH!'

by Julia Fiehn

**from 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' by Douglas Adams*

After six years in the job, I will be giving up the editorship of the Bulletin after this edition. It has been really good fun, but it is time for someone else to take over.

I believe that Strawberry Hill is a wonderful place to live: we have historical monuments (Strawberry Hill House and Pope's Grotto), a rich history, many schools, two churches, our own station, a university, good shops and services, green spaces and a riverside! During the pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns, the area has become more familiar to many of us.

We have learned to appreciate our area even more, and I have been particularly sad that we have not been able to distribute the Bulletin in these constrained times. We felt that we did not wish to put our distributors or residents at risk while delivering the newsletter to 2,400 households. (I would like to thank the TW Magazine, not only for keeping going, but also for allowing SHRA space to keep in touch.)

Also, a very big **thank you** is due to all those dedicated distributors who have braved rain, cold, heat and probably fierce dogs, to deliver the hard copy for many years to residents across the area. We are extremely grateful.

This edition of the Bulletin is larger than usual, to try to make up for the gap. However, for some time we on the committee have been concerned about the cost of printing the newsletter and the drain on our budget. At a time when many of us have been using the internet to keep in touch with friends and family, we think that an **online version** of the Bulletin is the way forward and this will be the format for the next issue. We are aware that not everyone in Strawberry Hill has access to the internet, and so we suggest that a printed copy could be delivered to residents in this position. There are costs associated with printing off and postage, and so we are proposing a fee of £3 a year for this service. This will be in addition to the subscription.

Let us know by inserting a note with your subscription cheque and additional fee. Standing order forms and bank details continue to be available from the Treasurer: **subscription@shra.org.uk**

For those with email, we will send the Bulletin direct to your inbox. All households and businesses will continue to be entitled to a copy of the newsletter.

We have some emails, but not for everyone in the Strawberry Hill area. Please send your email address together with your house address to: contact@SHRA.org.uk

If you would rather not give us your email address, the Bulletin will still

be available from our website: **www.shra.org.uk** and on Facebook. We also have Twitter and Instagram accounts and we will continue to post a hard copy version on the SHRA noticeboard at Strawberry Hill Station.

We strongly support local business and are grateful for the financial support over many years from the companies that have advertised in the Bulletin, especially during the last five years: architecture:wk, Arthurs, The Golf Club, The Helen Astrid Singing Academy, Kyzan, MKG 3000, Mercury Motors and the St Mary's Sports Clinic. Without the income from advertising, the Bulletin would not have continued.

The annual subscription covers the cost of providing information and running events. It also enables us to hold a 'fighting fund' in the event of emergency action. The subscription continues to be £5 per household per year. Please use the form below to accompany your payment, and leave it at the Post Office, 50 Tower Road, TW1 4PE or with our Treasurer.

We are always happy to receive larger amounts and donations. ✂

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION £5 per household per year

Standing order forms and bank details continue to be available from:

June Collins, the Treasurer, Email: subscription@shra.org.uk

This Subscription Renewal may be made by cash or cheque, made payable to: Strawberry Hill Residents' Association.

Please write your name and address on the form below and put in an envelope with your subscription.

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**A. June Collins, SHRA Treasurer, 23b Tower Road, Strawberry Hill, TW1 4PD
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SHRA needs you!



We have recruited two environment coordinators. We are delighted to welcome Sharon Willoughby and Louisa Carradine. In addition to a Bulletin Editor, we still need an events coordinator and some communications support.

We know there are residents in our area who have these precious skills. Please do consider, if you live in Strawberry Hill, joining the committee and playing a role in the locality, for the benefit of everyone living here.

You can find out more about SHRA and what we do on our website. For more information on the roles mentioned above, you can email: contact@shra.org.uk or phone the vice-chair, Andrew Miller, on 07866 801299

Councillor's update

Twickenham Green

Last summer, with increasing numbers of residents enjoying the outdoor space on Twickenham Green, the council received complaints that a minority of people using the space were engaging in anti-social behaviour and public urination. We held a community conversation to understand the concerns and, as a result, supported the police with additional park guards, completed a deep clean of targeted roads and enhanced funds available for establishments willing to open their toilets to the public. I know many of the businesses around the Green have been really supportive and hope they continue to be so. However, as the COVID-19 restrictions are likely to remain for while, we have put budget aside to improve facilities for this period. We plan to have enhancements in place before the summer and will share the details as they are finalised.

Strawberry Hill CPZ

In recent years, we have received petitions from residents of Strawberry Hill Close, Clive Road and Hawkesley Close, asking to be included in the CPZ as they have trouble parking near their houses. Along with e-mail correspondence from other roads, this demonstrated a need to review parking across the Strawberry Hill area and we ran

a survey last year. A recent Transport and Air Quality committee reviewed the feedback from the Strawberry Hill area. Most roads elected to continue their existing arrangements, but an additional zone including the above mentioned roads was recommended. Details and next steps are available on the council website.

Speeding

The preliminary results of the 20mph speed limit across the borough show that it has significantly reduced average speeds. We have had feedback that people would like more enforcement. As was discussed at the time, only the police can enforce the limit, however the council can introduce measures to support the reduction of speed in areas that continue to need assistance . . . measures such as smiley faces (I know there is a more technical term, but also know you are likely to know what I mean here!). Recently we have received reports of excessive speeds on Waldegrave Road and will push hard on your behalf to make sure that this is included in any traffic calming measures.

Katie Mansfield
Councillor,
South Twickenham Ward
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07946 330 341



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Congratulations to Fieldend

We were delighted to read in **The Richmond Magazine** that Historic England has added Fieldend to its Register of Parks and Gardens. This makes it Grade II listed and adds it to the 10 landscapes in London and 20 nationally that have been recognised as amongst the best post-1945 landscapes in the country. These landscapes are protected under the National Heritage List for England.

The 51 houses at Fieldend were built in 1959-60 by Eric Lyons and Partners from the company, Span, in collaboration with landscape architect Michael Brown.

Lyons was well respected in his field and collected 18 awards for residential design. Early in his career, he worked with Walter Gropius; later he was honoured with the Presidency of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and was awarded an OBE in recognition of his outstanding contribution to architecture. Fieldend is one of 61 Span developments, mostly sited in southeast England. Eric Lyons aspired to create post-war housing for people who recognised good,

elegant and practical design. He was very keen to create a sense of community, fostered by creating groups of houses around attractive outdoor spaces. Lyons worked closely with Ivor Cunningham and Michael Brown, who created the communal gardens at Fieldend. The houses are flatroofed with large windows at both front and back, providing a light and airy open-plan living space, a design that offers great flexibility. The landscaped communal gardens are as important as the houses, providing an informal, natural setting. Residents can choose the privacy of their own back gardens or enjoy sharing the green environment of the open areas where children can play in safety.

"Fieldend"

'Fieldend embodies the Span vision of "homes within a garden" and we're thrilled that the contribution landscape makes to the overall architectural character of the estate has been recognised by Historic England.'

*Sarah Dietz,
Chair of Fieldend Residents' Association*

'A resident of Fieldend for over 25 years and bringing up two energetic boys during that time, I've long understood the beauty and uniqueness of having parkland on my front doorstep. Over Lockdown, Fieldend was a particularly wonderful place to be, with easy access to greenery and communal, social space. I'm thrilled to hear of the award granted by Historic England. It is so very well-deserved.'

Joy Jermy

For more information about the Register and the history of Fieldend, go to historicengland.org.uk and look up Fieldend TW1 4TF



Fieldend (picture supplied by Fieldend Residents' Association, with thanks)

AROUND THE VILLAGE

The Recycling Bins at the junction of Wellesley Parade/Pope's Avenue

The bins were photographed in this state in early October 2020.
While we understand that the Covid -19 situation has caused problems for rubbish disposal, sadly the bins are often in this state.



The SHRA committee have been pursuing this issue with the local Council, and we would like feedback from residents about the best solution to the problems associated with fly-tipping in this location.

The council did finally get the unlocked recycling bin emptied

and a lock put on it, for which we are very grateful. The SHRA committee is charged with an oversight of the bins.

The committee has proposed the complete removal of the bins since these recycling sites were introduced before the era of

kerbside collection. We need to know what local people think about this solution.

Please send any comments to: **contact@shra.org.uk**

One thing is for certain: the current situation cannot continue.
IT IS A HEALTH HAZARD!

News of the Station

A new shelter and fewer trees

We are pleased to see new benches and a shelter on the platforms of Strawberry Hill Station ready for when we all start to use the station again.

In the Autumn, Network Rail cut back trees and vegetation from the trackside. This was for mandatory safety and efficiency reasons. They advised that an ecological appraisal had been carried out to ensure no valuable habitats or protected

species were endangered, and whilst removal of trees close to the track and along the back of the station platforms opened up the area, some trees and shrubs were retained to ensure a level of continuity of habitat.



One of the new benches



The new shelter

AROUND THE VILLAGE continued

Radnor Gardens

an up-date by **Andrew Miller**

As you are all aware the Radnor Gardens Café has been closed since August. After a couple of years of ups and downs with the previous tenants, the Council served notice to quit and took charge of the café in September. As the local residents' association, SHRA, made regular posts about the café through its Facebook page. It was clear that residents regard the café as a 'valued local asset' but were frustrated by erratic opening times and other problems.

We are pleased to report that, after a lengthy process managed by the Council's property consultants, Avison-Young, there were 25 viewings of the premises, 20 expressions of interest and four interviews with one winner.

The new tenant is **STR 54 Limited** which is a company set up by Jason Wells of Brew Café, specifically to run the Radnor Gardens Café. Mr Wells has proven track record in setting up and running café enterprises in south-west and west London and is excited at the

prospect of providing a vibrant local community café in Radnor Gardens. He anticipates that the café will reopen in May.

In order to fulfil the promise of becoming a 'Community Café' SHRA would like to see the following policies put into practice:

- 1 To publish daily opening times or, failing that, a website or social media presence which indicates, on a daily basis, whether the café is open or not, i.e. better communications with customers to avoid wasted journeys.
- 2 To ensure that the café is open at times when the usage of the playground is at its peak, i.e. weekends and at the end of the school day.
- 3 To make sure that the toilet is accessible to the community, as it has been for the past few months thanks to the work of the Parks department.
- 4 To make more use of the all-weather 'extension' installed at a public cost of £20k but hardly ever used.
- 5 To reach out to SHRA in trying to build up the café as a genuine 'community hub'.



Summer House

We are pleased to see that following pressure from SHRA, the Summerhouse in Radnor Gardens has been repainted.



StreetWise

Strawberry Hill Road Upstairs and Downstairs

Streetwise is the history of the streets of Strawberry Hill. This article consists of extracts from a full report that can be found on the History page of the SHRA website – www.shra.org.uk

by **Andrew Miller** Vice-chair of SHRA

Origins

Strawberry Hill Road has one of the finest collections of large detached Victorian villas in the area.

Until 1907, Strawberry Hill Road included the current footprint, but also the whole of Popes Avenue, as far as Twickenham Green.

This article focuses on the pre-World War 1 era.

In the 1846 Warren map of Twickenham, the Strawberry Hill Road area was a series of small fields divided by a footpath that would become the road. These fields were incorporated into the Earl of Waldegrave's Waldegrave Park Estate. In 1881, the first house, *The Elms*, appeared on the corner with Tower Road. By 1882, some of the large Victorian houses were being built to individual designs.

There were a further 15 detached houses (odd numbers) on the east side of the street.

On the west side, there were initially only two houses: 40 and 42 and 13 vacant lots. These lots were auctioned in the mid-1880s. In 1889, nos. 26, 28 and 32 were built. In 1899, an eight-bedroom house in the road was for sale in the *St James's Gazette* at a price of £995.

Occupations

As expected of such handsome properties, they were owned and occupied by gentlemen of the middle classes and their families plus wealthy widows.

These were people who could afford at least one 'general servant'.



Strawberry Hill Road today.

The table below compares the occupations of the heads of household in the three Census years of 1891, 1901 and 1911.

Occupation of head of household	1891	1901	1911
Private means	6	6	3
Merchant	4	2	2
Financier	4	1	2
Stockbroker	4	2	1
Cleric	3	0	1
Solicitor/barrister	1	2	4
Civil servant	1	2	2
Hotel proprietor	1	1	0
Drapery shop proprietor	1	0	0
School teacher/principal	1	1	1
Manufacturer	1	5	0
Journalist/editor	0	2	2
Surgeon/doctor/medical	0	2	2
Military personnel	0	1	1
Engineer	0	0	1
Master mariner	0	0	1
Railway official	0	0	1
Shipping manager	0	0	1
Advertising executive	0	0	1

Domestic service

In the 1891 Census, there were 160 people living in the street, of whom 57 (36%) were servants. There was only one male servant, William Clark, a 25-year-old groom from Devon, living at *The Elms*, all 56 others were female. Most (70%) were unmarried, young women in their twenties. They came from all over the country, only eight were 'local' and some came from much further afield – two from Prussia and three from Ireland.

- 1891 – there were 57 servants in 28 houses.

Only one house did not have a servant: no.38 where William Pickett, a police constable lived with his wife and child.

- 1901 – there were 51 servants in 31 houses. Two houses had no servant.
- 1911 – there were 54 servants in 32 houses. Four houses had no servants.
- 1939 – there were 13 servants in 30 houses. A minority of houses (9) had servants.

The decline in domestic service after the Great War is reflected in the greatly reduced number of servants by the time of the 1939 Register.

The Great War

In the 1911 Census there were 167 people living on the street but there were surprisingly few young men (seven) in the street who were eligible to fight in the First World War. This was probably because young men tended to move away from their parents, whereas daughters in middle-class homes tended to remain at home until they were married. In 1915, there was a massive explosion at the powder works at Crane Park belonging to Messrs. Curtis and Harvey. According to the *Birmingham Mail* (10th July 1915) even houses in Strawberry Hill Road, some distance from the centre of the explosion, did not escape damage from falling debris.

Notable residents

In 1911 until 1939, number 32 Strawberry Hill Road was occupied by **Sir Conrad James Naef** (1872-1954) who was for many years the Deputy and, then, from 1923, the Accountant General of the Navy (until the department was abolished in 1932)

In 1929, **Albert Victor Alexander**, 1st Earl Alexander of Hillsborough, KG CH PC (1885-1965), Co-operative and Labour MP for Sheffield, Hillsborough, lived at no. 42 Strawberry Hill Road (*Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, 8th May 1929, p.6).

First elected in 1922, he continued to serve as an MP until 1950 (with one break).

He was an opponent of appeasement in the run up to the War.

He was three times First Lord of the Admiralty, including during WW2, and he was Minister of Defence under Clement Atlee in the post-War Labour Government. He became leader of the Labour Lords until 1964.

In his later years, he was Vice-President of Chelsea FC, a role that was taken on by Richard Attenborough.

In 1939, 25 Strawberry Hill Road was the home of **Sir George Lewis French Bolton** (1900-1982), an expert in foreign exchange. He was a leading figure in the rebirth of the London markets after the Second World War.

From 1946-1952 he was executive director of the International Monetary Fund, and in 1948 he was named executive director of the Bank of England. In 1957, he became chairman of the Bank of London and South America.

He was twice appointed High Sheriff of the County of London.

In 1939, **Harry Thomas Alfred Becker** (1892-1980), former MP for Richmond, lived at no. 12 Strawberry Hill Road (*Middlesex Chronicle*, 25th February 1939, p.4).

In the 1922 General Election he was elected as an independent Conservative, backed by the Anti-Waste League (a party formed by Lord Rothermere that wanted to shrink the state). In the 1923 General Election he was re-elected as the official Conservative Party candidate, standing down the

still be purchased on Amazon. He lived at no.17 until his death in 1919.

In 1928, **Joan Celia**, 'Comedienne, Soubrette and Dancer', lived at no.13 Strawberry Hill Road. In 1928, she was Principal Girl at the New Theatre, Retford.

In 1972, **Ms. Anne Woodward**, an actress aged 52, living at no. 2 Downside, Strawberry Hill Road, collapsed and died on stage while performing in the Coventry production of *Abelard and Heloise*.



Strawberry Hill Road in the early 1900s.

following year. He married four times and his last wife, Mary Beth Crowder, was from Tennessee – Harry became an American citizen in 1955.

Drama and Strawberry Hill Road

The street has had links to drama and acting over the years.

Benjamin Bickley Rogers (1828-1919), an English classical scholar, lived at no.17. He was educated at Wadham College, Oxford, and became President of the Oxford Union in 1853. Benjamin devoted himself exclusively to translating Greek drama. He published works from 1852 until 1910. He was especially known for translating all the works of Aristophanes which can

After they married in Richmond in 2004, actors **Keeley Hawes** and **Matthew Macfadyen** lived for a number of years in Strawberry Hill Road. They were both in the original cast of *Spooks* and they went on to have stellar careers.

Keeley Hawes starred in a series of popular TV programmes including: *Tipping the Velvet*, *Life on Mars*, *The Durrells*, *The Bodyguard* and *Line of Duty*. Matthew Macfadyen also has had success on TV with, for example, *Ripper Street*, *Little Dorrit*, *Succession*, and he has also been in movies such as *Enigma*, *Pride & Prejudice*, and *Frost/Nixon*.

They moved to another address in East Twickenham during the mid-2010s.

Remembrance Day Event in Radnor Gardens

The annual Remembrance Day service in Radnor Gardens was a bit different this year.

The mayor, Geoff Acton hosted 30 or so invited guests, distanced from each other located behind some police tapes.

About 100 residents watched from outside the cordon.

The service was orchestrated by Cllr Mike Butlin and ten wreaths were laid at the foot of the war memorial.

A lone trumpeter from The Otakar Kraus Music Trust played the Last Post.



Strawberry Hill Residents' Association Annual General Meeting

SHRA has not held an AGM since the start of the pandemic. However, we are hopeful that we will be able to hold one at the usual venue (Strawberry Hill Golf Club) in June 2021.

The date will be advertised on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram as well as on the SHRA notice board at the station.

As usual, all attendees will be invited to have a complimentary drink and to stay after the meeting for a chat with the committee and other residents.

Everyone living in Strawberry Hill is automatically a member of the association and we really look forward to seeing everyone again and hearing your views.



The Bulletin is produced online by the Strawberry Hill Residents' Association. All text and images are copyright Strawberry Hill Residents' Association, except where noted. For editorial questions please email: contact@SHRA.org.uk

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